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## International study shows that marine life can be restored by 2050

*This article, published in the prestigious scientific journal Nature, brought together leading experts, oceanographers and biologists from 16 universities in 10 countries.*

Duarte C. M., Agustí S., Barber E., Britten G. L., Castilla J. C., Gattuso J.-P., Fulweiler R. W., Hughes T. P., Knowlton N., Lovelock C. E., Lotze H. K., Predragovic M., Poloczanska E., Roberts C. & Worm B., 2020.

**Rebuilding marine life. *Nature*.**

Available on 1 April [here](#) Available on request from Jean-Pierre Gattuso.

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 aims to "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources". Achieving this goal involves restoring the life support systems that provide the immense benefits of a healthy ocean. Although the ocean has been largely degraded during the 20th century, the authors highlight a remarkable resilience of marine life and an emerging trend shift, from steep losses of marine life throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, to a slowing down of losses or even recovery, sometimes spectacular, in the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The recovery of marine populations, habitats and ecosystems following conservation interventions demonstrates that substantial restoration of the abundance, structure and function of marine life can be achieved within a generation, by 2050, if human pressures, including those related to climate change, are mitigated. This study provides an action plan based on evidence-based recommendations to scale proven solutions globally.

The impact of interventions and conservation measures was studied on 9 essential components of marine life: salt marshes, mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs, kelp, oyster reefs, fisheries, megafauna and the deep sea. By stacking a combination of six complementary interventions, called "*recovery wedges*" the study identifies specific actions within the broad themes of, protecting species, harvesting wisely, protecting spaces, restoring habitats, reducing pollution and the mitigation of climate change.. This last point is absolutely essential; the authors insist that the recovery of marine life will only be possible with the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Rebuilding marine life is a great challenge to achieve a sustainable future for humankind. It is realistic, ethically just and economically profitable. According to Jean-Pierre Gattuso, Research Professor at CNRS and Sorbonne University, IDDRI associate researcher and co-author of this study, "*the ocean is seriously threatened by human activities but we are demonstrating that it shows surprising resilience when the right solutions are implemented. We have the choice to pass on to future generations either a functional ocean full of life and resources or an irretrievably dysfunctional ocean*".

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