



International Ocean Institute

IOInforma

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World Oceans Day 2010 – 8th June

“Our Ocean, Opportunities and Challenges”

Message from Dr Awni Behnam, President, International Ocean Institute

On 8th June the international community will celebrate World Oceans Day; this year the theme is *‘Our Ocean, Opportunities and Challenges’*.

The United Nations Secretary General warned the international community of the many ways in which human activities are taking a terrible toll on the world’s oceans and seas. It is now clearly evident that the consequences of decades of unacceptable human abuse of the oceans go to the very heart of the issue of global survival, peace and security.

As we enter a new age of information technology and unprecedented scientific advances, the opportunities for humankind’s very survival will depend on a sustainable relationship with the ocean. The opportunities and services offered by the planet’s oceans and seas are endless – the oceans provide a large part of the protein requirements for coastal communities, abundant economic and social services, buffering of atmospheric carbon dioxide, the potential for discovery of new medicines and as a spur to the development of new technologies. The oceans’ role as climate regulator and moderator of the effects of global warming is vitally important; however, marine ecosystems are much less well studied and understood than terrestrial systems so that many of the outcomes of climate change are unknown.

There is no greater challenge to the survival of humankind than to learn to live in a sustainable and balanced relationship with the planet’s oceans and seas.

As we today watch with great apprehension and sadness the tragic incident in the Gulf of Mexico, we must wonder to what extents humans have taken for granted our relationship with the ocean and the wonderful and complex web of life it supports.

Let us therefore make this celebration of the world’s oceans on June 8th our wakeup call to recommit ourselves individually and immediately to protect the oceans as the source of life without waiting for others to do so; this is what Elisabeth Mann Borgese, the IOI’s founder, always advocated.



IOInforma is the news and information bulletin of the International Ocean Institute (IOI). Any feedback or request for information should be sent to the International Ocean Institute HQ Malta, PO Box 3, Gzira GZR 1000, Malta or Email: ioihq@ioihq.org

www.ioinst.org

Activity to be held on the 5th June 2010, in Malta, Europe in celebration of World Oceans Day 2010

On the occasion of **World Oceans Day** and **World Environment Day** the International Ocean Institute HQ, Malta and the Institute of Earth Systems (University of Malta) would like to invite the public for a showing of the award-winning film on climate change and ocean acidification.

"A Sea Change: *imagine a world without fish*"

Date: 5th June 2010

Time: 19:00 hrs

Venue: Erin Serracino Inglott Hall, University of Malta, Msida - Malta

Running Time: 85mins; followed by a discussion moderated by a panel of experts

Free Entrance

- For more information or to confirm attendance please contact ioihq@ioihq.org.mt
- The event flier may be downloaded from <http://www.ioinst.org/>
- A Sea Change: Imagine a World Without Fish – <http://www.aseachange.net/>

Imagine a world without fish. It's a frightening premise, and it's happening right now. *A Sea Change* follows the journey of retired history teacher Sven Huseby on his quest to discover what is happening to the world's oceans.

After reading Elizabeth Kolbert's "The Darkening Sea," Sven becomes obsessed with the rising acidity of the oceans and what this "sea change" bodes for mankind. His quest takes him to Alaska, California, Washington, and Norway as he uncovers a worldwide crisis that most people are unaware of.

Speaking with oceanographers, marine biologists, climatologists, and artists, Sven discovers that global warming is only half the story of the environmental catastrophe that awaits us. Excess carbon dioxide is dissolving in our oceans, changing sea water chemistry. The more acidic water makes it difficult for tiny creatures at the bottom of the food web to form their shells. The effects could work their way up to the fish 1 billion people depend upon for their source of protein.

A Sea Change is also a touching portrait of Sven's relationship with his grandchild Elias. As Sven keeps a correspondence with the little boy, he mulls over the world that he is leaving for future generations. A disturbing and essential companion piece to *An Inconvenient Truth*, *A Sea Change* brings home the indisputable fact that our lifestyle is changing the earth, despite our rhetoric or wishful thinking.

A Sea Change is the first documentary about ocean acidification, directed by Barbara Ettinger, and co-produced by Sven Huseby of Njiji Films. Chock full of scientific information, the feature-length film is also a beautiful ode to the ocean world and an intimate story of a Norwegian-American family whose heritage is bound up with the sea.

- *A Sea Change: Imagine a World Without Fish* – <http://www.aseachange.net/>
- Elizabeth Kolbert's "The Darkening Sea," may be downloaded from <http://www.es.ucsc.edu/~jzachos/Data/Kolbert%20Oceans.pdf>

A Sea Change: *imagine a world without fish*

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The event is sponsored by:



World Oceans Day (8th June); World Environment Day (5th June)