

“11 Critical Ocean Issues”

With Action Items for Concerned Citizens - 2006

These worksheets reflect the actions suggested in 11 Critical Ocean Issues: With Action Items for Concerned Citizens. We hope you will use these worksheets to help make meaningful personal choices, educate and inspire your community, and educate federal officials—as part of a growing effort to protect, maintain and restore the health of our oceans. Please refer to 11Critical Ocean Issues for additional background information and guidance. For downloads and more information go to www.seakeepers.org.

I. Making a Difference Through Personal Choices

Actions	Notes	Follow-Up	Done
Reduce pollution by using less fertilizer on your lawn			<input type="checkbox"/>
Get your neighbors, friends and family to reduce their fertilizer use			<input type="checkbox"/>
Convince your golf course manager to use less fertilizer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Eat only sustainable seafood			<input type="checkbox"/>
Convince your family and friends to eat only sustainable seafood			<input type="checkbox"/>
Tell your restaurants and markets to sell only sustainable seafood			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support politicians who support the ocean—make them Ocean Champions (www.oceanchampions.org)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Create an award for innovative ocean education and outreach efforts			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support and create new COSEEs (Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence) (www.cosee.net)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish an ocean scholarship or fellowship program			<input type="checkbox"/>
Become a sponsor of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl			<input type="checkbox"/>
Get the news media to do more stories on the ocean			<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep invasive species at bay—dispose of aquarium contents responsibly, rinse your boat and trailer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Buy fuel-efficient vehicles and appliances			<input type="checkbox"/>
Do an energy audit of your home and workplace			<input type="checkbox"/>
Check out http://globalgreen.org/programs/climate.html for other ideas			<input type="checkbox"/>

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II. Promoting Community Stewardship

Actions	Notes	Follow-Up	Done
Make sure your local wastewater treatment facilities are using advanced technology to keep harmful nutrients out of streams, rivers, and oceans			<input type="checkbox"/>
Learn more about your watershed and help reduce the flow of pollution through it.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiate a clean marina program at your marina and encourage community and state support.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support local coastal clean-up events			<input type="checkbox"/>
Make sure your community is doing its best to keep solid waste from becoming marine debris.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support the creation of marine reserves in your area.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Insist that coastal habitat protection is part of local and regional planning efforts where you live.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Let your elected officials at all levels know that oceans are vital to our economic, natural, and national security and are collapsing under the weight of our misuse. Their health must be a priority.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Tell your local and state leaders that you support an integrated regional effort to develop comprehensive plans to protect, maintain, and restore the health of marine ecosystems.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Make sure your local schools include oceans in their science curriculum (for guidance on ocean education see www.vims.edu/Bridge).			<input type="checkbox"/>

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III. Making Oceans a Federal Case

Actions	Notes	Follow-Up	Done
Visit, write, call or email your congressional representatives and get them to:			
Increase funding for local and regional wastewater treatment; upgrade combined sewer overflow systems (CSOs)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase funding for agricultural conservation programs that minimize runoff from farming operations			<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote science- and ecosystem-based fisheries management			<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibit the use of damaging bottom gear in critical fish habit areas			<input type="checkbox"/>
Mandate plans that reduce bycatch of non-targeted fish, marine mammals, and other marine life and secure funding for developing improved technology to reduce bycatch			<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce fishing capacity while providing support for affected fishermen			<input type="checkbox"/>
Schedule a vote soon on ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (approach your Senators only for this one)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support legislation to establish a comprehensive and integrated management regime for federal waters			<input type="checkbox"/>
Double the ocean science budget over the next five years and support ocean program funding through an Ocean Policy Trust Fund			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support legislation facilitating the use of, and providing funding for, marine reserves and other protected areas			<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure significant and permanent funding for habitat protection			<input type="checkbox"/>

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III. Making Oceans a Federal Case *(continued)*

Actions	Notes	Follow-Up	Done
Make the protection, maintenance and restoration of our vital oceans a high priority			<input type="checkbox"/>
Join and become an active and leading member of the House Oceans Caucus (your U.S. representative) and urge the replication of such a caucus in the Senate (your senators)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support development of comprehensive, integrated regional plans to protect, maintain, and restore the health of marine ecosystems			<input type="checkbox"/>
Seek oversight hearings to examine how the 140-plus federal ocean-related laws can be better integrated and coordinated			<input type="checkbox"/>
Double the investment in a U.S. integrated ocean-observing system (IOOS)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Urge appropriations committees to double the ocean science budget over the next five years			<input type="checkbox"/>
Amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Management and Recovery Act to require fisheries councils to make science-based decisions and separate conservation and allocation decisions			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support a research fleet renewal plan and a national strategy to support marine research			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support National Science Foundation (NSF) Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support legislation and regulations to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species and to eliminate them from ballast water			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions			<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit, write, call or email senior Administration officials and urge them to:			
Provide an integrated ocean budget as part of the President's fiscal year 2007 submission to Congress			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support a strong Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy (ORPPIS) and provide funding for greater integration of ocean science priorities			<input type="checkbox"/>
Double the ocean science budget over the next five years			<input type="checkbox"/>

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Guide to Reaching Political Leaders

The only way to make our representative democracy work well is to ensure that our political leaders represent us. It is, in fact, their job. This guide will help you pursue many of the suggested actions contained in *11 Critical Ocean Issues: With Action Items for Concerned Citizens*. Appendix D of *11 Critical Ocean Issues* provides a template for a letter to these leaders to urge their action on the oceans. We encourage you to use this letter as you see fit and modify it to suit your own interests and concerns regarding the sea.

Here are some suggestions for reaching out to those who need to hear from you about important ocean issues:

General Reference: The National Political Index (www.politicalindex.com/index.htm) is a terrific, comprehensive, one-stop resource through which you can find: the name and contact information for your federal, state and local elected officials; names and contact information for federal as well as state and local government agencies; details on federal legislation; and other useful information.

Congressional Contacts: To quickly find the names and addresses of your congressional representatives, go to www.house.gov or www.senate.gov.

Key Federal Officials: Here are names and contact information for some of the most important ocean-related federal officials:

- President George W. Bush (www.whitehouse.gov/contact);
- The Honorable Joshua Bolten, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (www.whitehouse.gov/omb/contact.html);
- The Honorable Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of the Department of Commerce (www.commerce.gov/Contact_Us.htm);
- The Honorable Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (PH: (202) 482-3436; FAX: (202) 408-9674; conrad.c.lautenbacher@noaa.gov; 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230)

Tracking Congressional Legislation: For the latest on bills, their cosponsors and their status, the definitive site is <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

For a copy of “11 Critical Ocean Issues with Action Items for Concerned Citizens” please visit www.seakeepers.org