

Key policy and legislation documents

The world of policy can be a difficult place to navigate, however, certain key documents are of international significance acting as milestones to help explain the current state of our seas and surrounding legislation.

We've collated some key policy and legislation documents and website links, at international, regional and national level, concerning the coastal and marine environment. This is not an extensive list but we hope these will help you gain a better understanding of marine policy.

Country	Name	Type
INTERNATIONAL		
Antarctic	The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) 1980 Conservation measures that determine the use of marine living resources in the Antarctic.	Legislation
	The Antarctic Treaty 1959 Legislation to ensure Antarctica is used "exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord"	Legislation
Global	International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling 1946 A legally binding schedule of specific measures to regulate whaling and conserve whale stocks.	Legislation
	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Legislation

<p>1982</p> <p>Defines nation's rights and responsibilities with respect to their use of the world's oceans and establishes guidelines for the management of marine natural resources.</p>	
<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</p> <p>1994</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
<p>UNCLOS - Marine Biological Diversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)</p> <p>2017</p> <p>International legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
<p>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</p> <p>A set of goals to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.</p>	<p>Policy</p>
<p>United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development</p> <p>2021 - 2030</p> <p>A framework to ensure that ocean science can support countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>Policy</p>
<p>United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration</p> <p>2021 - 2030</p>	<p>Policy</p>

	<p>47th G7 Summit</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Official documents from the 47th G7 Summit, under UK Presidency. Includes plans for global actions to protect our planet.</p>	<p>Policy</p>
REGIONAL		
Eastern Caribbean	<p>Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy</p> <p>2013</p> <p>Discussion document to promote and guide the future sustainable use and development of the region's marine waters and resources.</p>	<p>Policy</p>
Europe	<p>EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive</p> <p>A framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy.</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
	<p>EU Water Framework Directive</p> <p>A framework for community action in the field of water policy.</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
	<p>Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)</p> <p>1994</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
Pacific Islands	<p>The Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy</p>	<p>Policy</p>

	2005 Policy document outlining the importance of ocean and coastal resources.	
NATIONAL		
Australia	National Ocean Policy of Australia 1998	Policy
Bahamas	The Bahamas' National Maritime Policy 2015	Policy
Belgium	Public Enterprises, Science Policy and Development Cooperation, in charge of Major Cities	Policy
Canada	Oceans Act 1996	Legislation
Fiji	Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy 2013	Policy
India	Ocean Policy Statement	Policy
Jamaica	Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica	Policy
Japan	The 3rd Basic Plan on Ocean Policy 2018	Policy
Malta	Integrated Maritime Policy: Making Malta a Centre of Maritime Excellence	Policy
Namibia (Republic of)	Marine Resources Act 2000 (amended 2015)	Legislation
Papua New Guinea	Integrated Papua New Guinea Oceans Policy	Policy
Seychelles	Seychelles' Blue Economy. Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap: Charting the Future (2018-2030)	Policy

Solomon Islands	Integrated National Oceans Policy and Marine Spatial Plan for Solomon Islands	Policy
South Africa (Republic of)	Marine Spatial Planning Act 2018	Legislation
Tonga	Tonga Climate Change Policy: A Resilient Tonga by 2035	Policy
United Kingdom	UK Marine Policy Statement 2011 Framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.	Policy
	A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment 2018 Report from the Government outlining the plan to improve the natural environment within the next 25 years.	Policy
	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Government legislation to improve management and protection of the UK's marine and coastal environment.	Legislation
	The Water Environment (Amendment) Regulations 2017 Transpose objectives and measures of the EU Water Framework Directive into national law.	Legislation
	The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations	Legislation

	<p>2017</p> <p>Transpose EU Habitats and Birds Directive into national law. Covers territorial seas of England and Wales out to 12 nautical miles.</p>	
	<p>The Marine Strategy Regulations</p> <p>2010</p> <p>These regulations transpose the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive into national law.</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
	<p>Fisheries Act</p> <p>2020</p> <p>An Act to make provision in relation to fisheries, fishing, aquaculture and marine conservation.</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
	<p>Environment Act</p> <p>2021</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
	<p>Maritime 2050</p> <p>2019</p> <p>The Governments visions and ambitions for the future of the British maritime sector.</p>	<p>Policy</p>
United States	<p>Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act</p> <p>2009</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
	<p>Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act</p> <p>2009</p>	<p>Legislation</p>

	Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act 2009	Legislation
	NOAA Ocean Exploration and Undersea Research Program Act 2009	Legislation
	Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act 2009	Legislation
Vanuatu	Vanuatu's National Ocean Policy 2016	Policy