



7 November 2024

Dear Friends of our Ocean,

Since the Our Ocean Conference (OOC) was initiated in 2014, it has served as a vital platform for governments, international organizations, private sector, NGOs, philanthropies and academia to take ambitious action to support the health of the global ocean. To date, the OOCs have generated over 2,600 voluntary commitments, valued at more than \$140 billion, for sustainable ocean action.

The Republic of Korea is honored to host the 10th OOC from April 28-30, 2025, in Busan. On this momentous occasion, the Republic of Korea will create a space to celebrate the successful commitments and share valuable experience from a decade of ocean action and generate momentum for the next decade.

In this regard, we kindly request the participation of our valued Ocean Friends and Colleagues in the following areas:

1. Please update the status of your OOC commitments on the commitment platform (ouroceanconference.org). The OOC Secretariat (WRI) will incorporate updates into a comprehensive report on commitment implementation over the past ten years to be presented at OOC10. To be included in this report, please submit your updates by 31 December 2024. Updates submitted after this date will still be reflected at OOC10, but will not be included in the 10th anniversary progress report.
2. We also invite you to share up to three noteworthy commitments that you consider successfully completed and delivering impact. Please submit these by 31 December 2024 using this online form. The Republic of Korea is planning to showcase a selection of these top achievements throughout the program of OOC10 in order to recognize and learn from the remarkable outcomes achieved through OOC.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to reach out to us at commitmentsOOC@wri.org. We are pleased to inform you that the OOC Advisory Group, consisting of past and present OOC host countries (Korea, Greece, Panama, Palau, Norway, Indonesia, the European Union, Chile, and the United States), has come together to commemorate this 10th anniversary. On behalf of the Advisory Group, we extend this letter to your esteemed government and organization.

We sincerely appreciate your continued commitment to ocean sustainability. We look forward to your valuable contributions to the 10th OOC.

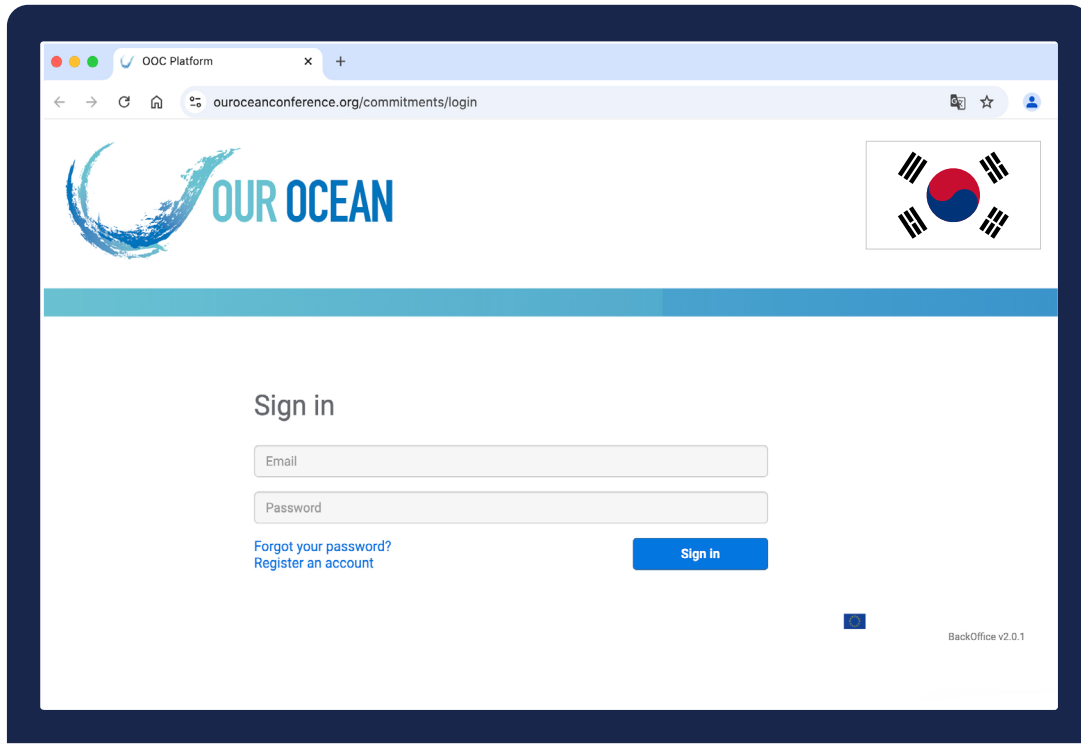
Sincerely yours,

KIM, Sung-bum

Executive Director of 10th Our Ocean Conference Preparatory Office
Deputy Minister of Marine Policy Office, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Republic of Korea



Annex 1. Updating the implementation status of OOC commitments.



