

# OCEAN YOUTH

# SUMMIT AARHUS

A YOUTH-CREATED SUMMIT ABOUT BLUE TRANSITION

**MAY 30 - JUNE 2, 2023**

**THE OCEAN RACE STOPOVER AARHUS 2023**

**WORLD  
PERFECT**  
STOPOVER  
STRATEGIC PARTNER

**AARHUS  
DENMARK**  
HOST CITY

 **THE  
OCEAN  
RACE**





## **PART OF THE OCEAN RACE STOPOVER AARHUS 2023**

Ocean Youth Summit Aarhus was a part of the Ocean Race Stopover Aarhus 2023. The event functioned as a platform for the voice of the youth in the debate about the ocean and ocean rights.

The Ocean Race is 'Racing with Purpose' and working to protect the ocean through research and communication, and towards the inherent rights of the ocean being recognised through The Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights.

The summit was organized by Aarhus Events, City of Aarhus, in collaboration with Worldperfect.

Supported by Holcim PRB – Go Circular, 11th Hour Racing, Norlys and other Stopover Partners.

**WORLD  
PERFECT**  
STOPOVER  
STRATEGIC PARTNER

**AARHUS  
DENMARK**  
HOST CITY

**THE  
OCEAN  
RACE**





## A FOUR-DAY SUMMIT ABOUT BLUE TRANSITION

120 students and young professionals between the ages of 18 and 39 were gathered in Aarhus from May 30 to June 2, 2023. The summit program blended hands-on learning about the ocean and sustainability with expert talks, debates, new experiences, and the opportunity to be part of an interdisciplinary and international community in Aarhus.

## SOLUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

The summit brought together participating students from various higher education institutions and young professionals from Denmark and all over the world. The keywords of the summit were involvement, new experiences, and a constructive approach focusing on the solutions of the future.

## A YOUTH-CREATED SUMMIT

The aim of the summit was to give a platform for the voice of the youth and create a youth-led community centered around the ocean. The summit was therefore created by 23 young volunteers who participated in the learning and development program called 'Creators'.

**“There is lacking a focus on sustainability and the youth and how to actually take the young voice serious for example in politics and legislation.”**

- Esther Mogensen, Creator

**WATCH THE VIDEO ABOUT**

# **THE VISION**



We have to eat differently than what we do right now.

**“We are aiming to inspire young people to do better and go back home and make a difference for the ocean and its rights.”**



## **CONCEPT: A YOUTH-CREATED YOUTH SUMMIT**

Ocean Youth Summit Aarhus was created and facilitated by 23 young volunteers.

The team consisted of a group of students and recent graduates from various educational backgrounds - all bound by a shared passion for the ocean, sustainable development, and youth involvement.

The volunteers took part in the six-month learning and development program called Creators.

**CREATORS**

# WORLDWIDE PARTICIPATION

**120** STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
WITH DIVERSE ACADEMIC BACKGROUNDS

**20** DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Argentina  
Brazil  
Canada  
Cabo Verde  
Croatia  
Denmark  
France  
Germany  
Greenland  
Hungary

India  
New Zealand  
Nigeria  
Norway  
Peru  
Scotland  
Sweden  
The  
Netherlands  
Turkey  
USA



# **THE SUMMIT OUTPUT**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH**



ESTHER MOGENSEN  
CO-CREATOR  
OCEAN YOUTH SUMMIT



ESTHER MOGENSEN  
CO-CREATOR  
OCEAN YOUTH SUMMIT

“I’m a bit provoked when people say it’s on the youth to save the planet. **I think it is a responsibility for everyone alive right now.**”

And of course, maybe the youth is more prepared to make changes and a bit more aware of how it will impact us and our children. **But we can’t do it alone. We need the people in power to do something.”**

- Esther Mogensen, Creator.  
Speaking on behalf of the Youth Summit at The Ocean Race Summit to government, civil society and private sector representatives.





# AN URGENT CALL FROM THE YOUTH

## WE SEE THE URGENT NEED FOR RADICAL CHANGE AND BLUE TRANSITION

We must be willing to compromise and work together to create holistic and radical change for our ocean. The impacts of our decisions will affect all of us, so collaboration is essential. Sciences, arts, politics, welfare, technology - each field plays an vital part in creating a complete blue transition.

## NATURE RIGHTS AND OCEAN RIGHTS NOW!

We need global and transnational protection of the ocean and ocean nature. Therefore, we support a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights that will ensure the rights of the ocean and accelerate solutions to restore ocean health across the world. The state of the ocean directly impacts our own well-being, so we can not wait any longer for change - for the sake of all living beings!

## IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR THE OCEAN ON ALL LEVELS

We cannot simply wait for politicians to fix the legislation and protect ocean life. We need to get involved ourselves and begin the change bottom-up through local projects and action.

**“We are individuals of action,  
driven by a deep passion  
to create a sustainable world.**

**It is imperative that we take action  
and actively work towards this vision.”**

- Jazmín Sopeña Clemençon, Participant at Ocean Youth Summit Aarhus

## **SUMMIT APPROACH:**

**WE NEED A HOLISTIC APPROACH**

**TO ALL OUR CHALLENGES**

**-CONNECTING PEOPLE, PLANET**

**AND PROFIT**

During the summit, attendees delved into solutions concerning 6 distinct themes, driven by the realization that sustainable development is not just about climate change, biodiversity and technological solutions. It also extends to welfare, culture, quality of life and how humans live in harmony with the sea.

### **THE 6 THEMES**

#### **#1 PLENTY OF FISH IN THE SEA?**

The unseen biodiversity crisis and ways to solve it

#### **#2 KEEPING AARHUS ABOVE WATER**

Flood Resilience Management and Urban Development

#### **#3 CONNECTING YOU AND THE OCEAN**

Improving health and wellbeing

#### **#4 THE TASTY TREATS OF THE OCEAN**

And how to find them

#### **#5 GIVING VOICE TO THE OCEAN**

Through culture and creativity

#### **#6 THINK BUSINESS LIKE A FISH**

Inspiration and tools for creating blue startups

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THEME #1

### #1 PLENTY OF FISH IN THE SEA?

#### The unseen biodiversity crisis and ways to solve it

How can we help solve the biodiversity crisis in the ocean?

1. We need to be aware of the biodiversity crisis and well-informed about its causes and effects.
2. In order to understand the impacts, we need to form meaningful connections with the living entities beneath the surface by engaging with them and gaining personal experiences.
3. We cannot simply wait for politicians to fix the legislation and protect ocean life. We need to get involved ourselves and begin the change bottom-up through specific local projects of oceanic wildlife registration, protection and restoration.



## KEY FINDINGS FROM THEME #2

# #2 KEEPING AARHUS ABOVE WATER

## Flood Resilience Management and Urban Development

Retreat, reinforce, protect? How should we approach future living and urban development?

1. Instead of treating cities or coastlines as separate entities, we need to consider them as interconnected systems and approach their development in a holistic manner.
2. If we want to bring about meaningful change, we must be willing to compromise and work together. The impacts of our decisions will affect all of us, so collaboration is essential.
3. When planning for urban development, we should prioritize a nature-first approach. This means taking into account the importance of natural elements and incorporating them into our designs and strategies.



## KEY FINDINGS FROM THEME #3

# #3 CONNECTING YOU AND THE OCEAN

## Improving health and wellbeing

How can we improve our health and wellbeing by connecting with the ocean?

1. The ocean's health directly impacts our own well-being. We have a reciprocal relationship with the ocean – its well-being depends on us, and our well-being depends on the ocean.
2. The ocean is an integral part of our existence as about 60% of our bodies are composed of water. When we connect with the ocean, it ignites a stronger drive within us to protect it.
3. Activities like yoga, mindfulness, and water-based activities offer an opportunity to establish a deeper bond with the ocean. This connection enhances our overall well-being and boosts our motivation to protect the ocean.



## KEY FINDINGS FROM THEME #4

# #4 THE TASTY TREATS OF THE OCEAN

## And how to find them!

How is the ocean a part of a sustainable food future?

1. When consuming food from the ocean, it is important to acknowledge its impact on the health of our planet - both the positive and negative.
2. It is important to create a positive mindset about new food solutions from the sea. Therefore it is essential to be aware of all the sensory, social and cultural aspects that together form our eating experiences.
3. Seaweed and mussels are examples of valuable and sustainable resources. It is already used in many everyday products, enhances water quality in aquaculture, does not require land space and can be solutions to food scarcity issues.



## KEY FINDINGS FROM THEME #5

### #5 GIVING VOICE TO THE OCEAN

Through culture and creativity

How can we use art and creativity to secure a blue transition?

1. Art has the potential to create compassion and a personal relation to the ocean.
2. Art can help create a language of emotions for things such as the ocean that cannot speak itself. While reports and data about the ocean may not evoke empathy and responsibility, forging an emotional bond through art allows us to grasp its existence as a living entity.
3. Art can be a call to action because it helps us experience a feeling of connectedness to each other as well as the ocean.

*"The ocean is not just blue and not just calm. It is many colors and invoke many emotions. Like seaweed is red, brown and green the ocean can be dangerous, calm and lifegiving all at the same time. That is true art."*

**- Diversity**





## KEY FINDINGS FROM THEME #6

### #6 THINK BUSINESS LIKE A FISH

#### Inspiration and tools for creating blue startups

How do we create startups that take sustainable development and blue strategies into consideration?

1. We need to change the main focus of business from economy to sustainable development in order to care not just about profit, but also about people and the planet.
2. It is important to test various methods and tools to challenge the conventional mindset surrounding business practices. By doing so, we open ourselves up to new possibilities and perspectives that can lead to innovative and transformative approaches.
3. We must keep questioning our own approach to ensure holistic, sustainable development. Our focus should not solely be on the end goal, but also on the methods we employ to reach it.





**WE SEE THE URGENT NEED FOR RADICAL CHANGE AND BLUE TRANSITION**

**NATURE RIGHTS AND OCEAN RIGHTS NOW!**

**IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR THE OCEAN ON ALL LEVELS**



**WORLD  
PERFECT**  
STOPOVER  
STRATEGIC PARTNER

**AARHUS  
DENMARK**  
HOST CITY

**THE  
OCEAN  
RACE**



**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
OCEAN YOUTH SUMMIT AARHUS?**

**CONTACT WORLDPERFECT:  
INFO@WORLDPERFECT.DK**

**WORLDPERFECT**

