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## CAMPAIGNING FOR SHARKS

Morgan Freeman joins Oceana's efforts to pass a national ban on the trade of shark fins in the United States

**PLUS:** 15 YEARS OF OCEAN VICTORIES | OCEANA ON THE WATER | HONORING DR. KRISTIAN PARKER



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15 YEARS AND 100+ VICTORIES 6



VITAL BUT INVISIBLE 14



CAMPAIGNING FOR SHARKS 17



OCEANA ON THE WATER 10

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DEPARTMENTS

- CEO'S NOTE** Science-based policies make sense, regardless of the political climate
- FOR THE WIN** Atlantic protected from offshore drilling, Spain cracks down on illegal fishing and more
- NEWS & NOTES** Senators introduce bill to protect U.S. East Coast from seismic airgun blasts, new report details how businesses benefit from seafood traceability and more
- Q&A** Heather Mycoskie
- GO FIGURE** Sardines
- FISH TALE** The Sumilon Reef in the Philippines
- ASK DR. PAULY** Fish need habitats, not only water
- EVENTS** The annual New York event
- SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT** Dr. Kristian Parker
- CHEF'S CORNER** Jennie Staines' Belizean Sere
- PARTING SHOT** Brazil

OCEANA is the largest international advocacy organization focused solely on ocean conservation. We run science-based campaigns and seek to win policy victories that can restore ocean biodiversity and ensure that the oceans are abundant and can feed hundreds of millions of people. Oceana victories have already helped to create policies that could increase fish populations in its countries by as much as 40 percent and that have protected more than 1 million square miles of ocean. We have campaign offices in the countries that control close to 40 percent of the world's wild fish catch, including in North, South and Central America, Asia and Europe. To learn more, please visit [www.oceana.org](http://www.oceana.org).

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FEATURES

- 15 YEARS AND 100+ VICTORIES FOR THE OCEANS** Oceana's track record of success
- OCEANA ON THE WATER** Taking to the sea in order to save it
- VITAL BUT INVISIBLE** Women fishers' crucial role
- THE FIGHT ON FINNING** Campaigning for Sharks





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## PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TODAY

Your contribution will help ensure our oceans are vibrant and sustainable. Help us save the oceans, feed the world.

Call us today at (202) 833-3900, email us at [info@oceana.org](mailto:info@oceana.org), visit [www.oceana.org/give](http://www.oceana.org/give) or use the envelope provided in this magazine to make a donation. Oceana is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

## Science-based Policies Make Sense, Regardless of the Political Climate

Oceana's job is to make the oceans more abundant. We've discovered that in most cases the biggest lever we have to achieve that goal is to win national policies that stop overfishing and prevent pollution. Sometimes our key objective is to protect essential habitat or save threatened creatures such as turtles, sharks or whales. We focus on the countries that have the biggest impact on ocean health: remember, just 30 countries are responsible for more than 90 percent of the world's ocean productivity.

So what happens when the national politics in those countries produce big surprises? Are we able to keep delivering real ocean protections when the electoral process in those countries seems to veer off into unfamiliar territory?

This question is not academic. Oceana has campaign teams fighting for sensible, science-based ocean policies in seven countries and in the European Union—countries responsible for about a third of the world's ocean productivity. In five of these places, 2016 has been a year of extraordinary political turmoil. The European Union had the first of its 28 member states declare it wants out when Great Britain's citizens voted for "Brexit" in a national referendum. In the United States, the end of President Obama's second term has generated an unusual election season. A television celebrity businessman who has never held office defeated 16 primary opponents, winning the Republican nomination, and now faces off for the presidency against the first female nominee of a major party. In the Philippines, a populist law-and-order mayor defeated the establishment nominee, despite statements that suggested an endorsement of extra-judicial violence against criminals. Brazil impeached its president, Dilma Rousseff, and then the country's vice president—assuming power for at least 180 days during the president's trial in the Senate—fired

and replaced every minister in her Cabinet. In Peru, Keiko Fujimori, whose father is incarcerated for crimes committed when he was Peru's president, was defeated by the tiniest of margins in her race to become that country's next president.

Can Oceana keep winning policies—as we have done year after year since our founding nearly 15 years ago—that will put more fish in the ocean in tumultuous times like these?

The answer is yes. Consider first Brazil. It presents the most chaotic national political situation of any of our countries. What has our brave team of Brazilian scientists and ocean advocates been able to accomplish in the two years since we began work there? Together with our allies, we've:

- Restarted basic data gathering on fisheries catches, a practice entirely abandoned since 2008
- Established the first regional Fishery Management Councils and won the first-ever seats on them for NGOs and artisanal fisher representatives
- Reinstated the "Red List"—Brazil's highest protections for endangered species—which had been completely undone in a legislative decree promoted by industrial fishing interests

In the Philippines, vessel monitoring has been mandated nationwide, and together with the government and a top university, we've conducted an important expedition to study and protect the Benham Rise, a vast ocean territory recently granted to the Philippines under the Law of the Sea.

In Europe, ocean abundance is rebuilding in the North Atlantic, as scientific catch limits are steadily being imposed on an increasing share of the fleets' activities in the most productive part of the European ocean.

And in the United States, there is more fishery rebuilding than ever before, seafood traceability is on its way to becoming a national policy for the first time and plans to drill for oil were stopped in the American Arctic and off the Eastern Atlantic coast.

It turns out that science-based ocean policy advocacy makes sense regardless of the political weather. Whether you are left, right or center, it just makes sense to implement policies that stop overfishing and require rebuilding through scientific quotas, habitat protection and bycatch reduction.

And the ocean, as it always has, responds robustly. It cares not for your politics, only your science. Marine ecosystems are, for the most part, amazingly fertile and resilient. Give them some basic, sensible, sound management, and they rebound in strong and measurable ways. In 10 years, many fisheries can come back to near optimal levels.

At Oceana, we hold ourselves accountable for delivering real outcomes that make the ocean healthier and more abundant. We don't just "work on" ocean conservation—we run campaigns that win changes that make an actual in-the-water improvement in ocean health. We do this every year, and every year we have to win the ongoing support of backers like you if we are to maintain our progress. We are continuously grateful for your loyalty and your generous support. We keep winning for the oceans because you're at our side. Congratulations and thank you!

Sincerely,



Andy Sharpless  
CEO  
Oceana





## VICTORY PROTECTS ATLANTIC COAST OF UNITED STATES FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING

Following extensive campaigning and grassroots pressure by Oceana and its allies, the Obama administration removed the Atlantic Ocean from the proposed 2017-2022 plan for oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf. The March decision will safeguard the Atlantic from oil spills and coastal industrialization while helping usher in a focus on cleaner energy solutions.

According to Claire Douglas, Oceana’s campaign leader, “the government’s action makes the proposed seismic testing plan for the area truly unnecessary.” Seismic testing

is conducted to find oil and gas deposits beneath the ocean floor. Seismic airguns expose marine mammals to loud and damaging blasts and can be heard thousands of miles away from the testing site.

Citizens from 110 East Coast municipalities, more than 100 members of Congress, 700 state and local elected officials and more than 1,100 businesses and business associations in the area publicly opposed offshore drilling and seismic airgun use in advance of the decision.

## SPAIN CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL FISHING

Several individuals were arrested in Galicia, Spain in March on charges related to the illegal fishing of Patagonian toothfish, a highly valued species marketed as Chilean sea bass, in Antarctic waters. The arrests followed a joint raid of the company Vidal Armadores by Spanish law enforcement and Interpol. Oceana has long campaigned for stronger enforcement of existing fishing laws and a crackdown against illegal fishers.

The Spanish government also confirmed in March that companies linked to the Vidal Armadores were fined the equivalent of more than \$20 million for illegal fishing in 2015. Furthermore, three boats connected to these companies have been repeatedly caught poaching Patagonian toothfish in the Antarctic while flying the flags of various countries in an attempt to evade authorities. The total quantity of Patagonian toothfish caught may be several times higher than the amount officially reported.

## ITALY DRAMATICALLY REDUCES OVERCAPACITY IN SWORDFISH FLEET

The Italian Fisheries Ministry reduced the number of boats it allows to catch swordfish by 90 percent, from more than 8,000 boats to 849. The reduction in the number of boats was based on catch data from the past three years and follows campaigning by Oceana for science-based fishery management.

Italy’s fleet catches 41 percent of the total amount of swordfish landed in the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean swordfish stock has declined by about two-thirds since the early 1980s. Operators of Italy’s fishing vessels opposed the Italian government’s efforts to enact responsible management measures for the species.

