

World Ocean Day Latin America

REPORT

Belgrano, CABA, Argentina | June 10th, 2023

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Summary

The 2023 World Ocean Day Celebration at the University of Belgrano was a hybrid of both hace to face and virtual with a focus on the UN motto "Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing". The presenters and participants from Africa, Europe and Latin America contributed to both the planning and the implementation. The details are in the report below.

Planning

Flyer: designed by the graphic design team at the university, with the indications of Marcelo Lino Morales Yokobori (see cover of the report)

Diffusion: A non-organic campaign was launched through the Biologos CABA Facebook and Instagram pages, with 2600 likes in Facebook and 320 likes in Instagram, followed by 138 registered persons from different Latin American countries.

Quiz: Seven questions on different relevant international agreements regarding ocean protection and fisheries impact were the core of the quiz. From 108 to 110 of 138 registrants respectively participated in the Spanish version of the quiz, while five answers were given to the English version.

Photography contest: 15 photographs were sent in from 8 participants from different Latin American countries.

Quiz Results

For each question the order of the choices is the same for both languages. The Spanish version refers to Latin America while the English one to Nigeria. The right answers are indicated in blue boxes.

Question about international agreements: What is the main international agreement for the conservation of the ocean and the protection of its biodiversity?

108 answers/ 138 registrants

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUES	STAS
Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres (CITES)	17.59%	19
Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB)	18.52%	20
Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar (UNCLOS)	49.07%	53
Acuerdo de París sobre el Cambio Climático	14.81%	16
TOTAL		108

5 answers

	OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUEST	AS
	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	40.00%	2
	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	40.00%	2
l	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	20.00%	1
	Paris Agreement on Climate Change	0.00%	0
	TOTAL		5

Shark finning question: What is the main motive behind shark finning?

109 answers/ 138 registrants

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTA	AS
Uso en medicina tradicional	11.93%	13
Demanda de souvenirs turísticos	0.00%	0
Consumo en platos de lujo como la sopa de aleta de tiburón	54.13%	59
Obtención de aceite para la industria cosmética	33.94%	37
TOTAL		109

5 answers

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTAS	
Use in traditional medicine	20.00%	1
Demand for tourist souvenirs	0.00%	0
Consumption in luxury dishes such as shark fin soup	80.00%	4
Obtaining oil for the cosmetics industry	0.00%	0
Obtaining on for the cosmetics industry		

Question about the World Trade Organization (WTO): How can the WTO contribute to ocean conservation?

109 answers/ 138 registrants

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTAS	
Regular las prácticas pesqueras sostenibles en aguas internacionales	60.55%	66
Eliminación gradual de las subvenciones perjudiciales para aumentar la capacidad pesquera	8.26%	9
Establecer límites de captura para especies en peligro de extinción	24.77%	27
Resolver disputas comerciales relacionadas con el sector pesquero	6.42%	7
TOTAL		109

5 answers

	OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTAS	
	Regulate sustainable fishing practices in international waters	80.00%	4
${\sf C}$	Phase out harmful capacity enhancing fisheries subsidies	0.00%	0
	Establish catch limits for endangered species	20.00%	1
	Resolve commercial disputes related to the fishing sector	0.00%	0

Question about the United Nations: What is the main objective of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 14?

110 answers/ 138 registrants

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUE	STAS
Erradicar la pobreza extrema y el hambre	6.36%	7
Promover la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer	1.82%	2
Proteger, restaurar y promover el uso sostenible de los ecosistemas terrestres	12.73%	14
Conservar y utilizar de manera sostenible los océanos, los mares y los recursos marinos	79.09%	87
TOTAL		110

5 answers

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUEST	ΓAS
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	0.00%	0
Promote gender equality and empower women	0.00%	0
Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems	20.00%	1
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources	80.00%	4
TOTAL		5

Question about industrial fishing: What is one of the negative impacts of industrial fishing on marine ecosystems?

109 answers/ 138 registrants

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUES	TAS
Promover la biodiversidad y la conservación de especies	5.50%	6
Promover la pesca sostenible y el consumo responsable de pescado	0.92%	1
Generar empleo y mejorar la economía local	1.83%	2
Agotamiento de los recursos pesqueros y daños a los hábitats marinos	91.74%	100
TOTAL		109

5 answers

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTA	S
Promote biodiversity and species conservation	0.00%	0
Promote sustainable fishing and responsible consumption of fish	40.00%	2
Generate employment and improve the local economy	0.00%	0
Deplete fisheries resources and damage marine habitats	60.00%	3
TOTAL		5

Question about artisanal fishing: What is a key feature of artisanal fishing compared to industrial fishing?

