



DIGITAL TWINS
OF THE OCEAN

Ute Brønner

Ocean Data Enthusiast at SINTEF Ocean
Member of the UN Decade

Ocean Data Coordination Group
Leader of the TURTLE project and
working group under DITTO on
digital twin interoperability
Work package lead for pilot demonstrators in
ILIAD, one of the EU Digital Twins
of the Ocean projects

<https://oceanexpert.org/expert/50093>
www.linkedin.com/in/utebroenner



Ute Brønner

Passionate about understanding the ocean
environment through data from the combina...



Photo by The Guardian
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/04/eelgrass-endangered-marine-plant-vital-keeping-climate-stable>



DIGITAL TWINS IN OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY



Image : <https://www.americanoceans.org/facts/how-much-oxygen-produced-by-ocean/>

photo Michiel Vos / Ocean Image Bank



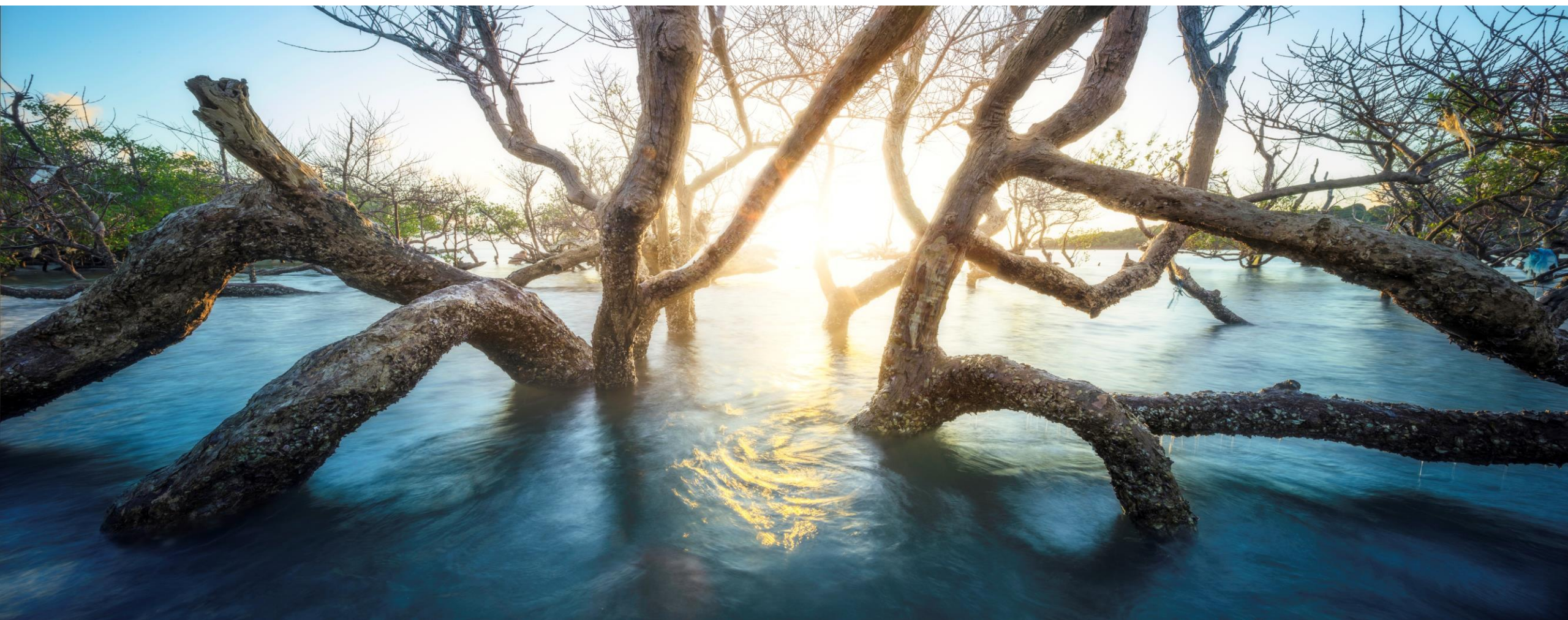


photo Gabriel Barathieu / Ocean Image Bank

photo by [Nicholas Doherty](#) on [Unsplash](#)



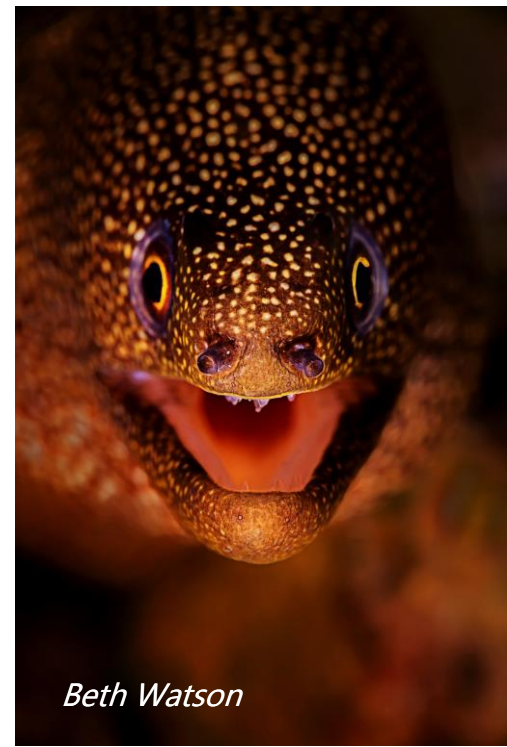
*photo by [Tapani Hellman](#)
on [pixabay](#)*



photo by [Paul Einerhand](#) on [Unsplash](#)



