



Top Ten Marine Conservation Activities for Churches

1. Ocean themed service

There are many resources to help you plan a service that focuses on creation care. These can be found on the A Rocha website: <http://atyourservice.arocha.org/en/> Why not make the emphasis on the ocean? There are many hymns and choruses that have a sea theme and plenty of Scripture to look at.

2. Reusable plastic only in church

Church meals and coffee times don't need to be plastic-filled. It is more hassle and possibly even expense to do it without plastic – but stewardship and discipleship issues don't only apply to money! Encourage people to bring their own refillable coffee and water containers. Make sure drinking fountains can be used to fill water bottles. And get everyone in on the wash-up – will be great for community building.

3. Beach cleanup – if not near ocean river cleanup.

The heavens (and the ocean) declares the glory of God. Do you see His glory when surrounded by plastic waste? Organise a cleanup nearby – if you are far from the sea, remember that all rivers eventually run there. A Rocha International is beginning to mobilise the global church to take part in next year's coastal cleanup on Sept 15, 2018. A [beach cleanup guide](#) is available to help those who want to organise their own events (also in [Spanish](#)). We also encourage churches to find a beach cleanup near them using the International Coastal Cleanup website and join their neighbours in this God-honouring and community-serving activity.

4. Fish served at church

Meals together are an important part of the Christian life – let's honour God by what we serve. If you want to serve seafood, find out if the species you are eating has been caught in a way that is sustainable and that cares for ocean habitats. In the UK and Europe you can use www.goodfishguide.org and in the USA www.seafoodwatch.org.

5. Day out to the seaside

Take a trip to the seaside. Enjoy the ocean. We protect what we love. Tidepools are great places to explore what God has made. Feel His power in the waves. Head out in a boat. See His beauty reflected in the ocean.





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6. Stay informed and pray about marine conservation.

We all love prayer guides that give us specific information to pray about. Find a website that has local ocean information that you can use for prayer. Invite a local marine biologist to talk with you – it might be the first time they have ever been in a church! However you do it, pray for the ocean.

7. Books in bookshop, resources available to congregation

Does your church have a library? Stock some books on creation care and highlight them from the front. People who already care about the ocean may be afraid to say so for fear of being labelled unorthodox. We recommend Planetwise by Dave Bookless as a good place to start. For other book resources to stock take a look at [this link](#) from A Rocha.

8. Don't purchase dried marine life and be discerning buying tropical fish

We all like to admire beautiful animals. However, we need to make sure that what we are buying has been harvested sustainably. Often those shells you buy at the beach are not from a local source, but have been flown in from afar and often are not sustainably harvested. The Chinese medicine trade often uses threatened species. Choose your aquarium fish wisely – many will not last or are not sustainably fished. Having an aquarium or shells around the house can be a great way to remember the ocean and stimulate prayer – but let's do that in a way that obeys God's commands to be good stewards of His ocean.

9. Begin or join a local project

Is there a local place that you can help to transform? Perhaps there is a species that is endangered or needs some help. After inviting that marine biologist to speak to the church and getting informed, join in with or start a local project. It will be a great way to make a difference and build community both inside and outside of the church walls.

10. Support a conservation charity or creation care worker

Much of the work of creation care doesn't take a lot of money, but it does take time and that means people. Consider supporting a creation care worker, giving to a local conservation charity. We'd love it if you check out A Rocha's work and join our team - <http://www.arocha.org/en/donate/>

