

“How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is clearly Ocean.”- Arthur C. Clarke

INTRODUCTION:

- Seas and oceans represent 70% of the globe's surface and contain 80% of its life.
- Only 10% of marine species have been identified.
- World's largest source of protein, feeding about 3 billion people.
- 8 million tons of plastic pour into The Great Pacific Garbage Patch every year. In 2018, it was estimated to have accumulated 79 million tons of plastic.
- Marine resources and activities represent 5% world's GDP.

OBJECTIVES:

- Explain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) concept.
- Weigh local and global implications of the SDG 14.
- Evaluate society's implication.
- Identify the main marine wildlife conservation actors.

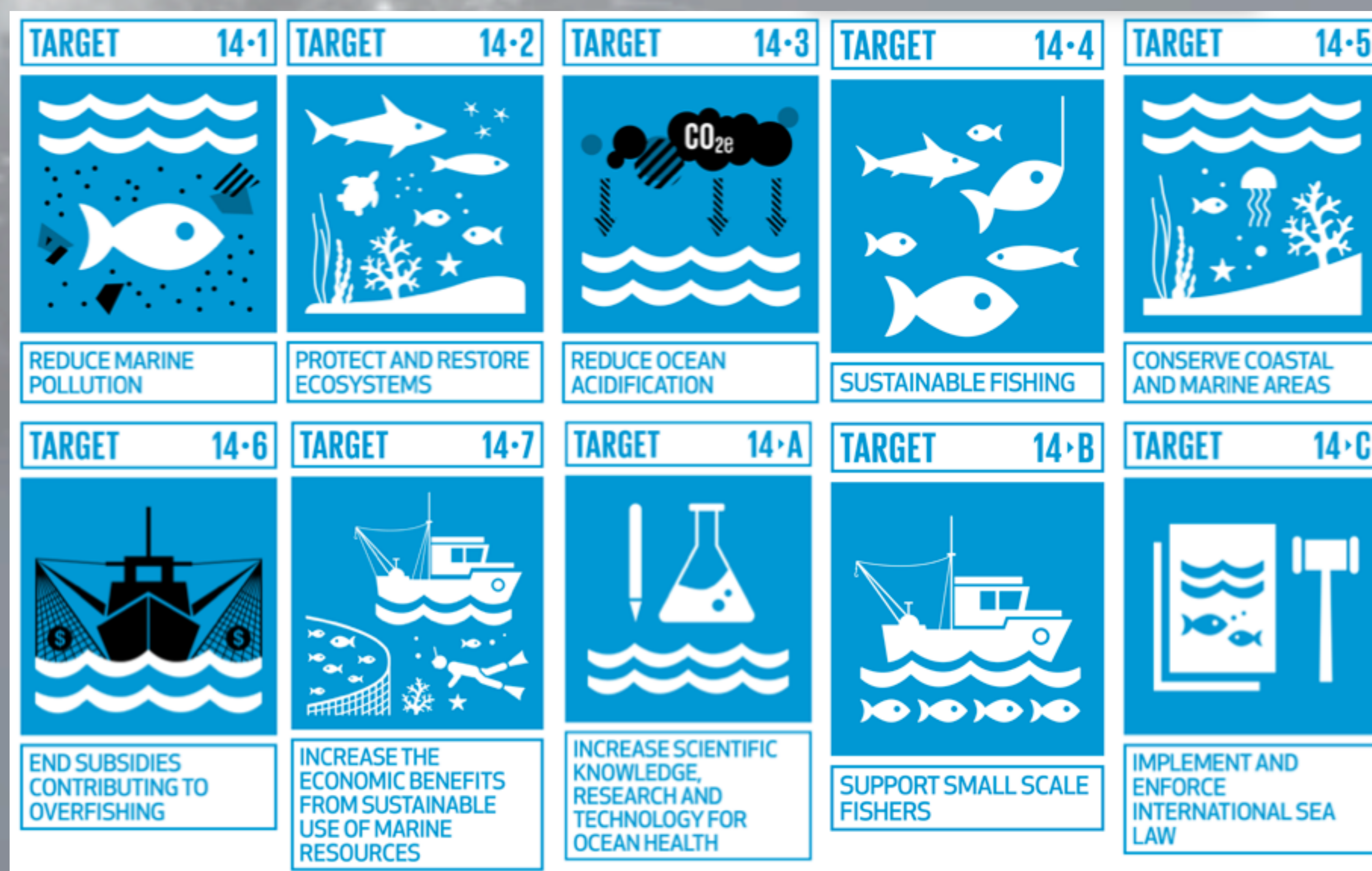
SDG:

