

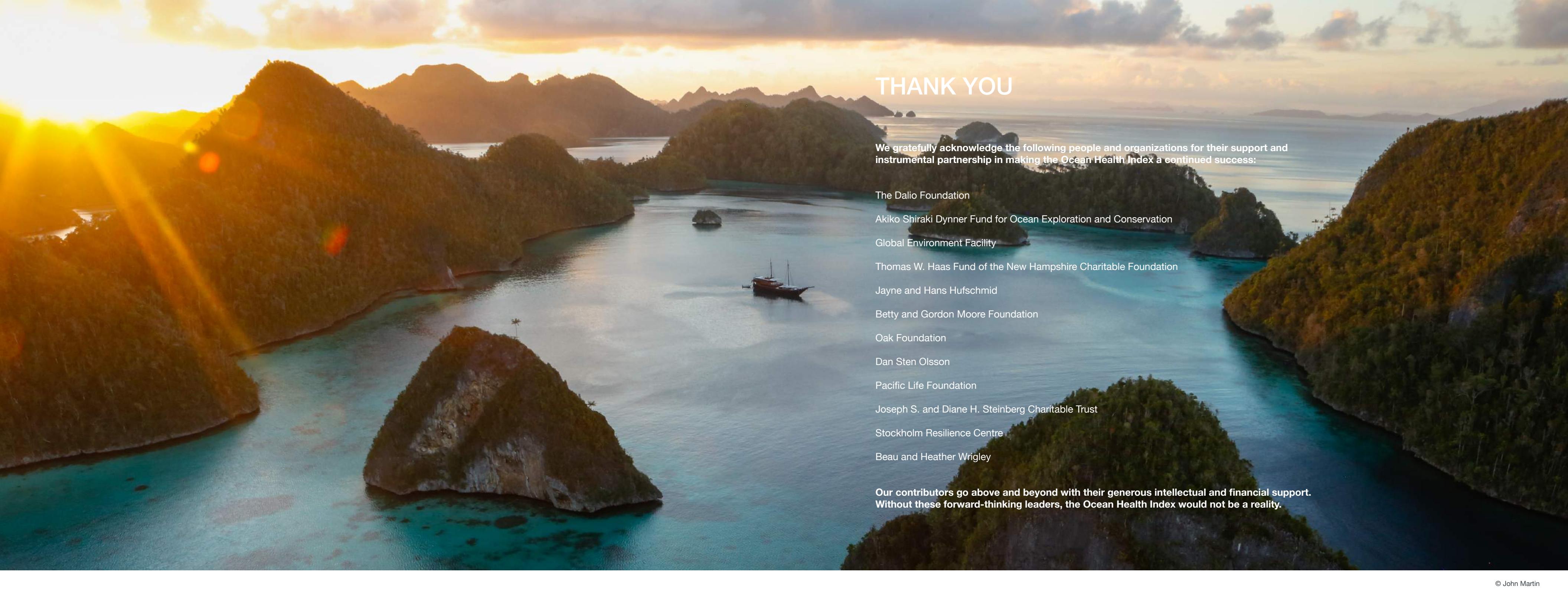
2016 | ANNUAL REPORT





Understanding the current state of our oceans is the first step toward ensuring the ocean can continue to provide benefits to humans. By offering a means to both advance comprehensive ocean policy and measure future progress, the **Ocean Health Index** informs decisions about how to use and protect marine ecosystems.

A healthy ocean sustainably delivers a range of benefits to people both now and in the future.



THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge the following people and organizations for their support and instrumental partnership in making the Ocean Health Index a continued success:

The Dalio Foundation

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Our contributors go above and beyond with their generous intellectual and financial support.
Without these forward-thinking leaders, the Ocean Health Index would not be a reality.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The pressures on the ocean environment are all too familiar: vanishing biodiversity, degraded habitats, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, expansive ‘dead zones’, and increasing pollution and marine debris. As a larger and wealthier global population grows towards an expected 10 billion, these pressures will threaten food security, climate stability, livelihoods, biodiversity and the global economy.

Ocean management and governance actions cannot fully counter challenges threatening the health of our oceans without integrating the complex synergies and dynamic relationships among all of the ocean’s elements—physical, biological, economic, social, and cultural.

In response, Conservation International and more than 65 experts across academia, businesses, and non-governmental organizations came together to develop the Ocean Health Index—a scientific method for channeling the best available scientific information into marine policy.

By developing a means to easily assess all factors contributing both positively and negatively to the current state of our oceans, the Ocean Health Index (OHI) can create for any country a comprehensive coordinating platform for informing decisions about how to manage and protect their marine and coastal ecosystems. This produces the tangible, scientific evidence that is essential for motivating healthy ocean policy making at all scales and measuring future progress.

First launched in 2012, the OHI is now utilized by more than 30 countries to help inform and guide integrated decision-making for improved ocean management at regional, national, and global scales. It has been used in varying contexts such as inspiring the development of Colombia’s National ‘Blue Agenda’ to being utilized as an indicator for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Due to the OHI’s rapid success, it is well positioned for continued success over the short and long term, especially as increased attention is brought to marine conservation efforts. For example, in June 2017, world leaders will gather for a historic Call For Action for ocean health under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, with its ambition to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.” The OHI has already been identified as a means for national level implementation of this unprecedented effort.

In order to catalyze change and promote action through comprehensive measures, as described by Goal 14, we must rely on integrated solutions that simultaneously alleviate pressures on marine and coastal environments and maximize the sustainable delivery of ocean benefits to society.

Sustainably delivering the ocean’s benefits to society is the core of the Ocean Health Index.

