

Oceana.

COLD RUSH

Melting sea ice opens the door to rapid industrialization of the Arctic

'NON' ON DRIFTNETS

European Court of Justice cracks down on illegal, wasteful fishing gear

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MAKING WAVES

French driftnetters off the water in 2008

After Oceana's *Ranger* spent three summers documenting the use of illegal driftnets on French fishing ships, the European Court of Justice has finally eliminated a loophole that allowed the French to continue using these nets. The European Union banned the use of driftnets in 2002, but the ships continued to operate with support from the government of France. Now, French illegal driftnets will be off the water in 2008.

By refusing to grant an exception to the French driftnet fleet, the court upheld the 2002 ban and effectively took 92 driftnetters off the water, potentially saving about 25,000 juvenile bluefin tuna each year.

In 2007, a group of these driftnetters surrounded and threatened *Ranger*, which had been photographing and filming the nets at work. The ensuing media attention helped highlight this wasteful and illegal

fishing practice, and pushed policymakers toward ending the use of these nets.

"This decision is a very important step toward eliminating all driftnets from the Mediterranean," said Xavier Pastor, Vice President of Oceana Europe. "This protects bluefins as well as innumerable species that were trapped and killed as bycatch in these nets."

Made of multifilament diagonal mesh, driftnets hang vertically in the water between polystyrene floaters and weighted bottoms and can reach up to five miles in length in a set. Between the months of May and October, fishermen leave the nets for up to six hours overnight on calm seas before hauling them in. The nets are notorious for catching thousands of creatures besides bluefin tuna, including ocean sunfish, pelagic stingrays, loggerhead sea turtles, striped dolphins, sperm whales and pilot whales.

MarViva Med joins Oceana

Oceana's on-the-water presence doubled with the debut of *MarViva Med*, a 138-foot vessel that embarked on its maiden campaign this summer. The ship joins Oceana's *Ranger* in documenting marine life and wasteful fishing practices.

The MarViva Foundation has donated the use of *MarViva Med* for an extensive expedition that will specifically focus on the plight of the bluefin tuna, one of the world's most coveted and threatened seafood species.

"Industrial fishing is pushing bluefin tuna to the brink of extinction," said Xavier Pastor, Vice President of Oceana Europe. "By documenting wasteful fishing techniques, *MarViva Med* and its crew will help bolster the case for protecting this important species."

MarViva Med will crisscross the Mediterranean Sea, visiting key spawning areas near the Balearic Islands, Sicily, Malta, Libya and Turkey.



MarViva Med © OCEANA

Its crew will follow the activities of the purse seine fleet, fishing ships that sometimes illegally use spotter planes, catch juvenile tuna and exceed their allotted quotas.

MarViva Med will work to ensure that the 2002 ban on driftnets in the Mediterranean is enforced.

Protections proposed for corals off U.S. Southeast coast

In March, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council took an important step toward protecting deep sea corals from North Carolina to Florida.

The council submitted an ecosystem management amendment that identifies and protects 23,000 square miles of vital ocean seafloor as a "habitat of particular concern," a designation that will prohibit destructive bottom trawling in the area. It will be the largest protected coral habitat along the U.S. Atlantic Coast.

"This is the result of years of campaigning by Oceana and other conservation organizations, as well as fishermen who value the ocean's fragile ecosystem," said Dave Allison, director of Oceana's

campaign to end destructive trawling. "Deep sea corals take decades to centuries to recover from trawling damage, and protections like this are critical."

The corals in question can create pinnacles up to 500 feet tall and 1,000 years old, constituting an ecosystem comparable to the redwood forests of the western United States. They are home to a variety of sea life, including crabs, grouper and shrimp.

If approved, the amendment should go into effect in 2009 after public hearings are completed and the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service take final action. Oceana staff will be working to ensure that the process continues on track.

Next time you're at the beach...



© OCEANA | Cory Wilson

You're actually in the middle of a vast national territory, part liquid and part dirt.

This summer you are likely to visit the ocean. And as you stand on the beach, you can easily have the sense that you are on a boundary – that the line where the land gives way to the water is a divider of two worlds. The facts are different. Life on the land is connected to what happens below the waves. This biological interaction is recognized poetically in the concept of a circle of life. And since the 1970s it is recognized formally in international law, which grants exclusive ocean zones to the coastal nations of the world.

At eye level on the beach, looking out over the ocean, the horizon is about 3.3 miles away. So this summer, while you are at the beach, take a moment to remember that your government has control of all actions that affect the health and abundance of the life under the waves in the vast wide swath of water you survey. Not only that, but that responsibility extends out 70 times further than what you can see – out to a distance of 231 statute miles.

You might want to know what kind of job the government is doing protecting and managing that huge area, filled with countless wild creatures and a vital source of healthy food and protein for humanity.

Imagine, for a moment, that instead of standing oceanside, you were standing by the edge of a vast national park or a forest like those in Africa in which there roamed lions, cheetahs, elephants and huge herds of wildbeest and zebra. You might go find a park ranger and ask for a report on the status of those wonderful creatures.

The longest annual survey of shark populations in the US has been conducted off North Carolina by Duke University. Since 1972, these scientists have documented that the populations of many species of sharks have declined by more than 90 percent. These animals are at single digit percentages of their former populations.

How would you feel if you visited an African park and were told that the 10,000 lions you could have seen in 1972 now numbered only 200? That there were now only 500 giraffes, down from 10,000? 300 elephants?

In the United States, the responsibility for that astounding decline belongs to NOAA Fisheries, a federal agency in the Department of Commerce. In Europe, where similar declines have occurred, responsibility for shark management across much of that continent resides in a Brussels-based arm of the European Union. And in Chile, a national government agency called Sernapesca manages shark populations.

All of these agencies need to do a much more vigorous job at handling their responsibilities as “park rangers” for the oceans. Oceana campaigns help move them to action before it's too late. This summer, our ocean-going catamaran, called *Ranger* – not by coincidence – is at sea for the fourth year to expose illegal fishing and to demand it be stopped. Happily, *Ranger* is joined for the first time by a sister ship, *MarViva Med*, which will for the first time take our enforcement and documentary expedition to all areas of the Mediterranean Sea.

Next time you're at the beach, remember that you're not at the edge of something, you're actually in the middle of a vast national territory, part liquid and part dirt. Take a moment to demand that your government fishery managers deliver vigorous, competent and strong management for our oceans. You can find details of how to help at www.oceana.org.

You know that at Oceana we are doing that every day. We are grateful to you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Sharpless".

Andrew Sharpless
Chief Executive Officer



COLD RUSH

A confluence
of melting sea ice
and increased demand
for Arctic resources
may spell disaster
for the earth's last
great frontier – but it
doesn't have to.

Thanks to global warming, sea ice is disappearing from the Arctic at a rapidly accelerating rate. In 2007, Arctic ice was at an all-time low, and some scientists now predict an ice-free Arctic summer as early as 2013.

Declining sea ice puts the future of many of the Arctic's remarkable creatures in doubt. Ice serves as the platform for birthing seals, feeding walruses and roaming polar bears. Colorful algae colonies that live on ice form the bedrock of the marine food web. Tiny creatures feed on the algae and are in turn eaten by fish, and eventually the repercussions cascade across the food web to affect predators like narwhals and polar bears.

Less sea ice also means more open water, which encourages a new frontierism in the Arctic on a scale perhaps not seen since the Gold Rush – a kind of cold rush towards the promise of oil, gas and fish. This adds enormous pressures on the already stressed Arctic.

In February, the United States auctioned oil and gas exploration rights in the remote and ice-choked Chukchi Sea, racking up bids totaling a record \$2.7 billion for the right to drill for the sea's estimated 15 billion barrels of oil and 77 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. New oil development will bring massive oil tankers into previously inaccessible waters, including the fabled Northwest Passage, increasing the odds of an oil spill similar to the *Exxon Valdez* disaster.

The U.S. Minerals Management Service estimates that offshore oil development in the Arctic is likely to result in at least one oil spill. Currently, there is no technology to control or clean up a spill from any of these sources in icy Arctic waters.

continued »



COLD RUSH

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Finally, coldwater fish are streaming northward as a result of global warming, with some species heading into the Arctic. The industrial fishing ships that target these species will follow.

