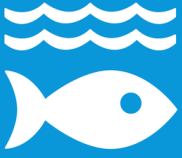


14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



1/4

GLOBAL CO2
EMISSIONS
ABSORBED BY
THE OCEAN
ANNUALLY,
THREATENING
MARINE LIFE

17

MILLION
METRIC TONS
OF PLASTIC
ENTERED THE
OCEAN IN
2021

80%

OF THE WORLD'S
FISHERIES ARE
FULLY
EXPLOITED,
DEPLETED, OR
COLLAPSED

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The ocean is the planet's largest ecosystem—and it's endangered.

NOTICING

Increased acidification, eutrophication, and plastic pollution are destroying marine and coastal ecosystems. Ocean temperatures are at record high levels, which threaten this rich ecosystem and kill coral reefs. Illegal and unregulated fishing put additional pressure on global fish stocks, which provides 17% of the world's animal protein. Marine microplastics enter the human food chain, possibly causing cancer and other serious health problems.

INTERPRETING/EMPATHIZING

Compassion not only emphasizes the relatedness of human beings, it also extends to the non-human, placing us in relationship with the larger global ecosystem. The oceans drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Their destabilization threatens the livelihoods of over 3 billion people, including fishing and tourism. It also threatens marine biodiversity, which offers great promise for pharmaceuticals and other scientific discovery.

TAKING ACTION

A compassionate response prioritizes the development of a sustainable ocean economy to stabilize our planet's life support system. This can be achieved through increased international cooperation and effective and equitable management of marine-protected areas. Furthermore, regulations are needed to reduce overfishing, marine pollution, and acidification. [Cascadia Seaweed](#) provides an innovative example of improving ocean health through regenerative aquaculture that increases the resilience of coastal economies and global food systems.



OCEAN HEALTH IS A MORAL IMPERATIVE, A BUSINESS IMPERATIVE, AND A MATTER OF GLOBAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A VITAL BUILDING BLOCK OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

H.M. QUEEN NOOR, HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN