

# EUROPEAN BLUE FORUM

## Deep - Dive Workshops Updates

The European Blue Forum recently organised two Deep-Dive Workshops, discussing the path towards a sustainable future for European seas. The workshops were organised with various break-out rooms, each focusing on a specific facet of the respective workshop theme.

On September 25, 2023, the European Blue Forum hosted its inaugural Deep-Dive Workshop, addressing the question - 'What do we need from European Seas by 2030, and are we asking too much?'. This event brought together 70 stakeholders representing a broad range of sectors, sea basins, and backgrounds, including private companies, academia, public authorities, and civil society. Discussions explored exciting and important topics, such as marine space allocation for human health and wellbeing, the concept of 'degrowth,' replication of local solutions at regional and national scales, barriers to an equitable sustainable blue economy, and the challenge of balancing access to sea space with marine area protection. Notably, across each of the break-out rooms, common concerns emerged, highlighting the pivotal role of 'land-sea interaction' and the need to harmonise land-based activities with sea responsibilities.

The European Blue Forum's 2nd Deep-Dive Workshop on October 16, 2023, engaged 50 stakeholders from different sectors and backgrounds on the question - 'What does a fossil fuel free blue economy look like, and how can we as a community support the transition?'. It served as a platform for stakeholders from different sectors, sea basins, and organisational backgrounds to engage in an in-depth discussion regarding the future of the European Blue Economy. The primary goal of the workshop was to explore and discuss the challenges and obstacles the members of the European Blue Forum are facing and their unique aspirations and requirements in decarbonising their sector and eventually transitioning towards a fossil fuel free sustainable blue economy in the future.

The outcome from these workshops, incorporating the contributions received to date by members of the European Blue Forum, is the development of two Stakeholder Position papers, building on the discussions that took place during each deep-dive workshop. Each paper aims to capture and present the diverse perspectives, challenges, and needs of European Blue Forum stakeholders, to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration, and to foster a shared vision for the sustainable future of European seas.

Importantly, these papers will be presented to the European Commission early in 2024, and it is intended that the Commission will present and discuss the papers during an intergroup meeting of the European Parliament in March 2024.

For those who missed the deep-dive workshops, recordings and an online Contribution Form for each workshop are available on the European Blue Forum's website. To ensure your feedback and comments can be incorporated into the Position Papers, please ensure that you submit any contributions using the relevant form by December 8th, 2023.

The European Blue Forum remains dedicated to incorporating diverse perspectives, fostering a shared vision for the sustainable future of European seas.

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## Deep - Dive Workshops Useful Links



[Read Workshop 1 Briefing Paper](#)

[Read Workshop 2 Briefing Paper](#)



[Workshop 1 Recordings](#)

[Workshop 2 Recordings](#)



[Workshop 1 Contribution Form](#)

[Workshop 2 Contribution Form](#)