

# **World Ocean Science Conference 2024**

## **OCEAN SUMMIT**

**Date 28 February 2024. Time 1400 to. 1730 hrs.**

**Seating Conference Style**

### **Program Schedule**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Program</b>
1400-1405 hrs	Welcome by Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, MoES, Govt. of India
1405-1415 hrs	Self introduction by the delegates
1415-1430 hrs	A brief introduction on the societal services provided by MoES and its institutions and requirement of sustainable ocean, its management and concerns.
1430-1530 hrs	Discussions on possible bilateral/multi-lateral collaborations for a sustainable ocean, blue economy, societal services and R&D matters.
1530-1600 hrs	Tea/coffee break
1600-1700 hrs	Discussions continued
1700-1730 hrs	Final recommendations and conclusion

## Concept Note: Ocean Summit

The Ocean Summit organised as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Ocean Science Congress (WOSC-2024) serves as a crucial platform aimed at addressing pressing issues concerning the coasts and oceans and their sustainable management. With a focus on fostering collaboration, innovation, and actionable strategies, this summit endeavours to bring together key stakeholders from various sectors to explore challenges, share knowledge, and catalyse impactful initiatives for the preservation and responsible utilization of our oceans.

### Objectives:

1. **Promoting Sustainability:** The summit aims to highlight the importance of sustainable practices in ocean-related industries such as fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, tourism, and energy to boost the Blue Economy of the countries.
2. **Conservation and Restoration:** Emphasizing the urgency of conservation efforts to protect marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, and marine habitats.
3. **Innovation and Technology:** Showcasing innovative technologies and solutions for ocean monitoring, pollution prevention, sustainable fishing practices, renewable energy, and waste management.
4. **Policy and Governance:** Discussing policy frameworks, bilateral/multilateral cooperation, and governance mechanisms necessary to ensure effective ocean management and conservation.
5. **Engagement and Education:** Promoting public awareness, community engagement, and formal training to instil a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards our oceans.

### Format:

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, provides services for weather, climate, ocean, hydrology, seismology, solutions for coastal protection, and early warnings on natural hazards like cyclones, storm surges, tsunamis, etc. The Ministry also constantly monitors land, ocean, atmosphere, and cryosphere (Arctic, Antarctic, and Himalayas) to provide various services like forecasts and early warnings. The data generated from the observations are also used for conducting research to understand the natural process. The Ministry also conducts surveys to explore the marine living and non-living resources and prepares plans and programs to harness the resources in a sustainable manner. In addition, MoES is actively engaged in developing various technologies necessary for seabed mining, exploration of resources, production of energy from the ocean, and in the generation of freshwater from seawater.

A brief account of these activities and achievements of MoES, and if possible of the institutions like CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, etc., will be presented, and the forum will be opened for discussions mainly targeting the objectives listed above.

**Expected Outcome:**

1. A comprehensive understanding of the current challenges facing the oceans and potential solutions.
2. Identification of key priorities actionable strategies for sustainable ocean management and conservation.
3. Enhanced collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders from diverse sectors and regions specifically targeting the Blue Economic activities.
4. Showcasing of innovative technologies, research, and initiatives driving positive change in ocean conservation and sustainability.
5. Commitments and initiatives towards achieving the targets outlined in international agreements such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

**Conclusion:**

The Ocean Summit serves as a pivotal platform for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and action towards the sustainable management and conservation of our oceans and for exploring scientific collaborations and in identifying the areas of mutual interest in boosting the Blue Economy. By bringing together diverse stakeholders like coastal states of India, neighbouring countries, etc. and fostering innovative solutions, this summit aims to drive positive change and ensure the health and prosperity of our oceans for current and future generations.