

Global Ocean Forum
Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean Consultations
June 20 and June 22, 2011
UN Development Programme Headquarters
New York, NY
during the
12th Meeting of the UN Informal Consultative Process
on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP 12)

List of Participants

Liang Fengkui, State Oceanic Administration, China
Linyi Baidal, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations
Elizabeth Kim, Department of State, United States
Michael Kabai, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa
Odecca Gibson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Bahamas
Eden Charles, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations
Travis Bover, Australian Government
Mark Deters, Australian Government
Johannes de Mills, Permanent Mission of Monaco to the United Nations
Carlos Berrozpe, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission
Francois Baillet, UN Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)
Jihyun Lee, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat
Liliana Rodriguez, UN-Nippon Foundation Fellow, Mexico
Philippe Vallette, World Ocean Network/Nausicaa, France
Ann Powers, Center for Environmental Legal Studies, Pace School of Law, Pace University
Harlan Cohen, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
David VanderZwaag, Marine and Environmental Law Institute, Dalhousie University, Canada
Kjartan Hoydal, North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
Matt Gianni, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
Kate Morrison, Sargasso Sea Alliance
Shio Segi, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan
Imen Meliane, The Nature Conservancy
Pablo Suarez, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre
Janot Mendler de Suarez, Working Group on Climate, Ocean and Security, Global Ocean Forum

Global Ocean Forum Secretariat

Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum
Miriam Balgos, Program Coordinator, Global Ocean Forum
Joe Appiott, Policy Researcher, Global Ocean Forum
Gwenaelle Hamon, Research Fellow, Global Ocean Forum
Lauran Potter, Volunteer Coordinator, Global Ocean Forum
Vanessa Knecht, Volunteer Social Media Coordinator, Global Ocean Forum

Purpose of the Meetings

On June 20 and 22, 2011, the Global Ocean Forum hosted informal consultations at the headquarters of the UN Development Programme in New York during the 12th Meeting of the UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (ICP 12) to discuss the launching of the “Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean” and to discuss what is needed to ensure a strong outcome for oceans and coasts at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or the Rio+20 Conference, to be held in June 2012.

On June 8, 2011, World Oceans Day, the Global Ocean Forum launched "Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean", along with an accompanying Friends of the Ocean blog (<http://globaloceanforum.org/>), to take advantage of the important opportunity presented by the Rio+20 Conference to focus increased attention on the most pressing issues related to sustainable development of ocean and coastal areas and to support governments in working towards a significant ocean outcome at the Rio+20 Conference.

The Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean aims to: 1) Support governments participating in the Rio+20 Conference to achieve a significant ocean outcome; 2) Provide a “rallying point” and unified voice for ocean and coasts at the Rio+20 Conference; 3) Provide a multi-stakeholder platform by which the needs, interests, and concerns of all sectors of the ocean community can be voiced in the Rio+20 process, including through critical policy assessments and recommendations, Internet services and information dissemination, consultations, and an Oceans Day at Rio+20 (see Roadmap to Rio+20 at: <http://www.globaloceans.org/content/rio20>); and 4) Raise the global profile of ocean and coastal issues, both within the high-level political community and the general public, on the importance of the world’s oceans and coasts to the three pillars of sustainable development.

Summary of Discussions

Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain of the Global Ocean Forum introduced the concept of the Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean and then asked the various stakeholders, with particular emphasis on the country representatives, what their priorities and preferences were in terms of an oceans outcome at the Rio+20 Conference and what the Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean could do to support the achievement a strong oceans outcome. Many participants highlighted the lack of clarity to date as to what form a potential ocean outcome of the Rio+20 process would take.

There was strong consensus on the need to continue to work towards a coordinated approach to capacity-building and technology transfer in pursuit of the major goals of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It was recognized that there has been some notable progress in capacity building, but that there is still a considerable need to fulfill global commitments in this area.

Participants agreed that the Rio+20 process must include an assessment of progress made on the major ocean-related goals and commitments, the consolidation of commitments, and, most importantly, concrete measures toward effective implementation of Agenda 21 (1992) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002) commitments. The need for a rededication to implement agreed-upon measures, a reassessment of the measures that do not work, and

recognition of the special place of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were identified as priority areas. In addition, participants highlighted the need for a mechanism to ensure that commitments are implemented.

Participants noted the importance of the topic of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which has already emerged as an area of discussion in the Rio+20 process. Some highlighted the opportunity presented by Rio+20 to make progress on building consensus towards the need for a new agreement for issues related to marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, while others noted that the proper fora to address these issues were the UN Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction and the UN General Assembly and that the issue of the need for a new instrument had not been settled. Participants also highlighted the issue of marine debris as an emerging issue on which much consensus exists and that tangible progress could be made at the Rio+20 process.

Discussions also focused on modalities for focusing political attention on ocean issues at the Rio+20 Conference, including the organization of a high-level event and an exhibition on the importance of ocean and coastal resources. Dr. Cicin-Sain discussed the organization of the Oceans Day at Rio+20, which will feed into the formal process and would, ideally, be government-led to ensure that the recommendations emanating from the discussions be inputted into the official negotiating process. Participants noted the need for high-level engagement but that the Conference should also centrally emphasize the importance of all the stakeholders in advancing the global ocean agenda. Also discussed was the need to more effectively engage the private sector and the general public through targeted and tailored outreach efforts.

Participants supported the creation of the Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean, noting the great opportunity presented by this initiative to mobilize stakeholders in all sectors and catalyze action towards achieving a strong outcome on oceans and coasts at the Rio+20 Conference.