



# NAUTILOS

## BEYOND CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINED OBSERVATION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

Policy Brief

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101000825 (NAUTILOS). This output reflects only the author's view and the European Union cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Ocean observation is crucial in supporting economic activities related to the ocean, such as providing valuable data on resources like food, minerals, and energy. This data can support sustainable management practices and ensure the continued availability of these resources for future generations. The development of new technologies and industries related to ocean monitoring and energy, like wave and tidal energy, can be driven by sustained observation, which provides a comprehensive understanding of ocean conditions and processes.

Projects like NAUTILOS help address the impact of climate change on the ocean, marine resources and linked economic activities. The impact of climate change on coastal communities and ocean infrastructure can be mitigated by providing data and information on the effects of climate change, enabling informed decision-making and the development of strategies to address the impact. At the same time, the blue economy sectors suffer from data limitations that are needed for marine spatial planning and sustainable management of ocean resources.

## Recommendations

### **Promote the integration of ocean observation data into decision-making processes to support the sustainable management of ocean resources and the Blue Economy.**

Ocean observation data is a valuable source of information for decision makers in various sectors, including marine protected areas, fishing reserves, and ocean-based industries. To effectively use this data, policymakers should support clear processes for data collection, management, and dissemination. This will guarantee that the data is trustworthy, accurate and available to decision makers.

It is well known that abundance and spatio-temporal distribution of commercial marine species are influenced by environmental factors. Therefore it is crucial to identify their relationships and include environmental parameters in ecological modeling and stock assessments, thus taking into account climate change or local environmental variations when designing or evaluating management strategies.

By integrating ocean observation data into decision-making processes, policymakers can ensure the sustainable management of ocean resources and support the growth of the Blue Economy. This aligns economic, social, and environmental interests and contributes to sustainable development.

## **Encourage public-private partnerships to support sustained ocean observation efforts and the Blue Growth.**

Partnerships between government agencies, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and private sector businesses are crucial for promoting ocean observation and advancing the Blue Economy. These partnerships can bring together a range of resources, expertise, and perspectives to achieve common goals.

Effective partnerships require clear objectives, shared decision-making processes, and effective communication strategies. By fostering public-private partnerships, policymakers can ensure that a wide range of stakeholders are supporting ocean observation and the Blue Growth, driving innovation, increasing the scale of efforts, and providing data and insights for sustainable ocean resource management.

## **Foster international collaboration and coordination to support long-term ocean observation efforts, sharing best practices and technology developments.**

International collaboration and coordination are crucial in supporting sustained ocean observation efforts and the Blue Economy. This can help to ensure that the most advanced technology and best practices are shared across borders, leading to more effective and efficient ocean observation efforts.

Additionally, international collaboration can support the development of common standards and protocols for ocean observation, providing grounds for data collection, analysis and reporting in a consistent and transparent way.

Finally, international collaboration can also provide opportunities for capacity building, technology transfer, and the sharing of financial and technical resources in countries that may otherwise lack the resources to establish such programs on their own.



Sustained ocean observation plays a vital role in supporting economic activities in the ocean and ensuring the sustainable management of ocean resources. Integration of ocean observation data into decision-making processes, public-private partnerships, and international collaboration and coordination are crucial in advancing the Blue Economy and mitigating the impact of climate change on the ocean. Policymakers can support these efforts by providing regular funding, regulatory support, and transparent governance structures for effective and efficient use of resources. By promoting sustained ocean observation efforts and fostering partnerships, policymakers can contribute to continued availability of ocean resources for future generations and consequently, to sustainable development.

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