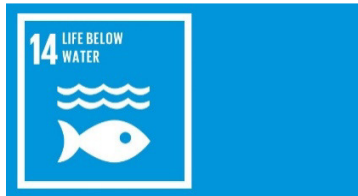


USEFUL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE OCEAN WHICH MAY HELP WITH YOUR SUBMISSION CAN BE FOUND AT: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022>



<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/>

UNOC, which runs from 27 June – 01 July, is co-hosted by the Governments of Portugal and Kenya and comes at a critical moment as the world is strengthening its efforts to protect the state of our ocean.

It will produce a political declaration and bring together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organisations, as well as representatives from international finance, academic, scientific, and philanthropic communities.

- The ocean is our planet's largest biosphere.
- It produces 50% of the oxygen we breathe and absorbs 25% of all carbon dioxide emissions. It is not only the lungs of the planet but also its largest carbon sink and one of the most important allies to combat climate change.
- The ocean provides key natural resources; produces food; nurtures biodiversity; is a source of energy; acts as a buffer to reduce damage from storms. And it is an amazing place for tourism and recreation.
- The science is clear: the ocean is facing unprecedented threats that must be addressed.

Facts and Figures about the Ocean

- The ocean covers 70% of the surface of Earth.
- Only 19% of the ocean floor is mapped.
- 12 people have gone to the moon but only 3 have gone to Mariana Trench, the deepest place on Earth, in the Pacific Ocean.

- Approximately 250,000 marine species have been identified but scientists believe that over a million remain to be identified.
- At least 50% of the oxygen we breathe comes from the ocean: every second breath is maritime!
- Blue economy represents 1.5 trillion USD and 30 million jobs (*Source: OECD*), representing approximately 2.5% of world gross value added (GVA).
- The Mediterranean Sea absorbs 17.8 million tons of CO₂ every year: the ocean is an ally to combat climate change.
- Even landlocked countries contribute to the blue economy: the Czech Republic is a European champion when it comes to pond aquaculture.
- Portugal was a world pioneer in creating a satellite ocean account to measure the value of its blue economy.
- The top two sectors in ocean economy are: oil and gas (34%) and tourism (24%), but it is the fisheries sector that represents more jobs (36%).
- The United Kingdom has more than 500,000 oceanic jobs and the ocean economy represents 1.7% of the national gross value added.
- Both the European Union and the African Union have their own blue economy growth plans.
- Climate change is probably the number one threat to the ocean, causing sea levels to rise, acidification and species migrations and reduction.
- Plastics are the major source of ocean pollution – if all plastics together were an island in the Pacific, that island would measure 1.6 million square kms, containing 80,000 tons of plastic.