



CHANGING SAILS

ACCELERATING REGIONAL ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEANS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Ask your questions via YouTube at
<https://youtu.be/7ZYPLwsSzZ0>

or by email: escap-scas@un.org

About ESCAP



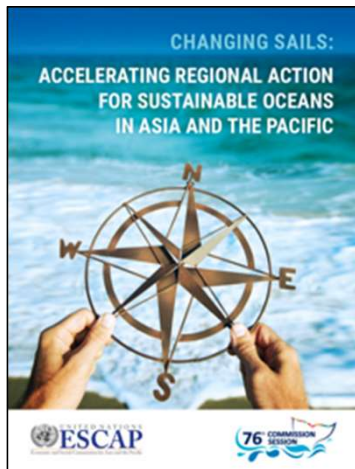
- ESCAP is the development arm of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific focusing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Each year, the region's governments converge at Commission session to agree on regional responses on shared challenges.
- ESCAP stands behind countries with research, thought leadership and technical support.



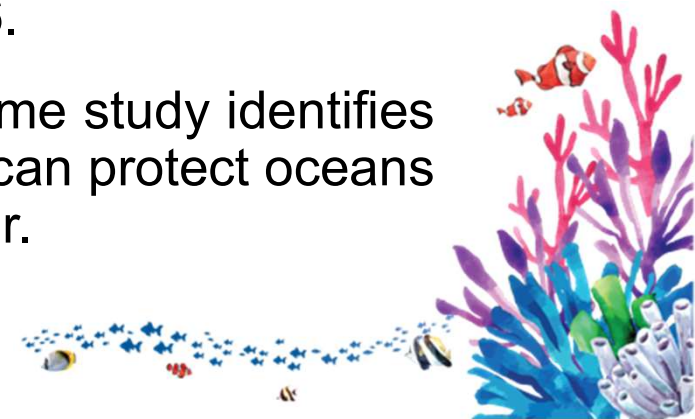
76th Commission Session Theme Study



“Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development.”



- The theme study *Changing Sails: Accelerating Regional Actions for Sustainable Oceans in Asia and the Pacific* will inform discussions at CS76.
- Through regional cooperation, the theme study identifies four key areas where member States can protect oceans and achieve SDG 14: Life Below Water.



Four Key Recommendations for Regional Cooperation on the Oceans



- 1 Data and Statistics
- 2 Maritime Shipping
- 3 Fisheries
- 4 Marine Pollution



1 State of ocean data



- Data are available for only **2/10 targets on SDG 14: Life Below Water**
 - Marine pollution
 - Conservation of coastal areas
- Significant knowledge gaps remain in ocean acidification, fisheries and fishing-related activities, and increasing economic benefits to small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries.

GOAL 14

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 14.1 | Marine pollution |
| 14.5 | Conservation of coastal areas |
| 14.2 | Marine & coastal ecosystems |
| 14.3 | Ocean acidification |
| 14.4 | Sustainable fishing |
| 14.6 | Fisheries subsidies |
| 14.7 | Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs |
| 14.a | Research capacity & marine technology |
| 14.b | Small-scale artisanal fishing |
| 14.c | Implementing UNCLOS |

	MAINTAIN progress to achieve target
	ACCELERATE progress to achieve target
	REVERSE trend
	Cannot be measured

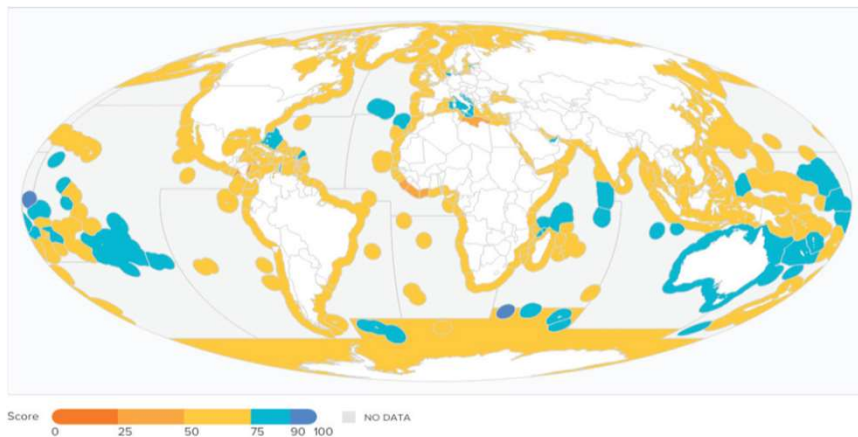
Note: SIDS, small island developing States; LDCs, least developed countries; UNCLOS, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

① Challenges and opportunities

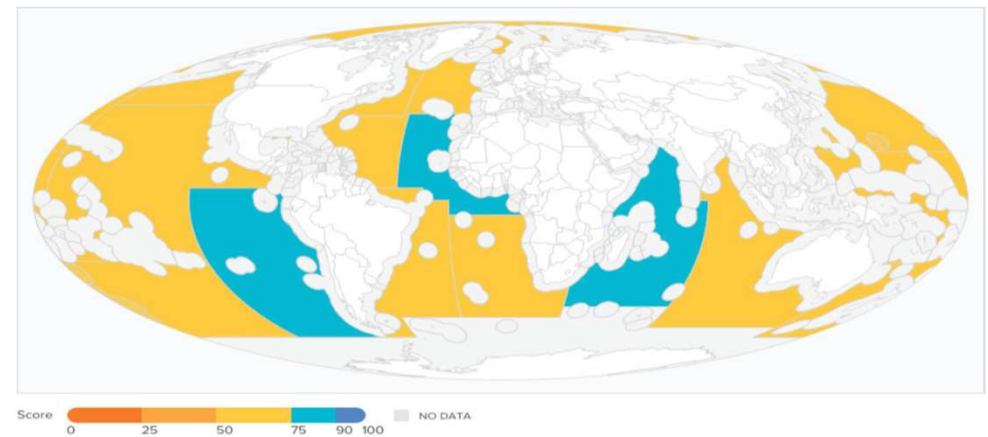


- Strengthening the use of **System of Environmental Economic Accounting** and the accompanying Experimental Ecosystem Accounting to support biodiversity policies.
- Ocean health is **showing decline** in both exclusive economic zones and the high seas. A stronger push is needed for investing in oceans data.

Ocean Health Index: exclusive economic zones



Ocean Health Index: high seas



① Developing official ocean statistics



- **National statistical systems** need support through joint efforts to get a complete picture of the ocean and monitor progress toward SDG 14: Life Below Water.
- Increased **country to country assistance** can fill data gaps and bridge fragmented data.
- **Regional collaboration** is needed to support and advance data standardization and harmonization.

