

Main recent EU regulatory initiatives affecting blue economy markets

Blue economy sector(s)	Policy area	Policy initiative	State of play July 2022	Objective/ expected impact	Links
Coastal and environmental protection Fisheries & aquaculture	Circular economy Fisheries	Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (Single Use Plastics Directive)	Adopted	EU rules on single-use plastic products aim to prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products (including fishing gear) on the environment, in particular the marine environment, and on human health. They also aim to promote the transition to a circular economy with innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials, therefore also contributing to the efficient functioning of the internal market. On 31 May 2021, the Commission adopted an implementing decision on reporting on fishing gear.	Single-use plastics (europa.eu) EUR-Lex - 32019L0904 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu) EUR-Lex - 32021D0958 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)
Coastal and environmental protection	Environment Waste management	Revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive	Preparation of proposal for UWWTD revision/ Evaluation on-going for SSD	The Commission is currently conducting a revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and an evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive. Both will include information on microplastics and there is a possibility that the UWWTD proposal might contain some requirements on microplastics, e.g. on monitoring in wastewater and in sludge. But no decision has been taken at this	Revision of the UWWTD - Water pollution - Environment - European Commission (europa.eu) Sewage sludge use in farming – evaluation (europa.eu)

				stage.	
Coastal and environmental protection	Circular economy	Review of rules on packing and packaging waste (Directive 1994/62)	Evaluation on-going	The Commission is currently assessing options to review the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. The review will complement the requirements in the Single Use plastics directive. The revision will include or make reference to the design for recycling guidelines/standards to be developed. The intention is also to harmonise criteria for eco-modulation of packaging EPR fees.	Reducing packaging waste – review of rules (europa.eu)
Coastal and environmental protection	Circular economy	Policy framework on biobased and biodegradable or compostable plastics	Preparation of the proposal	There is currently no EU law in place applying to bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, in the European Green Deal and new circular economy action plan, the European Commission announced a policy framework on the sourcing, labelling and use of bio-based plastics.	Bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics (europa.eu) Policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics (europa.eu)
Coastal and environmental protection	Environment	Review of the Marine Strategic Framework Directive	Evaluation on-going	This initiative aims to get a more effective and efficient protection of the marine environment while 4 enabling a sustainable use of EU seas and oceans in line with the EU environmental agenda under the European Green Deal. Article 23 of the MSFD sets an obligation to review the Directive. The review	Protecting the marine environment – review of EU rules (europa.eu)

				will build on the implementation report adopted in June 2020 that highlighted a number of elements that need to be addressed. The MSFD evaluation will look in more depth at how the MSFD has performed so far and will assess the relevance of this instrument in the context of the European Green Deal. Building on the evaluation, an impact assessment is planned to elaborate different policy or legislative options and their potential impacts.	
Coastal and environmental protection	Environment	Proposal for a regulation on Protecting biodiversity: nature restoration targets under EU Biodiversity strategy	Proposal in the adoption process	This initiative is one of the key measures announced in the EU's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy. It will propose legally binding nature restoration targets, subject to an impact assessment. The initiative will contribute to the goal of the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy: to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery.	Protecting biodiversity: nature restoration targets under EU biodiversity strategy (europa.eu)
Coastal and environmental protection	Circular economy	Proposal for a Regulation COM/2022/142 final, establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for sustainable products	Proposal in the adoption process	This initiative, which will revise the Ecodesign Directive and propose additional legislative measures as appropriate, aims to make products placed on the EU market more sustainable. Consumers, the environment and the climate will benefit from products that are more durable, reusable, repairable,	Sustainable products initiative (europa.eu) EUR-Lex - 52022PC0142 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

