



Justice
Coalition of
Religious

JCoR Guide to the

UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

27 June - 1 July 2022



Justice
Coalition of
Religious

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 20 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). For centuries, congregations of Religious have served people who have been rendered poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized by existing global systems. Through our membership in JCoR, we have united with our sister and brother organizations to enhance collaboration among our members—at UN Headquarters and around the world—in our common mission: to improve quality of life for people who are living in poverty and to enhance our stewardship of the natural environment.

The primary aim of our collaboration is to strengthen the capacity of Catholic Religious and their partners to address the root causes of human and environmental suffering.

We work toward this goal by coordinating national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help you join us in this mission!



UN Ocean Conference

WHAT IS IT?

“
The science is clear – the ocean is facing unprecedented threats as a result of human activities. Its health and ability to sustain life will only get worse as the world population grows and human activities increase. If we want to address some of the most defining issues of our time such as climate change, food insecurity, diseases and pandemics, diminishing biodiversity, economic inequality and even conflicts and strife, we must act now to protect the state of our ocean.

-UN Ocean Conference website

Scaling up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of SDG 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships, and Solutions

World leaders, scientists, civil society representatives, and ocean advocates will gather at the UN Ocean Conference to engage in policy discussions with the goal of improving the health of the ocean. Participants will be seeking science-based and innovative solutions to mobilize action to address sustainable ocean management, to advance the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (see next page for information on SDG 14).



Today, acidification; marine litter and pollution; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and the loss of habitats and biodiversity are some of the greatest threats to the ocean's health, ecology, economy and governance. Conference participants will discuss solutions involving green technology and innovative uses of marine resources among other strategies.

Expected outcomes of the conference include:

- Governments will adopt a Declaration to implement and facilitate the protection and conservation of the ocean and its resources
- Stakeholders (governments, civil society, and the private sector) will pledge, on a voluntary basis, to contribute specific resources or actions to address ocean-related problems



Click [here](#) to watch an introductory video to the Ocean Conference, presented by Peter Thomson, the United Nations Special Envoy for the Ocean

Sustainable Development Goal 14

LIFE BELOW WATER



What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 commitments made by every government represented at the United Nations. They aim to end extreme poverty, inequality, and climate change by 2030. Visit the [Global Goals website](#) to learn more and take action.

What is the Goal of SDG 14: Life Below Water?

To conserve and sustainably use the world's ocean, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.



Why Does SDG 14 Matter?

The ocean is essential to our existence. It generates the oxygen we breathe; regulates global climate; supplies livelihoods; and provides the water, energy, and food we need to survive. Billions of humans, animals, and plants rely on a healthy ocean, and we have exploited and caused tremendous damage to this resource. We must chart a sustainable path to recovery, to protect the ocean and our planet.

What are the targets (specific aims) of SDG 14?

