

## One Ocean Summit 9-11 February 2022 in Brest, France

In an effort to mobilize the international community and take tangible action to mitigate such pressures on the ocean, the President of France has decided to organize a One Planet Summit dedicated to the ocean. The One Ocean Summit was held in the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, with the support of the United Nations.

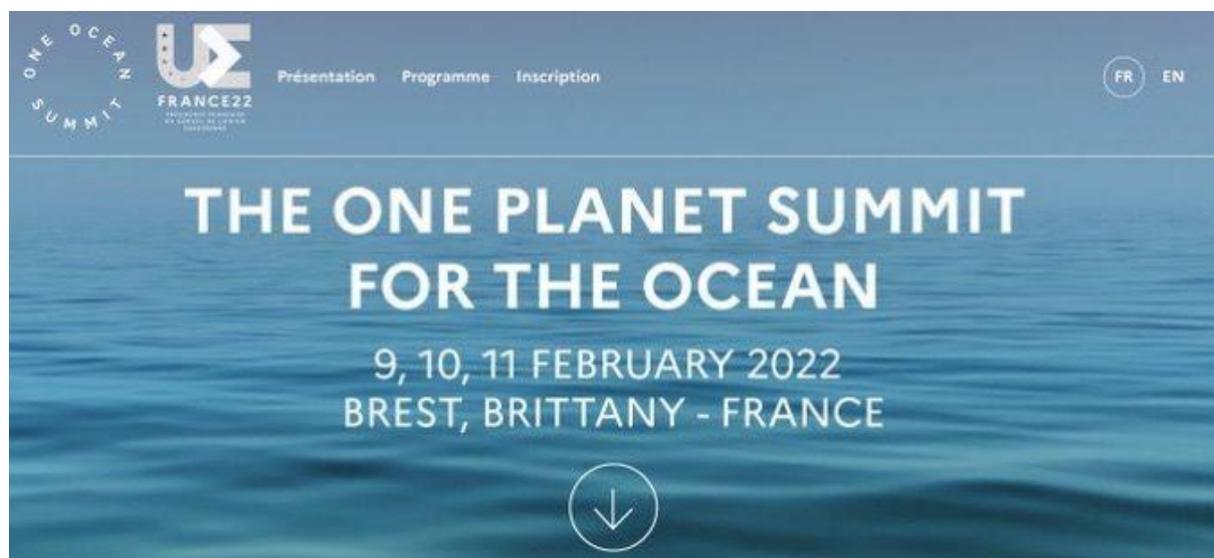
The goal of the One Ocean Summit is to raise the collective level of ambition of the international community on marine issues and to translate our shared responsibility to the ocean into tangible commitments.

More than 30 events (workshops, forums, roundtables and other initiatives) were held ahead of the high-level segment, to engage the “international maritime community”, addressing a myriad of topics of global scope to look at all dimensions of the ocean and propose solutions, beyond the existing status assessments.

Several important initiatives were launched in favor of marine ecosystem protection and sustainable fisheries, intended to fight pollution, in particular from plastics, respond to the impacts of climate change, as well as advocate for improved governance of the oceans.

### **A summit to take action against the threats to the ocean**

The ocean covers more than 70% of the surface of our planet, yet too often remains on the sidelines of major European and international events.



The ocean is a regulator of major environmental balances, and climate in particular, a provider of resources, an important enabler of trade, and an essential link between countries and human communities. However, it is now seriously threatened by numerous pressures, such as the effects of climate change, pollution or the overexploitation of marine resources.

The threat of ocean change is increasingly recognized as the flipside of climate change. Absorbing approximately 90% of the excess heat and 25% of the CO<sub>2</sub> we produce each year, the ocean is a critical safeguard against climate change, but tipping points are being reached and ocean risk is increasing. Ocean warming is affecting ocean currents, fish migration patterns and critical habitats

including coral reefs which are home to 25% of marine biodiversity. The melting of ice is expected to change our planet's geography through sea level rise and ever more frequent extreme weather events.

For the 3 billion people directly dependent on the ocean for their food and livelihoods and the 40% of people living along the coasts, these threats are potentially catastrophic.

To this end a large coalition of countries co-chaired by Costa Rica, France and the UK, is calling for the protection of at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030.

At the UN Headquarters in New York, negotiations for a treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the high seas (covering 45% of our planet), meant to be adopted in 2020, but have been slowed by the pandemic. A statement from UN Headquarters should be released soon to confirm whether negotiations will resume in March 2022.

Sources: [sdg.list.org](https://sdg.list.org/) / [oceansummit.fr](https://oceansummit.fr) from Martine Gayon, UN Representative, New York