

Securing Bermuda's Future

An Overview of Bermuda's
Blue Prosperity Plan

March 2026



BERMUDA OCEAN
PROSPERITY PROGRAMME

About Bermuda Ocean Prosperity Programme

The ocean underpins Bermuda's economy, food security, and way of life, yet growing pressures from climate change, illegal fishing, and unmanaged development put that resource at risk.

Without a coordinated approach, the health of marine ecosystems and the benefits they provide are put at risk.

The Bermuda Ocean Prosperity Programme (BOPP) was established in 2019 to bring the coordination, expertise, and long-term commitment needed to manage Bermuda's marine waters sustainably and grow the economy it supports.

Through a partnership between the Government of Bermuda, the Waitt Institute, and the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences, BOPP has spent seven years developing the Blue Prosperity Plan. Built on extensive scientific research and shaped by the input of over 2,000 Bermuda residents, it is a plan grounded in science, shaped by the public, and designed for the long term.

Bermuda's ocean is our greatest asset.

It is central to the island's identity,
economy, and security.



OCEAN ECONOMY VALUED AT
\$1.5 TRILLION
PER YEAR
THE 7TH LARGEST ECONOMY
IN THE WORLD



OCEAN VALUE TO DOUBLE
BY 2030 GLOBALLY TO
\$3 TRILLION
PER YEAR



TOURISM IS AN
IMPORTANT
ECONOMIC SECTOR



TOURISM INDUSTRY VALUED AT
\$395 MILLION
PER YEAR IN BERMUDA



38%
OF TOURISTS VISIT BERMUDA
FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENT



OVERFISHING
IS THE #1 PERCEIVED THREAT
TO TOUR OPERATORS



30% 
OF BERMUDIAN HOUSEHOLDS
HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WHO
FISHES RECREATIONALLY



BERMUDA'S COMMERCIAL
FISHERY SUPPLIES
~33% OF FISH
CONSUMED IN BERMUDA

Bermuda's Blue Prosperity Plan

The Blue Prosperity Plan is the roadmap to grow the economy, protect critical resources, and secure a better future for all Bermuda residents.

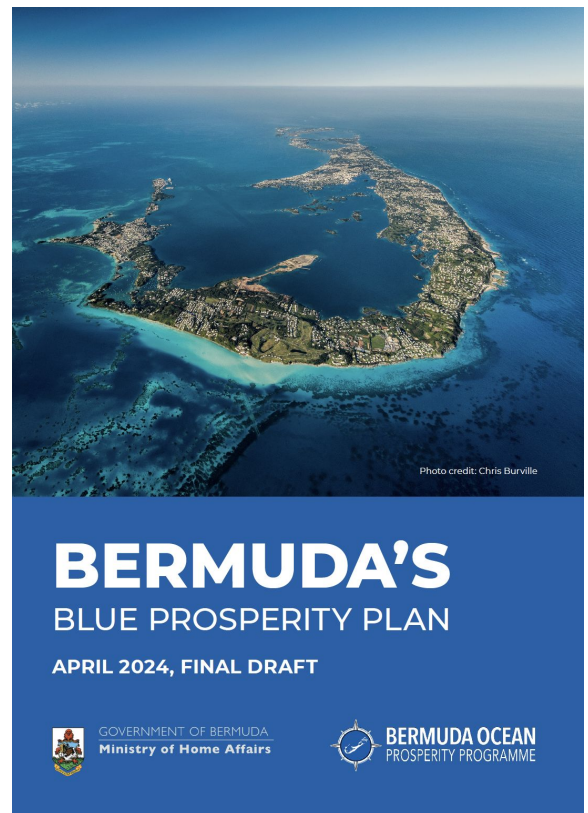


The Blue Prosperity Plan is the realisation of the Government’s long-term vision, outlining a Marine Spatial Plan and Blue Economy Strategy. It is Bermuda’s roadmap to protect its ocean while growing a stronger, more resilient economy.




Bermuda’s Blue Prosperity Plan delivers on this vision with a framework that:

- Supports the sustainable management of marine resources and development,
- Ensures that 20% of Bermuda’s marine waters are fully protected as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and
- Provides a strategy for the sustainable growth of the Blue Economy.