110 answers/ 138 registrants

	OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTAS	
	Uso de técnicas de pesca altamente mecanizadas y a gran escala	5.56%	6
	Mayor dependencia de la captura de especies en peligro de extinción	5.56%	6
	Enfoque en la pesca local y sostenible para el consumo humano	75.00%	81
	Contribución significativa a la sobrepesca y la degradación del ecosistema marino	13.89%	15
	TOTAL		108

5 answers

	OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTAS	
	Use of highly mechanized and large-scale fishing techniques	0.00%	0
	Greater reliance on the capture of endangered species	20.00%	1
	Focus on local and sustainable fishing for human consumption	60.00%	3
	Significant contribution to overfishing and degradation of the marine ecosystem	20.00%	1
	TOTAL		5

Question about next steps now needed: What are major steps now needed to recover and protect the ocean? (more than 1 allowed)

108 answers/ 138 registrants

	OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTAS	
	Modernizar la pesca para una mayor seguridad y selectividad	29.09%	32
	Ratificar e implementar los principales acuerdos internacionales, como el Marco Mundial para la Diversidad Biológica y el Acuerdo para proteger la biodiversidad de alta mar	86.36%	95
	Protección efectiva y sólida del 30% del océano para 2030	66.36%	73
	Expandir la producción de energía del océano	6.36%	7
	Total de encuestados: 110		

5 answers

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTAS	
Modernise fishing for more safety and selectivity	60.00%	3
Ratify and implement major international agreements, such as the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Agreement to protect the biodiversity of the high seas	60.00%	3
Effective strong protection of 30% of the ocean by 2030	60.00%	3
Expand energy production from the ocean	0.00%	0
Total de encuestados: 5		

It is encouraging to see that a majority of respondents were able to answer correctly. At the same time, the percentages of inaccurate answers are an invitation to improve ocean literacy and understanding of crucial international arrangements.

Tuesday 6th

In the VII World Oceans Day we had the special visit of Dr. Stella Williams, vice president of *Mundus maris*, a prestigious academic from Nigeria and first panelist, who was warmly received by the director of the International Department of the Universidad de Belgrano, Mag. Eduardo Diez, together with Dr. Lilian Ferré, director of the Biology career who later opened the workshop.

Figure 1: At the Universidad de Belgrano tower. From left to right: Carla Bonelli, Lilian Ferré, Marcelo Morales Yokobori, Stella Williams and Eduardo Diez.



OTHER PANELISTS' PARTICIPATION

Dr. Patricia Morales (University of Leuven, Belgium, and vice president of *Mundus maris*). She provided the audience with a review of the SDGs through different historical paintings.

Lic. Juan Jones (Mayor of the Makenke Marine Interjurisdictional Park, Province of Santa Cruz, Argentina). He explained the dynamics of a marine protected area like the one he manages, and all the challenges involved.

Dr. Paola Laurini, (professor of Natural Resources Economy at the Universidad de Belgrano, and general director of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Tourism and Protected Areas. Chubut Province, Argentina). She gave the audience a realistic vision of the practical issues needed to face, including conflict of interests, in a marine protected area.

MODERATION

Dr. Marcelo L. Morales Yokobori (professor of Marine Resources at the Universidad de Belgrano, and vice president of *Mundus maris*)

TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE

Miss Carla Bonelli

HYBRID MEETING COORDINATION

Miss Bianca Franzolini

PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

The activity was hybrid with participants from different countries, particularly in Latin America.

Figure 2: During the panel's presentation, which included remote speakers.



LAUNCH OF "THE BOOK OF THE MARINE WORLD"

"The Book of the Marine World" recently published by *Mundus maris* was presented in its first edition. It covers a selection of submissions to Mundus maris Awards 2014-2020 in celebration of the respective UN mottos for World Ocean Day.

As a surprise for the audience and not included in the program, five printed copies in full color were the coveted prizes of a raffle.

Figure 3: The fortunate ones who won the books.



Wednesday 7th

ACTIVITY WITH ADVANCED BIOLOGY STUDENTS

Biology 5th year students from the subject Marine Resources held a participatory workshop on the WOD theme of the year, as a virtual exchange with students from the Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria.

