Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs

SDG 14. LIFE BELOW WATER

SDG[1]	DESCRIPTION[2]	UOC ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES
	**SDG 14** contains 10 goals to be achieved by 2030 and 10 targets to monitor the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. SDG 14 aims to: - preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds (14.1); - sustainably managing and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems (14.2); - minimizing and addressing the impacts of ocean acidification (14.3); - effectively regulating fishing and ending overfishing and illegal fishing (14.4); - conserving at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas (14.5);	**14.2.1. Freshwater ecosystems (community outreach)** ***Project "FishME – Social and ecological effects of fish removal in mountain ecosystems"*** April 2022 – March 2025 The threats to mountain aquatic ecosystems are multiple. However, apart from climate change, the stocking of naturally fishless lakes with fish has been identified as being particularly harmful to water quality and biodiversity. Due to the magnitude of the ecological impact and the global spread of fish introduction into mountain lakes, introduced fish probably represent the most important threat to the biodiversity of mountain lakes, ecosystem functioning, and water quality. This threat is all the more important as fish introduction coincides with a series of other anthropogenic activities, such as human population growth, changing economic activities, changing land use, urbanization, pollution, loss and degradation of aquatic habitats, overexploitation, altered flows, and the invasion of exotic species. Together and in interaction with climate change, these factors accelerate and exacerbate the ecological and environmental degradation of mountain aquatic ecosystems and the loss of unique species and life forms. However, despite strong concerns about the long-term health and functioning of aquatic ecosystems, experimental and restoration studies linking fish stocking with pollution, aquatic disease ecology, and ecosystem health are still rare. The inter- and transdisciplinary research proposed within FishME also aims to co-design and provide the knowledge needed to guide governance and management strategies for the long-term conservation, restoration, and protection of mountain freshwater ecosystems and their unique biodiversity. By focusing on the restoration of mountain lakes, FishME addresses this gap and provides policymakers, authorities, institutions, and practitioners with the information needed to support investments in appropriate policy and management measures that can contribute to reversing the ongoing losses of mountain freshwater species and habitats and the degradation of ecosystem and wildlife health. FishME responds to Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 (protecting ecosystems and essential services) and to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 14–15 (Life Below Water, Life on Land), 13 (Climate Action), 6 (Clean Water), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). These policies are very important in the mountain context and are in line with the EU nature restoration plan under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). https://fishme.ecoportal.ro/ https://www.biodiversa.eu/2022/10/25/fishme/

	- eliminating subsidies that contribute to overfishing (14.6); - increasing the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources (14.7). The means of achieving the goals are: - increasing scientific knowledge, research, and technology for ocean health (14.a); - providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets (14.b); - implementing and enforcing international maritime law (14.c). At the national level, the specific targets under the 2030 Agenda are: - preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris pollution and nutrient pollution; - minimizing and managing the impact of the acidification of	**14.2.2. AWARENESS ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL OR NATIONAL COMMUNITIES ON THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE, AND TOURISM** ***Workshop "Sustainable Tourism Development in the Corbu Commune"*** April 29 The event on the sustainable development of tourism in the Corbu commune was organized by the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences and is part of the Blue4Citizens project – PNRR ResPonSe C9/i5 "Integrated research and sustainable solutions for the protection and restoration of ecosystems in the Lower Danube Basin – the Black Sea coastal area". The event took place at the "Gheorghe Lazăr" Middle School in the Corbu commune. The workshop was attended by specialists, representatives of public authorities, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and locals, who analyzed the current needs and possible directions for the development of ecotourism in the Corbu commune, through the optimal use of local resources and through community investments that promote the local identity. The Corbu commune is part of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, so tourism development requires special attention to biodiversity conservation and the management of protected areas in the coastal and maritime zone. The workshop highlighted the territorial development context of the Corbu locality, from the perspective of European policies for the sustainable development of the blue economy and of coastal and maritime spatial planning regulations. At the same time, the first part of the workshop highlighted current technological innovations that can support the development of a sustainable tourism business. In the second part of the event, participants were involved in an interactive activity of consulting the local community on the possibilities of supporting local ecotourism and the sustainable development of the Corbu commune. https://blue4citizens.univ-ovidius.ro/invitatie-atelierul-de-lucru-dezvoltarea-turismului-durabil-in-comuna-corbu-29-aprilie-2025/ https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/stiri/comunicat-de-presa-atelier-de-lucru-privind-dezvoltarea-durabila-a-turismului-in-comuna-corbu-organizat-de-universitatea-ovidius-din-constanta/ **14.2.3. OVERFISHING (COMMUNITY OUTREACH)** ***ORDER No. 23/297/2025 on establishing the periods and areas of fishing prohibition, as well as the areas for the protection and biological recovery of living aquatic resources in 2025*** At the national level, measures are being taken to raise awareness of overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and destructive fishing practices. The aforementioned legislative framework establishes both the prohibition areas and periods, as well as the species and their corresponding prohibition periods. <u>General Prohibition Periods</u> - inland waters (natural aquatic habitats): total prohibition for 60 days, from April 9 to June 7. This also includes the Razim-Sinoe Complex or the coastal lakes;

	the marine waters environment, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels; the responsible and sustainable development of fishing activities for wild species and aquaculture, in compliance with the quotas and methods established by law, and maintaining, within reasonable limits, the viability of traditional occupations in this field, including sport and recreational fishing; - engaging the other riparian states of the Black Sea in the act of sustainable management of living aquatic resources.	- border waters: prohibition for 45 days, from April 24 to June 7; - the border with Ukraine & the Musura Gulf: prohibition for 45 days, from April 16 to May 30. Prohibition on Fish Species - pike: prohibited from February 1 to March 20 in the rest of the country, while in the Danube Delta (RBDD) the ban is extended until June 7 (overlapping with the general prohibition); - zander and perch: prohibited from March 20 to June 7; - tench: prohibited between June 7 and July 6; - river crayfish: fishing is prohibited from October 15 to June 15; - turbot (Black Sea): prohibited between April 15 and June 15; - sturgeons and protected species: fishing is totally prohibited throughout the year. Zonal Restrictions and Impact Changes (Order 2513/2025) - the Prut River and the Stânca-Costești Lake: commercial and recreational fishing is completely prohibited for 60 days (April 9 – June 7); - permanent bans: fishing is completely prohibited on the Prut River (between the Stânca-Costești Dam and the confluence with the Elan River), on the Bărbosu Canal and the Sfiștofca Canal (with minor exceptions for recreational/family fishing outside the general period); - the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (RBDD): strict transport limits for recreational fishing – maximum 10 kg of fish per angler or 15 kg per family. Also, the use of seines is severely restricted depending on the Danube's water levels at Tulcea. https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/294196 **14.3.1. CONSERVING AND SUSTAINABLY USING THE OCEANS (EVENTS)** ***The 6th International Congress of Engineering and Life Sciences*** September 2 – 4 – Kyrenia, Cyprus Oral presentation - Assessing the Superfetation Potential of Poecilia wingei (Poeser, Kempkes, and Insbruker, 2005), Actinopterygii, Poeciliidae, Laguna de Los Patos Population, Cumana, Venezuela, as a Tool for in situ and ex situ Conservation Marian TUDOR, Alexandra Elena ȘOIMU https://icelis.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/6th-ICELIS-2025-Proceedings.pdf **Tudor, M.** (2025). How Taxonomy, Geopolitics and Conservation Can Influence **Life Below Water** – the Curious Case of Poecilia wingei (Poeser, Kempkes & Isbrücker, 2005), Actinopterygii, Cyprinodontiformes, Poeciliidae. Journal of Lifestyle and SDGs Review, 5(7), e7316 https://doi.org/10.47172/2965-730X.SDGsReview.v5.n07.pe07316

