# SDG Implementation Planning Process and Status Republic of Korea

**11 December 2019** 

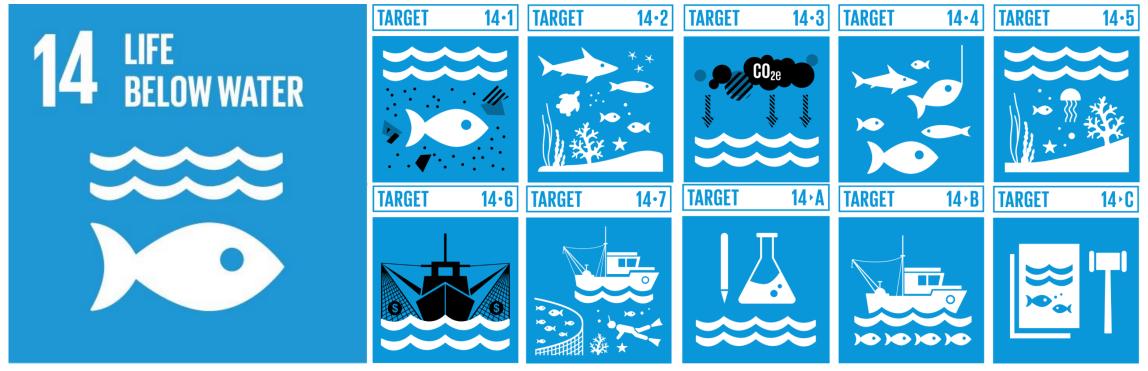
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#### 1. SDG 14: Life Below Water

SDG 14: Life Below Water



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

Act on Conservation and Utilization of the Marine Environment (ACUME, 2007)

Fourth Marine Environment Master Plan (MEMP) 2011-2020



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development



14-1

Establish a system to ensure the protection of the marine environment from pollutants from land and sea



14-2

Minimize the impact of marine oxidation by reinforcing collaboration on R&D, etc.



14-3

Ensure the sustainable management of fishery resources and prevent overfishing



14-4

Expand the protected marine zones to ensure systematic conservation and prudent use of marine ecosystems.



14-5

Ensure financial gains through the sustainable use of marine resources.



14-6

Enhance marine research capabilities and increase marine technology transfers



14-7

Establish a system to ensure the protection of the marine environment from pollutants from land and sea



14-8

Support small fishers and ensure the stability of their fishing practices





14-1

## Establish a system to ensure the protection of the marine environment from pollutants from land and sea

P R O G R E S s

- O Master Plan on Marine Plastic Control established (May 2019):
- Reinforced control of each source of marine plastics.
- Improved the system of marine plastic collection.
- Expanded the infrastructure for marine plastic processing.
- Raised public awareness.

LANS

- Decrease the quantity of marine plastics by 30% by 2022 and by 50% by 2030.
- Control: Introduce mandatory deposits for the use of fishing buoys and increase marine waste collection facilities (from 14 in 2019 to 130 in 2030).
- Collection: Build ships for transporting and processing wastes from islands (six to be completed by 2021).
- Infrastructure: Establish pre-processing facilities (two by 2020).
- Awareness: Reinforce education for different groups and organize public campaigns and events on social media, etc.
- \* Year Zero for Making Marine Plastics Zero (2019), using award-winning comments on the Twitter contest (first place: SeaUagain) from August 2019, etc.





14-2

#### Ensure the active management of marine ecosystems and habitats

P R O G R E S

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Developed sea forests.

- By 2019, 21,490 hectares of sea forests are to be created based on the findings of albinism research and site surveys.
- The goal is to prevent the spread of albinism and restore the health of coastal ecosystems.
- Restoring mudflat ecosystems
- Continuation of projects to restore mudflat ecosystems at seven locations, including Yubudo and Gopado islands (since 2017).
- Legislation of the Act on Sustainable Management and Restoration of Mudflats and Surrounding Areas ("Mudflat Act") in January 2019

P L A N s

- The projects for developing sea forests will continue, and natural seaweed farms will be protected and conserved.
- O Multipurpose mudflat restoration projects will continue and be expanded.
- Restored mudflats will be used to further promote ecological restoration efforts, eco-themed tourism, and fishing.
- O The Enforcement Decree of the Mudflat Act will be introduced and take effect by January 2020.



14-3

#### Minimize the impact of marine oxidation by reinforcing scientific cooperation

P R O G R E S s

- Reinforced control of pollutants from land
- The Third Protected Marine Zone Master Plan (2019-2023) and zone-by-zone management plans were established in June 2019.
- Interdepartmental consultations were held to reinforce the criteria of discharge water control and organize joint inspections of wastewater plants that discharge directly into the sea (Ministry of Environment and MOF).
- Established a system for evaluating the health of ecosystems and monitoring seawater oxidation.
- Basic and feasibility studies were conducted before enforcing the expanded total coastal pollution control program (March to December 2019).
- Seawater pH levels continue to be monitored, using the Marine Environmental Monitoring Network, at 425 peak points along all coasts.

P L A N s

- The criteria for controlling the quality of discharge water will be further reinforced, subject to interdepartmental consultation, in 2020.
- Monitoring of pH levels and total coastal pollution control will be continued using the Marine Environmental Monitoring Network.



14-4

#### Ensure the sustainable management of fishery resources and prevent overfishing

PROGRES

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- Introduced total acceptable catch (TAC) (since 1999)
- The types of species (Manila clams) and fishing practices (trawling for squid) subject to TAC control were increased, with yellow corvinas and hairtails also added on a pilot basis in July 2019.
- The bill for an amendment of the Fishery Resources Management Act was submitted to a standing committee in the legislature in September 2019 to allow the government to add specific species to the list of those subject to TAC, where deemed necessary.
- Continued efforts to reduce fishing vessels (since 1994)
- Near-water fishing: intensive control and reduction of large-capacity fishing vessels (large purse seiners, trawlers, dragnet vessels, etc.) over short periods of time
- Coastal fishing: reduction of large-catch fishing practices, subject to much controversy.
- \* Reduction in number of fishing vessels (1994-2018): 20,265 near-water and coastal vessels (2,682 near-water and 17,583 coastal)

LAN

- The percentage of species subject to TAC control is to be increased to 50% of total near-water and coastal catches by 2022.
- The numbers of near-water and coastal fishing vessels are to be reduced by 300 and 1,000, respectively, over the next five years under the second Fishing Vessel Reduction Plan (2019-2023).



14-5

### Expand the protected marine zones to ensure systematic conservation and prudent use of marine ecosystems

P R O G R E S

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- Expanded and increased the protected marine zones in waters with high preservation value
- Roundtables held between stakeholders (eight times, February-September 2019)
- Protected Marine Zone Conference (September 2019)
- Advertised the value of Korean mudflats worldwide and sought global certification of exemplary protected zones (in urban areas)
- World Wetlands Day (Ramsar Convention) event held (in partnership with the Ministry of Environment) in May 2019.
- Introduced the Korean government's mudflat conservation policy at the ceremony celebrating the inclusion of the Wadden Sea as a World Natural Heritage in June 2019.
- Gochang and Seocheon selected as candidate wetland cities in August 2019.
- Hosted IUCN on-site investigation in October 2019 to prepare for the inclusion of Korea's southwestern mudflats as a World Natural Heritage.

P L A N

- A public briefing for local residents is to be held in October 2019 for the expansion of the protected marine zone around Garorim Bay in December.
- The names of Ramsar wetland city candidates are to be submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in March 2020.



14-6

#### Ensure financial gains through the sustainable use of marine resources.



PROGRES

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- Fishery Innovation Plan 2030: Introducing a comprehensive range of measures for innovating fisheries and enhancing their sustainability (submitted to the Meeting of Economic Ministers in February 2019).
- More effective management of marine resources and expansion of smart aquaculture have helped increase revenue in the overall fishing industry (from KRW 67 trillion in 2016 to KRW 100 trillion in 2030).
- Aqua Farm 4.0 Strategy: New engines of growth are to be created by applying advanced technology and expanding aquaculture (submitted to the Meeting of Science Ministers in September 2019).
- The Aqua Farm 4.0 Strategy, for applying the latest information technology to aquaculture, was introduced in September 2019. The Basic Plan for the Development of a Smart Aquaculture Cluster was also established in July 2019.
- Innovating the distribution and logistics of fishery products and promoting their exports (Of the target export amount set at USD 2.5 billion for 2019, USD 1.85 billion had already been exported as of September 2019.)
- Plans for developing new networks of distribution, including those for direct transactions, were established in June 2019, and the new export strategy went into effect in March 2019.
- Improving quality of life and increasing income for fishing communities (innovative improvements of 300 fishing communities and ports by 2022)
- Fishing Community New Deal Program: A total of 70 communities began in January 2019, with KRW 10 billion each. Fourteen ports are now also being transformed into specialized ports for tourism and recreation.

P L A N

- OPenalties for illegal fishing practices are to be reinforced and the shift to the TAC system is to be consolidated by 2020.
- Interdepartmental R&D projects for the Aqua Farm 4.0 Strategy and the development of new distribution networks are to begin in 2020.
- History and origin control is to be reinforced, and 100 new fishing communities are to be chosen for the New Deal Program in 2020.



14-7

Enhance marine research capabilities and increase marine technology transfers

# P R O G R E S

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- O New projects for developing technologies to reduce marine pollution
- National R&D project (2020-2024, KRW 36 billion) launched to find ways to reduce marine plastics and litter.
- New system and collection equipment for marine plastics and litter developed, along with a risk evaluation program.
- O Special research project for developing techniques for assessing the marine environmental impact of developmental activities
- The introduction of official assessment criteria is expected to help decrease controversy.
- The project is under way and will be a recipient of the marine and fishery R&D budget in 2021.

#### P L A N s

- Application for the preliminary feasibility study necessary to commence R&D on technologies for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change is to be submitted in November 2019.
- Active efforts will be made to include the special research project on developing a model for assessing marine environmental impacts in the 2021 budget.





14-8

#### Support small fishers and ensure the stability of their fishing practices

P R O G R E S

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• The number of communities eligible for fishing grants reserved for fishers in disadvantaged areas was increased.

- The Act on the Enforcement of Direct Subsidies for Fishers was amended in December 2018.
- The scope of eligible fishing communities was expanded to include all islands as a means of increasing income for fishers.
- Unit rates for subsidies were raised.
- To improve the living conditions in disadvantaged areas, the unit rates of unit subsidies will also be raised by KRW 50,000 in 2020.

\*KRW 600,000 per household per year in 2018 to KRW 650,000 in 2019, KRW 700,000 in 2020, KRW 750,000 in 2021, and KRW 800,000 in 2022

P L A N

- The unit rates for subsidies for fishers in disadvantaged areas will continue to be increased.
- Up to KRW 800,000 per household per year by 2022, to help improve living conditions for fishing communities.
- O Subsidies for public interests in fisheries are to be introduced.
- Subsidies may be granted, on the condition that the eligible parties have done something to serve the public interest (conserving marine ecosystems, defending national waters, etc.).
- \*Research in 2019 → Development of a roadmap and amendment of the Act on the Enforcement of Direct Subsidies in 2020 → Pilot application of direct subsidies in 2021

