



Oceanic Culture and Blue Schools in the Basque Country



~Open and free activity
~18:00h
~Miramar Palace, San Sebastián or online

Lecture by María C. Uyarra, biologist and lead researcher at the Sea and Coast Environmental Management Area (AZTI).

"Societies equipped to meet the challenges of marine sustainability"

23.Apr 2026

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Mod.:
Streaming Face-to-face

Edition
2026

Activity type
Open activity

Date
23.Apr 2026

Location
Miramar Palace

Languages
Spanish

Organising Committee



Fundación
BBVA



Description

Oceanic culture, or marine literacy, involves understanding the influence that the ocean has on our lives and how our actions affect its health. It is not just about scientific knowledge; it entails values, attitudes, behaviours and the ability to make informed decisions that foster sustainability. Promoting this culture is more necessary than ever given the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, demographic growth, etc. However, many myths still persist and hinder the understanding of the real importance of the ocean. Furthermore, our ever greater connection with technology and social media – along with the increasing disconnect from the natural world – leads to more myths, limiting our ability to act and curtail the impact of humans on the sea.

Therefore, the concept and action to bolster the oceanic culture, which started in the United States, have gradually gained momentum in Europe, particularly during the Ocean Decade. When scientific knowledge is shared in an accessible way and adapted to the needs of the different sectors of society – whether they are policy makers, industries linked to the marine environment or the general public – there is better understanding of the challenges facing the oceans and those stakeholders engage in protecting the seas. The impact is even greater when the citizens themselves generate the knowledge through citizen science actions. There are many initiatives that have thus been rolled out to foster the oceanic culture.

The Blue School programme emerged precisely from the need to involve children and young people in the ocean in an experience-based and participatory way; the aim is to connect them with the sea from very young and so they learn to behave responsibly as they grow up. The Blue Schools facilitate interdisciplinary projects based on science, creativity, culture and citizenry. Students study their marine environment, talk to experts, work with other centres and even put forward solutions to improve their community's relationship with the sea. They thus develop a deeper and more critical understanding, and discover that their opinions and actions do count.

One of the most enriching aspects of these initiatives is that they link the ocean to everyday life: the power that we use, the food that we choose, the waste that we generate and the quality of the air we breathe are connected to the state of the sea. When society can see these relationships, the myths lose momentum and a more responsible approach emerges. Oceanic culture does not seek to turn everybody into a scientist, but rather into an aware citizen that can act from their level: the school, home, neighbourhood or the future profession. In the end, understanding the sea is also understanding ourselves and that helps us to build a more resilient, just and sustainable future.

Program

23-04-2026

18:00 - 19:15 "Cultura oceánica y escuelas azules en Euskadi"

Idioma: Español

Maria Calvo Uyarra | AZTI - Investigadora Principal en el Área de Gestión Ambiental de Mares y Costas

Eva Caballero kazetariak hizlariarekin elkarrizketa izango du hitzaldia amaitutakoan / La periodista Eva Caballero mantendrá un diálogo con el ponente una vez finalizada la conferencia

Teachers



Maria Calvo Uyarra

Biologist. Lead researcher at the Sea and Coast Environmental Management Area (AZTI).

Maria C. Uyarra is an interdisciplinary researcher with more than 20 years of experience working in biodiversity and marine management, ocean literacy, marine waste, environmental policies and education, at research centres, NGOs, consultancy firms, administrations and environmental education centres alike. She is particularly interested in passing on scientific knowledge to industry, the political world and society to bolster the oceanic culture and foster changes in behaviour. She is currently a member of the advisory board of the European ProBLEU project; takes part in the EuroGOOS and REEDUCAMAR oceanic literacy groups; manages research in this field as part of the GES4SEAS Horizon project (<https://www.ges4seas.eu/>); and coordinates the Basque Blue School Network. She combines research with lecturing on master's degrees and STEAM initiatives for young people.

Registration fees

REGISTRATION - FACE-TO-FACE	UNTIL 23-04-2026
General	0 EUR

Place

Miramar Palace

Pº de Miraconcha nº 48. Donostia / San Sebastián

Gipuzkoa