

LIFE Platform Meeting: Meeting the Challenges of the Nature Restoration Regulation

Best Practice and Innovation in Marine Restoration in Europe

Valencia, Spain 9 - 11 June 2026

Day 1		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 11:00 Plenary Session: Meeting the challenges of the Nature Restoration Regulation		
Main Stage	Event Opening	
	Welcome from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of Spain Presentation: Marine restoration and preparation of the National Restoration Plan in marine areas in Spain	<i>Speaker:</i> Fernando Magdaleno (Deputy Directorate of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity - Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain)
	Nature Restoration Regulation explained for marine habitats and species	<i>Speaker:</i> Maddalena Visser (European Commission, DG.ENV.D3 – Nature Conservation)
	Project Presentation: Horizon Europe BioAgora : The Gap Map: Overview of unmapped Annex II habitats listed in the Nature Restoration Regulation	<i>Speaker:</i> Ute Jacob (Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at the University of Oldenburg, Germany)
	Project Presentation: LIFE-MAPPER : Addressing the challenges of marine habitat degradation by creating comprehensive guidelines and tools for restoration	<i>Speaker:</i> Federica Foglini (Institute of Marine Sciences, National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISMAR))
	Project Presentation: LIFE-IP BIODIVERSEA : Building Finland's capacity by creating the knowledge, planning tools, governance models, and practical measures	<i>Speakers:</i> Sanni Turunen & Anu Riihimäki (Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland)
	Q & A Panel Session	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	



11:30 – 13:00 Session 1		
Main Stage	Active Restoration: Deep Water LIFE LOPHELIA: Method development for cold-water coral reef habitat restoration with implementation in Kosterfjord-Väderöfjord, Sweden	<i>Speaker:</i> Ann Larsson (University of Gothenburg, Tjärnö Marine Laboratory, Sweden) <i>Facilitator:</i> Sara Barcelo
Block 1	Active Restoration: Shallow Water LIFE SeaGrassRIAwild: development of seagrass mariculture to support large scale restoration of <i>Zostera marina</i>	<i>Speaker:</i> João Pedro Coelho (Centre for Marine and Environmental Sciences (CESAM) and University of Aveiro, Portugal) <i>Facilitator:</i> Vasiliki Markantonatou
Block 2	Passive Restoration – Identifying and Removing the Threats MPA-LIFE-IRELAND: establishing a network of MPAs by reducing threats and pressures – achieving GES under the MSFD	<i>Speaker:</i> Oliver Ó’Cadhla (Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, Ireland) <i>Facilitator:</i> Lynne Barratt
Pergola	Restoring Habitats for Species LIFE Mobile Marine Species: Restoring intertidal mudflats to improve seabirds feeding sites	<i>Speakers:</i> Dimitri Dupres & Ségolène Fabre (Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO) and Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB) France) <i>Facilitator:</i> Maria-Jose Aramburu
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	



14:00 – 15:30 Session 2		
Main Stage	Active Restoration: Deep Water Scaling Up Deep-Sea Restoration Through Participatory Multispecific Approaches: Lessons from the LIFE ECOREST Project.	<i>Speaker:</i> Jordi Grinyò (Institute of Marine Sciences, Spanish National Research Council (ICM-CSIC), Spain) <i>Facilitator:</i> Sara Barcelo
Block 1	Active Restoration: Shallow Water LIFE REEFforest: Restoration of <i>Cystoseira</i> macroalgal forests to enhance biodiversity along Mediterranean rocky reefs	<i>Speaker:</i> Annalisa Falace (University of Trieste, Italy) <i>Facilitator:</i> Vasiliki Markantonatou
Block 2	Passive Restoration – Removing the Threats LIFE MareNatura & Horizon Europe MarinePlan: Systematic conservation planning for effective protection of biodiversity	<i>Speaker:</i> Stelios Katsanevakis (University of Aegean, Greece) <i>Facilitator:</i> Lynne Barratt
Pergola	Restoring Habitats for Species LIFE EU SHARKS: Compliance and Enforcement for sharks: extending benefits beyond flagship	<i>Speakers:</i> Eleonora De Sabata & Francesco Colloca (MedSharks) & (Stazione Zoologica A. Dohrn, Italy) <i>Facilitator:</i> Maria-Jose Aramburu
15.30	Coffee Break	

