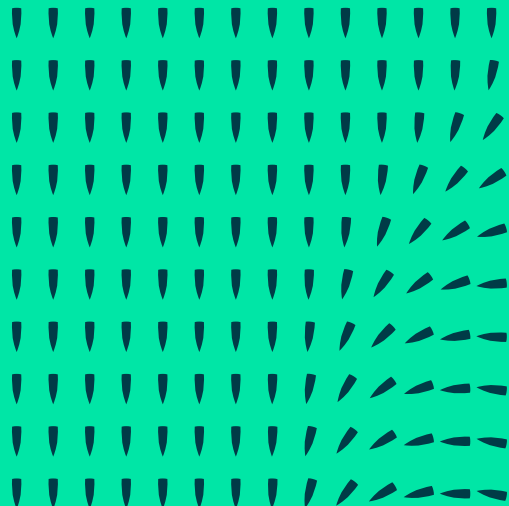


**TOWARDS A  
UNIVERSAL  
DECLARATION  
OF OCEAN  
RIGHTS**



**THE  
OCEAN  
RACE**

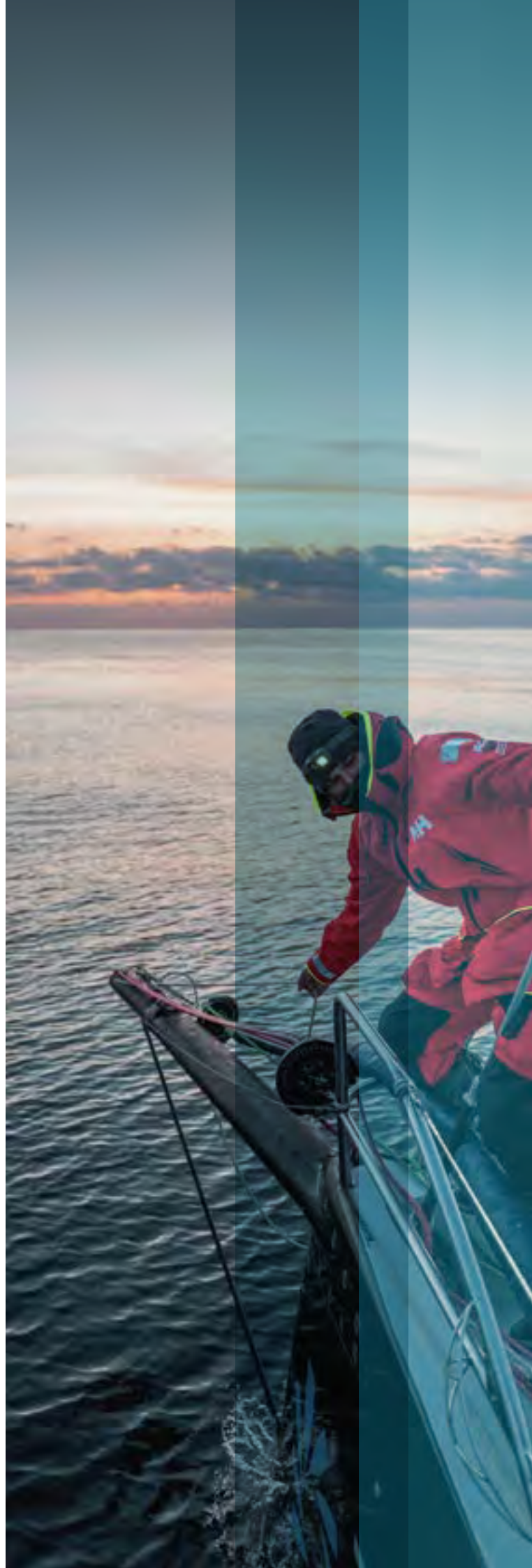
# OUR OBJECTIVE

The Ocean Race is the toughest test of a team in sport – and sailing's greatest round-the-world challenge. And we are Racing with Purpose: Sustainability is a core value of the race, as we redouble our efforts to restore ocean health and lead, inspire and engage on this critical issue.

Just as we do in sports, we want to unite people and help them achieve the extraordinary.

This is why The Ocean Race has an ambitious aim of supporting the creation of a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights by 2030, which sets out a comprehensive way of effectively governing the ocean to ensure it is properly protected. Giving the ocean a voice in this way has the potential to accelerate action at the scale and speed that is desperately needed.

Exact formulation, structure and legal standing are still to be defined in a wide consultation with policy-makers, scientists, academics, industry, legal experts, global thought-leaders, NGO's and many others.





