

At strategic times throughout the year, The Ocean Project provides guidance to encourage young leaders and others from around the world to advance ocean and climate conservation action. These engagement opportunities are a way for you to take action and raise awareness among your networks about ways to get involved to scale the impact of your action. This resource is meant to be a guide - we encourage you to personalize or adjust as you wish and get as creative as you can to encourage action!

Background

We have an opportunity right now to help protect half the planet - the "High Seas" - which lies outside of any country's jurisdiction and is unprotected and vulnerable to exploitation. This great global commons is critical to the health of the entire ocean - and all of us. We all need a healthy ocean to survive and thrive.

However, only 1.2% of the High Seas have been protected and marine life around the world is under threat from unsustainable and illegal fishing, shipping traffic, noise pollution, plastic and chemical pollution, deep-sea mining and acidifying and warming waters as a result of the climate crisis. A lack of unified governance leaves the vast majority unprotected and vulnerable to exploitation, with activities unregulated or controlled by different business sectors and governments under a complex structure.

United Nations member nations are in the final stages of negotiating a new High Seas Treaty that could ensure meaningful protection for ocean life. They are meeting 20 February - 3 March in New York City for the resumed 5th session of the Intergovernmental Conference. A strong treaty will also significantly help move the planet closer to the international target that was recently agreed to in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to protect at least 30% of the lands, waters and ocean by 2030 (30x30).

The Time for Action is Now!

It's taken almost two decades to get this far. We are almost there! Government leaders have a huge opportunity right now to help get our blue planet on a positive trajectory during the final round of negotiations of a new legally-binding international treaty to protect the High Seas. With a strong High Seas Treaty, the global community can provide the first legal framework for marine protected areas (MPAs) and many other vital conservation measures for our one world ocean that connects us all.

You can help!

Help our nations' leaders seize this once in a generation opportunity! You can amplify efforts and generate the political will at the highest levels to ensure a new vision for ocean governance that embraces the transformative change that our blue planet needs.



Suggested action:

Small time commitment (post on social) - 10 minutes

Urge governments to find common ground and make history with an ambitious High Seas Treaty that benefits ocean life by posting on social media with the sample language and graphics linked below. Follow the steps below to show your support for a robust #HighSeasTreaty:

- [Click to Tweet](#) your concerns and find other [suggested social posts](#) in the High Seas Treaty Toolkit, including [social posts in Spanish](#).
 - Use the following hashtags: #OneOceanOnePlanet #HighSeas #HighSeasTreaty #BBNJ #IGC5
- Use the following tags:
 - Twitter: [@HighSeasAllianc](#)
 - Facebook: [@highseasalliance](#)
 - Instagram: [@highseasalliance](#)

Medium time commitment (amplify and share with friends) - 20-30 minutes

- Share and retweet the social posts from [@HighSeasAllianc](#) during the Conference (20 February-3 March) to help amplify the growing support for a high ambition High Seas Treaty.
- Ask 5 friends or leaders of organizations you know to take this action!
 - You can use this sample language when you reach out to ask your friends and network:
 - "Hi! Right now our world leaders are deciding on whether to protect our planet's High Seas - the part of our ocean outside of any country's jurisdiction which covers nearly half the planet's entire surface. Would you be willing to show your support for protecting our High Seas by posting on social about it? I can send you some sample posts!"
 - Share this [High Seas Treaty Action Guide](#) or this [blog post](#) on the World Ocean Day website.

Additional Resources:

- [High Seas Treaty talking points](#)
- Only One's "[Protect the High Seas](#)" Media Toolkit
- "[What Ocean Do You Want](#)" microsite
- RISE UP's [Q&A](#) on the High Seas and the UN High Seas Treaty
- Science Magazine letter from leading scientists: [Protect high seas biodiversity](#)

For 20 years, [The Ocean Project](#) has globally coordinated World Ocean Day as an opportunity to unite and rally the world on 8 June, and throughout the year, to take personal, community, and societal action on behalf of our blue planet. It is powered by the Youth Advisory Council, this year comprised of 26 young people from 20 diverse countries.