



## Marine Environment: Useful Links

This page contains links to websites from governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, businesses, media, and other groups from around the world to help you research issues related to the marine environment. We have compiled these links from our own review of the vast amount of information available on the Internet to help you to find the most relevant sources for your research. Our Planet magazine does not, however, endorse the viewpoints of any of the groups to which we link, and we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information posted on these sites. Rather, we hope to provide you with a broad range of opinions and perspectives.

### International bodies

[www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)

The International Maritime Organization, which first met in 1959, was created in order to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping. Its remit today includes safety, environmental concerns, legal matters, technical co-operation, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping.

<http://www.cms.int/>

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS) is an intergovernmental treaty which aims to conserve wildlife and habitats on a global scale.

[www.un.org/Depts/los/doalos\\_activities/about\\_doalos.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/doalos_activities/about_doalos.htm)

The UN's Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) reports back to the General Assembly on matters relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs. It also formulates recommendations to the Assembly and other intergovernmental forums aimed at promoting a better understanding of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

The website of the FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department contains information on fisheries statistics, fish utilization, trade & fisheries, fisheries governance, ecosystems and fisheries research.

[www.ioc.unesco.org](http://www.ioc.unesco.org)

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) provides UN member states with an essential mechanism for global cooperation in the study of the ocean. It assists governments to address their individual and



### Out there

#### Blog Action Day

On 15 October, 20,600 blogs around the globe wrote about environment-related topics as part of the first-ever edition of Blog Action Day, an event partnered by UNEP. Nineteen of the "Technocrati Top 100 blogs" took part in the action, including Mashable, Treehugger and the Official Google Blog. EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas — himself a blogger — took part, holding a special live internet chat to coincide with Blog Action Day.

[www.ecotippingpoints.com](http://www.ecotippingpoints.com)

The ecotippingpoints website features nearly 100 environmental success stories collected from around the world by a team of scientists and journalists. The stories display a diversity of detail but have something important in common: a 'lever' referred to as an 'Eco tipping point' — that is, a community-based process switching environmental decline to a course of restoration and sustainability. The website offers lessons from the stories while explaining how Eco tipping points work and what it takes to create them.

<http://green-blog.org/>

Green Blog is a multi-author environment blog providing green news, advice and insights from around the world. It includes features such as 'Green consumer', 'Business & politics', 'Green quote of the week', and a 'Take Action!' category.

### [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

[www.unep.org/regionalseas](http://www.unep.org/regionalseas) - Regional Seas – The Regional Seas programme, launched in 1974, aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. It does so by engaging neighbouring countries in comprehensive and specific actions to protect their shared marine environment. Today, more than 140 countries participate in 13 Regional Seas programmes established under the auspices of UNEP. Along with the regional pages, the Regional Seas website also links to thematic pages such as the Marine Litter website.

[www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org) - Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities – The only intergovernmental programme that addresses the links between freshwater and the coastal environment. This is a key issue, as some 80 per cent of the pollution load in the oceans originates from land-based activities. As well as comprehensive information on the GPA, the webpage includes a link to the "networks of practitioners" — an online interactive meeting place for stakeholders to share their experience and ideas on various issues as they relate to the GPA.

collective ocean and coastal problems through the sharing of knowledge, information and technology and through the coordination of national programmes.

<http://www.coastalmanagement.com/>

Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is an Australia-based company providing consultancy services focused on the management of the coastal zone. Its clients include the Australian National Oceans Office, the Dubai Municipality, Taiwan's Ministry of the Interior and the UNFCC secretariat in Bonn (Germany).

### Ocean to ocean

[www.ccamlr.org](http://www.ccamlr.org)

Antarctic: The website of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, whose objective is to conserve marine life of the Southern Ocean.

[www.pame.is](http://www.pame.is)

Arctic: Information on the Protection Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) — whose mandate is to address policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures for the protection of the Arctic marine environment from both land and sea-based activities.

[www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)

Baltic Sea: The Helsinki Commission, or Helcom, works to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through intergovernmental co-operation between Denmark, Estonia, the European Community, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

[www.blacksea-commission.org](http://www.blacksea-commission.org)

Black Sea: The Black Sea Commission provides expertise and information on protecting the Black Sea from pollution, conserving biodiversity and managing fisheries.

[www.ospar.org](http://www.ospar.org)

North-East Atlantic: The official website of the 1992 OSPAR Convention — the current instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

[www.ropme.com](http://www.ropme.com)

Middle East: ROPME (the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment) brings together Bahrain, I.R.Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, to cooperate in "protecting their common marine environment in spite of the existing geopolitical boundaries".

[www.sacep.org](http://www.sacep.org)

South Asian Seas: The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. Its member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

<http://www.sprep.org>

South Pacific: SPREP, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, is a regional organisation established by the governments and administrations of the Pacific region to look after its environment. It has grown from a small programme attached to the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in the 1980s into the Pacific region's major intergovernmental organisation charged with protecting and managing the environment and natural resources. It is based in Apia, Samoa, with over 70 staff.