

Oceans 2026

Actions to Protect the Deep Ocean, Fight the Plastics Scourge and End Overfishing



DATE AND TIME 28 APRIL 2026

UTC 1500 CEST 1700

IST 2030 PDT 0800

PROGRAM

CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION

Your Webinar Link will be issued on 27 April 2026

Topical perspectives

Prof. Lisa Levin PhD, University of California, and the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative, USA

Deep ocean discovery, dangers and decisions:
Keynote on the Deep Ocean

Ms Amber Fatima, Senior Director, I.I.M.U.N., Mumbai, India

Land-based ocean support through activism in plastic waste recovery: Civic society terrestrial actions perspective and lessons

II Senior expert contributions

Prof. Micheni Ntiba PhD, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Societal awareness and action needs

V Adm ret Ben Bekkering, IMCCS, The Netherlands

Institutional action needs: ecological, economic and security aspects of our oceans

GMA Academy: Moderator and thematic guidance

Prof. Peter Droege, LISD, Liechtenstein

Welcome and UNCLOS update

Admiral ret Robin Dhowan, SAMDeS India

Wrap-up and outlook to hybrid GMA conference in Delhi on World Oceans Day, 8 June 2026

Commodore ret Sujeet Samaddar, SAMDeS India

The oceans have emerged as the major planetary amplifier of climate disturbance dynamics, and the site of major, growing disruptions that impact negatively on their very ability to not only stabilize the climate in the longer term but to also sustain the human population with food perhaps even in a more immediate future.

The science and action topics of GMA.A Webinar 7 (deep ocean, plastic pollution, overfishing) are looked at against the explicit realization that virtually all existential pressures facing the oceans - and the corollary climate feedback and tipping dynamics - stem from human behavior, decisions and sources - mostly on land.

At this time climate shifts no longer only threaten global security: we can now see how a wavering global peace and security commitment both further distracts from, and through its currently ever-expanding emissions and pollution impact, greatly adds to the anthropogenic pressures on climate stability and ocean health.

Our experts address these key questions:

- What are the key action items the global community must embrace in any domain affecting the health of oceans?
- What are the most important measures required, especially those that may seem remote to but still of enormous and positive impact to the ocean's ecosystems?

COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

Liechtenstein Institute for Strategic Development AG, LISD Liechtenstein
Society for Aerospace, Maritime and Defense Studies, SAMDeS India
International Military Council on Climate and Security, Netherlands
The Trebuchet—Breaking Down Barriers / Building Bridges, USA
Commonwealth Security and Resilience Group, UK
India's International Movement to Unite Nations, I.I.M.U.N.



Webinar for Ocean and Climate Policy Innovators, Researchers and Media
Invitation to the Global Maritime Accord – Academy Webinar 7
Oceans 2026



Vice Admiral Ben Bekkering (Retd), International Military Council on Climate and Security (IMCCS), served 40 years with the Royal Netherlands Navy until 2019. He spent most of his junior years on board frigates, in various roles. During the second part of his career, he rotated between command positions at sea and staff positions ashore. He commanded a frigate, an amphibious ship and one of NATO's permanent Task Groups. Around Somalia he rallied local community support in discouraging piracy. His staff positions were mainly in the field of plans and policy, both in the naval and the defense staff. In 2015 he became Deputy Commander of the Navy. He concluded his military career in Brussels, serving as the Netherlands' Permanent Military Representative to NATO and the EU from 2016 to 2019.



Admiral RK Dhowan (Retd), formerly the 22nd Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, had a distinguished career of 42 years. Since he has served as 5th Chairman of the National Maritime Foundation, India's premier maritime think tank. The Foundation benefitted from his vast experience in the Navy, and formulation of wide range of maritime publications including; Ensuring Secure Seas: Indian Maritime Security Strategy (2015); Indias Maritime Heritage (2016), United Through Oceans: International Fleet Review 2016. In 2020 the Admiral launched The Society for Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Studies (SAMDeS) as the Founding Chairman. Here the mission is to draft the Global Maritime Accord with the vision to Save Oceans for a Safe World.



