



# KOREA

# BLUE



# ACTION

# PLAN





# KOREA BLUE ACTION PLAN

## Korea's Core Commitments

## 76 Ambitious Actions



Since the establishment of an integrated maritime and fisheries administration system in 1996, the Republic of Korea has pursued a balanced approach to ocean conservation and utilization through comprehensive maritime policies. Building on 30 years of marine and fisheries policy expertise and scientific and technological capabilities, Korea has endeavored to create a global benchmark for sustainable ocean management.

Against this backdrop, Korea is hosting the 10th Our Ocean Conference and announces the "**Korea Blue Action Plan**," which includes **76 ambitious actions** across six key areas-climate change, sustainable fisheries, blue economy, marine pollution, marine protected areas, and maritime security-with a total investment of **KRW 3.7593 trillion (approx. USD 2.65 billion)**. Through this initiative, Korea aims to share and expand its achievements on a global scale, contributing to the resolution of global challenges and to the realization of sustainable oceans worldwide. Having successfully transformed itself from an aid recipient into a donor nation, Korea is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities.

### Korea will actively participate in discussions for marine protected areas (MPAs) worldwide.

The international community has set a goal to designate 30% of the world's oceans as MPAs by 2030. In March 2025, the Republic of Korea ratified the BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Agreement for the protection of biodiversity in the high seas, becoming the 21st country globally and the first in East Asia to do so.

Domestically, Korea will continue its efforts to expand marine protected areas on an annual basis. This year, Korea will designate waters surrounding Gwantal Island and uninhabited islets in the central West Sea as protected areas. On the international stage, the country will actively contribute to discussions on marine protected areas through regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFCC).

### Korea will actively engage in discussions on the transition to eco-friendly fuels in shipping and the establishment of a global green fuel supply chain.

As a global leader in shipping and shipbuilding, Korea will collaborate with countries worldwide to establish "Green Shipping Corridors" that achieve zero carbon emissions throughout logistics and transportation. Korea will also actively engage in discussions on the transition to eco-friendly fuels in international shipping and the establishment of a global green fuel supply chain.

In support of maritime decarbonization, Korea plans to develop and commercialize eco-friendly ship technologies powered by hydrogen and ammonia, and expand infrastructure needed to supply green fuels. Efforts are also underway to develop and commercialize electric- hybrid and LPG-powered low-carbon fishing vessels, thereby reducing emissions across the fisheries sector.

### Korea recognizes the importance of the global charter for fisheries transparency and will continue its efforts for phased implementation.

The goal of sustainable fisheries can be achieved by promoting global cooperation to improve transparency in a wide range of areas, including vessel management; fishing practices; seafood distribution; and other aspects composing the seafood supply chain. As the only Asian member of the IUU Fishing Action Alliance, Korea recognizes the importance of the *Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency (the Charter)*, adopted in March 2023 and presented at the 9th Our Ocean Conference. While *the Charter* provides a set of priorities designed for improving ocean governance, Korea will help promote the Charter to be acknowledged and adopted globally.

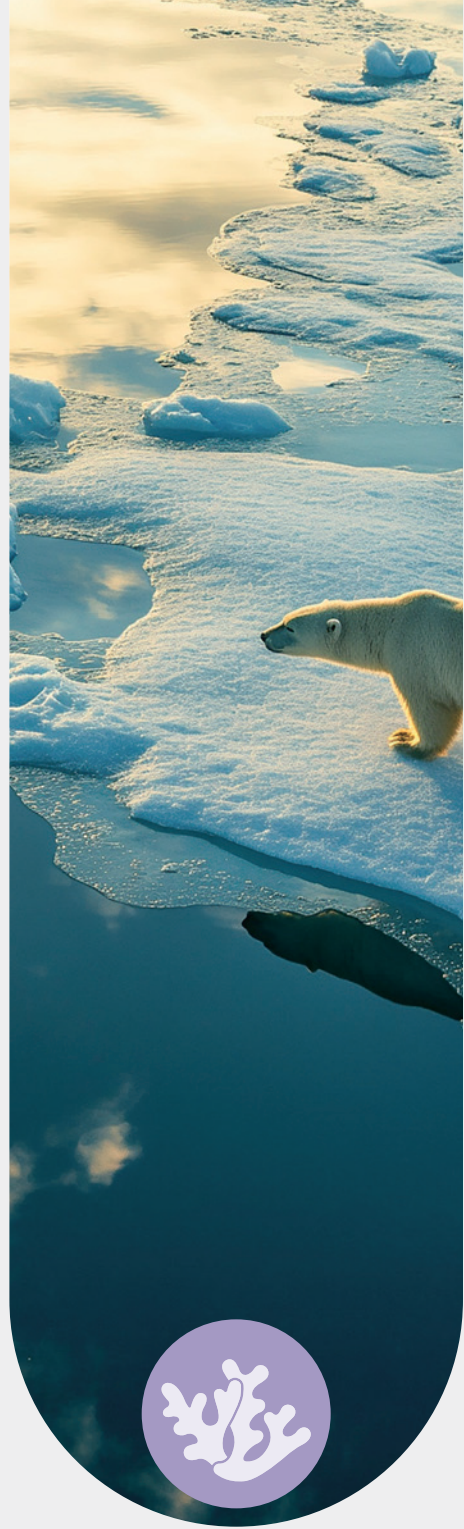
Korea will continue to make efforts to phase the Charter in a sustainable manner by developing & advancing Electronic Monitoring (EM) technologies; and enhancing the current Catch Documentation Scheme to ensure transparency in seafood supply chain, along with the strengthened enforcement of existing laws and regulations to combat IUU fishing.

### Korea will implement full lifecycle management of fishing gear to address one of the most serious issues of marine plastic pollution.

Abandoned fishing gear poses a significant threat not only to marine ecosystems, but also to marine life and the safety of vessels. In 2024, Korea became the first country in the world to introduce a deposit-refund system for fishing gear and buoys. The government plans to expand this system to encourage higher recovery rates through voluntary private sector participation.

Korea will strengthen full-cycle management of fishing gear - from distribution and use to collection after use, including treatment and recycling. By 2028, it aims to achieve zero incidence of lost or submerged fishing gear, thereby protecting fishery resources, reducing marine pollution, and enhancing maritime navigation safety.





Climate Change

KRW 1,011B

29



Sustainable Fisheries

KRW 1,321.2B

15



Blue Economy

KRW 1,146.1B

14



Marine Pollution

KRW 251.4B

13



Marine Protected Areas

-

3



Maritime Security

KRW 29.6B

2

76 ambitious Actions

KRW 3,759.3 billion  
(USD 2.65 billion)





## Climate Change

The ocean plays a critical role in regulating the global climate. However, its capacity to regulate the climate is weakening due to rising sea surface temperatures, ocean acidification, and sea level rise. To restore the ocean's role as a climate regulator and effectively respond to the climate crisis, it is essential not only to achieve carbon neutrality but to advance toward carbon negativity, supported by innovative and long-term strategies.

**The Republic of Korea pledges to implement 29 actions** under four main goals, with a total budget of approximately **KRW 1.011 trillion**, in response to the climate crisis in the ocean domain.





## Climate Change 1.

### Korea Will Promote Decarbonization in the Marine and Fisheries Sector

Korea plans to develop and commercialize eco-friendly ship technologies using fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia, while expanding the infrastructure for green fuel supply to support the decarbonization of shipping. In particular, by utilizing zero-carbon fuels and eco-friendly technologies, Korea will eliminate carbon emissions at ports and work with countries around the world to build “Green Shipping Corridors” that have zero carbon emissions throughout the entire logistics process between ports.

Building on these efforts, Korea will actively participate in discussions on the transition to eco-friendly fuels in international shipping and the establishment of a global green fuel supply chain. We aim to utilize ports like Busan and Ulsan as key bases for green fuel conversion by constructing bunkering terminals for eco-friendly fuels such as hydrogen, ammonia, and LNG.

Furthermore, Korea will promote carbon reduction in the fisheries sector by promoting the adoption of energy-efficient systems in aquaculture farms and developing and commercializing low-carbon fishing vessels powered by electricity and LPG.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
01. Development of Full-Cycle Innovative Technologies for Eco-Friendly Ships	2,540	2031
02. Development of Eco-Friendly Fishing Vessel Technologies for Carbon Reduction in the Fisheries Sector	357	2025
03. Development of Eco-Friendly Fuel Supply Technologies and Expansion of Green Shipping Corridors through International Cooperation	299	2028
04. Support for Eco-Friendly Energy Systems in Aquaculture Farms	185	-
05. Support for the decarbonization of port handling equipment	75	2027
06. Development of hydrogen and ammonia terminal plans	50	2026
07. Preparation of commercialization plans for eco-friendly port terminals	13	2027





## Climate Change 2.

### Korea Will Strengthen Its Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation

Korea will expand observations of oceanic and polar climate variables through participation in global monitoring programs such as Argo. It will also develop climate prediction models to contribute to both short-and long-term forecasting of global marine environments. To respond to risks associated with sea level rise, such as wave inundation and flooding, Korea will assess coastal disaster vulnerabilities and reinforce port infrastructure.

To address damage caused by elevated sea temperatures, Korea will develop temperature-resilient aquaculture species, introduce smart aquaculture technologies, and expand disaster insurance and related policies for aquaculture.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
08. The Strengthening of Antarctic Sea Ice Prediction Capabilities for Global Climate Forecasting	211	2030
09. Research on the Causes and Global Sea Level Impacts of Rapid Antarctic Ice Sheet Melting	428	2031
10. Study on the Polar Marine Ecosystem and Seafloor Environment	455	2026
11. The Improvement of Marine Disaster Forecasting and Climate Correlation Analysis	394	2026
12. The Production of Ocean Climate Change Scenarios and the Development of Wave Overtopping Monitoring Technology	212	2026
13. Establishment of an Integrated Management System for Monitoring and Predicting Ocean Climate Change	28	-
14. The Conduct of Coastal Disaster Risk Assessments	5	-
15. The Implementation of Coastal Restoration Projects in Climate-Vulnerable Areas	798	2026
16. The Development of Digital Innovation Technologies for the Fisheries Seed Industry	355	2028
17. The Support for Development and Dissemination of Climate-Resilient Aquaculture Species	6	2028
18. The Provision of Disaster Insurance for the Aquaculture Sector	250	-
19. Securing Emergency Response Funds for Aquaculture and Related Sectors	250	-





### Climate Change 3.

## Korea Will Support the Climate Adaptation Capacity of Developing Countries

Korea has accumulated expertise in a range of climate adaptation policies, including satellite-based climate observation, marine energy production, aquaculture technology development, and the establishment of low-carbon maritime transportation systems. Korea will transfer these technologies and knowledge to developing countries through active global cooperation.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
20. The Support for Capacity Building for Eco-Friendly Marine Plant Service Industries in Indonesia	45	2029
21. The Support for the Establishment of an Ocean Thermal Energy Supply System in Fiji	50	2026
22. The Support for Fiji's Climate Response and Marine Capacity Building	50	2028
23. The Establishment of a Marine and Fisheries Science Education Center in Indonesia	75	2028
24. The Enhancement of Marine Research Capacity in Sri Lanka via the Establishment of a Digital Library for Marine and Fisheries Data	60	2026
25. The Support for the Development of a Roadmap and Carbon Emissions Verification System	132	2028
26. Strengthening Aquaculture Technical Capacity in Vietnam through Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration	30	2026

### Climate Change 4.

## Korea Will Enhance Nature-Based Ocean Carbon Absorption

Korea will restore tidal flats, cultivate halophytes (salt-tolerant plants), and create underwater forests to expand carbon absorption through marine ecosystems. It will also take part in IPCC discussions to advance the recognition of non-vegetated tidal flats and seaweed within blue carbon certification frameworks.

Additionally, Korea will attach eco-tiles in fishing ports and eroded coastal areas to foster seaweed habitats. It will also implement the "Breathing Coast" project using marine-friendly materials such as halophytes and oyster shells to mitigate wave impact and reduce coastal current velocity.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
27. The Establishment of 540 km <sup>2</sup> of Underwater Forests by 2030	1,600	2030
28. The Restoration of 105 km <sup>2</sup> of Halophyte Tidal Flats by 2030	745	2030
29. The Development of Blue Carbon-Based Coastal Restoration Technology	412	2026





4 GOALS

**KRW 1.3212 trillion**

15 Actions

## Sustainable Fisheries

Over 3.5 billion people worldwide depend on seafood for more than 20% of their protein intake, and approximately 60 million are employed in the fisheries sector. In addition to their economic value, traditional fisheries in coastal communities are gaining recognition for their socio-cultural significance. However, overfishing and climate change are accelerating the depletion of marine resources. Combined with aging populations and poor socioeconomic conditions, this has led to the decline of fishing communities and the loss of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. As a result, there are growing international calls for responsible fisheries management and the revitalization of coastal communities.

To address these challenges, Korea pledges to implement **15 actions** under four strategic goals, supported by a total budget of **KRW 1.3212 trillion**, to promote sustainable fisheries and revitalize fishing communities.



## Sustainable Fisheries 1.

### Korea Will Strengthen Responsible Fisheries Management

To enhance monitoring and oversight capabilities for IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing, we will develop and advance Electronic Monitoring (EM) technology tailored to the various needs of distant-water fishing vessels. In coastal and offshore fisheries, Korea will develop devices to prevent the bycatch of marine mammals and expand the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) system. Additionally, Korea plans to establish and operate an integrated management system for coastal and offshore fisheries, supporting the transition to a governance structure aligned with international standards.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
01. The Development of Korean-Style Electronic Monitoring (EM) Technology	230	2028
02. The Development of Bycatch Reduction Devices for Marine Mammals	31	2026
03. The Expansion of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) System for Sustainable Fishery Resource Management	-	-
04. Piloting a Korean-Style Catch Certification System and Establishing an Integrated Management System	27	2025

## Sustainable Fisheries 2.

### Korea Will Revitalize Fishing Communities

Korea will strive to address global challenges such as the decline and aging of fishing communities and the reduction of fishery resources caused by climate change. By attracting private investment to create jobs and generate added value in the fisheries sector through distribution and processing technologies, Korea aims to support the growth of self-sustaining fishing communities. At the same time, policies to attract younger generations to these regions will be actively promoted.

In addition, to preserve and promote valuable traditional knowledge, such as Jeju's women divers (Haenyeo) fishery, Korea will support its registration in the FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and promote its utilization for tourism development.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
05. The Support for the Sustainable Growth of Fishing Villages	12,400	2029
06. The Promotion of Youth Inflow into Aging Fishing Communities	60	2025
07. The Protection and Utilization of Traditional Marine and Fisheries Knowledge	40	2025



## Sustainable Fisheries 3.

### Korea Will Support Economic Development in Developing Countries through Sustainable Fisheries

Korea has advanced cooperation with developing countries through a series of high-level dialogues and international conferences, including the 2023 Korea-Pacific Islands Fisheries Cooperation Conference, the 2024 Korea-Africa Fisheries Cooperation Conference, and the World Fisheries Village Conference.

Based on these discussions, Korea will expand support tailored to local needs and conditions. Key areas of support will include the development and dissemination of aquaculture technologies, infrastructure development for fishery production and distribution, training programs, and enhanced IUU response capacity using satellite-based marine monitoring technologies.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
08. The Support for Small Dock Development and Training Centers in Kiribati	168	2029
09. The Support for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Landlocked Developing Countries	68	2028
10. The Construction of a Fisheries Training Center in Tuvalu	73	2026
11. The Provision of Training for Women in Ghana on Fish Processing and Distribution	40	2026
12. The Support for Establishing a National Aquaculture Development Center in Kyrgyzstan	50	2026
13. The Support for Establishing a Marine Fisheries Satellite Utilization Center in Tanzania	55	2029





#### Sustainable Fisheries 4.

## Korea Recognizes the Importance of the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency and Will Continue Its Efforts for Phased Implementation

As the only Asian member of the IUU Fishing Action Alliance, Korea recognizes the importance of the *Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency (the Charter)*, adopted in March 2023 and presented at the 9th Our Ocean Conference. While *the Charter* provides a set of priorities designed for improving ocean governance, Korea will help promote *the Charter* to be acknowledged and adopted globally.

Korea will continue to make efforts to phase the Charter in a sustainable manner by developing & advancing Electronic Monitoring (EM) technologies; and enhancing the current Catch Documentation Scheme to ensure transparency in seafood supply chain, along with the strengthened enforcement of existing laws and regulations to combat IUU fishing.

Implementing *the Charter* in stages, Korea will also contribute to the successful implementation of the core mandates of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), including science-based resource management (Harvest Strategy); ecosystem & marine environment protection; and strengthened Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) measures. Korea will promote, as an exemplary case, that its best fishing practices are internationally appreciated, those in the areas non-regulated by RFMOs such as FAO Major Fishing Area 41 (Atlantic, Southwest). Those practices include voluntary observer boarding; installation of vessel locating devices; daily electronic catch reporting; landing reporting; and transshipment authorization scheme.



(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
14. Recognizing the importance of the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency and its phased implementation	-	-
15. The Contribution to the Strengthening of Resource Management through RFMOs	-	-





  
4 GOALS  
**KRW 1.1461 trillion**  
14 Actions

## Blue economy

The blue economy refers to an economic system that aims to achieve economic growth, improved quality of life, and environmental protection by utilizing marine and coastal resources in a sustainable manner. To balance economic and environmental goals, integrated ocean management based on scientific data has become increasingly important.

The Republic of Korea is leading integrated ocean management by introducing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and holds competitive strengths in shipping, shipbuilding, and the digital sector. Building on these advantages, Korea will develop an innovative marine economic model and share its outcomes with the international community to fulfill its global responsibilities.

To this end, Korea pledges **14 actions** under four goals, with a total budget of **KRW 1.1461 trillion**.



## Blue Economy 1.

### Korea Will Take the Lead in Adopting Science- and Data-Based Marine Management Tools and in Sharing Them with the International Community

Since 2019, Korea has been managing its marine space through the introduction of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Building on this experience, Korea will strengthen cooperation with the international community to promote the global adoption of MSP. Additionally, Korea will introduce a marine and fisheries satellite account to enable scientific measurement of the marine economy. Marine policies will be established and implemented based on this data. These integrated management tools will serve as a foundation for developing and utilizing the ocean in harmony with the environment, and contribute to boosting investment by scientifically assessing and measuring the ecological and economic value of marine activities.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
01. The Promotion of a Satellite Account for the Marine Economy	18	2030
02. The Support for Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)	-	2030

## Blue Economy 2.

### Korea Will Seek Sustainable Growth Opportunities Through Marine Renewable Energy and Ecotourism

With the enforcement of the Special Act on Offshore Wind Power (effective March 2026), Korea will introduce a fully state-led site planning system and promote orderly offshore wind projects within the framework of marine spatial management. Korea will also promote marine ecotourism in harmony with nature, through initiatives such as national marine ecological parks and tidal flat ecovillages.

Through these efforts, Korea aims to create a sustainable marine economic development model that balances environmental protection with community development.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
03. The Establishment of a Planning-First System for Offshore Wind Power	-	-
04. The Development of Commercialization Technologies for Wave Power	200	2027
05. The Promotion of Sustainable Marine Ecotourism	-	2030



## Blue Economy 3.

### Korea Will Promote a Digital-Based Transformation of the Marine Economy

Korea aims to actively utilize digital technology as a tool to address marine challenges and realize a sustainable ocean. By integrating AI and other advanced technologies into traditional sectors such as maritime logistics and aquaculture, Korea seeks to enhance productivity, reduce environmental impacts, and generate new added value.

Furthermore, Korea will accelerate innovation across the marine industrial ecosystem and foster the sustainable growth of the ocean economy through technological advancement and digital transformation in key areas such as autonomous vessels, international digital maritime navigation systems, smart ports, and smart aquaculture—leading the development of global marine mobility.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
06. The Participation in Developing Autonomous Vessels for Safety and Decarbonization	1,603	2025
07. The Construction of Eco-Friendly Training Vessels	809	2028
08. The Development and Demonstration of International Digital Marine Route Technologies	119	2028
09. Building a Testbed for Smart Ports	7,603	2029
10. The Establishment of Smart Aquaculture Clusters	206	2029





#### Blue Economy 4.

## Korea Will Expand Access to Marine Education and Culture

Korea aims to continuously raise public awareness of the importance of the ocean. To this end, Korea will implement marine education programs tailored to all life stages - from early childhood and primary/secondary education to university and adult learning. AI-based educational platforms will also be developed to help reduce regional disparities in access to marine education.

In major coastal cities, Korea will expand museums and experiential facilities that promote maritime history and culture, while also strengthening international exchanges in marine culture. These efforts will contribute not only to nurturing talent in the marine sector but also to encouraging international action on key ocean issues such as marine debris.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
11. The Expansion of Marine Education Programs across Life Stages	22	2025
12. The Development of an AI-Based Ocean Literacy Platform	30	2030
13. The Expansion of Maritime Museums and Cultural Experience Facilities	801	2025
14. The Establishment of the Maritime Silk Road Network	50	2030





**3 GOALS****KRW 251.4 billion****13 Actions**

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## Marine Pollution

Every year, approximately 11 million tons of plastic enter the world's oceans, resulting in an estimated annual economic cost of USD 13 billion due to damage to marine ecosystems.

Recognizing the severity of marine plastic waste-now a global environmental concern-the Republic of Korea has taken active measures in response. Korea has established a cross-ministerial Marine Waste Management Committee-comprising government departments, public institutions, and private experts-and built a broad cooperative framework with local governments, private companies, civil society, and research institutions to drive comprehensive efforts in reducing marine waste.

To realize a plastic-free and clean ocean, Korea pledges **13 actions** under 3 key goals, with a total budget of **KRW 251.4 billion**.



## Marine Pollution 1.

### Korea Strengthen the Full-Cycle Management of Marine Waste, Including Marine Plastics

Korea will establish a comprehensive management system that covers the entire lifecycle of marine waste - from prevention and collection to treatment and recycling - and enhance its management capacity through the use of advanced technologies. Based on a survey of current conditions, Korea will pursue ambitious initiatives to innovate the marine debris collection system. These include expanding facilities that block land-based waste entering through rivers, piloting floating waste collection robots equipped with cutting-edge technology, and developing eco-friendly equipment for marine waste retrieval.

Korea will also actively promote R&D to reinforce its capacity to manage the marine environment. Focus areas include source tracking of marine pollutants, technologies for managing hazardous and noxious substances (HNS), and studies on the transmission and toxicity of marine microplastics. In particular, Korea's decade-long research in this field is expected to elevate global awareness, support the development of international standards, and help catalyze greater international action on this pressing issue.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
01. Piloting Floating Waste Collection Robots	TBD	TBD
02. Piloting Installation of River-Based Waste Blockage Facilities	TBD	TBD
03. The Conduct of a Survey on Marine Waste Inflows from Rivers	2	2025
04. Development and demonstration of eco-friendly float-ing waste vessels	469	2026
05. (R&D) The Development and Demonstration of Eco-Friendly Floating Waste Collection Vessels	400	2028
06. (R&D) The Development of HNS Management Technologies	174	2026
07. The Development of Microplastic Response and Management Technologies	301	2028







# MARINE POLLUTION

## Marine Pollution 2.

### Korea Will Support the Reduction of International Marine Pollution

Korea has played an active role in the drafting process of the UN Plastic Treaty, including by hosting the 5th Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) in Busan in November last year. During the negotiations, Korea led discussions on strengthening the management of marine plastic waste, particularly in relation to abandoned fishing gear.

Recognizing that marine waste issues transcend national borders and require international cooperation, Korea will continue to share its experience and policy frameworks with the global community and expand a wide range of collaborative programs. Korea plans to promote joint projects with the IMO to establish region-specific waste management plans aimed at reducing ship-generated marine plastic pollution.

In collaboration with the IUCN, Korea will continue to support the development of infrastructure for plastic waste management in Pacific island countries. Furthermore, Korea will share its full-cycle marine plastic management model and, together with PEMSEA, work to develop localized approaches - actively contributing to the establishment of a global cooperation framework for marine plastic reduction.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
08. Actively Engage in Discussions on the UN Marine Plastic Treaty	-	-
09. (ODA) Support for the Establishment of Plastic Waste Response Systems in Pacific Island Countries	50	2028
10. (ODA) Global Expert Training Program on Marine Pollution Prevention from Ocean Dumping	104	2028
11. (ODA) Marine Plastic Reduction Project in East Asian Seas	120	2028



### Marine Pollution 3.

## Korea Will Implement an Innovative and Comprehensive Fishing Gear Recycling Policy

Abandoned fishing gear poses a serious threat not only to the marine environment but also to marine life and vessel safety. In 2024, Korea became the first country in the world to introduce a deposit-refund system for fishing gear and buoys. Korea now plans to expand this system to increase recovery rates through voluntary participation by the private sector.

Korea will strengthen the full-cycle management of fishing gear - from distribution and use to post-use collection, treatment, and recycling. By 2028, Korea aims to achieve zero occurrences of lost or submerged fishing gear, thereby contributing to the protection of fishery resources, the reduction of marine pollution, and the enhancement of maritime navigation safety.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
12. The Expansion of the World's First Deposit-Refund System for Fishing Gear and Buoys	84	2026
13. Strengthening Full-Cycle Fishing Gear Management to Eliminate Lost and Submerged Gear	810	2027





3 GOALS  
3 Actions

## Marine Protected Areas

Marine biodiversity has both direct and indirect impacts on human life by providing a wide range of ecosystem services - such as food supply, climate regulation, carbon absorption, and cultural and recreational benefits.

