

# World Oceans Day Toolkit – June 8<sup>th</sup>

In 1992 the Government of Canada introduced the concept of *World Oceans Day* at the NGO Global Forum as part of the Earth Summit in the Rio de Janeiro. Since 2002, [The Ocean Project](#) has coordinated and promoted [World Oceans Day](#) globally. And in 2008, *World Oceans Day* was officially recognized by the United Nations.

Every year on June 8<sup>th</sup>, people from around the world celebrate our oceans! World Oceans Day offers an opportunity to recognize the critical role the ocean plays in each of our lives, everyday; and at the same time, the very worrisome issues that the ocean is currently facing: overfishing, ocean acidification, species and habitat loss and plastic pollution and more. The impacts of these issues are devastating and far reaching, threatening not only the ocean ecosystem and the many organisms that reside within it, but also our global human community as we depend on the ocean to produce the oxygen we breath, help stabilize our climate and provide food for billions of people worldwide. The ocean also serves a vital economical role in our lives as it provides jobs for millions and acts as transport for the world economy.



“Even if you never have the chance to see or touch the ocean, the ocean touches you with every breath you take, every drop of water you drink, every bite you consume.

Everyone, everywhere is inextricably connected to and utterly dependent upon the existence of the sea.”

-Sylvia Earle

Coming together, with our hearts and our minds, to discuss what we can do, individually and together, to address some of these issues is an important part of the World Oceans Day celebration.

## Why take a day to recognize our oceans?

- To use World Oceans Day as an opportunity to connect with co-workers and create dialogue about our ocean ecosystems and the critical role they play in our lives.
- To encourage reflection on the many ways we are connected to the ocean and how we can take action to ensure that our oceans are healthy and resilient.
- To become more familiar with our local ecological jewel, the Salish Sea.

### We all depend on the ocean for life, everyday!

- The ocean covers 70% of the Earth's surface – we are a blue planet.
- With every breath we take, 50-70% of our oxygen comes from phytoplankton and algae in the ocean.
- The ocean feeds us – the ocean is the #1 source of protein for 1 billion people.
- All the freshwater we drink is cycled through the ocean.
- The ocean regulates our climate and governs our weather patterns.
- The ocean is where all life once began.
- The ocean supports the greatest abundance of life on Earth.
- The ocean is worth 31 trillion dollars to the world economy.
- As coastal dwellers, we love to play on, in and over the ocean.

### Our ecological jewel – the Salish Sea!

- In recognition of the Coast Salish People who have lived in this region for millennia, the Strait of Georgia, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound are together known as the Salish Sea.
- As one of the most productive, biodiverse and geodiverse areas in the world, the Salish Sea is an ecological jewel.
- The Salish Sea is packed full of photosynthetic phytoplankton, making it an incredibly rich and diverse ecosystem, and also, green!
- The Salish Sea is home to a huge diversity of fish (247 species), marine mammals (37 species, invertebrates (3000 species), birds (172 species) and marine plants (500 species).
- We rely on the Salish Sea for oxygen, for water, for food, for travel, for transport of goods (home to Canada's biggest port), for jobs, for recreation and for our general health and wellness.
- The Salish Sea is currently home to 8 million people, living along its shorelines.



## What can you do to recognize World Oceans Day?

Check out [the Plastic Ocean Toolkit](#) for opportunities to take action at home, at work and in your community to keep plastics out of our oceans and our marine food web.

**Host a lunch and learn** using the [Oceans are Us! Peer Learning Session](#) presentation, or other videos featured in the Plastic Ocean toolkit, as a resource.

### Raise awareness with an email or announcement

Below is sample email you can send to your co-workers for World Oceans Day:

Subject: Special World Ocean's Day Celebration, June 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear [name of team or best way to address the group you're reaching out to]

On Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, millions of people around the world will be celebrating World Oceans Day. We'll be joining them with [insert activity name/idea here] at our site.

In the health sector, we work directly and indirectly to ensure that people lead healthier and longer lives. A healthy ocean is critical to a healthy planet, which is critical to healthy people and communities.

### Did you know?

- The ocean covers 70% of the Earth's surface? We are a blue planet.
- And with every breath we take, 50-70% of our oxygen comes from phytoplankton and algae in the ocean.
- The ocean feeds us – the ocean is the #1 source of protein for 1 billion people.
- All the freshwater we drink is cycled through the ocean.
- The ocean regulates our climate and governs our weather patterns.
- The ocean is where all life once began.
- The ocean is worth 31 trillion dollars to the world economy.
- In our region, we are fortunate to live alongside the Salish Sea, which is one of the most productive, biodiverse and geodiverse areas in the world.

Our opportunities to have an impact are bigger than ever. As Dr. Jane Goodall says, "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Please join us on [insert date] to learn more about how we can make a difference together. [remind them of activity, the time and the location] If you have any questions or want to get involved with organizing, please let me know.

Happy World Oceans Day!  
[insert your name]

PS Want to learn more about World Oceans Day? Check out this link:

<http://www.worldoceansday.org/>