

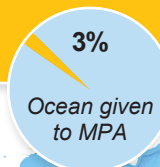
World's oceans under threat

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry will host the 2016 Our Ocean conference in Washington D.C. from September 15-16, focusing on marine protected areas and other related ecological issues



■ **Marine Protected Areas (MPA):** Almost 6m km², area twice size of India

MPA: Any area of seashore or under-water terrain (together with its flora, fauna, historical and cultural features) protected from human impacts – allowing depleted marine resources to recover



MAJOR MARINE ISSUES

CLIMATE CHANGE

■ **Coral bleaching:** Starvation, shrinkage and death of coral reefs

■ **Fish migration:** Many species have moved towards poles to escape warming oceans – disrupting fisheries

■ **Drowning wetlands:** Plant blades unable to grow fast enough to avoid rising water levels

■ **Acidification:** Oceans have absorbed about 30 percent of carbon dioxide humans have sent into atmosphere since 1760 – around 135 billion tonnes

POLLUTION

■ **Nutrients:** From farming, sewage and wastewater. Creates oxygen depleted **dead zones**

■ **Debris:** Trash (significant amounts of plastic packaging) enters ocean – threatens wildlife and habitats



Pictures: Our Ocean 2016