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WORLD OCEAN OBSERVATORY IN 2025: AN EYE TO THE FUTURE

New Board Chair Dr. Tundi Agardy and newly-appointed Director Trisha Badger to explore two-year transition with support of founder Peter Neill and dedicated Board of Directors

UNITED STATES - Dr. Tundi Agardy and Trisha Badger have assumed new leadership positions at the [World Ocean Observatory](https://www.worldoceanobservatory.org/) (W2O), and will lead a strategic transition over the next two years to steward W2O into sustainable advocacy and action for the ocean.

Dr. Tundi Agardy works at the interface between science and policy in marine systems around the world. She is an internationally renowned expert in marine conservation, with extensive field experience in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and North America. She is the Executive Director of Sound Seas, a marine conservation policy group based in the Washington D.C. area that develops initiatives to promote truly effective marine conservation by working at the interface between public policy and community-based conservation at the more localized level. Her major research interests and publications focus on coastal and marine planning, ocean zoning, marine protected areas, ecosystem services, and marine ecosystem-based management. Dr. Agardy has published widely, including the seminal book “Marine Protected Areas and Ocean Conservation” (Academic Press, 1997.) She has consulted with such groups as the Center for Environmental Cooperation (Canada, U.S., Mexico), American Museum of Natural History, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Italian Ministry of Environment, World Bank, MacArthur Foundation, WorldFish Center, Ecological Society of America, California Marine Life Protection Act Task Force, and The Nature Conservancy.

As the new Board Chair for W2O, Dr. Agardy will lead the organization into an elevated posture for the continued delivery of educational resources, advocacy, Ocean Literacy, and robust communications platforms such as World Ocean Explorer, World Ocean Radio, Forum, Journal, and more. With newly-appointed Director Trisha Badger and founder/strategic advisor Peter Neill, Dr. Agardy will lead W2O forward through 2026 with the goal of capitalizing on strategic partnerships, initiatives, and in service to the Ocean Decade. Together, with a 2025 Endorsement from the UN for the World Ocean Explorer platform, the W2O team will work to bring together new members, partners, strategic actions, and a plan for sustainable operations, thereby ushering in a fresh perspective by which to govern an organization that celebrates 22 years in 2025.

World Ocean Observatory is a renowned and trusted resource for science-based information about the ocean. The staff and board of W2O will create a plan to sustain existing programs and partnerships, and to usher in a next generation of stewards and supporters. Through direct donation from individuals and foundations to sponsor support from businesses globally working to protect and sustain the world ocean.

Tundi brings expertise in marine conservation, policy initiatives, and coastal and marine planning to our work at W2O. Her years of service to the ocean, coupled with her knowledge, skills, and compassionate leadership approach position Tundi to bring W2O into a new era of advocacy, education, and communication for the ocean.

W2O Director Trisha Badger served as Managing Director since 2010. In that time, Trisha has overseen expansion of communications platforms, social media growth, Radio podcast distribution, publication of books, growth of World Ocean Forum, constituent and board management, fundraising, budgets, special projects, operations and non-profit management. Trisha brings years of graphic design, creative writing, and administrative management in the non-profit sector, as well as board administration and relations, web and book design, and independent book publishing. For many years prior to joining W2O, Trisha served as Director of Communications for The Apprenticeship, a school for traditional wooden boat building in Rockland, Maine. As Trisha steps up into the position of Director, W2O Founder Peter Neill will take on specific supporting roles for W2O: as strategic advisor, primary content provider and host for World Ocean Radio; creative editor for World Ocean Forum; partnership developer; editor of World Ocean Journal; development support and visionary through partnership and Explorer module funding and expansion, Peter will serve as an integral member of the team.

The World Ocean Observatory (W2O) is a leading organization advocating for the health and sustainability of the ocean through an accessible worldwide network of communication. Through education, advocacy, collaboration, public connection, and relentless communications, W2O is committed to building an expansive global community of Citizens of the Ocean to promote and conserve marine resources for the future of all mankind. In 2025 World Ocean Observatory is celebrating 22 years of advocacy, education, and communication for the ocean. Online at worldoceanobservatory.org.