



Investigating The Ocean

Webinar 1: How To Report on Regulation & Governance*

*this training is designed for journalists <3

Our agenda for today

The recording and the slides will be shared with everyone after the session.

- Elizabeth (Mongabay / ORN Fellow) will share the behind the scenes of her reporting (15 min)
- Fernanda and Jelter (members of the Pulitzer Center's data and research team) will share tips and tricks for investigating ocean governance (50 min)
- We will answer your questions! (25 min)



PART OF: *Deep-Sea Mining's Race to the Bottom*

China's Deep-Sea Mining Fleet May Also Track U.S. Submarines



Multiple Authors

March 24, 2026



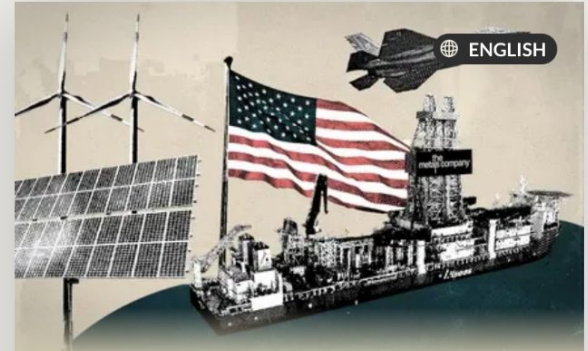
PART OF: *Deep-Sea Mining's Race to the Bottom*

How We Analyzed The Metals Company's Public Messaging on Deep-Sea Mining



Multiple Authors

July 31, 2025



PART OF: *Deep-Sea Mining's Race to the Bottom*

A Sales-Pitch Pivot Brings Deep-Sea Mining Closer to Reality



Elizabeth Claire Alberts
GRANTEE

July 31, 2025



UNCLOS and deep-sea mining in international waters

- UNCLOS was established in the 1980s, but didn't come into effect until 1994.
- Signed and ratified by 168 parties.
- 14 UN members states (including the U.S.) signed but did not ratify.
- Basic tenets: defining maritime zones; freedom of navigation; protecting the marine environment; the seabed as common heritage of mankind; etc.
- Mandate to create the International Seabed Authority, or ISA.

The International Seabed Authority



ISA building in Kingston, Jamaica

Any nation that joined UNCLOS either through ratification or accession becomes a member of the ISA.

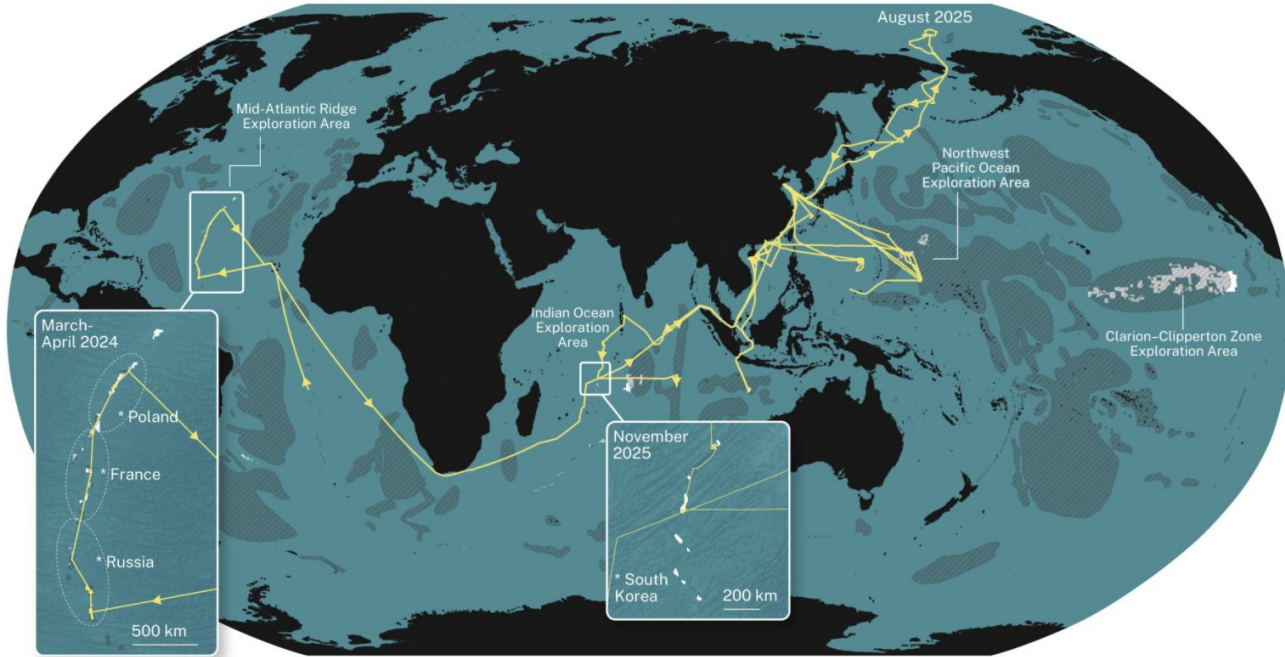
- Four primary organs of the ISA: assembly, council, Secretariat, Enterprise.
- The ISA has issued 30 exploration contracts, but no exploitation contracts.
- Companies/contractors need to be sponsored by an ISA member state.
- Exploration contracts give companies exclusive rights to explore and prospect for deep-sea minerals in a certain area, and eventually apply for an exploitation license for the same area.
- China holds the largest number of ISA exploration contracts (5).

Voyages of the Shen Hai Yi Hao



In 2024, the Shen Hai Yi Hao voyaged to the Mid-Atlantic to conduct oceanographic research in areas licensed to other countries and institutions. In 2025, it lingered in an area licensed to South Korea.

- Shen Hai Yi Hao voyages 2024-25
- ▨ Significant deposits of deep-sea minerals
- ISA-approved exploration areas



UNCLOS permits scientific research in all parts of the high seas.

Story: [China's deep-sea mining fleet may also track US submarines](#)

* Exploration Areas designated by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to companies from these countries.
Sources: General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), Vadakkepuliambatta et al. (2024), Global Fishing Watch (GFW), International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Deep Sea Mining Watch

Prepared by [Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory, UCSB](#)

ACTIVITY

- Apparent fishing effort
- Vessel presence

DETECTIONS

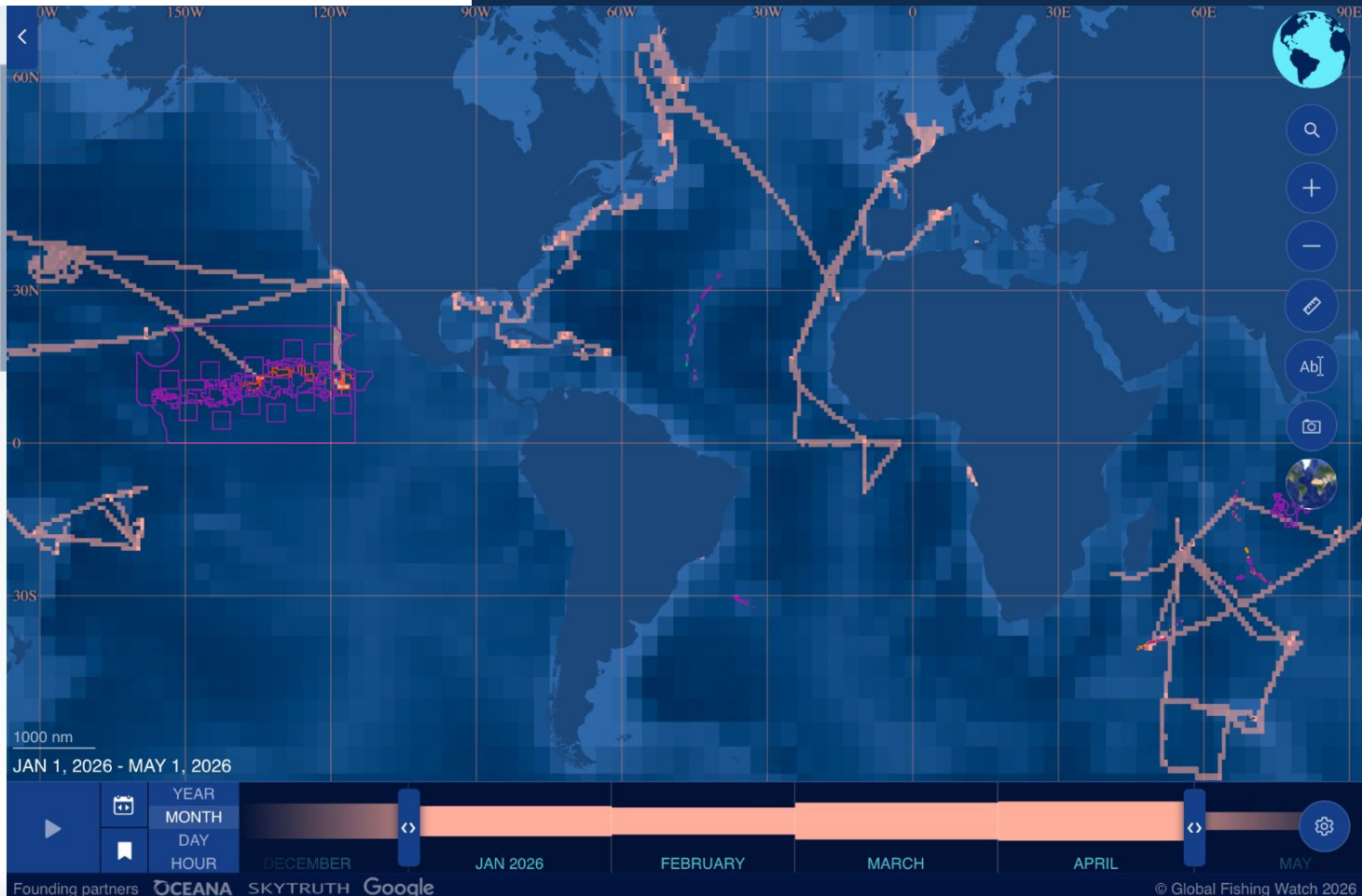
- Imagery vessel detections (Optical)
- Night light detections (Skylight)
- Radar vessel detections (SAR)

EVENTS

- Encounter events (AIS)
- Loitering events (AIS)
- Port visit events (AIS)

VESSELS

Search for vessels or add them from the map



Link to [explore the map here.](#)

Who should regulate deep-sea mining in international waters?

- The ISA? NOAA?
- The ISA is widely accepted as the only legal regulator of deep-sea mining activities in international waters.
- In 1980, the U.S. created the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act, or DSHMRA.
- DSHMRA is overseen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.
- In April 2025, the U.S. issued an executive order that called for the acceleration of the deep-sea mining industry.
- Does deep-sea mining have adequate rules in place?

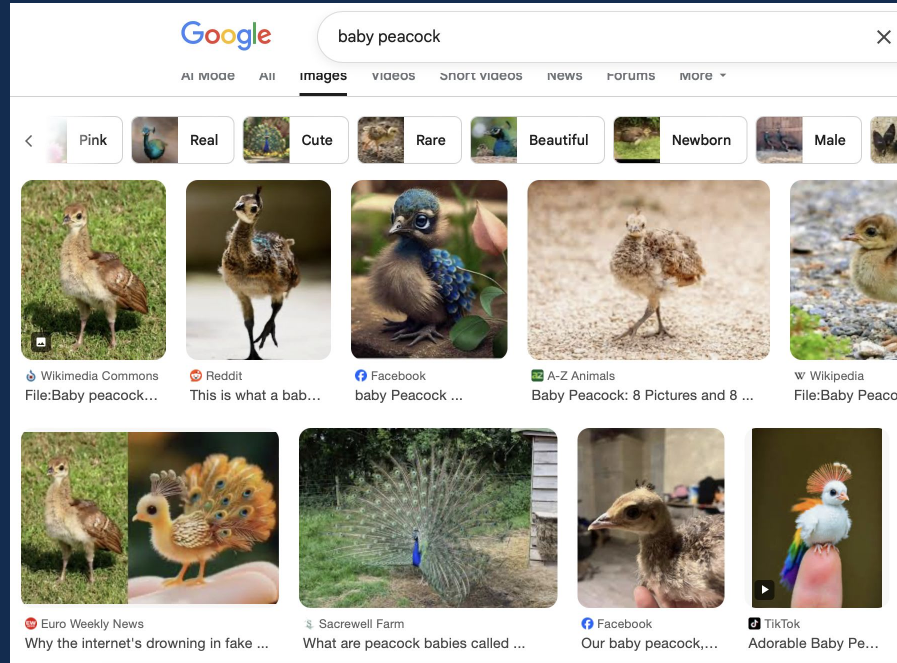


Tips & tricks from the Data & Research Team

Why start here?

1. Because the internet is full of AI generated nonsense and we want to help journalists look in the right places.

2. And your story will miss the “big picture” if it doesn’t address regulation and governance.



That said, we will be using some AI-powered tools.

My take: AI can help and be a starting point for a thorough, careful investigation.

I use it for “mapping” & sometimes “processing”, but then, with the skills learned, I resort to it less. How about you? Let’s talk after the session!

By the end of this session, we want to:

Ideally, this roadmap will help us spot governance gaps, overlaps, and weak enforcement points worth investigating.

1. Understand the “**division of waters**” and how global frameworks (e.g., UNCLOS, RFMO systems) influence ocean governance.

Jouro Tools >> [Notebook LM + Pinpoint](#)

2. Map government agencies responsible for fisheries, shipping, and marine protection. This is a “**who’s responsible?**” map.

>> [Perplexity](#)

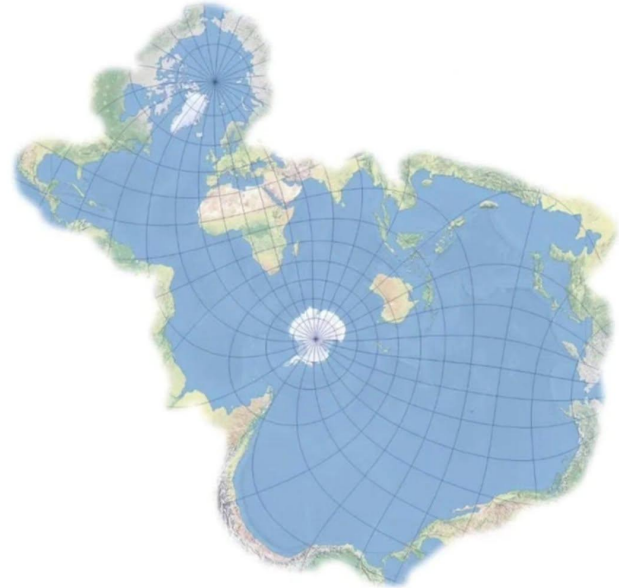
3. Use **OSINT methods** to locate official documents, licenses, and enforcement records.

>> [Ecosia](#)

4. Track **lobbying efforts** and PEPs.

1. “Division of waters”
 - + national & international legislation
 - + [Notebook LM](#) as our friend to make sense of it all

World map according to fish...



[Read more](#) about the Spilhaus World Ocean Map.

What are we looking at?

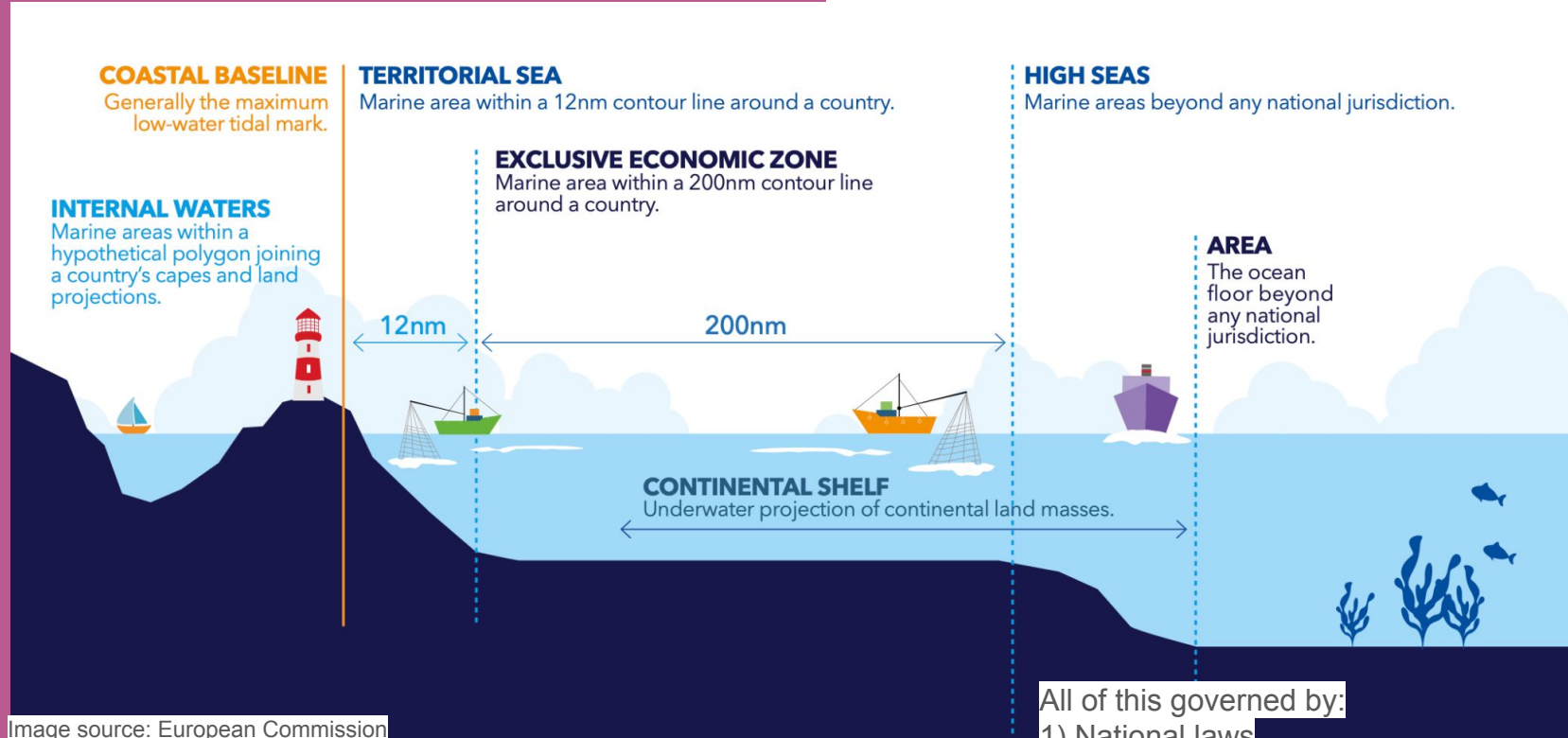


Image source: European Commission

All of this governed by:

