

# 2016 Initiatives

## New Commitments Factsheet

Washington, DC September 16, 2016

Participants in the third Our Ocean conference, held September 15-16 in Washington, D.C., announced over 136 new initiatives on marine conservation and protection valued at more than \$5.24 billion, as well as new commitments on the protection of almost four million square kilometers (over 1.5 million square miles) of the ocean.

To date the three Our Ocean conferences have generated commitments valued at over **\$9.2 billion** to protect our ocean and committed to protect over **9.9 million square kilometers** (3.8 million square miles) of ocean – an area the size of the United States. The commitments focus on the key ocean issues of our time: marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, and climate-related impacts on the ocean.

We look forward to building on these and previous commitments at the conferences in 2017 hosted by the European Union in Malta, in 2018 in Indonesia, and in 2019 in Norway.

The following are the 2016 Our Ocean conference commitments:

## PROTECTING OCEAN AREAS

- The **United States** announced the expansion of the **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument** off the coast of Hawaii to cover an additional **1,146,798 square kilometers**, creating the world's largest marine protected area and permanently protecting pristine coral reefs, deep sea marine habitats, and important ecological resources. The United States also announced the establishment of the **12,725 square kilometer Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument**, the first U.S. marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean, protecting three underwater canyons deeper than the Grand Canyon and four underwater



Photo by National Geographic

proposed in 2014. The Sanctuary, which encompasses Palau's entire EEZ, prohibits all extractive activities, including foreign fishing and mining in 80 percent of the area, and the remaining 20 percent of the sanctuary will be developed into a domestic-only fishing zone to ensure food security for Palauans.

- The **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**, in partnership with the Waitt Foundation and Blue Moon Fund, announced a commitment of a minimum of **\$15 million** for the creation of the **WCS Marine Protected Area (MPA) Fund** in an effort to meet or exceed the Aichi and the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets of protecting 10 percent of the ocean by 2020. The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** announced a commitment of **\$33 million** for the fund, resulting in a combined investment of \$48 million in new resources for the expansion and improved effectiveness of MPAs across the world's oceans by 2020.
- **Colombia** announced that it will quadruple the size of the **Malpelo Flora and Fauna Sanctuary**, which hosts one of the world's largest aggregations of sharks, so that it will cover an additional **20,237 square kilometers**.
- **Malaysia** announced the establishment of the **10,000 square kilometer Tun Mustapha Park** marine protected area and a project to **build Park enforcement capacity** with **\$250,000** from the United States and **\$50,000** from WildAid.
- **Costa Rica** announced that it will expand the protected waters of the **Cocos Island National Park** by almost **10,000 square kilometers**, which will nearly quadruple this area in an effort to safeguard white-tip sharks, whale sharks, and hammerhead sharks, among others.
- **Malta** announced the designation of **nine new marine protected areas** comprising roughly **3,450 square kilometers**, covering an area significantly larger than the country itself (316 square kilometers).
- The **Pew Charitable Trusts** announced a partnership with the Bertarelli Foundation to provide **\$30 million** to support **ocean conservation and marine reserves**.
- The **Nature Conservancy** announced a commitment of over **\$100 million**, including private and public funding, to work with countries and communities to create **ocean management plans**; to develop and implement **innovative financing solutions** to finance parks and protected area stewardship; and to provide **tools, case studies and scientific studies** to manage and reduce local threats to coral reefs and reef fisheries.
- **Sri Lanka** announced the **292 square kilometer Veduthalathiv Nature Reserve** marine protected area, as well as nearly **800 square kilometers** in four new marine protected areas of habitat for marine mammals, coral, migratory and shore birds, and other marine life: the **Mirissa and Kayankanni MPAs**, part of the **Gulf of Mannar**, and the **Jaffna Lagoon Sanctuary**. Sri Lanka will set aside an additional **86.05 square kilometers** of Associated Marine Protected Areas in lands bound by marine ecosystems: the **Nai Aru lagoon** and **Nandikadal sanctuaries**.
- **Republic of Korea** announced the designation of the **91.2 square kilometer Garorim Bay**, one of the only two habitats for endangered spotted seals in the Republic of Korea and an important spawning ground for many species of fish, as its 25th marine protected area, achieving progress on its commitment to increase the number of MPAs to 32 by 2020.
- **Thailand** announced a 10 square kilometer **pilot protected area for dolphins** in Trat Bay, with expansion potential for the entire Trat Bay of **880 square kilometers**, and enhanced protection for dugongs and their habitats, including open-



Photo by National Geographic

mountains known as “seamounts” that are biodiversity hotspots and home to many rare and endangered species.

- **Seychelles** announced that it will establish up to **400,000 square kilometers** of marine protected area (30 percent of its EEZ) by 2020 as part of a comprehensive marine spatial plan for its entire EEZ via a **debt swap** of up to **\$27 million** with its Paris Club creditors and the Government of South Africa, with the support of the Nature Conservancy and private capital investors interested in marine conservation.
- The **United Kingdom** announced the designation of a sustainable use marine protected area throughout whole of **St. Helena’s 445,000 square kilometer** maritime zone and the final establishment of the marine protected area around the **Pitcairn Islands**, which permanently closes more than 99 percent of the **840,000 square kilometer maritime zone around the Islands – 10,000 square kilometers more** than originally pledged at Our Ocean 2014. The United Kingdom also announced a roadmap to determine the exact location of an evidence-based fully protected marine protected area around **Ascension Island** covering at least **220,000 square kilometers** by 2019 and a commitment to establish a regime for protecting the waters across the entire **750,000 square kilometer** Exclusive Economic Zone in **Tristan da Cunha** by 2020. In total, this amounts to 1,455,000 square kilometers in new MPA commitments. The United Kingdom furthermore pledged more than **\$22 million (EUR 20 million)** over the next four years to support the **implementation, management, surveillance, and enforcement** of these new marine protected areas.
- The **Federated States of Micronesia** announced its commitment to expand out to 24 nautical miles around each island its marine protected area that prohibits commercial fishing, therein protecting an additional **184,948 square kilometers** of its ocean waters.
- **Canada** reaffirmed its commitment to meet marine conservation targets, including the commitment to protect 5 percent of Canada’s marine and coastal areas by 2017 and 10 percent by 2020. Contributing towards this goal and building on previous actions, Canada announced plans to protect sensitive benthic ecosystems in the Gulf of Maine through fisheries closures in **Jordan Basin** and in **Corsair** and **Georges Canyons**, amounting to a total area of over **9,000 square kilometers** on Canada’s Atlantic Coast. These new protection measures in the Atlantic join the soon to be established **Anguniaqvia Niqiqyuam Marine Protected Area** in Canada’s western Arctic and the **Hecate Strait/Queen Charlotte Sound Marine Protected Area**, on Canada’s Pacific coast. The protection of these marine areas on Canada’s three coasts, combined with Canada’s plans for a **National Marine Conservation Area in Lancaster Sound** in Canada’s Arctic, will total over **58,121 square kilometers** of new marine protection by 2017 for Canada and the world’s oceans.
- **Ecuador** announced the creation of a no-take marine sanctuary in the **Galápagos Islands Marine Reserve**, which prohibits fishing in an additional **40,000 square kilometers** around the northern Galápagos islands of Darwin and Wolf. The marine sanctuary will protect the area with the largest concentration of sharks on the planet.
- **Cambodia** announced the establishment of its first marine protected area, which covers **405 square kilometers** in the waters of the **Koh Rong Archipelago**.
- **Palau** announced the **final establishment of the National Marine Sanctuary** it



*Photo by National Geographic*

- ing a marine mammal rescue center in Phuket in 2017 and establishing a **400 square kilometer dugong protected area** in Trang province by 2020.
- **Morocco** announced the creation of **three marine protected areas**, in Moghador, Massa, and Alhora, covering **775 square kilometers** on the Moroccan Atlantic and Mediterranean shores, as well as plans for a fourth in M'diq along the Mediterranean by 2018 where trawling will be banned.
  - **Norway** announced **three new marine protected areas**, totaling **170 square kilometers**, to protect an inshore coral reef, an estuary, and a rich and diverse open coastal area in the counties Rogaland and Sør-Trøndelag, and ten additional marine protected areas to protect cold water corals.
  - **Lebanon** announced its intent to establish a **30 square kilometer marine protected area** in Naqoura and Ras ech Chaqaa.
  - **Kuwait** announced marine protected areas around **Garouh, Kubar Island, and Um-Al-Maradim Islands** covering **0.158 square kilometers** to protect beaches, shoals, coral reefs, and other marine life.
  - **Monaco** announced that it has provided approximately **\$563,000 (EUR 500,000)** to start a newly created trust fund set up with France and Tunisia that will provide **long-term financial support to marine protected areas** (MPAs) designated by Mediterranean countries; this fund will enhance existing MPAs, encourage the creation of additional MPAs, foster capacity-building, and complement existing initiatives.
  - **The Tiffany & Co. Foundation** announced a three-year **\$3.2 million commitment** that supports the Nature Conservancy, Bahamas National Trust and the Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation to **conserve 20 percent of the Bahamas marine and coastal environment by 2020**, plus additional support for Oceans 5.
  - The **Marine Conservation Institute** (MCI) announced more than **\$400,000** over the next 18 months, to use the **GLORES (Global Ocean Refuge System)** Marine Protected Area certification system to evaluate and rate 10-12 MPAs by 2017.
  - The **United States** announced **\$1.25 million** in grants to **build capacity to create, effectively manage, and enforce marine protected areas** in Latin America and the Caribbean, East Africa, and the Pacific Islands.
  - **Panama** announced **\$600,000** to promote and implement **best practices in dolphin and whale watching tourism activities**, including knowledge and capacity building workshops for local communities and construction of environmentally friendly infrastructure to promote safe distance watching practices in Coiba National Park and Bastimentos National Park, in order to reduce human impacts to local dolphin and migrating whale populations.
  - **Australia** announced that it will provide an additional **\$41.95 million (AUD \$56.1 million)** over 4 years to **strengthen the management of its marine protected areas**, the largest representative network of marine protected areas in the world. This funding will develop modern approaches to management and support research to better understand the ecological, social, and economic values of Australia's marine reserves.
  - **Sri Lanka** announced that it will establish a **sea turtle conservation complex** at Dodanduwa in the Southern province to treat and provide a sanctuary for injured turtles and educate the local community, to be completed this year.
  - **Conservation International** and the **Walton Family Foundation** announced a



Photo by National Geographic

**\$36 million** commitment to the **Blue Abadi Fund** to ensure the long-term sustainable management and protection of a network of ocean reserves in Indonesia's Bird's Head region.

- The **Waitt Foundation** announced its commitment of **\$750,000** to work with Chile to design a **network of marine protected areas** to safeguard Patagonia's whales, dolphins, sea lions, sea birds, and other marine life and to expand the country's protected waters by 100,000 square kilometers.
- The **European Union** announced its dedication of **\$1.126 million (EUR 1 million)** to launch **twinned marine protected areas** in Europe and Africa, North America, and South America between 2016 and late 2017.
- The **Waitt Foundation**, in partnership with National Geographic's Pristine Seas, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Government of Chile, announced an **ocean conservation science expedition** in support of marine spatial planning and marine protected area development in the Patagonia Fjord region off Chile's coast. A second Chilean expedition in partnership with National Geographic's Pristine Seas, Oceana, and the municipality of Juan Fernandez, will later be conducted near the Juan Fernandez Islands off Chile's coast to inform marine protected area development.
- The **Republic of Congo** announced its intention to create a special marine conservation zone of **1,970 square kilometers** in **Loango Bay**, in the city of Pointe-Noire, to protect sea turtles and sharks.
- **New Caledonia** announced its commitment to establish by 2017 **"no go" sites** on the Chesterfield and Bellona Plateaus and the Petri and Astrolabe Reefs, as well as **"no take" zones** around unique and pristine underwater habitats, within the 1.3 million square kilometer **Natural Park of the Coral Sea** it created in 2015.
- **France** announced the expansion of the **marine reserve in the French Southern and Antarctic Lands** in the Indian Ocean by **550,000 square kilometers**, as well as its commitment to create a marine protected area around **Clipperton Island**. France also committed to a target of protecting 75 percent of its coral reefs by 2021.

## PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

- The **Safe Ocean Network** has brought together **46 governments and organizations** to share knowledge and better coordinate to combat illegal fishing around the world. **More than 40 counter illegal fishing projects worth over \$82 million** over five years are affiliated with the Safe Ocean Network. Partners include: **Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the European Union, France, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Seychelles, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Vanuatu, the Center for Advanced Defense Studies, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, the Environmental Law Institute, the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, INTERPOL, mFish, Monterey Bay Aquarium, National Geographic Society, Oceana, Oceans 5, Pew Charitable Trusts, Secure Fisheries, Skytruth, the Stimson Center, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Vulcan, and World Wildlife Fund.** More information about Safe



Photo by National Geographic

Ocean Network projects can be found below.

- The **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization** announced that the **Port State Measures Agreement** entered into force on June 5, 2016, with 35 parties as of August 2016, 23 of which joined in the last year: **Barbados, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, France, The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Mauritius, Palau, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Tonga, United States of America, and Vanuatu**. Three additional countries committed to joining by the Our Ocean Conference 2017: **Ghana, Senegal, and Madagascar**.
- The **Marisla Foundation** announced **\$100 million** over five years to support projects to **end overfishing, control plastic pollution, and protect marine mammals**.
- **The Global Environmental Fund, Conservation International, and Rare** announced the **\$18 million Meloy Fund** – an impact investment fund focused on **community small-scale fisheries** and providing financial incentives to fishing communities to conserve coral reef ecosystems in Indonesia and the Philippines.
- **Senegal** announced the launch of a **\$120 million artificial reef immersion program** to restore degraded marine areas and rehabilitate the fisheries sector.
- The **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization** announced **\$500,000** for its new **global program to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication**, through policy support and capacity development activities at the global level and regional level in Africa, as well as implementing small-scale fisheries support projects in Costa Rica and Cambodia.
- The **Monterey Bay Aquarium** announced four major initiatives that engage businesses and governments in science-based solutions to **improve traceability and environmental sustainability of farmed and wild seafood** globally: a partnership with USAID to develop new tools, partnerships, and projects to address IUU fishing in the Asia-Pacific region; the formation of the Global Seafood Ratings Alliance to improve harmonization of sustainability ratings among NGOs worldwide; the launch of a human rights risk assessment tool in partnership with Seafish and the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership; and establishment of the Asian Seafood Improvement Collaborative (ASIC) to drive on-the-water change in Southeast Asia.
- **Seychelles** announced that it will support the transition to **sustainable management of its small scale artisanal fishery** through the issuance of a “blue bond,” which will raise up to **\$15 million** for rebuilding fish stocks, introducing harvest control measures, eco labelling, and encouraging a shift to post harvest and value adding activities, with support from Prince Charles Charities, The Nature Conservancy, the World Bank, and the GEF.
- The **United States** announced pilot activities in Indonesia, the Philippines and Bangladesh to **integrate marine tenure into fisheries management** projects in support of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Reduction.
- The **United States** announced that a number of Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), including **Argentina, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Switzerland, and Uruguay**, have committed to launch negotiations on a new, first-of-its-kind international agreement under the WTO to **prohibit harmful fisheries subsidies** that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity, and subsidies linked to illegal, unreported, and unregulated



Photo by National Geographic

(IUU) fishing.

- The **Oak Foundation** announced a **\$60 million** commitment to ocean conservation over the next three years to support projects to **end overfishing, protect small-scale fisheries, and reduce plastic pollution**. The Oak Foundation also will provide **\$40 million** a year to its **climate change** program. The Oak Foundation has issued a challenge grant of **\$2 million** over three years to create a pooled fund to support international campaigns to **reduce plastic pollution**.
- The **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization** announced **\$1.1 million** for its new global program to support the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement and complementary instruments to combat IUU fishing through policy, legal, and technical assistance, and capacity building to strengthen enforcement.
- The **United States** announced **Port State Measures Agreement implementation training** for Indonesian officials and managers and its commitment to assist with curriculum development and future trainings for officials in the country's major ports.
- **Thailand** announced its **commitment to fight IUU fishing** through a Royal Ordinance on Fisheries and accession to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement; adoption of a Fisheries Management Plan; upgrading of Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) by establishment of 28 Port In - Port Out (PIPO) centers in 22 coastal provinces and mandatory installation of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) on vessels of 30 gross tonnage or more; ensuring traceability of fishery products by upgrading catch certification and traceability electronic systems; and enhancement of international cooperation.
- **Morocco** announced its **national plan to combat illegal** fishing through legislation that establishes a catch documentation system to ensure traceability of fish catches, a **\$7.7 million (MAD 75 million)** Vessel Monitoring System that has installed 2250 GPS devices on Moroccan fishing vessels, and **\$330,000 (MAD 3.2 million)** to modernize its National Monitoring Center to ensure fishing vessels comply with legal requirements.
- **Sweden** announced **\$1.2 million** to fund the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency's work to better **control, manage and promote sustainable tuna fisheries** and **\$1.2 million** to fund the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme's work on **sustainable ocean management**.
- The **European Union** announced that it will commit approximately **\$6.75 million (EUR 6 million)** in 2017 to **improve governance, science and capacity building**, as well as **increase compliance in the 18 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and tuna RFMOs** in which the EU participates. The EU acknowledged its responsibility to promote sustainable fisheries and combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fisheries
- **Australia** announced the winners of the **\$2.24 million (AUD \$3 million) Blue Economy Challenge** - the nine winning teams will now implement their **aquaculture innovations**, which will help address poverty, food security, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, and ocean conservation in developing countries, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The **United States** announced that the U.S. intelligence community has produced its **first ever unclassified assessment on the drivers and global implications of IUU fishing**.
- **Japan** announced a **\$3.7 million** purchase of eight Wave Gliders for an **ocean**



Photo by National Geographic

**observation network and environmental monitoring**, and that it will host an **APEC High-Level Meeting on overcoming barriers to financing waste management systems** to prevent marine litter in emerging Asia-Pacific economies.

- **Sri Lanka** announced that it will conduct a **survey of its fish resources** and establish a robust fisheries information system by 2018, introduce **environmentally friendly fishing gear** and prohibit destructive fishing gear, and introduce an **effective fisheries management system** through vessel monitoring and enforcement of relevant laws.
- **Sri Lanka** announced that it is **strengthening its mechanisms to combat IUU fishing** by limiting fishing boats operating in deep seas and promoting the long line fishery for targeted fish species; introducing monitoring of fishing vessels in high seas through VMS and inspection of fishing vessels at sea; strengthening fish catch statistical reporting, data reporting, and monitoring; implementing a verification program to identify IUU fishing violations and ensure follow up; and strengthening mechanisms to ensure IUU fish are not processed or re-exported.
- The **United States** announced that it will join with the World Wildlife Fund, Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation to provide **\$1.7 million** to enable fishing nations to better **monitor and prevent bycatch in global fisheries**, supporting sustainable, ecosystem-based fisheries worldwide, with projects focused on technological, policy, and legal capacity building.
- The **Nature Conservancy**, in partnership with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and the Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNaPP) announced an investment of **\$450,000** for the development and beta testing of **FishPath**, a tool for assessing management options for data-limited fisheries, which represent more than half of the global catch.
- **Australia** announced up to **\$4.49 million (AUD \$6 million)** to support the second phase of a **community-based fisheries management** program in the Pacific that will directly support 28 villages and 7,400 people in Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Vanuatu to manage and develop their coastal fisheries, and explore how to deliver community based fisheries management at scale across the region.
- The **United States** announced a partnership with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to jointly award The Nature Conservancy an anticipated **\$3 million** over three years to apply innovative technology and encourage partnership between industry and government for **improving management of key snapper and grouper fisheries in Indonesia**.
- The **Global Partnership for Sharks and Rays (GPSR)** announced the launch of a new funders' collaborative, which seeks to **halt the global overexploitation of sharks and rays, prevent species extinction, and restore populations worldwide**. GPSR was founded by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, and Oceans 5 in 2016.



*Photo by National Geographic*



### REDUCING MARINE POLLUTION

- **Panama** announced **\$847 million** to expand its “**Panama City and Panama Bay Clean-Up Project**” through the enlargement of its wastewater treatment plant in Panama City and to construct a new wastewater treatment plant in Western Panama Province to reduce marine pollution and restore and protect the health of Panama Bay and its surrounding marine ecosystems.
- **Germany** announced the recent implementation of an action plan to **create more marine protected areas, promote sustainable fishing, and combat land-based sources of marine pollution** – providing approximately **\$112 million (EUR 100 million)** for development aid projects in the field of marine protection. Germany further announced, in conjunction with its upcoming G20 presidency, the broadening of the scope of its **G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter** to include newly industrializing and developing countries.
- **Lebanon** announced that it allocated **\$25 million to transform a coastal dump into a garden** to restore the ecosystem and prevent marine debris and pollution from entering the sea.
- The **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** announced a **\$10 million** three-year **New Plastics Economy** initiative to build momentum towards a global plastics system that works. Applying the principles of the circular economy, the initiative brings together key stakeholders to re-think and re-design the future of plastics, starting with packaging.
- **Senegal** announced that it has **banned the production, import, possession, distribution, or use of plastic bags** thinner than .03 millimeters.
- **Ghana** announced that it has **banned the manufacture of plastic bags** thinner than .02 millimeters.
- **Mauritius** announced that it has **banned the import, manufacture, sale, or supply of nonbiodegradable plastic bags**.
- **Morocco** announced that it has **banned the production, import, export, or acquisition of plastic shopping bags** for sale or distribution.
- **France** announced that it has **banned all single-use plastic bags** thinner than .05 millimeters. In addition, France announced that France, Morocco, and Monaco have launched an international coalition to ban single-use plastic bags.
- The **Global Environment Facility** announced **\$6 million** to support the United Nations Environment Programme to address eutrophication through the **Nitrogen Research Project**, and an additional **\$500,000** for **marine plastic** programs.
- **UN Environment Programme** announced **\$6 million** over the next two years for global and regional marine litter work, including the new **Sea+Me campaign**. UN Environment Programme, through the multi-lateral Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), will also engage university students and faculties in its solutions-oriented **Innovation Challenge** to help address the **global marine litter** problem.
- **Ocean Conservancy**, along with **Trash Free Seas Partners**, announced a commitment to raise an additional **\$2.75 million** to design a fund to pool resources among industry, governments, multi-laterals, and private investors to support **waste management improvements in the Asia Pacific**, with a goal of reducing plastic inputs to the ocean by 45 percent over the next decade.
- **Dow Chemical Company** announced a **\$2.8 million** project over the next two



Photo by National Geographic

years to sponsor collaborative projects and educational programs to **improve waste management** infrastructure, promote recycling and prevent littering, and support the development of new technologies to create a more circular economy and offer opportunities to turn waste into value.

- **Lebanon** announced that it mobilized a total of **\$2.2 million** with the European Union (\$1.1 million each from Lebanon and the EU) to begin **treating waste that resulted from a 2006 oil spill** and will prevent contamination of the nearby sea.
- The **University of Georgia** announced a **\$2 million grant** to its New Materials Institute and Center for Circular Materials Management to encourage and facilitate **integrative, collaborative research on new materials** based on green engineering principles, and education and training of the next generation of scientists and engineers in the design and realization of circular materials.
- **Norway** announced **\$1.22 million (NOK 10 million)** to support the United Nations Environment Programme in developing **marine litter action plans at national and regional levels** to reduce plastic pollution and micro-plastics in the ocean, capacity-building measures, and clean-up actions.
- The **United States** announced its intention to issue four grants totaling **\$1 million** to fund projects to **reduce nutrient pollution in the Caribbean and marine debris in Southeast Asia**.
- **Tulane University** announced the international **Nitrogen Reduction Challenge**, which will award **\$1 million** to the most effective solution proven to reduce marine nutrient pollution from crop fertilizer runoff while enhancing crop yields, to be chosen from five finalists taking part in an in-field, proof of concept competition in 2017.
- The **European Union** announced that it will launch a **targeted strategy on plastics** to stop plastic and microplastics from contaminating the marine and coastal environment. The strategy, out in late 2017, will address plastics' entire lifecycle, including the issue of marine litter from ships, and examine options to ensure adequate treatment by port facilities.
- **Tunisia** announced **\$475,000** for the continued **restoration of Monastir Bay**, which involves remedial dredging and other changes to the seafloor to remove industrial waste, increase water circulation, and prevent the spread of hypoxic zones.
- **Sri Lanka** announced **\$200,000** for a pilot project to **collect, treat, and dispose of solid waste and wastewater** in the Mirissa fishery harbor, educate harbor users on waste minimization and management, and develop and implement a waste management plan for the harbor by the end of 2017.
- The **Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation** and its partners, Surfrider, Tara Expeditions, the Mava Foundation, and IUCN, announced that they will provide up to approximately \$168,900 (EUR 150,000) per year for 3 years, a total of about **\$506,700**, through the **"Beyond Plastic Med" (BeMed) Task Force**, to fund micro-initiatives that aim to reduce plastics pollution in the Mediterranean.
- **Costa Rica** announced a new **National Policy on Waste Sanitation** and a new **National Strategy on Separation, Recovery, and Assessment of Waste** that will improve the water quality of streams and rivers and prevent pollutants and trash from entering coastal waters.
- **Uruguay** announced a regional project to **assess ocean mercury contamination along the coast of South America** using mercury levels in marine mammals as bio-indicators. This project will establish a baseline to support the development



Photo by National Geographic

and adoption of adequate mitigation measures, promoting adherence to the Minamata Convention, providing a healthy marine environment, and protecting the wildlife and people of South America.

- **Sri Lanka** announced that it has built two **marine monitoring towers** on the Moragalla and Unawatuna beaches to assist in meeting and maintaining stringent environmental, educational, safety-related, and access-related criteria and will implement and improve the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.
- The **United States** and **5 Gyres** announced a **citizen science program to collect data on the impact of marine microplastics** on the environment and human health to spur innovative solutions to reduce and prevent the flow of land-based trash into the ocean in Puerto Rico and the Wider Caribbean.
- The **National Fisheries Society of Chile (SONAPESCA)** and **Bureo** announced a new national program to **promote the recycling of fishing gear** from Chile's artisanal fisheries that will help quantify the amount of fishing nets available annually for recycling and identify innovative ideas for reusing these materials.
- **Chile** announced new South-South cooperation with Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries to share best practices on **preventing pollution from entering the marine environment**, including by improving waste management and recycling, reducing packaging, finding new biodegradable and recyclable materials, more efficient use of fertilizers, improved wastewater management, and techniques to minimize nutrient run-off.
- **Peru** announced its commitment to reduce marine litter through **improvements in integrated solid waste management and raising community awareness** about the impact of trash on human health and coastal ecosystems, in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Peace Corps, and other organizations under the Trash Free Waters framework.
- **Morocco** announced the "**Pavillon Bleu**" (**Blue Flag**) program, which will work with municipalities and other actors to **keep beaches free of debris and water safe for swimming** through the construction of basic infrastructure, the installation of adequate sanitation, the launch of awareness campaigns, and the provision of assistance to communities as they set priorities for coastal management.
- **Think Beyond Plastic**, working with the municipal governments, businesses and NGOs of the three Honduras Bay Islands, announced that it has entered phase two of the **Mesoamerican Reef Plastic Pollution Project** by helping businesses reduce plastic consumption and waste, accelerating local enterprises' investment in alternatives, and assisting municipalities in developing strategic policies with a goal of 100 percent reduction of plastic pollution from bags, straws, and foam in 2017 and 70 percent reduction of other plastic disposables by 2020.

