

JPI "Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans"

**JPI Oceans-Secretariat
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**Comments
on the SEAS-ERA Draft Marine Research Plan
for the Atlantic Sea Basin**

**Joint SEAS-ERA Atlantic & AAC-CPMR "Governance" Consultative Workshop
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A broad and comprehensive document, covering a wide range of marine & maritime challenges and priorities and very useful as starting point.

Research is classified into 3 categories:

1. Basic Research & ~~New Knowledge~~
2. Applied Research
3. Research Support & Cross-Cutting Issues

But NEW KNOWLEDGE is not exclusive of basic research: also delivered by Applied Research and Cross-Cutting Research (e.g. status of fish stock; diseases and nutritional requirements for fish in aquaculture; new materials; seabed mapping; impacts of pollutants/; monitoring, etc). **Its seems more appropriated “Basic research”**

The rationale of some challenges need to be better founded and developed. Example: Ecosystem Functioning and Processes: rationale is very short despite the relevance and the broad scope of this challenge. Unbalance between this and other challenges: Ecosystem Functioning and Processes (1 paragraph) vs. Oil & Gas Exploration (1 page)

Sometimes the scope of the challenges is too broad while the list of indicative priorities is very short (priority vs. wish list). **Need to balance the scope of the challenges with their priorities.** Example: Climate change is a very broad area but only 2 priorities are identified.

Several priorities or parts of them fit better into a different research category

(Basic, Applied or Cross-Cutting). Reallocation would be needed. Examples:

Basic vs Applied Research: e.g Sustainable deep-sea governance and management;

Research to develop indicators to measure/assess the impact of invasive species

Applied vs Basic Research: e.g Molecular biology, Genomics and meta-genomics

Basic vs Cross-Cutting Research : e.g. Transformative and Enabling Technologies

In some cases it seems appropriated to merge challenges either within the same category

(e.g. Applied Research: Oil & Gas Exploration + Mineral Exploration) **or from different**

categories (e.g. Move “Utilising the results/outputs of national marine environment and assessment research programmes ...” from Applied Research to Research Support & Cross-Cutting , as a priority within Data Management & Dissemination

Some topics with the same scope/objective appear in different challenges:

Basic Research, Deep-Sea Frontier: CO2 sequestration in the deep-sea and its environmental impacts

Applied Research, Oil & Gas Exploration: Critical assessment of carbon capture and storage in the oceans and its potential environmental impacts

Some concepts would need revision and correction: e,g to consider seafood “processing” as a “Bioresource”; “Primary productivity” to refer to fisheries/aquaculture; “indicators” of GES instead “descriptors”;

Some priorities have been identified in the rationale of challenges, but they have not been included in the indicative research issues. Examples: Biomass to Fuel; Traceability/labelling,

There **several important issues have not been considered in the list of priorities** : e.g. role of the ocean on the climate and feedbacks mechanisms; ocean acidification and its impact; impact of fisheries on ecosystems; ICZM and links with MSP; linkages and connectivity of VMEs, Marine Geo-Hazards, etc. **A few issues might not be a priority:** deoxygenation in the NE-Atlantic; Reduce the dioxin/heavy metals content in seafood;

Page 7 “Where issues are obvious by their absence this is because these issues are not within the remit of a majority of participating organizations, though they are no less important and should be incorporated into any resulting Strategic Research Agenda” **BUT...It is not clear how the absent issues will be identified to be included in the SRA if they have not been considered in the Science Plan and how stakeholders will be engaged to build the SRA.**

SEAS-ERA and JPI Oceans have different approaches:

SEAS-ERA covers broadly marine and maritime research, focussing on 3 research categories: Basic Research, Applied Research and Research Support & Cross-Cutting Issues.

JPI Oceans is focussed on the intersection of 3 major areas (Marine Environment, Climate Change and Maritime Economy-Human Activities).

JPI Oceans will be built taking into account priorities identified other programmes, platforms and initiatives, as far as the priorities fit well to the goals and objectives of JPI Oceans

Thank you for your attention!!

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