4. Do the vision, mission, and desired outcomes contained in the Implementation Plan reflect your expectations of the Decade? (Section 1.2)

Yes, on the whole, the scientific ambition comes across very clearly. Although articulated in later sections of the document, it would be good to have a more upfront explicit commitment to a) education / ocean literacy / Citizen Science. This will be crucial in order to encourage greater ownership and buy-in by the public which in turn is vital for encouraging action by governments (who respond to public pressure).

The other aspect that is articulated in section 2 but could be even clearer here is the commitment to multi-disciplinary working. There is reference to "Physical and social science" and box 1.2 has a bullet point on working across disciplines but this is so important that the narrative could be 'tweaked' further e.g. "deep disciplinary understanding" could become "deep, multi-disciplinary understanding".

Do the scientific objectives address the main priorities for global ocean science over the Decade? (Section 2.1)

Yes. No further comment.

6. Will achieving the objectives lead to a step change in the way that ocean knowledge is generated and used? (Section 2.1)

Yes – although some of the objectives are extremely ambitious e.g. "Understand and predict the whole ocean system and its component parts (3)". It would be good to make clear therefore under objective 4 and elsewhere that delivery of the decade's major outcomes is not contingent on full delivery all the objectives - even an enhanced delivery of these objectives will help facilitate a step-change. This ensures the overall ambition for transformation remains even if some scientific elements are more difficult to achieve than others.

7. Are there additional strategic orientations that should be included under any of the scientific objectives? (Section 2.1)

Yes. Under objective 1 there should be a strategic orientation along the lines of '*develop processes to widen engagement with key partners / actors'*. This objective in particular will rely on going beyond 'the usual suspects' so that societies, philanthropists, NGOS, industry and others are working to communicate, disseminate and translate information to those who need it. Without this transformation in approach as a clear orientation it will be difficult to increase capacity as stated. Currently the closest orientation to this is 4.5 under objective 4.

8. Are there other examples of global scale outputs or benefits that should be highlighted under any of the scientific objectives? (Section 2.1)

As it is stated under Objective 1 that "governments and policy makers are expected to be important beneficiaries", it should be clearer that summarised and/or interpreted information for end-users is also in focus in terms of delivery. A statement could be added such as "it could include information summarised and interpreted according to various end-

user requirements". This is often overlooked in terms of a vital service that can be delivered by those working at the science-policy interface.

9. Are the criteria for endorsement of Decade Actions appropriate, and is the endorsement process clear? (Section 2.2)

Yes. The process is clear. A major concern where further clarification is required however is on the statement "*All Actions will need to demonstrate support from the relevant national government(s)*". This may preclude many international bottom-up, self-organising initiatives whether by scientists, NGOs, industry or philanthropic foundations from submitting actions. Bureaucratic procedures alone can make this very difficult so maybe it could be rephrased as "support from the relevant national government(s) is a desirable element of any proposed action" (so it is not absolutely necessary and can be waived if the review panel believes there is good reason to do so)?

10. Are the principles and approach to data, information and knowledge management clear and sound? (Section 2.3)

Yes. It could be worth making a comment on the rapid increase in the amount of information available through the expanding use of OA publishing and how the decade can benefit from this.

11. Do the capacity development principles and strategic framework cover global priorities for ocean science? (Section 2.4)

Yes.

12. Does the description of Decade engagement mechanisms provide adequate information on how you can engage in the Decade? (Section 2.5)

Yes, although it may need a very simple online interface to allow easy exploration of engagement options along with a possibility of EOIs and / or early support with development of actions. It would also be good to see mention somewhere of Learned and Professional Societies. The MBA along with a number of other marine societies is currently engaging its worldwide membership in discussions on the UN Decade. This sector has a wider footprint than any other in terms of possibilities for engagement with societies having from hundreds to tens of thousands of members worldwide. Memberships also tend to be highly diverse in terms of age, gender and other variables. Clarity on how this sector can engage even if initially just through communicating The Decade would be welcome.

13. Will the engagement mechanisms catalyse partnerships during the Decade, including the co-design and co-delivery of ocean science? (Section 2.5)

Yes, but there needs to be absolute transparency around issues such as the establishment National Decade Committees so that they become a facilitator of engagement within the national framework and not a barrier by appearing exclusive or lacking wider engagement with the relevant sections of the community.

14. Do you see a role for yourself and your institution in the Decade? (Section 2.5)

Yes. We have already engaged within our community and with IOC on actions, which will be formally submitted for approval using the suggested process. I am representing a wide range of stakeholders from MBA Members through to marine stations and will be working to enhance links between current and future activities and the UN Decade.

Part 3 – Decade Implementation

15. Is the proposed governance framework adequate to ensure effective oversight and coordination of the Decade? (Section 3.1)

Again, it is important that Decade Coordination Offices and Collaborative Centres are implemented in a transparent manner, which is inclusive and facilitates engagement of the wider national communities.

16. If you are a resource provider, does the discussion of resource mobilisation provide adequate information on ways in which you could support the Decade? (Section 3.2)

Although not a resource provider it is important to note that recognition for contributing should be provided where possible to LCDS and SIDS. Their contributions and engagement might not always be major financial input but may still important relative to their resources.

17. Are there other key metrics that should be collected to measure the progress of the Decade? (Section 3.3)

It is difficult at this stage to talk in detail concerning potential metrics to be added. The appropriateness and adequacy of the suggested metrics will in future need to be reviewed against proposed actions.

18. Do you have any other comments on the Implementation Plan?

No.