

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 || NEW YORK CLIMATE WEEK

THE OCEANS AS A CLIMATE HERO

The logo for EXOIS features the word in a white, sans-serif font. The letter 'X' is highlighted in green and contains a white graphic of a downward-pointing arrow. The letter 'O' is also highlighted in green and contains a white graphic of a globe with a plant growing from it. The background of the entire image is a dark blue, textured surface that resembles ocean waves or a digital data field.

EXOIS

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EXOIS

MODERATOR



Dr. Julie Pullen
Climate Contingency Hub



Eric Schwaab
Ocean Visions



Ken Buesseler
ExOIS | WHOI



Marc von Keitz
The Grantham Foundation



Erika Montague
Schmidt Marine Technology Partners

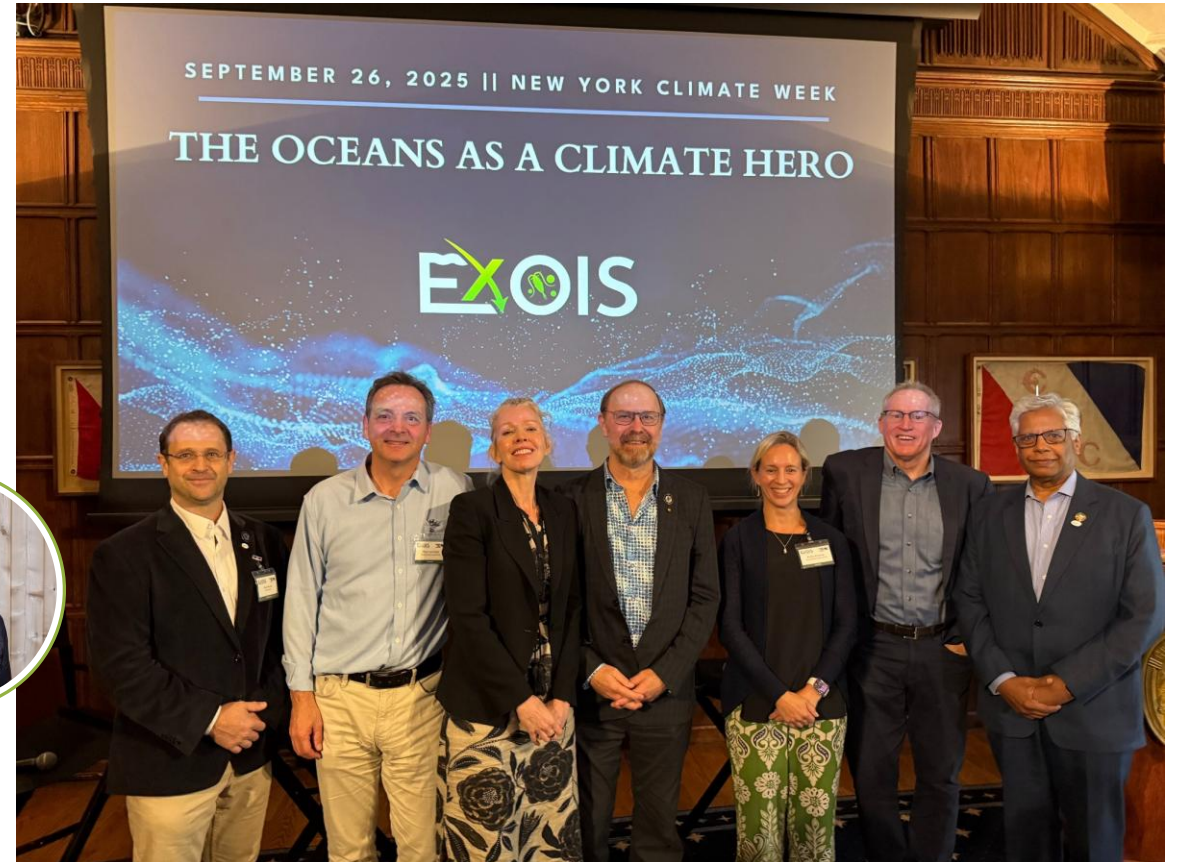


Kristin Kleisner
Environmental Defense Fund

Huge success!

Climate Week NYC

- <https://www.climateweeknyc.org/events/oceans-climate-hero>
- ExOIS event on “*The oceans as a climate hero*”
- Took place Friday 26th September, 8:00-12:00 at The Explorers Club
- Twice as many requested to attend vs. number of seats available!
- Participants
 - Julie Pullen, Climate Hub (Moderator)
 - Ken Buesseler, Exploring Ocean Iron Solutions
 - Kristin Kleisner, Environmental Defense Fund
 - Marc von Keitz, The Grantham Foundation
 - Erika Montague, Schmidt Marine Technology Partners
 - Eric Schwaab, Ocean Visions



Event recording

Over the course of the panel, we explored what makes the ocean a vital ally in addressing climate change, including:

- Why fossil fuel reductions must be paired with carbon dioxide removal (CDR) – and why there is no solution to the climate crisis without considering the oceans.
- The potential of marine phytoplankton “heroes” to remove carbon dioxide at the billion-tonne scale from the atmosphere, as well as the need for more research into ocean iron fertilization and the biological carbon pump.
- The need for rigorous, scientific field studies and strong safeguards to ensure responsible research before commercial-scale deployment of iron fertilization or any other ocean-based CDR method.
- The role of philanthropy, technology, and global governance in scaling marine CDR responsibly.



Some clear messages from the panel were:

- The time to act on research is now; more information from field studies will be used for informed decision-making in the future.
- A toolbox of mCDR techniques is more powerful than any one technique on its own.
- Philanthropic funding for mCDR will play an essential role, but it cannot replace the resources of governments.
- Ocean iron fertilization has been done before, but now we have the technology to allow longer and improved observations of carbon removal and environmental impacts.
- Phytoplankton carbon solutions are potentially cheaper and more scalable than other methods of mCDR, especially because they don't require significant carbon input for the production of materials, and for OIF, “a little iron goes a long way”.
- Fieldwork needs to be developed and co-designed in discussion with local and vested communities.



Any other thoughts from others on the Explorers Club event?