



The European Ocean Pact

Sustaining the ocean that sustains us

Political impetus

Mission letter to
Commissioner Costas
Kadis: “***European Ocean
Pact, ensuring
coherence across all
policy areas linked to
the oceans.***”

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The EU is an Ocean Union

EU: the world's largest collective maritime area



25 million km²
EEZs

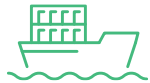


40% of EU
population living within
50 km of the sea

EU critical interests in maritime matters



70 000 km
coastline



Maritime routes
carry **74%** of the
EU's external trade



Undersea cables
for **99%** of inter-
continental internet
traffic

EU blue economy powerhouse



5 million jobs



€250 billion in
annual GVA



Traditional, new and
emerging sectors



Restorative and
regenerative practices

Triple planetary crisis impact on the ocean



Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) or white plague disease , Caribbean Sea

**Biodiversity
loss**



An Actively Calving Glacier in Gulf of Alaska

Climate change



Toxic plastic waste floating underwater in the ocean

Pollution

A strong governance framework is needed to align actions at Union, regional, national, and local levels through the various sea basins, involving both EU and non-EU countries.

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Strengthened Governance Framework

- 1 Ocean Act:** by 2027 that will build on a revision of the MSP
Ocean Board: stakeholders supporting the Commission in implementation
Ocean Pact dashboard: to monitor and report progress
- 2** Working together at regional level: **sea basin approach/** Black, Baltic, Mediterranean, Arctic seas
- 3 Financial** support – integrated approach to funding from private and public sources, incl. to enhance coastal communities' resilience through EU financing and EIB loans.

