



SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



SEAS AT RISK

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Approved by the Seas At Risk General Assembly, June 2018

OUR KEY SUCCESSES

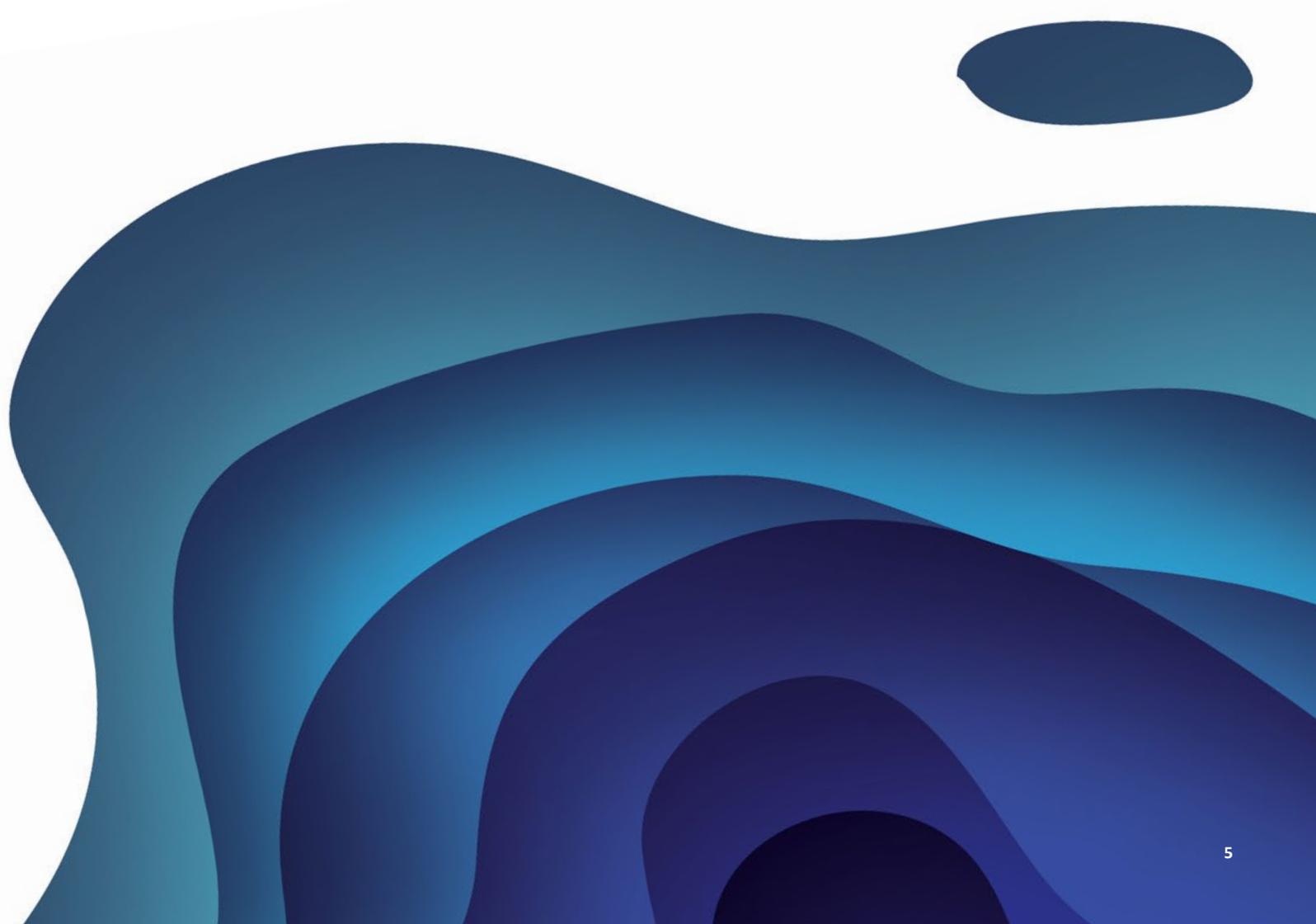
In 2017 we became a more prominent voice for the protection of European seas and oceans. Some of our greatest achievements stemmed from the incorporation of our recommendations into Commission legislative proposals or strategies.