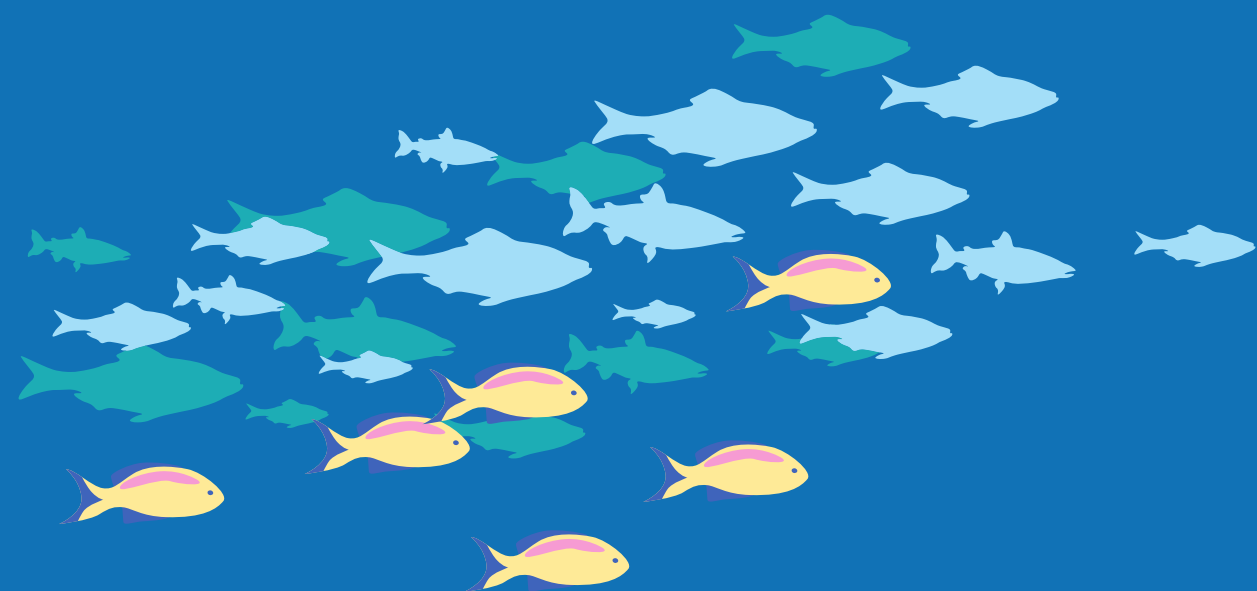
1. Reduce marine pollution
2. Protect and restore ecosystems
3. Reduce ocean acidification
4. Establish sustainable fishing
5. Conserve coastal and marine areas
6. End subsidies contributing to overfishing
7. Increase benefits of sustainable ocean use
8. Increase scientific knowledge, research, and technology for ocean health
9. Support small-scale fishers

Learn more:

- Click [here](#) to visit the official webpage on SDG 14
- Click [here](#) to read the fact sheet "Life Below Water: Why it Matters"
- Click [here](#) to access an infographic about SDG 14

Ocean Conference Details

EVENT INFO



When

27 June to 1 July 2022

Where

Lisbon, Portugal

Watch

Join online at webtv.un.org

Programme

Visit the conference [website](#) or download the programme [here](#)