- 1) National laws
- 2) Regional agreements
- 3) International treaties

... and there more! Some terminology before we jump to an example

RFMOs managing highly-migratory species, mainly tuna

- [International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas \(ICCAT\)](#)  
- [Indian Ocean Tuna Commission \(IOTC\)](#) 
- [Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission \(WCPFC\)](#) 
- [Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission \(IATTC\)](#) 
- [Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna \(CCSBT\)](#) 

RFMOs managing fish stocks by geographical area

- [North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission \(NEAFC\)](#) 
- [Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization \(NAFO\)](#) 
- [North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation \(NASCO\)](#) 
- [South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation \(SEAFO\)](#) 
- [Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement \(SIOFA\)](#) 

Source: [European Commission](#)

- Marine protected areas (MPAs) >> National policies or international treaties

- Goal: Biodiversity conservation & restoration
- How it's done: Limiting possible activities and sometimes area-based closure

- Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) >> Countries that share fishing interests

- Goal: Sustainable fishing
- How it's done: Management of quotas, gear restrictions, and monitoring of season limits

& we can visualize all of this on a map! >>



Image source: Screenshot of [Global Fishing Watch](https://www.globalfishingwatch.org/)

Explore protected areas and OECMs

Filters

Search

Protected Areas and OECMs



Morocco

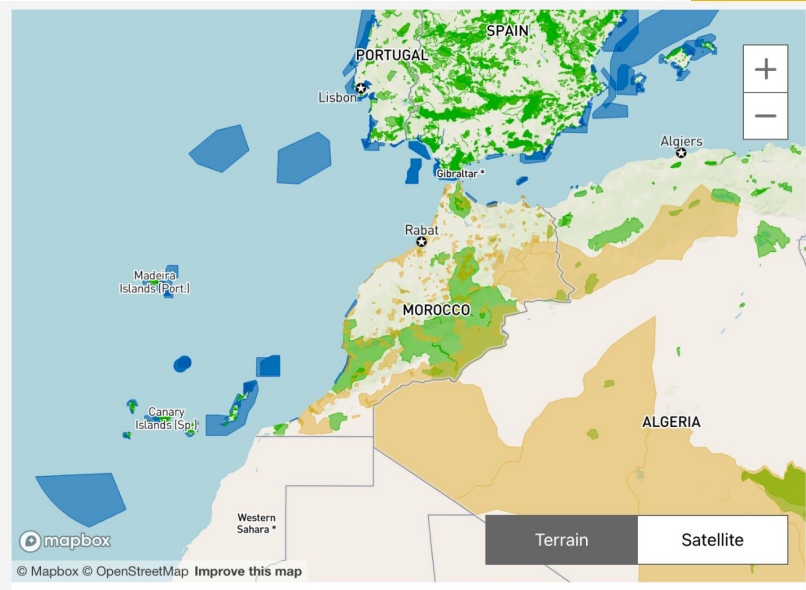
92
Total Protected Areas

11
With management effectiveness evaluations

- Terrestrial and Inland Waters Protected Areas
- Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
- Other effective area-based conservation measures

338
Total Other effective area-based conservation measures

Polygons/Points ratio



Even though there are international treaties, we need to understand the national jurisdiction we want to investigate.

Let's say we are looking into Brazil 

I'd first make a list of all of the supporting documents that I need:

1. International: UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ([UNCLOS](#))
2. International: [The High Seas Treaty](#)
3. International: [Brazil's report](#) to the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council on "Oceans and human rights"
4. National: [The Code of Water](#)
5. National: [National Ocean Policy](#) (UNESCO)
6. National: [National Policy on Marine Resources](#) (PNRM)
7. National: [National Coastal Management Plan](#)
8. National: [Interministerial Commission](#) for the Resources of the Sea (CIRM)

← All



Brazil



Browse

Topics

7

Laws

12

Search



Search legislation...



Brazil



If my story is about fishing, I'd also visit the [Global Fishing Legislative Database](#) organized by The Outlaw Ocean Project

OVERSIGHT BODY

[Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock](#)

REGISTRY ⓘ

Closed

ILO CONVENTIONS

Ratified MLC in 2020

SOLAS ⓘ

Ratified SOLAS in 1980

Topics

Fishing Offenses & Infractions

4 laws

Labor Rules, Offenses, & Infractions

1 law

Observers

2 laws

Transshipment

1 law

Vessel Ownership & Legal Responsibility

2 laws

Vessel Registration & License Management

4 laws

Vessel Tracking

1 law

Screenshot: The Outlaw Ocean Project

“Ok, but that’s
hundreds of
pages”

You might be thinking.

And now is the time that we jump to
Notebook LM.

The screenshot shows the Notebook LM interface. On the left, there's a 'Sources' panel with a search bar and a list of saved sources. In the center, a dialog box titled 'Create Audio and Video Overviews from your notes' is open, displaying a list of URLs. On the right, there's a 'Studio' panel with various tools like 'Audio Overview', 'Video Overview', 'Reports', 'Quiz', 'Data Table', 'Slide Deck', 'Mind Map', 'Flashcards', and 'Infographic'. At the bottom, there's a note: 'NotebookLM can be inaccurate; please double check it'.