https://www.sdgsreview.org/LifestyleJournal/article/view/7316/3075

Scientific Seminar dedicated to INTERNATIONAL ANTARCTICA DAY
December 4
The event was organized within the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanța, together with Magellan University, Punta Arenas, Chile, in a hybrid format, in person and online, via Webex.
Topics:
- Antarctica – an amazing continent (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daciana Sava, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanța)
- Macroalgae of the sub-Antarctic and Antarctic region: achievements and challenges (Professor Nelso Patricio Navarro Martínez, Director of the Department of Sciences and Natural Resources, Magellan University, Punta Arenas)
- Marine life at the edge of the world: new species, expeditions to extreme southern latitudes, and the power of open biodiversity data (Professor Cristian Aldea Venegas, PhD, Magellan University, Punta Arenas)
https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2025-2026/anunturi/Program%20Ziua%20Antarcticii_%204%20dec%202025.pdf

14.3.2. FOOD FROM AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS (POLICIES)

The Aquaculture and Fish Farming Program 2021–2027
University staff and researchers from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences contributed to the development of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Program 2021–2027.
The Aquaculture and Fisheries Program (PAP) ensures the development of Romania's fisheries sector. The strategic objectives aim to create the conditions for implementing the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in Romania, considering the commitments of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). PAP interventions are determined by identified needs, related to specific or cross-sectoral policies at the EU level, in particular: the European Green Deal (EGD), the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (Biodiv), the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy, as well as the objectives established through the National Multiannual Strategic Plan for Aquaculture (NMSAP).
The FAP implementation strategy also aims to contribute to:
- the development of sustainable commercial fishing in the Black Sea and in inland waters;
- sustainable and competitive aquaculture that efficiently uses available resources;
- ensuring more efficient control of fishing activities and supporting data collection activities, contributing to the implementation of CFP rules and to sustainable fish farms.
The general objective of the CFP is to ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term, are managed in a way consistent with the objective of achieving economic,

		employment, and social benefits, and contribute to the availability of food resources. To allow the sustainable exploitation of fish resources, the CFP must apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management. In addition, it must implement the ecosystem approach to fisheries management to ensure that the negative impact of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem is minimized, and that aquaculture and fishing activities avoid the degradation of the marine environment. https://www.mmediu.ro/app/webroot/uploads/files/Programul%20pentru%20Avcacultura%20si%20Pescuit_draft.pdf ***LECTURE: P23 FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL: STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY*** November 5 Indispensable marine ingredients for global aquaculture, Dr. Barış Bayraklı, Sinop University, Turkey, Department of Fish Products Processing Technology. Research field and expertise - improving the quality, safety, and standardization of marine products, with an emphasis on post-harvest processing technologies; - processing marine ingredients: standards and technological processes in fishmeal and fish oil production; - quality management and standardization: establishing and evaluating quality indicators for processed fishery products; - nutritional and chemical analysis: investigating the fatty acid composition of fish meat and oil; - safety and risk assessment: analysis of heavy metals and associated health risks in fishery products. https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2025-2026/anunturi/Anunt%20prelegere%20prof.%20Bayrakli.pdf **14.3.3. MAINTAINING AND EXTENDING ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR BIODIVERSITY, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN DANGER (DIRECT WORK)** ***Project "InsectAI – Using image-based artificial intelligence for insect monitoring and conservation"*** October 2023 – October 2027 The "InsectAI COST" Action supported the monitoring and conservation of insects at national and continental scales, with the aim of understanding and counteracting the widespread decline of insect populations. The Action brought together a critical mass of researchers and stakeholders in the field of image-based artificial intelligence technologies for insects, with the aim of guiding and driving the research agenda, strengthening research capacity at the European level, and supporting innovation and the application of results. The Action organized workshops, conferences, short-term scientific missions, hackathons, design sprints, and many others, within four working groups. These groups analyzed how image-based artificial intelligence technologies for insects can best respond to society's needs, can support innovation in image collection equipment, can create standardized approaches to image processing, and can develop new methods of data analysis and integration to turn data into useful information.

