



**2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE
ONLINE STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING: INPUTS TO THE POLITICAL
DECLARATION ZERO DRAFT**

23 March 2022

10:30 – 11:30 AM (EDT, New York)

Written Statement

Graham Patterson (Restoration, Ecology, and Environment Focused (REEF) Scuba)

My name is Graham Patterson, and I am the Executive Director of REEF Scuba. Our mission is to ensure that a Restoration, Ecology, and Environmental Focus (REEF) is integrated into all levels of recreational scuba instruction, and that those who work in the dive industry have access to the knowledge and tools they need in order to help maintain and build healthy coral reefs.

I write as representative of REEF Scuba in support of the Zero Declaration of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference. In particular, we support the inclusion of the new language in section 12/C, which emphasizes the importance of establishing and enhancing effective partnerships between the many ocean stakeholders. Promoting communication and synergy between sectors when it comes to monitoring and restoring ocean habitats is of key importance. There is too much work and too little time to rely on any one sector alone, or to leave them operating independently. Everything about the ocean is interdependent, and we need to use that understanding as a starting point for identifying and effecting collaborative solutions.

REEF Scuba would also strongly support the inclusion of a paragraph promoting further research and promotion of technology that democratizes and lowers the cost of participation in ocean conservation efforts. There are many burgeoning technologies which will allow scuba organizations and professionals throughout the world to go beyond their current basic conservation activities; to take part in the collection and analysis of high-relevance ocean data, and implementation of conservation and restoration interventions. These technologies need to be supported from development to implementation, and partnerships encouraged to ensure scientific rigor in their application, while not handicapping the ability of highly trained citizen-scientists to play an active role.

When all stakeholders are brought to the table and asked to be part of the work of achieving the aims of Goal 14, and when supportive and accessible technology is encouraged, we at REEF Scuba are hopeful that a healthy and productive ocean is attainable.

