

# OECD Sustainable Ocean Economy Database



*Transitioning to a sustainable ocean economy is of paramount importance. The first step to any transition is knowing where we must go. For this, we must have reliable data and strong evidence. OECD is building a database that will assemble, in one accessible location, data to help decision-makers develop sound policy for the sustainable ocean economy we need.*

*Rodolfo Lacy, OECD Environment Director*

## Data and evidence for a sustainable ocean economy

The ocean is a shared global resource. It provides invaluable ecosystem services that are vital for human well-being and central to global food security. It absorbs significant amounts of heat and carbon dioxide. The ocean also presents immense opportunities for economic development.<sup>1</sup>

However, ocean-related industries in many countries have expanded with insufficient consideration for the environment, risking the natural resources and essential ecosystem services on which economies and people's well-being depend. We must better understand these relationships and help governments build sound policy to ensure the transition to a sustainable ocean economy.

As a key foundational step, we need to radically improve the economic and environmental data on the ocean, measure the environmental impacts of ocean industries, analyse the policies that countries put in place, and build a solid evidence base to monitor countries' progress and support decision-making (including on [SDG 14](#)).

**Drawing on the multi-disciplinary nature of its work, the OECD is building its first comprehensive database on the sustainable ocean economy. It brings relevant datasets from across the OECD and partner organisations, such as the International Transport Forum (ITF) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), together in one platform.**

## A conceptual framework to organise ocean-related information and statistics

The database is grounded in the OECD Green Growth Indicators framework, which was developed to improve understanding of environmental and economic issues in an integrated manner.<sup>2</sup> The following indicator groups are presented:

- Natural capital of the ocean
- The environmental dimension of well-being and resilience
- Environmental and resource productivity
- Economic opportunities from pursuing ocean sustainability
- Policy responses directed at ocean sustainability
- Socio-economic context

<sup>1</sup> OECD (2016), The Ocean Economy in 2030, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264251724-en>.

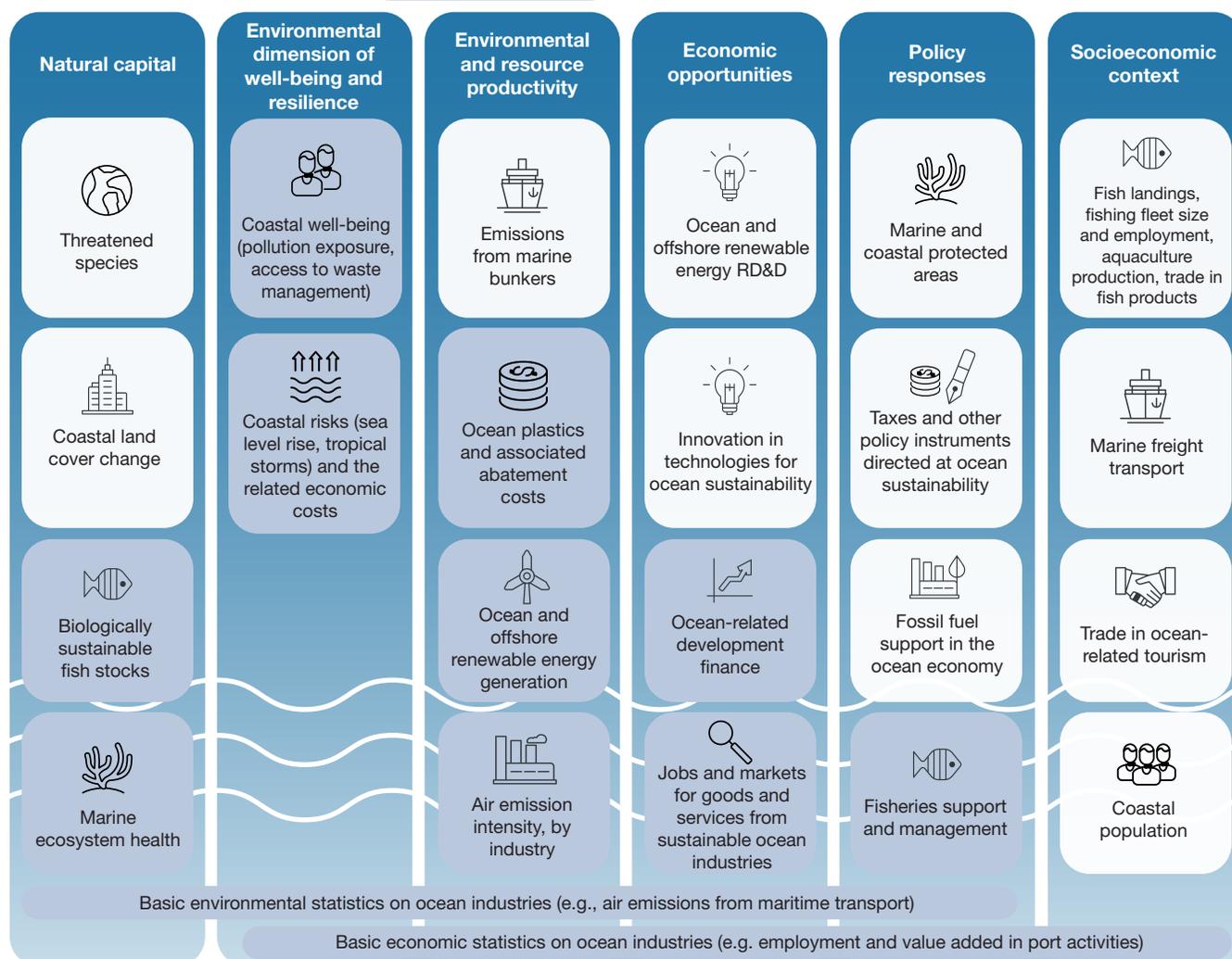
<sup>2</sup> OECD (2017), Green Growth Indicators 2017, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264268586-en>.

## Regular updates and coverage of the database

An initial edition of the database was released in June 2020. The database will be updated twice per year and further expanded as new datasets and indicators are developed.

The database initially covers OECD countries and G20 economies, and data on all countries globally are included when available. The time series typically cover the period since 2000, and full historic series are included if available (starting in 1950s in some cases).

## Available indicators and work in progress



## Online resources and data access

**OECD Environment at a Glance** <http://oe.cd/env-glance> for key messages and interactive graphics

**OECD Database** <http://oe.cd/ds/oceandata> for time series

**OECD Ocean web portal** [www.oecd.org/ocean](http://www.oecd.org/ocean) for an overview of ocean work

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