

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Barcelona Climate Change Talks 2009

Side Event Title:

Projected Impacts on Oceans and Coastal Communities of Alternative Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Scenarios: The Need for Utmost Caution

The side event is scheduled for 3 November 2009 from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM, Room 1, at the Barcelona Convention Center.

This side event will address the environmental, social, and economic implications of alternative stabilization levels of anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere on oceans and coastal communities, including their scientific basis. Panelists will analyze and compare possible consequences for the marine environment of lower and higher atmospheric GHG stabilization levels, including emerging evidence motivating stabilization levels below 450 ppm CO₂. Speakers will discuss the impacts of these GHG stabilization levels on fisheries, coral reefs, the Arctic, small island developing States (SIDS), and ocean pH levels and provide graphics, maps, and other illustrations to highlight these effects.

Speakers:

- Biliana Cicin-Sain, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands---Chair
- Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, University of Queensland --- Impacts on Coral Reefs and Peoples
- Martin Sommerkorn, WWF Arctic Programme --- Arctic Climate Feedbacks
- Carol Turley, University of Plymouth --- Ocean Acidification
- Ambassador Dessima Williams, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)---Impacts on Small Island Developing States (*invited*)
- Agus Purnomo, National Council on Climate Change, Government of Indonesia (*invited*)
- Bill Eichbaum, WWF-US---Oceans/Climate Imperatives

This side event will call attention to the Oceans Day at Copenhagen, scheduled for 14 December 2009 at the European Environment Agency. Oceans Day will address the emerging Copenhagen agreement and discuss the way ahead for implementation of the agreement in the context of oceans and coastal communities (please see the Oceans Day website at http://www.globaloceans.org/Oceans_day/index.html). The Global Oceans Conference, to be held at UNESCO and hosted by the Government of France on May 3-7 2010, will discuss these impacts in detail (please see Conference leaflet at http://www.globaloceans.org/pdf/GOC5_Leaflet_English.pdf).

This side event is co-sponsored by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, WWF-US, and the World Ocean Network, in collaboration with the Alliance of Small Island States, the Government of Indonesia, University of Delaware, University of Plymouth, University of Queensland, and the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues.

