

# TIME FOR 'OCEAN CARBON SINKS' TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COPENHAGEN CLIMATE DEAL

## Press Release:

The new international climate agreement (post Kyoto), should give greater emphasis to the role of earth systems in carbon storage and encourage scaled-up research into the ocean's role in climate control and carbon sequestration.

Careful management of natural carbon sinks could contribute to climate stabilisation and lead towards improved environmental and living standards.

### Key Points:

- Expected emission reductions will not be sufficient to avoid an average global temperature rise of greater than 2°C, beyond which dangerous and potentially rapid climate change may occur
- There is a need for greater emphasis on sinks in conformance with the text of the UNFCCC convention, agreed at Rio de Janeiro in 1992
- “Natural land and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> sinks have removed 54% (or 4.8 Gt C per year) of all CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from human activities during the period 2000-2007” (Source: [www.globalcarbonproject.org](http://www.globalcarbonproject.org)). Greater co-ordinated effort is required to understand the important role of sinks and how to maintain and potentially enhance their function at all scales
- The new international climate agreement should include ocean sinks. This will ensure that greater effort is focused on technologies that either maintain or enhance sink function
- Microscopic ocean plants (phytoplankton) play a central part in the Earth's natural carbon cycle, driving some 45% of annual carbon turnover and providing long term storage of carbon deep within the ocean. Today the **oceans contain 93% of the biologically active carbon within the global carbon cycle.**

Ocean Nourishment Corporation aims to work with governments and the engineering and scientific research communities to preserve or enhance this important function of ocean plants and the long-term biological draw down of carbon. We support the urgent need for increased funding for fully independent research into technologies that can either preserve or enhance secure long-term sinks of carbon. This will lead to responsible implementation guided by stringent risk management frameworks.



*Working towards the goals of climate stabilisation and poverty alleviation*