

**Trócaire**  
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 **Irish Aid**  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha

development  
**dp**  
perspectives

# Goal 14- Life Below Water





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# Who are Development Perspectives?



Development Perspectives is a Development Education NGO and registered charity (No. 18555) based in Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland. Our vision of the world is one where people live in peace with each other, in harmony with nature, free from the shackles of hunger and poverty and who are willing to work and co-operate with each other to bring about an equitable, just and sustainable world.



Our mission is to contribute to lessening poverty, inequality and climate change through transformative education and active global citizenship.



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# Goal #14- Life Below Water

## By 2030 the UN want to:

**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 and 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.



# Goal #14- Life Below Water

**How the UN is going to make this happen:**

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBn8ZCQvFoo>

**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.

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-14.pdf>

# Goal #14- Life Below Water

## How the UN is going to make this happen:

**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 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

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-14.pdf>

# Understand

## **Facts and Figures:**

- Oceans cover three-quarters of the Earth's surface, contain 97% of the Earth's water, and represent 99% of the living space on the planet by volume.
- Oceans serve as the world's largest source of protein, with more than 3 billion people depending on the oceans as their primary source.
- Globally, the levels of capture fisheries are near the ocean's productive capacity, with catches on the order of 80 million tons.
- Oceans absorb about 30% of carbon dioxide produced by humans, buffering the impacts of global warming. As much as 40% of world oceans are heavily affected by human activities, including pollution, depleted fisheries, and loss of coastal habitats.
- Oceans contain nearly 200,000 identified species, but actual numbers may lie in the millions

[http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Factsheet\\_Summit.pdf](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Factsheet_Summit.pdf)

# Understand



## Water pollution:

*"Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies (e.g. lakes, rivers, oceans, aquifers and groundwater), very often by human activities."* (Source: <http://bit.ly/2q2eSAs>)

## Website:

Sources and causes of water pollution: *"Each day over 1000 children die of diarrhoea sickness in India and the numbers have increased alarmingly in the last five years. Water is polluted by both natural as well as man-made activities. Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, Tsunamis etc are known to alter water and contaminate it, also affecting ecosystems that survive under water."* <http://bit.ly/2q0jiKp>

## Article:

Water radioactive pollution and the Irish sea: *"The reprocessing plants discharge some nuclear waste into the sea each day. The Irish Sea is arguably the most radioactively contaminated sea in the world."* <http://bit.ly/2prkTEY>

## Video:

Let's talk Oil Spills - how long does it take to recover or is it possible to ever fully recover? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuT4pfgVc4c>

## Blog:

The study, "[Organic chemicals jeopardize the health of freshwater ecosystems on the continental scale](http://bit.ly/2qrMdIn)" suggests that chemical pollution has acute, potentially lethal, impacts on freshwater organisms at more than one in ten sites across Europe. <http://bit.ly/2qrMdIn>

# Understand

## **Micro-plastics**

Micro-plastics are small plastic pieces less than five millimetres long which can be harmful to our ocean and aquatic life.

(Source: <http://bit.ly/2pkigtu>)



## **Video:**

*"Micro-plastics are one of the littlest, deadliest manufactured secretes out there today. It has made it's way into some of our most revered products and threatens the health of our wildlife and our own!"* <http://bit.ly/2q3iX9n>

## **Video +Article:**

Plastics are entering the world's oceans at an alarming rate and Irish scientists are finding them everywhere, from deep sea sediments and Arctic ice, to the stomachs of marine mammals, birds and even fish that end up on our dinner plates. <http://bit.ly/2qNfAEP>

## **Article:**

*"The US will ban the production of personal care products and cosmetics containing plastic micro-beads from July 2017."* <http://bit.ly/2pXhK3i> Should Ireland do the same?

## **Advice:**

It's hard to find what does and doesn't contain micro-plastics, here's some advice: <http://bit.ly/2r2975Q>

# Understand

## Over Fishing

Over three quarters of our planet are covered by the oceans. Their biodiversity is unmatched and they contain over 80% of all life on earth, mostly unexplored. Millions of people worldwide are depending on the oceans for their daily livelihoods. More and more this is becoming endangered because of ignorance and a global lack of management. (Source: <http://overfishing.org/>)

## Video:

*"Every year tens of millions of sharks die a slow death because of finning. Finning is the inhumane practice of hacking off the shark's fins and throwing its still living body back into the sea."* This is done mainly to make Shark fin soup an Asian delicacy, in this documentary Gordon Ramsey explores why this damaging practice is still being done and what are the consequences. <http://bit.ly/2qRIIOX>

## Article:

Ireland has topped the league table (2016) of worst offenders for the promotion of overfishing in the North East Atlantic according to a new report. <http://bit.ly/2qX0jOE>

## Website:

**How can you help?** Only eat sustainable seafood. Find out what seafood is good for you and good for the planet, and what isn't. Here's a quick cheat sheet to get you started: <http://bit.ly/2prb5uR>

Table 1. The overfishing league table

Member State	Minister / representative	Excess TAC	
		Tonnes	%
Ireland	Simon Coveney	38,115	26%
Spain	Isabel Garcia Tejerina	40,416	24%
Sweden	Sven-Erik Bucht	12,760	23%
United Kingdom	George Fustine	90,158	18%
France	Alain Vidalies	36,716	15%
The Netherlands	Martijn Van Dam	37,849	14%
Portugal	Ana Paula Vitorino, José Apollónio	7,658	11%
Germany	Christian Schmidt, Robert Kloss	14,172	11%
Denmark	Eva Kjer Hansen	52,114	6%
Belgium	Joke Schauvliege	1,808	5%

\* Member states with fewer than five comparable TACs have been excluded as their summary statistics are disproportionately affected by outliers.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2pXxCmw> (2016)

# Understand

**Clean Coasts** organises hundreds of beach clean-ups annually around Ireland mobilising thousands of volunteers, removing considerable quantities of marine litter from our coast line. By promoting and facilitating coastal clean-ups and surveys, they are creating a tangible and immediate improvement on Ireland's coastal environment. <http://cleancoasts.org/>



**Sea Shepherd** is well-known for its ongoing campaigns against the dolphin hunts of Taiji, and for chasing Japanese whalers out of whale sanctuaries. Other recent campaigns include the halting of poaching in Guatemala, collaborating with rapper Pharrell Williams on a new sustainable fashion line, and advocating a ban of the West Australian shark cull. <http://www.seashepherd.org/>

**Oceana** is the largest organization in the world solely devoted to marine conservation. The organization's vision is to "make our oceans as rich, healthy and abundant as they once were." Some of their recent campaign victories include the halting of Shell's plans to drill for oil in the Arctic Ocean in 2014, and the upholding of shark finning bans in California, Maryland, and Washington. <http://oceana.org/>



**The Dolphin Project** was founded by Ric O'Barry in 1982 as an offshoot of the Earth Island Institute. O'Barry, a former captive dolphin trainer, claims that his life was irrevocably changed when Kathy, one of the dolphins he had been working with on the set of the movie "Flipper," died in his arms. This caused him to realize that "capturing dolphins and training them to perform silly tricks is simply wrong." <https://dolphinproject.net/>

# Act

**Action is a key component to achieving Goal #14: Life Below Water. Take one or more of the challenges below to make your contribution to the #SDGchallenge:**

**Get informed** –Engage with articles, blogs, videos and campaigns.

**Be Political** –Political action is key in creating change - contact your local politicians about micro-plastics.

**Educate** –Host a workshop, talk or discussion about Goal #14: Life Below Water.

**Engage** - Take part in this month's #You'reCoddlingMe challenge.



# Act

## **Challenge #1–Get Informed**

We are asking you to read up about Goal #14 and to learn about the efforts being made around the world to help Life Below Water. You can begin this journey of learning by reading the articles or watching the videos in the 'understand' section of this info pack.

## **Challenge #2–Be Political**

With the devastating impact micro-plastics have on life below water our government are going to have to push for the banning of micro-plastics from our cleaning and cosmetic products.

### **Contact:**

Mr. Michael Creed TD - Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

**Address:** Agriculture House,  
Kildare St. Dublin 2. DO2 WK12

**Phone:**  
01-6072000

**Email:**  
[michael.creed@oir.ie](mailto:michael.creed@oir.ie)

# Act

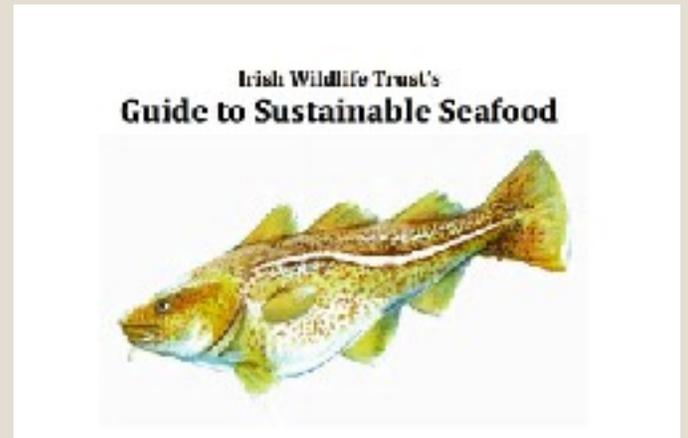
## **Challenge #3 Educate**

This challenge invites you to discuss how you can help life below water with your friends, family or colleagues. It can be an informal chat with a cuppa or an organised workshop where you can tackle the issues head on with a group. Be sure to share any educational activities with us using #SDGchallenge.

## **Challenge #4: #You'reCoddlingMe**

It's time to get local restaurants and chip shops on board! Certain fish stocks are in crisis! This month we are asking you to highlight this issue within your community. Download the Irish Wildlife Trust's Guide to Sustainable Seafood and show it to your local restaurants and chip shops and ask them to give the cod a rest or display the guide in their premises so customers can make an informed decision.

PDF download: [http://www.iwt.ie/ckeditor\\_uploads/files/IWT-Seafood-Guide%20web.pdf](http://www.iwt.ie/ckeditor_uploads/files/IWT-Seafood-Guide%20web.pdf)



# Irish organisations making a difference

An Taisce is a charity that works to preserve and protect Ireland's natural and built heritage. They are an independent charitable voice for the environment and for heritage issues. The work An Taisce is focused in three areas.

Advocacy: Their Advocacy Unit is dedicated to promoting the conservation of Ireland's nature and biodiversity as well as its built heritage.

Properties: They own a range of heritage properties in trust, including historic buildings and nature reserves.

Education: Their Environmental Education Unit is responsible for developing and operating some of Ireland's most popular and successful environmental programmes and campaigns.

Website: <http://cleancoasts.org>



**An Taisce**

*The National Trust for Ireland*

# Share

Sharing our actions on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram allows us to raise awareness about Life Below Water in Ireland and around the world and about the Sustainable Development Goals.



No matter which challenge you take, be sure to share it! Check out our Facebook Group #SDGchallenge. You can share your actions here and inspire other SDG advocates!



Or you can Tweet us @SDGchallenge. Follow us for daily updates and interesting reads on Life Below Water for the month.



Follow us on Instagram @SDGchallenge and make sure to tag #SDGs and #globalgoals in your posts