		https://insectai.eu/ https://insectai.eu/the-action/participants/ ***Lecture "Environmental nucleic acids: Can eRNA pick up where eDNA fails?"*** June 2 The lecture was delivered by Prof. Melania Cristescu, from the Department of Biology of McGill University in Montreal, Canada (https://www.mcgill.ca/cristescu-lab/), within the ERASMUS+ inter-university exchange program. The lecture was delivered in English and addressed a cutting-edge field of research in biology, research aimed at analyzing the biological and ecological diversity of different types of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2024-2025/anunturi/Prelegere%20Erasmus%20Melania%20Cristescu1.pdf ***INNOVibe 2025 – Innovation and Digital Transformation Festival*** September 4 – 30 Ovidius University of Constanța — through its innovation entities, CITYINNOHUB (the European Digital Innovation Hub for the South-East region), the Technology Transfer Center, and the Ovidius Innovation Centre— is launching "Constanța INNOVibe 2025," a festival dedicated to innovation and digital transformation. The event focuses on innovation, education, and European collaboration. This initiative, rooted in cooperation and community engagement, is supported by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Navigation and Agriculture, local communities such as CT Developers, Start UP CT, and Ambasada, as well as technology partners and representatives from European networks. Throughout September, Constanța has become a meeting point for students, entrepreneurs, technology specialists, public authorities, and representatives of European networks. The shared goal of these gatherings is to accelerate digital transformation and foster innovation within the region. On September 19–20, 2025, as part of the Constanța INNOVibe 2025 festival organized by Ovidius University of Constanța, the "Pioneers Ideathon" took place—a competition focused on artificial intelligence solutions for "green ports." The first day featured an information session for students and mentors, covering the Port of Constanța, the PIONEERS project, and the "ideathon" concept, while also introducing the specific challenge that served as the event's central theme. On the second day, the students—organized into 5 teams—collaborated to identify solutions to the proposed challenge: designing an artificial intelligence-based system focused on collaboration, communication, and awareness. https://pioneers-ports.eu/portfolio-item/pioneers-ideathons-port-of-constanta/ https://www.radioconstanta.ro/2025/09/03/constanta-incepe-festivalul-inovarii-si-transformarii-digitale-innovibe-2025-la-universitatea-ovidius/

		14.3.4. TECHNOLOGIES FOR PREVENTING DAMAGE TO THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM (DIRECT WORK) ***Project "ReSPonSE – Integrated research and sustainable solutions for the protection and restoration of ecosystems in the Lower Danube Basin – the Black Sea coastal area"*** December 2022 – June 2026 The project is implemented by an evenly distributed group of partners, consisting of 4 top universities, one RDI institute, and 5 SMEs committed to developing an SRA complex in line with the objectives of EU Mission 3. The SRA philosophy is implemented in the complementary activities of the 5 proposed specific projects, addressing current environmental issues: - the sustainable development and ecological reconstruction of the ecosystems of the Lower Danube Basin and the Black Sea; - water depollution technologies; - nanotechnologies for molecular biology and immunology. The existing pillars – the monitoring and laboratory research infrastructure, innovation facilities, as well as the partners' previous experience in national and international RDI projects are prerequisites for the successful implementation of the proposed projects, which aim to monitor environmental parameters, analyze and comprehensively model the Danube, its tributaries, the Delta, and the Black Sea coastal area. An economic and sustainable decision-making system for protection and reconstruction activities in the Lower Danube Basin and applied technologies for the valorization of marine algae will contribute to community development and to the growth of participatory governance, leading local and regional communities towards blue socio-economic growth and better protection of ecosystems and biodiversity. https://response.unibuc.ro/ <u>Workshop on managing invasive alien species in protected areas</u> May 26 – "Traian Coșovei" Middle School, Somova The workshop is part of the ReSponSE project – "Integrated ecosystem analysis for conservation and ecological restoration" and aims to support biodiversity conservation and the management of aquatic environments, by involving the local community in restoration decisions in the Danube Delta area. Topics: - Analysis of invasive species; - Assessment of the ecological and socio-economic impact of invasive alien species; - Best practices in managing invasive alien species in protected areas; - Consulting the local community on the management of alien species of interest in the area of the Somova-Parcheș lake complex. https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2024-2025/anunturi/Invita%C8%9Bie_Somova_Atelier%20de%20lucru%20Specii%20invazive.pdf

