

The High Seas

The High Seas is the area of the ocean beyond the jurisdiction of any state.

Just **1.18%** of its waters are **fully protected**



The High Seas covers nearly **2/3 of the ocean** and almost **1/2 the planet**



The **UN** is negotiating a new, legally binding treaty **to protect marine biodiversity in the High Seas**

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to give these waters **legal, sustainable and enforceable protection by 2020**



The High Seas contains about **95% of the habitat** occupied by life on Earth in all its forms – from **microscopic plankton** to the gigantic **blue whale**



Less than one millionth of the water column and seabed in the High Seas has **been studied in detail**

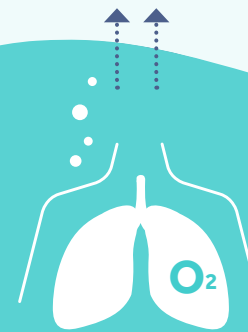


Some of the essential services provided by the High Seas:

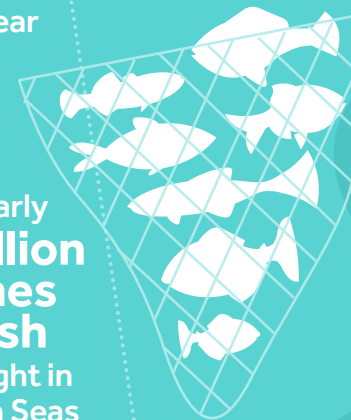


The High Seas ecosystems capture and store an estimated

1.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ every year



The ocean provides around **1/2 of our oxygen**



Nearly **10 million tonnes of fish** are caught in the High Seas each year

90% of the world's trade is carried by sea, with **huge ships** crisscrossing the High Seas

Much of the marine life in the High Seas is highly migratory



46 days

The **wandering albatross** can circumnavigate the globe in **46 days**



5000 km

Each year **humpback whales** travel up to **5000 km** from their Polar feeding grounds to breed in warmer regions