Oceans
what’s happening
2017-18
Oceans, along with coastal and marine resources, play an essential role in human well-being and social and economic development worldwide. They are particularly crucial for people living in coastal communities, who represented 37% of the global population in 2010. Oceans provide livelihoods and tourism benefits, as well as subsistence and income. They also help regulate the global ecosystem by absorbing heat and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and protecting coastal areas from flooding and erosion.

(UN Sustainable Development Goals, Progress of Goal 14)
Work happening 2017-18

The Ocean Economy
This project builds on the 2016 OECD report The Ocean Economy in 2030 and will provide new evidence-based information to improve the innovation policy mix for sustainable ocean management. This will be undertaken through a series of expert workshops, research on new OECD indicators and innovation policy discussions with ocean-related communities around the world. The activities will be organised around four major themes: i) Exploring the role of scientific advances and enabling technologies in driving innovation in the ocean economy; ii) Investigating emerging patterns and platforms of collaboration in innovation among different marine and maritime actors in ocean R&D around the world; iii) Extending the frontiers of the use of economic valuation, analysis and tools further into areas of ocean-related activities; and iv) Analysing the role of the public sector and the impacts of policy mix in boosting innovation in the ocean economy.

For further information on Innovation and the Ocean Economy see: https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/ocean-economy-and-innovation

This year’s Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum (GGSD Forum) will focus on investment, innovation and employment aspects of the fast-growing ocean-based industries, together with policies to conserve and sustainably use marine and ocean resources and ecosystems. It will explore how the economic development and conservation needs can be balanced successfully through innovations in established and emerging ocean industries, as well as marine spatial planning instruments.

Issues such as national and international capacity for ocean industry oversight, the role of science and technology (including digitalisation), responsible business conduct and waste management will be addressed. The Forum will draw on work by the Scientific and Technological Policy Committee (CSTP), the Fisheries Committee (COFI), the Environment Policy Committee (EPOC), the Investment Committee (IC), Shipbuilding Committee (WP6), the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as well as the International Transport Forum (ITF) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

For further information: http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/ggsd-forum.htm
Work happening 2017-18 continued...

**Marine Protected Areas: Economics, Management and Effective Policy Mixes**

Intense exploitation of the oceans has degraded marine biodiversity and ecosystems to a severe extent, despite the suite of policy instruments available to address the pressures on marine ecosystems. The OECD is examining the effective design and implementation of marine protected areas (MPAs), to enhance their environmental and cost effectiveness. The analysis covers a broad range of issues including the costs and benefits of MPAs, more strategic siting of MPAs, monitoring and compliance, sustainable finance for MPAs, and the need to embed these in a wider policy mix so as to address the multiple pressures on marine ecosystems. The OECD publication *Marine Protected Areas: Economics, Management and Effective Policy Mixes* (forthcoming, June 2017) draws on experience from a range of countries and highlights good practice insights for effectively managing MPAs.

The Policy Highlights are available online:  
[www.oecd.org/environment/resources/Marine-Protected-Areas-Policy-Highlights.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/Marine-Protected-Areas-Policy-Highlights.pdf)

**Indicators on Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas**

The OECD is working on a methodology for calculating the extent of terrestrial and marine protected areas, by country, type and IUCN management categories, applying GIS analysis to UNEP-WCMC’s World Database on Protected Areas. The method allows summarising the data on protected areas across countries and over time in a more detailed and harmonised way than previously available. This can provide an indication of the extent and focus of countries’ conservation efforts and also to some extent measure progress towards achieving the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. The methodology will be presented in an upcoming paper.

