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# EU MISSIONS

**RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS**

**State of play of Mission Ocean and Waters - Baltic Sea**

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**#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionOcean**

*Baltic Sea Region RDI Liaison Offices, Brussels, 17 November 2022*





***“Every problem is an opportunity for innovation.  
But we need a clear and ambitious objective.***

***We need a mission, like the European Green Deal.***

***That is why we have launched the ‘Mission to  
Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030’.***

***With EUR 0.5 billion in funding from the world's  
largest research and development programme,  
Horizon Europe, and other instruments.”***

President von der Leyen, 11 February 2022

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH\\_22\\_962](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_22_962)





## European Union Missions

*A new way to bring concrete solutions to some of our greatest challenges.*

- **My Mission?** The restoration of our ocean and waters!
- **Why a Mission?** It tackles the problem on a European scale.
- **What it delivers?** Impact through:
  - ❖ New role for R&I
  - ❖ Portfolio of actions
  - ❖ New forms of governance & collaboration
  - ❖ Citizens' participation



# Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030: objectives and targets

## PROTECT AND RESTORE MARINE AND FRESHWATERS ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

- Protect at least 30% and strictly protect 10% EU's sea areas
- Restore 25.000 km free flowing rivers
- Marine nature restoration targets (incl. degraded seabeds, coastal ecosystems)

## PREVENT AND ELIMINATE POLLUTION OF OUR OCEANS, SEAS AND WATERS

- Reduce by at least 50% plastic litter
- Reduce by at least 30% microplastics
- Reduce by at least 50% nutrient losses, chemical pesticides

## MAKE THE BLUE ECONOMY CARBON- NEUTRAL AND CIRCULAR

- Net zero maritime emissions
- Zero carbon aquaculture,
- Low carbon multipurpose use of marine space

**ENABLERS:** - DIGITAL OCEAN AND WATERS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM  
- PUBLIC MOBILIZATION AND ENGAGEMENT



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# Mission Lighthouses:

sites to **pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy** Mission activities **across EU seas and river basins**



Baltic & North sea basin



**MAKE THE BLUE  
ECONOMY CARBON-  
NEUTRAL AND CIRCULAR**

Mediterranean sea  
basin



**PREVENT AND ELIMINATE  
POLLUTION OF OUR  
OCEAN, SEAS AND  
WATERS**

Danube river basin



**PROTECT AND RESTORE  
MARINE AND FRESHWATERS  
ECOSYSTEMS AND  
BIODIVERSITY**

Atlantic & Arctic coast



**More info. at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poZ7Dz4Xvl8>**



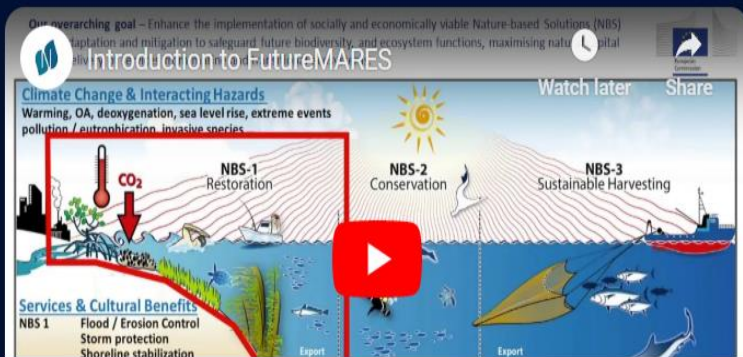


# Example Actions

## Rebuilding the habitats that support our climate

### FutureMARES

Climate change alters natural habitats, which in turn can accelerate climate change. To break this cycle, researchers are turning their sights to nature-based solutions, and especially to restore "habitat-forming" species on which ecosystems depend. In the case of our oceans and estuaries, that means species like saltmarsh plants, seagrass, kelp, corals and mangroves. The FutureMARES project researched ways to restore these habitats so that they continue to protect us from erosion and flooding, soak up carbon, provide safe breeding grounds for fisheries, and support tourism and cultural heritage.



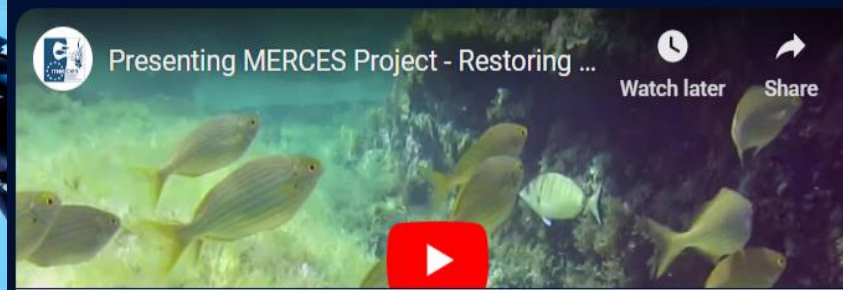
Discover more about this project [↗](#)

## Our oceans need to be restored, not just preserved

### MERCES

After decades of human-driven degradation, it's time to restore the world's marine ecosystems. This is the ambition of the MERCES project, a wide-ranging exploration of the technology, management, economics and legal aspects that will help us improve the state of our oceans in the face of climate change. As well as altering our lifestyles, the researchers say, we need to actively repair damage to marine habitats, from estuaries to the deep ocean. The science, structures and human relationships developed as part of the project will help the world to do that in the coming decades.

Read more about this project [here!](#)



Discover more about this project [↗](#)

## Young citizen scientists track plastic pollution

### Plastic Pirates

Plastic pollution is a menace to our seas and inland waterways. But what kinds of plastic? Where is the problem worst? Young Europeans are helping to answer these important questions through the citizen science project Plastic Pirates – Go Europe! Schools and youth groups collect plastic samples from streams and rivers and record their results. Scientists then analyse the data and use it to create pollution maps. Plastic Pirates began during the pandemic under the Trio Presidency of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. In 2022 it became a pan-European initiative with EU funding.



Discover more about this project [↗](#)

More details via <https://europa.eu/!pYDnGF>





## Mission Charter

### A joint commitment to restore our ocean and waters



Join forces for a **transformational change** for a healthy ocean and waters



A **simple, inclusive, efficient and inspirational** framework to enhance cooperation to deliver on **Mission objectives**



**Open** to any (public or private) interested parties, incl. **Associated Regions**



**Actions** can cover R&I, Knowledge & Data, Citizen engagement, Upscaling of solutions, Education & Training



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# Benefits of being part of this Mission



**Visibility** and promotion of your actions as a **Mission Actor**



Opportunities for **networking** and sharing **best practices**



Access to **ocean literacy** and **education tools**



Access to the **Mission Implementation Platform services** (access to knowledge, projects portfolio, information on funding, etc.)



Investment **opportunities** and **advisory services**



Access to **support from Lighthouse CSA / Facility** (support to develop science and transition roadmaps, skills training, etc.)





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RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



# Mission Atlas presents the Charter actions (available @ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1650>)

**Mission Actions - EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters**

**Title of the action:** Climate Smart Marine Spatial Planning  
**Short description:** Turning Climate commitments into Climate Smart Marine Spatial Plans  
**Name of organisation:** Troms & Finnmark County Council  
**Budget:** 1 Million Euro  
**End date of action:** 01/10/2023

**Powered by**  
EMODnet

To join, submit Mission Charter application via  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MissionOceanWatersCharter>



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: HE- Mission Work Programme 2021-2022

### Objective 1

#### PROTECT AND RESTORE

Marine and freshwaters

##### Blue Parks:

- MPA management, degraded ecosystems

##### Danube lighthouse

- restoration of river connectivity, wetlands

##### Atlantic & Arctic lighthouse:

- coastal restoration, climate resilience/adaptation of coastal areas (joint topic with Mission Climate)

### Objective 2

#### PREVENT AND ELIMINATE POLLUTION

##### Mediterranean lighthouse

- prevention, reduction and elimination of plastic & litter, prevention;
- reduction and elimination of chemical pollution

##### Cross-basin topics:

- plastic free European rivers,
- low environmental impact fishing gear

### Objective 3

#### MAKE THE BLUE ECONOMY CARBON- NEUTRAL AND CIRCULAR

##### Baltic & North Sea lighthouse

- sustainable aquaculture and multi-use of marine space
- bringing algae-based products on the market)

- ✓ **WP 2021-22** @ <https://europa.eu/!GygYtT> and Published **Calls** @ <https://europa.eu/!7Qbdwd>
- ✓ **New calls** under work programme 2023, once adopted, will be announced early next year.
- ✓ **Complementary programmes** (e.g.: RRF) and national/regional funding also crucial!





# Mission Ocean and Waters Board: our advisory body

- Chaired by Pascal Lamy, the role of the Mission Board is to:
  - ❖ **15 independent high-level individuals** with **broad expertise** in marine/maritime domains, finance, communication, public engagement.
  - ❖ **Advice on Mission implementation:** framework conditions; communication, including on the performance and the achievements of the mission; synergies with other Union policies; key performance indicators.



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# Thank you!

**#MissionOcean**

**#EUmissions**

**#HorizonEU**

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