



BLOOM Association

Saving the ocean with new sustainability standards



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[BLOOM Association](#) (BLOOM) is a non-profit organisation founded in 2005 to protect marine ecosystems and species from unnecessary destruction, while promoting socially and economically sustainable models for the fishing sector. Through research, advocacy and public campaigning, the organisation has worked to confront some of the most damaging threats facing the ocean, including industrial overfishing, destructive fishing practices and biodiversity loss.

The need for this work became increasingly urgent over the course of the past decade. Scientists from the [IPCC](#) and [IPBES](#) repeatedly warned that climate change, biodiversity collapse and unsustainable production systems were pushing the planet towards ecological and socio-economic crisis. At the same time, the ocean, one of the world's most important climate regulators, continued to face severe pressure from industrial fishing practices, pollution and habitat destruction. Among the most destructive of these practices is bottom trawling, which not only devastates marine ecosystems but also contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions through intensive fuel use and the disturbance of carbon-rich marine sediments.



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Funded by the Levine Family Foundation, this four year grant supported efforts to drive systemic change within the fishing sector across the EU region, to strengthen advocacy against destructive fishing practices, advance sustainable policy solutions, rebuild fish stocks and marine ecosystems, and support the resilience of local fishing communities.

The grant concluded in 2025-26, and helped lay important foundations for long-term transformation within the sector. Over the four years, BLOOM expanded awareness of the environmental and climate impacts of destructive industrial fishing, strengthened the case for reform at both public and policy levels, and continued developing practical, sustainable alternatives that align marine protection with socio-economic resilience. The grant supported the research and publication of the [Rethinking sustainability of marine fisheries for a fast-changing planet](#) scientific paper and the [11 Golden Rules for Socio-Ecological Fisheries](#) guide for the sector. The grant also enabled the organisation to deepen its work on ocean conservation at a time when the need for decisive action has only become more urgent.

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