

Ocean Conservancy Statement at The UN Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting

February 5, 2020

Ocean Conservancy would like to thank the co-facilitators, Palau and Denmark, as well as the Conference hosts Portugal and Kenya for their leadership on SDG14 and we welcome the opportunity to work together to advance ocean conservation priorities in the lead up to the June conference.

Ocean Conservancy would like to support the comments made by Ocean Unite on behalf of the Blue Call to Action, calling on governments, corporations and civil society to RISE UP, *during the super year for nature and the ocean*, to set bold, clear, and ambitious goals. If not now, when?

As has been repeatedly acknowledged, the health of the ocean is inextricably linked to action on climate change. We strongly believe this interlinkage must be reflected in the dialogues of the conference. The ocean climate connection could be included in an existing dialogue for example as a focus in Theme 8 (interlinkages between the SDGs) or by broadening Theme 3 on Ocean Acidification to include other impacts of greenhouse gas emissions on the ocean.

While research and science to spark innovation and understanding are critically needed, as was noted yesterday, the existing body of knowledge, from IPBES to IPCC Special Report and others, gives us plenty of direction for the decade of Ocean Science ahead. We hope the Conference dialogues will focus on actions and solutions, and commitments to achieving the SDGs, and include discussions of next steps for those targets maturing in 2020. Relatedly, theme 8 could consider not only interlinkages between the SDGs but also other global agreements and targets.

The upcoming ocean-climate dialogue in the UNFCCC, which the COP25 decision text mandated in December of last year, demonstrates the international community's desire to better integrate ocean issues in addressing the climate crisis. This dialogue is a productive first step towards advancing ocean-climate actions in the UNFCCC context, and we encourage countries to prioritize participation from the

