

Ocean health and fragile marine ecosystems – minerals in the green transition

We are in the midst of an urgent transition to renewable energy – a transition necessary to avert climate catastrophe, but also one that is projected to require large amounts of minerals. Our oceans are central to the global debate on mineral sourcing necessary for this transition, as an increase in risky mining will have direct and adverse impacts on marine ecosystems, fisheries, and Indigenous and coastal communities.

How can we ensure the clean energy transition does not lead to more dirty mining that puts our oceans at risk?

During this event, panelists will discuss how to balance the green shift while protecting Indigenous culture and livelihoods, sustainable fisheries and biodiversity protection from submarine tailings disposal. Representatives from Norway and Chile will share first hand experiences of impacts from marine mine waste dumping. Panelists will explore Norway's role in promoting submarine mine waste dumping in Chile, despite devastating impacts from the practice at home.

Time: Wednesday 23 October, 17:30-18:30

Place: Scandic Oslo City, Europarådets plass 1, Oslo

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Program Participants:

Sonnich Meier, Institute of Marine Research

Sonnich Meier is a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR). He will discuss the environmental impacts of previous submarine tailings dumping in Norwegian fjords. IMR is one of Europe's leading marine research institutions.

Javiera Calisto, Oceana Chile

Javiera Calisto is a lawyer and campaign director at Oceana Chile. She will talk about how marine pollution from submarine mine tailings disposal is a direct threat to sustainable fisheries in Chile. Oceana Chile led efforts to ensure environmental authorities act to halt submarine tailing dumping at the only mine in Chile still using the practice by demonstrating concerns related to impacts on the marine environment, fisheries and human health. Oceana is a global non-governmental organization (NGO) focusing on marine conservation.

Silje Karine Moutka, Sámi Parliament

Silje Karine Moutka works as an advisor at the Norwegian Sámi Parliament. She will explain how the planned mine in Finnmark in Norway will put a national salmon fjord and Sámi communities at risk. She will also discuss the recent report on Norway prepared by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, as well as remarks on the role of Norwegian authorities and the protection of Sámi indigenous people's rights.

Silje Ask Lundberg, Naturvernforbundet

Silje Ask Lundberg is the leader of Norway's leading conservation organization, Naturvernforbundet. She will speak about how Norwegian fjords and water systems are home to one third of the global population of the Atlantic wild salmon, and yet mining companies are proposing three new projects that would dispose of mine waste in marine waters protected as national salmon fjords.

As a conclusion to Silje's speech, we will see an underwater video from Jøssingfjorden, showing the bottom life of the fjord, 33 years after the dumping of mine waste from Titania AS was stopped.

Ellen Moore, Earthworks

Ellen Moore works as the International Mining Campaign Manager at Earthworks and leads the [Ditch Ocean Dumping Campaign](#), which seeks to end the harmful practice of marine mine waste dumping once and for all. Earthworks also recently launched the [Making Clean Energy Clean Just and Equitable](#) project which aims to ensure that the transition to renewable energy is powered by responsibly and equitably sourced minerals.