Professor Peter Droege is founding director of LISD, the Liechtenstein Institute for Strategic Development, and leading international urban sustainability expert. His academic career stretches from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Tokyo to his position as Lend Lease Chair and Professor of Urban Design at the University of Sydney. At the University of Liechtenstein he developed a highly influential Chair for Sustainable Spatial Development, which he held over a period of eight years. He is the author of more than 100 books, chapters and papers, and including the most recent **EarthDecade.org**



Ms. Aamber Fatima completed her schooling from Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School before relocating to Mumbai for her higher education. At Jai Hind College, she pursued her +2 studies in Humanities and is now pursuing her education in the field of Law. In 2020, she started as an intern at I.I.M.U.N (India's International Movement to Unite Nations). and she now serves as Senior Director. She heads the Social Impact department of the organisation and under this does various social impact activities. Throughout her tenure, she has executed conferences across 12 cities in India, a conference in Belgium and an I.I.M.U.N. study tour in the United Kingdom.



Professor Lisa Levin is a Distinguished Professor Emerita at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, and served as the Director for the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from 2011-2017. Levin's research interests include biodiversity of deep-sea continental margin ecosystems and the effects of climate change and direct human disturbance in the deep sea. Levin's deep-sea research has been conducted on the margins of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans using ships, submersibles and remotely operated vehicles to conduct experiments. She has participated in over 50 oceanographic expeditions around the world and served as Chief Scientist on many of these. Dr. Levin is co-founder and co-lead of the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative, which seeks to integrate science, technology, policy, law and economics to advise on ecosystem-based management of resource use in the deep ocean and strategies to maintain the integrity of deep-ocean ecosystems within and beyond national jurisdictions.



Professor Micheni Japhet Ntiba is a Full Professor of Zoology specializing in Fisheries and Marine Biology at the University of Nairobi where he started working in 1989 to date. He was Chairman of the Department of Zoology and Director of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Nairobi. He has held significant positions in Government including First Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) of the East African Community EAC) from 1997-2002 in Jinja Uganda. In the Public Service of Kenya, he was Principal Secretary for the State Department of Fisheries and the Blue Economy from 2008 to 2020, Principal Secretary for University Education and Research in 2018, and Chief Administrative Secretary for the State Law Office from 2021 to 2022.



Commodore Sujeet Samaddar is the Co-founder of the Society for Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Studies SAMDeS: Adviser MRAI: Member, FICCI Aero & Def Committee: Distinguished Fellow, CAPS: Member, Governing Council, SIOS: Member Ae.S.I: Former VP-TATA NOVA, CEO ShinMaywa India, Admira Distributed Hybrid Energy Systems. Besides setting up a major industrial complex in India through focused JVs, strategic partnering with Indian and foreign companies and experts operating in the specific areas of aerospace, defence and material recycling industries, his professional interest is to bring in smart technologies to India for sustainable development particularly on recycling and promoting the circular economy.

COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

Liechtenstein Institute for Strategic Development - Society for Aerospace, Maritime and Defense Studies -
International Military Council on Climate and Security - The Trebuchet - Commonwealth Security and Resilience Group -
India's International Movement to Unite Nations

GMA.A Webinar 7 is staged in preparation of our Ocean Action Year launch on World Ocean Day, 8 June 2026.

ABOUT THE GMA / GMAA

The Global Maritime Accord (GMA) is the first integrated and coordinated approach towards the harmonized administration and governance of the oceans, especially the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. The GMA Academy (GMA.A), an LISD initiative, is the learning, teaching, research and exchange platform for drafting the GMA.

GMA and GMA.A are focused on the health of oceans in a globally shared effort. They aim to strengthen and support the implementation of the Intergovernmental Conference on legally binding instruments under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the safeguarding of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Members of the Accord development effort include oceanographers, lawyers, environmentalists, diplomats and security experts from Australia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Germany, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Kenya, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and United States.

Co-chairs

Admiral ret Robin K. Dhowan, SAMDeS GMA

Professor Peter Droege, LISD GMA.A

Program mentor

Commodore ret Sujeet Samaddar SAMDeS India

*globalmaritimeaccord.org is your program URL for past recordings



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