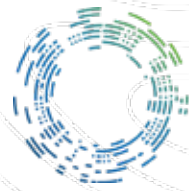


Ocean Panel Blue Paper



HIGH LEVEL PANEL for
**A SUSTAINABLE
OCEAN ECONOMY**

How can a healthy ocean improve human health and enhance wellbeing on a rapidly changing planet?

Humanity cannot have a healthy, prosperous and equitable future without a healthy ocean. Those working in the healthcare sector are uniquely placed to call for greater protection of the ocean to safeguard and improve human health.

The Ocean Panel is a unique initiative of serving world leaders with the shared ambition to achieve 100% sustainable ocean management in their national jurisdictions. Their work is informed by the latest science and expertise. The new Ocean Panel-commissioned Blue Paper explores the intricate connections between ocean health and human health and wellbeing. It presents evidence-based actions that can strengthen the positive relationships between ocean and human health.

The report explores four key areas of opportunity:

- **Ocean biodiversity** can provide new medicines to fight disease, inspiration for new technologies, new materials and energy sources.
- **Sustainable production of blue food** holds promise for ending hunger and malnutrition.
- **Access to healthy marine environments** supports recreation and promotes mental health.
- **Investment in the blue economy** supports economic stability and equitable outcomes in coastal communities and beyond.

The urgency for action on ocean and human health is underscored by over 200 health journals, emphasising that climate change and biodiversity loss constitute a global health emergency. Healthcare professionals, as trusted advocates for patients, can play a pivotal role in safeguarding human health by protecting the ocean.

Immediate actions for a healthy, sustainable ocean and a healthy human future:

The report presents a wide range of actions to be taken by various sectors with the following most relevant to health professionals:

- All industries including (and especially) healthcare must minimise their ocean footprint, helping restore what has been lost and including good ocean stewardship in sustainability strategies.
- Collaboration between the healthcare and supplier industries (and other sectors) should be enhanced with improved education and communication to minimise ocean impacts.
- Researchers and public health organisations must scan the horizon for emerging climate-associated disease threats.
- Governments must take action to effectively conserve and manage biodiversity, encourage increased investment support for sustainable and ethical marine biotechnology start-ups with benefit sharing, and support responsible transdisciplinary research.

Medical and ocean experts must work together to create greater awareness of the ocean's role in human health and wellbeing and urge action to protect the ocean, before it's too late. By engaging individuals, communities, businesses, policymakers, and the healthcare sector, we can realise a sustainable, healthy future for humans and the ocean.

