



MARSP

Macaronesian Maritime Spatial Planning

Macaronesian Bulletin of *Maritime Spatial Planning*



Coordinated by



Partners



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Editorial

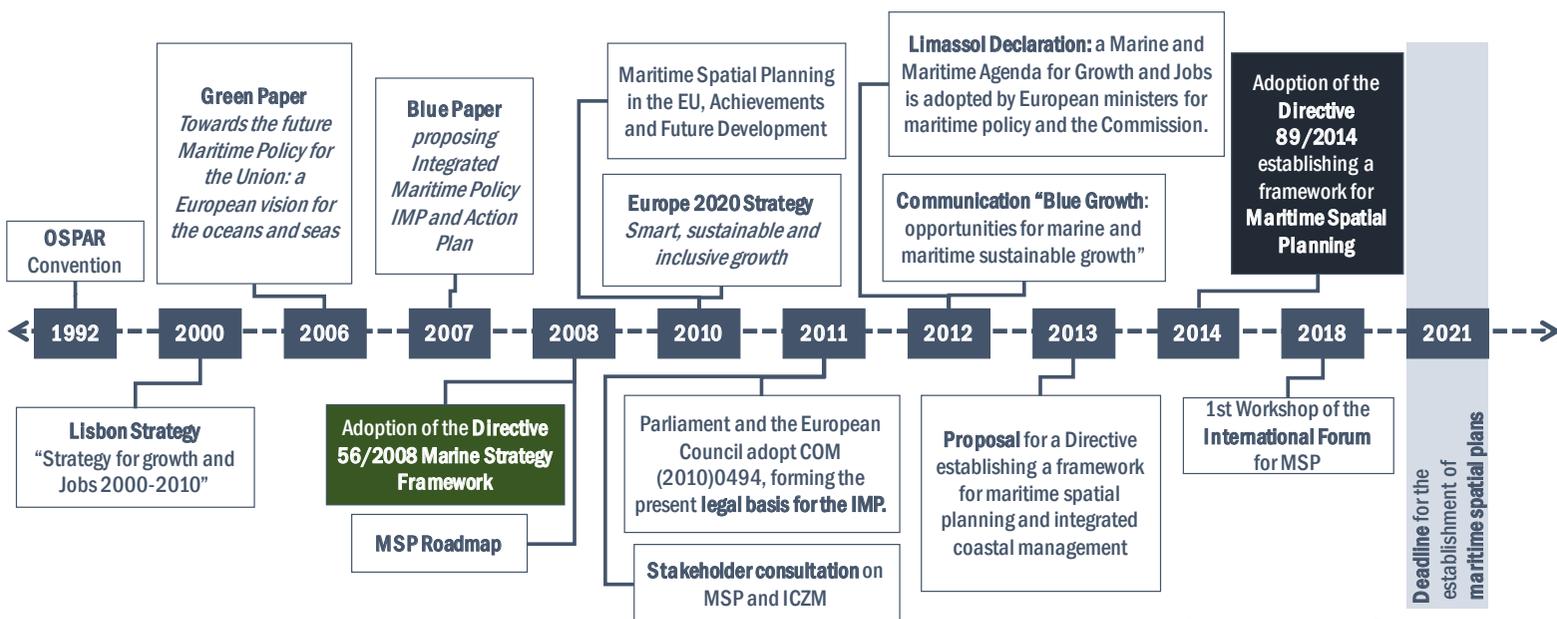
European Commission and IOC-UNESCO launch MSPglobal initiative to promote cross-border MSP.

Planning human activities at sea so they happen safely and sustainably is a pre-requisite to good ocean governance. This requires a high level of coordination, not just within the same country but also across borders. This is why since 2017 IOC-UNESCO and the European Commission (DG MARE) have been working hand in hand to develop transboundary maritime spatial planning (MSP).

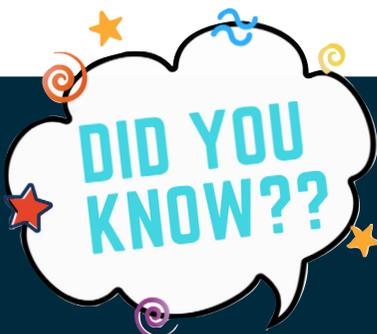
On November 2018, as a follow-up action to their [Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning \(MSP\) processes worldwide](#), the two have launched #MSPglobal. This is a new three-year long initiative from which is expected to triple the area of territorial waters that benefit from an effectively implemented MSP system by 2030. ([Read more](#))

Discover some of the main MSP milestones of the European Union.