## UNITED STATES TAKES ACTION TO PROTECT PACIFIC SARDINE FISHERY

In April, the Pacific Fishery Management Council voted to close the U.S. West Coast commercial sardine fishery for the second year in a row after federal scientists disclosed that this fish population has declined



more than 90 percent since 2007. Now, at less than 10 percent of healthy levels, the sardine population can no longer support a sustainable fishery, let alone dependent marine wildlife.

The plummeting Pacific sardine population and the concurrent crash of other forage fish such as the Northern anchovy have had serious impacts on ocean predators, including California sea lions, seals and pelicans. In recent years, sea lion pups have been starving to death, and California brown pelicans are abandoning their nests for lack of food. While environmental conditions have contributed to the collapse of the sardine population, overfishing during the collapse has made the problem significantly worse. Oceana is advocating that the minimum sardine population required before commercial fishing may resume be increased from 150,000 to 640,000 metric tons and that the sardine catches off Baja California, Mexico and British Columbia, Canada be accurately accounted for to prevent coast-wide sardine overfishing.

## SMALL FISH WIN BIG IN THE PACIFIC

Seven groups of forage fish, including hundreds of species that help to form the basis of the ocean food web, gained significant protection in April when the National Marine Fisheries Service prohibited new commercial fisheries from targeting them in federal waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The Pacific Fishery Management Council voted unanimously to protect these forage fish following a campaign by Oceana and its allies.

In addition to preventing new fisheries from targeting these fish, the rule sets bycatch limits for existing fisheries that incidentally catch them. The new protections are important, as they incorporate safeguards for the overall health of the marine ecosystem into fisheries regulation.

Combined with previous efforts to protect krill, this new rule will provide needed protections for roughly 70 percent of forage fish, by weight, in the California Current Ecosystem.





The Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act introduced into Congress.

©Tim Calver

United States Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), supported by Oceana, introduced the Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection (ASAP) Act (S. 2841), a bill to stop seismic airgun blasting along the U.S. East Coast. The technique, which is used to look for oil deposits deep beneath the seafloor, has been shown to harm animals including whales, dolphins, sea turtles and fish.

Oceana’s campaign to save sea turtles included a children’s letter-writing initiative to the Obama administration. In partnership with the conservation organization One More Generation, the campaign amassed more than 12,500 letters and drawings from kids nationwide. Oceana and actress Lilimar Hernandez, star of *Bella and the Bulldogs*, presented them to the White House on World Sea Turtle Day.

Oceana released a report detailing how seafood traceability added value to businesses. Interviews with 17 fishermen, wholesalers, retailers and restaurateurs demonstrated that businesses benefit from increased transparency, traceability and ensuring their seafood was legally caught and honestly labeled.

Oceana presented a photography exhibit in Chile showcasing the cultural ties between the ocean and people along the country’s coastline. The collection, called *Chile, Heirs of the Sea*, consists of 30 images featuring fishermen, craftspeople, tourists and families.

A radio public service announcement (PSA) with Alexandra Cousteau and Josh Laughren, executive director of Oceana Canada, about rebuilding Canada’s fisheries recently went live. The spot aired 40 times across the country within a month, reaching 1.3 million listeners.

Oceana released a report analyzing the damage that the Deepwater Horizon oil spill continues to have six years after the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The consequences include heart failure in young tuna exposed to the oil and higher death rates in bottlenose dolphins living near Louisiana.

Dr. Patricia Majluf, Oceana’s leader in Peru, was honored for her contributions to the sustainability of Peruvian gastronomy by the U.N. World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in April. The presentation happened during the second annual UNWTO Global Forum on Gastronomy Tourism in Lima, Peru.



Oceana released a new report about seafood fraud.

©Oceana/Jenn Hueting



Oceana released a report analyzing Deepwater Horizon damage.

©CHEVRO



Heather with her son and her husband Blake, founder of TOMS

©2016 Getty Images



©Oceana/Melissa Forsyth

# Q&A: HEATHER MYCOSKIE

This year, TOMS shoes joined forces with Oceana to help save sea turtles. With Chief Animal Lover Heather Mycoskie at the helm, the TOMS Animal Initiative produced limited edition sea turtle-themed shoes. Five dollars from each purchase goes to Oceana’s work. This year’s collaboration comes just three years after TOMS partnered with Oceana and Discovery’s Shark Week on a shark shoe that supported Oceana’s campaigns. Mycoskie took time out of her busy schedule to talk about the importance of sea turtles and why she’s hopeful that we can still save them.

**Why did you want to partner with Oceana again for the TOMS Animal Initiative?**

Our first partnership with Oceana was in 2013, when we worked together with Discovery on the TOMS Shark Shoe. While I was researching Oceana and their advocacy work for marine life and ocean conservation, I learned about their incredible programs dedicated to protecting sea turtles. I knew this was something we could help amplify and raise awareness for through the TOMS Animal Initiative (TAI). By aligning with the right partners like Oceana, we are making a significant step in helping protect marine life and preserve our oceans.

**In your opinion, what would we be missing out on if sea turtles disappeared from our oceans?**

Sea turtles play a vital role in our ecosystem, maintaining balance and ocean health. Beyond the ecological benefits of sea turtles, they are fascinating creatures that hold a huge significance in the history of our planet. Not to mention, they are so cute!

**What’s it like to see these animals that you hope to help in the wild?**

It is always an honor to learn about and experience the work our TAI partners are

doing firsthand. It is so awe-inspiring to see these magnificent creatures in their natural habitats. Each field visit reinvigorates my passion for the causes we support. The intent is to help us have a better understanding of our partnership and to help inform our supporters on the issues and educate them on what they can do to get involved.

**There are so many species of animals that are in trouble. How do you stay hopeful that we’ll be able to turn things around for them?**

It breaks my heart to think that animals I have known and loved all of my life will be a dying species as my son Summit grows up. As a community, I am optimistic that we can bring attention to the threats endangered animals face and help to ensure these creatures roam this earth for generations to come.

**If you could be an ocean animal, what would you be and why?**

As a marine life advocate, I am a lover of all ocean creatures, but I would have to say a dolphin. I really enjoy their playful behavior and connection to their families. We are constantly learning from them as they are a very intelligent species, and how can you resist how adorable they are!



# 15 YEARS AND 100+ VICTORIES FOR THE OCEANS

IN LESS THAN TWO DECADES, OCEANA HAS BUILT A REMARKABLE TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS, THANKS TO THE ORGANIZATION'S SCIENCE-BACKED CAMPAIGNS.

by Brianna Elliott

While the fear of Y2K loomed in the minds of people worldwide at the turn of the century, a much more serious global threat brewed underwater. Fifteen years ago, one scientific report after another indicated that the world's oceans were in trouble.

As a result, five organizations—the Pew Charitable Trusts, Oak Foundation, the Marisla Foundation (formerly the Homeland Foundation), the Sandler Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund—commissioned a study about the state of ocean conservation. They found that less than one percent of funding for the environment went toward protecting the oceans. No existing international advocacy group was focused exclusively on the oceans. Thus Oceana was born to advocate for policies that would increase marine biodiversity and abundance on a global scale.

“From the start, we saw that our campaign model worked,” said Oceana CEO Andy Sharpless. “We could win real, measurable victories for the oceans.”

Since its inception, Oceana—with help from its allies—has won more than 100 victories, addressing nearly every threat facing the oceans today, from illegal fishing to habitat degradation to pollution. A look at some of these successes follows, and a complete list can be found at [oceana.org/victories](http://oceana.org/victories).



The Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park becomes the largest Marine Park in the Americas.  
©Avi Klapfer

## WINNING BETTER FISHING PRACTICES

Promoting responsible, science-based fisheries management—which benefits both fish and the hundreds of millions of people worldwide who rely on them—and transparency throughout the seafood supply chain have been key priorities for Oceana, as evidenced by victories such as the four unprecedented wins that follow.

### *Dramatic Reforms for Europe's Fisheries*

In 2013, the European Union approved major reforms to the Common Fishery Policy (CFP), a law that manages all European fisheries. The new law established one of the best fisheries policy frameworks in the world and promised to dramatically improve the management of the European Union's massive fisheries, ranked fourth in the world in terms of the weight of fish caught. The new CFP requires member states to follow scientific recommendations on fishing stocks and puts an end to the practice of “discards,” throwing dead, unwanted fish back into the sea. Oceana and its allies campaigned for years to make sure that this once-in-a-decade opportunity to reform the failed EU fisheries policy was not wasted.

### *U.S. Government's Action Plan for Seafood Fraud and Illegal Fishing*

Following campaigning by Oceana, the U.S. Presidential Task Force on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Seafood Fraud announced its action plan, created to tackle these issues, in 2015. Since 2011, Oceana has pioneered the effort to stop seafood fraud and ensure that all seafood sold in the U.S. is safe, legally caught and honestly labeled. Oceana has released several studies that uncovered seafood fraud and received significant national media coverage, such as a 2014 study revealing that America's favorite seafood—shrimp—was misrepresented in 30 percent of the 143 products tested. A similar 2013 study found that 33 percent of the more than 1,200 fish samples tested nationwide were mislabeled according to Food and Drug Administration guidelines.

