

## The blue economy in the Canary Islands, Spain

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Fact box

- **Population:** 2 177 701 [1]
- **GDP:** EUR 42.6 billion [2]
- **Area:** 7 447 km<sup>2</sup> [3]

#### Drivers for the blue economy



Boost economic activity



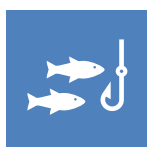
Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems



Local leadership and commitment

### Blue economy sectors

The Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago of eight islands off the coast of northwest Africa, in the Atlantic Ocean, are home to all sectors of the blue economy below. The Blue Economy Strategy in Canary Islands identifies 13 blue economy sectors, with tourism being the most important sector of the blue economy and the economy overall, accounting for 33% of total gross domestic product (GDP) and 36% of employment. According to the [Blue Economy Activity Report 2021](#), other blue economy sectors contributed to 6% of GDP and 7% of employment in 2020.



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

### BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in the Canary Islands are related to greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, water, air and land pollution, disturbance of natural habitats and wildlife, depletion of natural resources and waste generation.

### Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Canary Islands



Ocean acidification



Coastal erosion



Water stress

[1] INE (2022), [www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t20/e245/p08/I0/&file=02001.px](http://www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t20/e245/p08/I0/&file=02001.px) (accessed 15 March 2023)

[2] INE (2021), [www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t35/p010/rev19/I0/&file=01001.px](http://www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t35/p010/rev19/I0/&file=01001.px) (accessed 15 March 2023)

[3] Gobierno de Canarias (n.d.), [www.gobiernodecanarias.org/istac/jaxi-istac/tabla.do?uripx=um:uid:6f44cafe-1292-400c-8bcb-840744680460&uripub=um:uid:fb0bdc8-cac8-43b8-a5cb-a93f745dfff6](http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/istac/jaxi-istac/tabla.do?uripx=um:uid:6f44cafe-1292-400c-8bcb-840744680460&uripub=um:uid:fb0bdc8-cac8-43b8-a5cb-a93f745dfff6) (accessed 15 March 2023)

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### GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

Canary Islands approved the [Blue Economy Strategy 2021-2030](#) to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the marine environment and is composed of six pillars: governance, research and development, training, marine ecosystems and climate change, competitiveness and marine heritage.

#### Funding mechanisms

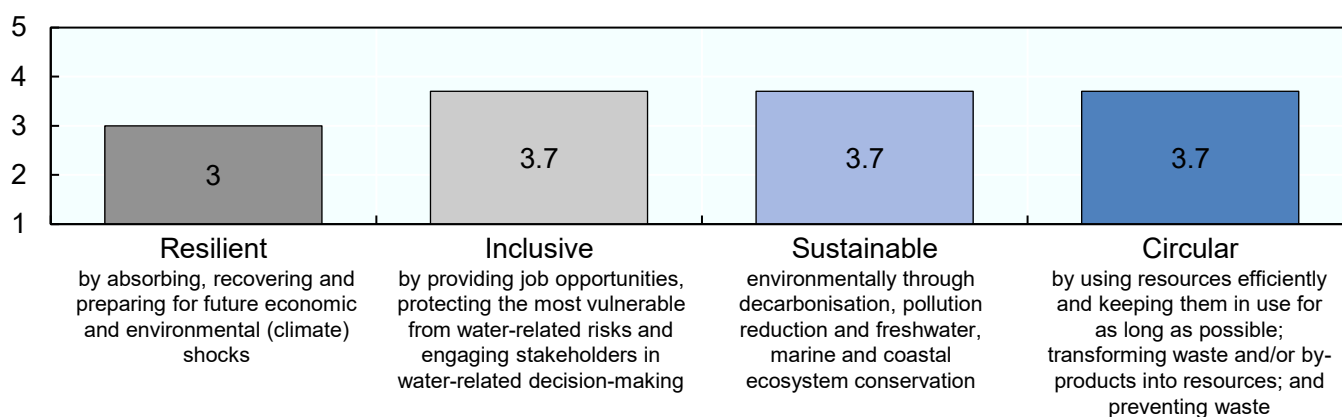
- International transfers of funds
- Central government transfers of funds
- Local/regional funds



Dedicated budget for the blue economy

### THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY

(\*)



(\*) Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

### TOP CHALLENGES

- Unclear allocation of roles and responsibilities
- Lack of planning and decision-making at the adequate scale
- Lack of co-ordination between government departments
- Lack of co-ordination between levels of government
- Regulatory barriers

### FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Enhance resilience to climate change
- Boost technology use and uptake
- Foster a science-policy dialogue
- Foster collaboration between blue economy sectors and others
- Improve the regulatory environment
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Protect the most vulnerable from negative impacts