BLUE MANIFESTO

THE ROADMAP TO A HEALTHY OCEAN IN 2030

We need thriving marine and coastal ecosystems to support a climate-resilient future

2020 PROGRESS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY
With the launch of the Green Deal the EU brought new energy to the field of environmental protection and marine conservation.

This is translated into assertive wording in new strategies that have been launched in the past year. The Biodiversity Strategy, Circular Economy Plan, Farm to Fork Strategy and Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability have high ambition when it comes to overarching objectives. The coming years will show if these are translated into effective legislation, which often is lacking the same level of determination. The proposal of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) is a particularly clear example of a poor result as this bill could have made a lot of difference if sustainability requirements were incorporated in the most important funding instrument for fishing in Europe. However, the result of the final trilogue is a weak document in which unsustainable practices from the past are reinstated.

The global COVID pandemic caused serious delays in the roll out of many of the European policy processes associated with the milestones and all international meetings were postponed.

This is concerning as it could lead to further postponement down the line or scaling down of ambition in favour of speed. Most 2020 milestones are expected to conclude this year, provided all parties involved feel a sense of urgency. However the Zero Pollution Action Plan and the review of the Energy Taxation Directive are now so far delayed that they will not be ready before 2022, even though they are crucial to achieving the EU’s ambition on climate and environment protection.
For 2020 the manifesto lists 11 milestones, which represent a wide variety of policy fields, both in an EU and international context. Each milestone has concrete deliverables (sub-targets) that together form an ambitious marine conservation agenda.

The assessment is twofold: One element is the scoring of the progress in the processes associated with the milestones. This is scored in percentage towards completion. The other element is the delivery of the sub-targets within the milestone. This is scored through a traffic light system, with red indicating the targets have not been met, yellow that they are partly met and green that the have been delivered on in full.

### MILESTONE GOALS WITH SUB-TARGETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NR</th>
<th>MILESTONE</th>
<th>SUB-TARGETS</th>
<th>OVERALL SCORING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Biodiversity Strategy 2030</td>
<td>EU adopts a Biodiversity Strategy 2030 that protects marine sensitive species (1) and habitats (2) and fish stock recovery areas (3), eliminates destructive fishing (4) and includes legally binding ocean restoration targets (5).</td>
<td><img src="green.png" alt="Green" /> <img src="yellow.png" alt="Yellow" /> <img src="green.png" alt="Green" /> <img src="green.png" alt="Green" /> <img src="red.png" alt="Red" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Farm to Fork Strategy</td>
<td>EU adopts a Farm to Fork strategy that fully takes into account the ecological and climate impacts of fisheries and aquaculture (1) and addresses responsible consumption (2) and sustainably sourced and traceable seafood (3)</td>
<td><img src="green.png" alt="Green" /> <img src="yellow.png" alt="Yellow" /> <img src="green.png" alt="Green" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Circular Economy Action Plan</td>
<td>EU adopts a new Circular Economy Action Plan that includes measures to reduce absolute resource use, including plastic (1), increases resource efficiency (2) and prevents leakage of plastics and microplastics in the sea (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chemicals Strategy &amp; Zero Pollution Action Plan</td>
<td>EU adopts a Chemicals strategy for sustainability (1) and a Zero-pollution strategy (2) with clear goals to prevent exposure to harmful chemicals in air, soil and water (through the Water Quality Action Plan) to ensure a non-toxic environment for current and future generations</td>
<td><img src="green.png" alt="Green" /> <img src="green.png" alt="Green" /> <img src="green.png" alt="Green" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Offshore Wind Strategy</td>
<td>EU adopts an Offshore Wind Strategy which fully takes into account the impacts on marine ecosystems of the development of offshore wind energy production plants.</td>
<td><img src="green.png" alt="Green" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund</td>
<td>EU allocates at least 21 billion EUR of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 to protect nature (1), with at least 50% of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund to restore the marine environment, collect data and control fisheries (2), and revises the State Aid guidelines for fisheries and aquaculture to prohibit granting of harmful subsidies (3).</td>
<td><img src="red.png" alt="Red" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Energy Taxation Directive</td>
<td>EU removes fuel tax exemptions for fishing vessels and shipping under the revised Energy Taxation Directive</td>
<td><img src="gray.png" alt="Gray" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CBD Global Biodiversity Framework</td>
<td>EU pushes for the adoption of a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity with protection (1) and restoration (2) targets for marine ecosystems globally.</td>
<td><img src="green.png" alt="Green" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sustainable shipping at IMO</td>
<td>EU pushes for the adoption of urgent short-term measures at the International Maritime Organization to ban Heavy Fuel Oils in the Arctic (1) and reduce ship speed (2) to decrease GHG emissions, noise levels and whale strikes.</td>
<td><img src="red.png" alt="Red" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Global Ocean Treaty -BBNJ</td>
<td>EU pushes for the adoption of an ambitious Global Ocean Treaty to protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction worldwide at the 4th session of the Intergovernmental Conference on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.</td>
<td><img src="green.png" alt="Green" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Moratorium on Deep Seabed Mining</td>
<td>EU establishes a moratorium on deep seabed mining (1), stops financial support to research into deep seabed mining technology (2) and, with EU countries, pushes for the adoption of a global moratorium in the International Seabed Authority (3).</td>
<td><img src="red.png" alt="Red" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 1 • BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2030


**Milestone text:**
EU adopts a Biodiversity Strategy 2030 that protects marine sensitive species (1) and habitats (2) and fish stock recovery areas (3), eliminates destructive fishing (4) and includes legally binding ocean restoration targets (5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-target</th>
<th>Delivery scoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>species protection</td>
<td>Ambition is strongly worded in strategy text. Delivery will depend on concrete targets in Action Plan to Conserve Fisheries Resources and Protect Marine Ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>habitat protection</td>
<td>Covered in strategy text, but success closely linked to target 4 (destructive fishing). Delivery will depend on concrete targets in Action Plan to Conserve Fisheries Resources and Protect Marine Ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recovery areas</td>
<td>Commitment to strictly protect 10% of Europe’s land and seas, delivery will depend on concrete targets in Action Plan to Conserve Fisheries Resources and Protect Marine Ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>destructive fishing</td>
<td>Wording in strategy text not strong enough to deliver on this target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>restoration targets</td>
<td>Cannot be scored as there has been too little progress on EU restoration law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 2 • FARM TO FORK STRATEGY 2030


**Milestone text:**
EU adopts a Farm to Fork strategy that fully takes into account the ecological and climate impacts of fisheries and aquaculture (1) and addresses responsible consumption (2) and sustainably sourced and traceable seafood (3).

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<td>ecological and climate impacts</td>
<td>Covered in the Strategy but success depends on strengthening the implementation of the environmental protection articles in the Common Fisheries Policy which has been lacking up to now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>responsible consumption</td>
<td>Covered as prerequisite of a product information system in Strategy text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sustainable and traceable seafood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progress on file 100%: European Parliament adopted resolution on the plan in February 2021

Milestone text:
EU adopts a new Circular Economy Action Plan that includes measures to reduce absolute resource use, including plastic (1), increases resource efficiency (2) and prevents leakage of plastics and microplastics in the sea (3)

Sub-target Delivery scoring
reduce resources use
Reflected in the final text but without clear targets and not stipulating all materials that are to be covered. Final results will depend on the concrete targets in legislation that will be developed in relation to this Action Plan.

increase resource efficiency
cannot be scored, the Commission has announced it will draft a separate strategy for this to be published in 2022.

prevent plastic in ocean


Milestone text:
EU adopts a Chemicals strategy for sustainability and a Zero-pollution strategy with clear goals to prevent exposure to harmful chemicals in air, soil and water (through the Water Quality Action Plan) to ensure a non-toxic environment for current and future generations

Sub-target Delivery scoring
prevents exposure to harmful chemicals
Chemical Strategy: framework for reducing harmful chemicals in the environment and a future non-toxic environment including clear goals.

prevents exposure to harmful chemicals
Zero-Pollution Action Plan: commission text only recaps on existing tools and fails to address all sources of ocean pollution.


