



The G7 Research Group presents the

2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Interim Compliance Report

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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9. Environment: Marine Health and Litter

“Addressing the adverse impact of human activity, such as litter and unsustainable fishing practices, on the marine environment: building on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, we will accelerate action to tackle the increasing levels of plastic pollution in the ocean from all sources - land and marine - including by working through the UN Environment Assembly on options including strengthening existing instruments and a potential new global agreement or other instrument to address marine plastic litter, including at UNEA-5.”

G7 2030 Nature Compact

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.13 (56%)	

Background

Marine environments are essential to human well-being. They support livelihoods, provide nutrition and aid global climate regulation by absorbing heat and sequestering carbon dioxide (CO₂).¹⁰⁶³ Marine environments are vulnerable to unsustainable human activity resulting in environmental degradation, pollution (including marine litter), overfishing and climate change. For instance, an estimated 11 million metric tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean each year where it ultimately harms marine life and damages habitats.¹⁰⁶⁴ Unabated climate change leading to “high climate warming scenarios” could result in a decrease of fish biomass of up to 25 per cent by the end of the century.¹⁰⁶⁵ This is compounded with the fact that approximately 33 per cent of fish populations are currently being harvested at unsustainable levels. Simultaneously, coastal hypoxic (low oxygen) zones caused by fertilizer run-off cause marine life to die or leave for water with higher oxygen content, putting ecosystems and livelihoods at risk. Such unsustainable human activity has already put an estimated 100 to 300 million people living in coastal areas at risk due to coastal habitat loss.

Given the importance of marine environments to human well-being, the health of marine environments and reductions to marine litter have repeatedly been an area of concern for the G7, as well as for the G20 (such as at the 2019 Osaka Summit) and the United Nations (with the United Nations Environment Assembly), among other organizations.¹⁰⁶⁶

¹⁰⁶³ Goal 14: Life below water, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

<https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/sustainable-development-goals/why-do-sustainable-development-goals-matter/goal-14>

¹⁰⁶⁴ Breaking the Plastic Wave: A Comprehensive Assessment Of Pathways Towards Stopping Ocean Plastic Pollution, The Pew Charitable Trusts (Philadelphia) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2021. https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2020/10/breakingtheplasticwave_mainreport.pdf

¹⁰⁶⁵ UN Report: Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’; Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’, United Nations (Paris) 6 May 2019. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>

¹⁰⁶⁶ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Third Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/G20MPL_report_2021.pdf

As a reflection of its importance, the protection and fostering of marine environments is a key focus of the United Nations, featuring in its sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 14.1 which states “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution,” as well as Goal 14.2 which calls for sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems including through restoration and actions to strengthen their resiliency.¹⁰⁶⁷

G7 leaders acknowledged the importance of protecting marine environments dating back to the 1989 Paris Summit.¹⁰⁶⁸ While the G7 recognized the importance of marine biodiversity, health and sustainability as far back as the 1985 Bonn Summit (regarding the protection of water and seas) and 1987 Venice Summit (where it was mentioned in passing as part of a broader commitment to “encourage action” against climate change), it was not until the 1989 Paris Summit that the fostering of marine health was seen as an issue area of its own.¹⁰⁶⁹ G7 members condemned the dumping of polluting waste into the ocean, recognized the importance of international co-operation in preserving and conserving marine environments, called for the United Nations to prepare a report on the state of the world’s oceans and encouraged countries to implement the international conventions for the prevention of oil pollution in the ocean and to make use of the latest monitoring and cleanup technologies.¹⁰⁷⁰

During the 1990 Houston Summit, the G7 called for the development of a strategy to address land-based sources of marine pollution, urged the entry into enforcement of the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Convention on oil spills and expressed concern over the impact of environmental degradation of unregulated fishing practices on marine resources.¹⁰⁷¹ They further encouraged all countries to respect current conservation regimes. The G7 also highlighted the developmental pressures on estuaries, wetlands and coral reefs, and the destruction of biological diversity as a result of human activity. Finally, they also committed to expand projects to conserve biodiversity, assist developing countries in environmental efforts and work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to achieve these objectives.

The 1991 London Summit saw the G7 seek to promote a comprehensive approach to the conservation and sustainable management of marine environments in the context of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.¹⁰⁷² G7 leaders also encouraged the implementation of measures to protect against overfishing and other harmful practices on marine life in accordance with international law. They also urged “control of marine pollution and compliance with the regimes established by regional fisheries organisations through effective monitoring and enforcement measures.”

At the 1997 Denver Summit, the G8 leaders reaffirmed the importance of the world’s oceans, stating their intention to “ensure an effective and integrated effort to deal with key issues, including sustainable fishing,

¹⁰⁶⁷ Sustainable Development Goal 14, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (New York) Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>

¹⁰⁶⁸ Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html#environment>

¹⁰⁶⁹ G7/8 Conclusions on Oceans, 1975-2017, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) n.d. Access Date 19 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/conclusions/oceans.pdf>

¹⁰⁷⁰ Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html#environment>

¹⁰⁷¹ Houston Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 July 1990. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1990houston/declaration.html#environment>

¹⁰⁷² Economic Declaration: Building World Partnership, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 1991. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1991london/communique/index.html>

shipping, marine pollution from land-based and off-shore activities.”¹⁰⁷³ They also agreed to “enhance cooperation in monitoring the ecology in the Northern Pacific.”

During the 2003 Evian Summit, the G8 committed to ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which established the legal framework for maritime activities.¹⁰⁷⁴ UNCLOS “imposes duties on all states to ensure, through proper conservation and management measures, the long-term sustainability of fish resources,” and also outlines rules for the protection and preservation of marine environments, presenting states with duties to protect the oceans from various pollutants.¹⁰⁷⁵ The G8 members also committed to developing and facilitating the use of diverse approaches and tools for the purpose of protecting sea and ocean environments, the elimination of illegal and unregulated fishing, as well as to the “urgent restoration and maintenance of fish stocks.”¹⁰⁷⁶ The summit also resulted in measures to accelerate the phasing out of single-hulled tankers, act on the environmental threat posed by large cargo vessels and a commitment to address the risk posed by the carrying of oil by single-hulled tankers.

The 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit saw a focus on marine litter, with the G7 members committing to take action to remove litter, improve education and outreach and address land and sea-based sources of marine litter, particularly focusing on plastic litter.¹⁰⁷⁷ The G7 members released an action plan outlining various instruments for combating marine litter in conjunction with their commitment.¹⁰⁷⁸ This action plan also recognized the global challenge presented by marine litter, encouraging the sharing of best practices with developing countries as well as the provision of international assistance and funding.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 members tied action towards reducing marine litter and ensuring marine environment health to resource efficiency, the three Rs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹⁰⁷⁹ In the Leaders’ Declaration, the G7 affirmed their commitment to address marine litter, highlighting the importance of resource efficiency and the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) for reducing marine litter from land-based sources. The G7 also indicated their support for scientific work that enhances global observation and assessment of marine resources, allowing for management, conservation and more sustainable use of marine resources. The importance of addressing marine litter and maintaining healthy marine biodiversity was also a topic of discussion at the G7 Environment Ministers’ meeting.¹⁰⁸⁰

During the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 nations endorsed the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, which included provisions to address ocean plastic waste and marine litter.¹⁰⁸¹ In addition to commitment towards broad action towards healthy oceans and against marine litter,

¹⁰⁷³ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

¹⁰⁷⁴ Marine Environment and Tanker Safety: A G8 Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 June 2003. Access Date: 20 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/marine_en.html

¹⁰⁷⁵ Law of the Sea: United Nations convention, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/international-affairs/partnerships-organizations/law-sea-united-nations-convention.html>

¹⁰⁷⁶ Marine Environment and Tanker Safety: A G8 Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 June 2003. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/marine_en.html

¹⁰⁷⁷ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

¹⁰⁷⁸ Annex to the Leaders’ Declaration G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-annex-en.pdf>

¹⁰⁷⁹ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#development>

¹⁰⁸⁰ Communiqué G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 May 2016. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2016-environment.html>

¹⁰⁸¹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

and included as an annex for the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, the G7 members (with the exception of Japan and the United States) also endorsed the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter which problematizes and outlines methods to improve current ways of producing, using, managing and disposing of plastics for the good of marine environments and human health with the goal of a zero-plastic waste model.¹⁰⁸² Some of the actions committed to in the Ocean Plastics Charter include: making all plastics recyclable by 2030, reducing the use of single-use plastics and promoting the use of recycled plastic, as well as improving and expanding recycling infrastructure and promoting the research, development and use of new technologies for monitoring, removing and recycling plastics.¹⁰⁸³

In the aftermath of the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 nations released the G7 Innovation Challenge to Address Marine Plastic Litter on 20 September 2018. The objective of the G7 Innovation Challenge was to incentivize the development of technological and social solutions for sustainable management of plastics with the goal of increasing resource efficiency and reducing marine plastic pollution.

