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A Blue Wave of Ocean Action, Part I

2025 GUIDE TO KEY OCEAN EVENTS
(JANUARY-JUNE)

Prepared by Our Shared Seas

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OurSharedSeas.com

Overview

2025 marks the halfway point of the UN Ocean Decade. There are now only five years left for the global ocean community to meet the Decade’s ambitious 2030 challenges.¹ Against this backdrop, dozens of 2025 events provide spaces for experts, practitioners, and policymakers to convene and develop solutions to the most critical marine sustainability challenges.

That’s why this year, Our Shared Seas (OSS) is returning with our Blue Wave of Action series to highlight important ocean events of 2025, handpicked by the OSS team. This year, the calendar is so full of high-profile events that we have split our Wave of Action into two publications. Part I covers the first six months of 2025.

The events covered in this document are a mix of open-to-all conventions, invite-only gatherings, and closed meetings of world leaders. They range from opportunities for marine philanthropy to gather and align strategic priorities to closed-session proceedings that could yield globally significant policy decisions. Dive in below for detailed descriptions of these top-line ocean events! For a complete list of all ocean-related events happening in 2025, please check out <https://oursharedseas.com/events/>.

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Key Events



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: January 20–24, 2025
WHERE: Davos-Klosters, Switzerland
MORE INFO: Invite-only Event

Summary: A center of gravity for global experts and decision makers, the 2025 World Economic Forum (WEF) is the premier global convening for public and private sector leaders to align on and commit to solutions to major socioeconomic challenges. This year, geopolitical shocks, economic growth, and the energy transition will take center stage.²

The inclusion of the energy transition as a major focal point, in concert with the 2024 meeting's focus on climate, nature, and energy, indicates the rising importance of climate issues on the international political and business stages.³ However, except for one notable session in 2023, ocean sustainability has largely been absent from these meetings.⁴

This year's meeting presents a unique opportunity to uplift the role of the oceans in sustainable economic development and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The invite-only convening promises to be a high-impact venue for aligning decision-makers on how to design, fund, and accelerate solutions for environmental and climate threats.



30TH INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY MEETING

WHEN: March 4–28, 2025 (Part I)
June 23–July 25, 2025 (Part II)
WHERE: Kingston, Jamaica
MORE INFO: Closed Event

Summary: After two years of accelerated development and debate, the 30th International Seabed Authority (ISA) Meeting aims to finalize regulations for mining the deep sea in international waters.⁵

Deep Sea Mining, a once relatively niche subject, has taken center stage on a global level, following Nauru's 2021 statement of intention to begin deep sea mining.⁶ Nauru and their private Canadian firm partner, The Metals Company, argued that mined minerals will be critical to ramping up production of zero-emissions technologies such as Electric Vehicles. They also claimed that deep sea mining is less socially and environmentally harmful than terrestrial mining. Critics, including renowned scientists and experts, pushed back on all three of these claims (climate necessity, lower relative environmental impact, and lower relative social impact).⁷

Nauru's actions triggered a clause in the ISA's charter requiring the ISA to develop regulations for deep sea mining in the high seas by 2023; this deadline has since been extended to 2025. Should the regulations be confirmed at this year's meeting, they will govern permit determinations for deep sea mining for all countries—with unknown environmental impacts on huge swaths of deep-sea habitat—for the foreseeable future.⁸



OCEAN VISIONS SUMMIT 2025

WHEN: March 11–13, 2025
WHERE: Vancouver, BC, Canada
MORE INFO: [Open Event](#)

Summary: The biennial Ocean Visions Summit gathers academia, nonprofits, funders, industry, and policymakers “to explore solutions and strengthen partnerships that can help restore our ocean and stabilize the climate.” The summit is produced by Ocean Visions, a nonprofit that marshals resources and coordinates catalytic ocean-climate action.

The 2023 session brought together 400 individuals from more than 30 countries to dive deep into topics including: ocean-based decarbonization, ocean Carbon Dioxide Removal (oCDR), ecosystem repair and regeneration, human adaptation, and building a community of ocean-climate solvers.

