



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Ollscoil
Téicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh
Atlantic
Technological
University



Foras na Mara
Marine Institute



ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Imeacht Gaolmhar | Associated Event

DAY 1 THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2026

Moderator: Karen Coleman, award-winning Irish journalist and broadcaster

TIME	SESSION	PROGRAMME DETAILS
08:00 - 09:00	Registration and Welcome Refreshments	
09:00 - 09:30	OPENING Formal opening of the Summit	Opening film: The Atlantic: From Tradition to Tomorrow Welcome remarks: Costas Kadis, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans (Prerecorded message) Laoise McNamara, Vice-President Research and Innovation, University of Galway SPECIAL ADDRESS EU Ocean Act Conference 2026 Timmy Dooley, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine with special responsibility for Fisheries and at the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy with special responsibility for the Marine.
9:30 - 9:45	KEYNOTE Europe's Ocean Research and Innovation Ambition	James Morrison, Director Healthy Planet, European Commission
09:50 - 11:00	SESSION 1 Resilient Atlantic Coasts and Communities	Scene Setter: Martha Farrell, Maharees Conservation Association Roundtable Discussion: Iglika Yakova, European Commission Martin Zimmer, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research Thando Mazomba, OceanHub Africa Salem Gharbia, Atlantic Technological University Eugene Farrell, University of Galway
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break	

TIME	SESSION	PROGRAMME DETAILS
11:30 - 12:40	SESSION 2 OceanEye <i>This session will showcase how research, digital tools and innovation can strengthen the understanding, management and sustainable use of the Atlantic</i>	Scene Setter: Adam Leadbetter, IOC UNESCO Roundtable Discussion: Jessica Snowden, NOAA Eoin Leahy, Department of Climate, Energy and Environment Joanne O'Brien, Atlantic Technological University Wiebke Pankauke, European Commission Sander Zweers, Satlink
12:40 - 14:00	Networking Lunch	
14:00 - 14:30	SPOTLIGHT Solutions from the All-Atlantic Intergenerational Hackathon <i>This session will highlight the role of early career ocean professionals and showcase innovative solutions developed at the 2026 All-Atlantic Intergenerational Ocean Hackathon in Brazil</i>	Moderator: Sigi Gruber, European Commission Themes: Coastal Resilience - Gaziza Konyssova, Germany Low-Cost Sensors - Pedro Dantas, Brazil Digital Mapping - Emmanuel Eresanya, Ireland Small-Scale Fisheries - Aleksander Iwanek, Spain Sargassum - Christopher Enriquez Urban, Germany Blue Schools - Lily Payton, United States
14:30 - 15:40	ALLIANCE SPOTLIGHT The All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance <i>This session will highlight the All-Atlantic Alliance as a model of ocean science diplomacy and explore its future role in advancing practical cooperation across research, innovation, capacity building and policy</i>	Moderator: Niall McDonough, Marine Institute Scene Setter: John Bell, University College Dublin Special recorded message: Trevor Swerdfager, University of Waterloo Roundtable Discussion: James Morrison, European Commission Eirik Annexstad, Norwegian Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Fisheries Ronaldo Christofoletti, Universidade Federal de São Paulo John Bell, University College Dublin Emer Shovlin, Restore Blue
15:40 - 16:10	Coffee Break	

TIME	SESSION	PROGRAMME DETAILS
16:10 - 17:20	SESSION 3 Economic Futures of the Atlantic <i>This session will examine the opportunities, challenges and trends/choices shaping the future of Atlantic economies</i>	Scene Setter: James Jolliffe, OECD Ocean Economy Programme Roundtable Discussion: Valerie Hickey, World Bank James Jolliffe, OECD Helena Deane, Marine Institute Stephen Hynes, University of Galway Peter Heffernan, Oceano Azul Foundation
17.20 - 17.30	Closing of Day 1	Galway City Mayor Address: Helen Ogbu, Mayor of Galway
17:30 - 17:40	Day 1 Reflections	Key messages from the day
17:40 - 19:00	Atlantic Summit Reception Performance by Cois Cladaigh Choir <i>Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway</i>	Supported by 

DAY 2 FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2026

TIME	SESSION	PROGRAMME DETAILS
08:00 - 09:00	Morning Refreshments	
09:00 - 09:15	KEYNOTE Ireland's Coasts and Islands	Eoin Warner, Wildlife Documentary Presenter
09:15 - 10:25	SESSION 4 A Healthy and Productive Ocean <i>This session will explore how protecting, restoring and sustainably managing Atlantic ecosystems can support a healthy and productive ocean and the economic and societal benefits it provides</i>	Scene Setter: Paul Snelgrove, Memorial University Roundtable Discussion: Colm Lordan, ICES Maeve Edwards, Irish Seaweed Consultancy Paul Snelgrove, Memorial University Murray Roberts, University of Edinburgh Louise Allcock, University of Galway

TIME	SESSION	PROGRAMME DETAILS
10:25 - 10:40	REFLECTIONS Blue Wellbeing: Ocean and Human Health	Easkey Britton, Surfer, Scientist & Explorer
10:40 - 11:10	Coffee Break	
11:10 - 12:20	SESSION 5 Shaping the Future Atlantic: Science Diplomacy, Governance and Geopolitical Change <i>This session will explore how science diplomacy and ocean governance can support a resilient, secure and connected Atlantic, while looking ahead to the EU Ocean Pact, the future Ocean R&I Strategy and Horizon Europe 2028 -2034</i>	Scene Setter: Gerard McCarthy, Maynooth University Roundtable Discussion: Maria Grigoratou, European Polar Coordination Office Brendan Flynn, University of Galway Mike Brunicardi, Irish Naval Service Kate Burns, Management Consultant Stefan Fritz, University of Galway
12:20 - 12:30	Atlantic Summit Galway 2026 Outcome Statement	
12:30 – 12:50	CLOSING PLENARY Reflections and Key Messages	James Morrison, European Commission Rick Officer, Marine Institute
12:50 – 13:00	Closing Remarks	Laoise McNamara, University of Galway Brendan Jennings, Atlantic Technological University
13:00 - 14:00	Networking Lunch	