



Government of Iceland



An initiative of  
The Economist Group and The Nippon Foundation



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# State of the Ocean Report

## 2024

Matthias Wunsch

on behalf of the State of the Ocean Report Advisory Board



# StOR Advisory Board



- Established in the first quarter of 2023 to support the preparation of the revised StOR concept note and to actively guide the preparation of the next StOR edition
- Composed of a total of 14 experts, representing 9 Member States, which provided input to the review process considering the different electoral groups, and the IOC Secretariat.

Experts				
Country	Electoral Group	Title	Name/First name	Institution
Australia	IV	Ms	Wicks, Louise	Bureau of Meteorology
Brazil	III	Mr	de Pinho, Roberto	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
Chile	III	Mr	Fierro, Juan José	Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada
Germany	I	Mr	Wunsch, Matthias	Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie
Japan	IV	Mr	Michida, Yutaka	University of Tokyo
Kuwait	V	Ms	Al-Yamani, Faiza	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
Senegal	V	Ms	Dioh, Mariama	Ministère des Pêches et de l'Économie Maritime / Direction des Pêches Maritimes
Spain	I	Mr	González-Quirós, Rafael	Instituto Español de Oceanografía
USA	I	Mr	Naughton, Joseph	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
IOC Secretariat members				
IOC/UNESCO, WMO		Mr	Belbeoch, Mathieu	International Center of Excellence for Coordination and Monitoring of Meteo-Oceanographic Observing Systems
IOC/UNESCO		Mr (Ms)	Barbière, Julian (Clausen, Alison)	Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, Decade Coordination Unit
IOC/UNESCO		Ms	Heslop, Emma	Ocean Observations and Services Section
IOC/UNESCO		Mr	Pissierssens, Peter	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
IOC/UNESCO		Mr	Aliaga, Bernardo (Chang Seng, Denis)	Tsunami Resilience Section

## Secretarial support :

Henrik Enevoldsen, i.a. Head of Ocean Science Section; Kirsten Isensee, Programme Specialist Ocean Science Section; Yun Jie Lee, Programme Specialist Ocean Science Section

# Process since 32nd Assembly

IOC Decision A-32/4.2

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Requests the Executive Secretary in consultation with the StOR Advisory Board to:

- i. issue a Circular Letter with a revised Concept Note specifying the purpose, scope, target audience, and alignment of the StOR with other UN assessment reports; together with a detailed outline of the second edition of the StOR; to Member States for their comments;
- ii. convene a virtual meeting of Member States to present the outcomes of the feedback and agree on next steps; and
- iii. draft the second edition of the StOR for presentation at the 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona;

Also requests the StOR Advisory Board, with the support of the Secretariat, to provide a report on the second edition of the StOR to the IOC Executive Council at its the 57th Session for Member States review and additional guidance;

Invites IOC Member States to provide extrabudgetary financial resources to the realization of the IOC State of the Ocean Report.

Circular Letter No 2963 issued on  
September 27 2023

Online Consultations Meetings on  
October 31 2023

Report Drafted  
Presentation on June 3rd

IOC/EC-57/4.5.Doc(1)

# Overview of content and scope

21 stories – one-stop-shop on the ocean state and supporting technical/human environment

The report covers **physical, chemical and biological parameters** describing the state of the ocean.

It summarizes **threats** posed to the ocean.

It showcases the access to **observation infrastructure, data and information**.

It provides new insights on **ocean literacy, indigenous and traditional knowledge**.

**Launched in Iceland 3 June 2024 at the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland.**



Launch of the StOR, 3 June, Iceland

# Overview on contributors



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**98 authors** from 25 countries summarizing the State of the Ocean in 70 pages

