Beginning the New Year with a Renewed Call to Action

The ocean plays an essential role in regulating our climate, which means there can be no action to fight climate change and limit its impacts without looking to the ocean.

Last year’s release of IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) emphasized that climate change is already having major impacts on our ocean, making our ocean warmer, more acidified, more stratified and oxygen depleted. Further, it is virtually certain that by absorbing more carbon, the ocean has undergone increasing acidification.

Acidifying waters spell big trouble for our fisheries, aquaculture, and marine ecosystems and the communities that rely on them. A report released just this week by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) projects that ocean acidification threatens to cause billions of dollars in damage to the U.S. economy, harming everything from crabs in Alaska to coral reefs in Florida and the Caribbean.

The good news is that if we act now — we can make a difference. We have the ability to change the course of ocean acidification with local actions and
The OA Alliance is proud to kick-off the New Year by releasing a video that calls on governments to take action now by advancing policy solutions across climate agreement frameworks and by creating Ocean Acidification (OA) Action Plans.

The Ocean Foundation Celebrates 2nd Annual OA Day of Action!

To mark the second annual International Ocean Acidification Day of Action, OA Alliance member, The Ocean Foundation (TOF), in partnership with the Embassy of New Zealand, hosted a gathering of government representatives to inspire action and to congratulate countries and communities that have made commitments to address the global challenge of ocean acidification.
The OA Day of Action took place on the 8th of January to represent 8.1, the current pH level of our ocean. To celebrate, TOF released the Ocean Acidification Guidebook For Policymakers, a comprehensive overview of ocean acidification legislation at the national, regional, and sub-national level.

You can read more about TOF’s International Ocean Acidification Initiative here.

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Report Out from COP25

The 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Madrid, Spain December 2-13, 2019.

As President of the COP, the government of Chile worked with national partners and other non-Party stakeholders to ensure that the ocean was highlighted and played a central role in discussions and negotiations. The "Blue COP" was an
played a central role in discussions and negotiations. The “Blue COP” was an important milestone for ensuring that findings of the IPCC SROCC are acknowledged across the UNFCCC and paves the way for the next decade of ocean and climate leadership.

The final COP25 decision, Chile Madrid Time for Action, includes several references to the importance of incorporating ocean mitigation and adaptation into the climate change agenda.

Specifically, the decision:

- **Expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the scientific community for providing the 2019 Special Reports, which reflect the best available science, and encourages Parties to continue to support the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Paragraph 6.)**

- **Commends the efforts of the President of the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session to highlight the importance of the ocean, including as an integral part of the Earth’s climate system, and of ensuring the integrity of ocean and coastal ecosystems in the context of climate change (Paragraph 29.)**

- **Requests the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to convene at its fifty-second session (June 2020) a dialogue on the ocean and climate change to consider how to strengthen mitigation and adaptation action in this context (Paragraph 30.)**

- **Invites Parties and non-Party stakeholders to submit inputs via the submission portal by 31 March 2020 to inform the dialogue (Paragraph 32.)**
• Requests the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to prepare an informal summary report on the dialogue (Paragraph 33.)

The OA Alliance will be working with members to ensure we contribute meaningful inputs to the “Dialogue on Ocean and Climate Change,” by providing a growing number of examples from OA Alliance Member OA Action Plans that will serve as guidance for other governments.

The OA Alliance Helped to Advance Ocean Issues at COP25

(1) Provided remarks as one of the first stakeholders to contribute to the Platform for Science-Based Ocean Solutions—launched by the COP Presidency—which will bring together key methodologies and tools to help incorporate oceans into countries’ NDCs.

(2) Demonstrated how governments along Pacific Coast of North America are working to confront the ocean and climate crises through coordinated regional science that will inform actions to reduce impacts, improve resilience, and support adaptive management.

(3) Alongside the Ocean Conservancy, supported six U.S. States in making a joint commitment to ocean and climate action, further demonstrating how states can—and must—play a role in international ocean and climate commitments.

(4) Contributed to the, “Ocean-related Measures in Climate Strategies” report lead by partner Because the Ocean Initiative which provided guidance to governments on policy frameworks they might use to address climate impacts.
governments on policy frameworks they might use to address climate impacts to ocean health, resources, communities and economies.

And Co-Hosted Ocean Acidification Side Events

From Knowledge to OA Action: Mobilizing Global Leadership to Protect Coastal Communities and Livelihoods from a Changing Ocean- Perspectives from the NE Atlantic.

