



2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Final Compliance Report

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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9. Environment: Marine Health and Litter

“Addressing the adverse impact of human activity, such as litter and unsustainable fishing practices, on the marine environment: building on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, we will accelerate action to tackle the increasing levels of plastic pollution in the ocean from all sources - land and marine - including by working through the UN Environment Assembly on options including strengthening existing instruments and a potential new global agreement or other instrument to address marine plastic litter, including at UNEA-5.”

G7 2030 Nature Compact

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+1.00 (100%)	

Background

Marine environments are essential to human well-being. They support livelihoods, provide nutrition and aid global climate regulation by absorbing heat and sequestering carbon dioxide (CO₂).¹⁶⁶² Marine environments are vulnerable to unsustainable human activity resulting in environmental degradation, pollution (including marine litter), overfishing and climate change. For instance, an estimated 11 million metric tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean each year where it ultimately harms marine life and damages habitats.¹⁶⁶³ Unabated climate change leading to “high climate warming scenarios” could result in a decrease of fish biomass of up to 25 per cent by the end of the century.¹⁶⁶⁴ This is compounded with the fact that approximately 33 per cent of fish populations are currently being harvested at unsustainable levels. Simultaneously, coastal hypoxic (low oxygen) zones caused by fertilizer run-off cause marine life to die or leave for water with higher oxygen content, putting ecosystems and livelihoods at risk. Such unsustainable human activity has already put an estimated 100 to 300 million people living in coastal areas at risk due to coastal habitat loss.

Given the importance of marine environments to human well-being, the health of marine environments and reductions to marine litter have repeatedly been an area of concern for the G7, as well as for the G20 (such as at the 2019 Osaka Summit) and the United Nations (with the United Nations Environment Assembly), among other organizations.¹⁶⁶⁵

¹⁶⁶² Goal 14: Life below water, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/sustainable-development-goals/why-do-sustainable-development-goals-matter/goal-14>

¹⁶⁶³ Breaking the Plastic Wave: A Comprehensive Assessment Of Pathways Towards Stopping Ocean Plastic Pollution, The Pew Charitable Trusts (Philadelphia) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2021. https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2020/10/breakingtheplasticwave_mainreport.pdf

¹⁶⁶⁴ UN Report: Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’; Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’, United Nations (Paris) 6 May 2019. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>

¹⁶⁶⁵ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Third Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/G20MPL_report_2021.pdf

As a reflection of its importance, the protection and fostering of marine environments is a key focus of the United Nations, featuring in its sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 14.1 which states “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution,” as well as Goal 14.2 which calls for sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems including through restoration and actions to strengthen their resiliency.¹⁶⁶⁶

G7 leaders acknowledged the importance of protecting marine environments dating back to the 1989 Paris Summit.¹⁶⁶⁷ While the G7 recognized the importance of marine biodiversity, health and sustainability as far back as the 1985 Bonn Summit (regarding the protection of water and seas) and 1987 Venice Summit (where it was mentioned in passing as part of a broader commitment to “encourage action” against climate change), it was not until the 1989 Paris Summit that the fostering of marine health was seen as an issue area of its own.¹⁶⁶⁸ G7 members condemned the dumping of polluting waste into the ocean, recognized the importance of international co-operation in preserving and conserving marine environments, called for the United Nations to prepare a report on the state of the world’s oceans and encouraged countries to implement the international conventions for the prevention of oil pollution in the ocean and to make use of the latest monitoring and cleanup technologies.¹⁶⁶⁹

During the 1990 Houston Summit, the G7 called for the development of a strategy to address land-based sources of marine pollution, urged the entry into enforcement of the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Convention on oil spills and expressed concern over the impact of environmental degradation of unregulated fishing practices on marine resources.¹⁶⁷⁰ They further encouraged all countries to respect current conservation regimes. The G7 also highlighted the developmental pressures on estuaries, wetlands and coral reefs, and the destruction of biological diversity as a result of human activity. Finally, they also committed to expand projects to conserve biodiversity, assist developing countries in environmental efforts and work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to achieve these objectives.

The 1991 London Summit saw the G7 seek to promote a comprehensive approach to the conservation and sustainable management of marine environments in the context of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.¹⁶⁷¹ G7 leaders also encouraged the implementation of measures to protect against overfishing and other harmful practices on marine life in accordance with international law. They also urged “control of marine pollution and compliance with the regimes established by regional fisheries organisations through effective monitoring and enforcement measures.”

At the 1997 Denver Summit, the G8 leaders reaffirmed the importance of the world’s oceans, stating their intention to “ensure an effective and integrated effort to deal with key issues, including sustainable fishing, shipping, marine pollution from land-based and off-shore activities.”¹⁶⁷² They also agreed to “enhance cooperation in monitoring the ecology in the Northern Pacific.”

¹⁶⁶⁶ Sustainable Development Goal 14, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (New York) Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>

¹⁶⁶⁷ Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html#environment>

¹⁶⁶⁸ G7/8 Conclusions on Oceans, 1975-2017, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) n.d. Access Date 19 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/conclusions/oceans.pdf>

¹⁶⁶⁹ Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html#environment>

¹⁶⁷⁰ Houston Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 July 1990. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1990houston/declaration.html#environment>

¹⁶⁷¹ Economic Declaration: Building World Partnership, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 1991. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1991london/communique/index.html>

¹⁶⁷² Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

During the 2003 Evian Summit, the G8 committed to ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which established the legal framework for maritime activities.¹⁶⁷³ UNCLOS “imposes duties on all states to ensure, through proper conservation and management measures, the long-term sustainability of fish resources,” and also outlines rules for the protection and preservation of marine environments, presenting states with duties to protect the oceans from various pollutants.¹⁶⁷⁴ The G8 members also committed to developing and facilitating the use of diverse approaches and tools for the purpose of protecting sea and ocean environments, the elimination of illegal and unregulated fishing, as well as to the “urgent restoration and maintenance of fish stocks.”¹⁶⁷⁵ The summit also resulted in measures to accelerate the phasing out of single-hulled tankers, act on the environmental threat posed by large cargo vessels and a commitment to address the risk posed by the carrying of oil by single-hulled tankers.

The 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit saw a focus on marine litter, with the G7 members committing to take action to remove litter, improve education and outreach and address land and sea-based sources of marine litter, particularly focusing on plastic litter.¹⁶⁷⁶ The G7 members released an action plan outlining various instruments for combating marine litter in conjunction with their commitment.¹⁶⁷⁷ This action plan also recognized the global challenge presented by marine litter, encouraging the sharing of best practices with developing countries as well as the provision of international assistance and funding.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 members tied action towards reducing marine litter and ensuring marine environment health to resource efficiency, the three Rs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹⁶⁷⁸ In the Leaders’ Declaration, the G7 affirmed their commitment to address marine litter, highlighting the importance of resource efficiency and the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) for reducing marine litter from land-based sources. The G7 also indicated their support for scientific work that enhances global observation and assessment of marine resources, allowing for management, conservation and more sustainable use of marine resources. The importance of addressing marine litter and maintaining healthy marine biodiversity was also a topic of discussion at the G7 Environment Ministers’ meeting.¹⁶⁷⁹

During the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 nations endorsed the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, which included provisions to address ocean plastic waste and marine litter.¹⁶⁸⁰ In addition to commitment towards broad action towards healthy oceans and against marine litter, and included as an annex for the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, the G7 members (with the exception of Japan and the United States) also endorsed the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter which problematizes and outlines methods to improve current ways of producing, using, managing and disposing of plastics for the good of marine environments and human health with the

¹⁶⁷³ Marine Environment and Tanker Safety: A G8 Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 June 2003. Access Date: 20 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/marine_en.html

¹⁶⁷⁴ Law of the Sea: United Nations convention, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/international-affairs/partnerships-organizations/law-sea-united-nations-convention.html>

¹⁶⁷⁵ Marine Environment and Tanker Safety: A G8 Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 June 2003. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/marine_en.html

¹⁶⁷⁶ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

¹⁶⁷⁷ Annex to the Leaders’ Declaration G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-annex-en.pdf>

¹⁶⁷⁸ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#development>

¹⁶⁷⁹ Communiqué G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 May 2016. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2016-environment.html>

¹⁶⁸⁰ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

goal of a zero-plastic waste model.¹⁶⁸¹ Some of the actions committed to in the Ocean Plastics Charter include: making all plastics recyclable by 2030, reducing the use of single-use plastics and promoting the use of recycled plastic, as well as improving and expanding recycling infrastructure and promoting the research, development and use of new technologies for monitoring, removing and recycling plastics.¹⁶⁸²

In the aftermath of the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 nations released the G7 Innovation Challenge to Address Marine Plastic Litter on 20 September 2018. The objective of the G7 Innovation Challenge was to incentivize the development of technological and social solutions for sustainable management of plastics with the goal of increasing resource efficiency and reducing marine plastic pollution.

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to biodiversity protection, ocean conservation and the fight against marine litter.¹⁶⁸³ The G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fund climate innovation and members discussed several initiatives already underway. They also listened to expert testimony and made an official statement welcoming the Osaka G20 Blue Ocean Vision and Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.

During the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders agreed to a shared global agenda which included the goal of protecting at least 30 per cent of global oceans by 2030.¹⁶⁸⁴ This commitment was part of the larger G7 2030 Nature Compact, which also included provisions for restoring lost habitat and biodiversity and encouraged increased global cooperation for ocean protection and conservation.¹⁶⁸⁵ The agreement also advocated building on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision's goal of reducing additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, accelerating action to tackle pollution from land and sea-based sources, encouraging and enforcing international legal action against illegal and unreported fishing and taking measures against overfishing. The G7 also published the "G7 Ocean Decade Navigation Plan" policy paper on 21 May 2021 under the UK presidency in which the G7 agreed to "collaborate and advance [their] collective work on ocean science, ocean observing and ocean action throughout the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)."¹⁶⁸⁶ The G7 members committed to support the UN Ocean Decade and its outcomes which include: "A Clean Ocean where sources of pollution are identified and reduced or removed," "A Healthy and Resilient Ocean where marine ecosystems are understood, protected, restored and managed," and "A Productive Ocean supporting sustainable food supply and a sustainable ocean economy."

Commitment Features

On 13 June 2021, G7 leaders at the Cornwall Summit adopted the present commitment: "Addressing the adverse impact of human activity, such as litter and unsustainable fishing practices, on the marine environment: building on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, we will accelerate action to tackle the increasing levels of plastic pollution in the ocean from all sources - land and marine - including by working through the

¹⁶⁸¹ Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html>; The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

¹⁶⁸² Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html>

¹⁶⁸³ Biarritz Chair's Summary on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/chairs-summary-climate.html>

¹⁶⁸⁴ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communicue.html>

¹⁶⁸⁵ G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>; G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁶⁸⁶ G7 Ocean Decade Navigation Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2021-ocean-navigation.html>

UN Environment Assembly on options including strengthening existing instruments and a potential new global agreement or other instrument to address marine plastic litter, including at UNEA-5.”¹⁶⁸⁷

“Address” is understood to mean “to give attention to or deal with a matter or problem.”¹⁶⁸⁸ “Adverse” is defined as “acting against or in a contrary direction” and “opposed to one’s interests.”¹⁶⁸⁹ “Impact” is defined as “the force of impression of one thing on another: a significant or major effect.”¹⁶⁹⁰ Taken together then, “adverse impact” means significant effects from a given action against the subject’s interests, which is the marine environment.

“Human Activity” is understood to mean action, defined as “to do something; to act in order to get a particular result” undertaken by humans.¹⁶⁹¹

Litter is defined as any solid material that is improperly disposed of and enters the natural environment.¹⁶⁹² “Marine Litter” in particular is defined as any “persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment from any source.”¹⁶⁹³

“Unsustainable” is understood to mean “not capable of being prolonged or continued.”¹⁶⁹⁴ “Fishing” is defined as the “the capture of aquatic organisms in marine, coastal and inland areas.”¹⁶⁹⁵ “Practices” is better understood as “method” in this context which is defined as “a way, technique, or process of or for doing something.”¹⁶⁹⁶ Taken together, unsustainable fishing practices are ways or techniques of capturing aquatic organisms that are not capable of being prolonged or continued.

“Building” is defined as “to develop according to a systematic plan, by a definite process, or on a particular base.”¹⁶⁹⁷ “Building on” the Osaka Blue Ocean initiative in this context then means to work towards more expansive action using the Osaka Blue Ocean initiative as a base for future policy-making and action. The Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, first put forward at the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit, “aim[s] to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach that includes

¹⁶⁸⁷ G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

¹⁶⁸⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁶⁸⁹ Adverse, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adverse>

¹⁶⁹⁰ Impact, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/impact>

¹⁶⁹¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁶⁹² Reasons, Consequences and Possible Solutions of Littering, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (Tbilisi) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <http://environment.cenn.org/waste-management/publications/reasons-consequences-possible-solutions-littering/>; Solid Waste and Marine Litter, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.unep.org/cep/solid-waste-and-marine-litter>

¹⁶⁹³ Solid Waste and Marine Litter, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.unep.org/cep/solid-waste-and-marine-litter>

¹⁶⁹⁴ Unsustainable, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/unsustainable>

¹⁶⁹⁵ Fisheries, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) n.d. Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.fao.org/fisheries/en/>

¹⁶⁹⁶ Method, Merriam-Webster English Dictionary (Springfield) Access Date: 23 October 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/method>

¹⁶⁹⁷ Build, Merriam-Webster English Dictionary (Springfield) Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/build>

reducing the discharge of mismanaged plastic litter by improved waste management and innovative solutions while recognizing the important role of plastics for society.”¹⁶⁹⁸

“Will” is “used to talk about what is going to happen in the future, especially things that you are certain about or things that are planned.”¹⁶⁹⁹ This verb indicates a high politically binding obligation meaning that it signifies a commitment and is a strong catalyst for compliance.¹⁷⁰⁰

“Accelerate” is defined as “to bring [something] about at an earlier time” or “to hasten or progress the development of [something].”¹⁷⁰¹ This indicates that the commitment deals with some process that has already been started, in this instance what is being accelerated is action to reduce rising levels of plastic pollution.

“Instrument” is defined as “a means whereby something is achieved, performed, or furthered.”¹⁷⁰² Instruments then are the means by which G7 members will comply with their commitments. This includes economic instruments at both national and international levels including taxes or tariffs, permits, subsidies, etc.¹⁷⁰³ It also includes actions such as budget allocations domestically and for international financing, international and domestic law-making, industry action-plans, etc.¹⁷⁰⁴

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines marine litter as “any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material which is lost or discarded and ends up in the marine and coastal environment.”¹⁷⁰⁵ This includes “items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded into the sea or rivers or on beaches; brought indirectly to the sea with rivers, sewage, stormwater or winds; accidentally lost, including material lost at sea in bad weather (fishing gear, cargo); or deliberately left by people on beaches and shores.”¹⁷⁰⁶ Other factors to consider when assessing marine health include pollution levels, ocean eutrophication (excessive algal or plant growth), marine area management, the creation of protected areas and conservation.¹⁷⁰⁷

The inclusion of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in the commitment marks it as a core international institution which is defined as “a separate international organization (as an organization) that has a particular focus on the issue in the commitment at hand.”¹⁷⁰⁸ The UNEA is a United Nations agency that is the “the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment.”¹⁷⁰⁹ According to the text of the

¹⁶⁹⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁶⁹⁹ Will, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/will>

¹⁷⁰⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November

2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁷⁰¹ Accelerate, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/accelerate>

¹⁷⁰² Instrument, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/instrument>

¹⁷⁰³ Policy Instruments for the Environment, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2 November 2017. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.oecd.org/environment/tools-evaluation/PINE_database_brochure.pdf

¹⁷⁰⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁷⁰⁵ Understanding The State Of The Ocean: A Global Manual On Measuring Sdg 14.1.1, Sdg 14.2.1 And Sdg 14.5.1, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35086>

¹⁷⁰⁶ Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) April 2009. Access Date: 17 September 2021. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7787/-Marine%20Litter_%20A%20Global%20Challenge%20%282009%29-2009845.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

¹⁷⁰⁷ Understanding The State Of The Ocean: A Global Manual On Measuring Sdg 14.1.1, Sdg 14.2.1 And Sdg 14.5.1, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35086>

¹⁷⁰⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁷⁰⁹ About The United Nations Environment Assembly, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/about-united-nations-environment-assembly>

commitment, the UNEA is a specified agent, which indicates that it is an institution that G7 members could work through in order to comply with the commitment.¹⁷¹⁰ The term “including” indicates that greater weight should be placed on working through or with the UNEA in order to comply with the commitment. “UNEA-5” is also mentioned in the text and refers to the fifth-session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the first session of which was held on 22 and 23 February 2021, with an additional assembly, dealing with more substantive matters that require in-depth negotiations, planned for the period from 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022.¹⁷¹¹

There are two component areas for this commitment, national action and international action. International action is emphasized in the text of the commitment through references to UNEA and UNEA-5, as well as through mentioning a “new global agreement.”¹⁷¹² Further, at the national and international level, compliance action can take the form of either strengthening existing instruments or creating new instruments that address the problem of marine litter and health.

To achieve full compliance, or a score of +1, G7 members must take strong and concrete action to strengthen existing instruments as well as work on a new global agreement through participation at UNEA-5. Referring back to the definition of instruments, concrete national actions to strengthen existing instruments include measures such as budget allocation, implementing policies, amending or creating new laws, providing technical or financial assistance to programs, projects and businesses, which includes subsidies or grants. International action meanwhile can include global law-making or revision to current laws, financing, as well as agreements or target-setting between nations.

For partial compliance, or a score of 0, G7 members take less than strong action to strengthen existing instruments or work on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. If a G7 member takes strong action in one area, say creating new instruments at the national level, but does not take action internationally or only takes partial or weak actions such as attending meetings or re-affirming the commitment, then the G7 member will be found to be in partial compliance. A G7 member will also achieve partial compliance if they fulfill all aspects of the commitment (national, international, strengthening institutions and creating new instruments) but only do so through weak actions that are not binding.

For non-compliance (-1), G7 members must take no action to strengthen existing instruments or create new instruments or agreements at either the national or international level.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does NOT take strong and concrete action to reduce marine litter through strengthening existing instruments or by working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5 and does NOT take additional action to address overall marine health.
0	The G7 member takes less than strong action to reduce marine litter in one or both of the constituent features and takes additional action to accelerate a reduction in marine pollution and increase overall marine health.
+1	The G7 member takes strong and concrete action to reduce marine litter through strengthening existing instruments AND by working on a new global agreement through the United Nations Environment Assembly at UNEA-5 AND takes additional action to accelerate a reduction in marine pollution and increase overall marine health.

*Compliance Director: Karči Aldridge Végi
Lead Analyst: Maryanna Diab*

¹⁷¹⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁷¹¹ Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5>

¹⁷¹² G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 15 June 2021, the Government of Canada launched the Ocean Partnership Forum under the Canada-EU Ocean Partnership Declaration to promote ocean sustainability through cooperation.¹⁷¹³ The joint statement also reaffirmed their intention to conclude, as soon as possible, a new agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea for conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. They aim to report on the progress on conservation and sustainable use of marine resources at the second UN Ocean Conference in 2022. This action is consistent with Canada's commitment to increasing marine health.

On 13 July 2021, the Governments of Canada and the United States announced the signing of a four-year action plan to jointly protect and manage the health of the Salish Sea ecosystem.¹⁷¹⁴ In the action plan, Canada and the United States indicated that they will continue to collaborate with their partners through information sharing, improving transboundary coordination, and reporting on ecosystem health.

On 14 July 2021, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Bernadette Jordan announced funding of CAD707,000 for oil spill and fisheries science research.¹⁷¹⁵ The funding supports two projects lasting between two to five years that focus on improving detection and cleanup of oil spills as well as improving the sustainability of fisheries. This is conducive to the goal of increasing marine health by investing in new technologies and research to reduce the impact or improve prevention of pollution from oil spills as well as improve sustainable harvesting of fish species.

On 22 July 2021, Minister Jordan announced a CAD976 million investment, allocated as part of the 2021 budget, for the purpose of continuing marine conservation efforts with the goal of protecting 25 per cent of Canada's oceans by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.¹⁷¹⁶ Furthermore, a report titled, "The Current - Managing Oceans Act MPAs Now, For the Future" was launched to ensure that the government had been achieving their conservation targets.

On 4 August 2021, the Government of Canada announced that new vessels will be used to respond to large whale and marine mammal incidents such as fishing gear entanglements in order to ensure the safety of marine mammals.¹⁷¹⁷ The CAD379,000 investment will also increase the overall capacity and resources to train rescue and response teams so they can "safely disentangle large whales." Furthermore, investments in more vessels will ensure that marine mammal teams respond to rescue efforts more efficiently and effectively. This action is conducive to reducing the impact of marine litter on marine animals, increasing overall marine health.

¹⁷¹³ Canada-European Union Summit-Joint Statement, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2021/06/15/canada-european-union-summit-joint-statement>

¹⁷¹⁴ Canada and the United States release new action plan for Salish Sea Ecosystem, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-and-the-united-states-release-new-action-plan-for-salish-sea-ecosystem.html>

¹⁷¹⁵ Government of Canada invests in research to help protect Atlantic fisheries and ecosystems, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) July 14, 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-research-to-help-protect-atlantic-fisheries-and-ecosystems.html>

¹⁷¹⁶ Government of Canada making significant progress and investments to protect Canada's oceans, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-making-significant-progress-and-investments-to-protect-canadas-oceans.html>

¹⁷¹⁷ Government of Canada increases marine mammal response capacity in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Shippagan) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-increases-marine-mammal-response-capacity-in-the-southern-gulf-of-st-lawrence.html>

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Canada announced the Call for Proposals for the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk to “support the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk by enabling multi-species, place-based and threat-based approaches to recovery.”¹⁷¹⁸ The CAD29 million fund will take place over five years and prioritize the protection of the Atlantic salmon, Pacific Salmon and North Atlantic right whales in Newfoundland, Labrador and the Arctic. This action is conducive to the goal of increasing overall marine health through the protection of vulnerable marine animals.

On 11 August 2021, Minister Jordan announced the CAD20 million Whalesafe Gear Adoption Fund and a first call for proposals for the fund.¹⁷¹⁹ The fund will help fisheries adopt whalesafe gear in advance of the 2023 ban on fishing gear that is not whalesafe and is conducive to Canada’s commitment to protect and improve overall marine health through encouraging sustainable practices and protecting marine animals.

On 11 August 2021, Minister Jordan announced CAD8.7 million in funding for Ocean Networks Canada to support their research in collecting and sharing data on ocean conditions.¹⁷²⁰ Ocean Networks Canada provides research for the purpose of understanding the potential challenges of protecting marine environments. Furthermore, the Government of Canada is developing an initiative called the Blue Economy Strategy which seeks to secure future federal investments for the protection of Canada’s coasts and waters.

On 12 August 2021, Minister Jordan announced an investment of CAD228,000 over three years to further assess how population sizes of Canadian Arctic species are affected by climate change.¹⁷²¹ The project aims to find new data on the genetics, health and populations of Narwhals, bowhead whales, and belugas in order to preserve and protect these species and prevent population decrease due to environmental changes and climate concerns.

On 16 November 2021, the Government of Canada, on behalf of the Canadian Coast Guard, announced a CAD2 million contract Navenco Marine Inc. for the production of offshore booms.¹⁷²² In the event of an oil spill, the booms will be used to prevent pollution from spreading from the source and to help recover the spilled pollutants. The funding contract is part of Canada’s Oceans Protection Plan and thus is conducive to the commitment to take actions that improve or sustain marine health.

On 30 November 2021, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne announced a CAD3.5 million investment in Montréal-based Polystyvert through Sustainable Development Technology Canada.¹⁷²³ The company will use the investment to complete the scale-up of its patented recycling technology to enable the full circular economy of polystyrene which will help keep polystyrene out of the oceans.

