

## PRESS BRIEFINGS

### OPENING PRESS BRIEFING

**Time:** 10.30 - 11.15 EET

**Location:** Media center

**Date:** Tuesday 16th April 2024

The 2024 Our Ocean Conference is a critical opportunity for the world to act to protect the ocean and the communities that depend on it. The opening press briefing will set out expectations for the conference as well as provide expert and local community voices outlining key issues, including the protection of marine habitats, community-led conservation, ocean-based climate solutions, and illegal and unregulated fishing.

- **Dr. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou**, Greek Prime Minister's Special Envoy for OOC 2024
- **Mr Skylakakis**, Minister of Environment and Energy
- **Mr. Petros Varelidis**, General Secretary Ministry of Environment & Energy
- **Melissa Wright**, Lead, Bloomberg Ocean Initiative
- **Mayor Alfredo Coro II**, Municipality of Del Carmen Surigao del Norte
- **Tony Long**, CEO, Global Fishing Watch
- **Alexandra Cousteau**, Adviser to Oceana

## **PRESS BRIEFING: HIGH SEAS, 30X30, ANTARCTIC OCEAN PROTECTION**

**Time:** 12:15 - 13:00 EET

**Location:** Media center

**Date:** Tuesday 16th April 2024

There have been significant multilateral breakthroughs in environmental and ocean governance in the past couple of years with the agreement of the Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework and its 30x30 target as well as the adoption of a new UN High Seas Treaty. This press briefing will outline the critical importance of these international agreements, including for key stakeholders and for ocean health. It will highlight key actions and opportunities to make progress in achieving 30x30 through swift ratification efforts of the High Seas Treaty and designating marine protected areas in international waters, including within Antarctica's Southern Ocean.

- **Rebecca Hubbard, Director**, High Seas Alliance
- **Dr. Filimon Manoni**, Pacific Ocean Commissioner
- **Holly Curry, Campaign Director**, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition
- **Marcela Hey**, elected officials of the Koro Nui o te Vaikava – Rapa Nui Ocean Council
- **Camila Rimoldi Ibañez**, Youth Leadership Council Members

## **PRESS BRIEFING: DEEP SEA MINING, DEEP SEA FISHING AND SEAMOUNT PROTECTION**

**Time:** 08:15 - 09:00 EET

**Location:** Media center

**Date:** Wednesday 17th April 2024

The deep sea is the largest biome on Earth. It makes up 90% of the marine environment and plays a vital role in regulating our planetary systems, not least by absorbing and storing vast quantities of carbon dioxide emitted by human activities and by supporting an abundance of biodiversity, with new species being discovered nearly every expedition to the deep. Yet, fragile deep-sea ecosystems face numerous stressors, including pollution, climate change and destructive extractive activities. This press briefing will outline the critical need to safeguard and protect the deep sea, focusing on two pressing issues:

- The growing resistance for a deep-sea mining moratorium as discussions continue at the International Seabed Authority
  - The need to safeguard seamounts as biodiversity hotspots by ensuring bottom trawling is halted on all seamounts by 2026
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- **Minna Epps, Director**, Global Marine and Polar Programme, IUCN
  - **H.E. Steven Victor**, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment, Palau
  - **Natalie Andersen**, Scientific Lead, International Programme for the State of the Ocean
  - **Lance Morgan**, President, Marine Conservation Society
  - **Sofia Tsenikli**, Global Deep-Sea Mining Campaign Lead, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

## PRESS BRIEFING: OCEAN-CLIMATE

**Time:** 12:00 - 12:45 EET

**Location:** Media center

**Date:** Wednesday 17th April 2024

The ocean is on the frontline of the climate crisis but it is also one of our greatest allies in combating it, absorbing around 25% of carbon dioxide emissions and 90% of the heat resulting from these emissions. Experts will set out the threat climate change poses to the ocean and the opportunity provided by ocean based climate solutions.

- **Dr. Kathryn Matthews**, Chief scientist, Oceana
- **Ambassador Julio Cordano**, Director of Environment, Climate Change and Oceans, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile
- **Melissa Wright**, Bloomberg Ocean Initiative
- **Peter Bryant**, Director of the Oceans Program at Builders Vision - anchor funders of [ORCA](#)

## PRESS BRIEFING: CLOSING OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE PRESS BRIEFING

**Time:** 16.00 - 17.00 EET

**Location:** Media center

**Date:** Wednesday 17th April 2024

Press briefing to close the conference. Highlighting some of the Our Ocean commitments.

- **Dr. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou**, Greek Prime Minister's Special Envoy for OOC 2024
- **Mr Skylakakis**, Minister of Environment and Energy
- **Mr. Petros Varelides**, General Secretary Ministry of Environment & Energy