



*The Pew Environment Group presents*

## **“The Role of Marine Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Conserving Large Pelagic Species”**

October 20, 2010

18:15-19:45, Room 231B, Building 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

Convention on Biological Diversity, 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Pew Environment Group is the conservation arm of The Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-governmental organization that applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improving public policy, informing the public and stimulating civic life. The Pew Environment Group works to strengthen environmental policies and practices that protect terrestrial and marine systems worldwide. Pew is engaged in a number of issues relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity with a particular emphasis on environmental problems and issues relating to marine biodiversity. Please see [pewenvironment.org](http://pewenvironment.org) for more information on our specific programs of work.

### **PROGRAM OF SPEAKERS:**

#### **Dr. Susan Lieberman, Pew Environment Group**

Dr. Lieberman is the Director of International Policy with the Pew Environment Group. Dr. Lieberman has worked on international conservation for more than 20 years and has extensive experience on conservation policy issues in intergovernmental fora including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the International Whaling Commission, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species as well as regional fisheries management organizations.

Dr. Lieberman will provide an introduction to the global status of marine biodiversity including the problems facing marine species, current conservation measures as well as gaps and inadequacies in management and enforcement. Specifically, Dr. Lieberman will address the plight of large pelagic species: tuna, sharks and whales. She will then provide an introduction to the benefits of establishing marine reserves and wildlife sanctuaries to ensure the long-term sustainability of these species.

#### **Bilung, Gloria Salii, Queen of Koror, Palau**

Bilung, Gloria Salii will speak on behalf of the Pacific Island State of Palau. Palau declared its waters a shark sanctuary in 2009, banning all commercial fishing of sharks in its entire EEZ. Bilung is the Queen of Koror, Palau’s main commercial center. Bilung leads and coordinates the nation’s traditional network of

matriarchs and is respected for her traditional and political leadership as well as for her strong voice on conservation issues. Bilung will discuss regional conservation initiatives in Palau and the greater Pacific to establish marine protected areas for sharks and marine mammals and the economic, spiritual and conservation value of these protected areas.

**Dr. Hiroyuki Matsuda, Yokohama National University, Japan**

Dr. Hiroyuki Matsuda is a professor of Environment and Information Sciences at Yokohama National University in Japan. Dr. Matsuda's research examines the ecology of fisheries management. He serves as Vice President of the Ecological Society of Japan, on the Science Committee of DIVERSITAS, and is a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation. Dr. Matsuda's presentation will include a discussion on the current status of bluefin tuna, conservation measures, inadequate management, over-exploitation of juveniles and spawning stock. Further, Dr. Matsuda will discuss the critical importance of establishing marine sanctuaries to protect bluefin spawning areas.

**Wael Hmaidan, Executive Director, IndyACT, Lebanon**

Mr. Hmaidan is the Executive Director and founder of IndyACT. IndyACT is a league of independent environmental, social and cultural activists engaged in a number of global conservation efforts including those facing the marine environment. Their engagement spans but is not limited to the problems of over-fishing, pollution, climate change and coastal and habitat destruction. Mr. Hmaidan's presentation will focus on the global status of sharks including threats to the species, current conservation measures and inadequate management. Mr. Hmaidan will highlight regional conservation initiatives in the Middle East to conserve sharks and will introduce the potential for a Red Sea Shark Sanctuary.