

EN

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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.8.2026)

The Commission is fully committed to achieving the EU's marine biodiversity objectives to contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as can be seen in the Convention on Biological Diversity online reporting tool. The EU implements the ecosystem-based approach through the Birds¹, Habitats², Marine Strategy Framework³ and the Maritime Spatial Planning⁴ Directives, the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)⁵, the Nature Restoration Regulation⁶ and the Biodiversity Strategy⁷. The Commission regularly assesses progress in achieving marine protection and sustainable fisheries objectives under EU law. The recently launched OceanEye⁸ will support the development of a strong evidence base for sustainable marine management.

Under the Habitats Directive, Member States must prevent deterioration of protected habitats and species and adopt conservation objectives and measures for each Natura 2000 site. They must assess, case by case, whether fishing activities, including mobile bottom-contacting gears, are compatible with the corresponding conservation objectives. Under the Marine Action Plan⁹ the Commission sets out its vision on how to best preserve marine biodiversity and increase the resilience and sustainability of fisheries, exploiting synergies between the CFP and the environmental legislation. It issued a guidance on Natura 2000 and fishing¹⁰. The European Ocean Pact¹¹ addresses sustainability and protecting and restoring ocean health.

Under the Nature Restoration Regulation, Member States are required to restore degraded marine habitats, which may involve restrictions on mobile bottom fishing. Member States are due to submit their first national restoration plans in September 2026.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01992L0043-20130701>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32008L0056>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/89/oj/eng>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj/eng>.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1991&qid=1783600063905>.

⁷ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en.

⁸ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/science-observation-and-data/oceaneye_en.

⁹ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean-health/action-plan-protecting-and-restoring-marine-ecosystems-sustainable-and-resilient-fisheries_en.

¹⁰ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7557c784-9f37-11f0-97c8-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

¹¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0281>.