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Media Advisory:

Secretary Laird to Attend United Nations Conference on Ocean Acidification

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Building on the actions taken by the Brown administration to combat ocean acidification, California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird will travel to New York next week to attend the [United Nations Conference to Implement Sustainable Development Goal 14](#): Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. This conference, paired with a side event hosted by the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance), will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and aims to bring participants together to help reverse the decline in the health of our oceans worldwide.

The UN Conference provides a venue for the OA Alliance and its members to insist on deeper commitments to action on ocean acidification by UN member nations and help connect the importance of healthy oceans to the overarching challenges of confronting climate change and reducing carbon emissions.

WHAT: United Nations Conference to Implement Sustainable Development Goal 14
WHEN: June 5-9, 2017
WHERE: United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY
NOTE: Media representatives who wish to apply for accreditation independently must complete the online application accessible through the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit website at www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/accreditation.shtml.

Over the past few years, California has helped to spearhead a number of efforts to address ocean acidification.

- Joined with the state of Oregon to jointly sponsor a high-level science panel to help address the issue of ocean acidification and hypoxia. The [West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel](#) provides state-level decision makers with the knowledge needed to evaluate and develop action plans for these complex issues.
- Allocated approximately \$3 million to fund the implementation of the Panel's recommendations, including studying the effectiveness of seagrass and Marine Protected Areas in changing ocean conditions.
- Worked closely with West Coast partners to advance and integrate ocean monitoring across the West Coast (stretching from Alaska to Mexico border).
- Joined with the West Coast states of Oregon and Washington as well as British Columbia to launch the OA Alliance in December 2016 (www.oaalliance.org).

For more information on the UN Conference and associated side events, please visit: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=3280>

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