# Ocean-based Negative Emission Technologies





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**Abstract:** This report summarises the stakeholder engagement work conducted with actors in the Bergen region during OceanNETs research activities on ocean alkalinity enhancement. Stakeholder engagement included a series of individual meetings with local actors and an online deliberative workshop where the OceanNETs research agenda in Bergen was presented and discussed. This revised report describes our approach to stakeholder engagement, the structure of the stakeholder workshop, and some key insights derived from this process.





#### **Document History**

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#### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Context

OceanNETs is a European Union project funded by the Commission's Horizon 2020 program under the topic of Negative emissions and land-use based mitigation assessment (LC-CLA-02-2019), coordinated by GEOMAR | Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel (GEOMAR), Germany.

OceanNETs responds to the societal need to rapidly provide a scientifically rigorous and comprehensive assessment of negative emission technologies (NETs). The project focuses on analyzing and quantifying the environmental, social, and political feasibility and impacts of ocean-based NETs. OceanNETs will close fundamental knowledge gaps on specific ocean-based NETs and provide more in-depth investigations of NETs that have already been suggested to have a high CDR potential, levels of sustainability, or potential co-benefits. It will identify to what extent, and how, ocean-based NETs can play a role in keeping climate change within the limits set by the Paris Agreement.

#### 1.2 Purpose and scope of the deliverable

The deliverable summarises the stakeholder engagement activities conducted in conjunction with the mesocosm studies carried out in Bergen, Norway from May through July 2022. It analyzes key insights gathered from individual meetings with the stakeholders and the workshop carried out in June 2022. Following the reviewers' comments, this revised version includes further information on the methodology used for this task and the structure of the online workshop.

#### 1.3 Relation to other deliverables

This deliverable informs further stakeholder engagement work across OceanNETs. It provides insights useful for future WP7 deliverables, including the final report on deliberative stakeholder workshops (D7.8), OceanNETs' work on a sustainable development goals framework for ocean-based NET evaluation (D7.9), and policy briefs assessing the local or regional fit of proposed NETs. It will also inform OceanNETs work on governance, specifically D2.3 (Report on regional and global governance challenges and opportunities for emerging ocean-based NETs) and D2.6 (Policy brief identifying challenges and opportunities for emerging ocean-based NETs in regional and global ocean governance frameworks targeted to EU and global policy makers).



#### 2. Summary report on stakeholder engagement work in Bergen, Norway

#### 2.1 Introduction

As we indicated in our report of the public outreach and stakeholder engagement in Gran Canaria during the first series mesocosm studies, field research on the potential environmental impacts of ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE) offers an opportunity to deepen discussions with local stakeholders about researching and developing OAE application, and ocean-based negative emissions technologies (NETs) for carbon dioxide removal (CDR) more generally. Similar to the work carried out in Gran Canaria, the main purpose of the stakeholder engagement work conducted in Bergen was to inform local actors of OceanNETs research activities, elicit views on the mesocosm work and on the risks and benefits potentially associated with OAE, and create venues for discussions of ocean-based NETs attuned to local expectations, concerns and priorities. Until recently, much of the discussion on the public acceptability and governance of OAE has adopted an international or at best national perspective. Field experiments, even contained ones like those carried out by OceanNETs, allow us to understand better how local dynamics shape public perceptions of OAE and might be useful in devising appropriate governance processes.

#### 2.2 Methodology: background review and stakeholder mapping

Our stakeholder engagement work in Bergen included 1) a data-gathering phase, where we sought to identify relevant actors, and researched national policy on CDR and local histories of marine spatial governance; 2) individual meetings with local actors involved in regional 'blue economy' initiatives; 3) a deliberative workshop (carried out online) to present and discuss OceanNETs research activities in detail.

