Three New Tools for Integration

The EU's Blue Strategy largely relies on making best use of existing instruments at a sea-basin and EU scale. However, three new initiatives have been developed under the EU's integrated maritime policy to underpin and reinforce these existing instruments.

They are:

- marine knowledge; improving knowledge about the marine environment, mapping the seabed of Europe's waters and delivering this information efficiently to public and private operators will bring benefits of EUR 500 million a year;
- maritime spatial planning; this will reduce administrative and operational costs for businesses and increase certainty on appropriate access to maritime space, thus favouring private investment;
- maritime surveillance; the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain will increase the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of about 400 public authorities.

Finance and support

With the Blue Growth strategy, public spending will be directly targeted towards sustainable growth. Funding and support sources for Blue Growth projects include:

- regional funding through the new Common Strategic Framework funds;
- the Horizon 2020 funding mechanism for marine and maritime research;
- funds from the European Investment Bank and the private sector.

Working with stakeholders

No lasting growth can possibly be delivered without the strong and direct involvement of the public, private and non-profit sectors of each EU country. Throughout the process the European Commission will seek to engage stakeholders and provide opportunities for them to share expertise and develop synergies across sectors.

READ MORE

Blue Growth webpage:
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth/index_en.htm

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European Commission

Blue Growth

Unlocking the potential of Europe's oceans, seas and coasts

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

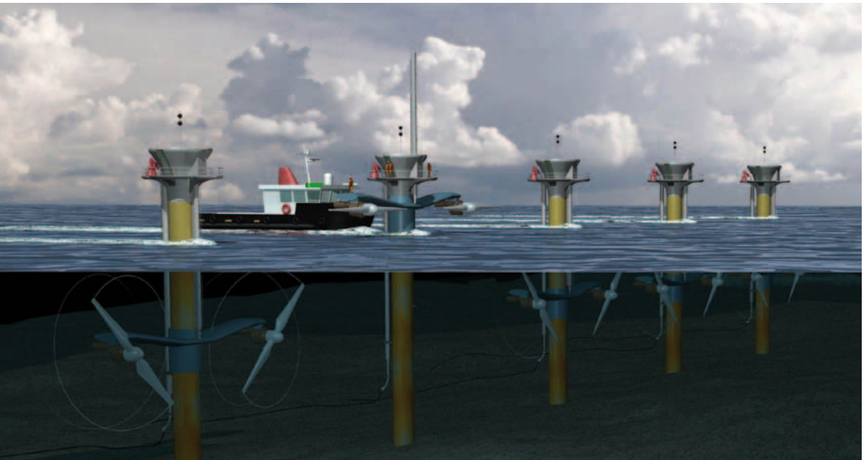
Blue Growth

These are challenging but exciting times for the Blue Economy: the set of economic activities that happen around Europe's oceans, seas and coasts.

At present this sector employs 5.4 million people who: work in established sectors such as shipbuilding, fishing and tourism; in growing industries such as offshore wind; or in emerging sectors such marine-based pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. But it could employ 7 million by 2020. This growth in the Blue Economy would play an important part in the overall economic recovery of Europe. The EU's Blue Growth strategy ensures that EU policies that have an influence on the Blue Economy are optimised to take advantage of this opportunity.

Although most Blue Economy businesses are located on or near Europe's coasts – and Blue Growth will obviously impact those areas greatly – inland businesses also provide services to the maritime sector, even in landlocked countries. These too will benefit as the Blue Economy grows.

> "Europe's Blue Economy can mean growth, employment opportunities and competitiveness. Through Blue Growth, we are unlocking the wealth that exists in the coastal and marine environment."
>
> **Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**



Working together

This coordination of the EU's legal and financial instruments follows a two-pronged approach. On the one hand sea-basin strategies have been developed for the Arctic, the Atlantic, the Baltic and the Adriatic-Ionian that take into account their unique oceanographic, climatic and cultural characteristics. They include the encouragement of local maritime clusters – local synergistic concentrations of higher education, research and industry. On the other hand, special efforts are being made to push for growth in a limited number of industries where additional analysis and an additional push at an EU level can add value to what is being done already.

Ocean renewable energy

Offshore wind power generation is expanding rapidly and could meet 4 % of our electricity demand by 2020 – 14 % by 2030. This would mean 170 000 jobs by 2020, and up to 300 000 by 2030, as against the current 35 000.

Other offshore renewable energies – notably wave and tidal power – offer a more regular and predicable source of electricity than wind energy but are not yet so commercially competitive. Efforts to reduce technology costs, increase research and move from demonstration to operation will also help EU industry in the export market.

Aquaculture

Farmed fish accounts for half of the fish consumed globally, a share projected to grow to 65 % by 2030. In Europe, by contrast, aquaculture only supplies one quarter of the market and the industry is stagnating, mainly because of lack of space, lack of public awareness and cumbersome licensing rules. Yet with targeted measures the sector could easily expand, for example by moving offshore or focussing production on high-end products.

Maritime, coastal and cruise tourism

Tourism is the single largest maritime economic activity. It employs two and a half million people, equivalent to 1.1 % of total EU employment. While each sea-basin faces different challenges, there is a common need to diversify attractions and spread demand more evenly throughout the year. Tapping into the growing market for cruise and leisure shipping is part of the answer. Europe has the lead in the technology required to build and maintain the specialised vessels required.

Marine mineral resources

The progress in underwater technology means that mining companies can now exploit the seafloor for minerals and contribute towards meeting the growing global demand for non-energy raw materials. It may also become possible to extract dissolved minerals such as boron or lithium from seawater. The sector's turnover could potentially grow from virtually nothing to EUR 10 billion a year by 2030. European companies, with specialised vessels and advanced technology at their disposal, are well placed to benefit from this expansion. The European Commission will assess how best to support this sector in a competitive global market, while ensuring the protection of fragile and pristine deep-sea ecosystems.

Blue biotechnology

Concerns about growing crops for biofuels on land have led to intensified efforts to manufacture biofuels and other chemicals from algae. Marine organisms have already been used to develop anti-viral and anti-cancer drugs. The exploitation of non-seafood marine species for pharmaceuticals and various industrial processes is currently a niche sector but it has the potential to produce mass-market products in the long run.