

Our Ocean Action Plan

Washington, DC

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Sustainable Fisheries

End overfishing in the ocean. *End overfishing on all marine fish stocks by 2020, with the goal of restoring overexploited, depleted, and recovering stocks. To achieve this, we must –*

- set fishing rules based on the best available science, even if it means foregoing catch in the near term;
- develop fair, equitable, and transparent procedures for allocating fishing rights;
- enforce fishing rules using all available technologies and impose meaningful penalties on violators;
- eliminate by 2020 fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity of fishing fleets; and
- require fishing fleets to use gear and fishing techniques that reduce to an absolute minimum the bycatch of other species, waste, and discards of fish.

Prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. *To achieve this, we must –*

- stop illegally harvested fish from entering the stream of commerce, consistent with international law, using all tools available;
- bring into force promptly and effectively implement the Port State Measures Agreement;
- improve tracking of fishing vessels by ensuring that by 2020 all large fishing vessels (100 gross tons and above) have obtained an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number – a unique and permanent identifier;
- build capacity to prevent wildlife trafficking of marine species through the regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks and through INTERPOL; and
- provide consumers with information to allow them to choose seafood that has been harvested legally and sustainably.

Marine Pollution

Reduce nutrient pollution to the marine environment. Reduce total nutrient pollution from land-based sources to the marine environment by 20 percent by 2025 in order to reduce hypoxic zones and harmful algal blooms.

Reduce marine debris. Significantly reduce the input of debris, especially plastics, into the marine environment so as to achieve measurable reductions of marine debris by 2025.

Ocean Acidification

Stem the increase in ocean acidification by reducing carbon emissions, including in the context of a new agreement that will be applicable to all under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Create worldwide capability to monitor ocean acidification. Achieve worldwide coverage of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network and significantly increase the number of trained monitors and managers by 2020.

Protect Ocean Areas

Create more marine protected areas. Conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, including through effectively managed protected areas, by 2020.

Protect coastal ecosystems that provide critical services. Conserve at least 20 percent of coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, that provide critical ecosystem services by 2020. These ecosystems provide habitat and nursery grounds for many species of marine life, store carbon, and protect vulnerable coastlines against storm surges.