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to biodiversity protection, ocean conservation and the fight against marine litter.¹⁰⁸⁴ The G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fund climate innovation and members discussed several initiatives already underway. They also listened to expert testimony and made an official statement welcoming the Osaka G20 Blue Ocean Vision and Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.

During the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders agreed to a shared global agenda which included the goal of protecting at least 30 per cent of global oceans by 2030.¹⁰⁸⁵ This commitment was part of the larger G7 2030 Nature Compact, which also included provisions for restoring lost habitat and biodiversity and encouraged increased global cooperation for ocean protection and conservation.¹⁰⁸⁶ The agreement also advocated building on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision's goal of reducing additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, accelerating action to tackle pollution from land and sea-based sources, encouraging and enforcing international legal action against illegal and unreported fishing and taking measures against overfishing. The G7 also published the "G7 Ocean Decade Navigation Plan" policy paper on 21 May 2021 under the UK presidency in which the G7 agreed to "collaborate and advance [their] collective work on ocean science, ocean observing and ocean action throughout the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)."¹⁰⁸⁷ The G7 members committed to support the UN Ocean Decade and its outcomes which include: "A Clean Ocean where sources of pollution are identified and reduced or removed," "A Healthy and Resilient Ocean where marine ecosystems are understood, protected, restored and managed," and "A Productive Ocean supporting sustainable food supply and a sustainable ocean economy."

¹⁰⁸² Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html>; The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

¹⁰⁸³ Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html>

¹⁰⁸⁴ Biarritz Chair's Summary on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/chairs-summary-climate.html>

¹⁰⁸⁵ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communique.html>

¹⁰⁸⁶ G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>; G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁰⁸⁷ G7 Ocean Decade Navigation Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2021-ocean-navigation.html>

Commitment Features

On 13 June 2021, G7 leaders at the Cornwall Summit adopted the present commitment: “Addressing the adverse impact of human activity, such as litter and unsustainable fishing practices, on the marine environment: building on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, we will accelerate action to tackle the increasing levels of plastic pollution in the ocean from all sources - land and marine - including by working through the UN Environment Assembly on options including strengthening existing instruments and a potential new global agreement or other instrument to address marine plastic litter, including at UNEA-5.”¹⁰⁸⁸

“Address” is understood to mean “to give attention to or deal with a matter or problem.”¹⁰⁸⁹ “Adverse” is defined as “acting against or in a contrary direction” and “opposed to one’s interests.”¹⁰⁹⁰ “Impact” is defined as “the force of impression of one thing on another: a significant or major effect.”¹⁰⁹¹ Taken together then, “adverse impact” means significant effects from a given action against the subject’s interests, which is the marine environment.

“Human Activity” is understood to mean action, defined as “to do something; to act in order to get a particular result” undertaken by humans.¹⁰⁹²

Litter is defined as any solid material that is improperly disposed of and enters the natural environment.¹⁰⁹³ “Marine Litter” in particular is defined as any “persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment from any source.”¹⁰⁹⁴

“Unsustainable” is understood to mean “not capable of being prolonged or continued.”¹⁰⁹⁵ “Fishing” is defined as the “the capture of aquatic organisms in marine, coastal and inland areas.”¹⁰⁹⁶ “Practices” is better understood as “method” in this context which is defined as “a way, technique, or process of or for doing something.”¹⁰⁹⁷ Taken together, unsustainable fishing practices are ways or techniques of capturing aquatic organisms that are not capable of being prolonged or continued.

¹⁰⁸⁸ G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

¹⁰⁸⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁰⁹⁰ Adverse, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adverse>

¹⁰⁹¹ Impact, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/impact>

¹⁰⁹² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁰⁹³ Reasons, Consequences and Possible Solutions of Littering, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (Tbilisi) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <http://environment.cenn.org/waste-management/publications/reasons-consequences-possible-solutions-littering/>; Solid Waste and Marine Litter, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.unep.org/cep/solid-waste-and-marine-litter>

¹⁰⁹⁴ Solid Waste and Marine Litter, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.unep.org/cep/solid-waste-and-marine-litter>

¹⁰⁹⁵ Unsustainable, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/unsustainable>

¹⁰⁹⁶ Fisheries, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.fao.org/fisheries/en/>

¹⁰⁹⁷ Method, Merriam-Webster English Dictionary (Springfield) Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/method>

“Building” is defined as “to develop according to a systematic plan, by a definite process, or on a particular base.”¹⁰⁹⁸ “Building on” the Osaka Blue Ocean initiative in this context then means to work towards more expansive action using the Osaka Blue Ocean initiative as a base for future policy-making and action. The Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, first put forward at the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit, “aim[s] to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach that includes reducing the discharge of mismanaged plastic litter by improved waste management and innovative solutions while recognizing the important role of plastics for society.”¹⁰⁹⁹

“Will” is “used to talk about what is going to happen in the future, especially things that you are certain about or things that are planned.”¹¹⁰⁰ This verb indicates a high politically binding obligation meaning that it signifies a commitment and is a strong catalyst for compliance.¹¹⁰¹

“Accelerate” is defined as “to bring [something] about at an earlier time” or “to hasten or progress the development of [something].”¹¹⁰² This indicates that the commitment deals with some process that has already been started, in this instance what is being accelerated is action to reduce rising levels of plastic pollution.

“Instrument” is defined as “a means whereby something is achieved, performed, or furthered.”¹¹⁰³ Instruments then are the means by which G7 members will comply with their commitments. This includes economic instruments at both national and international levels including taxes or tariffs, permits, subsidies, etc.¹¹⁰⁴ It also includes actions such as budget allocations domestically and for international financing, international and domestic law-making, industry action-plans, etc.¹¹⁰⁵

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines marine litter as “any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material which is lost or discarded and ends up in the marine and coastal environment.”¹¹⁰⁶ This includes “items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded into the sea or rivers or on beaches; brought indirectly to the sea with rivers, sewage, stormwater or winds; accidentally lost, including material lost at sea in bad weather (fishing gear, cargo); or deliberately left by people on beaches and shores.”¹¹⁰⁷ Other factors to consider when assessing marine health include pollution levels, ocean eutrophication (excessive algal or plant growth), marine area management, the creation of protected areas and conservation.¹¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁹⁸ Build, Merriam-Webster English Dictionary (Springfield) Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/build>

¹⁰⁹⁹ G20 Osaka Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹¹⁰⁰ Will, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/will>

¹¹⁰¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹¹⁰² Accelerate, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/accelerate>

¹¹⁰³ Instrument, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/instrument>

¹¹⁰⁴ Policy Instruments for the Environment, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2 November 2017. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.oecd.org/environment/tools-evaluation/PINE_database_brochure.pdf

¹¹⁰⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹¹⁰⁶ Understanding The State Of The Ocean: A Global Manual On Measuring Sdg 14.1.1, Sdg 14.2.1 And Sdg 14.5.1, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35086>

¹¹⁰⁷ Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) April 2009. Access Date: 17 September 2021. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7787/-Marine%20Litter_%20A%20Global%20Challenge%20%282009%29-2009845.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

¹¹⁰⁸ Understanding The State Of The Ocean: A Global Manual On Measuring Sdg 14.1.1, Sdg 14.2.1 And Sdg 14.5.1, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35086>

The inclusion of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in the commitment marks it as a core international institution which is defined as “a separate international organization (as an organization) that has a particular focus on the issue in the commitment at hand.”¹¹⁰⁹ The UNEA is a United Nations agency that is the “the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment.”¹¹¹⁰ According to the text of the commitment, the UNEA is a specified agent, which indicates that it is an institution that G7 members could work through in order to comply with the commitment.¹¹¹¹ The term “including” indicates that greater weight should be placed on working through or with the UNEA in order to comply with the commitment. “UNEA-5” is also mentioned in the text and refers to the fifth-session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the first session of which was held on 22 and 23 February 2021, with an additional assembly, dealing with more substantive matters that require in-depth negotiations, planned for the period from 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022.¹¹¹²

There are two component areas for this commitment, national action and international action. International action is emphasized in the text of the commitment through references to UNEA and UNEA-5, as well as through mentioning a “new global agreement.”¹¹¹³ Further, at the national and international level, compliance action can take the form of either strengthening existing instruments or creating new instruments that address the problem of marine litter and health.

