



CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE OF THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



PT voluntary commitments

| Target | PT commitment |
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| 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution | <p>By 2020, Portugal reaffirmed its commitment to develop technological platforms and tools that reduce marine pollution and promote the circular economy of the sea ^{1 2}</p> <p>By 2030, expand the project “Fisheries for a Sea Without Litter” to all fishing ports in the Portuguese mainland ^{1 2}</p> <p>Portugal commits to work at the regional level, within the OSPAR Convention, for the reduction of marine litter in the Atlantic ^{1 2}</p> |
| 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans | <p>Portugal commits to develop Maritime Spatial Plans (MSP) covering the entire area under Portuguese jurisdiction by 2020, using ecosystem-based approaches ^{1 2}</p> <p>Create an evaluation and monitoring system of the Blue Fund that is aligned with Goal 14 targets ^{1 2}</p> <p>Portugal commits to develop new regulations by 2020 addressing the introduction of marine non-indigenous species to ensure the effective implementation of the Ballast Water Convention ²</p> <p>By 2030, raise the awareness on the sustainable use of our ocean through the Blue School Programme ³</p> |
| 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification , including through enhanced | |

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¹ Commitment submitted at The United Nations Ocean Conference (NY, 5-9.JUN.2017) (available at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>)

² Commitment submitted at Our Ocean Conference 2017 (Malta, 5-6.OCT.2017) (available at: <https://ourocean2017.org/our-ocean-commitments>)

³ Commitment submitted at Our Ocean Conference 2018 (Bali, 29-30.OCT.2018) (available at: <https://ourocean2018.org/?l=our-ocean-commitments>)

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| scientific cooperation at all levels | |
| 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics | <p>Reduce by-catches and discards from fisheries by 2023¹ ²</p> <p>Till 2020 Portugal commits to develop and implement a certification system for local fisheries that comply with dolphin-friendly practices (harbour purpose)³</p> <p>Till 2030 Portugal commits to continue raising awareness of sustainable fish consumption³</p> |
| 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas , consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information | <p>By 2020, conserve at least 14 per cent of coastal and marine areas under national jurisdiction^{1 2}</p> <p>Promote and increase the public investment on projects focused on marine biodiversity conservation by 2 Million Euros by 2020^{1 2}</p> <p>Increase knowledge on the value of marine natural capital and ecosystem services to support decision-making processes³</p> |
| 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation[c] | |

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| <p>14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism</p> | <p>Not relevant in PT</p> |
| <p>14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries</p> | <p>By 2020, promote and support the establishment of a strong and vibrant marine and maritime research and innovation network, through the establishment of a Port Tech Cluster in Lisbon and the Atlantic Observatory in the Azores, with a focus on both North and South Atlantic (a total investment of 30 million euros)^{1 2}</p> <p>Portugal reaffirmed its commitment to raise international awareness regarding “Oceans and Human Health”^{1 2}</p> <p>Finance EUR 3 million by 2020 to support the upgrade of National Information and Communication Technology Systems on Ocean Environment Management Protection and Economic Activities²</p> <p>Increase by 2020 funding of deep-sea scientific research, including on seabed mining, with the creation of the Atlantic Observatory (based on the Azores Islands, an investment of 15 million euros) and the participation on the JPI Oceans Initiative²</p> <p>Promote the transfer of scientific knowledge and technology to SIDS and LDC in the context of CPLP³</p> <p>Portugal commits to allocate 0,5 million euros until the end of 2021 to support the preparation and starting phase of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development³</p> |

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| <p>14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets</p> | |
| <p>14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”</p> | <p>Not relevant in PT</p> |

14.1.

Portugal commits to reduce marine pollution through the development of technological platforms and tools that promote the circular economy of the sea

A circular economy is a regenerative system in which resource input and waste, emission, and energy leakage are minimized by slowing, closing, and narrowing material and energy loops. Considering the urgent need to tackle marine pollution, but also to save energy and contribute to less emissions to the atmosphere, Portugal commits to start designing and implementing an integrated approach of the circular economy of the sea. This approach includes the development of digital, online platforms and technologies that provide information regarding port facilities that selectively collect marine litter and allow ship operators and shipmasters to establish the most environmentally-sound decisions regarding waste disposal.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.1.

By 2030, expand the project “Fisheries for a Sea Without Litter” to all fishing ports in the Portuguese mainland

The objective of the project " Fisheries for a Sea Without Litter" is to make Portuguese fishermen aware of the importance of collecting and separating marine litter during the fishing activity, creating in the ports the necessary infrastructures for its reception and forwarding to industry. This initiative began in Peniche with a pilot project and aimed to: (1) Improve the management of waste at the level of fishing ports and on the vessels; and (2) To raise awareness and stimulate the fishing industry to adopt good environmental practices that contribute to the reduction of marine litter. At this moment, the expansion to the fishing port of Aveiro and Nazaré is being evaluated, to be followed by others, with the objective of total coverage of the mainland fishing ports by 2030.