The 2025 Summit will be structured slightly differently. Instead of discrete topic tracks, the summit will center around four themes: ocean-based decarbonization, oCDR, marine ecosystem repair, and expansion of the global community of solvers. Expert speakers will cover the vanguard of emerging ocean-climate solutions; workshops will identify opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration to accelerate action at the ocean-climate nexus; and networking will strengthen and grow this dynamic global community. Registration and more information about the 2025 summit are available at <https://oceanvisions.org/ocean-visions-biennial-summit-2025-registration/>.



WORLD OCEAN SUMMIT 12

WHEN: March 12–13, 2025
WHERE: Tokyo, Japan
MORE INFO: [Open Event](#)

Summary: The annual World Ocean Summit, hosted by Economist Impact, dives into the most pressing issues of marine sustainability and the blue economy to generate progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 14. Co-hosted this year with Japan, the summit will focus on climate change mitigation, biodiversity and nature protection, coastal resilience, blue industry, and sustainable fisheries.⁹

This summit is one of the largest cross-sectoral convenings of marine sustainability experts in the world, with attendees and speakers representing international governing bodies, national governments, ocean NGOs, and leading sustainable marine industry groups. The 2024 event highlighted the importance of MPAs, sustainable financing, and technology to protect biodiversity and retain environmental stability in the face of the “triple planetary crisis” of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.¹⁰

This year’s iteration seeks to equip blue industry professionals with actionable guidance for transitioning to sustainable use of marine resources. Central to this year’s summit is a series of “how to” workshops to help organizations begin to take action on sustainable ocean practices. Speakers and participants will also consider how the insights developed at the summit apply to the upcoming UN Ocean Conference. For registration and more details, see <https://events.economist.com/world-ocean-summit/registration/>.



10TH ANNUAL OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE

WHEN: March 28–30, 2025
WHERE: Busan, South Korea
MORE INFO: Invite-only Event

Summary: The annual Our Ocean Conference convenes governments, private sector representatives, NGOs, and the academic community to discuss concrete actions, funding, and global norms for a sustainable ocean.¹¹ The 10th Our Ocean Conference will be hosted by the Republic of Korea and will focus on marine protected areas, marine pollution, the blue economy, climate change, sustainable fisheries, maritime security, and marine information systems.¹²

The Our Ocean Conferences have produced more than 2,600 voluntary commitments worth nearly \$128 billion USD since the series' inception in 2014.¹³ In 2024, the 9th Our Ocean Conference in Athens, Greece raised \$11.3 billion USD in pledges for marine conservation, specifically for the establishment of MPAs, the reduction of IUU fishing, the protection of marine biodiversity, and the fight against climate change.¹⁴

A new permanent Secretariat hosted by the World Resources Institute will lead the 10th Our Ocean Conference in 2025. The establishment of the Secretariat marks a new era in the series' development, reflecting a collective effort to bolster support for capacity building, knowledge sharing through technical assistance, and the tracking of annual commitments.¹⁵

The 2025 schedule and topics have yet to be released; interested parties can view <https://ourocean2025.kr/areasofaction/> for the most up-to-date information about the 2025 event. The call for side events will be released in November of 2024.¹⁶



SKOLL WORLD FORUM 2025

WHEN: April 1–4, 2024
WHERE: Global
MORE INFO: Invite-only Event

Summary: The 2025 Skoll World Forum will convene social impact experts to discuss the most pressing challenges to our global society and how actors across nonprofits, philanthropies, impact investors, governments, academia, and business can rise to these challenges and implement innovative solutions to them.

The 2024 edition's primary focus areas were protecting democracy, advancing climate action, combatting misinformation, discussing the rise of AI, and safeguarding Indigenous rights. The Forum's topics shift annually to address the most high-profile, urgent issues of the year. Presentations include TED-talk style lectures, artistic performances, and live Q&As with experts. While the in-person event is invite-only, many events throughout the Forum are broadcast digitally and are open for all to watch.

The 2025 schedule and topics have yet to be released. Interested parties can view <https://skoll.org/skoll-world-forum/> for the most up-to-date information about the 2025 Forum.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERING FORUM 2025

WHEN: April 28–May 1, 2025
WHERE: Global
MORE INFO: Open event

Summary: The International Partnering Forum (IPF) is the largest offshore wind and ocean renewables conference in the Americas. IPF is hosted by the Oceanic Network, a non-profit whose mission is to “inform, coordinate, and mobilize human ingenuity, enterprise, and labor to take advantage of the urgent need to tap the vast offshore wind and renewable energy resources that lie in the world’s oceans.”¹⁷

IPF is primarily designed for industry members and leaders to connect and learn from one another about the present and future of offshore wind in the United States and globally. Even for non-industry actors, IPF has emerged as one of the strongest spaces to learn about the offshore wind industry, and its supply chains and workforce.

