



Harvard University

The Girguis Laboratory
for Ecophysiology, Biogeochemistry, and Engineering

***A Virtual Workshop: Opportunities for engagement between
High Seas Treaty negotiators and the broader scientific community***

Sponsored by

The Girguis Lab at Harvard University
&
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Co-sponsored by

ASLO
International Council of Environmental Law

Consultations *via* Zoom

*Two sessions will be held to accommodate time zones.
Please choose the session that works best for you:*

Session One: 7 July 2021 (8:00 -9:00 am New York)
Session Two: 8 July 2021 (7:00 -8:00 pm New York)

CONCEPT

Countries are currently negotiating a comprehensive global binding treaty to better protect biodiversity in the high seas (High Seas Treaty) at the United Nations. Developing a governance framework for Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs) of the high seas is a crucial element of the proposed treaty. Negotiating countries' positions on MGRs of the high seas, including questions on the sharing of benefits from their use, range from no regulation to an elaborate infrastructure for access and benefit sharing of all MGRs of the high seas. For the scientists who may be involved with MGRs of the high seas and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities that may hold relevant traditional knowledge, the outcome of the High Seas Treaty could impact their day-to-day work or their rights. Strong engagement with key stakeholders, such as scientists from both the academic and private sector as well as traditional knowledge holders will likely increase the odds that any new governance framework will not only be practical and remain relevant in decades to come but also, provide a platform that will foster research, collaboration, and marine conservation. The consultations are designed to contribute to the on-going negotiations.

PROGRAMME

In collaboration with ASLO and International Council for Environmental Law, The Girguis Lab at Harvard University, with the support of The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, is hosting a virtual workshop with Member State delegates that is aimed at providing:

1. scientists from the ASLO community with an overview of the negotiations to date and possible ramifications for research activities on the high seas, as well as the use of high seas MGRs in research and development,
2. scientists with a venue to ask questions of the Member State delegates, and
3. opportunities for further engagement.

The ASLO and broader scientific community can provide valuable input so that the Treaty will be based on best available science and not be at odds with the very goals of the Treaty: to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of the high seas. In light of the unprecedented rate of degradation of the ocean ecosystems, there is a momentum to complete the negotiations as soon as possible. For that reason, the window for a chance to provide input may be closing soon. This workshop is an opportunity for you to become engaged in the most important international treaty negotiations for fostering scientific research and development as well as for developing new ideas on ocean governance policy, international relations, and international law.

SESSION 1 PROGRAMME 7 July 2021 (8:00 – 9:00 am New York)

8:00 – 8:05 am	Welcome <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roxane Maranger, President, ASLO• Peter R. Girguis, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University
8:05 – 8:15 am	Introduction: Importance of stakeholder engagement—why does your input matter? <i>Speaker: Janine Coye-Felson, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute</i>
8:15 – 8:25 am	Perspectives of developing countries and potential implications for scientific research: A focus on Latin America <i>Speaker: Vinícius Fox Drummond Cançado Trindade, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations</i>
8:25 – 8:35 am	Perspectives of developed countries and potential implications for scientific research: A focus on the European Union <i>Speaker: Arianna Broggiato, European Commission</i>
8:35 – 8:55 am	Q & A and Dialogue <i>Moderator: Hiroko Muraki Gottlieb, International Council of Environmental Law</i>
8:55 – 9:00 am	Wrap-up <i>Speaker: Peter R. Girguis</i>

SESSION 2 PROGRAMME
8 July 2021 (7:00 – 8:00 pm New York)

7:00 – 7:05 pm	Welcome <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Roxane Maranger, President, ASLO</i>• <i>Peter R. Girguis, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University</i>
7:05 – 7:15 pm	Introduction: Importance of stakeholder engagement—why does your input matter? <i>Speaker: Janine Coye-Felson, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute</i>
7:15 – 7:25 pm	Perspectives of developing countries and potential implications for scientific research: A focus on Latin America <i>Speaker: Vinícius Fox Drummond Caçado Trindade, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations</i>
7:25 – 7:35 pm	Perspectives of developed countries and potential implications for scientific research <i>Speaker: Luke Roughton, Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations</i>
7:35 – 7:55 pm	Q & A and Dialogue <i>Moderator: Hiroko Muraki Gottlieb, International Council of Environmental Law</i>
7:55 – 8:00 pm	Wrap-up <i>Speaker: Peter R. Girguis</i>