

BREST  
LIFE

BRETAGNE

# Press kit

Océanopolis  
BREST

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC CULTURE DEDICATED TO THE OCEAN

# OCÉANOPOLIS IN NUMBERS



## No. 1

tourist facility  
in Brittany



most visited Centre for Scientific,  
Technical and Industrial Culture  
in France



## 415,000

visitors per year



## 35,000

students per year from nursery school  
to Master's degree



## 30 years

of existence  
+ 12 million visitors  
since 1990



## 10,000m<sup>2</sup>

exhibition area



## 1,000

animal species



## 80

staff

Laying of the first  
foundation stone  
in the presence  
of Édouard Balladur,  
Minister of Economy, Finance,  
and Privatisation, and of  
Ambroise Guellec, Secretary  
of State for the Sea.

**1987 ■ 22 june**

Public opening  
by Pierre Maille,  
Mayor of Brest.

**1990 ■ 21 june**

Océanopolis celebrates  
its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
under the patronage  
of Jean-Louis Borloo,  
Minister of Ecology,  
and François Cuillandre,  
President of Brest  
métropole.

**2006**

**1988**  
Start of work  
on Océanopolis,  
which was then called  
'The House of the Sea'.

**2000 ■ 8 july**

Inauguration of new polar and tropical pavilions  
by Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister.



For more than 30 years, Océanopolis, France's National Centre for Scientific Culture dedicated to the ocean, has been committed to raising awareness of the fundamental role of our oceans on life on earth. It's a project leader and an actor with close collaborations with research organisations, the national education system, companies, museums, associations etc. Océanopolis participates in the development of knowledge to better

understand and protect our oceans and to make this knowledge accessible to as many people as possible.

More than ever, and faithful to our DNA, we want to bring a different perspective to oceanographic subjects, as we have done through the combination of the arts and sciences for 12 years and through the Ocean Eco Advisers programme that allows younger people to learn about scientific studies and approaches so they can suggest concrete actions.

Every day, we share with our audience, young and old alike, knowledge and seek to create emotions that change the way we look at our oceans. We believe that to be amazed and moved allows us to become aware, and from there we can act.

**Nathalie Péron-Lecorps,**  
Océanopolis director

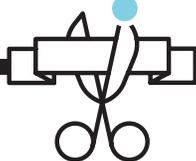
Renovation of Océanopolis's historic temperate pavilion, now renamed the Brittany pavilion. Inauguration by François Cuillandre, President of Brest métropole.

**2017**



**2014**

François Cuillandre, President of Brest Métropole, and famous sailor Olivier de Kersauson welcome the 10 millionth visitor to Océanopolis.



**2019**

Start of energy transition work, supported by Brest métropole.

Océanopolis celebrates 30 years.

**2020**



**2024**

Metamorphosis of Océanopolis.



# Océanopolis, National Centre for Scientific Culture dedicated to the ocean

Sharing knowledge  
and creating emotions to change  
the way we look at the oceans.

**S**ince 1990, Océanopolis has been a formidable educational tool, a place for sharing and exchanging knowledge. It has been telling the natural history of the oceans through its mission to combine scientific mediation with education and creativity. Located on the Brittany peninsula, this Brest Métropole facility is managed by the semi-public company Brest'aim.

**Océanopolis informs, entertains and amazes the public.** It puts oceanographic knowledge at the service of visitors to make them aware of how our oceans function, to ask questions and to enable them to measure the impact of their actions.

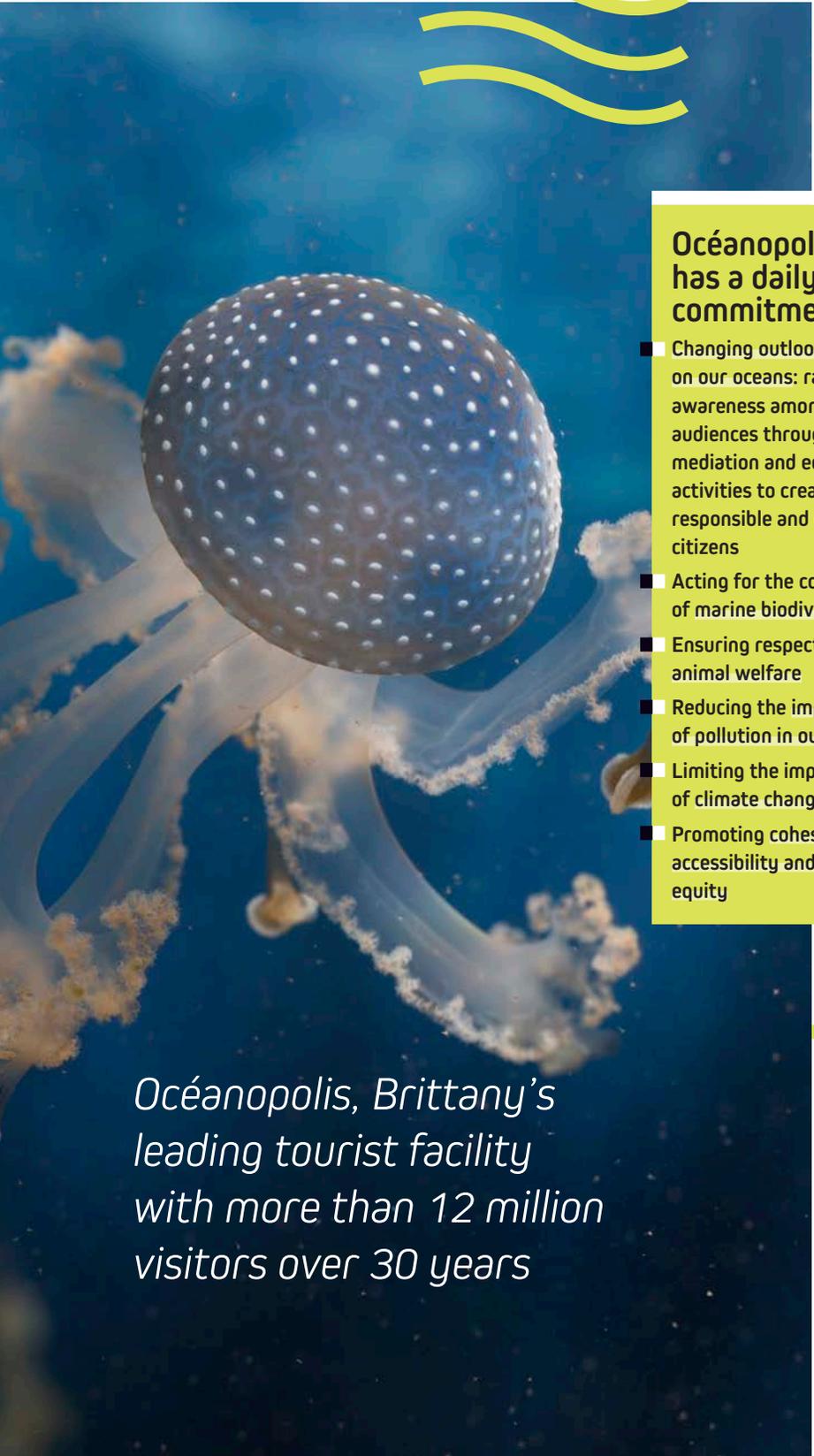
Throughout the year, **Océanopolis offers a rich and diversified programme** with endlessly renewed activities for each of the school holidays, recurring scientific culture meetings, and collaborations with scientists, artists and cultural partners. It's more than a visit, it is a rigorous scientific journey into the heart of different marine ecosystems. Thanks to the expertise of its teams and to its particularly efficient technical set-up, Océanopolis offers a high-quality presentation of living things.



Océanopolis is a committed partner in the European Preventing Plastic Pollution (PPP) programme. This France-England (Channel) INTERREG VA project involves 18 organisations from France and England working in partnership to understand and reduce the impacts of plastic pollution in the marine environment.

It's a space for sharing and exchanging knowledge based on the Preventing Plastic Pollution programme's scientific knowledge. Océanopolis will be sharing and transmitting information so that everyone can understand the problem and prevent plastic pollution.

More information at [www.oceanopolis.com](http://www.oceanopolis.com)



### Océanopolis has a daily commitment to:

- Changing outlooks on our oceans: raising awareness among all audiences through our mediation and education activities to create responsible and engaged citizens
- Acting for the conservation of marine biodiversity
- Ensuring respect for animal welfare
- Reducing the impact of pollution in our seas
- Limiting the impact of climate change
- Promoting cohesion, accessibility and social equity

*Océanopolis, Brittany's leading tourist facility with more than 12 million visitors over 30 years*

*Océanopolis has a **CCS TI lab** for scientific, technical and in of Brittany's Scientific Culture on the expertise of its teams and its strong territorial roots together more than 80% of c*

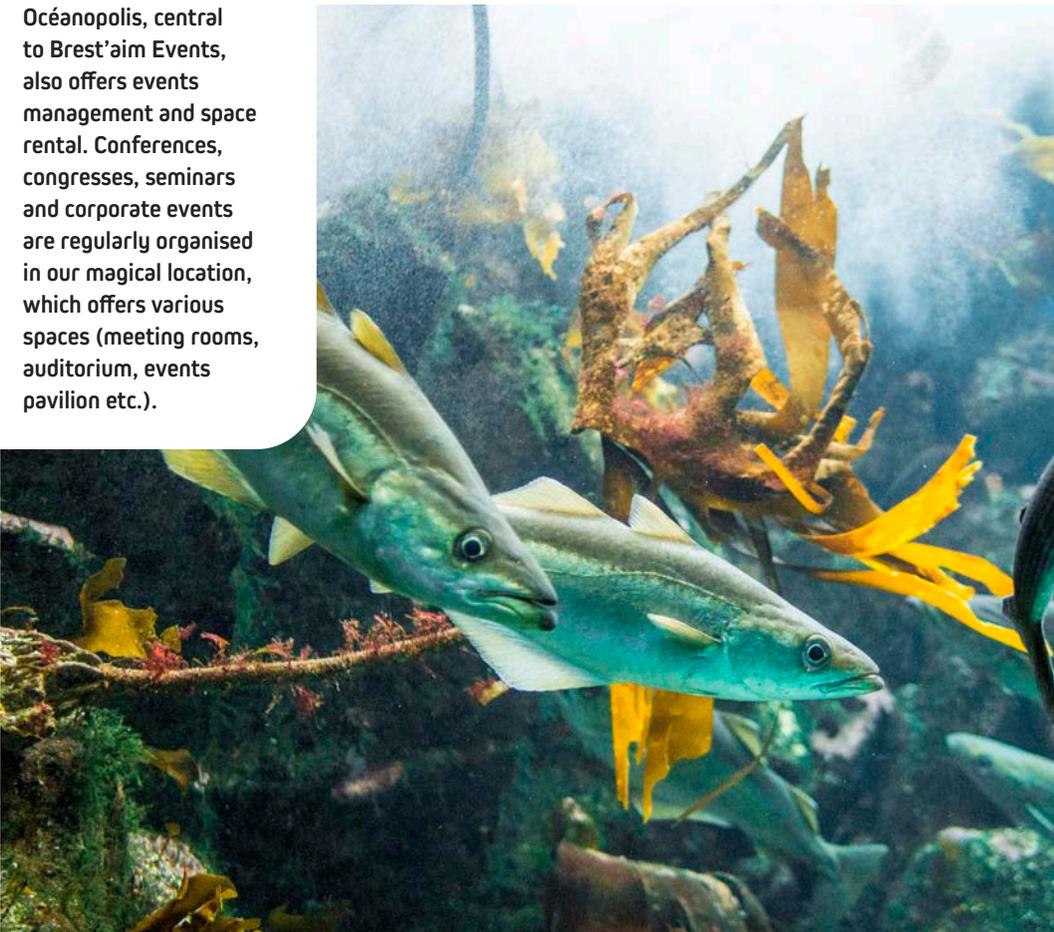
Océanopolis is committed to the conservation of marine species. The centre's teams contribute to research activities on the marine environment and aquatic organisms by hosting scientific work on site and also by getting involved in the field.

For several years, Océanopolis has also managed to master the reproduction of numerous temperate and tropical species in collaboration with other French and international organisations. It has genuine aquarium expertise which is recognised by the scientific community.

Beyond its conservation work, Océanopolis is committed to an environmentally friendly approach. The year 2020 is particularly important to this commitment with the completion of major work on our energy transition project. The goal? More sustainable and responsible energy management. 



Océanopolis, central to Brest'aim Events, also offers events management and space rental. Conferences, congresses, seminars and corporate events are regularly organised in our magical location, which offers various spaces (meeting rooms, auditorium, events pavilion etc.).



**el - meaning it is a centre**  
**Industrial culture - and is a member**  
**re hub. These labels are based**  
**s in the field of scientific mediation**  
**ts. Note: the Brest region brings**  
**oceanographic research.**

## OCEANOPOLIS AND 70.8: A COMPLETE AND COMPLEMENTARY EXPLORATION OF THE OCEANS IN BREST



70.8 is the new gallery of maritime innovations located in the Ateliers des Capucins in Brest. It's a project led by Océanopolis and Brest métropole which offers a new perspective on the blue planet of today and, indeed, that of tomorrow.

Six themes are presented to provide information on the challenges facing the marine world: marine biotechnologies, exploration of the deep sea, renewable marine energies, the study of the ocean to better understand it, maritime traffic, and ships of the future and shipbuilding. It's a unique experience for visitors.

Biodiversity and marine ecosystems at Océanopolis, maritime technologies and innovation at 70.8, the two sites, CCSTI labelled, complement each other to offer all audiences an immersive opportunity to understand, experience and protect our oceans.

### THE METAMORPHOSIS PROJECT

Brest Métropole and Brest'aim have launched a renovation and development project to prepare Océanopolis for the challenges of the coming decades. Since 1990, Océanopolis has been committed to raising awareness of the challenges facing our oceans with major audiences, such as families, adults, schools and professionals. To continue to fully fulfil this role, Océanopolis must evolve and transform while taking visitors' expectations into account.

This is the purpose of the Metamorphosis project, which will focus on:

- An immersive visit that stirs the emotions and shares knowledge
- The creation of a fun, collaborative and interactive children's pavilion
- A fluid and easy tour, with a new reception area, a new boutique and relaxation areas
- Better integration of Océanopolis into the Moulin Blanc promenade

