

World Oceans Day 8 June 2021

World Oceans Day is observed annually on June 8 to make people aware of the negative impact of human activities such as garbage disposal, sewage, and oil leaks from ships and drilling station accidents.

History

On June 8, 1992, at the Earth Summit of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Oceans Institute of Canada proposed the idea of the observance of an international ocean's day. It took 16 more years for this concept to bear fruit. In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly, led by Canada, passed the resolution 63/111, through which they declared that June 8 would be observed every year as World Ocean's Day. The inaugural observance happened a year later and had the theme "Our Ocean, Our Responsibility."

Theme

The theme for this year is World Oceans Day is "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods." As noted by the United Nations, more than three billion people work in ocean-based industries and that number will rise with a growing human population. Sustainable use of oceans is needed to prevent oceanic resources from being depleted or damaged to alarming levels.

Significance

Awareness on a mass scale is needed to preserve our oceans and their rich biodiversity. Whether it is fishermen, corporate bodies or individuals, all must realise the importance of maintaining the health of oceans for their own good. The UN has also proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which will begin this year and run till 2030. This is to encourage cooperation among nations for research and the creation of technologies that help both the oceans and our society.

PLASTICS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 8 million tonnes of plastic waste enters the ocean every year.

≈ one truckload every minute

80% of marine plastic waste comes from land-based sources.

Plastic is very slow to break down in the ocean. It breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Pieces of plastic less than 5 mm wide are called "MICROPLASTICS".

Larger plastic can affect fish and wildlife through choking, ingestion or entanglement.

Dissolved contaminants from the water can adhere to the surface of microplastics.

Microplastics can be ingested and retained by filter feeders such as shellfish.

Ref: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/oceans-day>
<http://seachangeprojects.eu/marineplastics>



Maharashtra ENVIS HUB
Environment and Climate Change Department ,
Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, MUMBAI-32