We began the stakeholder engagement work by identifying key issues relevant in the Norway/Bergen context. This first involved searching for and reviewing social science literature, grey literature and media coverage relating to issues of marine environments/oceans, coastal areas, CDR, and climate change. Our review uncovered documents relating to public debates, social conflicts, and issues of public perceptions on the following topics: climate change and climate transitions, coastal issues and coastal zone planning, fishers and fisheries, aquaculture, conservation, the blue economy, renewables and offshore wind power, and carbon capture and storage (CCS). We also study the history of alkalinisation in Norway, where this method has long been in use to replenish fish stocks in fresh water bodies.

Drawing upon this review, we worked with OceanNETs colleagues at NORCE to identify a list of relevant actors and institutions to contact across these sectors. We used the networks established through the 'Havlunsj' meetings, a series of events that bring



together actors connected to the maritime economy and marine environments in the Bergen region. (See Appendix 1 for a partial list of contacted stakeholders). We also conducted several in-person meetings with actors in Bergen in order to (1) introduce the OceanNETs research agenda, including the mesocosm experiments, and (2) further identify stakeholders who might be interested in the project.

We met with the following groups:

- Members of an aquaculture industry innovation hub called NCE Seafood Innovation, which comprises many of the key aquaculture companies active in Norway;
- Leadership from a large Norwegian shipping company, Grieg Maritime, which is active in other maritime industries as well;
- Social science researchers at the University of Bergen's Centre for the Study of the Sciences and Humanities who work on topics of environment, climate, and natural resources;
- Leadership from the Bergen Aquarium, which is connected to and collaborates with stakeholders in the Bergen region that range from environmental NGOs to CCS industry to academic marine research projects on related topics like microplastics;
- Interdisciplinary researchers from NORCE and the University of Bergen who work on CCS from legal, public perceptions, biogeochemistry, and engineering perspectives;

We used these meetings to further identify relevant stakeholders or make contact with specific individuals (e.g., contacts at environmental NGOs, marine research institutions, and in maritime finance). These meetings also helped us identify several historical trends that could be relevant to understand local or national perceptions of ocean alkalinity enhancement. For example, several of our meetings flagged the history of river and lake liming in Norway, recent debates over other climate change mitigation policies (e.g., CCS and offshore wind), and the evolution of different sectors of the maritime economy. We come back to some of these themes in the discussion below.

Following these meetings, we reviewed the list of participants and identified several remaining gaps in our coverage of stakeholders, such as smaller fishers' associations and government environment departments. We conducted further internet research to identify additional stakeholders in those spaces.

Ultimately, we used the full list of stakeholders to circulate invitations to an online discussion seminar to discuss the OceanNETs mesocosm studies and ocean-based CDR more generally. We sent invitations to 55 stakeholders across the following areas: aquaculture (both large companies and start-ups), fisheries, CCS, environmental and



conservation NGOs, start-ups working on CDR-related topics, other maritime industries (e.g., shipping, marine minerals, marine technology), water and environmental research institutes, trade organisations, a recreational fishing organisation, government fisheries and environmental departments, a local Bergen governmental body, business advisory organisations, banks, innovation centres in energy and maritime industries.

#### 2.3 Stakeholder workshop

We designed an online seminar specifically tailored to local stakeholders. Conducted in collaboration with colleagues at NORCE and GEOMAR, the seminar was structured around two short presentations. The first one introduced the concept of ocean-based negative emissions technologies, as broadly as possible, and offered initial insights into the overall OceanNETs research agenda. The second presentation introduced the topic of ocean alkalinity enhancement, and explicated the design of the mesocosm studies. Participants first had a chance to ask any questions or raise issues in relation to the themes of the presentation, after which we moved into a moderated discussion organised around key themes on which we sought stakeholder input. Although the presentations were in English, the opening and closing of the seminar were in Norwegian, and participants were offered the chance to speak in Norwegian if they so preferred.

The enclosed appendixes give a fuller account of the workshop.

