Supplementary Material Table 1: Thematic coding framework

Theme	Definition	OL Framework or Emergent theme
Knowledge	Knowledge has multiple aspects. In the first instance, knowledge is what a person knows about an ocean related topic and the links between topics. Knowledge also refers to the knowledge a person has about ocean decision-making, opportunities to participate and engage in ocean decisions and behaviours and where/ how to get information about ocean issues.	Ocean Literacy Dimensions (McKinley et al., 2023)
Awareness	Awareness is the basic knowledge and understanding that a situation, problem or concept exists. Awareness should also include knowledge and understanding of the solutions and behaviours that may exist to address these problems in order to foster ownership and empower society to take action.	
Attitude	Attitude is related to a level of agreement with or concern for a particular position. Attitude should also include consideration of perceptions, values, and views towards an ocean issue, and how these can lead to policy and societal change.	
Behaviour	Behaviour relates to decisions, choices, actions, and habits with respect to ocean related issues at a range of scales, including from individual, sector and policy actors and institutions with a view to bringing about whole system change.	
Activism	Activism is the degree to which a person engages in a wide range of activities, which can constitute activism, such as campaigning (for example through social media, attending public rallies or writing to elected officials) to bring about changes in policy, attitudes, behaviour, etc. Understanding this dimension must also take account of who gets to participate in activism and what the barriers might be.	
Communication	Communication in the context of ocean literacy must be considered from multiple perspectives. 1) Communication is the extent to which a person communicates with others, such as family and peer groups, on ocean related topics. 2) Communication should also consider how/ where people get their information about ocean issues from – What methods of communication are most effective? 3) At an organisational level, communication needs to consider how institutions and organisations are	

	communicating to different audiences about ocean issues.	
Emotional connections (Emoceans)	Emotional connection is about how a person feels and emotionally responds when they think about, are near/ within, or consider issues relating to the ocean, coasts and seas. Emotions can be positive, negative or neutral and are all valid responses and will all contribute to behaviour change.	
Access and experience	Access and experience relate to a person's real or artificial (through Virtual Reality, for example) experiences and engagement with the ocean, and the various ways in which they can access these experiences. Barriers to ocean access and experiences should also be considered within this dimension.	
Adaptive capacity	Adaptive capacity relates to a person's capacity to adapt and respond to changing conditions relating to their ocean (e.g., relating to climate change, change in ocean economies, or changing ecosystem structure or function).	
Trust and transparency	Trust and transparency relate to the level of trust a person places in sources of ocean information and knowledge, and their perception of how transparent information and associated platforms and processes are.	
Building community and relationships	This theme included topics relating to building relationships and community as a result of participating in the theatre activities.	Emergent themes
Creating safe and open spaces for engagement	This theme includes topics relating to the importance of creating spaces for engagement which are open to people who have perhaps felt excluded from community engagement opportunities previously. This also includes themes of active listening, building trust and recognising the energy required to participate in theatre practice.	