

Positive news

Guess what...



Image: Gerald Schombs

The Global Ocean Treaty entered force on January 17th 2026

The **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement**, also known as the **High Seas Treaty** has come into effect, giving nations new powers to protect waters lying outside of national boundaries.

It is **designed to** protect marine life and biodiversity in the **high seas**, the vast areas of ocean **beyond** national jurisdictions.

Greenpeace described the treaty as a “a significant victory for ocean protection”, pointing out that less than 1% of international waters are currently fully protected.

It is a **historic milestone** because it **allows** countries **to** establish **marine protected areas** in previously **unregulated** waters.