



Defending our oceans

"Greenpeace is committed to defending the health of the world's oceans and the plants, animals and people that depend upon them."

Greenpeace – Defending Our Oceans

Every second breath you take comes from the oceans. The oceans give life to our planet and us. In return we are suffocating them; dredging up too many fish, stealing food from needy mouths, carelessly killing countless creatures including whales, turtles, sea birds and thousand year old corals, we fill the oceans with pollution and warm them with climate change.



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It is time to start defending our oceans. Covering two thirds of our planet, they hold 80% of all life.

From now until the beginning of 2007 Greenpeace will sail the world's oceans on its most ambitious ship expedition ever: matching the scale of the problem with the scale of response. On board the newest of the Greenpeace ships, the Esperanza, we will undertake an incredible journey, witnessing a year in the life of our oceans, acting to stop the destruction and showing the beauty and benefit of those areas still untouched.

While many people have an affinity with the oceans, they are unaware of what is happening just beyond their beaches. It is hard to imagine the scale of destruction and the impact that it's having. The expedition aims to change this by making the unseen, seen, bringing the oceans to the shore.

There are many threats to the health of our oceans; destructive unregulated and unfair fishing, pollution, climate change, needless habitat and species destruction. Greenpeace and eminent marine scientists believe that one solution that will ensure our oceans remain healthy for our children is a global network of ocean parks or marine reserves. Just as parks on land allow life to flourish, marine reserves are vital in helping restore the extraordinary diversity and huge productivity that once characterised the seas.

The establishment of marine reserves has been shown to result in long-lasting and often rapid increases in the amount, diversity and productivity of marine life both inside and outside the area of the reserve.

Governments agree that such a network is vital. The United Nations will not begin to draw their network maps until 2012. But the goldrush for fish is blinding governments to the damage that is being done. It stands in the way of progress so Greenpeace will lead the way. It is estimated that it would cost \$12 billion to create such a network: the same amount that is spent each year in the U.S and Europe on perfume.

Starting in Cape Town, the expedition will cover four of the five oceans – Southern, Atlantic, Indian and Pacific and finishing in Antarctica at the beginning of International Polar Year.

On board the MY Esperanza will be a multinational crew, state of the art communications systems, hi-tech deep-sea cameras and scientific equipment. Greenpeace will not be acting alone on this expedition. We aim to recruit a million Ocean Defenders through our website – people and organisations that will act with us and in the local communities to bring the changes needed. It will be an incredible journey.

And, together we will show governments how and where they can translate their words into action by establishing marine reserves covering 40% of the world's oceans.

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Greenpeace is an independent, campaigning organisation, which uses non-violent, creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems, and to force solutions essential to a green and peaceful future

Greenpeace International Ottho Heldringstraat 5, 1066 AZ Amsterdam, Netherlands T+31 20 514 8150 F+31 20 514 8156 www.greenpeace.org

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