To: Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC (Member States)

cc: Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States
The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Call for a review of the Draft IOC Ocean Literacy Action Plan

Ocean literacy is increasingly recognized as a way to enhance the public understanding of ocean issues, and also as a way to promote citizens’ and stakeholders’ actions towards ocean sustainability. For IOC, ocean literacy is also seen as an essential tool for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and for communicating the relevance of the IOC mission. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development offers an overall framework for ocean literacy actions and a major opportunity to apply innovative approaches for current and future generations to expand their ocean literacy.

The draft Ocean Literacy Action Plan was presented in 2019 to the IOC Assembly in document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 7. Through decision IOC-XXX/11.2, the Assembly requested the Secretariat to collect comments on, and contributions to, the Draft IOC Ocean Literacy Action Plan from Member States and regional and technical subsidiary bodies.

In response to that decision, an online survey has been prepared to collect comments on the draft Action Plan and the information on the ocean literacy activities that are currently being implemented in your country. Your response to the survey will support the review and finalization of the IOC Ocean Literacy Action Plan. The information on ocean literacy activities in your country will feed a database designed as a repository of good practices intended to facilitate exchanges on and promotion of ocean literacy among Member States.

I would like to cordially invite you to review the draft Ocean Literacy Action Plan and send information on relevant national activities by using the online template by 1st June 2020 at the latest. The survey template can be accessed at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8NTPX7V.
Requests for clarification and information can be directed to Ms Francesca Santoro (f.santoro@unesco.org), IOC Programme Specialist for ocean literacy.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary