

# Our Ocean Initiatives

Washington, DC

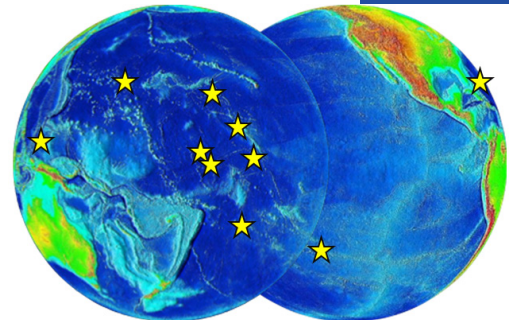
June 17, 2014



Policymakers, ocean scientists, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, environmentalists, and philanthropists from nearly 90 countries – as well as viewers from around the world – joined Secretary of State John Kerry for the June 16-17, 2014, Our Ocean Conference. Participants announced new partnerships and initiatives valued at over \$1.8 billion as well as new commitments on the protection of more than 3 million square kilometers of the ocean, an area roughly the size of India.

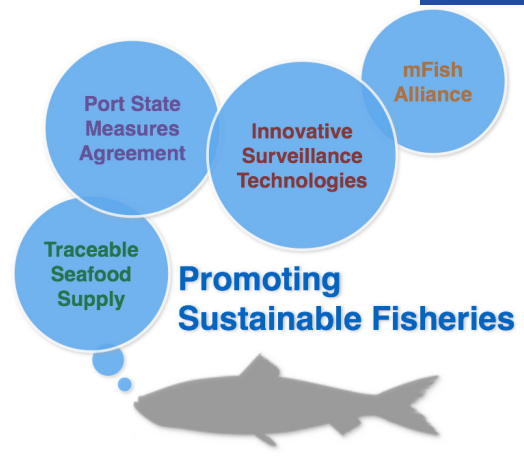
## Protecting Ocean Areas

- President Obama announced a **commitment to protect some of the most precious U.S. marine landscapes**. The Administration will immediately consider how it might expand protections near the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in the south-central Pacific Ocean, which contains some of the most pristine tropical marine environments in the world.
- President Tong of Kiribati announced the decision of his government to **ban commercial fishing in the Phoenix Islands Protected Area** – an area over 400,000 square kilometers or **roughly the size of California** – as of January 2015.
- President Remengesau of Palau described a proposed **new National Marine Sanctuary** that would cover most of Palau's exclusive economic zone – an area almost 500,000 square kilometers or nearly **two times the size of New Zealand**.
- Leonardo DiCaprio pledged through his foundation **\$7 million to meaningful ocean conservation projects** over the next 2 years.
- Elizabeth Wright-Koteka and Kevin Iro of the Cook Islands announced their nation's intent to phase in the expansion of the **Cook Islands Marine Park** to cover the **entire exclusive economic zone** of the Cook Islands, **starting with a "no commercial fishing zone" out to 50 miles around islands**.
- Sir David King of the United Kingdom announced an upcoming public process to consider **establishing a marine conservation zone covering most of the exclusive economic zone of the Pitcairn Islands** – an area roughly 830,000 square kilometers or greater than three times the size of the United Kingdom.
- Kenred Dorsett of The Bahamas announced **additional marine protected areas** to be created by the end of 2014, bringing The Bahamas' existing network of marine protected areas to **at least 10 percent of its near-shore marine environment**.



## Promoting Sustainable Fisheries

- President Obama announced a comprehensive **new national program on seafood transparency and traceability** that will enable U.S. consumers to know that the seafood they buy has been harvested legally and sustainably.
- Norway will allocate more than **150 million dollars** to **promote fisheries development and management** abroad, including the building of a third **research vessel** to train fisheries experts and managers from around the world.
- The United States, in collaboration with /tone™ and GSM Association, launched the mFish public-private partnership, a new initiative to provide **mobile devices to small-scale fishers** in developing nations with apps designed **to access market and weather information** and more easily **report catches to fisheries managers**. The initial pilot markets are in the Philippines and Indonesia.
- The United States announced development of an innovative program, to be pilot tested in partnership with **Palau**, to **detect illegal fishing and other illegal activities at sea using surveillance information from multiple sources**. This will enable targeted and cost-effective at-sea enforcement.
- Foreign Minister Dussey of Togo announced a **new agreement among Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria to combat illegal fishing** in their area of West Africa.
- With several governments at the conference willing to ratify the **Port State Measures Agreement**, **we will soon be more than halfway toward entry into force** of this ground-breaking new treaty that aims to prevent illegally harvested fish from entering the stream of commerce.