		The 41st Student Scientific Professional Competition in Strength of Materials "C.C. Teodorescu" – National Phase May 8 – 10 The event was organized by the "Ferdinand I" Military Technical Academy (www.mta.ro) of Bucharest. The Constructions section was attended by: - Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest – UTCB; - "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași; - Technical University of Cluj-Napoca - Politehnica University of Timișoara; - TRANSILVANIA University of Brașov; - "Ovidius" University of Constanța - "Ferdinand I" Military Technical Academy of Bucharest – the competition organizer. The Faculty of Constructions within "Ovidius" University of Constanța participated in the national phase with three students, selected following the local phase. Following the competition, the participating students won the following prizes: the 2nd prize and an honorable mention (4th place). https://web.facebook.com/FacultateadeConstructiiCt/posts/pfbid0VvfcnoCAaahiKy6R77hDdURdjQjYP6JMLadnUT9iKjwe1NpKWQQkyEcdcUfELyHkl?_rdc=1&_rdr **14.4.1. WATER DISCHARGE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS** Ovidius University of Constanța has standards and guidelines regarding water quality for water discharges (to maintain water quality in order to protect ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and well-being). The treated wastewater complies with the Romanian Standards Office. The treated water is used only for horticultural purposes. In the wetland located in the immediate vicinity of the university campus, there is no sewage discharge or disposal of other types of liquid and solid waste. The university has a biological wastewater treatment plant that treats wastewater and recycles the water used for irrigation, road spraying, and ground spraying. This inhibits the growth of harmful bacteria and potentially protects wildlife, flora, and aquatic fauna through the release of treated water. The university recycles rainwater and makes it suitable for use in toilets and other uses. This leads to reduced use of groundwater and to the conservation of rainwater. It also monitors water quality and discharges and follows the RAJA/ABADL/WHO standards. Monitoring is carried out at regular intervals of time. The main legal frameworks, external academic standards, and external benchmarks used to ensure sustainable water security in accordance with this policy are the following: https://rajac.ro/politicile-raja-s-a/

		14.4.2. ACTION PLAN FOR REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE The UOC administration has worked progressively in recent years to achieve zero single-use plastic. To support this initiative, immediate steps include informing catering suppliers to use glass jugs and glasses instead of bottled water, encouraging participants to bring their own water bottles, and using water dispensers for refilling meeting rooms. In addition, single-use plastic items such as plates, cups and plastic straws should be replaced with reusable alternatives, and food lids should be replaced with reusable food covers. Departments are also tasked with displaying "UNIMAS Towards Zero Single Use Plastic" posters in visible areas to raise awareness, while individuals (staff and students) are encouraged to bring reusable containers, utensils, and bags for personal use. These collective actions aim to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainability throughout the university. **14.4.3 Policies for the Disposal of Water-Sensitive Waste – Policy for Reducing/Preventing Marine Pollution** ***National Colloquium "The Need to Develop a Romanian Business Code and a Romanian Maritime Code in the Perspective of Romania's Accession to the OECD – Country Project"*** June 13 Papers and syntheses: - The status and perspectives of Romania's accession to the OECD; - Ethics and integrity in business, from the perspective of commercial arbitration; - On the need to recognize commercial law under current socio-economic and legal conditions. The relationship between commercial law and business law; - Premises and imminent needs regarding the development of the Romanian Business Code and the Romanian Maritime Code, in accordance with the standards of the OECD Member States; - A comparative overview of business law in the OECD and EU Member States; - Some issues and principles from the case law of the High Court of Cassation and Justice in commercial and maritime matters; - Considerations on legal liability for marine pollution; - Selective case law of the Constanța Court of Appeal in maritime and port matters regarding: (a) The scope of the notion of "civil navigation and activity in ports" with consequences on the admissibility of the appeal, in relation to Art. 485 para. (2) of the Code of Civil Procedure; (b) The institution of ship detention by court order until the application for the establishment of the precautionary seizure is obtained, in relation to Art. 997, Art. 968, and Art. 969 of the Code of Civil Procedure; - The reception and application of international maritime conventions in domestic maritime case law; - Some considerations on the case law of the Maritime and Commercial Arbitration Court of CCINA Constanța; - Convex S.A. Port – an example of business of a "champion" operator among the maritime ports on the Black