This plan was developed using extensive public consultation, key stakeholder input, and scientific evaluation.



Bermuda’s Draft Blue Prosperity Plan is a strategy to benefit everyone in Bermuda by:

 <p>Growing Bermuda’s ocean economy & creating jobs</p>	 <p>Producing cleaner, cheaper energy</p>	
 <p>Increasing investment & support to local businesses & programmes</p>	 <p>Expanding sustainable marine tourism</p>	 <p>Enhancing ocean health and protecting Bermuda’s unique marine life</p>
 <p>Supporting sustainable local fisheries</p>	 <p>Managing and conserving our marine resources, including cultural heritage</p>	



The Blue Prosperity Plan is delivered through two key components:

BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGY

The Blue Economy Strategy is a framework for growing ocean-related industries and attracting investment.

The island has an abundance of ocean resources that support environmental, social, and economic development. Its mid-ocean location, large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and rich marine biodiversity position it for continued growth. Combined with established industries, such as commercial fishing and tourism, and strength in financial services, Bermuda is well placed to expand the Blue Economy.

These advantages also create an opportunity for Bermuda to become a global hub for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and climate finance.

The Strategy focuses on four core industries: commercial fishing, marine tourism, renewable energy, and aquaculture. Each represents both an existing strength and a key growth opportunity.

Blue Economy is defined as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and increased jobs while preserving the health of marine ecosystems.



GOAL 1:

Facilitate Sustainable Fisheries

Ensure the long-term health of Bermuda's fisheries to support communities, the local economy, food security, and ecosystem health.



GOAL 2:

Expand Sustainable Marine Tourism

Grow marine tourism to deliver lasting economic and social benefits while protecting the local marine environment.



GOAL 3:

Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition

Drive innovation and action in Bermuda's clean energy sector, building on existing frameworks and regulatory tools.



GOAL 4:

Increase Blue Investment & Blue Technologies in Bermuda

Attract blue businesses and technologies to create local jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities, and fund Blue Economy growth.

MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP)

The MSP is the framework for how Bermuda can manage, protect, and develop its marine waters. It balances the needs of industry, communities, and the environment, ensuring resources are available for generations to come.

Core elements include:

-  Marine Protected Areas
-  Enforcement
-  Data Collection & Monitoring
-  Fisheries Management
-  Development Regulation
-  Pollution Management
-  Education & Outreach

Marine Spatial Planning is a public process that uses the best-available information about the natural environment and human uses to make informed decisions about how to manage the ocean. It balances the needs of the community and economic growth with long-term environmental health and resilience.



Marine Protected Areas

MPAs are designated ocean zones that deliver measurable environmental and economic returns.

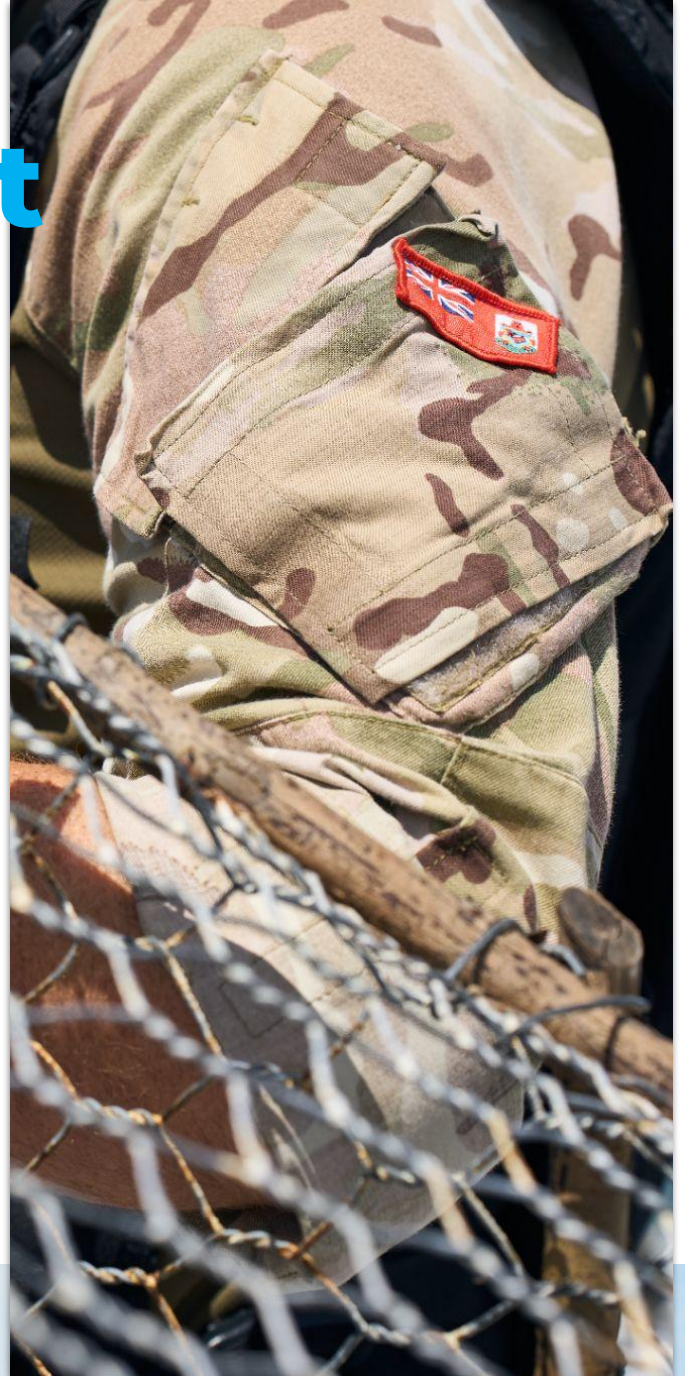
By protecting 20% of Bermuda's marine waters across key ecological zones, the network safeguards the biodiversity and ecosystem health that support Bermuda's tourism sector, commercial fisheries, and coastal resilience.

Healthy marine ecosystems directly support tourism, sustain fish populations, strengthen food security, and buffer coastlines against storm damage, reducing long-term infrastructure costs.

Enforcement

The Government of Bermuda, supported by BOPP, has developed a Marine Resources Enforcement Strategy to strengthen marine management and help address growing pressures from illegal fishing, climate change, technological advances, and regional security threats.

Through modern enforcement, the Strategy will secure the benefits of the Blue Prosperity Plan by building strong partnerships, encouraging compliance with regulations, and safeguarding natural resources.



Legislative Action

The Marine Development Act will, for the first time, establish a comprehensive legal framework for the planning, management, protection, and sustainable development of Bermuda's marine waters.

It provides the legal foundation for implementing Bermuda's Blue Prosperity Plan and supports investment in ocean-based industries while ensuring the long-term protection of marine ecosystems.

Following passage of the Marine Development Act, Bermuda can move from planning to delivery, implementing sustainable ocean management, building the data infrastructure needed to track progress, and creating the conditions for continued growth and innovation across the Blue Economy.



Timeline

2019

BOPP established through an MOU signed between the Government of Bermuda, BIOS, and the Waitt Institute.

2020

Stakeholder engagement began and the Ocean Use Survey completed, gathering input from nearly 1,500 Bermudians on how they use and value their ocean space.

2021

State of Bermuda's Waters Report published and the scientific foundation for the Blue Prosperity Plan established.

2022

First draft Blue Prosperity Plan released for public consultation and outreach conducted with commercial fishermen to ensure their feedback was fully represented.

2023

Blue Prosperity Plan refined and updated following 7 stakeholder focus groups and additional data collection.

2024

Final draft Blue Prosperity Plan released and reviewed by Independent Panel.

2025

Updates to Blue Prosperity Plan based on panel and preparing for Marine Development Act progression.

2026

Expected passage of Marine Development Act and commencement of the Blue Prosperity Plan's implementation.

Bermuda's ocean sustains its people, economy, and way of life.

The Blue Prosperity Plan provides the roadmap to build a resilient and prosperous future for all of Bermuda.



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