



## Launching of the Report "World Ocean Review 2010"

In the presence of EU Commissioner Maria Damanaki  
Brussels, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011



Within the context of a lunch briefing organised by the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup in the Members' salon of the European Parliament, the World Ocean Review 2010 was presented to the Intergroup in the presence of Maria Damanaki, EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and fisheries. The event was chaired by Isabella Lövin, Vice President of the Intergroup Seas and Coastal Areas.

In their opening speeches at the beginning of the two-hour presentation, Ms. Damanaki, and Dr. Awni Behnam, President of the IOI, spoke of the World Ocean Review (WOR) and their conviction that this publication would focus public attention on the oceans and our interactions with it, in much the same way that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report brought focus on climate matters.

Image Left: Credit: <http://www.mersetzonescotieres.eu/index.php?page=news>

"I believe that this report will stimulate and underpin debate on the oceans in the same way that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessments stimulate debate on the climate. I look forward to listening to and joining in these debates..... I look forward to a time when the way we treat oceans - and the living creatures in them - are as high on the political agenda and in the public debate as climate change is today. I look forward to the day that politicians treat the ocean in the same multidisciplinary way that you have treated the science of oceans. We must adopt a long-stretching vision. We must make the 21st century a time of renewal. And we can."

Maria Damanaki, EU Commissioner

The original speech may be read in its entirety on [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/damanaki/headlines/speeches/2011/04/20110419-speech-worldoceanreview\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/damanaki/headlines/speeches/2011/04/20110419-speech-worldoceanreview_en.pdf)

"I had the honour two weeks ago to present this review to the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, to the Executive Secretary of the Secretary General High Level Panel on Global Sustainability, Mr. Janos Pasztor, and to the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Mr. Tarassenko. Like you, Madam Commissioner, I am convinced that this report will stimulate an informed debate and we hope it will lead to action in the manner that the IPCC report did in relation to climate change."

Dr. Awni Behnam, President IOI



Above: Dr. Behnam, Photo/Jan Lehmköster

The speech of Dr. Behnam is included in its entirety in annex to this edition of the IOInforma.

Nikolaus Gelpke, initiator of the "World Ocean Review", Managing Director of *maribus* gGmbH and publisher of *mare*, spoke about the "the idea, brief history and philosophy of the World Ocean Review" and Professor Dr. Martin Visbeck, speaker for the Kiel-based Cluster of Excellence "Future Ocean" - the scientific partner in developing the WOR - described the background science and presented the research themes and scientific results which the WOR treats.

Professor Dr. Mojib Latif spoke about the interdependency of climate and ocean while Professor Dr. Martin Quaas addressed the scientific basis of overfishing and the current fishery policies. Isabella Lövin, MEP and vice-president of the Seas and Coastal AREAs Intergroup, moderated the session and provided the closing remarks.



The "World Ocean Review" is available for free download as a PDF file or for order from the WOR website either in the original German [www.worldoceanreview.com](http://www.worldoceanreview.com) or in English [www.worldoceanreview.com/en](http://www.worldoceanreview.com/en).

Left: From L-R:  
Professor Dr. Visbeck,  
Commissioner Damanaki,  
Mr. Gelpke and Dr. Behnam  
Photo Credit/EU-Parliament

## Presentation of the World Ocean Review 2010 to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Dr. Awni Behnam, Assistant Secretary General of the UN and President of IOI was honoured to present to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, a dedicated copy of the recently launched World Ocean Review on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011. This product of the IOI's partnership with other eminent institutions is the work of a cluster of more than 250 scientists to provide the first independent and comprehensive review of the health and services of the ocean, parallel to the IPCC report.

Right: L-R, Dr. Behnam and Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, UN  
Photo/EskinderDebebe



## World Ocean Review

European Parliament - Brussels, 19 April 2011

With the participation of Commissioner Maria Damanaki

**Welcome presentation by Dr. Behnam Awni, President IOI**

Honourable Madame Commissioner Maria Damanaki,

The International Ocean Institute is proud to have been a partner in the development of the World Ocean Review, a timely, comprehensive and scientifically independent account of the status and health of the Ocean and its services. I had the honour two weeks ago to present this Review to the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, to the Executive Secretary of the Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability, Mr. Janos Pasztor and to the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Mr. Tarassenko.

Like you, Madame Commissioner, I am convinced that this report will stimulate an informed debate and we hope it will lead to action in the manner that the IPCC report did in relation to climate change. In fact the Review will contribute directly to the ongoing dialogue on climate change. We find it particularly beneficial to the current momentum as well as the understanding we derive from the rich information on the nexus of ocean and climate change and their interdependent relationship, as is the case with the precarious acidification of the ocean and temperature change.

On the whole the review confirms our worst fears: the destructive human imprint on the ocean and the failure of humans to live from the ocean and with the ocean in a sustainable relationship which would thus protect common goods.

The Review also reminds us that besides the new and emerging challenges we face, we continue to have to deal with systemic and unresolved challenges. The current constitution of the ocean has not adequately addressed persistent and emerging issues on the high seas and beyond national jurisdiction. In fact, the report confirms what we at IOI have for a decade noted as an alarming governance deficit on the high seas. The review highlighted those governance challenges such as IUU fishing, bottom and seamount trawling, conduct of marine scientific research, the exploitation of marine genetic resource, access to knowledge and benefit sharing, spatial planning in marine protected areas, and the melting ice cap, among many other challenges.

However the review is not all gloom and doom. It invites the resolve of the international community to convert these challenges into opportunities, to implement policies in keeping with the common heritage principle that can change the Status quo and provide for sustainable future for generations to come.

The IOI community regards this review as the legacy of our founder Elisabeth Mann Borgese who believed in the congruence between national and regional policy principles and internationally derived principles. The evolution of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy has been an example we have witnessed that can be an excellent model to replicate in the developing regions of the planet. Here we are also reminded of the ONE OCEAN notion and the importance of coherence within the neighbourhood. The review indirectly validates IOI's modest mission to fulfil a great need in capacity building, education and training and public awareness, a priority requirement in all regions of the developing world.

I will close with a personal remark that we as a species, having already inflicted such destructive havoc on our very source of life can no longer claim we did not know or we were not warned. As Shakespeare said *"the fault... is not in our stars but in ourselves"*

Thank you.