Sea coast;
- Some theoretical and practical issues relating to the enforcement of commercial ships.
The conference presented a series of scientific papers that addressed current topics in the field of commercial law, business law, and maritime law, with an emphasis on legislative and jurisprudential developments, as well as on the alignment of the Romanian legal framework with European and international standards.
Some of the papers presented addressed aspects related to the modernization of the national legal framework, the development of business law, the promotion of ethics and integrity in the economic environment, and the adaptation of Romanian legislation to international standards.
Other papers addressed the comparative and jurisprudential dimension through the interpretation and application of legal norms in commercial and maritime matters, as well as the relationships between national legislation and international regulations.
Specific issues of legal liability in the maritime field, the settlement of disputes through arbitration, and the enforcement against commercial ships were also discussed.
The economic and practical component was also illustrated by presenting an example of economic activity in the port sector and its relevance in the context of regional competitiveness.
Through the diversity of the topics addressed, the papers presented at the conference provided a framework for interdisciplinary debate on current challenges in commercial and maritime law, highlighting the importance of legal research, the exchange of academic and professional experience, and the identification of solutions for the development and modernization of the Romanian regulatory framework.
https://drept.univ-ovidius.ro/evenimente/colocviul-national-necesitatea-elaborarii-unui-cod-roman-al-afacerilor-si-a-unui-cod-maritim-roman-in-perspectiva-aderarii-romaniei-la-ocde-proiect-de-tara-2026-13-iunie-2025/

14.5.1. MINIMIZING THE ALTERATION OF RELATED AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS (PLAN)

Project "Act4DEutrophication – Active measures for the restoration of freshwater lakes and coastal areas affected by eutrophication, addressing increased resilience to climate change and biodiversity"
The Systemic Approach applied to the eutrophication of freshwater lakes and the waters of the western Black Sea coast serves as a reference model for addressing all aspects of climate change adaptation in Romania and the EU. Understanding the means of reversing eutrophication processes in the context of climate change adaptation and developing innovative de-eutrophication solutions for freshwater lakes and coastal areas provides added value and the means to contribute to the EU Mission on the health of oceans, seas, coastal, and inland waters.
The main objectives are the definition and validation of methodologies and procedures for monitoring the effects of climate change, analyzing them in detail, and collaborating with local communities for the implementation of measures to adapt to the effects of climate change and to protect biodiversity in the freshwater lakes of Romania and the Black Sea Coast.

Within the Act4DEutrophication project, on January 26, 2025, UOC researchers carried out a campaign to collect

water, phytoplankton, and zooplankton samples from Lake Siutghiol, coordinated with the passage of the Sentinel-2 satellite, for the analysis of the physico-chemical characteristics of the water in the context of eutrophication.
https://dteclimate.upb.ro/subprojects/specific-rdi-project-2-act4deutrophication-active-measures-for-restoring-sweet-water-lakes-and-coastal-areas-affected-by-eutrophication-addressing-the-enhancement-of-resilience-to-climate-change-and-biodiversity/
https://dteclimate.insae.ro/about-the-project/

14.5.2. MONITORING THE HEALTH OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Project "AlgaeRevive – Harnessing Algae Power for Pollution Reduction and Blue Growth"
September 2024 – March 2027
The objective of the project is to create a sustainable ecosystem for the research and industrial valorization of algae in the Black Sea, with results including the establishment of an Algae Knowledge Center and the development of a dedicated monitoring tool – AlgaeSense.
The project is funded through the Interreg VI-B NEXT Black Sea Basin program (ERDF, IPA III, NDICI). The international partnership includes Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University (Bulgaria), the Georgian Water Management Institute, Odesa State University (Ukraine), and the Hellenic Agricultural Organization DIMITRA (Greece).
https://keep.eu/projects/29537/Harnessing-Algae-Power-for--EN/

In 2025, UOC teams carried out systematic sampling on the Romanian Black Sea coast within the AlgaeRevive project, identifying 13 macroalgae species with valorization potential.