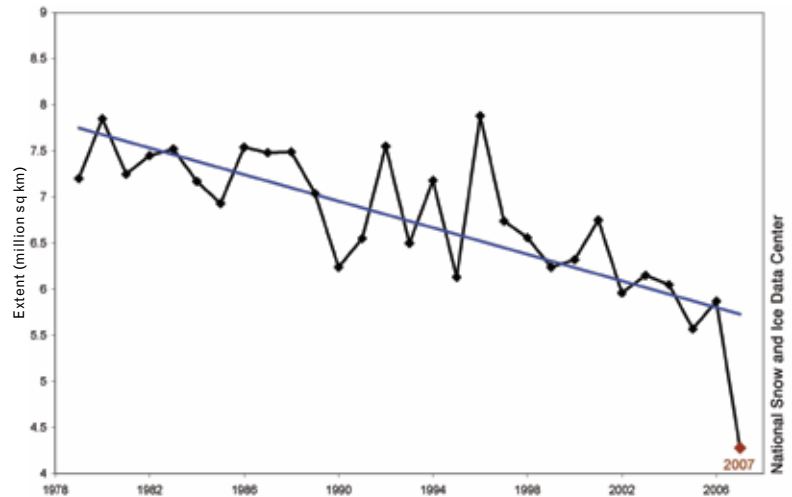
The confluence of increased access and increased demand for Arctic resources at this critical moment may spell disaster for the earth's last great frontier – but it doesn't have to.

"We need a systematic approach to help the Arctic withstand the effects of global warming, including the loss of sea ice, which includes slowing down the hasty industrialization of the Arctic," said Jim Ayers, Vice President of Oceana Pacific. Oceana is developing a multi-pronged approach to preserving the Arctic with its allies in the conservation movement.

Oceana has joined with Arctic peoples and other conservation groups in opposing gas and oil lease sales that are held prior to careful examination of the potential environmental impacts, and has legally opposed the Chukchi Sea auction. Oceana also campaigns to ensure that there are shipping standards in place before any vessel traffic expands into the Arctic, including effective planning, safety measures and spill response capabilities. Oceana also seeks to ensure that any expansion of large-scale industrial fishing in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas does not threaten those ecosystems.

"As goes the Arctic, so goes the planet," said Ayers. "There are enormous challenges facing the Arctic and the world, and what we do, or do not do, to protect the Arctic will be a large part of our legacy to future generations. We must ask ourselves what kind of legacy we will leave."

ARCTIC ICE EXTENT, 1979-2007



Arctic ice extent in September since 1979, showing an average loss of 28,000 square miles per year. In 2007, ice extent was 39 percent below the long-term average.

Q&A Caleb Pungowiyi

Caleb Pungowiyi is a Yup'ik Eskimo who joined Oceana early this year as Rural Liaison and Senior Advisor. He works on environmental issues facing native Alaskans and the Arctic.

Tell me where you're from.

I was born on St. Lawrence Island, in a small camp about sixty miles east of the village of Savoonga, and I grew up in the village of Savoonga. I was born in 1941, and I lived there the majority of my life. Back in the

'50s we had no electricity in the village, we had no telephones, no TV, we had no runway so the mail came in from another village about 40 miles away. We lived strictly off the sea because the island had no land mammals. We lived off walrus, whales and other food that we got from the sea.

How long has that community been there?

Our legends say that the island was made by the creator. What is called Qiaghniq reached down into the waters of the northern Bering Sea, squeezed out the water from the mud he grabbed and placed the island between the two continents. So the name of our island is Sivuqaq which means 'the land that the water was wrung from.'

What is your role in Oceana?

My role is rural liaison in that I make contact with organizations in rural Alaska, let them know the issues that we're facing, whether it's industrial fishing, shipping, climate change, oil and gas development, and then of course some stuff on pollution. The other part of course is advising Oceana on these issues, in terms of how do we establish a relationship with native organizations, gain their trust and respect.

To read the complete interview, visit <http://oceana.org/newsletter>.



New Oceana staff member Caleb Pungowiyi.

RANGER'S SUMMER TRIP

Since 2005, Oceana's catamaran and crew have crossed the Mediterranean to document marine life and end illegal fishing. This year, *Ranger* continues its mission in a new location: the Bay of Biscay.

