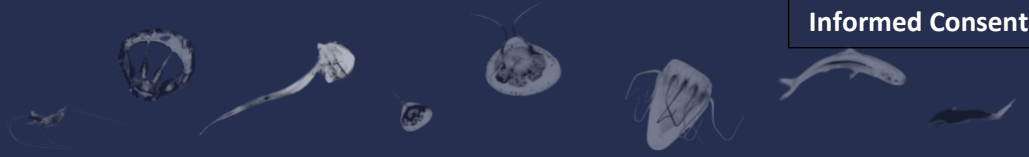




AQUASPECT

Advancing QQuality Assessment of Spatial
Patterns and Ecosystem Characteristics
through Technological Advancements

Informed Consent Form



Information Sheet & Informed Consent Form

*Advancing QQuality Assessment of Spatial Patterns and Ecosystem Characteristics through
Technological Advancements*

Grant Agreement No. SBEP2024-812 | Funded by the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)

Expert Forum & Application Workshop

*“Requirements and challenges to integrate novel plankton monitoring methods
in the MSFD“*

18th May 2026





PART A — Information Sheet

Please read this information carefully before deciding whether to participate. If you have any questions, please contact the event organiser before signing. You are under no obligation to participate and may withdraw at any time without consequence.

1. What is AQUASPECT?

AQUASPECT is a three-year research project (September 2025 – August 2028) funded by the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP). The project will deploy advanced plankton imaging sensors (UVP6, UVP6m, CPICS, CytoBuoy) in three European sea regions — the Balearic Sea, the Belgian Part of the North Sea, and the Baltic Sea — to generate high-quality, high-frequency biodiversity and ecosystem data. These data will be integrated into regional and EU-level Digital Twin Ocean (DTO) frameworks to support marine management and policy, including assessments under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The project is coordinated by Sorbonne University (SU), with a consortium made up of the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), the Balearic Islands Coastal Observing and Forecasting System (SOCIB), Hydroptic, and the Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel (GEOMAR).

2. Why are we asking you to participate?

We are inviting you to participate in the **Expert Forum & Application Workshop** as part of AQUASPECT Work Package 6 (Stakeholder engagement, outreach, and communication). Your expertise and experience are directly relevant to the data products and services that AQUASPECT is developing. Your input will help the project team ensure that scientific outputs are meaningful, useful, and compatible with real-world marine management workflows and needs.

3. What does participation involve?

Participation in this activity involves:

- Attending a group workshop (approximately [1.5 hours]), which may include presentations, structured discussions, and Q&A sessions.
- Responding to questions or discussion prompts relating to marine monitoring data, indicators, and management needs.
- Optionally completing a short written feedback form or survey before or following the workshop.

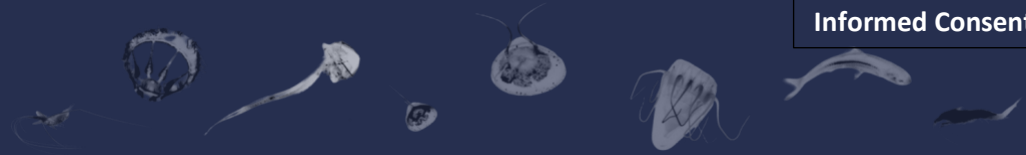
Participation is voluntary. You may decline to answer any question and may leave the activity at any time without consequence.

4. What personal data will be collected?

During registration and participation in this activity, the following personal data will be collected:

- Full name





- Institutional affiliation and job title
- Email address
- Your verbal and written contributions during the workshop, as noted in the event minutes

5. Why do we collect this data, and what is the legal basis?

Your personal data is collected and processed for the following purposes:

- Workshop organisation and logistics (sending joining instructions, distributing materials).
- Recording and summarising stakeholder input to inform AQUASPECT scientific and technical work.
- Producing anonymised workshop reports for internal project use and, where relevant, as publicly available project deliverables.
- Following up with participants about project progress and outputs, where you have consented to this.

The legal basis for processing is your freely given informed consent (Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR). You may withdraw your consent at any time without affecting the lawfulness of processing carried out before withdrawal.

6. Who will have access to your data?

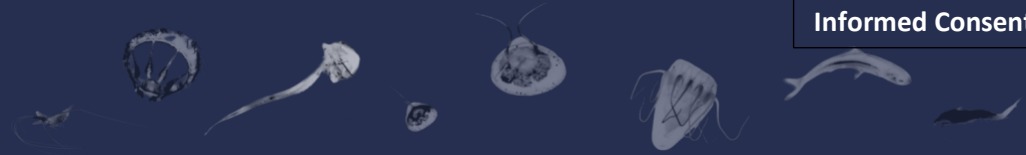
Your personal data will be accessible only to named members of the AQUASPECT project team who require it for the purposes described above. Your data will not be shared with third parties, sold, or used for commercial purposes. Workshop reports and summaries made available publicly will be anonymised; your individual responses will not be attributed to you by name unless you have given explicit additional consent.

The project's institutional Data Protection Officer (DPO) at Sorbonne University oversees compliance with GDPR. Contact details are provided in the Key Contacts table at the end of this form.

7. Where will your data be stored?

Your personal data (e.g., name, email, institutional affiliation) will be stored on Sorbonne University's GDPR-compliant institutional cloud storage and in the institutional GEOMAR cloud. Data will not be stored in personal email accounts or unmanaged consumer cloud services. Anonymised workshop outputs may be deposited in the project community on Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/communities/aquaspect-sbep/>) or the GEOMAR cloud, where they will be publicly accessible.





