World Oceans Day (WOD) 2026

REIMAGINE

Beyond The World We Know,
A New Relationship With Our Ocean.

Announcement and Challenge to join our 3rd Wave of Action

by NPO 法人

沖縄 O.C.E.A.N. (Ocean Culture & Environment Action Network) since 1995.

A New Wave of Ocean Leadership for a Happy Island Life

We are pleased to announce the relaunch of our NPO Okinawa O.C.E.A.N. for our 3rd Wave of Action with navigation provided by a new team of directors committed to strengthening ties between science, community engagement, restoring our oceans resilience and sustainable island living with fun and interesting activities.

Okinawa O.C.E.A.N. will expand its marine life education activities by sharing science-based knowledge about the marine ecosystems of Kuroshio and the Ryukyu Archipelago — a region whose ocean environment is fundamental to the culture, food, and livelihoods of its communities. Through educational outreach and community-rooted projects, the NPO aims to build local capacity and support sustainable ocean-based livelihoods. By focusing on solutions that

support the wellbeing of local communities, Okinawa O.C.E.A.N. seeks to grow ocean stewardship that can truly last across generations.

June 8th World Oceans Day 2026

Launch of the 3rd Wave of Action

- **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

To support our 3rd Wave of Action we are launching a Membership Drive and warmly invite new friends and old including businesses and community organizations to join us. We want to turn the wheels towards a sustainable future, not to reinvent it. Membership contributions will help fund the following projects listed including our goal to become a 認定 NPO to allow for tax deductible contributions under Japan Tax Code.

NEW PROJECT

- **KUROSHIO MARINE ECO PROJECT**

Led by Fabienne Ziadi-Künzli PhD a Ryudai Graduate and OIST visiting researcher. As a marine scientist, her goal is to help develop practical, community-based projects that support both people and the ocean. This includes working with local communities, including the fishing community, which holds important local knowledge and plays a central role in Okinawa's ocean culture, food systems, and economy. Our goal is to listen, build trust, and create science-based projects that respond to local needs while supporting healthy marine environments and sustainable coastal livelihoods.

- **2nd Blue October 2028**

Building upon the success of previous initiatives and lessons learned towards continued ocean culture awareness and responsibility we would like to announce the planning of the 2nd Blue October in Okinawa for 2028 as we get close to the 2030 goal line of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

• My OCEAN Family Project

Under lessons learned we announce the TERMINATION of the Mermaid Mama Project (from 2022 to 2023) to be replaced by the SDGs focused: "My OCEAN Family Project" for a "Happy Island Life and Healthy Blue Planet" to be led by Rina Ishikawa 1st Vice Chairperson. We acknowledge the support provided by the **"Full Circle Fund of RSF Social Finance"** and hope for their support for this fledgling project as we are under new management.

We will continue educating youth and their families about traditional Ryukyu and Okinawa culture and food systems while we continue to investigate ways to prevent food waste. A series of talks, events and hands on workshops for youth in career development including lifelong learning with UN SDGs awareness and systems thinking.

• Continuation of Activities to Protect the Ocean

We will continue to promote ocean stewardship, responsibility and the awareness that without a healthy ocean ecosystem life is not sustainable on this tiny blue dot, an island in the black ocean of space.
Our Earth Ship, our only home.
We are all Shimanchu!
"No Ocean, No Life!" by Dr. Sylvia Earle. We agree!

• BEACH CLEANUP DAY

Third Sunday of Every Month.

We encourage everyone to sign up on the OCCN.jp and cleanup. Started in 1993 with the record being held by the Naha Clean Beach Club led by Tomokazu Gushikami with beach cleanups every third Sunday at Senagajima since 1999.

• "MY OCEAN CHARTER"

We are proud to reissue the "My Ocean Charter", a personal pledge encouraging individuals and families to adopt everyday practices that contribute to healthier oceans and sustainable islands. First issued in 1998 during the

UNESCO International Year of the Ocean decorated with a woodblock print by Naka Bokunen.
It starts with one action and one hand.
All for the OCEAN for All!

For information on membership, sponsorship and partnership opportunities, and upcoming events, please contact:

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Background Information

Okinawa O.C.E.A.N. was founded in 1995 by members of Okinawa International Clean Beach Club (OICBC) with the mission:
“To protect the right of Children today to grow up on clean beaches and healthy oceans until we find the solutions to marine litter and restoring our ocean’s resilience.” We were further inspired by the words of Baba Dioum a Senegalese forestry engineer who said:
“In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.”
Our I ❤ Okinawa Campaign ® and Okinawa Island Wide Cleanup Yuimaru was the model that led to the establishment of the Okinawa Clean Coast Network (OCCN.jp) in 2002 co-founded with and led by the 11th Division HQ of the Japan Coast Guard along with other government agencies famous for its yearly Marugoto Okinawa Clean Beach. It’s easy to join.

Periods of Activity

- First Wave: 1992–2005
- Second Wave: 2005–2026
- Third Wave: 2026–2033