



High Level Panel on Ocean Economy on the road to UNCTAD 15

Pursuit of Sustainable Blue Economy During and Beyond the COVID-19 Crisis in the EAS Region

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Charting a New Decade of
Healthy Oceans, People and Economies
1-2 DECEMBER 2021 • Hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia

Beyond fish and ships, our oceans provide...

CLIMATE REGULATION



Covering 70% of the earth's surface, the ocean transports heat from the equator to the poles, regulating our climate and weather.

THE AIR WE BREATHE

>50%

The ocean produces over half of the world's oxygen and store 50 times more carbon dioxide than our atmosphere.

BLUE CARBON



Mangroves, seagrass and salt marshes **remove CO₂** from the atmosphere **10 times** more than a tropical rainforest – and **store 3 to 5 times more** carbon, thus decreasing the impacts of climate change.

Estimated blue carbon value in the EAS Region:

~ \$111 B for mangroves

~ \$77-95 B for seagrass

SHORELINE PROTECTION



Mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs are natural barriers... saving money and reducing impacts of storm surge, erosion and flooding.

- Coral reefs reduce **97%** of wave energy.
- Mangroves reduce **66%** of wave height.

OCEAN ENERGY



The ocean can produce **thermal energy** from the sun's heat, and **mechanical energy** from the tides and waves. It is estimated that 0.1% of the energy in ocean waves could be capable of supplying the entire world's energy requirements five times over.

OFFSHORE WIND POWER



Higher wind speeds are available offshore compared to on land.

HOME



The East Asian Seas (EAS) region is home to **35%** of the world's mangroves, **33%** of seagrass beds, and **33%** of the world's coral reefs, supporting diverse species of flora and fauna, and an array of ecosystem services.

FOOD



15% of animal protein comes from fish.

Countries of the EAS region account for:

63% of total global fisheries

40% of world's capture fisheries = **\$35 B**

80% of world's aquaculture = **\$100 B**

TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION



The East Asian Seas serve as conduit of **90%** of world trade through shipping.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

>**\$200B**

in tourism revenues. The EAS region account for **26%** of worldwide tourist arrivals.

Swimming, boating, snorkelling, diving, dolphin and whale watching... the ocean provides us with so many unique amenities and activities.

OIL AND GAS

\$34 B



INCOME AND JOBS

\$1.4 T



MEDICINE



But our ocean is under stress...

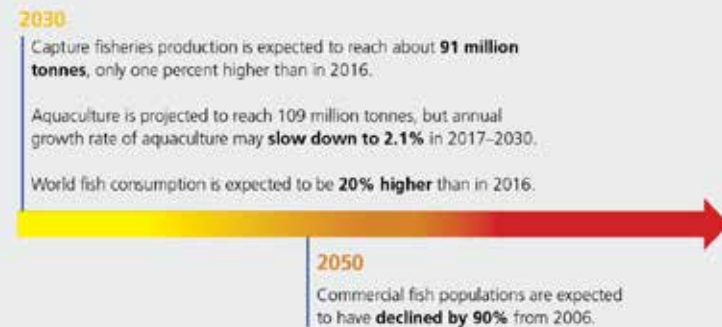
1. Climate Change

Trend in Climate Change



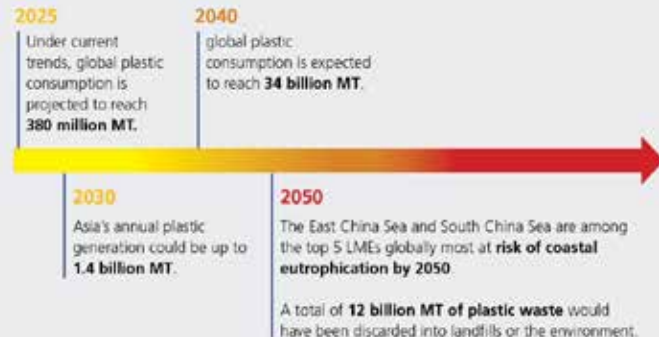
2. Exploitation of Marine Resources

Trend in Fisheries Health



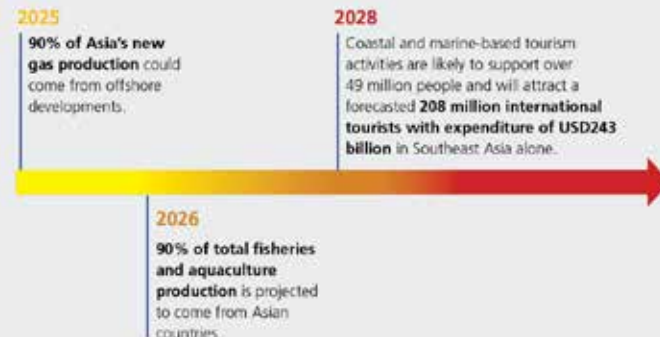
3. Marine Pollution

Trend in Marine Pollution



4. Ocean-based Industry and Trade

Trend in Ocean-based Industry and Trade



Impacts of COVID-19 on ocean economy in EAS region

Sectors	Negative Impacts
Coastal tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant loss in gross domestic product (GDP) and employment in Asia and the Pacific. (WTTC, 2021).• Greatest impact felt by women, youth and informal workers• 84% drop in international tourist arrivals in 2020 (UNWTO, 2021).
Capture Fisheries & Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low demand and reduced market access leading to reduced food security and livelihood (SEAFDEC, 2020a)• Small-scale fishers are particularly affected. In Southeast Asia, more than 50% are small-scale or artisanal fishers (SEAFDEC, 2020b).• Reduced sales and prices for premium seafood and export-oriented fisheries (OECD, 2020) Example: 50% reduction in the price of prawn in the Philippines (Manlosa et al., 2021)• High maintenance costs for keeping fish stock (OECD, 2020)
R&D and M&E	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decline in research, conservation, and monitoring efforts concerning coastal and marine ecosystems (Ocean Panel, 2020b)

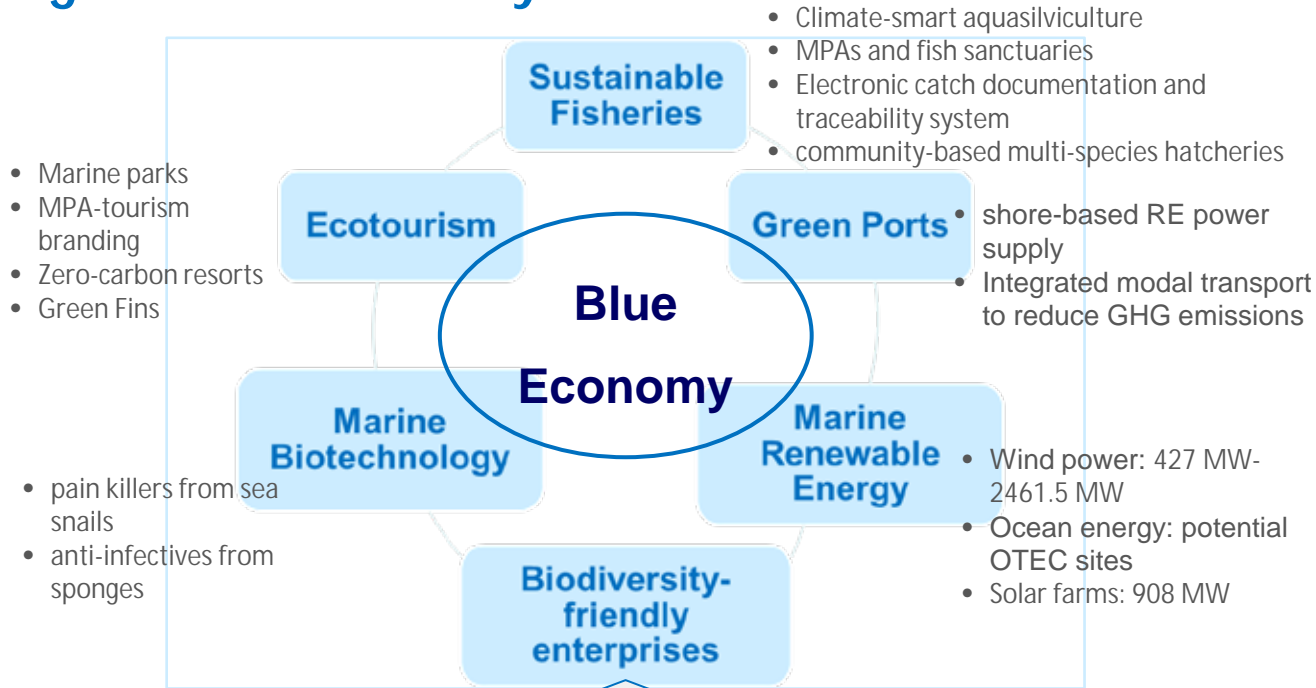
Impacts of COVID-19 on ocean economy in the EAS region

