

## Nautischer Verein zu Hamburg /BSH:

### **BSH President: We must enhance the visibility of the significance of the seas to society**

Hamburg, 19.01.2022 **On the occasion of her presentation on the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021 - 2030 (Ocean Decade) at the annual membership meeting of the Nautical Association of Hamburg (Nautischer Verein zu Hamburg), the President of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH), Dr. Karin Kammann-Klippstein, emphasized the importance of the oceans for society.**

The use of the seas, including by shipping, which is the backbone of global trade, but also for the production of renewable energies such as offshore wind energy, is indispensable, she said. It benefits not only coastal residents, but all people. But, according to the president of the central maritime authority, its use must be much more sustainable than it has been to date. She welcomed the fact that the oceans have received increased attention from the public and politicians in recent years. This is also shown, she said, by the establishment of a federal government marine conservation officer, as envisaged in the coalition agreement, in addition to the coordinator for the maritime industry.

The BSH President attaches particular importance to the Ocean Decade, which the United Nations adopted in 2017 and which began with a launch event on June 1, 2021. Under the motto "The science we need for the ocean we want," science-based measures and solutions for sustainable development and ocean protection are to be defined and implemented worldwide under the umbrella of the Ocean Decade.

It is also important to note, said Dr. Kammann-Klippstein, who is also a member of the German Ocean Decade Committee, that while the Decade's goal of improving the state of the ocean specifically serves one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) defined by the United Nations in 2015, Goal 14, "Life Under Water," it is also a goal that will help to achieve the goal of protecting the oceans. At the same time, however, this would also promote the achievement of several other of the 17 SDG's in total. For example, the oceans, as heat and CO<sub>2</sub> sinks, would be of crucial importance with regard to Goal 13, "Take action on climate change." It is true that the warming of the world ocean to a depth of 2,000 meters between 1955 and 2010 amounted to only 0.09°C. However, if this amount of heat absorbed by the ocean had remained in the



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lower ten kilometers of the atmosphere, this layer of the atmosphere would have warmed by 36°C, making life on Earth impossible." SDG 2 - "no hunger" will also be unachievable without food from healthy, non-overfished oceans.

In the first year of the Ocean Decade alone, more than 30 global programs have been launched, and 86 projects have been approved. More than 200 activities, such as events and publications, have already been carried out. A total of almost 850 million US dollars has been invested in measures to understand and protect the oceans.

Many BSH research projects and activities contribute directly or indirectly to achieving the Decade Goals, she said. These included ship-based and automated monitoring of the condition of the North Sea and Baltic Sea, ship emission measurements, testing the approval of ballast water systems, and the study of ship fouling and measures to prevent it.

The president of the central maritime authority sees an important aspect in communicating the tasks and results of the Ocean Decade: "This is a core topic of the Decade, because we can and want to save only what we know. The oceans and their importance for us humans in the ecosystem are in many cases still little known among the general public. The German Ocean Decade Committee is trying to counteract this through its social media channels, among other things. We also support this on the part of the BSH.

Dr. Kammann-Klippstein clearly emphasized shipping as an important partner in achieving the goals of the Ocean Decade: "More than 90,000 ships are sailing on the ocean. Some of these ships are already collecting data for science. This involves meteorological observations on the one hand, but also measurements on the ocean surface. There are already established programs, such as the Ships of Opportunity Program or the Voluntary Observing Ship Scheme. Compared to the rather small fleet of research vessels, commercial shipping has enormous potential for data collection, which is important for climate models, for example, but also for improving marine weather forecasting." She sees it as an extraordinarily positive development that there has been an enormous increase in the willingness of the German and European shipping industry to assume responsibility and to make the maritime industry more sustainable in recent years. This could also make a significant contribution to achieving the Decade Goals.

*The BSH is Germany's central maritime authority. Around 1,000 employees from more*



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*than 100 professions work at the two headquarters in Hamburg and Rostock and on 5 ships. The tasks focus on, among other things, the promotion, safety and monitoring of maritime navigation, research and collection of long data series in the field of oceanography and marine chemistry, the water level forecasting service as well as nautical hydrography, within the framework of which official nautical charts are produced. An area that has been growing steadily recently is the responsibility as a licensing and monitoring authority for offshore wind turbines. As the German flag state administration and service provider, the BSH supports the maritime industry with permits, liability certificates, product testing, approvals and provision of data.*

*In order to continuously improve the compatibility of protection and use of the seas and to continuously increase knowledge about the seas, the BSH works in maritime application-oriented research and on the development of products and services. Investigations and provision of data on sea state measurements in offshore wind farms and as well as the development of sound measurement networks in the North Sea and Baltic Sea and the provision of data and technical information on impulse sound in the sea are examples of this. The development of technologies for measuring ship emissions in the air is also part of this. The BSH Navigation and Communication System Laboratory provides a test environment for complex navigation and communication systems.*

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