

The European Ocean Pact

Sustaining the ocean that sustains us

June 2025
#EUOceanPact

The European Ocean Pact brings together EU ocean policies into a unified framework to better protect the ocean, promote a thriving blue economy and support the well-being of people living in coastal areas, islands and outermost regions. It is the EU's long-term vision for the ocean.

Why does the ocean matter?

The ocean is the foundation of life on Earth and provides a wide range of resources, benefits and services. The ocean is critical for food security, energy production, and data. It is crucial for the prosperity and competitiveness of the EU blue economy.



> 70%
of the Earth's surface



5 million
jobs in the EU



80%
of global biodiversity



99%
of global internet traffic by
underwater cables



74%
of the EU's external
trade done by
maritime transport



± 50%
of the oxygen produced on
our planet

Six strategic objectives



Healthy ocean

- Evaluation and revision of the Maritime Spatial Planning directive.
- Designation and management of marine protected areas.



Competitive and sustainable blue economy

- Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture.
- European blue carbon reserves and new business models for coastal communities.
- Industrial Maritime Strategy, EU Ports Strategy and Sustainable Tourism Strategy.



Coastal communities & islands

- EU Coastal Communities Resilience and Development Strategy.
- Consultation for a strategy for islands.
- Updated strategy on outermost regions.



Maritime security & defence

- Removal of unexploded ordnance in EU waters with innovative technologies.
- A pilot European drone fleet.



Ocean knowledge, skills & literacy

- EU Ocean Observation Initiative
- European Ocean Research & Innovation Strategy.
- Deployment of the European Digital Twin of the Ocean by 2030.



Ocean Diplomacy

- Combating Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) with mandatory digital catch certification from January 2026.
- Piloting an International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS).
- Swift ratification and entry into force of major international agreements, such as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement and the Global Plastics Treaty.