

# Underwater noise and the SDGs

*Joanna Toole, Ocean Policy Consultant, OceanCare*



## Underwater noise and the SDGs



- The Sustainable Development Goals or ‘SDGs’ are:
  - Central to the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - 17 Goals, 169 targets
  - Universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity
  - Interconnected

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- UNCLOS definition of pollution of the marine environment : “...*the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment including estuaries, which results, or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine life, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities including fishing and other legitimate uses of the sea, impairment of quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities*”.

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- SDG14.4 - to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible
- Efforts to protect and restore fish stocks risk being undermined by ocean noise-generating activities
- A need to consider ocean noise when development plans for Marine Protected Areas or no-fishing zones.



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- Millions of people around the world dependent on fisheries for food and livelihood
- Commercial fish catch rates have been shown to drop after ocean noise events
- Increased by-catch rates and decreased fish abundance have been observed in the presence of anthropogenic noise
- Efforts to protect and restore fish stocks risk being undermined by ocean noise-generating activities
- A need to consider ocean noise when development plans for Marine Protected Areas or no-fishing zones.

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- SDG 13 - Urgent action to combat climate change
- 2015 Paris Agreement also demands ambitious action
- Cleaner energy sources are required to meet climate change targets
- Cleaner energy sources are required to reduce ocean noise pollution

# Underwater noise and the SDGs

*Healthy Oceans - Happy People*

