

# South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission Meeting (22-25 February 2022)

Aotearoa New Zealand's response  
to the UN Decade of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development  
2021-2030

**Zuleika Chang and Silke Bieda**  
**Secretariat, NZ National Commission for UNESCO**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*



2021  
2030

United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science <sup>1</sup>  
for Sustainable Development

# Background to the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

- UN General Assembly declared the Decade in 2019 as a focus for countries to realise the 2030 agenda for sustainable development
- Intended to create a new foundation across science and policy to improve the management of oceans and coast
- Intended to facilitate global cooperation and the development of multidisciplinary solutions to support a healthy and resilient ocean
- [Decade](#) aims to convene, empower and engage a wide range of stakeholders from across disciplines, regions, generations and genders to collectively align their research to improve the state of the ocean



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*

# Decade Vision & Mission

“

## *Vision*

***The science we need for the ocean we want***

\*\*\*

## *Mission*

***Transformative ocean science solutions for  
sustainable development, connecting people and  
our ocean.***



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO**

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*



# What are the key outcomes for the Decade?

- A clean ocean
- A healthy and resilient ocean
- A productive ocean
- A predicted ocean
- A safe ocean
- An accessible ocean
- An inspiring and engaging ocean

## Decade Action Framework



© UNESCO



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*

# NZ National Commission for UNESCO

- The [NZ National Commission for UNESCO](#) is Cabinet appointed and provides advises on UNESCO matters and is the first point of contact in New Zealand.
- We are a connector and conduit between the international and domestic activities in relation to the Decade, [UNESCO](#) and the [International Oceanographic Commission \(IOC\)](#).



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*



## NZ National Commission for UNESCO's approach to supporting the Decade

- Central to the National Commission's Decade work is a multi-disciplinary approach that enables mātauranga Māori and indigenous knowledges remain at the core.
- We established the Aotearoa New Zealand Decade Committee to engage national stakeholders with the Decade, facilitate contributions and promote the Decade in New Zealand.
- Membership has been drawn from across ocean science, humanities, indigenous knowledges and government representatives.
- Weaving knowledge systems together in New Zealand has generated a distinctive approach to how we undertake science and research and how we collaborate with one another.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO  
*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*



# NZ National Commission's approach to supporting the Decade

The Decade work streams of the NZ National Commission focus on:

- Developing sustainable partnerships during the Decade including seeking opportunities to support ocean science research and facilitating engagement
- Supporting community-driven projects that use indigenous methodologies
- Encouraging New Zealand participation in the Decade Actions and Decade stakeholder engagement networks



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO  
*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*



# Supporting the Decade in 2021/22

1. New Zealand/Pacific project alignment with endorsed Decade Programmes
2. International Virtual Ocean Decade Laboratories 2022
3. Te Tini a Tangaroa



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*

# Decade Action Hierarchy

*Tangible initiatives that will be implemented by a wide range of Decade stakeholders and identified through Calls for Decade Actions.*



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



## Decade programme

- Global or regional in scale
- Fulfils one or more of the Decade objectives.
- Long-term (multi-year), interdisciplinary and typically multi-national.
- Includes component projects, and enabling activities.

## Decade Project

- Discrete and focused undertaking of a shorter duration.
- Will typically contribute to an identified Decade programme

## Decade Activity

- In support of an outcome, objective, programme, or project.
- Typically a one-off standalone activity
- Can form part of a programme or project or can relate directly to a Decade objective.

## Decade Contribution

- Supports the Decade through provision of a necessary resource
- Can be either for costs related to the implementation of a Decade Action or for coordination costs.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*

# 1) Project Alignment with Endorsed Decade Programmes

- More than 30 large-scale programmes have been endorsed by the International Decade Committee, including Seabed 2030.
- We have been working with NZ/Pacific scientists to register their projects with the Decade programmes.
- NZ/Pacific projects have been submitted under the following Decade Programmes:
  - *Pacific Solutions to Save our Ocean*
  - *One Ocean Network for Deep Observation*
  - *Maritime Acoustic Environment*
  - *Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability*
  - *Challenger 150 – Deep-Sea Life*







What are the benefits of having a programme/project under the Decade umbrella?

- 1) Collective impact
- 2) Opportunities for collaboration and network exchange
- 3) International visibility
- 4) Funding opportunities

## 2) International Virtual Ocean Decade Laboratories 2022

- Replaced the UN Ocean Decade opening conference in Berlin last year
- The virtual labs include a Core Event complemented by a diverse range of Satellite Activities from around the world during a time slot of 48 hours
- Themes are orientated around the Ocean Decade outcomes – a clean, productive, predicted, healthy, inspiring, accessible and safe ocean
- Intentions are to showcase Ocean Decade Actions, strengthen dialogue, comms and outreach on the Decade
- To boost NZ/Pacific participation the NZ National Commission has been working with scientists to submit concept notes for Satellite Activities to feature in the labs in March, April and June.
- The following activities have been endorsed for the upcoming Healthy & Resilient ocean Lab 9 – 11 March 2022:



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO  
*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*

## 2) International Virtual Ocean Decade Laboratories 2022

*Catch of the Day* is an activity set across two virtual labs – the Healthy & Resilient Ocean Lab in March and the Productive Ocean Lab in June. The activities will focus on improving consumer understanding of sustainable fisheries management and provide data to inform potential changes to consumption of fish stock.

*Fishes for the Future – Marine Management Tools across Aotearoa New Zealand* will be a panel discussion run by [MERC](#) and explores ocean kaitiakitanga in Aotearoa New Zealand.

*Te Au o Te Moana – The Voice of the Ocean* will show how [Sustainable Seas](#) is taking an ecosystem-based management approach to support a sustainable marine economy through combining biophysical and social science, economics, mātauranga Maori, legal and policy expertise.

*The Science We Need for Healthy and Resilient Coral Reefs in the Pacific* will consist of a panel discussion run by [SPREP](#) around the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021 – 2030.

[www.oceandecade-conference.com/en/satellite-activities-healthy-and-resilient-ocean.html](http://www.oceandecade-conference.com/en/satellite-activities-healthy-and-resilient-ocean.html)



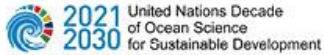
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO



## 2) International Virtual Ocean Decade Laboratories 2022



**Ocean Decade Laboratories**

# A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT OCEAN

**9–11 March 2022**

**Join now!**

© Unsplash | NOAA



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO**

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*

Date	Laboratory	Submission deadline
2021 Laboratories	An Inspiring and Engaging Ocean A Predicted Ocean A Clean Ocean	Passed
9-11 March 2022	A Healthy and Resilient Ocean	Passed
5-7 April 2022	A Safe Ocean	Passed
10-12 May 2022	An Accessible Ocean	15 March 2022
Mar 2022	A Productive Ocean	8 March 2022

Satellite activities can be organised by institutions or researchers through submitting a concept note for approval by the Decade organising committee on [www.oceandecade-conference.com/en/satellite-activities-healthy-and-resilient-ocean.html](http://www.oceandecade-conference.com/en/satellite-activities-healthy-and-resilient-ocean.html)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*

### 3) Web Resource: Te Tini a Tangaroa



Tōhuratia ngā kaupapa  
Explore Projects

Mō Te Ngāhuru Tau o te Pūtāiao Aumōana  
About the Decade

He rongō kōrero, he takanga whakaaro  
News & Views



[www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz](http://www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz)  
[www.oceandecade.org.nz](http://www.oceandecade.org.nz)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*



### 3) Web Resource: Te Tini a Tangaroa

- A vehicle to showcase and share with a domestic and international audience the breadth of New Zealand ocean science and the importance of indigenous knowledges.
- An online search tool that is bringing together projects from the ocean science community currently underway in New Zealand.
- You can learn about diverse New Zealand ocean science spanning from the Pacific, through New Zealand and the Southern Ocean to Antarctica.



New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO

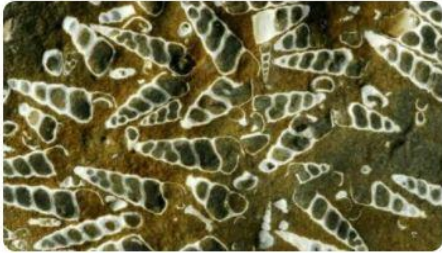
*Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO*

United Nations

Educational, Scientific and

Please email  
[Silke.Bieda@education.govt.nz](mailto:Silke.Bieda@education.govt.nz)  
to feature your project on the website.

Te Tini a Tangaroa  
[www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz](http://www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz)  
[www.oceandecade.org.nz](http://www.oceandecade.org.nz)



**Impact of past climate change on ocean circulation, sea...**

Understanding the consequences of a warmer climate on environment and organisms



**Kia tika te hī ika**

Exploring fisheries tikanga and mātauranga



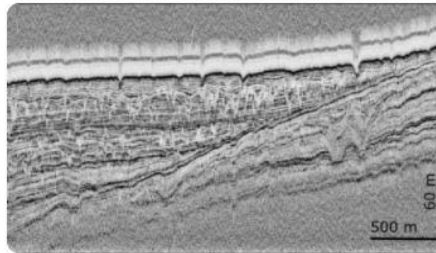
**Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge / Ko ngā moana...**

How can Aotearoa / New Zealand best develop its marine economy, while protecting the taonga of that marine environment?



**Understanding ecological responses to cumulative effects**

Cumulative effects of multiple stressors on New Zealand's soft-sediment and rocky reef biodiversity and ecosystem function



**Geologic Champagne**

What controls sudden release of CO<sub>2</sub> at glacial terminations on the Chatham Rise?



**Project Baseline Wellington**

A citizen science project monitoring kelp to create awareness about the importance of seaweed as highly productive coastal ecosystem