

June 12, 2025

**Presented by:**

Brad Ack - CEO  
Ocean Visions

**Re: Ocean Visions Plenary Statement United Nations Ocean Conference 2025**

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and safeguarding ocean health requires us to confront an urgent and often overlooked imperative: cleaning up excess carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere and upper layers of the ocean.

The ocean is a critical ally in this effort. Yet today, we lack sufficient solutions at scale to safely and durably remove CO<sub>2</sub> and mitigate escalating risks to marine ecosystems and coastal communities. Marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) holds potential to help close this gap, but only if it is advanced through responsible, science-based pathways.

Governments must take a leadership role, promoting research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of mCDR, ensuring scientific integrity, transparency, and equitable access to knowledge. Waiting for private actors alone to drive this agenda is neither sufficient nor appropriate for technologies with global public good dimensions and complex environmental implications. We welcome the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy recommendations in this regard from their recent report on *Principles for responsible and effective marine carbon dioxide removal development and governance*.

Policy frameworks must evolve accordingly. We urge Parties to adopt comparative risk assessment as the foundation of decision-making, weighing the potential risks of responsible mCDR RD&D against the mounting, well-documented risks of inaction.

In doing so, precaution remains essential, but it must be applied in a balanced and dynamic manner, consistent with broader legal principles: the duty to protect the marine environment, the principle of prevention of foreseeable harm, and the principle of cooperation to foster shared solutions.

Finally, we call for enhanced policy coherence across treaties, particularly UNFCCC, CBD, UNCLOS, and London Protocol, to enable responsible innovation while upholding strong biodiversity safeguards.

We must act with urgency, wisdom, and resolve. Ocean Visions is ready to support this ambitious mission.

On behalf of Ocean Visions, thank you.

Brad Ack  
CEO  
Ocean Visions