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OCEAN
& HUMAN

HEALTH

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ROME JUNE 8th



ISTITUTO
SUPERIORE
DI SANITÀ
AULA POCCHIARI

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The relationship between humanity and the oceans is characterized by a deep and enduring interdependence.

Oceans perform essential functions for the stability of the Earth system: they regulate climate, sustain fundamental biogeochemical cycles, contribute to food security, and host an extraordinary reservoir of biodiversity.

For these reasons, the protection of marine ecosystems has become an increasing priority within scientific agendas and global governance processes.

This commitment is reflected in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in the Sustainable Development Goals related to the protection of natural and marine ecosystems, and has been further strengthened by the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement (High Seas Treaty), which reinforces international cooperation for the conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

In recent years, growing attention has been devoted to the interconnections between ocean health and human health. Marine ecosystems influence several environmental determinants of health, from water quality to food security, while also offering new opportunities for biomedical research.

This forum aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue among scientific institutions and policymakers, placing human health at the center of reflection on the relationship between oceans and society, in line with One Health and Planetary Health perspectives, and to strengthen scientific cooperation and science diplomacy.



ROME, JUNE 8TH, 2026
ORGANIZED BY

ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITÀ
National Centre for Water Safety
&
Directorate General

POCCHIARI HALL

08:45– 09:15 Registration

09:15 Opening Ceremony

- **Prof. Rocco Bellantone** – President of National Institute of Health (ISS)
- **Prof. Andrea Lenzi** – President of National Research Council (CNR)
- **Lt. Gen. Vincenzo Aglieri** – Chief of the Italian Navy Health Inspectorate
- **Prof. Enrico Alleva** – Academician of Lincei National Academy

10:00–10:15

KEYNOTE LECTURE:

**“The Future of Ocean & Human Health:
Science, Risks and Global Opportunities”**

- **Andrea Piccioli** – Director General of ISS



10:15 – 12:15

SESSION I

“The Ocean’s Role in Safeguarding Human Health”

Moderators: Luca Lucentini, Giusi Condorelli

- **Sandro Demaio** – WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (WHO ACE)
- **William Gerwick** – SCRIPPS Institution of Oceanography, University of California (UCSD)
- **Fang Yingxia** – Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources of China
- **Jesse H. Ausubel** – Program for the Human Environment at Rockefeller University
- **Atila Uras** – United Nations Environment Programme/ Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
- **Mario Sprovieri** – Marine Science Institute (CNR-ISMAR)
- **Pedro Flombaum** – Centro de Investigaciones del Mar y la Atmósfera y Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas of Buenos Aires
- **Fulvio Ferrara** – National Centre for Water Safety, National Institute of Health (ISS)

12:15 – 12:30 *Coffee break*



12:30 - 13:00

MINISTERIAL REMARKS

- **Prof. Orazio Schillaci** – Italian Minister of Health
- **On. Giorgio Pichetto Fratin*** – Italian Minister of the Environment and Energy Security

Video contributions from Italian associations and research centres

13:00 – 13:30

SETTING THE SCENE

- **Maria Rosaria Campitiello** – Head of the Department of Prevention, Research, and Health Emergencies, Ministry of Health
- **Giovanni Leonardi** – Head of the Department of Human Health, Animal Health, Ecosystem (One Health) and International Relations – Ministry of Health
- **Annamaria Colao*** – Full Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, UNESCO Chair, Federico II University

GROUP PHOTO

13:30 – 14:30 *Vin d'Honneur at the Monumental Garden of ISS*



14:45 – 16:00

SESSION II

“Ocean and Human Health: Challenges and Innovations for a Resilient Future”

Moderators: Giuseppe Bortone, Giuseppina La Rosa

- **Riyong Kim** – European Environmental Agency (EEA)
- **Manuel Barange** – Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO
- **Daniele Iudicone** – Anton Dohrn Zoological Station of Naples (SZN)
- **Lorenzo Rondinini** – Rear Adm. of Italian Navy Health Inspectorate
- **Marco Giovine** – Sea Study Centre, University of Genoa
- **Rose Mwebaza*** – Regional Representative for UNEP Africa
- **Maria Siclari*** – National System for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)

