



8 June 2011

MEDIA ADVISORY

World Oceans Day 2011

"Our oceans: greening our future"

Wednesday, 8 JUNE,

The world's oceans—which account for about 70 per cent of the Earth's surface—are facing diverse challenges ranging from depleted fishery resources to the impacts of climate change, the deterioration of the marine environment, to issues of maritime safety and security, labour conditions for seafarers and the increasingly important issue of migration by sea.

Looking ahead to next year's Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his message for World Oceans Day 2011, said "All activities and policies related to oceans and the marine environment need to acknowledge and incorporate the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic. Only then can we achieve the development objectives set by the international community."

To mark World Oceans Day, the UN is promoting a press briefing and a panel discussion at its Headquarters in New York.

Press Briefing

12:30 – 1:00 pm | DH Auditorium, United Nations Headquarters

Prof. David Freestone, Lobingier Visiting Professor of Comparative Law and Jurisprudence, George Washington University, will be the guest at the noon briefing

Panel Discussion

3:00 – 5:00 pm | Conference Room 6, North Lawn Building, United Nations Headquarter

The programme for the panel discussion can be found at http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/worldoceansday.htm

Empire State Building to be lit for Oceans Day

The Empire State Building will be lit on the evening of 8 June for World Oceans Day in white, blue and purple, representing the different layers of the ocean. White at the top represents the shallowest, sunlit waters and also the polar ice cap. The blue represents the slightly deeper ocean waters, and the purple even deeper waters in the ocean. The unlit portions, or black, represent those parts of the ocean where the sun does not reach. The overall representation covers all aspects, and all parts, of the ocean, not just the surface that we can see.

The briefing and the panel discussion will be webcast at <http://www.un.org/webcast/>

For more information, contact: Dan Shepard at UN Department of Public Information, (212) 963-9495, shepard@un.org