INVITATION TO JOIN THE YOUSEA INSTITUTE

The YouSea Institute, dedicated to preserving marine biodiversity, was founded with the following objectives:

- Actively working to conserve and restore marine biodiversity,
- Educating and informing the public about the importance of marine biodiversity and seabed ecosystems,
- Promoting, accelerating, and guiding various multidisciplinary activities in this field.

The cornerstone project of the institute is the establishment of the pilot research artificial underwater structure, the Sea Oasis Piran. Our goal is to create a model for studying and development of sustainable multitrophic aquaculture and simultaneously a marine oasis for organisms. With this project, we aim to establish a best practice example of such an intervention in the Slovenian sea, serving as a platform for observation and research. In its mature phase, it will also be a tourist attraction in Piran, appealing to researchers, divers, and tourists alike. The institute is also developing other projects, such as the Blue School. You can read more about the institute's work and mission on our website: www.yoursea.org.

We wish to attract enthusiasts to the membership of the Institute, which we call the You(r)sea Family, who share our concern for the sea and awareness of the importance of protecting its biodiversity.

We would be honoured if you joined us as a member of the YouSea Institute, thus becoming part of the You(r)sea Family and formally showing your support for our work. The formal expression of interest from our members is crucial in our communication with official institutions. By joining our institute, you have no obligations and no rights; you merely show interest and support for our work, gain the opportunity to be the first informed about our activities, and have access to the institute's professional content, as well as exclusive opportunities to join events organized solely for members of the You(r)sea Family. By signing the membership form, you also agree to the Blue Commitment of the You(r)sea Family members.

BLUE COMMITMENTS OF YOU(R)SEA FAMILY MEMBERS:

- We reduce the amount of waste we produce,
- We separate waste and dispose of it in designated containers,
- We conserve water and energy,
- Where possible, we drink tap water instead of using single-use plastic bottles,
- We dispose of cigarette butts in bins, not on the ground or in the sea,
- We eat less seafood, and when we do, we choose sustainably sourced seafood (e.g., farmed shellfish, fish, seaweed, fish caught with sustainable fishing tools),
- We eat locally produced seasonal food,
- We handle food with care and minimize food waste,
- We limit the use of pollutants (use biodegradable cleaning products and cosmetics),
- We shop sustainably and wisely (less plastic, use reusable packaging, bring reusable bags to the store, buy durable clothing made from natural materials),
- We walk and cycle instead of driving,
- We keep beaches clean and pick up litter (plastic and other waste) from the sea and beaches,
- We navigate motorized vessels slowly and considerately as engine noise disturbs marine organisms,
- We anchor our boats on sandy bottoms, not on rocky, grassy, or vegetated areas,
- Souvenirs from vacations and travels should be beautiful memories and photographs, not shells, snails, coral pieces, dried animals, plant seeds, etc.,
- We spread information and knowledge about protecting the sea and all its organisms.

YouSea, Institute for Marine Biodiversity Conservation
YouSea Institute, Seča 112, 6320 Portorož
Registration Number: 8838615000 Tax Number: SI10402195
IBAN: SI56 1010 0005 9078 524, SWIFT: BAKOSI2XXXX, opened at Intesa Sanpaolo Bank d.d., Slovenia

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE YOUSEA INSTITUTE

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Full Name / Organization Name:
_____
Contact Address (street, number, postal code, city state):
_____
Personal ID Number / Registration Number:
_____
Email Address:
_____
Phone Number:
_____

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT:

- I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I wish to become a member of the YouSea Institute for Marine Biodiversity Conservation (hereinafter: YouSea) and thus join the You(r)sea Family.
- I understand that I must pay the membership fee no later than 8 days after submitting this application form.
- I understand that by signing this application, I do not gain any rights within YouSea.
- By signing, I commit to trying to adhere to the Blue Commitment of the You(r)sea Family.
- I consent to YouSea using my personal data for maintaining membership records and using the data for YouSea's needs, such as sending invitations, notifications, promotions, etc. YouSea will publish the list of names of its members on its website and communication channels. YouSea commits not to use the data for any other purpose.
- I will notify YouSea if I no longer wish to be a member, if I do not want to receive notifications from them, or if there are any changes to the information provided in this application form.
- I am aware that I must pay the membership fee for the current year by January 31st if I decide to continue my membership in the following years; otherwise, my membership in YouSea will cease.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Guardian's signature (if the person applying is under 18 years old):

_____

The Articles of Association, Statute, and other acts of the YouSea Institute, as well as additional information regarding membership, are available in electronic form via email. **The annual membership fee for 2024 is €10.00** and should be transferred to **IBAN: SI56 1010 0005 9078 524, SWIFT: BAKOSI2XXXX**, opened at Intesa Sanpaolo Bank d.d., Slovenia; recipient: YouSea Institute, Seča 112, 6320 Portorož; indicate purpose: **membership fee "year"**, **"member's name"**.

Please send the completed and signed application form by email to: zavod.yousea@gmail.com