



Sixth International Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO₂ World

Hosted by the
Victoria University of Wellington

Tākina Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wellington, New Zealand

13–16 October 2026

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Information Sheet

Introduction

Held every four years, the International Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO₂ World is the largest global gathering on ocean acidification. The Symposium brings together scientists, communities, policymakers, and stakeholders from sectors such as fisheries and aquaculture to share and discuss the latest research on the impacts of ocean acidification on marine life and potential solutions to counter its effects. The Sixth edition will maintain a focus on ocean acidification but will also expand to consider other ocean climate impacts, such as ocean warming and deoxygenation, particularly in a multiple-driver context. Research on marine carbon dioxide removal interventions, which have been suggested to mitigate climate change and ocean acidification, will also be a key part of the conference. More information on the seven key themes of the conference, its 22 workshops, and the detailed programme can be found on the Symposium website (<https://highco2-vi.org/>).

The IAEA's Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC) (<https://www.iaea.org/ocean-acidification>) is cooperating on the organization of this event and has limited funds at its disposal to help meet the costs of the attendance of selected participants from eligible IAEA Member States to present their work and foster international collaboration at the conference.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to provide a space for scientists from the ocean acidification (OA) research community to disseminate the results of their research, discuss joint projects with peers and engage with stakeholders. The event, held every four years, is the world's largest conference on OA and related stressors.

Target Audience

Scientists from developing IAEA Member States. Priority will be given to early-career scientists actively working on ocean acidification, multiple stressors or marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR). Applicants should hold a university degree in marine biology, oceanography or a related scientific field. Female scientists are encouraged to apply.

Working Language(s)

English

Expected Outputs

Improved understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification on different marine ecosystems and on industries dependent on marine resources, increased awareness of key stakeholders around the topic of ocean acidification, multiple stressors, and ocean-based solutions, including representatives of governments and decision makers; enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels to address ocean acidification and across different knowledge systems.

Structure

The Symposium is inter-disciplinary and contributions are expected to detail advances in observations, modelling, field and laboratory studies on the biological impacts of ocean acidification and related stressors, as well as marine carbon dioxide removal. The central theme of the conference is “Moving from Understanding to Action using Multiple Knowledge Systems”, and inclusivity, co-design and co-production of the science needed to inform solutions will be key aspects discussed throughout the conference. The event is expected to attract about 400 scientists, addressing the following themes:

- Beyond tipping points - translating science to action
- Global-driven changes in biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
- Multiple stressors' effects on marine organisms

- Ocean-based solutions
- Technological advances in marine climate change research
- The modulating role of time - from short-term variability to evolution
- Working across knowledge systems in a high-CO₂ world

In addition to plenary, breakout, and poster sessions, over 22 workshops covering a wide range of topics, including marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR), learning across knowledge systems, policy engagement, integrating ocean carbon observations and models, experimental design, and biodiversity in a changing ocean will be organized.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event through the IAEA have to be designated by an IAEA Member State.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State, participants are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) for onward transmission to the IAEA by **4 September**.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants for the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of participants from developing IAEA Member States. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

Grants are available for approximately 10-15 scientists from developing IAEA Member States who are actively working on ocean acidification, multiple stressors or marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR). Applicants should hold a university degree in marine biology, oceanography or a related scientific field. Only applicants with an accepted abstract for an oral or poster presentation will be considered for IAEA support. If the applicant did not submit an abstract for the Symposium, he/she should be prepared to present his/her research as a poster or speed presentation.

The application for financial support should be made using the **Grant Application Form (Form C)**, which must be stamped, signed and submitted by the competent national authority to the IAEA together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** by **4 September 2026**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Tākina Convention & Exhibition Centre. Wellington, New Zealand.

Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The closest airport is Wellington, New Zealand.

Please see the Symposium website for more information (<https://highco2-vi.org/>).

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter New Zealand should submit the necessary application as soon as possible to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of New Zealand.

Additional Information

Participants who have been designated by the relevant authorities of an IAEA Member State and have been selected by the IAEA will be informed by **11 September 2026**.

Additional Requirements

The participants should have a university degree in marine chemistry, biology, oceanography, or a related scientific field, and must be active researchers in the ocean acidification /mCDR field or should have already received technical training on ocean acidification / mCDR by the IAEA or through other efforts.

Selection will be based on merit and motivation. Applications must include, in addition to Form A and C, if applicable:

- * A motivation letter with a short description of research interests, motivation to participate, and plans regarding present and future research on OA and/or mCDR (max one A4 page)

- * CV with publication list

IAEA Contacts

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.