**Biodiversity finance: effectiveness and efficiency**

This project will provide an inventory of the available evidence on the environmental and cost effectiveness of policy instruments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and the advances in spatial targeting tools that can help ensure policies deliver greater biodiversity benefits per unit of investment. It covers policy instruments for both the terrestrial and marine environment.
Improving the evidence base on fisheries subsidies/support
Efforts towards negotiating a multilateral trade agreement on fisheries subsidies at the WTO have taken on new impetus. The OECD is supporting this process by improving the evidence base, via increased reporting on policies in the Fisheries Support Estimate (FSE) database. The OECD’s FSE database collects information on policies supportive of the fisheries sector and classifies them using a consistent method agreed to by participating countries. It currently includes most OECD member countries with significant marine fisheries and is rapidly expanding to include other participating economies, including Argentina and Chinese Taipei. The FSE is designed to support improved policy analysis, creation and reform and is an important tool for domestic policy reform as well as to support international discussions and agreements on fisheries policies. The OECD is the only international organisation that measures and reports policy effort in the fisheries sector on an annual basis. Work will also be undertaken to better understand the impacts of support to fisheries on overfishing and overcapacity, the two overarching concerns of global action on fisheries subsidies.

The FSE database can be explored on the OECD’s statistics portal at: http://oe.cd/fse-stats

Combatting illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing
The OECD will update previous work on key determinants of IUU fishing and collect data on the current regulatory and institutional situation in OECD countries and other countries. The OECD will monitor progress towards meeting SDG 14 targets associated with ending IUU fishing. The fight against IUU fishing also has strong links with SDG 1 ‘No poverty’, SDG 2 ‘No hunger’ and SDG 16 dedicated to the promotion of ‘Peace, justice and strong institutions’. The project aims to cover a range of countries beyond the OECD members and in particular to include countries where IUU fishing occurs and has a significant impact on policies at the global level. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) recently agreed to be part of the OECD analysis.
Green Growth in Fisheries and Aquaculture

This report summarises the current situation in fisheries and aquaculture, observing that in many parts of the world these sectors are at risk and do not reach their full potential. However, the prospects for sustained growth are good if reforms along the lines suggested by the OECD Green Growth Strategy are undertaken. The report emphasises the need for a strong, science-based approach to stock management for resource sustainability, combined with a transparent and reactive policy development cycle to ensure that fisheries deliver maximum possible benefits. The report shows that improved regulation to deal with environmental externalities and space competition is key to unlocking future growth potential of aquaculture.


Recent publications and events

The Ocean Economy in 2030

This report explores the growth prospects for the ocean economy, its capacity for future employment creation and innovation, and its role in addressing global challenges. Special attention is devoted to the emerging ocean-based industries in light of their high growth and innovation potential, and contribution to addressing challenges such as energy security, environment, climate change and food security.

The report examines the risks and uncertainties surrounding the future development of ocean industries, the innovations required in science and technology to support their progress, their potential contribution to green growth and some of the implications for ocean management. Finally, and looking across the future ocean economy as a whole, it explores possible avenues for action that could boost its long-term development prospects while managing the use of the ocean itself in responsible, sustainable ways.

OECD Review of Fisheries: Policies and Summary Statistics

The OECD Review of Fisheries (2015) provides information on developments in policies and activities in the fishing and aquaculture sectors of OECD countries and participating economies, mainly for the period 2012-13. This edition includes Argentina, the People’s Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and Latvia.

Part I overviews the activities in the sector and includes a chapter containing two-page snapshots outlining country summary statistics and key developments in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Additional country-level data and detail on institutional and policy backgrounds, based on contributions by participating countries and economies, are provided in the electronic version of this report.


Conference: Combating Tax Crime and Other Crimes in the Fisheries Sector, 13-14 October 2016

This event – hosted jointly by the OECD Fisheries Committee, the OECD Task Force on Tax Crime and Other Crimes, the FAO and the UNODC – provided a platform to policy makers and stakeholders to discuss pressing legal and operational challenges they face in combating fisheries related and associated crimes. It aimed to support international cooperation and build mutual assistance to combat serious crimes in the fisheries sectors.

Read the key findings and summary of the conference presentations: www.oecd.org/tad/events/Fisheries-crimes-conference-summary.pdf