*photo by [Nate Cheney](#)
on [Unsplash](#)*



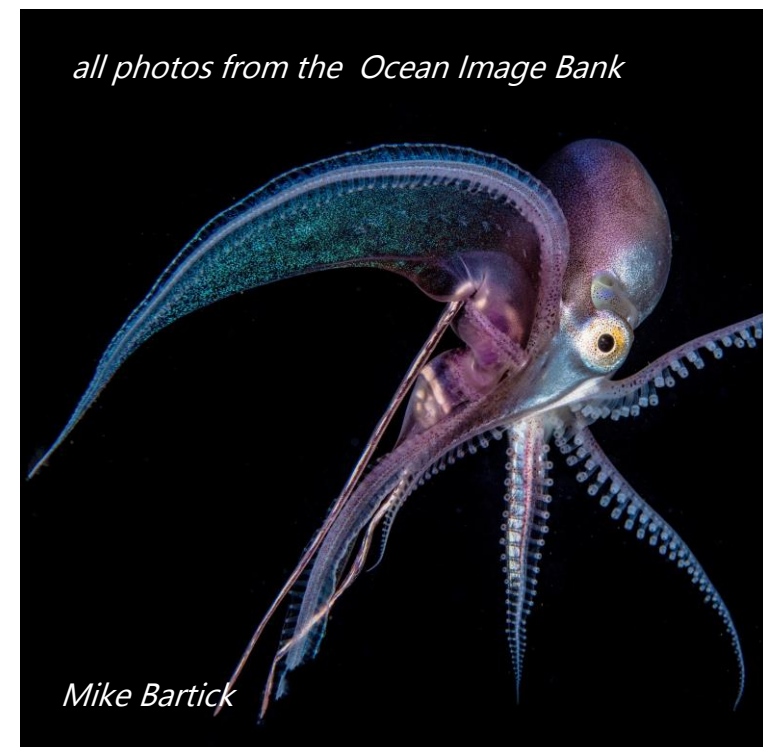
Beth Watson



Alex Tyrrell



Vincent Kneefel

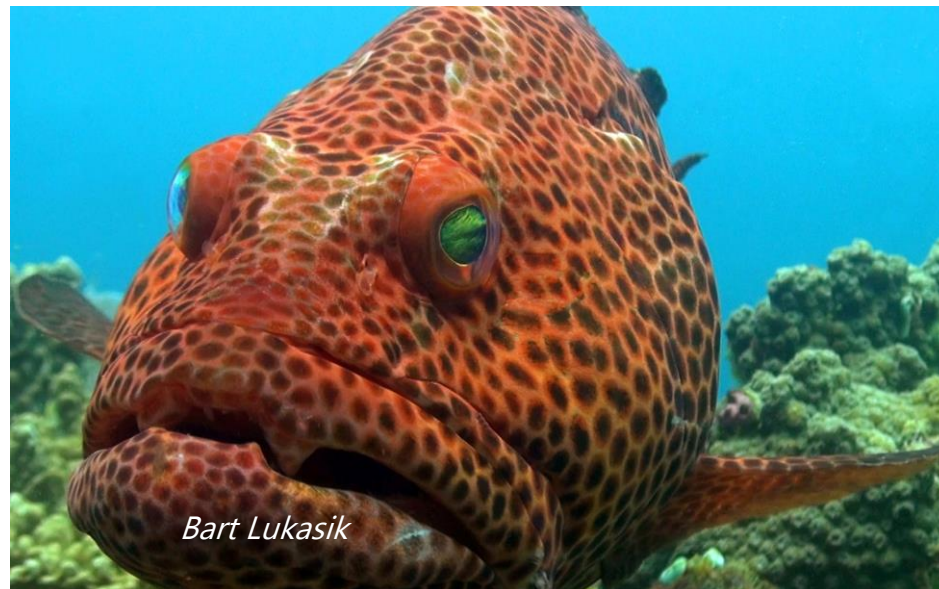


Mike Bartick

all photos from the Ocean Image Bank



This photo: *Kyle Badien*,
Ocean Art Competition 2018



Bart Lukasik



Gregory Piper

photo Richard Barnden / Ocean Image Bank



photo Grant Thomas / Ocean Image Bank



photo Anett Szaszi / Ocean Image Bank



photo Amanda Cotton / Ocean Image Bank



photo Jeff Hester / Ocean Image Bank



photo Fabrice Dudenhofer / Ocean Image Bank





photos Françoise Baelen / Ocean Image Bank





photo: WWF: <https://www.wwfmmi.org/?5947466/Plastic-contamination-of-the-ocean-is-irreversible-warns-WWF>



photo: Mario Hoppmann (distributed via imagedo.ege.eu)

An underwater scene of a vibrant coral reef with various colorful corals and many small fish swimming around. The lighting is blue, typical of an underwater environment.

80%

of the ocean has never been mapped, explored, or even seen by humans.

70%

of the world's surface is covered by the Ocean.

30%

30x30 is a campaign to protect 30% of the global ocean by 2030.

~7.65%

of the ocean is covered by marine protected areas (MPAs). This is about the size of North America (by January 2023).

<3%

of the ocean lies within a highly protected zone.



<https://indigenousoceans.ca/en/marine-spatial-planning/>

Marine Spatial Planning – what if ?



DIGITAL TWINS



Virtual
representations
of real-world 'things'

assets (physical twin), processes,
people, places, systems, and devices

Synchronised
at specific
frequency
and fidelity

Observations & model data

A man in a white shirt is looking at a laptop screen. The screen displays a digital overlay of binary code (0s and 1s) and data. The background is a light blue color with a grid pattern and some floating binary code. The overall theme is digital technology and data analysis.

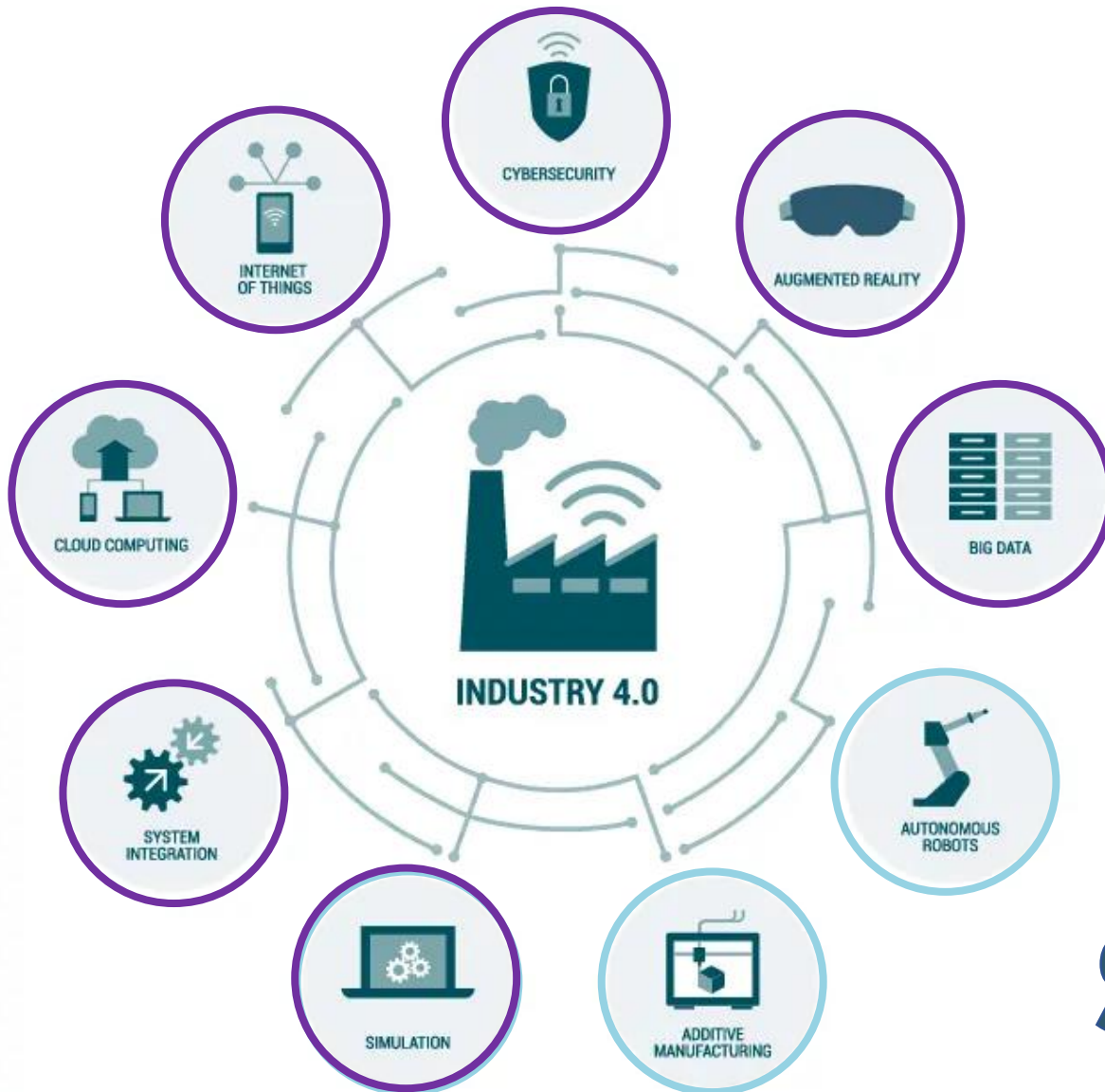
Insights through
predictive capability

Simulate scenarios
Make decisions

image:
[https://www.expresscomputer.in/news/
what-is-a-digital-twin-why-is-it-
important/45995/](https://www.expresscomputer.in/news/what-is-a-digital-twin-why-is-it-important/45995/)



Adapted from <https://www.mercator-ocean.eu/en/digital-twin-ocean/>



Industry 5.0 places the wellbeing of the worker at the centre of the production process and uses new technologies to provide prosperity beyond jobs and growth while **respecting the production limits of the planet.**

SUSTAINABILITY

THE SUPERPOWER OF DIGITAL TWINS IS

CONTEXTUALISATION



Photo by [Nicholas Doherty](#)
on [Unsplash](#)



Digital Twins of the Ocean make existing and future Ocean Data Systems **interoperable.**