Figure 4: Students from the Biology career after a magnificent moment shared with Dr. Stella Williams.



AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BUENOS AIRES FISHING CLUB AND UNIVERSIDAD DE BELGRANO

Together with the director of the Biology career, Dr. Lilian Ferré, and the future graduate Carla Bonelli we visited the Fishermen's Club of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires with the intention of renewing the cooperation agreements that have served to formalize the professional practices related to the study of the local ichthyofauna.

Figure 5: At the Club de Pescadores. From left to right: Carla Bonelli, Lilian Ferré, Stella Williams and Marcelo Morales Yokobori.



Tuesday 8th

A meeting with Amb. Cristina Dellepiane, General Consul of Argentina at Uruguay, took place to hand over a copy of the Book of the Marine World to her in recognition of her role in one of the international juries selecting *Mundus maris* Award winners. We discussed opportunities for requesting exchange visits between Nigeria and Argentina by the students as expressed during the June 7th meeting in the Biology Class. Continued outreach will be carried out by both Cristina Dellepiane and others as required.

Figure 6: At the General Consulate of Argentina in Montevideo, Uruguay. From left to right: Cristina Dellepiane, Stella Williams and Marcelo Morales Yokobori.





Results from the Photography Contest

Judges

Dra. Stella Williams

Dra. Patricia Morales

Dr. Marcelo L. Morales Yokobori

There are three prizes regarding different aspects of photography. As cetaceans can reach high depths, the Whale Award recognizes the profoundness of the image. Some marine birds can fly extreme long distances, reminding us how important is communication between different cultures, so the Albatross Awards recognizes the messages of the images. Cnidarian species can provide us with a symphony of colours and beauty; therefore, the Coral Awards recognizes the visuality of the images.

WHALE AWARD (TO THE DEPTH)



Cultural landscape in Southern Patagonia

Patagonia, Argentina John Jones

ALBATROSS AWARDS (TO THE MESSAGE)



One of these things is not like the others
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
Isabel Clara Acosta Coley



A Look at the Coast of Freedom Capture from a corner of Ballenita, Ecuador Evelio Reyes Tipan

CORAL AWARDS (TO VISUALITY)



Intertidal zone
Anthony Oswaldo Plua Mercham



Sun, Beach, and Peace in my Community Playa Muerto, Darien Province, Panama Milagros Aldirelys González Samudio

Publication of column in the Argentinean newspaper 'Perfil'

Publication on June 6th at 8:00

See column in https://www.perfil.com/noticias/opinion/planeta-oceano-las-mareas-estan-cambiando.phtml#vf-comments

Translation into English

PLANET OCEAN: THE TIDES ARE CHANGING

Provider of oxygen for life, source of protein and communication channel between countries and cultures, the oceans, which represent 70% of our planet, are threatened by overfishing, climate change and pollution.

Marcelo Morales Yokobori

06-06-2023 08:00

This year the theme chosen by the United Nations Organization for June 8, World Oceans Day, is: "Planet Ocean: The tides are changing".

Since ancient times we call our planet Earth. We are a species that evolved to develop its life on firm ground and not in water, because we do not have gills nor are we natural divers like marine mammals.

Today we know that more than 70% of the surface of our common home is ocean, a large conveyor belt of water distributes heat around the globe, our planet, which we could also call Ocean.

The ocean is the main supplier of oxygen for life, the main source of protein for a significant fraction of the world's population, as well as a historic space of transport and communication between continents and cultures.

It is also the main source of water for the formation of clouds, which then irrigate the land with rain. After feeding in the sea, seabirds bring phosphorus to land, one of the main chemical elements in life cycles, fundamental for DNA, among other biomolecules.

Overfishing, climate change and pollution are the most relevant scourges currently facing the ocean and its seas. They are phenomena that cause various consequences, such as resource depletion, loss of biodiversity or melting of glaciers, among other events.

They are caused directly or indirectly by our species through illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as the burning of fossil fuels and ineffective waste management, in collusion with excessive consumption that generates disproportionate amounts of waste.

Mundus maris

But the tides are turning. The Conference on Biological Diversity (COP15), a summit held in Montreal last December, achieved the commitment to reach 30% of protected areas with respect to the planetary surface, both terrestrial and sea, by 2030.

The blueprint of unprecedented ecological ambition also includes targets to reduce the extinction of threatened species by 2050. For its implementation, it aims to reach an annual budget of 200 billion euros from public and private sources.

Since 2017 the University of Belgrano, through its Biology career, together with the Belgian NGOs Mundus maris and Terra curanda, annually holds academic conferences open to the public in the week of June 8. They have special guests, who share their knowledge and experiences, and dialogue with an audience interested in deepening their knowledge about the ocean and its marine world.

These academic events raise awareness about our place in the universe, striving to give the ocean, the planet's largest ecosystem, the place it deserves. Of scientific interest, these academic conferences have since their inception with the support of the Association of Biology Professionals of the City of Buenos Aires.

And this year we will have the special visit of Dr. Stella Williams, vice president of Mundus maris and prestigious academic from Nigeria, who has received important international recognitions. After giving lectures at universities in the United States, she will visit us in Argentina, to be the protagonist this year.

Planet Ocean is one. And caring for the ocean is a moral urgency to protect humanity and the entire planet.

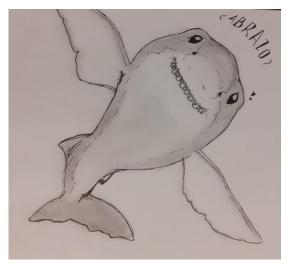
*Professor of the subject Marine Resources of the Lic. in Biological Sciences of the University of Belgrano

Reflections from the students (Marine Resources subject, Biology career, Universidad de Belgrano)

The planet we live on

70% of the planet we live on, "our" planet, is made up of water. 97.5% of that water is in the ocean. Could the ocean become important?

Although it is not our livelihood, it is for millions of organisms, and it greatly conditions our quality of life... Thanks to the water cycle we obtain fresh water indirectly from the Ocean; they function as the lungs of the planet, in a greater proportion than the Amazon and despite the lack of recognition. Even at the expense of the well-being of marine aquatic organisms, it accumulates



greenhouse gases, which gradually acidify the salt water of the sea. And, it is the source of food for thousands of people.

Our way of thinking, acting, and living is incompatible with the "finitude" of the Planet, causing the degradation of all environments. The Planet, with its organisms and its numerous ecosystems, is going to happen to us, but human beings, due to our inability to project and take responsibility collectively, are generating a hostile and inadequate environment for ourselves.

We must learn that the planet we inhabit, as well as the creatures with whom we live, have rights. Just as we have responsibilities towards them.

Micaela Lombardi

Dear Ocean,

As I sit by your shore and watch the tides change, I can't help reflecting on how much it has happened this year. Your vastness and beauty are truly mesmerizing, and I am constantly in awe of your power.

This year's motto, "Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing", reminds me how vital it is to protect and preserve you. Your ecosystems, creatures, and natural wonders are irreplaceable and must be safeguarded for generations to come.

Despite the challenges we face, I remain hopeful. We can make a positive difference by taking small actions every day - reducing waste, conserving resources, and educating others about the importance of ocean conservation.

Thank you, Ocean; for inspiring us to be better stewards of our planet.

Let's work together to protect your beauty and ensure a healthy future for all!

With gratitude and respect,

Camila González Murias

Changing tides in the realm of human consciousness

The ocean, like a majestic force of nature, is experiencing changing tides in the realm of human consciousness. Over time, a profound metaphor has emerged, reflecting the shifting attitudes and growing commitment of people towards the wellbeing of the ocean. Just as the tides flow, so too does our awareness of the ocean's fragility and the urgent need to protect its vast and intricate ecosystems. Like the rising tide that captures our attention, we have witnessed a remarkable surge in global efforts to address issues such as pollution, overfishing, and climate change that threaten the very essence of our oceans. Individuals, communities, and nations have come together, propelled by a newfound reverence for marine life and a collective determination, to ensure a sustainable future for our blue planet. As the tides of change sweep across the globe, we navigate uncharted waters, driven by the understanding that our actions today will determine the fate of the ocean and the countless lives it supports.

Paloma Bivort haiek

Challenges facing our seas and the need to care for them

World Ocean Day is an invaluable opportunity to reflect on the importance of our oceans and how they are undergoing significant changes. This year, the United Nations Organization has chosen the motto "Planet Ocean: The tides are turning", which invites us to become aware of the challenges facing our seas and the need to care for them.