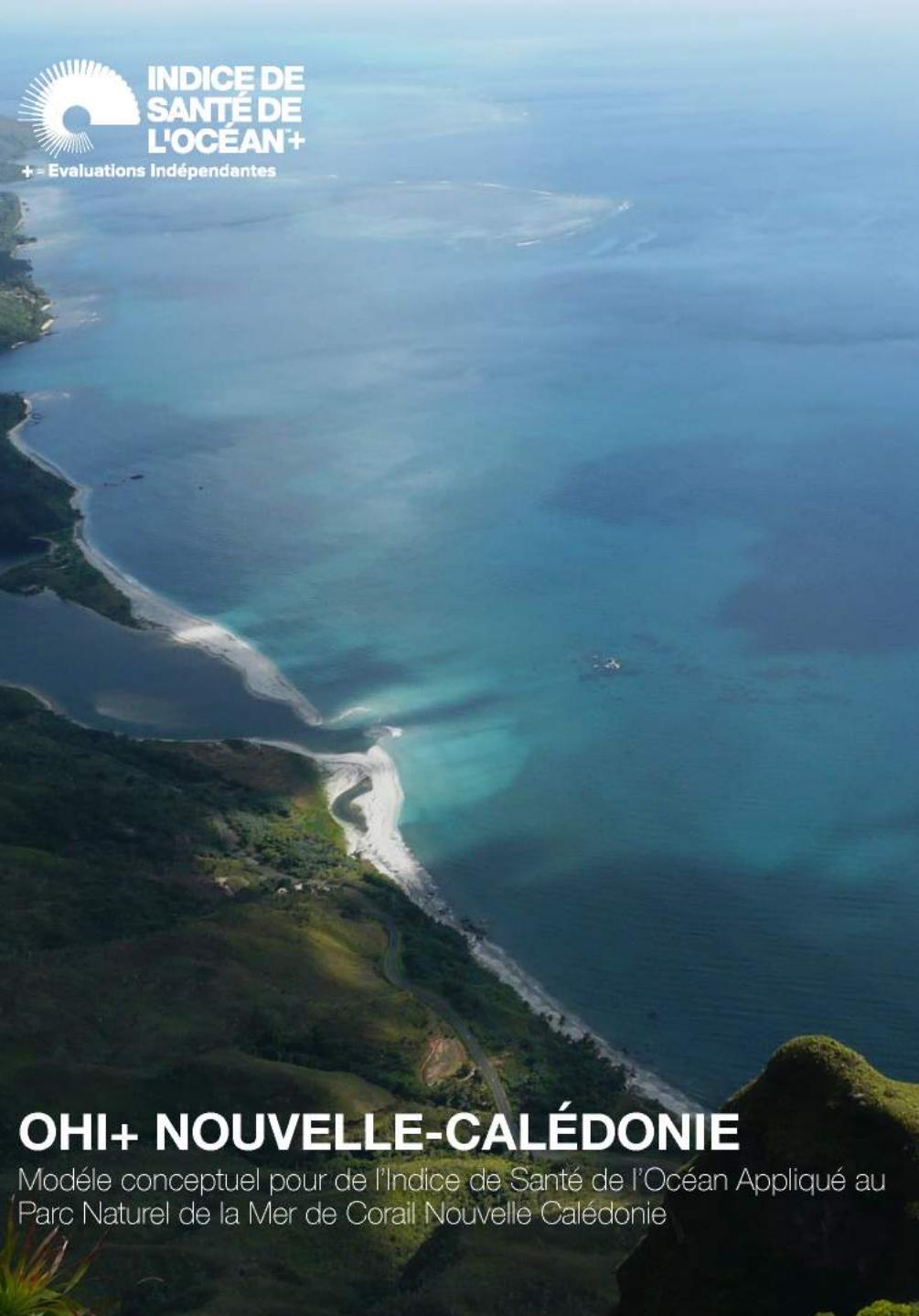




Dr. Johanna Polensberg, Sr. Director, Ocean Health Index and Ocean Governance & Policy at Conservation International, presents at a Global Environment Facility meeting at UNESCO in Paris - December 2016.



OHI project scientist Ning Jiang presents at a regional training workshop held in Jakarta, Indonesia - April 2016.



Conceptual model for the Ocean Health Index for the Natural Park of the Coral Sea, New Caledonia - November, 2016

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Following its launch in 2012 in the scientific journal *Nature*, the OHI is now used by government, civil, private and academic organizations around the world. During these first five years, the OHI has been successful in a variety of contexts. Below are key highlights for 2016:

- Fifth annual global OHI assessment conducted for all 220 exclusive economic zones (EEZs) around the world.
- With the addition of Africa, on-going, independently-led assessments (OHI+) are being implemented across all inhabited continents and many priority marine regions such as the Pacific Oceanscape, East Africa, and Southeast Asia.
- Mexico publicly committed to using the OHI as the structure for the national Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Management of Seas and Coasts.
- The United States of America included the OHI in their first-ever National Ocean Plan for the Northeast Region.
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water proposed the OHI as an implementation mechanism.
- The government of Indonesia is using the OHI to inform ocean management priorities as it develops its 5-year national development plan for 2019-2024. In late 2016, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries began the process of developing an OHI+ assessment for Bali as a pilot project. In 2017, they will begin a OHI-West Papua project.
- The Baltic Health Index launched in November 2016 represents the first regional multi-national OHI assessment.

STRATEGY & OUTCOMES

Our definition of success is to measurably improve ocean health everywhere in the world.

The Ocean Health Index team drives success by providing communities, governments and scientists with a universal standard for year-to-year comparison of ocean health using a state-of-the-art technical assessment system. Our internationally recognized scientists, practitioners, and trainers offer highly-experienced support and guidance to a wide variety of marine and coastal ecosystem-based management applications on every continent.

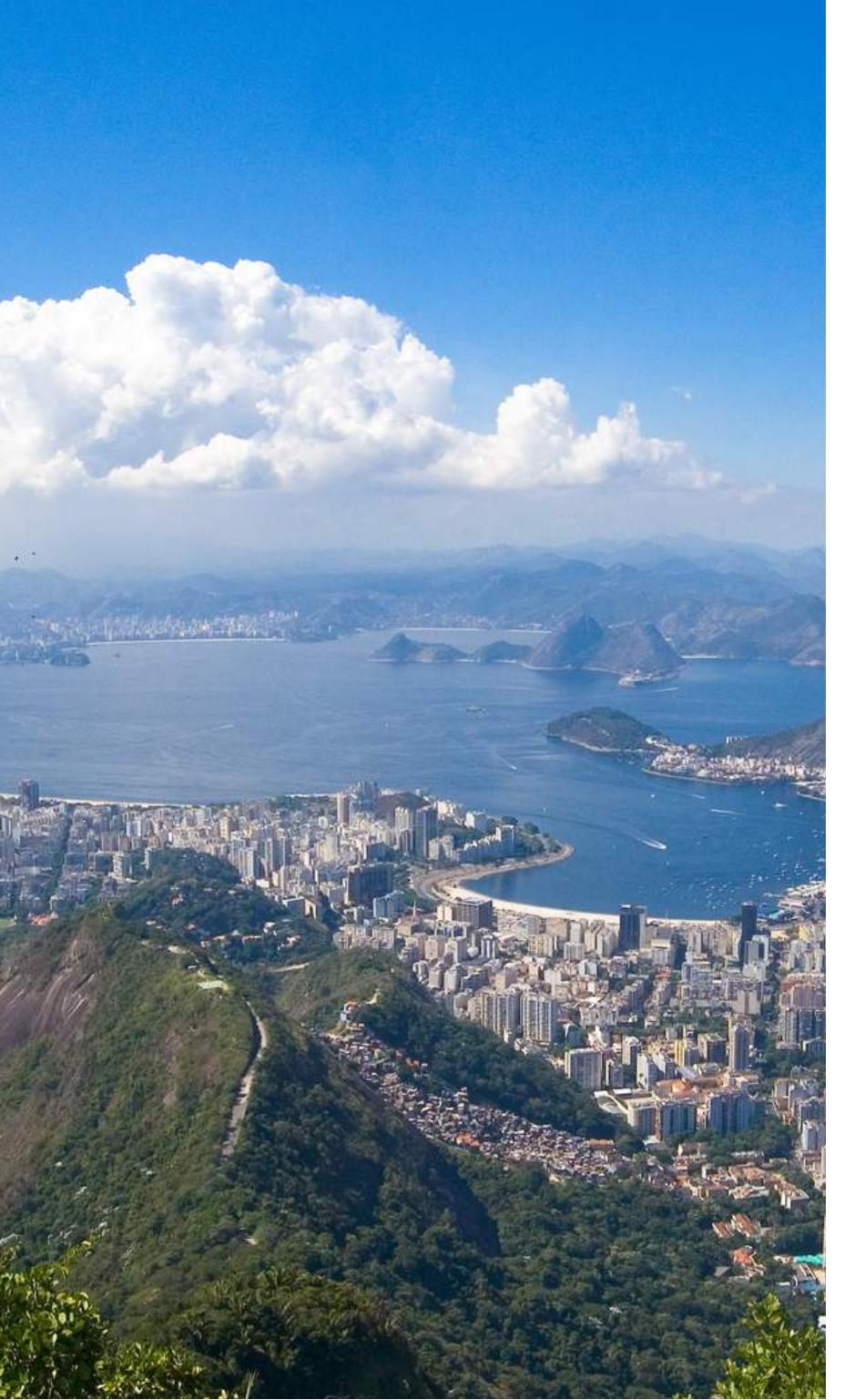
The complete OHI system includes both a detailed, step-by-step process for stakeholder identification and engagement and a user-friendly data management framework. The effectiveness of the OHI in transforming data and information into knowledge and action has been key to our success. Known also as OHI+ assessments, these independently-led assessments allow the 220 global OHI regions, regardless of their level of development or capacity, to take advantage of the best available global ocean data and cutting-edge data management technology.

Our guiding vision is that the OHI grows to become a regionalized, mostly self-sustaining system used permanently by as many countries as possible to guide comprehensive marine ecosystem-based management in every region of the world. To achieve this, we will continue to develop a high-quality, well-supported product, in-region groups of specialists, and a global community of practice that includes end users and practitioners as well as larger supporting systems, such as the United Nations, the Global Environmental Facility, national ocean agencies such as the United States' National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration and China's State Oceanic Administration, development banks, and other global and regional organizations.

We expect exponential growth in 2017 as the Ocean Health Index continues to be recognized as a tool that is directly aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 and supports others including Goal 2 – Zero Hunger, Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption & Production, and Goal 15 – Life On Land.

The OHI team represents a unique academic-nonprofit partnership between Conservation International and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) at the University of California, Santa Barbara that continues to push boundaries in collaborative management and scientific contexts. We create a pipeline for science to policy by pioneering ways of measuring the human-ocean coupled system and build more functional governance structures by enabling more effective multi-stakeholder collaboration.





Diverse Applications

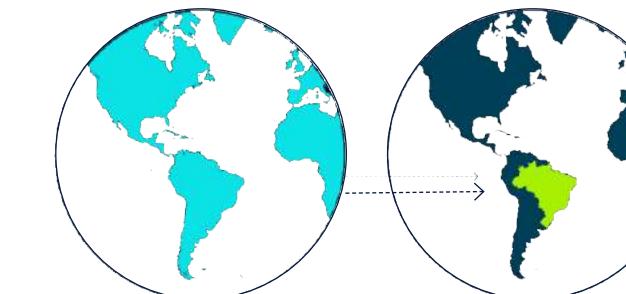
GLOBAL ASSESSMENT

By establishing an annual comprehensive baseline for global ocean health, the global OHI database offers all coastal countries, at any level of capacity, a starting place for assessing the status of their marine resources and environments with an ecosystem-based management approach. Global assessments provide a ‘global snapshot,’ or diagnosis, of ocean health. Most importantly, the annual global OHI provides managers and decision-makers with a starting place and a wealth of data to manage their local seas.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS

The Ocean Health Index independent assessment framework, also known as OHI+, is a tool used at jurisdictional scales where coastal and marine policy decisions are made. OHI+ assessments are based on the standardized OHI structure and then adapted to represent the important social, cultural, and ecological characteristics, values, and priorities of the area assessed.

Independent groups are able to lead assessments within their own waters, deciding what is important to measure and which data to include while building directly from the experiences and methods from other OHI assessments. Using the OHI framework to think critically about what is important in different contexts facilitates holistic assessments of human-ocean systems.



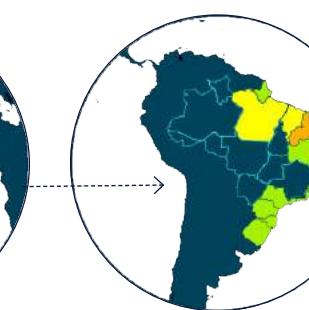
global assessment



EEZ scale



OHI+ independent assessment



country or region scale

ADOPTION & GLOBAL IMPACT



2016: **6** new countries/
regions

TOTAL: **30** countries
& regions leading OHI+
assessments



2016: **14** OHI+
workshops and
trainings held



2016: **3** new national
policies

TOTAL: **10** national
policies influenced



2016: supported
10 OHI field staff
in **8** countries

In 2016, the network of OHI practitioners expanded to include four additional priority regions across the Caribbean, Pacific Oceanscape, East Africa and Southeast Asia.

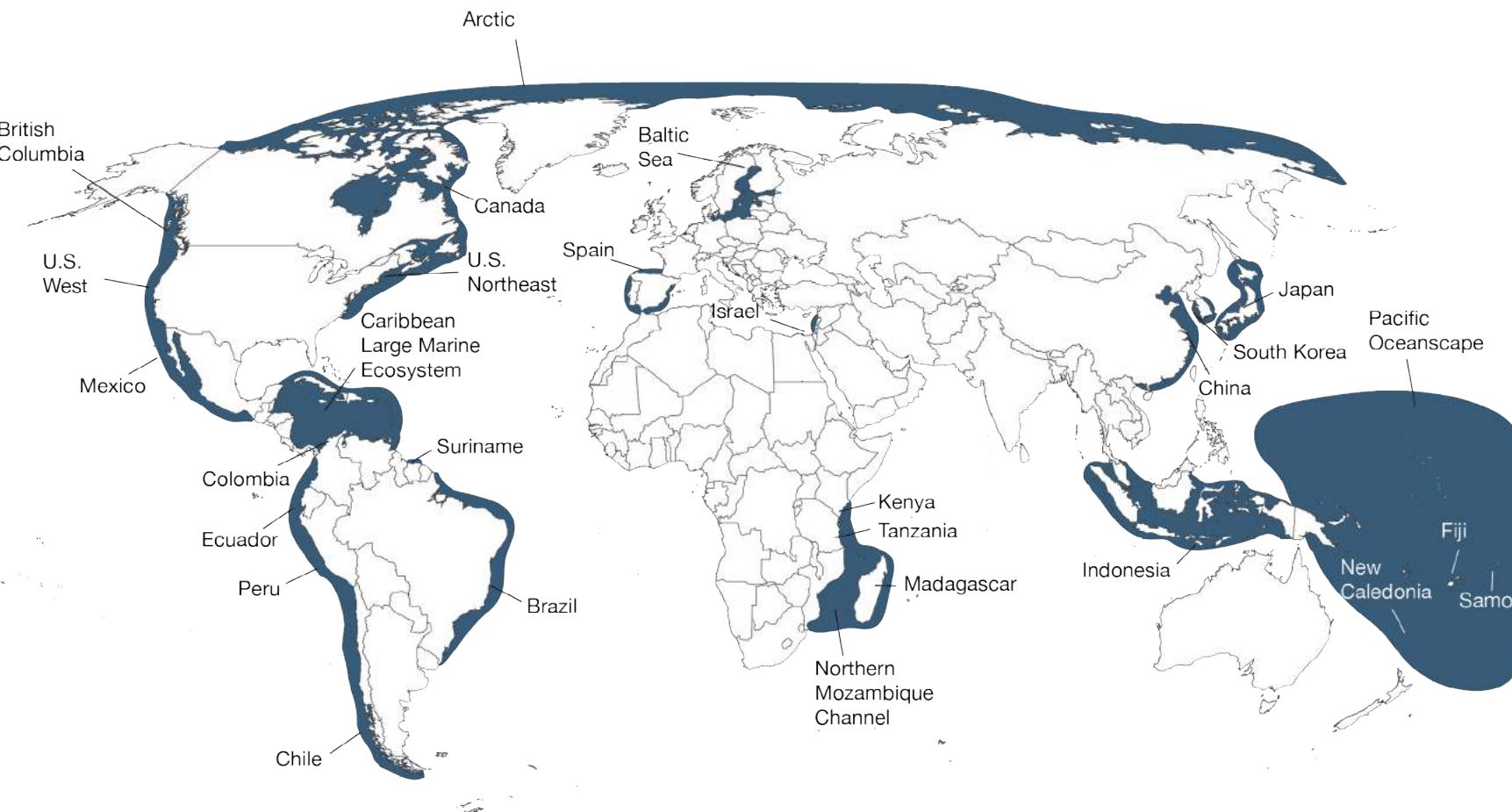
REGIONAL, NATIONAL, & SUBNATIONAL POLICY USE

