



**3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC)  
Green Zone activities at the Nice Palais des Expositions  
Nice, May - June 2025**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNOC GREEN ZONE (THEMATIC  
PAVILION OR OTHER ACTIVITY)  
IN THE PALAIS DES EXPOSITIONS DE NICE known as THE WHALE  
(LA BALEINE)  
FROM MAY 28 TO JUNE 15, 2025**

In this document, we will refer to

- The conference, for the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC 3);
- The public entity, for the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), responsible for this call for expressions of interest;
- The applicant, for the person responding to the call for expressions of interest;
- The agency, for the holder of the public contract for delegated event production currently being chosen by the MEAE to oversee programming and producing activities at the Nice Palais des Expositions, renamed “La Baleine” for the occasion;
- “We are the ocean” (WAO), for a series of activities open to the general public in Nice, in parallel with the international conferences held under the aegis of the United Nations as part of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice from June 9 to 13, 2025.

# TABLE OF CONTENT

BACKGROUND - THE 3RD UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE	3
ARTICLE I – GREEN ZONE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE WHALE	6
<i>Location of « La Baleine » / « The Whale »</i>	7
<i>Dates</i>	7
<i>Objectives of “the Whale” activities</i>	7
<i>Target audience</i>	8
<i>Financing of “La Baleine” activities</i>	8
<i>Delegated event production Agency</i>	8
ARTICLE II – PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	9
ARTICLE III – ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS	9
ARTICLE IV – APPLICATION FORM	9
ARTICLE V – DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS	10
ARTICLE VI – TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS	10
ARTICLE VII – PROJECT RANKING	12
ARTICLE VIII – CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER INFORMATION	12

This call for expressions of interest concerns activities to be held at the Nice Palais des Expositions, renamed “La Baleine”, from **May 28 to June 15, 2025**, as part of the UNOC 3 green zone.

## **BACKGROUND - THE 3RD UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE**

*“Protecting the ocean means protecting a gigantic carbon sink and invaluable reserves of biodiversity. It also means giving hope to all those whose lives depend on our ocean, and a response to the hundreds of millions of people who will have to cope with rising sea levels and extreme maritime events. It means reinventing the blue economy together, because we must never forget that the sea is first and foremost a source of income, jobs, food, innovation and health for people around the world.*

*In 2015, we succeeded in translating this ambition into a universal UN framework with the Paris Climate Agreement. In 2025, ten years later, as part of the same dynamic, the Nice Agreements will be a founding moment for ocean governance, scientific prescription for action by decision-makers, the fight against all offenders, the commitment of the private sector to a sustainable blue economy, and support for developing countries, cities and coastal regions facing the effects of climate change.”*

**Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic**

*“Protecting our ocean today is not just an ecological imperative, it is also a moral imperative. Only through swift and coordinated action can we ensure a healthy and prosperous planet for future generations.*

*As co-organisers of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference, France and Costa Rica would like to reiterate that now is the time, now is the opportunity, and protecting the ocean is a priority. Let our commitment be as vast as the ocean that feeds us!”*

**Rodrigo Chaves Robles, President of the Republic of Costa Rica**

### **The conference, a universal framework for ocean protection**

After two initial editions in New York (2017) and Lisbon (2022), France and Costa Rica will co-host the Third United Nations Ocean Conference UNOC3) in Nice, from June 9 to 13, 2025, preceded by three Special Events from June 3 to 8.

UNOC3 aims to implement **Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14)** on the marine environment with three priorities, in order to reach an ambitious agreement:

- Work towards the success of multilateral ocean-related processes to raise the level of ambition for ocean protection;
- Mobilize funding to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG14) and support the development of a sustainable blue economy;
- Strengthen and better disseminate marine science knowledge for better policy-making.

The **Nice Ocean Action Plan** will consist of a political declaration and a list of voluntary commitments from stakeholders, and will be adopted at the end of international discussions at the conference.

Ten years after COP21 and the Paris Agreement, UNOC3 will bring together some 100 Heads of State and Government, UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions. Civil society, universities, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders will

also be present, to assess the challenges and opportunities linked to SDG14, as well as the measures to be taken to deepen its implementation.

## **Ocean Action Panel**

In addition to the plenary session, which will be held throughout the conference, dialogue sessions will bring together **member states, United Nations organizations and representatives of civil society** (NGOs, scientists, companies).

These dialogues, the Ocean Action Panels, will involve the various players, highlight coalitions and initiatives in favor of the ocean, and **anchor the conference in action** by proposing concrete solutions with all its participants.

The 10 Ocean Action Panels adopted by consensus with the 193 UN member states are as follows member states are as follows:

- Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers
- Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.
- Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and sub regional level
- Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities
- Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages
- Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind
- Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security
- Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.
- Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS
- Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14

## **World Ocean Day**

On June 8, **World Ocean Day** will be celebrated, with a special focus on the **People of the Sea**, in the presence of key players in global ocean civil society.

### **Parallel to the conference, events for the general public: “We are the Ocean!”**

In parallel with the political part of the conference, “We are the Ocean” aims to mobilize civil society, bringing together tens of thousands of participants from May 28, 2025 onwards.

### **Meeting of the Ocean Wonders, Port of Nice, May 28-June 15, 2025**

The Port of Nice will welcome a variety of scientific and oceanographic boats, the Ocean Wonders, coming from all over the world between May 28 and June 14, 2025. These boats will serve as venues for mediation activities and will be open for visits from UNOC delegates and the general public. **On June 8, 2025, all these boats will parade in the Baie des Anges** in front of all the Heads of State and Government present, the UNOC3 delegates and the general public.

### **One Ocean Science Congress, June 3-6, Nice**

The objective of the One Ocean Science Congress is to provide Heads of State and Government, as well as all UNOC3 participants and society at large, with scientific knowledge on the health, dynamics and future trajectories of the ocean, on its conservation and sustainable use, and on the services and benefits it brings to our societies.

### **Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Summit, June 7, Nice**

The Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Summit will bring together leaders from coastal cities and regions, representing nearly a billion people affected by sea-level rise by 2100. It will launch the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition, chaired by the Mayor of Nice Christian Estrosi, which will support the implementation of concrete adaptation and resilience responses.

### **The Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF), June 7 and 8, 2025, Monaco**

These two days dedicated to economic and financial issues will be held in Monaco, with the full support of the Principality, on June 7 and 8, 2025, bringing together over 2,000 key players in these maritime sectors, under the co-presidency of Pascal Lamy. A “Blue ports and shipping” sequence will also bring together players from the world's biggest ports, shipping, port logistics and the cruise industry.

### **Women with the Ocean (WWO!), June 8, 2025, Nice**

The maritime world has long been a masculine one, whether in terms of governance, economics, sport or even scientific research. At UNOC3, the voices of ocean women will be heard loud and clear, telling us about the ocean as they live it. They will tell us of their commitment to the sea, fishing and boats, to business and coastal economic life, to science, to ecology... Modest or recognized, increasingly listened to, their voices tell the story of another sea, less “heroic” but often more inclusive.

### **Meeting of the Peoples of the Ocean, June 8, 2025, Nice**

From time immemorial, they have lived by the ocean, and often by the ocean itself. Local communities, indigenous populations, guardians of unique oceanic traditions, spread all over the world, from the Arctic to the Pacific, these people of the Ocean preserve social, cultural, economic and political characteristics distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. They are the holders of unique knowledge, systems and beliefs, and have an invaluable practice in the sustainable management of their environment. Fishermen, hunters, sailors, builders, guides, community activists - these groups are often neglected by the dominant society, lacking political representation and participation, but fighting for recognition of their identities, lifestyles and rights to traditional lands, territories and natural resources.

In total, the main spaces dedicated to “We are the ocean” will be the following throughout the period from May 28 to June 15, 2025 in Nice:

- **The Blue Zone buildings** constructed on Quai Informatique for UNOC3, from June 4 to 7 inclusive, accessible by invitation for certain events taking place in parallel with the UN international conferences.

- **The Port of Nice and the boats of the United Nations Fleet** that will be hosted there between May 28 and June 15, open to the general public.
- **The Centre Universitaire Méditerranéen**, mainly open to the general public from May 28 to June 13 (1 room seating 530, 2 others seating 100 each)
- All venues hosting the Biennale des Arts et de l'Océan, the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco, public spaces in the city of Nice, along the Baie des Anges and in the maritime area on June 8 for World Ocean Day.
- Other locations: Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, Colline du Château....
- The Promenade des Anglais with possible blue lighting during UNOC
- **Finally, the “Whale” program from May 28 to June 15, 2025 at the Nice Exhibition Centre, which is the subject of this call for expressions of interest.**

## **Governance of the UNOC organization**

Mr. Olivier POIVRE D'ARVOR, Ambassador for the Ocean and the Poles, has been appointed Special Envoy of the French President for the United Nations Ocean Conference, to lead the mobilization of all French parties for France's participation in the conference and its organization in Nice in June 2025. The search for external contributions and communications for the Conference as a whole are directly managed by the Special Envoy, in liaison with the UNOC SG below.

Alongside the Special Envoy, the MEAE has appointed a General Secretariat for the UNOC, in charge of all organizational and logistical aspects, headed by Agnès de BLIC.

France's bid to host the 3rd UN Conference on the Oceans was launched after consultation with the City of Nice and the Metropole Nice Côte d'Azur, with a view to cooperation between the French government and Nice in organizing the Conference. As a coastal city, already mobilized in the fight against the impact of climate transition on the coastline and port activities, the City and the Metropole Nice Cote d'Azur wish to commit themselves alongside the State to the success of the 3rd United Nations Conference on the Ocean, by facilitating and contributing to its organization. This common desire on the part of the State and the City was sanctioned by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 78/128 of December 18, 2023, which designated France as the host country of UNOC 3 and decided to organize it in Nice. The United Nations thus entrusted France, along with the Nice authorities, with a joint mission, leading the two parties to cooperate closely in hosting the Conference.

The MNCA has set up a UNOC Mission to centralize governance of the mobilization of the Nice authorities for this event, under the chairmanship of Mr. Christian ESTROSI, President of the MNCA and Mayor of Nice.

The Special Envoy's team, together with the UNOC SG and the MNCA's UNOC Mission, are working together on an ongoing basis to organize the Conference. To this end, the State and the MNCA have brought together their two dedicated teams to form the operational steering committee for the organization of UNOC3, known as the UNOC Steering Committee.

In addition, the public entity has set up a committee of UNOC patrons who have pledged private sponsorship funds, to communicate on these contributions and inform patrons about the organization of the conference.

## **ARTICLE I – GREEN ZONE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE WHALE**

## **Location of « La Baleine » / « The Whale »**

The activities covered by this call for expressions of interest will take place entirely within the Palais des expositions of Nice, renamed “La Baleine” for the occasion, and entirely dedicated to these activities.

Plans and photos of the venue can be consulted on the Palais des expositions of Nice website. (<https://palaisdesexpos.nice.fr/espaces/>).

## **Dates**

Activities will start on May 28 and end on June 15, 2025.

The site will be made available in its entirety from May 19 to June 21, to host the program of activities starting and open to the public on May 28 and running until June 15, 2025.

## **Objectives of “the Whale” activities**

“We are the ocean”, and in particular the activities organized in ‘la Baleine’, is the UNOC's general public component, linking the economic, political and environmental stakes of international conferences taking place in the blue zone under the aegis and authority of the United Nations, with civil society and the entire ocean ecosystem.

“La Baleine” will bring together major ocean players from civil society, non-governmental organizations, the world of research and private enterprise, to showcase their activities and raise public awareness of ocean issues. The choice made by the organizers is to use the **artistic dimension** in all its aspects to get the message across about these issues.

The public authority has therefore decided to use the space available in the main Hall of the Palais des Expositions to present the major themes and issues at stake in the UNOC international discussions in a dynamic, educational and artistic way, for the benefit of civil society players and the general public.