- 1 Login to the **OOO database** using your existing account details.
- 2 Find your commitment in the dashboard.
- 3 Click on the row displaying your commitment
- 4 Click on the **Update** button displayed on the bottom of the page.
- 5 Make your changes to the commitment form.
 - a. Written progress updates should be made in the **Impact** field.
 - b. To complete a commitment, select 100% in the **Progress** field.
 - c. Note that in the new database (expected to launch in early 2025), the numerical progress bar will be simplified to: Not Started, In Progress, Complete. Please provide the best indication of progress, all existing commitments will be transferred to the new system.
- 6 Click on the **Update** button.

The status of your commitment won't change unless you have changed the commitment's **Progress**, in which case, it will be assigned the **Progress Update** status. The host will only need to approve your updates when you changed the commitment's progress to Completed. When your final updates are approved your commitment will no longer be editable and it will be assigned the **Closed** status.

Annex 2. Example submission of commitment nomination form.

Please submit your commitments using the form [here](#).

Sample submission to illustrate the appropriate level of detail:

Basic Information	Name of Country/Organization	Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea		
	Contact Person/Information	Kim / ourocean2025@korea.kr, +82-44-200-5395		
Commitment Overview				
Title	World's First Fishing Gear Deposit System			
Budget (USD)	8,970,000			
Area of Action	Sustainable Fisheries	Year of Announcement	2024	
Abstract	To address the problem of abandoned fishing gear, which leads to ghost fishing and marine litter, the Republic of Korea has allocated a total budget of 11.7 billion KRW. Starting in 2024, a fishing gear deposit system has been implemented for trap gear. This system incentivizes fishers to voluntarily return their used traps by offering a deposit. The preparation process includes establishing legal grounds, designating an operating agency, building infrastructure such as return points, and conducting education and promotional campaigns.			
Implementation and Achievements				
Description	To establish the legal framework for the fishing gear deposit system, the Fisheries Act was amended. A dedicated center (Fishing Gear Deposit Management Center) was established to oversee deposit payments and management, and 181 return points for abandoned fishing gear were designated nationwide. The development of a security-marked deposit label was also part of the process. Since this is a newly introduced policy, continuous communication has been maintained with key stakeholders, including local governments, fishers, and environmental organizations. Given that voluntary participation by fishers is crucial, the system was designed for convenience. Efforts were also concentrated on promoting the program. To enhance convenience for returning fishing gear, return points were located in frequently visited areas such as fishing ports, loading docks, and fish markets. Additionally, field discussions and workshops were held to promote education, gather feedback, and engage stakeholders. The security of the deposit label, ensuring a reliable refund process, was important. Collaborating with the Korea Minting and Security Printing Corporation (KOMSCO) enhanced the system's security, including anti-counterfeiting measures.			
Outcomes and Impact	As the world's first implementation of a fishing gear deposit system, Korea's approach is expected to provide a valuable reference for addressing the global issue of abandoned fishing gear. The system works by including a deposit in the sale price of fishing gear, which is refunded when fishers return the used gear to designated collection points, promoting voluntary recovery. This represents a shift away from regulatory enforcement by using economic incentives to encourage voluntary returns of abandoned fishing gear. According to UN Environment Programme (UNEP), over 100,000 marine animals (including sea turtles and dolphins) are killed or injured each year from entanglement or ingestion of abandoned fishing gear. Domestically, it is estimated that 76% of marine plastics in Korea come from discarded fishing gear. This system is expected to prevent marine pollution, protect marine ecosystems, and enhance maritime safety by reducing risks from lost or discarded gear. Based on this experience, the system is planned to expand to other types of gear, such as buoys and gillnets, in the future.			