

Marine Eco-Environmental Protection in China (I)

中国的海洋生态环境保护(上)

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Preface

The ocean covers about 71 percent of the earth's surface. It is the cradle of life and the source of human civilization. The marine eco-environment is essential to the ecological balance of the planet, to the rational use of resources, to sustained development of human civilization, and to the present and future development of the maritime community of shared future. Its protection is important for national eco-environmental security, sustainable maritime development, and the harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean. It is the responsibility of all countries to protect and improve the marine environment and to conserve and use marine resources in a sustainable way.

China is a firm advocate for and an active participant in protecting the marine eco-environment, which is vital to its initiatives to build a beautiful China and a strong maritime country. Over the years, China has given priority to eco-environmental conservation and pursued systematic governance. It has coordinated development and protection efforts, and supported high-quality development with high-level protection, striving to build a marine eco-environment of harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, President Xi Jinping has made a series of important statements and observations on marine eco-environmental protection, highlighting the need to "care for the ocean as dearly as we treasure our lives." Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Eco-Civilization, in order to complete new tasks and meet new requirements for marine eco-environmental protection in this new era, China has launched a series of campaigns of fundamental, pioneering, and long-term significance and has made historic transformations and progress of overarching importance.

Thanks to hard work over the years, China's marine eco-environment has shown overall improvement, with marked increase in the capacity of ecosystem services and functions in certain sea areas. Marine resources have been exploited and utilized in an orderly manner, and the system for governing the marine eco-environment has been refined. People can safely enjoy the sea, with a greater sense of satisfaction and happiness. These achievements are a testament to the country's commitment to marine eco-environmental protection.

China has demonstrated its commitment as a responsible major country by actively promoting international cooperation in protecting the marine environment, faithfully fulfilling its responsibilities and obligations under international conventions, and contributing Chinese solutions and strength to the global governance of the marine environment.

The Chinese Government is publishing this white paper to present a full picture of China's ideas, actions, and achievements in marine eco-

前言

海洋约占地球表面积的71%，是生命的摇篮、人类文明的源泉。海洋生态环境关乎地球生态平衡和资源合理利用，关乎人类文明永续发展，关乎海洋命运共同体的现实与未来。保护好海洋生态环境，对保障国家生态安全、促进海洋可持续发展、实现人海和谐共生具有重要作用。坚定保护和改善海洋环境、保护和可持续利用海洋资源是各国共同的责任使命。

中国是海洋生态环境保护的坚定推动者和积极行动者，保护好海洋生态环境关乎美丽中国和海洋强国建设。多年来，中国坚持生态优先、系统治理，统筹协调开发和保护的关系，以高水平保护支撑高质量发展，努力构建人海和谐的海洋生态环境。

中共十八大以来，习近平总书记对海洋生态环境保护作出一系列重要论述，强调“要像对待生命一样关爱海洋”。在习近平生态文明思想指引下，中国适应海洋生态环境保护的新形势、新任务、新要求，开展了一系列根本性、开创性、长远性工作，推动海洋生态环境保护发生了历史性、转折性、全局性变化。经过不懈努力，中国海洋生态环境质量总体改善，局部海域生态系统服务功能显著提升，海洋资源有序开发利用，海洋生态环境治理体系不断健全，人民群众临海亲海的获得感、幸福感、安全感明显提升，海洋生态环境保护工作取得显著成效。中国积极推进海洋环境保护国际合作，切实履行国际公约责任义务，为全球海洋环境治理提出中国方案、贡献中国力量，彰显了负责任大国的作为和担当。

environmental protection to the international community to facilitate understanding of China's conservation efforts and advance international cooperation in this regard.

I. Improving Marine Eco-Environment for Harmonious Coexistence Between Humans and the Ocean

The ocean is crucial to the survival and development of a people and the security and prosperity of a nation. The protection of the marine eco-environment has a vital bearing on achieving harmony between humanity and nature in the modernization drive.

The Chinese Government applies the new development philosophy in all fields, and attaches great importance to marine eco-environmental protection. Factoring in the basic reality and development stage of the country, China has gained a deeper understanding of marine eco-environmental protection, making ongoing efforts to improve the system for this purpose and accelerating the building of a marine eco-civilization.

After the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, the country began to develop its marine areas. With this development, a number of environmental problems began to emerge. China placed emphasis on them and paid greater attention to protecting the marine eco-environment. In 1964, the State Oceanic Administration was set up, and before long a mechanism for managing China's marine eco-environment was steadily established. The Marine Environment Protection Law was promulgated in 1982, creating a legal framework for the country's marine protection, and a revision of this law in 1999 led to the addition of eco-environmental conservation in priorities alongside pollution control.

