

10th Our Ocean Conference

Republic of KOREA
28-30 April 2025



Marine
Protected Areas



Marine
Pollution



Blue Economy



Climate Change



Sustainable
Fisheries



Maritime
Security



Digital Oceans

10th Our Ocean Conference Concept Paper

The ocean, covering 70% of the Earth's surface, connects the entire world, constantly circulates, and provides a habitat for marine life as well as resources and livelihoods for humanity. However, this connectivity means that ocean crises have global repercussions, impacting all of us simultaneously. To preserve and sustainably use this vast ocean, we must unite our actions rather than addressing the issues in a fragmented manner.

The Our Ocean Conference(OOC), first held in the United States in 2014, has served as a vital platform for the global ocean community-including governments, international organizations, global corporations, NGOs, and academia to recognize the importance of the ocean to all humanity and to foster international cooperation for a sustainable ocean. Through the OOC, the global ocean community has consistently advanced international cooperation for our ocean by taking practical measures such as establishing MPAs to support the 30 by 30 goal, urging the ratification of important international treaties like BBNJ, and coordinating efforts to eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Additionally, with more than 2,600 commitments valued at approximately \$140 billion, participants around the world have significantly and concretely contributed to the conservation and sustainable use of our ocean.

The 10th OOC will be held under the slogan **“Our Ocean, Our Action,”** from April 28 to 30, 2025, at BEXCO in Busan, Republic of Korea. As a 10th-anniversary event, the OOC will share the achievements and successful practices of the commitments voluntarily made by the global ocean community over the past decade, providing new inspiration and momentum for our collective action. Building on the legacy of previous OOCs, the conference will offer a platform for the global ocean community to discuss six core agendas of OOC and one special agenda, accompanied by various side events.

The six primary themes for the 10th OOC are as follows:



1. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Actions for 30 by 30

MPAs are powerful tools for the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems. The international community has set the goal of protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, known as the "30 by 30" target. It is important to focus on both achieving this goal through collaboration among various stakeholders and effectively managing the MPAs by establishing monitoring and evaluation systems. The 10th OOC will serve as a platform for participants to consolidate their knowledge and experience and announce effective actions to accelerate the achievement of the "30 by 30" target.



2. Sustainable Fisheries: Actions to Eliminate IUU Fishing

Global efforts to conserve oceans living resources that were once far more abundant have been ongoing through resource management and regulated fishing activities. Responsible fishing is key to achieving sustainable fisheries, and the international community has made significant progress by developing concrete guidelines and agreements. These international efforts have improved control measures for every stage of seafood production and distribution, from catching at sea to unloading at ports and distribution in markets. Moreover, Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects and training programs aimed at strengthening the fisheries management capacities of developing countries have steadily expanded for broader global participation and collective action. Against this backdrop, the 10th OOC will provide great opportunity for every participant to announce their commitment and explore ways to promote unified international actions to achieve sustainable fisheries.



3. Marine Pollution: Actions to Tackle Marine Plastic Pollution

Growing concerns about marine plastic pollution continue to draw global attention. In response, the international community is working on a global treaty toward ending plastic pollution. Countries are improving waste management, companies are developing new recycling technologies, and civil society is tackling the problem through campaigns and volunteer efforts. At the 10th OOC, discussions will focus on bringing together the efforts of governments, local authorities, businesses, and citizens to address marine waste, with a special focus on plastic pollution, and to encourage coordinated global action.



4. Climate Change: Actions for Carbon reduction in Our Ocean

Climate change poses a profound threat to the ocean's ability to regulate the global climate, with consequences such as rising sea temperatures, sea level rise, and ocean acidification, which in turn trigger numerous ripple effects in our ocean. The need to go beyond carbon neutrality and achieve carbon negativity is being recognized as a fundamental solution to address these climate change challenges. The 10th OOC will focus on ways to reduce and absorb carbon in the ocean. Key discussions will include decarbonizing international shipping, transitioning to eco-friendly vessels for coastal and fishing fleets, expanding blue carbon initiatives such as carbon sinks, and fostering international cooperation on marine carbon reduction. Participants will share practical examples and discuss strategies for spreading successful initiatives.



5. Maritime Security: Actions for Stable International Maritime Order

The ocean connects the world and has long been a vital space for international exchange and cooperation in areas such as transportation, logistics, and the use of marine resources. Around 80% of global trade is conducted by sea, making the ocean the backbone of the global supply chain. However, this supply chain on the ocean is increasingly threatened by conflicts such as war and illegal activities such as piracy, which cause significant economic disruptions worldwide. Strong cooperation among nations is crucial to maintaining a stable and predictable maritime order. At the 10th OOC, the international community will work on developing cooperative measures to establish a stable maritime order and strengthen international maritime security governance.



6. Blue Economy: Actions toward Creating an Innovative Framework for the Blue Economy

The Blue Economy represents a new paradigm that fosters innovative business models and economic growth through the sustainable use of the ocean. Many countries worldwide are striving to utilize the Blue Economy as a new engine for national development. Some nations are already showcasing successful Blue Economy frameworks built on advanced knowledge, technology, and governance. The 10th OOC will offer a platform to share knowledge and experiences related to these innovative Blue Economy frameworks that have become a reality.

In addition to these six core agendas, the Republic of Korea has identified “Digital Oceans” as an overarching agenda, connecting the various topics of discussion.



7. Digital Oceans: Actions for Advancing Sustainable Ocean through Digital Technology

The international community is actively using digital technology to tackle major challenges in our ocean. Smart technology is also being applied to aquaculture to boost growth in the fisheries industry, and efforts are underway to enhance logistics efficiency and reduce ship greenhouse gas emissions through autonomous vessels and digital maritime traffic management. The 10th OOC will explore how digital ocean technology is driving new ocean actions and discuss international cooperation to accelerate these advancements.

The Republic of Korea, the proud host of the 10th OOC, is dedicated to advancing a comprehensive range of maritime policies by integrating and promoting ocean-related initiatives through its “Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries.” For approximately 30 years, the country has actively implemented a diverse range of ocean-related policies, including those focusing on the Blue Economy, marine environmental protection, sustainable fisheries, green shipping, and maritime safety. With this extensive experience, the Republic of Korea is prepared to share its achievements, challenges, and future plans for a “Sustainable Ocean” through the plenary sessions and various side events.

“Together, we can make a difference for our ocean with our action”.