To achieve full compliance, or a score of +1, G7 members must take strong and concrete action to strengthen existing instruments as well as work on a new global agreement through participation at UNEA-5. Referring back to the definition of instruments, concrete national actions to strengthen existing instruments include measures such as budget allocation, implementing policies, amending or creating new laws, providing technical or financial assistance to programs, projects and businesses, which includes subsidies or grants. International action meanwhile can include global law-making or revision to current laws, financing, as well as agreements or target-setting between nations.

For partial compliance, or a score of 0, G7 members take less than strong action to strengthen existing instruments or work on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. If a G7 member takes strong action in one area, say creating new instruments at the national level, but does not take action internationally or only takes partial or weak actions such as attending meetings or re-affirming the commitment, then the G7 member will be found to be in partial compliance. A G7 member will also achieve partial compliance if they fulfill all aspects of the commitment (national, international, strengthening institutions and creating new instruments) but only do so through weak actions that are not binding.

For non-compliance (-1), G7 members must take no action to strengthen existing instruments or create new instruments or agreements at either the national or international level.

¹¹⁰⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹¹¹⁰ About The United Nations Environment Assembly, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/about-united-nations-environment-assembly>

¹¹¹¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹¹¹² Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5>

¹¹¹³ G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does NOT take strong and concrete action to reduce marine litter through strengthening existing instruments or by working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5 and does NOT take additional action to address overall marine health.
0	The G7 member takes less than strong action to reduce marine litter in one or both of the constituent features and takes additional action to accelerate a reduction in marine pollution and increase overall marine health.
+1	The G7 member takes strong and concrete action to reduce marine litter through strengthening existing instruments AND by working on a new global agreement through the United Nations Environment Assembly at UNEA-5 AND takes additional action to accelerate a reduction in marine pollution and increase overall marine health.

Compliance Director: Karči Aldridge Végi

Lead Analyst: Maryanna Diab

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 15 June 2021, the Government of Canada launched the Ocean Partnership Forum under the Canada-EU Ocean Partnership Declaration to promote ocean sustainability through cooperation.¹¹¹⁴ The joint statement also reaffirmed their intention to conclude, as soon as possible, a new agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea for conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. They aim to report on the progress on conservation and sustainable use of marine resources at the second UN Ocean Conference in 2022. This action is consistent with Canada's commitment to increasing marine health.

On 13 July 2021, the Governments of Canada and the United States announced the signing of a four-year action plan to jointly protect and manage the health of the Salish Sea ecosystem.¹¹¹⁵ In the action plan, Canada and the United States indicated that they will continue to collaborate with their partners through information sharing, improving transboundary coordination, and reporting on ecosystem health.

On 14 July 2021, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Bernadette Jordan announced funding of CAD707,000 for oil spill and fisheries science research.¹¹¹⁶ The funding supports two projects lasting between two to five years that focus on improving detection and cleanup of oil spills as well as improving the sustainability of fisheries. This is conducive to the goal of increasing marine health by investing in new technologies and research to reduce the impact or improve prevention of pollution from oil spills as well as improve sustainable harvesting of fish species.

On 22 July 2021, Minister Jordan announced a CAD976 million investment, allocated as part of the 2021 budget, for the purpose of continuing marine conservation efforts with the goal of protecting 25 per cent of

¹¹¹⁴ Canada-European Union Summit-Joint Statement, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2021/06/15/canada-european-union-summit-joint-statement>

¹¹¹⁵ Canada and the United States release new action plan for Salish Sea Ecosystem, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-and-the-united-states-release-new-action-plan-for-salish-sea-ecosystem.html>

¹¹¹⁶ Government of Canada invests in research to help protect Atlantic fisheries and ecosystems, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) July 14, 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-research-to-help-protect-atlantic-fisheries-and-ecosystems.html>

Canada's oceans by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.¹¹¹⁷ Furthermore, a report titled, "The Current - Managing Oceans Act MPAs Now, For the Future" was launched to ensure that the government had been achieving their conservation targets.

On 4 August 2021, the Government of Canada announced that new vessels will be used to respond to large whale and marine mammal incidents such as fishing gear entanglements in order to ensure the safety of marine mammals.¹¹¹⁸ The CAD379,000 investment will also increase the overall capacity and resources to train rescue and response teams so they can "safely disentangle large whales." Furthermore, investments in more vessels will ensure that marine mammal teams respond to rescue efforts more efficiently and effectively. This action is conducive to reducing the impact of marine litter on marine animals, increasing overall marine health.

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Canada announced the Call for Proposals for the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk to "support the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk by enabling multi-species, place-based and threat-based approaches to recovery."¹¹¹⁹ The CAD29 million fund will take place over five years and prioritize the protection of the Atlantic salmon, Pacific Salmon and North Atlantic right whales in Newfoundland, Labrador and the Arctic. This action is conducive to the goal of increasing overall marine health through the protection of vulnerable marine animals.

On 11 August 2021, Minister Jordan announced the CAD20 million Whalesafe Gear Adoption Fund and a first call for proposals for the fund.¹¹²⁰ The fund will help fisheries adopt whalesafe gear in advance of the 2023 ban on fishing gear that is not whalesafe and is conducive to Canada's commitment to protect and improve overall marine health through encouraging sustainable practices and protecting marine animals.

On 11 August 2021, Minister Jordan announced CAD8.7 million in funding for Ocean Networks Canada to support their research in collecting and sharing data on ocean conditions.¹¹²¹ Ocean Networks Canada provides research for the purpose of understanding the potential challenges of protecting marine environments. Furthermore, the Government of Canada is developing an initiative called the Blue Economy Strategy which seeks to secure future federal investments for the protection of Canada's coasts and waters.

On 12 August 2021, Minister Jordan announced an investment of CAD228,000 over three years to further assess how population sizes of Canadian Arctic species are affected by climate change.¹¹²² The project aims to find new data on the genetics, health and populations of Narwhals, bowhead whales, and belugas in order to preserve and protect these species and prevent population decrease due to environmental changes and climate concerns.

¹¹¹⁷ Government of Canada making significant progress and investments to protect Canada's oceans, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-making-significant-progress-and-investments-to-protect-canadas-oceans.html>

¹¹¹⁸ Government of Canada increases marine mammal response capacity in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Shippagan) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-increases-marine-mammal-response-capacity-in-the-southern-gulf-of-st-lawrence.html>

¹¹¹⁹ The Government of Canada launches Call for Proposals for projects that protect aquatic species at risk, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/the-government-of-canada-launches-call-for-proposals-for-projects-that-protect-aquatic-species-at-risk.html>

¹¹²⁰ Government of Canada launches new \$20 million fund to make fishing gear safer for whales, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 1q August 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-launches-new-20-million-fund-to-make-fishing-gear-safer-for-whales.html>

¹¹²¹ Government of Canada invests in ocean observation science to help protect Canada's oceans, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-ocean-observation-science-to-help-protect-canadas-oceans.html>

¹¹²² Government of Canada invests in research to better understand whale populations in the Arctic, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-research-to-better-understand-whale-populations-in-the-arctic.html>

On 16 November 2021, the Government of Canada, on behalf of the Canadian Coast Guard, announced a CAD2 million contract Navenco Marine Inc. for the production of offshore booms.¹¹²³ In the event of an oil spill, the booms will be used to prevent pollution from spreading from the source and to help recover the spilled pollutants. The funding contract is part of Canada's Oceans Protection Plan and thus is conducive to the commitment to take actions that improve or sustain marine health.

On 30 November 2021, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne announced a CAD3.5 million investment in Montréal-based Polystyvert through Sustainable Development Technology Canada.¹¹²⁴ The company will use the investment to complete the scale-up of its patented recycling technology to enable the full circular economy of polystyrene which will help keep polystyrene out of the oceans.

On 2 December 2021, Minister Champagne and Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson announced an investment of CAD2.8 million in Open Robotics through Sustainable Development Technology Canada.¹¹²⁵ The investment helps the company continue to advance its cleantech solution for gathering ocean data and protecting the marine environment with its SeaSense initiative, which aims to protect the marine environment with the latest generation of zero-emission autonomous vessels, artificial intelligence and advanced sensors.

On 15 December 2021, the Government of Canada launched the Call for Proposals to support marine conservation efforts across Canada.¹¹²⁶ The first national Call for Proposals provides access to CAD5 million in funding for marine conservation projects and CAD20 million “for specific agreements to support ocean conservation and planning in regions across Canada.” These initiatives contribute to the government's marine conservation efforts to protect 25 per cent of Canada's oceans by 2025, and ultimately 30 per cent by 2030.

On 20 December 2021, the Government of Canada, on behalf of the Canadian Coast Guard, announced a CAD6 million contract for three offshore skimmers to GRIFFIN Engineered Systems Inc. and a CAD3.5 million contract for five high-speed sweep systems to Navenco Marine Inc.¹¹²⁷ These vehicles will help the Canadian Coast Guard contain oil spills and recover the spilled oil.

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. It has strengthened existing instruments through the allocation of funding towards capacity building, research, development and uptake of new technologies and litter reducing methods. This is also conducive to accelerating the reduction of marine

¹¹²³ New equipment for Canadian Coast Guard will help clean up oil spills, Canadian Coast Guard (Ottawa) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2021/11/new-equipment-for-canadian-coast-guard-will-help-clean-up-oil-spills.html>

¹¹²⁴ Government of Canada supports leading-edge company specializing in polystyrene recycling that helps protect the environment, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Montréal) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/11/government-of-canada-supports-leading-edge-company-specializing-in-polystyrene-recycling-that-helps-protect-the-environment.html>

¹¹²⁵ Government of Canada backs visionary company's high-tech solution for better protecting marine environments through innovative data-collection technology, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Victoria) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-backs-visionary-companys-high-tech-solution-for-better-protecting-marine-environments-through-innovative-data-collection-techn.html>

¹¹²⁶ Government of Canada launches Call for Proposals to support marine conservation efforts across Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-launches-call-for-proposals-to-support-marine-conservation-efforts-across-canada.html>

¹¹²⁷ New equipment for Canadian Coast Guard will help clean up oil spills, Canadian Coast Guard Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2021/12/new-equipment-for-canadian-coast-guard-will-help-clean-up-oil-spills.html>

pollution and increasing overall marine health. In addition to this, Canada has signed agreements with its allies to work together for the conservation of marine environments and has indicated its intent to work on new international treaties. However, Canada has yet to take action regarding establishing a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nwal Amwar

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 19 June 2021, France sent a team of marine conservation experts to Sri Lanka in cooperation with Italy and the European Union under the United Nations Environment Programme to assist Sri Lanka in addressing the environmental impact of the MV X-Press Pearl disaster.¹¹²⁸ The team is working closely with the Sri Lankan government to plan ways to mitigate the adverse effects of the 348 tons of oil and billions of small plastic pellets that have spilled into the Indian Ocean and will produce a report with recommendations for cleanup measures and preventative measures for future maritime incidents.¹¹²⁹

On 19 July 2021, the Government of France reaffirmed their commitments to protecting oceans and biodiversity in the final declaration of the France-Oceania summit.¹¹³⁰ The declaration recognizes the importance of the ocean in combating climate change and preserving biodiversity and calls for more action to protect the ocean. Additionally the declaration advocates for 30 per cent of the ocean to be designated as marine protected areas and to work towards an international treaty that recognizes the ocean in areas beyond national jurisdiction as a global common to be preserved. It targets illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices and indicates the intention to work together to remove the products of IUU fishing from trade flows, as well as build capacity to prevent IUU fishing through training and using technology such as satellites to reinforce maritime surveillance. The declaration also supports launching intergovernmental negotiations on global plastic pollution to create binding agreements and protect marine ecosystems, particularly at the second session of UNEA-5.

On 10 September 2021, the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), hosted by France in Marseille, released the Marseille Manifesto.¹¹³¹ France as the host country committed to increase its national protected areas, achieving 30 per cent of protected areas nationally by 2022 and 5 per cent of its Mediterranean maritime area under strong protection by 2027, as well as to help advance the international agenda for the protection of the oceans by organizing a One Ocean Summit and

¹¹²⁸ UN-EU experts deploy to support Sri Lanka address the environmental impact of MV X-press Pearl disaster, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York City) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/un-eu-experts-deploy-support-sri-lanka-address-environmental-impact-mv-x-press>
¹¹²⁹ Oil, acid, plastic: Inside the shipping disaster gripping Sri Lanka, United National Environment Programme (Nairobi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/oil-acid-plastic-inside-shipping-disaster-gripping-sri-lanka>

¹¹³⁰ Final declaration - 5th France-Oceania Summit, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/asia-and-oceania/news/article/final-declaration-5th-france-oceania-summit-19-jul-21>

¹¹³¹ France welcomes the international mobilization and the progress made to preserve and restore biodiversity, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 10 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/france-se-felicite-mobilisation-internationale-et-des-avancees-obtenues-presenter-et-restaurer>

also promote a treaty on plastic pollution.¹¹³² The IUCN also adopted resolutions regarding protecting deep-ocean ecosystems through a moratorium on seabed mining and for biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.¹¹³³

On 17 September 2021, France partook in the Athens Declaration which emphasized the importance of protecting the Mediterranean and its biodiversity.¹¹³⁴ In the declaration, the southern countries of the European Union agreed to work together on regional climate challenges and also stressed the importance of maritime areas as both suffering from the effects of climate change and as a crucial area to act on in order to mitigate its effects. The declaration also reaffirmed the parties' commitment to protect marine biodiversity.

On 1 October 2021, France, as part of the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission), agreed on the establishment of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) marine protection area and adopted the OSPAR Environment Strategy for the period of 2021 to 2030.¹¹³⁵ The OSPAR Environmental Strategy is based around four themes: clean seas, biologically diverse seas, productive and sustainably used seas and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.¹¹³⁶ It will track various aspects of ocean health, including the reduction of marine pollution, particularly by instituting standards and certification schemes to reduce the entrance of plastic pellets into the marine environment.

On 26 November 2021 Minister of State for Tourism Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne chaired a meeting of the Indian Ocean Commission.¹¹³⁷ In the meeting Lemoyne announced a workshop devoted to strengthening capabilities for preventing and responding to marine pollution.

On 26 November 2021, France and Italy signed a treaty wherein they agreed to increased bilateral cooperation.¹¹³⁸ The treaty also emphasized the importance of working together in the management of protected areas and reaffirmed the goal of preserving and cleaning the Mediterranean. The signing of the treaty indicates France's willingness to cooperate on an international level on the issue of marine health.

¹¹³² The Marseille Manifesto, IUCN Congress (Marseille) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. https://iucn.s3.eu-west-3.amazonaws.com/en/CGR-2021-1.6_2_Marseille_Manifesto_IUCN_World_Conservation_Congress_10_%20September_2021.pdf

¹¹³³ World Conservation Congress Mobilizes Attention ahead of Climate, Biodiversity COPs, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/world-conservation-congress-mobilizes-attention-ahead-of-climate-biodiversity-cops/>

¹¹³⁴ Athens Declaration on Climate Change and Environment in the Mediterranean, The Élysée Palace (Athens) 17 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/09/17/declaration-dathenes-sur-le-changement-climatique-et-lenvironnement-dans-la-meditteranee>

¹¹³⁵ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹¹³⁶ OSPAR Ministerial 2021, OSPAR Commission (Cascais) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

<https://www.ospar.org/news/ospar-ministerial-2021>

¹¹³⁷ Indian Ocean Commission – Participation of M. Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Saint-Denis) 26 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/france-in-the-south-west-indian-ocean/france-and-the-indian-ocean-commission/article/indian-ocean-commission-participation-of-m-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-saint-denis>

¹¹³⁸ Treaty between the French Republic and the Italian Republic for enhance bilateral cooperation, The Élysée Palace (Paris) 26 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/11/26/traite-entre-la-republique-francaise-et-la-republique-italienne-pour-une-cooperation-bilaterale-renforcee>

On 30 November 2021, the France Ocean Committee met and expressed interest in several new measures for protecting marine biodiversity.¹¹³⁹ These projects include accelerating the creation of educational Marine areas, increasing efforts against marine litter, and establishing working groups to increase biodiversity awareness around marine infrastructure projects.

On 22 December 2021, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian visited Costa Rica where discussed cooperation on environmental challenges including ocean protection.¹¹⁴⁰ Among the topics discussed was the goal to expand the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People goal which aims to conserve 30 per cent of the sea by 2030 and preparations for the Ocean One Summit set to be held in Brest on 11 February 2022.