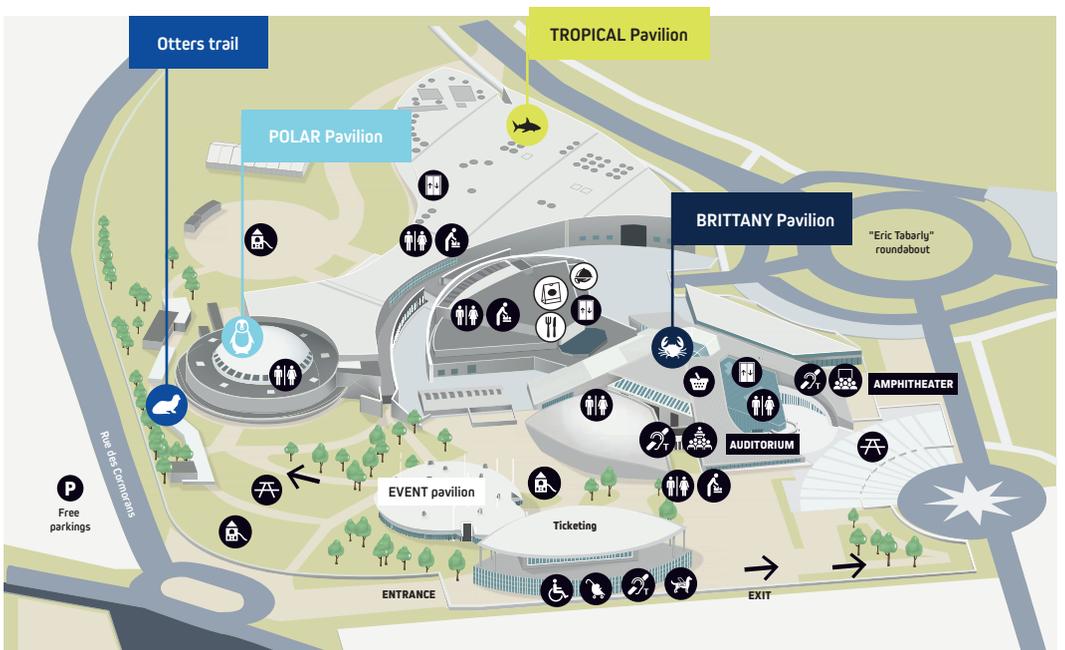
### THE 'REST'O' AT THE HEART OF OCEANOPOLIS

An eco-designed restaurant offering healthy, ethical and quality products for sustainable food that respects the environment. Visitors have been able to discover its convivial setting and exceptional view of Brest harbour since June 2021.



# Four marine spaces

## a journey to the heart of the ocean



Restaurant



Library



Playground



Elevator



Wheelchairs



Self-service restaurant



Shop



Bathroom



Auditorium



Strollers (paid service)



Takeaway restaurant



Picnic area



Changing babies area



Amphitheater



Route for people with reduced mobility



Magnetic loop



Assistance dog allowed

# OTTERS

## TRAIL

A focus  
on two very  
different  
otter species



The **European otter** (*Lutra lutra*) can be found in a great diversity of aquatic environments, ranging from the coast up to an altitude of 2,000 metres, including rivers, lakes and even marshland. The terrestrial environment is used for shelter and rest. It is the only species of otter in France that can be found in an exceptional natural environment - wetlands. Dotted with waterfalls, ponds, lagoons and vegetation, the 80m<sup>2</sup> European otter enclosure includes both fresh and seawater, which is a unique configuration.

Venus, Neiko and Meck are the subject of rigorous health, behavioural and dietary monitoring and have been living in the enclosure since 2013 for the single otter and 2018 and 2019 for the couple.

The **sea otter** (*Enhydra lutris*) is the only species of otter to live permanently at sea. They feed, rest and even give birth to their young at sea. They leave



the marine environment to return to dry land only in case of danger. They are playful and rather sociable diurnal marine mammals. In the North Pacific they once played in groups of up to 2,000 individuals. Sea otters benefit from a totally marine space made up of two basins whose depths vary between 4 and 5m, with a volume of 180m<sup>3</sup> of seawater. Pukiq, Matchaq and Tangiq live in this space, which recreates the rocky environment of the Californian shoreline. ~



They weighed around 100 grammes and were no more than 10 centimetres in length at birth. At the end of 2020, the Océanopolis keepers had the pleasure of welcoming two exceptional births: two European otters (*Lutra lutra*).

These two cubs are the first from the couple formed by Meck and Neiko and the first otters to be born in Océanopolis's otter trail.

A dive through  
the vision of scientists  
and those who earn  
a living from the sea

## BRITTANY PAVILION

### PLANKTON, DISCOVERING THE INFINITELY SMALL

This journey to the heart of Breton biodiversity begins with a dive into the infinitely small: the extraordinary world of plankton. The food chain is based on these microorganisms and they are revealed in all their diversity and different forms: from a luminous vertical projection to the studies of a dedicated laboratory, from microscopic algae to adult-sized jellyfish.

### COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

The coast is where the land and sea meet, a transition between two ecosystems. It stretches from the mainland influenced by sea spray that brings salt and humidity, to areas totally submerged under a few tens of metres of seawater. This pavilion area presents a diversity of faithfully reconstructed habitats: Brest harbour, the foreshore and aquatic plant habitat.



The temperate pavilion was Océanopolis's first pavilion, opening on 21 June 1990. It underwent a complete revamp in 2017 with new aquariums, new thematic spaces and new scientific mediation tools.

It opened under a new name: the Brittany pavilion.



### MINILAB, A SPACE DEDICATED TO EXPERIMENTATION

The Minilab is a dynamic space where the scientific mediator interacts directly with visitors, using various mediation tools to help our guests discover Breton biodiversity in a different way: using a microscope, a binocular magnifying glass, an underwater camera and an interactive screen.



### SHELLFISH FARMING, SHAPING THE BRETON COAST

In this space, visitors are encouraged to discover more about shellfish farming. Shellfish farmers weave daily links between the land and sea and shape the landscape of our coasts. Contrary to popular belief, shellfish farming has beneficial effects in the environments in which it thrives. Water filtration, regulation of eutrophication, an increase in biodiversity, fixation of CO<sub>2</sub> etc. Shellfish farming provides many ecosystem services.

### ABYSSBOX: A WORLD FIRST

The AbyssBox is a pressurised box designed to hold animals at a pressure of up to 200 bar, which is equivalent to a depth of 2,000 metres. Océanopolis is the first establishment to present animals from deep hydrothermal vents in a pressurised aquarium.

### IROISE NATURAL MARINE PARK, REMARKABLE BIODIVERSITY

France's first natural marine park is located in western Finistère, between the islands of Ouessant (Ushant) and Sein. It is home to an exceptional natural and cultural heritage in an area where many professional and leisure activities take place. In this space, the Brittany pavilion allows you to discover all the diverse species that inhabit this remarkable environment.

### CONTINENTAL SHELF

The continental shelf is the space between the shore and the deep sea. Its depth generally varies from 0 to 150 metres, with the average depth of our oceans being 3,800 metres! The continental shelf is the location for coastal fishing, which evolves with the seasons according to the reproduction cycles of various species. ~

*In this pavilion, 42 aquariums follow the rhythm of the seasons thanks to natural sunshine.*



## POLAR PAVILION

Discover life in the planet's extreme territories, far from life as we know it are the polar regions, vast silent immensities where only ice reigns



### EXPLORING POLAR ECOSYSTEMS

Understand the formation of ice floes, discover how an 8-tonne killer whale feeds in the middle of a polar desert, decipher the evolution of the climate, the current disturbances in the atmosphere and their repercussions on the life of polar fauna etc. These are just some of the lessons that can be learned in a pavilion dedicated to the life at the poles.

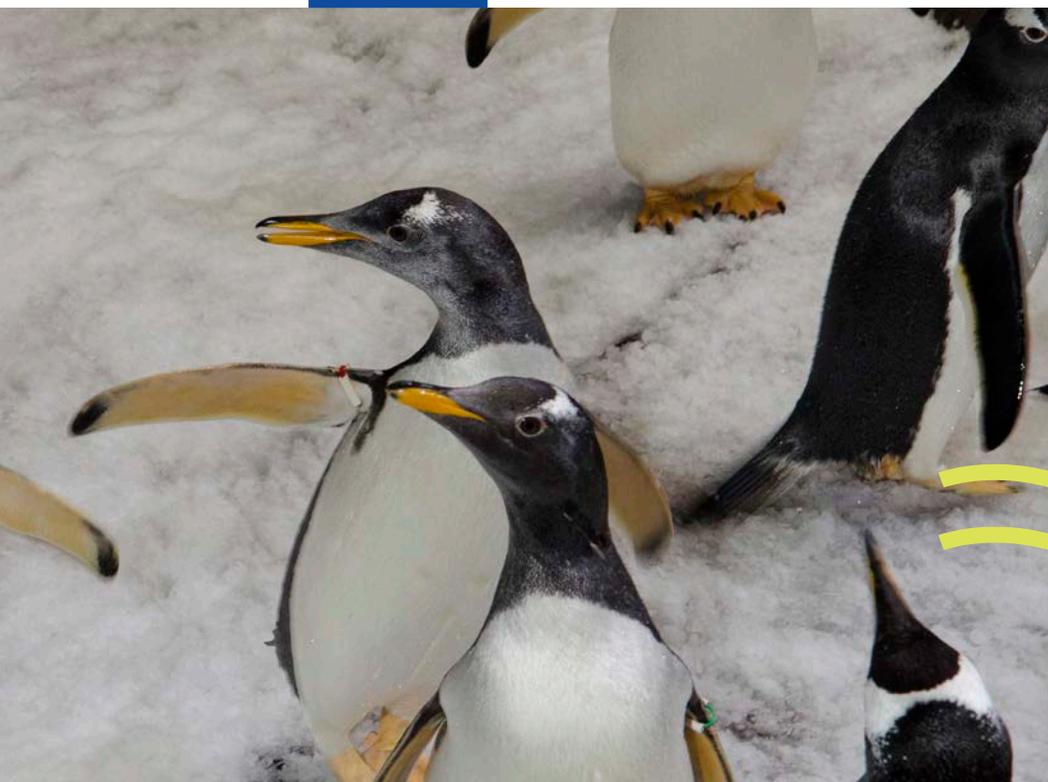


The visit to the polar pavilion begins with the impressive panoramic film '49° south - southern nature'. It's a film that illustrates the awe-inspiring beauty of the sub-Antarctic archipelago. It is the result of a collaboration between the French Polar Institute Paul-Emile Victor, Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises (TAAF) and Océanopolis.