## CLIMATE AND OCEAN

- The **United States** announced **\$2 billion** for development and operation of two major, next generation, **NASA global ocean satellite systems**: the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud ocean Ecosystem (PACE) satellite, due to launch in 2022/23, will monitor the health of our ocean ecosystems and improve our understanding of the carbon cycle dynamics in the ocean and atmosphere; and the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite, due to launch in 2020, will improve our understanding of ocean circulation and climate. The SWOT mission is in



*Photo by National Geographic*

partnership with the French space agency CNES, as well as a collaboration with Canada and the United Kingdom. In addition, the United States announced that the SMAP satellite, launched in early 2015, is now routinely producing sea surface salinity observations, which can reveal important information about changes in Earth's water cycle, ocean circulation, and climate.

- **Australia** announced that it has established the **International Partnership for Blue Carbon**, which aims to amplify global efforts to protect and restore mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes given their vital role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable livelihoods, food security, and biodiversity conservation. The **United States** announced that it intends to join the Partnership.
- **Althelia**, with support from Conservation International and the Environmental Defense Fund, announced a **\$50 million Sustainable Ocean Fund**. The **Sustainable Ocean Fund** will invest in real assets and management improvements in coastal fisheries, sustainable aquaculture projects, the seafood supply chain, and other select blue economy projects.
- The **United States** announced **\$75 million** for three **NASA Earth Venture Sub-orbital projects**: the COral Reef Airborne Laboratory (CORAL) will produce the first comprehensive assessment of reef conditions in the Great Barrier Reef, the Mariana Islands, Palau, and the Main Hawaiian Islands; the North Atlantic Aerosols and Marine Ecosystems Study (NAAMES) will resolve key processes controlling marine ecosystems and their influences on atmospheric aerosols; and the Oceans Melting Greenland (OMG) project will investigate the role of ocean warming on glacier retreat in Greenland and the interplay with global sea level rise. The United States also announced **\$16.5 million** to fund additional **ocean-focused research projects** to better understand the extent and impact of coral bleaching, marine debris, the movement of fish and marine mammals, the impact of humans on coastal ecosystems, and the water cycle over the ocean.
- The **United States** reaffirmed a commitment of **\$38.7 million** for a package of initiatives related to **climate change resilience in the Pacific Islands**.
- The **New Zealand Antarctic Research Institute (NZARI)** announced that in 2016-17, it will receive an investment of **\$1.466 million (NZD 2 million)** from the **Aotearoa Foundation**, funded by Julian Robertson. NZARI seeks to **understand how the warming Southern Ocean is impacting Antarctica** and how Antarctica's response will lead to changes in global sea level rise.
- **Panama** announced **\$1.7 million** to incorporate mechanisms for **conservation and sustainable development** in the Bocas del Toro, Coiba, Guna Yala, and Las Perlas archipelagos and reduce impacts on surrounding ecosystems and biodiversity.
- **Sri Lanka** announced new activities to **protect coastal communities and assess the impact of sea-level rise and climate change**, including establishing an accurate sea level rise forecasting system with a database to track wave measurement and sediment transport; mapping inundation-prone areas to assess vulnerability and prepare risk maps; and assessing future wave conditions for coastal zone and risks on environment, economy, and coastal communities for accommodation and adaptation strategies.
- The New England-based **Conservation Law Foundation** announced a commitment to raise **\$8 million** to **address climate impacts in the Gulf of Maine**, where water temperatures are rising faster than almost anywhere else in the world. They will work with partners to reduce regional carbon emissions 25 percent

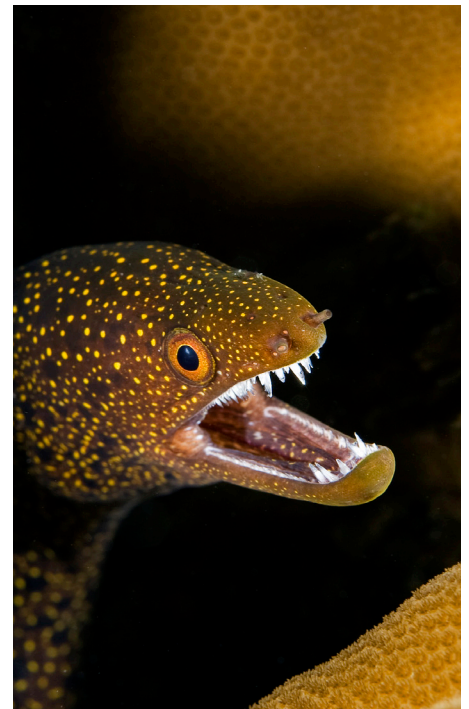


Photo by National Geographic

by 2020 and seek to increase the climate resiliency of the Gulf of Maine and surrounding waters by protecting important habitats such as the Coral Canyons and Seamounts and Cashes Ledge.

