

POSITION PAPER

On the Charter of Mission Ocean and Waters

19 September 2022

Background

In September 2021 the European Commission published its Communication on the European Mission¹ launching the implementation of five European Union Missions. These EU Missions are a new approach to searching for concrete solutions to some of the EU's greatest challenges. They have ambitious goals and are expected to deliver results by 2030. The Communication includes the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters. This Mission states that man-made climate-driven changes are putting oceans and waters at serious risk. The Mission is expected to bring all relevant actors around the table through implementation chapters. The chapters will connect the partners to the setting up of basin-scale flysheds to resolve common, transboundary problems such as marine and freshwater ecosystems restoration, and pollution and to support a climate-resilient blue economy across the EU.

Previously, in September 2016, the Mission Board Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters had published the independent expert report named Mission Blueprint 2030 Restore our Ocean and Waters².

And in June 2022 the European Commission issued the Charter³ of its Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030⁴. This Mission Charter is a call for action that requests joining efforts to achieve three objectives: (1) protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, (2) prevent and eliminate pollution of EU ocean, seas, and waters, and (3) make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular. With this Mission Charter, the European Commission intends to establish a simple, inclusive and inspirational framework to enhance cooperation, align efforts with other partners, mobilise resources and develop activities to deliver on the Mission objectives. The European Commission is expecting endorsement to the Charter and proposals contributing to the Mission's objectives.

The FEAP perspective

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers is deeply concerned with the evolution of the aquaculture sector in the European Union. Since the year 2000 growth has been non-existent and

¹ EU Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Mission <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/lexUriCommInfo.do>

² Mission Blueprint 2030: Restore our Ocean and Waters https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/sites/default/files/mission_blueprint_2030_restore_our_ocean_and_waters.pdf

³ Mission Charter of the European Mission on Ocean and Waters https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/sites/default/files/mission_charter_of_the_european_mission_on_ocean_and_waters.pdf

⁴ More information on Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters and on its implementation Plan are available at <https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/en>