### ANTARCTICA: SOUTHERN REGIONS AND SUB-ANTARCTIC ISLANDS

Cold, ice and rocky cliffs form the reconstructed habitat of the 40 penguins that inhabit the polar pavilion. Three species coexist: king penguins (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*), gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*) and rockhopper penguins (*Eudyptes chrysocome*). Some are extreme divers, some are cliff climbers, but they all live in an environment of waterfalls and snow.





### ARCTIC: BOREAL REGIONS

Arctic seals enjoy a real reconstituted ice floe and a basin of 1,000m<sup>3</sup> in an environment which varies in temperature from 5 to 11°C according to the season. Two species live here: ringed seals (*Pusa hispida*) and bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*).

### AMAZING CREATURES

The richness of the polar seabed also conceals amazing species. Giant crabs from Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk that can reach several metres in leg span, multi-coloured cold water anemones under the ice, starfish of impressive size and strange fish such as the Atlantic wolffish. There is a multitude of very particular and unusual species that are often a source of fascination. ~

*Laying north  
of all land,  
the Arctic Ocean.  
And south  
of all seas,  
the Antarctic  
continent.*

### PENGUIN HABITAT IN NUMBERS



## 30m

Pool length



## 250m<sup>3</sup>

Quantity of seawater  
in the pool



## 8°C

Water  
temperature

Head to the warm seas of the tropical belt for a wonderland of colours

## TROPICAL PAVILION



*Around 60 hard and soft corals are presented in a 13m long aquarium*

### MEET THE SHARKS

It's in a 1,000m<sup>3</sup> aquarium that visitors can discover five species of sharks including the zebra shark (*Stegostoma tigrinum*) and the grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*), alongside rays including the sawfish (*Pristis pristis*), multicoloured fish and invertebrates. The exhibition accompanying this fascinating aquarium reminds visitors about the sad threats hanging over these fascinating species: involuntary catches, fin removal, wrongful bad reputations etc.

### WARM AND LUXURIANT

Some 700 fish and vertebrate species call the tropical pavilion home. This space recreates the ecosystems of the French territorial waters of the tropics. The temperature of the seawater in the basins is maintained at a minimum of 20°C.

### A FASCINATING BUT FRAGILE CORAL UNIVERSE

The tropical pavilion's coral reef is home to some 60 species of living corals. It lifts the veil on the rich marine biodiversity of New Caledonia and Australia's Great Barrier Reef.





The world's first images of the birth of a zebra shark were captured behind the scenes of Océanopolis's tropical pavilion in August 2013.

Since then, the park has welcomed new births of this shark species every year.



## HUMIDITY AND EXUBERANCE OF THE TROPICAL FOREST

Typical of tropical swampy coasts, the mangrove is home to several species within the roots of its vegetation. Visitors can observe needlefish, stingrays, lookdown fish and Caesar grunts as well as astonishing horseshoe crabs, whose shape seems almost prehistoric. The tropical greenhouse is home to rare plant species from a Caribbean-Guyanese forest. These plants grow at a constant temperature of 25°C and a humidity of 85%. It is here that visitors can observe the only freshwater fish in Océanopolis: the famous piranhas and several species of rays. 

Their environment comprises very pure water and a high luminous intensity which favours reef development. The light intensity is set by low-consumption LED lighting carefully chosen by the Océanopolis teams. The objective is to reproduce the sunshine conditions and moon phases that would be found in the natural environment. The teams also participate in the development of the coral population through sexual reproduction and the taking of cuttings. Mastering these practices makes it possible to limit the taking of individuals from the natural environment and so contributes to the survival of species.

Between exhibition and camouflage, the reef fish that inhabit this aquarium develop astonishing survival techniques by blending into the landscape or pretending to be other species.

Further into the pavilion, a multitude of species of sparkling fish swim and evolve in aquariums of various shapes and sizes. Surgeonfish, clownfish, butterflyfish, angelfish, parrotfish, batfish, damselfish etc. All bear witness to the great biodiversity of the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.



# Scientific culture to change the way we look at the oceans



Océanopolis supports France's National Education authorities by offering educational activities adapted to school curricula on multiple themes related to marine biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development. Océanopolis is also involved in national and international scientific culture organisations such as AMCSTI and Brittany's scientific culture hub.



## OCÉANOPOLIS'S EDUCATIONAL MISSION IN NUMBERS



# 35,000

students per year  
from nursery school  
to Master's

# 6

scientific mediators

# 30

mediator guides

# 2

arts and culture  
advisers



# 5

classrooms

# 35

educational workshops

# 10

e-Classes

### RAISING AWARENESS

### AMONG THE PUBLIC

Throughout the year, Océanopolis offers a rich and diversified programme with endlessly renewed activities for each of the school holidays, recurring scientific culture meetings and collaborations with scientists, artists and cultural partners. Océanopolis's mission is to help raise awareness among all audiences through its mediation and education activities in order to create responsible and committed citizens.



### EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

Through its educational and scientific approach, Océanopolis, recognised by France's National Education authorities since 1992, is an essential national educational facility available to teachers and their students.

Each year, 35,000 pupils ranging from nursery school to Master's are hosted by Océanopolis for guided tours, educational workshops, e-Classes, school trips, school conferences or even as part of the support in calls for projects: marine educational areas, Young Reporters of the Arts, Sciences

and the Environment, [ECO] ocean advisers, School Plastic Hackathon etc.