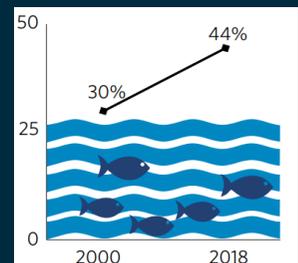
[Save the date and register for the MSPglobal Opening Conference on the 11-12 February 2019!](#)



Source: elaborated from the EU webpages.



According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018, mean coverage of marine key biodiversity areas under protection increased between 2000 and 2018 (see figure) and open ocean sites show current levels of acidity have increased by 26 % since the start of the Industrial Revolution? ([Read more](#))

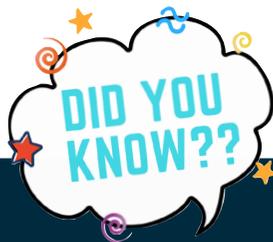


MSP News

EU Member States are stepping up measures to protect seas and oceans.

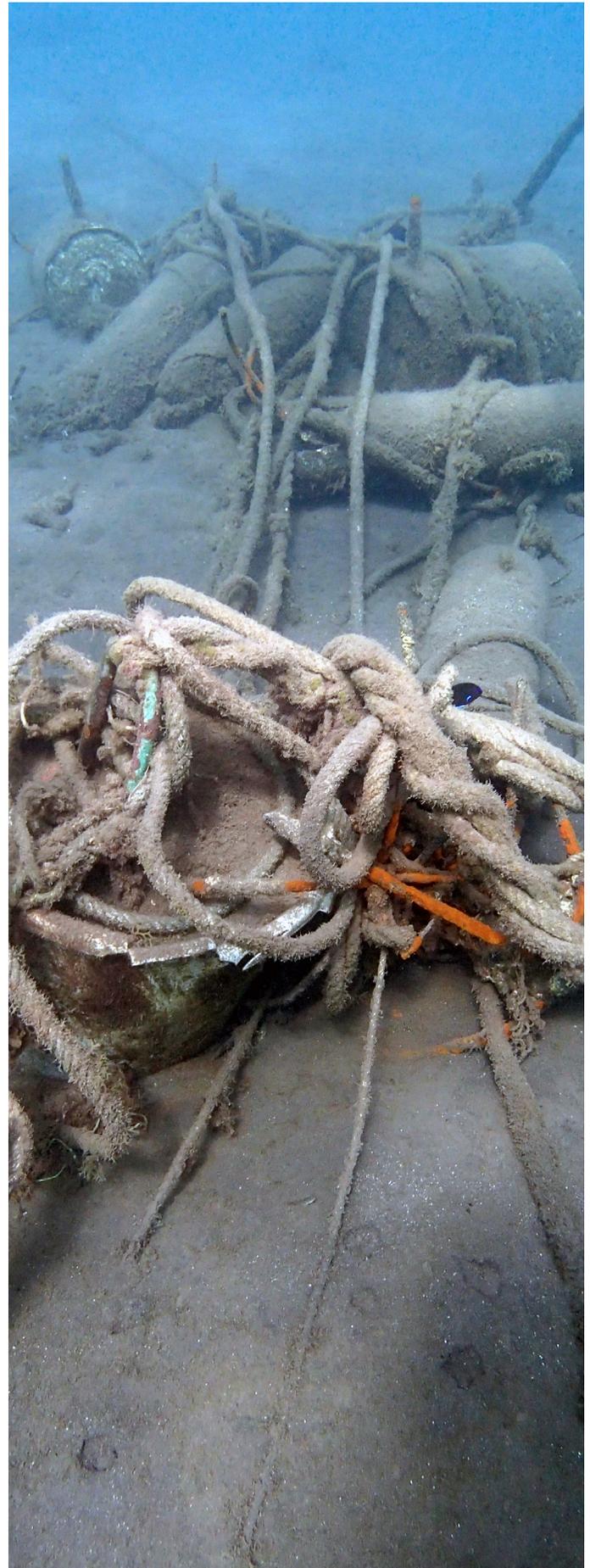
A new European Commission [report](#) shows that EU Member States have made considerable efforts to address pressures on the marine environment. Nevertheless, the assessment shows that the goal of 'good environmental status' of European marine waters by 2020 will not be achieved without further improvements. This concept is defined by measures conserving biodiversity and tackling pressures like overfishing, seabed damage, marine litter and contaminants.