For each theme or issue identified, the public authority has planned to set up a “thematic pavilion” where the main players and issues will be presented using different types of media, freely open to visitors, as well as areas for discussion and exchange. The thematic pavilion will be run free of charge by a leading player in the field, a public or private organization with a mission of general interest.

### List of pavilions already selected

The list of themed pavilions planned to date is given in Appendix 1 to this call for expressions of interest.

### Theme pavilions and other activities

The program of activities in “La Baleine” will be organized around the following elements:

- The public will be welcomed into the world of the whale as a symbol of the ocean;
- The spaces available outside the main hall, i.e. a 250-seat amphitheater and a series of spaces that can be converted into 50- or 80-seat conference rooms, will be used for

- a program of events known as “parallel events to the UNOC” of variable duration, decided by the public authority;
- The main hall will be home to themed pavilions hosted by various organizers, forming an architectural and artistic unit linked to the ocean.
  - An “agora” space to be set aside in the main hall will be available for exceptional events requiring a sound system.
  - A bookshop area
  - A catering area at the back of the main hall.

## **Target audience**

The event is aimed at a wide audience, including professionals from the maritime ecosystem, representatives of public authorities taking part in conferences held in the UNOC Blue Zone, associations representing civil society involved in ocean issues, and the general public, especially local residents.

The participation of the people of Nice will be encouraged and facilitated by the various events taking place throughout the city as part of the Year of the Sea, particularly along the Promenade des Anglais in Nice.

## **Financing of “La Baleine” activities**

Public foundations, private foundations of public interest, as well as private sponsors, have decided to contribute to the defense of these essential causes by providing funding or contributions in kind.

The various activities developed by La Baleine are financed in this way

- Either by the MEAE, notably by mobilizing funds received by the MEAE from various donors;
- Or directly by the person in charge of the activity, when mandated by a donor to implement the funding allocated to the activity.

## **Delegated event production Agency**

A public contract procedure for the delegated production of events is currently in process, and the agency will be selected by the SG UNOC in early March 2025. This agency will be responsible for producing and programming the various activities and events of the Whale.

Two options are proposed for the production of activities at La Baleine, depending on the choice made by the project sponsor:

- Either the activity is financed, produced and run entirely by the project owner; in this case, an agreement between the MEAE and the project owner is signed, and the Agency is responsible for liaising with the project owner to handle the spatial positioning of the activity in the Whale, and for providing the necessary connections to the energy and fluid networks.
- Or the activity is sponsored by an organization through a financial contribution and is facilitated through an in-kind contribution; in this case, after agreement between the MEAE and the project leader, the financial contribution is made to the MEAE under the heading of sponsorship and the terms and conditions of the activity are discussed with the MEAE with a view to its spatial positioning within the Whale and its production by the Agency.



## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The public authority is launching this call for expressions of interest to propose new activities to be developed on an ongoing basis within the Whale throughout its opening period, in order to enrich the approach described in article I above.

*It should be noted that this call for expressions of interest is not intended for the production of one-off events that may be organized and programmed in one of the Whale's venues. The programming of these one-off events is subject to a different, ongoing selection and appraisal process.*

The projects proposed may aim to deepen the approach adopted for the themes already identified and listed in the above-mentioned Appendix 1, or may go beyond these themes and extend the approach to other subjects, in order to ensure the richest and most complete coverage of the subjects dealt with in the UNOC. Proposals are particularly welcome on the following topics:

- Combating plastic pollution ;
- Combating other forms of pollution;
- Decarbonization.

Particular attention will be paid to the role of youth in the proposals.

To be eligible, proposed projects must meet the following conditions:

- illustrate an ocean-related problem or issue;
- propose a new activity to take place throughout the Whale's opening period from May 28 to June 15;
- include a financing solution for the total cost of the activity;
- offer to run the activity free of charge as an in-kind contribution.

Proposed projects may fall into one or more of the following categories:

- thematic pavilion (specify theme) ;
- thematic exhibition with or without animation (please specify);
- artistic exhibition with or without animation (please specify);
- exhibition of remarkable objects and artworks;
- recreational or socio-educational activities (specify target audience);
- other.