Themes	Negative Impacts
Plastic pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased plastics in the ocean with Asia alone producing more than half of the total discarded face masks/face shields/PPEs worldwide (Benson, et al., 2021)• More than 80% of the recycling value chain was not operating during the height of the pandemic in Vietnam, India and the Philippines, resulting in an increase of plastic entering landfills and, likely the environment (Circulate Capital 2020)• 65% reduction in plastic volumes collected and sorted by the informal sector, affecting the most vulnerable workers in the value chain (Circulate Capital 2020).
IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased incidence of IUU fishing due to reduced enforcement activities in some Southeast Asian countries (SEAFDEC, 2020).
Positive impacts	
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tentative estimate of the net impact is a 5.5 percent drop in global emissions in 2020 (Carbon Brief 2020)
Ecosystem relief and habitat restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short-term recovery of fish biomass (Smithsonian, 2020)• Temporary relief to marine species and ecosystems from reduced tourism activities

Impacts of COVID-19 on ocean economy in the EAS region

Themes	Positive Impacts
Digitalization of maritime Services	Increasing digitalization of businesses/industries such as port/shipping operations and marketing/selling of fisheries-related products due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Examples: container terminal automation, big data, AI, internet of things, digital twin technologies, 5G telecommunication network, and block-chain) (UNESCAP, 2020).
Offshore renewable energy	Offshore wind industry has been largely shielded from the COVID-19 crisis. For the first time, China accounts for over half of global offshore wind expansion, while European countries provide the remainder (IEA, 2020).
Maritime transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surge in demand for retail during the COVID-19 pandemic has led to sudden increased demand for cargo space (Nikkei Asia, 2021).• In Asia, manufacturers vie for cargo space amidst a shortage of an estimated half a million containers. The price of a 40-foot container also skyrocketed from USD 1,486 in May 2020 to USD 5,472 by May 2021 (Nikkei Asia, 2021).

Creating our Future Today



-  **Habitat and biodiversity conservation**
-  Pollution reduction, waste management, **Sustainable fisheries and resource use**
-  **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**

Opportunity to review, reset, recalibrate...



Potential PEMSEA-UNCTAD partnership –

1. Incorporate the impacts of global pandemic as integral part of the national and local state of the coasts reporting
2. Put **Blue Economy at the core of national economic recovery plans**
3. **Share best practices and sustainable solutions on trade in sustainable ocean-based goods and services especially with LGUs and SMEs**
4. Provide **technical assistance to promote more coherent and integrated policies, facilitate trade, incentives and financing modalities** to provide for the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and protection of ocean health



COUNTRY PARTNERS



MISSION

To foster and sustain healthy and resilient coasts and oceans, communities and economies across the Seas of East Asia through integrated management solutions and partnerships

NON-COUNTRY PARTNERS



Maritime Collaborators