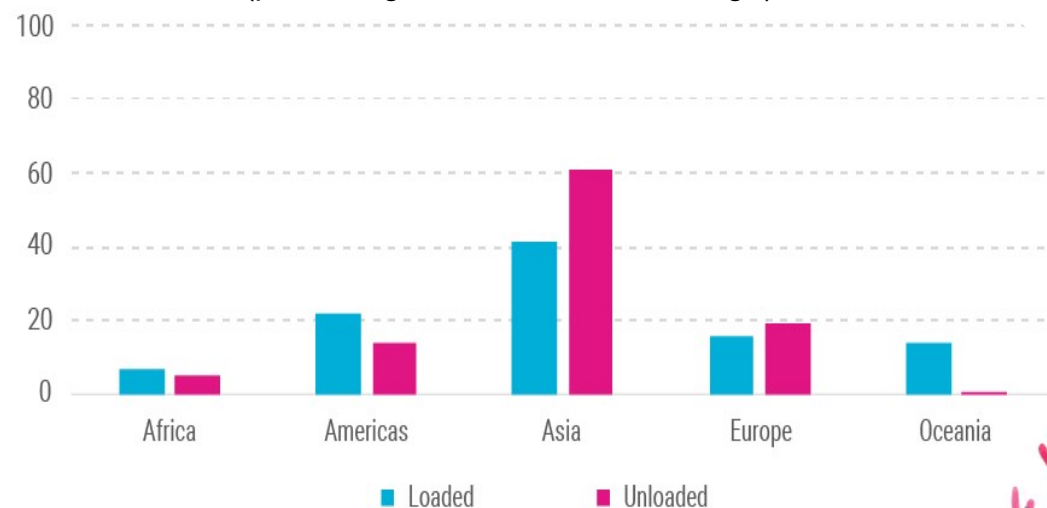


② State of maritime shipping

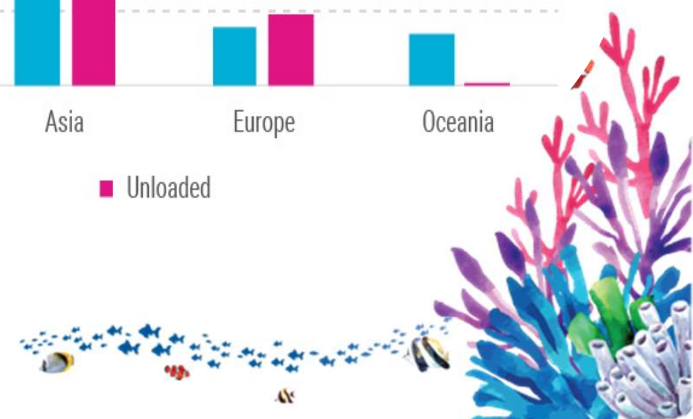


- The **maritime connectivity divide** impedes economic growth, especially in the Pacific.
- Asia has the highest number of shipping-related **casualties and accidents** worldwide.
- Maritime shipping adversely affects the **marine ecosystem**.

International maritime trade by region
(percentage share in world tonnage)



Source:
UNCTAD.



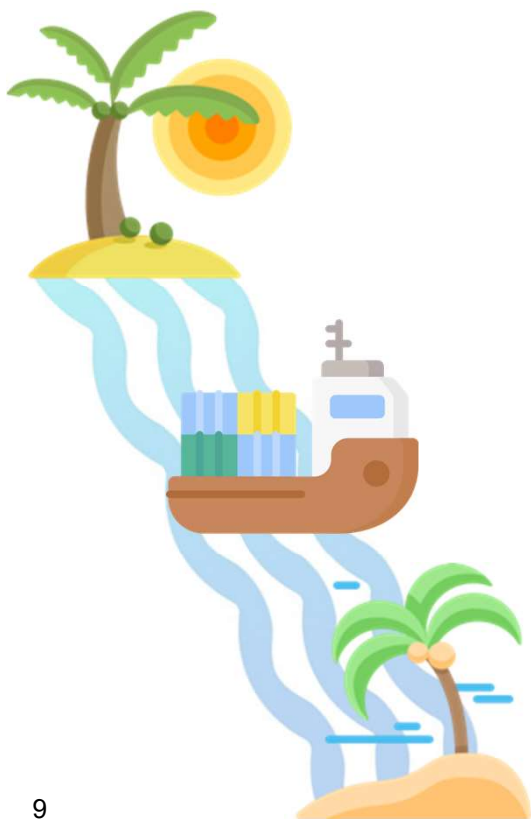
② Challenges and opportunities



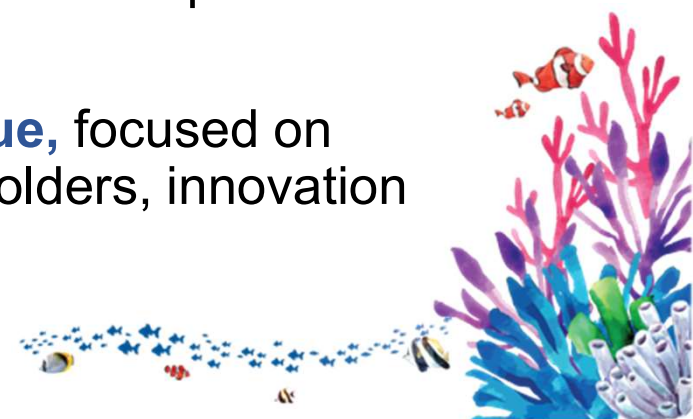
- Maritime connectivity can be enhanced by **linking local and regional value chains**.
- **Smart port systems** support efficient and green shipping, scaled up through new investments and public-private partnerships.
- Innovation and alternative energy measures advance **decarbonization** and clean solutions.



2 Transforming maritime shipping



- Greater regional efforts are still needed to close the **maritime connectivity gap**.
- Implementing **global (IMO) regulations** helps countries achieve safe and green maritime transport, but their implementation capacities differ.
- **Systematic regional dialogue**, focused on partnership among all stakeholders, innovation and capacity building, is key.

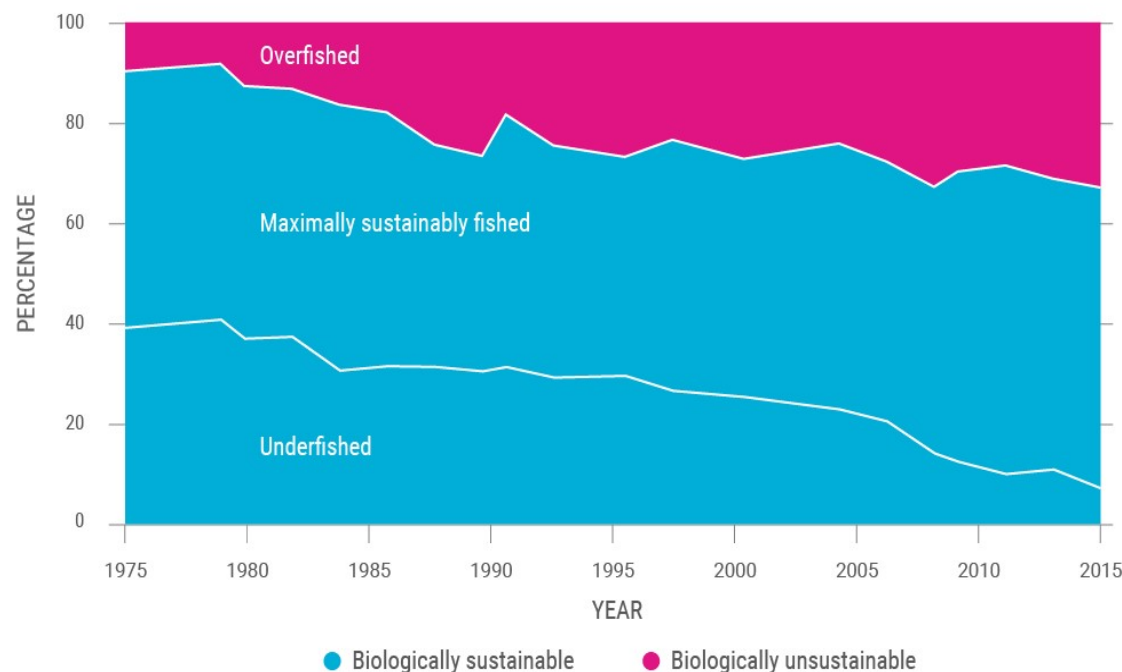


3 State of sustainable fisheries



- Asia and the Pacific is the world's **largest producer of fish**.
- The percentage of **stocks fished unsustainable** levels has increased more than threefold from 1974 (10%) to 2015 (33%).
- The **main threats** to marine fisheries are overfishing, environmental degradation and irregular, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.

