

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**WORLD OCEANS DAY 2017**

**Me to the Sea: Our actions can help our oceans**

**Celebrate the fact that our daily actions can help the oceans and explore all that they do for us with an exciting line up of events at uShaka Sea World on the 3 and 4, and the 8 June. Special activities include a beach clean-up, the launch of a new initiative to reduce plastics entering the ocean, fun activities in the uShaka Village Walk and special activities and presentations in uShaka Sea World.**

A healthy world for humans depends on healthy oceans – and the 8 June is the day to celebrate our oceans and remind us of just why we need to care for the ocean.

* Every second breath we take is thanks to tiny plants in the oceans.
* The oceans provide us with food
* They regulate our climate
* They clean the water we drink
* They transport most of the goods we use
* They provide us with minerals and medicines
* They inspire us with their majesty and beauty

World Oceans Day is a day dedicated to celebrating the world’s oceans, their amazing diversity and the critical role that they play in sustaining life on land. Covering over 70% of the earths’ surface, the health of people is critically linked to the health of the oceans. Unfortunately, because most of us only see the blue surface of the ocean we tend to underestimate its role in our survival. Life on earth is possible because of our oceans.

Highlights of the celebrations for World Oceans Day at uShaka Sea World include our theme ME TO THE SEA:

* uShaka Village Walk – meet us at our special display on the 3 and 4 June, and meet our very own mermaid. She will explain how the plastics that we use in everyday cleaning products harm animals in the oceans.
* uShaka Sea World – join us in our Turtle area and find out how plastics are impacting on turtles in the oceans. We have arranged for activities for all ages – from colouring in games to special presentations, and a host of give-aways for lucky visitors.
* On the 8 June SAAMBR, Plastics SA and Sasolwill be hosting a special breakfast for local plastic raw material producers, importers, plastics manufacturers and recyclers to launch Operation Clean Sweep, an international plastics industry initiative to promote the ‘Zero Plastics Resin Pellets and Flakes in the environment’ initiative.
* At the same time as the launch a team of SAAMBR and uShaka Marine World team members will be cleaning the uShaka beach. They will be putting Me to the Sea into action.
* Through our commitment to the South African Marine and Coastal Educators Network, our Education Department has prepared a range of educational resources, specially designed to help other organisations celebrate World Oceans Day with learners and teachers.

**World Oceans Day Background:**

[*The Ocean Project*](http://www.theoceanproject.org/)*has promoted and coordinated World Oceans Day globally since 2002. We do so with a team based in the US and also advisors and volunteers in dozens of countries. We are a collaborative organization and work in partnership with hundreds of organizations, including*[*World Ocean Network*](http://www.worldoceannetwork.org/)*, the*[*Association of Zoos and Aquariums*](https://www.aza.org/)*, and many other networks from all sectors. Thank you to the Government of Canada for proposing the concept of a World Ocean Day, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and to the United Nations for officially recognizing 8 June as World Oceans Day, since late 2008. World Oceans Day® is trademarked to protect it from those who might have commercial or counterproductive interests. All information, materials and resources on this site and associated with World Oceans Day are free to use to those who are celebrating World Oceans Day as a way to bring about a healthier ocean and a better future.*

World Oceans Day is celebrated around the world in cities and rural villages, close to the sea and far inland. In fact, over 600 events were hosted around the world last year.

**For more information please contact our Media Relations Officer:**

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