



National Marine Educators Association



Marine Education Society  
of Australasia Inc

The One Ocean Marine Forum (OOMF) is an international marine education initiative planned to occur in Hawaii in July 2005. This project is the result of long-time associations between members of Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) and the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) in North America. There have been many cross cultural visits over recent years exposing the challenges in knowledge and resource sharing. The Forum, which will be the first formal international meeting of marine educators, is seen as the next logical step in this process.

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### **Forum details**

The One Ocean Marine Forum has been planned to link with the annual NMEA Conference, *Nana I Ke Kumu, Nana I Ke Kai* – “look to the source, look to the sea” that will be held on the Hawaiian Island of Maui in July 2005. However, the Forum is a separate meeting that will follow the NMEA conference and will be attended only by selected Delegates from around the Pacific Basin. The One Ocean Marine Forum will be held at the Maui Community College (the same venue as the NMEA conference). Accommodation for Forum Delegates will be available at the adjacent Maui hotels.

- NMEA Conference – July 11 to 16, 2005 [www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05TS.html](http://www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05TS.html)
- One Ocean Marine Forum – July 17 and 18, 2005
- Travel to Forum and NMEA Conference [www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05AIR.html](http://www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05AIR.html)

### **Rationale**

The Pacific Ocean stretches from the Southern Ocean to the Arctic Ocean. It contains more than half of all the free-flowing water on the planet and covers more than one third of the earth’s surface. The actions of all nations in the Pacific Basin affect each other, as our ocean, is one

ocean. Our lives are entwined and depend upon the sea. An unhealthy ocean is detrimental to the wellbeing of all the Pacific Basin nations, environmentally, socially, culturally and economically.

The Pacific Ocean is a region that contains the greatest biological diversity on the planet and sustains the lives of people who inhabit the region. Oceans are under assault as never before in history. From global warming to over-fishing the oceans can no longer support the demands of a rapidly growing world population. The care of the Pacific Ocean is the responsibility of all people. Marine education is a mechanism for improving understanding, attitudes and action for conservation and sustainable use of the Pacific Ocean. It is through education that wise use and conservation of the Pacific can occur.

### **Forum vision**

To facilitate a network of marine environmental educators for the Pacific Basin.

### **Forum aims**

1. To facilitate the development of Pacific Basin regional marine education leadership networks that will share information, ideas, resources and reduce duplication.
2. To initiate the development of a Pacific Basin Marine Education Networking Strategy.
3. Through education, to contribute to a cultural shift towards sustainable use of ocean resources across the Pacific Basin.
4. To use the 2005 Pacific Basin Forum as a model for a World One Ocean Marine Forum.

### **Forum format**

Although NMEA and MESA are the conveners of the One Ocean Marine Forum, the Forum is a stand-alone meeting that will follow the 2005 NMEA Conference. Rather than being a meeting where participants deliver papers, the Forum is set to be conducted using an open space facilitation format. Over two days up to 40 Forum Delegates will address tasks such as:

1. Compilation of a written statement that reflects the Delegates' collective response to the challenge of developing meaningful and sustained cooperation among marine educators across the Pacific Basin.
2. Compilation of a One Ocean Marine Education Register that contains the following elements:
  - a list of key marine education entities in the Pacific Basin;
  - a list of best practice marine education projects and initiatives in the Pacific Basin; and,
  - a list of potential cooperative international marine education projects in the Pacific Basin.Although Pacific Basin nations would be the focus of this Register, it will be prepared as the foundation for a World One Ocean Marine Education Register.
3. Compilation of a preliminary Marine Education Network Strategy and set of Guiding Principles for the Pacific Basin.
4. Compilation of a 5 year plan for international cooperation in marine education.

### **Selection of Forum Delegates**

It is planned that up to 20 International Delegates will be invited to participate in the Forum. These delegates will be offered funding support to do so (note: funding is not yet secured). In addition to this, a number of NMEA and MESA Delegates will also be invited to participate in the Forum. Funding support may also be available for these Delegates. The total number of Delegates participating in the two day Forum will be between 30 and 40.

Forum Delegates will be identified either through the OOMF [Registration of Interest Form](#) or via work with conservation and education agencies in each nation and through international contacts coordinated by the MESA and NMEA OOMF Conveners. Forum Delegates should be prepared to work cooperatively for a common vision and be able to demonstrate a commitment to ocean sustainability and conservation. The invited Delegates must address the following criteria:

- an ability to address the Forum aims;
- a capacity to communicate and work with marine and other educators in their nation; and,
- a capacity to act upon the Forum outcomes in their nation and internationally.

Although Pacific Basin nations are the key focus of the 2005 Forum, marine educators from other nations are invited to complete the OOMF [Registration of Interest Form](#). For selection of International Delegates the Pacific Basin will be divided into sections. NE, SE, NW, SW and Central E and W. A total of 3 or 4 International Delegates will be identified and invited from each of the sectors. The process of receiving registrations of interest and recruitment of all invited Delegates will occur between October 2004 and February 2005. The International Delegate list and invited MESA and NMEA Delegates list will be finalised in March 2005.

### **Funding for Forum Delegates**

At this stage (October 2004) the NMEA OOMF Conveners are seeking funding support for the 20 International Delegate airfares and accommodation (July 16<sup>th</sup> through to July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005). The MESA and NMEA OOMF Conveners are also seeking funding support for airfares and accommodation for their invited Delegates. However, it is also anticipated that the close association between the NMEA Maui 2005 conference and the Forum will mean that some NMEA and MESA Forum Delegates will not require funding support, especially for airfares. When filling in the Registration of Interest Form, please indicate if this is the case.

Living expenses (some meals and transport) of Forum Delegates will not be covered in funding support offered but these expenses are not anticipated to be great as we plan to include breakfast and lunch as part of the Forum funding package. NMEA 2005 Maui conference fees, accommodation or other costs will **not** be covered as part of Forum funding support.

### **Opportunities for Forum Delegates**

The Forum will offer Delegates a unique opportunity for international networking and exchange of ideas and programs in marine education. There will be opportunity for Delegates to:

- become familiar with marine education conditions and approaches in different nations;
- meet key educators from around the Pacific Basin;
- create partnerships and promote cooperation in marine education;
- obtain cross-cultural perspectives; and,
- build personal, institutional, national and international networks.

Participate in the One Ocean Marine Forum is designed to:

- improve understanding of the Pacific Ocean Basin;
- consider the ecologically sustainable development and management of the ocean;
- promote peaceful use of the ocean; and,

- initiate significant international cooperation in marine education.

### **Measures of evaluation**

1. Compilation and publication of a written statement that reflects the Forum Delegates' collective response to the challenge of developing meaningful and sustained corporation among marine educators across the Pacific Basin.
2. Compilation and publication of a register that contains the following three elements:
  - a list of key marine education entities in the Pacific Basin;
  - a list of best practice marine education projects and initiatives in the Pacific Basin; and,
  - a list of potential cooperative international marine education projects in the Pacific Basin.Although Pacific Basin nations will be the focus of this register, it will be prepared as the foundation for a World One Ocean Marine Education Register.
3. Compilation and publication of a preliminary Marine Education Network Strategy for the Pacific Basin. This Strategy should act as a model for international cooperation in environmental education and would include a set of Guiding Principles.
4. Compilation and publication of a 5 year plan for international cooperation in marine education.

### **Future One Ocean Marine Forums**

A World One Ocean Marine Forum is planned to be held in conjunction with the NMEA 2006 Conference that will be held in New York City. This Forum will build on the network established in Hawaii and include Pacific as well as Atlantic Basin participants.

### **Acknowledgements**

A small group of NMEA and MESA members have been developing plans for the One Ocean Marine Forum since June 2000 and now form the OOMF Conveners group.

- NMEA OOMF Conveners: Mike Spranger and Vicki Osis.
- MESA OOMF Conveners: Jody Plecas, Harry Breidahl and Mark Rodrigue.

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### **OOMF web links**

National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) [www.marine-ed.org/](http://www.marine-ed.org/)  
NMEA Maui 2005 Conference [www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05TS.html](http://www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05TS.html)  
Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) [www.mesa.edu.au/](http://www.mesa.edu.au/)  
Department of the Environment and Heritage [www.deh.gov.au/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/index.html)

### **OOMF contacts**

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