



Recommendations for the prevention, reduction and mitigation of Ocean Noise Pollution: [A joint statement to the Second UN Oceans Conference, 27th June – 1st July 2022, Lisbon](#)

This statement is delivered by OceanCare, founding member of the International Ocean Noise Coalition (IONC) – a partnership of over 150 NGOs worldwide -, a member of the 'Science & Technology' Major Group, and on behalf of the Coalition Clean Baltic, Seas at Risk, Silent Ocean Coalition, as well as additional organisations which are calling for ocean noise pollution to be urgently addressed.

Your Excellencies, Dignitaries and Ocean Friends,

There is scientific evidence that ocean noise, including from shipping, hydrocarbon exploration and coastal and offshore construction is a significant threat to marine ecosystems and biodiversity and affects the whole marine food web with implications for human livelihoods and food security.

Ocean noise is undermining efforts to achieve a healthy and resilient ocean as prioritised through Agenda 2030. The continued exploration of new hydrocarbon deposits contributes to increased noise levels and is also counterproductive to efforts to combat the climate emergency, as envisioned in SDG13.

There is a need for a global effort to prevent, reduce, and mitigate ocean noise. We call for:

1. Explicit recognition of ocean noise as a serious form of marine pollution under SDG14.1.
2. Consideration that SDG14.4 demands measures to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible and how ocean noise might undermine these efforts.
3. An immediate ban on all new fossil fuel exploration and exploitation activities and a binding phase-out plan for existing drilling operations.
4. The ending of all harmful subsidies for exploration and exploitation of fossil fuels, plastic production, and detrimental fishing practices.
5. Promotion of compulsory speed reduction measures for shipping to reduce GHG emissions and ocean noise, setting a level playing field for the private sector.
6. Recognition that remedial policy action on ocean noise pollution should not be delayed awaiting more science, as there is already sufficient scientific documentation that ocean noise pollution can severely impact marine life. In the rare cases where scientific evidence remains incomplete, the precautionary principle should be applied.

7. Acknowledgment that the over-reliance on promises of new technology delays immediate action and that a cultural, social and political transformation is the most sustainable and precautionary response.

It is not yet too late to act. What is needed now is meaningful and bold action which is both measurable and enforceable. It is important that the world does not fail to achieve SDG14 as the future of humanity depends upon the future of our oceans.

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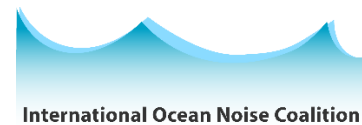
Signed by:



BUND, Germany



Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden



International Ocean Noise
Coalition, International



OceanCare, Switzerland



Seas at Risk, Europe



Silent Ocean Coalition,
International

OceanCare has been committed to marine wildlife protection since 1989. We have witnessed dramatic developments – and have enforced concrete improvements.

Through research and conservation projects, campaigns, environmental education, and involvement in a range of international committees, **OceanCare** undertakes concrete steps to improve the situation for marine wildlife. In 2011, OceanCare was granted Special Consultative Status on marine issues with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. OceanCare has also been accredited as part of the Major Group 'Science & Technology' to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in 2015.