

Press release

Hamburg, 20 April 2011

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Presentation of the »World Ocean Review« in the European Parliament in Brussels

Within the framework of an event organized by the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup on April 19th 2011, the »World Ocean Review« (WOR) was presented to the European Parliament in Brussels.

In their opening remarks at the beginning of the two hour presentation, the EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, and Dr. Awni Behnam, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, referred to the uniqueness of this publication and expressed their conviction, that the WOR, in the same way as the IPCC Report, has initiated discussion on climate change – and that thus finally the oceans and our interaction with them will be shifted into the public focus.

»I believe that this report will stimulate and underpin debate on the oceans in the same way that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessments stimulate debate on the climate. I look forward to listening to and joining in these debates.

I look forward to a time when the way we treat oceans - and the way we treat our fish - are as high on the political agenda and in the public debate as climate change is today. I look forward to the day that politicians treat the ocean in the same multidisciplinary way that you have treated the science of oceans. We must adopt a long-stretching vision. We must make the 21st century a time of renewal. And we can.«

Maria Damanaki

»I had the honor two weeks ago to present this review to the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Kimoon, to the Executive Secretary of the Secretary General High Level Panel on Global Sustainability, Mr. Janos Pasztor, and to the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Mr. Tarssenko. Like you, Madam commissioner, I am convinced that this report will stimulate an informed debate and we hope it will lead to action in the manner that the IPCC report did in relation to climate change.«

Dr. Awni Behnam

Nikolaus Gelpke, initiator of the »World Ocean Review« (WOR) and publisher of the mareverlag, and Prof. Martin Visbeck, Speaker of the Kiel Cluster of Excellence »Future Ocean«, which was decisively engaged in producing the WOR, explained the background and the genesis of the project and summarized the scientific findings of the individual research areas, which the WOR covers. Questions on the interaction of climate and ocean and the scientific basis of overfishing and the current fisheries policies were addressed in the talks by Prof. Mojib Latif and Prof. Martin Quaas. The event was moderated by Isabella Lövin, MEP and Vice President of the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup.

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The World Ocean Review is not for sale, but is being distributed for free. It can be accessed online at www.worldoceanreview.com. The publication is available in English and German.

World Ocean Review, published by maribus gGmbH, Hamburg 2010, 236 pages, with numerous illustrations and photographs, paperback.

Links: www.worldoceanreview.com, www.mare.de, www.ozean-der-zukunft.de

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