



3rd MEDMEP Session  
October 2019 - Nicosia, Cyprus

## Factfile | ECON (ENVI) Committee

### The sea as an opportunity for the EU

The sea is considered an opportunity of economic growth for the EU since it provides millions of jobs and added value worth hundreds of billions of euros. What are possible instruments and actions for further development of the Blue Economy concerning sustainable economy, transport, trade, tourism, ports and fishing?

### General Overview

The committee's responsibility is to come up with possible solutions and actions to further develop 'Blue Economy', concerning sustainable economy, transport, trade, tourism etc. while also keeping in mind the importance that sea and the marine economy plays for the economic and financial prosperity of the EU.

### Defining key terms

- **Sustainable Economy**: The use of various strategies for employing existing resources optimally so that a responsible and beneficial balance can be achieved over the longer term.
- **Blue Economy**: The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a number of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. It covers a wide range of interlinked established and emerging sectors.
- **Blue growth**: "support to the growth of the maritime sector in a sustainable way." The term is adopted by the European Union as an integrated maritime policy to achieve the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy.
- **Aquaculture**: the rearing of aquatic animals or the cultivation of aquatic plants for food.
- **Marine Spatial Planning**: is a process that brings together multiple users of the ocean – including energy, industry, government, conservation and recreation – to make



informed and coordinated decisions about how to use marine resources sustainably.

- Ocean Energy: Our seas and oceans offer a vast renewable energy resource, particularly, but not only, along the Atlantic seaboard. Ocean energy technologies are currently being developed to exploit the potential of tides and waves as well as differences in temperature and salinity.

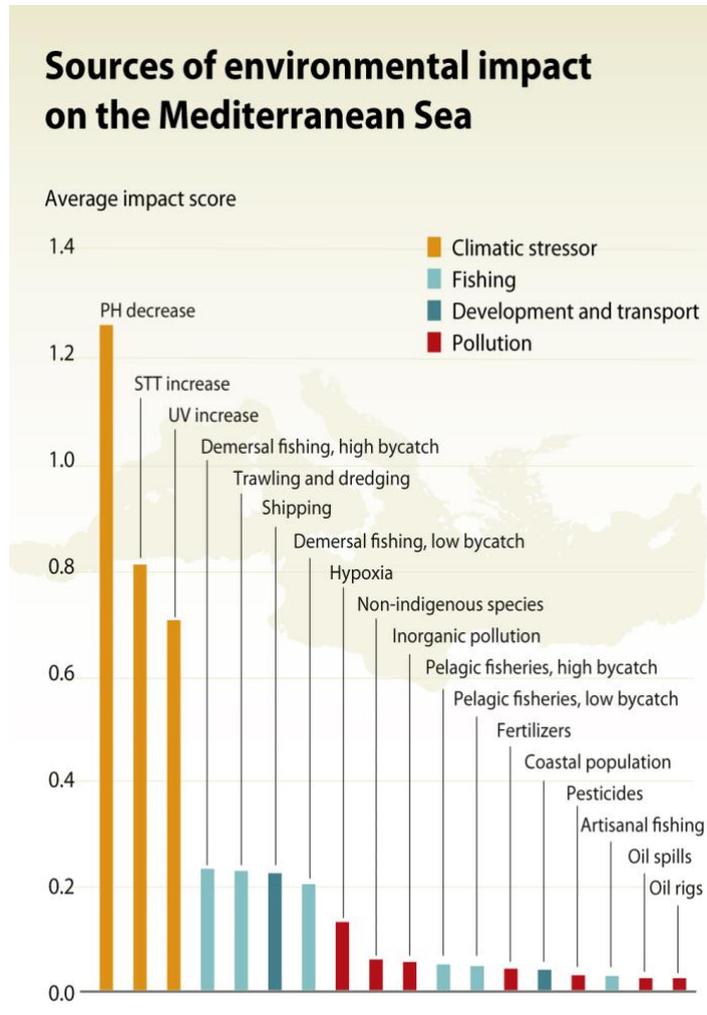
## Stakeholders

EU has adopted a strategy on job development and economic growth called: Europe 2020. All initiatives adopted by the European Commission are in accordance to this strategy.

In 2011 the Commission adopted a Communication on Blue Growth showing how Europe's coasts, seas and oceans have the potential to be a major source of new jobs and growth that can contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy and improve the way we harvest the planet's resources.

The Communication singled out particular emerging industries for special attention. It outlined its approach to realising the potential of ocean energy in January 2014 and subsequently launched the Ocean Energy Forum to identify bottlenecks to growth and suggest ways to unblock them.

## Statistics



Sources: National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, Mediterranean Cumulative Impacts Model.

