SPS Oceans

Low-Carbon Transition Pathways for Key Industries in the Sustainable Blue Economy

CCICED

Focus

- We focused on the development of economically and socially viable low-carbon transition pathways for marine industries across China, including green shipping and marine tourism.
- We identified practical measures that reduce emissions while supporting economic competitiveness, employment, and a fair transition for affected communities.
- We explored approaches to marine conservation, scientific cooperation, equitable participation, and benefit sharing of marine resources in line with global biodiversity commitments, including the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.

Findings

- ✓ China's 2060 carbon neutrality goal is a major opportunity to modernize the marine economy through sector-specific policies and integrated ocean management. Shipping, tourism, and other marine industries require tailored solutions. However, their transition must be delivered through an integrated, ecosystem-based approach, reflecting the fact that all ocean spaces are connected.
- ✓ Low-carbon development can strengthen both China's industrial competitiveness and ocean sustainability. Investment in clean blue technologies and business models can reduce emissions, create new markets, and improve the resilience of marine industries.
- ✓ The BBNJ Agreement offers China an important opportunity to strengthen its global ocean governance leadership.
- ✓ The blue transition will not succeed without stronger standards, data, and financing systems.

Recommendations

1. **ESTABLISH** an implementation framework for China's Sustainable Blue Economy under the 15th Five-Year Plan. Set clear targets, responsibilities, and progress indicators across China's national agencies, coastal provinces, and ocean industries.
2. **USE** the climate transition to accelerate low-carbon marine industries within an integrated ocean framework. Develop roadmaps, incentives, and pilot projects for green shipping, sustainable marine tourism, and other priority industries, while applying marine spatial planning to protect marine ecosystems.
3. **USE** the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement to strengthen China's global ocean governance leadership. Develop a coordinated national approach to the BBNJ Agreement that advances marine science, improves data and technology sharing, supports capacity-building in developing countries, and promotes fair benefit sharing from marine resources.
4. **BUILD** trusted standards, data, and financing systems for the blue transition. Establish common methods for ocean accounting, ocean emissions monitoring, environmental disclosure, and blue-finance classification so governments and investors can identify credible blue economy projects.