



THE  
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## Factsheet: People and Oceans

### *General*

- The ocean is vast, covering 140 million square miles (363 million square km), equivalent to approximately 72 per cent of the earth's surface.
- More than 600 million people (around 10 per cent of the world's population) live in coastal areas that are less than 10 meters above sea level.
- Nearly 2.4 billion people (about 40 per cent of the world's population) live within 100 km (60 miles) of the coast.
- Oceans, coastal and marine resources are very important for people living in coastal communities, who represent 37 per cent of the global population in 2017.

### *Health and nutrition*

- Human health is being impacted by the enhanced survival and spread of tropical diseases due to increasing ocean temperatures.
- Fish is one of the most important sources of animal protein. It accounts for about 17 per cent of protein at the global level and exceeds 50 per cent in many least-developed countries.
- The nutrients found in fish are important for optimal neurodevelopment in children and for improving cardiovascular health.

### *Sustainable livelihoods and decent work*

- About 97 per cent of the world's fishermen live in developing countries and fishing is their major source for food and income. Women account for most of the workers in secondary marine-related activities such as fish processing and marketing.
- Overall, 80 per cent of the world's fish stocks for which assessment information is available are reported as fully exploited or overexploited. Illegal, unregulated, unreported fishing affects about 20 per cent of the global fish yields, which cost about \$US23 billion a year. An estimated 27 per cent of landed fish is lost or wasted between landing and consumption.
- Small scale fisheries supply almost half of the world's seafood stock. Small scale fisheries are however, among others, disadvantaged by lack of access to markets, even domestically, and a lack of pricing power.

### *Economy*

- The ocean-economy, which includes employment, ecosystem services provided by the ocean, and cultural services, is estimated at between US\$3-6 trillion/year.
- Fisheries and aquaculture contribute \$US100 billion per year and about 260 million jobs to the global economy.

- Shipping is responsible for more than 90 per cent of the trade between countries. The global oceans-based economy is estimated at \$US3 trillion a year, which is around 5 per cent of global GDP.
- Approximately 50 per cent of all international tourists travel to coastal areas. In some developing countries, notably Small Island Development States, tourism accounts for over 25 per cent of GDP.