### *First Science-Based Catch Limits Established in Chile*

The Chilean government announced the first set of science-backed fishing quotas for the country, the ninth largest fishing nation in terms of fish caught, by weight, in 2014. Previously, the Chilean government

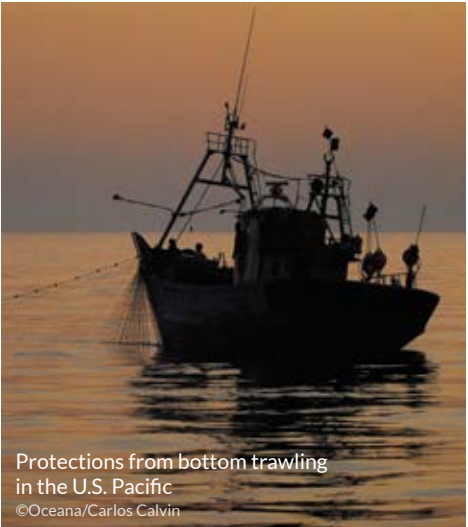


Bottom trawling banned in Belize.  
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had routinely ignored scientific advice in setting its fishing quotas. Oceana played a key role in winning the passage of a law that established this science-based approach to fisheries management (which also protected 118 seamounts in Chile from bottom trawling). Thanks to guidance from scientific committees, the Chilean government set more effective catch limits for four critical species of fish: common hake, anchoveta, sardines and jack mackerel. The reductions were dramatic—the government reduced the quota for common hake by 55 percent, for anchoveta by 65 percent in specific regions and for sardines by 29 percent in specific regions.



U.S. government's action plan for seafood fraud and illegal fishing  
©Oceana/Jenn Huetling



Protections from bottom trawling in the U.S. Pacific  
©Oceana/Carlos Calvin

### *U.S. Arctic Protected from Industrial Fishing*

Following campaigning by Oceana, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) voted in 2009 to prevent the expansion of industrial fishing into all U.S. waters north of the Bering Strait for the foreseeable future in order to limit stress on ocean ecosystems threatened by global climate change in the Arctic. This decision established one of the largest preventative and precautionary measures in fisheries management history.

## PROTECTING HABITAT

Oceana also campaigns to protect important

marine habitats from pollution, destructive fishing and climate change. Protecting these habitats, whether they are colorful coral reefs or the depths of the open ocean, is crucial to maintaining healthy fish and other wildlife populations. Miles upon miles of critical habitats have been protected by Oceana's work due to victories such as the three below.

### *Massive Protections from Bottom Trawling in the U.S. Pacific*

In a historic 2005 victory for the oceans, and the largest such action any country had taken up to that point in time, U.S. authorities closed off nearly one million square kilometers of the Pacific Ocean surrounding the Aleutian Islands of Alaska—an area equal to Texas and California combined—to bottom trawling, a destructive commercial fishing practice that involves dragging a heavy net across the ocean floor, destroying everything that might be in the net's path.

### *Largest Marine Park in the Americas Created in Chile*

In 2015, the Chilean government designated the largest marine protected area (MPA) in the Americas as a result of Oceana and its allies' expeditions and campaigns. The Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park extends for 114,872 square miles and protects the area's rich biodiversity by establishing a no-take zone for marine life, meaning that virtually no fishing or other extractive activities are allowed. Chile has also established other MPAs as a result of campaigning by Oceana along with its ally National Geographic's Pristine Seas Project, including the Salas y Gómez Marine Park, which protects unique habitats and ensures local fisheries and wildlife can continue thriving.

### *Bottom Trawling Ban in Belize*

The Belizean government banned all forms of trawling in 2010, safeguarding the country's marine habitats and ecosystems from the destructive fishing practice and also aiding Belizean's artisanal fishers whose ability to catch fish had been negatively impacted by the trawling. Oceana collaborated with Belizean Prime Minister



Dean Barrow’s administration to negotiate the buy-out of the two shrimp trawlers. With this ban, Belize became one of the first countries in the world to institute a complete and permanent ban on trawling in all its waters.

SAVING VULNERABLE SPECIES

Animals such as sea turtles, sharks and marine mammals contribute to the health and vibrancy of ocean ecosystems. Some of the ocean’s largest residents have also been protected by Oceana’s biggest victories.

60,000 Sea Turtles Saved Annually

In the organization’s first victory in 2003, Oceana successfully pressured the U.S. government to require larger TEDs (turtle excluder devices, which allow turtles to escape drowning if they become accidentally tangled in fishing gear) in shrimp nets in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Ocean, saving an estimated 60,000 sea turtles a year.

All Shark Finning Banned in the EU

Shark finning, or the practice of removing a shark’s fins at sea before throwing the body of the dead or dying shark overboard, was banned in the European Union in 2013. Now, all sharks caught in European waters or by European vessels have to be brought to shore with their fins still naturally attached. The victory—based on an earlier success in the United States—ended a near-decade-long battle to close loopholes that had weakened the previous EU policy. In particular, an exemption used only by Spain and Portugal allowed some vessels to remove shark fins at sea, which made it extremely difficult to detect when finning had occurred. Since the beginning of its work in Europe, Oceana had campaigned for a strict ban on shark finning as an important aspect of improved shark fisheries management in the EU.

Emergency Rules Implemented to Protect Endangered Sperm Whales from California Drift Gillnets

The National Marine Fisheries Service, following campaigning by Oceana, issued emergency regulations in 2013 to shut



Shark finning banned in the European Union and 11 states in the United States.  
©Eduardo Sorensen



60,000 sea turtles saved annually.  
©Oceana/Carlos Suarez

down California’s drift gillnet fishery if a single endangered sperm whale is caught. The fishery kills more whales and other marine mammals than any other fishery along the U.S. West Coast and has one of the highest bycatch rates in the country. These rules also require scientifically trained observers on all drift gillnet vessels operating in offshore waters deeper than 6,500 feet and new vessel monitoring systems that track the locations of all drift gillnet vessels off the U.S. West Coast.

Shark Fin Trade Bans Passed in 11 States in the United States

Eleven states, including Texas, have now banned the sale of shark fins. Texas



Emergency rules implemented to protect sperm whales.  
©Shane Gross/Shutterstock

had recently emerged as a hub for shark fins, with the state’s fin trade growing by 240 percent since 2010. The ban in the Lone Star state made Texas the first in the Gulf region to pass a shark fin sale ban. Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, California, Illinois, Maryland, Delaware, New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island also have bans on the trade. Shark

finning is illegal in U.S. waters, but most states still import and export fins. The shark fin trade is largely responsible for millions of shark deaths per year and is significantly driving their decline. Oceana has campaigned against the shark fin trade for years and has previously won victories at the state and federal levels to establish and uphold shark fin bans. Oceana is now



Construction stopped in Chile.  
©Eduardo Sorensen

campaigning for a nationwide ban on the shark fin trade.

PREVENTING POLLUTION

Power plants, offshore drilling, marine debris and other sources of pollution can cause catastrophic effects in the water. Some you can easily see, such as the 2010 BP oil disaster that devastated ecosystems and economies along the Gulf of Mexico. Others aren’t as readily visible, such as the changing chemistry in the oceans as they absorb approximately one-third of carbon dioxide emissions. Oceana has won multiple victories, including those below, to stop polluters from despoiling important marine places around the world.

Shell Abandons Drilling Activity in U.S. Arctic

In 2015, after years of campaigning by Oceana and its allies, Shell Oil ceased further oil exploration in the U.S. Arctic Ocean. The move followed years of failed exploration attempts, costing the company billions of dollars. Shell’s efforts to operate in the remote and unforgiving Arctic in 2012 led to a series of mishaps, fines, government investigations and the grounding of the drill rig *Kulluk*. Oceana used the law, economics, lobbying, science

and the press to show that Shell’s plan was neither economically viable nor environmentally safe.

Construction of Largest Coal-Fired Plant in Chile Stopped

Codelco, the largest copper mining company in the world, canceled its plans to construct *Energía Minera*, which would have been the largest coal-fired plant in Chile. The company canceled construction in 2015 in order to avoid conflicts with local communities in the Ventanas area, which was already heavily polluted by three other thermoelectric plants and a copper refinery. Oceana and its allies campaigned against this plant for five years. Oceana had previously won similar victories in other parts of Chile, including Punta de Choros, also threatened by the expansion of coal-fired power plants.

Offshore Drilling Halted in Belize

Oceana stopped offshore drilling in Belize, which boasts some of the world’s most exquisite habitats, such as the Great Blue Hole reef formation. In 2015, Belize announced its commitment to enact a permanent ban on offshore oil exploration along the country’s barrier reef system and within the country’s seven World Heritage Sites. Previously, Oceana’s campaign work led Belize’s Supreme Court to declare offshore drilling contracts issued by the government of Belize null and void.

Collectively Oceana’s victories have protected more than 1.2 million square miles of oceans and countless of fish, sea turtles and marine mammals. With offices in eight countries, Oceana is well poised to continue its success and global reach in the coming years.

“Oceana is making progress,” Sharpless said. “We are confident that we can continue to win victories in the countries that control most of the world’s wild fish catch. Our success shows that it is possible to save the oceans and feed the world.”



# OCEANA ON THE WATER

By Brianna Elliott

**Oceana embarks on seven expeditions in 2016 to win protections around the globe for important ocean places, from underwater canyons in the Mediterranean to sea mountains off of Chile.**

Oceana is taking to the seas more than ever in 2016, with a total of seven expeditions around the world. This dramatic increase in Oceana's on-the-water presence, after completing 25 previous expeditions since 2005, is driven by growing evidence that Oceana's expeditions are effective in winning significant victories.

“Our expeditions have discovered new species and documented previously unexplored ecosystems,” Oceana CEO Andy Sharpless said. “But the most amazing outcomes have been the many important victories for the world's oceans that have resulted directly from our at-sea efforts. With even more expeditions on the water, we will win additional policy changes that will help to increase ocean abundance and biodiversity.”

Previous expeditions have yielded remarkable victories, such as a 2013 joint expedition with the National Geographic Pristine Seas Project to the Desventuradas Islands off the coast of Chile that resulted in the designation of the largest marine protected area (MPA) in the Americas, the Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park. Oceana's multidisciplinary approach to its expeditions—often employing large vessels, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), divers, drones and more—have

led to Oceana's successes in unlocking deep-water mysteries and in achieving real policy change.

This year continues to build on these previous successes like never before. “It's a banner year for Oceana,” Ricardo Aguilar, senior research director for the organization, said. “Not only will our expeditions take Oceana to previously undocumented ecosystems, but they will provide the knowledge and documentation that we need to win science-based campaigns.”

Read on for a short excerpt about each of Oceana's 2016 expeditions.

## **BENHAM RISE, PHILIPPINE SEA, PHILIPPINES**

Off the Philippines coast of Luzon, a vast seamount teeming with coral and fish extends from the ocean floor. Filipino scientists explored the shallowest portion of this seamount, Benham Bank, in 2014, but divers were only able to collect tantalizing images. Oceana and its partners returned this year to extensively study the area and collect video and dive footage.

Alongside the Philippines' Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the University of the Philippines, Oceana used advanced technology to conduct dives,

deploy remotely operated vehicles and video underwater.

Their findings? More than 200 species of fish and coral reefs nearly 500 feet deep. Scientists think these reef systems may well become refuges for reef fish as climate change degrades shallower coral habitat.

“Thanks to technological advances, Oceana and the expedition team members from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, the University of the Philippines Los Baños School of Environmental Science and Management and the Philippines Navy and Coast Guard were able to explore much deeper and longer than in 2014,” Oceana Philippines vice president Gloria Estenzo Ramos said. “Because of that, we discovered a treasure trove—the richest coral reef ever seen this deep in the Philippines. This paves the way for getting our government to establish the necessary protections for this important ecosystem.”

## **THE SOUND, DANISH-SWEDISH BORDER, BALTIC AND NORTH SEAS**

Between Sweden and Denmark, an area called the Sound joins the brackish Baltic Sea with the saltier North Sea. As the connection between two water bodies, the Sound is home to a volume





of unique species—many of which Oceana documented during previous expeditions in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Oceana’s previous exploration of the area exposed its ecological richness and the necessity of habitat protections.

In 2016, Oceana documented human activity such as pollution and litter that threatens the Sound and plans to use this information to develop a comprehensive proposal for managing and protecting the area. Several protected areas currently exist in the region, but they are small and scattered. Oceana plans to use the Sound as a springboard to drive transnational marine protected areas in the Baltic Sea.

“Two of Oceana’s key goals by 2020 are to help Europe achieve protection for 10 percent of its waters and to end overfishing in EU seas,” Lasse Gustavsson, Oceana senior vice president and executive director for Europe, said. “It’s lofty but achievable. Expeditions like the one in the Sound support both agendas by uncovering sensitive habitats and unique species.”

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, U.S. PACIFIC OCEAN

The Southern California Bight is lined with submarine canyons, ridges, seamounts, banks and other unique geological features—a globally significant seafloor ecosystem that hosts a variety marine life.

In 2006, Oceana won a victory for the Bight when it secured protections for specific areas from bottom trawling, but approximately 16,000 square miles—an area the size of New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware—remain unprotected.

Oceana teamed with several partners to use research vessels, remotely operated vehicles and other technology to search the Bight for banks and ridges thought to house unique cold-water corals and sponges. This research will lay the scientific groundwork Oceana needs to advocate for policy changes that will protect the remaining 16,000 square miles from bottom trawling.

Furthermore, Oceana tracked large, migratory fish in the area that are often victims of bycatch in gillnet fisheries operating in the Pacific. This data will support Oceana’s bycatch reduction campaigns.

ALEXANDER SELKIRK ISLAND, CHILE

Chile’s Juan Fernández archipelago consists of three islands that are important biodiversity hotspots. In fact, previous Oceana expeditions to two of these islands, Santa Clara and Robinson Crusoe, in 2013 revealed that 83 percent of species are endemic, or species found nowhere else in the world. These former expeditions led the Chilean government to ban bottom trawling around all of its seamounts in 2015.

The seas around Alexander Selkirk, the largest and most westerly island in the archipelago, are relatively unexplored and poorly documented. The island is essentially uninhabited for much of the year until Juan Fernández’s local lobstermen take up residence for seasonal fishing. The island’s small population leads to little human impact on its ecosystem. Scientists believe that Alexander Selkirk likely supports comparable—or even higher—levels of endemism to those found on Santa Clara and Robinson Crusoe.

Oceana scientists will voyage to this remaining island to study and document its diversity and use that to work to further possibly large-scale protections for the Juan Fernández archipelago.

LEBANON, MEDITERRANEAN SEA

As mentioned above, the Mediterranean Sea is one of the world’s richest marine areas, home to many species found nowhere else in the world. Lebanese waters, however, are a particularly poorly understood area of the Mediterranean. In order to learn more about marine resources off the Lebanese coast and help strengthen the network of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, Oceana is embarking on a one-year expedition around the country’s waters.

Oceana and multiple partners, including the United Nations Environmental Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) will conduct at-sea research to collect, analyze and map information about the unique species and ecosystems that exist within the region. Funded by the Mava Foundation, the project will help protect the most vulnerable and valuable coastal and marine areas in Lebanon. The expedition team will document understudied environments, particularly submarine canyons and deep-sea areas, and will use this information to strengthen Lebanon’s national strategy for marine protection.

MALTA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Oceana has an ambitious yet attainable goal for this small archipelago lined with sand banks, underwater caves and reefs: create five new marine protected areas and protect 10 percent of Malta’s coastal and marine ecosystems by 2020. To do so, Oceana completed the second leg of a two-year-long project, documenting previously understudied areas of the Mediterranean Sea and researching unique marine wildlife.

Oceana and its partners plan to use this information to aid the Maltese government in calling for protections under the Natura 2000 network, which unites the EU’s most ecologically valuable areas and is considered to be the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world.

While the Mediterranean is a biodiversity hotspot and home to many endemic species, there is a general lack of scientific knowledge about Maltese marine habitats. Using the Oceana Ranger, a custom-made, 71-foot-long catamaran that serves as a vital piece of Oceana’s campaign work in Europe, and deploying remotely operated vehicles, divers and other technology, Oceana assessed habitat abundance during this second leg of the project to inform MPA proposals.

THE NORTH SEA

The North Sea is one of the most biologically productive areas in the world, yet it holds the unhappy distinction of being one of the planet’s most overfished and polluted seas. The current protected zones in the North Sea are not well managed, and most of them encompass only coastal waters, neglecting the abundance found in deeper habitats.

Furthermore, scientific data is lacking in many areas. In response, Oceana set out to document these critical North Sea habitats, with the goal of gathering information in Dutch, British, Norwegian and Danish waters.

The two-month expedition documented marine environments and communities in selected areas of the North Sea to promote a larger network of marine protected areas that will allow fish stocks to recover after decades of depletion and will foster healthy and biodiverse ecosystems.

