



## High Seas Alliance: Charter

**Mission:** to conserve the world's high seas – which cover half of our planet

**The goals of the High Seas Alliance are:**

- **To build a strong common voice and constituency for high seas conservation**
- **To promote and catalyse the protection, conservation and restoration of marine ecosystem health and biodiversity**
- **To promote and catalyse the building of a comprehensive, representative and effective system of marine protected areas (MPAs), including no-take reserves.**
- **To catalyse and monitor the effective implementation of existing and emerging ocean conservation obligations and rules.**
- **To promote and monitor effective governance, management and enforcement systems that support and ensure conservation, sustainability of use and equitable benefit sharing for all high seas marine resources and species, including fisheries.**

High Seas Alliance members commit to work together to achieve these goals either as members of a collaborative effort through the Alliance, or as individual organizations supported by or affiliated with the Alliance. In particular, Alliance members agree to strive to achieve the following objectives:

### **Building a common voice**

- To inspire and educate the public on the role of [the importance of]the global ocean in assuring human well-being, livelihoods, and the survival of the planet
- To engage experts in science, government, law, business, academia and communications
- To engage decision makers in support of high seas conservation
- To work through relevant intergovernmental organizations and processes to ensure that meaningful action is taken for the conservation of the high seas biodiversity and ecosystems

## Securing protection

- To help create, and contribute to, an inventory of high seas areas of ecological and biological significance
- To pursue the protection of ecologically and biologically significant areas through a wide range of measures, from fisheries closures to integrated MPAs
- To facilitate the building of a globally comprehensive and representative system of MPAs including multiple use areas and no-take marine reserves
- To focus on the early establishment of prominent high seas MPAs and MPA networks, and to build public and political acceptance and support for them
- To encourage effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), and compliance and enforcement (C&E) for high seas MPAs of all kinds
- To promote continued scientific research, monitoring and analysis of the health of high seas ecosystems, including environmental and strategic assessments

## Achieving good high seas governance

- To monitor and insist on the effective implementation of existing international commitments and obligations
- To promote in particular, that flag and port states meet their responsibilities under international law and that there are penalties and consequences for failing to do so
- To advocate for development funding to be used to assist developing states, especially coastal and port states, to participate in international bodies and to implement international commitments on high seas use and conservation
- To address gaps and weaknesses in international law to ensure that all relevant bodies have complete and effective legal mandates and competencies to establish and enforce conservation and management measures required to deliver conservation, sustainability of use and equitable benefit sharing outcomes
- To call for new institutions and mechanisms, as needed, to conserve and protect the high seas

- To encourage governments to convene a diplomatic conference under UN auspices to develop new processes, arrangements or agreements to ensure integrated and precautionary ecosystem based management; and to implement the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) with respect to the effective conservation and protection of the marine environment and marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- To encourage development of a global system of accountability for conservation, sustainability and equity in the management of high seas marine resources, including oversight and accountability for RFMOs in managing fisheries
- To expand, improve and further develop international capacities for monitoring, control and surveillance, and for compliance and enforcement
- To expand and improve financial and technical support, especially for developing states, to enable effective participation by all relevant states in the establishment and implementation of a comprehensive system of governance for the high seas

## **Sharing information and intelligence**

- To exchange information amongst Alliance members, including reporting back from meetings and discussions, and to facilitate access to information and data from other sources, including by contributing to a website and portal
- To contribute to Alliance advocacy and associated communications materials and strategies to support the public discourse around pursuit of our goals and objectives
- To cooperate in sharing and exchanging information to promote improved transparency about vessel activities on the high seas activities, especially fishing vessels, and about their operators and owners