France has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. Rather than providing funding for research or capacity building for existing instruments, France's actions have focused on forming agreements and agreeing to long term goals at a regional and international level. Some of France's actions also involve sending aid to other countries, like Sri Lanka, in dealing with marine pollution. However, France has yet to take action regarding establishing a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Luke Ovenden

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

From 6 July 2021 to 15 July 2021, Germany attended the annual UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the principal body concerned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹¹⁴¹ Germany presented its second voluntary national review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and underscored the need to address three environmental crises in particular as the globe emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic: the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis, and the increase in marine litter. This action demonstrates transparency in reporting its implementation of the SDGs and reaffirms its commitment to addressing the marine litter crisis on the national level.

From 1 September 2021 to 2 September 2021, Germany organized the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution organized in partnership with the governments of Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam

¹¹³⁹ Protection of the marine environment: Bérangère Abba mobilizes the France Ocean Committee upstream of the Interministerial Committee for the Sea and the One Ocean Summit, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/protection-des-milieux-marins-berangere-abba-mobilise-comite-france-ocean-en-amont-du-comite>

¹¹⁴⁰ Costa Rica – Visit by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (San Jose) 22 December 2021. Access Date 15 January 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/costa-rica/events/article/costa-rica-visit-by-jean-yves-le-drian-dec-22-23-2021>

¹¹⁴¹ UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Germany calls for a sustainable and climate-friendly post-COVID recovery based on the 2030 Agenda, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/un-high-level-political-forum-on-sustainable-development-germany-calls-for-a-sustainable-and-climate-friendly-post-covid-recovery-based-on-the-2030-agenda>

and sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).¹¹⁴² Representatives of the four governments developed a ministerial statement to be forwarded to the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) calling for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) towards a new global agreement to combat marine litter and plastic pollution. This action demonstrates Germany's commitment to addressing marine health on an international level, endorsing the creation of a new concrete instrument through the UNEA.

On 1 October 2021, Germany, as part of the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission), agreed on the establishment of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) marine protection area and adopted the OSPAR Environment Strategy for the period of 2021 to 2030.¹¹⁴³ The OSPAR Environmental Strategy is based around four themes, clean seas, biologically diverse seas, productive and sustainably used seas and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.¹¹⁴⁴ It will track various aspects of ocean health, including the reduction of marine pollution, particularly by instituting standards and certification schemes to reduce the entrance of plastic pellets into the marine environment. This action demonstrates Germany's commitment to addressing ocean litter and marine health on a regional and national level.

On 25 November 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research launched a webinar series on "Plastics in the Environment," to share research and collaborative projects on the issue.¹¹⁴⁵ These webinars cover topics from fighting against plastic pollution in the North Sea and Baltic Sea to identifying microplastics in wastewater.

On 20 October 2021, members of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), whose Chairmanship is currently held by Germany, presented the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) for the period of 2021 to 2030 with an emphasis on combating ocean pollution caused by marine litter and eutrophication caused by over-fertilization.¹¹⁴⁶ HELCOM, further, updated its Marine Litter Action Plan that by 2025 30 per cent, and by 2030 50 per cent, less litter should end up on Baltic Sea beaches. In addition, the HELCOM partners endorsed the call for a new global agreement on marine pollution drafted at the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. This action again demonstrates Germany's concrete regional leadership and national commitment to combating marine litter.

On 10 February 2022, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze announced an additional EUR20 million funding for the World Bank's PROBLUE fund.¹¹⁴⁷ This funding is aimed at promoting efforts to combat marine litter and marine pollution as well as encouraging the sustainable management of marine and coastal environments.

¹¹⁴² Ministerial Calls for Global Agreement on Marine Litter, Plastic Pollution, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministerial-calls-for-global-agreement-on-marine-litter-plastic-pollution/>

¹¹⁴³ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹¹⁴⁴ OSPAR Ministerial 2021, OSPAR Commission (Cascais) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

<https://www.ospar.org/news/ospar-ministerial-2021>

¹¹⁴⁵ Plastics in the Environment: Webinar Series, Federal Ministry of Education and Research - Plastic in the Environment (Bonn) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2022. <https://bmbf-plastik.de/en/node/406>

¹¹⁴⁶ HELCOM adopts 10-year plan for the Baltic Sea to reduce litter, noise and fertilizer input, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/helcom-adopts-10-year-plan-for-the-baltic-sea-to-reduce-litter-noise-and-fertiliser-input>

¹¹⁴⁷ Federal government goes on the offensive for clean oceans, the protection of marine biodiversity and against marine litter, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 10 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2022. <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldungen/bundesregierung-geht-in-die-offensive-fuer-saubere-ozeane-104052>

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. Rather than providing funding for research or capacity building for existing instruments, Germany's actions have focused on forming agreements and agreeing to long term goals at a regional and international level. However, Germany has yet to take action regarding establishing a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Abigail Potter

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 19 June 2021, Italy sent a team of marine conservation experts to Sri Lanka in cooperation with the European Union and France under the United Nations Environment Programme to assist Sri Lanka in addressing the environmental impact of the MV X-Press Pearl disaster.¹¹⁴⁸ The team is working closely with the Sri Lankan government to plan ways to mitigate the adverse effects of the 348 tons of oil and billions of small plastic pellets that have spilled into the Indian Ocean and will produce a report with recommendations for cleanup measures and preventative measures for future maritime incidents.¹¹⁴⁹

On 22 June 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced the approval of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) as part of the Next Generation EU economic recovery project, marking the beginning of the “Italia Domani” or “Italy Tomorrow” plan to boost the nation’s digital and environmental transitions.¹¹⁵⁰ The plan includes EUR191.5 billion with EUR68.6 billion being allocated to the green revolution and ecological transition sector which tackles issues such as plastic waste management, monitoring marine and coastal areas, and protecting marine habitats.¹¹⁵¹ EUR400 million is being invested in increasing the protection for the seabed and restoring marine habitats using new technology.¹¹⁵² This action indicates Italy’s ongoing commitment to protecting ocean health by providing funding for conservation, waste management and pollution control.

On 13 July 2021, the Council of Ministers signed a decree banning large ships from entering the Venetian lagoon from 1 August 2021 to protect the “local landscape and environment.”¹¹⁵³ The ban prevents ships

¹¹⁴⁸ UN-EU experts deploy to support Sri Lanka address the environmental impact of MV X-press Pearl disaster, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York City) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/un-eu-experts-deploy-support-sri-lanka-address-environmental-impact-mv-x-press>
¹¹⁴⁹ Oil, acid, plastic: Inside the shipping disaster gripping Sri Lanka, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/oil-acid-plastic-inside-shipping-disaster-gripping-sri-lanka>

¹¹⁵⁰ Press conference with PM Draghi and President von der Leyen on the approval of Italy’s NRRP, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/press-conference-pm-draghi-and-president-von-der-leyen-approval-italy-s-nrrp/17409>

¹¹⁵¹ The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), The Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-National-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-NRRP/>

¹¹⁵² Restoring and protecting the seabed and marine habitats, Italia Domani (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://italiadomani.gov.it/en/Interventi/Investimenti/ripristino-e-tutela-dei-fondali-e-degli-habitat-marini.html>

¹¹⁵³ Ban on large ships and new authorities for the Venetian lagoon: statement by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/ban-large-ships-and-new-authorities-venetian-lagoon-pm-draghi-s-statement/17481>

heavier than 25,000 tons or longer than 180 meters from entering parts of historical Venice.¹¹⁵⁴ This action indicates Italy's ongoing commitment to protecting ocean health.

On 19 July 2021, the Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) announced the beginning of a dissemination campaign titled "The sea you don't expect."¹¹⁵⁵ The campaign aims to share research conducted by experts in the field of monitoring ocean health to raise awareness on the importance of the marine environment to our well-being.

On 2 September 2021, Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani signed a decree to invest EUR27 million in "plastic eating" eco-compactors which allow for more efficient plastic recycling.¹¹⁵⁶ The "Mangiaplastica" program aims at reducing plastic waste and promoting the nation's goal of creating a circular economy.¹¹⁵⁷ This investment is consistent with Italy's commitment to reduce plastic pollution.