The OHI Team team is now working directly with more than 30 countries and regions to help decision makers use OHI as a management tool for marine and coastal conservation actions at the national level. This work has helped shape policies, such as:

- China's 13th 5-Year Plan
- Ecuador's National Plan for Good Living
- Mexico's National Policy on Seas & Coasts
- Colombia's Blue Agenda
- First ever regional ocean plan in the United States

INTERNATIONAL POLICY USE

- Adopted as an indicator for Aichi Target 10 of the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity
- Being considered as a mechanism for implementing UN Sustainable Development Goal #14, "Life Below Water"
- Endorsed by the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Oceans as one of two initiatives to guide management of ocean resources for the future.



LAUNCH
2012



2013

2014

2015

5-YEAR
2016

2017

& BEYOND...

Case studies:
Brazil
U.S.A. West
Coast
Fiji

China
Colombia
Israel

Baltic Sea
Canada
Ecuador (regional)
New Caledonia

Arctic
British Columbia
Chile
Ecuador (national)
Japan

Mexico
South Korea
Spain (four regions)

Caribbean
Hawai'i
Indonesia
Madagascar
Pacific Oceanscape
U.S.A. Northeast

Already starting:
Kenya
Samoa
Suriname
Tanzania...

OHI+ Assessment Spotlights

U.S.A. NORTHEAST

In 2009, President Obama declared the National Ocean Policy, an unprecedented statement on the importance of sustainably using the ocean. The leading mandate was the creation of Regional Ocean Plans for the eight U.S. ocean regions.

The first two of four regional plans were released on December 7th, 2016, after more than four years in development. The Northeast plan, for a region with \$13B in fishery impact and nearly \$19B in tourism and recreation revenue, adopted the Ocean Health Index to help coordinate and balance needs among two countries, seven states, six tribes, nine federal agencies and one regional fishery management council.

MEXICO

In August 2016, Mexico publicly announced its commitment to using the OHI as the structure for their national Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Management Seas and Coasts.

Building off that momentum, stakeholders from at least 14 active OHI countries engaged in a major event at the 2016 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Mexico in December 2016.



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Top: © Magnus Lundgren
Bottom: © Greg Stone

BALTIC SEA

The Baltic Health Index was launched on November 9, 2016, at the Strategy Forum for the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Region, as part of a new vision for ecosystem-based management in the Baltic Sea region. The OHI is being used by the Baltic States to meet the EU's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive to more effectively protect the marine environment across Europe.

SAMOA

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of Samoa recognized a need for a more coordinated approach on ensuring ocean health. As such, the MNRE has led planning to develop a cross-ministry ocean health working group.

The OHI was also embraced by Samoa as a key tool to track implementation of SDG 14 nationally.

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"We've given the oceans their annual check-up and the results are mixed. It's as if you went to the doctor and heard that, although you don't have a terminal disease, you really need to change your diet, exercise a lot more and get those precancerous skin lesions removed. You're glad you're not going to die but it's clear you need to change your lifestyle."

**Dr. Ben Halpern,
OHI Lead Scientist**



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



2016: **612** workshop attendees & participants trained



2016: **5th** annual global assessment of ocean health
TOTAL: **22** scientific publications



2016: **7** international teams utilizing the OHI online Toolbox to calculate and visualize scores for assessments



2016: **5th** annual global assessment of ocean health



2016: **7** international teams utilizing the OHI online Toolbox to calculate and visualize scores for assessments

Determining how healthy oceans are and managing for the future requires an assessment approach that evaluates current conditions comprehensively from social, economic, and environmental perspectives.

The OHI assessment framework measures progress towards a suite of key societal 'goals' representing the benefits and services people depend on healthy oceans to provide. By analyzing these goals together, and scoring them from 0-100, OHI assessments provide an integrated picture of the state of the ecosystem and can be communicated to a wide range of audiences. Our framework provides the necessary open-source tools and resources for channeling marine science into management and policy actions.

In 2016, the OHI team completed its fifth global assessment. With multiple assessments completed, we are beginning to identify trends in ocean health over time and can better understand possible causes and consequences of those changes.

The Ocean Health Index team strives to continue to be a **model and global leader in scientific and technical innovation, thought-leadership, and problem-solving** to tackle the complex, multi-dimensional environmental problems that manifest in today's world.

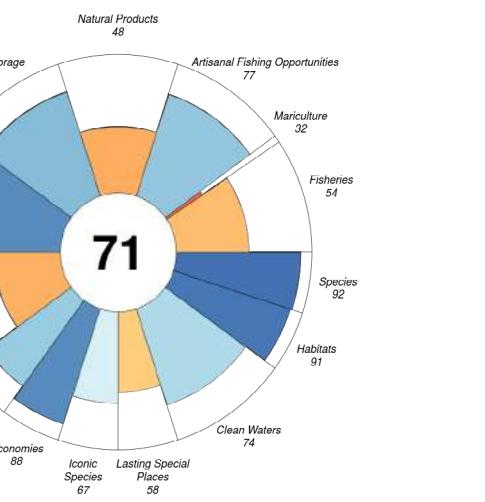
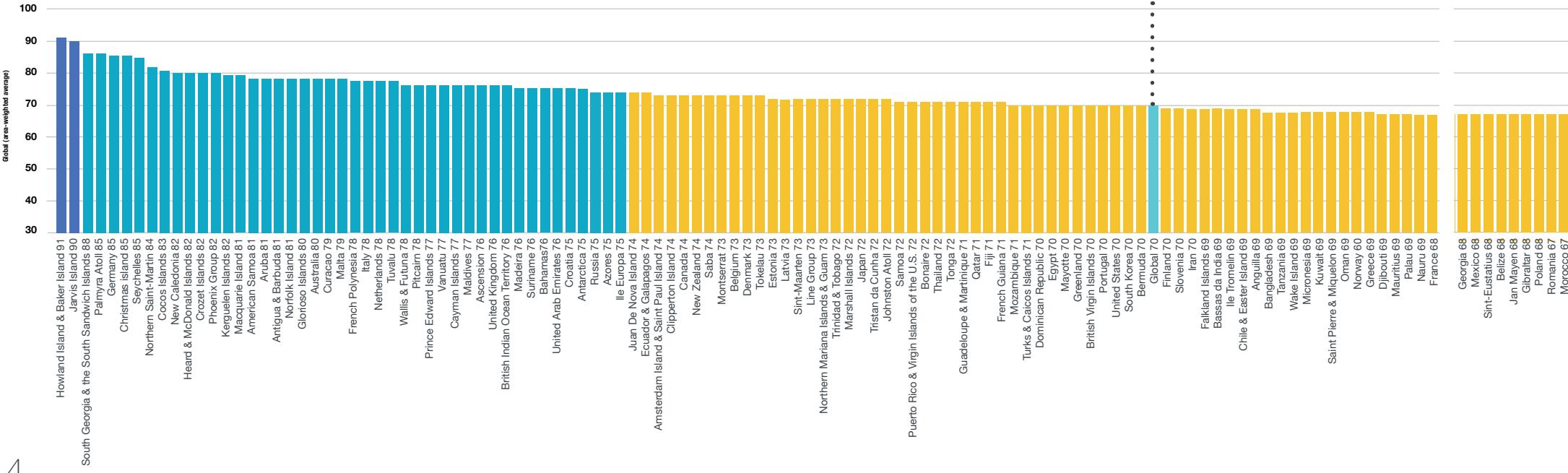
Fifth Annual Global Assessment

With the release of the 2016 global OHI scores, five annual global assessments have now been completed for 220 Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) in addition to the assessments for Antarctica, the Southern Ocean and 15 sectors of the High Seas conducted in 2014.

