

Remarks of J. Charles Fox, Executive Director, Oceans 5
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- Excellencies, colleagues, thank you. This afternoon, I would like to chat briefly about the how the role of private philanthropy is changing, and how we may be able to capitalize on momentum from the UN Oceans Conference.
- By way of introduction, 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. Over the past 10 years, we've provided about \$120 million to groups working in over 60 countries.
- Our keynote speaker was instrumental in creating Oceans 5 in 2010. Thank you, Sylvia.
- (SLIDE #1) 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 vast majority of ocean giving. Groups like the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Oak Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and Bloomberg Philanthropies are dominant institutions. New entrants include groups like Oceankind and the Bezos Earth Fund.
- (SLIDE #2) 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 new trends that are emerging, many of which were crystalized last week in Lisbon.
- First, a significant group of donors seek to support work to achieve 30x30. This culminated in an unprecedented commitment of \$1 billion last week. We can assume that this will change the pie chart I just showed, resulting in significant new grantmaking in regions like the high seas, Antarctica, and among the Pacific Islands. These currently underserved areas will prove pivotal to achieving 30x30.

- Second, private philanthropy is increasingly interested in tackling issues related to social justice, likely resulting in greater focus on poverty, hunger, equality, equity, and climate.
- Few people appreciate that five countries catch over 85 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.
- Private philanthropy also will become much more involved in coastal fisheries and community-based conservation. Small scale fisheries provide jobs, food, and income to coastal economies. And, unfortunately, these fisheries are notoriously poorly managed.
- 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 primarily serves donors, we have a continued interest in supporting high quality marine conservation projects. We would be happy to hear some of your ideas and assess whether there are ways that we can help.