This educational programme also includes training and resources for teachers so that they are able to help their students understand how our oceans work and to become aware of the richness and fragility of marine biodiversity.

## CÉLINE LIRET

Océanopolis  
Scientific Director,  
in charge of partnerships  
and international  
relations



## "INNOVATIVE, CO-CONSTRUCTED AND PARTICIPATIVE SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS."

### WHAT ARE YOUR KEY TASKS?

As a spokesperson, I represent Océanopolis in a set of national and international networks. This main role is supplemented by scientific monitoring in the fields of marine sciences and technologies ranging from biodiversity to climate change, and the development of new partnerships that can contribute to a better understanding of marine ecosystems and to the emergence of solutions. Without forgetting the maintenance of long-standing partnerships that are truly part of Océanopolis's DNA. All of these roles are in line with more global issues: those related to the ocean, climate change, sustainable development objectives, protection of biodiversity etc.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS?

The presence of Océanopolis at COP21 in 2015. At this event, we succeeded in uniting territorial actors and brought together scientific and professional organisations. As a centre of scientific culture, Océanopolis was able to play an important role in the event by contributing to the awareness of the role of the ocean in regulating the global climate. It was a means of taking part collectively in a real global dynamic which has resulted in the ocean,

the second lung of our planet, being taken into account in international climate negotiations. That's a great success.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PROJECTS FOR THE COMING YEARS?

Scientific projects which involve co-construction, transdisciplinarity and numerous partnerships. The first project is Objectif Plancton, a participatory science programme on plankton in coastal environments. It's a project that meets the needs of scientists: to obtain a synoptic vision of a marine environment by involving the general public. Océanopolis plays an essential coordinating role in the creation of a link between science and society. In the years to come we will develop this project by rolling it out internationally. The second project is Océanolab. This will host several scientific projects related to the impact of climate change on marine biodiversity, taking an immersive approach. Visitors will be able to observe scientists working, talk with them and better understand the scientific process. This is an innovative and original project that will highlight the 30 years of collaboration between Océanopolis and its scientific partners.

### ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE OCÉANOPOLIS?

Synergy. The strength of Océanopolis is being able to bring people together and give meaning.



## DOMINIQUE BARTHELEMY

Curator in charge  
of the living environment

President of the Union  
of Aquarium Curators (UCA)



## “OCÉANOPOLIS CONTRIBUTES TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS PROTECTION.”

### WHAT ARE YOUR KEY TASKS?

It involves maintaining the animals presented at Océanopolis with the help of my teams: 10 people in the aquariology department and six people in the marine mammal and seabird department. I organise their work and discuss with them aspects relating to the maintenance of living things: animal care, projects for new species, how to host them etc. Aquariums allow us to tell the story of the oceans to visitors. As such, the team works regularly with the scientific and cultural mediation department. The goal is to co-construct a message to raise awareness about the protection of marine ecosystems. We also participate in species conservation through scientific partnerships and contribute to studies that describe new species using data collected in aquariums. It's a way of participating in the development of knowledge about marine environments.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS?

Océanopolis is a structure that makes it possible to do lots of great things. Over 30 years, I have many great memories: the creation of the AbyssBox, the Planugwa project, the various projects related to coral etc. What brings me the most satisfaction is having been able to participate in the growth of Océanopolis in the current societal and environmental context. In 10 years,

the issues have radically changed. The evolution of society today gives rise to misunderstandings about the role of a structure like Océanopolis. Presenting living things can sometimes be frowned upon but aquariums have a very important role to play in terms of raising awareness and contributing to scientific advances. The role of the park is also to improve knowledge about the marine environment.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PROJECTS FOR THE COMING YEARS?

There's no doubt about that, it's the metamorphosis of Océanopolis. It's an ambitious renovation project that incorporates the concerns mentioned earlier and new challenges. Océanopolis is not just there to say how to do things, but also sets an example and questions itself. How do we amaze the public with different things? For Océanopolis, it is not necessarily a question of showing the most impressive animal but rather of presenting complete ecosystems so we rely on mediation tools, which touch visitors and give their visit real meaning.

### ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE OCÉANOPOLIS?

Passion. It has driven me for 30 years and is still there today.

**TRISTAN HATIN**

Mediation and scientific culture manager



“OCÉANOPOLIS,  
AN INTERFACE  
BETWEEN  
SCIENCE  
AND SOCIETY.”

