

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (SI)

The following questions were designed by the core author group as an informal aide for the semi-structured interviews:

1. As a preliminary question, could you briefly tell me a little bit about your professional background and if your work focuses on specific marine regions or pertains to the ocean in general?
2. Would you be able to describe an experience you have had with multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral collaborations in marine regions?
  - a. Follow-up Q 1: when describing your experience, it would be helpful if you could briefly tell me the nature of the collaboration, e.g. what kinds of stakeholders and sectors were involved, at what scale it occurred at (regional or interregional), and what outcomes were achieved.
3. What drivers do you think are needed to help strengthen collaboration between different actors and sectors in or amongst marine regions?
4. Do you think marine regions are still facing challenges in implementing collaboration processes? If so, what do you think are the main factors that contribute to challenges in implementing multi-stakeholder collaboration in marine regions?
  - a. Follow-up Q 1: what could be done differently to overcome implementation barriers in future collaborative efforts?
5. Based on your experience, could you provide an example of when a collaborative process amongst stakeholders and sectors enabled action (or facilitated of a project/process) and when collaborative efforts hindered action?
6. How would you describe a success of a collaborative process in your own words?
  - a. Follow-up Q 1: what type of platform do you think can successfully achieve and implement ocean action?

*In the following questions, we examine the Marine Regions Forum 2019:*

7. Did you experience any benefits or lessons learned as a result of attending the forum on a personal and organisational level?
8. Since having participated the forum, have you put any experiences that you made at the forum into practice, or have you replicated or adapted your work based on your participation? Concrete examples would be helpful.
  - a. Follow-up Q 1: What could have been a useful addition to the forum or what could have been done differently?
9. In your experience, how can informal processes such as the forum add value to formal governance processes, for example those under regional seas agreements or RFMOs, intergovernmental negotiations or the 2030 Agenda?

- a. Follow-up Q 1: how can a process such as the forum create value for other stakeholders and different non-governmental actors?
- 10.** After something like the Marine Regions Forum take place, how can it be ensured that the knowledge gained at the MRF by the participant's facilitates or transforms to action on the ground?
- 11.** In your opinion, what type of action can be achieved through collaborative processes such as the forum?
- 12.** What indicators do you think could be used to measure and monitor success in collaborations, and at what scale could they be most effectively implemented?