

SeaBOS participates in Ocean Cleanup

Ocean plastics threaten marine life. SeaBOS members are engaging with Ocean Conservancy through international Ocean Cleanups to raise awareness about the global issue of plastic pollution and the need for collaborative action in the seafood sector.

The Ocean Conservancy program will continue in 2023, including a joint cleanup day on **July 29th** by the three Japanese SeaBOS member companies, and including participation by their respective CEOs. SeaBOS members use the international coastal cleanup program to spotlight the issue of plastic pollution and use it to engage their workforces in the importance of ocean stewardship.

WHAT IS SEABOS?

SeaBOS (Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship) is a unique collaboration leading a science-based global transformation towards sustainable seafood production and a healthy ocean. SeaBOS envisions a future in which sustainable seafood production helps to ensure the long-term viability of fish stocks and the overall health of marine ecosystems.

The initiative works actively to transform the seafood industry, and arose from a scientific process, which identified “keystone actors” in the industry and subsequently convened these companies to establish SeaBOS in 2016. The collaboration includes scientists and nine of the world’s largest seafood companies working to drive systemic change in the sector by implementing evidence-based solutions throughout operations and supply chains. SeaBOS promotes ocean stewardship to enhance resilience, and a more sustainable relationship between humans and the ocean.

WHY IS PLASTICS IMPORTANT?

Plastic pollution in the ocean is a significant environmental concern with far-reaching negative impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems. It is estimated that at least 14 million tons of plastic enters the ocean annually, including “ghost gear” that depletes fish populations and undermines management efforts. Multiple endangered species become entangled in ocean plastics, and some seabirds feed it to their chicks. Floating plastic can travel vast distances in ocean currents, affecting species in even the most remote places. Over time, ocean plastic also breaks down into microplastics that accumulate in seafood habitats, and over 750 marine fish species have been found to ingest plastic particles.

Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems are the foundation for sustainable and resilient fisheries, and SeaBOS recognizes the need for action in line with its vision of ocean stewardship. Addressing plastic pollution can help to safeguard the integrity of seafood production and supply chains, but depends on multi-stakeholder collaboration among scientists, seafood companies, and policymakers.

SeaBOS recognises that tackling ocean plastics requires a holistic approach, and it has published its City-to-Sea framework to illustrate the range of necessary actions, including reducing plastic use, improving waste management and recycling infrastructure, promoting sustainable packaging alternatives, and raising awareness. Through its collaborative efforts, SeaBOS aims to drive positive change and encourage the adoption of sustainable practices throughout the seafood industry.



TASK FORCE V will ensure that SeaBOS members reduce ocean plastics pollution through the development and implementation of a strategy based on scientific knowledge, existing best practices, and the frontiers of innovation.