- Appendix 2 includes the invitation sent to local stakeholders for the June 2022 workshop and describes the structure of the meeting
- Appendix 3 includes the notes used by the facilitators to moderate the group discussion during the workshop.
- Appendix 4 includes the slides used for the two presentations during the workhsop.

#### 2.4 Key insights

#### Environmental impacts and 'safe operating space' for OAE

Several questions regarding environmental impacts were flagged. Following the discussion of the mesocosm experimental design and its use of compounds to simulate lime and olivine, one participant asked whether the toxicity of trace minerals was evaluated prior to the mesocosm experiments. This was particularly relevant in relation to olivine, which contains nickel, chromium and other trace elements. (There was perhaps an uncommon awareness of olivine, as Norway is by far the largest global producer, and the largest olivine mine, the Gusdal Olivine Pit, is located in the country). It was explained that the mesocosms *simulate* the use of olivine, by including some of its key components, but does not include nickel or any other trace elements.



One concept that was introduced in the second workshop presentation that captured and addressed some of these concerns was the idea of using contained experimental work to define a 'safe operating space' for ocean alkalinity enhancement. The overarching criterion to define this space would be environmental safety – minimising impact not just on individual organisms, but on marine biological communities. Depending on the materials under consideration for OAE, future engagement work should proactively engage with potential toxicity issues, as these may not be immediately clear to some stakeholders (or public groups), and yet may be key to their evaluation of different OAE methods.

Other exchanges flagged other potential environmental concerns. One participant asked whether OAE might have similar effects of mineral bio-accumulation in sea sponges as those observed in the wake of deep sea mineral mining deep sea minerals (in their words, "the equivalent of 'smokers' lung"). Given that sea mining has generated controversy over environmental impacts,<sup>1</sup> this possibility may require further investigation. Environmental concerns did not always imply an opposition to OAE. The discussion included references to the potential of OAE to reverse acidification (discussed further below), or the potentially positive effects of carbonation.

#### Uncertainties illuminated by mesocosm studies and timescales for development of OAE

In addition to providing empirical evidence on the impacts of additional alkalinity on marine ecosystems, the experimental work conducted in Gran Canaria and Bergen is revealing new areas of uncertainty. An issue that raised the interest of participants was the precipitation of calcium carbonate observed in the mesocosm studies, which imply a potential net loss of alkalinity and corresponding release of carbon into the atmosphere. Support for further research on OAE appeared widespread, but raises the question of plausible timelines for the evaluation and potential adoption of OAE. One of the participants in the workshop raised the example of carbon capture and storage (CCS), a technology that is currently receiving a great deal of attention and investment in Norway, but which only garnered sufficient support after more than a decade of discussions and debates in the country. The need for extensive research on fundamental aspects of OAE suggests risks in any premature transition to uncontained experiments.

#### Interactions with existing marine uses and industries

Norway's strong reliance on maritime industries might signal particular scepticism about intervening in marine environments, but stakeholders emphasised the country's particular interest and openness to emerging technologies and innovations, citing examples from CCS to green shipping fuels. The question is whether OAE could include co-benefits,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.iucn.org/resources/deep-seabed-mining</u>

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/deep-sea mining/pdfs/Deep-seaMiningFAQ.pdf



conflicts or overlaps with existing maritime activities, such as aquaculture, fisheries, and other elements of the regional and national 'blue economy.'

Hypothetically, such a co-benefit might align to address existing priorities that these sectors have identified. Multiple stakeholders cited ocean acidification as an environmental challenge facing Norway, along with related issues like extinction of fish species. One seafood company identified ocean acidification as one of its key sustainability challenges, along with sea lice and creation of anoxic environments. However, whether this overlap serves as a synergy or tension requires further investigation.

In some of the one-on-one meetings, stakeholders had queried the potential synergies with existing economic sectors and infrastructures. Norway has one of the largest shipping industries in the world, and s ideas floated in these discussions included repurposing very large crude carriers (VLCCs) for mineral distribution once they can no longer be used for their original use, retrofitting greywater systems for the on-board conversion of mineral powders to solutions (assuming solutions are a more environmentally sound and efficacious approach to OAE), or using hull sensors as part of a monitoring infrastructure.

