Marine Ecosystem Protection

Source Metadata

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EU Taxonomy Definition

Marine ecosystem protection under the EU Taxonomy covers activities that substantially contribute to the sustainable use and protection of marine and coastal resources. This includes sustainable aquaculture, marine habitat restoration (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds), sustainable fisheries management, marine pollution prevention (plastic waste reduction, oil spill response), coastal erosion protection using nature-based solutions, and marine protected area management. The Environmental Delegated Act established initial criteria, with the 2026 revision strengthening alignment with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Biodiversity Strategy targets for 30% marine protection by 2030.

Technical Screening Criteria Summary

Sustainable aquaculture must comply with the EU Regulation on Organic Aquaculture or demonstrate feed conversion ratios, water quality standards, and carrying capacity assessments that ensure environmental sustainability. Marine habitat restoration must follow science-based restoration protocols with measurable targets for habitat area, species recovery, and ecosystem function. Sustainable fisheries must operate under maximum sustainable yield (MSY) management and comply with the Common Fisheries Policy. Coastal protection activities must use nature-based solutions as the primary approach, with hard engineering only where nature-based solutions are demonstrably insufficient. Marine protected area management must demonstrate effective protection outcomes, not just designation.

Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)

Marine activities must not harm mitigation (aquaculture and fisheries must minimize carbon footprint), adaptation (coastal infrastructure must be climate-resilient), circular economy (fishing gear must be recyclable, aquaculture must minimize waste), pollution (zero tolerance for marine pollution from operational activities, MARPOL compliance), and biodiversity (activities must demonstrate net-positive impact on marine biodiversity, no harm to protected species or habitats).

LATAM Relevance

LATAM's extensive coastlines and marine resources — from the Colombian Pacific and Caribbean to the Galápagos and Patagonian Shelf — face growing pressure from overfishing, pollution, and climate change. European seafood import standards increasingly reference sustainability criteria aligned with the EU Taxonomy. Colombia's blue economy strategy and marine protected areas (Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, Malpelo) benefit from EU-aligned marine conservation finance.

Colombia Green Finance Taxonomy Alignment

The TVC addresses marine and coastal ecosystem protection under its biodiversity and water objectives. Alignment is partial — Colombia's framework covers mangrove restoration and sustainable fisheries but lacks the EU's specific aquaculture sustainability standards and marine restoration performance metrics. Colombia's strengths in mangrove and coral reef conservation provide a foundation for deeper alignment.

Cleantech Taxonomy Crosswalk

Maps to Cleantech Taxonomy sector WW (Water & Wastewater) — node WW-MAR (marine resources), and AF (AFOLU) — node AF-AQU (aquaculture). Cross-references with XS (Cross-Sectoral) for nature-based solutions and biodiversity safeguards applicable to marine contexts.

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