<u>International conference "From Algae to Action: Reviving Ecosystems for a Sustainable Tomorrow"</u>
May 29 – 31
The international conference brought together over 40 researchers and teaching staff from Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Greece, and Georgia. The role of algae in reducing marine pollution and their possible uses in food, energy, and bioplastics production were discussed. The program also addressed the effects of climate change and strategies for a sustainable blue economy. The conference provided a framework for scientific dialogue and applied collaboration between researchers, public authorities, and representatives of the private sector. The participants generated innovative ideas and relevant research directions, which are to be valorized in laboratories and specialized centers, for the benefit of local communities and marine ecosystems. The conference was organized within the AlgaeRevive project, funded through the NEXT Black Sea Basin program.
https://www.ziuaconstanta.ro//stiri/invatamant/conferinta-internationala-organizata-de-universitatea-ovidius-constanta-despre-combaterea-poluarii-si-regenerarea-ecosistemelor-marine-cu-ajutorul-algelor-900072.html

		14.5.3. PROGRAMS AND MEASURES FOR GOOD AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ***Training session "Entrepreneurship in the field of the sustainable blue economy"*** October 17 The activity was organized by the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences at the "Gheorghe Lazăr" Middle School in the Corbu commune. The topics addressed were: - The development of entrepreneurship in the Corbu Commune: Identifying local entrepreneurial opportunities and From idea to business model; - Entrepreneurship in protected coastal areas: Identifying possible local entrepreneurial obstacles and Best practices in the field of the sustainable blue economy. The event is part of the Blue4Citizens project: "Community development through sustainable blue tourism entrepreneurship and ecological restoration of coastal and marine areas" and aims to support biodiversity conservation and the management of protected areas, through the development of ecotourism based on local entrepreneurship, local identity, and local resources, in the Danube Delta and on the Black Sea coast. https://blue4citizens.univ-ovidius.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Invitatie-UOC_Corbu_Sesiune-de-instruire_Antreprenoriat.pdf **14.5.4. COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR MAINTAINING SHARED AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS** ***Workshop "Ecological reconstruction and development opportunities in the Corbu commune"*** June 17 The event on the sustainable development of tourism in the Corbu commune was organized by Ovidius University of Constanța and is part of the Blue4Citizens project. The event took place at the "Gheorghe Lazăr" Middle School in the Corbu commune. The event program included debates on the theme "The Development Context of the Corbu Commune", followed by the Consultation of the local Corbu community on the development of the commune through ecological reconstruction projects. The following debates were held at the event: - Ecological reconstruction – a priority of this decade; - Activities in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve – between the site's operating regulations and the legislation on protected natural areas in the Natura 2000 network; - Ecological reconstruction projects – challenges and development opportunities; - Technological innovations for ecological reconstruction projects. https://blue4citizens.univ-ovidius.ro/invitatie-atelier-de-lucru-privind-dezvoltarea-comunei-corbu-prin-proiecte-

