

LDAC reply consultation International Ocean Governance Reference: R-12-20/WG5

# Introduction

# Background

The International Ocean Governance Agenda (JOIN(2016) 49 final) has contributed to a concerted and targeted approach to improve the governance framework, to protect the oceans, strengthen international ocean science and develop a sustainable blue economy worldwide. Despite good progress by the EU and the global community to improve ocean governance as presented in the progress report on the delivery of the agenda (JOIN(2019) 4), further action is necessary to ensure oceans are healthy, clean, safe, secure a n d s u s t a i n a b l y u s e d.

# Objectives

The targeted stakeholder consultation aims to assess the need and how to develop the EU International Ocean Governance Agenda. In particular, the consultation aims to identify opportunities for targeted action in light of today's challenges in international ocean governance to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular the sustainable development goal on the ocean (SDG14) in support of the objectives of the European Green Deal

Concretely, the objectives of the consultation are to:

- i) re-examine the EU's role in international ocean governance;
- ii) re-examine the three priorities of the current Agenda, its goals and the actions thereunder (JOIN (2016) 49 final); and
- iii) identify new policy areas or actions to tackle existing and emerging challenges

# Scope

The targeted consultation seeks contributions from relevant stakeholders including Member States, third countries, international organisations, NGOs, financial institutions, academic, scientific, social and economic partners

The consultation consists of 5 sections:

- 1. Personal information
- 2. Scope and objectives of the International Ocean Governance Agenda

- 3. Strengthening the International Ocean Governance framework
- 4. Reducing pressure on the ocean and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy
- 5. Strengthening international ocean science: research, data and knowledge systems

After the first two sections, you can submit your answers or choose to answer one of the three thematic sections in addition. You can also choose to answer all sections. Each section consists of 5-10 questions.

# About you

#### \* Language of your contribution

English

\* First name

ALEXANDRE

#### \* Surname

RODRIGUEZ

#### Email (this will not be published)

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#### \* Country

ES - Spain

#### Please identify below your organisation, geographic context and main scale of activity

	EU	non-EU	local	national	regional	global	sectoral
Academia							
Policy	<b>V</b>						
Public authority							
Civil society	<b>V</b>						
Business							
Finance							

#### \* What is your main field of activity/expertise

at most 1 choice(s)

Fishery

### Other, please specify

50 character(s) maximum

#### \* Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

#### Anonymous

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

#### Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

Privacy\_statement\_targeted\_consultation\_IOG.pdf

I give consent that the Commission keeps my data to inform me about future stakeholder consultations on International Ocean Governance related matters including through the <u>International Ocean Governance</u> Forum

# Scope and objectives of the International Ocean Governance Agenda

In your view, is the current objective of the EU's International Governance Agenda "*to ensure safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans through a coherent, cross-sectoral and rules-based international approach*" still relevant and coherent with global sustainability objectives pertaining to the ocean, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular the sustainable development goal on the ocean (SDG14) thereunder?

- 🚺 Yes
- 📝 No

Please explain what should be changed and why.

350 character(s) maximum

Synergies between SDG14 and SDG2 need to be addressed and fostered in global processes, including the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the FAO Declaration on Fisheries Sustainability. Actions should be focused on areas rather than targets when assessing human pressures, fostering inter-agency cooperation + cross-institutional dialogue

Keeping in mind the scope of EU competences and the challenges to deliver global sustainability objectives pertaining to the ocean, are the three policy pillars of the International Ocean Governance Agenda (JOIN (2016) 49 final) still relevant and concrete enough?

#### Pillar 1: Improving the international ocean governance framework

Pillar 2: Reducing pressure on oceans and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy

Pillar 3: Strengthening international ocean research and data

🚺 Yes

🚺 No

Please explain what should be changed and why.

350 character(s) maximum

From a fisheries perspective, the international ocean governance framework is complete. Yet, we see the need to reinforce RFMOs, capacity building, data collection, integrated responses to ocean challenges and strive for 100% stock management of com. species. All blue activities should be as regulated as fishing to uphold sustainability principles.

Does the EU lead by example in the delivery of global sustainability objectives relevant to the oceans in particular SDG14 through its marine, maritime and fisheries policies?

Yes

🔲 No

Partially

\* Please explain why and describe the policy areas where improvements are particularely needed.

#### 350 character(s) maximum

There are examples of the EU leading on global sustainability objectives e.g. SDG14.4 through its fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing policy. However, an international level playing field with respect for internationally agreed sustainability standards re trade of products is needed for EU and non EU operators/sectors.

What actions are necessary for the EU International Ocean Governance Agenda to address more effectively the balance between the need for conservation and the sustainable use of ocean, seas and marine resources?

350 character(s) maximum

We need an international level playing field where operators from all sectors abide by the same internationally agreed standards for social and environmental sustainability. This includes policy coherence between fishing and cooperation for development, health, labour and trade aspects.

Thank you for answering the general questions on the scope and objectives of the International Ocean Governance Agenda.

Please choose the section(s) you would like to continue with:

at most 3 choice(s)

- Improving the international ocean governance framework
- Reducing pressure on the ocean and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy
- 🔲 Strengthening ocean science, research, data and knowledge systems for International Ocean Governance
- None

Please rate the following goals according to the need for further action by the EU to improve the international ocean governance framework.

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Addressing legal and institutional gaps within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction	0	۲	0	0	0
Enhancing coordination and cooperation between international organisations	۲	0	0	0	0
Promoting the integration of ocean governance frameworks with other relevant governance frameworks such as for climate and biodiversity	۲	O	0	O	0
Supporting efforts by relevant bodies such as regional fisheries bodies, regional sea conventions and other multilateral organisations for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and marine resources	۲	0	۲	O	0
Strengthening ocean knowledge systems and interfaces	۲	0	0	0	0
Strengthening compliance with /implementation of existing regulations and policies	۲	0	0	0	0
Promoting policy coherence among relevant instruments	۲	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	

Please explain your choice. Which action(s) would need to be carried out or scaled-up to meet the most important goal(s) and at which level (local, national, regional sea, global or sectoral)?

500 character(s) maximum

No need for new overarching body to regulate fisheries (we have UNCLOS). Promote RFMO for unregulated species and areas in the high seas, e.g. small pelagics and demersal species in West Africa or Atlantic South West FAO 41.

Support drive for a new Inter-RFMO "Kobe-like" process in horizontal issues such as fight vs IUU fishing, transparency, fishing capacity, scientific research, ecosystem approach...

Foster ocean basin approach to the CFP external dimension for Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

How can the EU promote coordination and cooperation among regional and global organisations with complementary mandates to maximise their synergies and facilitate coherent policy application?

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Support the development and implementation of cooperation instruments such as memoranda of understanding, collective arrangements and complementary conservation and management measures	0	۲	۲	۲	0
Support joint action plans including for data-collection, monitoring and complementary conservation and joint management strategies	۲	0	0	0	0
Strengthen organisational capacity for implementation, collaboration and coordination	۲	0	0	0	0
Support cross-organisational initiatives, platforms and forums for information sharing, dialogue and exchange of good practice	۲	0	0	O	0

#### Other (please specify)

#### 250 character(s) maximum

The ongoing Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue led by CBD to enhance collaboration between RFMOs and Regional Seas Conversations is a successful example of cross-sectoral, cross-organizational and inter-institutional cooperation.

What further actions could the EU undertake to support an integrated approach for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development considering interactions between SDG14 and other goals and the cross-cutting role of the ocean and marine resources?

250 character(s) maximum

Develop a coherent strategy to implement the Green Deal (F2F, BDS) in external fisheries: Ensure all fleets and fishing investments operate sustainably in external waters and third countries. All imports must respect environmental & labour standards.

Which actions support best the establishment of networks of effective marine protected areas and other area-based management tools for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity?

