



## High seas elements for a possible Ocean SDG

The Global Ocean Commission’s mandate covers high seas areas, but it recognizes the interconnected nature of territorial waters and high seas. With this in mind, it proposes the following elements for inclusion in an Ocean SDG: **Achieve healthy, productive and resilient ocean.**

*(Italicised is direct language from the Pacific SIDS proposal put forward at the SDG OWG<sup>i</sup>)*

Target <sup>ii</sup>	Indicators	How are the issues addressed under OWG Focus Area 16 (Marine resources, oceans and seas)? <sup>iii</sup>	Interlinkages with other OWG Focus Areas <sup>iv</sup>
<i>Ensure that all fish stocks are being fished sustainably</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of tonnage of fish landed within OSY<sup>v</sup></li> <li>• Percentage of commercial fish stocks operating under science-based management plans</li> <li>• Number of data-deficient stocks being fished</li> <li>• Fleet size and capacity of flag States</li> <li>• Percentage of total subsidies reduced for distant water/high seas fishing fleets</li> <li>• Number of flag States freezing, capping or reducing fleet size</li> </ul>	c) Promoting sustainable exploitation of marine resources; d) Regulating harvesting of straddling fish stocks; g) Eliminating harmful subsidies that promote fishing overcapacity;	1) Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition 8) Economic growth
<i>Protect vulnerable marine areas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of high seas in protected areas</li> <li>• International Seabed Authority requires Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) prior to leasing for exploitation</li> <li>• Number of RFMOs effectively implementing the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle</li> <li>• Percentage of bottom fisheries operating pursuant to EIAs</li> </ul>	i) Establishing Marine Protected Areas; h) Ensuring full implementation of regional and international regimes governing oceans and seas;	15) Climate 17) Ecosystems and biodiversity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of national and regional agreements regulating and setting standards to prevent pollution</li> <li>• Number of countries having ratified the Minamata Convention on mercury<sup>vi</sup></li> </ul>	j) Protecting marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction;	
Reduce biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of marine species assessed as threatened on the IUCN Red List<sup>vii</sup></li> <li>• Proportion of threatened marine species effectively protected at the national, regional or international levels</li> </ul>	b) Halting destruction of marine habitat including ocean acidification i) Establishing Marine Protected Areas; j) Protecting marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction;	15) Climate 17) Ecosystems and biodiversity
<i>Eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of flag States and RFMOs requiring IMO numbers and transponders for all fishing vessels more than 24 meters or 100 tonnes</li> <li>• Number of RFMOs having established satellite monitoring programmes</li> <li>• Number of ratifications of the UN FAO Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA)<sup>viii</sup> and number of port States with supporting domestic implementing legislation</li> <li>• Percentage of high seas covered by RFMOs</li> <li>• Percentage of high-seas and straddling stocks under management by RFMOs</li> </ul>	e) Addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and destructive fishing practices;	19) Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions
Reduce by [50%] quantities of plastic debris entering the marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of countries with taxes and restrictions, including bans, on certain plastics uses</li> <li>• Number of local, national and other programmes to eliminate single use plastics and increase circular use</li> <li>• Increase in the number of and improvements to ports' waste disposal facilities</li> </ul>	a) Reducing marine pollution and debris including from land-based activities;	17) Ecosystems and biodiversity 14) Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production

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<sup>i</sup> <http://palauun.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/oceans-sustainable-development-goal-and-brief-palau-17-april-2013.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Assuming that 2030 is the target date for all SDG goals, targets and indicators.

<sup>iii</sup> [http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3402Focus%20areas\\_20140319.pdf](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3402Focus%20areas_20140319.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> [http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3387Annex\\_interlinkages\\_1903.pdf](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3387Annex_interlinkages_1903.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> OSY is calculated by modifying maximum sustainable yield (MSY) to take into account relevant economic, social and ecological factors. MSY is the maximum largest long-term average catch or yield that can be taken from a stock or stock complex under prevailing ecological and environmental conditions, fishery technological characteristics (e.g., gear selectivity), and the distribution of catch among fleets.

<sup>vi</sup> The Minamata Convention on mercury is the most recent multilateral environmental agreement; it was open for signature on 10 October, 2013; only one country (the USA) has ratified it to date; in order to enter into force it requires fifty countries to become party. <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/>

<sup>vii</sup> The IUCN Red List is widely recognized as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. More information can be found here: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

<sup>viii</sup> The PSMA was adopted in 2009. It requires 25 ratifications to enter into force. To date only 10 countries are party: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/166283/en>