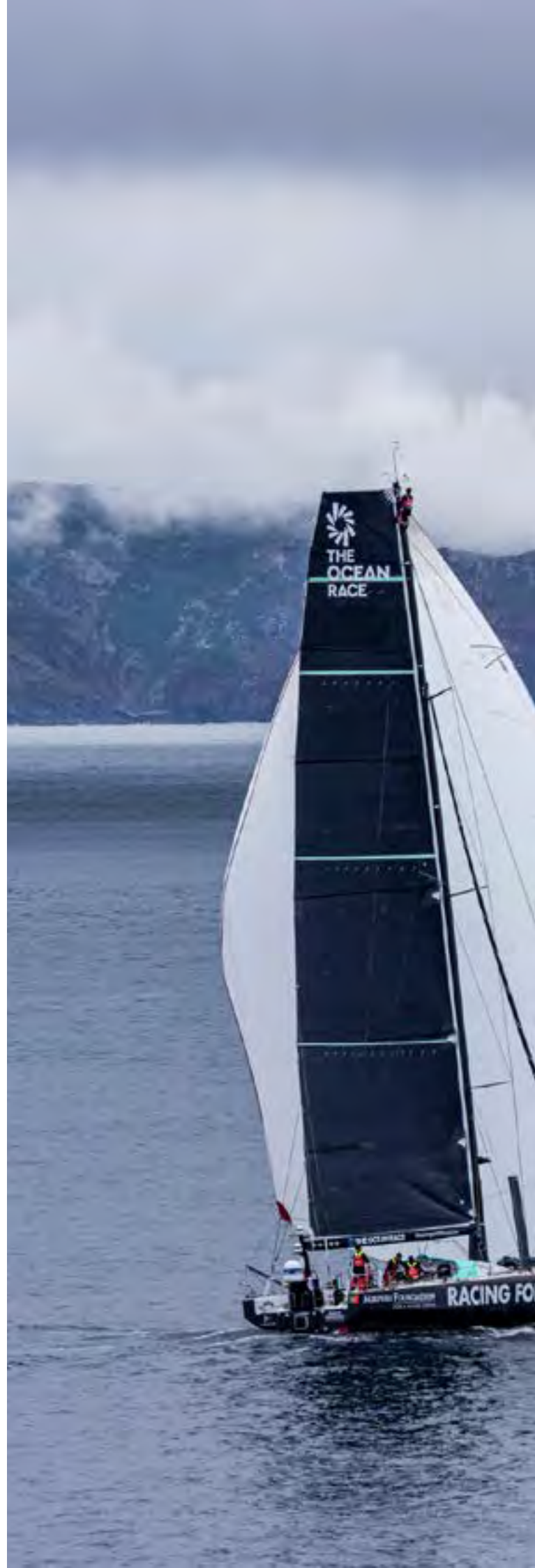
# WHY IS THE OCEAN RACE ADVOCATING FOR OCEAN RIGHTS?

Nature is at the heart of what we do – the race-track that we compete on and the wind that powers our boats. Since The Ocean Race began in 1973 sailors have witnessed first-hand how the health of the ocean is declining. They sail through garbage belts, see illegal fishing fleets and encounter less and less wildlife as they circumnavigate the planet.

The Ocean Race has the reach, platform and ambition that can make a difference. By using the attention that the Race attracts, the millions of fans and followers across the world and our network of ocean advocates, we can drive the collaboration that is needed to give the ocean the voice that it deserves.

We're passionate about using the power of our sport to help accelerate action and leave a positive legacy for future generations. We have a history of achieving the extraordinary and we are harnessing this in our efforts to help the ocean and to accelerate change for people and the planet.

As a sporting event we believe in fair play and a clear set of rules, something that the ocean is greatly lacking. Having witnessed the decline of the ocean – our racetrack – as a result of the lack of comprehensive rules, we are determined to take action. Our unique global platform and politically neutral perspective on ocean matters, helps open key conversations with policymakers.



# HOW ARE WE DOING IT?

Collaboration is at the heart of our drive for ocean rights. The idea needs to be embraced on a global scale, with the backing of countries, businesses, organisations and other significant stakeholders.

The Ocean Race has been working for over a year to explore the concept and build support with key decision-makers across the world through The Ocean Race Summits. Through a series of 12 Summits, taking place between 2019 and 2023, these high-level events provide a unique opportunity to gather a range of insights from across the globe to input into a potential Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights. A series of Innovation Workshops called **"The Genova Process"** follow the different summits, where experts in international law, policy, diplomacy and ocean science analyse and explore ways in which action for the ocean can be accelerated. A core team of experts will draft principles underpinning ocean rights.

The collective insights and analysis around ocean rights, gleaned from this work, will form the basis of draft principles for a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights that we plan to present in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly to their members in September 2023. Thereafter, if the concept is agreed, the Declaration would be written with input from countries across the world in a collective effort.

The Ocean Race is also driving support for ocean rights through involvement at the world's landmark environmental conferences where decisions are made about the future of our planet, such as the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC or COP) the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UN Ocean Conference among others. Relay4Nature, an initiative developed by The Ocean Race in collaboration with UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson, is present at the events to give the ocean a voice on the critical issues affecting our planet. Symbolised by Nature's Baton, Relay4Nature calls on leaders to take urgent action to protect the ocean and links the international conferences addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and the decline of the ocean's health in order to underline the inseparable connectivity of the planet's environmental problems and solutions.





The Ocean Race's work on ocean rights has got traction from a number of high-level supporters. Cabo Verde, which will be a Race stopover for the first time next year, has given its backing. Prime Minister Ulisses Correia de Silva said: "As a Small Island Developing State, Cabo Verde's economy and future is inextricably linked to the health of the ocean. We need the seas to be protected and well-managed, yet Earth's ocean has no voice, no advocate, and no guardian. Clearly the time has come for a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights, and we stand with The Ocean Race in working to make this a reality by 2030."

**Danny Faure**, former President of the Seychelles is a core part of the advocacy efforts, while business leaders are also making a stand for the ocean. Carl-Henric Svanberg, Chairman of Volvo Group and former Chairman of the European Round Table for Industry, spoke at The Ocean Race Summit Europe. "We are fully committed to living in harmony with Nature. The Ocean is our common ground and key to the existence of life. But as it is not part of any effective legal system, it does not have legal rights." The **IUCN** has also already publicly backed The Ocean Race in its mission towards a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights.

### One BlueVoice campaign

As part of its efforts, The Ocean Race has launched One Blue Voice, a new initiative to drive public support for ocean rights. The ambitious campaign aims to give the ocean a voice and put in place a global framework for protecting the marine environment, which plays a critical role in maintaining the health of the planet.

Through the campaign, the round-the-world sailing race is calling on members of the public to show their support for a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights by signing a petition which will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September 2023, alongside draft principles underpinning ocean rights.



# HOW CAN MEMBER STATES ENGAGE IN OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS A UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF OCEAN RIGHTS?

- 1 | Contributing in co-drafting the principles document to present to the UNGA 2023
- 2 | Co-signing the document to present to the UNGA 2023
- 3 | Providing public advocacy support when needed
- 4 | Identifying persons to work on drafting principles underpinning ocean rights in the Genova Process
- 5 | Co-hosting side events at UN conferences (COP27, COP28, UNGA 2022, UNGA 2023...)
- 6 | Start national legislation proposals recognizing Ocean Rights







# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR AND LOOKING FORWARD:

From 2021 to June 2022 we have been consulting stakeholders, forming partnerships, starting an ocean rights dedicated summits series, and gathering political support.

## MILESTONE

## TIMEFRAME

Host 6 more Summits to raise awareness on the topic of Ocean Rights among key stakeholders and become a key Global Forum for Ocean issues.

**2022-23**

Secure commitments calling for the need of a Universal Declaration from at least 10 countries

**2022-23**

Through the Geneva Process establish a drafting committee and present a Roadmap to 2030 to the United Nations

**2023**

Introduction of a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights

**2030**

# THE OCEAN RACE SUMMITS

## 2019

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1. Genova

## 2020

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2. The Hague
3. Newport

## 2021

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4. **July** ————— Europe

## 2022

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5. **21th March** ————— Seychelles
6. **2th June** ————— Stockholm +50

## 2023

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7. **10 or 11 Jan** ————— Alicante – Race Start – TBC
8. **23 or 24 Jan** ————— Cabo Verde
- X **Feb** ————— Cape Town
9. **18 or 19 Mar** ————— Itajaí (Brazil)
10. **16 or 17 May** ————— Newport
11. **31 May or 1 Jun** ————— Aarhus (possibly a youth summit)
12. **27 or 28 June** ————— Genoa
- September** ————— Event in New York, at the UN, presenting draft principles



