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Sustainable Ocean Alliance Statement on the Supreme Court's EPA Ruling

SAN FRANCISCO – (June 30, 2022) – “Today's Supreme Court ruling represents yet another devastating blow for the health of our planet and our oceans. In 2021, greenhouse gas emissions from energy rose sharply, reaching their highest ever level at [40.8 Gt of CO2 equivalent](#), with [83% of the carbon cycle circulating through the ocean](#),” said Daniela Fernandez, Founder and CEO of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance.

“Certain marine and coastal ecosystems play a critical role in countering emissions by sequestering and storing what’s known as “blue carbon.” Mangroves and salt marshes, for example, remove carbon from the atmosphere at a rate [10 times greater](#) and store five times more carbon per acre than tropical forests. These ecosystems are critical to climate change mitigation. I'm proud to share that Sustainable Ocean Alliance has specifically funded 15 innovative solutions that have collectively **reduced, avoided, or sequestered [15,540 metric tons of CO2 as of 2021](#)**.”

“We know that harmful pollutants and emissions are inextricably linked to climate justice and have an outsized impact on marginalized and vulnerable communities, with [250,000 people projected to die every year](#) from 2030-2050 as a direct result of climate change. In the absence of sound, scientifically backed policy and leadership from our elected officials, the private and social sectors must join youth activists in fighting to mitigate climate change and simultaneously restore the health of our oceans, leveraging their political influence and providing resources to the grassroots champions and ecopreneurs championing this movement.”

“Now more than ever, urgent and concerted efforts to combat the climate crisis are essential. Sustainable Ocean Alliance will continue working with our [network of over 6,000 diverse young ocean leaders](#) in 165 countries to support those most impacted by this ruling and its implications, driving innovative solutions and fueling the Blue economy.”

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About Sustainable Ocean Alliance

SOA is a global organization created for youth – by youth – dedicated to restoring the health of the ocean in our lifetime. We were founded in 2014 by Daniela Fernandez during her first year of college, after she attended a United Nations meeting on climate change – and was stunned to realize none of the experts had a plan to stop it. Since then, SOA has grown into the world’s largest network of young ocean leaders, innovators, and policymakers, and we have

accelerated 222 solutions to the greatest threats facing our ocean. These solutions include for-profit startups and community-led nonprofit projects around the world

Why focus on the ocean?

The ocean sustains almost all life on this planet – and is our greatest protection against climate change. It produces more than half our oxygen, and stores 50 times more carbon dioxide than our atmosphere. Mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass meadows remove 10 times more CO₂ than the rainforest and store 3 to 5 times more carbon. Coral reefs reduce 97% of wave energy, while mangroves reduce 66% of wave height. Right now, the situation is critical. We must protect the ocean, so it can continue to protect us. Did you know: **93% of excess heat** from global warming is absorbed by the ocean; **1 in 3 marine animals face extinction** due to the rise of ocean temperatures; **250,000 people will die every year** from 2030-2050 as a direct result of climate change.