

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

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Delivering a Sustainable Ocean Economy in the Framework of the SDGs

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There is an urgent need to transition towards a sustainable ocean economy. The ocean is at the centre of the livelihoods of more than 3 billion people worldwide, and it is a key life-support system for all life on this planet. So far, the East Asia and Pacific region recorded the fastest acceleration in value added of the ocean economy, represented by six ocean-based industries, from USD 157 billion in 2010 to over USD 175 billion in 2015, largely driven by the People's Republic of China. However, pressures on the ocean and the ecosystem services it provides have mounted significantly — from overfishing, pollution, and climate change — and are expected to further grow as the ocean becomes the stage for a range of new ocean-related economic activities. The world agreed to focus on the ocean in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) and ocean action has since become a key priority in international fora, including in recent G7 and G20 agendas. Still, sustainability cannot be assessed or achieved without accurate and reliable indicators of the state of the ocean environment and of the economy. Here there two positive news. First, thanks to crucial ocean observing systems and better science for conservation and sustainable uses of the ocean, we know more about the ocean and the pressures it faces. The UN Decade on ocean science for sustainable development is about to start and will be an important opportunity to map and to better know marine ecosystems. These observing systems are also important to know who is doing what, who is polluting and who is depleting marine resources in almost real time. Another good news is that a range of policy instruments is already available to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean by responsible governments. Effective policy mixes will be needed to address the different pressures on the ocean, and to foster better behaviors. The OECD will continue to develop indicators and evidence-based policy advice to contribute to a global transition to sustainable ocean economies that can preserve the ocean and its many benefits to humanity.