

# A 60 Second Guide To: Sustainable Development

## Goal 14

### Life Below Water

#### Introduction

The earth's oceans are a driving force that make the earth habitable. The sea regulates and provides our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, oxygen and significant proportions of our food. Careful management of this resource is a fundamental part of a sustainable future. This goal seeks to conserve and sustainably use our oceans and seas for sustainable development.

#### The 10 aims of this goal are to:

- 1 Reduce and prevent marine pollution, particularly from land based activities.
- 2 Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts.
- 3 Reduce and address the impacts of ocean acidification.
- 4 Regulate harvesting and end overfishing and any destructive fishing practices and to implement management plans to replenish fish stocks in the shortest possible time.
- 5 Conserve a minimum of 10% of coastal and marine areas.
- 6 Prohibit/eliminate certain types of fisheries subsidies which add to overcapacity and overfishing.
- 7 Increase the economic benefit to least developed countries and small island developing states from sustainable use of marine resources.
- 8 Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer technology to improve ocean health and improve the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries.
- 9 Provide access for small fishers to marine resources and markets.
- 10 Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law.

#### Background information

Our oceans cover three quarters of the earth's surface and over 1 billion people rely on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. The marine and coastal industries are estimated to be worth around 5% of global GDP and provide jobs to around 200 million people. In addition 3 billion people depend on the oceans for their protein. The ocean also buffers the impacts of global warming by absorbing approximately 30% of the carbon dioxide produced by humans. This vast resource must be managed carefully if we are to maintain this vital source of nutrition, biodiversity, climate regulation, transport and water.

#### Further Reading/Linked Resources

- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission



For more information and to take part in the Global Learning Programme please see: [www.glp-e.org.uk](http://www.glp-e.org.uk) and @glp\_e

For more information on the support provided by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) please see [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org) and @RGS\_IBGSchools

All information and statistics taken from [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

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