The programs of measures set up by the Member States under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive are the last step of 6-year strategies. In their programs of measures Member States have relied on regional cooperation more than ever before and integrated different national, EU and international policies. For example, to fight overfishing and reduce the negative impacts of fishing, Member States have reported measures taken under the EU Common Fisheries Policy, in regional and international agreements, as well as new measures, such as introducing the use of specific and less damaging fishing gear. ([Read more](#))



Portugal is the absolute champion, with an average fish consumption of 57 kg of fish and seafood per person, per year and that this is more than twice the EU's average per capita? ([Read more](#))

Researchers have predicted that the total micro-plastic intake from salts is at most 37 particles per person annually and that a top European shellfish consumer eats approximately 11.000 plastic particles annually? ([Read more](#))



Source: picture courtesy of the Spanish Oceanographic Institute (IEO)



Source: picture courtesy of dnoticias.pt

MSP News

International names:

UNITED KINGDOM: *Black scabbardfish*

PORTUGAL: *Peixe-espada preto*

SPAIN: *Sable negro*

GERMANY: *Schwarzer Degenfisch*

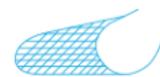
FRANCE: *Sabre noir*

ITALY: *Pesce sciabola nero*

A Macaronesia common resource: the traditional black scabbard fish fishery.

The black scabbard fish ([Aphanopus carbo](#)) is one of the most important fisheries in Madeira representing more than the 50 % of the landed fish in the region. Nowadays, there is a bilateral agreement between [Portugal](#) and [Spain](#) concerning the fisheries of tuna caught with rod and the black scabbard fish. This species called peixe-espada preto in Portuguese is characterized by its long, black body, weighing around one kilogram at adulthood. It presents a wide range distribution living at depths between 200-1600 metres. Furthermore, currently there are ongoing negotiations to expand its fishing grounds in the waters between Madeira and Azores. ([Read more](#))

Fishing grounds map and fishing gears:



Firstly, season the fish fillets with the lemon juice, salt, pepper and minced garlic. Let them stand for five minutes. Beat the egg, dip the fillets in flour and egg and fry them. Peel the bananas and slice them in half lengthwise. Dip the slices in flour and egg and fry them until browned. Place the fillets on a plate with one fried banana slice on top and sprinkle with minced parsley. Serve with potatoes and vegetables as garnish. ([See full recipe](#))



Black scabbard fish with banana

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 FILLETS OF BLACK SCABBARD FISH
- 2 BANANAS
- 1 CLOVE OF GARLIC
- 1 BEAT EGG
- FLOUR
- THE JUICE OF 1 LEMON
- SALT AND PEPPER
- MINCED PARSLEY

Enjoy the recipe!



Source: picture courtesy of riu.com

Key concepts to understand each other

13 Myths of Marine Spatial Planning.

By Charles N. Ehler.

“Over the past decade, marine spatial planning (MSP) has been recognized internationally as an operational approach for implementing marine ecosystem-based management. However, despite the increasing global implementation, many myths exist about MSP”. Source: [Marine Ecosystems and Management \(MEAM\)](http://www.MEAM.net). www.MEAM.net ; Vol.5, No. 5, April- May 2012.

Myth N°. 1: MSP is the ultimate goal.

Establishing MSP should not be an end in itself, but to achieve outcomes such as robust coastal and marine economies, and the maintenance of critical marine ecosystem services.

Myth N°. 2: MSP is only about planning.

MSP is really about: (1) planning; (2) implementation; and (3) monitoring and evaluation.

Myth N°. 3: MSP will replace single-sector management.

MSP will require participation and cooperation across governmental agencies. Sectoral planning and management will continue, but with a comprehensive vision of the future.



Myth N°. 5: MSP is a “win-win” process.

As marine space is allocated, some users will win; some will lose. It is important that MSP management measures are evaluated for their equity (who benefits, who loses) before implementation.

Myth N°. 4: MSP is anti-development.

Myth N°. 7: MSP is the same as marine protected area planning.

MSP is multi-objective planning that seeks to integrate and balance economic, social, and environmental objectives. However, a network of MPAs is often one output of MSP.

Myth N°. 10: MSP is too expensive.

Myth N°. 9: MSP is too complicated.

We often have more information than we need for the first round of planning. The best way to find out what may be missing is simply to begin planning.

Myth N°. 6: MSP will lead to more government regulations.

Developing an integrated plan can reduce redundant requirements for data collection and environmental impact reviews.

Myth N°. 8: MSP is only about maps.

Maps are invaluable at the appropriate time in the MSP process. However, geospatial information systems and decision support technologies are only tools for analysis and planning; not ends in themselves.

Myth N°. 12: MSP is always “top-down”.

Myth N°. 13: MSP is not needed today.

The best time to begin planning is before problems arise. Planning for the future begins today. Avoiding future problems through decisions taken today is a smart way to do business.

Myth N°. 11: MSP is the same as “ocean zoning”.

Zoning is simply one tool with which to implement MSP. The result of zoning without MSP is a chaotic pattern of overlapping and conflicting zones.

Administration manages

Agreements have been reached on 2019 fishing quotas and fisheries management plan for Atlantic waters.

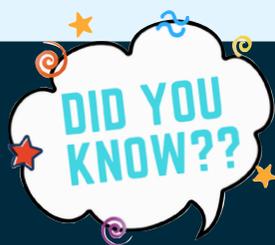
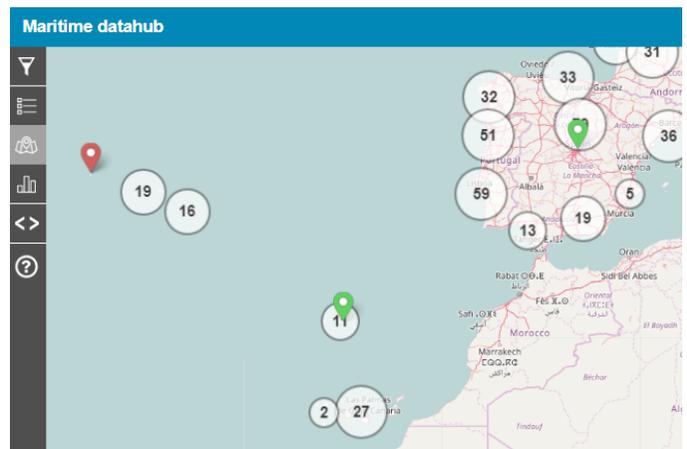
The European Commission have reached agreements on a multi-annual fisheries management plan concerning, among others, the Spanish and Portuguese fleets ([more info](#)). Also, it has been agreed to increase quotas on a number of important stocks and to implement the ban on discards. ([Read more](#)).

Maritime data hub launched!

EASME launched the [maritime data hub](#), an interactive tool that generates information on projects and companies funded by EU and Member States programs that contribute to the implementation of the [Atlantic Strategy](#). ([Read more](#)).

The ban on the military sonar usage in the Canaries may be extended to all Macaronesia.

This initiative has emerged supported by the Government of the Canary Islands and the Euro-parliamentarians of the outermost regions and aims, if it is approved, to extend the moratorium on the use of military sonar to all the exclusive economic zones of the archipelagos of the Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde. ([More info 1, 2, 3](#)).



The military sonar moratorium expansion to the rest of the Macaronesia will imply the protection of more than 3,5 million Km², which represents the 85% of this Macaronesian biodiversity hotspot for cetaceans? ([Read more](#))

In 2019 the number of fish stocks managed at maximum sustainable yield levels by the EU will rise to 59 %, and there will be additional protection for the European eel? ([Read more](#))

Photo: Lagoa do Fogo, a lake inside the crater of the volcano of Água de Pau on São Miguel island in the Azores.





Source: islamadeira.es webpage.

"Oceans and seas are essential to the well-being of our planet, and we cannot compromise on their protection. This is why the EU has one of the most ambitious marine environment policies in the world"

Karmenu Vella

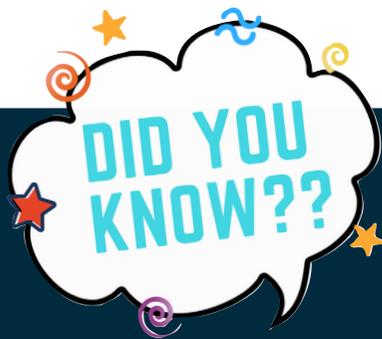
European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Good practices

Do you want to raise your word in favour of our oceans?

