COP31 JPI Climate Side Event – ICCI Pavilion

TITLE & ABSTRACT

AMOC in Focus: Towards a Scientific Consensus to Inform Climate Policy Under Uncertainty

The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a fundamental component of the Earth's climate system, influencing regional and global climate, sea-level, marine ecosystems, and the carbon cycle. Recent scientific developments have intensified debate about the current state of the AMOC, the likelihood of future weakening, and the potential consequences for societies and ecosystems. At the same time, uncertainties remain substantial, underscoring the need for an independent, comprehensive, and policy-relevant scientific assessment. This session will present the ongoing AMOC in Focus initiative, a joint effort of JPI Climate and JPI Oceans and Canada involving more than 50 leading international experts. Designed to complement and inform the IPCC AR7 process, the assessment is systematically evaluating the latest scientific evidence on AMOC dynamics, associated risks, confidence levels, and knowledge gaps through a rigorous, transparent assessment process. It will highlight critical scientific questions and present why these matter for policies in climate mitigation, adaptation, and risk management.

TIMESLOT

10 November, 18:00 - 19:00 TRT

DRAFT AGENDA

18:00 — Welcome and introduction of the JPI Climate (5 min)

- Petra Manderscheid, Executive Director of JPI Climate

18:05 — The challenges facing observation systems & science (5 min)

- Frank McGovern, Vice-Chair of JPI Climate, Irish Presidency Science Lead

18:10 — AMOC in focus Assessment Report – The scientific consensus (10 min)

- Hans Otto Pörtner, Alfred Wagner Institute and Co-Chair of *AMOC in Focus*

18:20 — Panel Discussion followed by audience interactions (40 min)
Moderated by: Petra Manderscheid, Executive Director of JPI Climate

- Susanne Mecklenburg, Head of Climate Activities, European Space Agency
- Christiane Textor, Scientific Advisor at German Aerospace Center (to be confirmed)
- Hans-Otto Pörtner, Alfred Wagner Institute and Co-Chair of *AMOC in Focus*
- Gerard McCarthy, Maynooth University and Co-Chair of *AMOC in Focus*