General Info

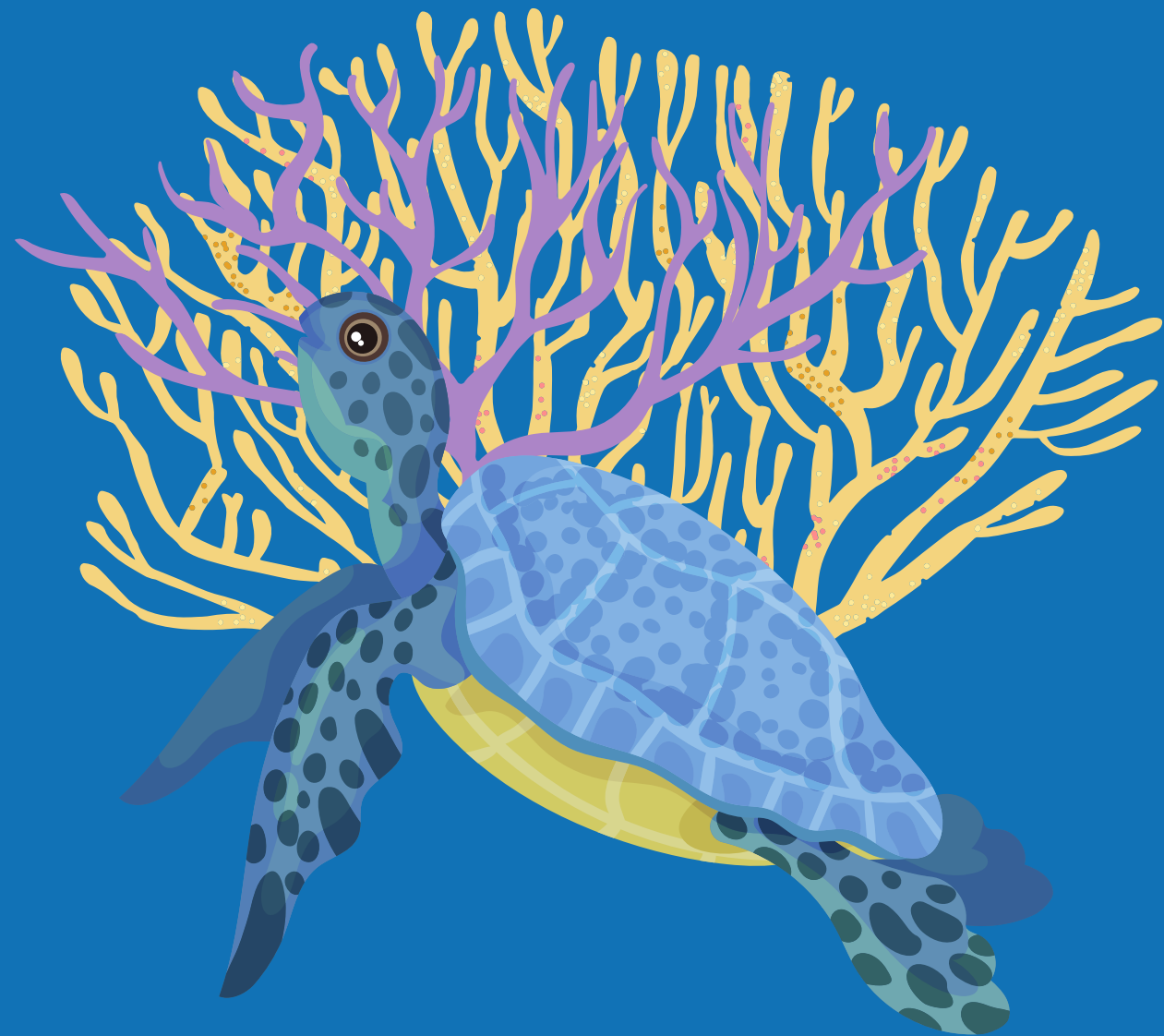
Visit the official conference [website](#)

What really needs to change is the human mindset. We've got to treat the Earth with the respect it deserves... You cannot have a healthy planet without a healthy ocean.

- Peter Thomson
UN Special Envoy for the Ocean

Suggested Events

PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY FROM YOUR CORNER OF THE WORLD



The Sea is Sacred: Religious Responses to Deep Seabed Mining

29 June 2022, 8:00am-9:30am (New York time)

This panel will unite faith-based voices to highlight the challenges that deep seabed mining poses to managing, protecting, conserving, and restoring marine ecosystems. The event is being sponsored by the NGO Mining Working Group, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and VIVAT International.

Register: <https://bit.ly/3x1RI5J>

Can Harnessing Blue and Thematic Bonds Build a Sustainable, Regenerative Ocean Economy?