"There is very little known in this part of the underwater world," said Xavier Pastor, Vice President of Oceana Europe. "The only way there has been information is through the use of fishing gear. By recording the wildlife of the seafloor, we bolster the argument for marine protected areas and against destructive fishing techniques."

NORTHERN COAST

ARRIVE

The Bay of Biscay is *Ranger*'s final destination for the summer. A popular fishing site, the Bay of Biscay is the southern tip of a largely unexplored coldwater coral ecosystem that stretches to Norway. It's one of the few places where beaked whales can be seen. These whales dive deeper than any other mammal.

ATLANTIC COAST

Spain and Portugal represent the European Union's first and second largest fishing fleets. Many of the countries' ships, however, fish outside national waters because the coastal areas have already been emptied of marine life. Along the coast, *Ranger* will document and report illegal trawling in this already-overfished area.

VALENCIA

DEPART

After launching from Valencia in May, *Ranger* will circumnavigate the Iberian Peninsula.

ALMERIA

Ranger will document previously-unseen marine life during its travels. Last year, the crew discovered a carnivorous sponge on a seamount near the coast of Almeria. Previously, the scarce and strange sponge – so unusual that scientists are divided on whether to consider it a sponge at all – had never been spotted in Spanish waters.

GIBRALTAR

Northern bluefin tuna spend much of their adult lives in the Atlantic, but they pass through the Straits of Gibraltar to return to the Mediterranean to spawn in the place where they were born. These fish are among the most highly threatened seafood species, and scientists have called for a moratorium to allow the population to recover. The passage through Gibraltar is a critical moment in the life cycle of the bluefin tuna. Oceana is launching a campaign to protect bluefin tuna this summer.



Illegal trawlers



Driftnetters



Remote Operated Vehicle



Alex Winston and Ocean Council member Chris Turner.

Ocean Council member Chris Turner and her daughter Alex Winston have found innovative ways to support Oceana.

Both not only live near the ocean in Santa Monica, CA, they live for it. Together they are ocean advocates.

In 2007, Alex, an avid surfer, wanted to find a tangible way to bring attention to the ocean and to Oceana. Chris and Alex created a successful 24-hour Surfathon through their Make A Wave Project, which raised over \$80,000 for Oceana.

This fall, they are co-organizing another innovative event for Oceana: the Malibu Invitational, a Celebrity Pro-Am Surf Competition scheduled for late September.

Chris: What is your first memory of the ocean?

Alex: My grandparents live in the south of France, and I remember being on a boat with my brother and my grandfather going out to this rocky cliffside where we were going to catch sea urchins. My grandfather handed us little maps and snorkels, and we dove off the boat. I remember looking down into this clear blue water and seeing these spindly little creatures on the bottom of the sea and just this whole other world down there, and being so amazed and overwhelmed, and from then on I was hooked. Mom, what is your very first memory of the ocean?

Chris: My parents used to take me to the ocean all the time. So I remember running up and down the beach building sandcastles. I always loved the water. Alex, let me ask you this. How do you honor the ocean in your daily life?

Alex: I have to say that surfing has changed my life. When you're out there on your board it's very raw. It can be big and intense and pounding down or it can be gentle and sloping and crumbly and sweet. When I see trash floating by, I generally try to fit as much of it as I can into my wetsuit every day. That's definitely something I try to do to honor the ocean. Mom, tell us how you became interested in Oceana.

Chris: The reason I became interested in it was because of you. I think you should answer the question.

Alex: I was getting so much from the ocean, I decided to give something back. I created the concept of the Surfathon. The idea was to get as many surfers involved to spread awareness with what was happening with the oceans. Oceana is really getting to the root of the problems.

Chris: What Oceana projects are you working on right now?

Alex: I'm very excited because I'm working on a fabulous event with Oceana for this coming fall. I am managing the Malibu Invitational, a Celebrity Pro-Am Surf Competition. We're partnering with great Malibu surf and community organizations for this. We want to create a really fun event that allows people to come out and learn about the oceans, and all the news and events happening with Oceana. I'm just so thrilled to be working with Oceana on such a fresh project.

For more information about this year's surf event, please contact Maggie Hardy at mhardy@oceana.org.