(December 5, 2019 - French Pavilion)
Speakers: Ms. Stephanie Croguennec, Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France; Dr. Jacob Hagberg, Ministry of the Environment, Sweden; Mr. Andrew McMaster, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Dr. Tarquin Dorrington, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, United Kingdom; Ms. Heidi Prislan, Commonwealth Secretariat; and Ms. Loreley Picourt, Ocean & Climate Platform.

Pacific Leadership and International Cooperation to Advance Regional Science and Mainstream Ocean Acidification into National Policies.
(December 6, 2019 - Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion)

Watch Video Here
https://vimeo.com/377742250

Speakers: Ambassador Kay Harrison, New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Mr. Kushaal Raj, Fiji Climate Change and International Cooperation Division; Ulu o Tokelau, Honorable Kelihiano Kalolo; United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson; Dr. Robert Duncan McIntosh, Oceanography Officer, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; Ms. Sylvie Goyet, Director of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, Pacific Community.
Understanding Changing Ocean Conditions and Impacts to Marine Species and Ecosystems: Global Networks that Are Advancing Regional Science, Monitoring and Response.
(December 7, 2019 - Chilean Pavilion)
Watch Video Here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ8EPBV8AnI&feature=youtu.be

Speakers: Honorable Minister Couve, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Chile; Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency; Dr. Peter Swarzenski, International Atomic Energy Agency; Distinguished Professor Lisa Levin, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Dr. Bronte Tilbrook, Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network; Ms. Jennifer Hennessey, Senior Advisor to Washington State Governor Jay Inslee; Mr. Matias Alcalde, Chile California Council; Dr. Martin Hernandez Ayon, Latin American Ocean Acidification Network (LAOCA); Dr. Nayerah Abd El Nabi Ali Shaltout, Ocean Acidification African Network (OA-Africa); Dr. Robert Duncan McIntosh, Pacific Islands & Territories Ocean Acidification Network (PI-TOA.)
Ocean-Climate Leadership at the Blue COP.
(December 9, 2019 - U.S. Climate Action Center)
Watch Video Here
https://www.facebook.com/2238274516451669/videos/601636977308232/

Speakers: Ms. Jennifer Hennessey, Senior Policy Advisor on Ocean Health to Governor Inslee, State of Washington; Ms. Anu Hittle, Climate Change Coordinator, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii; Ms. Whitney Berry, Climate Change Program Manager, California Ocean Protection Council.

The OA Alliance was also proud to take part in events during Ocean Action Day, hosted by Global Ocean Forum and several other partners on December 7, 2019.
Read More about Ocean Action Day Here:
https://enb.iisd.org/climate/cop25/oceans-action-day/

Review Other COP25 Report-Outs and Re-Caps By Partners Including:

Global Ocean Forum

Because the Ocean Declaration

Ocean Conservancy
https://oceanconservancy.org/blog/2019/12/20/brought-blue-years-blue-cop/

Thank You

Our decisions matter and we aren’t waiting to act. We are leading by harnessing the power of collective action as we embark on this new decade together—so let’s get going.

We thank you for your partnership.

The OA Alliance has grown to over 90 members, including 13 national governments, 8 states, 2 provinces, 6 tribal nations, and 4 cities, along with research institutions, businesses and NGOs.

The OA Alliance was established in direct response to the observed impacts of ocean acidification in the mid-2000’s to oyster hatchery production across the North American Pacific Coast. The intent of the OA Alliance is to motivate
governments to proactively respond to the impacts of ocean acidification by charting a course of action for sustaining coastal communities and livelihoods.

**Together the OA Alliance is:**

1. Supporting governments to take meaningful actions to address changing ocean conditions;
2. Pushing for inclusion of strong ocean protection provisions in international climate agreements and other relevant frameworks; and
3. Creating a coalition of governments and partners elevate the visibility and importance of ocean acidification in public discourse and policy development.

We look forward to working with you in 2020 and thank you for your support.

The acidity of the world’s oceans has increased by 30 percent and is expected to double over pre-industrial levels by the end of this century. To protect our oceans, it is imperative that we significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions across the world.

In 2015, 195 countries signed the historic Climate Agreement in Paris committing to meaningful and timely action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The world’s nations and subnational governments must succeed in reducing emissions in order to protect the health of the oceans and other natural systems on which the planet depends. Mitigation and adaptation strategies designed to address ocean acidification must also be included in future international climate agreements in order to help communities around the world who make a living from the ocean.
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