The ocean is in trouble. Across the world, humans have effected dramatic change upon the seas. One thing is certain: our current course is unsustainable. Yet the ocean remains a vital resource with the potential to generate enormous economic growth. Balancing human activity with the long-term health of the ocean is essential.

The last year has been a decisive one for the ocean. In June the United Nations held its first conference on the ocean to discuss the implementation of an ocean-specific sustainable development goal. The COP23 climate change meeting presented an opportunity to usher in swifter and more ambitious action than we have seen so far. Companies, governments and individuals have made commitments to the ocean—many of which were unveiled at the World Ocean Summit 2017.

If 2017 was the year of big promises, 2018 must be about delivery. The World Ocean Summit, the most diverse and important global gathering on the ocean, will bring together political leaders and policymakers, heads of global business, scientists, NGOs and multilaterals for a frank and future-oriented discussion on how to turn these pledges into reality. Which initiatives have borne fruit, and which require reassessment? How can government and industry turn pledges into reality?

Since 2012 the World Ocean Summit has sought to focus the sometimes divergent perspectives of business, government and civil society on how we use our troubled seas. In 2018 the World Ocean Summit will expand into a wider, more ambitious World Ocean Initiative. Its vision will be of an ocean in robust health and with a vital economy; its goal to accelerate the transition to sustainable use of the ocean.

Conference chair
Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief, The Economist

Moderators
Charles Goddard, executive director, World Ocean Summit
Mike Reid, columnist and senior editor Latin America and Spain, The Economist
Daniel Franklin, executive editor, The Economist
Andrew Palmer, business editor, The Economist
Jan Pietrowski, sustainability editor, The Economist
CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

**Government:**
- Luis Guillermo Solís, president, Costa Rica
- Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, president, Iceland
- Enrique Peña Nieto, president, Mexico
- Erna Solberg, prime minister, Norway (via live video)
- Tarsicio Granizo, minister of environment, Ecuador
- Arif Havas Oegroseno, deputy coordinating minister of maritime affairs, Indonesia
- Vidar Helgesen, minister of climate and environment, Norway

**Business:**
- Dagmar Nelissen, senior researcher and consultant, CE Delft
- Geir Molvik, chief executive officer, Cermaq
- Michael Eckhart, managing director and global head of environmental finance, Citigroup
- Werner Hoyer, president, European Investment Bank
- Jonathan Taylor, vice-president, European Investment Bank
- Matthew Arnold, managing director and global head of sustainable finance, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Gary Gysin, chief executive officer, Liquid Robotics, A Boeing Company
- Alf Helge Aarskog, chief executive officer, Marine Harvest
- Claus Fuglsang, senior vice-president, research and technology, Novozymes
- Francisco Saraiva Gomes, chief executive officer, Pontos Aqua Holdings
- Rolando Morillo, vice-president, sustainability and impact group, Rockefeller & Co
- Martyn Parker, chairman, global partnership, Swiss Re
- Darian McBain, global director of sustainable development, Thai Union
- Richard Branson, founder, Virgin Group (via live video)
- John Haley, chief executive officer, Willis Towers Watson
- Paul Jardine, executive vice-president and chief experience officer, XL Catlin
- Rana Kapoor, managing director and chief executive officer, YES BANK

**Academia:**
- Beth Christensen, professor and director of environmental studies programme, Adelphi University
- Margaret Leinen, director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego
Timothy Gordon, marine biologist, University of Exeter
Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director, Global Change Institute, University of Queensland
Roz Savage, senior fellow, Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University

Other categories:
Sylvia Earle, president and chairman, Mission Blue
Alexandra Cousteau, senior advisor, Oceana
Carter Ries and Olivia Ries, co-founders, One More Generation
Peter Thomson, special envoy for the ocean, United Nations
Audrey Azoulay, director-general, UNESCO
Paula Caballero, global director, climate programme, World Resources Institute
Day 1: March 7th 2018

11:00am  Conference registration; networking lounge open

2:00pm  Blue economy workshops—by invitation or pre-registration
  ● Blue economy finance guidelines
  ● CEOs’ guide to saving the oceans
  ● Blue economy clusters

4:30pm  Spotlight on science: Big data, machine learning and the science of being understood

The latest thinking on the state of the ocean, and the ocean science we can look forward to in 2018 and beyond, including tipping points and planetary boundaries, and the impact of changes in the cryosphere.

Big data, machine learning, innovative computational analysis: new tools and methods are helping unlock our understanding of complex ocean systems, potentially transforming ocean science. Sharing and translating these advances, particularly with policymakers, will require creativity too.

During the Summit we will highlight exciting new science and technology in our Sizzle sessions.

Speakers:
Claus Fuglsang, senior vice-president, research and technology, Novozymes
Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director, Global Change Institute, University of Queensland

6:00pm  Opening cocktail reception

8:00pm  Moonlight cinema: The Economist Films
Day 2: March 8th 2018

Setting the agenda
A broad, bold exploration of the 2018 ocean agenda

8:00am  Networking coffee

9:00am  Welcome remarks
Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief, The Economist

9:30am  Opening interview: Mexico’s ocean economy
Enrique Peña Nieto, president, Mexico

9:50am  In conversation: 2017 in review—a year of big promises
A global consensus on ocean conservation has surfaced. Now the challenge is to turn talk into action.

Peter Thomson, special envoy for the ocean, United Nations

10:15am  Ministers panel: The policy agenda
Finance ministries and ministers have a special and as yet unrealised role in articulating the shape and nature of the sustainable ocean economy. National ocean policy is difficult to conceive, much less to implement, unless it is an integral part of a strategic national economic vision, and unless it has well formulated economic rationale. How are policymakers approaching this challenge?

Speakers:
Tarsicio Granizo, minister of environment, Ecuador
Werner Hoyer, president, European Investment Bank
Vidar Helgesen, minister of climate and environment, Norway

10:55am  Sizzle session: A preview of some of the most exciting new technology that will reshape the ocean economy. We pit entrepreneurs against investors and big business to test which tech will stand the test of time—and attract the capital needed for scale-up.
Speaker:
Geir Molvik, chief executive officer, Cermaq

11:05am  Networking break

Deep dives
A choice of three in-depth strategy sessions on the crucial issues facing the ocean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop 1: Sustainable fisheries</th>
<th>Workshop 2: Plastics and pollution</th>
<th>Workshop 3: Climate change</th>
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<td>11:45am  Panel discussion: The investment conundrum</td>
<td>State of play: Three short, sharp presentations to set the scene.</td>
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<td>Forging a path to sustainable fisheries, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and finding the investment needed, has involved great effort by foundations, NGOs, development institutions and impact investors. While banks in Australia (for example) routinely invest in fisheries, scaling up investments in sustainable fisheries in countries as diverse as Mexico and Indonesia continues to prove difficult, despite several successful pilot strategies and projects. Taking stock, we ask which approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speakers: Carter Ries and Olivia Ries, co-founders, One More Generation</td>
<td>Timothy Gordon, marine biologist, University of Exeter</td>
<td>Dagmar Nelissen, senior researcher and consultant, CE Delft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
work best, and whether others should also be considered.

Speakers:
Alf-Heige Aarskog, chief executive officer, Marine Harvest
Darian McBain, global director of sustainable development, Thai Union

12:20pm Presentation and panel discussion: New fisheries guidelines—how useful are they?
At the 2016 World Ocean Summit, a group of foundations, NGOs and impact investors agreed to create guidelines for investing in sustainable fisheries. With a dearth of investment-worthy projects, will these help frame the opportunity?

Finance: An interactive panel discussion on the innovative financing instruments that will encourage investment. What mechanisms are already working? How can they be scaled up?

Speakers:
Francisco Saraiva Gomes, chief executive officer, Pontos Aqua Holdings
Rolando Morillo, vice-president, sustainability and impact group, Rockefeller & Co

Reef insurance, anyone?
A section of the Mesoamerican Reef, along with a beach on Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula (adjacent to this very Summit) is soon to be insured for the natural protection it provides communities and economies from the impact of storms, which are increasingly likely due to climate change. The insurance and hospitality sectors have come together with government, scientists and civil society to make this happen. Insuring a natural asset for its protective, biodiversity and tourism services is innovative and
potentially lucrative. But how and where can it be done, and is it scalable?

Speakers:
Martyn Parker, chairman, global partnership, Swiss Re

John Haley, chief executive officer, Willis Towers Watson

Paul Jardine, executive vice-president and chief experience officer, XL Catlin

1:00pm Networking lunch

3:30pm Panel discussion: Selling sustainable seafood
A small group of forward-thinking retailers are leading the way on sourcing sustainable seafood. More are considering the move—at an Economist Events Roundtable in January 2017 retailers from Mexico and South American countries explored how best to advance sustainable seafood in these

Policy: Small group discussions examining new policy approaches. How can they be applied elsewhere? How can we create effective partnerships between the public and private sectors?

Speakers:
Arif Havas Oegroseno, deputy coordinating minister of maritime affairs and resources, Indonesia

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Speakers:
Paula Caballero, global director, climate programme, World Resources Institute
markets. But how to broaden and scale up the change?

What comes next: How are the key players working together? Where are efforts being duplicated? What can be done to forge better cooperation? What might a united approach look like, and what are the steps to get there? This session will focus on producing a clear plan for action, to be published on the World Ocean Initiative website for comment and discussion.

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5:00pm Close
Day 2: March 8th 2018 (cont.)

The World in 2018 gala dinner: Ocean
A night of intelligent entertainment

6:30pm  Networking cocktails
Be immersed in our showcase of inspirational photography and innovative technology.

7:30pm  Gala dinner: Welcome remarks

7:40pm  The ocean in 2018
Bold and insightful predictions on the year ahead from The Economist and leading oceanographers.

Speaker:
Roz Savage, senior fellow, Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University

8:10pm  Dinner
Join an informal table discussion hosted by a World Ocean Summit speaker: RSVP on the event app.

9:10pm  Predictions competition
What will the ocean look like in 2025? Be creative. Be offbeat. Be plausible. May the best prediction win. Enter via the event app.

9:15pm  An ocean conversation
A discussion between The Economist and a leading expert on the ocean.

Speaker:
Alexandra Cousteau, senior advisor, Oceana

9:40pm  Kal’s drawing lesson
Kevin Kallaugher, editorial cartoonist of The Economist, will take you beneath the waves through a series of satirical drawings.

10:00pm  Close
Day 3: March 9th 2018

Delivery and accountability

8:30am Networking coffee

9:30am The story so far
Takeaways from Days 1 and 2
Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief, The Economist
Charles Goddard, executive director, World Ocean Summit

10:00am Delivery and accountability: Sustainable fisheries
Invited participants from the deep dive workshops will report on action points and next steps.

10:40am Panel discussion: The high seas and marine protected areas
The pace of setting aside marine protected areas (MPAs) has accelerated since 2015. But with just 3-4% of the ocean under protection, the Aichi biodiversity target of 10% by 2020 looks increasingly unlikely. Yet scientists are calling for much more—up to 30% by 2030. The Economist concurs. MPAs are essential for ocean health. They offer refuge from overfishing and other damaging activities, conserve biodiversity and provide resilience to climate change for vital ecosystems. But is a 30% target realistic?

Speakers:
Tarsicio Granizo, minister of environment, Ecuador

11:20am Networking break

12:00pm Delivery and accountability: Plastics and pollution
Invited participants from the deep dive workshops will report on action points and next steps.

12:40pm Delivery and accountability: Climate change
Invited participants from the deep dive workshops will report on action points and next steps.
1:20pm **Sizzle session:** A preview of some of the most exciting new technology that will reshape the ocean economy. We pit entrepreneurs against investors and big business to test which tech will stand the test of time—and attract the capital needed for scale-up.

*Speaker:*  
Gary Gysin, chief executive officer, Liquid Robotics, A Boeing Company

1:30pm **Networking lunch**  
Join an informal table discussion hosted by a World Ocean Summit speaker. RSVP on the event app.

3:00pm **Ocean financing: Matching capital and need**  
“If anything ought to be too big to fail, it is the ocean,” *The Economist* argues. Who better to grasp this than financial institutions? Yet they remain unconvinced of the need for a sustainable ocean economy. Poor governance, ill-defined opportunities and low literacy remain the rule. Global financial institutions looking for green assets are a powerful force. How can more urgency be injected in “blue finance”? Can the dialogue be widened beyond conservation finance to green finance? How can capital be better matched to ocean sustainability?

*Speakers:*  
Michael Eckhart, managing director and global head of environmental finance, Citigroup  
Jonathan Taylor, vice-president, European Investment Bank  
Matthew Arnold, managing director and global head of sustainable finance, JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Rana Kapoor, managing director and chief executive officer, YES BANK

3:40pm **Ocean science that’s fit for purpose**  
It seems barely a week goes by without a new scientific study on the ocean. Yet spending on ocean science remains a fraction of overall science spending, and far short of what is needed. This is true for pure science—building our knowledge of complex ocean ecosystems—as much as for applied science, which provides evidence for decisions about how to use the ocean sustainably. New information networks and data-sharing platforms, AI and big data, and new ocean
observation technologies are potentially transformative. But more ocean science is urgently needed—and it must be paid for.

*Speakers:*
Beth Christensen, professor and director of environmental studies programme, *Adelphi University*
Margaret Leinen, director, *Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego*

4:20pm  **In conversation**
A future-focused discussion between *The Economist* and a leading expert on the ocean.

*Speakers:*
Luis Guillermo Solís, president, *Costa Rica*
Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, president, *Iceland*

4:45pm  **A call for commitments**
Throughout the Summit, participants will be able to submit their commitments via the event app. In this interactive session, our moderators will call on selected participants to explain their commitment to the ocean.

5:15pm  **Closing remarks**

5:30pm  **Networking cocktails**