

International Ocean Governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans

List of Actions

Action	Timing
1. Filling the gaps in the international ocean governance framework	
1.1. Work with Member States and international partners for adoption, ratification and implementation of ocean governance instruments. FAO Port State Measures Agreement: - Inception meeting - Adoption of Article 21 Trust Fund at FAO Committee of Fisheries	Ongoing 2017 2018
1.2. UNGA decision to hold an intergovernmental conference for the negotiation of an intergovernmental Instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) based on the recommendations by the BBNJ Preparatory Committee in 2016 and 2017.	2017
1.3. Support international efforts for the protection of marine biodiversity in relevant international institutions	Ongoing
1.4. Produce guidance on the exploration and exploitation of natural resources on the seabed in areas under national jurisdiction	By 2018
1.5. Pursue regional initiatives for sustainable development and/or safety and security in sea basins outside the EU.	Ongoing
2. Promoting regional fisheries management and cooperation in key ocean areas to fill regional governance gaps	
2.1. Support a multilateral agreement or RFMO to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean	2017-2018
2.2. Support the upgrading of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic and	By 2020

the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission. CECAF: availability of a study on cost and benefits of different options for the status of CECAF WECAFC decision in on way forward	2017 2018
2.3. Support regional fisheries bodies and initiatives in improving cooperation between countries on issues such as IUU fishing. Establishment of IUU procedures in all RFMOs, their harmonisation and mutual recognition of IUU listings in all relevant RFMOs General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM): development of a holistic regional plan of action to fight IUU fishing.	Ongoing By 2020. 2017
2.4. Promote improvements to the functioning of existing regional fisheries management bodies including regular performance reviews. Second performance reviews in all RFMOs to which the EU is party [for IATTC the first performance review]	By 2020
3. Improving coordination and cooperation between international organisations and launching Ocean Partnerships for ocean management	
3.1. Support better cooperation and coordination between global and regional organisations with a mandate related to the oceans, including through new or existing frameworks. UNEA 2 Oceans and Seas RFMO coordination mechanism established	Ongoing As of 2016-progress review by December 2017 2020
3.2. Support better coordination between RFMOs and regional seas conventions (RSCs) and cooperation with global organisations. Priority under EU HELCOM presidency ICCAT-OSPAR cooperation agreement	Progress review by December 2017 Progress review by June 2018 2018
3.3. Support global efforts for the protection of marine biodiversity such as: the priority actions adopted by the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on marine and	Regular review by CBD COPs

coastal biodiversity	
decisions identifying Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)	
3.4. Ensure the effective implementation of decisions taken for the protection of marine species at the CITES CoP 16 and 17	Regular review by CITES COPs
3.5. Support strengthening UN-Oceans, in the context of the upcoming review of its mandate	2017
3.6. Propose to develop ocean partnerships with key players.	As of 2017
4. Capacity Building	
4.1. Promote and build capacity for better ocean governance and sustainable blue economies with EU partners – in particular in the Pacific ocean, in the Indian Ocean and in Western Africa.	Ongoing/As of 2016
4.2. Engage in maritime security capacity-building with other countries and regional organisations –notably in the Gulf of Guinea and in the Indian Ocean.	2017
4.3. Support the development of a robust, evidence-based Blue Economy Development Framework..	As of 2017
4.4. Identify ways to improve ocean governance through the implementation of the SDGs, including capacity building in focus areas, such as the Gulf of Guinea, South-East Asia.	As of 2017-2030
4.5. Promote technical cooperation in collaboration with the IMO aimed at bolstering implementation and enforcement of IMO instruments.	2018
4.6. Support capacity building towards a blue economy in the Mediterranean, in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean and other organisations, including the Barcelona Convention	2017-2018
5. Ensuring the safety and security of seas and oceans	
5.1. Build on the EUMSS to reduce and eliminate maritime security threats and risks	2017
5.2. Enhance the exchange of cross-sectoral maritime surveillance information between	2018-2020

