



Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

31 March – 4 April 2014

Closing Intervention, 4 April 2014

The High Seas Alliance, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and their members, including the Pew Environment Group, Greenpeace International, WWF and NRDC are encouraged by this meeting and the constructive and collegial participation by delegations. We also are encouraged that these discussions were held openly and transparently. We too think this has been one of the best meetings to date.

We look forward to the June meeting and encourage discussions between States in missions and capitals in the meantime, so that you are in the best position possible to reach a decision to formally commence negotiations as soon as possible within the Rio+20 deadline.

As governments go back and deliberate next steps, we would like to remind you of the urgency of the problems at hand. The oceans are at the tipping point and they have no voice.

We actually have the capability to wreak havoc on the very balance of elements that makes our planet habitable. So what is needed is the political will to strengthen the current lack of implementation and weak governance structure to balance the short-term interest against the long-term interests of our future generations. Each of you has the power to effect this change. It is not an easy task, but a necessary one. We put the future ocean in your hands.

We look forward to seeing you all in June.