Lead entity: **Docapesca – Portos e Lotas, SA**

14.1.

Portugal commits to work at the regional level, within the OSPAR Convention, for the reduction of marine litter in the Atlantic

Portugal has been assuming a leading role at the OSPAR Convention, which is one of the most relevant forum to tackle marine pollution at global level, contributing to the implementation of the circular economy of the sea. Thus, Portugal commits to work within the OSPAR for the reduction of marine litter in the Atlantic, through projects like “OceanWise – Wise reduction of EPS marine litter in the North-East Atlantic Ocean” and “CleanAtlantic – tackling marine litter in the Atlantic”.

OceanWise aims to jointly develop a set of long-term measures to reduce the impact of expanded polystyrene products (EPS) in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, by the definition of measures and policies, the provision of guidance on good practices to the Industry and to public authorities and the replication for other materials (other plastics), and the development of a database of currently available alternatives to EPS products.

CleanAtlantic aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services by improving the regional cooperation and by reinforcing capabilities to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter in the Atlantic Area. Eventually, the project will contribute to raise awareness and change attitudes among stakeholders and to improve marine litter managing systems.

Lead entity: **Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM)**

14.2.

Portugal commits to develop Maritime Spatial Plans (MSP) covering the entire area under Portuguese jurisdiction by 2020, using ecosystem-based approaches

In order to guarantee the sustainable management of all marine areas under national jurisdiction (Mainland Portugal, Azores, Madeira and proposed area for extension of the Portuguese Continental Shelf), Portugal commits to develop Maritime Spatial Plans (MSP) by 2020. The MSP approach works across sectors to ensure human activities at sea take place in an efficient, safe and sustainable way, according to ecosystem-based management principles. This approach aims to support a sustainable, long-term responsible economic development, and may therefore be considered as a life insurance policy in what regards the conservation of the marine and coastal ecosystems and resources.

The MSP legal framework has been in place in Portugal since 2014 and the plans are being developed since then, while baseline data is collected for all relevant activities in the maritime environment, including renewable energy, aquaculture, fisheries and other uses.

Lead entity: **Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM)**

14.2.

Create an evaluation and monitoring system of the Blue Fund that is aligned with Goal 14 targets

The Blue Fund created by Portugal in 2016 with an initial funding of c.a. 14 Million Euros aims at supporting actions and projects that promote the Blue Economy in Portugal. We now commit to establish an evaluation and monitoring system of applications, projects and results that is aligned with the targets of Goal 14, so as to guarantee that funding initiatives are results-oriented in order to comply with the 2030 Agenda.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.2.

Portugal commits to develop new regulations addressing the introduction of marine non-indigenous species to ensure the effective implementation of the Ballast Water Convention

The uncontrolled discharge of ballast water and sediments from ships is responsible for the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens, causing injury or damage to the environment, human health, property and resources. In order to tackle this problem, the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (Ballast Water Management Convention) was adopted in 2004, aiming at preventing the transfer of invasive species and coordinating a timely and effective response to invasions.

The Convention will enter into force on the 8th of September of 2017, requiring all ships to implement a ballast water management Plan, to have a Ballast Water Record Book and to carry out ballast water management procedures to a given standard. Recognizing the importance of fulfilling these commitments and given its will to have a leadership role in ocean environmental protection, Portugal commits to develop new laws and regulations aligned with the criteria set out in the Convention and International Maritime Organization (IMO) guidelines.

Lead entity: **Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM)**

14.2.

By 2030, raise the awareness on the sustainable use of our ocean through the Blue School Programme

The Blue School programme was created in Portugal in 2016 and arose from the need to articulate the different educational actions related to the ocean in a single and programmed strategy, capable of engaging the sea stakeholders with the ultimate goal of improving the level of ocean literacy among younger generations. The national ocean literacy programme has been created, run by renowned players of the sea and education sectors, contributing for a greater awareness, in schools and in society, of the importance and urgency of developing a new global relationship with the ocean.

The goal was to shape a Portuguese Blue School concept and to set the foundations for its actual implementation nationwide. The project promotes an inclusive perspective of ocean literacy, including all STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), sports, arts and humanities.

The programme currently involves more than 60 Portuguese schools, is directed to schools that are developing projects about the ocean. Children, youngsters and teachers can reach higher levels of Ocean Literacy, becoming agents of knowledge with an active role in the school community and in the society at large.

By engaging new Blue schools every year we commit to raise the awareness on the sustainable use of our ocean and its resources, encouraging students and stakeholders to have a more responsible and informed behavior towards the ocean.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.4.

Reduce by-catches and discards from fisheries by 2023

Progressively reduce by-catches and discards from fisheries, in line with the Common Fisheries Policy so that by 2023 they represent less than 17 per cent of total captures (Compromisso para o crescimento verde, p. 109).

Lead entity: **Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM)**

14.4.

Till 2020 Portugal commits to develop and implement a certification system for local fisheries that comply with dolphin-friendly practices (harbour porpoise)

In the Portuguese coast, from Minho till Peniche, occurs a population of harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) that feeds mainly on demersal species and small pelagic fish like the sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and the mackerel (*Trachurus* spp.) which are some of the target species of local fishing fleets and traditional artisanal beach-seines fishing (known as arte Xávega). This coincidence is worrisome as it frequently results in incidental catches or injuries in fishing gear and the harbour porpoise population has been decreasing (27 harbour porpoises were found dead in the 2018 1st semester).

The implementation of recent research and conservation projects has provided knowledge on cetacean bycatch mitigation measures, which have already been tested by local fishermen with good results. Thus, in order to ensure the coexistence of cetaceans along Portuguese coast (particularly of the vulnerable harbor porpoises) and local fisheries, we propose to develop and implement a local certification system that may guarantee the adoption by fishermen of the best practices and technologies available to avoid cetacean bycatch. The certification system will be coupled to the Docapesca CCL system (proof of purchase at auction) which specifies where the fish was caught and the gear used. The CCL label will allow the identification of the vessel adhering to the project with its logo.

The implementation of the certification system will benefit from dedicated funding from MAR2020 that will enable fishermen to make the appropriate adaptations.

Lead entity: **Docapesca – Portos e Lotas, SA**

14.4.

Till 2030 Portugal commits to continue raising awareness of sustainable fish consumption

The project of valorization of the fish traded in the auctions of mainland Portugal, integrates several typologies of actions, such as awareness campaigns for the valorization of sustainable and undervalued species, but nutritionally rich and with potential for innovation. This project also includes an internationalization component of Portuguese fish, through participation in fairs and professional events in foreign markets.

The main objectives are:

- Contribute to the valorization and reinforcement of the positioning of Portuguese fish in the national market, associated with healthy eating habits.

- Strengthen the positioning of Portuguese fish in the international market, encouraging Portuguese fish exports to current and new markets.

In the internal market, these campaigns began in 2012, with a campaign directed towards Chub mackerel (*Scomber colias*) and since 2017, also includes the Atlantic horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*).

The campaigns include annual "above the line" communication actions, using media such as television, press, outdoor and social networks, as well as "below the line" actions, by promoting product experimentation with Chefs of local Hospitality Schools in municipal markets, supermarkets or gastronomic festivals, being expected a minimum of 40 annual actions.

In order to associate the consumption of fish with a healthy diet, the campaigns also include an educational aspect, through a minimum of 10 annual lectures in primary and secondary schools throughout the country, with nautical sports athletes.

In international markets, these campaigns will be disseminated in the main international fairs, organized in collaboration with organizations and associations of the fish sector. Annual participation in three international fairs is planned.

This model of campaign will be adopted until 2020. In the next decade, Portugal will commit to produce a study of consumer trends, and national and international markets, to continue to promote the consumption and the innovation of sustainable species products, wild and from aquaculture.

Lead entity: **Docapesca – Portos e Lotas, SA**

14.5.

By 2020, conserve at least 14 per cent of coastal and marine areas under national jurisdiction

Protected area networks are the cornerstone of the biodiversity conservation policies, focusing the protection of ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic resources and thus providing a wide range of benefits to society and economy. Portugal presently has c.a. 7 per cent of the coastal and marine areas under national jurisdiction classified as marine protected areas, but is now assuming the commitment of further designating another c.a. 260.000 km², thus doubling the current area till 2020.

Lead entity: **Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM)**

14.5.

Promote and increase the public investment on projects focused on marine biodiversity conservation by 2 Million Euros by 2020

The financial support to scientific research, protection and monitoring of the marine environment may contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity, but given that marine ecosystems are less known, more complex and far away, and require much more investment, it is particularly important to develop specific financing lines that may support projects focused on marine biodiversity conservation. Portugal is highly committed with marine biodiversity conservation and thus has already designated c.a. 7 per cent of the coastal and marine areas, but besides enlarging this percentage we now want to support effective conservation actions that contributes to the implementation of Goal 14 and particularly target 14.5. with c.a. 2 Million Euros, by 2020. This may be achieved with the set aside of part of the Blue Fund, EEA grants and public funds, and by raising awareness regarding this funding instruments and the European Union LIFE Programme among all relevant actors in the maritime sector.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.5.

