

WORLD OCEAN SUMMIT

March 7th–9th
2018

Mexico



World Ocean Summit 2018 *Delivery and accountability*

Fairmont Mayakoba, Riviera Maya, Mexico • March 7th-9th 2018

The ocean is in trouble. Across the world, humans have effected dramatic change upon the seas. One thing is certain: our current course is unsustainable. Yet the ocean remains a vital resource with the potential to generate enormous economic growth. Balancing human activity with the long-term health of the ocean is essential.

The last year has been a decisive one for the ocean. In June the United Nations held its first conference on the ocean to discuss the implementation of an ocean-specific sustainable development goal. The COP23 climate change meeting presented an opportunity to usher in swifter and more ambitious action than we have seen so far. Companies, governments and individuals have made commitments to the ocean—many of which were unveiled at the World Ocean Summit 2017.

If 2017 was the year of big promises, 2018 must be about delivery. The World Ocean Summit, the most diverse and important global gathering on the ocean, will bring together political leaders and policymakers, heads of global business, scientists, NGOs and multilaterals for a frank and future-oriented discussion on how to turn these pledges into reality. Which initiatives have borne fruit, and which require reassessment? How can government and industry turn pledges into reality?

Since 2012 the World Ocean Summit has sought to focus the sometimes divergent perspectives of business, government and civil society on how we use our troubled seas. In 2018 the World Ocean Summit will expand into a wider, more ambitious World Ocean Initiative. Its vision will be of an ocean in robust health and with a vital economy; its goal to accelerate the transition to sustainable use of the ocean.

Conference chair

Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief, **The Economist**

Moderators

Charles Goddard, executive director, **World Ocean Summit**

Daniel Franklin, executive editor, **The Economist**

Fiona Mackie, regional manager for Latin America, **The Economist Intelligence Unit**

Andrew Palmer, business editor, **The Economist**

Jan Piotrowski, sustainability editor, **The Economist**

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CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

Government:

Luis Guillermo Solís, president, **Costa Rica**

Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, president, **Iceland**

Enrique Peña Nieto, president, **Mexico**

Erna Solberg, prime minister, **Norway** (via live video)

Vidar Helgesen, minister of climate and environment, **Norway**

Eneida De León, minister of housing, territorial planning and environment, **Uruguay**

Adisorn Promthep, director general of fisheries, **Thailand**

Arif Havas Oegroseno, deputy coordinating minister of maritime affairs, **Indonesia**

Business:

Dagmar Nelissen, senior researcher and consultant, **CE Delft**

Geir Molvik, chief executive officer, **Cermaq**

Michael Eckhart, managing director and global head of environmental finance,
Citigroup

Werner Hoyer, president, **European Investment Bank**

Jonathan Taylor, vice-president, **European Investment Bank**

Julie Katzman, executive vice-president, **Inter-American Development Bank**

Matthew Arnold, managing director and global head of sustainable finance,
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Gary Gysin, chief executive officer, **Liquid Robotics, A Boeing Company**

Alf-Helge Aarskog, chief executive officer, **Marine Harvest**

Claus Fuglsang, senior vice-president, research and technology, **Novozymes**

Francisco Saraiva Gomes, chief executive officer, **Pontos Aqua Holdings**

Rolando Morillo, vice-president, sustainability and impact group, **Rockefeller & Co**

Martyn Parker, chairman, global partnership, **Swiss Re**

Darian McBain, global director of sustainable development, **Thai Union**

Richard Branson, founder, **Virgin Group** (via live video)

John Haley, chief executive officer, **Willis Towers Watson**

Paul Jardine, executive vice-president and chief experience officer, **XL Catlin**

Rana Kapoor, managing director and chief executive officer, **YES BANK**

Academia:

Beth Christensen, professor and director of environmental studies programme,

Adelphi University

Timothy Gordon, marine biologist, **University of Exeter**

Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director, Global Change Institute, **University of Queensland**

Roz Savage, senior fellow, Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, **Yale University**

Other categories:

Sam Teicher, founder, **Coral Vita**

Sylvia Earle, president and chairman, **Mission Blue**

Alexandra Cousteau, senior advisor, **Oceana**

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Carter Ries and Olivia Ries, co-founders, **One More Generation**

Peter Thomson, special envoy for the ocean, **United Nations**

Lisa Emelia Svensson, director for ocean, **United Nations Environment**

Vladimir Ryabinin, assistant director-general, **UNESCO**

Paula Caballero, global director, climate programme, **World Resources Institute**

