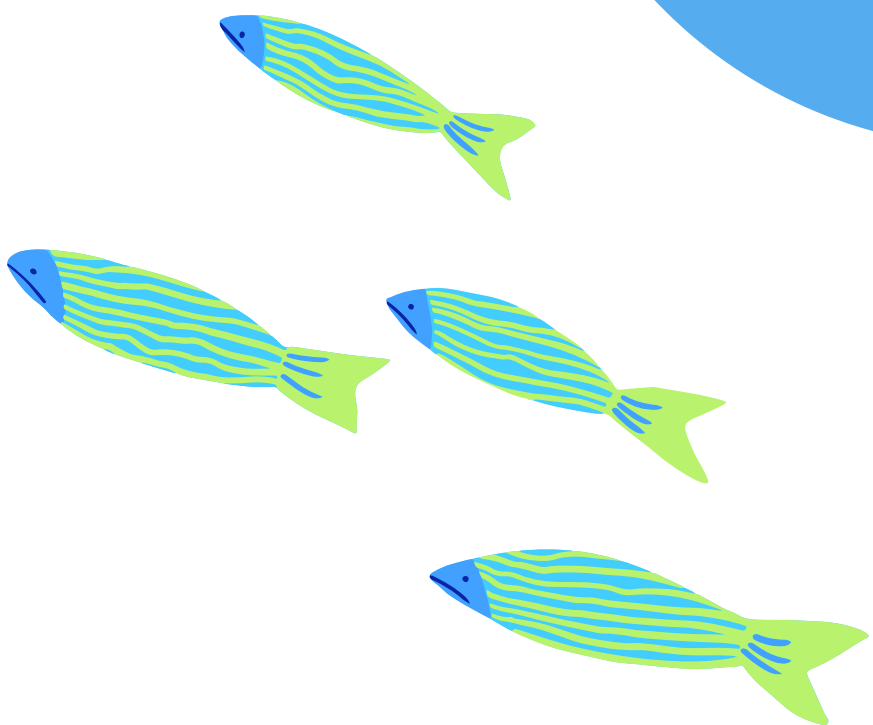
GTL Project

GreenTecLab

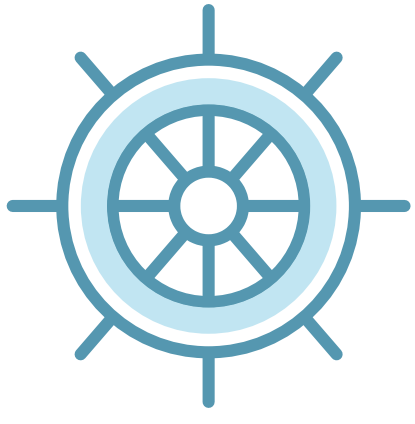
BLUE ECONOMY

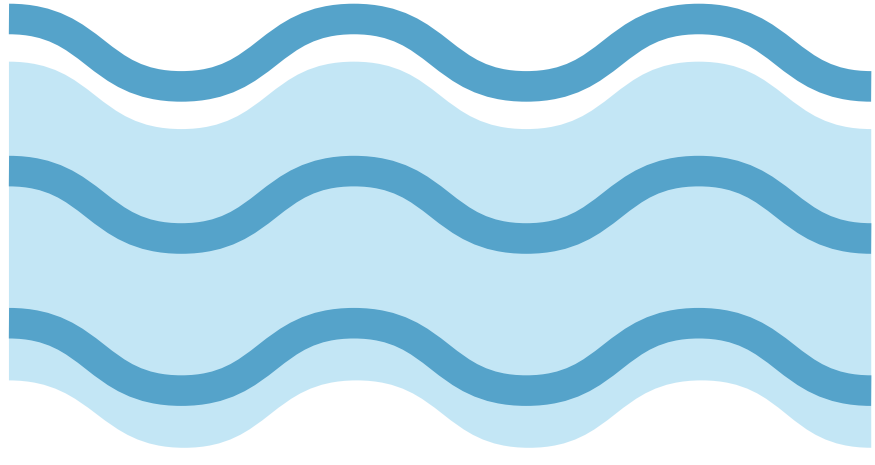


What is the Blue Economy?

All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts whether they are based in the marine environment (e.g. shipping, fisheries) or on land (e.g. ports, shipyards, land-based aquaculture and algae production, coastal tourism).

Blue economy covers a wide range of interlinked established and emerging sectors.





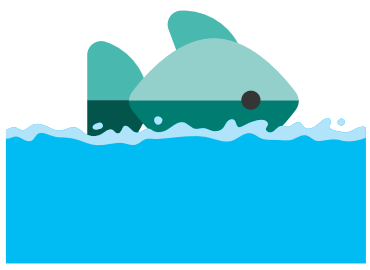
Main sectors

BLUE ECONOMY

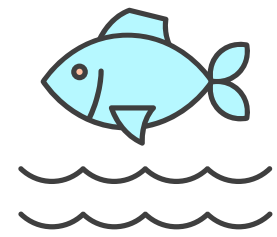
Fisheries

Coastal tourism

Aquaculture

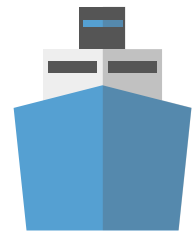


Fish processing industry

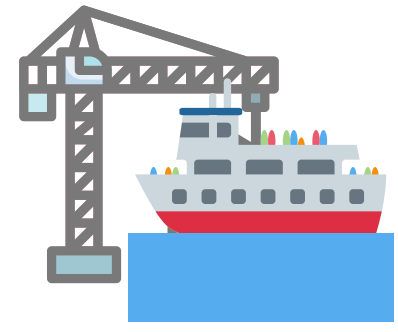


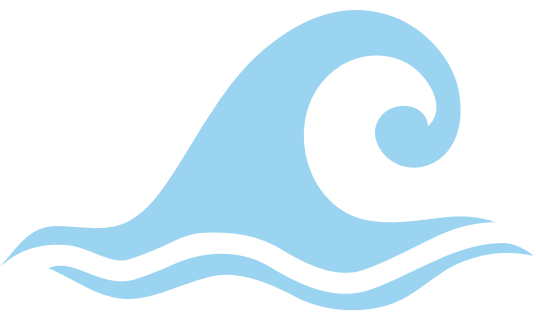
Ports, warehousing

Maritime transport



Shipbuilding & repair



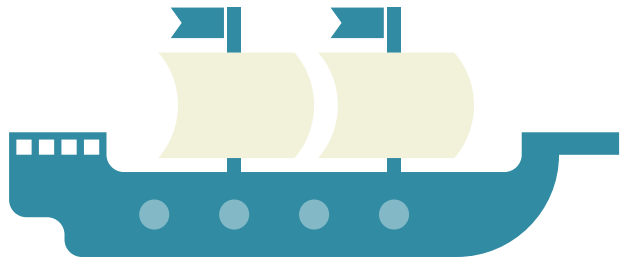


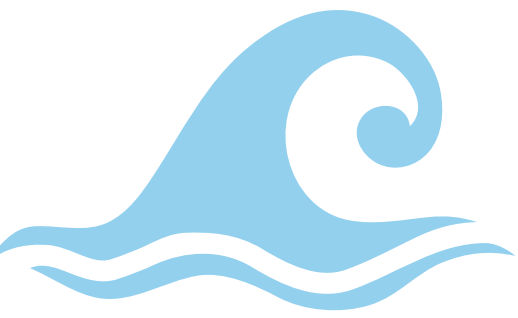
The importance of the oceans

- The oceans represent around 71% of the Earth's total surface area and are a determining element in the writing of our history and our lives.

- They play a key role in climate regulation and in the planet's resilience to climate change, as they capture 30% of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

- Marine and aquatic ecosystems are not only an indispensable element for human life and the development of society, but they are also a determining factor in the development of the economy and businesses, and represent an extremely important economic driver.

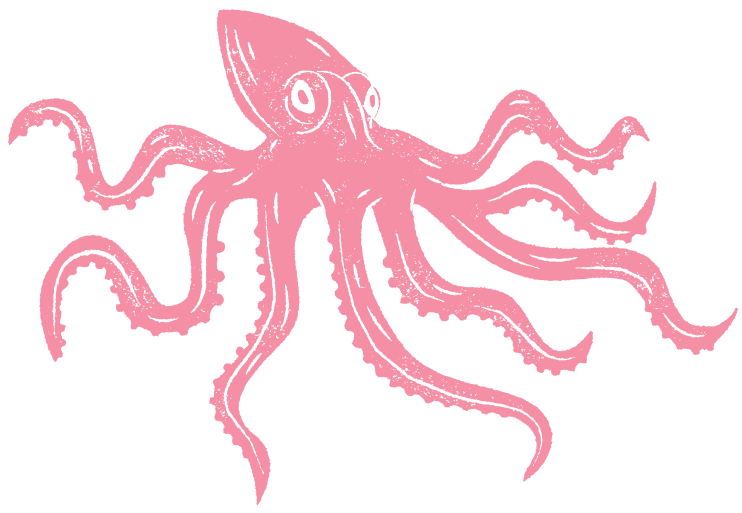


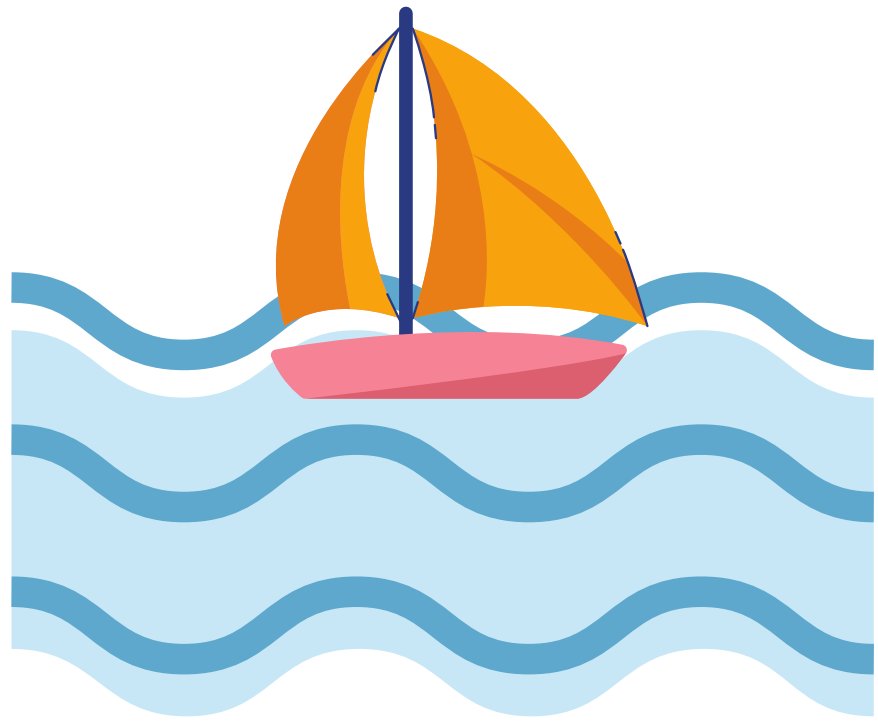


The importance of the oceans

- The environmental health of marine and aquatic ecosystems and the economic activities that derive from them are interrelated.

- It must be ensured that economic activities linked to water also have an impact on the social and environmental spheres. The economy and care for the environment are inseparable.

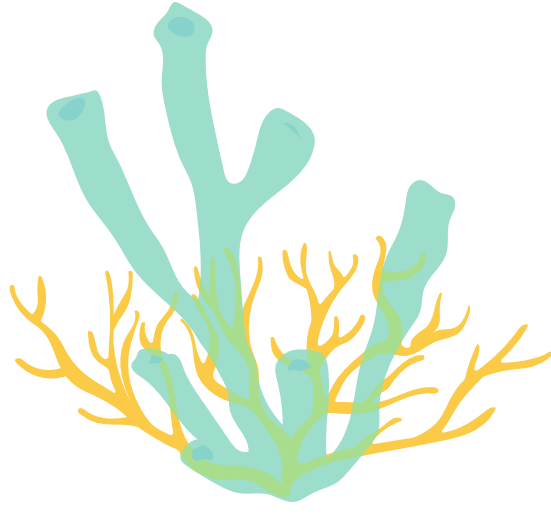


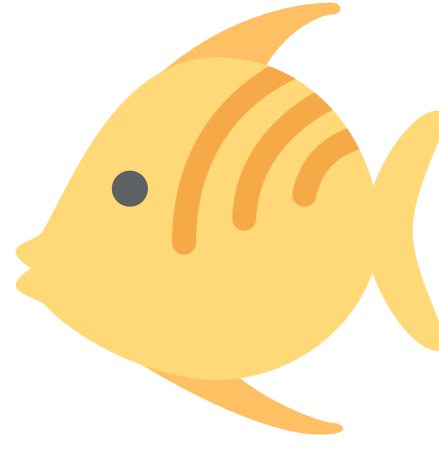


The threat to oceans

- The acceleration in marine uses and in some land-based activities, which have taken place in recent decades, have resulted in the loss of 50% of marine biodiversity, and the disappearance of 30% of coral reefs and 35% of underwater meadows.

- A large amount of fish stocks are overexploited or collapsed and every year between nine and eleven million tonnes of plastic are dumped into the sea.





How can the blue economy contribute to the European Green Deal objectives?

Turning blue economy sectors more circular

- Activities that step up action to tackle pollution from plastic, nutrients and contaminants, and underwater noise.
- Ship recycling can contribute to the circular economy.

Decarbonisation

- Decarbonising maritime transport and fishing will decrease greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution and underwater noise.

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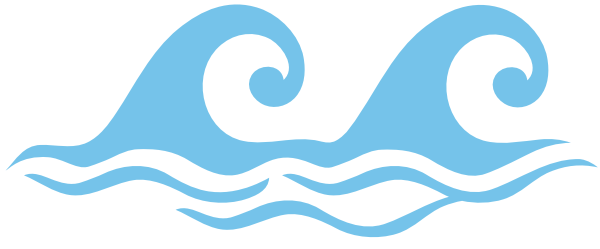
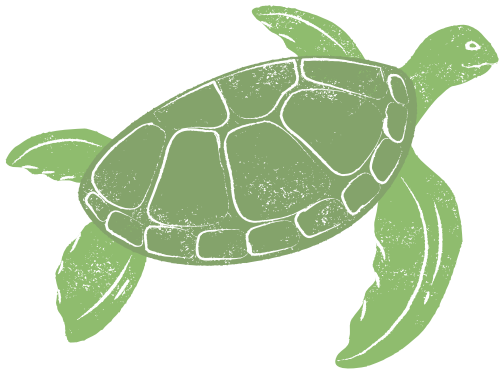
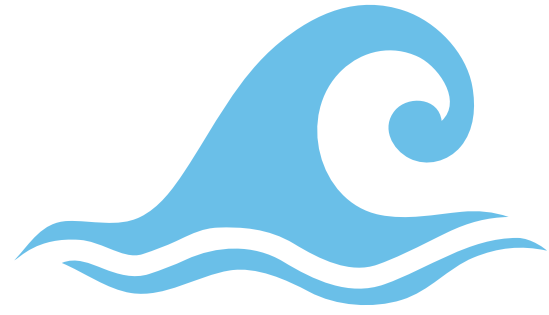


Climate adaptation

- Adaptation activities, such as developing green infrastructure in coastal areas and protecting coastlines from the risk of erosion and flooding will help preserve biodiversity and landscapes, while benefitting tourism and the coastal economy.

- Developing nature-based solutions to adapt to sea level rise, depollute areas or fight eutrophication.

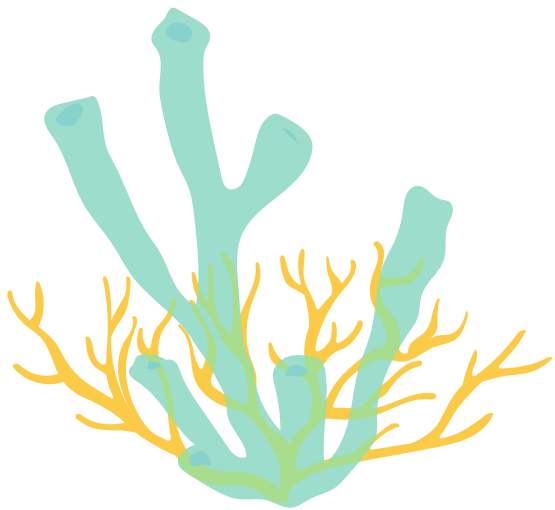




How can the blue economy contribute to the European Green Deal objectives?

Biodiversity

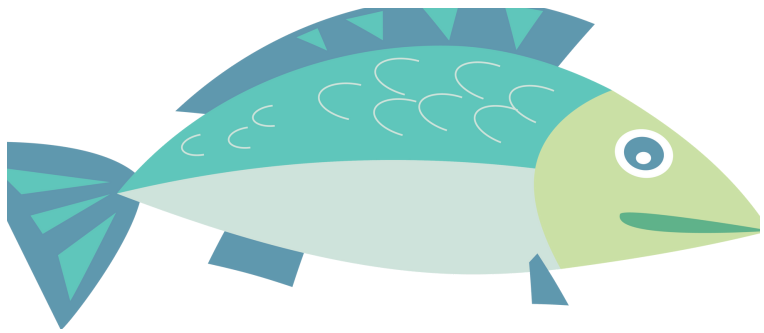
- Marine biodiversity is essential for fisheries and our coastal economies.
- Marine protected areas have led to increased biodiversity and larger fish stocks, and also contribute to climate mitigation and resilience.
- By minimising the environmental impacts of fishing on marine habitats with measures such as specifications for fishing gear and mesh sizes, closed areas and seasons.

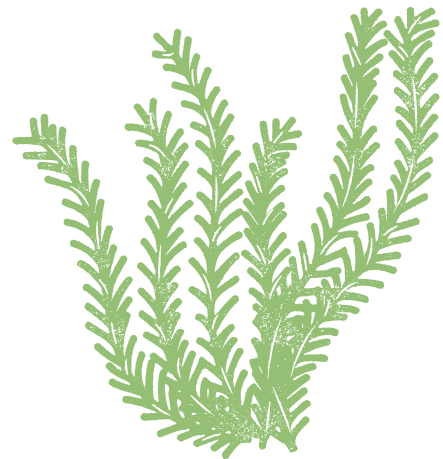


How can the blue economy contribute to the European Green Deal objectives?

Sustainable food

- Contributing to the transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon food system in line with the EU farm-to-fork strategy, including through developing and promoting low-impact aquaculture.
- Sustainable food requires responsible fishing to bring stocks to sustainable levels, sustainable aquaculture and new sources of food and feed, for instance from algae production.





Any more questions?
Visit the website and become a future leader of the transition

GreenTecLab

- https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2341