

WG1 – October 14, 2025 Ljubljana - Slovenia



The European Ocean Pact - Summary

Launched by the EC on 05/6/2025 COM(2025) 281

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OCEAN-RELATED TARGETS IN EU LEGISLATION AND POLICY – a selection

- Ensure conservation of marine biological resources and management of fisheries.
- · Achieve the goals of the CFP
- River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Programmes of Measures to achieve good chemical and ecological status)
- Reduce and monitor water pollution caused by nitrates used in agriculture
- Natura 2000 network of protected sites.
- Restore at least 30% of the EU's degraded sea areas by 2030, all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. Submit National Restoration Plans by mid-2026.
- · Ban certain single-use plastic items.

Source: COM (2025) 281

- Achieve Good environmental status (GES) of marine waters by 2020.
- · Monitor and assess bathing water
- Climate-neutrality in the EU by 2050
- MS cooperate on goals for offshore renewable generation to be deployed within each sea basin by 2050
- Shore-side electricity supply for certain vessels
- Inventory of Hazardous Materials EU list of ship recycling facilities.
- Maximum limits for yearly average GHG intensity of energy used by ships.
- Passenger and container ships to use onshore power supply (OPS) or alternative zero-emission technologies.
- Special Emission Control Areas / Pollution control zones

EU strategy

- to protect the ocean,
- to promote a sustainable blue economy,
- to strengthen European leadership in ocean governance.



Coordination and enforcement of existing legislation



Strengthening Governance Framework

EU Ocean legislative Act by 2027 – (see focus) modernized Maritime Spatial Planning

EU Ocean Pact Operational Framework to monitor and report progress on the Pact's relevant indicators and targets

High-Level Ocean Committee (as EBAF in Agricolture) to coordinate stakeholders

Regional focus: a new Pact for the Mediterranean, building on the foundations of the 2021 Agenda for the Mediterranean

Financing via InvestEU, BlueInvest, ETS revenues



Involve stakeholders through a High-Level Ocean Committee. Establish a single, strategic legal framework for all EU ocean-related policies.



Update Maritime Spatial Planning Directive

Centralize EU ocean objectives into one coherent framework.

FOCUS: The EU Ocean Legislative Act (by 2027)

• Integrate sectors: fisheries, offshore energy, environment, security...

Simplify reporting and harmonize monitoring indicators.



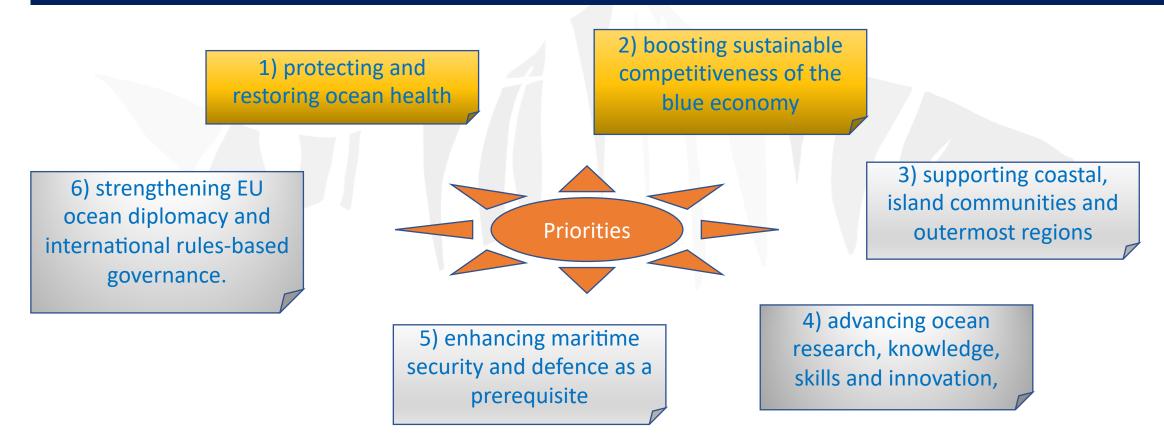
www.med-ac.eu

Cross-sector and basinlevel coordination



Priorities of the Ocean Pact

The European Ocean Pact builds on existing legislation and initiatives, introducing a single reference framework aimed at streamlining coordination processes, simplifying reporting obligations and offering a strategy for implementing existing legislations and achieving policy goals more coherently across sectors.





Integrated approach for ocean health and sustainability

The Pact proposes actions based on these key principles:



- ❖ 20% habitat restoration by 2030; all by 2050 (Reg. Nature Restoration Regulation)
- Marine Protected Areas: 30% (10% strict)(EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030)
- ❖ 50% plastic & nutrient pollution by 2030 (the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan)
- Cleaner shipping (FuelEU, CleanSeaNet)



Sustainable Blue Economy & Competitiveness

Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture - Objectives:

- ✓ Strengthen food sovereignty and the sustainability of fisheries.
- ✓ Decarbonise the fleet and modernise equipment.
- ✓ Improve selectivity and reduce bycatch.
- ✓ Promote small-scale fishing and transparency in quota management.
- ✓ Encourage seaweed production and the blue bioeconomy.
- ✓ By 2027: EU campaign on the benefits of sustainable seafood.
- ✓ Revision of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the CMO Regulation.

EC will consider the establishment of a SSF dedicated new Advisory Council



Other issues – fishing related

International Ocean Governance and Diplomacy

- *explore how to improve the sustainability of imported fisheries and aquaculture products under the Autonomous Tariff Quota (ATQ) regime
- **❖To reduce the accidental catch of sea turtles** in 2026
- *Ratification and full implementation of international instruments (ex. WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement on prohibiting harmful subsidies)
- to uphold high standards of sustainability in fisheries management in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)



Other issues – fishing related

International Ocean
Governance and Diplomacy

- ❖ Proposition of a new generation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) most notably for Africa and the Indo-Pacific
- zero-tolerance approach to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing based on dialogues with third countries
- Promotion of the implementation of its updated fisheries control rules on the global stage

GL Ceccaroni 10 2025



Thank you for your attention!