



**Sustainable Development Forum 2014: Blue growth in  
the vulnerable Baltic Sea  
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**BLUE GROWTH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND  
THE BALTIC SEA REGION**

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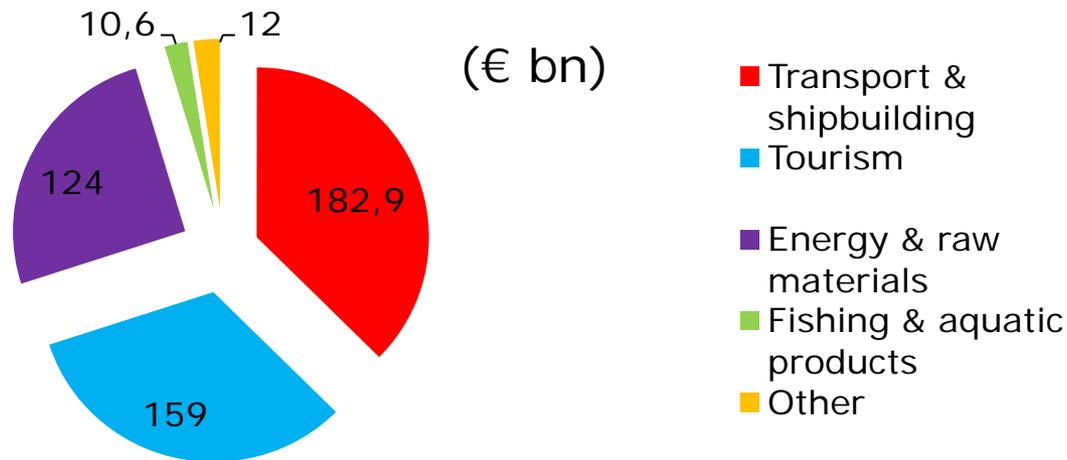
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

# Towards a sustainable blue growth

- Traditional ways of exploiting maritime resources are reaching their limits
- We are facing a double challenge:  
  
**We need growth and jobs, but we also need to make sure economic growth does not deplete the environment and the resources of this planet**
- Our Commissioner has a specific mandate

# The European blue economy of today

Approximately 3.4 million people are working in the maritime economy today. With the right push it could be many more by 2020.



**BLUE ECONOMY now:**

€ 500 million GVA



**In 2020:**

€ 600 million GVA

## Issues at stake

- **75% of EU's external trade and 37% of trade within the EU is seaborne**
- **Sustainable long-term growth by reducing our carbon footprint**
- **Off-shore activities will increase**
- **Potential for high-value jobs and exports**
- **An opportunity to revitalize traditional sectors and letting new ones emerge**
- **The protection of ecosystems not a limiting factor but a positive driver for growth and jobs**

## Issues at stake

- **European Union currently a world leader in sustainable offshore technologies but others are quickly catching up. If Europe wants to stay ahead more investments are needed in marine research programmes**
- **A strong and sustainable European offshore technology sector is a benefit for Europe as well as for the world**
- **Many blue growth activities take place offshore. This requires a governance framework able to provide the private sector with the legal certainty to invest. That is why the Directive on maritime spatial planning was adopted in July 2014**



European  
Commission

# Blue growth – The maritime pillar of EU 2020

## Why?

Blue Growth is the European Commission's initiative to further harness the potential of Europe's oceans, seas and coasts for:



## Focus Area

Five sectors with high potential for sustainable Blue Growth are to be further developed:



other **sectors of the blue economy** crucial for value & jobs



# **A Blue growth agenda for the Baltic Sea Region**

**COM Communication of May 2014:**

- **Highlights existing best practices and identifies areas where there is scope to do more together**
- **Aims at mobilising actions of various actors around the Baltic building on regional strengths to deliver on a common regional blue growth agenda**
- **Aims at linking this agenda with the Baltic Sea Strategy**

# A Blue growth agenda for the Baltic Sea Region

## Key focus areas:

- **Coherent cross-Baltic approach to innovation, increased sustainability, skills and qualifications and access to finance**
- **Strengthen the sustainability aspects of Blue growth**
- **Identify areas for more Blue growth actions in the EUSBSR action plan**

# A Blue growth agenda for the Baltic Sea Region

## Possible next steps:

- **Baltic master plan for maritime technologies?**
- **Multi-sectoral maritime stakeholder dialogue through a dedicated platform?**
- **A maritime and coastal tourism strategy for the Baltic?**