Surfrider's Voice for the Ocean is a campaign for the integration of ocean-related issues into the political agenda for the upcoming 2019 primary elections. The campaign urges political candidates to take the campaign's results into consideration when building their 2019 political platforms. Surfrider will also examine the programs of the European Parliament to assess their commitment to ocean protection ([more info](#)).

[Make your voice heard](#)



There is a biannual boat race between the cities of Santa Cruz de La Palma (Canary Islands) and Funchal (Madeira) that covers over 448 Km? ([Read more](#))

Between 2014 and 2020 the EU has assigned to his outermost regions 13.300 million euros taking into consideration the sum of the five funds that are part of the Structural and Investment European Fund (the European Regional Development Fund, the Social European Fund, the European Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund)? ([Read more](#))

Both Portugal and Spain ratified in 1997 the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which grants these countries rights and obligations on their marine spaces up to 200 nautical miles offshore? ([Read more](#))

International relevant initiatives for the management of oceans

The complex nature of the ongoing negotiations to protect the high seas.

Formal negotiations for this matter began in New York last September 2018. More than 170 States, as well as various organizations, academia and industry met to discuss the creation of a binding international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of the maritime [areas beyond national jurisdiction](#) (ABNJ). These negotiations will take place until 2020 passing through another three meetings at the headquarters of the United Nations. The next round of negotiations will take place between 25th to April 9th of 2019.

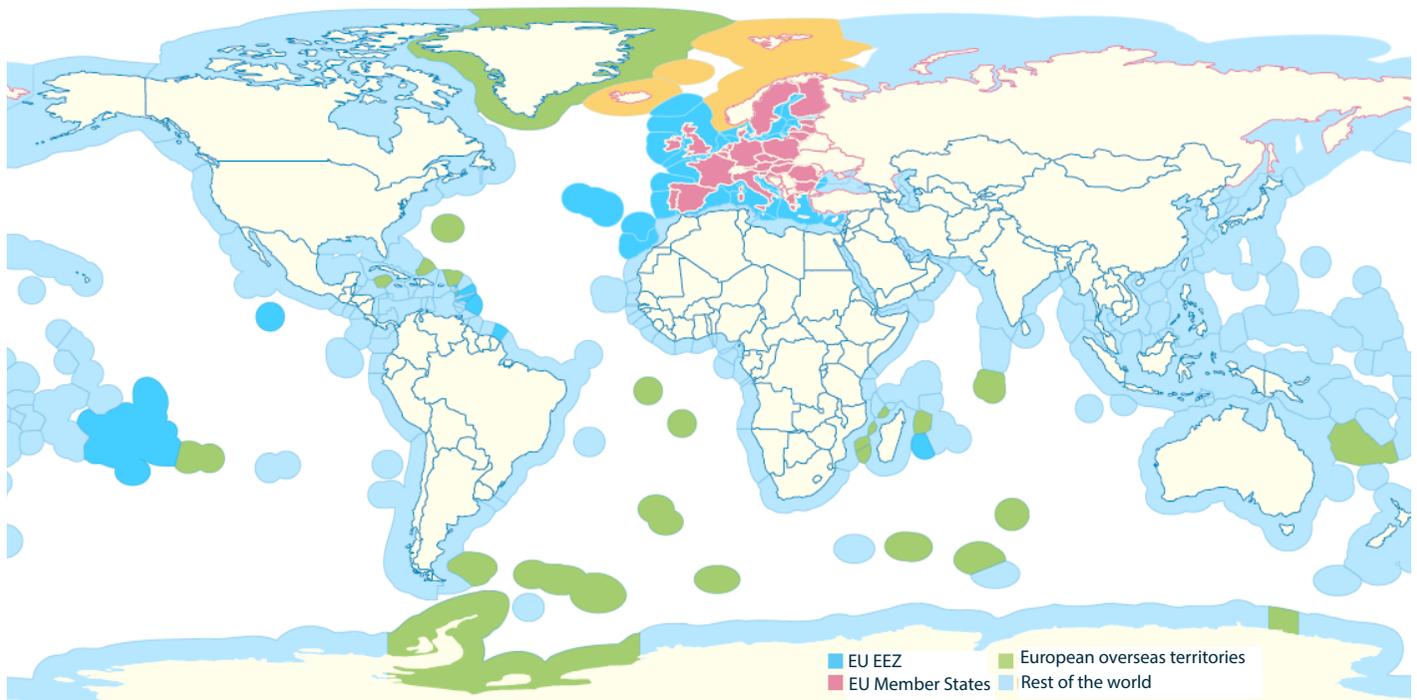
In this first meeting, the main discussions revolved around four major themes: high seas fisheries, marine protected areas, [marine mining](#) at high seas, and impact assessment of activities on marine resources.