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Day 1: March 7th 2018

11:00am **Conference registration**

1.30pm **Welcome remarks**

Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief, **The Economist**

1.45pm **Ocean science that's fit for purpose**

It seems barely a week goes by without a new scientific study on the ocean. Yet spending on ocean science remains a fraction of overall science spending, and far short of what is needed. This is true for pure science—building our knowledge of complex ocean ecosystems—as much as for applied science, which provides evidence for decisions about how to use the ocean sustainably. New information networks and data-sharing platforms, AI and big data, and new ocean observation technologies are potentially transformative. But more ocean science is urgently needed—and it must be paid for.

Panelists:

Beth Christensen, professor and director of environmental studies programme, **Adelphi University**

Vladimir Ryabinin, deputy director-general, **UNESCO**

2.25pm **Spotlight on science: Big data, machine learning and the science of being understood**

The latest thinking on the state of the ocean, and the ocean science we can look forward to in 2018 and beyond, including tipping points and planetary boundaries, and the impact of changes in the cryosphere.

Big data, machine learning, innovative computational analysis: new tools and methods are helping unlock our understanding of complex ocean systems, potentially transforming ocean science. Sharing and translating these advances, particularly with policymakers, will require creativity too.

3:10pm *During the Summit we will highlight exciting new science and technology in our ocean future series.*

The ocean future series: A preview of some of the most exciting new technology that will reshape the ocean economy. We pit entrepreneurs against investors and big business to test which tech will

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stand the test of time, and attract the capital needed for scale-up.

Speakers:

Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director, Global Change Institute, **University of Queensland**

3.20pm **Networking break**

3.50pm **Blue economy clusters**

Blue economy clusters have emerged as a strong mechanism for the maritime sector to work together on sustainability, combining expertise, and building connections between science, education and business. These clusters show particular promise in promoting innovation opportunities for new technology in the ocean. But how can we bring this concept to new regions and promote the resulting innovations?

4.30pm **News from the Asamblea**

This session will summarise the outcomes from discussions run in parallel with the World Ocean Summit. The Asamblea, as it is known, is a recently established high-level forum for Latin American countries to consider public financing for a sustainable ocean economy.

5.00pm **Close**

Day 1: March 7th 2018 (cont.)

6:30pm **Opening cocktail reception**

8:00pm **Moonlight cinema: The Economist Films**

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Day 2: March 8th 2018

Setting the agenda

A broad, bold exploration of the 2018 ocean agenda

8.00am **Networking coffee**

9.00am **Welcome remarks**

Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief, **The Economist**

9.15am **Welcome from the host government**

José Calzada Rovirosa, minister of agriculture, **government of Mexico**

9.30am **Ministers' panel: The policy agenda**

Finance ministries and ministers have a special and as yet unrealised role in articulating the shape and nature of the sustainable ocean economy. National ocean policy is difficult to conceive, much less to implement, unless it is an integral part of a strategic national economic vision, and unless it has well formulated economic rationale. How are policymakers approaching this challenge?

Speakers:

Eneida De León, minister of housing, territorial planning and environment, **Uruguay**

10:15am **Public financing for the sustainable ocean economy**

The economic rationale for a sustainable ocean is well understood, and yet not comprehensively implemented. Public finance institutions, particularly ministries, are instrumental in determining how governments spend their capital, but they are often absent from many of the conversations about the blue economy. How do we increase public financing for the ocean economy, while ensuring that the linkages between finance ministries, and the ministries in charge of natural resources, are robust and clear?

Speakers:

Werner Hoyer, president, **European Investment Bank**

Julie Katzman, executive vice-president, **Inter-American Development Bank**

11:00am **Networking break**

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11.30am **Keynote interview**

Richard Branson, founder, **Virgin Group**

12.00pm **Presidential interview: Mexico's ocean economy**

Enrique Peña Nieto, president, **Mexico**

12.30pm **Networking lunch**

2.30pm **Afternoon slipstreams**

Delegates will be able to choose between focused workshops on three crucial issues facing the ocean.

Workshop one: Sustainable fishing

2.30pm **Panel discussion: Selling sustainable seafood**

A small group of forward-thinking retailers are leading the way on sourcing sustainable seafood. More are considering the move—at an Economist Events Roundtable in January 2017 retailers from Mexico and South American countries explored how best to advance sustainable seafood in these markets. But how to broaden and scale up the change?