- Set by the UN on 25/09/2015.
- Issues listed in the SDG 2018 report:
 - Overfishing: fish stocks have decreased by 20% in the last 40 years.
 - Ocean acidification has increased by 26% since the Industrial Revolution.
 - Eutrophication has risen however protected areas have doubled.
- The FAO is the “custodian” UN agency for 4/10 targets of the SDG 14.

THREATENING FACTORS FOR MARINE WILDLIFE:

- Anthropogenic noise.
- Unregulated and Ghost fishing.
- Chemical, biological and physical pollution.
- Ship Strikes.
- Whale watching.
- Global warming.

MARINE CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS: 4Ocean, ECOALF, ECOEMBES, CRAM, EDMAKTUB, CMS, UICN-Med, *Aquae* Foundation.



INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS:

- **ACCOBAMS:** 24/11/1996, 18 member States in 2018.
 - Reduction of anthropogenic noise with acoustic absorption barriers and High Quality Whale Watching®.
 - Vulnerable species: *Balaenoptera physalus*, *Tursiops truncatus*, *Stenella coeruleoalba*.
 - Endangered species: *Physeter macrocephalus*, *Delphinus delphis*, *Phocoena phocoena*
 - Critically endangered species: *Orcinus orca*.
 - Data deficient species: *Gobicephala macrorhynchus*, *Globicephala melas*, *Grampus griseus*.
- **CMS:** 1/05/1985, Spain.
 - Main threatening factors: ship strikes and anthropogenic noise.
 - Profound lack of information makes it hard to find an effective solution.
- **European legislation:** Directive 2008/56/CE and Decision C (2010) 5956.
- **Spanish legislation:** Law 41/2010.

EUROPE COMMISSION AND MARITIME AFFAIRS :

- **The Blue Growth:**
 - Represents 5,4million jobs and generates a gross added value of €500 billion per year.
 - 3 main objectives: technological advancement, social awareness, pollution reduction.

CATALUNYA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA:

- **Mediterranean sea:**
 - Leading tourist destination with an unique ecosystem.
 - Main problems: 1,25million tons of microplastics per km² and “Ghost Fishing”.
- **CRAM foundation:** “Sea biodiversity protection through local actions”.
 - 7,5% of species in the Mediterranean sea have been identified, 30% of which are endemic.
- **EDMAKTUB organisation:** specialised in cetaceans research.
 - Describes the coastline of Garraf and Balearic sea as a feeding point for whales.
 - Fin Whale Project.
- **IUCN-Med:**
 - Identified 218 Key Biodiversity Area in the North-Western Mediterranean region, 11 of which are under Alliance for Zero Extinction's supervision.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Seas and oceans provide natural resources which are fundamental to sustain human nutrition and the economy. However it's a heritage that must be preserved.
- The UN has set a series of objectives to be achieved by 2030 through the SDG 14 in order to obtain an equilibrium between ecosystems and human activity.
- Society's increased awareness and the creation of marine wildlife organisations are a step in the right direction but the lack of knowledge surrounding this issue makes it difficult to implement an effective long-term solution for the time being.
- The existence of international agreements highlights the importance of the marine wildlife conservation.
- Microplastics are one of the worst threats to the food chain and its health repercussion are not yet known. Therefore, it needs further investigation.