LOOKING AHEAD

Oceana plans to continue its new ambitious level of at-sea work in 2017, including the organization’s first-ever expedition in Canada.

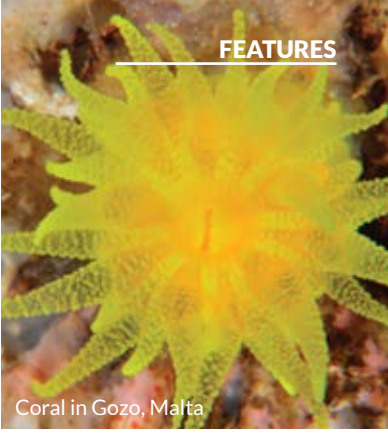
“No other ocean-focused organization has prioritized expeditions the way that Oceana has over the past decade,” Aguilar said. “So long as Oceana continues to do this to support our cutting-edge science, build relationships with local communities and work closely with governments around the world, we will be successful.”



Common sargassum (Sargassum vulgare) in Gozo, Malta



Moon jellyfish (Aurelia aurita) in Gozo, Malta



Coral in Gozo, Malta



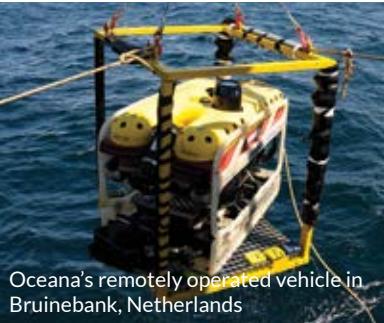
Swallowtail seaperch (Anthias anthias) in Gozo, Malta

©Oceana/Carlos Minguell

©Oceana/Juan Cuentos



School of poutings (Trisopterus luscus) in Humber, United Kingdom



Oceana's remotely operated vehicle in Bruinebank, Netherlands

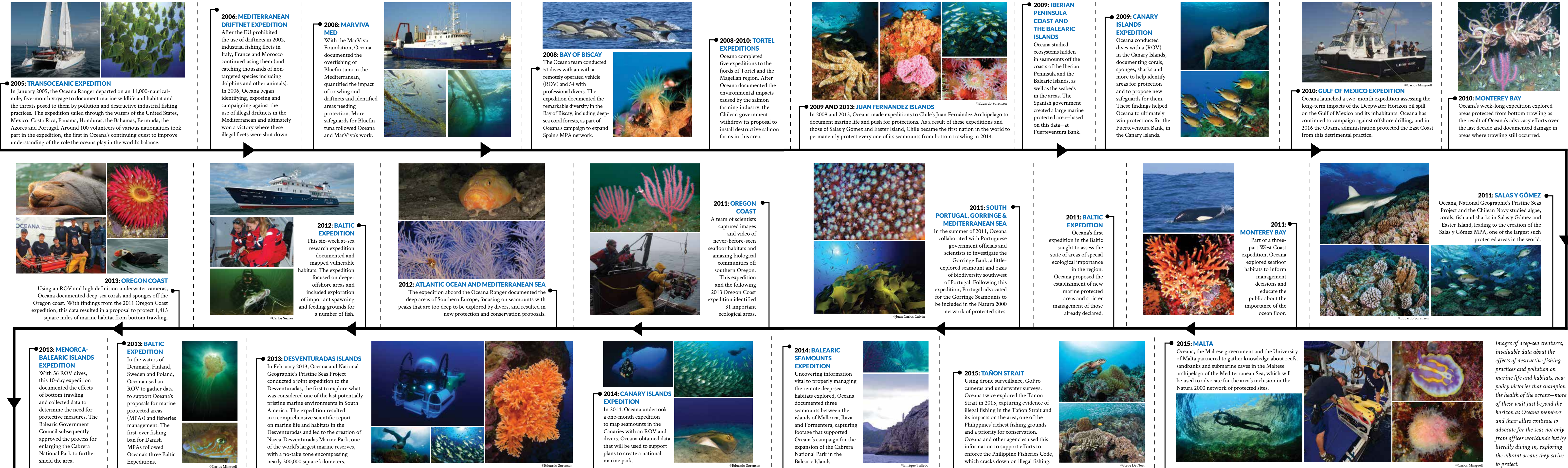


Northern fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) in Bruinebank, Netherlands

*Through science, photos and video, Oceana’s expeditions bring to life the essential underwater areas that the organization seeks to protect and have resulted in many victories for the seas. The timeline on the following pages explores the many voyages Oceana has taken over its 15 years and how they have benefitted the world’s oceans.*



# OCEANA ON THE WATER: A HISTORY OF EXPEDITIONS AND WINNING VICTORIES FOR THE SEAS





# VITAL BUT INVISIBLE

## WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD SECURITY, WOMEN FISHERS AROUND THE WORLD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE.

WRITTEN BY ALLISON GUY | INFOGRAPHICS BY ROSIE ETTENHEIM

It’s a scene repeated at low tide in coastal and island nations around the world: Women with plastic buckets and woven baskets fan out across the exposed seabed, scooping up small fish stranded by the retreating water, digging clams out of the muddy bottom and spearing octopuses camouflaged amongst the rocks and corals.

From the South Pacific to the Caribbean, these “gleaners” and other small-scale fisherwomen can be the bedrock of food security in the poorest communities, bringing home dependable, healthy protein when other sources fail. Their work nurtures their families and can dramatically impact conservation efforts—yet they have been all but ignored by researchers and policymakers.

Now, a small cadre of scientists is beginning to tally just how much food women are bringing home from the ocean—and the numbers can surprise even them. “I kept being told this doesn’t matter, women don’t matter, you’ll find nothing,” said Danika Kleiber, a postdoctoral fellow at Memorial University of Newfoundland, who studied subsistence fisherwomen in the Central Philippines. But she found that, in fact, women were responsible for 25 percent of the haul in her research area.

In some cases, women actually catch more seafood than men. In 2013, Sarah Harper, a fisheries researcher at the University of British Columbia, looked at fisheries data and estimates from 16 South Pacific nations and found that on average, women in these countries landed about 56 percent of all small-scale catches.

But for other low-income countries — and indeed for many wealthy countries — there remains almost no information on how many women fish and how much they catch. Often, researchers observe that fishing appears to be an economically important activity for women in some regions, noting that octopus is a major source of income for Vezo women in

A woman gathers shellfish in Moalboal, in the Central Philippines.



© Oceana/Jenn Huetting

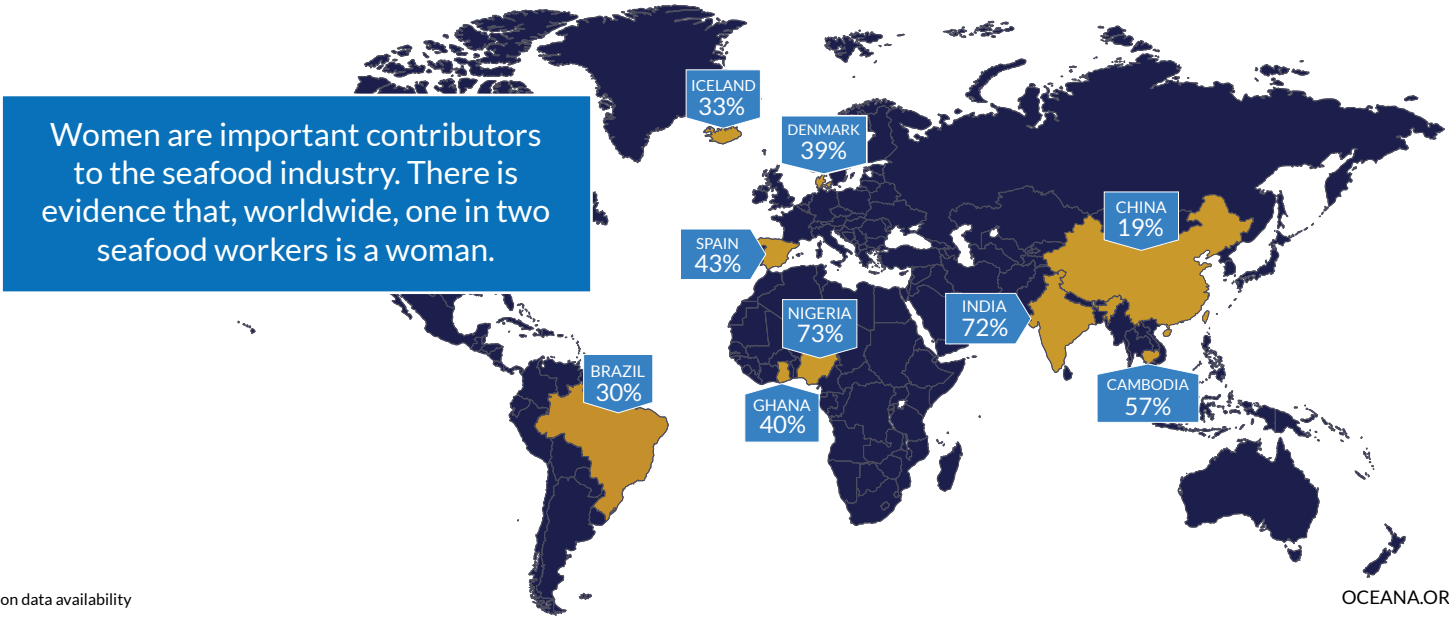
Madagascar and that women make up a sizeable portion of the workforce in Laos’ inland fisheries. But scientists can offer few hard numbers to quantify this.

