Supplementary Material:

Further recommended reading

There are diverse approaches for researchers to engage with marine governance. Some of the most common ones are knowledge co-production and boundary spanning as engaged and participatory approaches to generate actionable knowledge (Karcher et al., 2024; Mach et al., 2020). The likelihood of having such impact increases through early two-way engagement and building trusting relationships between researchers and societal actors like policymakers (Karcher et al., 2022; Martin et al., 2026; Newig et al., 2019). The nature of such engagement comes with the practical entry barriers addressed in this Commentary.

Throughout the perspective we would like to point to further literature resources that give overarching guidance to ECRs wishing to engage with international science-policy bodies (Lambertucci et al., 2025), the biodiversity science-policy space (Filyushkina et al., 2022), interdisciplinary research (Kelly et al., 2019), transdisciplinary marine science (Gómez & Köpsel, 2022; Strand et al., 2022), applied research (Cooke et al., 2020), and science-policy work in general (Evans & Cvitanovic, 2018; Oliver & Cairney, 2019).

More specifically, we recommend a closer look at the following references by FAQ:

FAQ1 (planning ahead for impact)	(Oliver & Cairney, 2019; Reed et al., 2018; https://www.fasttrackimpact.org/i-want-to-plan-my-impact).
FAQ2 (initiating engagement)	(Evans & Cvitanovic, 2018).
FAQ3 (meaningful and ethical engagement)	(Carroll et al., 2020; de Vos & Schwartz, 2022; Reed et al., 2024; Reed & Rudman, 2023; Verschuur et al., 2025).
FAQ4 (identifying appropriate contacts)	(Reed, 2008).
FAQ5 (navigating bias and prejudice)	(Gustavsson et al., 2021; Johannesen, 2025; Kaikkonen et al., 2024; Shellock et al., 2022).
FAQ6 (building credibility)	(Cooke et al., 2020; Cvitanovic et al., 2021; Macher et al., 2021).
FAQ7 (handling power dynamics)	(Dankel et al., 2016; Macher et al., 2021; https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gemmlab/2019/05/20/should-scientists-engage-in-advocacy/)
FAQ8 (when to change plans).	(Åkerblom, 2026; Sarkki et al., 2015)

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