
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: RECOGNIZING WORLD OCEANS DAY 2022 AND THE ADVANCEMENT
OF OCEAN CONSERVATION IN CANADA**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council endorse the resolution, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. THAT Council proclaim 2022 June 08 as World Oceans Day.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2022 April 27, received correspondence from Nature Canada seeking support from municipalities in the goal to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, and to recognize the 30th anniversary of World Oceans Day on 2022 June 08.

Arising from discussion, the Committee recommended Council endorse the resolution, as outlined in Section 3.0.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

This report supports the following goal and sub-goal of the City's Corporate Strategic Plan:

- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy Environment –
Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability

3.0 RESOLUTION

Canada has the longest coastline in the world. As part of the Global Deal for Nature in the Paris Accords, the Canadian government has promised to protect 30% of oceans by 2030 through establishing Marine Protected Areas.

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: Environment Committee
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The oceans play a pivotal role counteracting climate change as the largest carbon sink, providing more than half oxygen while storing fifty times more carbon than the atmosphere. Oceans also regulate weather, helping to balance the uneven distribution of solar radiation.

Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change and feel effects firsthand, from extreme heat to extreme precipitation. Reaching an ocean protection goal will help to win the fight against global warming.

As such, the following resolution has been prepared for Council's consideration:

WHEREAS Wednesday, June 8, 2022, is the 30th annual World Ocean's Day. World Oceans Day is the United Nations day for celebrating the role of the ocean in everyday life and inspiring action to protect it.

WHEREAS countries around the world, including Canada as a prominent leader, have committed to protecting 30% of their ocean territory by 2030 in order to reverse nature loss in the ocean and safeguard at-risk marine life.

WHEREAS the ocean is home to hundreds of species at risk, vulnerable ecosystems, and is a crucial carbon sink shielding us from the worst of climate change.

WHEREAS the ocean produces over half of the world's oxygen and absorbs 50 times more carbon dioxide than our atmosphere. Therefore protecting the ocean is in the interest of all life on Earth, and communities both coastal and inland, as it is essential to our shared future.

WHEREAS it is the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada, under various pieces of legislation and regulation, to establish marine protected areas in consultation with Indigenous Peoples. Many Indigenous nations and communities are leading in the conservation of the ocean, and have been stewards of the ocean since time immemorial.

WHEREAS it is important for municipal leaders to demonstrate support for actions to safeguard the ocean, as they have for action on climate change and other environmental matters of national importance.

WHEREAS in celebrating the ocean, and protecting its habitats and ecosystems, we can together raise the profile of ocean conservation's critical role in improving planetary health and slowing the crisis of species collapse and ecosystem decline.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Burnaby recognize the 30th anniversary of World Oceans Day on 2022 June 08 and support national and international efforts to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.

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4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The Committee recommends Council endorse the resolution to recognize the 30th anniversary of World Oceans Day on 2022 June 08, and support national and international efforts to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Keithley
Chair

Councillor C. Jordan
Vice Chair

Copied to: Chief Administrative Officer GM Corporate Services GM Engineering GM Planning and Development Mayor's Office Public Affairs
