



The EU acting for our world's oceans

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A better international ocean governance: European Union actions

3 priority areas | **14** sets of actions

Oceans need better care. Collective action is needed and the EU is taking the lead to promote stronger ocean governance around the globe.

The goal?

to ensure that our oceans are **safe, secure, clean** and **sustainably managed**.

Priority areas

1

Improving the institutional framework

2

Sustainable management to reduce human impact

3

Investing in knowledge and data for the oceans



Rules for the High Seas that work for all

The EU will work to ensure that the existing rules are properly implemented and that any regulatory gaps are filled. For instance, this means covering gaps in the current UN framework and doing more to protect biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

64% of the oceans lie beyond any national jurisdiction



Racing against ocean warming

The EU will step up work with international partners to agree on joint action to mitigate climate change and protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems.

Estimated sea-level rise by 2100 **~50 cm**



Protecting fish stocks for the future

To combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the EU already applies both electronic tools to monitor vessels and market mechanisms for traceability. It will increase the supervision of its fishing fleet abroad. It will also promote international action to identify vessels wherever they operate. The EU will strengthen the role of Interpol in monitoring the activities of fishing vessels.

15% of catches worldwide are estimated to be illegal



Working together for our oceans

The EU will work with its international partners and with regional organisations to upgrade conservation and management measures. It will develop new ones for fish species and areas that are not yet covered by such arrangements.

5 million jobs linked to the ocean economy in the EU



No more “sea of plastic”

The EU will fight marine litter through a new strategy on plastics in 2017 and through an update of the rules governing waste disposal for vessels. It will also seek global partnerships to identify and implement effective strategies against both plastic litter and micro-plastics.

~10 million tons of litter enter the oceans each year



National ocean parks

The Commission will work to develop international guidelines on management and planning of the sea space on a global level by 2025. This includes designating and managing marine areas protected from human interference. Through twinning projects, research funds and exchange of best practices, the EU will promote the expansion of marine reserves worldwide.

10% Target of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2020



Safety and security on the High Seas

The EU, NATO and partner countries will work together to protect against maritime threats such as piracy and human trafficking. It will work to reduce maritime accidents and prevent environmental disasters.

90% of international trade is sea-borne



Mapping the deep

The EU will build on the success of its ‘Blue Data Network’ – a collaboration of over 100 research institutions – and further develop international scientific partnerships to obtain a worldwide marine data network open to all. Better knowledge of the sea will mean more sustainable actions.

90% of the seabed remains unmapped with 100m resolution

1984

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (entry into force in 1994)

2009

EU Integrated Maritime Policy, Blue Growth, Common Fisheries Policy

2014

EU Maritime Security Strategy

Public consultation on International Ocean Governance

2015

Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

2016

Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy

International Ocean Governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans

Learn more

You can access the full list of actions, and their explanation, by consulting the EC Communication on Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy here: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/ocean-governance_en

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