- **Panama** announced **\$1.2 million** to **protect mangrove forests**, build capacity for mangrove conservation management, conduct research on mangrove ecosystem vulnerability, and restore approximately 200 hectares of degraded mangrove forests on Panama's eastern Pacific coast.
- **China** announced its commitment to **restore** 16 bays and **recover** no less than 8.5 square kilometers of coastal wetland, 40 square kilometers of offshore polluted waters, and no less than two square kilometers of coastlines. China also announced that it will **plant** another 2.5 square kilometers of mangroves, four square kilometers of reed, 1.5 square kilometers of seepweed, and 0.5 square kilometers of tamarisk during the 13th Five Year Plan.
- **Sri Lanka** announced that it has re-planted .06 square kilometers of mangroves in 2016, in addition to the .58 square kilometers planted since 2013, and established **10 square kilometers of coastal forests and green belt**. Sri Lanka will also create a **National Policy for Conservation and the Sustainable Utilization of Mangrove Ecosystems** that will protect and conserve mangrove ecosystems, promote awareness of the benefits of mangroves, and integrate mangrove issues into policies, legislation, programs, and projects.
- The **United States** announced **\$195,000** in funding to support mitigation of climate change through **conservation and restoration of blue carbon sinks** such as mangrove forests and seagrass beds in the Pacific Islands, Latin America, or the Caribbean, in partnership with The Ocean Foundation.
- The **Pacific Coast Collaborative** announced the **International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification**, which will advance scientific understanding of ocean acidification, reduce the causes of acidification, protect the environment and coastal communities from impacts of a changing ocean, expand public awareness and understanding of acidification, and build sustained support for tackling this global problem. The Alliance will actively seek inclusion of ocean acidification mitigation and adaptation commitments in the COP 23 international climate agreement.
- The **United States**, in partnership with the University of Washington, announced the launch of the **Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network's web portal**, a user-friendly website that makes real time ocean acidification data from buoys and moorings around the world freely available to the public.
- The **United States** announced that it has allocated **\$600,000** through the International Atomic Energy Agency's Peaceful Uses Initiative to the **Ocean Acidification International Coordination Center (OA-ICC)** located at the Environment Laboratories in Monaco.
- The **United States** announced **\$300,000** in funding to **enhance capacity (equipment and training) for ocean acidification monitoring** in the Pacific Islands, Latin America, and the Caribbean, in partnership with The Ocean Foundation.
- **The Ocean Foundation** announced that it will **train 50 scientists** in the Pacific Islands, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Arctic to research and monitor ocean acidification, provide them with **ocean acidification observing equipment**, and expand the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network over the next three years.
- **DONG Energy Wind Power** announced that it is pursuing the development of its

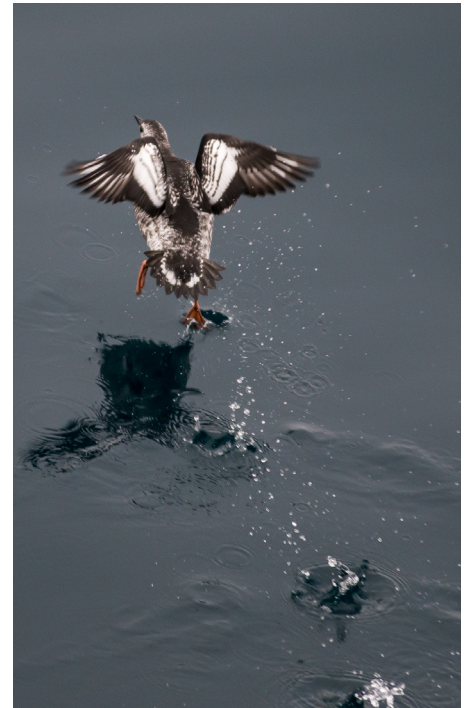


*Photo by National Geographic*

first two **large scale offshore wind projects** in the United States.

## BUILDING CAPACITY

- The **Packard Foundation** announced a commitment of **\$550 million** over the next five years to **advance the protection of our ocean and to improve its long-term health**.
- The **Walton Family Foundation** announced a **\$250 million**, five-year commitment to **ocean conservation in Indonesia and the Americas** (United States, Mexico, Peru, and Chile).
- The **Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** announced a commitment that, in total over the next five years, it will contribute more than **\$220 million** to **ocean research** and **ocean-related conservation**.
- The **European Union** announced an additional **\$168 million (EUR 150 million)** per year for its annual **marine and maritime research funding**. The EU will launch a **Science Action Plan** for the South Atlantic, complementing its groundbreaking cooperation with the United States and Canada in the North Atlantic under the Galway Statement.
- Dr. Douglas McCauley announced a **\$10 million gift** from **Marc and Lynne Benioff** to the University of California at Santa Barbara to establish the **Benioff Ocean Initiative**. The initiative will engage a team of marine scientists and a website to crowdsource solutions to ocean problems around the world.
- **World Wildlife Fund** and **Conservation X Labs** announced a commitment to raise **\$7.8 million** to launch **Oceans X Labs**, the world's first conservation technology to bring new innovations for ocean conservation to scale.
- **Reef Conservation** announced the establishment, in partnership with the Rogers Group, Domaine de Bel Ombre, and others, of an **"Integrated Land and Marine Research Center"** in Bel Ombre, Mauritius, by September 2018, which will partner with local resorts and scientists to showcase coastal environments of Mauritius, build research capacity, and promote conservation.
- **Republic of Korea** announced its plans to work with the UN FAO to establish a **World Fisheries University** to build capacity among coastal developing states over 10 years.
- **Kuwait** announced that its newly acquired **oceanographic vessel**, the Al-Beeah I, will be used as a training platform for marine scientists and fisheries experts to expand environmental science and technology collaborations in the Gulf region.
- **Portugal** announced the launch of the **Blue Fund**, an innovative public financial instrument funded in partnership with national and international public and private entities with the goal of developing the ocean economy, promoting ocean-related scientific research, and protecting the ocean environment.
- **Sweden** announced **\$234,000** for a series of **capacity building activities for Small Island Developing States** in preparation for the UN Ocean conference it is hosting with Fiji in June 2017.
- Dr. Nirmal Shah from Seychelles announced the launch of a **Forum on African**



*Photo by National Geographic*

**Marine Sciences**, a network between science academies, universities, and organizations from **more than 12 African countries** designed to enhance communication and collaboration on ocean science, host academic exchanges to strengthen local capacity, and support ocean and blue economy policy engagement across Africa.

## SUPPORTING COASTAL COMMUNITIES

- The **Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust** announced **marine-oriented grants** totaling **\$6 million** to non-governmental grantee organizations working on coastal community-based conservation, locally managed marine areas, sustainable fisheries, species conservation, creating and maintaining marine protected areas, and ocean governance.
- **Lebanon** announced that it passed a decree to establish an **Environmental Police Force** that will enforce environmental laws and work with judges and prosecutors to prevent, investigate, and prosecute environmental crimes, including in coastal and maritime areas.
- **Morocco** announced a new **shoreline conservation law** based on the principles of integrated coastal zone management to protect the country's coastal resources by barring construction within 100 meters of the coast, establishing a setback for transport infrastructure of 2000 meters, prohibiting polluting discharges along the coastline, and establishing national and regional commissions to support coastal management.
- **Bangladesh** announced a cooperative effort among 53 countries in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to promote the **conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources** for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

## MAPPING AND UNDERSTANDING THE OCEAN

- **Australia** announced that the **eReefs water monitoring system** went live in July 2016. The first and largest system of its kind in the world, eReefs monitors, models, and visualizes water movement and water quality in the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments. It has been developed through a **\$23.9 million (AUD \$32 million)** public/private partnership involving leading Australian scientists and businesses.
- **Kuwait** announced a **marine environment monitoring system** by installing a network of sensors, monitoring stations, and buoys along its coast and extending out 12 nautical miles into Kuwaiti territorial waters to monitor fish and aquaculture resources, on-shore and off-shore oil spills, and municipal water treatment and land-based pollution, to be fully operational by the year 2020.
- **XPRIZE** announced the recent launch of a **\$7 million** global competition - the **Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE** - which challenges teams to push the boundaries of ocean technologies by creating solutions that advance the autonomy, scale, speed, depths, and resolution of ocean exploration. The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** will provide a **\$1 million** bonus prize to incentivize



Photo by National Geographic

teams to develop technologies to detect the source of chemical and biological signals underwater.

