



Infographic: raise your voice for the ocean

By *Joanna Benn*

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12 June 2015

The ocean inspires. It sustains. It is Earth’s circulatory system, performing vital functions that make the planet habitable. It provides us with food, fresh water, energy, medicine, the oxygen in every second breath we take, and it has an incredible ability to regenerate – to build and to restore itself, over and over.

However, throughout time, the ocean and the life it contains, has been viewed as limitless and so we have taken and taken. This infographic ties in some key issues and looks at how we really value the ocean.

THE TRUE VALUE OF THE

OCEAN

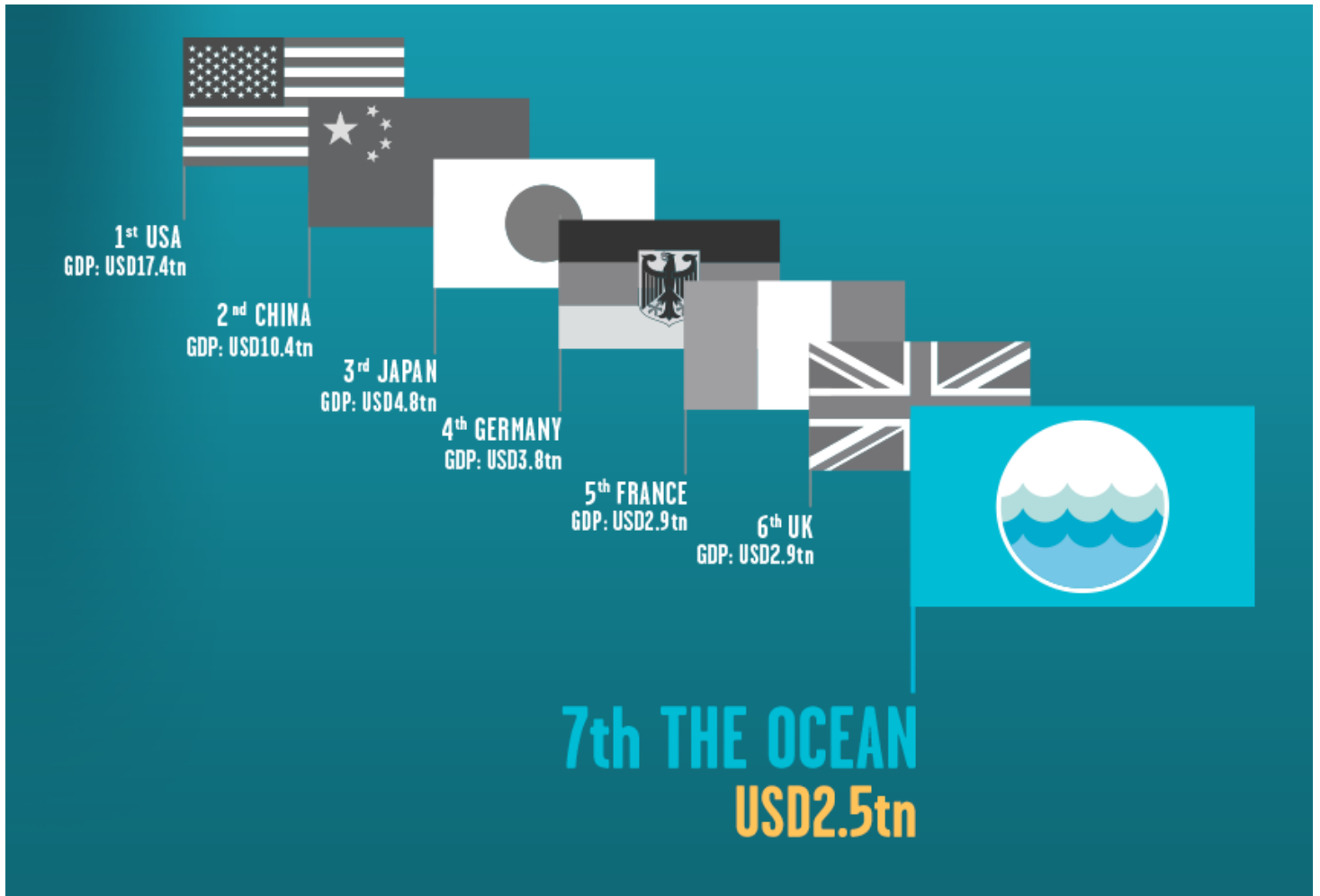
2015 is a big year for the climate and the ocean — and a big year for humanity. We are realising its enormous value, as well as its critical life force function and what we must do to save it. Despite the ocean being an economic giant, the assets that provide most of its value are in steep decline. Its capacity to provide food and support livelihoods is diminishing, while the erosion of marine ecosystems jeopardises economic, social and political stability. And in an age of climate change, its value as a hedge against risk cannot be underestimated.

VALUE¹

The ocean provides wide-ranging value, from food and tourism to coastal protection and recreation. The following WWF figure presents some ocean related activities and assets with their total values.

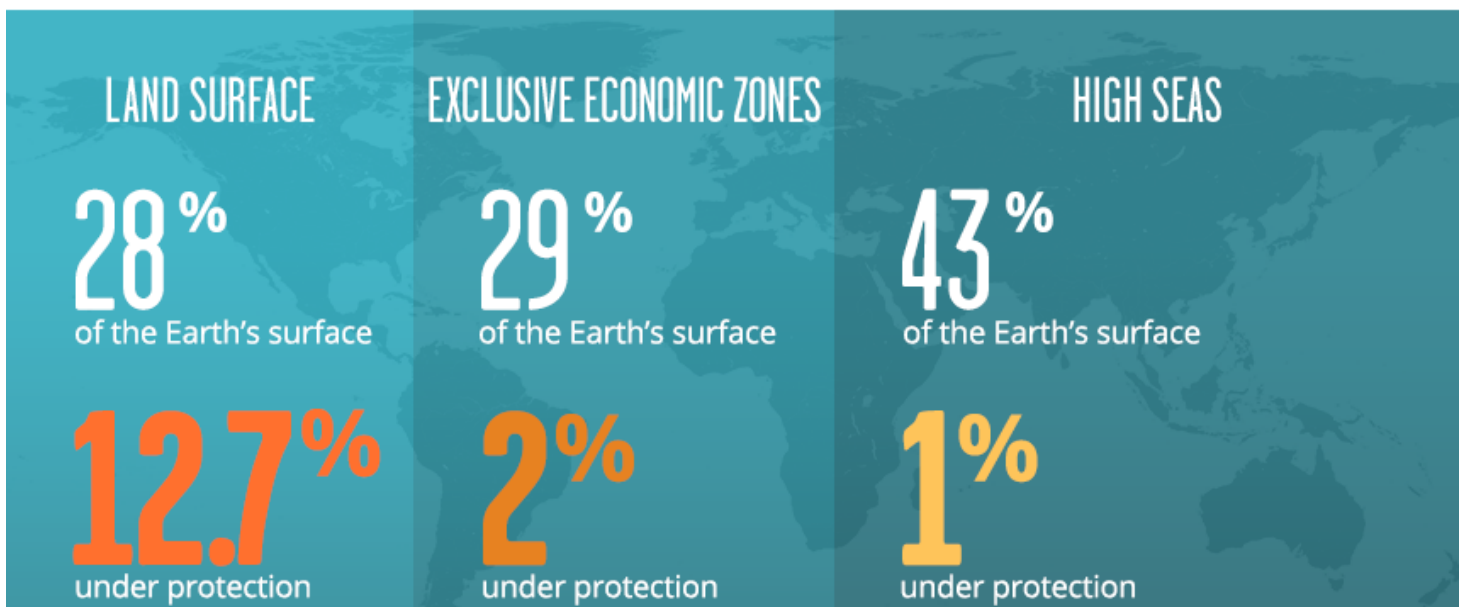


The annual gross marine product, the equivalent of a country's GDP, would make the ocean the world's 7th largest economy.



PROTECTED AREAS AND RESERVES²

It is in the interest of communities, governments, business, industry and financial institutions to increase investment in fully protected marine reserves both in country waters and on the high seas.



THREATS³

Threats to the ocean may look invisible on the surface but the consequences of a failing ocean will be visible to all. One of the biggest concerns right now is climate change and its effect on the ocean and marine life.

The Economics of Fish Redistribution

Fisheries yield is projected to increase by 30–70% in high latitudes, but to fall by 40–60% in the tropics and Antarctica, based on 2°C warming. Large species such as tuna in the Pacific and Indian Oceans are likely to shift eastwards. Global loss of landings is projected at USD17 to 41 billion up to 2050.



Undertake vulnerability assessments. Strengthen coastal zone management. Reduce aquaculture dependence on fishmeal.

Negative Effects on Shellfish

Shellfish are particularly vulnerable to ocean acidification and other changes in ocean chemistry. Seasonal upwelling of acidic waters onto the continental shelf in the California Current region has been affecting oyster hatcheries along the coast of Washington and Oregon, although the exact role of climate change is unclear. However, if ocean pH continues to fall, overall global production of shellfish fisheries is likely to decrease.



Reduce non-climate change-related stressors. Policies aimed at reducing fossil fuel use across economies will affect the seafood industry.

Dead Zones are Becoming More Common

The extent of oxygen-depleted 'dead zones' in coastal waters is increasing. These are caused by high levels of nutrient run-off from land, exacerbated by higher water temperatures and ocean acidification. In the open ocean, the extent of 'oxygen minimum zones' (OMZs), caused by ocean warming, also appears to be increasing. These waters are oxygen-poor in the mid-layers and so are unable to support large active fish.



Reassess and reinforce marine protected areas. Protect mangrove forests, sea grass beds and salt marshes.

Coral Reefs at Risk

Coral reef ecosystems are declining rapidly, with the risk of collapse of some coastal fisheries. If CO₂ emissions continue to rise at the current rate, coral reef erosion is likely to outpace reef



building during this century. Incidences of coral bleaching as a result of rising temperatures are also likely to increase, with a consequent loss of support and habitat for fisheries and other marine creatures. Coastal protection along with food resources and income from tourism are consequently all at risk.



Have no doubt. We can turn the serious decline of the ocean economy around and rebuild ocean health. There are **solutions**. Examples include ensuring sustainable fisheries, establishing regeneration zones (like national parks at sea), ending illegal fishing and getting (and keeping) plastics out of the ocean.

Let's unite behind leadership, commitment and action

Make 2015 count

www.oceanunite.org

SOURCES

¹ **Values:** *Reviving the Ocean Economy: The Case for Action 2015* (WWF in association with the University of Queensland, Global Change Institute and the Boston Consulting Group)

² **Protected Areas and Reserves:** The Pew Charitable Trusts

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/data-visualizations/2015/high-stakes-on-the-high-seas>

³ **Threats:** *The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) 2013/2014* <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5> and

<http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/business-action/low-carbon-transformation/ipcc-briefings/fisheries-and-aquaculture>



A groundbreaking **WWF study** shows us the level of economic value the ocean provides – in terms of fish, shipping, transport, absorption of carbon dioxide, coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass. Add all of these up and the ocean – if it were a country – would have the world's seventh largest economy.

If we know that the ocean does so much for us and is so economically valuable, you would think we would want to protect it. Sadly that's not the case – in fact very little is protected as fully protected marine reserves, which make up one per cent on the high seas, and about two per cent in country waters. That's not

very impressive!

We have to remember that not all threats are easily seen. Ocean acidification has been called the dangerous twin of climate change and its effects are insidious and long term. Like siblings, the ocean and the climate are intimately linked and we have to protect both.

The ocean can rebound, we can regenerate it and everything it brings with it: air, water, food, happiness, security. Let's not agree to accept the status-quo. Business as usual will not do – **raise your voice, join our mission.**



How can you show your support this World Ocean Day?

Visit **Ocean Unite**'s new website to find out more about the work they do, and how you can get involved.

Donate to help us secure a healthy and vital future for the world's oceans.

Follow us on **Instagram** (@VirginUnite) and tell us what the ocean means to you, by posting a picture and comment using hashtag, #LoveYourOcean

You can also read more blogs from our ocean-themed series by visiting the homepage: **In focus: the world's ocean.**

Tags

World Oceans Day, conservation, leadership.

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As i observe everyone are intelligent that they want to have a new life , But they never knowing where to start. Because in everyday we are suffering from the drought of the farm land , the super hit of the sun, everything are going worst. WHO Will start to make it through? I believe the VIRGIN UNITE can make this. People will follow , if they see the right learning and communication to them , They must understand they need to teach in how their lives to be changes, Some people want to be feed for his all life, Yes life is so hard to make things to earn in everyday life, If we need them everyone to change, TEACH THEM HOW TO CATCH FISH IN THE OCEAN, This formula. I teach to my brothers, sisters all my children and my mediate family. They need to learn the rule to follow me. A simple words, FOCUS, STUDY, LESS LOVE. If everyo... [See More](#)

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Howard Dryden · Chief Executive Officer at Dryden Aqua

Whats happening to the Oceans and why we should care?

Maybe trying to control CO2 and burning of fossil fuels is not the complete solution for "Climate Change" but part of the problem because we are all looking for the answer in the wrong place.

www.goesfoundation.com

1. The burning fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide which everyone assumes is the primary reason and cause of climate change and ocean acidification, but maybe it is not the complete solution.
2. In 25 to 50 years acidification will drop the level to pH7.9, at which point there will be a trophic cascade collapse of the marine ecosystem and we may lose all fish, whales, seals and seabirds
3. Over 1.5 billion people depend directly on the sea for their food supply, there may be no fish in 25 years. Already 90% or large fish are gone (over fished), climate chang... [See More](#)

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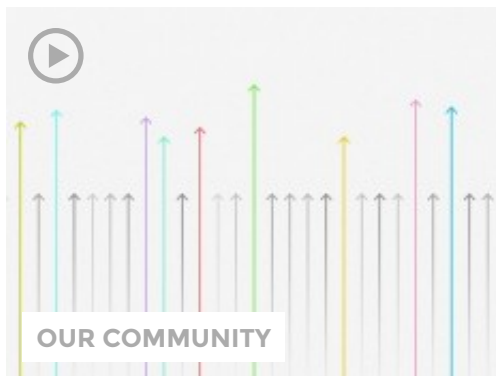
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#fuqafukushima, you're here! I've been waiting! Hugs hugs smiles and tears. The ways we will save it are jobs for so many, the will to see the problem, now clearly, finally being inspired by a virgin entity, of course. Chart a new course to sanity to secure our world, I'll work locally here on the Salton Sea and the California Coast. Cheers and whooooo hooooo!

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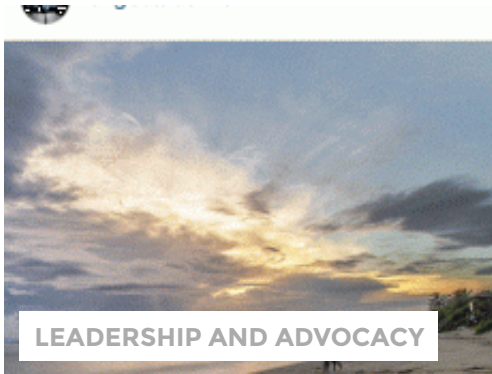
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