These discussions remained speculative, and somewhat disconnected from the specific purpose of the mesocosm studies, but suggest the relevance of potential synergies to local stakeholders (similar discussions took place in Gran Canaria during the first phase of experimental work). They point to the relevance of the policy and economic frameworks, within which OAE might be developed (including the possibility of a market for OAE-derived carbon credits). Participants inquired about matters relating to monitoring, verification and reporting, and this remains a key dimension to gauge stakeholder perceptions of OAE and other ocean-based NETs.

#### Norwegian experience in artificial liming

Some actors mentioned Norway's fairly unique experience in the liming of rivers, lakes and catchments. Since the 1980s, liming has been used to restore fish populations in acidified waters in several southern counties. The key goal of this programme has been to re-establish extinct or nearly extinct populations of Atlantic salmon in many rivers, generally by the deposition of powdered limestone in the relevant catchments or lakes. The operational features of these programs vary, but in some cases approximate (at a smaller scale and in fresh water systems) some of the scenarios that OceanNETs is considering. In some cases liming is carried out directly on lake surfances, in other cases lime dosers for continuous liming of running water are used. A particularly salient aspect of these programs is the extensive monitoring of environmental effects, including the possible impact of trace metals. We are collecting more evidence to assess its relevance of this experience to our research on ocean alkalinity enhancement.



#### 3. Conclusion

Although many local actors appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the research OceanNETs is conducting in Bergen, the mesocosm studies themselves seemed to have limited salience to the stakeholders we approached. This is why, in the group discussion, we aimed to emphasise the *trajectory* of OAE development, rather than immediate *implications* of the experimental studies. Engaging stakeholders on hypothetical trajectories of development proved challenging, given gaps in the scientific evaluation of OAE and the many potential deployment options (e.g., different materials, with their associated industries and life cycles of these materials, uncertain options for dispersal, and lack of clarity on regulatory aspects, including removals certification).

We plan to continue the stakeholder engagement work in the region with further individual interviews. Given the interest of some local institutions to host further discussion we are considering a further workshop when the full results of the mesocosm studies are available. The insights gathered in this follow-up work will inform the final report on deliberations with stakeholders (Deliverable 7.8 [36]).



### Appendix 1: Partial list of stakeholders contacted during engagement work

Navn	Туре
DNV	Advisory
Norwegian Maritime Author	Authority
The Port of Bergen (Bergen I	Autorithy
DNB	Bank
Sparebanken Vest	Bank
Sustainable Energy Catapult	Catapult center
North-Atlantic Seafood Foru	Conference
Baker Hughes/Compact Cark	Industry
Hydro	Industry
Kystrederiene	NGO
GCE Ocean Technology	NGO
NCE Maritime Cleantech	NGO
NCE Seafood Innovation	NGO
Maritime Bergen	NGO
Akvariet i Bergen	NGO
Greenstat	Renewable energy
The Institue of Marine Resea	Research
Grieg Maritime Group	Shipping
Akvareforma	Startup
Ocean Forest	Startup
Aquapro	Startup
Western Norway University	University
TechnipFMC (Deep Purple™)	Industry
CCB Subsea	Industry
TESS Teknisk Faghandel	Industry
UNITECH	Advisory
Corvus Energy	Industry
SINTEF	Research
Lerøy	Industry
Mowi	Industry
Naturvernforbundet (FoE No	NGO
Klimastiftelsen	NGO
Equinor	Industry
Gassnova	Industry
Bellona	NGO