State of the world's fisheries in 2017



Source: FAO.

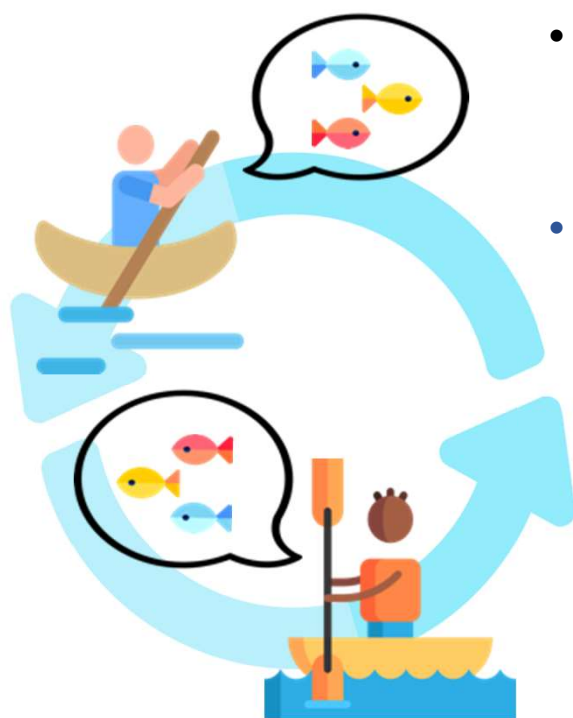
3 Challenges and opportunities



- Effective **country-level regulation and management** promotes good fisheries governance.
- **Harmonized national statistics** ensures consistent and quality data on fish stocks.
- **Marine protected areas** prevent the decline of marine biodiversity and ensures the sustainable and economic co-benefits.



3 Promoting sustainable fisheries



- Strengthening **data sharing**, collection and harmonization leads to accurate information for protecting fish stocks.
- **Regional cooperation**
 - increases number of parties to international multilateral agreements (e.g. FAO) and strengthen implementation.
 - protects and promote stakeholder interests and the use of the ocean.
 - monitors illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.



4 An ocean of plastic

49.3% of the global plastic is produced in Asia-Pacific



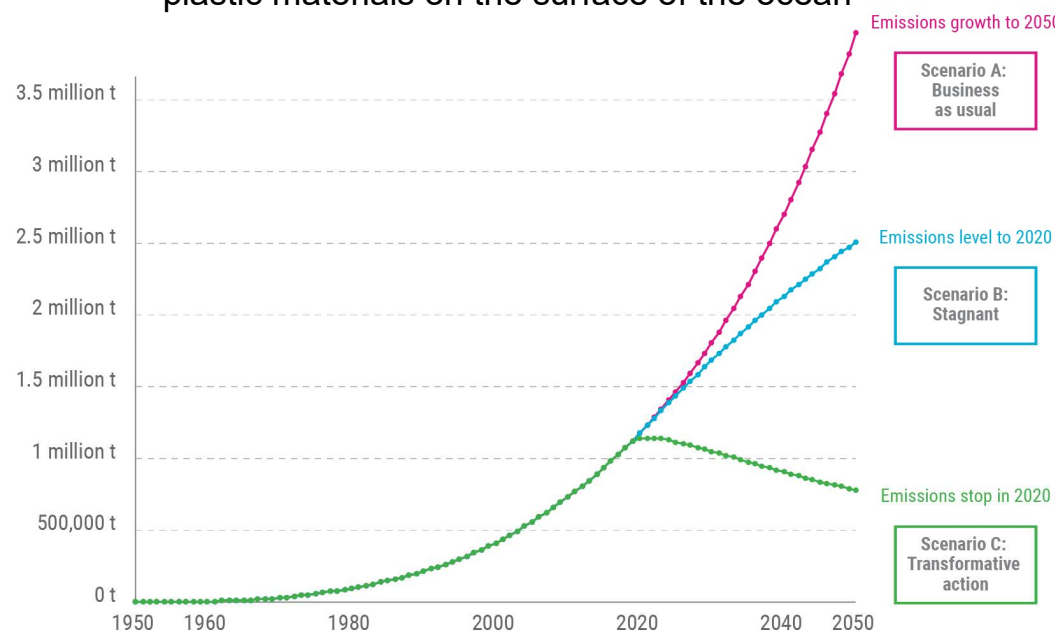
38% of the global plastic is consumed in Asia-Pacific



