

Blue growth

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// abstract:

This strategy represents the contribution of the *integrated maritime policy* (COM (2007) 575; p.66) to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The communication highlights the great potential of the seas and oceans for the European economy and for innovation. The rapid progress of offshore techniques, growing awareness of the non-renewable nature of raw materials and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions create opportunities for blue growth. This requires targeted investments and effective research efforts. The EU policy also has to reinforce the efforts of Member States and regions by offering common building blocks such as the creation of a framework for *maritime spatial planning* (Directive 2014/89/EU) p.93, promoting information exchange (*Marine knowledge 2020*; COM (2010) 461) p.68, the *Marine Strategy Framework Directive* (2008/56/EC) p.85, the establishment of a European maritime transport space without barriers (COM (2009) 10), the programmes financed by the Framework Programme for research and innovation in marine and maritime issues, etc.

The five priority areas where additional effort at EU level could stimulate long-term growth and jobs in the blue economy are (1) blue energy; (2) aquaculture; (3) maritime, coastal and cruise tourism; (4) marine mineral resources and (5) blue biotechnology.