The satellite-derived eutrophication indicator shows an increasing trend from 2016 to the present. There was an increase of over 23 per cent in the peak values of the indicator for the 2020 and 2021 calendar year average, compared with the mean value for previous years.

Ocean acidification is the consequence of uptake of atmospheric CO₂ by the ocean, resulting in a decreasing pH and increasing acidification of the ocean, thereby negatively affecting marine organisms and ocean services. Data collected from 308 stations from 35 countries in 2022 highlights the growing capacity of countries to observe the continued decline of ocean pH in the global ocean as well as the strong regional differences in the pace of change. Further increases in ocean acidification are expected to occur at an accelerating rate over the coming decades.

More than 17 million metric tons of plastic entered the ocean in 2021, a figure that is projected to double or triple by 2040.

Almost half a billion people depend at least partially on small-scale fisheries, which account for 90 per cent of employment in fisheries worldwide. Almost all small-scale fishers (97 per cent) live in developing countries and were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and collapsed fish markets.

Between 2018 and 2022, the average degree of implementation of international instruments to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as measured by the indicator has improved across the world. In this period, the global aggregated indicator has risen from 3 to 4 (out of a maximum score of 5).

Overall, many States have ratified or acceded to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (168 parties) and its implementing agreements (151 parties for the 1994 Part XI Agreement and 91 parties for the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement).
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) served as the secretariat and supported the Governments of Portugal and Kenya in convening of the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July 2022, where Heads of State and Government joined thousands of government officials, young people, business leaders, scientists and civil society representatives to usher in a new chapter of ocean action driven by science, technology and innovation.

The UN Global Compact (UNGC) Sustainable Ocean Principles provide a framework for responsible business practices across ocean sectors and geographies. More than 150 major companies, spanning 30 industries, 35 countries and 6 continents, with a combined market capitalization of 895 billion euros, have signed onto the Sustainable Ocean Principles at the 2022 UNOC and committed to assessing their impact on the ocean and integrating ocean sustainability into their overall strategies.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported Governments of Vietnam, Maldives, the Philippines and Sri Lanka through Reducing Plastic Pollution by tapping into systemic design initiatives towards circular economy strategies embracing not only policy and regulations but also awareness raising, technology and infrastructure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit UNDESA’s relevant databases below to learn more about actions, initiatives and partnerships that advance the SDGs:
- SDG Good Practices Database
- SDG Acceleration Actions Database
- UN System SDG Implementation Database
- Voluntary National Reviews Database

TOGETHER WITH UN-HABITAT, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has joined Team Europe, six regional governments and the national Government of Kenya, in the Go Blue initiative, aiming to protect Kenya’s coastal ecosystems while creating environmentally friendly jobs. UNEP has supported the development of integrated, ecosystem-based planning and management frameworks, ecosystems data collection and assessment, regional land-sea visions prioritizing blue economy.