physics

biology

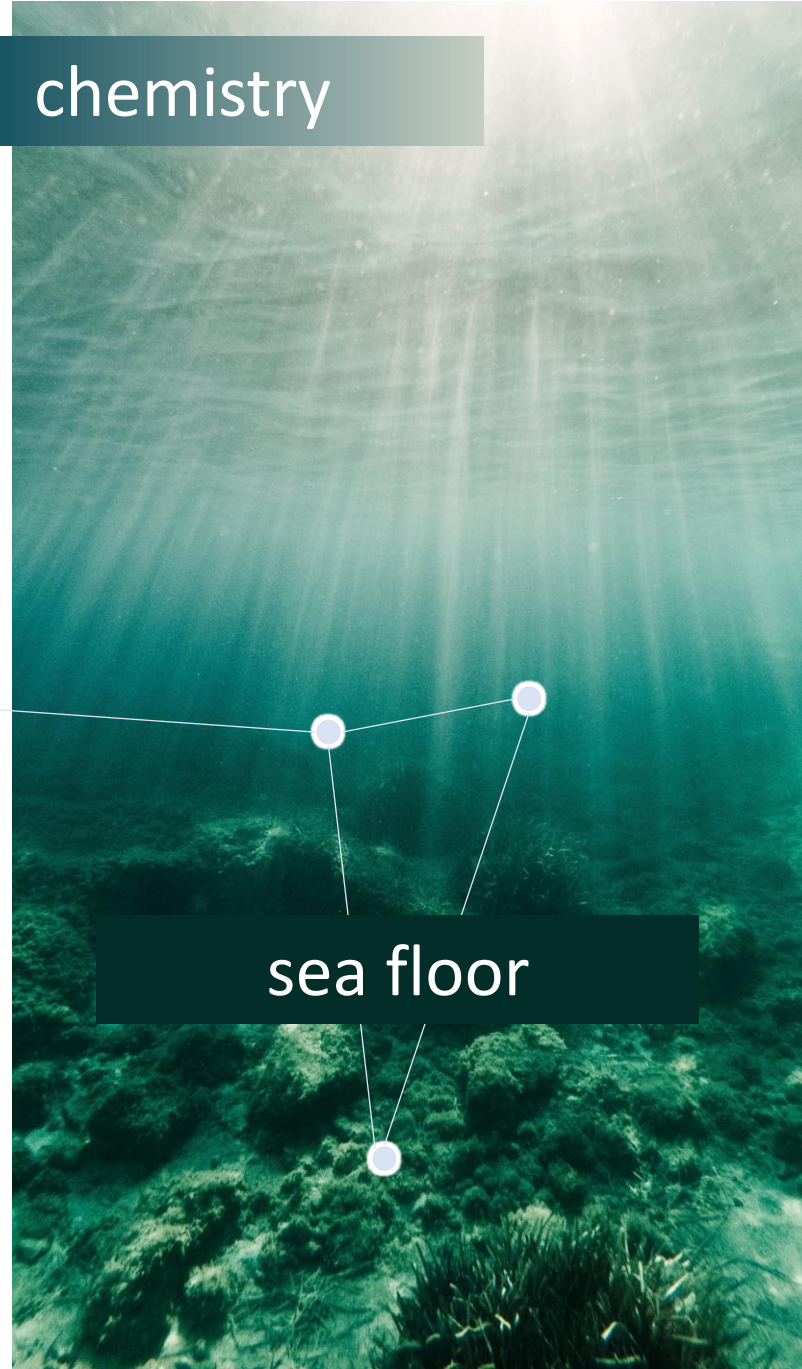
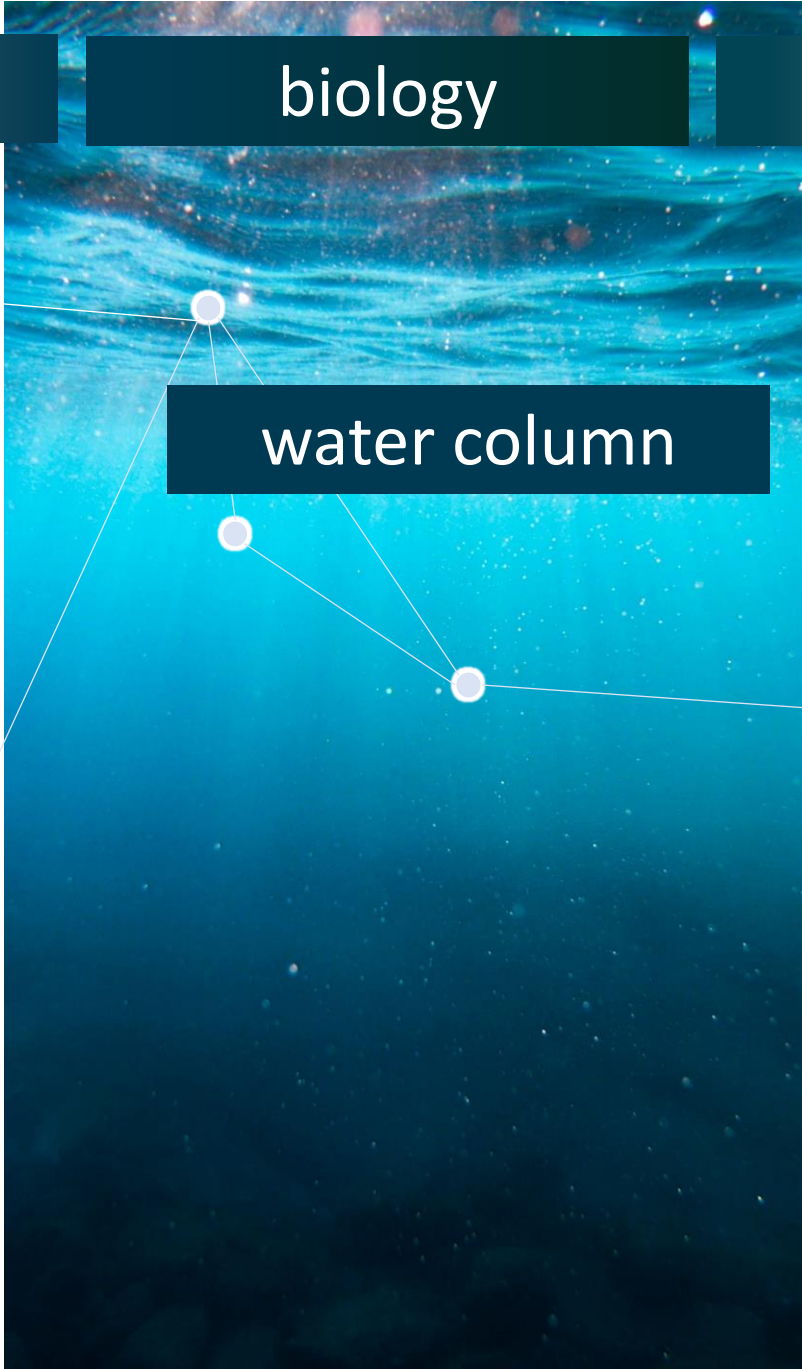
chemistry

asset

water column

sea floor

sea surface



shore

sea surface

physics / biology / chemistry

biodiversity / ecology

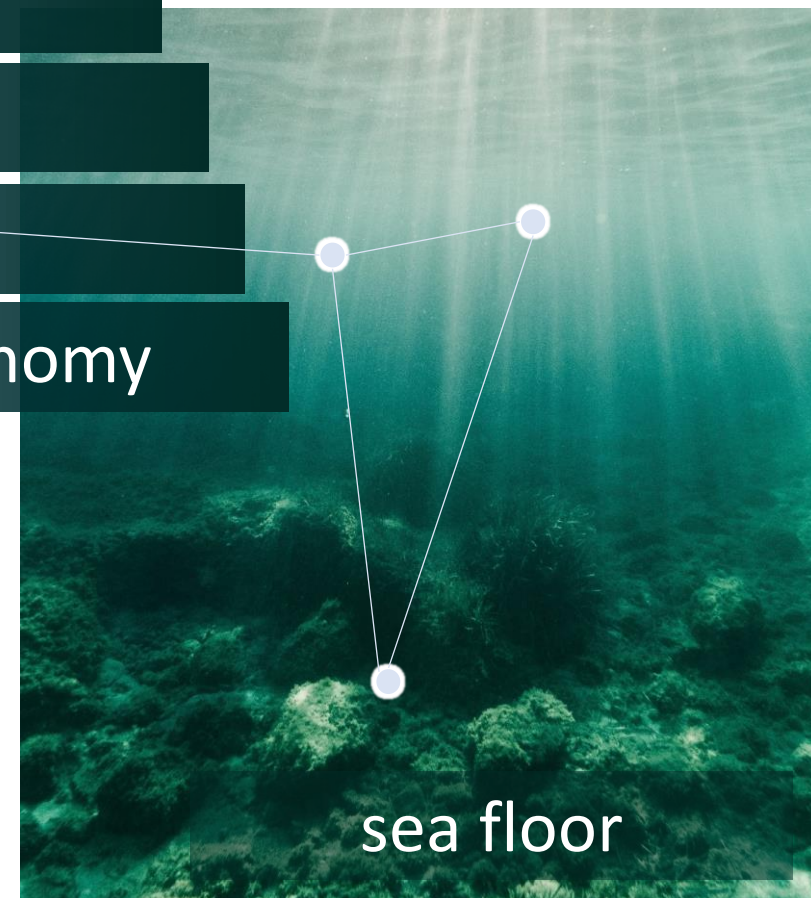
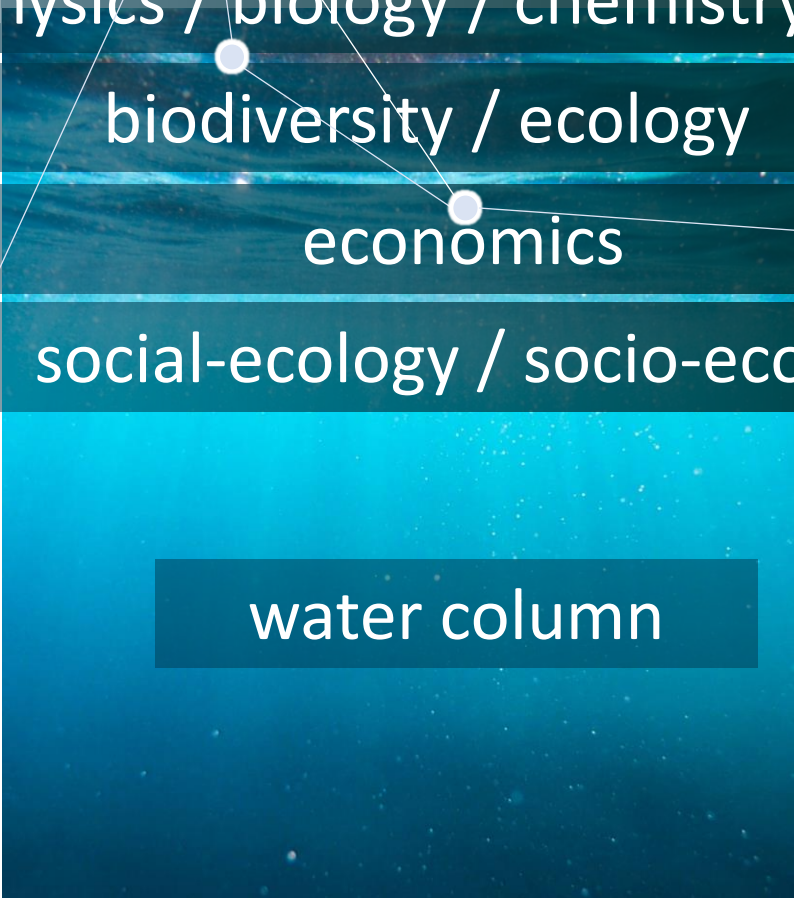
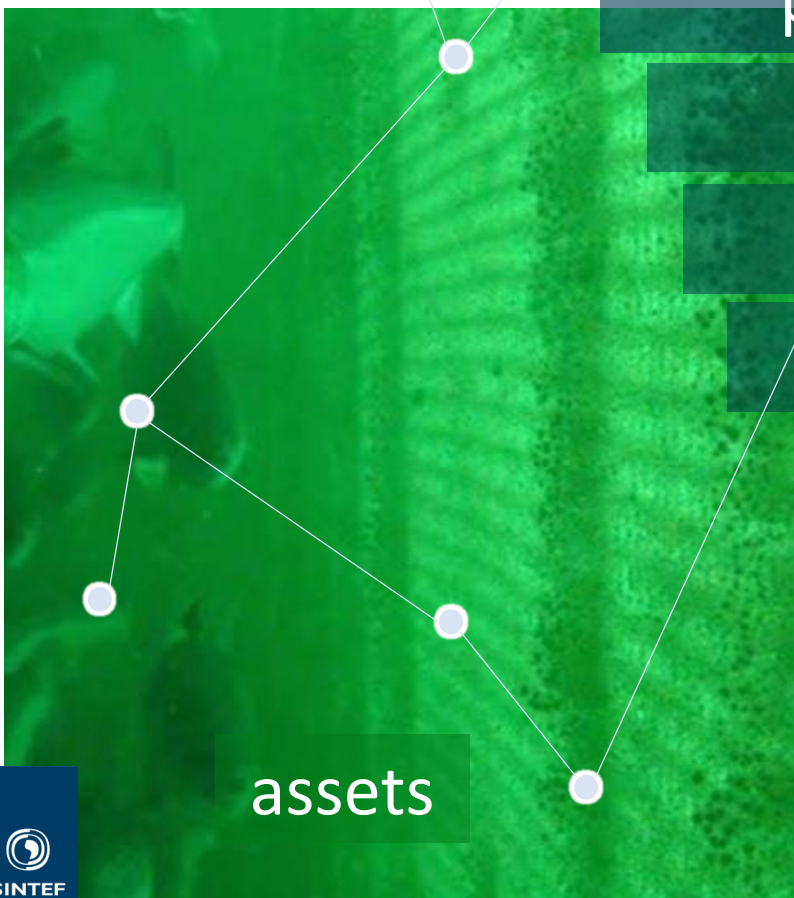
economics

