



**UNITED NATIONS
OCEAN CONFERENCE
NICE, FRANCE 2025**

Facts & Figures

The ocean is...

- The ocean is intrinsic to life on Earth. It covers three-quarters of the Earth's surface, contains 97 percent of the Earth's water, and represents 99 percent of the living space on the planet by volume.
- It is home to a million known species and contains vast untapped potential for scientific discovery.
- The ocean provides key natural resources including food, medicines, biofuels and more. It is also a critical pillar of cultures and economies around the world.
- By generating environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits, the ocean is an ally for the delivery of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Facts & Figures

- The ocean generates 50 per cent of the oxygen we need, protecting and enabling human activities.
- The ocean acts as a carbon sink. It absorbs 30 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions and captures 90 per cent of the heat generated by these excess emissions.
- More than 150 million jobs depend on sound management and sustainable production, export, import and consumption of ocean-based goods and services - in fishing, aquaculture, shipping, coastal tourism, offshore wind energy and marine biotechnology.
- Ocean habitats such as mangroves are some of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on the planet, storing on average 1,000 tons of carbon per hectare in their biomass and underlying soils.
- The ocean and its biodiversity provide our global community with 15 per cent of the animal protein we eat. In least developed countries, seafood is the primary source of protein to more than 50 per cent of the population.

The Ocean is in Crisis

- The science is clear: the ocean is in deep crisis. The ocean faces significant challenges from eutrophication, worsening acidification, declining fish stocks, rising temperatures and widespread pollution. All these factors contribute to the destruction of habitats and decline in biodiversity.
- The health of marine ecosystems and coastal communities, which are vital to more than 3 billion people, is under significant threat.
- Plastic pollution continues to be an urgent issue, not just to marine ecosystems but also to human health.



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- Rising ocean temperatures are raising new concerns for coral reefs, which support a quarter of marine species, generate trillions of dollars in revenue annually and provide key resources for hundreds of millions of people in coastal communities.
- As of April 2024, sea surface temperatures had reached record highs for 13 consecutive months.
- The sustainability of global fishery resources declined from 90.0 per cent in 1974 to 64.6 per cent in 2019 and further to 62.3 per cent in 2021, due to overfishing, pollution, poor management and other factors.
- Each year, it is estimated that 5 to 12 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean, a figure set to double or triple by 2040.
- An estimated 60% of the world's marine ecosystems have been degraded or are being used unsustainably, and over 50% of marine species face the threat of extinction by 2100.

Solutions to #SaveOurOcean

- The ocean's health depends on each and every one of us. While global action is underway, increased commitments and collaborations from all stakeholders are urgently needed to address the mounting concerns impacting the ocean.
- Sustainable Development Goal 14 (life below water) remains one of the most underfunded of the 17 Goals.
- The 2025 UN Conference will be a crucial moment to build on current commitments and reignite the collective action that is needed to conserve and sustainably use the ocean.

Facts & Figures

- The [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), adopted at biodiversity COP 15 in December 2022, commits to establish protected areas to safeguard areas of particular importance for biodiversity, adding up to cover 30 percent of the ocean by 2030.
- Adopted in June 2023, the [Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Areas beyond National Jurisdiction \(BBNJ\)](#) marked a historic achievement in efforts to ensure the health and resilience of ocean ecosystems.
- As of May 2024, there are 18,200 marine protected areas and 199 area-based conservation measures covering over 8.12 percent of the ocean.
- It is estimated that globally, one in five fish caught originates from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The [Agreement on Port State Measures \(PSMA\)](#) is the first binding international agreement to help target illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. As of July 2024, the agreement had grown to include 80 Parties, including the European Union, effectively covering 101 States and 60 percent of port States.



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- The [World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies](#), adopted in June 2022, is a key step towards ocean sustainability. Harmful fisheries subsidies can be a serious challenge to sustainable development as they encourage overfishing and illegal fishing practices. The Agreement aims to curbs these harmful practices and improve the sustainability of fisheries. As of April 2025, 69 Members have submitted the acceptance of Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.