



The National Ocean Policy Coalition is pleased to provide input to the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Recent geopolitical developments combined with continued supply chain disruptions and tight labor markets have exacerbated the economic pain being felt across the globe.

From food and clothing to energy and beyond, individuals around the world are facing skyrocketing prices for life's daily essentials, with those who can least afford it affected the most. The World Bank recently noted that every 1% increase in food prices sends an additional 10 million people into extreme poverty.

Conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development presents an important opportunity to better realize the full potential of the Blue Economy, create jobs, grow economies, enhance quality of life, strengthen food and energy security, and reduce global poverty. To highlight this opportunity, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the world's ocean economy could double in value added from \$1.5 trillion in 2010 to \$3 trillion in 2030.

Now more than ever, it is time to unleash the full economic potential of the Blue Economy in a science-based manner in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Specifically, enabling access for the responsible use, development, and enjoyment of marine resources will improve livelihoods and societal well-being. In turn, in addition to supporting SDG 14, enabling such access and the resulting economic and societal benefits will also support implementation of other SDGs, including those related to poverty; hunger; good health and well-being; affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy; sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all; and resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and innovation. In that regard, socioeconomic costs and benefits must be considered in the planning and implementation of area-based management tools in order to ensure effective and equitable outcomes that do not unnecessarily harm people, jobs, and quality of life.

Additionally, sustainable ocean use can result in environmental benefits that can mitigate the effects of and resiliency to climate change in support of SDG 13. Specifically, there is an opportunity to leverage the private sector's development and application of innovative marine technologies and best practices, many of which are already providing climate mitigation and adaptation solutions, including through the conversion of ocean infrastructure to artificial reefs.

Further science-based and innovative actions that can support effective implementation of SDG 14 include coordination with the private sector to leverage existing and future data collection efforts and exploring, developing, and promoting opportunities to better realize the full socioeconomic potential of the Blue Economy.



Ensuring that ocean policies and management decisions are guided by the best available science and enable access for the responsible use, development, and enjoyment of marine resources will best promote SDG 14. By adhering to such an approach, the United Nations and its member states can maximize the ocean's economic, environmental, and societal contributions, to the benefit of people and communities around the world that are dependent on a reasonable cost of living and the full range of benefits that the oceans can provide.

Respectfully submitted,

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