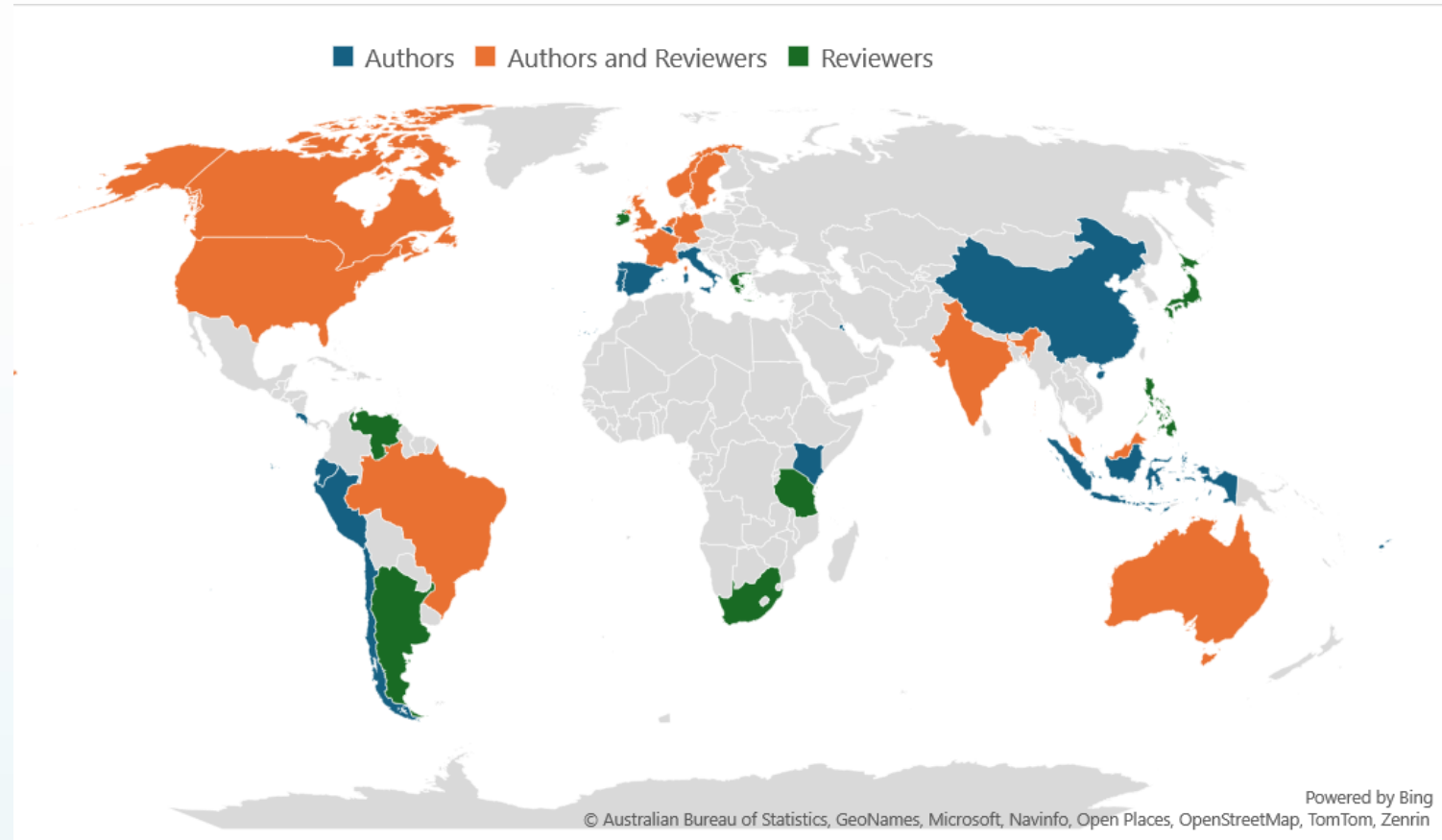
44% female / 56% male

**45 reviewers**

53% female / 47% male

**14 experts** contributing to the StOR Advisory Board

29% female / 71% male



# Lessons Learned

- The time frame was too ambitious in particular with regards to the OD Conference in Barcelona.
- Next draft needs adjusted time frame that includes reasonable time for review
- Regional distribution of authors can be enhanced. The solution for this time was to include in particular reviewers from the Southern Hemisphere
- StOR concept note evolved positively
- Advisory Board is useful, membership is open ended

# Special Thanks to

- Republic of Korea provided support as staff loan.
- Iceland provided extrabudgetary financial resources to the realization of the IOC State of the Ocean Report.
- Back-to-Blue contributed with partnership and dissemination.



# Up-to-date knowledge for action

An overview helping society to design ocean observation  
and science to protect  
the ocean and secure our well-being.

Next edition in 2026.