**WHAT ARE YOUR KEY TASKS?**

I am responsible for the mediation and scientific culture team at Océanopolis. Our role is to share and transmit the scientific content of Océanopolis to as many people as possible through educational workshops for schoolchildren and thematic activities for visitors. In total each year, 35,000 pupils and students, from nursery school through to Master's, pass through the gates of the park for educational workshops, guided tours and also as part of educational programmes (Young Reporters of the Arts, Sciences and the Environment, [ECO] Ocean advisers, Preventing Plastic Pollution\*). For me, what is important at Océanopolis is to provide content about the oceans and the challenges facing us all. It's scientific content that must be adapted to the general public, which is sometimes a difficult task. Our expertise in the field of scientific mediation allows us to find the right way to get the messages across. We often work on very topical themes such as global change and marine pollution.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS?**

That will be succeeding in adapting to the recent health constraints and different confinements. At the end of 2020, we created and launched e-Classes (remote interactive workshops) to maintain the educational continuity with schoolchildren. Based on an

active pedagogy and designed to reproduce interactions in the classroom, Océanopolis's e-Classes put the accent on discovery, observation and investigation. They offer live experiences, promote a diversity of activities and support exchanges between the scientific mediator and students. This system has even allowed us to reach a wider audience, such as classes in Paris and southern France, and also adults through various associations.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PROJECTS FOR THE COMING YEARS?**

We want to give our audiences the tools necessary to enable them to get involved in the protection of our oceans, where the challenges are certainly substantial. There is still time to act to protect marine biodiversity, but it requires reflecting on our actions and prompting more sustainable behaviours. Our challenge is to make audiences want to transform our messages into a desire to get involved with us (hackathons, participatory science projects). The aim is to reach people right across France. Whether we live near a beach or inland, we all have a role to play in protecting our oceans.

**ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE OCÉANOPOLIS?**

Commitment, that of the teams but also the commitment we create among the public.

\* The European programme for the prevention of plastic pollution.



## SAMI HASSANI

Marine mammal expert  
attached to Océanopolis's  
scientific board

Director of the Association  
for the Conservation  
of Marine Mammals  
and Birds in Brittany (ACMOM)

# "OCÉANOPOLIS, A NATIONAL CENTRE OF SCIENTIFIC CULTURE DEDICATED TO THE OCEAN."

## WHAT ARE YOUR KEY TASKS?

Generally ? I support, advise and use my knowledge and expertise on marine mammals for the benefit of local authorities in charge of the environment and managers of protected sites: the maritime prefecture, the Regional Directorate for the Environment (DREAL), Natura 2000 sites in Brittany, island reserves etc. I also sit on several bodies, for example, as president of the scientific council of Brittany's island reserves and I sit on the ASCOBANS\* advisory committee. I am also a member of the Regional Scientific Council for Natural Heritage, of the management board of the Iroise Marine Park and the consultative committees of several national reserves. Regarding my role as director of the ACMOM association, I train and support the team of volunteers and interns who work at the care centre. I ensure the operation of the centre from the recovery of the first seal on the coast to the rehabilitation of the last animal to leave and also manage the stranding network. In summer, our activities are more related to the transit of seabirds to dedicated care centres.

## WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS?

Spreading the name of Océanopolis internationally, raising the park's profile by producing publications on marine mammals, by participating in international symposia and conferences. It also means being asked to conduct expert missions with local, regional, national and even international bodies. This is something that has been achieved gradually and I am quite happy to have made my contribution to bodies such as the European Cetacean Society (ECS), where I had the chance to present the work of Océanopolis during the international conference. I even got a seat in their office there.

## WHAT ARE YOUR PROJECTS FOR THE COMING YEARS?

To continue to set up other scientific study projects on marine mammals with our partners but also, and above all, to further establish the ACMOM association in its missions and with other bodies so that it is increasingly known and recognised.

\* Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas.

# Practical info



Océanopolis is accessible to people with reduced mobility, the hearing-impaired and people accompanied by a guide or assistance dog



## HOURS

### Outside school holidays

10am > 5pm • Tuesday to Sunday • Closed Mondays

### School holidays

9.30am > 6pm • Open every day

### Summer holidays

9.30am > 7pm • Open every day

### Océanopolis's car parks are free

1,800 spaces, including:  
24 coach spaces  
28 disabled spaces  
25 motorhome spaces

### BY RAIL

Brest railway station is 9 minutes from Océanopolis



**ACCÈS**

### BY ROAD

Port de Plaisance du Moulin Blanc  
29200 Brest

### BY BUS

Line No.3 and Line Bleue Estivale

To view your route:  
[www.bibus.fr](http://www.bibus.fr)

### BY AIR

Brest-Bretagne airport is 15 minutes from Océanopolis and 20 minutes from Brest town centre

### BY BOAT

From the Presqu'île de Crozon with the Le Brestoà maritime company

## ENTRANCE

## FEES

More information about visit tickets and subscriptions on [www.oceanopolis.com](http://www.oceanopolis.com)



### myOcéanopolis, interactive visit application

Free, practical, fun and educational, the application is available in 4 languages (French, English, German and Breton) and offers multiple functions.

## EXTRA-SPECIAL VISITS

**Behind the scenes at Océanopolis**  
Accompanied by a scientific mediator, visitors signing up for this experience can take a look behind the scenes of Océanopolis and discover more about the backdrop, the residents and technical equipment.

### Keeper for a day

An exceptional opportunity to share the daily duties of our keepers. The four-and-a-half-hour experience is conducted in groups of four: discover what goes on behind the scenes, watch medical training sessions, participate in the preparation and distribution of meals to otters, penguins, seals, tropical fish etc.





# Océanopolis BREST

## PRESS CONTACTS

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