



One Ocean Summit

Main outcomes

The **One Ocean Summit** was organised by the **French Presidency** of the Council of the EU on the **9-11 February in Brest** and on-line. Two days of workshops and forums were organised with **scientists, policy-makers, representatives of international, EU and national institutions, NGOs and representatives of some industries**. A high-level conference chaired by **Emmanuel Macron** took place on the last day with **Head of States and of International and EU institutions** participating. The overall objective of the Summit was to announce **commitments** from the different stakeholders and Head of States and Institutions with the aim to work on **new solutions for the oceans, less plastic pollution, decarbonisation, expansion of the marine protected areas and the new treaty for the areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)**. The programme and webstream of the One Ocean Summit is available [here](#).

You will find hereunder a summary of the main commitments as well as a brief overview of the topics discussed during the summit.

COMMITMENTS & DECLARATIONS

1

On protection of marine ecosystems

MPAs 30%: High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People co-chaired by Costa Rica, France and the United Kingdom: 50 => 83 countries.

Fight against overfishing and IUU fishing:

- Marine forces cooperation for control of IUU fishing: Italy, Denmark, Portugal and Netherland.
- Iceland stops whale fishing.
- Ratification of Port states measures => new countries ratified: Morocco, Jamaica, East Timor, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and Comoros.
- Ratification of Cape Town Agreement of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on safety standards for fishing vessels
- WTO to ban all subsidies contributing to illegal fishing in 2022.

2

On plastic pollution reduction

- Global commitment for a **new plastic economy** and the financial commitment "**Clean Ocean initiative**" => new entities = Italy, Columbia, South Korea, Paris and the Marine Region of Central Greece.
- France-India commitment for an international mobilisation to stop single use plastics
- To launch negotiations for an **agreement on single use plastic** at UNEA (Nairobi).

3

On climate change mitigation

- Commitments to expand **renewable energies** such as offshore windfarms.
- Commitment from the **shipping industry** to reduce carbon emissions.
- EU countries to work on 0 emission ships.
- EU to commit with other Mediterranean countries to create **Emission control area in Mediterranean**
- Creation of an institute for the eco-energetic transition of the maritime
- **Blue Carbon Coalition**
- **MPAs in Antarctica**

4

On improving ocean governance

- Need to conclude the **BBNJ Treaty** => creation of a Launch of the **High Ambition Coalition for BBNJ** (declaration available [here](#)) including the EU.
- To improve knowledge on the oceans => launching of great **missions for seabed exploration**
- **Digital Twin for the oceans**
- Need to consolidate the cooperation between scientists and decision makers
- **Costa Rica and France** ready to organise a new UN Conference for the Ocean before 2024
- Organisation of a **one island summit**

KEY SUBJECTS

International Ocean Governance

When in need for scientific inputs on climate change and marine biodiversity, policy-makers usually consult the IPBES, IPCC Reports or, for more specific insights, the World Ocean Assessments. But things are changing, and some actors proposed to establish a **Global Panel of Experts on Ocean Science**: an IPCC for the oceans. More to be announced at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon later in June.

Ocean governance is fragmented, and at the One Ocean Summit it was reiterated that a more unified approach is needed, with one overarching body or institution steering the many different marine issues; the **UN Ocean Conference** could be a starting point, but still to be seen - some disagree with this approach.

Will there ever be an **International Agreement on Plastics**? In Brest, it was constantly mentioned - and a Legally Binding Instrument to regulate marine plastics will be discussed at the UN Environment Assembly in March 2022. It always comes back: seabed mining has been addressed once more, but remains a conflictive topic.

Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans

MPAs were at the centre of the attention during the summit. In a dedicated workshop, it was widely agreed that MPAs constitute one of the solutions to preserve the resource and the marine environment, although the perspective of the fisheries sector was missing. In general, interventions led towards the need to **expand the MPAs network** as well as to **enforce** the existing ones. The representative of PEW Charitable Trusts announced the launch of the "**Enduring earth partnership**" between The Nature Conservancy, The Pew Charitable Trusts, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and ZOMALAB, the family office of Ben and Lucy Ana Walton.

On Ocean as a provider, **Manuel Barange (FAO)** recalled the importance of sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture as **aquatic products** are part of the solution to feed the world and tackle global warming.

All speakers insisted on the need to improve **science and knowledge** of the oceans to ensure efficient conservation measures. The need to **map the seabed** was highlighted. President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, recalled the mission "**Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030**" and the creation of a European Digital Twin Ocean.

Polar Regions

The eyes of the international community are increasingly looking at the **Arctic and Antarctica**. These are important regions for the regulation of the world's climate and have been receiving political attention for the establishment of **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** through the respective regional institutions. Not only, fishing in the Poles is expected to increase in the upcoming years. What is the solution to these conflictive objectives?

Here what the scientists in Brest said: we cannot regulate what we do not know. Ocean information is still facing numerous challenges nowadays, one of which is fragmentation. The priority is clear: **scaling up and integration of ocean observation systems**.

The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources (CCAMLR) is trying to better integrate the two objectives of conservation and sustainable use through Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), especially after attempts to establish MPAs in the region led nowhere. As a result, CCAMLR will host a workshop on MSP to explore consensus-building steps for the conservation of Antarctica.

EU waters

The EU institutions were widely represented during the Summit with Ursula Von der Leyen (Commission) and Charles Michel (European Council) and for our topics of interest: Commissioners Sinkevicius (Commission or the Environment, Fisheries and the Oceans) and Valean (Transport), Charlina Vitcheva (DG MARE), Patrick Child (DG ENVI) and MEPs Chabaud and Karleskind.

They all recalled the importance of setting **efficient MPAs including in the Antarctica** as well as to **achieve a BBNJ agreement** and **fight against IUU fishing**. MEP Chabaud voiced for more blue in the Green Deal.

The **Mediterranean Sea** was also highlighted as a area to preserve. Here as well, developments of MPAs were considered as an important step towards restoration of the sea basin while tackling pollution including plastic pollution. **Charlina Vitcheva (DG MARE)** voiced to find a right **balance** between the three pillars of the sustainable development and to **keep EU fishers employed** because they **supply** quality source of protein. She explained that the situation in the Mediterranean improved since the launch of the MedFish4Ever 10 year roadmap in 2017.

All EU commitments are available [here](#).