## Reducing Marine Pollution

- The United States announced the **Trash Free Waters program** to stop trash and debris from entering the ocean, through sustainable product design, increased material recovery and reuse, and a new nationwide trash prevention ethic.
- Daniella Russo announced the **Think Beyond Plastic™ Innovation Forum** to advance entrepreneurship and to inspire innovations to reduce global plastic pollution, including in our ocean.
- Norway will allocate up to **\$1 million** for a study on measures to **combat marine plastic waste and microplastics**.

## Preventing and Monitoring Ocean Acidification

- Norway announced that in 2015 it will allocate over \$1 billion to climate change mitigation and adaptation assistance, including a substantial contribution to the Green Climate Fund.

- The United States announced an investment of more than **\$9 million** over three years to sustain ocean acidification observing capability of the **Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network**.
- The United States announced new projects through the International Atomic Energy Agency totaling **\$1.24 million** to meet challenges of **ocean acidification and marine pollution** in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The United States announced a contribution of **\$640,000** to support the **Ocean Acidification International Coordination Center** in Monaco, bringing its total contribution to \$1 million.
- The United States announced new funding for a joint initiative with Canada and Mexico to **catalogue North American coastal habitats** – such as mangroves, sea grass beds, and salt marshes – **that capture and hold carbon** and to evaluate the possible use of carbon credits to protect these habitats.
- Mark Spalding of the Ocean Foundation announced the “**Friends of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network**” – a new fund to support the network – with a goal to raise an initial \$1 million or more by June 30, 2015.



**\$180+ million  
United States**

**\$470 million  
International  
Institutions**

**\$1.1+ billion  
Other Partners**

## Building Capacity

- Naoko Ishii, CEO of the Global Environment Facility, announced unprecedented funding of **\$460 million** to conserve and restore marine biodiversity, foster sustainable fisheries, and strengthen coastal management.
- Sri Mulyani Indrawati of the World Bank highlighted a new **\$10 million World Bank/Global Environment Facility investment** pending before the World Bank board that would improve management of valuable tuna fisheries and other highly migratory fish stocks in four areas in the developing world.

## Supporting Coastal Communities

- The U.S. Agency for International Development announced new coastal programs valued at more than **\$170 million** to support marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, coastal adaptation, and efforts to combat illegal fishing and wildlife trafficking in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific.
- Ted Waitt of the Waitt Foundation announced “**Fish Forever**” – a commitment of **\$2.5 million** over five years in collaboration with Rare, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the University of California Santa Barbara Bren School – **to help communities manage fisheries sustainably**.
- The United States announced **new assistance** to nations in Asia and the Pacific Region to **reduce risks from natural disasters**, to strengthen community resilience in rebounding from such disasters, and to **promote sustainable fisheries** management.

## Mapping and Understanding the Ocean

- The United States announced the activation of **two new ocean research vessels**, the R/V Neil Armstrong and the R/V Sally Ride, providing a new generation of scientists with cutting-edge technology to explore the ocean and reach for the stars.
- Lynne Hale of The Nature Conservancy announced a three-year effort to **Map the Ocean's Wealth**, with a **\$3.8 million** lead investment from the Lyda Hill Foundation, to quantify and map key ecosystem services that the ocean provides.
- Ted Waitt of the Waitt Foundation announced a **new tool to track the creation and development of marine protected areas** ([www.mpaatlas.org](http://www.mpaatlas.org)), as well as an initiative to help Caribbean nations undertake coastal and marine spatial planning and management.



## Our Ocean Conference 2015

- Foreign Minister Muñoz of Chile announced Chile's intention to host a follow-on **Our Ocean Conference in 2015**.