

## **Ocean-Climate Action** **Statements of Support**

“Ocean Conservancy applauds Governor Jerry Brown, the state of California, and the international leaders gathered in San Francisco for this watershed moment,” said [Janis Searles Jones](#), CEO of Ocean Conservancy. “We know we need to move more quickly to address climate change, and it is heartening to see these commitments being made, in the absence of federal leadership in the US on this issue. We simply cannot solve the climate crisis without taking into consideration what is big, blue and hiding in plain sight – our ocean. For the first time at a major climate conference, the ocean will be featured prominently. This gives me hope for the future.”

“A thriving, resilient ocean holds the potential to mitigate some of the worst consequences of climate change,” said [Meg Caldwell](#), Deputy Director for Oceans at the Packard Foundation. “While the problems facing our ocean are complex — and the approaches we take to address these threats may differ from place to place — the basic path to creating a better future for our ocean and our climate is clear: Stop the activities that do the most harm and create incentives for the solutions that do the most good for the ocean and people.”

“The ocean is the heart of Earth’s climate system; it plays a central role in regulating our climate and absorbing human-caused greenhouse gas emissions,” said [Julie Packard](#), Executive Director Monterey Bay Aquarium. “Yet for too long it’s been overlooked. Now, for the first time, it’s part of the global climate conversation. Ocean leaders, including the team at Monterey Bay Aquarium, have issued a call to governments, industry and the world’s citizens, outlining what it will take to protect our living ocean. Now is the time to act. The lives of seven and a half billion people depend on it.”

“The Ocean is our most effective buffer against climate change. It gives us half the oxygen we breathe, absorbs most of the heat we generate and captures over a quarter of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere every year. But we’re causing widespread harm to this vital lifeline,” said [Kristian Teleki](#), Director of the [Friends of Ocean](#), an initiative jointly run by the World Economic Forum and World Resources Institute. “Everyone needs a healthy Ocean, no matter where they live, so we must change our ways. The good news is that we have the knowledge, power and technology to do this. We just need to act much quicker, work together and be smarter in our approach.”

“While the oceans make up 70 percent of the globe and are facing some of the planet’s most extreme climate impacts, they are often overlooked in the climate change discussion. But the oceans also hold many solutions,” said [Miriam Goldstein](#), Director of Ocean Policy at [Center of American Progress](#). “This week, at the Global Climate Action Summit, we have the opportunity to explore these solutions. From the creation of marine protected areas, to the restoration of “blue carbon” ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds, to improvements to coastal infrastructure and shipping, the oceans can and should be the basis of a new, blue, low-carbon economy in which we all prosper.”

“Ocean and climate issues are inextricably linked, yet international climate forums have often overlooked the ocean-climate relationship,” said [Gwynne Taraska](#), Senior Fellow at [Climate Advisers](#). “By recognizing the promise of ocean-based climate action, the Global Climate Action Summit is helping to set a precedent for the global climate effort.”

“The ocean is the origin and engine of all life on this planet. Yet as far as humans are concerned, climate change threatens to turn our oceans from ally to foe,” said [Dr. M. Sanjayan](#), CEO of Conservation

International. "We must take advantage of this renewed global interest in oceans and political will in some countries, especially island nations, to massively accelerate protection and effective management of our oceans. This includes integrating the ocean into a sustainable blue economy and harnessing the power of marine ecosystems to help us mitigate and adapt to climate impacts."

"Ocean science can help us to address impacts from climate change, marine pollution, ocean acidification, the loss of marine species and degradation of marine and coastal environments," said [Vladimir Ryabinin](#), Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Assistant Director General of UNESCO. "To curb climate change and achieve sustainable development, good science is needed to inform policies and raise the knowledge bar of all stakeholders."

"California is taking action to protect our invaluable marine ecosystem and the coastal and frontline communities that will bear the brunt of the climate impacts. We are working hand in hand with some of the best scientists in the world to develop solutions that limit the impacts of climate change on the ocean and the communities that depend on it," said [Deborah Halberstadt](#), Executive Director of Ocean Protection Council, Deputy Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Matters, California Natural Resources Agency. "As a demonstration of the State's commitment, this week's Global Climate Action Summit will culminate in two high level sessions that focus specifically on the ocean-climate nexus and will challenge all delegates to commit to global action on ocean-related climate measures."

"Our coasts and ocean are at the center of climate change. Seas are rising, the ocean is acidifying and storms are increasing. With climate change already knocking at the door, it's time for immediate action," said [Stefanie Sekich-Quinn](#), Coastal Preservation Manager of the Surfrider Foundation. "Gone are the days of complacency and inaction. The Global Climate Action Summit offers an incredible opportunity to join global forces and drive collective solutions that protect our ocean and coasts from climate change."

"The ocean is the great engine that regulates our climate and sustains life on earth. For the first time ever, global leaders from all sectors of society have recognized that oceans can and must be part of the solution to combating climate change," said [Lisa Suatoni](#), Senior Scientist, NRDC. "By integrating ocean actions into climate policy we protect our communities and future generations."

"We need our oceans," said [Liz Havstad](#), executive director of Hip Hop Caucus. "Coastal and island communities, are the stakeholders, the experts, the leaders, and the stewards who we must heed when it comes to ocean strategies of climate resiliency and adaptation."

"We need a safe ocean for economic reasons, cultural reasons, and for our children to have a place to grow up in and thrive in," said Mark Magaña, founding president and CEO of GreenLatinos.

"Ambitious actions on climate change have to go with ambitious actions on the ocean," said [Taholo Kami](#), Special Representative for the Ocean Pathway for the COP23 Presidency Secretariat.

"We are all in the same canoe - climate change affects all of us," said [Inia Seruiratu](#), the Fijian Minister for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development, and National Disaster Management. "It is time that we bring everybody in through these partnerships."

"We've done our job on raising awareness of the problems," said [Peter Thomson](#), United Nations special envoy for the ocean. "What we have to move on to now is solutions to the problems we've identified and strategies for implementing those solutions."

“We used to kind of thank our lucky stars that the ocean absorbed all this carbon so that we didn’t grow our concentrations of carbon in the atmosphere as quickly,” [said](#) Michael Northrop, program director for sustainable development at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. “It’s really only in the last 10 years that we’ve started to say, ‘no this is a problem.’ Having concentrations of carbon in the ocean is horrible. It’s cataclysmic. It’s going to be a complete disaster for all of us.”