

24 trillion dollars the wealth of our seas!

If our sea was translated into a national economy, then it would be the seventh largest in the world, with a gross domestic product exceeding \$ 2.5 trillion a year and a total value of more than \$ 24 trillion. This is the conclusion of the report by WWF "Reviving Ocean Economy".

The report, conducted by WWF together with the Global Change Institute of the The University of Queensland and The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) shows the value of goods and services that the sea offers to the world economy.

Furthermore, the report warns about the permanent degradation of the sea due to overexploitation of marine resources and climate change and thus proposes eight actions for the salvation of this precious natural resource.

"Our seas are the main competitors in the wealth of the world's largest economies, but they have been destroyed due to the financial unsuccessful system. We have to invest in the future of the ocean and not to continue its relentless exploitation", stated Marco Lambertini Director General of WWF Marco Lambertini.

"Having calculated the annual and total value of the oceans, the great economic and environmental disaster is now clear. We hope that this report will be a driver for politicians and businesses in order to make right decisions about the future of the world's economy of the oceans", declared the CEO of BCG, Douglas Beal.

The wealth of the Mediterranean Sea and WWF

"The role of the Mediterranean Sea is critical at a global level. Only maritime and coastal tourism in the Mediterranean, which consists the 1/3 of the Mediterranean maritime economy, is worth 100 billion and provides 1.7 million jobs", stated the Director of Mediterranean Maritime Initiative, Giuseppe Di Carlo.

The Mediterranean Maritime Initiative is a common effort for engagement that brings together all WWF offices around the Mediterranean Sea, with the aim of protecting our common marine wealth, the services it offers, and the local communities that are directly dependent on it. WWF Greece plays an important role in the above mentioned endeavor and has planned a number of concrete actions that are relevant to the proposals of the report " Reviving Ocean Economy".

Marine protected areas

Greece lacks significantly behind the international aim for effective protection and management of at least 30% of the coasts and oceans by 2030. At present only 1, 48% of the Greek marine waters is designated as a marine protected area. To that end, WWF Greece together with a number of partners as well as the local communities of Syros and Andros, aspires to create a model marine protected area through the CYCLADES LIFE program. The aim of this program is to protect the natural environment of the Gyaros that hosts the most important population of the endangered Mediterranean monk seal in the Mediterranean and support a sustainable development model in the area.

Responsible fishing

The second action proposed globally is to develop innovative models of cooperation that ensure the sustainability of local communities, ecosystems and businesses. This is the main objective of the joint initiative of WWF Greece, AB Vasilopoulos together with the Fisheries Research Institute in Kavala from 2013 with main aim is improving the sustainability of the local purse seiners fleet that fishes anchovy and sardine. Significant decisions have already been taken to ensure the viability of the income of the fishermen in Kavala, the recovery of fish stocks and the protection of the marine ecosystem.

“Beyond its obvious self-sufficiency, the sea especially in Greece and the Mediterranean Sea gives us food, work, prosperity, and protection from extreme weather phenomena. We all need to know that a healthy sea is a source of life and development for every society,” stated the Demetres Karavellas, the CEO of WWF Greece.

Notes for journalists:

You can find out more on the CYCLADES LIFE project [here](#).

More information

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The CYCLADES LIFE is being implemented by WWF Greece together with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, the Decentralized Administration Authority of the Aegean, the Development Corporation of Local Authorities of Cyclades S.A, Harokopeio University, the Italian Tethys Research Institute and the NGOs MOM/Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal. For more visit: www.cycladeslife.gr

The program Cyclades LIFE, “Integrated monk seal conservation of Northern Cyclades”, is being implemented with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (www.fpa2.com/).