On 17 September 2021, Italy partook in the Athens Declaration which emphasized the importance of protecting the Mediterranean and its biodiversity.¹¹⁵⁸ In the declaration, the southern countries of the European Union agreed to work together on regional climate challenges and also stressed the importance of maritime areas as both suffering from the effects of climate change and as a crucial area to act on in order to mitigate its effects. The declaration also reaffirmed the parties' commitment to protect marine biodiversity.

On 28 September 2021, Minister Cingolani signed the publication of circular economy decrees, introducing EUR2.6 billion in funds for improving waste management systems for plastics, paper and cardboard and textiles.¹¹⁵⁹ EUR1.5 billion is earmarked for the construction of new waste management plants, EUR600 million for the modernization of existing plants and EUR500 million for monitoring and prevention mechanisms.¹¹⁶⁰ The investment addresses the problem of rising plastic pollution.

On 26 November 2021, Italy and France signed a treaty wherein they agreed to increased bilateral cooperation.¹¹⁶¹ The treaty also emphasized the importance of working together in the management of protected areas and reaffirmed the goal of preserving and cleaning the Mediterranean. The signing of the treaty indicates Italy's willingness to cooperate on an international level on the issue of marine health.

¹¹⁵⁴ Italy's Government to Ban Cruise Ships From Venice, New York Times (New York City) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/13/world/europe/venice-italy-cruise-ship-ban.html>

¹¹⁵⁵ "The sea you don't expect", Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Rome) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/news/the-sea-you-dont-expect>

¹¹⁵⁶ Waste: from MiTE 27 million euros for "plastic-eating" eco-compactors, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 21 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/rifiuti-dal-mite-27-milioni-di-euro-gli-eco-compattatori-mangiaplastica>

¹¹⁵⁷ "Mangiaplastica Experimental Program" – Contributions to Municipalities in order to reduce plastic waste, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 2 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/bandi/programma-sperimentale-mangiaplastica-contributi-ai-comuni-al-fine-di-ridurre-i-rifiuti>

¹¹⁵⁸ Athens Declaration on Climate Change and Environment in the Mediterranean, The Élysée Palace (Athens) 17 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/09/17/declaration-dathenes-sur-le-changement-climatique-et-lenvironnement-dans-la-meditteranee>

¹¹⁵⁹ PNRR – Publication of Circular Economy Decrees, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 28 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/pnrr-pubblicazione-decreti-economia-circolare>

¹¹⁶⁰ The decrees signed by Minister Roberto Cingolani have been published, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 29 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/pubblicati-i-decreti-firmati-dal-ministro-roberto-cingolani>

¹¹⁶¹ Treaty between the French Republic and the Italian Republic for enhance bilateral cooperation, The Élysée Palace (Paris) 26 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/11/26/traite-entre-la-republique-francaise-et-la-republique-italienne-pour-une-cooperation-bilaterale-renforcee>

On 9 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and ISPRA signed protocols on marine habitat restoration marking the beginning of close collaboration between the two entities in carrying out the NRRP.¹¹⁶² Specifically, the ministry and ISPRA will handle the EUR400 million investment in monitoring coastal ecosystems and restoring the surrounding seabed.

On 9 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition signed a decree allocating EUR2 million to co-finance research projects aimed at “developing technologies for the prevention, recovery, and treatment of waste.”¹¹⁶³ The ministry aims to incentivize eco-innovation to achieve a sustainable circular economy.¹¹⁶⁴ This is conducive to the goal of reducing the amount of litter and pollution in the ocean.

On 13 December 2021, President of ISPRA Prefect Stefano Laporta and Chief of Defense Staff Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone signed a five-year agreement encouraging collaboration between ISPRA and the military in the planning and implementation of activities.¹¹⁶⁵ The agreement includes protection of the soil, air, marine and coastal environment with ISPRA providing technical support in monitoring potentially environmentally hazardous operations undertaken by the military. This is conducive to preventing or reducing the impact of human activities on the marine environment.

On 17 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition approved the funding of EUR198,135 to Tuscia University as part of the initiative to fund research aimed at reducing single-use plastic waste.¹¹⁶⁶ The research will explore the possibility of integrating single-use plastic PPE in reinforced asphalt.¹¹⁶⁷ This is conducive to reducing the amount of plastic pollution that ends up in the oceans.

On 24 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition, ISPRA, and Ministry of Defense signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in constructing a multipurpose naval vessel with state-of-the-art ocean research capabilities.¹¹⁶⁸ The vessel will be available to ISPRA to conduct research activities in the Mediterranean Sea such as monitoring the seabed and marine habitats. The ship will be built with particular emphasis on reducing its impact on the environment with low levels of underwater noise and electric propulsion.

¹¹⁶² PNRR: MiTE-Ispra protocol signed for the restoration of the seabed and marine habitats, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 January 2022.

<https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/pnrr-firmato-protocollo-mite-ispra-il-ripristino-dei-fondali-e-degli-habitat-marini>

¹¹⁶³ DIREZIONE GENERALE ECONOMIA CIRCOLARE, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 January 2022. https://www.mite.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/bandi/ECI/2021-12-09_dd_83.pdf

¹¹⁶⁴ Call for the co-financing of research projects aimed at the development of technologies for the prevention, recovery, recycling and treatment of waste not falling within the categories already served by supply chain consortia, for the eco-design of products, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/bandi/bando-il-cofinanziamento-di-progetti-di-ricerca-volti-allo-sviluppo-di-tecnologie-la>

¹¹⁶⁵ Framework agreement on environmental protection signed between ISPRA and Italian Defence Staff, Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Rome) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022.

<https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/news/framework-agreement-on-environmental-protection-signed-between-ispra-and-italian-defence-staff>

¹¹⁶⁶ Call for the funding of research activities aimed at reducing single-use plastic waste – 2021 Edition, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 17 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 January 2022.

<https://www.mite.gov.it/bandi/bando-il-finanziamento-di-attivita-di-ricerca-volta-alla-riduzione-dei-rifiuti-prodotti-da>

¹¹⁶⁷ DIREZIONE GENERALE ECONOMIA CIRCOLARE, Ministry of Ecological transition (Rome) 17 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 January 2022. https://www.mite.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/bandi/ECI/dd_eci_94_17_12_2021_graduatoria_bando_riduzione_plastica_monouso.pdf

¹¹⁶⁸ MITE-DEFESA-ISPRA memorandum of understanding signed for the construction of a new hydro-oceanographic naval unit, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 24 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/firmato-protocollo-d-intesa-mite-difesa-ispra-la-realizzazione-di-una-nuova-unita-navale>

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. It has strengthened existing instruments through the allocation of funding towards research on waste reduction and plastic pollution reduction and has invested heavily in the protection and restoration of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the NRRP. This is also conducive to accelerating the reduction of marine pollution and increasing overall marine health. In addition to this, Italy has collaborated with other countries, like Sri Lanka, in dealing with marine pollution and has worked closely with its allies under the United Nations Environment Programme. However, Italy has yet to take action regarding establishing a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Kenji Tan

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 20 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the “Marine Initiative” to further the realization of the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” which aims to phase out marine litter by 2050.¹¹⁶⁹ The “Marine Initiative” focuses on combating plastic litter through the management of wastes, recovery of marine litter, innovation and empowerment.¹¹⁷⁰ The plan includes official development assistance focused in Southeast Asia, providing developing nations with technical expertise, national action plans, and waste management frameworks.¹¹⁷¹

On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of the Environment launched the “Demonstration Project for a Plastic Resource Circulation System toward a Decarbonized Society” and selected six projects to implement to improve Japan’s recycling techniques.¹¹⁷² These projects include developing chemical recycling systems for plastic composite materials and new technologies for difficult-to-recycle plastics which contribute to a reduction in marine plastic litter. This is consistent with Japan’s aim to reduce marine litter as part of the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.”

On 6 December 2021, the Government of Japan submitted a draft resolution to the United Nations Environment Programme on “an international legally binding instrument on marine plastic pollution” to be discussed at UNEA-5.¹¹⁷³ The framework is based on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision approved in June 2019, aiming to eliminate additional plastic litter by 2050 while acknowledging its uses in society.¹¹⁷⁴ The resolution

¹¹⁶⁹ Japan’s “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

¹¹⁷⁰ “MARINE” Initiative, Global Partnership on Marine Litter (Nairobi) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022. <https://www.gpmarinelitter.org/resources/information-documents/marine-initiative>

¹¹⁷¹ “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000493728.pdf>

¹¹⁷² MOEJ launched the “Demonstration Project for a Plastic Resource Circulation System toward a Decarbonized Society” and selected 6 projects, Ministry of the Environment Japan (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2537.html>

¹¹⁷³ Japan Seeks Int’l Framework to Tackle Marine Plastic Waste, Nippon.com (Tokyo) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021120700576/>

¹¹⁷⁴ Draft Resolution on an international legally binding instrument on marine plastic pollution Proposed by: JAPAN, Government of Japan (Tokyo) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37625/Draft%20Resolution%20on%20an%20international%20legally%20binding%20instrument%20on%20marine%20plastic%20pollution_Japan.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

focuses on plastic waste management in a life-cycle approach with emphasis on both upstream and downstream stages of plastic handling to promote resource efficiency and a circular economy.

