



“If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever”  
- St. Thomas Aquinas

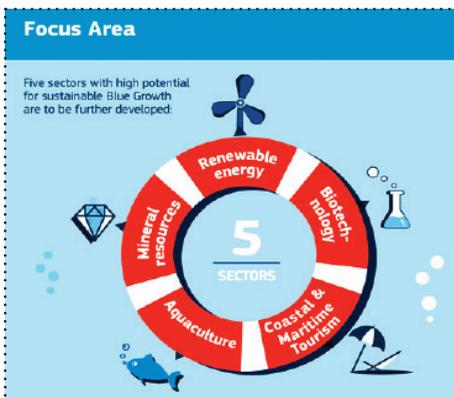
ARTICLE

# Blue Economy – Wave 98

(Series on “Blue Economy” By Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar)



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## Blue Economy and Ocean Governance :

### Marine spatial Planning:

As the largest ecosystems on our planet, oceans and seas play a significant role in climate regulation. Also, they are vital to the world’s economy. More than 90% of the world trade is using sea routes, and oceans and seas provide jobs to millions of people.

Blue economy, which covers all economic activities related to the world’s oceans and seas, is predicted to be an important driver for economic growth in the coming years. According to a conservative projection by the OECD, its value-added output could even double in size over the next decade.

### Only a sustainable blue economy can support robust growth

But as the blue economy grows, the natural assets of our oceans and seas will face unparalleled pressures. Competition for ocean space will increase when economic activities such as marine aquaculture, renewable energy, and marine and coastal tourism boost and generate added demand in ocean-related industries.

Hence, there is an immediate need to manage oceans and seas more coherently and safeguard them against activities that undermine the basis on which ocean industries depend. Only a sustainable blue economy that fits within the boundaries of our oceans’ and seas’ ecosystems is capable of supporting robust growth of ocean-related economic activities.

### Marine spatial planning puts ‘ocean space’ on the agenda

A sustainable blue economy calls for a strategic and integrated approach to planning the development of oceans and seas. Marine Spatial Planning, MSP in short, is increasingly gaining traction as a powerful instrument to put ‘ocean space’ on the sustainable development agenda and provide a breeding ground for new development paths towards a sustainable blue economy.

MSP brings together different stakeholders, such as industry, government, conservation and recreation, and enables them to jointly make thoughtful decisions about how to allocate space among competing economic activities while protecting marine ecosystems. Marine Spatial Planning works across sectors and national borders to encourage investments. It does so by creating more transparent rules and a more predictable investment climate. At the same time, it aims to ensure that human activities at sea do not further jeopardise the health of our oceans and seas.

Informed decisions facilitated by technological innovations

To empower informed decisions, Marine Spatial Planning relies on technological innovations that deliver reliable and relevant data. Examples include

- the improved data sourcing on fishing locations and fishing methods provided by satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS),

## The Blue Economy \$\$\$

A sustainable ocean (or “blue”) economy emerges when economic activity is in balance with the long-term capacity of ocean ecosystems to support this activity and remain resilient and healthy. Economist Intelligence Unit (2015)



Sectors (Park et al. 2014)
Fisheries
Marine mining
Offshore oil & gas
Shipping and Port
Marine leisure and tourism
Marine construction
Marine equipment manufacturing
Shipbuilding and repair
Marine business services
Marine R&D and education
Marine administration
Others

- Automatic Identification System (AIS) to identify and monitor vessels,
- or even the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) to acquire visible and infrared imagery of the oceans.

Besides, big data processing is bound to make a big difference, especially in connection with data processing software and better assessment and decision-making models.








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