### MISSING IN ACTION

According to the U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), women make up one in two seafood workers worldwide. Women are a significant part of post-harvest activities such as processing and marketing fish. For instance, according to a 2000 workshop report, 50 percent of the workforce in seafood packing plants on Mexico’s Yucatán coast is female. In 2000, a local fisheries organization found that women make up 84 percent of the workers in Vietnam’s processing factories.

Despite representing half the world’s seafood industry, women are profoundly absent from all levels of fisheries management, even in countries where they are otherwise well represented in government. In Senegal, for instance, women make up 43

### WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN THE FISHERIES WORKFORCE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES:\*



\*based on data availability



percent of parliamentary seats but only five percent of fisheries governance.

There are two contributing factors that limit the visibility of women in fisheries workforce data and management. First, fisheries policy places a heavy, sometimes exclusive, focus on significant commercial activity. Vanishingly few women actively fish on this scale. Second, seafood extraction has been largely defined in terms of finfish—such as sardines, sharks or snapper—and the men who haul this kind of catch from the sea.

Due to this lack of data, policymakers often pour money and effort into education, laws and lines of credit aimed at finfish and fishermen.

As Kleiber noted, this practice does—in some cases—help provide food security for men and women. The money that men make from fishing pays for staples such as rice, while the fish that women catch is eaten directly by the family or shared with neighbors and relatives.

But in certain communities, women bear the sole responsibility for their children’s nutrition. In a 2010 study of two poor coastal communities in Tanzania — where fishermen often had multiple wives and many children — the authors concluded that “very little, if any, of a fisher’s income reaches his family.”

SHUT OUT

Shutting fisherwomen out of fisheries decision-making not only impacts family food security, it can threaten conservation efforts. In Tuvalu, for instance, a lengthy effort in 2002 to reintroduce the valuable Trochus sea snail consulted, trained and employed only men. Unaware of the project’s existence, women promptly gathered a lot of the new snails for food.

According to Harper, marine resources cannot be managed sustainably without a scientific grasp of how both men and women use them. Fisheries, she argued, do not occur in a vacuum. Right now, she noted, “we’re only managing for half the fisheries when we collect data.”



# OCEANA AND ALLIES LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO BAN THE SHARK FIN TRADE IN THE UNITED STATES

New legislation introduced to end a brutal practice

by Laura Lacy

Gliding beneath the ocean—except perhaps for an iconic dorsal fin breaking the water’s surface—sharks seemingly have little to fear as predators. Yet as many as 73 million of them fall victim each year to a global trade that threatens their very existence.

Shark finning is the practice of cutting off a shark’s fins at sea and throwing the body overboard. The fins are used primarily in shark fin soup, a luxury menu item in some Asian cuisines. If the shark is still alive, which is often the case, it’s fated to die slowly by drowning, bleeding to death or being eaten by other fish.

“The act of finning is brutal and wasteful and has caused many shark populations to take serious hits,” said Lora Snyder, campaign director at Oceana. “Many of the most popular fins that make it to market come from vulnerable shark species.” For example, more than 70 percent of the 14 most common shark species in the Hong Kong fin trade, historically the leader in the global trade of fins, are considered at risk for extinction. While the practice of shark finning is illegal in U.S. waters, fins themselves are still bought and sold in the United States. Oceana seeks to further protect this incredible predator, vital to both underwater ecosystems and global

ecotourism, by advocating for a national ban on the shark fin trade.

In June, Oceana, actor and activist Morgan Freeman, Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), and Representatives Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (I-MP) and Ed Royce (R-CA) announced the introduction of the bipartisan Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act of 2016, which would ban the trade of shark fins in the United States. Simultaneously, Oceana released “Shark Fin Trade: Why it Should Be Banned in the United States,” a report detailing the effects of the global demand for fins on the world’s shark populations.

This new legislation would improve upon existing shark protections in the United States. In 2000, the Shark Finning Prohibition Act passed, making the practice illegal in U.S. waters. Yet loopholes existed that allowed finning to continue. The act established a fin-to-carass ratio, dictating that fins could only make up five percent of the weight of a catch. Some fishers, however, continued to cut off high-value fins from certain species and discard their bodies while keeping high-value meat from other species and discarding the fins, thus still returning to shore with





Shark fins hang in the sun to dry.  
©Oceana/Ricardo Roberto Fernandez Martinez

*The Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act of 2016 has garnered support from both sides of the aisle in Congress. Oceana applauds the lawmakers below for co-sponsoring the bill.*

- Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)
- Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
- Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
- Senator John McCain (R-AZ)
- Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
- Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
- Representative Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (I-MP)
- Representative Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ)
- Representative Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]
- Representative Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU)
- Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA)
- Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
- Representative Edward R Royce (R-CA)
- Representative Blake Farenthold (R-TX)
- Representative Patrick Meehan (R-PA)
- Representative John Katko (R-NY)

landing weights that adhered to act’s ratio. In response to this loophole, the 2010 Shark Conservation Act required that sharks be brought back to shore with their fins naturally attached.

Since 2010, however, 11 countries have imported fins to the United States. Five of them have no finning bans in place, and only four of them require fins to be naturally attached when brought to shore. This results in little transparency when it comes to the fin trade in the United States.

“There’s no way to know if the fin is from a sustainably managed, science-based shark fishery or if it was illegally caught,” Snyder said. “And without DNA testing, we can’t tell if the fin comes from a species that is in serious trouble.”

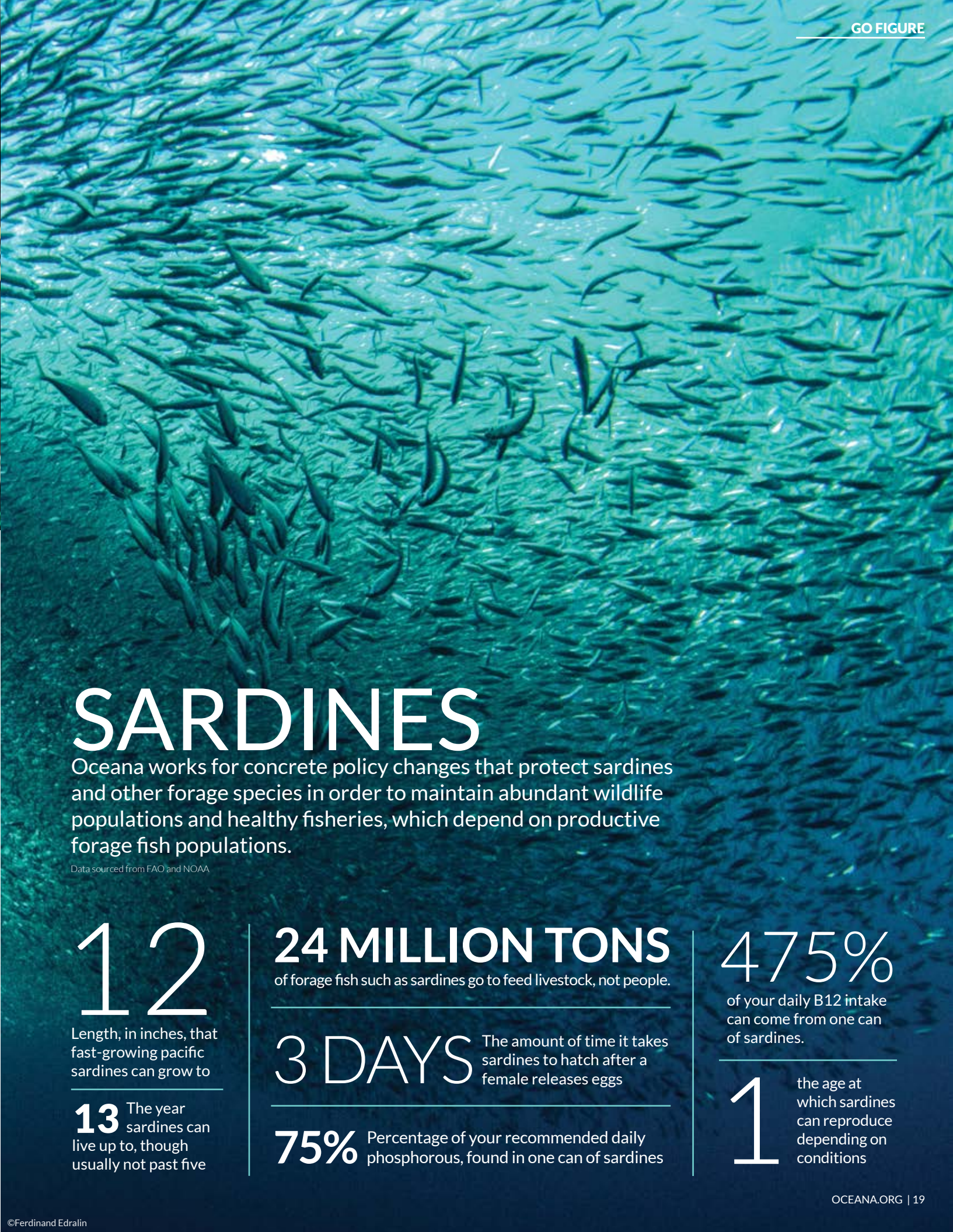
Others have stepped up to fill the current gaps. Companies including GrubHub, many hotels and airlines and even Hong Kong Disneyland have also banned the sale of shark fins, indicating that momentum is rising to end this practice. Eleven states—Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, California, Illinois, Maryland, Delaware, New York, Massachusetts, Texas and Rhode Island—as well as three U.S. territories have passed bans on the trade. Yet when one state