8. How long will your data be retained?

- Contact information (name, email) used for project communication will be deleted or anonymised at the conclusion of the AQUASPECT project (August 2028), unless you have consented to continued contact.
- Signed consent forms will be retained for a minimum of five years following the project's end date (i.e., until at least August 2033) to satisfy audit and accountability requirements.
- Audio/video recordings made solely for the purpose of producing meeting minutes will be deleted once those minutes have been finalised and approved by participants.
- Anonymised workshop outputs (reports, summaries) will be retained indefinitely as part of the project's scientific record.

9. What are your rights?

Under GDPR, you have the following rights regarding your personal data:

- Right of access — you may request a copy of the personal data we hold about you.
- Right to rectification — you may request correction of inaccurate data.
- Right to erasure ('right to be forgotten') — you may request deletion of your personal data.
- Right to restriction of processing — you may request that we limit how we use your data.
- Right to object — you may object to processing based on legitimate interests.
- Right to data portability — you may request your data in a machine-readable format.
- Right to withdraw consent — you may withdraw consent at any time without consequence to your participation or your relationship with AQUASPECT.

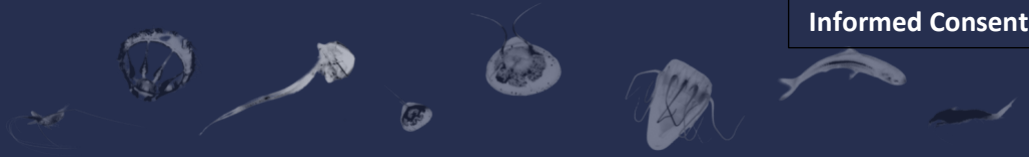
To exercise any of these rights, please contact the project coordinator at the address provided below. Requests will be responded to within one calendar month. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with your national data protection supervisory authority.

11. Will the activity be recorded?

This activity will not be recorded. Recording will only take place where all participants present have given explicit consent. If you do not consent to recording, you are still welcome to participate; the event organiser will ensure that recording is not initiated until all consents have been confirmed. If at any point you withdraw your consent to recording, recording will be paused or stopped as soon as practicably possible.

If recordings are intended for any purpose beyond internal note-taking (e.g., publication on the AQUASPECT website or in dissemination materials), separate media consent will be requested (see Section 3 of Part B).





Key Contacts	
Data Controller	Sorbonne University, Oceanographic Laboratory of Villefranche 181 Chemin du Lazaret, Villefranche 06230 France
Project Management Contact	Madeleine Walker (Sorbonne University) Email: coordination@aquaspect.eu
Stakeholder Contact at GEOMAR	Henry Göhlich Email: hegoehlich@geomar.de
Data Protection Officer (DPO)	Sophie Schaeffert, Sorbonne University Email: sophie.schaeffert@sorbonne-universite.fr





PART B — Consent Form

Please read the information sheet (Part A) carefully before completing this form. Please tick each box to indicate your consent. You must complete and sign this form before participating in the workshop.

Section 1 — General Participation

Please tick each box below to confirm your understanding and consent:

I have read and understood the information provided in Part A of this form.

I have had the opportunity to ask questions and any questions I had have been answered to my satisfaction.

I understand that my participation in this activity is entirely voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without consequence.

I understand that my personal details (name, email, institution/organization, job title/role) will be collected for activity administration purposes only, and will not be shared with third parties or used for commercial purposes.

I understand that activity outputs (reports and summaries) made publicly available will be anonymised. My individual contributions will not be attributed to me by name unless I provide specific additional consent below.

I understand that I may exercise my GDPR rights (access, rectification, erasure, restriction, portability, objection) at any time by contacting the Project Management Contact identified in Part A.

I consent to participate in this activity and to the collection and use of my personal data as described in Part A.

Section 3 — Media Consent for Publication

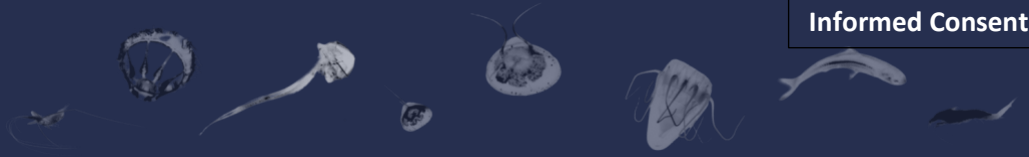
This section applies only if AQUASPECT intends to use recordings or photographs from this activity in publicly available materials (e.g., project website, social media, project reports, or dissemination videos). This consent is separate from and additional to recording consent above and is entirely optional. Declining media consent does not affect your participation.

I consent to my image and/or voice being included in photographs or recordings that are published in AQUASPECT dissemination materials, including the project website, reports, and social media channels.

I consent to my name and institutional affiliation being attributed alongside my contributions in published workshop reports or outputs.

I do NOT consent to my image, voice, or attributed contributions being published in any AQUASPECT dissemination materials.





Section 4 — Follow-up Communications

AQUASPECT would like to keep you informed of project progress and outputs beyond this activity, and solicit your participation in follow-up activities and workshops. This is entirely optional and you may unsubscribe at any time.

I consent to being contacted by email with updates on AQUASPECT project progress, results, and future engagement opportunities.

I do NOT wish to receive further communications from AQUASPECT beyond this workshop





AQUASPECT

Advancing Quality Assessment of Spatial
Patterns and Ecosystem Characteristics
through Technological Advancements