On 14 January 2022, the Cabinet approved an ordinance ordering businesses to reduce 12 types of disposable plastic materials, including straws and cutlery, starting April 2022 in a push to protect the marine environment.¹¹⁷⁵ The government is allowing businesses flexibility in how they carry out such measures with options ranging from sustainable alternatives to plastic to providing customers incentives to not use disposable plastics.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. Domestically, Japan has passed legislation to limit the use of plastics in society and has worked to improve waste management infrastructure to better recycle the plastic that already exists. Internationally, Japan is taking a leading role in advocating for a legally binding instrument for countries to agree to during UNEA5.2 to ensure there is a global effort to protect the ocean.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kenji Tan

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 18 June 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that it would provide marine pollution expertise to help respond to the X-press Pearl disaster.¹¹⁷⁶ The Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science will provide expertise and analytical capacity to support plastic pollution monitoring, as well as environmental and socioeconomic impact assessments in cooperation with the Sri Lankan government.

On 13 July 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced EUR16.2 million in funding in order to increase marine protection, tackle plastic pollution and the decline of global coral reefs.¹¹⁷⁷ The funding is part of the government's Blue Planet Fund. The projects receiving funding include the Ocean Country Partnership Programme, which will help developing countries access and partner with British scientists to better manage marine protected areas and develop our understanding of the impacts of climate change and contaminants in the ocean.

On 13 August 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that a share of the Blue Planet Fund's GBP16.2 million will go towards the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) to help developing

¹¹⁷⁵ Japan to cut plastic waste from April via new Cabinet ordinance, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 14 January 2022. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/01/14/national/plastic-waste-cabinet-ordinance/>

¹¹⁷⁶ UK Government marine experts to support Sri Lanka with X-press Pearl pollution response, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-marine-experts-to-support-sri-lanka-with-x-press-pearl-pollution-response>

¹¹⁷⁷ Cefas to partner on government's support to protect the world's oceans with boost for marine recovery, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (London) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cef-as-to-partner-on-governments-support-to-protect-the-worlds-oceans-with-boost-for-marine-recovery>

countries combat plastic waste.¹¹⁷⁸ This aims to protect marine species living in coastal regions and reduce mismanaged waste across several countries.

On 15 August 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced a trade ban on the import and export of detached shark fins and products containing them.¹¹⁷⁹ The government intends this ban to help with shark conservation efforts, noting that the presence and variety of sharks in marine areas acts as a key indicator for ocean health and that sharks play a vital role in marine ecosystems by helping to maintain healthy levels of fish below them in the food chain.

On 25 August 2021, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) announced four funding rounds amounting to GBP6.1 million in to support key areas of the marine and fisheries sector.¹¹⁸⁰ The funding rounds are delivered by the MMO on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as part of the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme and, in addition to supporting fishing businesses, will look to fund projects that contribute towards protecting the marine environment and deliver world class science and technological advancements.

On 1 October 2021, the United Kingdom, as part of the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission), agreed on the establishment of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) marine protection area and adopted the OSPAR Environment Strategy for the period of 2021 to 2030.¹¹⁸¹ The OSPAR Environmental Strategy is based around four themes, clean seas, biologically diverse seas, productive and sustainably used seas and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.¹¹⁸² It will track various aspects of ocean health, including the reduction of marine pollution, particularly by instituting standards and certification schemes to reduce the entrance of plastic pellets into the marine environment.

On 9 November 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that the Environment Act has become law.¹¹⁸³ The goal of the act is to “restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity and reduce waste.”¹¹⁸⁴ Through the act, the government is introducing the Deposit Return Scheme for plastic containers where a deposit fee will be placed on containers in order to encourage recycling.¹¹⁸⁵ The government is also introducing the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme which entails that packaging producers will cover

¹¹⁷⁸ Government scales up support to protect the world’s ocean with multimillion boost for marine recovery, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-scales-up-support-to-protect-the-worlds-ocean-with-multimillion-boost-for-marine-recovery>

¹¹⁷⁹ Government to introduce world-leading ban on shark fin trade, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-introduce-world-leading-ban-on-shark-fin-trade>

¹¹⁸⁰ Fisheries and Seafood Scheme funding rounds open for applications, Marine Management Organisation (London) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fisheries-and-seafood-scheme-funding-rounds-open-for-applications>

¹¹⁸¹ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹¹⁸² OSPAR Ministerial 2021, OSPAR Commission (Cascais) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.ospar.org/news/ospar-ministerial-2021>

¹¹⁸³ Environment Act 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 28 January 2022. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/enacted>

¹¹⁸⁴ World-leading Environment Act becomes law, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

¹¹⁸⁵ Plans unveiled to ban single-use plastics, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-unveiled-to-ban-single-use-plastics>

the cost of recycling and disposing of their packaging. Furthermore, the Act will ensure that water companies do not discharge pollution such as sewage into rivers and coastlines.¹¹⁸⁶

On 17 November 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom launched the Blue Shield Programme which tackles “illegal fishing and unlawful marine activities” around the UK Overseas Territories.¹¹⁸⁷ The programme will identify unregulated, unreported or otherwise illegal fishing activities which are harmful to marine health and threaten the sustainability of fish populations. The programme includes drone technology and satellite surveillance data to monitor all maritime activity across the UK Overseas Territories to manage any harmful fishing practices in oceans.

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. The UK has taken measures to strengthen existing measures by allocating investments for research, setting regulations for companies to reduce emissions and marine pollution, and has further cooperated with other countries in order to protect endangered species, their habitats, and marine ecosystems. However, the United Kingdom has yet to take action regarding establishing a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nwal Anwar

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 13 July 2021, the governments of the United States and Canada announced the signing of a four-year action plan to jointly protect and manage the health of the Salish Sea ecosystem.¹¹⁸⁸ In the action plan, Canada and the United States indicated that they will continue to collaborate with their partners through information sharing, improving transboundary coordination, and reporting on ecosystem health.

On 16 September 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, and the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women Marise Payne and Minister for Defense Peter Dutton committed to taking greater action to protect oceans and biodiversity.¹¹⁸⁹ The Secretaries and Ministers committed to conserving 30 per cent of global land and oceans as well as fighting marine plastic pollution in the Indo-Pacific by invigorate existing ocean related partnerships.

¹¹⁸⁶ World-leading Environment Act becomes law, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

¹¹⁸⁷ New ‘Blue Shield’ for UK Overseas Territories to Defend Oceans, Marine Management Organisation (London) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-blue-shield-for-uk-overseas-territories-to-defend-oceans>

¹¹⁸⁸ Canada and the United States release new action plan for Salish Sea Ecosystem, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-and-the-united-states-release-new-action-plan-for-salish-sea-ecosystem.html>

¹¹⁸⁹ Joint Statement on Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) 2021, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-australia-u-s-ministerial-consultations-ausmin-2021/>

On 7 October 2021, President Biden signed a proclamation restoring protections for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument.¹¹⁹⁰ The 4,913 square mile area which contains a diverse amount of marine life will be protected from harmful activities including injuring or disturbing monument resources, drilling or dredging.¹¹⁹¹ Commercial fishing will be prohibited in the area, with fishing for red crab and American lobster to be phased out by September 15, 2023, recreational fishing in the area will continue.¹¹⁹²

On 2 November 2021, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference, the United States announced its membership of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel).¹¹⁹³ The Ocean Panel aims to promote effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity for ocean habitats and the ocean economy. By joining the Ocean Panel, the United States is indicating its willingness to cooperate internationally in order to protect and preserve the ocean environment.

