

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



BLUE MANIFESTO

2020 ASSESSMENT

The Blue Manifesto set out a clear path and an urgent timeline for ocean protection that would need to be met to ensure a healthy future for Europe's seas by 2030.

This first assessment reviews the progress towards achieving the milestones set for 2020. Of the 11 milestones for this year, two are assessed to deliver on all their targets, five are on track to at least partly meet their targets, and three are considered not to achieve their targets. One milestone has not progressed enough for it to be given even an indicative score.

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.

2020 MILESTONES IN THE BLUE MANIFESTO

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 they have been delivered on in full.

NR	MILESTONE SUBJECT	MILESTONE GOALS WITH SUB-TARGETS	OVERALL SCORING
1	Biodiversity Strategy 2030	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).	
2	Farm to Fork Strategy	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)	
3	Circular Economy Action Plan	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)	
4	Chemicals Strategy & Zero Pollution Action Plan	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	
5	Offshore Wind Strategy	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.	
6	European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund	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)	
7	Energy Taxation Directive	EU removes fuel tax exemptions for fishing vessels and shipping under the revised Energy Taxation Directive	
8	CBD Global Biodiversity Framework	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.	
9	Sustainable shipping at IMO	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.	
10	Global Ocean Treaty -BBNJ	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.	
11	Moratorium on Deep Seabed Mining	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).	

ASSESSMENT PER MILESTONE

1 • BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2030

95%

Progress on file 95%: plenary vote on European Parliament own initiative report scheduled for June 2021. Restoration target law scheduled for autumn 2021.

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).

Sub-target	Delivery scoring
species protection	Ambition is strongly worded in strategy text, delivery will depend on concrete targets in Action Plan to Conserve Fisheries Resources and Protect Marine Ecosystems
habitat protection	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
recovery areas	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
destructive fishing	Wording in strategy text not strong enough to deliver on this target
restoration targets	Cannot be scored as there has been too little progress on EU restoration law

2 • FARM TO FORK STRATEGY 2030

90%

Progress on file 90%: AGRI/ENVI vote on European Parliament own initiative report scheduled for June 2021.

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).

Sub-target	Delivery scoring
ecological and climate impacts	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
responsible consumption	Covered as prerequisite of a product information system in Strategy text
sustainable and traceable seafood	

3 • CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACTION PLAN




100%



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	
 prevent plastic in ocean	cannot be scored, the Commission has announced it will draft a separate strategy for this to be published in 2022

4a • CHEMICAL STRATEGY

100%





4b • ZERO-POLLUTION ACTION PLAN



Progress on Chemical Strategy 100%: Fully endorsed by Council in March 2021; Zero Pollution Action Plan for Air, Water and Soil published by Commission in May 2021.

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


5 • OFFSHORE WIND STRATEGY

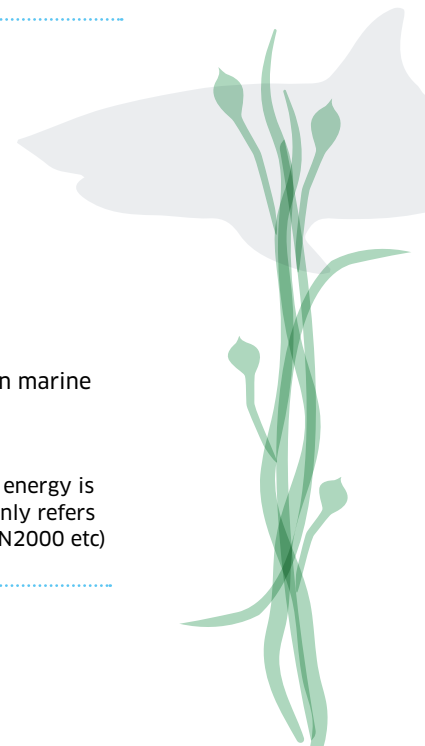


Progress 55%: Council adopted conclusions on the strategy in December 2020, European Parliament preparing own initiative report in Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

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.



6 • MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK & EUROPEAN MARITIME FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FUND




95%



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

7 • ENERGY TAXATION DIRECTIVE




25%

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

8 • CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



75%



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

75%



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.

Sub-target

Delivery scoring



Ban heavy fuel oils in Arctic

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



Mandatory reduce ship speed

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

10 • GLOBAL OCEAN TREATY ON BIODIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION

75%



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

Sub-target

Delivery scoring



EU pushes for ambitious text in treaty

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

11 • MORATORIUM ON DEEP SEABED MINING

50%



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.)

Sub-target

Delivery scoring



Moratorium on deep seabed mining

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



Stop support for research in DSM

This is difficult to achieve as any research into environmental effects can also have an element of technology research.



Push for global moratorium

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>
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More details on the assessment and the used methodology here:
<https://seas-at-risk.org/publications/blue-manifesto-assessment-2020/>>>
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