

ECLAC Contribution to the Secretary-General's Report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (reporting period: September 2025 – August 2026)

ECLAC supports Member States in mainstreaming the ocean dimension into sustainable development agendas through regional analysis, systematization of evidence, capacity-building, and decision-oriented knowledge products. Within this mandate, ECLAC contributes to monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) and its interrelationship with other SDGs, helping countries implement actions toward their achievement. Furthermore, ECLAC is promoting enabling conditions for a just transition from a marine economy to blue, sustainable, and fair development. This contribution is framed within the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES/80/110, which serves as a legal framework that promotes integrated approaches and cooperation for the sustainable management of the ocean.

I. Key advancements in knowledge generation and policy tools

In line with the General Assembly's call to strengthen the scientific base for decision-making and the implementation of SDG 14, ECLAC has developed the following tools:

- **Publication of "[*Blue Horizon of Latin America and the Caribbean 2025: progress and challenges regarding achievement of the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14*](#),"**: Released in January 2026, this bilingual document provides an updated overview of regional progress and challenges regarding SDG 14 targets. It serves as a framework for transformative policymaking and the consolidation of a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient blue economy.
- **Regional Statistical Annex (September 2025)**: Published as supplementary material to the [*Overview of the ocean, seas, and marine resources and their contribution to sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean*](#) repository, this annex provides regional baselines for SDG 14 indicators and marine economic sectors. This effort supports the need for integrated oceanographic and socio-economic data for sustainable management.
- **Action-oriented policy brief on sustainable and inclusive small-scale fisheries**: A study is currently in preparation, focusing on inspiring "bottom-up" regional experiences regarding management, governance, and rights in small-scale fisheries.

II. Regional cooperation and capacity-building

Pursuant to the provisions of the resolution emphasizing regional cooperation and the exchange of scientific knowledge, ECLAC's Natural Resources Division led or co-organized the following:

- **Regional Workshop of Specialists on the Blue Economy (August 2026):** Addressing the lack of a delivery-consented definition and information gaps, this hybrid workshop will convene specialists to analyze sectoral challenges and the conditions for a just and inclusive transition. Discussions will focus on policy challenges and TOPP capacities (technical, operational, policy, and prospective) with high regional potential.
- **High-level Brief for Regional Action against Ocean Acidification:** On 27 May 2026, [ECLAC co-organized with the Ocean Acidification Alliance IOCARIBE, OIEA-OA ICC, LAOCA, REMARCO & Cari-CAN a brief](#) responding to the General Assembly's concerns about the adverse effects of acidification on marine biodiversity, stressing the urgency of research and cooperation.
- **Post-UNOC3 Ocean Planning:** In November 2025, ECLAC participated in the [Regional Joint Learning Event: Towards a 100% Sustainable Ocean](#) in Mexico City, reinforcing inter-institutional coordination for integrated ocean space management.

III. Participation in United Nations mechanisms and processes

ECLAC maintains active engagement in global processes to ensure regional coherence:

- **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development:** ECLAC joined the group in 2025, participating in meetings to enhance the scientific knowledge base through capacity-building in developing countries.
- **Regional Mechanisms:** Active participation in **Procaribe+** meetings to strengthen regional initiatives for marine resource conservation, aligned with the priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)