Reaching an agreement and the commitment of all nations in this matter is not an easy task. How will the benefits obtained in the ABNJ be distributed? What rights and responsibilities should have those countries whose access to the ABNJ is limited or nonexistent? These and other issues constitute a real challenge and demonstrate the complexity of defining binding regulations for the management and sharing of responsibilities and benefits of the marine resources of the high seas.

The term of 2020 to reach this agreement [is not a coincidence](#). This same year is the one set for the achievement of the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. All of them constitute a favourable scenario for the different countries to work together in achieving common goals and objectives and draw the new 2030 horizon. ([Read more](#))

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZs)

Source: Adapted from [European Commission, DG MARE, Infographic here](#).



Some EEZs are under dispute or not applied in practice, for example, the Mediterranean Sea

Maritime Affairs And Fisheries

20 million Km² is the total area of the combined Exclusive Economic Zone of the EU Member States. This marine territory is around 380 % larger than its land counterpart, and is the world's largest.



The EU has the world's largest EEZ.

Blue Growth in the Macaronesia

The [ECOTUR_AZUL project](#) (INTERREG MAC 2014-2020) aims to implement a common tourism model for the sustainable use of the marine and terrestrial resources of Macaronesia. As part of it there have been organized activities such as: training [seminars on nautical tourism](#) and territorial marketing, the Transnational Nautical Tourism Conference, the [Horta Blue Tourism and Growth Seminar](#) held in the Azores, or the creation of the [Odyssea](#) network of blue tourist destinations of excellence. ([Read more](#))

The [Smart Blue project](#) (INTERREG MAC 2014-2020) has organized the [Consultation Workshop in Spain](#) for the definition of the Action Plan for Marine Renewable Energies in the Atlantic, and the Seminar: "[Blue Growth in the Central Atlantic Economy](#)," in which a Marine-Maritime Alliance of the Macaronesia was established together with the General Directorate of Maritime Affairs of the European Commission (DG MARE). ([Read more](#))



Recomended scientific articles:

Major challenges in developing marine spatial planning. Frazão Santos et al., 2018. ([Full reference](#)).

Achieving integration in marine governance through marine spatial planning: Findings from practice in the United States. Smythe, et al., 2019. ([Full reference](#)).

(Book) World Seas: An Environmental Evaluation, Second Edition. Its Volume One: Europe, The Americas and West Africa, provides a review of the Canary Islands ([chapter 20](#)) and the Azores ([chapter 21](#)). Its Volume Three: Ecological Issues and Environmental Impacts, includes a specific chapter of Marine Spatial Planning ([Chapter 30](#)). ([Full reference 1, 2](#)).



The EU's Blue Economy (all economic activities related with oceans, seas and coastal areas) is growing steadily with a turnover of € 566 billion, generates € 174 billion of added value and creates jobs for nearly 3,5 million people? ([Read more](#))

Nowadays, just half a dozen countries (China, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Spain and South Korea) hoard the majority of the high seas fisheries through companies that, in many cases, are supported by public funds? ([Read more](#))

Photo: Views from the viewpoint "Mirador Del Río" on the island of Lanzarote, Canary Islands.

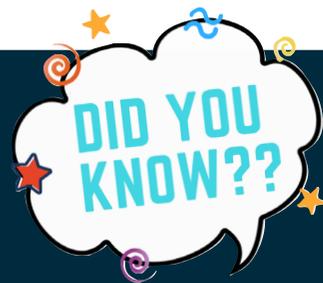


Source: shared by Gianni Fortunato Righetti in "[Conocer Lanzarote](#)" Facebook; page.

"Strong ocean governance is a priority for the EU. Most if not all of the problems our ocean is faced with (climate change, pollution, overfishing...) are global by nature. We therefore need a common response from the global community, through international consensus and cooperation. As countries are turning increasingly towards the blue economy to support their development, strong action is more needed than ever."