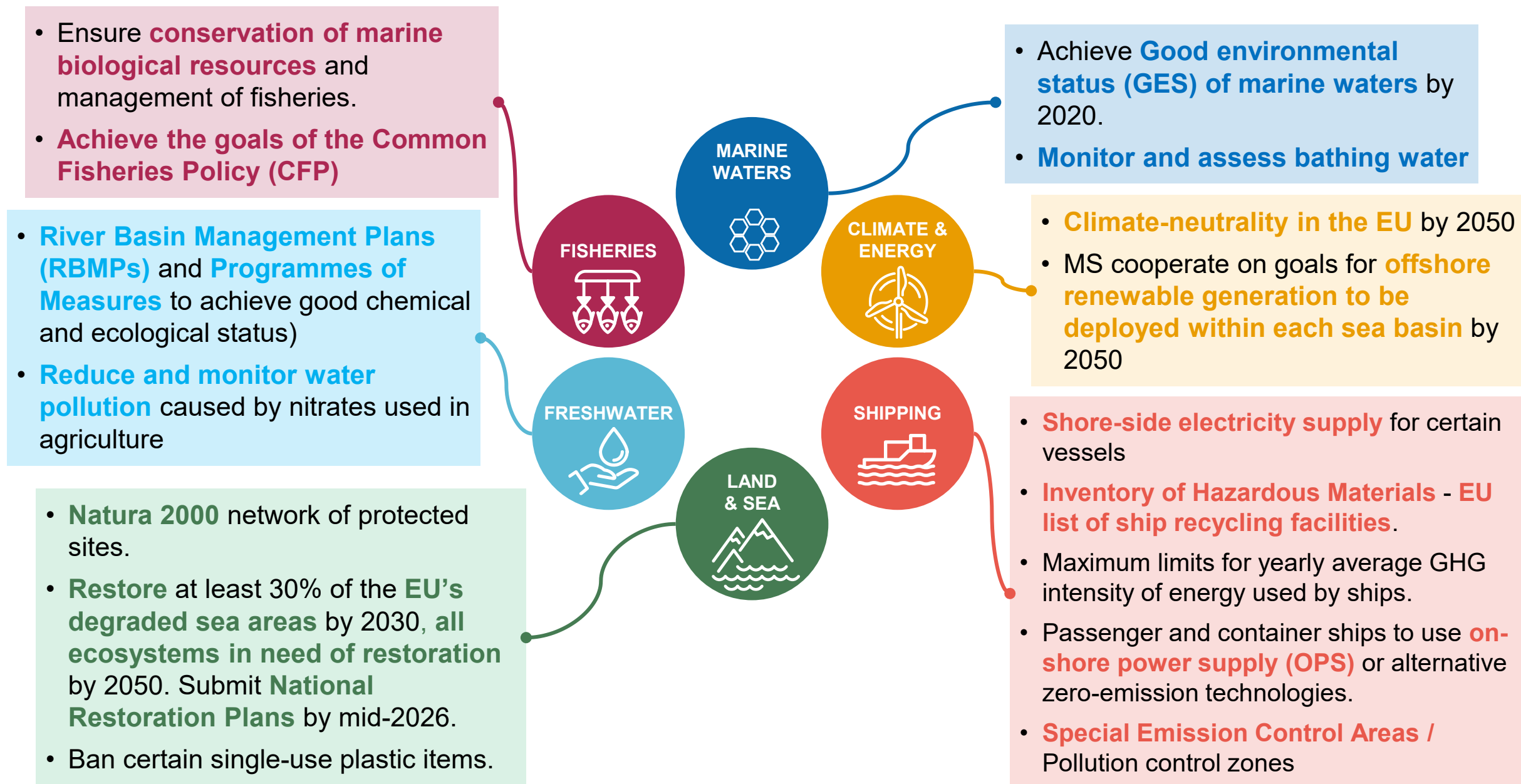
The Ocean Act

Revision of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive to **strengthen and modernise MSP as a strategic tool**

Reference targets
for coherent
implementation

Simplified and synchronised
ocean-related
reporting obligations in
existing legislation

OCEAN-RELATED TARGETS IN EU LEGISLATION AND POLICY – a selection



Six priorities

- 1 Protecting and restoring ocean health
- 2 Boosting the competitiveness of the sustainable blue economy
- 3 Supporting coastal, island communities and outermost regions
- 4 Advancing ocean research, knowledge, skills and innovation
- 5 Enhancing maritime security and defence as a prerequisite
- 6 Strengthening EU ocean diplomacy and international rules-based governance.



1

Protecting and restoring ocean health

- Revision of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- European blue carbon reserves and new business models for coastal communities
- Encourage Member States in MPAs designation and management



2

Boosting the competitiveness of the sustainable blue economy

- Evaluation of the CFP Regulation
- Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Industrial Maritime and EU Ports Strategies
- Sustainable Tourism Strategy
- Blue Generational Renewal Strategy





3

Supporting coastal, island communities and outermost regions

- Coastal Communities Development and Resilience Strategy
- Consultation on a New Strategy for EU Islands
- Updated strategy for outermost regions





4

Advancing ocean research, knowledge, skills and innovation

- EU Ocean Observation Initiative
- Operationalisation of the European Digital Twin Ocean by 2030 as contribution to the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability
- European Ocean R&I Strategy
- Establish an EU Ocean Youth and Intergenerational Ambassador Network





5

Enhancing maritime security and defence as a prerequisite

- UXO strategy for cutting-edge detection and disposal technologies
- Deeper cooperation between the EU, its Arctic Member states and like-minded Arctic States
- A pilot for a European (UxV) unmanned drone fleet
- Maritime cooperation in upcoming new Strategic and Comprehensive Partnerships with partner countries in North-Africa and the Middle East

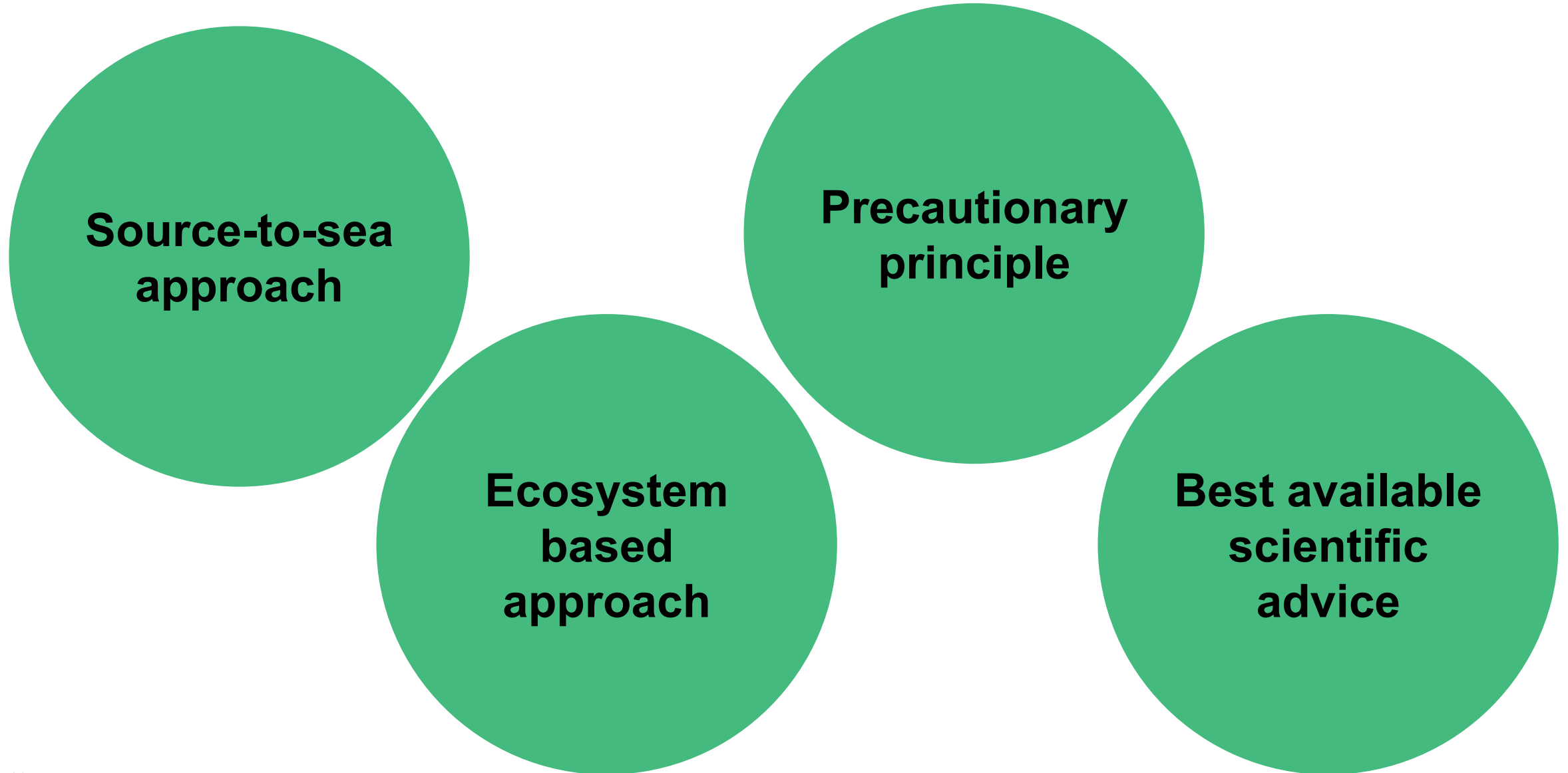


Strengthening EU ocean diplomacy and international rules-based governance.

- Strategic approach to EU fisheries external action, including a new generation of SFPAs
- Swift ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement and support implementation in developing countries through the EUR40 million contribution to the Global Ocean Programme
- Entry into force and implementation of phase 1 of WTO agreement and conclusion of negotiations of phase 2
- Mandatory use of the digitalised EU catch certification scheme IT CATCH from January 2026
- Piloting of an International Platform for Ocean Sustainability
- Championing protected zones in Southern Ocean



Guiding principles for implementation



The Pact aims at a holistic approach and collaboration across Member States, regions, and with stakeholders: fishers, blue economy professionals, innovators, investors, scientists, and civil society.

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Thank you

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