

International Ocean Institute – Southern Africa

In partnership with Two Oceans Aquarium Education Foundation

2026 ONLINE OCEAN ACADEMY TRAINING COURSE

Notice options:



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

We need a healthy Ocean to survive. But our Ocean is in trouble, and so are we. By providing locally relevant, entry-level online education programmes, the Ocean Academy will enable interested laypersons to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to understand the complexities of the ocean and its local and global effects, now and in a changing future, laying the foundations for more informed understanding and personal daily decision-making.

Persons completing an IOI Academy Course will:



- Gain a basic understanding of the ocean: the resources and services it provides, the threats to the ocean, how to live in a more sustainable way with the Ocean;
- Learn about the importance of ocean governance, sustainable and equitable human use, the principle of the common heritage of humankind, respecting the needs of future generations, all in a locally relevant context;
- Be empowered to become more active locally as stakeholders to positively influence our communities and beyond;
- Be able to identify priority issues, trends and future challenges in ocean governance, locally and globally

OVERVIEW

- 20-hour delivered online, 3h30min
- per session, for 6 days
- **Free-of-charge for participants**
- A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who attend all the sessions
- Ocean knowledge that is locally relevant
- Overseen by the IOI-SA and implemented by local experts
- Dates:
 - Tuesday 21 July | 14h00
 - Wednesday 22 July | 14h00
 - Thursday 23 July | 14h00
 - Tuesday 28 July | 14h00
 - Wednesday 29 July | 14h00
 - Thursday 30 July | 14h00

TARGET AUDIENCE:

This course is designed primarily for **South African** participants, however it is also open to participants living and working within Africa with an interest in the ocean, ocean literacy, and ocean opportunities, including government, non-government organisations, business, labour etc.

The course will take place during in the afternoons (14h00- 17h30) and since it is interactive only applicants who can commit to attending all six sessions will be accepted. The class size will also be capped, and participants will be selected using a combination of criteria. Participants must be able to access **Zoom**.

For any enquiries, please send to kqovender@ioisa.org

[Application form](#) Deadline **Friday 10 July 2026**



Programme

DAY 1: Tuesday 21 July	
What the ocean means for life on earth, and to each of us.	
14h00 – 14h15	Welcome
14h15 – 14h30	Introductions
14h30 – 14h50	Background on the Two Oceans Aquarium. (10min) Background on the International Ocean Institute. (10min)
14h50 – 15h00	Overview of course objectives and course outline Networking opportunity -Introduce session, regional organizations under various sectors.
15h00 – 15h15	<i>Word cloud exercise: What does the ocean mean to you?</i>
15h00 –15h10	Short break
15h10 – 15h40	Presentation 1: Introduction: “Our Oceans”
15h40 – 15h50	Discussion
15h50 – 16h45	Presentation 2: Southern African Biodiversity and virtual tour Aquarium Tour
16h45– 16h50	Discussion
16h50 – 17h30	Provincial connections-Break away rooms
DAY 2: Wednesday 22 July	
Blue Economy and Ocean Governance	
14h00– 14h15	Reflections on Day 1
14h15– 14h45	Presentation 3: What is the blue economy? Are southern African countries part of the blue economy?
14h45- 14h50	Discussion
15h10– 15h40	Presentation 4: Ocean under stress.
15h40 – 15h50	Structured Discussion
15h50 –16h00	Short break
16h00– 16h30	Presentation 5: Ocean Governance
16h30– 16h40	Structured Discussion
16h40 – 17h10	Presentation 6: Marine Spatial Planning



17h10 – 17h30	Wrap up Discussion
DAY 3: Thursday 23 July	
Climate change and Communications	
14h00 – 14h30	Reflections on Day 4
14h30 – 15h00	Presentation 7: Case study of recent storms and floods
15h00 – 15h10	Discussion
15h10 – 15h20	Short Break
15h20 – 15h50	Presentation 8: How does climate change affect our oceans? What impacts are already being experienced? What action needs to be taken?
15h50 – 16h00	Structured Discussion
16h00 – 16h30	Presentation 9: Communicating about the ocean. Current campaigns, are they working?
16h30 – 16h40	Discussion
16h40 – 17h10	Planning Communication Activity (Break away rooms)
DAY 4: Tuesday 28 July	
Challenges facing our oceans and coasts	
14h00 – 14h15	Reflections/Ice breaker
14h15 – 14h45	Presentation 10: Finding solutions: turtle rehabilitation
14h45 – 14h55	Discussion
14h55 – 15h05	Short break
15h05 – 15h35	Presentation 11: Urban / wildlife interface: marine wildlife management at the V&A Waterfront.
15h35 – 15h45	Discussion
15h45 – 16h15	Presentation 12: Shark conservation
16h15 – 16h25	Structured Discussion
16h25 – 16h55	Presentation 13: Small Scale Fisheries and the FAO Guidelines
16h55 – 17h10	Structured Discussion
DAY 5: Wednesday 29 July	
Marine Protected Areas- Marine biodiversity and ecosystem services	
14h00 – 14h30	Reflections



14h30 – 15h00	Presentation 14: Ecosystem services from the ocean, drivers of change and options for management and sustainable use. <i>Hluleka by Jamila Janna-NEWF Story telling.</i>
15h00 – 15h10	Discussion
15h10 – 15h40	Presentation 15: Marine Protected Areas
15h40 – 15h50	Structured Discussion (Key questions)
15h50 – 16h00	Short break
16h00 – 16h30	Presentation 16: African Penguins
16h30 – 16h40	Discussion
16h40 – 17h30	Workshop-Write for the ocean
DAY 6: Thursday 30 July	
How can we contribute to a healthier ocean?	
14h00–14h20	Reflections on Day 4
14h20–14h50	Presentation 17: South African Elasmobranch Monitoring & Citizen Science
14h50–15h00	Discussion
15h00 – 15h10	Short Break
15h10 – 15h40	Presentation 18: Marine Sustainability
15h40 – 15h50	Discussion
15h50 – 16h20	Presentation 19: Marine Careers
16h20 – 16h30	Discussion
16h30 – 17h00	Feedback and Closure