DG MARE

Commission department responsible for EU policy on maritime affairs and fisheries



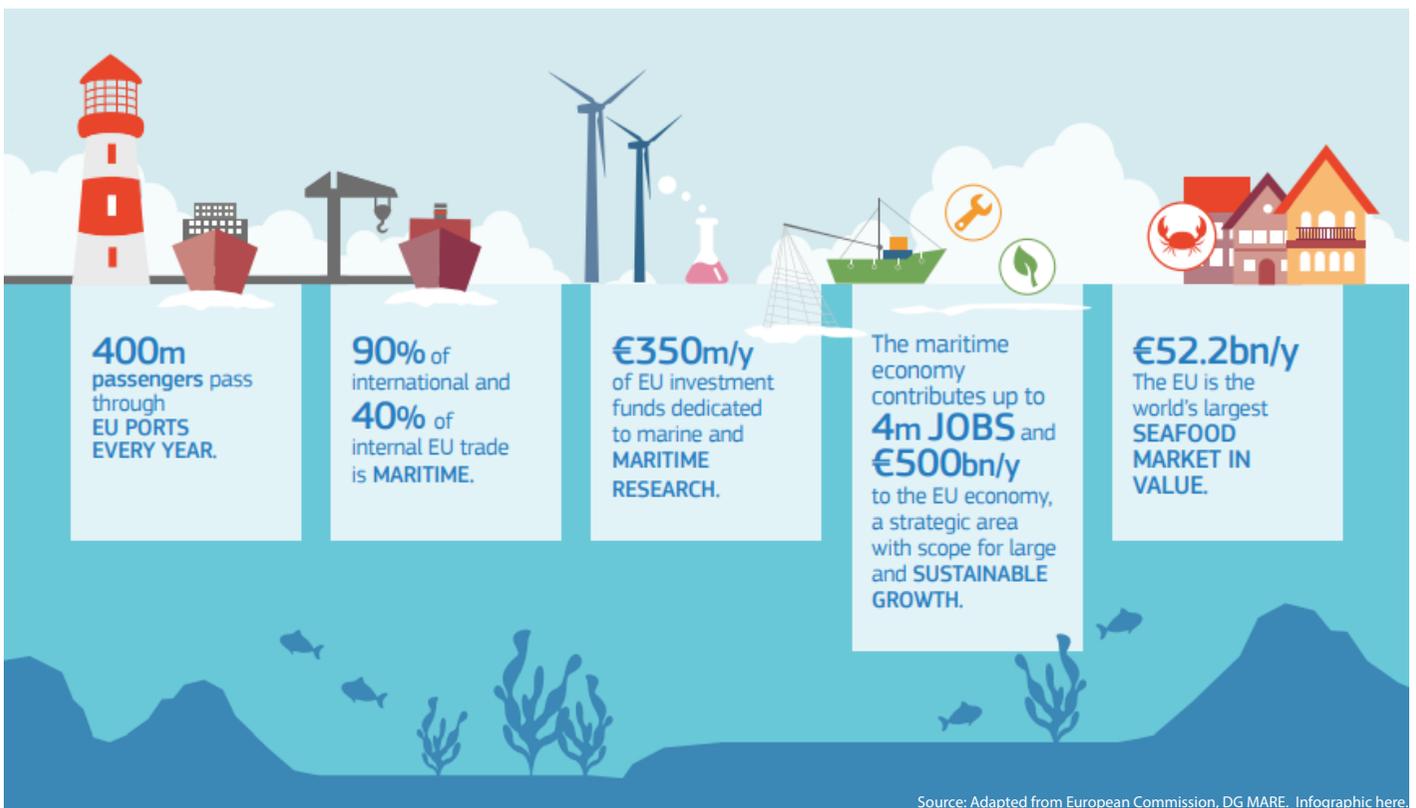
According to one study led by the Canadian University of British Columbia, fish catches on the high seas represent just the 10% compared to the world total, and that removing it from international waters will allow marine species to recover increasing up to 18% the coastal catches? [\(Read more\)](#)

Blue Growth in the Macaronesia

Other Blue Growth related events:

The international community met in Portugal to participate in several important events such as the 1st Edition of the ["Portugal Shipping Week"](#) to explore the opportunities and challenges for a sustainable transport in the Atlantic, and the IV Edition of the International Ministerial Meeting of the ["Oceans meeting"](#) 2018 event to promote international and regional cooperation on maritime affairs. [\(Read more\)](#)

The Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN) and the Regional Fund for Science and Technology (FRCT) of the Government of the Azores have proposed the elaboration of interregional innovation plans in Macaronesia. [\(Read more\)](#)



Source: Adapted from [European Commission, DG MARE, Infographic here](#)

