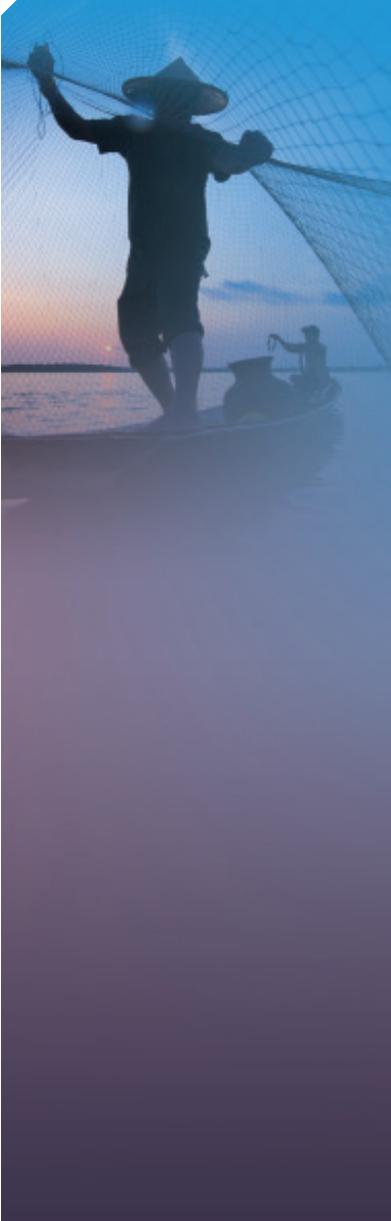




SPECIAL EDITION



# THE OCEANS ECONOMY: A FORMIDABLE ASSET FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## The 2030 Sustainable Development agenda

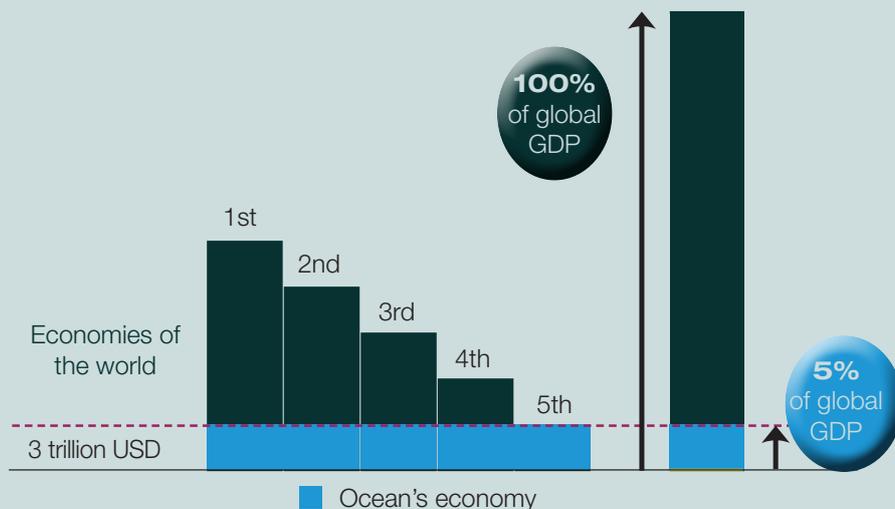
14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda contains for the first time a specific goal dedicated to the role and conservation of oceans. Sustainable Development Goal 14 aims at conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. UNCTAD is contributing to the advancement of this goal by supporting developing countries, and particularly Small Island Development States (SIDS), in developing their own oceans economy and trade strategies. UNCTAD is also supporting developing countries in building consensus in multilateral trade negotiations that are relevant to sustainable fisheries, designing sustainable trade in fish national and regional policies and in addressing harmful incentives to conservation such as fishing and fuel subsidies.

## The value of the oceans economy

The value of the oceans economy sectors, such as fisheries, maritime transport, coastal tourism, off-shore energy and marine bio prospecting, has been estimated at about 3 trillion USD annually. These would equal the size of the fifth economy in the world. The top fifth economies in the world, according to GDP size in 2014 were the United States of America, China, Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom.



Source: UNCTAD (2015) and United Nations (2015). Sustainable Development Goals fact sheet.



## Population and coastal activities

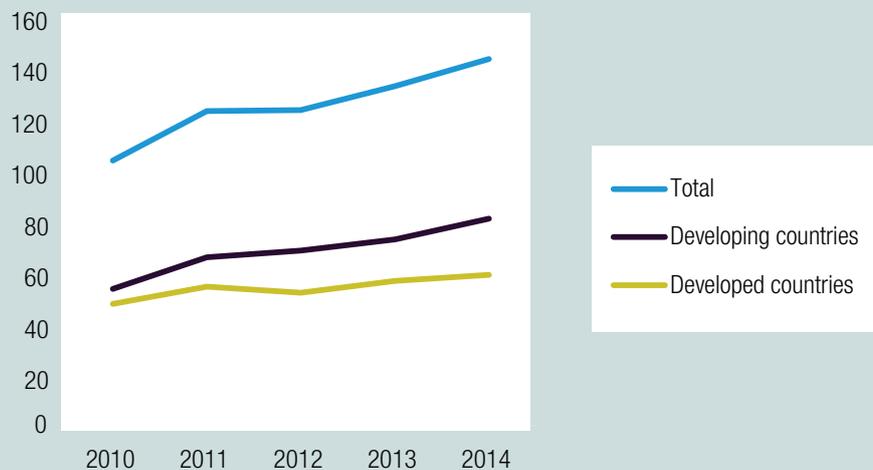
More than 4 billion people live in coastal areas. Globally, approximately 350 million jobs are linked to the oceans through fishing, aquaculture, coastal and marine tourism and research activities.



Source: NOAA (1999). Trends and Future Challenges for U.S. National Ocean and Coastal Policy and World Bank 2012, 'Living oceans'.

## Trade in Sustainable Fisheries

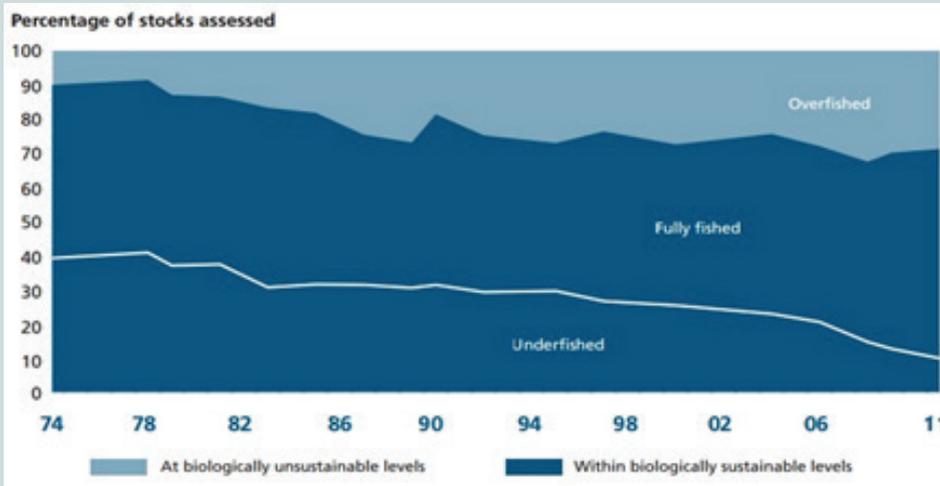
Global exports fish, crustaceans and molluscs reach a historical peak in value of USD 142.8 Billion in 2014, while the level of marine and fresh water remains steady at about 90 million tons due to the natural limits on the extraction of an already overexploited resource. Developing countries are the main exporters of living marine resources representing 56 percent of global exports.



Source: UNCTAD Statistics (2015). This data includes exports of harvested and farmed fish and fish products.

## Global trends in the state of world marine fish stocks, 1974-2011

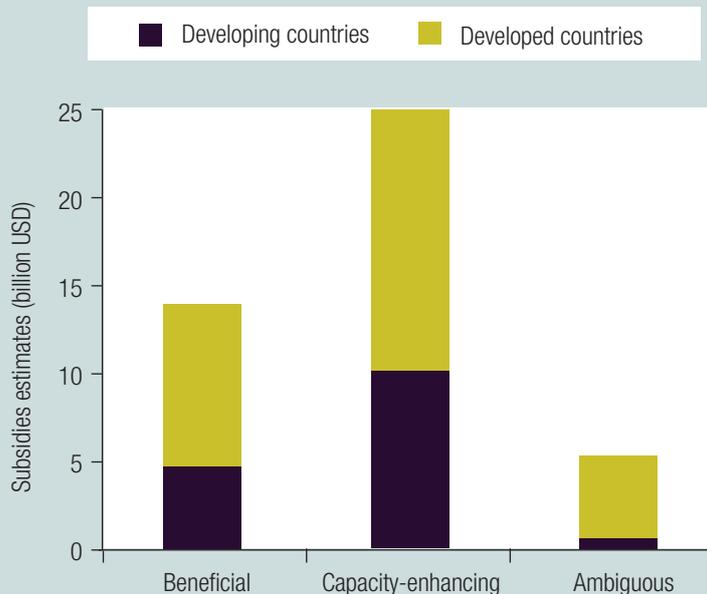
Fish stocks are under great pressure. According to the FAO, 87 percent of the world's marine fish stocks are fully exploited, overexploited or depleted. Without global action to address negative incentives to fish stocks conservation such as subsidies that contribute to over fishing and addressing Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, trends in fish stock depletion will continue.



Source: FAO, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (2013).

## Estimates of global fisheries subsidies, by categories and by country grouping

Global fisheries subsidies have been estimated between 25 to 35 billion USD annually. Most of these subsidies enhance the capacity of fleets to increase fish harvesting. About two thirds of these subsidies are granted by developed countries.



Source: U. R. Sumaila, V. LAM, F. Le Manach, W. Swartz, D. Pauly, Fisheries Economics Research Unit and Sea around Us project, UBC Fisheries Centre, Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Policy Department Structural and Cohesion Policies, European Parliament (2013).

