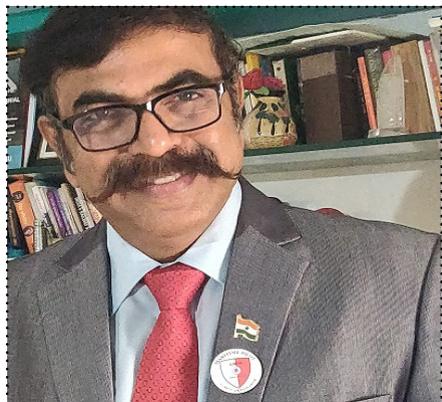




Blue Economy - Wave 88

(Series on "Blue Economy" By Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar)



Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar, Blue Economy Social Activist & Multi Modal Logistics Expert

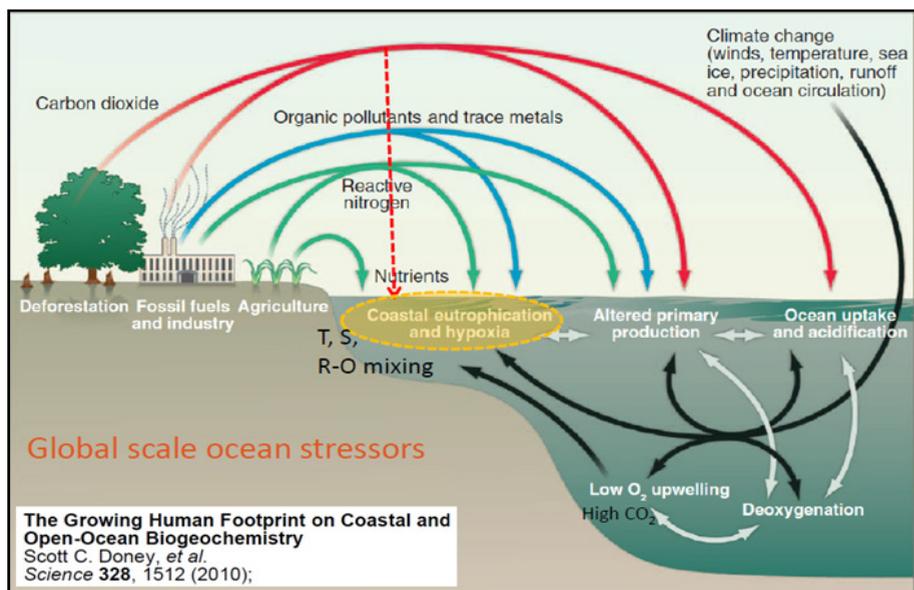
Blue Economy and Ocean Governance :

Damage to the ocean is not as immediately apparent as terrestrial destruction, but it is just as serious. All of the stressors we have put on the ocean — from overfishing to pollution — have contributed to its ill-health. The situation is now so severe that we are altering the chemistry of the ocean, with significant impacts on marine life and the functioning of marine ecosystems.

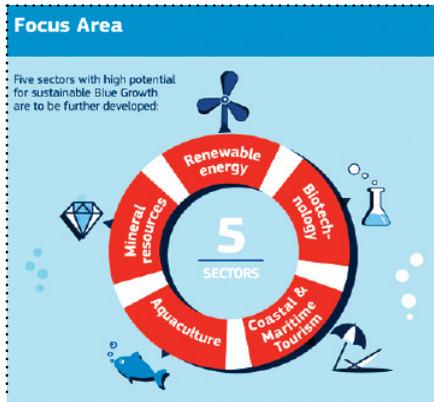
Main ocean stressors

- Extractive industries.
- Fishing overcapacity.
- Climate change impacts.
- Pollution.

The growing array and intensity of threats to the ocean extend well beyond sea-based activities. They originate upstream in the vast drainage basins of major river systems and inland with the many sources of airborne pollutants. Human activities on land are now recognized as the predominant source of ocean stress.



Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable because they concentrate more than half of the world's population and rest at the crossroads of terrestrial, watershed, and oceanic influences.

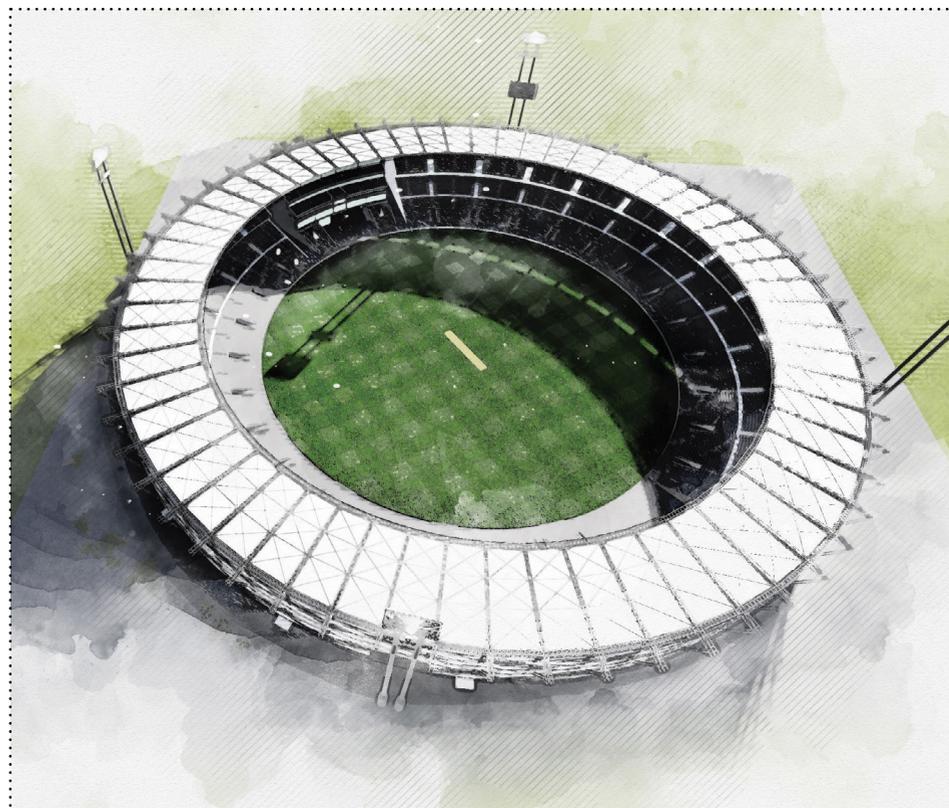


For upstream communities that have traditionally diverted rivers and streams for agricultural, household, and industrial purposes, the demands of coastal communities for more, quality freshwater may seem unreasonable and hard to meet.

Even at the coast, expanding human settlements are likely to pit developmental against recreational interests and to compete with marine species for suitable shoreline habitat. If international tourism is an important source of revenue and employment, conflicts of use may be intense.

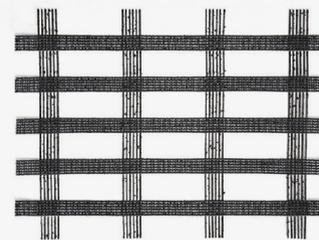
The challenge today is to identify and reconcile different uses impacting the marine environment, not only in coastal and nearshore areas but also in the hinterland. Further offshore, conflicts of use are not yet a major problem except in relatively small, enclosed seas. But the challenge goes even deeper: it is not only to curtail human impacts, but to ensure that they do not irreversibly modify the life-support functions of coastal and marine ecosystems. At some stage, overfishing alters predator/prey relationships and species composition; modified river flow and transport of sediments and nutrients may compromise

vital habitat like shallow estuaries or coastal reef systems; and non-indigenous species may take over established communities of flora and fauna.



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