

The Ocean Race and Mission Blue Join Forces to Inspire Ocean Protection



The Ocean Race, the round-the-world sailing competition known as the toughest test of a team in sport, and Mission Blue, an NGO dedicated to exploring the ocean and driving its protection, are coming together to accelerate action to safeguard the seas.

At the heart of the new collaboration are two ambitious goals for a healthy ocean: establishing a Universal Declaration of

Ocean Rights and protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Global Framework for Protecting the Seas

Through its Racing with Purpose programme, established in collaboration with Founding Partner 11th Hour Racing, [The Ocean Race](#) has been working for over 18 months to build support with decision-makers and governments across the world for a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights, which would establish the ocean as a legal entity and put in place a global framework for protecting the seas. The race is also getting the public onboard through the One Blue Voice campaign, with a petition for a declaration that will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023. As an impact collaborator of The Ocean Race, Mission Blue will help to drive support for ocean rights and highlight how this could play a crucial role in protecting the seas.

The collaboration will also shine a spotlight on [Hope Spots](#), vital parts of the ocean that have been scientifically identified as critical to the health of the marine environment. Working with local communities to safeguard these special areas, [Mission Blue](#) is calling on leaders and policymakers to ensure they are properly protected and able to thrive. Ahead of the start of The Ocean Race 2022-23, which sets sail from Alicante, Spain, on 15 January, the collaborators will look at ways to champion the Hope Spots that the teams will be racing by along the 60,000km route.

Giving the Ocean a Stronger Voice

Richard Brisius, race chairman at The Ocean Race, said: "Less than 3% of the ocean is protected, which has led to our blue planet being ruthlessly exploited. Working with organizations that are also racing to protect the ocean is the best way of making waves and driving action. By uniting with Mission Blue, we can help audiences discover the incredible world beneath the surface and give the ocean a stronger voice, which will ultimately help to safeguard it."

Led by legendary oceanographer Dr Sylvia Earle, Mission Blue's work to raise awareness and grow support for a worldwide network of marine protected areas encompassing 30% of the ocean by 2030 will be amplified by The Ocean Race through its Racing with Purpose sustainability programme. Created in collaboration with 11th Hour Racing, the programme features a series of high-level summits, learning programmes to inspire children to protect the ocean and an onboard science programme in which valuable data about the state of the seas is collected by sailing teams as they race across the planet.

Deb Castellana, director of strategic alliances at Mission Blue, said: "Witnessing the development of The Ocean Race over the past decades, it is inspiring to see how what was once purely a challenge of human determination and the latest sailing technologies has evolved into a programme centred on making a real difference for our imperilled ocean. The message to support ocean health is absolutely integral to the race, and it will be impossible for anyone following it to escape this critical and timely message. From youth programmes to global summits, to presenting the Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights at the United Nations, The Ocean Race will make its mark as not only a sailing race, but a race to save our ocean planet. Mission Blue is proud to partner with The Ocean Race. No Blue, No Green!"



The Ocean Race has been held every three or four years since 1973. (Courtesy: Vincent Curutchet/IMOCA)