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Implementation of ecosystem-based integrated coastal zone management	0	۲	0	0	0
Use of ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning	0	۲	0	0	0

Establishment of strict protection zones	0	0	0	0	۲
Design and implementation of robust and adaptive management plans	۲	O	O	0	0
Promotion of cross-sectoral management arrangements	۲	0	0	0	0
Use of remote monitoring	0	0	0	0	۲
Implementation of regular performance reviews	۲	0	0	0	0
Support of organisational capacity development for identification, design and implementation of MPA networks'	۲	0	0	0	0
Sustainable funding	O	۲	O	0	0

## Other (please specify)

#### 250 character(s) maximum

MPAs should be science-based, have clear and measurable objectives, periodical monitoring and allow participation of all relevant stakeholders from the outset. Conservation goals designed to cover all extractive activities to protect habitats/species

What should the EU undertake to promote Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements as a tool for international ocean governance?

#### 250 character(s) maximum

SFPAs should: act as 'building blocks' to develop coherent regional strategies (Indian Ocean/Atlantic); catalyze synergies with other EU policies, incl. cooperation for development, trade, MCS; help to promote transparency; integrate social standards

# Reducing pressure on the ocean and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy

Please rate the following goals according to the need for further action by the EU to ensure reducing pressure on the ocean and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Addressing cumulative pressures on the marine environment	۲	0	0	0	0
Strengthening adaptive policy and management approaches	۲	0	0	0	0

Addressing pollution from land-based and sea-based sources	O	۲	0	0	
Mitigating and adapting to the harmful effects of climate change	۲	0	0	0	0
Preventing overfishing and managing ocean food resources sustainably	۲	0	0	0	۲
Conserving and protecting marine ecosystems	0	۲	0	۲	۲
Managing marine space sustainably	0	۲	0	0	0
Creating the right socio-economic conditions for a sustainable blue economy	0	۲	0	0	0
Supporting the effective implementation of international obligations	۲	0	0	0	۲
Eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	۲	0	0	0	۲
Ensuring a level-playing field based on decent work and social sustainability in blue economy sectors	۲	0	0	0	0

Please explain your choice. Which action(s) would need to be carried out or scaled-up to meet the most important goal(s) and at which level (local, national, regional sea, global or sectoral)?

500 character(s) maximum

Revision of the EU Blue Economy Development Framework (BEDF) needed to ensure that the social value of fisheries (jobs, food, culture.) is taken into account. Differentiate between conservation, which is cross sectoral, and sustainable use of marine resources, which looks at economic sectors individually. Strive to achieve global transparency and level playing field in the fisheries sector. Promote due diligence and adoption + ratification of ILO conventions across all sectors and countries.

Which specific action(s) should be done to address pollution from land-based and sea-based sources?

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Promote the use of life-cycle approaches and circular economy models	۲	0	0	0	0
Strengthen the use of integrated coastal zone management and maritime spatial planning	0	۲	0	0	0
Strengthen land-based pollution prevention by applying integrated river- basin management	۲	0	0	0	0

Promote measures to prevent pollution from ships such as Emission Control Areas, contingency planning and port reception facilities	0	۲	©	O	0
Support the development of a global agreement on plastic	۲	©	©	0	0

# Other (please specify)

#### 250 character(s) maximum

EIA and social IA should be mandatory for all activities. The EU to continue reducing the use of plastics and supporting the collection (fishing for) of marine litter and ensure that infrastructures are in place (Port Reception Facilities Directive).

How can the EU promote an ecosystem approach for addressing cumulative pressures to the marine environment regionally and globally?

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Support regular monitoring of the marine environment status at national and regional levels by relevant authorities in close cooperation with Regional Seas Conventions	۲	©	O	©	0
Support regular integrated assessments of cumulative pressures of economic activities and climate change impacts at national and regional levels (contributing to relevant global assessments)	۲	©	©	©	0
Support measures to ensure clean, healthy and productive seas at local, national and regional levels with the support of international organisations with relevant mandates	۲	O	©	©	0
Ensure a stricter implementation of existing EU rules (e.g. MSFD, WFD)	0	0	۲	0	0
Ensure cumulative pressures are duly considered in environmental impact assessments	۲	0	0	0	0
Support compliance mechanisms that take account of cumulative pressures	۲	0	0	0	0

To manage ocean impacts effectively there is a need for coordinated action that includes land based impacts through ensuring stricter implementation of environmental, agricultural and industrial policies as well as action on marine policy.

