

## OUR FUTURE IS BLUE

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The term "Blue Economy" refers to the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and job creation while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems". This concept is a holistic approach that integrates economic activity with environmental stewardship, recognizing the oceans as not just an economic resource but as a vital element of the Earth's ecosystem. The Blue Economy encompasses a variety of sectors, including fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, renewable energy, eco-tourism, underwater robotics, and biotechnology.

Oceans play a critical role in regulating the Earth's climate. They absorb an estimated 30% of the carbon dioxide produced by humans and capture roughly 90% of the excess heat from greenhouse gas emissions. A healthy Blue Economy supports efforts to mitigate climate change through the conservation of marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs, which act as significant carbon sinks and highlight the importance of Nature-based Solutions. Moreover, the development of offshore renewable energy sources, such as wind, wave, and tidal energy, provides clean alternatives to fossil fuels, contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. There are also exciting new ways to remove carbon dioxide from the ocean that can be more energy and cost efficient than direct air capture techniques.

**Terry Tamminen, President and CEO, AltaSea**

*Terry served as Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and later Cabinet Secretary, the Chief Policy Advisor to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Terry cofounded the R20 (now Catalytic Finance Foundation), a public-private partnership working globally to deploy climate solutions at scale, and provides climate policy advice to 7th Generation Advisors and Pegasus Capital Advisors. Terry's books include "Cracking the Carbon Code: The Keys to Sustainable Profits in the New Economy". The Guardian ranked Terry No. 1 in its "Top 50 People Who Can Save the Planet."*

The Blue Economy is a burgeoning sector with immense potential for job creation and economic development. According to the OECD, the ocean economy is poised for significant growth through 2030, creating jobs in both traditional sectors like fisheries and shipping, and emerging industries like marine biotechnology and ocean energy. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture can provide food security and livelihoods for millions of people. Additionally, coastal tourism, a significant component of the Blue Economy, drives economic growth by attracting investment in infrastructure and services, often in regions most impacted by climate change.

The Subnational Climate Fund has already provided technical assistance to a few projects that can support the Blue Economy, including;

- the Asia Aquaculture Facility (AAF), conceptualized in early 2021 by Alune and ADM Capital Foundation, is an innovative financing facility that utilizes a revenue-based financing model for aquaculture farmers to engage in sustainable intensive aquaculture in Asia and support mangrove conservation.
- Six Senses Cerro Verde, an ecotourism project aiming at contributing to the protection and restoration in the Galapagos. The project seeks to offer an alternative to carbon intensive tourism development and unsustainable consumption patterns, increase ecosystem resilience in high-value biodiverse areas, and engage local communities and island inhabitants on climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Seawater Solutions, a blue carbon developer and agro-ecology organisation that aims at building coastal wetlands such as mangrove forests and saltmarshes. The company works with international organizations, private sector carbon developers, NGOs, and national governments across Africa to engineer coastal wetlands in ways that produce food, create integrated aquacultures, and stimulate local industry.



The importance of the Blue Economy extends beyond economic and social benefits; it is crucial for maintaining the health of our planet. Oceans cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface and are home to a rich diversity of life, much of which we have yet to discover. They provide ecosystem services that are vital for human survival, including climate regulation, oxygen production, and nutrient cycling. By adopting sustainable practices, the Blue Economy helps to protect these ecosystems from overexploitation, pollution, and climate change. Conservation and restoration efforts within the Blue Economy, such as marine protected areas and sustainable coastal development, are essential for preserving biodiversity and the natural functions of ocean ecosystems.

All of this means that for investors, the Blue Economy represents a diverse and growing market with opportunities for both financial returns and positive environmental impact. Investing in sustainable ocean-based businesses can help foster innovation in areas such as marine biotechnology, which offers applications in pharmaceuticals, food, and materials. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture also present viable investment opportunities, with the added benefit of supporting food security and resilience. Furthermore, financing ocean conservation initiatives and renewable energy projects can yield long-term economic benefits, while addressing environmental challenges and social inequities at the same time.

As we say at AltaSea...Our Future is Blue!

### About AltaSea:

AltaSea in the Port of Los Angeles California, is dedicated to accelerating scientific collaboration, advancing the Blue Economy through business innovation, and job creation, and inspiring the next generation, all for a more sustainable, just, and equitable world.