¹⁷¹⁸ The Government of Canada launches Call for Proposals for projects that protect aquatic species at risk, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/the-government-of-canada-launches-call-for-proposals-for-projects-that-protect-aquatic-species-at-risk.html>

¹⁷¹⁹ Government of Canada launches new \$20 million fund to make fishing gear safer for whales, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 1q August 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-launches-new-20-million-fund-to-make-fishing-gear-safer-for-whales.html>

¹⁷²⁰ Government of Canada invests in ocean observation science to help protect Canada’s oceans, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-ocean-observation-science-to-help-protect-canadas-oceans.html>

¹⁷²¹ Government of Canada invests in research to better understand whale populations in the Arctic, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-research-to-better-understand-whale-populations-in-the-arctic.html>

¹⁷²² New equipment for Canadian Coast Guard will help clean up oil spills, Canadian Coast Guard (Ottawa) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2021/11/new-equipment-for-canadian-coast-guard-will-help-clean-up-oil-spills.html>

¹⁷²³ Government of Canada supports leading-edge company specializing in polystyrene recycling that helps protect the environment, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Montréal) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/11/government-of-canada-supports-leading-edge-company-specializing-in-polystyrene-recycling-that-helps-protect-the-environment.html>

On 2 December 2021, Minister Champagne and Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson announced an investment of CAD2.8 million in Open Robotics through Sustainable Development Technology Canada.¹⁷²⁴ The investment helps the company continue to advance its cleantech solution for gathering ocean data and protecting the marine environment with its SeaSense initiative, which aims to protect the marine environment with the latest generation of zero-emission autonomous vessels, artificial intelligence and advanced sensors.

On 15 December 2021, the Government of Canada launched the Call for Proposals to support marine conservation efforts across Canada.¹⁷²⁵ The first national Call for Proposals provides access to CAD5 million in funding for marine conservation projects and CAD20 million “for specific agreements to support ocean conservation and planning in regions across Canada.” These initiatives contribute to the government’s marine conservation efforts to protect 25 per cent of Canada’s oceans by 2025, and ultimately 30 per cent by 2030.

On 20 December 2021, the Government of Canada, on behalf of the Canadian Coast Guard, announced a CAD6 million contract for three offshore skimmers to GRIFFIN Engineered Systems Inc. and a CAD3.5 million contract for five high-speed sweep systems to Navenco Marine Inc.¹⁷²⁶ These vehicles will help the Canadian Coast Guard contain oil spills and recover the spilled oil.

On 11 February 2022, at the One Ocean Summit in Brest, Canada announced that it is joining the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.¹⁷²⁷ The commitment, led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme, seeks to encourage cooperation between governments and organizations towards a circular economy for plastics. One of the stated goals of the commitment is to reduce the amount of plastic entering the oceans.

On 18 February 2022, the Government of Canada funded a research project to study and analyze the first pan-Pacific survey of species of the Pacific salmon.¹⁷²⁸ The project was intended to understand salmon distribution, productivity and survival in coastal environments. By collaborating with the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, the Government of Canada aims to support the protection and restoration for salmon while ensuring that fish and seafood sectors are secured for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

On 2 March 2022, the Government of Canada collaborated with international partners at UNEA-5.2 and agreed to a resolution to negotiate a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution by 2024.^{1729,1730} The Canadian

¹⁷²⁴ Government of Canada backs visionary company’s high-tech solution for better protecting marine environments through innovative data-collection technology, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Victoria) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-backs-visionary-companys-high-tech-solution-for-better-protecting-marine-environments-through-innovative-data-collection-techn.html>

¹⁷²⁵ Government of Canada launches Call for Proposals to support marine conservation efforts across Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-launches-call-for-proposals-to-support-marine-conservation-efforts-across-canada.html>

¹⁷²⁶ New equipment for Canadian Coast Guard will help clean up oil spills, Canadian Coast Guard Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2021/12/new-equipment-for-canadian-coast-guard-will-help-clean-up-oil-spills.html>

¹⁷²⁷ Eleven additional governments commit to New Plastics Economy, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 11 February 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/eleven-additional-governments-commit-new-plastics-economy>

¹⁷²⁸ Government of Canada supports expedition undertaking first of its kind pan-Pacific salmon survey, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 18 February 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2022/02/government-of-canada-supports-expedition-undertaking-first-of-its-kind-pan-pacific-salmon-survey.html>

¹⁷²⁹ UN agrees to create global plastic pollution treaty, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Toronto) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/plastic-pollution-agreement-1.6369869>

delegation helped to lead the process as a co-facilitator alongside Ghana and in this capacity helped to build consensus and secure the mandate needed to develop a legally binding resolution.¹⁷³¹ The resolution aims to take a full life cycle approach to address plastic pollution.

On 4 April 2022, the Government of Canada announced new environmental measures for cruise ships.¹⁷³² The new measures include increased treatment standards for greywater and blackwater discharged from cruise ships as well as rules prohibiting the discharge of grey and blackwater from cruise ships within three nautical miles of shore. These new measures exceed international standards and will help protect Canada's marine environment.

Between 13 April and 14 April 2022, Canada participated in the 7th Our Ocean Conference co-hosted by The Republic of Palau and the United States.^{1733,1734} The purpose of the conference is to help protect the marine health of oceans.

On 27 May 2022, Canada and the rest of the G7 members reached an agreement on the terms of the Ocean Deal.¹⁷³⁵ The Ocean Deal reaffirms the G7's commitment to tackle marine and ocean related ecological challenges. Internationally, the G7 members call for the creation of new international legally binding instruments to aid in reaching ocean related targets, commits to strengthening efforts to reach zero emission international shipping by 2050 and also commits to strengthening the Regional Seas Conventions and ocean related Action Plans. Nationally, the G7 members commit to strengthen efforts to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of their national coastal and marine areas by 2030 as well as take ambitious national action to address plastic pollution. The G7 also expressed their determination to close the financing gap for SDG 14 and reaffirmed their commitments to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

On 6 June 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau, during a meeting with Chile's President Gabriel Boric, announced that Canada will co-sponsor the Chilean-led Americas for the Protection of the Ocean Declaration.¹⁷³⁶ This is consistent with Canada's commitment to protect and maintain the health of its oceans and coasts.

On 8 June 2022, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Joyce Murray announced the establishment of the Eastern Canyons Marine Refuge.¹⁷³⁷ This action is consistent with Canada's commitment to conserve 25 per cent of its oceans by 2025, and 30 per cent by 2030.

¹⁷³⁰ Canada supports a new legally binding global agreement on plastics as UN meeting kicks off in Kenya, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 28 February 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/02/canada-supports-a-new-legally-binding-global-agreement-on-plastics-as-un-meeting-kicks-off-in-kenya.html>

¹⁷³¹ Canada supports a new legally binding global agreement on plastics as UN meeting kicks off in Kenya, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 28 February 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/02/canada-supports-a-new-legally-binding-global-agreement-on-plastics-as-un-meeting-kicks-off-in-kenya.html>

¹⁷³² The Government of Canada and industry announce new environmental measures for cruise ships, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 4 April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2022/04/the-government-of-canada-and-industry-announce-new-environmental-measures-for-cruise-ships.html>

¹⁷³³ Our Ocean Conference Closes in Palau with more than 400 Commitments to Protect Ocean Health and Security, Our Ocean Palau (Palau) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/our-ocean-conference-closes-in-palau-with-more-than-400-commitments-to-protect-ocean-health-and-security/>

¹⁷³⁴ Participating Representatives, Our Ocean 2022 (Palau) April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/participating-representatives/>

¹⁷³⁵ G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

¹⁷³⁶ Prime Minister concludes successful visit of President of Chile Gabriel Boric, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 6 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/06/06/prime-minister-concludes-successful-visit-president-chile-gabriel>

¹⁷³⁷ On World Oceans Day 2022 the Government of Canada works to conserve Canada's oceans, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 8 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2022/06/on-world-oceans-day-2022-the-government-of-canada-works-to-conserve-canadas-oceans.html>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. It has strengthened existing instruments through the allocation of funding towards capacity building, research, development and uptake of new technologies and litter reducing methods. This is also conducive to accelerating the reduction of marine pollution and increasing overall marine health. In addition to this, Canada has signed agreements with its allies to work together for the conservation of marine environments and has taken action in order to establish a new global agreement at UNEA-5

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nwal Anwar

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 19 June 2021, France sent a team of marine conservation experts to Sri Lanka in cooperation with Italy and the European Union under the United Nations Environment Programme to assist Sri Lanka in addressing the environmental impact of the MV X-Press Pearl disaster.¹⁷³⁸ The team is working closely with the Sri Lankan government to plan ways to mitigate the adverse effects of the 348 tons of oil and billions of small plastic pellets that have spilled into the Indian Ocean and will produce a report with recommendations for cleanup measures and preventative measures for future maritime incidents.¹⁷³⁹

On 19 July 2021, the Government of France reaffirmed their commitments to protecting oceans and biodiversity in the final declaration of the France-Oceania summit.¹⁷⁴⁰ The declaration recognizes the importance of the ocean in combating climate change and preserving biodiversity and calls for more action to protect the ocean. Additionally the declaration advocates for 30 per cent of the ocean to be designated as marine protected areas and to work towards an international treaty that recognizes the ocean in areas beyond national jurisdiction as a global common to be preserved. It targets illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices and indicates the intention to work together to remove the products of IUU fishing from trade flows, as well as build capacity to prevent IUU fishing through training and using technology such as satellites to reinforce maritime surveillance. The declaration also supports launching intergovernmental negotiations on global plastic pollution to create binding agreements and protect marine ecosystems, particularly at the second session of UNEA-5.

On 10 September 2021, the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), hosted by France in Marseille, released the Marseille Manifesto.¹⁷⁴¹ France as the host country committed to increase its national protected areas, achieving 30 per cent of protected areas nationally by 2022 and 5 per cent of its Mediterranean maritime area under strong protection by 2027, as well as to help

¹⁷³⁸ UN-EU experts deploy to support Sri Lanka address the environmental impact of MV X-press Pearl disaster, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York City) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/un-eu-experts-deploy-support-sri-lanka-address-environmental-impact-mv-x-press>
¹⁷³⁹ Oil, acid, plastic: Inside the shipping disaster gripping Sri Lanka, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/oil-acid-plastic-inside-shipping-disaster-gripping-sri-lanka>

¹⁷⁴⁰ Final declaration - 5th France-Oceania Summit, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/asia-and-oceania/news/article/final-declaration-5th-france-oceania-summit-19-jul-21>

¹⁷⁴¹ France welcomes the international mobilization and the progress made to preserve and restore biodiversity, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 10 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/france-se-felicite-mobilisation-internationale-et-des-avancees-obtenues-preserve-et-restaurer>

advance the international agenda for the protection of the oceans by organizing a One Ocean Summit and also promote a treaty on plastic pollution.¹⁷⁴² The IUCN also adopted resolutions regarding protecting deep-ocean ecosystems through a moratorium on seabed mining and for biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.¹⁷⁴³

On 17 September 2021, France partook in the Athens Declaration which emphasized the importance of protecting the Mediterranean and its biodiversity.¹⁷⁴⁴ In the declaration, the southern countries of the European Union agreed to work together on regional climate challenges and also stressed the importance of maritime areas as both suffering from the effects of climate change and as a crucial area to act on in order to mitigate its effects. The declaration also reaffirmed the parties' commitment to protect marine biodiversity.

On 1 October 2021, France, as part of the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission), agreed on the establishment of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) marine protection area and adopted the OSPAR Environment Strategy for the period of 2021 to 2030.¹⁷⁴⁵ The OSPAR Environmental Strategy is based around four themes: clean seas, biologically diverse seas, productive and sustainably used seas and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.¹⁷⁴⁶ It will track various aspects of ocean health, including the reduction of marine pollution, particularly by instituting standards and certification schemes to reduce the entrance of plastic pellets into the marine environment.

On 26 November 2021 Minister of State for Tourism Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne chaired a meeting of the Indian Ocean Commission.¹⁷⁴⁷ In the meeting Lemoyne announced a workshop devoted to strengthening capabilities for preventing and responding to marine pollution.

On 26 November 2021, France and Italy signed a treaty wherein they agreed to increased bilateral cooperation.¹⁷⁴⁸ The treaty also emphasized the importance of working together in the management of protected areas and reaffirmed the goal of preserving and cleaning the Mediterranean. The signing of the treaty indicates France's willingness to cooperate on an international level on the issue of marine health.

