






# Protecting and restoring the world's ocean



Oceana is the **largest international advocacy organisation** dedicated solely to ocean conservation.

Oceana is **rebuilding abundant and biodiverse oceans** by winning science-based policies in countries that control one-quarter of the world's wild fish catch.




## Oceana is:

-  **Fact-based:** Our advocacy relies on scientific research to help us understand the problems causing pressure on the oceans and identify effective solutions.
-  **Campaign-driven:** We create policy campaigns that make measurable progress towards our mission of protecting and restoring oceans to healthy levels of abundance.
-  **Multidisciplinary:** Our campaigners work closely with our scientists, lawyers, and communicators.

## Oceana's campaigns are leading to a more abundant ocean:


-  **Over 6 million km<sup>2</sup> of marine protected areas and bottom-trawl bans** have been designated in Europe, thanks to the support of our allies and information collected by Oceana expeditions. Protected areas are an essential tool for rebuilding depleted marine life, conserving habitats, and increasing ocean resilience to the climate crisis.
-  Together with our allies, **Oceana has contributed to achieving a sharp decline in overfishing in the North-East Atlantic:** from 70% in 2003 to 30% in 2022. Fish populations are 37% more abundant and the fishing sector is more profitable.
-  The EU is a global leader in the fight against illegal fishing. **Thanks to Oceana and our allies, the EU has disclosed which EU vessels are authorised to operate outside its waters;** the entire EU fishing fleet is set to be monitored; and it will be more difficult for illegally caught seafood to enter the EU market.


Learn more at:


-  [europe.oceana.org](https://europe.oceana.org)
-  [europe@oceana.org](mailto:europe@oceana.org)
-  [@OceanaEurope](#)





on our journey towards  
a healthy **ocean**


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1. **Adopt an EU Ocean Deal** - an overarching framework to integrate new and existing legislation - guaranteeing that all ocean-related EU policies are fit for preserving and restoring the oceans for the benefit of people and planet alike.
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2. **Create an EU Ocean Fund** dedicated to the long-term restoration and conservation of the marine environment, and to the just transition of ocean-related economic sectors.
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3. **Put the ocean at the heart of decision-making** by establishing an Ocean Committee in the European Parliament to ensure coherence between different policies and initiatives that impact the oceans.
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4. **Ensure the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**: the rules of the CFP are sound and have resulted in more abundant fish populations as well as better profitability for the fishers who rely on them. This success must be extended to all EU fisheries, by fully implementing and enforcing its provisions.
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5. **Support a just transition towards low-impact fishing.** Prioritise the allocation of fishing opportunities to low-impact practices that demonstrate better environmental performance, such as lower carbon footprint and reduced habitat damage, as well as socio-economic benefits, including contributions to employment and the economies of coastal communities.
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6. **Stop destructive fishing in coastal and marine protected areas.** Destructive practices such as bottom trawling clear-cut the wildlife that lives on the seabed and harm the species that depend on it for food, shelter, and reproduction.
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7. **Improve information on processed and imported seafood** by ensuring that consumers have information on the seafood they eat, how it was caught and where, and on its environmental and social sustainability.
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8. **Rebuild fish populations and fight illegal fishing in the Mediterranean.** Build on the progress of the Western Mediterranean Plan to end overfishing and rebuild key commercial stocks, such as hake or Norway lobster, and ensure stronger control measures.
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9. **Protect Mediterranean areas deeper than 800 metres.** The EU has protected vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems in the North-East Atlantic by prohibiting bottom trawling in areas deeper than 800 metres. Similar protection should be extended to the Mediterranean, where bottom trawling is still allowed in areas as deep as 1,000 metres.
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10. **Unveil who is behind EU-owned vessels flagged to non-EU countries.** EU laws prohibit citizens from supporting or benefiting from illegal fishing. Yet, EU companies often use complex structures to exploit weaker regulations in non-EU countries. EU ownership of foreign fishing vessels should be declared, so that action can be taken in case of unlawful activities.