On 6 November 2021, the Government of the United States announced the passing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.¹¹⁹⁴ Included in the deal was a provision for the investment of USD17 billion in port infrastructure improvements to reduce congestion and emissions and drive electrification.¹¹⁹⁵ Another USD1.959 billion was provided for environmental programs that protect estuaries, rivers and US coastal waters. The act also sets aside US100 million for pollution prevention, US275 million for “Save Our Seas 2.0” for cleaning up marine debris and US75 million for the RECYCLE Act.¹¹⁹⁶

On 16 November 2021, the Assistant Secretary of State Daniel J. Kritenbrink and Assistant Secretary of Defense Ely S. Ratner issued a statement during the United States-Philippines Bilateral Strategic Dialogue that the U.S. and Philippines are working towards the sustainability of marine resources.¹¹⁹⁷ This includes rehabilitating coastal marine and terrestrial ecosystems, adopting transformative ocean science solutions. Additionally supporting the long-term sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture.

On 18 November 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke at an ocean plastics event announcing the United States would launch multilateral negotiations on ocean plastic pollution at the UN Environmental

¹¹⁹⁰ President Biden Restores Protections for Three National Monuments and Renews American Leadership to Steward Lands, Waters, and Cultural Resources, The White House (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/07/fact-sheet-president-biden-restores-protections-for-three-national-monuments-and-renews-american-leadership-to-steward-lands-waters-and-cultural-resources/>

¹¹⁹¹ Secretary Raimondo, Administration Leaders Applaud President Biden’s Restoration of National Monuments, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/secretary-raimondo-administration-leaders-applaud-president-bidens>

¹¹⁹² President Biden Restores Protections for Three National Monuments and Renews American Leadership to Steward Lands, Waters, and Cultural Resources, The White House (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/07/fact-sheet-president-biden-restores-protections-for-three-national-monuments-and-renews-american-leadership-to-steward-lands-waters-and-cultural-resources/>

¹¹⁹³ The United States Of America Joins The High Level Panel For A Sustainable Ocean Economy, High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.oceanpanel.org/news/usa-joins-hlp>

¹¹⁹⁴ Fact Sheet: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, The White House (Washington D.C.) 6 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/06/fact-sheet-the-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal/>

¹¹⁹⁵ FACT SHEET: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Boosts Clean Energy Jobs, Strengthens Resilience, and Advances Environmental Justice, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/08/fact-sheet-the-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-boosts-clean-energy-jobs-strengthens-resilience-and-advances-environmental-justice/>

¹¹⁹⁶ FACT SHEET: EPA & The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 6 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/fact-sheet-epa-bipartisan-infrastructure-law>

¹¹⁹⁷ Joint Vision for a 21st Century United States-Philippines Partnership, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.state.gov/joint-vision-for-a-21st-century-united-states-philippines-partnership/>

Assembly in February 2022.¹¹⁹⁸ The goal of these negotiations would be to protect oceans for microplastics and remove persistent plastic waste.

The United States of America has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. The US has cooperated internationally to conserve areas of the ocean from plastic pollution and harmful fishing. Additionally, the US has also acted domestically to ensure the protection of habitats by designating protected marine areas and has set aside funding to reduce pollutants of the marine environment and update marine port infrastructure. However, the US has yet to take action regarding establishing a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Luke Ovenden

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 19 June 2021, the European Union sent a team of marine conservation experts to Sri Lanka in cooperation with Italy and France under the United Nations Environment Programme to assist Sri Lanka in addressing the environmental impact of the MV X-Press Pearl disaster.¹¹⁹⁹ The team is working closely with the Sri Lankan government to plan ways to mitigate the adverse effects of the 348 tons of oil and billions of small plastic pellets that have spilled into the Indian Ocean and will produce a report with recommendations for cleanup measures and preventative measures for future maritime incidents.¹²⁰⁰

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted a package of proposals to update its climate policies in line with its emission reduction goals.¹²⁰¹ The adopted measures include an increase to emissions reduction targets for each member state for maritime transport emissions and waste industries as well as the launch of the FuelEU Maritime Initiative which will encourage the uptake of sustainable fuels used for maritime transport as well as the uptake of zero emission technologies by setting a cap on the amount of greenhouse gas energy usable by ships.

On 29 September 2021, the European Commission adopted five new EU Missions as part of the Horizon Europe funding programme which will support research to deliver on the Commission's main priorities.¹²⁰² This includes the mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" focused on marine health. Planned under this mission is the joint provision of EUR500 million in seed funding, from the Horizon Europe programme,

¹¹⁹⁸ Secretary Antony J. Blinken at an Ocean Plastics Event, US Department of State (Nairobi) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-an-ocean-plastics-event/>

¹¹⁹⁹ UN-EU experts deploy to support Sri Lanka address the environmental impact of MV X-press Pearl disaster, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York City) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/un-eu-experts-deploy-support-sri-lanka-address-environmental-impact-mv-x-press>
¹²⁰⁰ Oil, acid, plastic: Inside the shipping disaster gripping Sri Lanka, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/oil-acid-plastic-inside-shipping-disaster-gripping-sri-lanka>

¹²⁰¹ European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3541

¹²⁰² Commission launches EU missions to tackle major challenges, European Commission (Brussels) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4747

the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, Invest EU and other European Union funding programmes between 2021 and 2023.¹²⁰³ There are also plans to establish the “EU-wide ‘Blue Parks’ initiative” which will provide new restoration and conservation opportunities across the European Union. Finally, the mission will also support effective water management by instituting a digital knowledge system that includes a digital model of the ocean and improved environmental monitoring of ocean health.

On 1 October 2021, the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission) agreed on the establishment of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) marine protection area and adopted the OSPAR Environment Strategy for the period of 2021 to 2030.¹²⁰⁴ The OSPAR Environmental Strategy is based around four themes, clean seas, biologically diverse seas, productive and sustainably used seas and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.¹²⁰⁵ It will track various aspects of ocean health, including the reduction of marine pollution, particularly by instituting standards and certification schemes to reduce the entrance of plastic pellets into the marine environment. The plan will help European Union Member States protect their marine waters and achieve the commitments under the EU Biodiversity Strategy.¹²⁰⁶ This plan demonstrates the European Union’s leadership in coordinating concrete action to address ocean litter and marine health at the regional level.

On 20 October 2021, Contracting Parties of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) presented the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) for the period of 2021 to 2030 with an emphasis on combating ocean pollution caused by marine litter and eutrophication caused by over-fertilization.¹²⁰⁷ HELCOM, further, updated its Marine Litter Action Plan that by 2025 30 per cent, and by 2030 50 per cent, less litter should end up on Baltic Sea beaches. In addition, the HELCOM partners endorsed the call for a new global agreement on marine pollution drafted at the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. This action again demonstrates the EU’s concrete regional commitment to combating marine litter.

On 25 November 2021, the European Commission announced EUR290 million in funding for 132 environmental projects as part of the LIFE Programme.¹²⁰⁸ Projects selected include LIFE ECOREST which works to restore the natural condition of seafloor habitats off the Catalan coast impacted by fishing activities, LIFE PortSounds which seeks to mitigate the impact of port noise on marine animals, LIFE SeaBiL which

¹²⁰³ Restore our oceans and waters: concrete solutions for our greatest challenges, European Commission (Brussels) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/575d4da8-2659-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-233489300>

¹²⁰⁴ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹²⁰⁵ OSPAR Ministerial 2021, OSPAR Commission (Cascais) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

<https://www.ospar.org/news/ospar-ministerial-2021>

¹²⁰⁶ EU welcomes 10-year marine strategy for the North-East Atlantic and the designation of a large Marine Protected Area, European Commission (Brussels) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/eu-welcomes-10-year-marine-strategy-north-east-atlantic-and-designation-large-marine-protected-area-2021-10-01_en

¹²⁰⁷ HELCOM adopts 10-year plan for the Baltic Sea to reduce litter, noise and fertilizer input, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/helcom-adopts-10-year-plan-for-the-baltic-sea-to-reduce-litter-noise-and-fertiliser-input>

¹²⁰⁸ LIFE Programme: More than €290 million in EU funding for nature, environment and climate action projects, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6178

seeks to reduce the impact of marine litter on seabirds and LIFE SEA.NET which seeks to complete the implementation of the Natura2000 protected area network.¹²⁰⁹

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. The European Union has taken action to address ocean health, by financing research, monitoring and cleanup projects as well as updating maritime and waste emission reduction targets for member states and has taken action to reduce marine litter on the regional level, but has not yet taken concrete action in working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Abigail Potter

¹²⁰⁹ Annex* LIFE programme: short summaries of projects resulting from the LIFE 2020 Call for proposals 2020, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_6179