15:30 – 17:00 Knowledge Market 1	
Finger Area Networking space	Roll up Banners, displays of restoration methods
	End of proceedings of Day 1



Day 2		
09:00 – 10:30 Session 3		
Main Stage	Active Restoration: Deep Water Horizon Europe REDRESS: restoration of Atlantic cold water coral habitats from Iceland to the Bay of Biscay (establishing a network of deep-sea artificial structures to restore deep water reefs).	<i>Speakers:</i> Anthony Grehan & Stefan Ragnasson (University of Galway, Ireland & Marine and Freshwater Research Institute of Iceland/EU REDRESS project) <i>Facilitator:</i> Sara Barcelo
Block 1	Active Restoration: Shallow Water COASTal LIFE: Restoring Biogenic and Stone Reefs, Seagrasses, Lagoons and Saltmarshes in shallow coastal waters in Denmark.	<i>Speaker:</i> Torben Jørgensen (Aalborg Municipality, Limfjord Council, Denmark) <i>Facilitator:</i> Vasiliki Markantonatou
Block 2	Passive Restoration – Removing the Threats LIFE DREAM: Deep Reef Restoration and Litter Removal in the Mediterranean Sea	<i>Speaker:</i> Federica Foglini (CNR, Institute of Marine Science, Italy) <i>Facilitator:</i> Lynne Barratt
Pergola	Restoring Habitats for Species LIFE PINNARCA and LIFE PINNACARE: more than five years of experience in the conservation of <i>Pinna nobilis</i>	<i>Speakers:</i> José Rafael García March & Jose Tena Medialdea (Institute for Research in Environment and Marine Science (IMEDMAR), Universidad Católica de Valencia (UCV)) <i>Facilitator:</i> Maria-Jose Aramburu
10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break		



11:00 – 12:30 Session 4		
Main Stage	Active Restoration: Deep Water Horizon Europe REDRESS: Restoring cold-water coral gardens in the Azores in collaboration with fishermen	<i>Speaker:</i> Marina Parra Carreiro e Silva (University of the Azores, Institute of Marine Sciences – OKEANOS) <i>Facilitator:</i> Sara Barcelo
Block 1	Active Restoration: Shallow Water Horizon Europe CLIMAREST: preservation and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems for increased climate resilience (an EU Ocean Mission project)	<i>Speaker:</i> Simonetta Frascchetti (University of Naples, Federico II, Italy) <i>Facilitator:</i> Vasiliki Markantonatou
Block 2	Passive Restoration – Identifying and Removing the Threats LIFE INTEMARES: Integrated, Innovative and Participatory Management for the marine Natura 2000 Network in Spain	<i>Speaker:</i> Victoria Gonzalez (Biodiversity Foundation, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain) <i>Facilitator:</i> Lynne Barratt
Pergola	Restoring Habitats for Species LIFE OASIS: Mitigating the negative interactions of protected species with marine litter and pelagic fisheries of the Mediterranean	<i>Speaker:</i> Ric Sagarminaga van Buiten (Alnitak) <i>Facilitator:</i> Maria-Jose Aramburu
12.30 - 13.30 Final Session		
Main Stage	Keynote speech “From Projects to Policy: The Role of SER Europe in Scaling Marine Restoration”	<i>Speaker:</i> Sahar Stevenson-Jones (European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International, SER Europe). <i>Pre-recorded video</i>
	Key takeaways from the breakout groups	<i>Deep Sea:</i> Sara Barcelo <i>Shallow Water:</i> Vasiliki Markantonatou <i>Removing the Threats:</i> Lynne Barratt <i>Habitats for Species:</i> María-José Aramburu
	Q & A Panel	DG ENV, CINEA & Invited Panellists
	Closing Statement	Maddalena Visser (European Commission, DG.ENV.D3 – Nature Conservation)
13.30 - 14.30 Lunch Break		



14:30 – 16:00 Knowledge Market 2	
Finger Area Networking Space	Roll up Banners, displays of restoration methods
	End of proceedings
16:00 – 18:30 Visit to the Oceanographic Institute (https://www.oceanografic.org/en/)	

Day 3

08:00 – 15:30 Field Trip to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) of Marina Alta to discover their natural treasures:
Posidonia oceanica seagrass beds, reefs, caves, seabirds

