



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/UnitA2/LR

Dear Mr Zieliński,

Thank you for BSAC's statement on the Ocean Act, which was received on 1st July 2026. Your insights and commitment to supporting this initiative are greatly appreciated, and we can confirm that your input is duly considered in the ongoing impact assessment.

The past year has been devoted to advancing the implementation of the European Ocean Pact. Among other initiatives, the European Commission adopted the EU Industrial Maritime Strategy, the EU Ports Strategy and the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) (April 2026). In June 2026 it presented its ocean observation initiative OceanEye, together with the first EU strategies for islands and coastal communities. The Ocean Act will be the legislative leg of the Ocean Pact.

The Ocean Act will bring together existing ocean-related targets under one roof, directly connecting them to how we plan, implement and manage marine activities. Based on the revision of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive, it will improve coherence and consistency with other relevant EU legislation and policies such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the CFP Regulation and other relevant EU legislation.

As you highlight in your statement, the Ocean Act will promote a coexistence approach, recognising that Europe's seas must deliver for nature, climate, energy, aquaculture, fisheries and the broader blue economy, and the coastal communities at the same time. By building on strengthened maritime spatial planning and advancing an ecosystem-based approach, it will support better planning of marine space, early stakeholder involvement and the development of multi-use solutions where appropriate.

As you know, protecting the resource of the ocean is the basis for a healthy and competitive blue economy. That is why the revision of the MSFD is being prepared hand in hand with the development of the Ocean Act.

The Ocean Act will also reinforce regional governance by building on the strong regional dimension of the MSFD and MSP, the work of the Regional Sea Conventions, sea-basin strategies and other relevant regional networks and structures.

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Better cross-sectoral coordination will also provide greater certainty for public authorities, investors and maritime stakeholders, while allowing the balance of competing uses of the sea through an ecosystem-based approach.

As I write, DG MARE services are finalising the impact assessment for the Act, aligned with the Commission work on the revision of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

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