

19 October 2010

Dear Colleague,

Ocean Acidification: What can we do about it?

On behalf of an array of concerned scientists, advocates, donors, and seafood industry leaders, we are writing to invite you to a one-day symposium on Ocean Acidification at the **Ondaatje Lecture Theatre, Royal Geographical Society, London on 23 November 2010.**

Our aim is to begin crafting practical strategies for influencing national and international policy that can protect ocean ecosystems from the potential large scale systemic break down that may be caused by future increasing acidity.

It appears from the work of scientists now studying the acidification phenomenon that significant shifts in ocean chemistry are underway that could seriously impact and degrade ocean ecosystems by mid century or even earlier. Ocean acidification is due to ocean uptake of a large proportion of carbon dioxide emitted since the industrial revolution. Ocean acidification will continue but the extent will be dependent on future carbon dioxide emissions.

Although there is an increasing concern and a sense of extreme urgency globally about this issue there has been precious little progress to address this at policy level. Over the course of one full day on November 23rd, lasting from 0900 to 1700, we hope to illuminate the newest scientific findings about likely impacts from ocean acidification, explore ways to communicate the phenomenon among key constituencies, and begin a strategy conversation about the policy making venues where ocean acidification can be meaningfully addressed.

Given the diverse range of participants we are expecting, we plan to cut through the complexity of ocean acidification and ensure that what is presented is articulated in a manner that is understood by all.

We are also hoping to align efforts in the U.K. and the rest of Europe with related efforts underway in the U.S. Unless we employ a coordinated message and policymaking approach across Europe and North America our success at addressing ocean acidification will be diminished.

Please mark your calendars and do plan on joining us for this important strategy development meeting. We have attached the provisional agenda which we have designed to maximize opportunities for discussion.

We would be grateful if you could RSVP to oceanacidification@seaweb.org by 8 November if you are able to join us.

We look forward to seeing you on 23rd November.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Bennett
Restaurateur

Leslie Harroun
The Oak Foundation

Sven Huseby
Ocean Acidification Task
Force and Film Maker

Dan Laffoley
Chair, Ocean Acidification
Reference User Group

Michael Northrop
Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Tom Pickerell
Shellfish Association of
Great Britain

Allison Robertshaw
Zennström Philanthropies

Kristian Teleki
SeaWeb

Encl. provisional agenda

Ocean Acidification

What can we do about it?

23 November 2010

Ondaatje Lecture Theatre
Royal Geographical Society
London

The purpose of this meeting is to cut through the complexity of ocean acidification, consider how it will impact us, and how we might begin to craft practical strategies for influencing national and international policy to protect ocean ecosystems from large scale systemic break down. Speakers will summarize the **science**, explore potential **communications** strategies to raise concern, and begin a conversation about potential **policy** strategies we can employ to solve the problem.

This is meant to be a very interactive day. Each session will leave time for discussion and the last session of the meeting will focus on audience reactions and group discussion. We anticipate a very diverse group of participants from the seafood industry (including restaurateurs), media and communications, science, donor, policy and advocacy communities in the UK and Europe.

Provisional Agenda

23 November 2010

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| 0830 | Coffee and registration |
| 0900 | Welcome and opening remarks |
| 0930 | Ocean Acidification –what is it all about and does it matter?
Carol Turley, Plymouth Marine Laboratory |
| 1000 | Question and Answer |
| 1030 | Coffee Break |
| 1100 | Communicating Ocean Acidification
Lisa Dropkin, Edge Research |
| 1200 | Question and Answer |
| 1230 | Lunch |
| 1330 | What is the policy ask?
Erika Rosenthal, Earth Justice |
| 1400 | Question and Answer |
| 1430 | Coffee Break |
| 1500 | Reactions and response from industry, donor, media, policy, science and advocacy communities |
| 1630 | Wrap-up and final thoughts |
| 1700 | Reception |