



A Blue Wave of Ocean Action, Part II

2025 GUIDE TO KEY OCEAN EVENTS
(JULY-DECEMBER)

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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 goals.¹ Against this backdrop, dozens of events in 2025 offer opportunities 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 highlighting the most important ocean events of 2025, handpicked by the OSS team. This year, the calendar is full of high-profile events that we split our series into two publications. The [first edition](#) was published on November 5, 2024, and covered events from January to June of 2025. This second edition covers events set to take place over the latter half of 2025, from July through December.

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 policy proceedings. Dive in for detailed descriptions of these top-line ocean events! For a more complete list of ocean-related events happening in 2025, please visit <https://oursharedseas.com/events/>.

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Key Events



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

WHEN: July 9–12, 2025
WHERE: Bodø, Norway
MORE INFO: [Open Event](#)

Summary: The Marine Protected Areas in Marine Spatial Planning Conference, organized by the MPA Europe Project, will “explore the latest updates and scientific advances in marine biodiversity conservation.”² Marine spatial planning will be the central theme at this first-of-its-kind conference. Plenary sessions will focus on marine biodiversity, blue carbon science, and spatial planning benefits. The conference will include dedicated opportunities for networking and field trips to the Saltstraumen MPA, immersing attendees in the subarctic environment.

Early registration is through April 3rd; registration closes June 5th. Learn more about the conference and register: <https://mpa-europe.eu/international-conference-on-marine-protected-areas-in-marine-spatial-planning/>.



54TH PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM LEADERS MEETING

WHEN: September 8–12, 2025
WHERE: Honiara, Solomon Islands
MORE INFO: [Closed Event](#)

Summary: The annual Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting convenes the foreign ministers of the Forum’s member nations. The purpose of the Forum is to respond collectively to issues within the region, ensuring “peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity” for all Pacific people.³ Key developments from the Forum in 2024, including the induction of Guam and American Samoa, can be found at: <https://forumsec.org/publications/forum-meeting-outcomes-2024-forum-foreign-ministers-meeting-outcomes-document>.

At the 2025 meeting, Fiji and the Forum Secretariat will present a draft of their Ocean of Peace Declaration. The Declaration includes a code of conduct and emphasizes that “fostering peace is essential for behavioral change.”⁴ The Forum has previously recognized the importance of climate change as a threat, but some experts worry that the 2025 agenda and outcomes will be swayed by powerful geopolitical interests and conflicts that could undermine climate change’s centrality in the meeting.⁵ A draft agenda and key topics will likely be available shortly before the meeting. This meeting is closed to the public.



CLIMATE WEEK NEW YORK

WHEN: September 21–28, 2025
WHERE: New York, NY, USA
MORE INFO: [Open Event](#)

Summary: Launched in 2009, the annual Climate Week conference runs in parallel to the United National General Assembly (UNGA) meeting. This event convenes leaders from government, industry, civil society, and activism to build momentum for climate action. Climate Week unites hopeful advocacy for climate action with serious policy discussions.⁶

Following Climate Week 2024, Climate Group, the conference’s host, published a “Global To-Do List” focused on seven action items for all countries to work towards before Climate Week 2025, including: supporting a workforce transition away from coal; increasing renewable energy development and funding; scaling energy efficient systems; and identifying and fining methane leaks.⁷

Climate Week is largely open to the public, with some invite-only sessions. Most events can be live streamed online for free. To register, visit: <https://www.theclimategroup.org/our-work/events/climate-week-nyc-2025>.



13TH WIOMSA SYMPOSIUM

WHEN: September 28–October 3, 2025
WHERE: Mombasa, Kenya
MORE INFO: [Open Event](#)

Summary: The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) Symposium is the foremost scientific gathering on the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). The Symposium aims to showcase emerging scientific knowledge about the WIO, facilitate discussions on marine science challenges, encourage collaboration to foster trans-disciplinary research, and identify research gaps and priorities for effective WIO management.

This year’s theme, *One Ocean, One Future: Connecting People, Policy, and Science for a Thriving Western Indian Ocean*, centers the gathering around sustainable ocean management. Three pillars of work will underpin the theme: 1) science as the foundation for decision-making, 2) policy as a catalyst for regional collaboration, and 3) communities as stewards of sustainability. Registration and Symposium information for this open event can be found at: <https://symposium.wiomsa.org/>.