				recyclable, and energy-efficient. The initiative will also address the presence of harmful chemicals in products such as: electronics & ICT equipment, textiles, furniture, steel, cement & chemicals.	
Fisheries/aquaculture	Circular economy	Standards for circular design of fishing gear	Under drafting	CEN, the European Committee for Standardization has been asked to develop a standard for the circular design of fishing gear (by May 2024), to ensure that fishing gear is easily dismantable, recyclable, repairable, causing less harm to the environment if discharged or lost.	CEN - CEN/TC 466 (cenelec.eu)
Fisheries & aquaculture	Consumers Fisheries	Review of the marketing standards framework for fishery and aquaculture products (proposal for a regulation)	Preparation of the proposal	Vendors and traders of fish and seafood products, whether caught in the wild or farmed, must comply with certain standards to be able to place their products on the EU market. This initiative updates these standards to better meet the objectives of the legislation in this area, particularly to ensure: the products have been caught/farmed sustainably; there is genuine competition on the market, and transparency on the products' characteristics, such as quality and weight.	Fish & seafood products - review of marketing standards (europa.eu)
Fisheries & aquaculture	Agriculture Fisheries	Proposal for a regulation on Sustainable food system framework	Preparation of a proposal/	This initiative aims to make the EU food system sustainable and to integrate sustainability into all	Sustainable EU food system – new initiative (europa.eu)

	Consumers Health		public consultation until 21 July 2022	food-related policies. It aims at providing an over-arching, horizontal framework setting out general principles and requirements for a sustainable food system. It will put forward general principles, requirements and responsibilities for all actors of the food system. Adoption is planned for Q4 2023.	
Fisheries& aquaculture	Common fisheries policy	Revision of the fisheries control system (proposal for Regulation COM(2018) 368 final)	Proposal in the adoption process	On 30 May 2018, the Commission proposed the revision of the fisheries control system, aimed at modernising and simplifying the rules for monitoring fisheries activities and ensuring compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The Commission will support the digital transition of fisheries control and promote the enforcement of fisheries rules by revising the fisheries control system in order to move towards advanced digital control mechanisms for fisheries. In addition to the Control Regulation, the proposal revises the mandate of European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).	EUR-Lex - 52018PC0368 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)
Maritime transport	Climate and energy	Proposal for Regulation COM(2021) 562 final, on the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in	Proposal in the adoption process	The initiative aims at increasing the share in the fuel mix of international maritime transport of sustainable low and zero-carbon	CO2 emissions from shipping – encouraging the use of low-carbon fuels (europa.eu)

		maritime transport amending Directive 2009/16/EC		alternative fuels including: liquid biofuels, e-liquids, decarbonised gas (including bio-LNG and e-gas), decarbonised hydrogen and decarbonised hydrogen-derived fuels (including methane, and ammonia). The initiative should take a well-to-wake approach, concerning emissions from production and use of these fuels, including methane slip. It also aims at enhancing the use of alternative fuels (including on-shore power) for ships at berth. While some of these fuels are already technologically mature, their deployment in the maritime sector and their use remains extremely limited and the existing uncertainty disincentives economic actors to invest in new technologies.	EUR-Lex - 52021PC0562 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)
Maritime transport	Climate and energy	Proposal for Council Directive COM(2021) 563 final, restructuring the Union framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity (recast)	Proposal in the adoption process	The review of the Energy Taxation Directive 2003/96 is part of a series of measures announced in the European Green Deal. The main objectives of the review of the ETD are: i) Aligning taxation of energy products and electricity with EU energy and climate policies with a view to contributing to the EU 2030 targets and climate neutrality by 2050 in the context of the European Green Deal. ii) Preserving	EU Green Deal – Revision of the Energy Taxation Directive (europa.eu) EUR-Lex - 52021PC0563 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

				the EU internal market by updating the scope and the structure of rates as well as by rationalising the use of optional tax exemptions and reductions by Member States.	
Maritime transport	Climate and energy	Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Union	Proposal in the adoption process	The proposal extends the scope of the EU's Emissions Trading System to cover maritime transport. To this end, the proposal amends the definition of "emissions" to include emissions from ships performing a maritime transport activity and adds maritime transport as a new activity in Annex I. Further, it includes new definitions for "shipping company" and "administering authority in respect of shipping companies". The extension of the EU ETS to maritime transport applies in respect of emissions from intra-EU voyages, half of the emissions from extra-EU voyages and emissions occurring at berth in an EU port; the same rules that apply to other sectors covered by the EU ETS should apply to maritime transport with regard to auctioning, the transfer, surrender and cancellation of allowances, penalties and registries. The obligation to surrender allowances in the maritime transport sector is	Climate change – updating the EU emissions trading system (ETS) (europa.eu) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0551