16:00 – 16:30

CONCLUSION

“Next Steps on Ocean and Human Health”

- **William Gerwick** – SCRIPPS Institution of Oceanography, University of California (UCSD)
- **Jesse H. Ausubel** – Program for the Human Environment at Rockefeller University

16:30 Closing Remarks

**Invited*



SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Jesse H. Ausubel - Director of Program for the Human Environment at the Rockefeller University, New York, USA

Manuel Barange - Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Assistant Director General of the FAO, Rome, Italy

Giuseppe Bortone - Director of the Environment and Health Department, National Institute of Health (ISS), Rome, Italy

Maria Rosaria Campitiello - Head of Department Prevention, Research and Health Emergencies - Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy

Annamaria Colao* - Full Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, UNESCO Chair, Federico II University, Naples, Italy

Giusi Condorelli - Head of the Internationalization and Promotion of Biomedical Research Infrastructures, Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy

Sandro Demaio - Director and Head of the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (WHO ACE) Seoul, Republic of Korea

Fulvio Ferrara - Head of the Coordination, Management and Data Access Area, National Centre for Water Safety, National Institute of Health (ISS), Rome, Italy

Pedro Flombaum - Director of Centro de Investigaciones del Mar y la Atmósfera y Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Buenos Aires, Argentina

William Gerwick - SCRIPPS Institution of Oceanography, University of California (UCSD), San Diego, USA

Marco Giovine - Sea Study Centre, University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy

Daniele Iudicone - Anton Dohrn Zoological Station (SZN), Naples, Italy



SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Riyong Kim - Head of the Department of Environment and Sustainability, European Environmental Agency (EEA) Copenhagen. Danmark

Giuseppina La Rosa - Head of the Microbiological and Virological Risk Area, National Centre for Water Safety, National Institute of Health (ISS), Rome, Italy

Giovanni Leonardi - Head of the Department of Human Health, Animal Health, Ecosystem (One Health) and International Relations - Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy

Luca Lucentini - Director of the National Centre for Water Safety, National Institute of Health (ISS), Rome, Italy

Rose Mwebaza* - Director and Regional Representative for UNEP Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

Andrea Piccioli - Director General of National Institute of Health (ISS), Rome, Italy

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Maria Siclari* - Director General of National System for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), Rome, Italy

Mario Sprovieri - Director of Marine Science Institute of National Council of Research (CNR-ISMAR), Venezia, Italy

Atila Uras - Senior Scientific and Technical Programme Officer UNEP/MAP, Athens, Greece

Fang Yingxia - Director of Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources of China, Hangzhou, China



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference venue

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Aula Pocchiari - Viale Regina Elena 299, Roma

Streaming

The meeting will be held online through the Microsoft Teams videoconference platform.

Official language

The official language is English. Simultaneous translation will not be available.

Target audience

The conference is addressed to staff from research bodies and institutions operating in and interested in the health and environmental sectors.

Maximum number of attendants

Participants can attend the event IN PERSON or remotely. Due to the limited number of seats in the hall, only those who receive confirmation by email will be able to attend in person. REMOTELY, you can follow the event on Microsoft Teams (maximum 1,000 participants) or on YouTube. A certificate of attendance will be issued upon attendance of at least 75% of the event, whether in person or remotely exclusively via the Teams platform. To register to attend in person or remotely (to follow on Teams and receive the certificate), please use the forms available on the website <https://www.iss.it/en/ohh-registrazione>

Certificates

Participants who have attended at least 75% of the event and completed the online satisfaction survey will receive a certificate of participation, which will be sent by email.

***For further information, please contact the Organising Secretariat at the following e-mail address:
info_ohhforum@iss.it***

