



The Ocean Race:

Bringing the spirit of ocean racing to the race for the ocean

The Ocean Race - the [round the world race](#) known as the toughest test of a team in sport and an [ongoing platform for making a meaningful difference to ocean health](#) - aims at bringing the spirit of ocean racing to the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France in June 2025.

Why? Because as sailors we are seeing firsthand the devastating impact of pollution, climate change and industrial overfishing on our ocean. At the same time we have a greater understanding of how important our seas are, not just to the sport we love, but in regulating our climate and providing us with food, jobs and the air we breathe.

At [The Ocean Race](#), we're not just racing across the ocean, we are in a **race for the ocean**. We use our [global platform to inspire action](#) to protect the blue heart of our planet, including through award-winning sustainability [science](#) and [learning](#) programmes.

As we race around the world, we are also influencing [policy](#) through our work to gain support for a new ethical relationship with the ocean. Just as we do in sailing, we want to support the international community to achieve an extraordinary goal: to give the ocean its own voice. This ambitious initiative aims to secure a global approach to protecting our blue planet, which is driven by our belief in the ocean's right to thrive.

There are different ways to do this, but a particularly promising one is the **development of a new ethical relationship with the ocean**, which could include the adoption of a Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Ocean. Such an ambitious goal can only be achieved with exceptional international collaboration, including the backing of countries, companies, countries, organisations and other stakeholders.

The Ocean Race Summit - Presenting Ocean Rights at the UN General Assembly, a milestone event

At a milestone event held during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2023, The Ocean Race, along with the Government of Cabo Verde, Ocean Vision Legal and Earth Law Center, [presented draft principles](#) underpinning Ocean Rights, the culmination of several years of work and input from over 150



experts gathered in the [Genova Process](#) Innovation Workshops, including policymakers, business leaders, lawyers, Indigenous Peoples, scientists and NGOs.

Principles on ocean rights

Principles on ocean rights include recognising that **we are all ocean guardians** and have a **shared responsibility to care and ensure responsible use of the ocean**; respecting **diverse values, knowledge and practices**; **recognising the ocean's right to representation** and to have a voice at the table; and guaranteeing the **principle of precaution and prevention** when serious and irreversible damage is suspected.

We also shared the 32,000 signatures from 78 countries gathered through the One Blue Voice petition to highlight that the public support the Declaration and want to see action to protect the seas.

The Ocean Race has continued this important work, extending the initiative beyond racing periods with The Ocean Race Summits and participation at major environmental conferences.

The Ocean Race Summits

The Ocean Race Summits are a key part of The Ocean Race's multi-award winning 'Racing with Purpose' sustainability programme, which explores a range of tangible ways for a positive impact on the marine environment. The Summits bring together the unique perspectives of sailors and the world's key decision-makers to drive solutions and commitments to tackle the issues facing our seas.

Our recent series of 12 Summits across 2019–2023, included **6 Summits held during The Ocean Race 2022-23**. They helped to drive new and improved policies around the major issues affecting the ocean: lack of governance, lack of protection, and climate change.

Back in 2022, at UNOC in Lisbon, we [called](#) for a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights for the first time.

In April, [The Ocean Race sailed into Athens](#) with "Ericsson 1" - one of the 'legend' boats that competed in the 2005-06 edition of the Race-, [bringing Nature's Baton to Our Ocean Conference 2024](#) held in Greece as part of the [Relay4Nature](#), a joint initiative created by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson and The Ocean Race, to help to give the ocean a voice on the critical



issues affecting our planet at the landmark events where decisions are made about the environment.

On 17 April, following the closing ceremony of the Our Ocean Conference, Nature's Baton continued its journey to pass the message to the delegates of the Our Ocean Conference in South Korea next April before setting sail to the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC 2025) in Nice, France in June 2025.

The Ocean Race will be present at the Conference, led by the Race Chairman, Richard Brisius, to continue its advocacy work towards a healthy ocean and to seek further ways to collaborate with the ocean community.

Note to editors

Quotes that we would like to include in the piece if possible:

“Ending the ocean emergency is a race we must win. Working as one, it is a race we can win”

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres
The Ocean Race Summit Cabo Verde
January 2023

“I call upon all member countries to join us in recognizing the inherent rights of the ocean, collectively shaping a brighter future for generations to come”

Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, Ulisses Correia e Silva
The Ocean Race Summit Cabo Verde
January 2023

“As sailors we must protect the ocean. We really need to be aware, to care, to do all we can to preserve it, to defend it, to tell the stories to the people on land. We are the people who must give the ocean a voice.”

Cecilia Zorzi
Sailor, Austrian Ocean Racing Team powered by Team Genova
The Ocean Race Summit Genova
June 2023

“I think everybody who spends time on the water feels a deep responsibility to be an advocate for the ocean. We are privileged to spend time on the water, and part of our mission is to explain to people that aren't that privileged just how important their actions are to the health of the ocean and how their everyday life is affected by the ocean.”

Charlie Enright, Skipper of 11th Hour Racing Team, winner of The Ocean Race 2022-23
The Ocean Race Summit - Presenting Ocean Rights
UN HQ, September 2023



“Keep raising the awareness, keep fighting for ocean rights.”

Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean
The Ocean Race Summit - Presenting Ocean Rights
UN HQ, September 2023

“We have a lot of respect for the ocean. There is no ‘other’, it's all about ‘us.’”

Eunice Kerexu

Secretary of Environmental and Territorial Indigenous Rights of the Indigenous People Ministry of
Brazil

The Ocean Race Itajaí, April 2023