passes a ban, the trade moves into a new region. “It’s like a game of whack-a-mole, with the market shifting each time a state addresses the issue,” Snyder said.

A national ban on the trade in the United States would strengthen the current ban on shark finning in U.S. waters as well as reduce the demand on the global trade of fins. Additionally, it creates a strong precedent and pressure on China to also limit the sale of shark fins in the Chinese market, which is driving the worldwide demand for shark fins and causing shark mortality to remain at high levels.

“We have made progress on improving fisheries laws for sharks,” added Oceana CEO Andy Sharpless “but we also need to take other steps now to reduce demand for shark fins. A trade ban in the United States is a good first step.”

Snyder agreed that a ban on the shark fin trade in the United States could spark change worldwide. “We need to get this done in the United States so other countries can do the same,” she said. “The United States needs to declare that we aren’t contributing to this practice any longer. That sends a really powerful message.”



# SARDINES

Oceana works for concrete policy changes that protect sardines and other forage species in order to maintain abundant wildlife populations and healthy fisheries, which depend on productive forage fish populations.

Data sourced from FAO and NOAA

12

Length, in inches, that fast-growing pacific sardines can grow to

13 The year sardines can live up to, though usually not past five

24 MILLION TONS

of forage fish such as sardines go to feed livestock, not people.

3 DAYS

The amount of time it takes sardines to hatch after a female releases eggs

75%

Percentage of your recommended daily phosphorous, found in one can of sardines

475%

of your daily B12 intake can come from one can of sardines.

1

the age at which sardines can reproduce depending on conditions





Daniel Pauly is a Professor of Fisheries at the Fisheries Centre of the University of British Columbia, the Principal Investigator of the Sea Around Us Project and a member of the Board of Oceana.

©Oceana/Carlos Minguell

# SUMILON REEF IN THE PHILIPPINES

Sumilon Island is a speck of land in the Central Philippines that was the country’s first ocean sanctuary. The island hosted a thriving coral reef community in the 1970s, but a history of on-again, off-again protections bounced fish populations from depleted to recovered and back again. The reserve was permanently closed in 1995 to all fishers except for locals using hook-and-line.

The area is perhaps one of the most clear-cut examples of the fact that fishing bans work, for both the fish and for the fishers.

From 1974 to 1983, a quarter of the island’s reefs were closed to fishing. Valuable species—including large predators like snapper, grouper and jacks—thrived alongside whale sharks and forests of coral.

The reserve was then opened to fishing from 1983 to 1985. In addition to conventional fishing gear such as gillnets and traps, fishermen used dynamite to stun fish or dropped stone blocks on corals to flush out hidden animals,

a practice that reduced swaths of the reef to rubble.

The fishing ban was reinstated in 1987, and lifted again in 1992, before being permanently installed in 1995.

Researchers noted that the loss of large predatory fish was immediate and rapid after the ban was lifted. During protected periods, losses in fish populations were matched by gains, some of them dramatic.

The density, or the number of fish in a given area, of the sixblotch hind—a brilliantly colored member of the grouper family—increased by 200 percent from 1990 to 1991 and by 300 percent from 1994 to 1995.

Outside of the reserve, fishermen’s haul increased by almost 30 percent—demonstrating that the “spillover” effect of the marine reserve more than compensated for the fact that fishers were working in a smaller area than before the permanent protections went into effect.



A school of fusiliers on the reef crest



A green sea turtle swims off Sumilon island. Photos: ©Danny Ocampo

## Fish need habitats, not only water

As denizens of the terrestrial realm, we humans might assume that, since the sea has more water than ever (it does, thanks to global warming), fish must now have an abundance of places to call home. We might not realize that fish don’t only need water—they need habitats, and these habitats need to be protected.

For example, take salmon, which begin their lives on land. Salmon spawn in gravel nests, usually near a river’s source. If these gravel beds become clogged by mud, whether from a landslide due to logging, waste from mines or other threats, the eggs deposited by the adult salmon will not hatch into the young salmon that eventually go to sea before returning to the river and completing the cycle of their wondrous lives. Clean gravel beds are essential habitats for salmon.

Other fish that spend their entire life cycle in the sea also need structure and places to grow. Most marine fishes start their lives offshore as eggs the size of a pinhead. Then they change into larvae and ride the tides and other currents toward the coasts, where they must find safe places to feed and grow without getting eaten by one of the many predators in the sea. In other words, they need habitats. In the tropics, these essential habitats are found in coral reefs and between the roots of mangrove trees, two ecosystems that provide both hiding places and abundant food in form of plankton.

And what about small cod (codlings) that live in New England, where it is too cold for either coral reefs or mangrove? Codlings and other cold-water fish seek out safety in structures on the ocean’s floor such as seagrass beds, oyster reefs, bush-like animals know as gorgonians, sea pens and smaller mounds created by marine invertebrates. There they hide from would-be predators and feed on the plankton that live in these structures. Also, and very importantly, these structures provide resting places from currents that would otherwise require the small fish to continuously swim to stay in place, wasting energy in the process. These seafloor habitats are essential to them.

Yet habitats are under siege. A commonly used fishing method called bottom trawling consists of dragging a trawl, or net, along the seafloor behind a ship. The net—a strong, flexible piece of gear

kept taught by large multi-ton weights—flattens and obliterates any habitat in its way while catching all the fish in its path. Essentially, a trawl net treats seafloor structures as a bulldozer treats trees in a forest.

One single pass of a trawler bulldozes habitats that may have taken hundreds of years to build. Entire seas have been decimated in this way. For example, trawlers flattened the Java Sea (see photo below) in Indonesia beginning in the 1970s and turned the habitats on its floor into a large underwater muddy field. Similarly, the North Sea, between the British Isles and northwestern continental Europe, has endured more than

100 years of trawling. This is why trawler-free areas and marine reserves are crucial throughout the world and why it’s vital that these restricted zones be protected permanently. Closures that are only temporary enable fast growing ‘weed’ species to proliferate but do not allow the time needed to recreate the bottom structures and essential habitats that the many species of fish and commercial invertebrates need to grow and survive.

In sum, fish need habitats. That’s why it’s important to advocate for fishing gear that does not destroy them and for policies that can protect them. Aside from that, what can individuals do? Buy line-caught fish when possible. Hooks and lines do not destroy essential fish habitats. Trawling does.