¹⁷⁴² The Marseille Manifesto, IUCN Congress (Marseille) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. https://iucn.s3.eu-west-3.amazonaws.com/en/CGR-2021-1.6_2_Marseille_Manifesto_IUCN_World_Conservation_Congress_10_September_2021.pdf

¹⁷⁴³ World Conservation Congress Mobilizes Attention ahead of Climate, Biodiversity COPs, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/world-conservation-congress-mobilizes-attention-ahead-of-climate-biodiversity-cops/>

¹⁷⁴⁴ Athens Declaration on Climate Change and Environment in the Mediterranean, The Élysée Palace (Athens) 17 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/09/17/declaration-dathenes-sur-le-changement-climatique-et-lenvironnement-dans-la-meditteranee>

¹⁷⁴⁵ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹⁷⁴⁶ OSPAR Ministerial 2021, OSPAR Commission (Cascais) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.ospar.org/news/ospar-ministerial-2021>

¹⁷⁴⁷ Indian Ocean Commission – Participation of M. Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Saint-Denis) 26 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/france-in-the-south-west-indian-ocean/france-and-the-indian-ocean-commission/article/indian-ocean-commission-participation-of-m-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-saint-denis>

¹⁷⁴⁸ Treaty between the French Republic and the Italian Republic for enhance bilateral cooperation, The Élysée Palace (Paris) 26 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/11/26/traité-entre-la-republique-francaise-et-la-republique-italienne-pour-une-cooperation-bilaterale-renforcee>

On 30 November 2021, the France Ocean Committee met and expressed interest in several new measures for protecting marine biodiversity.¹⁷⁴⁹ These projects include accelerating the creation of educational Marine areas, increasing efforts against marine litter, and establishing working groups to increase biodiversity awareness around marine infrastructure projects.

On 22 December 2021, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian visited Costa Rica where discussed cooperation on environmental challenges including ocean protection.¹⁷⁵⁰ Among the topics discussed was the goal to expand the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People goal which aims to conserve 30 per cent of the sea by 2030 and preparations for the Ocean One Summit set to be held in Brest on 11 February 2022.

On 11 February 2022, the French Government hosted the One Ocean Summit in Brest.¹⁷⁵¹ At the summit, President Emmanuel Macron announced the expansion of the Natural Nature Reserve of the French Southern Territories by 1,000,000km² making it the second largest marine protected area in the world.

On 2 March 2022, the Government of France collaborated with international partners at UNEA-5.2 to agree to negotiate a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution by 2024.¹⁷⁵² The resolution seeks to promote the sustainable production and consumption of plastics and reduce the amount of plastic flowing into the ocean through actions that address pollution throughout the entire lifecycle of plastic products.

On 15 March 2022, Secretary of State in charge of Biodiversity Bérangère Abba announced the first part of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030.¹⁷⁵³ One of the key aims of the strategy is to limit harmful activities such as polluting the marine environment.

Between 13 April and 14 April 2022, France participated in the seventh Our Ocean Conference co-hosted by The Republic of Palau and the United States.^{1754,1755}

On 27 May 2022, France and the rest of the G7 members reached an agreement on the terms of the Ocean Deal.¹⁷⁵⁶ The Ocean Deal reaffirms the G7's commitment to tackle marine and ocean related ecological challenges. Internationally, the G7 members call for the creation of new international legally binding

¹⁷⁴⁹ Protection of the marine environment: Bérangère Abba mobilizes the France Ocean Committee upstream of the Interministerial Committee for the Sea and the One Ocean Summit, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/protection-des-milieux-marins-berangere-abba-mobilise-comite-france-ocean-en-amont-du-comite>

¹⁷⁵⁰ Costa Rica – Visit by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (San Jose) 22 December 2021. Access Date 15 January 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/costa-rica/events/article/costa-rica-visit-by-jean-yves-le-drian-dec-22-23-2021>

¹⁷⁵¹ One Ocean Summit: The President of the Republic announces the extension of the National Nature Reserve of the French Southern Territories, which has become the second largest marine protected area in the world, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 11 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/one-ocean-summit-president-republique-annonce-extension-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-terres>

¹⁷⁵² PFUE - France welcomes the historic adoption of the resolution on plastic pollution and marine litter at the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 2 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/pfue-france-salue-ladoption-historique-resolution-sur-pollution-plastique-et-dechets-marins-lors>

¹⁷⁵³ Bérangère Abba presents the first part of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 15 March 2022. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-presente-premier-volet-strategie-nationale-biodiversite-2030>

¹⁷⁵⁴ Our Ocean Conference Closes in Palau with more than 400 Commitments to Protect Ocean Health and Security, Our Ocean Palau (Palau) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/our-ocean-conference-closes-in-palau-with-more-than-400-commitments-to-protect-ocean-health-and-security/>

¹⁷⁵⁵ Participating Representatives, Our Ocean 2022 (Palau) April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/participating-representatives/>

¹⁷⁵⁶ G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

instruments to aid in reaching ocean related targets, commits to strengthening efforts to reach zero emission international shipping by 2050 and also commits to strengthening the Regional Seas Conventions and ocean related Action Plans. Nationally, the G7 members commit to strengthen efforts to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of their national coastal and marine areas by 2030 as well as take ambitious national action to address plastic pollution. The G7 also expressed their determination to close the financing gap for SDG 14 and reaffirmed their commitments to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

France has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. Rather than providing funding for research or capacity building for existing instruments, France's actions have focused on forming agreements at a regional and international level. This includes agreeing to begin negotiations on a new global agreement for plastic pollution at UNEA-5. Further, France has also sent aid to other countries, like Sri Lanka, in order to help them deal with marine pollution.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Luke Orenden

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

From 6 July 2021 to 15 July 2021, Germany attended the annual UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the principal body concerned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹⁷⁵⁷ Germany presented its second voluntary national review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and underscored the need to address three environmental crises in particular as the globe emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic: the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis, and the increase in marine litter. This action demonstrates transparency in reporting its implementation of the SDGs and reaffirms its commitment to addressing the marine litter crisis on the national level.

From 1 September 2021 to 2 September 2021, Germany organized the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution organized in partnership with the governments of Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam and sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).¹⁷⁵⁸ Representatives of the four governments developed a ministerial statement to be forwarded to the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) calling for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) towards a new global agreement to combat marine litter and plastic pollution. This action demonstrates Germany's commitment to addressing marine health on an international level, endorsing the creation of a new concrete instrument through the UNEA.

On 1 October 2021, Germany, as part of the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission), agreed on the establishment of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) marine protection area and adopted the OSPAR

¹⁷⁵⁷ UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Germany calls for a sustainable and climate-friendly post-COVID recovery based on the 2030 Agenda, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/un-high-level-political-forum-on-sustainable-development-germany-calls-for-a-sustainable-and-climate-friendly-post-covid-recovery-based-on-the-2030-agenda>

¹⁷⁵⁸ Ministerial Calls for Global Agreement on Marine Litter, Plastic Pollution, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministerial-calls-for-global-agreement-on-marine-litter-plastic-pollution/>

Environment Strategy for the period of 2021 to 2030.¹⁷⁵⁹ The OSPAR Environmental Strategy is based around four themes, clean seas, biologically diverse seas, productive and sustainably used seas and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.¹⁷⁶⁰ It will track various aspects of ocean health, including the reduction of marine pollution, particularly by instituting standards and certification schemes to reduce the entrance of plastic pellets into the marine environment. This action demonstrates Germany's commitment to addressing ocean litter and marine health on a regional and national level.

On 25 November 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research launched a webinar series on "Plastics in the Environment," to share research and collaborative projects on the issue.¹⁷⁶¹ These webinars cover topics from fighting against plastic pollution in the North Sea and Baltic Sea to identifying microplastics in wastewater.

On 20 October 2021, members of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), whose Chairmanship is currently held by Germany, presented the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) for the period of 2021 to 2030 with an emphasis on combating ocean pollution caused by marine litter and eutrophication caused by over-fertilization.¹⁷⁶² HELCOM, further, updated its Marine Litter Action Plan that by 2025 30 per cent, and by 2030 50 per cent, less litter should end up on Baltic Sea beaches. In addition, the HELCOM partners endorsed the call for a new global agreement on marine pollution drafted at the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. This action again demonstrates Germany's concrete regional leadership and national commitment to combating marine litter.

On 10 February 2022, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze announced an additional EUR20 million funding for the World Bank's PROBLUE fund.¹⁷⁶³ This funding is aimed at promoting efforts to combat marine litter and marine pollution as well as encouraging the sustainable management of marine and coastal environments.

From 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022, Germany attended the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).¹⁷⁶⁴ On 2 March 2022, the Assembly adopted a Draft Ministerial Declaration (UNEP/EA5/24), the theme of which was articulated thus: "strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals." The Ministerial Declaration stressed the decline of biodiversity and habitat health, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, pollution and climate change, and the risk of future pandemics if humanity does not change its relationship with nature. UNEA-5.2 offered member states the opportunity to build on and catalyze multilateral environmental protection and restoration actions. In its plenary session, the Assembly adopted 14 further resolutions and one decision.

¹⁷⁵⁹ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹⁷⁶⁰ OSPAR Ministerial 2021, OSPAR Commission (Cascais) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

<https://www.ospar.org/news/ospar-ministerial-2021>

¹⁷⁶¹ Plastics in the Environment: Webinar Series, Federal Ministry of Education and Research - Plastic in the Environment (Bonn) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2022. <https://bmbf-plastik.de/en/node/406>

¹⁷⁶² HELCOM adopts 10-year plan for the Baltic Sea to reduce litter, noise and fertilizer input, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/helcom-adopts-10-year-plan-for-the-baltic-sea-to-reduce-litter-noise-and-fertiliser-input>

¹⁷⁶³ Federal government goes on the offensive for clean oceans, the protection of marine biodiversity and against marine litter, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 10 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2022. <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldungen/bundesregierung-geht-in-die-offensive-fuer-saubere-ozeane-104052>

¹⁷⁶⁴ UN Environment Assembly concludes with 14 resolutions to curb pollution, protect and restore nature worldwide, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-environment-assembly-concludes-14-resolutions-curb-pollution>

On 2 March 2022, UN member states convened under UNEA-5.2 adopted the draft resolution entitled End Plastic Pollution: Towards an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument (UNEP/EA.5/L.23/Rev.1).¹⁷⁶⁵ This resolution requests that the Executive Director of the UNEA convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including marine pollution. This instrument would initiate an agenda to address the sustainable production and consumption of plastics and promote national, regional, and international cooperative efforts to achieve its objectives, including through awareness-raising and education campaigns as well as monitoring member compliance.

From 13 April 2022 to 14 April 2022, Federal Minister of the Environment Steffi Lemke attended the 7th Our Ocean Conference co-hosted by The Republic of Palau and the United States.¹⁷⁶⁶ The conference focused on international ocean governance regarding marine protected areas, marine pollution, the ocean-climate crisis, creating sustainable blue economies, advancing sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture and achieving a safe, just and secure ocean.

On 25 May 2022, Environment Minister Lemke, German Environment Agency (UBA) President Dirk Messner and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Michael Regan signed a joint-declaration signifying their intent to expand cooperation between the UBA and EPA.¹⁷⁶⁷ The joint-declaration will lead to increased UBA and EPA cooperation for issues such as marine protection and recycling management.

On 27 May 2022, Germany and the rest of the G7 members reached an agreement on the terms of the Ocean Deal.¹⁷⁶⁸ The Ocean Deal reaffirms the G7's commitment to tackle marine and ocean related ecological challenges. Internationally, the G7 members call for the creation of new international legally binding instruments to aid in reaching ocean related targets, commits to strengthening efforts to reach zero emission international shipping by 2050 and also commits to strengthening the Regional Seas Conventions and ocean related Action Plans. Nationally, the G7 members commit to strengthen efforts to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of their national coastal and marine areas by 2030 as well as take ambitious national action to address plastic pollution. The G7 also expressed their determination to close the financing gap for SDG 14 and reaffirmed their commitments to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. Rather than providing funding for research or capacity building for existing instruments, Germany's actions have focused on forming agreements and agreeing to long term goals at a regional and international level. Germany has also taken action regarding establishing a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Abigail Potter

¹⁷⁶⁵ Proceedings, Report, Ministerial Declaration, Resolutions and Decisions UNEA 5.2, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea-5.2/proceedings-report-ministerial-declaration-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-5.2>

¹⁷⁶⁶ Our Ocean Conference Closes in Palau with more than 400 Commitments to Protect Ocean Health and Security, Our Ocean Palau (Palau) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/our-ocean-conference-closes-in-palau-with-more-than-400-commitments-to-protect-ocean-health-and-security/>

¹⁷⁶⁷ Germany and the United States of America will intensify their environmental policy cooperation, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Bonn) 25 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-and-the-united-states-of-america-will-intensify-their-environmental-policy-cooperation>

¹⁷⁶⁸ G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 19 June 2021, Italy sent a team of marine conservation experts to Sri Lanka in cooperation with the European Union and France under the United Nations Environment Programme to assist Sri Lanka in addressing the environmental impact of the MV X-Press Pearl disaster.¹⁷⁶⁹ The team is working closely with the Sri Lankan government to plan ways to mitigate the adverse effects of the 348 tons of oil and billions of small plastic pellets that have spilled into the Indian Ocean and will produce a report with recommendations for cleanup measures and preventative measures for future maritime incidents.¹⁷⁷⁰

On 22 June 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced the approval of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) as part of the Next Generation EU economic recovery project, marking the beginning of the “Italia Domani” or “Italy Tomorrow” plan to boost the nation’s digital and environmental transitions.¹⁷⁷¹ The plan includes EUR191.5 billion with EUR68.6 billion being allocated to the green revolution and ecological transition sector which tackles issues such as plastic waste management, monitoring marine and coastal areas, and protecting marine habitats.¹⁷⁷² EUR400 million is being invested in increasing the protection for the seabed and restoring marine habitats using new technology.¹⁷⁷³ This action indicates Italy’s ongoing commitment to protecting ocean health by providing funding for conservation, waste management and pollution control.

