High Seas Alliance & Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

Elements for a Possible Ocean Sustainable Development Goal

The High Seas Alliance and Deep Sea Conservation Coalition respectfully propose the following elements for inclusion in an Ocean SDG: **Achieve healthy, productive and resilient oceans.** Targets and indicators are suggested below.[1]

Target	Indicators
Ensure that all fish stocks are being fished sustainably	Percentage of fish stocks maintained or restored to level above that which can produce Maximum Sustainable Yield. Percentage of commercial fish stocks operating under science-based management plans that are sustainable and limit fishing catch and effort to sustainable levels commensurate with the status of the stocks and their ecological role and social value, rebuild stocks where depleted, and reduce to sustainable levels bycatch, discards, and other adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, eliminate destructive fishing practices and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems and species. Percentage of overfished stocks that rebuilt to sustainable levels according to biennial FAO report on State of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Percentage of overfished stocks recovering from previous depletion according to biennial FAO report on State of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Percentage of total harmful subsidies for fishing fleets reduced. Number of flag States freezing, capping or reducing fleet sizeconsistent with IPOA on Managing Fishing Capacity (1999) reinforced by Thessaloniki Declaration (March 2014). Number of recovery or rebuilding plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, Percentage of fisheries with no significant adverse impacts on vulnerable species and ecosystems Percentage of fisheries where the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.[2] Percentage of fisheries managed on the basis of environmental impact assessments.

Protect marine biodiversity	Percentage of coastal and marine areas that are protected, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas. Recovery plans and measures in place fordegraded marine ecosystems. International Seabed Authority has developed exploitation regulations which incorporate best environmental practice, require environmental impact assessments (EIAs), implementprecautionary and ecosystem approach, and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems and ecologically and biologically significant areas, including through implementation of representative systems of no-mining areas. Number of RFMOs effectively implementing the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle. Percentage of bottom fisheries operating consistently with UNGA resolutions and FAO Deep Sea Guidelines. Number of national and regional agreements regulating and setting standards to prevent pollution. Number of countries having ratified the Minimata Convention[3] on mercury. Proportion of marine species assessed as threatened on the IUCN Red List.[4] Proportion of threatened marine species effectively protected at the national, regional or international levels.
Eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	Number of flag States and RFMOs requiring IMO numbers and transponders for all fishing vessels more than 24 meters or 100 tonnes. Number of RFMOs having established satellite monitoringprogrammes. Number of ratifications of the UN FAO Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA) and number of port States with supporting domestic implementing legislation.[5] Percentage of high seas, straddling and highly migratory stocks under management by RFMOs with effective monitoring control and surveillance systems. Number of flag States that exercise effective control over the activities of their vessels operating internationally (e.g. outside flag State's EEZ) consistent with international law. Number of vessels operating under an effective vessel control regime to ensure that all management measures can be effectively complied with and which ensures that all vessels are safe working platforms for all seafarers, including fishers, and that the impacts of all maritime uses are transparently assessed and effectively minimized.
Reduce by [50%] quantities of land-based pollution including plastic debris and carbon dioxide entering the marine environment	Number of countries with minimisation strategies developed, and which have achieved significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment. Agreement, ratification and implementation of international agreements to effectively mitigate the release of carbon dioxide. Strategies to account for and adapt to the effects of ocean acidification.

[1]Targets from the Pacific SIDS proposal put to the SDG OWG are in italics.http://palauun.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/oceans-sustainable-development-goal-and-brief-palau-17-april-2013.pdf

[2]Adapted from Aichi Target 6.

[3]The Minimata Convention on mercury is the most recent multilateral environmental agreement; it was open for signature on 10 October, 2013; only one country (the USA) has ratified it to date; in order to enter into force it requires fifty countries to become party. http://www.mercuryconvention.org/

[4]The IUCN Red List is widely recognized as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. More information can be found here: http://www.iucnredlist.org/

[5]The PSMA was adopted in 2009. It requires 25 ratifications to enter into force. To date only 10 countries are party to it. http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/166283/en.