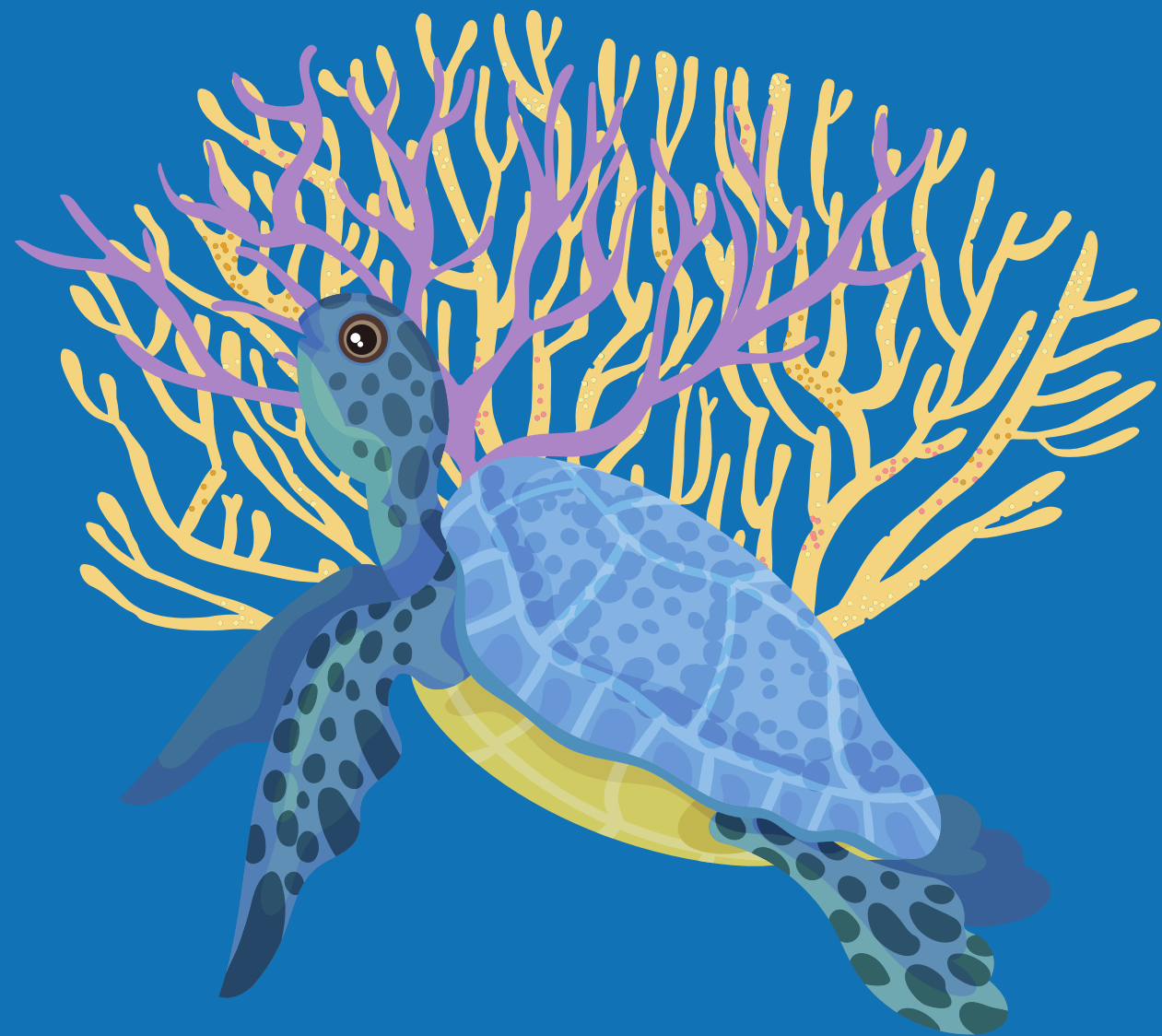
29 June 2022, 1:00pm-2:30pm (New York time)

A multilateral expert panel will discuss what blue & thematic bonds are, how they're working in practice, and how to optimize them as building blocks toward a regenerative, sustainable ocean economy.

Register: <https://bit.ly/3HKYEDL>

Suggested Events

PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY FROM
YOUR CORNER OF THE WORLD



For a full list of side events and details, please visit the [official side event page](#) for the UN Ocean Conference. On this webpage, you will find links to:

[Side event program inside the conference venue](#)

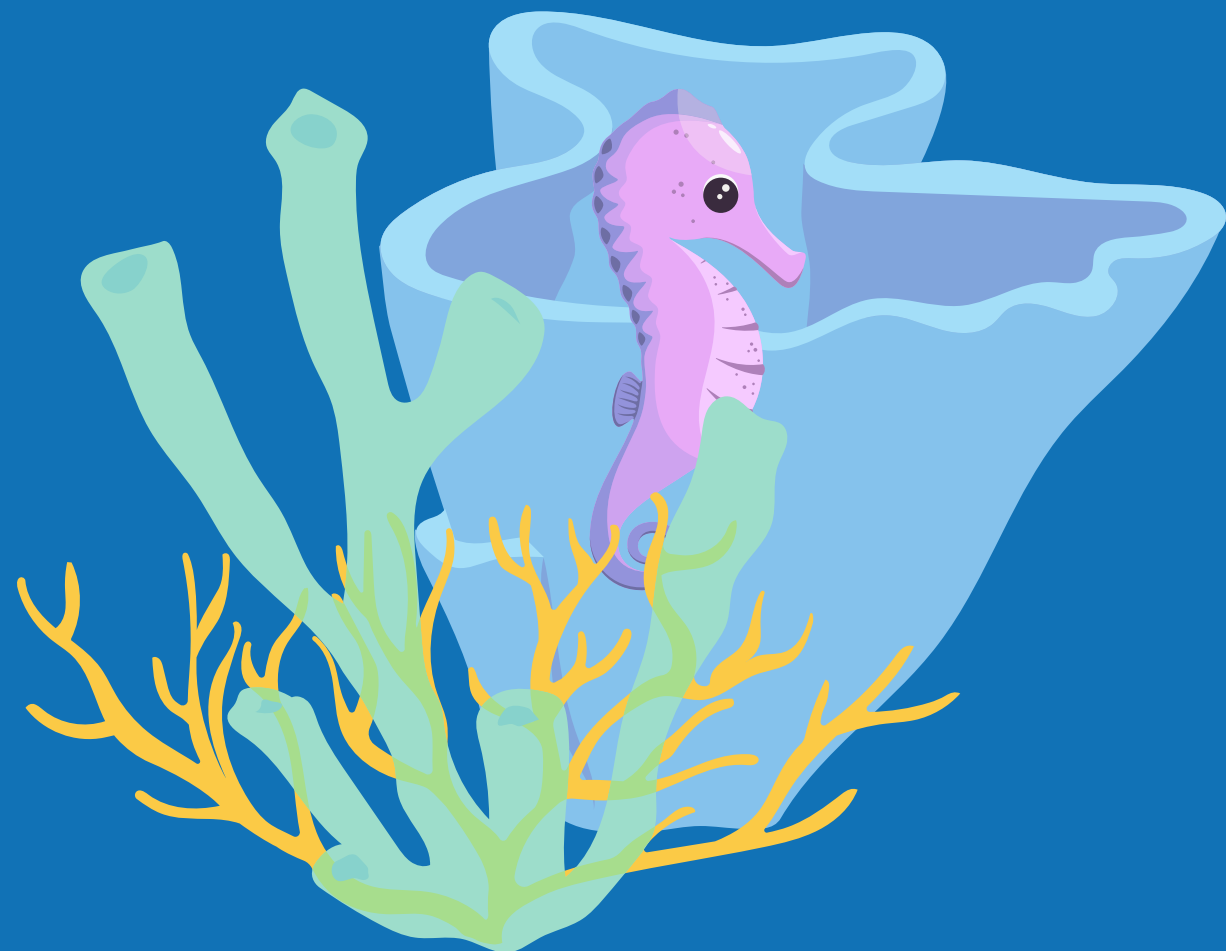
[Side event program outside the conference venue](#)

[Virtual side event program](#)

For the most up-to-date list of recommended events, please visit the JCoR website at <https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>

Who to Follow & Tag on Social Media

AND SUGGESTED HASHTAGS



Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](https://twitter.com/JCoR2030) Facebook: [@JCoR2030](https://www.facebook.com/JCoR2030)

JCoR Members

Click [here](#) to access Twitter list of JCoR members

United Nations Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson

Twitter: [@ThomsonFiji](https://twitter.com/ThomsonFiji)

Your congregation's NGO at the United Nations

Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details [here](#)

Your government's permanent mission to the United Nations

Official hashtags:

#SaveOurOcean

#OceanAction

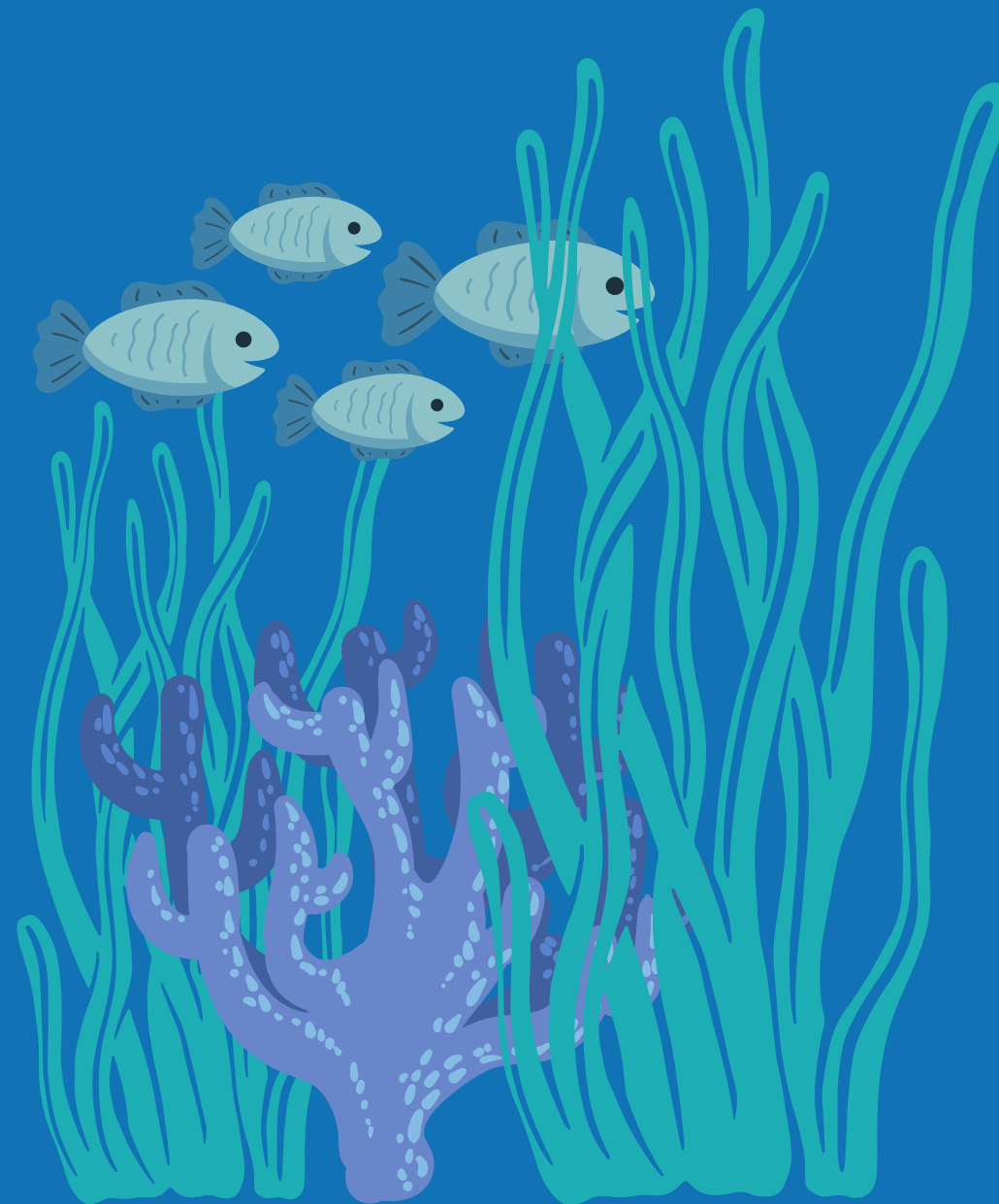
Additional hashtags:

#UNOceanConference

#SDG14

Sample Messages

FOR SOCIAL MEDIA



You cannot have a healthy planet without a healthy ocean. Listen to @ThomsonFiji in the video below to learn more about the #UNOceanConference & why we will be watching world leaders as they determine the future of our ocean. #SDG14 #SaveOurOcean <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-V3W9sQX2-E&t=14s>

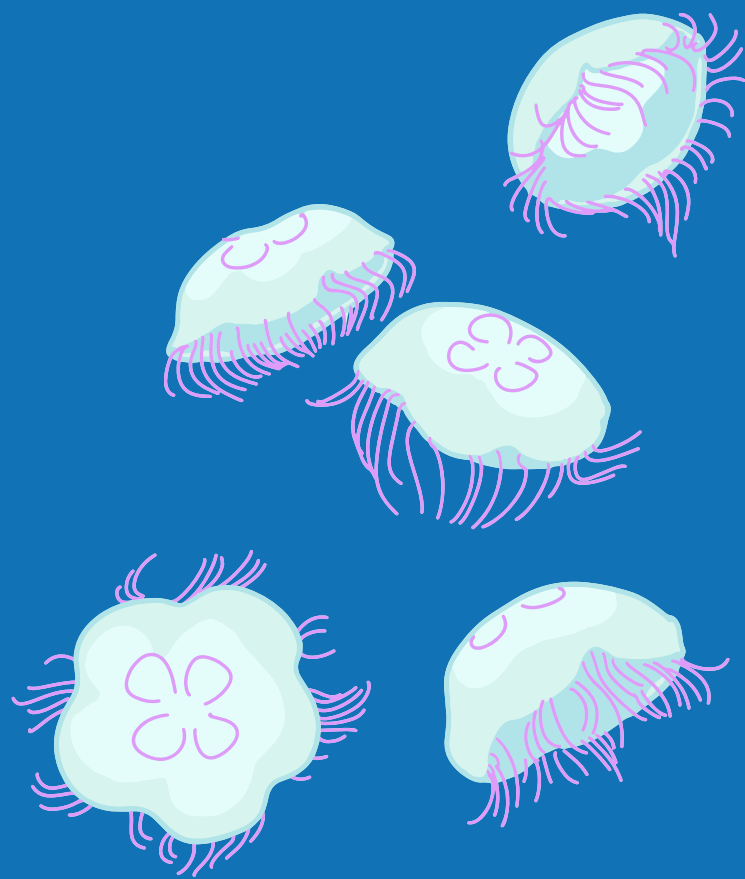
The #ocean nurtures 80% of life on our planet, and THE OCEAN IS IN TROUBLE. The #UNOceanConference offers an opportunity to scale up our efforts for #SDG14 and find sustainable solutions to #SaveOurOcean. https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/06/good_1.mp4

The #ocean generates oxygen we breathe & provides livelihoods, food, & energy. We can all help protect our ocean. During the #UNOceanConference, what commitment will you make to #SaveOurOcean? <https://www.globalgoals.org/take-action/?id=14>

The oceans unite us & call humanity to work together. As @Pontifex noted in Laudato Si', "Everything is interconnected." The #oceans are a crucial resource. We must come together at the #UNOceanConference to PROTECT & RESTORE them! #SaveOurOcean #OceanAction

Additional Resources

CURIOUS TO LEARN AND TAKE ACTION



Are you interested in learning more and taking action? We invite you to check out the [Mercy Oceans Campaign](#). This initiative, created by Mercy International Association, will run in tandem with the UN Ocean Conference. It facilitates reflection and encourages action to protect the health and sustainability of the world's oceans.

The [campaign website](#) includes a full toolkit, thematic videos, reflection papers, and resources for prayer.



Click [here](#) to watch a video introduction to the campaign

May the love of God be as deep as the ocean floor, as sweeping as the currents, and as soothing as the waves crashing on the shore. Creator of mysteries, help each of us be stewards of the ocean. Stir our spirits with wonder and amazement knowing that Your love for us extends even beyond the horizon of the open sea. We rejoice in the living waters of the ocean and tread lightly on Your shores, hoping to leave this miraculous creation a mystery to behold for all future generations. Amen

TOGETHER, WE CAN TURN THE TIDE AND RESTORE OUR OCEANS

"We need to respect the oceans and take care of them as if our lives depend on it. Because they do."

SYLVIA EARLE
