

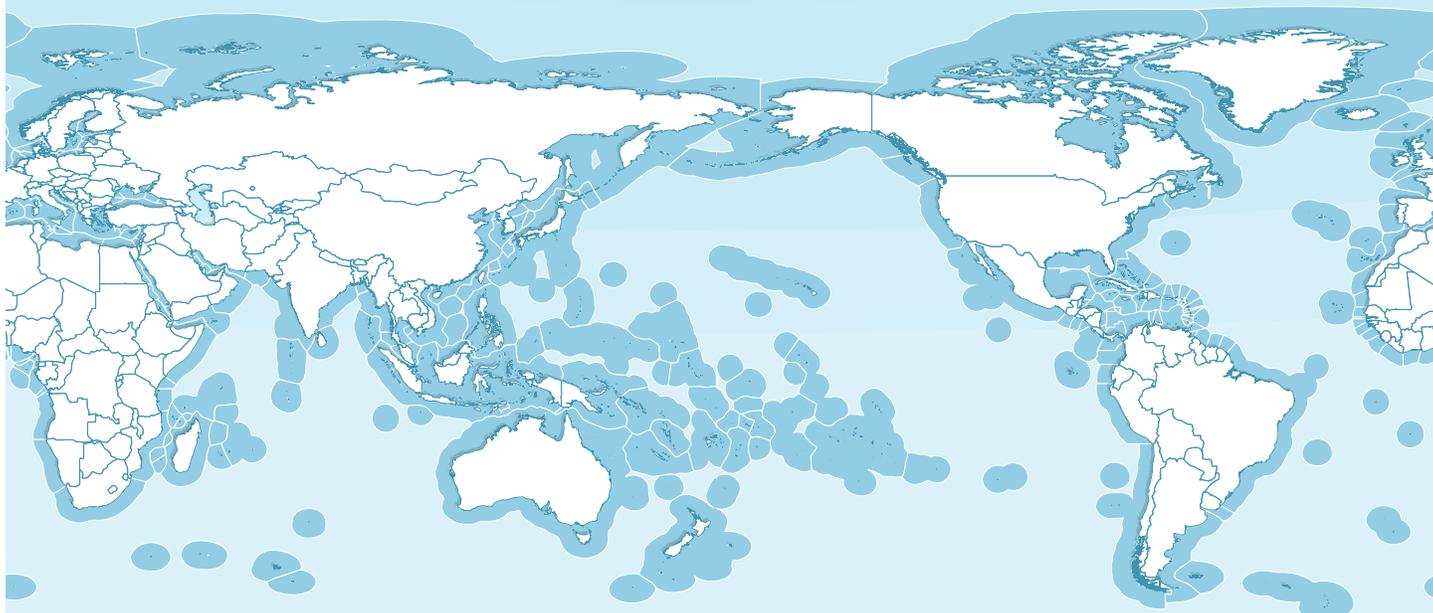


# High Stakes on the High Seas

Protecting biodiversity in waters beyond national jurisdiction

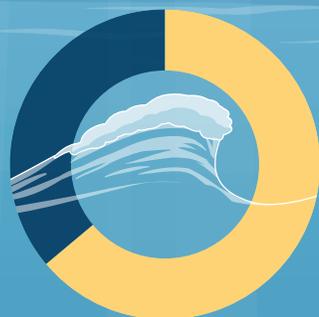
## Life Beyond Borders

The high seas, ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction, fall outside countries' exclusive economic zones.

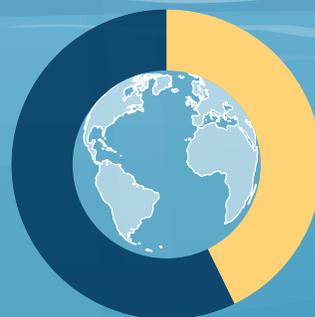


■ Exclusive economic zones    □ High seas

The high seas cover nearly **64%** of the ocean's surface; that's **43%** of the Earth's surface.

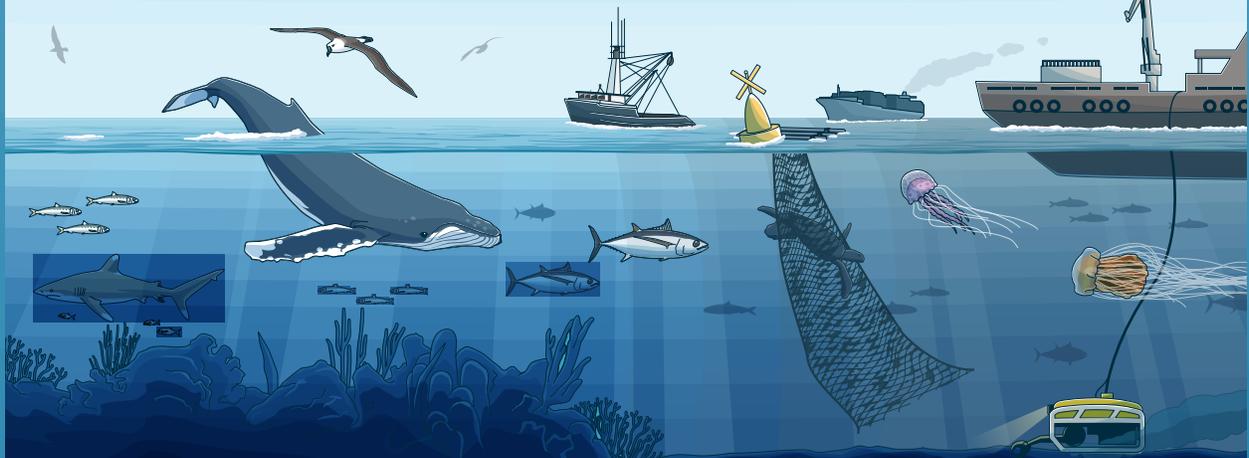


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## A Race to Extract the Benefits of Biodiversity



The high seas provide countless benefits and are home to some of the ocean's most interesting and valuable species.

Human activities—including pollution, overfishing, mining, geoengineering, and climate change—have negative impacts.

High seas fisheries account for up to **US\$16 billion** annually in gross catch

Estimates of the economic value of carbon storage by the high seas range from **US\$74 billion** to **US\$222 billion** a year

Citation: A.D. Rogers et al., "The High Seas and Us: Understanding the Value of High-Seas Ecosystems," Global Ocean Commission (2014).

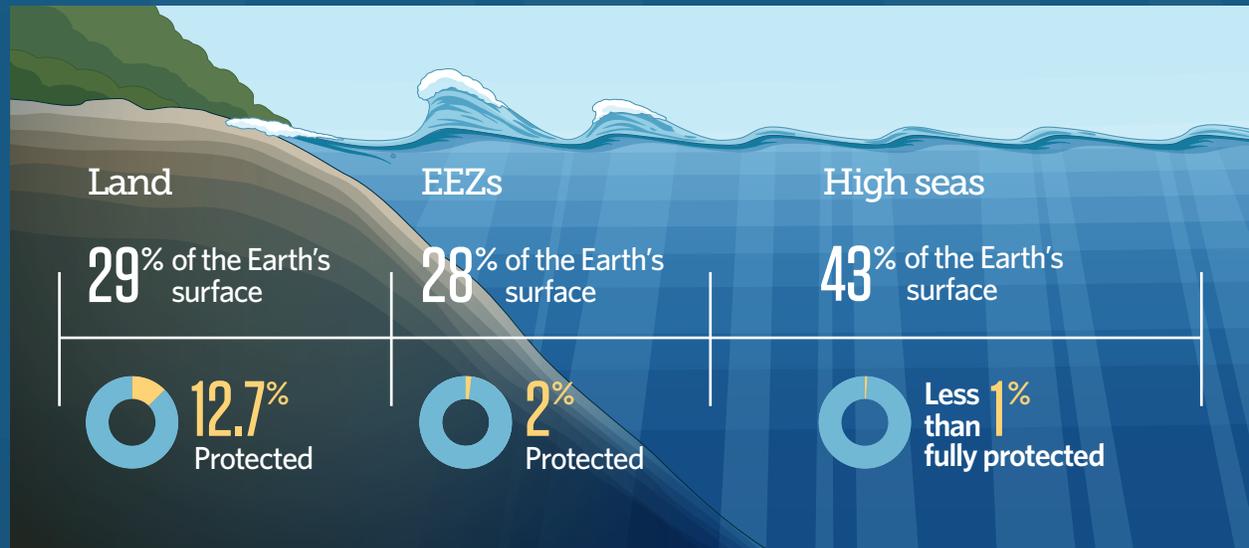
## Management Adrift

Today, the high seas are governed by numerous international, regional, and sectorial agreements and organizations. A new high seas treaty would help to organize and coordinate conservation and management pieces.

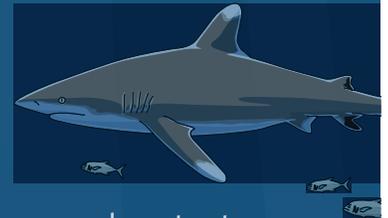


## Protected Areas and Reserves

Very little of the open ocean is protected. To conserve the ocean's biodiversity, the high seas need modern management tools, particularly legally required and globally respected marine protected areas and reserves.

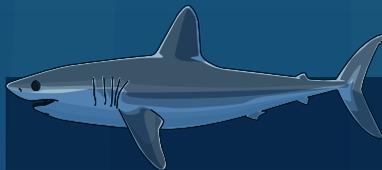


Sources: High Seas Alliance, "Briefing 4: Wonders of the High Seas," <http://highseasalliance.org/resources>; International Union for Conservation of Nature, "Global Protected Areas Programme," [http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap\\_home/pas\\_gpap](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/pas_gpap); and Global Ocean Commission, "Policy Options Paper #7: MPAs: Protecting high seas biodiversity," <http://www.globaloceancommission.org/wp-content/uploads/GOC-paper07-MPAs.pdf>.



## Endgame: A Treaty to Protect the High Seas

Before it's too late, world leaders should address management gaps and protect biodiversity in waters beyond national jurisdiction through a robust, legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.



**For further information, please visit:**

[pewtrusts.org/highseas](http://pewtrusts.org/highseas)

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