

OUR OCEAN OUR FUTURE

Oceans cover more than two thirds of Earth's surface. They are home to millions of species, provide a key source of protein to people on every continent, and play an enormous role in regulating our planet's climate, water cycle and more. They also are facing tremendous disruption from human action, from altered temperature and circulation to overfishing to acidification to plastic pollution. What kind of oceans will we pass along to future generations of humans and other living things? The answer to that question starts with two others: What kind of oceans would we like to pass along? And what would it take to do so?



Fig 1: Present state of our ocean

My hope is that by 2050 we can all look back and say that in 2017 we began to make the serious changes necessary to address — and even reverse — the challenges facing the oceans: pollution, rising seas, ocean warming, oxygen depletion, and acidification, to name a few. These issues are not isolated in their reach. The food and precious resources the oceans provide to global society have been bountiful, but we see them diminishing. We must act strategically going forward. It serves all of us, as a global society, to maintain the stability of the oceans as a natural system.. We must act *now* to develop adaptation solutions for the global community. We at Scripps are working with the world's leading thinkers and researchers to share knowledge and develop sea-level rise solutions. From these efforts we look to develop a plan of action to help cities and states adapt to rising seas. By 2050 our seas will be viewed as more than a platform for tourism and recreation and rather an ocean for solutions. Our sustainable energy solutions will be aided by marine algae-derived biofuel, while new medicines to treat modern diseases will be derived from sea creatures with novel chemical structures. There is still so much we don't know. We need to keep learning about our water world, especially the deep sea and the immense role of the oceans in global climate change.

All of us need to do our part. We are all stewards of the ocean and the planet. We must continue to explore. We must continue to study the things we don't yet understand and protect the resources we have for future generations.

Yet, to truly achieve a sustainable vision for the future of the world's oceans, we must go beyond simple spatial planning. The ocean provides a great deal more than fish, fossil fuels and free trade. This generation's legacy must include protecting and restoring robust, functioning marine ecosystems. The oceans make the planet's climate livable, absorbing 90 percent of the additional heat trapped by our ever-thickening atmospheric blanket of carbon pollution.

As oceans warm and acidify as a result of runaway carbon pollution, we put all of these ecosystem benefits at risk. Yet none of them will continue unless we incorporate their financial worth into the cost of doing business. Putting a price tag on the value of a healthy marine environment will help political and business leaders arrive at more efficient and more sustainable decisions and develop a new Blue Economy that links economic growth with ocean health.

Mundus Maris Federal college of fisheries and marine technology has been chronicling the cleaning of the ocean for few years. We've seen the changes, we've create awareness. Yet in spite of all the damage that humankind has done to the oceans, I remain optimistic. The oceans are a shared resource covering 71 percent of the planet. They play a central role in the world's natural systems, like regulating our climate and absorbing carbon dioxide. Over a billion people, including some of the poorest in the world, depend on the oceans and wild seafood for survival. Restoring abundance to the world's fisheries is important not only for the planet but also for the people who live on it.



Fig 2: The future of our ocean

We must address three major challenges in the next 30 years if we wish to preserve the health and wildness of our global oceans.

1. *Marine Industrialization.* A [marine industrial revolution](#) (alternatively called an emerging [blue economy](#)) is welling up in our oceans and represents a dramatic shift in the way we do marine business. Historically we went to sea to fish. By 2050, we are poised to see

massive expansions in marine industries like seabed mining, underwater power plant construction (e.g., offshore wind, tidal energy) and oil/gas extraction. On land when we shifted from hunting animals to building our industries in their habitats, we saw a major spike in wildlife extinction. If we don't carefully plan out marine industrialization, we may face a similar fate for ocean wildlife.

2. *Fishing vs. farming in the oceans.* The [Food and Agriculture Organization predicts](#) that in less than 20 years fish farming will put more fish on our tables than wild-capture fisheries. We have to carefully ensure this explosive growth in ocean farming happens in a clean, healthy and sustainable way. In parallel to this growth in aquaculture, we must redouble our efforts to be sure that wild fisheries can continue to provide healthy free-range fish by setting aside [ocean protected areas](#) and coming up with novel solutions for managing the [lawlessness associated with fishing](#) in many settings (e.g., the high seas).
3. *Ocean climate change.* None of these actions will have purchase if we don't slow the rates by which we are warming and acidifying the oceans. Many marine species have demonstrated a [very encouraging capacity for adaptation](#) to climate stressors. Anything we can do to slow carbon emissions will buy them time to adapt.

By squarely facing the urgency of the situation in the oceans and prudently managing these new forces of change, we can chart a brighter future for life in the oceans and can avoid making many of the environmental mistakes we made on land.

NAME : ALAWODE BUKUNMI

AGE : 21 YEARS

NATIONALITY : NIGERIAN

POSTAL ADDRESS: No 2 wilmot point road Ahmadu Bello way Victoria Island Lagos

CONTACT: email:aqualove2510@gmail.com +2348160547772