As part of its effort to implement the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Chinese Government formulated the China Ocean Agenda 21 to make marine eco-environmental protection more systemic and targeted. In 2023, the Marine Environment Protection Law was revised again, representing a systemic transformation to coordinated land-sea management and overall governance of the marine environment.

To synergize land and sea pollution control and strengthen overall eco-environmental protection, China has incorporated marine protection into the national system of eco-environmental protection. It has gradually strengthened overall planning and coordination between land and sea environmental protection efforts and, on that basis, established an effective system for governing the marine eco-environment. By strengthening marine pollution prevention and control, conserving and restoring marine ecosystems, and launching intensive campaigns for the comprehensive management of key sea areas, China has seen marked improvement in the quality of its marine environment, upgraded services and functions in certain sea areas, and an accelerated pace in the orderly exploitation and utilization of resources and the green transformation of the marine economy.

While China continues to follow best practices in the past, it has been working hard on innovative new approaches to protecting the marine eco-environment and promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean.

—Respecting nature and prioritizing eco-environmental conservation

Respecting, adapting to, and protecting nature is an established notion in China. China has developed an objective understanding of the laws of marine ecosystems, and, based on the systems' succession and inherent characteristics, works to reinforce their capacity for self-regulation, self-purification, and self-restoration so as to improve their stability, services, and functions.

China has plans in place for worst-case scenarios and prioritizes eco-

为介绍中国海洋生态环境保护的理念、实践与成效，增进国际社会对中国海洋生态环境保护的了解和理解，促进海洋生态环境保护国际合作，特发布本白皮书。

一、构建人海和谐的海洋生态环境

海洋事业关系民族生存发展，关系国家兴衰安危。保护好海洋生态环境关乎建设人与自然和谐共生的现代化。中国全面贯彻新发展理念，高度重视海洋生态环境保护工作，立足基本国情和发展阶段，不断深化海洋生态环境保护认识，持续完善海洋生态环境保护体系，加快推进海洋生态文明建设。

新中国成立后，随着海洋事业不断发展，中国重视海洋生态环境问题，高度关注海洋生态环境保护。1964年国家海洋局成立后，中国海洋生态环境管理体制逐步建立。1982年海洋环境保护法颁布，标志着中国海洋环境保护事业进入法制化轨道。1999年修订海洋环境保护法，推动海洋环境保护由侧重污染防治向兼顾生态保护转变。中国制定《中国海洋21世纪议程》，落实联合国2030年可持续发展议程，推动海洋生态环境保护向系统化、专业化发展。2023年再次修订海洋环境保护法，实现向陆海统筹、综合治理的系统性转变。

中国立足增强陆海污染防治协同性和生态环境保护整体性，把海洋生态环境保护纳入国家生态环境保护体系，逐步打通陆地与海洋，强化陆海生态环境保护职能的统筹协调，建立健全陆海统筹的海洋生态环境治理体系。通过持续加强海洋污染防治，积极开展海洋生态保护和修复，深入打好重点海域综合治理攻坚战，中国的海洋环境质量大幅改善，局部海域生态系统服务功能明显提升，资源有序开发利用和海洋经济绿色转型进程明显加快。

中国海洋生态环境保护事业在继承中发展，在探索中创新，努力构建人海和谐的海洋生态环境。

——坚持尊重自然、生态优先。牢固树立尊重自然、顺应自然、保护自然的理念，客观认识海洋生态系统的自然规律，从海洋生态系统演替和内在机理出发，着力提高海洋生态系统自我调节、自我净化、自我恢复的能力，增强生态系统稳定性和生态服务功能。坚持底线思维、生态优先，把海洋生

environmental conservation. It has included eco-environmental progress in the overall plan for marine development, built strong safeguards for marine eco-environmental protection, and utilized marine resources in a well-conceived and rational way. These measures have been put in place to promote harmony between humans and the ocean.

—Integrating conservation and management

Marine eco-environmental protection requires systemic efforts. China adopts a holistic approach to protecting the marine eco-environment, attaching equal importance to development, protection, pollution prevention and control, and restoration. It has improved the management of the marine eco-environment through land-sea coordination, coordinating protection work for rivers and seas, mountain and sea areas, onshore and offshore areas, and upstream and downstream river basins. China has established a mechanism for collaborative protection, governance, supervision, and law enforcement across different regions and departments, in order to create a comprehensive system for governing coastal areas, river basins, and sea areas.

—Enforcing strict supervision in accordance with laws and regulations

China has placed marine eco-environmental protection under the strictest systems and laws. Upholding the principle of governing the ocean by law, it has coordinated and pressed forward with the enactment and revision of relevant laws and regulations, put in place a legal framework for marine eco-environmental protection, and implemented the strictest system for governing the marine eco-environment. It has strengthened routine and whole-process supervision and management of the marine eco-environment, including region-specific control, monitoring and investigation, supervision and law enforcement, and assessment and inspection. Two mechanisms, Central Eco-Environmental Protection Inspection and State Natural Resources Inspection, play a supervisory role in the protection of the marine eco-environment, enforcing strict measures to combat actions that harm the marine eco-environment.

—Pursuing innovation-driven and tech-led development

China is committed to innovation-driven development. The country has strengthened innovation in marine eco-environmental protection technologies, monitoring and evaluation, and institutions and mechanisms. It has made rational decisions and implemented targeted measures to transform and advance protection through digital and smart technology. China assigns a leading role to science and technology in marine eco-environmental protection and the high-quality development of the marine economy, and is committed to overcoming the bottlenecks that hinder further progress. The country now utilizes land, sea, air, and space in its monitoring, governance, and supervision of the marine eco-environment, as well as in its emergency response capabilities and technology.

—Pursuing green transformation and low-carbon development

Blue seas and clean beaches, like lucid waters and lush mountains, are also invaluable assets. Upholding the philosophy of green development and applying it in exploring the sea, China is transforming its model of marine development into one of circular utilization. It has developed eco-tourism, eco-fisheries, and other green industries, expanded its channels for realizing the market value of green products, and promoted high-quality economic development and quality of life in coastal areas through high-standard protection of the marine eco-environment.

With a focus on reducing pollution and its carbon footprint, China has increased its carbon sink potential by developing marine ranching while reducing emissions through offshore wind power and other new models of the green, low-carbon economy. These efforts have accelerated the green, low-carbon transformation of the marine industry and green, low-carbon and sustainable development of the ocean, in line with the country's goals of achieving peak carbon dioxide emissions by

生态文明建设纳入海洋开发总布局之中，筑牢海洋生态环境保护屏障，科学合理开发利用海洋资源，促进人海和谐。

——坚持一体保护、系统治理。海洋生态环境保护是一项系统工程。中国坚持系统观念、统筹兼顾，坚持开发和保护并重、污染防治和生态修复并举，陆海统筹推进海洋生态环境保护。坚持河海联动、山海互济，打通岸上水里、陆地海洋以及流域上下游，构建区域联动、部门协同的保护治理、监管执法协作机制，探索建立沿海、流域、海域协同一体的综合治理体系。

——坚持依法依规、严格监管。中国以最严格制度、最严密法治保护海洋生态环境。坚持依法治海，统筹推进相关法律法规制修订，建立海洋生态环境保护法治体系，实施最严格的海洋生态环境治理制度。强化海洋生态环境分区管控、监测调查、监管执法、考核督察等常态化、全过程监督管理，发挥中央生态环境保护督察利剑作用和国家自然资源督察监督作用，重拳出击、重典治乱，严厉打击破坏海洋生态环境的行为。

——坚持创新驱动、科技引领。中国坚持创新驱动发展，强化海洋生态环境保护技术体系、监测评估和体制机制创新，科学决策、精准施策，推动海洋生态环境保护实现数字化、智能化转型升级。实施“科技兴海”战略，充分发挥科技在海洋生态环境保护方面的引领作用，努力突破制约海洋生态环境保护和海洋经济高质量发展的科技瓶颈，运用陆、海、空、天多种手段，提高海洋生态环境监测、治理、监管、应急能力和技术水平。

——坚持绿色转型、低碳发展。碧海银滩也是绿水青山、金山银山。中国坚持绿色发展理念，探索海洋绿色发展路径，推动海洋开发方式向循环利用型转变，大力发展生态旅游、生态渔业等绿色产业，不断拓展生态产品价值实现路径，以海洋生态环境高水平保护促进沿海地区经济高质量发展、创造高品质生活。立足“双碳”战略目标，以减污降碳为抓手，协同推进海洋领域增汇与减排，发展海洋牧场、海上风电等绿色低碳经济新业态，促进海洋产业绿色低碳转型，加快推动海洋绿色低碳可持续发展。

——坚持政府主导、多元共治。坚持政府海洋生态环境保护主导地位，在制度设计、科学规划、