



Protecting the ocean we need -
Securing the future we want
#OneOceanOnePlanet



HSA Newsletter

We are at a critical juncture of the BBNJ negotiations

After a successful first Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to begin formal negotiations on a new international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), the second session of formal treaty negotiations will take place at UN headquarters in New York City from 25 March - 5 April.

After a commitment by the President of the Conference, Ambassador Rena Lee of Singapore, at the conclusion of IGC1 to release text to aid the negotiations, President Lee disseminated the [President's Aid to Negotiations](#) in early February 2019 and we congratulate the President for delivering a comprehensive options-based text that will be the focus of the next round of negotiations.

The High Seas Alliance has been working intensely with Alliance members, stakeholders, experts and delegations in preparation to ensure a productive IGC2 that we hope will lead the way to draft treaty text by IGC3. HSA has developed [its recommendations](#) with respect to the Aid to Negotiations, and a briefing on [Strategic Environmental Assessments](#) (SEAs) that outlines our recommendations on how to incorporate SEAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction under the new instrument.

Lastly, to follow the progress of the negotiations, please check out the High Seas Alliance's [Treaty Tracker](#) which is a web-based application that will provide updates on the IGC negotiations, as well as experts' perspectives on key elements.

At the conclusion of IGC2, we will be at a critical juncture - the midpoint of negotiations, with a mere 4 weeks of negotiating time remaining to bring the BBNJ treaty to fruition. This is a once in a generation opportunity to turn the tide, not just for the ocean but for the planet, and the clock is ticking. . . let's come to IGC2 prepared to rise to the challenge.

One Ocean, One Planet, One Treaty

Visit us online here at highseasalliance.org



Introducing the high seas' lord of the sky

In a public vote, the albatross was selected to represent the importance of high seas biodiversity at these negotiations.

This amazing creature is dependent on the ocean for its survival. Please protect its high seas home through a strong and robust treaty.



HSA Science Tours in Lima and Bogotá

In late February, Foreign Affairs Peru, Foreign Affairs Colombia and HSA members (AIDA, MarViva Foundation, Global Fishing Watch, IUCN, and the Pew Charitable Trusts, among others) organized the Science Tour "*Towards the Negotiation of a New Instrument for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.*"

Government officials as well as civil society representatives from NGOs and academia attended the meetings held in Lima on February 25th, and in Bogotá on February 27th, with the view to strengthen national capacities, improve coordination among relevant actors, and enhance discussions on the future BBNJ Treaty. [Read more.](#)



Greenpeace to launch new report: "30x30: Blueprint for Ocean Protection"

Greenpeace is urging governments at the UN to create a strong Global Ocean Treaty which could pave the way for the protection

of at least 30% of the world's oceans by 2030 via a network of ocean sanctuaries. Over the next 12 months, Greenpeace will sail from the Arctic to Antarctic, undertaking ground-breaking research and investigations, and using what we find to inspire millions around the world to join us in supporting healthy oceans and a strong Global Ocean Treaty by 2020. [Read more.](#)



Global Affairs
Canada
Affaires mondiales
Canada

Ottawa Workshop: "The Role of Science and a Scientific Body Under the New Instrument"

As negotiations for a historic high seas ocean treaty continues, the High Seas Alliance members have been organizing a number of meetings and events with governments and regional groups to discuss what a new high seas treaty might include.

Recently, on February 5-6, Global Affairs Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the High Seas Alliance and Pew Charitable Trusts organized a workshop that focused on the role of science and the new instrument. [Read more.](#)



BBNJ IGC2 SIDE EVENT
Monday, April 1, 2019 1:15pm to 2:45pm
Conference Room 4

The Role of Science and a Scientific Body Under the New Instrument

Hosted by: The Government of Canada, High Seas Alliance, The Pew Charitable Trusts and DOSI

Moderator: Mr. Alain Tellier, Director, Oceans and Environmental Law, Global Affairs Canada

Speakers: Dr. Paul Snelgrove, Associate Scientific Director, Ocean Frontier Institute; Ms. Kristina Gjerde, Senior High Seas Advisor, IUCN; Dr. Harriet Hardin Davies, University of Wollongong and DOSI; and Ghazali Ohorella, International Indigenous Rights Advisor for Alifuru Council and International Indian Treaty Council

This side event will highlight information presented at a recent workshop, which explored:
(i) science functions that may be needed for each of the four main elements of the Instrument; (ii) what already exists to support carrying out those functions; and (iii) gaps that need to be addressed. Some of the questions to be considered include whether the establishment of a new science body is needed under the BBNJ Agreement, and if so, how it could be structured to cover needs under the Instrument.

Lunch will be provided.

HSA Member Side Events: IGC 2

Thursday, 28 March, *Mare Geneticum and an Ecosystem Approach: Power, Openness and Sharing* - IUCN, Conference Room 12, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Monday, 1 April, *The Role of Science and a Scientific Body Under the New Instrument* - The High Seas Alliance & Canada, Conference Room 4, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Friday, 29 March, *Planning and enforcement of the high seas area-based management tools* - The Nature Conservancy, Conference Room 12, 1:15 PM - 2:30PM

Thursday, 4 April, 30X30: A Blueprint for Ocean Protection - and how the global ocean treaty can deliver that - Greenpeace, Conference Room 4, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Upcoming Meetings and Events

2019

2-3 May	Informal Consultations of State Parties to UN Fish Stocks Agreement, UNHQ
20 May	Global Pact for the Environment Meeting, Nairobi
22 May	International Day of Biodiversity
8 June	World Ocean Day
10-14 June	Informal Consultative Process on Law of the Sea, UNHQ
17-19 June	Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS, UNHQ
29-30 July	Regular Process for Global Report and Assessment, UNHQ
19-30 August	Third Session of Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ, UNHQ

Recent Reports and Studies

A. Friedman. [Beyond "not undermining": Possibilities for global cooperation to improve environmental protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction](#), Journal of Marine Science, 2019.

E. Popova et al. [Ecological connectivity between the areas beyond national jurisdiction and coastal waters: Safeguarding interests of coastal communities in developing countries](#), Marine Policy, 2019

H. Muraki Gottlieb et al. [Area Based Management Tools, Including Marine Protected Areas in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction](#), IUCN, 2018

R. Warner. [Oceans in Transition: Incorporating climate change impacts into environmental impact assessment for marine areas beyond national jurisdiction](#), Ecology Law Quarterly, 2018.

Welcome to our newest High Seas Alliance Members

We would like to officially welcome [Oceans North](#) and [Greenovation Hub](#) as the two newest members to join the High Seas Alliance. Oceans North is a Canadian-based NGO that partners with communities and indigenous organizations that advocate for a healthy ocean, where human needs can be met in step with the preservation of biological abundance. Greenovation Hub is a Chinese-based NGO that promotes the development and implementation of sound climate and environmental friendly policies through conducting in-depth analysis and research, and fostering dialogues among stakeholders, in order to drive China's green transition towards a sustainable, equitable and climate resilient future, contributing to the reduction of global ecological footprint

The HSA is comprised of 40+ non-governmental partner organizations and the IUCN who are actively working together to strengthen ocean governance and promote robust protection for marine life in the high seas.



The High Seas Alliance is fiscally sponsored by The Ocean Foundation.

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