Which groups should be targeted for capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of ocean, seas and marine resources?

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Global organisations	۲	0	0	0	0
Regional organisations	۲	۲	0	۲	0
National authorities	۲	۲	۲	۲	0
Local authorities	۲	۲	۲	0	0
Economic sectors	۲	۲	۲	۲	0
Private and public investors	۲	O	0	0	0
Academia	۲	0	0	0	0
Citizens	۲	0	0	0	0

# Others -please specify

#### 100 character(s) maximum

Financial and insurance entities and institutions should be included as stakeholders - play a role.

How could the EU strengthen the effectiveness of capacity building and development cooperation for conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources?

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Promote donor coordination	0	۲	0	0	0
Promote donor-recipient coordination	۲	0	0	0	0
Build recipient capacity for the acquisition, management and use of development support	0	۲	0		0
Support the exchange of good practices	۲	0	0	0	0
Support regional programming	۲	0	0	0	0

Support organisations competent for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources	0	۲	0	0	0
Support cross-sector and international coordination and cooperation	۲	O	0	O	0

# Others -please specify

#### 250 character(s) maximum

The definition of competent organisations for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources must be clearly defined. Monitoring / accountability of use of funds is paramount to ensure real action + results based management

What actions would contribute to a level playing field among blue economy operators and ensure compliance with international standards on environment, labour law, fisheries, maritime safety and fair taxation?

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Address the use of flags from States taking limited action to ensure compliance with existing standards	۲	0	0	0	0
Strengthen the application and coordination of ex-ante and ex-post assessments of blue economy projects and strategies including environmental impact assessments	۲	۲	۲	O	۲
Promote consideration of marine and ocean impacts in ex-ante and ex-post assessments of land-based projects	0	۲	0		0
Promote financing conditionalities including donor coordination that give priority to sustainable blue economy opportunities	0	0	0	O	۲
Ensure ocean health considerations are included in financing conditionalities for land-based projects	0	0	0	0	۲
Address justice and equity concerns related to blue economy development building on inclusive processes (associating in particular local coastal communities)	۲	۲	۲	0	0
Promote fair mechanisms for benefit sharing	۲	0	0	0	0

Support blue economy initiatives with business models accounting for ecosystem protection and social inclusion	0	0	0	0	۲
Promote maritime spatial planning that accounts individual and cumulative pressures on ecosystems	۲	0	O	O	©

## Others -please specify

#### 250 character(s) maximum

Use EU market power to counteract companies/countries not complying with international standards (IUU, Custom and tax measures or carbon border adjustment mechanism). EU measures should not put its sustainable industry at a competitive disadvantage.

Which actions should the EU and its Member States carry out/support to maximise the ocean's, seas' and coastal zone's potential for climate change adaptation and mitigation while ensuring ocean conservation and sustainable use?

	most important	important	less important	not important	don't know
Ensure maximum sustainable yield (MSY) of fisheries	۲	0	0	O	0
Strengthen climate change resilience considerations into fisheries management	0	۲	0	O	0
Support restoration and maintenance of marine habitats that sequester carbon dioxide	0	0	0	0	0
Support the establishment of coherent networks of Marine Protected Areas and other area-based management tools	0	۲	0	0	0
Support coastal area adaptation to the consequences of sea-level rise	0	۲	0	0	0
Promote offshore wind energy	0	0	۲	0	0
Promote tide and wave energy	0	0	۲	0	0
Promote low-emission fisheries and aquaculture practices	0	0	0	0	0
Develop an international ocean climate and forecasting centre	O	O	۲	O	0

#### Others -please specify

Clarification is needed for low-emission fisheries and aquaculture. Fishing has the lowest carbon footprint as food industry. Development of offshore wind farms can only be done in line with precautionary approach same to all blue economy industries.

# Document upload

Should you wish to provide additional information (e.g. a position paper, report) or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can upload your document here. Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire, which is the essential input to this consultation. Any documents uploaded are optional and will be used as additional background information to better understand your position.

The maximum file size is 1 MB

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# Contact

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