#### Nettside Kommentar

https://wv Advisory organ/expert organization with it ( https://www.Administrative and supervisory authority in https://be Norway's second largest port. Port of Berge dnb.no Financing maritime industry. Member of NC spv.no Financing maritime industry. Largest "local" https://sus "driving force for the green transition and t https://no NASF is a world-leading executive meeting p https://wv Aquired Compact Carbon Capture (carbon c https://wv Aluminium and energy https://kys An interest organization within short sea sh https://wv Develops and supplies innovative ocean tec https://maA world-leading cluster for Clean Maritime ! https://seaNCE Seafood Innovation aims to contribute https://wv Maritime Bergen is a platform of cooperatic https://wv The Aquarium aims to spread knowledge ak coi https://greFounded in 2015 by NORCE, now a stand ale https://wv Largest center of marine science https://gri Shipping company fleet of high-quality mult Akvareforr Startup with focus on growing among other Ocean For Joint Venture between Lerøy and Bellona w http://ww Aquapro aims to build and develop a mobile https://www.hvl.no/en/studies-at-hvl/ https://wv Technology provider to the traditional and I https://wv Provides subsea and drilling services https://tes More and more focus on innovative teknolc https://un UNITECH sees potential in utilizing their tec https://coiState-of-the-art battery factory in Bergen. T https://wv Has a local office in Bergen. SINTEF is one of https://wv Fish Farmer https://mcFishFarmer https://na Norway's oldest environmental and nature https://klirGoogle translate from webpage: The Norwe https://wv Giant energy company (earllier called Statoi https://ga: Also involved in Longship. No office in Berge

https://be The Bellona Foundation is an independent r



### Appendix 2: Invitation to OceanNETs deliberative stakeholder workshop in Bergen

OCENET	AN S Ccean-based removal in N The Europea research pro	d carbon dioxide Iorway In OceanNETs Ject		
	Stakeholder seminar (or	nline)		
Tuesday 28 June 09:00 – 11:00 (CET)	<u>OceanNETs</u> (ocean-based negative emissions techn European Union to explore methods to increase the atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> .	ologies) is a project funded by the ability of the oceans to absorb		
HOSTS Siri Veland NORCE	OceanNETs is conducting both modeling and expe risks, and possible co-benefits of different marine ne known as carbon dioxide removal (CDR). It is incre decades, CDR will come to play a significant role in	rimental work to assess the feasibility, gative emissions technologies, also asingly likely that, over the next few a climate stabilization efforts.		
Javier Lezaun Sara Nawaz Jose Maria Valenzuela University of Oxford	An example a sequence of the environmental effects of one of these proposed methods of marine increasing the alkalinity of seawater to enhance the ability of the oceans to abs sequester CO <sub>2</sub> .			
	This online seminar will introduce the OceanNETs actors in the Bergen region, and in Norway more b the opportunity to learn about our research activitie and to discuss the prospects of developing marine C	research project to a wide range of roadly. The event will give participants s, including the mesocosm studies, DR in Norway.		
	OceanNETs seeks to produce scientific evidence to on the further development of marine CDR options public outreach activities, will help the project assess should be considered in those decisions.	support responsible public decisions 5. This seminar, together with other 5 broader societal considerations that		
The seminar is co-hosted by researchers from <u>NORCE</u> and the <u>Univer</u> send confirmation of two of the institutions participating in the OceanNETs project.		<u>CE</u> and the <u>University of Oxford,</u> ETs project.		
Dr. Sara Nawaz sara.nawaz@insis.ox.ac.uk	We would be delighted if you would join the event, which will follow the agenda below. We will be circulating additional materials prior to the workshop.			
ACTIVITIES		TIME		
Welcome, introc the OceanNETs	duction to carbon dioxide removal and project	20 min.		
Presentation on ocean alkalinity	OceanNETs' field studies on enhancement	20 min.		
Q&A and Discus Prospects for de	sion: velopment of marine carbon dioxide removal in Nor	70 min. way		
Wrap-up		10 min.		
	Institute for Science,	This project has received funding from		
N 🔍 R C E	University of Oxford	the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 869357.		

www.oceannets.eu



### Appendix 3: Discussion guide for stakeholder seminar on OAE in Norway

1. [Follow up on any questions or comments made during the Q&A session that might deserve further discussion]

2. Norway has declared an intention to reach 'climate neutrality' by 2050. [The Parliament adopted a resolution in 2016 that Norway should be 'climate neutral' in 2030, but this has not been enshrined in law]. There is, however, no specific policy to develop NETs (as far as we can tell).

- What role could you imagine ocean-based NETs playing in Norwegian climate policy?
- Can you imagine OAE being part of climate change mitigation strategies in Bergen/Norway? Why/why not? How does it compare to other kinds of ocean-based NETs tackled by the project?
- Could you imagine this being done in the fjords, or only far off the coast?
- Can you imagine potential synergies, or tensions, with other uses of marine space?

3. At this point [as the presentations have suggested] it is unclear whether OAE can play a significant role in meeting carbon neutrality targets, or which particular type of OAE will offer the best risk-benefit profile.

- The first priority is to conduct further research on the impact of OAE on marine ecosystems, and on its potential as a method of carbon dioxide removal. Do you see the Bergen region playing a role in further research efforts, or are there aspects that should be clarified before further research is conducted.
- Bergen has a thriving set of economic sectors related to the ocean economy. What do you think is the role of ocean-based NETs in this context?

4. At the moment [as mentioned in the presentations] the regulation of OAE is uncertain. How removals could be verified and certified (for example as a way of generating carbon credits) is also highly uncertain. In your view, what are the key questions that would need to be resolved before this type of ocean-based NETs is developed further.

5. Who should be involved in future discussions about the prospect of OAE and its governance? Can you think of relevant stakeholders that should be part of this conversation?

6. In our preliminary research we have noticed a history in Norway of liming lakes and rivers in the 1970s and 1980s to reverse the effects of acidification and replenish fish stocks. Are you aware of that history, and do you see that experience as relevant to the research OceanNETs is conducting?

7. Norway has a tradition of upholding the "polluters pays principle". Considering the presentations and discussions thus far, is this a relevant principle that should be applied to the governance and financing of OAE and/or other approaches discussed in this session?



## Appendix 4: Materials shared with workshop participants (presentations)





Need to remove carbon dioxide at Gt scale by mid-century to meet Paris Agreement goals

Most NETs are still at the concept stage

Each region/country will need to develop a specific portfolio of removals to meet net zero targets

Source: IPCC Special Report on Glabal Wanning of 1.51

















Determine the safe operating space for Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE) applications for long-term CO2 removal wrt ...

- Effectiveness → CO<sub>2</sub> removal capacity
- Permanence → duration of CO<sub>2</sub> storage ٠
- Environmental safety → maintaining ecosystem health •
- Co-benefits → counteracting ocean acidification •



Raunefjord, south of Bergen, Norway





### Approach

Ecosystem compartments, transformations and exchange processes covered in this study









OCEAN



A	Potential biological	in	pacts			
Bach et al 201 Impact st - Level o - Minera - Minera - CO <sub>2</sub> eo	CO, CO, compensation through in-gassing CO, + H <sub>2</sub> O ↔ HCO,' + H'↔ CO, <sup>3</sup> + 2H' Shifting CO, to HCO, and CO, <sup>3</sup> silicate, trace metals 19 trength is likely to depend on: of alkalisation al type (carbonate vs. silicate-base al impurities (trace metals) quilbrated vs. non-equilibrated	↓ 1 d)	Driver pCO <sub>2</sub> pH ΩcaCO <sub>3</sub> Silicate Fe Ni, Cr	Possible impacts   Photosynthesis → PP, food web   Metabolic performance (co-/dis- benefit)   Calcification → loss of alkalinity   Fertilizing diatoms → food web, bio-C- pump   Fertilizing phytoplankton & N-fixation   Toxic		
A	Any questions?					