Increase knowledge on the value of marine natural capital and ecosystem services to support decision-making processes

Natural capital can be defined as the world's stocks of natural assets which include natural resources (water, air, soil, minerals), geological and biological diversity (genetic diversity, life resiliency, biomimetic resources, habitat types and ecosystems) and support ecosystem services (e.g. water filtration, flood-control, soil conservation, oxygen, food provision, transportation support, inspiration and cognitive development), that are essential for life on earth and for human societies.

Environmental systems play a fundamental role in determining a country's economic output, wealth and social well-being. However, mismanagement of natural capital persists because its full value is not reflected in socio-economic policies and political decision-making despite its fundamental importance for society's welfare.

Recognizing that sustained efforts are needed to integrate marine natural capital and ecosystem services into policies, Portugal commits to develop additional work with the scientific community.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.a.

Promote and support the establishment of a strong and vibrant marine and maritime research and innovation network, through the establishment of a Port Tech Cluster in Lisbon and the Atlantic Observatory in the Azores, with a focus on both North and South Atlantic

A sustainable and inclusive economic growth must be based on knowledge and innovation. Considering that the integration of disciplines and mind sets (academia and enterprises) is the best way to create a favorable ecosystem to the development of startups and business innovation based on an up-to-date scientific and technological background, Portugal intends to develop a marine and maritime research and innovation network, through the establishment a Port Tech Cluster in Lisbon and the Atlantic Observatory in the Azores, with an Atlantic perspective (both North and South Atlantic).

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.a.

Promote the establishment of public policy and raise international awareness regarding “Oceans and Human Health”

Acknowledging the oceans as a source of well-being and health, Portugal as a country with a privileged relation with the ocean proposes to implement public actions and policies that value this relationship and contribute to the well-being and health of an active society. This commitment will be materialized with more support to scientific projects with a close-to-market approach, nautical sports, thalassotherapy, thermal baths among other actions.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.a.

Significantly increase funding of deep-sea scientific research, including research on the environmental impacts of seabed mining, through the participation on JPI Oceans Initiative

Deep sea ecosystems, such as seamounts and hydrothermal vents are particularly vulnerable to environmental changes due to their slow growth and recovery rates and thus they may be prone to significant impacts from exploitation activities such as seabed mining.

Insufficient knowledge about deep-sea ecosystems and concerns about the risks of serious and permanent damage on deep-sea species and habitats fully justify Portugal’s commitment to promote and finance scientific research that may address the structure and functions of deep-sea ecosystems with a focus on the environmental impacts of seabed mining and possible mitigation approaches.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.a.

Finance EUR 3 million by 2020 to support the upgrade of National Information and Communication Technology Systems on Ocean Environment Management Protection and Economic Activities

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Systems are the cornerstone of maritime and marine management and decision-making support processes. Two of the most relevant Portuguese Maritime ICT Systems are:

- NIPIM@R, which aims at cross-sectorial exchange of maritime information, at the national level, and cross-border exchange of maritime information, at the European level, through the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE); In this context, a technological infrastructure was developed as well as organizational, legal, technical and semantic interoperability layers; and

- SNIMAR, an initiative that aims to facilitate access to information on the marine environment in Portugal through the development of a geographic information system supported by a marine spatial data infrastructure, for the management of marine and coastal waters. This system enables users to share, search and access information regarding the marine environment and activities related to the sea.

Thus, Portugal commits to finance EUR 1 million in 2017-2020 to support the upgrade of NIPIM@R and SNIMAR. These integrated and innovative approaches are beneficial in terms of maritime security, pollution control and prevention, biodiversity management, among other issues that are handled by different authorities at national and regional level.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.a.

Promote the transfer of scientific knowledge and technology to SIDS and LDC in the context of CPLP

Portugal proposes to increase the exchange/transference of scientific knowledge and technology with small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDC), especially Portuguese-speaking countries such as the ones that integrate the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP in the Portuguese acronym). This commitment includes the development of a web platform especially dedicated to the exchange with these countries that may act as a virtual center for the study of the sea, called “Centro de Estudos Marítimos da CPLP”, among other initiatives. In order to accomplish this, Portugal commits to dedicate c.a. 200.000 € per year, to create a web platform to connect people and institutions in specific fields of knowledge in order to share views, work in progress publications, information about financing and build projects proposals together.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**

14.a.

Portugal commits to allocate 0,5 million euros until the end of 2021 to support the preparation and starting phase of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

The United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean.

Portugal commits to contribute to the preparatory work and arrangements aimed at engaging the ocean community in the Decade. This will include hosting a global consultation workshop in Lisbon in 2020 and supporting the activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Secretariat.

Lead entity: **Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)**