

# Adding blue to the green agenda

NGO framework proposals for the EU seas

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# NGO framework proposals



- 1. Blue Manifesto:** supported by over 100 environmental NGOs, the Blue Manifesto outlines **a roadmap to a healthy ocean** in 2030.
- 2. Setting the Right Safety Net Paper:** lists **ten principles for fisheries support policies** in response to COVID-19.
- 3. Turning The Tide Paper:** focuses on the **investment opportunities for green recovery** to achieve the Blue Manifesto's objectives in EU seas.



# Blue Manifesto: a roadmap to a healthy ocean

- In 2008, European governments committed to have ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive by 2020. But we are nowhere near to achieving this.
- This presentation introduces **principles, priority actions and investment opportunities to turn the tide.**



*“The Ocean must be an integral part of the EU’s transition towards a climate-resilient and ecologically diverse future.”*



# Setting the right safety net: **ten principles** for fisheries policies in response to COVID-19

1. **Concurrent crisis response:** Policies to address one crisis should have a positive impact on other existing and anticipated crises.
2. **Efficiency:** Obtain the best results with limited resources.
3. **Rationality:** Effective policy requires a linkage between the crisis being addressed and the policy proposal.
4. **Speed:** A crisis situation requires a rapid response.
5. **Institutional integrity:** Support measures should respect existing institutions.



*“The ten principles establish a framework to assess whether fisheries support policies in response to Covid-19 are appropriate to set a path towards a healthier fishing sector, public, and marine environment.”*



# Setting the right safety net: **ten principles** for fisheries policies in response to COVID-19

- 6. Anti-abuse:** Ensure that policies are directed towards their intended recipients.
- 7. Consultation:** Engage industry and civil society in policy generation.
- 8. Clarity and transparency:** To protect against abuse, policy intent should be stated and outcomes monitored.
- 9. Conditionality:** There should be clear eligibility criteria and transparent procedures for application.
- 10. Integration:** Fisheries support policies do not exist in a vacuum and should strengthen policies in other areas.



*“The ten principles establish a framework to assess whether fisheries support policies in response to Covid-19 are appropriate to set a path towards a healthier fishing sector, public, and marine environment.”*



→ To deliver on its commitments in 2020, the EU must take **priority action** to implement legal obligations:

- **EU seas are in good environmental status** under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- **EU freshwater is in good status** under the Water Framework Directive.
- **Protect all marine Nature 2000 sites** from harmful activities under the Birds and Habitats Directives.
- **End overfishing** of all harvested stocks under the Common Fisheries Policy.
- **End illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** in their waters, by their fleet, or by their citizens under the IUU Regulation and to fully implement the Deep-Sea Regulation.



*“We need marine and coastal ecosystems to be rich in fauna, flora and genetic biodiversity so that they can perform their natural functions and support life on earth.”*



# Turning the tide: **investment opportunities** for green recovery

1. Nature restoration and conservation
2. Transition to sustainable and low impact seafood systems
3. Pollution-free seas and ocean



*“The EU must change its investments to align with the EU Green Deal as well as the Biodiversity and the Farm to Fork Strategies.”*



→ To make a **rolling start in 2020**, the EU must shift from harmful subsidies to green investments:



E.g. green investments:

- **Actively restore marine ecosystems**, such as rebuilding oyster reefs and fish passages in coastal dams → This effort can stimulate economic activities in sectors such as marine construction while increasing fish production, improving water quality and recovering threatened ecosystems.
- **Scaling up remote electronic monitoring (REM)** to enable transparent, accountable and more selective fishing activities → This type of technology further increases the transparency of catch data and improves confidence in scientific assessments.
- **Investing in the re-use/rental/re-fill sectors** to stop plastic pollution at its source → This win-win investment creates employment opportunities while stopping harmful pollution streams that are expensive or impossible to clean up.



*“The UK Government’s Natural Capital Committee (NCC), has found that investments in the marine environment have some of the **highest benefit cost ratios.**”*



→ To make a **rolling start in 2020**, the EU must shift from harmful subsidies to green investments:



E.g. harmful subsidies:

- It is estimated that in 2018, the EU provided over two billion dollars in **capacity-enhancing subsidies** → Redirecting these public resources to green investments would support an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable marine environment.



*“It is estimated that governments around the world spend over **22 billion dollars** annually on capacity enhancing, harmful financial incentives and subsidies in the fisheries sector alone.”*



# To a healthy ocean in 2030!

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