Untitled notebook

+ Create notebook

Share Settings

Sources

+ Add sources

Search the web for new sources

Web Fast Research

Create Audio and Video Overviews from
your notes

https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf
https://www.un.org/bnjagreement/sites/default/files/2024-08/Text%20of%20the%20Agreement%20in%20English.pdf
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/health/cfis/oceans-hr/submit-oceans-hr-sta-brazil.pdf
http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/decreto/d24643compilado.htm
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=ps:usmarcdef_0000158387&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_23cf78b2-7021-488e-8753-

Studio

Audio Overview

Video Overview

Reports

Quiz

Data Table

Slide Deck

Mind Map

Flashcards

Infographic

or drop your files
pdf, images, docs, audio, and more

NotebookLM can be inaccurate; please double check it

What is Notebook LM? An AI-assistant tool for researchers/reporters that lets you upload your own documents and ask questions.

Two of my links, coming from the government's website failed to upload, so I saved the page as a pdf. (Use [Google Chrome](#)) You can also use [Instant Data Scraper](#). We did a webinar on scraping tools which [you can watch here](#).

12/06/2026, 13:12

D2643compilado



Presidência da República
Casa Civil
Subchefia para Assuntos Jurídicos

DECRETO Nº 24.643, DE 10 DE JULHO DE 1934.

[\(Vide Decreto-Lei nº 852, de 1938\)](#)
[\(Vide Decreto-Lei nº 3.763, de 1941\)](#)
[\(Vide Decreto nº 2.869, de 1998\)](#)

Decreto o Código de Águas.

Observação

O **Chefe do Governo Provisório da República dos Estados Unidos do Brasil**, usando das atribuições que lhe confere o art. 1º do decreto nº 19.398, de 11/11/1930, e:

Considerando que o uso das águas no Brasil tem-se regido até hoje por uma legislação obsoleta, em desacordo com as necessidades e interesse da coletividade nacional;

Considerando que se torna necessário modificar esse estado de coisas, dotando o país de uma legislação adequada que, de acordo com a tendência atual, permita ao poder público controlar e incentivar o aproveitamento industrial das águas;

Considerando que, em particular, a energia hidráulica exige medidas que facilitem e garantam seu aproveitamento racional;

Considerando que, com a reforma porque passaram os serviços afetos ao Ministério da Agricultura, está o Governo aparelhado, por seus órgãos competentes, a prestar assistência técnica e material, indispensável a consecução de tais objetivos;

Resolve decretar o seguinte Código de Águas, cuja execução compete ao Ministério da Agricultura e que vai assinado pelos ministros de Estado:

CÓDIGO DE ÁGUAS

LIVRO I

Águas em geral e sua propriedade

TÍTULO I

Águas, alveo e margens

CAPÍTULO I

ÁGUAS PÚBLICAS

Art. 1º As águas públicas podem ser de uso comum ou dominicais.

Art. 2º São águas públicas de uso comum:

- os mares territoriais, nos mesmos incluídos os golfos, bahias, enseadas e portos;
- as correntes, canais, lagos e lagoas navegáveis ou flutuáveis;
- as correntes de que se façam estas águas;
- as fontes e reservatórios públicos;
- as nascentes quando forem de tal modo consideráveis que, por si só, constituam o "caput fluminis";
- os braços de quaisquer correntes públicas, desde que os mesmos influam na navegabilidade ou futuabilidade.

§ 1º Uma corrente navegável ou flutuável se diz feita por outra quando se torna navegável logo depois de receber essa outra.

www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil-03/decreto/1934/19340024.htm

1/24

Print

24 pages

Destination

Save as PDF

Pages

All

Layout

Portrait

More settings

Cancel

Save

[\(Vide Decreto-Lei nº 852, de 1938\)](#)
[\(Vide Decreto-Lei nº 3.763, de 1941\)](#)
[\(Vide Decreto nº 2.869, de 1998\)](#)

Observação

O **Chefe do Governo Provisório**

Considerando que o uso das á

Considerando que se torna ne
águas;

Considerando que, em particu

Considerando que, com a ref
tais objetivos;

Resolve decretar o seguinte C

Demo time! 🎉

The screenshot shows a Notion notebook titled "Brazil's National Coastal Management Plan and Ocean Human Rights Submissions". The interface includes a top navigation bar with "Sources", "Chat", and "Studio" tabs. The "Sources" tab is active, displaying a list of 8 sources, including PDFs and web links. The main content area shows the document title and a paragraph of text. The "Studio" tab is also visible, showing various interactive tools like Audio Overview, Video Overview, Reports, Quiz, and Data Table. A "Customize" button is present in the top right of the main content area. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a search bar and a "8 sources" indicator.

Brazil's National Coastal Management Plan and Ocean Human Rights Submissions

8 sources · May 12, 2026

These documents detail the **National Coastal Management Plan (PNGC II)**, a comprehensive legal framework established by the **Brazilian government** to ensure the **sustainable development** and protection of its extensive shoreline. The guidelines emphasize **integrated management** between federal, state, and municipal authorities to balance **environmental conservation** with the socioeconomic needs of **local communities**. Key objectives include mitigating **climate change impacts**, regulating **land occupation**, and safeuarding **marine biodiversity** through systematic

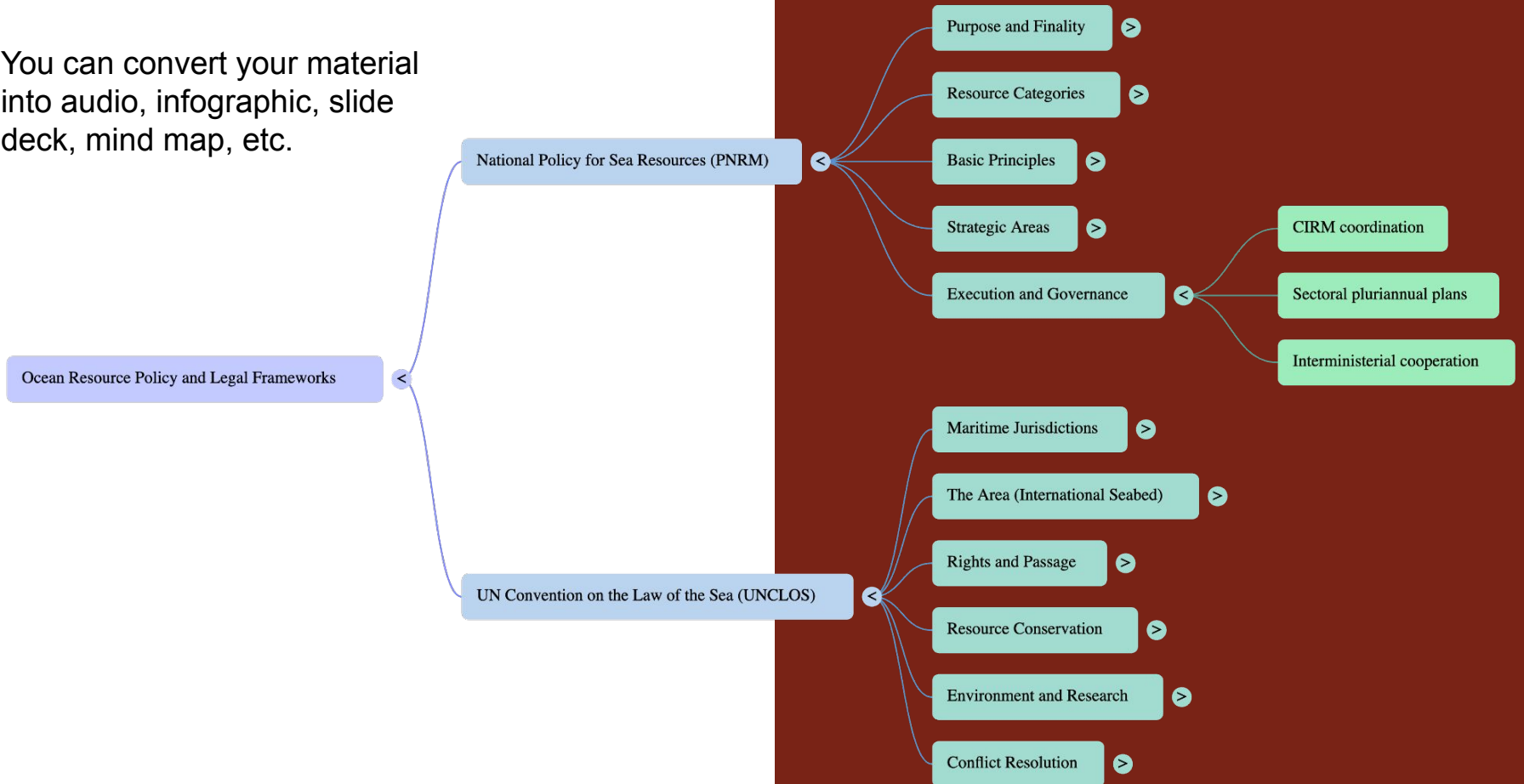
Ask a question or create something 8 sources →

Audio Overview > Slide Deck >
Video Overview > Mind Map >
Reports > Flashcards >
Quiz > Infographic >
Data Table >

Studio output will be saved here.
After adding sources, click to add Audio Overview, Study Guide, and more!
Add note

Let's [hop on my Notebook](#) and ask questions together.

You can convert your material into audio, infographic, slide deck, mind map, etc.



Story ideas

1. Government spending. How much money was designated to mangrove restoration? How much was actually spent?
 2. Is legislation “up to speed” concerning vessel gear? How does the government protect both marine species and artisanal fishermen?
 3. Compare & contrast: how do neighboring countries draft their legislation concerning oil spills?
- & much more on financing, environmental impacts, regulatory compliance, production & trade, governance gaps, etc.
 - [Pinpoint](#) can bring your own datasets into the mix!

What is Pinpoint? A product by Google that helps extract, with optical character recognition (OCR), people, places, organizations from large datasets (or PDFs etc) using AI.


Madam Registrar,

I, the undersigned, Annabel Rossi, have the honour to submit to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (the “Tribunal”) an application instituting proceedings on behalf of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (“Luxembourg”) against the United Mexican States (“Mexico”) in the case relating to the *Zheng He* vessel. It concerns a dredging vessel flying the flag of Luxembourg which was exercising the rights and freedoms enshrined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“UNCLOS” or “the Convention”) when it was detained in the port of Tampico by the Mexican authorities, improperly subjected to Mexican customs legislation and prevented from leaving the port ever since.

Takeaways from point #1

1. Use trusted sources to get all the documents you need
2. Have a good mix of international treaties + national legislation
3. Use Notebook LM to chat with your material. Or Pinpoint to extract entities.
4. Think how the information provided can build a story.





2. Map government agencies responsible for fisheries, shipping, and marine protection

Perplexity to the rescue



Sector-Specific Regulation

Specific agencies regulate different ocean industries:

- Shipping: Regulated by the [International Maritime Organization](#) (IMO) through treaties like MARPOL (pollution), SOLAS (safety), etc.
- Fishing: Managed by the [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO), [UN Fish Stocks Agreement](#), RFMOs
- Seabed Mining: Regulated by the [International Seabed Authority](#) (ISA).

Let's jump to an example

What is perplexity? A chat with the internet. The interface is very user friendly and includes all the search results that the platform is basing its answer on.

Let's say we are looking into Spain 🇪🇸

Because it's a country I'm not familiar with, I'd first ask [Perplexity](#) to give me the "big picture".

I'm an investigative journalist and I want to understand ocean regulation and governance in Spain, what are the key documents and agencies I should be looking at? I'm specifically interested in the fishing sector and I want to know what are the agencies responsible for oversight and how quotas are distributed.

Completed 3 steps >

Spain's fishing governance is split between EU rule-setting and Spanish national administration, with the **Secretaría General de Pesca** at the center of domestic oversight and quota administration. For an investigative project, the core documents to track are EU TAC/quota decisions, Spain's **Law 3/2001 on Maritime Fishing**, the **Sustainable Fishing and Fisheries Research Act (Law 5/2023)**, and the Spanish rules that implement quota distribution and control measures. 1amonc1oa.gob +3

Spend time making the **prompt specific!**

Creating a “who’s responsible map”

Institution	What it covers	Why it matters
EU Council / CFP framework	Sets TACs and quota ceilings for shared stocks	Spain’s annual fishing room starts here faolex.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA)	National fisheries policy and legislation	Main Spanish government department for fisheries.
Secretaría General de Pesca	Quota distribution, fleet management, licensing, control policy	The key operational authority inside MAPA.
Subdirección General de Control e Inspección y Lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal	Monitoring, inspections, vessel tracking, IUU controls	Important for enforcement and compliance records..
Spanish fisheries control center (CSP)	24/7 vessel monitoring and messaging	Useful for understanding surveillance capacity mapa .
Autonomous communities	Regional implementation and some local management	Relevant when a fishery is regionally administered or politically contested coastal-management .
CEPESCA	Industry lobby/association	Good for industry positions and quota-pressure narratives, though not a regulator cepesca .

