

Eleven commitments by Finland for the UN Ocean Conference 2022 (registered)

Finland submits eleven commitments to the UN Ocean Conference, worth at least 100 M€ in costs and benefits, in order to improve the environmental status of the Baltic Sea (Commitments 1-10) and the Red Sea (Commitment 11).

Abstract

These 11 commitments, worth at least 100 M€ in costs and benefits, will improve the environmental status of the Baltic Sea (Commitments 1-10), and the Red Sea (Commitment 11). Many of these commitments include measures that reduce the pressures in the catchment area, as well as in the sea, and improve the state of marine biodiversity.

More specifically, these commitments include measures that reduce; the flow of nutrients and hazardous substances into the sea, underwater noise, marine litter, and environmental risks such as oil and chemical spills. The commitments also include effective marine and coastal conservation measures to improve the conditions of marine species and habitats.

Most of these commitments originate from the Finnish Marine Strategy, except the 11th commitment which is a joint UN lead operation to remove oil from the decrepit FSO Safer for which Finland contribute with 1 Million Euro.

The 11 UNOC Commitments by Finland

- 1) Reduce nutrient loading into the sea especially from agriculture.
- 2) Reduce input of hazardous substances into the sea by improved regulation, and by giving guidance for better handling of antifouling agents.
- 3) Restoration of important areas for fish and improving sustainable coastal fisheries.
- 4) Reduce plastic and microplastic input to marine environment by improving waste collection in near-shore recreational areas and from marinas, agriculture, artificial turfs, roads, urban storm water and wastewater systems.
- 5) Reduce underwater noise from e.g. shipping, boating and marine construction activities and reduce its impact on marine fauna by giving spatial and/or time-specific regulations.
- 6) Improve the status of marine habitats and species e.g. by restoration measures and by reducing pressures from different human activities, in particular from boating, shipping and dredging.
- 7) Improve the effectiveness of marine conservation measures and expand the existing marine protected area network.
- 8) Improve the preparedness and ability to combat oil and other chemical spills in marine and coastal areas and improve the surveillance of these risks.
- 9) Take actions to reduce the environmental impact of conventional, chemical and explosive munitions dumped at sea and shipwrecks in the Baltic Sea.
- 10) Increase and improve marine literacy, to add knowledge and understanding of the ocean's influence on all of us, our influence on it, and provide guidance on how all of us can improve the environmental status of the ocean and seas, and act sustainably.

11) Provide support to the joint UN operation to transfer oil from decrepit FSO Safer