social-ecology / socio-economy

water column

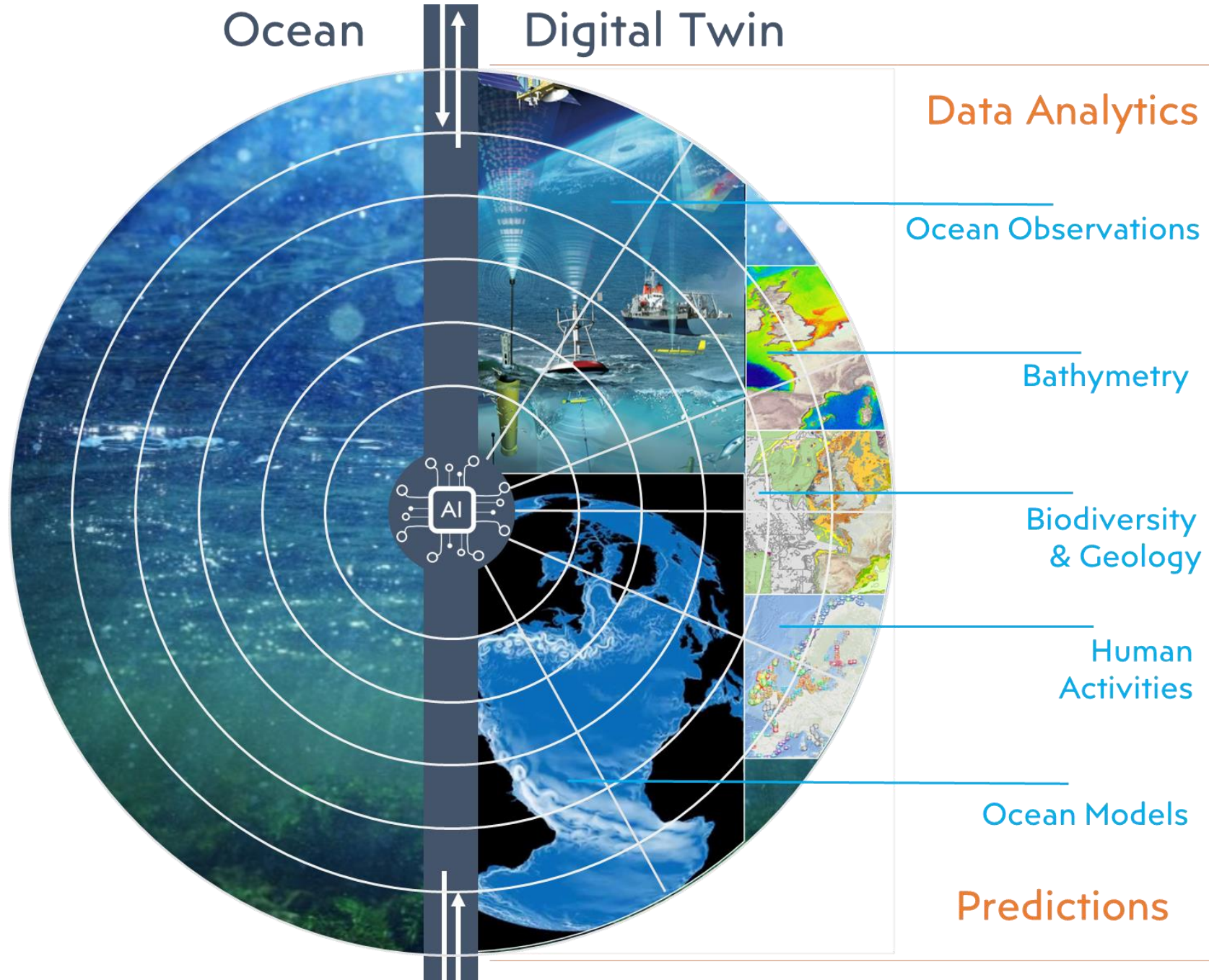
assets

sea floor

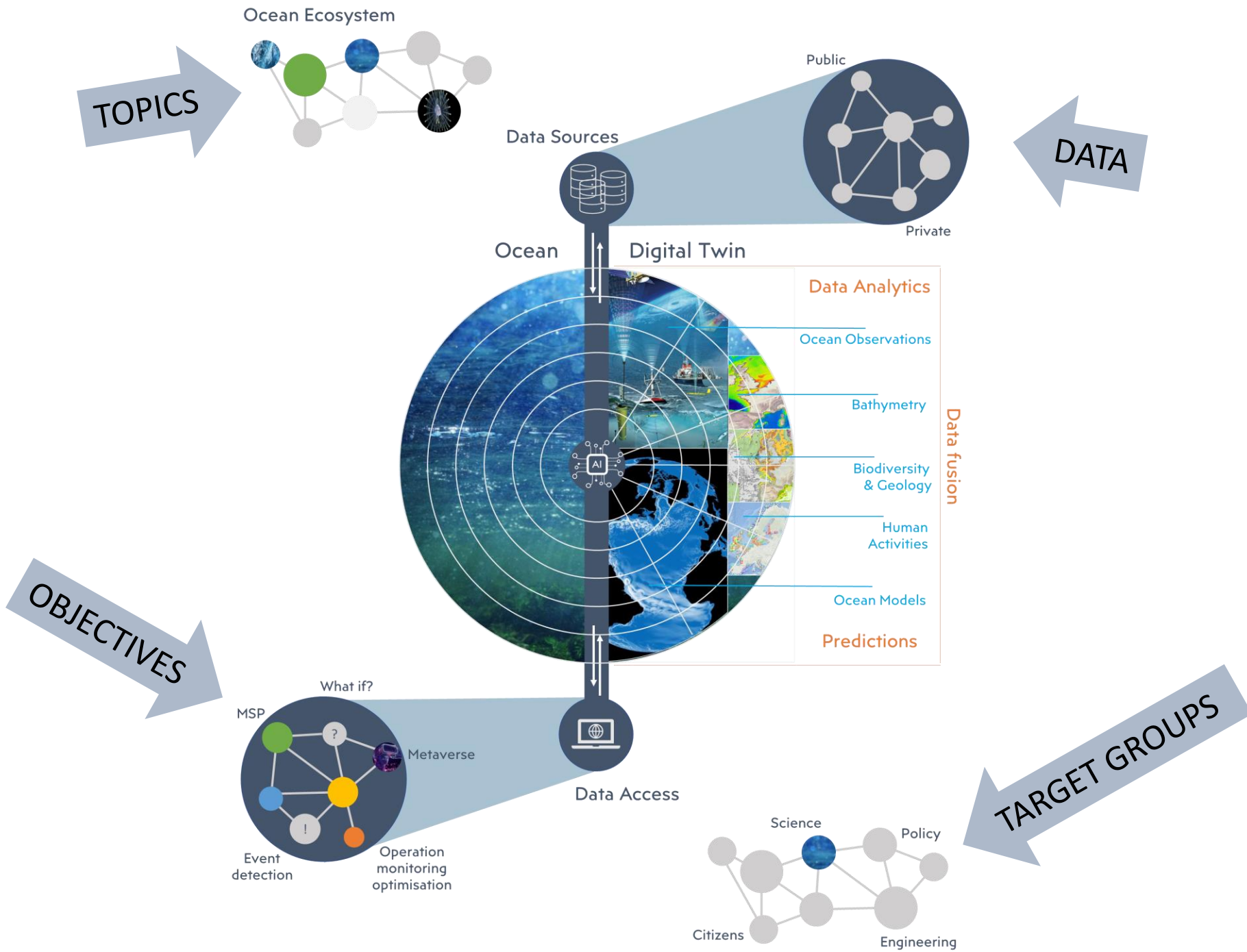


Ocean

Digital Twin



Data fusion



You can change the world for good - but only if people care about what you do.

Visualisation &
monitoring

Predictive analysis for
informed decision
making

Enhancing protective
environments

"a photorealistic picture of a yellow research buoy in a peaceful fjord with blue sky and mountains in the background"



"a steampunk digital twin of the ocean with virtual reality"



shore

sea surface

currents / waves / ocean colour / oxygen / temperature

AQUACULTURE

water column

assets

sea floor

MARITIME TRANSPORT

currents / waves / mammals / biochemistry / invasive species



COEXISTENCE

currents / wind / waves / biochemistry / biodiversity



The image features an underwater scene with a dense field of green seagrass in the foreground. The water is clear and blue. A vertical line divides the image into two halves. The right half is overlaid with a pixelated or mosaic effect, transitioning from blue at the top to green at the bottom. The word "GOVERNANCE" is written in large, white, outlined capital letters across the middle of the image.

GOVERNANCE

currents / wind / waves / pollution / eutrophication / biodiversity

The European Commission is investing €10 million to develop a core European Digital Twin Ocean through the sister projects EDITO-Infra and EDITO-Model Lab.

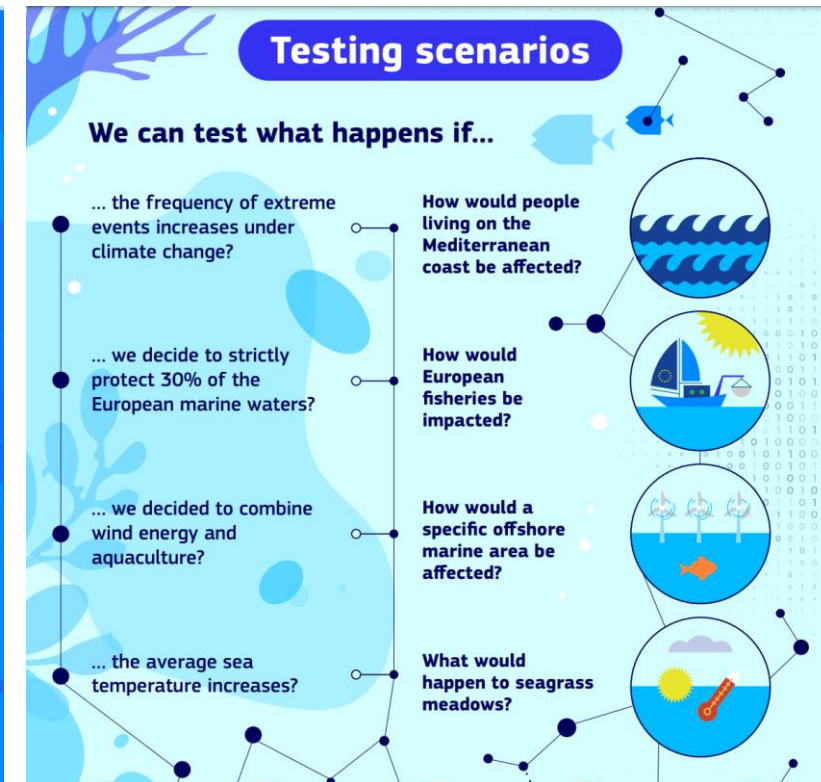
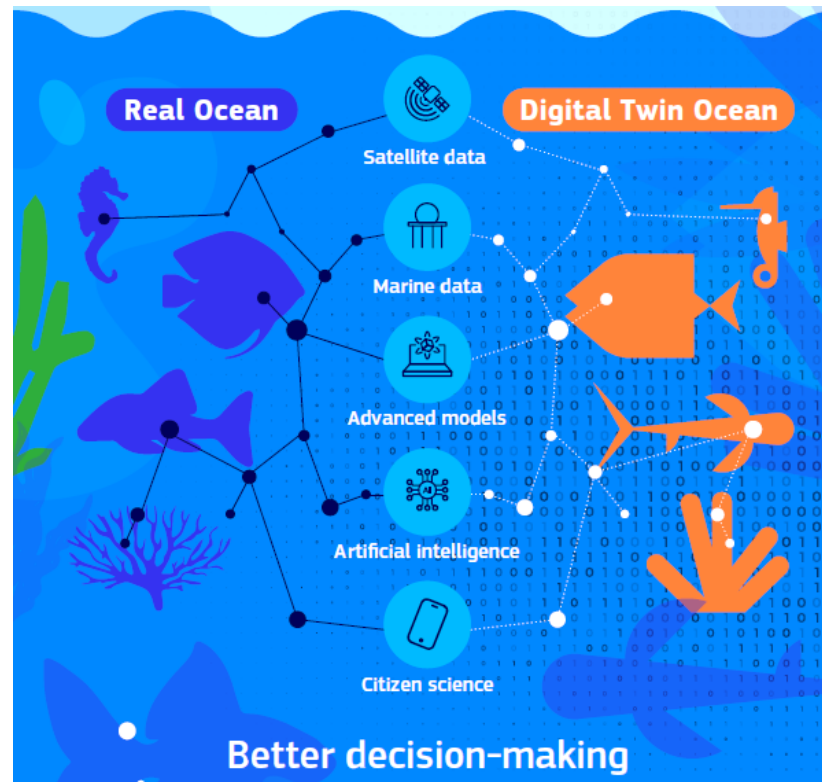
This complements the €19 million project, Iliad, funded under the Green Deal Call for research proposals to pilot the Digital Twins of the Ocean concept.

