Atlantic Contributions to the Global Ocean Observing System

Speaker Biographies

Keynote speakers

**Dr. Toste Tanhua** *(GEOMAR, Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel)*

Toste Tanhua is a chemical oceanographer working at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, in Germany. His main scientific interest is ocean ventilation, transient tracers and the ocean uptake of carbon. Toste was deeply involved in the activities of the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project (IOCCP) for many years, and guided this group towards becoming the biogeochemistry panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), which he is now acting as co-chair of its Steering Committee. Toste is also the coordinator of the EU funded project EuroSea - with a focus to "Improving and integrating the European Ocean Observing and Forecasting System".

**Dr. Sabrina Speich** *(Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris)*

Sabrina Speich is Professor in Ocean, Atmosphere and Climate Sciences at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris where she is also the Dean of Studies of the Department of Geosciences. She is a member of the Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique of the Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace (IPSL). Her research focuses on the uncovering and understanding of ocean dynamics and its role in the Earth's climate and marine ecosystems. She is an internationally recognized expert in ocean modeling as well as in organizing wide programs of in situ observations.

**Dr. Leticia Cotrim da Cunha** *(Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro)*

Leticia Cotrim da Cunha is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Oceanography at Rio de Janeiro State University in Brazil, and co-leads the Brazilian Ocean Acidification Research Network (BrOA) . She is a member of the AtlantOS Steering Committee and part of the GLODAP Reference Group, and has contributed as Lead Author to IPCC's 6th Assessment Report in Working Group I. Leticia is a chemical oceanographer and her research focuses on the Southwestern Atlantic region.
Panelists

**Dr. Anya Waite (Ocean Frontier Institute)**

Anya Waite is the Scientific Director and CEO of the Ocean Frontiers Institute and Associate Vice-President Research (Ocean) of Dalhousie University. Anya Waite is co-chair of the prestigious Global Ocean Observation System Steering Committee - the first woman at the head of this body since its creation in 2011. She also sits on the boards of Canada’s Ocean Supercluster and The Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR). She is on the Editorial Board of the international journal Limnology and Oceanography, co-chair of the SCOR Working Group on biological observation systems, “P-OBS” and was on the Steering Committee of the Southern Ocean Observation System (SOOS) from 2017-2020.

**Dr. Juliet Hermes (South African Environmental Observation Network Manager)**

Juliet Hermes is Manager at the marine offshore node of the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), an Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and an Honorary Professor at Nelson Mandela University. She is co-chair of the CLIVAR Indian Ocean Regional Panel and part of the executive committee of the GOOS Observation Coordination group and of IAPSO. Juliet is passionate about lecturing and supervising students, and education outreach and strives to see transformation in marine sciences. She spends as much free time as possible in the water, mostly surfing.

**Dr. Pierre-Yves Le Traon (Scientific director of Mercator Ocean International and research director at Ifremer)**

P.Y. Le Traon is the scientific director of Mercator Ocean International and research director at Ifremer. He is in charge of the scientific direction of the Copernicus Marine Service (CMEMS). His areas of expertise include in-situ and satellite ocean observing systems and operational oceanography. P.Y. Le Traon is co-chair of the OceanPredict Advisory and Sponsor Board, member of the GEO Blue Planet management committee and of the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) steering committee.
**Dr. Maria Paz Chidichimo** (Argentine Scientific Research Council (CONICET) and Hydrographic Service, Argentina)

María Paz Chidichimo is a physical oceanographer at CONICET and Hydrographic Service in Argentina. She has been conducting her research in large international observational programs in the North and South Atlantic and in the Southern Oceans. Broadly, her research interests are on how large-scale ocean currents change and how they relate to the global climate system. She has contributed as Lead Author to the IPCC SROCC, is a member of the Executive Committee of the South Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (SAMOC) initiative; serves in the CLIVAR Atlantic Region Panel and the GOOS/GCOS Ocean Observations for Physics and Climate Panel (OOPC), and is part of the AtlantOS Steering Committee.

**Mr. Andrei Polejack** (World Maritime University)

Andrei Polejack used to coordinate the Brazilian ocean and Antarctic research endeavors at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. As a Biologist, he was trained as a natural scientist, but after twenty years working for the Brazilian Science and Technology governmental sector, he is now transitioning to social sciences in a PhD at the World Maritime University in ocean science diplomacy and its role in progressing on ocean sustainability and governance, through a Global South perspective. Andrei chaired many ocean and Antarctic related international fora and acted as a delegate from Brazil in all sorts of international negotiations, including the setting of the All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

**Dr. Kristin Burmeister** (Scottish Association for Marine Science, Early Career Ocean Professional)

Kristin Burmeister is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in physical oceanography at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS). Her research focuses on the variability of the Atlantic Ocean on seasonal to longer timer scales. Kristin is an Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) investigating changes of temperature, salinity and biogeochemical components like oxygen and how they are related to variations in the large-scale ocean circulation and climate modes. Before joining SAMS she did her PhD at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel focusing on the tropical Atlantic, in particular, on the variability of the oxygen minimum zone in the eastern tropical North Atlantic.
Ms. Zdenka Willis (Marine Technology Society & Consulting LLC)

Zdenka Willis, L.L.D is the CEO of Veraison Consulting LLC, focusing on earth observations, technologies and policy. Ms. Willis is President of the Marine Technology Society. She was the founding Director of the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Office and served as Director of the National Oceanographic Data Center within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Ms. Willis retired from the United States Navy with the rank of Captain, serving as a Meteorology and Oceanography officer. She has a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of South Carolina; a Master’s degree from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, from Dalhousie University.

Mr. Peer Fietzek (Kongsberg Maritime, marine systems provider)

Peer Fietzek works as Senior Business Development Manager Ocean Science at Kongsberg Maritime. He is a convinced advocate for science-industry collaboration and currently focuses on innovative applications for quantitative acoustic sensors. After having graduated in physics in 2007 from the Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany, including studies at the Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ), Turkey, he has been spending his entire career in the maritime sector working for a research institute, a start-up, an SME and a global corporation. He worked at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and at CONTROS Systems & Solutions GmbH as a sensor developer for chemical oceanographic parameters followed by several technical management positions in the company until its acquisition in 2015.
Moderators and Rapporteur

Ms. Jessica Snowden (Deputy Director, Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing Program, NOAA)

Jessica Snowden is the Deputy Director for NOAA Research's Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing (GOMO) Program. Jessica has been in this position since April 2020, and previously worked for over a decade at NOAA's U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Program helping to build the new IOOS program in NOAA. Jessica is a 2018 graduate of NOAA's Leadership Competencies Development Program. Prior to joining NOAA, Jessica worked for Ocean.US, the coordinating office for U.S. IOOS. She also served as policy coordinator for the American Fisheries Society. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Delaware and a Master of Science degree in marine biology from the University of Maine.

Dr. Ann-Christine Zinkann (Project Specialist, Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing Program, NOAA, Early Career Ocean Professional)

Ann-Christine Zinkann is a Program Specialist at the Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing Program (GOMO) at NOAA. Before joining GOMO, Ann received her PhD at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2020 in Marine Biology focusing on Arctic food web dynamics using stable isotope analysis and food web modeling. In 2020 she was awarded the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program and joined GOMO. She is now working on the All-Atlantic Observing System (AtlantOS); Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the Observations Coordination Group (OCG); U.N. Decade; and Data Strategies.

Ms. Sandra Ketelhake (Science-Policy Adviser at Konsortium Deutsche Meeresforschung and JPI Oceans, Early Career Ocean Professional)

Sandra Ketelhake is a Science-Policy Adviser at the German Marine Research Consortium (KDM) and the Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans). She studied International Politics and International Law at the University of Kiel. Her work focuses mostly on ocean observing related topics - e.g. the All-Atlantic Observing System (AtlantOS), Science for Good Environmental Status, Ocean Carbon Capacities, and the UN Ocean Decade. In addition, Sandra is the German G7 National Focal Point of the Future of the Seas and Oceans Working Group (FSOI).