

This month:

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*Hello fellow ocean lovers!*

## Ⓢ World Oceans Day

World Oceans Day is nearly upon us again. You might recall that two years ago was the first World Oceans Day officially recognized by the United Nations, but people have been celebrating World Oceans Day around the world informally for almost two decades. And as many of you already know, we started celebrating it here in the San Francisco Bay Area four years ago.

Our fifth year of events has us celebrating in San Francisco as well as in Monterey.

Join us at a shark and ocean celebration hosted by our friend David McGuire and Sea Stewards on Saturday, 11 June 2010, from 3:00-8:00pm at the



Sports Basement in the Presidio (across from Crissy Field) in San Francisco.

If you're closer to Central California, come join us at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where we'll be celebrating all weekend. COARE will have a display at the Aquarium, so be sure to stop by and say hello. The celebration will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 04-05 June 2011, and runs from 9:30am to 6:00pm both days. For more information about the Aquarium or this event, visit [www.montereybayaquarium.org/vi/vi\\_events/vi\\_events\\_worldoceans.aspx](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/vi/vi_events/vi_events_worldoceans.aspx)

If you live elsewhere, you may be able to find WOD events almost anywhere in the world by visiting [http://worldoceansday.org/?page\\_id=122](http://worldoceansday.org/?page_id=122).

## Ⓢ Shark Fin Bans

Last month we spoke of rain and blooming policies, and we are, indeed, seeing some wonderful results.

On 06 May, we participated in a press event in San Francisco with Assemblymember Paul Fong (author of California's proposed shark fin ban), the Monterey Bay Aquarium, WildAid, APAOHA (Asian Pacific American Ocean Harmony Alliance), Actress Sharon Kwok, Paul Ting, David Chiu, and other prominent Chinese-Americans, to highlight Asian-American support for AB376, and to unveil new survey results that show strong support, especially among Chinese-Americans for a statewide ban of shark fins.

On 09 May, we took another trip to Sacramento and collaborated with a number of other organizations to meet with every Assemblymember's office to discuss California's proposed ban of shark fins. We were personally involved in 15 of those meetings, and it was a wonderfully successful and rewarding day.



Press event announcing survey results showing strong support for shark fin bans

On 19 May, Assemblymember Fong took on an amendment to AB376, thus allowing restaurants and suppliers an additional year to deplete their existing stocks of

*See Fin Bans on page 2...*

## ☺ Blue Vision Summit

This was an exciting month for us in the U.S. Capitol city of Washington DC as well. We attended the third Blue Vision Summit, where we met and collaborated with more than 400 ocean leaders and activists including Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Admiral Thad Allen, and our friends Sylvia Earle, Carl Safina, Celine Cousteau, Barton Seaver, Louie Psihoyos, and Jim Toomey.



COARE's Executive Director  
Christopher Chin meets Laura  
Chinchilla, president of Costa Rica

In addition to the myriad of workshops and networking opportunities, we also celebrated the 4th annual Peter Benchley Ocean Awards, among whose esteemed recipients this year was Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla.

The four day event culminated with a trip to the Capitol, where more than half of the Summit's participants participated in the largest Ocean related lobby day ever. COARE participated in a number of informational and strategic meetings on the Hill, where we stressed the importance of the implementation of the National Ocean Policy and the support of the National Endowment for the Oceans and the Ocean Trust Fund.

## ☺ Internships

We love what we do, and we think you should too. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be more directly involved in our work, we'd like to let you know about a few new volunteer opportunities starting this summer. Specifically, we're hiring for a Communications Intern and a few Program Interns.

For more details, and for application instructions, please visit: [www.coare.org/jobs](http://www.coare.org/jobs)

## ☺ Fin Bans

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shark fins. This amendment is similar in wording to the phase-out period allowed by the ban in Hawai'i. The hope was that this additional allowance would alleviate any concerns about costs to small businesses.

Mr. Fong took up the bill for a vote on the Assembly floor on 23 May, and we're thrilled to report that it passed the Assembly with a final vote of 65-8. The bill now moves to the California Senate for consideration. This may be a tougher battle, since the opposition is based in the Senate, so please keep an eye out for our calls to action. You also encourage you to visit (and share!) the following URL: [www.coare.org/act/ab376/](http://www.coare.org/act/ab376/)

May was a great month for shark conservation, and on 12 May, Washington Governor Chris Gregoire signed Senate Bill (SB) 5688 into law, making Washington the first State in the continental U.S. to ban shark fins.

Oregon's House Bill (HB) 2838 continued its triumphant journey, and received another unanimous vote, this time in the State Senate (30-0). The bill was amended slightly in the Senate, which required the House of Representatives to concur, but we're pleased to report that they overwhelmingly supported the amendments (58-1), and the bill now moves to the Governor's desk for action. We expect that he'll sign that into law in the next two or three weeks.

It's not just the West Coast of the United States, or even just the U.S. that is excited about shark fin bans...

The City of Brantford in Ontario, Canada, became the first municipality in Canada to ban the sale, trade, and consumption of shark fin. We spoke with the author of the initiative, Councilmember David Neumann, before he introduced this to the working committee, and offered our support. He subsequently gained acceptance from the committee on 16 May, and the City Council unanimously agreed to consider such an ordinance. The legislative staff had already prepared the ByLaw text, so that was adopted as well. Effective immediately, ByLaw 65-2011 now prohibits the sale, trade, distribution, and consumption of shark fins in the City of Brantford. We commend Mr. Neumann and the City of Brantford on their leadership.