The 2025 event will center around celebrating offshore wind’s growth, its environmental and social promises, and its path forward. Registration for the Forum is open and can be found here: <https://oceanic.org/oceanic-event/2025-ipf/registration-information/>



WORLD OCEANS DAY

WHEN: June 8, 2025
WHERE: Global
MORE INFO: Action Day

Summary: World Oceans Day is an annual Global Day of Celebration for the ocean, its ecosystems, and the communities it supports. Each year centers around a theme, and in 2025 it is “Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate.” The event is marked by an annual UN event, community actions such as beach cleanups, celebrations from national governments, the release of ocean-related reports, and calls for heightened ocean sustainability action.

The 2024 World Oceans Day centered on the need to uplift the ocean’s remarkably undervalued impact on global decision making. The UN’s hybrid 2024 event brought together over two dozen environmental, scientific, and policy leaders from across the globe to spark wonder about, recognition of, and action for the ocean.

The 2025 theme will focus on the ocean’s overlooked role in solving the climate crisis and the global imperative to protect it from increasing climatic stressors while leveraging its abilities for climate change mitigation. For organizations working for decades to uplift ocean-climate connectivity, the 2025 theme is a testament to the success of this long-term movement and the increasing global recognition that climate action must empower the ocean as our greatest ally.



UN OCEAN CONFERENCE 3

WHEN: June 9–13, 2025
WHERE: Nice, France
MORE INFO: Invite-only Event

Summary: The Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) will be co-hosted by the governments of Costa Rica and France and will focus on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. The conference will bring together governments, UN representatives, international financial institutions, CSOs, academia, the scientific community, Indigenous peoples, and philanthropy to discuss challenges of and opportunities for the implementation of SDG14.¹⁸

The second UN Ocean Conference, hosted in 2022 by the governments of Kenya and Portugal, focused on stocktaking, building partnerships, and developing solutions to safeguard ocean health. Delegates announced over 300 voluntary commitments to reverse the decline in marine biodiversity loss, safeguard ecological integrity, and restore ocean resilience.¹⁹ One of the most prominent commitments was a pledge of at least \$1 billion USD from nine philanthropies to support the creation, expansion, and management of marine protected areas and Indigenous- and locally-governed marine and coastal areas by 2030.²⁰

The 2025 UN Ocean Conference will include sessions focused on ocean food systems, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, sustainable ocean-based economies, coastal community resilience, reducing marine pollution, marine technology, and implementing UNCLOS.²¹



UNOC3 PREPARATORY EVENT: ONE OCEAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

WHEN: June 4–6, 2025
WHERE: Nice, France
MORE INFO: Open Event

Summary: The One Ocean Science Congress (OOS) is a UNOC3 Special Event dedicated to providing heads of state, governments, and broader society with scientific insights on the ocean's current health and future trajectory. The event is hosted by the National Centre for Scientific Research and IFREMER, a French research institute dedicated to enhancing knowledge of the ocean. OOS is expected to attract 2,000 attendees, with a focus on ocean experts and scientists.²²

OOS will explore various scenarios for the ocean, including emerging threats, resilience opportunities, restoration opportunities, and effective public policy and management practices.²³ Thematic priorities will include integrating knowledge systems, transparency in the fisheries sector, ocean-based food systems, plastic pollution, the environmental footprint of maritime transport, and ocean-climate action.²⁴ At the conclusion of the Congress, science-based recommendations will be generated to inform decision making at UNOC3.²⁵

Registration for the One Ocean Science Congress will open on December 12, 2024 for authors of accepted abstracts, and for all other attendees on January 31, 2025. Please see here to register: <https://one-ocean-science-2025.org/attend/registration.html>



UNOC3 PREPARATORY EVENT: BLUE ECONOMY AND FINANCE FORUM

WHEN: June 7–8, 2025
WHERE: Nice, France
MORE INFO: Invite-only Event

Summary: The Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) is a UNOC3 Special Event focused on identifying and mobilizing solutions to promote the blue economy and conserve marine ecosystems. The French Organizing Committee for the UN Ocean Conference 2025, the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation will organize the event.²⁶