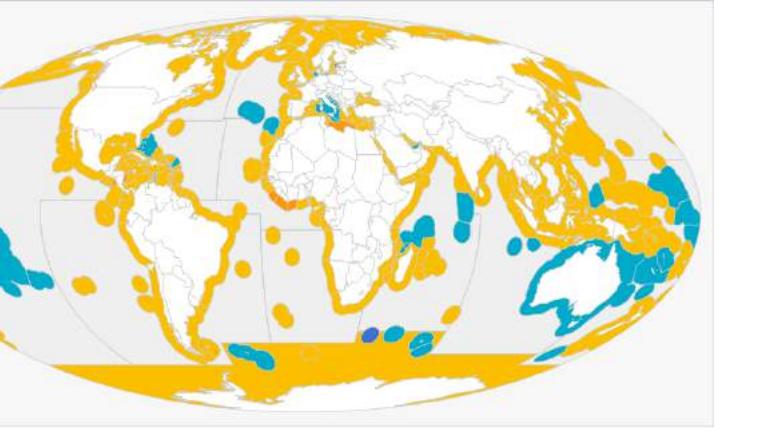
KEY FINDINGS

A fourth consecutive global score of 71 indicates that, while the ocean has remained at a stable state, it is far from the desired 100 of a fully sustainable ocean. High scores for populated areas such Germany (ranked 4th among the 220 EEZs assessed, with a score of 85 and a population of ~81 million) and Seychelles (ranked 8th, with a score of 84 and a population ~97,000) exemplify the effectiveness of engaged and targeted social and environmental governance systems for improving ocean health.

2016 Global Country Scores



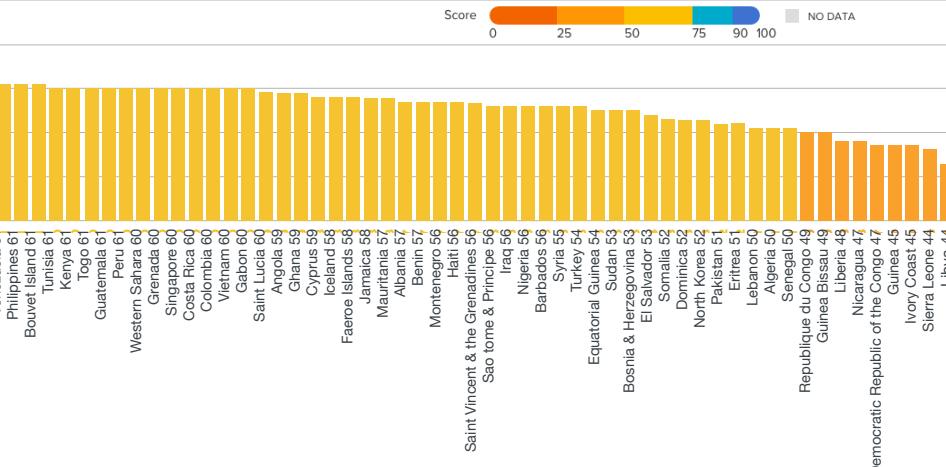
Petal diagram of 2016 Ocean Health Index overall global scores. NCEAS, 2016



Geographic distribution of scores for the 2016 Ocean Health Index. Croscon, 2016

Consistently low global scores for Tourism & Recreation (47) highlight that countries are not sustainably maximizing the benefits that can be derived from a healthy tourism sector. Scores for **Food Provision (54)** and **Natural Products (48)** indicate that many regions are either harvesting unsustainably or are not maximizing their sustainable potential to produce more food from the sea. Again this year the overarching issue of poor quality data (or no data at all) limits the ability to estimate the status of fish stocks in many regions as well as the overall status of fisheries.

While **Biodiversity (91)** and **Coastal Protection (87)** remain the highest scoring goals, these numbers actually indicate a decline. Reference points for both goals include the maintenance of coastal habitats close to their extent in 1980. Hence, scores less than 100 indicate declines have occurred in less than four decades. Continuing threats to habitat condition will lower scores further.



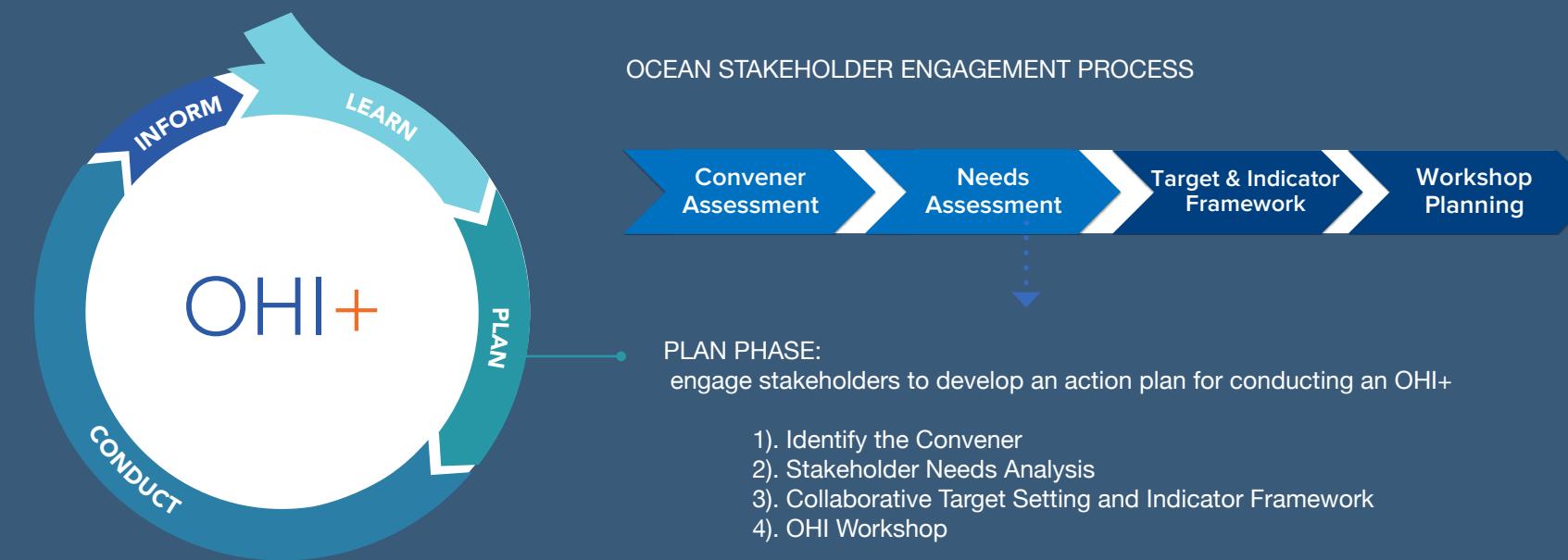
Ocean Stakeholder Engagement Process

In early 2016, the OHI partnered with the **Consensus Building Institute** in Cambridge, Massachusetts to develop the Ocean Health Stakeholder Engagement Process.

Effective ocean and coastal management is inherently a participatory endeavor. Yet, it is often the case that stakeholders with overlapping interests do not work together, leading to inefficient and unsustainable use of ocean resources.

Our experience engaging with various countries around the world to implement the Ocean Health Index independent assessment framework has shown us that the actual process of engaging with stakeholders during an assessment is just as important, if not more so, than good data in leading to positive policy outcomes. This is because the OHI+ assessment process serves as a forum to engage stakeholders from multiple backgrounds (scientific, civil society, government, private sector, NGOs, etc.) to discuss local preferences and priorities, understand the interactions between various activities, and collaboratively establish management targets.

In recognizing the opportunity of these positive, yet seemingly incidental, process outcomes we sought to formally establish a multi-stakeholder engagement process into the OHI+ assessment structure. The Ocean Health Stakeholder Engagement Process merges state-of-the art marine science with the Consensus Building Institute's multi-stakeholder and multi-issue negotiation approach, aiming at embedding scientific research within a functional institutional arrangement adequate for making decisions with the resulting information. This approach can be effectively applied across a range of disciplines and for a wide array of purposes. We are applying it specifically for the effective implementation of the Ocean Health Index as an ecosystem-based management approach at various scales.



Partnering with CBI resulted in implementing key steps to strengthen stakeholder participation directly into the OHI+ four-phase structure. These steps, include the following:

CONVENER ASSESSMENT

The Convener Assessment identifies a person or entity who is able and qualified lead the development of the OHI+ process. The person(s) will invite and convene key stakeholders for an OHI+ assessment, facilitate discussions, provide legitimacy to the process, and establish linkages with ocean managers and decision-makers.

STAKEHOLDER NEEDS ANALYSIS (SNA)

The Stakeholder Needs Analysis process systematically lists and analyzes information to determine which groups have an interest in OHI+, which groups are typically included or excluded, whether each group is relevant to include, whether the groups support or oppose the initiative, and the concerns from various groups. The process includes: identifying stakeholders and their influence; gathering information (questionnaires, interviews, focus groups), identify and build a technical team, and generate an SNA report.



Technical Support & Open Science

Our team of scientists and managers provide guidance for OHI+ assessments, from initial meetings to technical support to disseminating results. We offer online resources such as trainings, manuals, a growing support network, and open-source software and repositories.

OPEN SCIENCE

Anyone can use and build an assessment from the OHI products offered, which all rely on a few cutting-edge and free software tools. Working openly with these tools enables the OHI to be a leader in collaboratively sharing and communicating scientific methods--a critical step to making science reproducible and democratic.

We currently have four teams utilizing the OHI forum, an online network to discuss trouble-shooting for conducting assessments, and seven teams using the Toolbox to calculate assessments.

The OHI is helping advance open-science through:

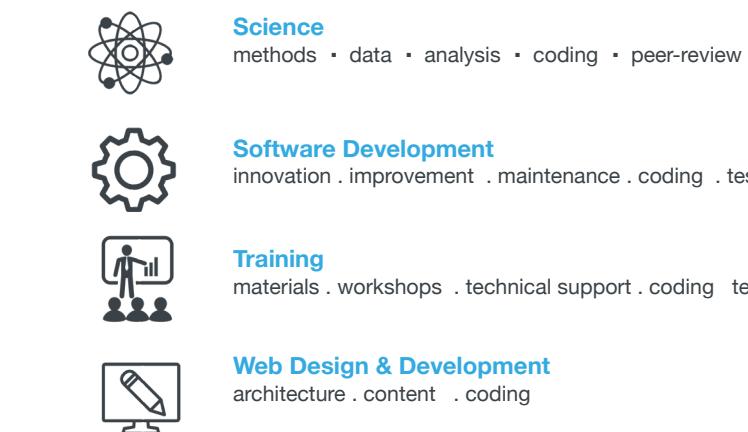
- OHI TOOLBOX SOFTWARE: includes analytical operations
- WEBSITES: to unite all OHI work
- SCIENCE: repeat global assessment and update data to improve methods, ask new questions, and publish peer-reviewed articles.
- SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT: maintain, improve, and innovate our free OHI software and create assessment architecture for OHI+ assessments.
- TRAINING: develop materials, lead workshops, and provide technical support.
- WEB-DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT: communicate our science and update ohi-science.org using the same tools used for our global analyses.

“Not only is the OHI changing the way people think about oceans, it is changing the way people think about and do science.” - Dr. Julie Lowndes, OHI Project Scientist

FRONT END

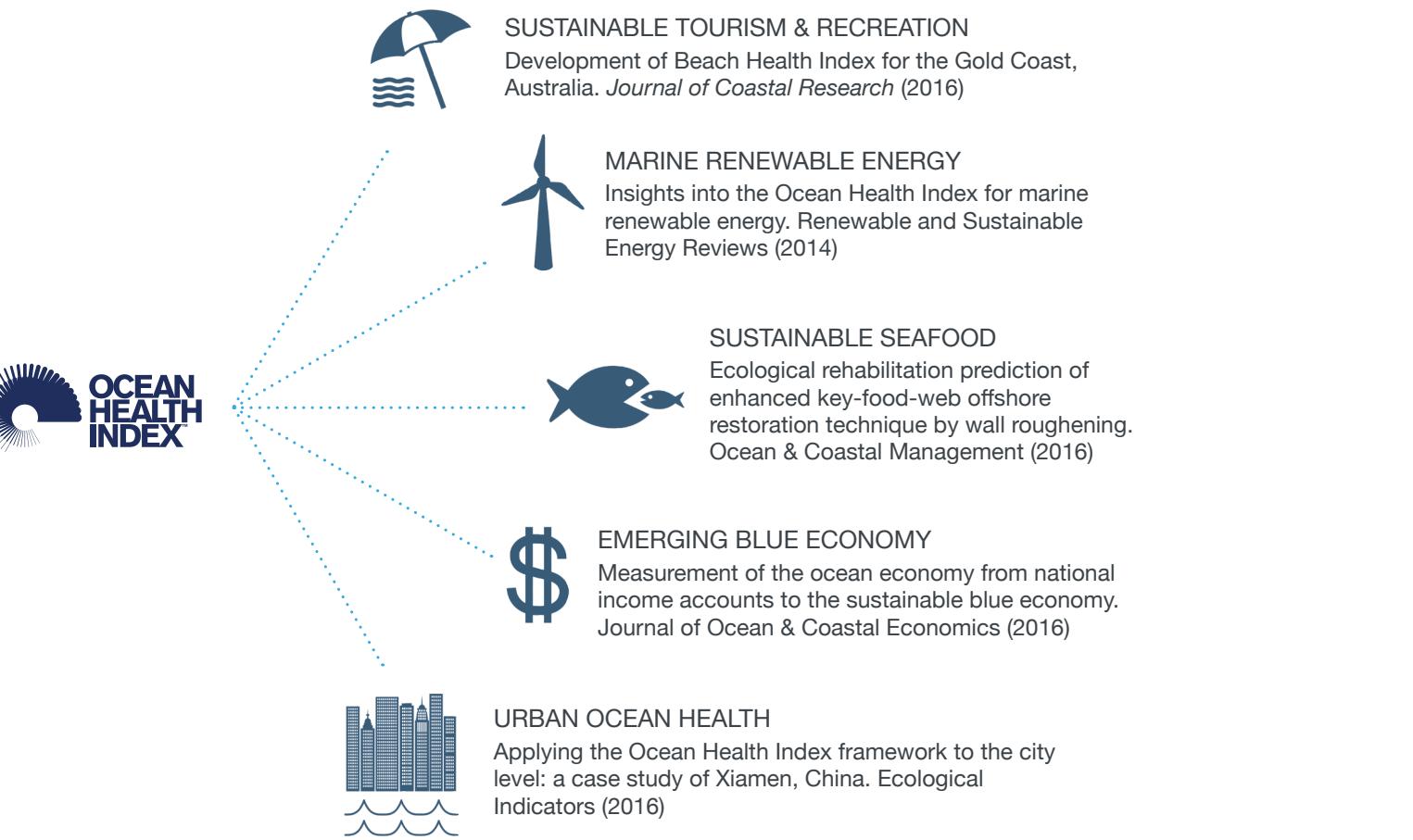


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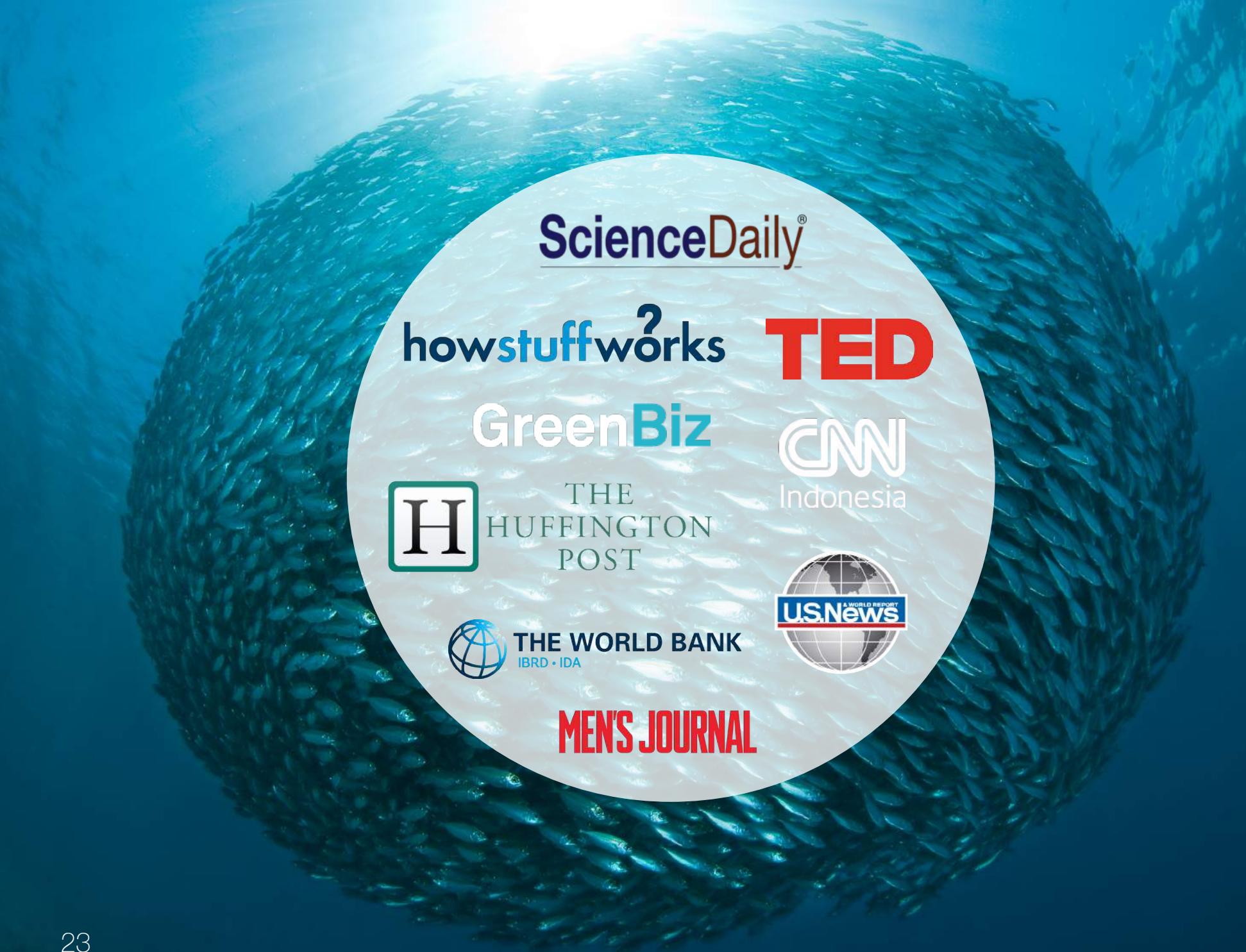
Publications & Scientific Advancement

The OHI team has led **22 scientific publications in total**, with our foundational 2012 *Nature* paper placed in the **top 1% of its academic field** based on journal citations. The OHI has further been applied across a broad range of marine sustainable development contexts, such as:



“...the Ocean Health Index has proved to be such an important tool in focusing attention to the status of ocean health, and in quantifying the quality of our natural capital. **Using the Index can help us better protect it.**”

His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales - November 2014



COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION



2016: **30** articles of earned media featuring the OHI including US News, TED, Huffington Post, Science Daily, HowStuffWorks, Phys.org, and Green Biz as well as international coverage across **10+** countries



TOTAL:
10,900 Twitter followers
3,900 Facebook followers



2016: **15** original blog stories or articles written for our websites, online bulletin, and Conservation International's blog Human Nature



2016: **77,861** individual website users

The Ocean Health Index continues to build awareness among policy makers, scientists, NGOs and the general public and to foster adoption of proper ocean governance and management mechanisms across regional governing bodies and international multilateral organizations.

The OHI boasts a continually growing network through the use of high-level presentations and conferences, media, an overview website to report and visualize OHI results and findings, a technical website to dive deep into the data of OHI, stories to illustrate applications of the OHI and thought-leadership on marine conservation, and a bi-monthly online bulletin that is distributed to an audience of more than 1,750.

BUDGET

	FY16 Budget	FY16 Expenses	FY16 Variances	FY17 Budget
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & OUTREACH				
Core OHI Personnel	\$463,481	\$412,014	\$51,467	\$404,769
NCEAS - Key Partner Funding	\$323,124	\$325,263	(\$2,139)	\$324,369
Field Implementation & CI Field Personnel	\$194,081	\$49,211	\$144,870	271,877
Travel	\$50,000	\$38,694	\$11,306	\$47,000
Subtotal	\$1,030,686	\$825,183	\$205,503	\$1,048,015
COMMUNICATIONS & MANAGEMENT				
Website & Social Media Maintenance	\$19,000	\$16,903	\$2,097	\$10,000
Website Re-design (FY16) & Update (FY17)	\$84,000	\$90,042	(\$6,042)	\$9,000
Marketing Materials & Printing	\$6,500	\$7,273	(\$773)	\$5,000
Office Costs	\$57,000	\$62,512	(\$5,512)	\$49,819
Subtotal	\$166,500	\$176,730	(\$10,230)	\$73,819
Total Direct Costs	\$1,197,186	\$1,001,912	\$195,274	\$1,121,834
Indirect Costs	\$231,895	\$194,070	\$37,825	\$217,299
Total	\$1,429,081	\$1,195,983	\$233,098	\$1,339,133

The two paths toward long-term financial sustainability are to reduce costs through improved efficiency and autonomy of application and adoption of the Ocean Health Index, and to diversify funding sources with a focus on increased funding from public institutions.

We are grateful for the long-term and generous support of our core funders and very excited about the new donors who have begun to invest in our unique and effective approach to protecting coasts and oceans around the world. The Ocean Health Index would not exist without the engagement and support of these individuals and foundations.

Other organizations such as the Global Environment Facility, the Swedish Resilience Centre, and the Indian Ocean Commission have provided funding for OHI+ assessments in regions around the world. As part of our effort toward creating more diversity in our revenue streams, we will continue to prioritize working closely with partner non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations to secure more support from these venerable institutions.

In addition, numerous countries around the world are continuing to allocate their own resources to support independent OHI+ assessments for their coasts and oceans, in growing recognition of the importance of healthy oceans to the livelihoods and wellbeing of their citizens. This includes: Indonesia, Ecuador, China, Mexico, Korea, Canada, Japan, and Spain.

Highlights of our 2016 Budget

Over the last two years, we prioritized Field Implementation and Personnel. This accounts for supporting three full-time OHI personnel, in Hawaii, Samoa, and Kenya, as well as partially supporting personnel in at least seven other countries. In addition, in 2016, we led 14 separate OHI workshops and trainings around the world, reaching more than 600 people. There was a significant carryforward of this funding from FY16 to FY17 due to a delay in hiring in both Samoa and Kenya.

An additional significant variance is in the amount allocated for and spent on Travel. While travel is a necessary and frequent aspect of our work -- our work manifests itself only on the ground -- our team has made an explicit commitment to limiting expenses on each trip. While at the beginning of every budget cycle we ensure that we have set aside enough funding for travel to be fully responsive and effective in our work around the world, at the end of each year we take pride in finishing out below budget. For example, ~\$39k spent for Travel in FY16 accounts for at least 14 international and eight domestic trips among our team members.

MOVING FORWARD

2017 brings unprecedented opportunity for oceans, as demonstrated by their central role in urgent global initiatives, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2016 Paris Agreement on Climate. The Ocean Health Index is poised to play an important role in the realization of these global mandates.

At the same time, spreading nationalism and constrained budgets threatens support of the globally shared commons—air, land and water—on which we all depend. The deteriorating quality of two global reservoirs—the air overhead and the waters bathing our shores—should be a strong warning to a world tilting toward isolationism.

The Ocean Health Index helps unify a divided world by bringing nations together to achieve collective goals for sustaining the world's largest shared resource.

By integrating the ocean's ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits, the OHI supports ecosystem-based management, marine spatial planning, and the monitoring and evaluation stages central to marine policy cycles. Scientists, managers and policy makers acknowledge that the OHI is a primary metric for tracking ocean health at global and national scales.

After successfully meeting all, and exceeding many, scheduled milestones for the past five years, we have learned this fundamental lesson: ocean health advances one nation at a time. Building on that lesson, the following strategic goals will guide OHI's future course:

1. We will help nations build ocean health in order to meet their Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on Biological Diversity and Paris Agreement on Climate commitments.

We will do this by increasing their capacity to manage their oceans using independent OHI assessments. We will enhance in-person training by continuing to hire regional OHI managers in key geographies. Managers for the Pacific Islands and Western Indian Ocean regions are already in place, with additional hires planned for Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. We will provide nations with freely available online support, training, technology and templates for automated data access and entry, calculations, mapping and archiving. We will continuously improve all processes to be as simple and user friendly as possible.

2. We will develop the long-term financial stability need to fulfill OHI's promise.

We will secure diverse, reliable sources of support for the core team at CI and NCEAS and regional experts at training hubs. We will find support from private donors, corporate philanthropy and multinational institutions such as the Global Environmental Facility. Nations will be responsible for supporting their own independent assessments, but we will assist less fortunate nations to seek necessary funding.



APPENDICES

OCEAN HEALTH INDEX TEAM

Conservation International (CI)



National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis (NCEAS)



The Ocean Health Index team develops novel scientific methods, communicates assessment results to governments, marine managers, scientists and the public, and collaborates with partners around the world on the continued development of the Ocean Health Index. Ben Halpern and Steve Katona have been with the project since research began in 2008.

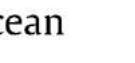
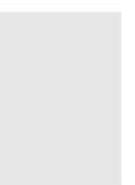
2016 FEATURED PUBLICATION



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Marine Policy

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Local and regional experiences with assessing and fostering ocean health

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ABSTRACT

During the international symposium on "Regional Applications and Nexus of the Ocean Health Index" at The University of Tokyo in Japan in July 2015, a range of experts, practitioners and researchers discussed the potential for assessing the current state of ocean health at different scales, as well as changes over time. Discussions focused on how the successful assessment and implementation of projects aimed at fostering ocean health and resilient coastal ecosystems strongly depends on a multi-stakeholder approach and local leadership. In addition, recent examples of regional independent assessments conducted using the Ocean Health Index were introduced, with an accompanying explanation of how the Index goals can be adjusted, specified or weighted in line with a local context or policy direction. This manuscript introduces key points raised during the symposium as well as relevant supplementary materials.

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OHI PUBLICATIONS

Scientific publications from the Ocean Health Index project:

2017

Longo, C.S., M. Frazier, S.C. Doney, J.E. Rheuban, J.M. Humberstone and B.S. Halpern. 2017. Using the Ocean Health Index to identify opportunities and challenges to improving Southern Ocean ecosystem health. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 4:20. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2017.00020.

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Selig, E.R.. M. Frazier, J.K. O'Leary, S.D. Jupiter, B.S. Halpern, C. Longo, K.L. Kleisner, L. Sivo, and M. Ranelletti. 2015. Measuring indicators of ocean health for an island nation: the Ocean Health Index for Fiji. *Ecosystem Services* 16: 403-412. December 2015. **4 citations**.

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Halpern, B.S., C. Longo, D. Hardy, K.L. McLeod, J.F. Samhouri, S.K. Katona, K. Kleisner, S.E. Lester, J. O'Leary, M. Ranelletti, A.A. Rosenberg, C. Scarborough, E.R. Selig, B.D. Best, D.R. Brumbaugh, F.S. Chapin III, L.B. Crowder, K.L. Daly, S.C. Doney, C. Elfes, M.J. Fogarty, S.D. Gaines, K. Jacobsen, L.B. Karrer, H.M. Leslie, E. Neeley, D. Pauly, S. Polasky, B.

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* depicts an open-access journal or publication group that makes peer-reviewed scientific articles freely available to the public. As such, we have begun to favor these outlets and feel that metrics such as the number of views provide an early and strong indication of a given publication.

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The ocean is our most valuable asset. More than 1 billion people depend on fish for their basic protein; 350 million jobs worldwide depend on the marine sector; 25% of marine mammals face some threat of extinction; and less than 3% of the ocean is designated as a marine protected area.

With the **Ocean Health Index**, we are charting new territory in assessing ocean health and how it benefits people both socially and economically to provide the resources and services we need now and in the future.

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