



OECD The Future of the Ocean Economy, OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation

The OECD Ocean Economy Project

The last decade has seen a spectacular increase in attention devoted to the need to protect the world's ocean and seas. The OECD is already contributing at international policy level to specific aspects of ocean-related issues such as fisheries, shipbuilding, marine biodiversity and biotechnology. This project is the first OECD endeavour on the economic activities in the ocean more broadly, using a foresight angle to take stock of the opportunities and challenges towards a sustainable development of the ocean economy.

Objectives of the OECD Ocean Economy project

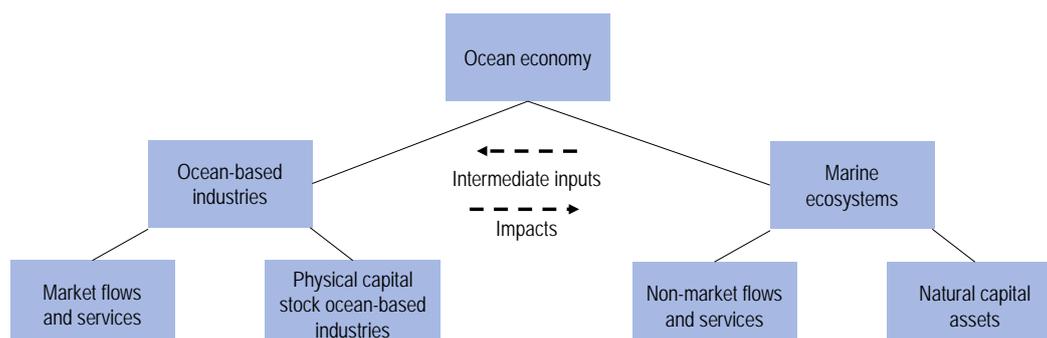
The “Future of the Ocean Economy” project was conducted in 2014-16 and explored the growth prospects for the ocean-based industries, and their capacity for value and employment creation and innovation. The project examined the risks and uncertainties surrounding the future development of ocean industries, the innovations required in science and technology to support their progress, the environmental impacts of the industries, their potential contribution to green growth as well as their negative externalities, and some of the implications for planning and regulation. Finally, the project explored possible avenues for action that could boost its long-term development prospects while managing the use of the ocean itself in responsible, sustainable ways.

Partners of the OECD Ocean Economy project

The project was conducted by the OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), in extensive collaboration with a range of different OECD directorates (Environment; Trade and Agriculture; Economics; Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Economic Development; the International Transport Forum; Shipbuilding and Biotechnology experts within DSTI). In addition, the project team collaborated with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and with more than 200 external experts. The project was supported by voluntary financial and in-kind contributions from a wide range of government departments and agencies, corporations, research institutions, foundations and international NGOs whose experts constituted the Project Advisory Group.

Scope of the OECD Ocean Economy project

The ocean economy is understood as the sum of the economic activities of emerging and established ocean-based industries, together with the assets, goods and services of marine ecosystems.



The scope of the Ocean Economy includes the following ocean-based industries:

Established ocean-based industries	Emerging ocean-based industries
Capture fisheries	Marine aquaculture
Seafood processing	Deep- and ultra-deep water oil and gas
Shipping	Offshore wind energy
Ports	Ocean renewable energy
Shipbuilding and repair	Marine and seabed mining
Offshore oil and gas (shallow water)	Maritime safety and surveillance
Marine manufacturing and construction	Marine biotechnology
Maritime and coastal tourism	High-tech marine products and services
Marine business services	Others
Marine R&D and education	
Dredging	

Approach of the OECD Ocean Economy project

The project was conducted as a cross-sectoral, cross-disciplinary foresight exercise. The foundations were laid by a series of ten specialised in-depth workshops focusing on different emerging and established ocean-based industries. In addition, the OECD Ocean Economy Database, which was created for the purposes of this project, provides information on industry- and region- specific economic contribution (value-added), employment, and physical capital stock of 10 different ocean-based industries. On the basis of that data, collected from a wide source of primary and secondary sources, a model was developed to create quantitative projections to 2030 .

The Next Steps

The forthcoming publication “The Ocean Economy in 2030” analyses the economic perspective of the Ocean Economy while meeting the goals of a more sustainable development, and provides OECD policy recommendations to support such national and international efforts. An international consultation is ongoing throughout 2016 to analyse how further specific OECD STI work would be valuable to stakeholders active in oceans and seas’ policies.



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For more information

<http://oe.cd/oceaneconomy>