In response, the international community has adopted the “30 by 30” target, which aims to designate 30% of terrestrial and marine areas as protected by 2030, along with the *Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)* Agreement to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The Republic of Korea pledges three key **3 actions** to contribute to the achievement of the **30 by 30 goal**.



## Marine Protected Areas 1.

### Korea Will Actively Work Toward the Entry Into Force of the BBNJ Agreement

On March 19, 2025, Korea became the first country in East Asia to ratify the BBNJ Agreement. Moving forward, Korea will make dedicated efforts to facilitate the agreement's entry into force by building political momentum within the international community and strengthening intergovernmental cooperation.

## Marine Protected Areas 2.

### Korea Will Continue Expanding Domestic Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

To conserve and manage 30% of Korea's marine area by 2030, Korea will designate at least one new large-scale MPA (exceeding 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>) each year through 2030.

In 2025, two new MPAs will be designated:

- (1) the waters surrounding Gwantaldo in Jeju (1,075.08 km<sup>2</sup>), known for its rich biodiversity and habitats for seagrasses and coral species; and
- (2) the waters around uninhabited islands in the central Yellow Sea (approximately 1,600 km<sup>2</sup>), which serve as important habitats for protected marine mammals such as the finless porpoise and endangered bird species like Styan's grasshopper warbler.

## Marine Protected Areas 3.

### Korea Will Actively Participate in Discussions on Designation of Marine Protected Areas in the High Seas.

As a co-proponent of proposals for the Weddell Sea (Phase 1) and East Antarctic MPAs under the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Republic of Korea will make concerted efforts to ensure the adoption of the proposal.

Additionally, Korea will actively participate in a task group under the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) to promote the designation of MPAs in the Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridge region. Korea will also contribute to establishing an appropriate protection mechanism for the Emperor Seamounts, based on the best available scientific information, within the framework of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
01. The Promotion of the Entry Into Force of the BBNJ Agreement (First in East Asia)	-	June 2025
02. The Designation of New Large-Scale MPAs Through 2030 (1,000+ km <sup>2</sup> )	-	2030
03. The Contribution to the Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in the High Seas	-	2030





2 GOALS

**KRW 29.6 billion**

2 Actions

## Maritime Security

The ocean is a shared asset of humanity and a space where the economy, environment, and security intersect. Ongoing threats—such as piracy, maritime smuggling, and terrorism—pose serious challenges to stable maritime supply chains and ocean-based activities. Addressing these threats requires strong solidarity and cooperation among nations and stakeholders.

In response to the rapidly evolving maritime security landscape, including recent cyberattacks targeting shipping companies and vessels, Korea announced its Plan to Strengthen Maritime Cybersecurity Management in October 2024. The initiative focuses on providing consulting and training for shipping companies and vessels, advancing legal and institutional frameworks, and supporting the development and commercialization of key technologies.

Based on this foundation, Korea pledges **two key actions** to enhance maritime security capabilities across global seas.



## Maritime Security 1.

### Korea Will Work to Establish a Global Maritime Order by Preventing Piracy and Illicit Maritime Activities

Korea will strengthen real-time information-sharing networks on piracy and terrorism in close cooperation with international organizations and both domestic and foreign institutions, making every effort to prevent such incidents. Building on this experience, Korea plans to establish a training center in West Africa - a region frequently affected by piracy - to support capacity-building efforts in neighboring countries for combating maritime crime.

## Maritime Security 2.

### Korea Will Contribute to Global Maritime Security by Developing AI-Based Vessel Situation Management Technologies

Korea is developing an AI-powered system to support real-time and accurate situational management and decision-making for Korean vessels operating in global waters. Through the development and dissemination of this system, Korea aims to enhance maritime safety and security worldwide.

(Unit : 100 million KRW, Years)

Action	Budget	Target Completion
01. The Support for Capacity Building to Prevent Piracy and Illicit Maritime Activities	46	2029
02. The Development of AI-Based Digital Vessel Situational Management Technology	250	2030





# Korea Blue Action Plan

