

'At The Crossroads': Global Shipping Lanes and Whale Conservation

Wednesday, 15 February 2017 - 1:15-2:30pm; Room CR-8, UNHQ

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Cristián Samper

President and CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Opening Reflections

H.E. Peter Thomson

President of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly

Setting the Stage

Dr. Greg Silber

Coordinator, Recovery Activities for Endangered Large Whale Species, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, NOAA

Panel Discussion

Facilitator: Dr. Greg Silber

- Dr. Dave Wiley
Research Coordinator, NOAA Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Dr. Brandon Southall
President and Senior Scientist, SEA Inc.
- Dr. Howard Rosenbaum
Director, Ocean Giants Program, WCS
- Kathy Metcalf
President & CEO, Chamber of Shipping of America
- Fredrik Haag (*tbc*)
International Maritime Organisation

Concluding Remarks

Carl Gustaf Lundin

Director, Global Marine and Polar Programme, IUCN

Jason Patlis

Executive Director, Marine Conservation, WCS



Please RSVP to Evaline Cho
(evaline.cho@iucn.org) by COB,
Monday, 6 February 2017.



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IUCN/WCS/GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE
Side Event during Preparatory Meeting for UN Oceans Conference
'At the crossroads': Global Shipping Lanes and Whale Conservation
15 February 2017, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m., Conference Room 8, UNHQ

Concept Note/Description of Event

This side event, organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the Government of France will launch the 2017 IUCN/WCS Knowledge Dialogue Series. These Knowledge Dialogues are designed to stimulate discussion among UN officials and other stakeholders around key sustainable development challenges on the international agenda. This year's Knowledge Dialogues will have a strong focus on oceans and marine issues in the lead up to the UN Oceans Conference to be held from 5 to 9 June 2017.

The side event reviews the risks posed by the overlap between commercial shipping and other marine traffic and biologically important areas (or 'hot spots') for whales, including ship strikes and noise issues. Through case studies, the event explores the current state of knowledge, and best practices in aligning shipping and whale conservation objectives. The current legal and policy efforts to address this challenge, including those of IMO and the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, will be presented by summarizing relevant national, regional and international legislation and frameworks. Options for further action will round off the discussion.

The President and CEO of WCS, Dr. Cristiàn Samper, will offer opening remarks. The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji, will provide opening reflections, laying out his vision for the UN Oceans Conference. The stage will then be set for a substantive discussion by a high-level panel of experts on the key aspects of the science, management, industrial or regulatory perspectives concerning shipping issues and whale conservation. This discussion will be facilitated by Dr. Greg Silber of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The event aims to consider appropriate solutions for addressing issues involving shipping and whale conservation. Questions that will be discussed include, what measures are already underway? What regulatory measures and monitoring by governments and IGOs might be needed? How can additional scientific data and analyses help in the process? Can new or emerging technologies minimize risk to whales?

The event offers an opportunity to look at potential collaborative efforts in the lead up to the Conference, to explore actions or initiatives that further align conservation, industry, and regulatory perspectives with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 14.

Please RSVP to Evaline Cho (evaline.cho@iucn.org) by Monday, 6 February 2017.