Declaration of Oceans Day

Oceans Day was first declared as June 8, 1992 in Rio de Janeiro at the Global Forum, a parallel event at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) which provided an opportunity for non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society to express their views on environmental issues.

The Declaration was inspired by an event organized on that day by the **Oceans Institute of Canada** and supported by the **Canadian Government**: "OCEANS DAY AT GLOBAL FORUM – THE BLUE PLANET".

The program featured international experts, opinion leaders and those in a position to speak for the oceans' contributions to sustaining the Blue Planet.

In 2008, **led by Canada**, the General Assembly resolved that June 8th would be designated by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day". In the interim, observation of Oceans Day had broadened and deepened. The need and scope for this was reflected in the broad range of concerns:

implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea,
maritime space,
international shipping,
maritime security,
marine science and technology,
marine biological diversity,
the marine environment and sustainable development,
climate change along with regional and international cooperation.

The awareness and action spurred by observation of World Oceans Day would be crucial in all these areas.



Let Us Pray

Creator God, you gave us this beautiful Earth to be our home
and we have done a poor job of caring for it.
The sun, the moon, the Oceans, the land,
the stars in the sky, the wind and air, fire and water,
and all living creatures were meant to be instruments of your praise.

And we have stifled these voices
in the din of an industrial way of life that is harming our planet.
We have erred in our understanding of our place within Creation.
Now we face a great task ahead of us.
The courage, wisdom, compassion, and insight we will need
to engage this moment of crisis with clarity and commitment,
to bring our lives back into alignment with the Earth
that is our common home
and where you are ever-present.

AMEN.

