



The National Ocean Policy Coalition offers the following comments on the zero draft political declaration:

- Recognizing the important role of the private sector in ocean conservation and sustainable use, we recommend the following:
 - Adding a new paragraph 11(g) which states that “Leveraging the private sector’s development and application of innovative technologies and best practices, many of which are already providing climate mitigation and adaptation solutions while supporting activities that generate jobs, economic growth and quality of life, including through the conversion of ocean infrastructure to artificial reefs”
 - In paragraph 12(a), first sentence, following the phrase “investing in national statistical systems,” adding the phrase “coordinating with the private sector to leverage existing, ongoing, and future data collection efforts”
- Recognizing the role of the ocean in supporting the Blue Economy and socioeconomic well-being, we recommend the following:
 - In paragraph 11(e), immediately after “social and cultural value,” adding “and socioeconomic costs and benefits”
 - Immediately following paragraph 12(c), adding a new paragraph stating “Explore, develop and promote opportunities to better realize the full socioeconomic potential of the Blue Economy at a time when nations around the world are confronted with rising prices and supply constraints that inhibit jobs, economic growth and quality of life and exacerbate poverty”
- To address PPE disposal in the ocean, we recommend the following:
 - In paragraph 7, first sentence, adding the word “improper” directly in front of “disposal of personal protective equipment”
 - In paragraph 11(d), first sentence, adding “improper disposal of” directly in front of “personal protective equipment;” and in that same sentence, given recent studies concluding that biodegradable plastics is not an effective solution for marine litter, deleting the phrase “developing new materials for consumer and industrial uses that can fully and effectively biodegrade in order to reduce inputs of marine plastic litter”