



PUDUCHERRY ENVIS HUB

Host Centre: Puducherry Pollution Control Committee
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World Ocean Day, 2021

8th
June

Theme:

The Ocean: Life & Livelihoods



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ENVIS HUB - Puducherry



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ENVIS Puducherry



What is World Ocean Day?

The United Nations celebrates World Ocean Day every year on 8 June. Many countries have celebrated this special day since 1992, following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro.

World Oceans Day is 8th June

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided that, as of 2009, 8th June would be designated by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day".

...for all generations

On this Day, we have an opportunity to raise global awareness of the benefits humankind derives from the ocean and our individual and collective duty to use its resources sustainably. Future generations will also depend on the oceans for their livelihoods.

...for all people

Civil society, science centers, research institutions, NGOs, businesses in the private and financial sector, communities and governments all around the world mobilize millions of people around local and global events.

...and for the planet

Together with the United Nations and our partner, we celebrate all that the ocean gives us every day: from the oxygen we breathe to the inspiration that moves our poets.

The Ocean: Life and livelihoods

The ocean covers over 70% of the planet. It is our life source, supporting humanity's sustenance and that of every other organism on earth.

The ocean produces at least 50% of the planet's oxygen, it is home to most of earth's biodiversity, and is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world. Not to mention, the ocean is key to our economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

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Even though all its benefits, the ocean is now in need of support.

With 90% of big fish populations depleted, and 50% of coral reefs destroyed, we are taking more from the ocean than can be replenished. To protect and preserve the ocean and all it sustains, we must create a new balance, rooted in true understanding of the ocean and how humanity relates to it. We must build a connection to the ocean that is inclusive, innovative, and informed by lessons from the past.

"The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods" is the theme for World Oceans Day 2021, as well as a declaration of intentions that launches a decade of challenges to get the Sustainable Development Goal 14, "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources", by 2030.



The Importance of our Oceans

One of the main aims of the day is to remind people of the important role the ocean plays in our lives. Life began in the ocean. And the ocean is home to the majority of plants and animals on Earth, from single-cell organisms to the blue whale. Marine plants provide us with 70 per cent of the oxygen we breathe. The ocean controls the climate, providing heat in winter and cool air in summer. It also provides us with food and medicines as well as transport. No matter where you live on the planet, no matter how far from the sea, your life is dependent on the ocean.



The problems facing our oceans

The most urgent problem facing the ocean at the moment is plastic pollution. Reducing one-use plastic, including plastic bags and plastic bottles, has been an important theme for World Oceans Day for a number of years. Climate change and rising sea temperatures are also a huge problem. Rising sea temperatures have a direct influence on weather patterns and are seen as partly responsible for an increase in extreme weather conditions. An increase in carbon dioxide is increasing the acid levels of seawater and putting many marine organisms at risk.



What we can do to help?

On World Oceans Day, wear blue, go on a march, find a beach or river clean-up near you, organise a local event, print a poster and put it in your window, or use the hashtag #worldoceansday on social media. There are so many things you can do on 8 June to join in the celebrations, to remind people about the importance of the ocean in our lives and to make a difference!



Sustains us

The ocean provides oxygen, food and medicine. It's the source of recreation, discovery, identity and culture.

- More than 3 billion people rely on food from the ocean as a source of protein and nutrition.

Stabilises the climate

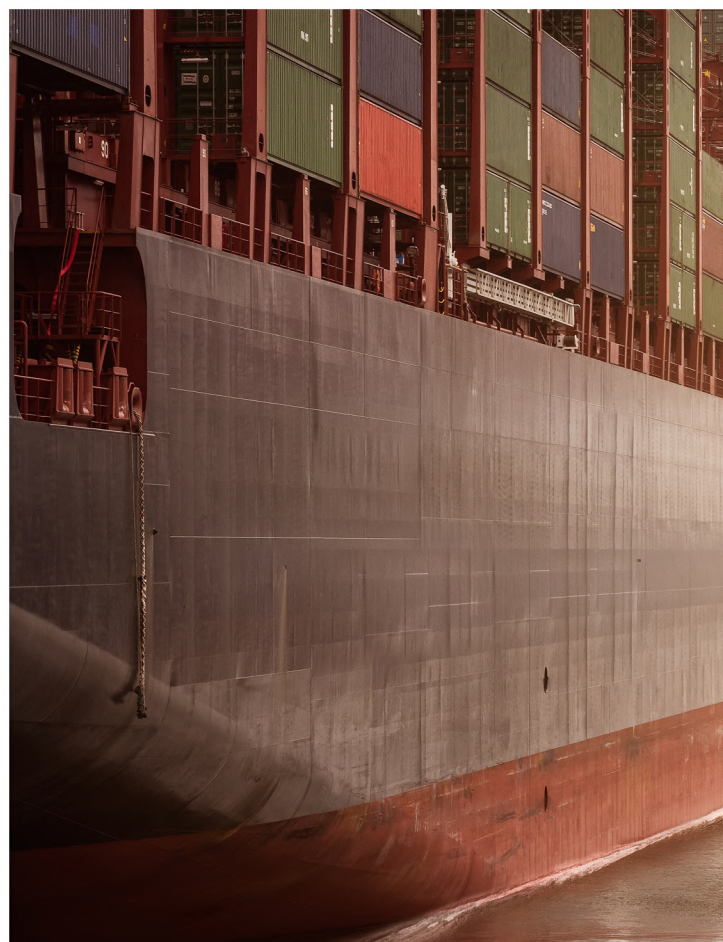
It absorbs carbon dioxide and heat.