3.15pm **Panel discussion: The investment conundrum**

Forging a path to sustainable fisheries, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and finding the investment needed, has involved great effort by foundations, NGOs, development institutions and impact investors. Although banks in Australia, for example, routinely invest in fisheries, scaling up investments in sustainable fisheries in countries as diverse as Mexico and Indonesia continues to prove difficult, despite several successful pilot strategies and projects. Taking stock, we ask which approaches work best, and whether others should also be considered?

Speakers:

Alf-Helge Aarskog, chief executive officer, **Marine Harvest**

Darian McBain, global director of sustainable development, **Thai Union**

Geir Molvik, chief executive officer, **Cermaq**

4.00pm **Networking break**

4.30pm **Presentation and panel discussion: New fisheries guidelines—how**

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useful are they?

At the 2016 World Ocean Summit, a group of foundations, NGOs and impact investors agreed to create guidelines for investing in sustainable fisheries. With a dearth of investment-worthy projects, will these help to frame the opportunity?

5pm

Close

Workshop two: Plastics and pollution

2.30pm

Panel discussion: Moving to a circular economy—how does the private sector do this?

Converting the material economy to a closed-loop circular model is no simple task, and is heavily dependent on the private sector changing its approach to the plastics value chain. Most is disposable single-use plastic used in packaging, and this is an area in which the private sector is starting to change business models.

Yet questions on implementation abound. How is the private sector beginning to examine business practice related to plastic waste? Are incremental shifts to closed-loop systems commercially viable for individual businesses, or is there a collective action problem that requires help from civil society or government? Separately, are there viable alternatives to plastic that can make the circular economy transition easier, and how can corporations innovate packaging to reduce consumption while remaining competitive?

3.15pm

Understanding plastic flows—how much plastic are you using?

A first step to driving change is understanding exactly what your supply chain is doing, what your footprint is and where your vulnerabilities lie. A United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report kicked off a conversation on the natural capital cost of plastic, and the resulting company and investor exposure to environmental impact, but how can companies determine their own exposure to environmental risk in their supply chains? And what, then, could we do with such information?

4.00pm

Networking break

4.30pm

Urban waste management to stem plastic flowing into the ocean

Cities and urban areas on ten of the world's rivers contribute 90% of the plastic waste entering the ocean. Addressing waste management in these cities to cut down waste plastic flows therefore seems to be an

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obvious preventative measure. Yet many of these urban areas are cash-strapped and lacking the public financing to build sanitary landfills or recycling facilities. How can we encourage the required financing for municipalities to build appropriate waste-management systems? And how much money would it cost to implement such a strategy across ten of these rivers?

5.00pm **Close**

Workshop three: Climate change

2.30pm **Nationally determined contributions (NDCs)**

3.15pm **The 50 Reefs Initiative**

Coral reefs represent a tiny fraction of the global ocean, yet support 25% of all marine life. They provide billions of dollars per year in value to humanity through food provision, tourism and ecosystem services. They are also among the most climate-sensitive ecosystems on the planet. It is estimated that approximately 90% of the world's reefs will die as a result of climate change over the next 50 years, regardless of whether Paris Agreement targets are met.

Although the majority of the world's reefs will disappear, the 50 Reefs Initiative is working to save the most resilient, the most valuable and the most diverse reefs, and use these as seed banks for future repopulation. However, important questions remain unanswered: does this initiative will draw necessary focus away from less important reefs? Who decides which reefs are the most critical and, crucially, how to finance these protective efforts?

Speakers:

Daria Siciliano, lead scientist, **the Ocean Foundation**; researcher, **the University of California Santa Cruz**

4.00pm **Networking break**

4.30pm **Reef insurance, anyone?**

A section of the Mesoamerican Reef, along with a beach on Mexico's Yucatán peninsula is soon to be insured for the natural protection it provides communities and economies from the impact of storms, which are increasingly frequent, as a result of climate change. The insurance and hospitality sectors have come together with government, scientists and civil society to make this happen. Insuring a natural asset for its protective, biodiversity and tourism services is innovative, and potentially lucrative. But how and where can this be done? And is it

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scalable?