The banner features the European Commission logo at the top center. Below it, the title "The DIGITAL TWIN OCEAN" is written in large, bold, dark blue letters. Underneath the title, the subtitle "An interactive replica of the ocean for better decision-making" is displayed in a smaller, lighter blue font. A dark blue rounded rectangle contains the text "What is it?". Below this, a paragraph explains that the digital space provides access to vast amounts of data, models, artificial intelligence, and other tools, which will allow the replication of the properties and behaviours of marine systems, including ocean currents and waves, marine life and human activities, and their interactions, in and near the sea. The background is light blue with stylized clouds and waves.

The DIGITAL TWIN OCEAN
An interactive replica of the ocean for better decision-making

What is it?

A digital space providing access to vast amounts of data, models, artificial intelligence and other tools, which will allow the replication of the properties and behaviours of marine systems, including ocean currents and waves, marine life and human activities, and their interactions, in and near the sea.



European Digital Twin of the Ocean

A leap in ocean knowledge and sustainable action





Integrated Digital framework for comprehensive maritime data and information services

What are the Iliad Digital Twins of the Ocean?

Iliad aspires to create interoperable, data-intensive, and cost-effective Digital Twins of the Ocean

The Iliad Digital Twins of the Ocean build on the assets resulting from two decades of investment in policies and infrastructures for the blue economy and aims at establishing a variety of Digital Twins of the Ocean for different applications.



An Information Management Framework for Environmental Digital Twins (IMFe)

THE DIGITAL PORT



PORT OF ROTTERDAM DEVELOPING INTO MAJOR DIGITAL PLATFORM

The port of Rotterdam has long been recognised for its excellent physical infrastructure. To safeguard its strong competitive position in the decades ahead and to maximise the impact of its activities, the Port Authority is steadily expanding these assets with a digital component. As a result, a completely new port is coming into being against the familiar backdrop of massive ships, towering cranes and water spray. A digital 'doppelganger', which runs on data, laptops and mobile phones. A port made of 'apps', in which algorithms continuously track the movements of sea-going vessels, containers, inland vessels, trains and trucks. A port where everything is interconnected and where objects independently exchange information.

<https://www.portofrotterdam.com/en/to-do-port/futureland/the-digital-port>

<https://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/533054/1/NOC%20IMFe%20Summary%20Report3%20V3.pdf>

<https://biodt.eu/>

Prototype Digital Twins to help protect and restore biodiversity



Experience BioDT: advanced simulations, FAIR data, and AI-driven solutions for global biodiversity dynamics. Join us in shaping a sustainable future!

Discover our prototype DTs →

Welcome to DITTO (Digital Twins of the Ocean): A Programme under the UN Decade of Ocean Science



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Interoperability Architecture for a Digital Ocean (TURTLE)



photo: Kyler Badten,
Ocean Art Competition 2018

[Homepage](#) / [Affiliated projects](#) / Interoperability Architecture for a Digital Ocean (TURTLE)

The “Interoperability Architecture for a Digital Ocean” (TURTLE) project is implemented by SINTEF Ocean, Norway. Its goal is to coordinate ongoing international Digital Twins of the Ocean projects and work towards an interoperability architecture. As initiatives around the globe begin to enhance ocean-oriented digital capacity, there are unprecedented opportunities to power digital twinning.

Currently there are many initiatives that work toward or in support of a Digital Twin of the Ocean, e.g. the EU Digital Twin Ocean system, [NOAA’s National Centre for Environmental Information](#), the [IOC Ocean Data and Information System ODIS](#), the [IOC Ocean Best Practice System OBPS](#), the [Ocean Data Action Coalition](#) and the [UN Data Coordination Group](#).

Project date:

📅 01/09/2022 - 31/12/2025

Contact for this project:

[Ute Brønner](#)



OceanLab



Full-scale ocean space laboratory that can be used by national and international partners, academia and industry



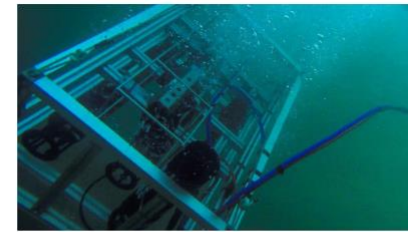
OceanLab Node 1: Subsea Facility



OceanLab Node 2: National Test Area for Autonomous Vessels



OceanLab Node 3: Aquaculture



OceanLab Node 4: Marine Observatory

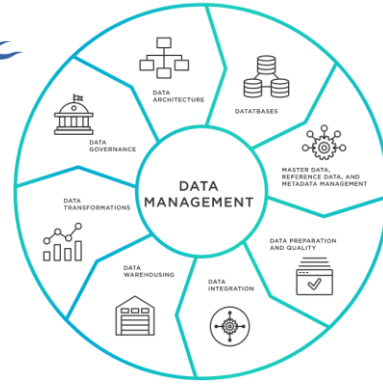


Water quality / pollution & environmental monitoring pilot



Data acquisition from OceanLab infrastructure

- Ocean observatory
- Subsea / applied underwater robotics



Data management and API access via TIBCO data virtualisation (under development)

ML for particle quantification and classification

External data sources:

- Ocean model (Norkyst800 or better (SINMOD))
- Satellite data on ocean colour



Digital twin core:

- Monitoring of temperature, salinity, currents and particles in the water
- Transport patterns in the area from forward and backward modelling (OpenDrift or better)
- In case of an event, increase transport modelling and deploy autonomous vehicles to follow pollution



Visualisation / decision support:

- Where might marine litter origin?
- Where will pollution be transported to (VR/AR)?
- What ships are in the area which might be the cause of pollution?
- What are the current environmental conditions?





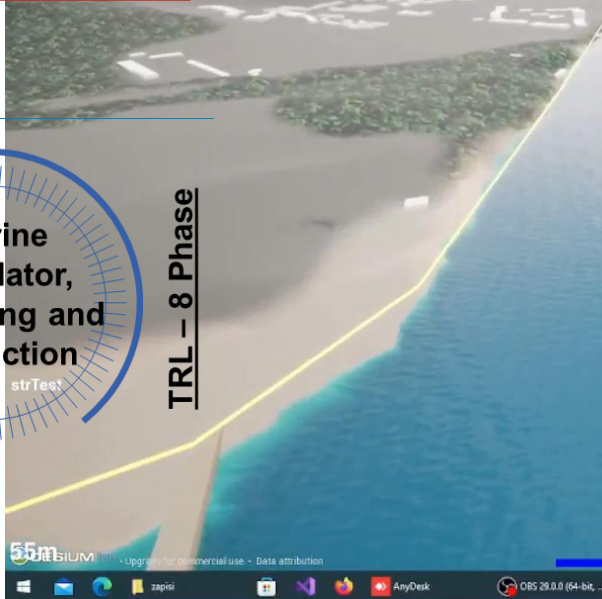
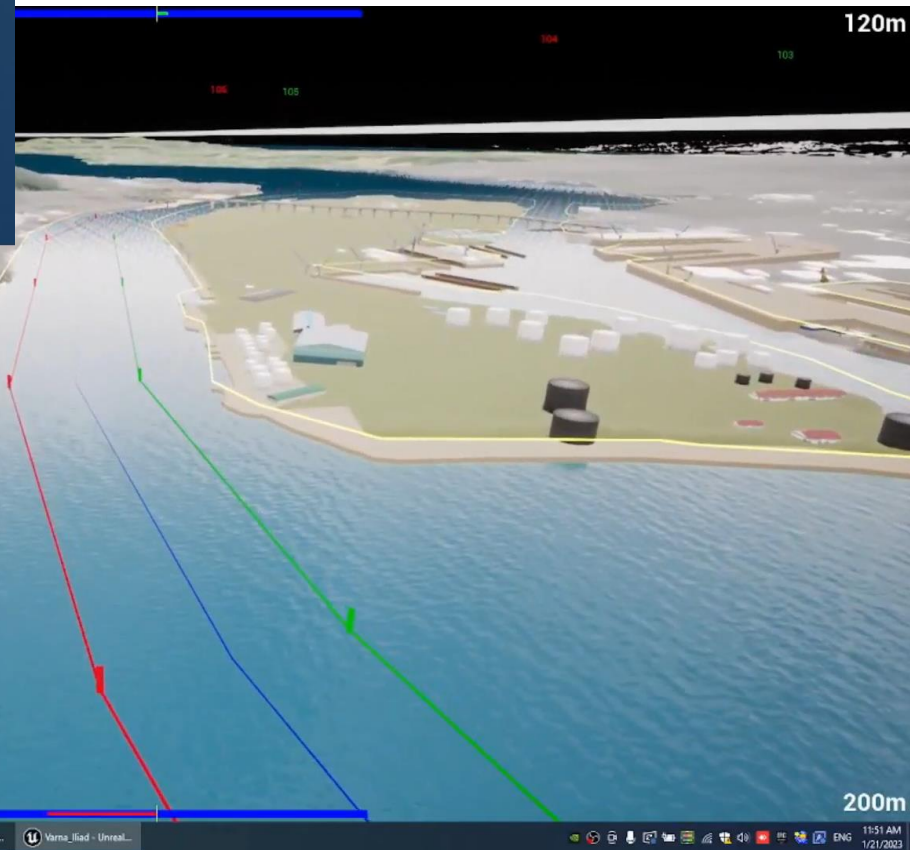
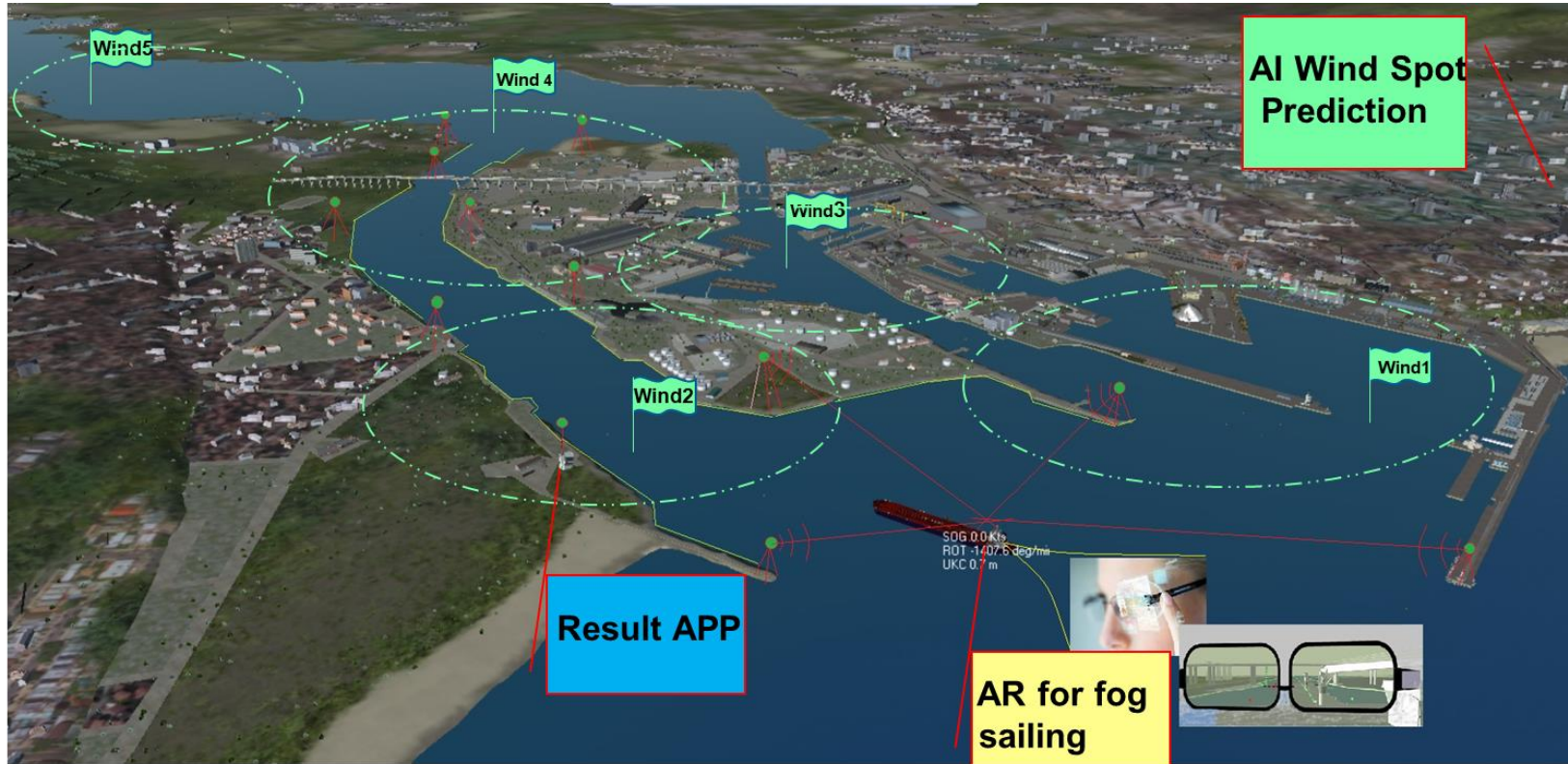
UNPREDICTABLE THICK MIST



1 / 735



Port safety Varna





TU Varna MSQC



BLACK AREA IS TRANSPARENT IN GLASSES

**THICK MIST SAILING WITH
AUGMENTED REALITY**



ocean-twin.eu

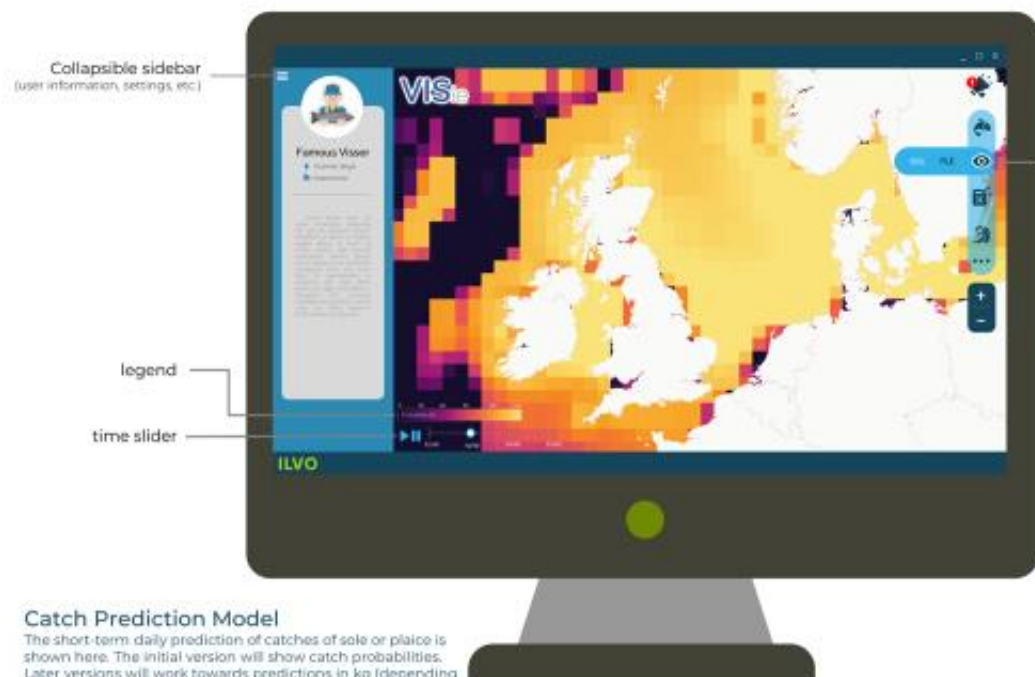
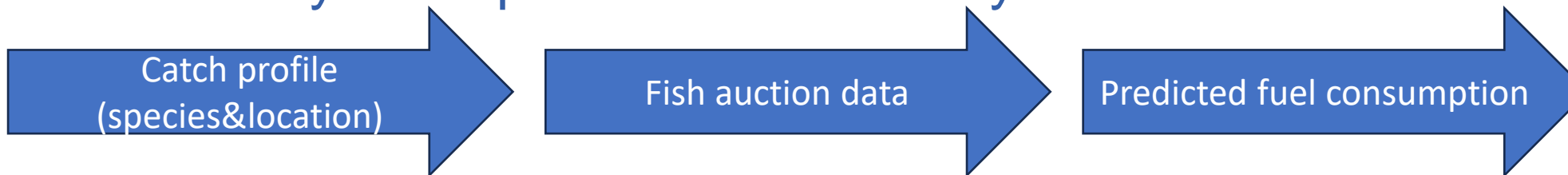


[/oceantwin](https://www.facebook.com/oceantwin)



[@ocean_twin](https://twitter.com/ocean_twin)

Digital Twin of North Sea fisheries with catch prediction and fuel efficiency for improved sustainability



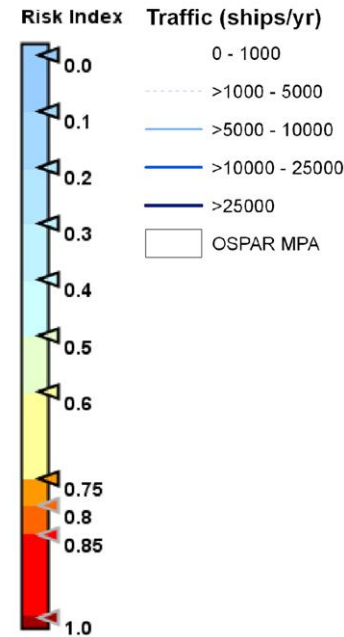
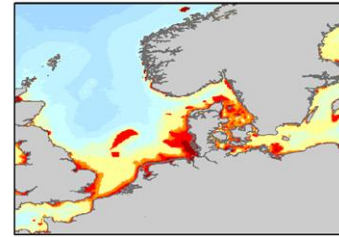
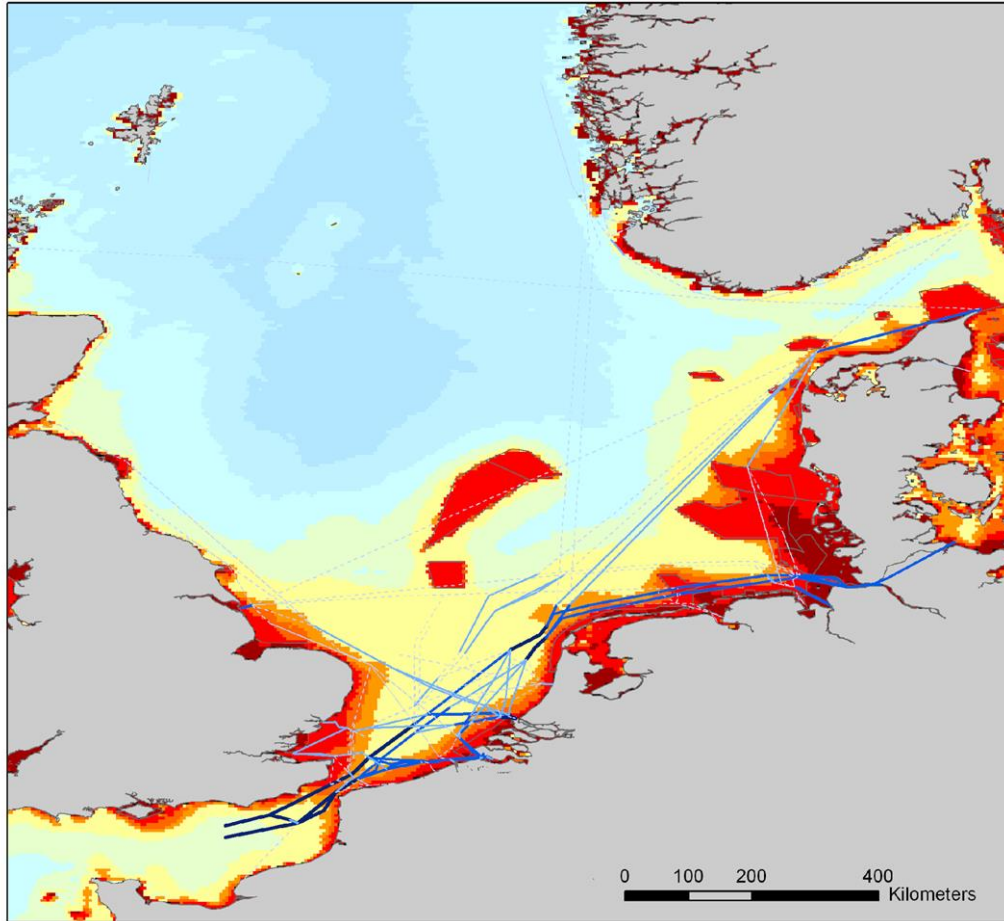


Ballast water risk assessment



Spreading of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens

Ballast Water Risk Index
Risk Index Yearly Average



- Provide accurate short-term invasive species trajectories and species spread forecasting (and backtracking to link to potential sources assisted by EO and AIS information), combining high-resolution met-ocean forecasts, EO, in-situ, and citizens science data;
- Adjust risk assessment to observations by reinitializing the model with updated observational patterns so that the invasive species spread can be timely updated and improved;
- Provide the operational picture for the deployment of response measures, and;
- Help to simulate of different “what-if” scenarios, incl. uncertainty assessment, visualizing the HAOP pollution hazards, their economic consequences, and the simulation of the impact of different mitigation measures.

Aquaculture sites transport connectivity potential

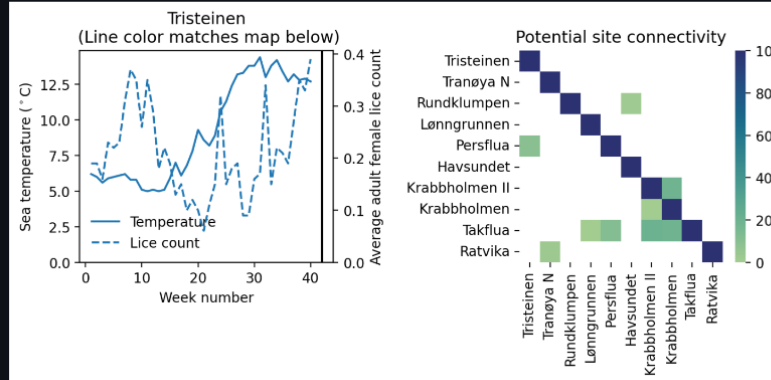
Transport potential between aquaculture sites, based on [NorKyst800](#) ocean model forecast data (+24 hours). Reported sea temperatures and lice counts are retrieved via [BarentsWatch](#).

Simulation start time: 2023-10-16T10:47:09.323409920.

Simulation end time: 2023-10-17T10:47:09.323409920.

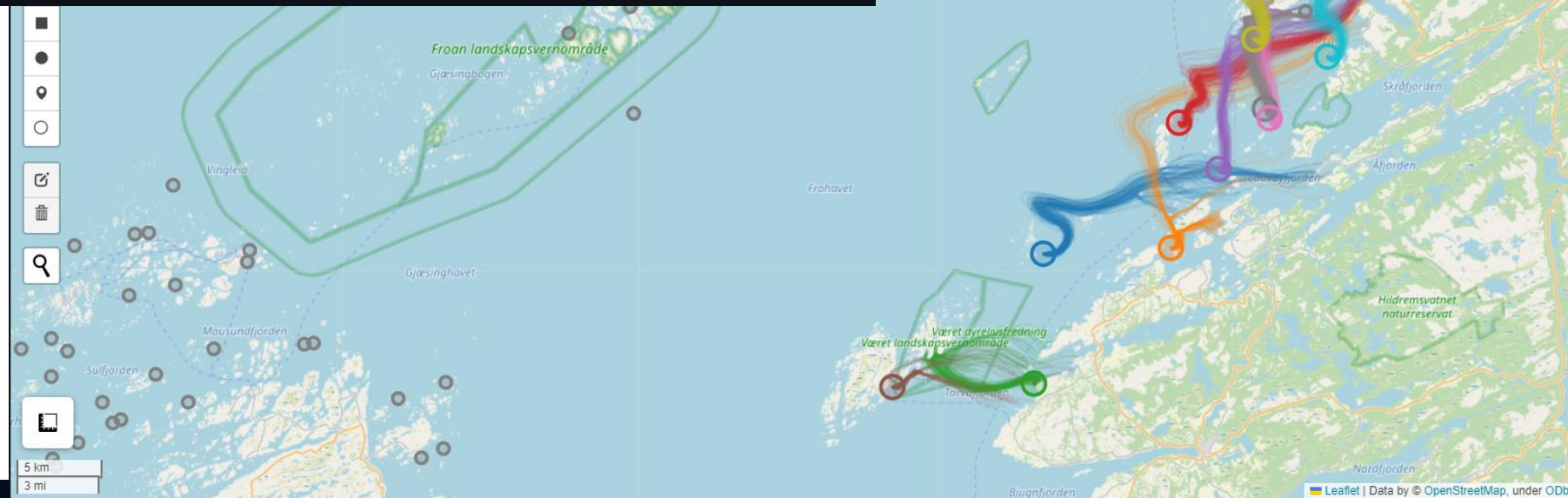
Select site to update map and data for 2023

Tristeinen



Risk assessment of sites for insurance purposes

Environmental monitoring for conditions that affect feed consumption and biomass development





DIGITAL TWINS OF THE OCEAN

What if you had one, what would you do with it?