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Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 10 Targets:

14.1) By 2025, **prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds**, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

14.2) By 2020, **sustainably manage and protect marine coastal ecosystems** to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by **strengthening their resilience**, and take **action for their restoration** in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

14.3) Minimize and **address the impacts of ocean acidification**, including through **enhanced scientific cooperation** at all levels.

14.4) By 2020, **effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing**, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and **implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks** in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

14.5) By 2020, **conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas**, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

14.6) By 2020, **prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing**, eliminate subsidies that contribute to **illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** and **refrain from introducing new such subsidies**, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

14.7) By 2030, **increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources**, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

14.a) **Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology**, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, **in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries**, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.

14.b) **Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.**

14.c) **Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS**, which provides the legal framework **for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources**, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.

See pages 5 for further resources on oceans and Goal 14.

Take action toward achieving goal 14

Take action locally:

- **Congregational actions:** *Engage members of your congregation in action either through volunteering, advocacy, exercises, or wider congregational changes.*
 - **Teach your congregation about [the importance of making better seafood choices](#)** for sustainable oceans by organizing conversation groups or setting up an information table at coffee hour.
 - Encourage people to choose healthy, sustainable seafood choices by using [FishWatch](#) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium's [Seafood Watch](#), which allow you to search for specific fish and learn about how they are fished or farmed.
 - Teach others to plan meals using the [EDF's Seafood Selector](#), which lists the best seafood and sushi choices for the oceans.
 - Use [Oceana's Sustainable Seafood Recipes](#) to plan healthy and sustainable meals.
 - **Sign to host a [Marina Cleanup Day](#)**, which usually takes place on the [second Saturday in June](#). Use [Ocean Conservancy's DIY Cleanup Tool Kit](#) to get started.
 - Clean up your own marina, boat or ramp or find the [nearest participating marina](#).
 - [Spread the word about your cleanup using flyers and instructions](#) from Ocean Conservancy (found under 'Need Help Getting Started?' section).
 - Remember to record and report [your cleanup results](#).
 - **Encourage members of your congregation who own their own boats to practice [green boating](#)** using Ocean Conservancy's [tips to protect oceans](#), [list of steps](#) for finding new solutions for a changing ocean, and [Good Mate Manual](#) [PDF].
 - **Check out [thankyouocean.org's tips](#)** on how to take action to keep our oceans healthy.
 - **Support businesses who are members of the [Trash Free Seas Alliance](#) or [Oceana](#).**
 - **Take part in [World Oceans Day](#)** on June 8th
 - [Organize your own event](#) within your congregation using World Ocean Day's free resources, [or find an event](#) near you.
 - Ask people at your event to join the [Better Bag Challenge](#) to avoid disposable plastic bags for at least a year, and use the NRDC's [10 Ways to Reduce Plastic Pollution](#).
 - **Write a [letter to your local restaurant](#)** telling them that you want to be asked before receiving a straw with your drinks.
- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for ocean protection in the U.S. and Canada. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
 - **[Write to Chicken of the Sea](#)**, one of the US's largest tuna brands, to tell them to commit to a strong policy that ensures the company's tuna is truly sustainable and ethically-sourced.
 - **[Tell the Canadian Government](#)** to end Canada's commercial seal hunt.
 - **[Urge the U.S. Department of Commerce and NOAA Fisheries](#)** to declare the Pacific Bluefin tuna an endangered species.
 - **[Encourage the NOAA](#)** to Expand the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, which is home to 15 threatened or endangered species of sea turtles, whales and corals.
 - **[Tell FedEx](#)** to stop all shipping of shark fins for shark fin soup, which currently leads to the death of over 73 million sharks every year.
 - **[Make the U.S. government](#)** enforce the Supreme Court's ruling and close down Blackbeard's Cay, an illegally dolphin swim facility in the Bahamas.

- **Films for Screening**

- [*Salmon Confidential*](#) – a documentary about the Canadian government’s cover-up of what is killing British Columbia’s wild salmon.
- [*The Fortune Wild*](#) – a small group of surfers set out to explore some of the most remote beaches of the Canadian coast to give viewers a glimpse of what makes the West Coast so priceless and worthy to protect.
- [*Ocean Frontiers*](#) – an award-winning three part film series which portrays inspiring stories of citizens across America coming together for the sake of the sea.
- [*Turtle: The Incredible Journey*](#) – a documentary following the journey of a female loggerhead turtle from a beach in Florida around the entire North Atlantic to Africa, which shows how turtles must face both natural and manmade obstacles in order to survive.
- [*Reaching Blue*](#) – a Canadian short film in which a writer, an oyster farmer and an ocean scientist on the Pacific coast expose new changes found in the Salish Sea.

- **Book club reads:**

- [*Sustainable Sushi: A Guide to Saving the Oceans One Bite at a Time*](#) – Casson Trenor, a pocket-size guide which profiles dozens of the most common fish and shellfish one might encounter at a sushi bar, details where and how they are caught, whether or not they are safe, and how they figure into the current fishery crisis.
- [*Breaking Ice: Integrated Ocean Management in the Canadian North*](#) – Fikret Berkes, a book which attempts to define the nature of competing demands of resource management and policy decisions and assesses their impacts on the environment.
- [*Making Seafood Sustainable: American Experiences in Global Perspective*](#) – Mansel G. Blackford, on the ramifications of overfishing for the United States by investigating how fishers, seafood processors, retailers, government officials and others have worked together to respond to the crisis.
- [*Seaweeds: Edible, Available and Sustainable*](#) – Ole G. Mouritsen on past and present uses of seaweed in America, keeping in mind how it could be exploited in the future.
- [*The Most Important Fish in the Sea: Menhaden and America*](#) – H. Bruce Franklin, a clear example of the significance of all beings in marine food webs, which revolves around one particular fish: [the menhaden](#).

- **NGOs working toward the cause**

- [*The Ocean Conservancy*](#): a nonprofit environmental advocacy group which helps formulate ocean policy at the federal and state levels based on peer review science, as well as organize programs to help protect wildlife in the ocean.
- [*Living Oceans Society*](#): a leading organization in the effort to protect Canada’s oceans, which advocates for oceans that are managed for the common good, according to science-based policies that consider ecosystems in their entirety.
- [*American Cetacean Society*](#): an organization which protects whales, dolphins, porpoises and their habitats by educating the public about the problems these animals face.
- [*Sierra Club*](#): an organization with chapters throughout the United States and Canada that offer opportunities for local involvement, activism and outings. The organization aims to tackle an ambitious agenda, including the construction and implementation of the Marine Mammals Protection Act.
- [*Ocean Networks Canada*](#): an organization which operates world-leading ocean observatories which collect data on physical, chemical, biological and geological aspects of the ocean over long periods of time.

- **Wild Oceans:** an NGO which brings together conservation-minded fishermen and pro-fishing environmentalists to promote a broad ecosystems approach to fisheries management in order to keep the oceans wild and preserve fishing opportunities for the future.

Take action internationally:

- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating to protect oceans across the globe. Collect signatures at your congregation by booking a table during coffee hour.*
 - **Stand with the Mundurucu People of the Amazon** to prevent companies from building a hydro dam which could significantly impact the feeding and breeding grounds for river dolphins, turtles and other species living in the area.
 - **Pressure the Danish government** to help end the Faroe Island Whale Slaughter tradition.
 - **Urge the National People's Congress of China** to outlaw fishing whale sharks.
 - **Tell the New South Wales Government** to stop Bow Fishing.
 - **Make the Government of Spain** fulfill its initial commitment to completely eliminate the use plastic bags before 2018.
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on ocean conservation and sustainability.*
 - **A Plastic Ocean** – a documentary which brings to light the consequences of our global disposable lifestyle.
 - **The Cove** – the 2010 Academy Award winning best documentary, which focuses on the brutal slaughtering of nearly 23,000 dolphins at the Taiji National Park in Japan, as well as the consequences of keeping dolphins and killer whales in captivity.
 - **Sushi, The Global Catch** – a documentary shot in five nations that explores the history and impact of sushi consumption in the world.
 - **Oceans** – a Disney nature documentary that explores the underwater world, and displays the negative effects human actions can have on wildlife.
 - **The Blue Planet** – an award-winning BBC series which uses advances in underwater photography to explore previously unreachable depths, allowing viewers to appreciate the natural beauty of the ocean which they must fight hard to preserve.
 - **A Sea Change** -- a documentary on the consequences of ocean acidification which challenges viewers to imagine a world without fish.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on ocean conservation and sustainability.*
 - **Oceans 2020: Science, Trends and the Challenge of Sustainability** – John G. Field, Gotthilf Hempel and Colin P. Summerhayes bring together the world's leading ocean scientists and researchers to analyze the state of marine science and technology, identify key issues for sustainable development and evaluate the capacity of scientists, governments and private-sector stakeholders to respond to them.
 - **Seasick: The Global Ocean in Crisis** – Alanna Mitchell, on the dangers facing global marine ecosystems after years of abuse and neglect.
 - **Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea & of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists & Fools Including the Author Who Went in Search of Them** – Donovan Hohn, on the mysterious loss of thousands of bath toys lost at sea.
 - **World Without Fish** – an illustrated narrative nonfiction book for kids which focuses on how humans are destroying ocean life, how that destruction will affect the entire planet, and how readers can be responsible consumers of fish.

- [*The End of the Line: How Overfishing is Changing the World and What We Eat*](#) – Charles Clover, on the modern fishing industry and its imminent consequences. Film version can also be found [here](#).
- [*Sea Change: A Message of the Oceans*](#) – Sylvia A. Earle, former chief scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, tells her story of three decades of undersea exploration, with an urgent plea for the preservation of the world's fragile and rapidly deteriorating ocean ecosystems.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working to protect our oceans.*
 - [**Global Coral Reef Alliance**](#): a nonprofit organization dedicated to growing, protecting and managing coral reefs.
 - [**Ocean Futures Society**](#): an organization whose mission is to explore our global ocean, educate people throughout the world to act responsibly for its protection, and document the critical connection between humanity and nature.
 - [**Marine Conservation Institute**](#): a nonprofit organization which brings scientists together to examine marine conservation issues and sign public letters and statements. It also functions as an ocean think tank, doing policy research to “frame the marine conservation agenda” and produces publications to educate scientists, the public and important decision makers.
 - [**SeaWeb**](#): an NGO which works collaboratively with targeted sectors to encourage market solutions, policies and behaviors that result in a healthy, thriving ocean.
 - [**International Marine Mammal Project**](#): an organization which works to combat all of the major challenges facing marine mammals, such as threats to dolphins posed by the tuna fishing industry, commercial whaling, and travel through marine habitats.
 - [**Ocean Mammal Institute**](#): an NGO dedicated to narrowing the gap between individuals, science and technology and increase heartfelt connections with the natural world to promote ocean sustainability.
 - [**Oceana**](#): a group of marine scientists, economists, lawyers and advocates that work for policy changes to lessen cruise ship pollution, eliminate destructive fishing practices, reduce seafood contaminants and prevent the collapse of fish and marine mammal populations.
 - [**Ocean and Climate Change Institute**](#): an organization which works to understand the role of the oceans in climate change by identifying the climatic effects of changing ocean circulation.
 - [**Marine Fish Conservation Network**](#): a global coalition containing over 170 national and regional environmental organizations, commercial and recreational fishing groups and aquariums which is dedicated to conserving fish and promoting the long-term sustainability of their populations.

Further resources on goal 14 and ocean sustainability:

- [**Goal 14 targets and related publications**](#) on ocean sustainability.
- [**UN facts and figures**](#) on Goal 14 and the conservation of ocean and marine resources worldwide.
- [**Global Goals images**](#) relating to Goal 14: Pass these around at your congregation to raise awareness of the fourteenth goal!
- [**UN Development Program’s \(UNDP\) role in achieving goal 14**](#), and recent work related to ocean sustainability across the world.
- [**UNESCO’s**](#) blueprint for ocean and coastal sustainability (PDF).
- [**World Ocean Review’s**](#) report on sustainable use of our oceans especially focused on how to make ideas work (PDF).
- [**The Council of Global Problem-Solving’s**](#) report on how to combine SDG 14 with ocean spatial planning in the future (PDF).
- Additional infographics on inequality can be found from [**One World One Ocean**](#), [**Inhabitat**](#) and the [**NOAA**](#).