WHALE WATCHING IN BAJA

In late February, Oceana supporters and scientists met in Baja California for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. California gray whales travel from the Arctic to give birth in the warmer southern waters of San Ignacio Lagoon. Some of the whales – and their calves – surface to check out humans peering over the gunwale of small skiffs, allowing for a unique interaction between marine and land mammal.

In addition to whale watching, the group enjoyed presentations by Oceana scientists Jon Warrenchuk and Elizabeth Griffin, who gave seminars on marine life as well as the challenges facing the ocean ecosystem. Oceana President Jim Simon gave a presentation about Oceana's work.



The whales approached the boats of their own accord. Above, a whale “spy hops” so it can see out of the water.



Oceana President Jim Simon experienced close encounters with the whales for the first time. “It was really extraordinary, and reminded me of the importance of saving ocean life,” he said.

CHEF'S CORNER



Germain Haro started his cooking career at a fast food chain, but these days he's catering to a more refined clientele at the Avenue Grill and 1331 restaurants at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. As the son of a dedicated conservationist, Haro learned at a young age to value sustainable food.

"As chefs, we are one of the major purchasers of fish, and we need to start buying only from approved fisheries," Haro said. "We also need to purchase local produce, which helps the local economy and lowers our carbon footprint."

DIVER SCALLOP DYNAMITE WITH CITRUS BEURRE BLANC

3 each diver scallops (wild caught)
2 ½ tablespoon Dungeness crab (trap caught)
½ teaspoon sturgeon roe (farmed)
1 tablespoon mayonnaise
¼ teaspoon paprika
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
To taste salt and pepper
½ cup heavy cream
3.5 oz unsalted butter
¼ cup orange juice
2 tablespoons of olive oil
Two each green onions (scallions)

DIVER SCALLOPS AND CRAB MIXTURE

Place your pan on the stove on high heat and add 1 tablespoon olive oil. Bring the olive oil to just before smoking temperature. Add diver scallops to the pan and lightly brown on both sides for 3-4 minutes each until they show an even caramel color on both sides - the scallops should be halfway cooked. Set aside.

In a bowl, mix the crab, mayonnaise, paprika and nutmeg. Place the crab mixture on top of the diver scallops. Place in the salamander until brown or, if you do not have a salamander, turn your oven to broil at 450 degrees. Place the diver scallops in the oven (top shelf) for 2-3 minutes or until the crab mixture lightly browns.

BEURRE BLANC

Dice the butter and let sit until it has softened. In a deep or sauté pan add the heavy cream and orange juice and reduce by half. Once it has reduced, remove the pan from heat and slowly whisk in the butter by quarters until the sauce has thickened. Add a pinch salt and pepper. If you need to add more heat to the sauce to melt the rest of the butter, be careful because the sauce can separate.

PLATING

Place the sauce on the bottom of a bowl, then add the scallops to the center of the bowl. Place the sturgeon roe on top of each scallop and crab mixture.

THE OCEANA BAG



Introducing The Oceana Bag, an elegant ocean blue bag made from fine Italian leather.

Each bag features a leather tag imprinted with the Oceana logo, giving purchasers an opportunity to spread the message about Oceana and its work and demonstrate their personal commitment to saving the oceans.

The bag, which can be monogrammed, can be purchased at leading retailers around the world for \$1,295.

La Mer is proud to donate \$100,000 to Oceana in honor of

WORLD OCEAN DAY

JUNE 8, 2008



© 2003 MBARI

The dumbo octopus is just one of the unusual creatures found in the pitch black of the deep sea. While it lives near the floor of most of the world's oceans, scientists know little about its habits or lifestyle. This dumbo octopus is featured in journalist Claire Nouvian's *The Deep: The Extraordinary Creatures of the Abyss*. Oceana participated in the book's European launch.

ABOUT OCEANA

Oceana campaigns to protect and restore the world's oceans. Our team of marine scientists, economists, lawyers and advocates win specific and concrete policy changes to reduce pollution and to prevent the irreversible collapse of fish populations, marine mammals and other sea life. Global in scope and dedicated to conservation, Oceana has campaigners based in North America, Europe and South America. More than 300,000 members and e-activists in over 150 countries have already joined Oceana. For more information, please visit www.oceana.org.

Give today!

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 Web site 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.

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