## **ARTICLE III – ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS**

Expressions of interest must come from public or private bodies carrying out an activity of general interest. No commercial approach is allowed.

## **ARTICLE IV – APPLICATION FORM**

The application must include the following documents:

- A presentation of the applicant, or in the case of a consortium, a presentation of each member and of the agreement binding the consortium members. This presentation

must include information on the applicant's status, enabling verification of his eligibility with regard to the conditions set out in article 3 above.

The applicant must designate the person in charge of the proposal.

- A description of the proposed activity, **using the response form in Appendix 2** of this Call for Expressions of Interest, the format of which is shown below:
  - o Part 1 - Description
    - Category (see list of categories at the end of Article II)
    - General description
    - Ocean challenge covered by the project
    - Space required or desired (m2)
    - Possible link with one of the themes or pavilions on the list of pavilions already selected
    - If applicable, activities of this type already implemented at other events.
  - o Part 2 - Operational and financial arrangements
    - The choice between one of the options described in article I above:
      - Choice 1: the activity is entirely financed and produced by the applicant
      - Choice 2: the activity is to be produced by the Agency of La Baleine, with financial support provided by the applicant in the form of sponsorship.
    - Any further details the applicant may wish to provide.

### **Language(s) of application**

- The response form in appendix 2 of this call for expressions of interest should be written in **French**.
- Any annexes attached in support of the application may be written in French or English.

## **ARTICLE V – DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS**

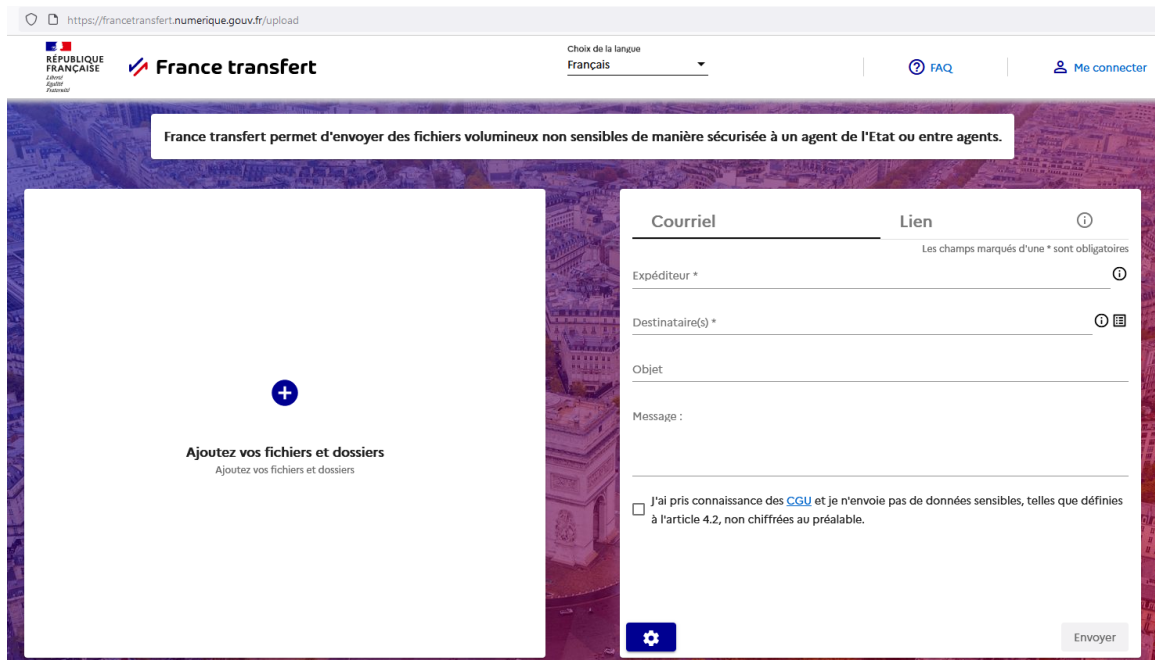
The deadline for receipt of applications is **Monday, March 3, 2025 at midnight**.

In accordance with article VII below, the public entity does not *guarantee* the examination of applications received after this date.

**Applications received after midnight on Monday, March 3, but before midnight on March 15, 2025**, may be processed in accordance with the procedures set out in Article VII.3 of this call for expressions of interest.

## **ARTICLE VI – TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS**

Applications must be submitted via the **France Transfert** platform (<https://francetransfert.numerique.gouv.fr/upload> ). The following screen appears:



Fill in the fields in the “Courriel” tab (right-hand side of screen) as follows:

**Expéditeur (Sender) :** *candidate's e-mail address*

**Destinataire (Recipient) :** [amibaleineunoc.sg@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:amibaleineunoc.sg@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

**Objet (Subject) :** AMI-UNOC-BALEINE

**Message :**

Nom du projet proposé par le candidat (Candidate's proposed project name) : .....

Nom du candidat (Applicant's name) : .....

Coordonnées du correspondant désigné par le candidat (Details of the correspondent designated by the applicant)

Nom / Prénom (Last name / First name) :

e-mail :

Telephone :

There is no need to fill in the “Lien” tab.

Use the left-hand side of the screen to add the files making up the application file in accordance with article IV above.

Click on “Envoyer”.

Follow the platform's instructions to check the validity of your e-mail address and confirm your submission.

The platform will send the applicant an acknowledgement of receipt of the submission, as well as an acknowledgement that the application has been downloaded by the recipient.

## **ARTICLE VII – PROJECT RANKING**

### 7.1 Project ranking committee - How applications are examined

The public authority has set up a committee to rank the projects.

Applications are examined in the order in which they are received. The public authority may request additional information from the applicant upon receipt of the application.

### 7.2 Project ranking criteria

Projects will be ranked in descending order of interest in each category according to the following criteria:

- Interest of the project in relation to the main issues and problems discussed at the UNOC (25 points) ;
- Originality, compatibility with the general guidelines adopted for the Whale (25 points) ;
- Technical and financial feasibility (25 points);
- Complementarity of the project with existing activities within the Whale (25 points).

### 7.3 Procedure

Admissible applications received by the deadline specified in article V above are ranked according to the criteria listed in paragraph 7.2 below.

Projects that do not reflect the values of Sustainable Development Goal 14 will be rejected.

Projects scoring less than 18 points in any of the above criteria are rejected. Applicants are informed accordingly.

Other projects are ranked in descending order of interest. Applicants will be contacted in order of ranking and within the limits of the remaining space available in the Whale for the type of activity proposed, in order to clarify the technical and financial terms of implementation with a view to concluding an agreement with the MEAE.

Applications received after the deadline for receipt of applications may be rejected for exceeding the deadline. However, if space remains available on March 15, 2025, the public authority may carry out a new ranking incorporating applications received up to March 15, 2025.

## **ARTICLE VIII – CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Jean-Philippe NADAL, Advisor to SG UNOC, [jean-philippe.nadal@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:jean-philippe.nadal@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

## Appendix 1

### Provisional list of Pavilions in THE WHALE

N°	Spaces in the Great Hall (10,000 m2)	Size (in m2)
	<b><i>Thematic pavilions</i></b>	
1	Ocean Literacy and Conservation	300
2	Exploration and Protection of the Deep Sea	400
3	Polar Ocean and the Cryosphere	400
4	Ocean science and public policy development	600
5	Sea-level rise and coastal resilience	200
6	Submersion and submarine architecture	200
7	Innovation	200
8	Coral reefs protection	200
9	Ocean Base Camp	200
10	National Pavilion of UNOC3 Co-Host - Costa Rica	200
11	National Pavilion of UNOC3 Co-Host - France	200
	<b><i>Other Spaces</i></b>	
	Agora	600
	Curiosity cabinet, remarkable objects, boats	1 000
	Bookshop / Sale of goodies	100
	Catering areas	1000