

EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023
8am PST/11am EST/4pm GMT

The COP28 Dubai Ocean Declaration calls on the parties of the UN Climate Conference to adopt measures that enhance protections of the ocean and include several key points into the two-week long negotiations. According to the Declaration, "As the largest, most dynamic reservoir of carbon in Earth's climate system, the ocean can and must play a central role in efforts to achieve net-negative emissions and meet the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement. As a critical part of other life-sustaining planetary processes, the ocean must also be protected from continued anthropogenic change, including any climate mitigation efforts and especially as the rapidly changing Earth system becomes less predictable."

The Declaration underscores the call for drastic cuts of greenhouse gas emissions and immediate concrete efforts to curb other human-induced damages to the ocean, such as overfishing, habitat destruction, and marine pollution, in addition to advancing ocean-based solutions.

"The immediate priority is to drastically reduce carbon emissions within the next decade," said Peter de Menocal, President and Director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a co-signer of the Declaration. "At the same time, we must explore ways to remove existing emissions from the atmosphere to meet the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement. The ocean presents viable, scalable opportunities for carbon dioxide removal. But independent science must lead, and this requires a new era of collaborative, international ocean observing to track changes in ocean carbon flows, ecosystem health, and to monitor the vital signs of a vast and rapidly changing ocean upon which we all depend."

Specific efforts spelled out in the COP28 Dubai Ocean Declaration include:

- Improve global stocktake estimates and measures of progress towards goals laid out in the Paris