- **Our recommendations on reducing single-use plastic incorporated into the Commission's Plastics Strategy.** Last year, we released a ground-breaking report on how to reduce single-use plastic. This major new study (carried out by the consulting company Eunomia) recommended, among other things, that the Plastic Bag Directive should be replicated for other single-use plastic items. The key recommendations of this report are now being developed into legislation by the European Commission and incorporated into the Plastics Strategy.
- **Our proposed harmonised fee system for ships' waste included in proposed revision of Port Reception Facilities Directive.** For more than seven years we have promoted the idea of a harmonised fee system whereby all ships pay the same for waste delivery, no matter how much is delivered, thus eliminating any incentive for ship operators to dump their litter at sea. In 2017, the European Commission finally included this idea in its proposal for a revised Port Reception Facilities Directive.
- **Statement on deep-sea mining to the plenary session of the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017.** The last year saw an explosion of deep-sea mining policy initiatives and events, indicating a deeply worrying acceleration of this emerging sector. At international, EU and national level, we questioned the need for deep-sea mining, raising awareness of its risks, and advocating sustainable consumption and production alternatives. Our programme of awareness-raising culminated in a statement to the plenary session of the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017, supported by 38 NGOs worldwide.
- **Adoption of a resolution on ocean governance by the European Parliament on 16 January 2018.** At European level, we targeted the negotiation processes related to the Communication on International Ocean Governance. Our activity proved vital in the subsequent adoption of a resolution calling on the Commission and Member States to cease their support for deep-sea mining and focus instead on sustainable consumption and production, as well as an international ban on deep-sea mining. This was hailed by NGOs and other stakeholders around the world as a major policy shift. We worked with several of our national members to coordinate campaigns in Member States promoting deep-sea mining, including campaigns in Poland, Portugal, Belgium and Germany, putting pressure on governments and opening stakeholder dialogue. With NGO pressure mounting, European governments are beginning to take stricter positions at international level in respect of deep-sea mining.



- **Our report publishes first-ever assessment of Member State marine measures.** Our 2017 report ‘Tackling overfishing and marine litter: analysis of Member States’ Programmes of Measures’ was the first assessment of Member States measures ever published, appearing well in advance of the Commission’s evaluation report. Our analysis compared measures taken by 10 Member States under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, highlighting examples of good practice, detailing gaps in measures and analysing effectiveness. Experts found that while Member States’ efforts were making some progress, the measures were insufficiently ambitious to tackle the threats facing the marine environment. Additional measures are urgently needed to achieve the Directive’s objectives for fisheries and litter by 2020, requiring significant political will for change.

- **Campaign for citizens’ involvement in working towards clean and healthy seas.** This past year we launched a dual-purpose campaign to engage and activate EU citizens and to highlight the need for Member State action if clean and healthy seas are to be achieved under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The campaign was launched at the Our Ocean conference in October 2017 and ran until December. Our awareness-raising campaigns were hugely successful, with our video animation informing and engaging the public on the Directive receiving more than 215,000 views. Similar success came from our social media campaign #emojiocan, which had 24,000 participants, while the ‘Save EU Seas’ petition received over 100,000 signatures in the 48 hours following its launch.
- **We are more visible than ever.** These successes resulted in a substantial increase in the visibility of Seas At Risk. Compared to 2016, we had 258% more press mentions, 92% more traffic on our website and 27% more Twitter followers. If we are more visible, so are our seas.



OUR ACTIVITIES



Events

We organised a number of successful events, including a conference on deep-sea mining in Lisbon, a workshop on aquaculture at the European Maritime Days, and a side event on shipping at the International Maritime Organization meeting. We were also invited to speak at numerous high profile events, including the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017.



Advocacy

We carried out advocacy work in each of our policy priority areas. For example, we actively participated in and/or prepared submissions for the EU institutions, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Maritime Organization, the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the OSPAR Convention, the International Seabed Authority and the UN Environment Programme.



Building capacity among our members

Supporting our member organisations is a core pillar of how we work. This past year we focused on building capacity among our membership through the annual assembly meeting, policy workshops and assistance with policy submissions and position papers. We shared information and knowledge with member organisations, while articles produced by our members were communicated to our readership through our website and regular newsletter.



Engaging the media

Our public website is our chief means of effective communication with the outside world. This year we worked to improve the website design and structure in order to make it more dynamic and engaging. In addition, we produced several multimedia pieces, including four videos and a webinar. Press releases and newsletters were regularly sent to media outlets, particularly in the wake of key policy developments. This year saw an increased focus on our use of Twitter as a communication channel with the mainstream media, stakeholders and decision-makers.



Commissioning reports

Finally, we commissioned various reports and communication materials in support of our work on greenhouse gas emissions and shipping, single-use plastic, and aquaculture and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

OUR RESULTS

- **Strong environmental safeguards in the European Parliament's resolution on ocean governance.**

This year saw us re-focus our efforts on the topic of international ocean governance, resulting in the inclusion of strong environmental safeguards in the European Parliament's resolution on international ocean governance. These included a call for an international ban on deep-sea mining, as well as recommendations on marine litter, Marine Protected Areas, and heavy fuel oil in the Arctic.

- **Key recommendations included in the Plastics Strategy and the Port Reception Facilities Directive.**

Released in January 2018, the Plastics Strategy contained a number of our key recommendations in respect of single-use plastic. This followed a year of intense advocacy work, culminating in the publication of our ground-breaking report on single-use plastic at the end of 2017. The Port Reception Facilities Directive proposal, published at the same time as the Plastics Strategy, also includes our main policy recommendation, the '100% no-special fee' for waste.

- **Pressure to adopt fisheries management measures in Marine Protected Areas.**

Thanks to our advocacy for fisheries measures in Marine Protected Areas, the European Commission is now putting more pressure on governments to include these types of management measures in their inshore Marine Protected Areas. In addition, Member States themselves are increasingly engaging in joint procedures to adopt measures in their offshore Marine Protected Areas.

- **Stronger European Parliament position on the North Sea Multi-Annual Plan for Fisheries.**

Adopted in plenary session in September 2017, this position was significantly improved as a direct result of the joint efforts of several NGOs, of which we were one. Several key provisions of the revised Data Collection Framework adopted in May 2017 - particularly the increased involvement of stakeholders in regional groups - are a direct result of these advocacy efforts.

- **Financial and technical support for NGOs involved in Advisory Councils.**

We provided strong supports for several of our member organisations and other NGOs involved in fisheries Advisory Councils and the Aquaculture Advisory Council. Through our leadership and continual focus on better rules and procedures, we ensured an improved Commission Delegated Act on the functioning of the Advisory Councils, as well as improved cooperation among stakeholders and more transparent management of the Aquaculture Advisory Council.

- **Input to draft initial International Maritime Organization's Greenhouse Gas strategy.**

We carried out important work on shipping in the draft initial IMO GHG strategy. The document was adopted in April 2018 and includes some of our ambitious targets, such as limiting warming to 1.5 degrees, and the regulation of ships' speed, a long-standing focus of our work.

- **Internal development strategy.**

At an internal level, we are securely on track in the implementation of our five-year development plan, including expansion of our staff and budget.

INTO 2018 AND BEYOND

In light of the rapidly developing blue economy and the changing policy scene, in 2016-2017 we made the strategic choice to expand our work area and grow as an organisation.

This strategy is on track, with new areas of focus evident this past year, such as deep-sea mining, Marine Spatial Planning, shipping in the Arctic, and Marine Protected Areas. The work on deep-sea mining and Marine Protected Areas has been particularly successful, notching up some major achievements in a short timeframe. To consolidate the substantial 2016 growth of our annual budget and workforce, 2017 saw a more modest increase.

This growth is paying off in increased effectiveness and visibility. The new work areas have helped to involve our members more closely in the work programme, as well as giving us the necessary flexibility to respond to unforeseen developments, such as international ocean governance and deep-sea mining in 2017.

We are firmly convinced that continuing to implement our strategy in 2018 and beyond will ensure that we can respond appropriately and effectively to blue economy developments and a changing political climate.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

At the end of 2017, we had 31 members from 15 countries and international organisations.

BELGIUM	Sea First Foundation Natuurpunt
CROATIA	Sunce
DENMARK	Danmarks Naturfredningsforening Levende Hav
FRANCE	France Nature Environnement
GERMANY	BUND – Bund für Umwelt- und Naturschutz Deutschland
GREECE	Mediterranean SOS network Archipelagos
IRELAND	Sustainable Water Action Network (SWAN)
ITALY	Legambiente

NETHERLANDS

Stichting De Noordzee
Waddenvereniging
Good Fish Foundation

POLAND

MARE Foundation

PORTUGAL

Liga Para a Protecção da Natureza
Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento
do Território e Ambiente

Sciaena
Quercus

SPAIN

ENT Foundation
Retorna

SWEDEN

Svenska Naturskyddsforeningen

SWITZERLAND

OceanCare

UNITED KINGDOM

Marine Conservation Society
Environmental Investigation Agency

INTERNATIONAL

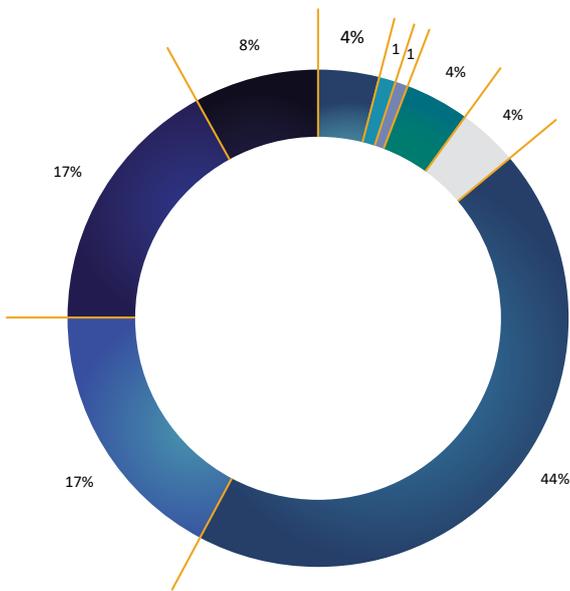
International Fund for Animal
Welfare
European Environmental Bureau
Project Aware
World Animal Protection
Surfrider Foundation Europe

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In addition to the membership fees, Seas At Risk received funding from the following external sources:

- European Commission (DG Environment LIFE Programme)
- Adessium Foundation
- ClimateWorks Foundation
- Funding Fish
- Plastic Solutions Fund
- WAITT Foundation
- The Waterloo Foundation

SAR Income

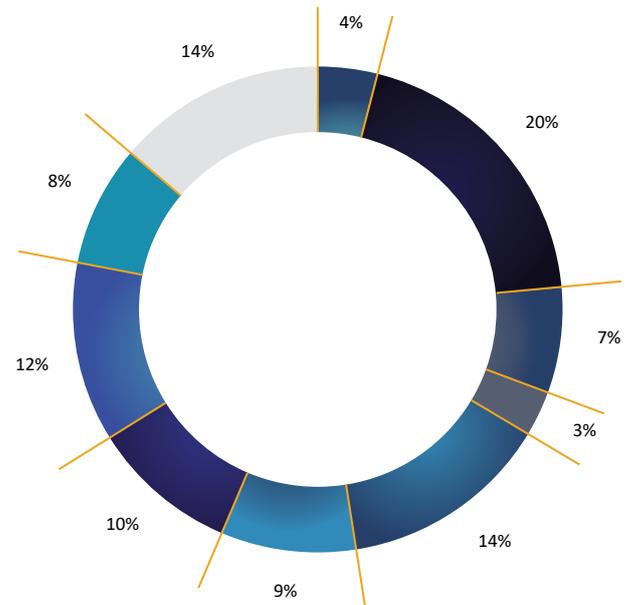


- Plastic Solutions Fund 4%
- Travel refunded + other income 1%
- WAITT Foundation 1%
- The Waterloo Foundation 4%
- Membership Fees 4%
- European Commission (DG Environment LIFE Programme) 44%
- Adessium Foundation 17%
- ClimateWorks Foundation 17%
- Funding Fish 8%

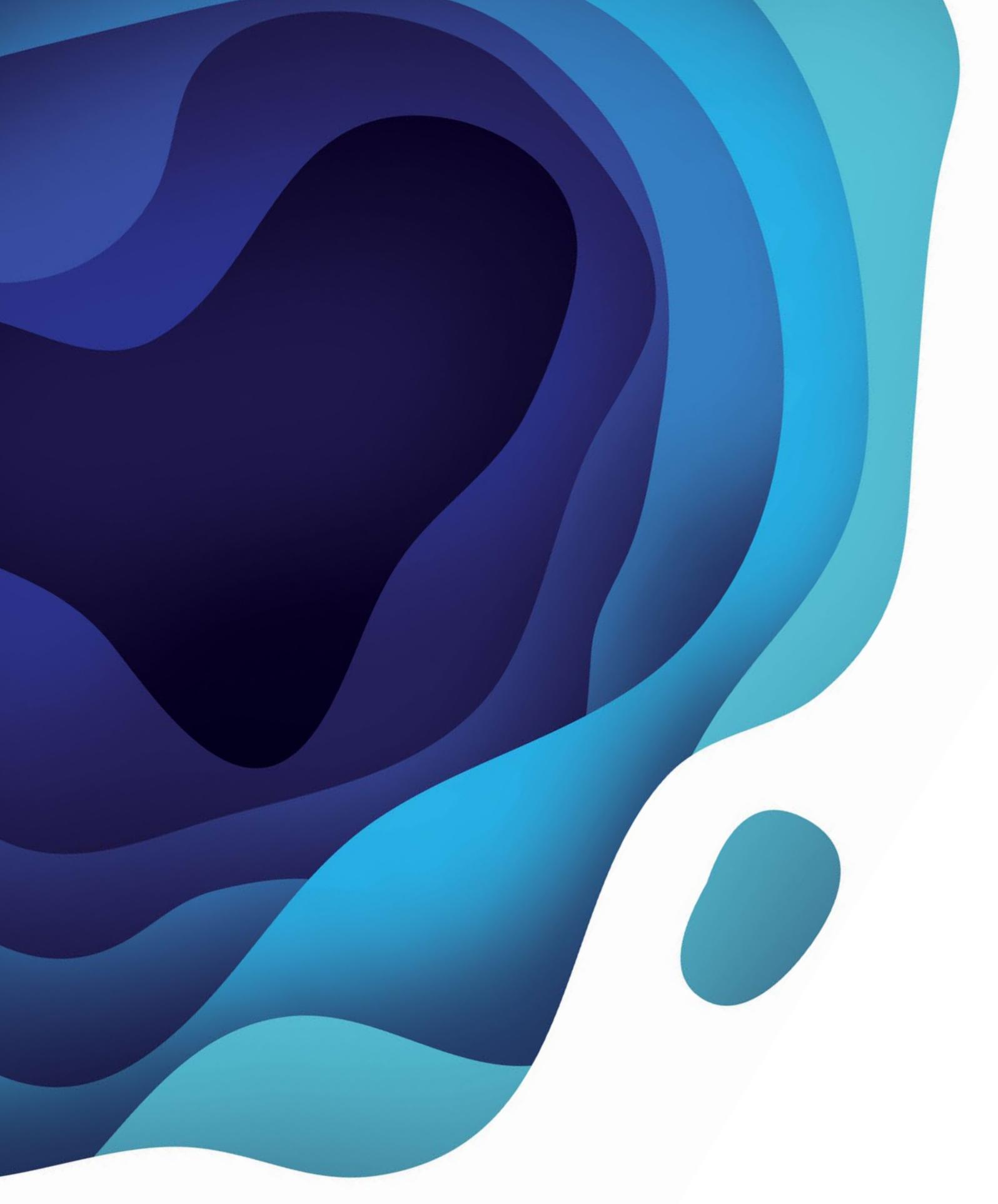
Total income



SAR Expenditure



- General communication 4%
- General cost 20%
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive 7%
- MSP 3%
- Shipping GHG emissions and Arctic 14%
- MPAs 9%
- Aquaculture 10%
- Fisheries 12%
- Deep sea mining 8%
- Marine litter 14%



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