On 13 July 2021, the Council of Ministers signed a decree banning large ships from entering the Venetian lagoon from 1 August 2021 to protect the “local landscape and environment.”¹⁷⁷⁴ The ban prevents ships heavier than 25,000 tons or longer than 180 meters from entering parts of historical Venice.¹⁷⁷⁵ This action indicates Italy’s ongoing commitment to protecting ocean health.

On 19 July 2021, the Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) announced the beginning of a dissemination campaign titled “The sea you don’t expect.”¹⁷⁷⁶ The campaign aims to share research conducted by experts in the field of monitoring ocean health to raise awareness on the importance of the marine environment to our well-being.

¹⁷⁶⁹ UN-EU experts deploy to support Sri Lanka address the environmental impact of MV X-press Pearl disaster, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York City) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/un-eu-experts-deploy-support-sri-lanka-address-environmental-impact-mv-x-press>

¹⁷⁷⁰ Oil, acid, plastic: Inside the shipping disaster gripping Sri Lanka, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/oil-acid-plastic-inside-shipping-disaster-gripping-sri-lanka>

¹⁷⁷¹ Press conference with PM Draghi and President von der Leyen on the approval of Italy’s NRRP, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/press-conference-pm-draghi-and-president-von-der-leyen-approval-italy-s-nrrp/17409>

¹⁷⁷² The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), The Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-National-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-NRRP/>

¹⁷⁷³ Restoring and protecting the seabed and marine habitats, Italia Domani (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://italiadomani.gov.it/en/Interventi/investimenti/ripristinato-e-tutela-dei-fondali-e-degli-habitat-marini.html>

¹⁷⁷⁴ Ban on large ships and new authorities for the Venetian lagoon: statement by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/ban-large-ships-and-new-authorities-venetian-lagoon-pm-draghi-s-statement/17481>

¹⁷⁷⁵ Italy’s Government to Ban Cruise Ships From Venice, New York Times (New York City) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/13/world/europe/venice-italy-cruise-ship-ban.html>

¹⁷⁷⁶ “The sea you don’t expect”, Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Rome) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/news/the-sea-you-dont-expect>

On 2 September 2021, Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani signed a decree to invest EUR27 million in “plastic eating” eco-compactors which allow for more efficient plastic recycling.¹⁷⁷⁷ The “Mangiaplastica” program aims at reducing plastic waste and promoting the nation’s goal of creating a circular economy.¹⁷⁷⁸ This investment is consistent with Italy’s commitment to reduce plastic pollution.

On 17 September 2021, Italy partook in the Athens Declaration which emphasized the importance of protecting the Mediterranean and its biodiversity.¹⁷⁷⁹ In the declaration, the southern countries of the European Union agreed to work together on regional climate challenges and also stressed the importance of maritime areas as both suffering from the effects of climate change and as a crucial area to act on in order to mitigate its effects. The declaration also reaffirmed the parties’ commitment to protect marine biodiversity.

On 28 September 2021, Minister Cingolani signed the publication of circular economy decrees, introducing EUR2.6 billion in funds for improving waste management systems for plastics, paper and cardboard and textiles.¹⁷⁸⁰ EUR1.5 billion is earmarked for the construction of new waste management plants, EUR600 million for the modernization of existing plants and EUR500 million for monitoring and prevention mechanisms.¹⁷⁸¹ The investment addresses the problem of rising plastic pollution.

On 26 November 2021, Italy and France signed a treaty wherein they agreed to increased bilateral cooperation.¹⁷⁸² The treaty also emphasized the importance of working together in the management of protected areas and reaffirmed the goal of preserving and cleaning the Mediterranean. The signing of the treaty indicates Italy’s willingness to cooperate on an international level on the issue of marine health.

On 9 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and ISPRA signed protocols on marine habitat restoration marking the beginning of close collaboration between the two entities in carrying out the NRRP.¹⁷⁸³ Specifically, the ministry and ISPRA will handle the EUR400 million investment in monitoring coastal ecosystems and restoring the surrounding seabed.

On 9 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition signed a decree allocating EUR2 million to co-finance research projects aimed at “developing technologies for the prevention, recovery, and treatment of

¹⁷⁷⁷ Waste: from MiTE 27 million euros for “plastic-eating” eco-compactors, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 21 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/rifiuti-dal-mite-27-milioni-di-euro-gli-eco-compattatori-mangiaplastica>

¹⁷⁷⁸ “Mangiaplastica Experimental Program” – Contributions to Municipalities in order to reduce plastic waste, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 2 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/bandi/programma-sperimentale-mangiaplastica-contributi-ai-comuni-al-fine-di-ridurre-i-rifiuti>

¹⁷⁷⁹ Athens Declaration on Climate Change and Environment in the Mediterranean, The Élysée Palace (Athens) 17 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/09/17/declaration-dathenes-sur-le-changement-climatique-et-lenvironnement-dans-la-mediterranee>

¹⁷⁸⁰ PNRR – Publication of Circular Economy Decrees, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 28 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/pnrr-pubblicazione-decreti-economia-circolare>

¹⁷⁸¹ The decrees signed by Minister Roberto Cingolani have been published, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 29 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/pubblicati-i-decreti-firmati-dal-ministro-robotto-cingolani>

¹⁷⁸² Treaty between the French Republic and the Italian Republic for enhance bilateral cooperation, The Élysée Palace (Paris) 26 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/11/26/traite-entre-la-republique-francaise-et-la-republique-italienne-pour-une-cooperation-bilaterale-renforcee>

¹⁷⁸³ PNRR: MiTE-Ispra protocol signed for the restoration of the seabed and marine habitats, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/pnrr-firmato-protocollo-mite-ispra-il-ripristino-dei-fondali-e-degli-habitat-marini>

waste.”¹⁷⁸⁴ The ministry aims to incentivize eco-innovation to achieve a sustainable circular economy.¹⁷⁸⁵ This is conducive to the goal of reducing the amount of litter and pollution in the ocean.

On 13 December 2021, President of ISPRA Prefect Stefano Laporta and Chief of Defense Staff Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone signed a five-year agreement encouraging collaboration between ISPRA and the military in the planning and implementation of activities.¹⁷⁸⁶ The agreement includes protection of the soil, air, marine and coastal environment with ISPRA providing technical support in monitoring potentially environmentally hazardous operations undertaken by the military. This is conducive to preventing or reducing the impact of human activities on the marine environment.

On 17 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition approved the funding of EUR198,135 to Tuscia University as part of the initiative to fund research aimed at reducing single-use plastic waste.¹⁷⁸⁷ The research will explore the possibility of integrating single-use plastic PPE in reinforced asphalt.¹⁷⁸⁸ This is conducive to reducing the amount of plastic pollution that ends up in the oceans.

On 24 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition, ISPRA, and Ministry of Defense signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in constructing a multipurpose naval vessel with state-of-the-art ocean research capabilities.¹⁷⁸⁹ The vessel will be available to ISPRA to conduct research activities in the Mediterranean Sea such as monitoring the seabed and marine habitats. The ship will be built with particular emphasis on reducing its impact on the environment with low levels of underwater noise and electric propulsion.

On 29 January 2022, the Ministry of Ecological Transition signed a memorandum with the Alliance of Italian Fishing Cooperatives and the Marevivo environmental association to encourage the use of boxes for the transport of fish products that are made of renewable materials.¹⁷⁹⁰ The memorandum promotes the experimentation in the implementation of more environmentally friendly packaging, in line with the European Action Plan for a circular economy.

¹⁷⁸⁴ DIREZIONE GENERALE ECONOMIA CIRCOLARE, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 January 2022. https://www.mite.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/bandi/ECI/2021-12-09_dd_83.pdf

¹⁷⁸⁵ Call for the co-financing of research projects aimed at the development of technologies for the prevention, recovery, recycling and treatment of waste not falling within the categories already served by supply chain consortia, for the eco-design of products, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/bandi/bando-il-cofinanziamento-di-progetti-di-ricerca-volti-allo-sviluppo-di-tecnologie-la>

¹⁷⁸⁶ Framework agreement on environmental protection signed between ISPRA and Italian Defence Staff, Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Rome) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/news/framework-agreement-on-environmental-protection-signed-between-ispra-and-italian-defence-staff>

¹⁷⁸⁷ Call for the funding of research activities aimed at reducing single-use plastic waste – 2021 Edition, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 17 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/bandi/bando-il-finanziamento-di-attivita-di-ricerca-volta-alla-riduzione-dei-rifiuti-prodotti-da>

¹⁷⁸⁸ DIREZIONE GENERALE ECONOMIA CIRCOLARE, Ministry of Ecological transition (Rome) 17 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 January 2022. https://www.mite.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/bandi/ECI/dd_eci_94_17_12_2021_graduatoria_bando_riduzione_plastica_monouso.pdf

¹⁷⁸⁹ MITE-DEFESA-ISPRA memorandum of understanding signed for the construction of a new hydro-oceanographic naval unit, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 24 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/firmato-protocollo-d-intesa-mite-difesa-ispra-la-realizzazione-di-una-nuova-unita-navale>

¹⁷⁹⁰ Circular economy: MiTE signs protocol for sustainable packaging of fish products and containment of marine plastic pollution, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Rome) 29 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/economia-circolare-mite-sigla-protocollo-imbballaggi-sostenibili-dei-prodotti-itici-e>

On 11 February 2022, at the One Ocean Summit in Brest, Italy announced that it is joining the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.¹⁷⁹¹ The commitment, led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme, seeks to encourage cooperation between governments and organizations towards a circular economy for plastics. One of the stated goals of the commitment is to reduce the amount of plastic entering the oceans.

On 2 March 2022, Italy, as part of the UN member states at UNEA-5.2, agreed to a resolution to begin the process of negotiating a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution with the goal of instituting it by 2024.¹⁷⁹² The resolution seeks to produce a treaty that utilizes binding and voluntary measures to address plastic pollution and its impact on the environment through focusing on measures that deal with the entire life cycle of plastics.¹⁷⁹³ Italy was represented at the event by Roberto Cingolani, Italian Minister for Ecological Transition, who provided a video statement for the occasion.¹⁷⁹⁴

On 17 March 2022, the Italian Government submitted the MEPC 78/11 document to the International Maritime Organization with other Mediterranean governments, beginning the process of designating the Mediterranean Sea as a “Sulfur Emission Control Area”.¹⁷⁹⁵ This represents the adherence to the Barcelona Convention which is coordinated by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Center for the Mediterranean Sea. The proposal will lead to more restrictive guidelines to limit sulfur emissions caused by the combustion of marine fuels, protecting both human and environmental health.

On 11 April 2022, Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani announced that Italy will be joining the Blue Leaders alliance, a group of countries that work to protect the ocean from pollution and overfishing.¹⁷⁹⁶ Founded by Belgium in 2019, the group of 19 member states aim to safeguard 30 per cent of oceans by 2030 through a network of protected marine areas. The group also advocates for the swift establishment of a new High Seas Treaty that promotes the creation of highly protected marine areas in the high seas.

Between 13 April and 14 April 2022, Italy participated in the 7th Our Ocean Conference co-hosted by The Republic of Palau and the United States.^{1797,1798}

On 27 May 2022, Italy and the rest of the G7 members reached an agreement on the terms of the Ocean Deal.¹⁷⁹⁹ The Ocean Deal reaffirms the G7’s commitment to tackle marine and ocean related ecological

¹⁷⁹¹ Eleven additional governments commit to New Plastics Economy, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 11 February 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/eleven-additional-governments-commit-new-plastics-economy>

¹⁷⁹² Proceedings, Report, Ministerial Declaration, Resolutions and Decisions UNEA 5.2, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea-5.2/proceedings-report-ministerial-declaration-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-5.2>

¹⁷⁹³ Towards UNEA-5.2, Geneva Environment Network (Geneva) 4 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/updates/towards-unea-5-2/>

¹⁷⁹⁴ Statements, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea-5.2/statements>

¹⁷⁹⁵ Newsletter n.10 / 2022 - The journey towards the creation of a SECA area in the Mediterranean Sea continues, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Rome) 17 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022.

<https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/newsletter-n-10-2022-prosegue-spedito-il-cammino-la-creazione-di-un-area-seca-nel-mare>

¹⁷⁹⁶ National day of the sea: Minister Cingolani announces Italy’s membership of the Blue Leaders, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Rome) 11 April 2022. Access Date: 5 May 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/giornata-nazionale-del-mare-il-ministro-cingolani-annuncia-l-adesione-dell-italia-ai-blue>

¹⁷⁹⁷ Our Ocean Conference Closes in Palau with more than 400 Commitments to Protect Ocean Health and Security, Our Ocean Palau (Palau) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/our-ocean-conference-closes-in-palau-with-more-than-400-commitments-to-protect-ocean-health-and-security/>

¹⁷⁹⁸ Participating Representatives, Our Ocean 2022 (Palau) April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/participating-representatives/>

¹⁷⁹⁹ G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

challenges. Internationally, the G7 members call for the creation of new international legally binding instruments to aid in reaching ocean related targets, commits to strengthening efforts to reach zero emission international shipping by 2050 and also commits to strengthening the Regional Seas Conventions and ocean related Action Plans. Nationally, the G7 members commit to strengthen efforts to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of their national coastal and marine areas by 2030 as well as take ambitious national action to address plastic pollution. The G7 also expressed their determination to close the financing gap for SDG 14 and reaffirmed their commitments to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. It has strengthened existing instruments through the allocation of funding towards research on waste reduction and plastic pollution reduction and has invested heavily in the protection and restoration of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the NRRP. This is also conducive to accelerating the reduction of marine pollution and increasing overall marine health. In addition to this, Italy has collaborated with other countries, like Sri Lanka, in dealing with marine pollution and has worked closely with its allies under the United Nations Environment Programme. Italy has also taken action to establish a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kenji Tan

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 20 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the “Marine Initiative” to further the realization of the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” which aims to phase out marine litter by 2050.¹⁸⁰⁰ The “Marine Initiative” focuses on combating plastic litter through the management of wastes, recovery of marine litter, innovation and empowerment.¹⁸⁰¹ The plan includes official development assistance focused in Southeast Asia, providing developing nations with technical expertise, national action plans, and waste management frameworks.¹⁸⁰²

On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of the Environment launched the “Demonstration Project for a Plastic Resource Circulation System toward a Decarbonized Society” and selected six projects to implement to improve Japan’s recycling techniques.¹⁸⁰³ These projects include developing chemical recycling systems for plastic composite materials and new technologies for difficult-to-recycle plastics which contribute to a reduction in marine plastic litter. This is consistent with Japan’s aim to reduce marine litter as part of the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.”

On 6 December 2021, the Government of Japan submitted a draft resolution to the United Nations Environment Programme on “an international legally binding instrument on marine plastic pollution” to be

¹⁸⁰⁰ Japan’s “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

¹⁸⁰¹ “MARINE” Initiative, Global Partnership on Marine Litter (Nairobi) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022. <https://www.gpmarinelitter.org/resources/information-documents/marine-initiative>

¹⁸⁰² “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000493728.pdf>

¹⁸⁰³ MOEJ launched the “Demonstration Project for a Plastic Resource Circulation System toward a Decarbonized Society” and selected 6 projects, Ministry of the Environment Japan (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2537.html>

discussed at UNEA-5.¹⁸⁰⁴ The framework is based on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision approved in June 2019, aiming to eliminate additional plastic litter by 2050 while acknowledging its uses in society.¹⁸⁰⁵ The resolution focuses on plastic waste management in a life-cycle approach with emphasis on both upstream and downstream stages of plastic handling to promote resource efficiency and a circular economy.

On 14 January 2022, the Cabinet approved an ordinance ordering businesses to reduce 12 types of disposable plastic materials, including straws and cutlery, starting April 2022 in a push to protect the marine environment.¹⁸⁰⁶ The government is allowing businesses flexibility in how they carry out such measures with options ranging from sustainable alternatives to plastic to providing customers incentives to not use disposable plastics.

On 2 March 2022, Japan collaborated with international partners at UNEA-5.2 to agree to negotiate a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution by 2024.¹⁸⁰⁷ The adopted resolution was produced from a merging of three draft resolutions including one proposed by Japan.¹⁸⁰⁸ The resolution seeks to produce a treaty that will help end plastic pollution by focusing on the entire life cycle of plastics and proposes utilizing both binding and voluntary measures to achieve this.

Between 13 April and 14 April 2022, Japan participated in the 7th Our Ocean Conference co-hosted by The Republic of Palau and the United States.^{1809,1810} Prime Minister Fumio Kishida provided a video speech for the conference reiterating Japan's commitment to protection of the marine environment and sustainable and equitable use of marine resources.¹⁸¹¹

On 27 May 2022, Japan and the rest of the G7 members reached an agreement on the terms of the Ocean Deal.¹⁸¹² The Ocean Deal reaffirms the G7's commitment to tackle marine and ocean related ecological challenges. Internationally, the G7 members call for the creation of new international legally binding instruments to aid in reaching ocean related targets, commits to strengthening efforts to reach zero emission international shipping by 2050 and also commits to strengthening the Regional Seas Conventions and ocean related Action Plans. Nationally, the G7 members commit to strengthen efforts to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of their national coastal and marine areas by 2030 as well as take ambitious national action to address plastic pollution. The G7 also expressed their determination to close the financing gap for SDG 14 and reaffirmed their commitments to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

¹⁸⁰⁴ Japan Seeks Int'l Framework to Tackle Marine Plastic Waste, Nippon.com (Tokyo) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021120700576/>

¹⁸⁰⁵ Draft Resolution on an international legally binding instrument on marine plastic pollution Proposed by: JAPAN, Government of Japan (Tokyo) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37625/Draft%20Resolution%20on%20an%20international%20legally%20binding%20instrument%20on%20marine%20plastic%20pollution_Japan.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

¹⁸⁰⁶ Japan to cut plastic waste from April via new Cabinet ordinance, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 14 January 2022. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/01/14/national/plastic-waste-cabinet-ordinance/>

¹⁸⁰⁷ UNEA Resolution - 'End Plastic Pollution' - and IUCN role in implementation of the Treaty, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Gland) 9 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.iucn.org/news/marine-and-polar/202203/unea-resolution-end-plastic-pollution-and-iucn-role-implementation-treaty>

¹⁸⁰⁸ Towards UNEA-5.2, Geneva Environment Network (Geneva) 4 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/updates/towards-unea-5-2/>

¹⁸⁰⁹ Our Ocean Conference Closes in Palau with more than 400 Commitments to Protect Ocean Health and Security, Our Ocean Palau (Palau) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/our-ocean-conference-closes-in-palau-with-more-than-400-commitments-to-protect-ocean-health-and-security/>

¹⁸¹⁰ Participating Representatives, Our Ocean 2022 (Palau) April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/participating-representatives/>

¹⁸¹¹ Video Message by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at the 7th Our Ocean Conference, Prime Minister of Japan (Tokyo) 15 April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202204/_00008.html

¹⁸¹² G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. Domestically, Japan has passed legislation to limit the use of plastics in society and has worked to improve waste management infrastructure to better recycle the plastic that already exists. Internationally, Japan is taking a leading role in advocating for a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution as they proposed a draft resolution and agreed to a subsequent resolution to start negotiations for a legally binding treaty at UNEA5.2.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kenji Tan

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 18 June 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that it would provide marine pollution expertise to help respond to the X-press Pearl disaster.¹⁸¹³ The Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science will provide expertise and analytical capacity to support plastic pollution monitoring, as well as environmental and socioeconomic impact assessments in cooperation with the Sri Lankan government.

On 13 July 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced EUR16.2 million in funding in order to increase marine protection, tackle plastic pollution and the decline of global coral reefs.¹⁸¹⁴ The funding is part of the government's Blue Planet Fund. The projects receiving funding include the Ocean Country Partnership Programme, which will help developing countries access and partner with British scientists to better manage marine protected areas and develop our understanding of the impacts of climate change and contaminants in the ocean.

On 13 August 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that a share of the Blue Planet Fund's GBP16.2 million will go towards the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) to help developing countries combat plastic waste.¹⁸¹⁵ This aims to protect marine species living in coastal regions and reduce mismanaged waste across several countries.

On 15 August 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced a trade ban on the import and export of detached shark fins and products containing them.¹⁸¹⁶ The government intends this ban to help with shark conservation efforts, noting that the presence and variety of sharks in marine areas acts as a key indicator for ocean health and that sharks play a vital role in marine ecosystems by helping to maintain healthy levels of fish below them in the food chain.

¹⁸¹³ UK Government marine experts to support Sri Lanka with X-press Pearl pollution response, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-marine-experts-to-support-sri-lanka-with-x-press-pearl-pollution-response>

¹⁸¹⁴ Cefas to partner on government's support to protect the world's oceans with boost for marine recovery, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (London) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cef-as-to-partner-on-governments-support-to-protect-the-worlds-oceans-with-boost-for-marine-recovery>

¹⁸¹⁵ Government scales up support to protect the world's ocean with multimillion boost for marine recovery, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-scales-up-support-to-protect-the-worlds-ocean-with-multimillion-boost-for-marine-recovery>

¹⁸¹⁶ Government to introduce world-leading ban on shark fin trade, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-introduce-world-leading-ban-on-shark-fin-trade>

On 25 August 2021, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) announced four funding rounds amounting to GBP6.1 million in to support key areas of the marine and fisheries sector.¹⁸¹⁷ The funding rounds are delivered by the MMO on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as part of the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme and, in addition to supporting fishing businesses, will look to fund projects that contribute towards protecting the marine environment and deliver world class science and technological advancements.

On 1 October 2021, the United Kingdom, as part of the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission), agreed on the establishment of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) marine protection area and adopted the OSPAR Environment Strategy for the period of 2021 to 2030.¹⁸¹⁸ The OSPAR Environmental Strategy is based around four themes, clean seas, biologically diverse seas, productive and sustainably used seas and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.¹⁸¹⁹ It will track various aspects of ocean health, including the reduction of marine pollution, particularly by instituting standards and certification schemes to reduce the entrance of plastic pellets into the marine environment.

On 9 November 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that the Environment Act has become law.¹⁸²⁰ The goal of the act is to “restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity and reduce waste.”¹⁸²¹ Through the act, the government is introducing the Deposit Return Scheme for plastic containers where a deposit fee will be placed on containers in order to encourage recycling.¹⁸²² The government is also introducing the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme which entails that packaging producers will cover the cost of recycling and disposing of their packaging. Furthermore, the Act will ensure that water companies do not discharge pollution such as sewage into rivers and coastlines.¹⁸²³

On 17 November 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom launched the Blue Shield Programme which tackles “illegal fishing and unlawful marine activities” around the UK Overseas Territories.¹⁸²⁴ The programme will identify unregulated, unreported or otherwise illegal fishing activities which are harmful to marine health and threaten the sustainability of fish populations. The programme includes drone technology and satellite surveillance data to monitor all maritime activity across the UK Overseas Territories to manage any harmful fishing practices in oceans.

On 27 January 2022, Minister of State for the Pacific and the International Environment Peter Goldsmith announced that the Government of the United Kingdom will invest GBP2 million to support international

¹⁸¹⁷ Fisheries and Seafood Scheme funding rounds open for applications, Marine Management Organisation (London) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fisheries-and-seafood-scheme-funding-rounds-open-for-applications>

¹⁸¹⁸ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹⁸¹⁹ OSPAR Ministerial 2021, OSPAR Commission (Cascais) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.ospar.org/news/ospar-ministerial-2021>

¹⁸²⁰ Environment Act 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 28 January 2022. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/enacted>

¹⁸²¹ World-leading Environment Act becomes law, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

¹⁸²² Plans unveiled to ban single-use plastics, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-unveiled-to-ban-single-use-plastics>

¹⁸²³ World-leading Environment Act becomes law, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

¹⁸²⁴ New ‘Blue Shield’ for UK Overseas Territories to Defend Oceans, Marine Management Organisation (London) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-blue-shield-for-uk-overseas-territories-to-defend-oceans>

efforts to protect 500 square kilometres of ocean through the World Bank’s PROBLUE fund.¹⁸²⁵ The United Kingdom will also send experts to provide technical operating assistance through the Ocean Country Partnership Programme. The areas to be protected include key migratory routes for sea turtles, sharks, whales and rays and represents some of the most biodiverse marine environments in the Eastern Pacific ocean.

On 2 March 2022, the Government of the United Kingdom collaborated with international partners at UNEA-5.2 to agree to negotiate a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution by 2024.¹⁸²⁶ The resolution seeks to promote the sustainable production and consumption of plastics and reduce the amount of plastic flowing into the ocean. The Government of the United Kingdom also agreed to participate in establishing the Intergovernmental Science Policy Panel to “facilitate communication between scientists and policymakers,” and introduce the Deposit Return Scheme which can recycle more plastic bottles in order to prevent landfill and litter.

On 16 March 2022, the Government of the United Kingdom announced new targets on the Environment Act to protect nature recovery.¹⁸²⁷ The proposed targets include creating legally binding targets for species abundance in order to “increase species populations by 10% by 2042.”¹⁸²⁸ The Government of the United Kingdom has agreed to consultation periods with environment groups and stakeholders to establish a legal framework and implement conservation practices to ensure more protected areas across all regions with a specific focus on improving marine conservation health.

On 13 April 2022, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the implementation of four Marine Management Organisation bye laws that prohibit harmful fishing activity in four Marine Protected Areas.¹⁸²⁹

Between 13 April and 14 April 2022, the United Kingdom participated in the 7th Our Ocean Conference co-hosted by The Republic of Palau and the United States.^{1830,1831}

On 27 May 2022, the United Kingdom and the rest of the G7 members reached an agreement on the terms of the Ocean Deal.¹⁸³² The Ocean Deal reaffirms the G7’s commitment to tackle marine and ocean related ecological challenges. Internationally, the G7 members call for the creation of new international legally binding instruments to aid in reaching ocean related targets, commits to strengthening efforts to reach zero emission international shipping by 2050 and also commits to strengthening the Regional Seas Conventions and ocean related Action Plans. Nationally, the G7 members commit to strengthen efforts to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of their national coastal and marine areas by 2030 as well as take ambitious

¹⁸²⁵ UK supports international efforts to protect over 500,000 km of ocean with £2M investment, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 27 January 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-international-efforts-to-protect-over-500000-km-of-ocean-with-2m-investment>

¹⁸²⁶ UK backs ambitious global action to tackle plastic pollution, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Securities (London) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-backs-ambitious-global-action-to-tackle-plastic-pollution>

¹⁸²⁷ Delivering on the Environment Act: new targets announced and ambitious plans for nature recovery, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 16 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/delivering-on-the-environment-act-new-targets-announced-and-ambitious-plans-for-nature-recovery>

¹⁸²⁸ Delivering on the Environment Act: new targets announced and ambitious plans for nature recovery, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 16 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/delivering-on-the-environment-act-new-targets-announced-and-ambitious-plans-for-nature-recovery>

¹⁸²⁹ Government uses Brexit freedoms to protect our seas, Marine Management Organisation (Newcastle) 13 April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-uses-brexit-freedoms-to-protect-our-seas>

¹⁸³⁰ Our Ocean Conference Closes in Palau with more than 400 Commitments to Protect Ocean Health and Security, Our Ocean Palau (Palau) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/our-ocean-conference-closes-in-palau-with-more-than-400-commitments-to-protect-ocean-health-and-security/>

¹⁸³¹ Participating Representatives, Our Ocean 2022 (Palau) April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/participating-representatives/>

¹⁸³² G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

national action to address plastic pollution. The G7 also expressed their determination to close the financing gap for SDG 14 and reaffirmed their commitments to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. The UK has acted to strengthen existing measures by allocating investments for research, setting regulations for companies to reduce emissions and marine pollution, and has further cooperated with other countries in order to protect endangered species, their habitats, and marine ecosystems. The UK has also taken action regarding establishing a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nwal Ammar

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 13 July 2021, the governments of the United States and Canada announced the signing of a four-year action plan to jointly protect and manage the health of the Salish Sea ecosystem.¹⁸³³ In the action plan, Canada and the United States indicated that they will continue to collaborate with their partners through information sharing, improving transboundary coordination, and reporting on ecosystem health.

On 16 September 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, and the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women Marise Payne and Minister for Defense Peter Dutton committed to taking greater action to protect oceans and biodiversity.¹⁸³⁴ The Secretaries and Ministers committed to conserving 30 per cent of global land and oceans as well as fighting marine plastic pollution in the Indo-Pacific by invigorate existing ocean related partnerships.

On 7 October 2021, President Biden signed a proclamation restoring protections for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument.¹⁸³⁵ The 4,913 square mile area which contains a diverse amount of marine life will be protected from harmful activities including injuring or disturbing monument resources, drilling or dredging.¹⁸³⁶ Commercial fishing will be prohibited in the area, with fishing for red crab and American lobster to be phased out by September 15, 2023, recreational fishing in the area will continue.¹⁸³⁷

¹⁸³³ Canada and the United States release new action plan for Salish Sea Ecosystem, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-and-the-united-states-release-new-action-plan-for-salish-sea-ecosystem.html>

¹⁸³⁴ Joint Statement on Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) 2021, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-australia-u-s-ministerial-consultations-ausmin-2021/>

¹⁸³⁵ President Biden Restores Protections for Three National Monuments and Renews American Leadership to Steward Lands, Waters, and Cultural Resources, The White House (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/07/fact-sheet-president-biden-restores-protections-for-three-national-monuments-and-renews-american-leadership-to-steward-lands-waters-and-cultural-resources/>

¹⁸³⁶ Secretary Raimondo, Administration Leaders Applaud President Biden's Restoration of National Monuments, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/secretary-raimondo-administration-leaders-applaud-president-bidens>

¹⁸³⁷ President Biden Restores Protections for Three National Monuments and Renews American Leadership to Steward Lands, Waters, and Cultural Resources, The White House (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/07/fact-sheet-president-biden-restores-protections-for-three-national-monuments-and-renews-american-leadership-to-steward-lands-waters-and-cultural-resources/>

On 2 November 2021, during the World Leaders Summit at COP26, the United States of America announced its membership of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel).¹⁸³⁸ The Ocean Panel aims to promote effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity for ocean habitats and the ocean economy. By joining the Ocean Panel, the United States is indicating its willingness to cooperate internationally in order to protect and preserve the ocean environment.

On 6 November 2021, the Government of the United States announced the passing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.¹⁸³⁹ Included in the deal was a provision for the investment of USD17 billion in port infrastructure improvements to reduce congestion and emissions and drive electrification.¹⁸⁴⁰ Another USD1.959 billion was provided for environmental programs that protect estuaries, rivers and US coastal waters. The act also sets aside US100 million for pollution prevention, US275 million for “Save Our Seas 2.0” for cleaning up marine debris and US75 million for the RECYCLE Act.¹⁸⁴¹

On 16 November 2021, the Assistant Secretary of State Daniel J. Kritenbrink and Assistant Secretary of Defense Ely S. Ratner issued a statement during the United States-Philippines Bilateral Strategic Dialogue that the U.S. and Philippines are working towards the sustainability of marine resources.¹⁸⁴² This includes rehabilitating coastal marine and terrestrial ecosystems, adopting transformative ocean science solutions. Additionally supporting the long-term sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture.

On 18 November 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke at an ocean plastics event announcing the United States would launch multilateral negotiations on ocean plastic pollution at the UN Environmental Assembly in February 2022.¹⁸⁴³ The goal of these negotiations would be to protect oceans for microplastics and remove persistent plastic waste.

On 1 March 2022, President Biden announced an investment to expand access to public lands for fishing, hunting and exploration.¹⁸⁴⁴ This investment of USD1.5 billion under the Wildlife and Sport Fishing Restoration Program, and USD2.8 billion under the Great American Outdoors Act will open 2.1 million acres of public land to fishing.

On 2 March 2022, the United States, in collaboration with its international partners at UNEA-5.2, agreed to begin negotiations on a new globally binding resolution on plastics with the goal of completing the negotiation process by 2024.^{1845,1846} The UN member states agreed that the treaty should encourage the use of financial

¹⁸³⁸ The United States Of America Joins The High Level Panel For A Sustainable Ocean Economy, High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.oceanpanel.org/news/usa-joins-hlp>

¹⁸³⁹ Fact Sheet: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, The White House (Washington D.C.) 6 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/06/fact-sheet-the-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal/>

¹⁸⁴⁰ FACT SHEET: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Boosts Clean Energy Jobs, Strengthens Resilience, and Advances Environmental Justice, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/08/fact-sheet-the-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-boosts-clean-energy-jobs-strengthens-resilience-and-advances-environmental-justice/>

¹⁸⁴¹ FACT SHEET: EPA & The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 6 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/fact-sheet-epa-bipartisan-infrastructure-law>

¹⁸⁴² Joint Vision for a 21st Century United States-Philippines Partnership, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.state.gov/joint-vision-for-a-21st-century-united-states-philippines-partnership/>

¹⁸⁴³ Secretary Antony J. Blinken at an Ocean Plastics Event, US Department of State (Nairobi) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-an-ocean-plastics-event/>

¹⁸⁴⁴ FACT SHEET: The Biden Administration’s Historic Investments To Create Opportunity and Build Wealth in Rural America, The White House (Washington D.C.) 1 March 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/01/fact-sheet-the-biden-administrations-historic-investments-to-create-opportunity-and-build-wealth-in-rural-america/>

¹⁸⁴⁵ UNEA Resolution - ‘End Plastic Pollution’ - and IUCN role in implementation of the Treaty, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Gland) 9 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.iucn.org/news/marine-and-polar/202203/unea-resolution-end-plastic-pollution-and-iucn-role-implementation-treaty>

instruments at both national and international levels and include measures to mitigate and deal with the impacts of plastic pollution in marine and other environments, focusing on the full life cycle of plastic materials.¹⁸⁴⁷

Between 13 April and 14 April 2022, the United States, alongside the Republic of Palau, hosted the 7th Our Ocean Conference.^{1848,1849} At the conference, the United States announced 114 commitments, worth nearly USD2.64 billion from across 14 agencies and offices.¹⁸⁵⁰ The announced commitments dealt with issues of ocean governance discussed at the conference including sustainable blue economies, the creation and maintenance of marine protected areas and reduction and controls on marine pollution.

On 25 May 2022, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Michael Regan signed a joint declaration with German Environment Agency (UBA) President Dirk Messner signifying their intent to expand cooperation.¹⁸⁵¹ The joint-declaration indicates increased EPA and UBA cooperation on environmental issues including marine protection and recycling management.

On 27 May 2022, the United States and the rest of the G7 members reached an agreement on the terms of the Ocean Deal.¹⁸⁵² The Ocean Deal reaffirms the G7's commitment to tackle marine and ocean related ecological challenges. Internationally, the G7 members call for the creation of new international legally binding instruments to aid in reaching ocean related targets, commits to strengthening efforts to reach zero emission international shipping by 2050 and also commits to strengthening the Regional Seas Conventions and ocean related Action Plans. Nationally, the G7 members commit to strengthen efforts to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of their national coastal and marine areas by 2030 as well as take ambitious national action to address plastic pollution. The G7 also expressed their determination to close the financing gap for SDG 14 and reaffirmed their commitments to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

On 3 June 2022, the Government of the United States announced that it was joining the UN Environment Program's Clean Seas Campaign.¹⁸⁵³ The Clean Seas Campaign provides a platform for stakeholders and governments to promote policies, standards and practices that help to reduce marine litter.

On 7 June 2022, the Government of the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) supporting the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR).¹⁸⁵⁴ CMAR seeks to protect more than

¹⁸⁴⁶ UN Environment Assembly 5.2 National Statement, Bureau Of Oceans And International Environmental And Scientific Affairs (Nairobi) 1 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.state.gov/un-environment-assembly-5-2-national-statement/>

¹⁸⁴⁷ UN Environment Assembly 5.2 National Statement, Bureau Of Oceans And International Environmental And Scientific Affairs (Nairobi) 1 March 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022. <https://www.state.gov/un-environment-assembly-5-2-national-statement/>

¹⁸⁴⁸ Our Ocean Conference Closes in Palau with more than 400 Commitments to Protect Ocean Health and Security, Our Ocean Palau (Palau) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/our-ocean-conference-closes-in-palau-with-more-than-400-commitments-to-protect-ocean-health-and-security/>

¹⁸⁴⁹ Participating Representatives, Our Ocean 2022 (Palau) April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/participating-representatives/>

¹⁸⁵⁰ United States Announces Commitments at Seventh Our Ocean Conference, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 21 April 2022. Access Date: 8 May 2022. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-announces-commitments-at-seventh-our-ocean-conference/>

¹⁸⁵¹ Germany and the United States of America will intensify their environmental policy cooperation, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Bonn) 25 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-and-the-united-states-of-america-will-intensify-their-environmental-policy-cooperation>

¹⁸⁵² G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

¹⁸⁵³ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates World Ocean Day with Actions to Conserve America's Deepest Atlantic Canyon, Cut Plastic Pollution, and Create America's First-Ever Ocean Climate Action Plan, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/08/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-celebrates-world-ocean-day-with-actions-to-conserve-americas-deepest-atlantic-canyon-cut-plastic-pollution-and-create-americas-first-ever-o/>

500,000 square kilometres of highly biologically diverse ocean territory including the Galápagos islands. The US and CMAR countries will work together through the MOU to strengthen marine governance, security, conservation financing in order to protect important migratory routes for sea turtles, sharks, rays and whales, and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

On 8 June 2022, to celebrate World Ocean Day, the Government of the United States announced the initiation of the process to create a national marine sanctuary to conserve Hudson Canyon in the Atlantic Ocean, a phase-out of single-use plastics in national parks and on public land and also signified its intent to develop a whole-of-government Ocean Climate Action Plan.¹⁸⁵⁵

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. The US has cooperated internationally to conserve areas of the ocean from plastic pollution and harmful fishing and has agreed to enter into negotiations for the establishment of a new global agreement on plastics at UNEA-5. Additionally, the US has also acted domestically to ensure the protection of habitats by designating protected marine areas and has set aside funding to reduce pollutants of the marine environment and update marine port infrastructure.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Luke Ovenden

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

On 19 June 2021, the European Union sent a team of marine conservation experts to Sri Lanka in cooperation with Italy and France under the United Nations Environment Programme to assist Sri Lanka in addressing the environmental impact of the MV X-Press Pearl disaster.¹⁸⁵⁶ The team is working closely with the Sri Lankan government to plan ways to mitigate the adverse effects of the 348 tons of oil and billions of small plastic pellets that have spilled into the Indian Ocean and will produce a report with recommendations for cleanup measures and preventative measures for future maritime incidents.¹⁸⁵⁷

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted a package of proposals to update its climate policies in line with its emission reduction goals.¹⁸⁵⁸ The adopted measures include an increase to emissions reduction

¹⁸⁵⁴ The United States, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama Sign a Memorandum of Understanding in Support of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR), US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 7 June 2022. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-colombia-costa-rica-ecuador-and-panama-sign-a-memorandum-of-understanding-in-support-of-the-eastern-tropical-pacific-marine-corridor-cmar/>

¹⁸⁵⁵ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates World Ocean Day with Actions to Conserve America's Deepest Atlantic Canyon, Cut Plastic Pollution, and Create America's First-Ever Ocean Climate Action Plan, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/08/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-celebrates-world-ocean-day-with-actions-to-protect-americas-deepest-atlantic-canyon-cut-plastic-pollution-and-create-americas-first-ever-o/>

¹⁸⁵⁶ UN-EU experts deploy to support Sri Lanka address the environmental impact of MV X-press Pearl disaster, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York City) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/un-eu-experts-deploy-support-sri-lanka-address-environmental-impact-mv-x-press>

¹⁸⁵⁷ Oil, acid, plastic: Inside the shipping disaster gripping Sri Lanka, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/oil-acid-plastic-inside-shipping-disaster-gripping-sri-lanka>

¹⁸⁵⁸ European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3541

targets for each member state for maritime transport emissions and waste industries as well as the launch of the FuelEU Maritime Initiative which will encourage the uptake of sustainable fuels used for maritime transport as well as the uptake of zero emission technologies by setting a cap on the amount of greenhouse gas energy usable by ships.

On 29 September 2021, the European Commission adopted five new EU Missions as part of the Horizon Europe funding programme which will support research to deliver on the Commission's main priorities.¹⁸⁵⁹ This includes the mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" focused on marine health. Planned under this mission is the joint provision of EUR500 million in seed funding, from the Horizon Europe programme, the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, Invest EU and other European Union funding programmes between 2021 and 2023.¹⁸⁶⁰ There are also plans to establish the "EU-wide 'Blue Parks' initiative" which will provide new restoration and conservation opportunities across the European Union. Finally, the mission will also support effective water management by instituting a digital knowledge system that includes a digital model of the ocean and improved environmental monitoring of ocean health.

On 1 October 2021, the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission) agreed on the establishment of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) marine protection area and adopted the OSPAR Environment Strategy for the period of 2021 to 2030.¹⁸⁶¹ The OSPAR Environmental Strategy is based around four themes, clean seas, biologically diverse seas, productive and sustainably used seas and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.¹⁸⁶² It will track various aspects of ocean health, including the reduction of marine pollution, particularly by instituting standards and certification schemes to reduce the entrance of plastic pellets into the marine environment. The plan will help European Union Member States protect their marine waters and achieve the commitments under the EU Biodiversity Strategy.¹⁸⁶³ This plan demonstrates the European Union's leadership in coordinating concrete action to address ocean litter and marine health at the regional level.

On 20 October 2021, Contracting Parties of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) presented the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) for the period of 2021 to 2030 with an emphasis on combating ocean pollution caused by marine litter and eutrophication caused by over-fertilization.¹⁸⁶⁴ HELCOM, further, updated its Marine Litter Action Plan that by 2025 30 per cent, and by 2030 50 per cent, less litter should end up on Baltic Sea beaches. In addition, the HELCOM partners endorsed the call for a new global agreement on marine pollution drafted at the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. This action again demonstrates the EU's concrete regional commitment to combating marine litter.

¹⁸⁵⁹ Commission launches EU missions to tackle major challenges, European Commission (Brussels) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4747

¹⁸⁶⁰ Restore our oceans and waters: concrete solutions for our greatest challenges, European Commission (Brussels) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/575d4da8-2659-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-233489300>

¹⁸⁶¹ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹⁸⁶² OSPAR Ministerial 2021, OSPAR Commission (Cascais) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.ospar.org/news/ospar-ministerial-2021>

¹⁸⁶³ EU welcomes 10-year marine strategy for the North-East Atlantic and the designation of a large Marine Protected Area, European Commission (Brussels) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/eu-welcomes-10-year-marine-strategy-north-east-atlantic-and-designation-large-marine-protected-area-2021-10-01_en

¹⁸⁶⁴ HELCOM adopts 10-year plan for the Baltic Sea to reduce litter, noise and fertilizer input, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/helcom-adopts-10-year-plan-for-the-baltic-sea-to-reduce-litter-noise-and-fertiliser-input>

On 25 November 2021, the European Commission announced EUR290 million in funding for 132 environmental projects as part of the LIFE Programme.¹⁸⁶⁵ Projects selected include LIFE ECOREST which works to restore the natural condition of seafloor habitats off the Catalan coast impacted by fishing activities, LIFE PortSounds which seeks to mitigate the impact of port noise on marine animals, LIFE SeaBiL which seeks to reduce the impact of marine litter on seabirds and LIFE SEA.NET which seeks to complete the implementation of the Natura2000 protected area network.¹⁸⁶⁶

From 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022, the EU attended the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).¹⁸⁶⁷ On 2 March 2022, the Assembly adopted a Draft Ministerial Declaration (UNEP/EA5/24), the theme of which was articulated thus: “strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.” The Ministerial Declaration stressed the decline of biodiversity and habitat health, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, pollution and climate change, and the risk of future pandemics if humanity does not change its relationship with nature. UNEA-5.2 offered member states the opportunity to build on and catalyze multilateral environmental protection and restoration actions. In its plenary session, the Assembly adopted 14 further resolutions and one decision.

On 2 March 2022, UN member states convened under UNEA-5.2 adopted the draft resolution entitled End Plastic Pollution: Towards an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument (UNEP/EA.5/L.23/Rev.1).¹⁸⁶⁸ This resolution requests that the Executive Director of the UNEA convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including marine pollution.¹⁸⁶⁹ This instrument would initiate an agenda to address the sustainable production and consumption of plastics and promote national, regional, and international cooperative efforts to achieve its objectives, including through awareness-raising and education campaigns as well as monitoring member compliance.¹⁸⁷⁰

From 13 April to 14 April 2022, the EU attended the 7th Our Ocean Conference co-hosted by The Republic of Palau and the United States.¹⁸⁷¹ The EU made 44 commitments amounting to almost EUR1 billion for action in international ocean governance on issues including the creation and maintenance of marine protected areas, the reduction of marine pollution and creating sustainable blue economies. Additionally, the EU has developed a tool to allow citizens to follow the progress of the implementation of the commitments.

¹⁸⁶⁵ LIFE Programme: More than €290 million in EU funding for nature, environment and climate action projects, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6178

¹⁸⁶⁶ Annex* LIFE programme: short summaries of projects resulting from the LIFE 2020 Call for proposals 2020, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_6179

¹⁸⁶⁷ UN Environment Assembly concludes with 14 resolutions to curb pollution, protect and restore nature worldwide, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-environment-assembly-concludes-14-resolutions-curb-pollution>

¹⁸⁶⁸ Proceedings, Report, Ministerial Declaration, Resolutions and Decisions UNEA 5.2, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea-5.2/proceedings-report-ministerial-declaration-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-5.2>

¹⁸⁶⁹ EU at UN Environment Assembly: seeking to secure launch of negotiations for global agreement on plastics, European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2022. Access Date: 26 March 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1314

¹⁸⁷⁰ Proceedings, Report, Ministerial Declaration, Resolutions and Decisions UNEA 5.2, UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea-5.2/proceedings-report-ministerial-declaration-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-5.2>

¹⁸⁷¹ Green Deal: EU announces €1 billion worth of commitments to protect the ocean, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2022. Access Date: May 4 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_2398

On 27 May 2022, the European Union and the rest of the G7 members reached an agreement on the terms of the Ocean Deal.¹⁸⁷² The Ocean Deal reaffirms the G7's commitment to tackle marine and ocean related ecological challenges. Internationally, the G7 members call for the creation of new international legally binding instruments to aid in reaching ocean related targets, commits to strengthening efforts to reach zero emission international shipping by 2050 and also commits to strengthening the Regional Seas Conventions and ocean related Action Plans. Nationally, the G7 members commit to strengthen efforts to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of their national coastal and marine areas by 2030 as well as take ambitious national action to address plastic pollution. The G7 also expressed their determination to close the financing gap for SDG 14 and reaffirmed their commitments to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

On 2 June 2022, the European Commission announced the adoption of a Partnership Agreement with France wherein the European Commission will provide France with, among other funding commitments, EUR567 million for the purposes of facilitating the ecological transition of the fishing and aquaculture sector.¹⁸⁷³ This funding will help improve the sustainability and resiliency of France's seafood industry, spur innovation and support sustainable small-scale coastal fishing.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to address the adverse impact of human activity on the marine environment, with a particular focus on dealing with plastic pollution through strengthening current instruments and working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5. The European Union has taken action to address ocean health, by financing research, monitoring and cleanup projects as well as updating maritime and waste emission reduction targets for member states and has taken action to reduce marine litter on the regional level and has taken concrete action in working on a new global agreement at UNEA-5.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Abigail Potter

¹⁸⁷² G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

¹⁸⁷³ EU cohesion policy: Commission adopts €18.4 billion Partnership Agreement with France for 2021-2027, European Commission (Brussels) 2 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3368