Adding blue to the green agenda

NGO framework proposals for the EU seas

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NGO framework proposals

1. **Blue Manifesto**: supported by over 100 environmental NGOs, the Blue Manifesto outlines a *roadmap to a healthy ocean* in 2030.

2. **Setting the Right Safety Net Paper**: lists ten principles for *fisheries support policies* in response to COVID-19.

3. **Turning The Tide Paper**: focuses on the *investment opportunities for green recovery* to achieve the Blue Manifesto’s objectives in EU seas.
Blue Manifesto: a roadmap to a healthy ocean

• In 2008, European governments committed to have ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive by 2020. But we are nowhere near to achieving this.

• This presentation introduces **principles, priority actions and investment opportunities to turn the tide.**

"The Ocean must be an integral part of the EU’s transition towards a climate-resilient and ecologically diverse future.”
Setting the right safety net: **ten principles** for fisheries policies in response to COVID-19

1. **Concurrent crisis response**: Policies to address one crisis should have a positive impact on other existing and anticipated crises.

2. **Efficiency**: Obtain the best results with limited resources.

3. **Rationality**: Effective policy requires a linkage between the crisis being addressed and the policy proposal.

4. **Speed**: A crisis situation requires a rapid response.

5. **Institutional integrity**: Support measures should respect existing institutions.

“The ten principles establish a framework to assess whether fisheries support policies in response to Covid-19 are appropriate to set a path towards a healthier fishing sector, public, and marine environment.”
Setting the right safety net: **ten principles** for fisheries policies in response to COVID-19

6. **Anti-abuse**: Ensure that policies are directed towards their intended recipients.

7. **Consultation**: Engage industry and civil society in policy generation.

8. **Clarity and transparency**: To protect against abuse, policy intent should be stated and outcomes monitored.

9. **Conditionality**: There should be clear eligibility criteria and transparent procedures for application.

10. **Integration**: Fisheries support policies do not exist in a vacuum and should strengthen policies in other areas.

“The ten principles establish a framework to assess whether fisheries support policies in response to Covid-19 are appropriate to set a path towards a healthier fishing sector, public, and marine environment.”
To deliver on its commitments in 2020, the EU must take **priority action** to implement legal obligations:

- **EU seas are in good environmental status** under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- **EU freshwater is in good status** under the Water Framework Directive.
- **Protect all marine Nature 2000 sites** from harmful activities under the Birds and Habitats Directives.
- **End overfishing** of all harvested stocks under the Common Fisheries Policy.
- **End illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** in their waters, by their fleet, or by their citizens under the IUU Regulation and to fully implement the Deep-Sea Regulation.

“We need marine and coastal ecosystems to be rich in fauna, flora and genetic biodiversity so that they can perform their natural functions and support life on earth.”
Turning the tide: **investment opportunities for green recovery**

1. Nature restoration and conservation
2. Transition to sustainable and low impact seafood systems
3. Pollution-free seas and ocean

“*The EU must change its investments to align with the EU Green Deal as well as the Biodiversity and the Farm to Fork Strategies.*”
To make a **rolling start in 2020**, the EU must **shift from harmful subsidies to green investments**:  

- **Actively restore marine ecosystems**, such as rebuilding oyster reefs and fish passages in coastal dams → This effort can stimulate economic activities in sectors such as marine construction while increasing fish production, improving water quality and recovering threatened ecosystems.  
- **Scaling up remote electronic monitoring (REM)** to enable transparent, accountable and more selective fishing activities → This type of technology further increases the transparency of catch data and improves confidence in scientific assessments.  
- **Investing in the re-use/rental/re-fill sectors** to stop plastic pollution at its source → This win-win investment creates employment opportunities while stopping harmful pollution streams that are expensive or impossible to clean up.

“The UK Government’s Natural Capital Committee (NCC), has found that investments in the marine environment have some of the **highest benefit cost ratios.”**
To make a **rolling start in 2020**, the EU must **shift from harmful subsidies to green investments**:

- It is estimated that in 2018, the EU provided over two billion dollars in **capacity-enhancing subsidies**. Redirecting these public resources to green investments would support an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable marine environment.

**E.g. harmful subsidies:**

“It is estimated that governments around the world spend over 22 billion dollars annually on capacity enhancing, harmful financial incentives and subsidies in the fisheries sector alone.”
To a healthy ocean in 2030!