

Coastal Success Through Ocean Knowledge

20TH MAY 2025
COBH, CO. CORK



**Cobh & Harbour
Chamber**
Advancing business together

Cobh Champions Ocean Knowledge to Drive Coastal Business Success

As part of the **European Maritime Day (EMD) In My Country 2025** celebrations, "Coastal Success Through Ocean Knowledge" united marine experts, business leaders, policymakers, and students for an inspiring evening of discussion, creativity, and connection along Cobh's iconic quays.

Organised by the Cobh & Harbour Chamber in partnership with EurOcean, the EU4Ocean Coalition, the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, and the Marine Institute, the event showcased **how ocean science and local innovation can fuel sustainable economic growth in coastal communities.**

Key Outcomes:

- Strengthened **connections** between coastal business, sustainability and the Blue Economy.
- Enhanced stakeholder engagement across sectors.
- **Youth voices** and creativity elevated.
- Strong **local momentum** for marine collaboration.
- Set the stage for **future initiatives.**

Sit-Down Panel Discussion, Sirius Arts Centre

A high-profile expert panel, including:

Dr. Jessica Giannoumis | Hatch Blue (L),
Mr. Liam Curran | Enterprise Ireland (M),
Mr. Cian Ryan | Green Rebel (R),

shared their experiences and practical insights for SMEs in coastal regions to engage with Ireland's growing Blue Economy.



"This event positioned Cobh as a leading voice in coastal resilience and innovation."

- Mr. Toddy Stafford, President, Cobh and Harbour Chamber

The evening opened with a warm welcome from Toddy Stafford, President of the Cobh & Harbour Chamber, followed by an insightful introduction from Ruth Higgins of the European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology (EurOcean). Majbritt Bolton-Warberg, the Marine Institute, spotlighted the tangible business benefits of sustainable ocean practices.

Zines, Voices, Visions from Cobh's Youth

In parallel to the panel session, Transition Year students took part in a creative zine-making workshop led by Megan O'Driscoll, Sirius Arts Centre. Using art and storytelling, they explored Cobh's coastal identity, ocean literacy, and sustainability. Their vibrant, handmade zines will contribute to a growing community dialogue on climate action and ocean stewardship. At the end of the panel session, Lucy addressed the audience on behalf of the youth delivering their priorities for future sustainability:

- Better management of coastal pollution,
- Adoption of non-toxic products for cleaning boats and coastal structures,
- Involvement of youth in future actions.



Cobh Youth discussed their priorities for future action.



"Zines" developed by Transition Year students.



Commitments for future action.

Networking and Connections, Quays Bar

The event ended with refreshments and continued discussions on sustainability. Through "networking bingo" guests identified peers who have applied sustainable practices in their businesses. They also made commitments for future actions, via the commitment corner.



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For more information on Ocean Literacy, visit the [EU4OCEAN Coalition Website](https://eu4ocean.org/), click the QR code, or contact info@eurocean.org.

