



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



HSA Newsletter

## Let the formal negotiations begin . . . .

This is a pivotal time for our ocean. Following over a decade of discussions at the United Nations (UN), on December 24th, 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted [Resolution 72/249](#) to convene an intergovernmental conference (IGC) and begin formal negotiations on a new international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). The resolution was adopted by consensus with broad support from 141 government co-sponsors. There will be four IGC sessions in total with the first IGC session convening from 4-17 September 2018, two additional meetings in 2019 and the final IGC session scheduled for the first half of 2020.

The High Seas Alliance welcomes Ms. Rena Lee, Ambassador for Oceans and Law of the Seas Issues and Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs Singapore, as the IGC Conference President, who was elected at [the organizational meeting for the IGC](#) held at UN headquarters in New York City from 16-18 April 2018. At the organizational meeting, delegates agreed to address the four elements of the 2011 BBNJ “package” at IGC 1. The elements include area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (MPAs), environmental impact assessments (EIAs), marine genetic resources including questions on the sharing of benefits, and capacity building and the transfer of marine technology.

To aid discussions at throughout the IGC, the High Seas Alliance has developed four briefing documents that outline recommendations for several elements that will be addressed during the negotiations. The four briefing documents are:

- Recommendations for [Institutional Arrangements](#);
- Recommendations on [Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\) and Marine Reserves](#);
- Recommendations on [Environmental Impact Assessments](#); and,
- Recommendations for [cross-cutting issues under the new international legally binding instrument](#).

To follow the negotiations and view updates from IGC 1, stay tuned for the release of the High Seas Alliance Treaty Tracker which is a web-based application that will be launched after the first week of IGC

negotiations, and will allow you to find summaries of the statements made by stakeholders at the IGC meetings on key issues, as well as provide our daily summaries and expert's perspectives on progress throughout the IGC meetings.

Lastly, the High Seas Alliance will be co-hosting a side event at IGC 1 with the Seychelles, IDDRI and Global Fishing Watch entitled *The Role of Technology and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in Marine Conservation and Management*. This side event will provide an opportunity to hear about existing and possible future technological tools for MCS in the high seas, as well as how a new international agreement could contribute to the implementation of technological tools and development of an effective global MSC framework for the high seas. The side event will take place at the UN on Tuesday, September 11 in Conference Room 7 and we hope you can join us.

As we embark on formal negotiations for a new treaty, we have the opportunity to bring real protection to two-thirds of the ocean. This is a once in a generation opportunity to turn the tide, not just for the ocean but for the planet, and High Seas Alliance members are looking forward to having fruitful discussions with delegates at IGC 1.

One Ocean, One Planet, One Treaty

Visit us online here at [highseasalliance.org](https://highseasalliance.org)



### Welcome to our newest High Seas Alliance Members

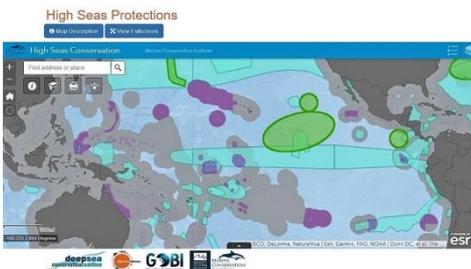
We would like to officially welcome the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Conservation International, Earth Law Centre, Global Fishing Watch and the Turkish Marine Research Foundation as the newest members of the High Seas Alliance (HSA). The HSA is comprised of over 40 non-governmental partner organizations and the IUCN who are actively working together to strengthen ocean governance, and promote robust protection for marine life in the high seas.



## BBNJ Discussion in the South American Region

In recognition that well-informed participation in the upcoming BBNJ intergovernmental conference (IGC) will be critical for the advancement of the negotiations, States and regional groups have been dedicating time and resources in preparing their national positions and participating in various forums to share expertise and address common interests.

Recently, on August 8-9, Foreign Affairs Chile, the Pew Charitable Trusts and MarViva Foundation organized the workshop "*Towards the Negotiation of a New Instrument for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.*" [Read more.](#)



## Marine Conservation Institute tracks VMEs and other high seas protection measures

Marine Conservation Institute (MCI) continues its support of a strong UN treaty that will create lasting protections for high seas biodiversity, through its research, mapping and communications. By using its expertise in Geographic Information Systems and mapping, MCI's scientists identify the locations of indicator species, mainly cold-water corals and sponges, that can be used to establish protections for Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and protect the high seas. [Read more.](#)



## The political challenges of describing EBSAs

The technical and scientific subsidiary body of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or otherwise known as SBSTTA, met in July, in Canada, to discuss a pathway to review existing and describe new marine areas of ecological and biological significance and to recommend on ways to improve scientific credibility and transparency of the process.

Since formally setting a process to map areas of significant marine ecological and biological values (known as EBSAs - Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas), in 2008, the CBD as described 319 areas across the globe to date. Originally intended for the description of EBSAs in the high seas, some countries opted to extend the exercise to jurisdictional waters. [Read more.](#)



## Summary from 24th Session of the International Seabed Authority

In The 24th Session on the International Seabed Authority (ISA) took place from 5-9 March (the Council), and 16-26 July 2018 (Council and Assembly) in Kingston, Jamaica. The main topics for the Council (the 36 members elected by the Assembly representing different interest groups), plus observers were the draft regulations on deep seabed mining, models for financial payment system, issues of non-compliance of contractors, and possible operationalization of the Enterprise. The Assembly, the body representing all UNCLOS States Parties, considered a strategic plan for 2019-2023, the Secretary General's Annual report, and the proposed budget. [Read more.](#)

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

#### 2018

4-17 September	Intergovernmental Conference 1, UNHQ NYC
19-21 September	G7/G8 Environment Ministers Meeting, Halifax
29-30 October	Our Ocean Conference, Bali Indonesia
17-29 November to the Egypt	Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Convention on Biological Diversity, Sharm El-Sheikh

### Recent Reports and Studies

[Deep Seabed Mining: a rising environmental challenge, IUCN, 2018](#)

[High seas fisheries play a negligible role in addressing global food security, Science Advances, 2018](#)

[Marine Spatial Planning in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, IDDRI, June 2018](#)



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

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