

SAN FELIU DE GUÍXOLS OCEAN CARBON DECLARATION

We, as Pew Fellows and Advisors assembled at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation, held in San Feliu de Guíxols, Spain, on 26 September 2010:

HIGHLIGHT the oceans' critical importance to the global carbon cycle. Ocean ecosystems represent the largest active carbon sink on Earth;

RECOGNIZE that certain coastal and ocean ecosystems can play an important role in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. These ecosystems include mangrove and kelp forests, seagrass meadows, and saltwater marshlands. In the open ocean, recent research also indicates that marine vertebrates, such as whales, sharks and finfish, may also be very effective carbon sinks;

EXPRESS CONCERN over the continued destruction of marine habitats and the potential for large-scale release of carbon to the atmosphere if these habitats are lost. The release of this carbon and reduced oceanic carbon function has not been included in climate projections.

RECOMMEND policymakers adopt the following initiatives:

- Include coastal marine ecosystem conservation and restoration in strategies for climate change mitigation.
- Fund targeted research to improve our understanding of the contribution of coastal and open ocean marine ecosystems to the carbon cycle and to the effective removal of carbon from the atmosphere.

Signed by the following twenty-nine Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation and Advisors, together from twelve countries:

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<i>Giovanni Bearzi</i> , Ph.D.	President, Tethys Research Institute, Italy
<i>P. Dee Boersma</i> , Ph.D.	Wadsworth Endowed Chair in Conservation Science, Department of Biology, University of Washington, USA
<i>Pablo Garcia Borboroglu</i> , Ph.D.	Founder and President, Global Penguin Society, CONICET, Argentina University of Washington, USA
<i>Claudio Campagna</i> , M.D., Ph.D.	Senior Conservation Zoologist, Wildlife Conservation Society, Argentina
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<i>Marta Estrada</i> , Ph.D.	Research Professor, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Institut de Ciències del Mar, Spain
<i>Jean M. Harris</i> , Ph.D.	Head, Conservation Planning, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, South Africa
<i>Noah Idechong</i>	Speaker, House of Delegates, Palau National Congress, Republic of Palau

<i>Glenn-Marie Lange</i> , Ph.D.	Senior Environmental Economist, The World Bank, USA
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<i>Giuseppe Notarbartolo-di-Sciara</i> , Ph.D.	Honorary President, Tethys Research Institute, Italy
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<i>J.M. (Lobo) Orensanz</i> , Ph.D.	Principal Research Scientist, National Patagonic Center (CENPAT), Argentina
<i>Daniel Pauly</i> , habil rer. nat.	Professor, Fisheries Centre, Principal Investigator, Sea Around Us Project, University of British Columbia, Canada
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Affiliations are for identification only, and do not imply endorsement by the signers' institutions.

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