

# 2022 FACTSHEET



## WHERE WE STAND

- **Human activity is endangering the ocean**, the planet's largest ecosystem and affecting the livelihoods of billions of people.
- The ocean is **under increasing stress** from multiple sources of pollution, depleting fish stocks, continuing ocean acidification and rising ocean temperatures, which **threaten marine species and negatively affect marine ecosystem services**.
- The pandemic led to a dramatic reduction in tourism, causing **substantial income losses for coastal and island communities**.



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### Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**SDG14** is one of the five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under in-depth review at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), held under the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## FACTS AND FIGURES

- The satellite-derived eutrophication indicator shows **an increasing trend** from 2016 to the present. There was an increase of **over 23 per cent in the peak values** of the indicator for the 2020 and 2021 calendar year average, compared with the mean value for previous years.
- **Ocean acidification** is the consequence of uptake of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by the ocean, resulting in a decreasing pH and increasing acidification of the ocean, thereby negatively affecting marine organisms and ocean services. Data collected from **308** stations from **35** countries in **2022** highlights the growing capacity of countries to observe the continued decline of ocean pH in the global ocean as well as the strong regional differences in the pace of change. Further increases in ocean acidification are expected to occur **at an accelerating rate** over the coming decades.
- More than **17 million metric tons** of plastic entered the ocean in **2021**, a figure that is projected to **double or triple by 2040**.
- Almost **half a billion** people depend at least partially on small-scale fisheries, which account for **90 per cent** of employment in fisheries worldwide. Almost all small-scale fishers (**97 per cent**) live in developing countries and were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and collapsed fish markets.
- Between **2018** and **2022**, the average degree of implementation of international instruments to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as measured by the indicator has **improved** across the world. In this period, the global aggregated indicator has risen **from 3 to 4 (out of a maximum score of 5)**.
- Overall, many States have ratified or acceded to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (**168 parties**) and its implementing agreements (**151 parties** for the 1994 Part XI Agreement and **91 parties** for the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement).

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## SPOTLIGHT

### **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**

European Commission | Europe

Protecting, preserving and preventing the deterioration of the ocean is critical to the health of people and our planet. The European Union (EU) has prioritized ocean issues establishing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), an encompassing piece of legislation aimed at the protection of the marine environment and natural resources. The legal framework has addressed the sustainable use of marine resources of oceans and seas around the EU and has aimed to integrate environmental concerns into economic policies and activities in the marine environment.

### **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**

On June 17, 2022, World Trade Organization (WTO) members finalized a limited agreement on long-running negotiations aimed at curbing harmful fisheries subsidies that lead to excess capacity and may contribute to overfishing (fishing at a rate that a species cannot replenish its population.) and those that support illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit UNDESA's relevant databases below to learn more about actions, initiatives and partnerships that advance the SDGs:

- [SDG Good Practices Database](#)
- [SDG Acceleration Actions Database](#)
- [UN System SDG Implementation Database](#)
- [Voluntary National Reviews Database](#)



**United Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



## UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (**UN DESA**) served as the secretariat and supported the Governments of Portugal and Kenya in convening of **the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC)** in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July 2022, where Heads of State and Government joined thousands of government officials, young people, business leaders, scientists and civil society representatives to usher in a new chapter of ocean action driven by science, technology and innovation.
- The **UN Global Compact (UNGC) Sustainable Ocean Principles** provide a framework for responsible business practices across ocean sectors and geographies. More than 150 major companies, spanning 30 industries, 35 countries and 6 continents, with a combined market capitalization of 895 billion euros, have signed onto the Sustainable Ocean Principles at the 2022 UNOC and committed to assessing their impact on the ocean and integrating ocean sustainability into their overall strategies.
- **United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), UNGC, International Capital Market Association (ICMA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Development Bank (ADB)** are partnering to develop a global practitioner's guide with clear criteria, practices, and examples for blue bond lending and issuances.
- The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (**OHRLLS**) convened **the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) Forum** to showcase blue economy partnerships on decarbonization of the shipping industry, revitalization of the tourism industry and on efforts towards renewable energy.
- In cooperation with Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and Arup, **UN-Habitat** has launched **the Coastal Cities of the Western Indian Ocean Region and the Blue Economy- Status Report**, focusing on strategic opportunities for individual cities and their blue economy stakeholders and providing a solid foundation for future urban blue economy planning across the region.
- United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) has supported Governments of Vietnam, Maldives, the Philippines and Sri Lanka through **Reducing Plastic Pollution** by tapping into systemic design initiatives towards circular economy strategies embracing not only policy and regulations but also awareness raising, technology and infrastructure.
- Together with **UN-Habitat**, United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) has joined Team Europe, six regional governments and the national Government of Kenya, in **the Go Blue initiative**, aiming to protect Kenya's coastal ecosystems while creating environmentally friendly jobs. UNEP has supported the development of integrated, ecosystem-based planning and management frameworks, ecosystems data collection and assessment, regional land-sea visions prioritizing blue economy.