During this day, it has been highlighted how the oceans unify us as a species. Regardless of our nationality, race, or culture, we all depend on the oceans for our survival. The oceans generate the oxygen we breathe, regulate our climate, and are home to countless forms of life. Recognizing this interconnectedness is critical to fostering a global perspective on ocean protection.

Governance issues facing marine protected areas have been addressed. The conservation and preservation of these spaces are vital to safeguard marine biodiversity and maintain healthy ecosystems. Collaboration between countries, local communities and international organizations is essential to overcome the challenges and ensure the effective management of these areas. This perspective recognizes that the oceans are complex systems that require holistic approaches to their conservation and management. Ocean protection cannot be addressed in isolation. Close collaboration between scientists, governments, local communities, industry and non-governmental organizations is required. The integration of different disciplines, such as marine biology, oceanography, economics and sociology, is essential to understand the complexity of the oceans and develop effective solutions. This also implies considering the different uses and human activities in the oceans, such as fishing, shipping, tourism and resource extraction. It is necessary to find a balance between these activities and the conservation of marine ecosystems, guaranteeing long-term sustainability.

In addition, emphasis was placed on the importance of an intergenerational approach. The decisions we make today about managing the oceans will affect future generations. Therefore, it is crucial to involve young people in decision-making and empower them to become advocates for the oceans. With this intention, a book was presented that

compiles activities and campaigns carried out in different countries to raise awareness about the importance of the oceans. These creative initiatives, from art contests to YouTube videos, show that we can all contribute through various ways to spread the message of ocean protection and conservation. Every little effort counts and together we can make a difference.

The importance of fisheries as providers of work and food for many communities was also highlighted. It is essential to address the associated challenges, such as illegal fishing, overfishing and the degradation of marine ecosystems. The sustainable management of fisheries guarantees the subsistence of coastal communities and the conservation of marine species. And we must not forget the cultural implications that fishing practices have in different towns. These practices represent deep-rooted traditions and ancestral ways of life that must be respected and preserved. Protecting the oceans must balance conservation with respect for the cultures and ways of life of the communities that depend on them.

Ultimately, World Ocean Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with the oceans and the impact our actions have on them. We must recognize that the tides are turning, and we must take concrete steps to protect and preserve our oceans. Each of us has an important role to play, whether it be through everyday actions, participation in community initiatives, or promoting environmental education through sound environmental policies. Together, we can make a difference and ensure a sustainable future for our Ocean Planet.

Carla Bonelli

Importance and fragility of the Ocean cannot be underestimated

In a world where the ocean covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface, its importance and fragility cannot be underestimated. The slogan "Ocean Planet: The Tides are Turning" evokes a call to attention to the critical situation we face in relation to our oceans and highlights the urgent need to take action to protect them. The tides are changing, and this reflects both the physical reality of the oceans, which are experiencing changes in their currents and levels, and the need to change our attitude and actions towards the marine environment. Humanity has had a significant impact on the oceans through pollution, overfishing, global warming, and water acidification. These factors have endangered marine life, coastal ecosystems and the stability of the global climate.

However, there is also hope. The motto suggests that the tides are turning in our favour, that we can reverse the damage and restore the health of the oceans if we take immediate and effective action. We need to adopt sustainable fishing practices, reduce plastic pollution, establish marine protected areas, and promote environmental awareness in all parts of the world.

Lautaro Recchia

Safeguard our planet's precious resource, the ocean

The motion of the tides affects the climate in the region and aids in distributing heat and nutrients across the ocean. So, any alteration to these tides could have a catastrophic consequence on the global environment. Now, the tides are shifting at a rate that is unusual, signaling that the marine's environment condition is deteriorating. So, it is

important that we have the responsibility to know the seriousness of the problem and act to safeguard our planet's precious resource, the ocean.

Another point is that the world's coastal communities are in grave danger as a result of shifting ocean tides and warning temperatures. Low-lying places will be significantly impacted as sea levels rise, placing millions of people at danger of floods and eviction. In addition, the changes in the tides can also be an alarm to those people that depend on fishing and local business. Furthermore, the loss of ecosystems that support fishing resources and offer storm and erosion mitigation could have long-term implications on employment and economic growth.

In conclusion, not only governments, organizations but also individuals must realize the importance of this problems and collaborate to protect the world's aquatic ecosystems before it is too late.

Valentina Celine Bulian





08/06