Milestone text:
EU adopts an Offshore Wind Strategy which fully takes into account the impacts on marine ecosystems of the development of offshore wind energy production plants

Sub-target Delivery scoring
Fully takes into account impact on environment
Strategy states that planning of offshore renewable energy is to be compatible with biodiversity protection, but only refers to existing, ineffectively implemented tools (MSFD, N2000 etc) to accomplish this.
Progress on file 95%: EU Multi Annual Financial Framework adopted in February 2021; EMFAF trilogue concluded, plenary vote in European Parliament scheduled for June 2021

Milestone text:
EU allocates at least 21 billion EUR of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 to protect nature (1), with at least 50% of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund to restore the marine environment, collect data and control fisheries (2), and revises the State Aid guidelines for fisheries and aquaculture to prohibit granting of harmful subsidies (3)

Sub-target Delivery scoring
21 billion in MFF to protect nature
No funds exclusively for nature protection incorporated in the MFF final text

50% for restoration, data coll & control
15% of the EMFAF budget for data collection, this was the exact same level as in the 2014 EMFF and there is no budget exclusively meant for environmental restoration or control

No harmful subsidies in State aid guidelines
Commission is expected to publish the guidelines in the fourth quarter of 2021

Progress on file 25%: European Parliament adopted resolution on plan in February 2021

Milestone text:
EU removes fuel tax exemptions for fishing vessels and shipping under the revised Energy Taxation Directive

Sub-target Delivery scoring
removes fuel tax exemptions
Commission is expected to publish the revised directive in June 2021

Progress on file 75%: COP15 was postponed due to COVID-19, it is now scheduled for October 2021, to be held in Kunming, China

Milestone text:
EU pushes for the adoption of a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity with protection (1) and restoration (2) targets for marine ecosystems globally.

Sub-target Delivery scoring
binding protection targets
The 0.5 draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework produced by the CBD Working Groups contains proposals for targets on protection and restoration, which the EU supports, and advocates to be legally-binding.

binding restoration targets
9 • SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING AT INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION  

Progress on file 75%: Final adoption of draft Arctic Heavy Fuel Oil ban is due in June 2021.

Milestone text:
EU pushes for the adoption of urgent short-term measures at the International Maritime Organization to ban Heavy Fuel Oils in the Arctic (1) and reduce ship speed (2) to decrease GHG emissions, noise levels and whale strikes.

Delivery scoring
- Arctic HFO ban will not enter into force until 2024, and that contains exemptions (for vessels with protected bunker tanks) and the potential for Arctic state waivers that means it will not have a significant impact.
- Civil society proposals to IMO for an urgent and ambitious short-term measure to cut ship GHG emissions proposals did not progress in part because of insufficient support from the EU.

Sub-target Delivery scoring
- Ban heavy fuel oils in Arctic
- Mandatory reduce ship speed

10 • GLOBAL OCEAN TREATY ON BIODIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION  

Progress on file 75%: 4th and final session of Intergovernmental Conference where the BBNJ’s text would be agreed was meant to take place in March 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19. It is now scheduled for August 2021 but it is likely that it will be delayed even further to the 1st quarter of 2022.

Milestone text:
EU pushes for the adoption of an ambitious Global Ocean Treaty to protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction worldwide at the 4th session of the Intergovernmental Conference on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.

Delivery scoring
- Treaty text will need to be clarified and updated with more binding wording (based on current draft) – unclear if EU is negotiating for strengthening of wording on high seas MPAs and fisheries management.

Sub-target Delivery scoring
- EU pushes for ambitious text in treaty

11 • MORATORIUM ON DEEP SEABED MINING  

Progress on file 50%: Once the Biodiversity Strategy process is concluded, next steps would be to start implementing a moratorium in member state legislation; International Seabed Authority meeting for 2020 was postponed, will take place in July 2021.

Milestone text:
EU establishes a moratorium on deep seabed mining (1), stops financial support to research into deep seabed mining technology (2) and, with EU countries, pushes for the adoption of a global moratorium in the International Seabed Authority (3).

Delivery scoring
- The 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy implicitly calls for a moratorium on DSM, similarly repeated in the Blue Economy Strategy, but these strong words have not resulted in any concrete actions.
- This is difficult to achieve as any research into environmental effects can also have an element of technology research.
- No initiative relating to a moratorium is on the draft agenda. It is expected that the EU only will push for a global moratorium once it has set its own moratorium.
Find the Blue Manifesto
The Roadmap to a Healthy Ocean in 2030 here:
https://seas-at-risk.org/blue-manifesto

More details on the assessment and the used methodology here: