

**Remarks of J. Charles Fox, Executive Director, Oceans 5**  
**July 1, 2022**  
**United Nations Ocean Conference, Interactive Dialogue #8**  
**Interlinkages Between SDG 14 and Other Goals**

- Excellencies, colleagues, thank you. Oceans 5 is an international funders' collaborative comprised of 23 private foundations from North America and Europe. We provide direct grants to civil society organizations working to secure new ocean conservation policies throughout the world.
- Oceans 5 particular areas of focus include strengthening fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, establishing marine protected areas and constraining offshore oil and gas development. Over the past 10 years, we've provided about \$120 million to groups working in over 60 countries. We have small professional staff in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America.
- This morning, I would like to chat briefly about the role of private philanthropy in achieving SDG 14 and how we may be able to help achieve other SDGs.
- (SLIDE #1) By way of background, ocean-related philanthropy has grown considerably in the past decade but remains a small fraction of total philanthropic giving. It is estimated to have doubled in the past decade to over \$1 billion (US) annually. Climate change-related giving, by contrast is probably 6 to 10 times larger, which is still only about two percent of total philanthropic giving.
- A relatively small number of institutions are responsible for the majority of ocean giving. Groups like the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Oak Foundation, Walton Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Marisla Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies are dominant institutions. New entrants include groups like Oceankind and the Bezos Earth Fund.
- (SLIDE #2) These institutions support a range of issues and activities for ocean conservation. Some provide what we call "core" or "general" support for leading civil society organizations. Some support particular subjects like pollution, fisheries, or science. Surprisingly, only two percent of ocean-related grants support work on climate change or energy. This would include objectives like decarbonizing shipping, promoting blue carbon, or stopping offshore oil and gas development.
- (SLIDE #3) Private philanthropy is concentrated in the United States and Europe for a variety of reasons. Its geographical reach has been slowly broadening over the past few decades but remains heavily concentrated in North America and Europe. Places like the high seas, the Arctic, Antarctica, or the Pacific Islands still receive only small portion of philanthropic funds.
- There are several trends on the horizon that are worth noting, particularly as we seek to make linkages with other SDGs.

- First, as we heard on Tuesday, a significant group of donors is interested in supporting work to achieve 30x30. This unprecedented commitment by private philanthropy will certainly change the pictures on the slides I've just presented. We can assume, for example, that we will see significant new grantmaking in regions like the high seas, Antarctica, and among the Pacific Islands. These are currently underserved areas that will prove pivotal to achieving 30x30.
- Second, private philanthropy is expressing increasing interest in tackling issues related to social justice. This can be expected to have significant impacts on SDG 14 and other SDGs as well, particularly as they relate to poverty, hunger, equality, equity, and climate.
- For example, according to the recent report of the High Level Ocean Panel, only a relatively small number of countries are capturing the vast majority of the world's wild fish. Five countries catch over 80 percent of the fish on the high seas, while only twenty countries catch almost 80 percent of all the fish in the sea. I anticipate that we will see greater attention from private philanthropy to reversing these inequities.
- I think, as well, that private philanthropy will become much more involved in coastal fisheries and community-based conservation. So-called "small scale fisheries" support the vast majority of jobs, food, and people in coastal communities. These fisheries are notoriously poorly managed.
- Coincidentally, the territorial seas is also home to most of the world's marine biodiversity.
- A good example of where these issues come together is off the coast of West Africa. Here there has been an explosion of fish meal/fish oil plants that export small pelagic fish to predominately European and Chinese markets. These fisheries are poorly managed and presently subject to overfishing, creating food insecurity throughout much of West Africa. There are no easy solutions, but I anticipate that these are the kinds of issues that will become a greater focus of private marine philanthropy.
- I will close with an offer to help anyone who wants to understand more about private philanthropy. While my organization serves donors, we have a continued interest in supporting high quality projects that support marine conservation. We would be happy to hear some of your ideas and assess whether there are ways that we can help.