

The High Seas: Our Future at Stake How to Get Citizens Interested in the High Seas?

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1. Nausicaa

2. World Ocean Network

3. International Aquarium Network

4. Aquarium Finisterrae

5. CeDePESCA

6. Society for Environment Education & Development

7. SAAMBR

8. FESTIVAL MONDIAL DE L'IMAGE SOUS MARINE

The high seas are an ocean of opportunities. They cover two thirds of the ocean and remain unknown to most of the inhabitants of the planet. In 2015, the United Nations decided to start in 2018 negotiations for a legally binding agreement to protect the biodiversity in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), thus launching the largest multilateral negotiation to come.

Nausicaa opened an exhibition in 2018: “Dive into the unknown waters” focusing on the high seas, and organized an international conference to mobilize civil society.

Nausicaá and World Ocean Network will bring public opinion to the ABNJ negotiations. To foster a sustainable equitable and ethical use of the High Seas an ambitious international agreement is needed; to reach such an agreement there is an important need for the involvement of all interested stakeholders and citizens.

To contribute to the negotiations, Nausicaa plans to mobilize a group of celebrity ambassadors, the “Pioneers of the High Seas” as spokespeople for the High Seas. Nausicaá will enrich its exhibition “Dive into the unknown waters”, develop educational programs and organize International Stakeholder Conferences. Nausicaa will join WON efforts to promote the Citizen of the Ocean programme worldwide.

Nausicaá and WON started cooperating with Global Ocean Forum, FAO / Common Ocean and IOC/UNESCO. World Ocean Network, will follow the discussions at the UN and share the questions and suggestions of citizens and professionals.

We call all our colleagues from aquariums worldwide to follow this movement, with the support of the diplomatic and scientist communities, and make this topic shared with all our visitors and partners. We are all citizens of the Ocean; the high seas are our future and our responsibility.