Member States, and with non EU countries.	
5.3. Assess how to facilitate the interoperability of maritime surveillance environments, such as the CISE.	2018-2020
5.4. Launch a pilot project to monitor illegal fishing worldwide, and explore possibilities for expanding monitoring to other sectors.	As of 2017
6. Implementing the COP21 Agreement and mitigating the harmful impact of climate change on oceans, coastlines and ecosystems	
6.1. Step up work with international partners on joint action to protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems.	As of 2017
6.2. Launch international public-private partnerships aimed at restoring, adapting or developing ‘green/blue infrastructure’.	By 2020
6.3. Promote the inclusion of ocean-related action in national follow-up to the commitments under the Paris Agreement. Present state of play in the Global Stock take exercise as laid down in the Paris Agreement.	As of 2017 2018
6.4. Propose international action to follow up on the consequences inter alia of ocean warming, sea-level rise and acidification.	2018
7. Fighting illegal fishing and strengthening the sustainable management of ocean food resources globally	
7.1. Improving current systems and supporting Member States in ensuring efficient controls through the development of electronic tools on IUU.	As of 2018
7.2. Strengthen cooperation on IUU with third countries through • capacity-building and partnership with EFCA. • Use of available EU development funding to support action on IUU. • Addressing IUU-related challenges such as forced labour and other forms of work that violate human rights	As of 2017
7.3. Cooperate with non-EU countries through bilateral dialogues and formal processes (pre-identification, identification and listing) under the	Ongoing

IUU Regulation.	
7.4. Promote multilateral action on IUU, including: - the creation of a global fleet register; Termination of Phase I - the allocation of a unique vessel identifier (IMO number) to commercial fishing vessels; Application of IMO numbers in all RFMOs for vessels above 100 GT - the adoption of guidelines to develop and implement catch documentation schemes (global catch certificate).	2018 By 2018 2017
7.5. Strengthen the role of Interpol in the fight against IUU fishing	Ongoing
7.6. Strengthen supervision of the EU's external fishing fleet wherever it operates, in line with the proposed regulation on sustainable management.	(FAR adoption by EP and Council in 2017)
8. Banning harmful fisheries subsidies	
8.1. Engage in multilateral negotiations in the WTO to ban, by 2020, subsidies that contribute to overcapacity, overfishing and IUU fishing. Decision at WTO Ministerial Conference	October 2016 2017
9. Fighting marine litter and the sea of plastic	
9.1. Propose action on Marine Litter: - a strategy on plastics, addressing marine litter - address sea-based sources of marine litter, through the revision of the Port Reception Facilities Directive and, if necessary, additional action relating to fishing activities and aquaculture. - Contribute to the assessment of governance strategies and approaches to combating marine plastic litter and microplastics, as requested by the UN Environment Assembly. - provide financial support, to improve capacity to collect marine litter and the	2017 2017-2019 2017 2017-2020

availability of data on litter concentrations in seas around the EU. - propose to strengthen the institutional framework through better coordination of international efforts, the G7 plan to combat marine litter, and the global partnership on marine litter. - promote marine litter action plans focusing on i.a. RSCs around Europe.	Ongoing Progress review by December 2017
10. Promoting maritime spatial planning at global level	
10.1. Launch work towards proposals for international guidelines on MSP	2017
11. Achieving the global target of conserving 10% of marine and coastal areas and promoting the effective management of MPAs	
11.1. Promote the exchange of best practices and support efforts towards coherent networks of MPAs.	Ongoing
11.2. Promote coordinated action on MPAs: - regional and international cooperation to develop long-term, sustainable financing mechanisms, for MPAs - Complete an MPA twinning project on best practices and capacity building in the Atlantic from Europe to Africa, North and South America - Provide funding under Horizon2020 and LIFE for marine research essential for the establishment of marine protected areas and liaise with international partners	Ongoing 2016-2017 Ongoing
12. A coherent EU strategy on ocean observation, data and marine accounting	
12.1. Propose a coherent ocean observation in line with the G7 Tsukuba Communiqué.	2018
12.2. Present proposal to align EMODnet with other international marine data collection efforts	2018
12.3. Significantly strengthen the integrated system for natural capital and ecosystem services accounting (Commission, EEA and international partners).	As of 2017

13. Strengthening investment in ‘blue’ science and innovation	
13.1. Set up a ‘blue-science cloud pilot’	2018
13.2. Work with G7 partners to advance the new G7 ‘Future of the Oceans’ initiative on research and observation of the oceans and seas.	2017
14. International ocean research, innovation and science partnerships	
14.1. Develop marine research and science partnerships with key partners, including in the context of global alliances such as the Belmont Forum or the Group on Earth Observations	Ongoing
14.2. Strengthen work on an All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance	2017
14.3. Advance work to include southern Mediterranean countries in the BLUEMED initiative	2017
14.4. Strengthen science, research and innovation involvement in the Black Sea under the Black Sea Synergy.	2017-2018
15. Working with stakeholders	
15.1. Set up an EU international oceans stakeholder forum	October 2017