Average of total mismanaged plastic waste in top six polluting countries in Asia-Pacific: 9.6%



A century of plastics: historical and projected plastic materials on the surface of the ocean



Source: Lebreton et al. (2019). A global mass budget for positively buoyant macroplastic debris in the ocean.

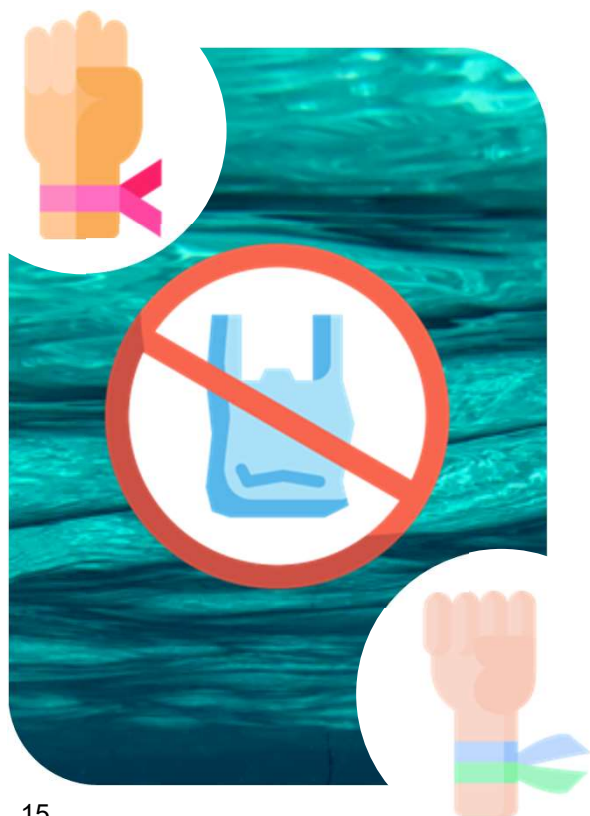
4 Challenges and opportunities



- The **circular economy** offers a holistic approach that minimizes resource use and prolongs resources that enter the economy.
- Society must **transition** to market-based, regulatory and local actions.
 - Designing out single-use plastics
- **Transformative ocean action** must occur in four key areas: governance, economy and finance, science and technology, and individual and collective action.



4 Reducing plastic waste



- Implementing **international agreements** and **national policies** on marine pollution strengthens governance.
- Energizing **business and investment opportunities** encourages sustainable businesses and shifts in consumer behavior.
- **Regional cooperation**
 - exchanges information, data and good practices.
 - scales up cross-border initiatives and innovation.
 - strengthens multi-stakeholder dialogue.



Concluding remarks



- The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a temporary shutdown in many activities, especially those related to **shipping, transport and tourism**.
- **Solutions-oriented**, coordinated and evidence-based policy measures are essential.
- **Promotion of 3R** (reduce, reuse and recycle) can generate socio-economic and environmental value.
- **Norms are changing**, with a focus on environmental sustainability.



Call for actions: CS76 Oceans Resolution



Harnessing **data** for a healthy ocean

Regional cooperation towards enforcement and follow up of international **frameworks, norms and standards**

Strengthening **inclusive** and **action-oriented** regional platforms





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THANK YOU!

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