

# Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water

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## Facts & Figures

Oceans:

- over three quarters of the Earth's surface, contain 97 per cent of the Earth's water, and represent 99 per cent of the living space on the planet by volume.
- contain nearly 200,000 identified species, but actual numbers may lie in the millions.
- absorb about 30 per cent of carbon dioxide produced by humans, buffering the impacts of global warming.
- serve as the world's largest source of protein, with more than 3 billion people depending on the oceans as their primary source of protein.

Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods.

Globally, the market value of marine and coastal resources and industries is estimated at \$3 trillion per year or about 5 per cent of global GDP.

Marine fisheries directly or indirectly employ over 200 million people.

Subsidies for fishing are contributing to the rapid depletion of many fish species and are preventing efforts to save and restore global fisheries and related jobs, causing ocean fisheries to generate US\$ 50 billion less per year than they could.

As much as 40 per cent of the world oceans are heavily affected by human activities, including pollution, depleted fisheries, and loss of coastal habitats. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

## Goal 14 Targets

By 2020:

- sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
- effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.
- conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.
- prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDSs) and least developed countries

Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS.