



## Proposals for Special Reports in the Sixth Assessment Cycle

IPCC governments and observer organisations made seven proposals for ocean and/or cryosphere-related Special Reports at the start of the Sixth Assessment Cycle

- Impact of Climate Change on the Cryosphere (China)
- Climate Change and Ocean (China)
- Ocean and Climate Change (Monaco)
- Antarctic/Southern Ocean Region (South Africa)
- Oceans and Climate Change: Special Report on the Evidences, Impacts and Adaptation to the Climate Change of the Oceans (Spain)
- Global and Regional Consequences of Changes to the Frozen World (USA)
- Sea Level Rise and Glacial Melting (CAN Int)



## Proposals for Special Reports in the Sixth Assessment Cycle by IPCC Governments and observer organisations

In April 2016 the IPCC Panel decided that during the IPCC Sixth Assessment Cycle an ocean and cryosphere-related Special Report is to be developed:

**IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC)**



## SROCC joins:

The two other Special Reports on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15) and on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL)

and

The Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



## Report Structure

**Chapter 1:** Framing and Context of the Report

**Chapter 2:** High Mountain Areas

**Chapter 3:** Polar Regions

**Chapter 4:** Sea level rise and implications for low lying islands, coasts and communities

**Chapter 5:** Changing ocean, marine ecosystems, and dependent communities

**Chapter 6:** Extremes, abrupt changes and managing risks

+ **Integrative cross-chapter box:** Low-lying islands and coasts



## Structure of the Summary for Policymakers

### A. Observed Changes and Impacts

- Physical Changes
- Impacts on Ecosystems
- Impacts on People and Ecosystem Services

### B. Projected Changes and Risks

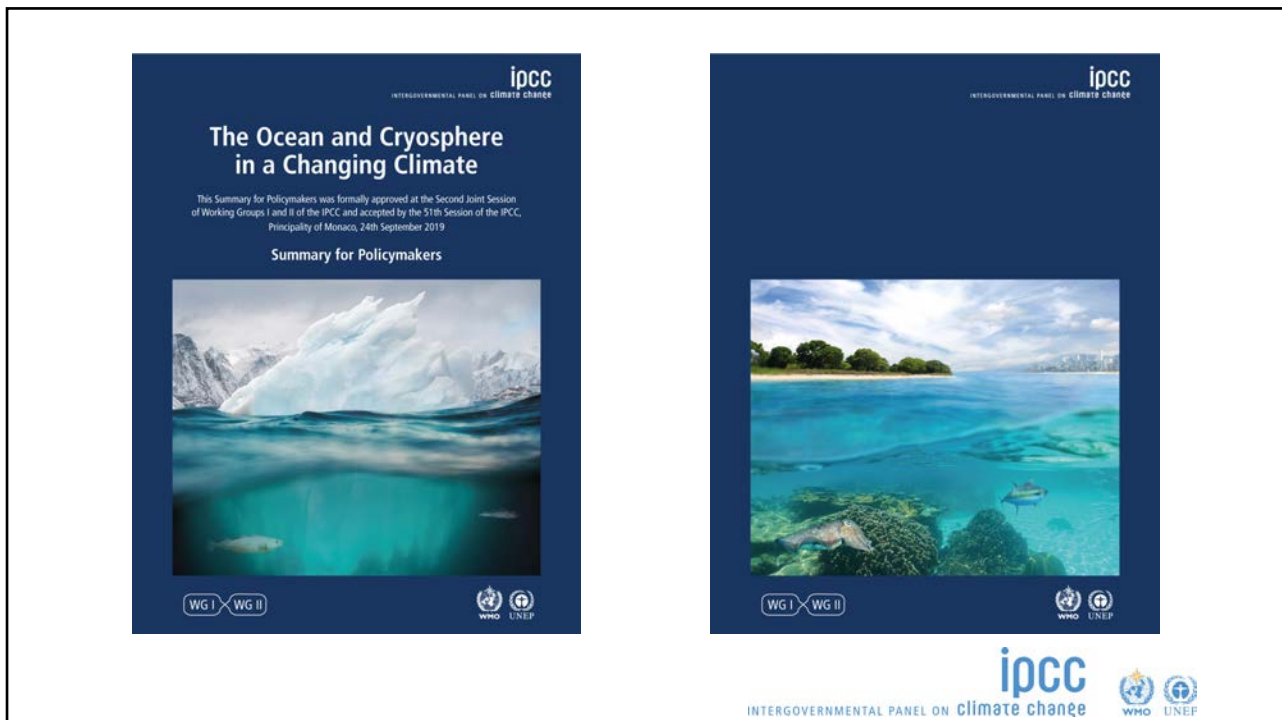
- Physical Changes
- Risks for Ecosystems
- Risks for People and Ecosystem Services

### C. Implementing Responses to Ocean and Cryosphere Change

- Challenges
- Strengthening Response Options
- Enabling Conditions

The world's ocean and cryosphere have been  
'taking the heat' from climate change for  
decades.

Consequences for nature and humanity are  
sweeping and severe.



## Background: Use of Scenarios in SROCC

- SROCC uses mainly **RCP2.6** and **RCP8.5** in its assessment, reflecting the available literature.
- **RCP2.6** represents a **low greenhouse gas emissions, high mitigation future**, that in CMIP5 simulations gives a two in three chance of limiting global warming to below 2°C by 2100
- By contrast, RCP8.5 is a **high greenhouse gas emissions scenario** in the **absence of policies** to combat climate change, leading to continued and sustained growth in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

**RCP:** Representative Concentration Pathway

**Our ocean and cryosphere –  
They sustain us.  
They are under pressure.  
Their changes affect all our lives.**

**The time for action is now.**

**ipcc**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change



**More Information:**

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