The Blue Economy and Finance Forum will convene businesses, banks, insurance companies, philanthropies, and the public sector to share their experiences and consider how to scale action and financing solutions to support sustainable ocean activities.²⁷ Particular attention will be given to at-risk countries and regions. At the conclusion of the Forum, recommendations will be issued to participants in the United Nations Diplomatic Conference, which begins the following day in Nice as part of UNOC 2025.²⁸



GLOBAL TIPPING POINTS CONFERENCE

WHEN: June 30–July 3, 2025
WHERE: Exeter, United Kingdom
MORE INFO: Open Event

Summary: The Global Tipping Points Conference 2025 is the second conference from Global Tipping Points, an organization that unites over 200 researchers and practitioners passionate about environmental tipping points.

The organization primarily focuses on tipping points in Earth’s natural systems, such as climate boundaries that, when surpassed, could lead to runaway warming. However, the group also highlights solution-focused tipping points, such as the point at which the momentum toward electrification becomes unstoppable. The group’s first conference in 2022 “covered the latest developments in both negative and positive tipping points, at scales from local to global, and from theory to practice.”²⁹ The group then followed that conference with a [Global Tipping Points Report](#), published at COP28.

The 2025 conference will provide the latest findings on positive tipping points across natural and human systems, and it will be followed with an update to the Report at COP30. Registration for the event opens January 6, 2025, at <https://global-tipping-points.org/conference-2025/register/>.

Visit Our Shared Seas to track the latest developments in the ocean event calendar:
<https://OurSharedSeas.com/events>

Notes

- 1 <https://oceanecade.org/challenges/>
- 2 <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting-2025/>
- 3 <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting-2024/>
- 4 <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting-2023/sessions/for-a-sustainable-inclusive-ocean/>
- 5 <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/30th-session-of-the-international-seabed-authority-assembly-and-council-part-i/>
- 6 The issue has become so prominent that even popular late-night talk show, *Last Week Tonight With John Oliver*, devoted nearly an entire 30 minute episode to Deep Sea Mining in 2024.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW7CGTK-1vA>
- 7 <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2023/7/9/nauru-prepares-to-mine-deep-seas-in-big-climate-controversy>
- 8 <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/11/very-good-progress-but-nothing-firm-as-deep-sea-mining-rules-are-hashed-out/#:~:text=Instead%2C%20ISA%20members%20agreed%20in,continue%20work%20on%20the%20rules>
- 9 <https://events.economist.com/world-ocean-summit/>
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 <https://ourocean2025.kr/ouroceanconferences/>
- 12 <https://ourocean2025.kr/10thouroceanconference-key/>
- 13 <https://www.ourocean2024.gov.gr/commitments/#:~:text=Since%202014%2C%20the%20Our%20Ocean,involvement%20of%20all%20related%20stakeholders>
- 14 <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/04/annual-ocean-conference-raises-11-3b-in-pledges-for-marine-conservation/>
- 15 <https://www.wri.org/news/release-world-resources-institute-host-new-secretariat-our-ocean-conference#:~:text=Launched%20in%202014%20by%20the,collaborate%20to%20protect%20the%20ocean>
- 16 <https://ourocean2025.kr/areaofaction/>
- 17 <https://oceanic.org/>
- 18 <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/about-unoc-2025>
- 19 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1121802>
- 20 <https://enb.iisd.org/2022-un-ocean-conference-summary>
- 21 <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/2025%20UN%20Ocean%20Programme.pdf>
- 22 <https://one-ocean-science-2025.org/>
- 23 <https://oceanecade.org/news/one-ocean-science-congress-scientific-foundation-for-the-3rd-united-nations-ocean-conference/>
- 24 <https://one-ocean-science-2025.org/programme/themes.html>
- 25 <https://en.ifremer.fr/Latest-news/One-Ocean-Science-Congress-scientific-foundation-for-the-3rd-United-Nations-Ocean-Conference>
- 26 <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/blue-economy-and-finance-forum/>
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 <https://www.fpa2.org/en/news/monaco-will-host-the-blue-economy-and-finance-forum-as-part-of-the-united-nations-ocean-conference-2025-unoc-nice-june-2025-08403>
- 29 <https://conference2022.global-tipping-points.org/>