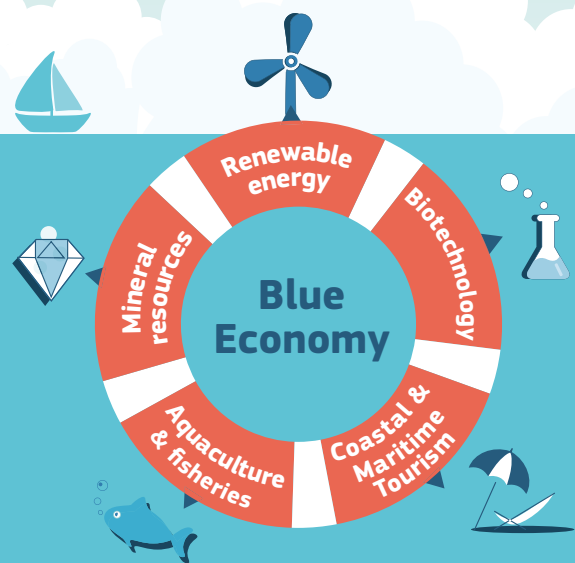




European  
Commission

# A public consultation on ocean governance



The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** to gather perspectives on how the EU can contribute to achieving better international ocean governance, for the **benefit of sustainable blue growth**.

Only a sound international ocean governance framework can ensure that ocean resources are used sustainably, and the existing framework may no longer be sufficiently effective in doing that.

**This is a shared responsibility.**

You can access the consultation online at the EU's DG MARE website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/consultations/ocean-governance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/ocean-governance/index_en.htm)

The public consultation will run until **15 September 2015**.

*This consultation is being complemented by a "listening tour" during which Commissioner Vella personally engages with stakeholders and international partners to gather their views and discuss possible ways forward.*

## WHY?

Oceans cover **71%** of the Earth's surface, with more than **60%** lying beyond any national jurisdiction.

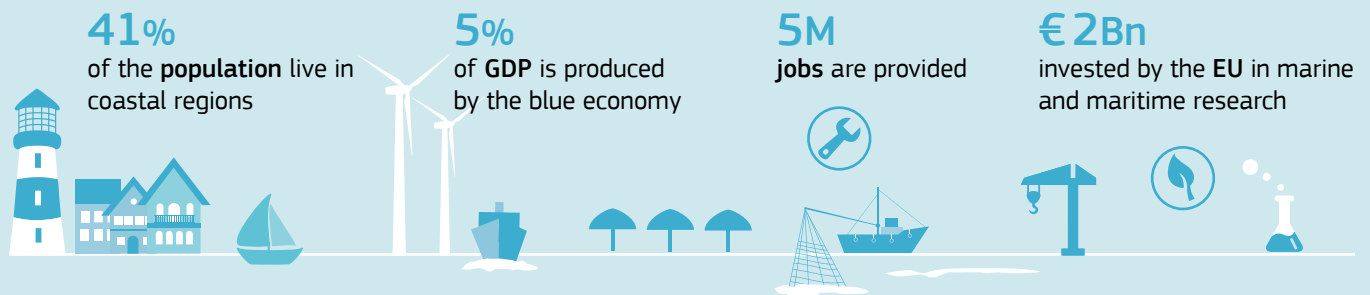


The EU plays a prominent role in this discussion as a global leader in sustainable governance.

Oceans are fundamental for global climate regulation, trade, food, security, energy, sustainable development and tourism – to name just a few examples.

The international discussion on ocean governance is growing as the use of marine resources is increasing around the world. Illegal fishing, global competition for marine mineral resources, marine litter and maritime security threats are examples of some of the challenges that need to be addressed through international cooperation.

Whilst two thirds of the EU's external borders exist along two oceans and four seas ...



In order to develop better policy and improve international ocean governance, the EU wants to gather more information from citizens and stakeholders, and learn about their opinions.

## WHO?

The consultation reaches out to all stakeholders: international organisations, national actors, NGOs, the business sector, the research community, academia and civil society.

The Commission is asking:

- 1 Is the current international ocean governance framework adequate to ensure that the oceans are used sustainably?
- 2 If not, what needs to be done to make it more effective?

## HOW?

The objective is to gather input on how the EU can contribute to achieving better international governance of oceans and seas for the benefit of sustainable blue growth.

Based on the results and other sources of data and information, the European Commission will analyse how best to develop a more consistent, comprehensive and effective EU policy to improve the international ocean governance framework.



*"If our oceans are not healthy, our economy falls ill. Global maritime challenges require global solutions. I am committed to working intensively to define Europe's role in international ocean governance, for a sustainable blue economy and blue growth."*

Mr Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries