



The International Business Alliance
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

News Release

DRAFT OF NEW, LEGALLY BINDING U.N. LAW OF THE SEA REGULATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

First Draft of the U.N. Law of the Sea “BBNJ” Agreement on Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Has Been Released for Review

28 June 2019

The initial version of the new legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) is now available from the U.N. [here](#).

The World Ocean Council (WOC) has been participating in the BBNJ process since it began to ensure that the ocean business community is present and engaged in this effort to develop the most important new legal regime for the ocean since the establishment of the U.N. Law of the Sea.

A 2-page WOC briefing on the BBNJ and implications for ocean industries can be found [here](#).

The WOC will participate in the third round of BBNJ negotiations at the U.N. Headquarters in New York in August 2019. The WOC is an accredited observer to the BBNJ negotiations and has been the only ocean industry organization consistently and actively involved in the BBNJ process over the past decade.

The legally binding BBNJ will create new international high seas regulation on:

- Environmental impact assessments (EIAs)
- Area-based management tools including marine protected areas (MPAs)
- Capacity-building and transfer of marine technology
- Marine genetic resources (MGRs) including benefit sharing

The WOC is working to develop the “*BBNJ Business Coalition*” as a means for coordinated industry involvement in the BBNJ process. This will advance interaction both: a) among the sectors of the diverse ocean business community and b) between the private sector and other stakeholders. The Coalition will seek to develop coordinated industry input to ensure that the BBNJ will be practical, implementable and engender constructive ocean business community engagement in the conservation and sustainable use of marine life in international waters.

The WOC BBNJ Business Coalition participants (as well as WOC Members) will receive expert review and analysis of the BBNJ process, covering the negotiation progress and dynamics, the priority BBNJ issues, concerns and input of governments and other stakeholders, and the evolving content of the draft new legally binding agreement.

There is still time for ocean industries to engage and have a voice in this critical ocean governance process that will affect business access and operations in the high seas for the foreseeable future by participating in the WOC BBNJ Business Coalition. Industry involvement is critical and can help ensure that policies and regulations are developed with full and balanced information, are based on good science and risk assessment, are practical and implementable and engender the involvement and support of the ocean business community.

In preparation for the start of the BBNJ Negotiations, in 2018 the WOC released a report on [“Ocean Governance and the Private Sector”](#) – a review of major international ocean policy organizations and processes, the past and ongoing efforts for engaging the business community and priorities for the future, especially for the WOC in its role as the global, multi-industry organization on ocean sustainable development.

SAVE THE DATE

Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 2019: 20-22 Nov, Paris

“Investing in Ocean Futures: Finance and Innovation for the Blue Economy”

Mark your calendars for this unique gathering of the global Ocean Business Community.

Recent and Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

28 June, PARIS

Implications of Climate Change on Defence and Security in the Indian Ocean (Participant)

2 July, BRUSSELS

G7++ FoGG (Friends of the Gulf of Guinea) Meeting (Speaker)

9-10 July, PARIS

Paris International Financial Forum (Participant)

15 August, HONOLULU

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) - Comprehensive Maritime Security Cooperation Course (Speaker)

19-30 August, NEW YORK

U.N. Law of the Sea, BBNJ Treaty - 3rd Negotiation Session on the international, legally binding instrument under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea re the conservation

and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (Industry Representative)

World Ocean Council (WOC) – The Global Blue Economy Business Organization

The WOC is the international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership, collaboration and action on ocean sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”, including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology and investment.

WOC Members are listed [here](#), a part of the WOC Network of 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US, UK and France.

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