

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) will take place in Brazil in 2012 to mark the 20

th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10 th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. The Pew Environment Group has issued a briefing and recommendations to the First Intersessional Meeting of the UNCSD (Rio+20), which took place from 10-11 January 2011. The document is titled "Bringing the Ocean Back into the Earth Summit."

I recommend reading the Pew Document available [here](#) Following is an extract of some of the major recommendations:

"We recommend that the international community:

Identify, establish, and effectively manage protected areas in the ocean. Together with other organizations and some governments, the Pew Environment Group has called for 20% of the world's ocean to be protected by 2020. The CBD Nagoya goal of creating Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in 10% of the ocean by 2020 is insufficient, even though today only around 1% of the world's oceans is currently protected;

Stop overfishing, including by addressing overcapacity, subsidies, illegal, unregulated and

unreported (IUU) fishing, following scientific advice, and assessing sustainable catches and allocating catches equitably and effectively;

End destructive fishing practices, including the need to prevent damage to vulnerable marine ecosystems through bottom trawling and other destructive fishing gear and practices, and end the current depletion of shark species through unmanaged fisheries, finning and other unsustainable practices;

Advance sustainable fishing practices in developing States, including through capacity building, technology transfer and financial assistance, and through fair, equitable and sustainable fisheries access agreements;

Implement prior environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments to prevent or minimize anthropogenic impacts on the ocean for new and emerging activities as well as for fishing activities;

Implement effective conservation and management measures regionally and globally, assessing all environmental factors and trends, including climate change and ocean acidification, using the precautionary principle and ecosystem approach when

undertaking management activities, using modern environmental principles and tools, for all marine species, and particularly in areas requiring new management techniques such as the Arctic Ocean, due to the changes brought about by climate change;

Implement effective and comprehensive monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement (MCSCE) to ensure that conservation and management measures are implemented, and to prevent IUU fishing, including through effective flag State, port State, national and market measures; and

Take steps to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and reduce carbon dioxide emissions to

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lessen the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on the ocean, and implement measures to build resilience and ensure adaptation in the face of climate impacts that are unavoidable. "

TAGS: oceans, sustainable, fisheries, fishing, Pew Environment Group, UNCSD, Marine Protected Areas, overfishing, overcapacity, IUU, sustainable fishing practices, capacity building, precautionary approach, ecosystem approach, climate change

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