TACs and quotas 2026

Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and quotas 2026.

[Council Regulation \(EU\) 2026/786 of 30 March 2026 amending Regulation \(EU\) 2026/249 fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters](#)

3 March 2026 - Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2026/249 fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters - [COM/2026/109](#)

[Council Regulation \(EU\) 2026/266 of 26 January 2026 fixing for 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas](#)

[EU's documentation](#) concerning fisheries.



Castellano | Buscar

MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y ALIMENTACION

Ministerio Sala de prensa Áreas de actividad Participación pública Atención al ciudadano

Inicio > Pesca > **Legislación**

Temas

- Días mundiales y fechas destacadas
- Servicios
- Ayudas y subvenciones
- Campañas
- Estadísticas
- Formación, congresos y jornadas
- Legislación**
- Participación pública
- Planes y estrategias
- Proyectos de cooperación
- Publicaciones y documentación
- Preguntas frecuentes

Legislación

Desde esta página se accede a las bases de datos de legislación de la Agencia Estatal Boletín Oficial del Estado, así como a la legislación específica del área de Pesca clasificada por temas.

Acceso a las bases de datos de legislación del BOE

Acuicultura

- Legislación y normativa


Planes de gestión y recuperación de especies

- Atún rojo
- Bacalao ártico
- NAFO
- Pez espada
- Desembarco Nacional

Control e inspección pesquera

- Productos pesqueros de terceros países
- Aperturas y cierres de pesquerías
- Tallas mínimas de especies pesqueras

[Spain's documentation](#) concerning fisheries.



... we even have editorial suggestions!

But what we are really asking all the time is:

- 1) Who has authority? Who is supposed to enforce?
- 2) Who has data?
- 3) Who profits?
- 4) Who benefits when enforcement fails?

Practical research trail

A useful way to work this is: first identify the stock, then find the EU TAC decision, then locate Spain's national distribution order, and finally check enforcement or quota-use adjustments during the year. If you are tracing a specific fleet segment, region, or species, Spain's internal quota order will usually reveal who received what, on what basis, and whether a reserve was kept back. For a journalistic file, the most revealing questions are usually about the gap between Spain's national allocation and the final distribution to vessels, because that is where discretion and lobbying often show up. [faolex.fao +2](#)

Handy databases

 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ENHANCED BY Google

العربية 中文 English Français Русский Español

FAOLEX Database


Home Background Country Profiles Thematic Databases Associated Databases Highlights Glossary COVID-19 Open Data

ADVANCED SEARCH


REFINE SEARCH

Showing 1-10 of about 9277

Sort by relevance
Sort by date

 Kenya
Meteorology Act, no. 7 of 2026.
This Act, divided into eight parts and consisting of 55 sections, applies to: weather observers; meteorological service providers; private weather service providers; any meteorological training and research institution; any person, group of persons or organisation whose undertakings involve or include, generally, the use of meteorological information for commercial purposes. This Act provides for: ensuring the regulation, co-ordination,...

FAOLEX No: LEX-FAOC242990 By Year: 2026
By Type Of Text: Legislation

 Kenya
National Infrastructure Fund Act, no. 4 of 2026.
This Act provides a legal framework for the establishment and the management of the National Infrastructure Fund, in accordance with Article 206 of the Constitution and section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act. The purpose of this Fund is to: scale up and accelerate development of national infrastructure; mobilise private capital and non-traditional sources of infrastructure finance including domestic pension funds and collective...

FAOLEX No: LEX-FAOC242991 By Year: 2026

By Domain
Sea (9269)
Environment gen. (3682)
Fisheries and Aquaculture (2342)
Water (1626)
Wild species & ecosystems (1256)
Land & soil (945)
Load More

By Primary Subject
Sea (6399)
Environment (1084)
Fisheries and Aquaculture (1016)
Wild species and ecosystems (572)
Water (501)
Land and soil (365)
Load More

The [FAOLEX Database](#) will give information on National fisheries laws.

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 Results

Period	Trade Flow	Reporter	Partner	2nd Partner	Customs Desc	Transport Mode	Commodity Code	Trade Value (US\$)	Net Weight (kg)
2025	X	Japan	World	World	TOTAL CPC	TOTAL MOT	03	\$1,864,794,490	0
2025	X	Japan	World	World	TOTAL CPC	TOTAL MOT	0301	\$224,747,344	13,435,031.7
2025	X	Japan	World	World	TOTAL CPC	TOTAL MOT	030111	\$64,395,353	379,975.7
2025	X	Japan	World	World	TOTAL CPC	TOTAL MOT	030119	\$350,030	1,269

Show 25 rows

< 1 >

The [UN Comtrade](#) will show you “big picture” trade flows

... and don't forget to collaborate with academics and researchers!

Abstract

The main objective of this article is to study the evolution of the Spanish fishing industry, with a specific focus on examining the correlation between actual catches by Spanish vessels and recorded landings against national Total Allowable Catches, which may contribute to improving the current state of the [Common Fisheries Policy](#). Firstly, we offer an overview of the geographical, economic, and legal factors surrounding Spanish fisheries, along with an examination of the [Common Fisheries Policy](#) and relevant international agreements impacting these fisheries. Subsequently, we analyze three species, namely hake, anchovy, and cod as they are the most traded fish in the Spanish markets. Thirdly, we conduct an examination to provide information regarding the role of Common Fishery Policy quotas and to explore potential reasons behind the observed results. The main findings reveal the identification of a significant lack of alignment between the Common Fishery Policy and its resulting implementation through the Total Allowable Catches over the last decade.