The catch of a research trawler in the Java Sea, Indonesia. Prior to 1975, the Java Sea had not been trawled, and sponges and other organisms covered the bottom of the sea with habitat-forming structures. Their removal transformed the Java Sea into a mudhole. Photo: ©D. Pauly





David Rockefeller, Susan Rockefeller, Kristian Parker, Violaine Bernbach, John Bernbach

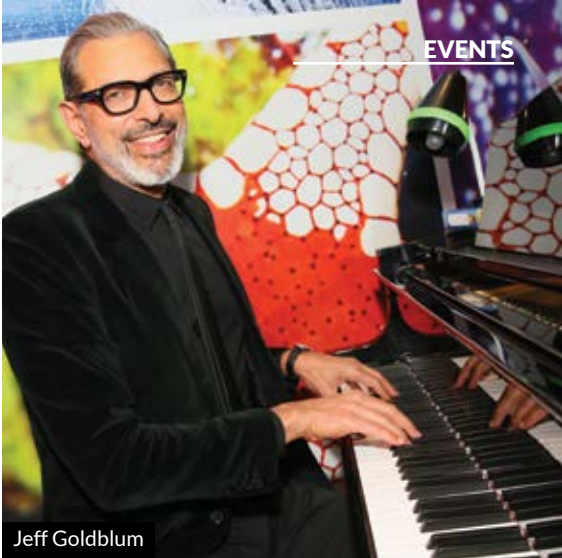


Andy Sharpless, Irmelin DiCaprio, Kristian Parker

“Oceana has won so many victories that have made a difference for the oceans—and I can’t tell you how much this means for me and the Oak Foundation. I miss working as a marine biologist, but I am truly grateful that I was a part of creating Oceana. I want to thank and congratulate my fellow board members, the Oceana team, the staff at the Oak Foundation and all of you who have come tonight to support Oceana. You are true ocean heroes.”  
–Dr. Kristian Parker, Oceana Board Member



Julie Tauber McMahon and Jim Simon



Jeff Goldblum



Kay Fernandez, Sutton Stracke, Frank Fernandez



Jackie Savitz, Frank Fernandez, Rick Taylor, Kay Fernandez



Bettina Witteveen, Amy Fine Collins, Joanna Fisher, Jennifer Danner



Susan Rockefeller, Stephanie Argyros, Jim Hallman, Kelly Hallman, Dede McMahon



Katherine Farley, Kristian Parker, Jerry Speyer

NEW YORK EVENT

Oceana’s fourth annual New York Event was held on April 19 at The Four Seasons Restaurant, honoring founding partners Dr. Kristian Parker and the Oak Foundation. It was an inspiring celebration of their vision, stewardship and deep commitment to marine conservation—and raised nearly \$1.2 million in support of Oceana’s campaigns to revitalize oceans.

The event was co-chaired by Susan and David Rockefeller and Violaine and John Bernbach. Jeff Goldblum entertained as both Master of Ceremonies and performed with his Mildred Snitzer Orchestra.

Oceana sincerely thanks the New York Event co-chairs and Benefit Executive Committee for their leadership in making the event an enormous success.

OCEANA'S NEW YORK EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Susan and David Rockefeller  
Violaine and John Bernbach

BENEFIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sydney Davis  
Kay and Frank Fernandez  
Joanna and Brian Fisher  
Dede McMahon  
Julie Tauber McMahon

Jennifer Schwab and Gordon Wangers  
Kelly and Jim Hallman  
Sutton and Christian Stracke  
Toby Usnik and Harlan Bratcher

“In its fifteen years, Oceana has done more to help save the oceans and feed the world than any other organization. My hope is that over the next fifteen years we will be able to further these efforts, save more ocean habitat and provide more food for the hundreds of millions of people who rely on the oceans for their livelihoods.”  
- Susan Rockefeller, Oceana Board Member and New York Event Co-Chair



Kristian Parker and Herbert M. Bedolfe, III.



Gordon Wangers and Jennifer Schwab



Xin Li and Lyor Cohen



Richard Cohen and Vicky Ward



Kara Ross, Julie Macklowe, Jill Bikoff, Jeffrey Tarrant and Lilly Hartley Tarrant

“Oceana has grown from an ambitious start-up to an international organization with world-changing results. It has achieved policy changes in countries whose oceans are among the most productive in the world. Oceana’s success in the United States, Europe, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Peru and the Philippines makes clear that it is winning.”  
– Violaine Bernbach, New York Event Co-Chair





Dr. Kristian Parker speaking at Oceana's 2016 New York Event  
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Dr. Kristian Parker and Jeff Goldblum  
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**What first drew you to ocean conservation?**

Growing up, I spent a lot of time by the sea in places like the Bahamas, Hawaii and Denmark. I became an avid snorkeler and by age 14 had a growing interest in becoming a marine biologist. When I was 17, I went to a summer camp on Catalina Island off of California, learned how to scuba dive and got a chance to help with some research.

I studied biology as an undergraduate and then went to graduate school at the Duke Marine Lab in North Carolina. I think it was all the work my friends and colleagues were doing at the Marine Lab that really opened my eyes to the challenges facing the oceans. When I was given the opportunity to develop the environment program at Oak, the oceans were a natural fit.



Dr. Kristian Parker at Oceana's 2016 New York Event  
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# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: DR. KRISTIAN PARKER

In the early 2000s, Dr. Kristian Parker was researching nudibranchs (soft-bodied mollusks) in Hawaii. At night, however, he was “moonlighting as a philanthropist,” overseeing the Oak Foundation environment program. Reading grant reports impressed upon him the troubles facing the world’s oceans. Eventually, he chose to leave research to work fulltime at the Oak Foundation. From there, he built a legacy of ocean stewardship and was a member of Oceana’s founding board of directors. Dr. Parker was recently honored for his work at an event hosted by Oceana in New York City. He spoke with us about what inspires him to advocate for the oceans and what some of his proudest moments have been along the way.

**When it comes to ocean conservation, what is the success you’re most proud of?**

Oceana and its partners have accomplished a great deal over the years improving fisheries management, establishing marine protected areas and putting oceans on the agenda in more ways than one. But we aren’t done yet.

I would say I am most proud of the people who make up Oceana, from its board to its staff. We have built a great organization that will always put the oceans and the people who depend on them first.

**What inspires you to fight for our oceans?**

My children. I want them growing up in a world where the oceans can provide them and their children with great seafood, joy and wonder. So I am selfish in that way.

But I also know that without healthy oceans, there will be a lot of people without livelihoods, without food. I am determined to see that fight through.

**In your opinion, what’s the biggest issue facing the oceans right now that we can do something about?**

It’s simple: Stop overfishing, protect habitats and eliminate bycatch. Oceana has been accomplishing this all over the world. The policies that support these three things are going to allow the oceans to be resilient for the changes that are coming.

**What’s your favorite memory of the ocean?**

It’s hard to pick one. I guess my favorite memories of the oceans are the ones yet to come: The ones seen through the eyes of my children.



## JENNIE STAINES’ BELIZEAN SERE



Jennie Staines is the head chef at Elvi’s Kitchen on Ambergris Caye, Belize’s largest island and a major tourist destination. She’s pioneered the use of sustainable seafood in the country’s dining

scene and has been a tireless advocate for reforming fishing-related laws and education in Belize. Staines tries to showcase her country in all of her dishes, combining island flair with her mother’s Mestizo and Mayan heritage. The chef has generously shared one of her recipes with us so that we can bring a little of her country into our home.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound lionfish\*
- 4 thinly sliced green plantains
- 2 whole coconuts (or 2 packets coconut powder)
- 1 diced small onion
- 1 minced garlic clove
- 4 cups fish stock
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 1 1/2 tablespoon coconut oil
- salt and ground black pepper to taste

### DIRECTIONS

To prepare the coconut milk:

1. Cut both whole coconuts in half and extract the coconut meat.
2. In a blender, add the coconut meat and half of the fish stock. Blend well and pass through a sieve. If whole coconuts are unavailable, substitute coconut meat with coconut powder.

To prepare the Sere:

1. Preheat a medium saucepan over medium heat.
2. Add coconut oil and thinly sliced plantains to the saucepan. Cook until plantains brighten in color.
3. Add diced onion and stir until translucent. Immediately add garlic and cook for half a minute.
4. Add the other half of fish stock and the lionfish. Cook for about 3 minutes and add the coconut milk.
5. Lower heat and cook for about 3 minutes. Adjust seasoning accordingly (salt and ground black pepper).
6. Sprinkle sere with chopped cilantro and serve with (coconut) white rice.
7. Serves 2 to 4 people.

*\*If you can’t get lionfish, then you can substitute with any white fish like sea bass or yellowtail snapper.*





Jangada, an artisanal fishing boat in Brazil

©Bento Viana





Pink Anemonefish, *Amphiprion perideraion*,  
from the Tañon Strait in the Philippines

© Steve De Neef

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Oceana's accomplishments wouldn't be possible without the support of its members.

You can help Oceana fight to restore our oceans with your financial contribution. Call us today at 1.877.7.OCEANA, go to our website [www.oceana.org/give](https://www.oceana.org/give) and click on "give today" or use the envelope provided in this newsletter. You can also invest in the future of our oceans by remembering Oceana in your will. Please contact us to find out how. All contributions to Oceana are tax deductible. Oceana is a 501(c)(3) organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service.