About Ocean Nexus

Contact
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Overview
Ocean Nexus is a research institute created in collaboration with The Nippon Foundation focused on dismantling systematic social equities in ocean governance and policy. As one of the world’s leading research institutions for ocean social sciences research, our network spans 25 countries and 21 institutional partnerships. We are a team of interdisciplinary scholars and practitioners distinguished by our scale and commitment to understanding humanity’s relationship to the ocean. Our mission is to establish social equity at the center of ocean governance. In centering social justice, our research aims to dismantle inequities within ocean governance. At Ocean Nexus, we aspire to create equitable oceans for humanity.

Ocean Equity Learning Forum
Ocean Equity Learning Forum is a central library for ocean social science research. Designed with accessibility as a guiding principle, our learning forum is organized by format types and 9 themes:

- Blue Economy
- Ocean Governance, Law, and Policy
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Fisheries and Food Sovereignty
- Marine and Coastal Management
- Climate Adaptation
- Marine Conservation
- Ocean Pollution and Well-Being
- Digital and Data Technology for Oceans

Program Office
Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus Center
University of Washington

Partners
Africa
Nelson Mandela University

Europe
Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse
Lancaster University
UNEP-WCMC London
University of Bern
University of Edinburgh
University of Strathclyde
Wageningen University

Central America
School for Field Studies

North America
Arizona State University
Cardiff University
Coastal Carolina University
Dalhousie University
Harvard University
Oregon State University
Simon Fraser University
University of Rhode Island
University of Victoria
University of Washington

Oceania
University of Technology Sydney
University of Wollongong
Four Action Areas
We confront and dismantle structural and systemic social inequities existing in ocean governance. Using a unique interdisciplinary approach combining social science and governance research, we study the changes, responses, and solutions to societal issues of oceans. Our research informs evidence-based policies and bridges the gap between decision-makers, policy makers, and the people most dependent on the oceans.

Fellowship Action Area
Ocean Nexus creates opportunities for ocean researchers to integrate socio-political perspectives in their thinking on issues historically considered environmental, and to critique and challenge the existing power structures through research.

Communications Action Area
Ocean Nexus strives to advance narratives that dismantle inequity and injustice. Through purposeful engagement and storytelling, we aim to amplify the voices of those most impacted by social inequity in the ocean space.

Network Action Area
Ocean Nexus engages with the community through empathy as we confront structural inequities in ocean governance. Our network extends beyond ocean experts as ocean inequity is intertwined with societal inequities and injustices.

Policy Analysis Action Area
Ocean Nexus integrates policy analysis within our research to find actionable solutions. We work to provide training and professional development opportunities for our Fellows to build policy analysis capacity. Through this platform, we aspire to develop work that is more directly relevant to the policymaking process.

2023 Highlight Works
Ocean Equity Learning Forum
Interactive ocean policy research portal focused on social equity, organized by themes and formats.

Equity and Marine Plastic Pollution Roadmap
Guide on how to tackle marine plastic pollution through policy and coordination building upon the 2022 Equity and Marine Plastic Pollution Report.

Leadership
Director
Yoshitaka Ota, Ph.D.

Deputy Directors
Wilf Swartz, Ph.D.
Andrés Cisneros-Montemayor, Ph.D.
Harriet Harden-Davies, Ph.D.
Grant Blume, Ph.D.