

BLUE MANIFESTO

THE ROADMAP
TO A HEALTHY OCEAN

We need thriving marine and coastal ecosystems to support a climate-resilient future IN **2030**

2022

PROGRESS
ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY





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In 2019, over 100 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) signed the Blue Manifesto, a roadmap for policy makers and legislators on the choices that will need to be made to strengthen and improve the existing EU marine policy framework.

Where other policy papers provide recommendations and suggestions the Manifesto gives an operational timeline of the concrete steps that need to be taken in the coming years for Europe's seas to thrive. Each year has specific milestones that are aligned to EU and international policy and legislation. Following these will ensure that Europe is on a path to a sustainable future, with flourishing healthy seas in 2030. The milestones were written so as to be scored to assess progress each year and, where possible, link directly to existing or scheduled policy and legislative processes in the EU.

This third assessment looks at the milestones set for 2022 and updates the milestones for 2021 and 2020. When comparing the scoring between these three years it is clear that there is a negative trend in achieving the targets under each milestone. None of the six new milestones for 2022 score green, and three score red.

For 2021, one milestone had to be scored down from yellow to red. A key cause of the negative trend in reaching the Manifesto's targets appears to be the shift towards the responsibilities of the EU Member States rather than the European Commission. Implementation at country level is progressing slowly and is often not in line with EU legislation or international standards. This is reflected in the two milestones for 2020 that were updated to green: both refer to international agreements signed this year (the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the so-called "High Seas Treaty" on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction). While the European Union and the Member States are willing to sign up to binding conservation goals in international forums, these legal commitments are not yet implemented internally within the EU. One exception is the Single-Use Plastics Directive, which is now fully implemented by virtually all Member States, yet with some countries going beyond what is required at EU level.

In 2022, the European Commission again started infringement procedures against several Member States for not delivering on their legal obligations related to different milestones.

Civil society organisations have also been successful in court cases on the lack of implementation of EU laws and protection of the marine environment. For future Blue Manifesto assessments, it will be interesting to assess if the need for legal enforcement of existing legislation is a trend that will increase in the coming years.

2022

SIX NEW MILESTONES IN THE BLUE MANIFESTO

The Blue Manifesto lists six new milestones for 2022, many of which build on the milestones for 2021 and 2020.

2021 and 2020 milestones referring to policy processes that were not yet concluded by the publication of last year's assessment have been reassessed and updated here. Targets that could not be scored because the process associated with them has not or just started are left grey.

The details of the assessment by milestone, including progress towards completion and sub-targets can be found in the full report:



RESULTS 2022

NO	MILESTONE 2022	TEXT WITH TARGETS	OVERALL SCORING
19	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive	EU addresses substances of emerging concern, such as pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and microplastics , in the revised Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (1)	
20	Bathing Waters Directive	EU adopts a revised Bathing Waters Directive , which ensures good quality of (1), and safe access to coastal and marine waters (2) with high environmental and health standards.	
21	Trawl-free zones	EU establishes trawl-free zones along the whole EU coast to protect the most productive part of our seas (1) and protect all EU Marine Protected Areas from the negative impacts of destructive fishing gears (2).	
22	Underwater noise emissions	EU countries adopt legally-binding measures to achieve a constant and measurable reduction in underwater noise emissions (1)	
23	Offshore oil and gas extraction	EU bans all new offshore oil and gas exploration and production (1) and adopts a strategy to phase-out current offshore oil and gas extraction (2)	
24	Extended Producer Responsibility	EU countries set up binding schemes for Extended Producer Responsibility for single-use plastics (1) and fishing gear to maximise eco-design and prevention (2)	



UPDATED RESULTS 2021

NR	MILESTONE 2021	TEXT WITH TARGETS	2021 SCORE	2022 SCORE
12	Fisheries Control Regulation	EU revises the Control Regulation to ensure full compliance of the fishing sector with fisheries and nature laws (1), requiring fully documented and transparent fisheries (2), and to ensure that no products from illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fisheries reach the EU market (3)		
13	Bycatch of sensitive species	EU countries implement effective fisheries management measures to eliminate bycatch of sensitive species (1).		
14	Maritime Spatial Plans	EU countries adopt ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Plans which include at least 30% of highly or fully protected MPAs (1) and areas for human activities allocated based on ecosystem sensitivity (2)		
15	Common Agriculture Policy reform	EU adopts a fundamental reform of the Common Agricultural Policy that aims to stop the loss of nutrients from fertilisers and manure into soil and water bodies (1), causing eutrophication, by fully implementing EU water and nitrates legislation in agriculture (2)		
16 ^a	Port Reception Facilities	EU countries transpose into national law the Directives on Port Reception Facilities (1) and on Single Use Plastics (2), with ambitious consumption reduction targets for food containers and beverage cups (2)		
16 ^b	Single-Use Plastics Directive			
17	Global Ocean Treaty ratification	EU countries ratify and implement the Global Ocean Treaty (1).		
18	Emissions Trading System	EU includes shipping in its Emissions Trading System (1).		



UPDATED RESULTS 2020

NR	MILESTONE 2020	TEXT WITH TARGETS	2020 SCORE	2021 SCORE	2022 SCORE
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), increase resource efficiency (2) and to prevent leakage of plastics and microplastics in the sea (3).			
4 ^a	Chemicals Strategy	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.			
4 ^b	Zero-Pollution Action Plan				
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 (1).			
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	Convention on Biological Diversity (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 the International Maritime Organization	EU pushes for the adoption of urgent short-term measures at the International Maritime Organization to ban heavy fuel oil in the Arctic (1) and reduce ship speed (2) to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, noise levels and whale strikes.			
10	Global Ocean Treaty Intergovernmental Conference	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 (ISA) (3).			



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:
<https://seas-at-risk.org/publications/blue-manifesto-assessment-2022/>

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