

“The Ocean Starts in...Cork” - Art and Activism take over European Maritime Day 2025



Brussels, 21 May 2025 – The EU4Ocean Coalition is delighted to invite you to get closer to the ocean through live sound performances and citizen-led activities at the European Maritime Day (EMD) 2025, taking place from **21–23 May in Cork**. The EU4Ocean Coalition – supported by the European Commission – which promotes ocean literacy and public engagement, will host a vibrant booth showcasing the work of its three core communities – the **EU4Ocean Platform**, the **Youth4Ocean Forum**, and the **Network of European Blue Schools** – as well as the **Challenge of the Year**.

Visitors will also have the chance to engage with the Coalition's 2025 campaign, [**'MakeEUBlue: Cities in Action!'**](#), which aims to bring ocean awareness directly into urban life.

The Ocean Starts in Your City

“The Ocean Starts in Your City” - That's the message behind the **#MakeEUBlue** campaign, a citizen-led movement pushing European cities – coastal *and* inland – to take concrete, local actions for a healthier ocean. The campaign empowers citizens to:

- **Call on their mayors** to commit to protecting rivers and oceans through petitions and public pledges.
- Encourage city-wide action aligned with the **EU Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters** and the forthcoming **Ocean Pact**.



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MEDIA INVITE

- Inspire municipal leaders to see their role in ocean sustainability – whether they're on the coast or far inland.

This [initiative](#) will be spotlighted at the EU4Ocean booth, where attendees can learn how to join, sign up, or even start a movement in their own cities. EU4Ocean will also engage directly with the people of Cork, participating in the EMD Public Engagement activities organised by Cork City Council and its partners. Let's rally Cork residents to sign the campaign's petition!

Programme Highlights:

- 20 May | 17:00 – [Coastal Success through Ocean Knowledge Workshop](#) organised by Cobh and Harbour Chamber in partnership with the Port of Cork, EurOcean, JPI Oceans, EMSEA and EuroGOOS. Held in the framework of the EU4Ocean Coalition and the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership. (Location: Cobh, County Cork)
- 23 May | 13:30 – 'Maximising support to blue skills and ocean literacy' Workshop
- 23 May | 16:30 – [#MakeEUBlue Awards 2025](#): Winner Announcement

Experience "Ocean Sounds" – Our Side Event Series Across Cork!

This year's theme, *Ocean Sounds*, highlights the importance of listening to our seas: from underwater biodiversity to noise pollution and cultural heritage. Through sounds and noises, researchers, artists, and civil society organisations can explore the ocean from a new perspective – offering a powerful and emotional way to reflect on ocean sustainability. Join us for immersive and musical encounters with the ocean:

- 21 May | 20:30 – *Songs from the Seven Seas* – A sea shanty welcome session at Coughlan's Bar and Music Venue
- 21-23 May – *Listen to the River Lee* – Boat trips with Navigatio (3 daily sessions)
- 23 May | All day – *Immersive Ocean Sounds Booth* at St Peter's Church
- 23 May | 11:00–11:40 – *Ocean Meditation* – A relaxing guided session with ocean sounds
- 23 May | 17:00–17:45 – *Resonating with the Ocean* – Interactive music workshop with composer Karen Power
- 23 May | 18:00–18:45 – *Different Waves* – A unique live sound performance by Fondazione Cetacea
- 24 May | 11:00–14:00 – *Listen to Cork's Maritime Heritage* – A walking tour with real-time acoustic data



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All events are FREE, but registration is required. Register and view the full programme [here](https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/events/eu4ocean-coalition-emd-2025-2025-05-21_en): https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/events/eu4ocean-coalition-emd-2025-2025-05-21_en

The EU4Ocean Coalition invites journalists and media representatives to attend, cover, and participate in this exciting lineup of **educational, cultural, and citizen-led activities** that bridge the gap between science, society, and the sea.

*** ENDS***

ABOUT EU4Ocean

The EU4Ocean unites organisations, projects, and individuals to promote ocean literacy and sustainable ocean management. Its core initiative, the annual Challenge of the Year, drives key actions like the Call for Collective Action, #MakeEUBlue Awards, and youth-led campaigns. Supported by the European Commission (DG MARE), EU4Ocean fosters innovation through funding and expert support, encouraging collaboration across Europe. It combines EU-wide efforts with regional actions for the Arctic, Atlantic, Baltic, Black, and Mediterranean Seas, as well as the global ocean

Dive deeper into ocean sustainability [here](#)

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