Speakers:

Sam Teicher, founder, **Coral Vita**

Martyn Parker, chairman, global partnership, **Swiss Re**

John Haley, chief executive officer, **Willis Towers Watson**

Paul Jardine, executive vice-president and chief experience officer, **XL
Catlin**

5.00pm

Close

Day 2: March 8th 2018 (cont.)

Gala dinner

6:30pm

Networking cocktails

7:30pm

Gala dinner: Welcome remarks

Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief, **The Economist**

7:40pm

Keynote interview: Women and the ocean

Speaker:

Roz Savage, senior fellow, Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, **Yale
University**

8:10pm

Dinner

9:30pm

An ocean conversation

A discussion between *The Economist* and a leading expert on the ocean.

Speaker:

Alexandra Cousteau, senior advisor, **Oceana**

10.00pm

Close

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Day 3: March 9th 2018

Delivery and accountability

8:30am **Networking coffee**

9:30am **The story so far**

Takeaways from Days 1 and 2

Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief, **The Economist**

Charles Goddard, executive director, **World Ocean Summit**

10:00am **Key remarks from our oceans**

Peter Thomson, special envoy for the ocean, **United Nations**

10:20am **Gathering momentum on plastics**

The private sector is increasingly aware of the impact of its plastic footprint on the environment, not least in terms of the consequences for the ocean. It is clear that there is much to be done by the private sector to reduce plastic waste, particularly in dealing with single-use plastics and examining viable alternative materials. Momentum is clearly gathering, and a growing number of companies are signalling an intended reduction in plastic use. But how does this translate into a sustained effort to eliminate plastic waste and close the loop on a more circular economy—and how do we ensure that the private sector leads the charge?

11:00am **Networking break**

12:00pm **Ocean financing: Matching capital and need**

If anything ought to be too big to fail, it is the ocean. Who better to grasp this than financial institutions? Yet they remain unconvinced of the need for a sustainable ocean economy. A lack of policy, ill-defined opportunities and low awareness are commonplace. Global financial institutions looking for green assets are a powerful force. How can more urgency be injected into the issue of “blue finance”? Can the dialogue be widened beyond conservation finance to green finance? How can capital be better matched to ocean sustainability?

Speakers:

Michael Eckhart, managing director and global head of environmental finance, **Citigroup**

Jonathan Taylor, vice-president, **European Investment Bank**

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Matthew Arnold, managing director and global head of sustainable finance, **JPMorgan Chase & Co.**

Rana Kapoor, managing director and chief executive officer, **YES BANK**

12:45pm **The ocean future series:** A preview of some of the most exciting new technology that will reshape the ocean economy. We pit entrepreneurs against investors and big business to test which tech will stand the test of time—and attract the capital needed to scale up.

Speaker:

Gary Gysin, chief executive officer, **Liquid Robotics, A Boeing Company**

1.00pm **Networking lunch**

Join an informal table discussion hosted by a World Ocean Summit speaker. RSVP on the event app.

2.00pm **Keynote interview**

2.20pm **Nationally determined contributions: where are the oceans?**

Most of the world has signed on to the Paris climate agreement and established 'nationally determined contributions', voluntary commitments to reductions in carbon emissions. Barely any of these include consideration of the role for the ocean, which absorbs the majority of the world's carbon. This needs to change. What's needed to include the role the ocean plays in the global carbon system and reflect this in our collective effort to address our changing climate?

3.05pm **Panel discussion: The high seas and marine protected areas**

The pace of setting aside marine protected areas (MPAs) has accelerated since 2015. But with just 3-4% of the ocean under protection, meeting the Aichi biodiversity target of 10% by 2020 appears increasingly unlikely. Yet scientists are calling for much more—up to 30% by 2030. *The Economist* concurs. MPAs are essential for ocean health. They offer refuge from overfishing and other damaging activities, conserve biodiversity and provide resilience to climate change for vital ecosystems. But is a 30% target realistic?

Panelists:

Lisa Emelia Svensson, director for ocean, **United Nations Environment**

3.45pm **Networking break**

4.15pm **In conversation**

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A future-focused discussion between *The Economist* and influential voices on the ocean.

Speakers:

Luis Guillermo Solís, president, **Costa Rica**

Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, president, **Iceland**

4.45pm

A call for commitments

Throughout the Summit, participants will be able to submit their commitments via the event app. In this interactive session, our moderators will call on selected participants to explain their commitment to the ocean.

5.15pm

Closing remarks

5:30pm

Networking cocktails