TOKYO SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD SUMMIT

WHEN: September 30–October 2, 2025
WHERE: Osaka, Japan
MORE INFO: [Open Event](#)

Summary: Since 2015, the annual Tokyo Sustainable Seafood Summit (TSSS) has convened industry, government, the financial sector, and advocacy organizations around the topics of environmental and social responsibility in seafood. The Summit covers topics such as fisheries resource management, blue finance, and fisheries policy at both local and international scales. Based on feedback from prior attendees collected by the Summit facilitators, the Summit’s greatest value is offering the latest information on sustainable seafood worldwide.

The 2025 Summit will be co-hosted by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation. While this year’s events and speakers have yet to be announced, the Summit will undoubtedly continue pushing towards its goal for 2030: “Making sustainable seafood the mainstream in the Japanese seafood market.” Registration and conference details for this open event can be found at: <https://sustainableseafoodnow.com/2024/en/about/>.



IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

WHEN: October 9–15, 2025
WHERE: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
MORE INFO: [Member-Only Event](#)

Summary: The IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together conservation experts, leaders, and decision-makers, and comprises three main components: a Forum for knowledge exchange, an Exhibition of business, partner, and academia booths, and a Members’ Assembly, where IUCN member organizations vote on pressing conservation and sustainable development issues.

This year’s themes will aim to address the urgent timeline of action needed to meet key international 2030 agreements including the Paris Agreement, the UN SDGs, and the Global Biodiversity Framework. The five themes of the Congress will focus on: 1) scaling up resilient conservation action; 2) reducing climate overshoot risks; 3) delivering on equity; 4) transitioning to nature-positive economies and societies; and 5) disruptive innovation and leadership for conservation. Funding flows and financing are key topics under themes 1, 4 and 5.

The Exhibition is the only part of the Congress that is fully open to the public. Registration will open in March of 2025 at: <https://iucncongress2025.org/participate/registration>.



CONSERVATION ALLIANCE FOR SEAFOOD SOLUTIONS (CASS) CONFERENCE

WHEN: October 21–24, 2025
WHERE: Kona, HI, USA
MORE INFO: Open Member-Only Event

Summary: The annual Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (CASS) Conference will convene representatives from NGOs, industry, philanthropy, and academia with a shared interest in upholding responsible seafood production and trade to sustain the ocean’s health. The conference seeks to advance CASS’s long-term goal to “drive improvements in global commercial seafood production’s environmental and social performance.”⁸

The conference will feature keynote presentations, panels, and interactive sessions on emerging trends and current projects across the responsible seafood movement. This year will mark the 15th anniversary of this annual meeting and will feature reflections on progress made within the sustainable seafood movement.

Registration is open to all members of the Alliance Global Hub community. Join their no-cost community at: <https://solutionsforseafood.org/the-global-hub/join-the-global-hub/>.



UNFCCC COP 30

WHEN: November 10–21, 2025
WHERE: Belém, Brazil
MORE INFO: Application Required

Summary: The UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP) is the world’s only multi-lateral decision-making conference on climate change.⁹ Heads of State from UN member countries meet annually at the UNFCCC COP for critical international climate policy negotiations. In previous years, these negotiations have led to keystone agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement and the creation of the Loss and Damage Fund.

Following limited recognition of the oceans at COP 29, momentum may be building for greater ocean inclusion at COP 30. The Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue will host discussions on mitigation and adaptation strategies related to the ocean, and for the first time, countries have been called to include ocean-focused commitments in their 2025 NDCs.¹⁰ Many delegates are calling for further recognition of the ocean as a critical component of climate change policy and view COP 30 as a critical opportunity to secure financial commitments for nations affected by sea level rise and to recognize the ocean as a large nature-based solution. A focus on nature-based solutions is likely to be a defining element of COP 30, along with other prominent themes such as the phase out of fossil fuels, updates on the Global Stocktake towards the 1.5 degree target, the Loss and Damage Fund, and the Global Goal on Adaptation.^{11, 12}



13TH WORLD CONGRESS OF OCEAN

WHEN: November 11–13, 2025
WHERE: Osaka, Japan
MORE INFO: Open Event

Summary: The World Congress of Ocean (WCO) series is considered “one of the most prominent ocean-related events in Asia.”¹³ The convening promotes sustainable ocean use and conservation in Asia, while serving as a platform for business leaders, academic researchers, and government representatives to share knowledge on technology, finance, and policy.¹⁴

This year’s conference has nine key themes: 1) Ocean Economy and Finance, 2) Maritime Law, 3) Coastal and Ocean Engineering, 4) Ocean Energy Development and Utilization, 5) Emerging Ocean Science and Technology, 6) Marine Management and Environmental Protection, 7) Smart Ports, Green Shipping, and Shipbuilding, 8) Marine Biotechnology, and 9) Aquaculture and Fisheries.

Registration is open to all and can be completed online at: <https://www.bitcongress.com/wco2025/registration.asp>.



G20 SUMMIT

WHEN: November 22–23, 2025
WHERE: Johannesburg, South Africa
MORE INFO: Invite-Only Event

Summary: The G20 Summit is an international forum of 19 developing and developed States and the EU which collectively represent 85% of global Gross Domestic Product. Members share the goal of finding “solutions to global economic and financial issues.” As of December 1, 2024, South Africa became the first African country to hold the G20 Presidency, and will host the upcoming annual summit.¹⁵

The Oceans20 engagement group convenes member states, international organizations, and civil society to “strengthen and consolidate the presence of the ocean in the G20.” In 2024, directly prior to the G20 Summit, Oceans20 released a [communiqué](#) that called for the G20 to prioritize ocean stewardship to improve the economy, climate change, and international security. The communiqué, with participant support from 34 countries, placed ocean issues top-of-mind for the convening of the world’s major economic powers.¹⁶ Another urgent call to action is likely to precede this year’s Summit.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY 7 (UNEA-7)

WHEN: December 8–12, 2025
WHERE: Nairobi, Kenya
MORE INFO: Closed Event

Summary: The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the highest decision-making body for environmental issues within the UN system. The Assembly sets the global environmental agenda and writes policy guidance on how to best address new and growing environmental challenges.¹⁷ The theme for this year’s assembly is “advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet.”¹⁸

Like all other UN bodies, the UNEA is responsible for catalyzing progress towards the SDGs, including SDG 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.”¹⁹ This year’s assembly is likely to discuss important draft text of the legally binding instrument on marine litter, following up on the 2022 resolution: “End plastic pollution: Towards an internationally legally binding instrument.”

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

Notes

- 1 <https://oceanecade.org/challenges/>
- 2 <https://mpa-europe.eu/international-conference-on-marine-protected-areas-in-marine-spatial-planning/>
- 3 <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/54th-pacific-islands-leaders-meeting/>
- 4 <https://fijiglobalnews.com/pacific-leaders-unite-for-an-ocean-of-peace-in-2025/>
- 5 <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/pacific/pacific-island-forum-08252024224020.html>
- 6 <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/what-is-climate-week-and-why-should-we-care>
- 7 <https://www.theclimategroup.org/Global-To-Do-List>
- 8 <https://solutionsforseafood.org/about-us/our-goals/>
- 9 <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/2025-un-climate-change-conference-unfccc-cop30/>
- 10 <https://riseupfortheocean.org/cop29-ocean-climate-action-at-a-crossroads/>
- 11 <https://climaesociedade.org/en/changes-in-land-use-account-for-48-of-brazilian-emissions/>
- 12 <https://www.carbonbrief.org/debriefed-29-november-2024-cop29-disappoints-developing-countries-plastics-treaty-talks-brazils-rocky-road-to-cop30/>
- 13 <https://www.bitcongress.com/wco2025/index.asp>
- 14 <https://www.worldconferencealerts.com/conferencedetail/WCA574396/the-12th-annual-world-congress-of-ocean-2024-wco-2024>
- 15 <https://g20.org>
- 16 <https://www.oceans20brasil.org/>
- 17 <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/unea-7/>
- 18 <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea7>
- 19 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14>