

Brest, April 4, 2013

### 3<sup>rd</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress: Website and Call for Papers now Online

Every four years, the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC) brings together major marine-conservation players worldwide: marine protected areas managers and users, scientists, officials and political leaders... Together, they work out solutions to combine the protection and sustainable development of the oceans.

After Geelong (Australia) in 2005 and Washington (United States) in 2009, the Agence des aires marines protégées (French Marine Protected Areas Agency) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are organizing the third edition of IMPAC in France, under the high patronage of the President of France. **Marseille**, which serves as European Capital of Culture for 2013, will thus welcome around 1000 experts from around the globe, **from October 21 to October 25, 2013**. They will attend five days of presentations, debates and exchanges at Pharo Palace, a prestigious location overlooking the Old Port. This will be followed by an international high-level political meeting in **Corsica**, on **October 26 and 27** (open on invitation only).

#### + An Online Congress

The official IMPAC3 website is now online: [www.impact3.org](http://www.impact3.org). It provides a platform for **sharing information, expertise and opinion**. It will allow all those unable to travel to Marseille to follow, participate and contribute to the event. Among other features, a WebTV will broadcast live highlights of the sessions and workshops. Specialists, personalities, scientists, users and academics will join in from remote locations. In short, this WebTV will be made by and for the ocean-conservation community.

#### + Defining the Program through the Call for Abstracts

Participants' contributions are decisive in defining the program of the Congress. To submit your papers, go to [www.impact3.org](http://www.impact3.org) and head for the "Call for Abstracts" section. The deadline for submissions is May 10, 2013.

#### + Inform, involve, influence

Download the Call for Abstracts to find out about the themes and objectives of the congress. IMPAC3 aims to:

- **Propose public policy guidelines**, on a national, regional and international plane;
- **Foster a lasting, well-managed and ecologically representative global network of marine protected areas**;
- **Inform, involve and influence all marine players**.

Beyond the technical and political considerations that will be voiced during plenary sessions and workshops, the congress offers participants a chance to listen, exchange, understand, explain and promote ideas, so that marine protected areas may thrive and gain recognition. In this spirit, the **Ocean+ Pavilion** will turn the spotlight on significant initiatives that raise awareness of the benefits we stand to gain from protecting and managing the oceans.

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