				gradually phased-in over the period 2023 to 2025, with shipping companies having to surrender 100 % of their verified emissions as of 2026.	
Maritime transport	Transport Environment	Proposal for a Directive to revise Directive 2005/35/EC to ensure enforcement of the provisions on illegal discharges at sea	Preparation of the proposal	<p>This initiative will analyse how to strengthen the provisions in the Directive on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements that their objectives are reached in practice. Amendments concerning alignment or inconsistencies will relate to enforcement of up to date international standards for ship-source pollution. As the main incentive for illegal discharges are cost savings, improved enforcement should create a more level playing field for operators who comply with the applicable rules.</p> <p>Policy options will be developed after the evaluation. On the basis of current knowledge, options could include maintaining the existing provisions of the Directive, or amending the Directive as a consequence of developments at both the international level in the International Maritime Organization and in EU legislation,</p>	https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12680-Maritime-sector-revising-the-EU-rules-on-illegal-discharges-from-ships_en

				while ensuring coherence with the revision of the Environmental Crime Directive.	
Maritime transport	Transport Climate and energy	Proposal for Regulation COM(2021) 559 final, on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure	Proposal in the adoption process	This initiative seeks to ensure the availability and usability of a dense, widespread network of alternative fuel infrastructure throughout the EU. Specific objectives are: (1) to increase the number of recharging and refuelling points across Member States and across modes; (2) to ensure the full interoperability of infrastructure and infrastructure use services for all alternatively fuelled vehicles, vessels and aircraft (3) to foresee adequate information for consumers, including information on location, accessibility, prices, payments and compatibility of fuels and recharging infrastructure (4) to enable deployment of “smart recharging infrastructure“, while maintaining technological neutrality in order to maximise attractiveness of alternative fuels to businesses and consumers.	Low-emission vehicles – improving the EU’s refuelling/recharging infrastructure (europa.eu) EUR-Lex - 52021PC0559 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)
Ocean observation	Research Environment Fisheries	Ocean observation initiative (proposal for Regulation)	Preparation of the proposal	The EC aims to prepare by 2022 an Ocean Observation Initiative to structure and harmonise the collection of data in the oceans for different purposes, such as environmental monitoring,	https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12539-Ocean-observation-sharing-responsibility_en

				<p>fisheries and aquaculture management, research, safe navigation. The initiative aims to improve transparency and coherence of the ocean observation process. It is expected that this will allow over time for the emergence of common standards and joint procurement of equipment and thus cost-effectiveness and a greater market for new technologies that would stimulate innovation.</p>	
Shipbuilding/ship repair	Circular economy	<p>Evaluation of Directive 2013/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on recreational craft and personal watercraft</p>	Evaluation on-going	<p>The Commission prepared a report that sets out the conclusions of a review (study) and proposals for action. The Commission will follow up on the assessment by strengthening cooperation between stakeholders, stepping up the enforcement and clarifying some RCD provisions. It will also further examine whether targeted amendments of the Directive or delegated or implementing acts are needed regarding, in particular: extension of the scope to include hydrofoil watercraft, floating houses, or other novel watercraft; adaptation to technical progress in order to revise suitability of current test cycles and testing procedures;</p>	<p>EUR-Lex - 52022DC0021 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</p> <p>Final Report Review Study on the Recreational Craft Directive 2013 53 EU.pdf (europa.eu)</p>

		Regulations of 21 January 2022		<p>generated on ships, and passively fished waste, is not thrown into the sea but returned to land and adequately managed. As part of this Directive, the Commission adopted four implementing regulations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage capacity for waste in a ship; • Ships that produce reduced quantities of waste and manage it sustainably; • Reporting of waste caught in fishing nets; • Selecting which ships to inspect 	delivery of waste from ships to EU ports (europa.eu)
Offshore renewables	Climate and Energy	Communication on an EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future (COM(2020) 741 final)	Adopted	<p>To ensure that offshore renewable energy can help reach the EU's energy and climate targets, the Commission published a dedicated EU strategy on offshore renewable energy on 19 November 2020 that assesses its potential contribution and proposes ways forward to support the long-term sustainable development of this sector. To maximise its impact, the EU strategy goes beyond a narrow definition of the factors of energy production and addresses broader issues, such as access to sea-space; industrial and employment dimensions; regional and international cooperation; the</p>	<p>EU strategy on offshore renewable energy (europa.eu)</p> <p>EUR-Lex - 52020DC0741 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</p>

				<p>technological transfer of research projects from the laboratory into practice. Starting from today's installed offshore wind capacity of 12 GW, the Commission estimates that the objective to have an installed capacity of at least 60 GW of offshore wind and at least 1 GW of ocean energy by 2030, with a view to reach by 2050 300 GW and 40 GW of installed capacity, respectively, is realistic and achievable.</p>	
Sustainable finance		<p>Strategy for Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Economy (Communication COM(2021) 390)</p>	Adopted	<p>The European Commission adopted an ambitious and comprehensive package of measures enabling investors to re-orient investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses. The new sustainable finance strategy aims to support the financing of the transition to a sustainable economy by proposing action in four number of areas: transition finance, inclusiveness, resilience and contribution of the financial system and global ambition.</p>	<p>Strategy for financing the transition to a sustainable economy European Commission (europa.eu)</p> <p>EUR-Lex - 52021DC0390 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</p>
Sustainable finance	Internal Market Environment	<p>Regulation (EU) 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment ('EU Taxonomy for</p>	Adopted	<p>The EU taxonomy is a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities. It could play an important role helping the EU scale</p>	<p>EU taxonomy for sustainable activities European Commission (europa.eu)</p> <p>EUR-Lex - 32020R0852 - EN -</p>

		sustainable activities') and its delegated acts		up sustainable investment and implement the European green deal. The EU taxonomy would provide companies, investors and policymakers with appropriate definitions for which economic activities can be considered environmentally sustainable. In this way, it should create security for investors, protect private investors from greenwashing, help companies to become more climate-friendly, mitigate market fragmentation and help shift investments where they are most needed.	EUR-Lex (europa.eu)
Sustainable finance	Internal Market Environment	Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector	Adopted	The Regulation lays down sustainability disclosure obligations for manufacturers of financial products and financial advisers toward end-investors. It does so in relation to the integration of sustainability risks by financial market participants (i.e. asset managers, institutional investors, insurance companies, pension funds, etc., all entities offering financial products where they manage clients' money) and financial advisers in all investment processes and for financial products that pursue the objective of sustainable investment. It	Sustainability-related disclosure in the financial services sector European Commission (europa.eu) EUR-Lex - 32019R2088 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

				consists of a directly applicable regulation introducing additional disclosure requirements to the existing elements of relevant sectoral legislations (AIFMD, UCITS, Solvency II, IDD and MiFID II), via a self-standing text (lex specialis) providing full harmonization, cross-sectoral consistency and regulatory neutrality.	
Sustainable finance	Internal Market Environment	Proposal for a Directive COM/2021/189 final, on Corporate Sustainability Reporting (CSRD)	Proposal in the adoption process	<p>EU rules on non-financial reporting currently apply to large public-interest companies with more than 500 employees. The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extends the scope to all large companies and all companies listed on regulated markets (except listed micro-enterprises) • requires the audit (assurance) of reported information • introduces more detailed reporting requirements, and a requirement to report according to mandatory EU sustainability reporting standards • requires companies to digitally 'tag' the reported information, so it is machine readable and feeds into the European single access point envisaged in the capital markets union action 	<p>Corporate sustainability reporting European Commission (europa.eu)</p> <p>EUR-Lex - 52021PC0189 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</p>

				<p>plan.</p> <p>The proposal envisages the adoption of EU sustainability reporting standards. The draft standards would be developed by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG). The first set of standards would be adopted by October 2022.</p>	
Sustainable finance	Internal Market Environment	Proposal for Regulation COM/2021/391 final, on European green bonds	Proposal in the adoption process	<p>The European green bond standard (EUGBS) is a voluntary standard to help scale up and raise the environmental ambitions of the green bond market. This proposed Regulation will set a standard for how companies and public authorities can use green bonds to raise funds on capital markets to finance such ambitious large-scale investments, while meeting tough sustainability requirements and protecting investors. This will be useful for both issuers and investors of green bonds. The new EUGBS will be open to any issuer of green bonds, including companies, public authorities, and also issuers located outside of the EU.</p>	<p>European green bond standard European Commission (europa.eu)</p> <p>EUR-Lex - 52021PC0391 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</p>
Sustainable finance	Internal Market	Development of an EU Ecolabel for retail financial products	In progress	<p>The development of the EU Ecolabel for Retail Financial Products is based on the European</p>	<p>Product Bureau (europa.eu)</p>