		de-reconstructie-ecologica17-iunie-2025/ **14.5.5. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY** ***Project "DTEClimate – Competence Center for Climate Change Digital Twin for Earth forecasts and societal redressment"*** December 2022 – December 2025 The project is carried out in partnership with Ovidius University of Constanța, the Romanian Space Agency, INCDFP, and the University of Life Sciences of Iași and aims at the advanced valorization of Earth observation data, through the use of Digital Twin systems, in order to improve climate forecasts. After the official completion of the DTEClimate project, the Competence Center continues its mission through ongoing collaborations and projects. In the next stage, collaborations between research institutions, public authorities, industry, and civil society will be strengthened, to support activities to combat climate change and to promote excellence in the field of Earth observation, in accordance with national and European policies. The Competence Center aims to develop: - solutions on climate change at the level of human activities, from local scales to wider areas and from immediate periods to medium term; - components of a Digital Twin Earth – DTE, which integrates data from Earth observation and in situ data with artificial intelligence, deep learning, and quantum technologies, for applications in fields such as biodiversity, hydrology, geophysics, health, urban planning, and others. The Competence Center is formally structured as follows: 1. The General Assembly – led by the project coordinator and brings together representatives of all active partners and project coordinators; 2. The Stakeholders Council – composed of public authorities, policymakers, enterprises, and service providers that support climate change adaptation strategies and stakeholder involvement. 3. The Scientific Council – an independent group of national and European experts providing scientific, technological, regulatory, societal, and business-oriented guidance for the project's priority areas. The project is funded through the PNRR program. https://dteclimate.upb.ro/?lat=44.777936&lng=29.067078&zoom=8 ***Lecture "Watershed ecology in the Philippine context"*** June 10 The lecture was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mayzonee LIGARAY (The University of the Philippines – Diliman, Philippines) https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2024-2025/anunturi/Anunt%20prelegere%20Erasmus%2B%20prof.%20Mayzonee%20LIGARAY%20%28Filipine%

		29%2011.06.2025.pdf **Relevant national legislation in force on aquatic life, fisheries, and aquaculture:** ***Law No. 176/2024 on fisheries*** The law regulates the protection, conservation, restocking, administration, and exploitation of living aquatic resources in Romania's natural habitats. Main rules for recreational fishing (Art. 30) - mountain area (salmonids): a maximum of 1 rod (with at most 2 hooks) or 1 spinning rod is allowed, using exclusively artificial baits. The maximum quantity retained is 10 specimens/day; - hilly area, plain, Danube, Delta, and Black Sea: a maximum of 3 rods or 4 spinning rods (with at most 2 hooks each) or one trotline (with a maximum of 10 hooks) are allowed. The maximum quantity retained is 5 kg/day or a single fish if it exceeds 5 kg; - the Black Sea: a maximum of 2 rods, 2 spinning rods, or 1 trotline (with a maximum of 10 hooks); - shore access: owners of adjacent land must leave free a corridor of at least 20 meters in width for access to recreational fishing. Sanctions and fines - fishing without a permit or without identification elements: fine between 1,000 and 1,500 lei; - exceeding the limits (e.g. over 10 trout/day or over 5 kg of fish): fine between 1,000 and 1,500 lei; - recreational fishing during the prohibition period or in protection areas: fine between 6,000 and 10,000 lei, plus the retention and suspension of the permit for 120 days; - criminal offenses (poaching, electric fishing, destruction of roe or protected species such as sturgeons): imprisonment from 2 to 5 years and the prohibition of the right to fish. https://legislatie.just.ro/public/DetaliiDocument/283479 ***Law No. 206/2025 on aquaculture*** The law regulates aquaculture activities and the marketing of related products in Romania's inland and marine waters. Main provisions - competent authority: the sector is administered and controlled by the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (ANPA), subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; - single register: it establishes ROUA (the Single Register of Aquaculture Operators and Units), registration being mandatory for legal operation and market access; - zoning and space: it integrates aquaculture areas into a national GIS-based spatial register; - concession and privatization: it establishes rules for the privatization of fish farming companies and the concession or leasing of state-owned public and private land intended for fish farming facilities;

		- sanctions and fines: a) 10,000 – 15,000 lei: failure to comply with the measures ordered by ANPA; b) 15,000 – 35,000 lei: holding species without approval, refusing control, or lacking a license; c) 40,000 – 80,000 lei: destruction of hydrotechnical structures, pollution, or the absence of fish protection devices. - legislative changes: it partially repeals GEO No. 23/2008 on fisheries and aquaculture. https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/304932
	General Label for Sustainable Development	

1 Images taken from the website https://knowODDs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ .

2 Descriptions were developed based on the following: https://knowODDs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/, https://sdg-tracker.org/; https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals, https://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/.