

WORLD OCEANS DAY 2023- “PLANET BLUE: TIDES ARE CHANGING”

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“Oceans produce more than half of the Global Oxygen, if we want to breath “Save oceans for future”

World Oceans Day, celebrated annually on June 8th, brings our attention to the vastness and significance of our oceans. The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed in 1992 at the Earth Summit held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Later United Nations officially declared 8th June as "World Oceans Day" in 2009 and ever since this day is observed worldwide.

The theme of World Ocean Day changes every year, but it always aims to inspire action and increase awareness about the challenges facing our oceans, such as plastic pollution, overfishing, climate change, and habitat destruction. The day is marked by a range of activities and events, including beach cleanups, educational programs, art contests, film screening. This year, the theme "Planet Blue: Tides are Changing" sets the stage for a deeper understanding of the challenges being faced by our oceans.

The world's oceans face many challenges that threaten their health and the well-being of the marine life and people who depend on them. Some of the major challenges that are faced by oceans include:

The global warming of our oceans is leading to the Climate Change. Climate change, rising temperatures, sea level rise, bleaching of coral reefs, the melting of polar ice caps, disruption of marine food chains and ocean acidification caused by greenhouse gas emissions are altering the chemistry and ecology of the oceans, affecting the survival of marine species and ecosystems.

Overfishing: Due to IUU (Illegal, unregulated, unreported) marine species are being overexploited, leading to declines in fish populations,

disruptions in food webs, and impacts on the livelihoods of people who depend on fishing.

Plastic pollution: The oceans are becoming increasingly polluted with plastic waste, which poses a threat to marine life and ecosystems, as well as human health.

Habitat destruction: Activities such as coastal development, dredging, and bottom trawling are damaging or destroying critical habitats such as coral reefs, seagrass meadows, and mangrove forests.

Pollution and contamination: The oceans are being polluted with a range of harmful substances, including oil spills, agricultural runoff, and industrial chemicals, which can harm marine life and human health.

Invasive species: Non-native species introduced to the oceans through shipping and other activities can disrupt native ecosystems, alter food webs, and cause economic damage.

Addressing these challenges will require a range of solutions, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving fishing practices, reducing plastic waste, protecting critical habitats, and regulating pollution and contamination.

Protecting the health and well-being of the ocean is a collective responsibility that requires the efforts of individuals, communities, governments, and organizations around the world. Here are some ways we work together to ensure the ocean's health and well-being:

Reduce plastic waste: We can reduce our use of single-use plastics, properly dispose of waste, and support initiatives to reduce plastic pollution.

Use sustainable seafood practices: We can choose sustainably sourced seafood and support fisheries that use sustainable practices to protect marine ecosystems.

Conserve energy: We can reduce our carbon footprint by using energy-efficient appliances, reducing energy consumption, and supporting renewable energy initiatives.

Protect marine habitats: We can support the creation of marine protected areas, reduce our impact on critical habitats, and advocate for policies that protect marine ecosystems.

Support ocean research and education: We can support scientific research and educational initiatives that increase our understanding of the ocean and its ecosystems.

Advocate for ocean protection: Advocating for the establishment and expansion of MPAs involves supporting initiatives and policies that prioritize the creation of new protected areas, strengthening the enforcement of existing ones, and raising public awareness about their importance. By safeguarding significant portions of our oceans through MPAs, we can safeguard marine biodiversity, protect vulnerable species and habitats, and promote sustainable and resilient marine ecosystems.

Reduce carbon footprint: To reduce the carbon footprint we have to act and adopt the Transition to renewable energy sources, choose sustainable transportation options, Conserve energy and reduce waste, promote sustainable seafood choices, by adopting these practices, we can decrease carbon emissions, minimize the ecological impact on the oceans, and contribute to the overall conservation of marine ecosystems.

The aim of this year theme is to generate a new wave of excitement towards cherishing and protecting the ocean and the entirety of our blue planet, we need to increase awareness about the importance of the ocean and the role it plays in supporting life on Earth. This can be achieved through education, outreach, and storytelling that highlights the beauty and complexity of the ocean and its interconnectedness with other Earth systems. We also need to encourage and support actions that protect the ocean and the planet, such as reducing carbon emissions, reducing plastic pollution, promoting sustainable fishing practices, protecting critical habitats, and supporting research and conservation efforts. By cherishing and protecting the ocean and the entirety of our blue planet, we can ensure a sustainable future for ourselves and future generations and maintain the beauty and complexity of the planet that we call home.

On World Oceans Day, NIMA actively plan events and campaigns which aims to increase public awareness about the significance of oceans, and inspire individuals to contribute their role in the protection, and preservation of the oceans.

On the occasion of World Oceans Day, we must vow to ourselves that.: **“We will not purchase single use plastic products, which exploits the marine life”**.