- **Nekton**, with an international alliance of scientists, NGOs, funders, technologists, filmmakers, and IGOs, will be leading a **scientific mission across the Mediterranean** in 2017 to research deep ocean function, health, and ecosystem services to inform sustainable marine stewardship and help catalyze the sustainable development of the blue economy.
- The **United States** announced the expansion of the **Smithsonian's MarineGEO initiative** to research the impacts of climate change on coastal marine biodiversity and ecosystems along the Pacific coastline of North America, with **\$200,000** in funding from the Paul Angell Foundation and the Hakai Institute.

## SAFE OCEAN NETWORK

The **Safe Ocean Network** has brought together **46 governments and organizations** to share knowledge and better coordinate to combat illegal fishing around the world. **More than 40 counter illegal fishing projects worth over \$82 million over five years** are affiliated with the Safe Ocean Network. Partners include: **Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the European Union, France, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Seychelles, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Vanuatu, the Center for Advanced Defense Studies, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, the Environmental Law Institute, the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, INTERPOL, mFish, Monterey Bay Aquarium, National Geographic Society, Oceana, Oceans 5, Pew Charitable Trusts, Secure Fisheries, Skytruth, the Stimson Center, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Vulcan, and World Wildlife Fund.** The following projects are part of the Safe Ocean Network:

- **Oceana, SkyTruth and Google** are partnering to make **Global Fishing Watch** -- a big data technology platform that leverages satellite data to create the first global view of commercial fishing -- available to the public for free. A number of organizations announced support for Global Fishing Watch.
- **Paul Allen's Vulcan** announced **\$3.7 million** to develop a **satellite image analysis system** to aid the detection of illegal fishing activity. The program will provide the enforcement community with greater insight into vessels that may be engaging in illegal fishing.
- The **Pew Charitable Trusts and Satellite Applications Catapult** will continue to support **Project Eyes on the Seas**, a technology platform that combines satellite monitoring and imagery data with other information such as fishing vessel databases and oceanographic data, to help authorities detect suspicious fishing activity. The system can synthesize and analyze multiple layers of data in near real time to monitor and identify suspicious vessels around the globe and alert authorities to investigate and take action.
- The **International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Network** is developing a **centralized data base of vetted qualified monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) experts** available to national authorities and international institutions for consultancy and capacity-building projects in the field of fisheries MCS.
- The **World Wildlife Fund** announced **DETECT IT: Fish**, a web-based tool, which



*Photo by National Geographic*



- uses big data analytics to identify, compare, and analyze trade discrepancies and irregularities in global fish trade data to help discover and investigate IUU activities. **DETECT IT: Fish** holds the potential to reduce IUU by 50% by 2020, when utilized with other effective tools and policies. **DETECT IT: Fish was one of the winners in the 2016 Hewlett Packard Enterprise's competition, Living Progress Challenge.**
- **The Stimson Center and Pristine Seas – National Geographic** announced the launch of their new website “**Secure Our Oceans**” at [secureoceans.org](http://secureoceans.org) which for the first time provides policy makers with a comprehensive and neutral catalogue of technologies that can be used to combat illegal fishing and aims to match countries needs with detection and enforcement technology products.
- **INTERPOL's Project SCALE** supports international investigations and the prosecution of criminals involved in illegal fishing and associated crime. This is done through cooperation between clusters of law enforcement agencies from various jurisdictions, as well as by collaborating with international partners. Project SCALE has created coherent international law enforcement connectivity for meaningful collaboration, planning and direction towards achieving professional investigative responses worldwide. The project's focus on illegal fishing activities and associated criminality, including fraud, avoidance of taxes, handling of stolen goods, corruption, money laundering, document falsification, and human trafficking, etc., have enabled a holistic analysis and approach in tackling criminal supply chains.
- The **Environmental Law Institute and National Geographic** announced **\$86,000** for a **Model Fisheries Law project** to identify regulatory approaches that nations can take to develop or enhance their legal frameworks to provide effective authority for Marine Protected Area (MPA) enforcement and compliance.
- The **NGO Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS)**, in partnership with the private firm **Windward**, is working to **map and investigate the beneficial ownership, logistical, and financial networks of IUU vessels** and their associated companies using advanced data analytics developed for the national security community.
- The **United Kingdom** announced the establishment of **Ocean Innovation Hubs in the UK Overseas Territories** that have Marine Protected Areas. Building on the collaborative approach the UK and US are taking in the British Indian Ocean Territory, we will enable countries to work together to test new approaches to combatting illegal fishing.
- The **FISH-i Africa Task Force** enables authorities to identify and act against large-scale illegal fishing. The aim is to build a robust and effective mechanism to catalyze enforcement actions and secure an end to illegal fishing in the Western Indian Ocean. The Task Force countries of **Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania** form the core of FISH-i Africa. The coordinating team is led by **Stop Illegal Fishing**, supported by **The Pew Charitable Trusts and advised by Nordenfeldske Development Services, Trygg Mat Tracking, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Indian Ocean Commission, and other experts.**
- The **European Union** announced a **\$470,000** modernization project to **update the European Fisheries Control Agency application** to provide EU Member States the ability for worldwide vessel tracking, as well as a commitment that **EU Naval Forces operating in the Indian Ocean will collect information about fishing activity in Somali waters** whenever possible and submit data to the Indi-



*Photo by National Geographic*

an Ocean Tuna Commission to facilitate prosecutions.

- The **International Seafood Sustainability Foundation**, announced **\$600,000 over two years** to support the use of **electronic monitoring, electronic reporting, and a ProActive Vessel Register** to enable sustainable fisheries management and market transparency. Efforts are focused in **Ghana, Federated States of Micronesia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa and Indonesia**, and supported by **Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Tuna Project, World Wildlife Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community**.
- The **Monterey Bay Aquarium** announced **\$340,000 over the next 2 years** in initiatives to **address IUU fishing activities in the Asia - Pacific region**, including a **new partnership with USAID** and continued support from the **David and Lucile Packard Foundation**. Projects will improve the environmental and social performance of fisheries and aquaculture operations through strengthened traceability, new partnerships and incentives to access to the North American market.
- The **mFish** initiative will **enable small scale and artisanal fishermen with mobile technology services and applications to report illegal fishing activities**. Applications and services will initially be available in **Indonesia** with plans to expand availability to Malaysia then across south, south-east Asia, Africa and Latin America. Reports of illegal fishing activity will be shared with relevant government authorities for follow up.
- **New Zealand** announced that it will undertake **high seas fisheries patrols of the South Pacific Longline Tuna Fishery in 2017**. New Zealand will also institute a pilot project to undertake **genetic testing of tuna** both in New Zealand ports and on high seas fisheries patrols to detect misreporting of fish species that takes place amongst commercial tuna longline vessels operating in the southern albacore fishery.
- **Oceans 5, the Smithsonian Institution, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Center for Marine Studies** announced a **\$1.3 million MesoAmerican Reef Initiative** to implement electronic licensing, vessel tracking, and catch documentation systems in **Belize and Honduras**.
- **Chile** announced the establishment of the **Nazca Desventuradas Marine Park around the San Félix and San Ambrosio Islands as a hub for the testing of detection technologies** to monitor illegal fishing activity in the park.
- **The United States and Canada** announced a nine-month pilot project to **probe the extent to which certain prohibited fish species are available for sale**.
- **Italy** announced the **entry into force of their new legislative framework to regulate swordfish fisheries in the Mediterranean**. The new rules – in the framework of the European Common Fishery Policy - significantly reduce the number of Italian vessels authorized to target swordfish; introduce mandatory notification requirements for all vessels; and, forbid possession of certain fishing equipment aboard vessels targeting swordfish in order to prevent the illegal use of such equipment.
- **The Netherlands** announced **\$1 million** for the development of a **device called a “black box”** that can be installed on fishing boats to continuously monitor and track vessels and provide opportunities to improve compliance with fisheries regulations.



Photo by National Geographic

- **Spain** announced **\$7.8 million** over four years to **maintain and improve an Integrated Control System** to ensure sustainable fisheries management by controlling and monitoring vessels, imports of fishery products and individuals and companies associated with the Spanish fishing sector.
- The **United States** announced **\$2 million** to support a number of Safe Ocean Network projects, including: **\$900,000 for Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) Capacity Building in Central and South America**; **\$300,000 for maritime enforcement training in the Pacific, South East Asia and Bay of Bengal to be delivered predominantly by U.S. Coast Guard personnel**; **\$300,000 to the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support fisheries investigations and prosecutions in the Western Indian Ocean**; and **\$500,000 for a data mining project** that would target the known bad actors and develop risk profiles to identify other vessels that may be illegally fishing.
- The **United States** will continue to support **SeaVision**, an unclassified, internet-based maritime information sharing and visualization tool that combines vessel location information from the Maritime Safety and Security Information System (MSSIS) as well as commercial data feeds in near-real time
- The **United States** announced a suite of **USAID activities worth an anticipated \$55 million over five years to combat illegal fishing and promote sustainable fishing in Indonesia, the Philippines, and West Africa**. Activities include: strengthening of law enforcement and fisheries management capacity in Indonesia, including through technical assistance to Indonesia's National IUU Task Force; enhancing environmental law enforcement, and working with communities to reduce illegal fishing and wildlife trafficking in the Philippines; and capacity building for law enforcement officials in Ghana and the West Africa region.
- The **United States** announced a set of programs to combat illegal fishing worth **\$2.9 million** over 5 years to support **law enforcement training and capacity building in Indonesia, the Philippines and West Africa**.
- The **United States** announced a new suite of programs worth **\$2.846 million** to tackle the root causes of **forced labor** in the fishing and seafood sector in **Indonesia and Thailand**.
- The **United States** announced **\$143,000** for a coordinated effort by **NASA, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Center for Atmospheric Sciences, the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, and the North-West University of South Africa to test improved methods of using data from the Suomi-National Polar-orbiting Partnership (S-NPP) satellite** for illegal fishing detection. The satellite uses a technology called the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) to identify vessels that may be illegally fishing at night through the use of light detection.
- The **United States** announced **\$574,000** over two years to develop a **fishing boat detection service for Asia and the Pacific** using low light imaging data collected by the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS), a space based sensor. At the request of fishery agencies, the **U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** supplies near-real time alerts for VIIRS boat detections in **86 marine protected areas in Indonesia and areas closed to commercial fishing in the Philippines**. The VIIRS instrument is capable of detecting lights present at the earth's surface, including from fishing boats that use lights to attract catch at night and may be illegally fishing.
- The **Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI)** is a U.S. Secretary of Defense



Photo by National Geographic

**satellite** for illegal fishing detection. The satellite uses a technology called the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) to identify vessels that may be illegally fishing at night through the use of light detection.

- The **United States** announced **\$574,000** over two years to develop a fishing **boat detection service for Asia and the Pacific** using low light imaging data collected by the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS), a space based sensor. At the request of fishery agencies, the **U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** supplies near-real time alerts for VIIRS boat detections in **86 marine protected areas in Indonesia and areas closed to commercial fishing in the Philippines**. The VIIRS instrument is capable of detecting lights present at the earth's surface, including from fishing boats that use lights to attract catch at night and may be illegally fishing.
- The **Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI)** is a U.S. Secretary of Defense program using U.S. **Department of Defense (DOD)** vessels transiting the **Western and Central Pacific region to increase the U.S. Coast Guard's maritime domain awareness**, ultimately supporting its maritime law enforcement operations in Oceania. U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement detachments embark aboard transiting U.S. Navy vessels, joined by local law enforcement authority shipriders, enabling fisheries enforcement boardings.
- The **U.S. Coast Guard** is pursuing new **shiprider agreements with Vanuatu and Fiji** and **maritime law enforcement training in the Pacific, Bay of Bengal, and the Philippines**.
- The **U.S. Coast Guard** is pursuing new **shiprider agreements with Vanuatu and Fiji** and **maritime law enforcement training in the Pacific, Bay of Bengal, and the Philippines**.
- Beginning in September 2016, the **U.S. Maritime Domain Awareness Executive Steering Committee will launch a crowd-sourcing competition** in conjunction with the White House's Open Government initiative, with competitors vying to develop an algorithm capable of assisting countries to better identify and respond to illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing. This Challenge, **facilitated by NASA's Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation and run on the TopCoder platform**, is an effort to promote the goals of the Safe Ocean effort.
- The **3rd annual Fishackathon**, a **weekend coding contest** was held on April 22-24, 2016. It included several challenges encouraging the development of tools to assist fishermen and enforcement officers in combating illegal fishing. All entries, including the winning submissions, are available online at Fishackathon.com.

## FUTURE OUR OCEAN CONFERENCES

- **Indonesia** announced that it will host the **2018 Our Ocean** conference.
- **Norway** announced that it will host the **2019 Our Ocean** conference.

For further information, please contact [OurOcean2016@state.gov](mailto:OurOcean2016@state.gov) or visit [www.our-ocean2016.org](http://www.our-ocean2016.org).



*Photo by National Geographic*