- The ocean absorbs 93% of heat caused by human activity globally.
- About 25% of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from human activities are absorbed by the ocean.

Leads to greater prosperity

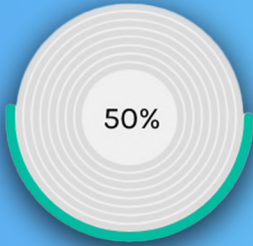
The ocean is an engine of livelihoods, transport, commerce, and energy production.

- A healthy ocean contributes \$1.5 trillion to the global economy annually and has an estimated net asset value of \$24 trillion.
- The ocean is the source of millions of jobs in fishing, tourism, transportation, and it powers economic growth.



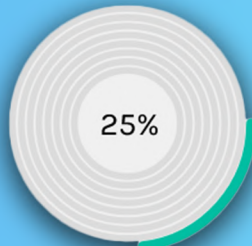
Key Facts About the Ocean

Generates



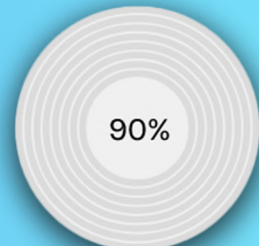
of the Earth's oxygen

Absorbs



of all CO2 emissions

Captures



of the additional heat generated from those emissions

Covers 70%



of the Earth's surface

Largest



biosphere on the Planet

Home to 50-80%



of all life on Earth

Challenges and Threats

Our ocean is in trouble. Once considered vast and inexhaustible, today it faces threats and limits to growth that were not even imagined a decade ago.

Current trends threaten both the environmental health and the economic vitality of the ocean. Overfishing, marine pollution, acidification and rising ocean temperatures are negatively impacting important industries including fishing and tourism, as well as the ability of coastal communities to thrive, and small island and developing states to sustainably develop.

- Fishing has become the number one driver of extinction risk for marine vertebrates (excluding birds). If overfishing continues, annual yield is projected to fall by around 16 percent by 2050, threatening global food security.
- The biodiversity of the open ocean declined by up to 50 percent over the past 50 years.
- Acidification and ocean warming are causing widespread death of coral reefs. Moreover, unabated climate change could cause coral reef tourism revenue losses of over 90%, while some West African countries are forecast to see fish stocks decline by 85%.
- Without action, the annual flow of plastic into the ocean will nearly triple by 2040, to 29 million metric tons per year.

How to protect and restore our oceans for future generations.

1. Demand plastic-free alternatives

- The oceans face a massive and growing threat from plastics. An estimated 17.6 billion pounds of plastic leaks into the marine environment from land-based sources every year—that's roughly equivalent to dumping a garbage truck full of plastic into our oceans every minute. And plastics never go away!
- We must urge companies to provide consumers with plastic-free alternatives and say no to single use plastics such as straws, plastic cutlery, coffee cups, water bottles, plastic bags, balloons, plastic-wrapped produce and take-out food containers.

2. Reduce your carbon footprint

- Ride a bike, walk or use public transportation rather than driving a car.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Put on a sweater in the winter instead of turning up your thermostat.
- Have some fun with your diet – buy sustainably caught wild seafood. It is a renewable resource that requires minimal freshwater to produce and emits less carbon dioxide than land-based proteins like beef.

3. Avoid ocean-harming products

There are many products directly linked to harming endangered or threatened species, unsustainable fishing methods and pollution. For example, avoid cosmetics that contain shark squalene, jewelry made of coral or sea turtle shell, souvenir shells of conchs, nautilus and other animals, and single-use plastics like straws and water bottles that can end up in our oceans. These products support unsustainable fishing and threaten important species and ecosystems.

4. Eat sustainable seafood

- Choose seafood that is healthy for you and the oceans from well-managed, wild fisheries.
- Consider adding small, oily fish that are packed with protein to your diet.

5. Leave nothing behind

As beach crowds increase, so does the amount of trash left behind or blown away. Don't let your day outside contribute to the destruction of our oceans. Remember to leave nothing behind but your footprints – collect and dispose of your trash.

6. Share your ocean heroics with friends, family and coworkers

Tell people what's going on with the world's oceans and what they can do to join you in making a difference. Spread the word about petitions, share fun facts and join the conversation with us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.