[Spanish fishing industry within the common fishery policy](#)

TABLE 2

Catches and agreed TAC in Celtic Sea Fisheries (hake, anglerfish, horse mackerel, megrim and nephrops). ('000 tonnes). 1994–2005

	Hake		Anglerfish				Horse mackerel		Megrim				Nephrops			
	Catches	TAC	Catches		TAC		Catches	TAC	Catches		TAC		Catches		TAC	
	V, VI, VII, VIII	VI	VII, VIII	VI	VII, VIII	V, VI, VII, VIII	VI	VII, VIII	VI	VII, VIII	VI	VII, VIII	VI	VII, VIII	VI	VII, VIII
1994	53.1	60.0	6.0	21.9	8.6	23.9	385/0	300.0	3.0	16.4	4.8	20.3	11.1	4.3	12.6	20.0
1995	58.9	55.1	7.2	26.8	8.6	23.2	509.0	300.0	3.3	19.1	4.8	22.6	12.8	4.9	12.6	20.0
1996	48.8	51.1	7.0	30.2	8.6	30.4	379.0	300.0	2.9	18.1	4.8	21.2	11.2	4.3	12.6	23.0
1997	44.4	60.1	6.2	29.8	8.6	34.3	440.0	300.0	2.8	17.3	4.8	25.0	11.2	4.4	12.6	23.0
1998	35.8	59.1	5.4	28.2	8.6	34.3	296.0	320.0	2.7	19.7	4.8	25.0	11.2	5.0	12.6	23.0
1999	40.6	55.1	5.3	24.5	8.6	34.3	274.0	265.0	2.5	16.9	4.8	25.0	11.5	4.2	12.6	23.0
2000	42.6	42.1	4.4	22.0	8.0	29.6	175.0	240.0	2.4	15.5	4.8	20.0	11.0	2.7	12.6	21.0
2001	37.2	22.6	4.0	22.2	6.4	27.6	191.0	233.0	2.4	17.1	4.4	16.8	10.9	3.3	11.3	18.9
2002	40.3	27.0	3.0	26.7	4.8	23.7	172.0	150.0	1.6	17.5	4.4	14.9	10.5	4.0	11.3	17.8
2003	41.8	30.0	3.0	31.7	3.2	21.0	190.0*	137.0	1.7	18.6	4.4	16.0	10.7	2.9	11.3	17.8
2004	47.1	39.1	1.2	34.9	3.2	26.7	157.0*	137.0	na	18.8	3.6	20.2	10.3	2.9	1.3	17.5
2005	46.4	42.6	-	-	-	-	-	137.0	-	-	-	21.5	-	-	12.7	19.5

Catches include discards. Catches from all fleets involved in the Celtic Sea.

*: including VIIIc. na: not available.


Source: ICES Advice 2006.

[“The self-governance in the Celtic Sea Spanish fishery.”](#)

Takeaways from point #2

1. Ask yourself: How familiar are you with a certain jurisdiction? Do you need help understanding the big picture?
2. If the question to the previous question is “yes”, use perplexity.
3. Fact-check Perplexity’s answers and map relevant documents, entities, studies, etc.
4. Once you know how a sector is organized, you know where to look for further information.





Now, you might say: “Fernanda, you’re cheating! Spain is an easy jurisdiction to look into.” And you’re right. Let’s go for a bigger challenge!

3. Use OSINT methods to locate official documents, licenses, and enforcement records.

[Ecosia](#) for the win!

Let's jump to an example

Let's say we are looking into Bluefin Tuna in Libya 

Perplexity's answers were “meh” and I couldn't find a ton of information on the government's website. It also doesn't help that I don't know Arabic, BUT, there's something I know!

Libya is a part of the RFMO: the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) >> **so let's research their domain with [Ecosia!](#)**

What is Ecosia? It's a search engine, but better. Because it uses Google and Microsoft Bing. And, if you are not convinced: 100% of their revenues go towards planting trees.



Bingo!

Libya

The initial 2026 quota is set at 2,950 t. Libya requested a carryover of 18 t from 2025 for 2026, for an adjusted quota of 2,968 t.

Libya's revised fishing plan was endorsed by Panel 2.

2

LIBYA

Gafari, Hasan Fouzi * (online)

Director - **Libyan** Commissioner to ICCAT, Ministry of Marine Wealth, Administration of Fishing Ports, Aldahra Street, P.O. Box 80876, Tajura, Tripoli

Tel: +218 916 274 377, E-Mail: gafrihasan@gmail.com

The Ministry of Marine Wealth (MOMW) is designated as the competent authority responsible for ensuring that the monitoring, control, and inspection plan is implemented in full compliance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 25-04. The official contact points within MOMW charged with the execution of this plan are:

- Hasan Fouzi Gafri, Head of Fishing Ports Administration (gafrihasan@gmail.com), and
- Mohamed Noor Rabeie, Head of Vessels Registration Department (Elrabeie.Mohamed@gmail.com).

- Meeting notes are gold!
- Unsure of which google dork to use? An LLM can help you out!

... and we also know that

6 Transshipment (paras 89-94)

Transshipment of bluefin tuna at sea is strictly prohibited. All authorized Libyan fishing vessels shall land their catches exclusively in ports designated by the competent Fishery Authority, namely Al-Khoms, Tripoli, Misurata, and Tobruk. Vessels

Art. 32/
Decree#35/2023

	<i>(per Rec. 25-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
7	VMS (paras 222-228)	All fishing vessels engaged in bluefin tuna operations shall be equipped with a fully functional Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Transmission of positional data shall commence no later	Art 8, 34/ Decree #35/2023 (Transmission start 15 days before Authorization and continue 15 days after end of fishing campaign).	

A list of other possible dorks.

A formula:

I always like to start researching a [domain] + [filetype: pdf]. From there, you can create all different kinds of search. Some examples are:

- site:iccat.int/ "Libya" filetype:pdf
- site:iccat.int/ "Libya" filetype:csv (in the dataset you can explore LYB, Tripoli, Libya Tuna, and other key works to find companies and vessels)
- site:iccat.int Libya "catch document"
- site:iccat.int Libya BFT

LBY	Ras Alhilal Marine Services Company	Alfateh Tower No. 2, Office 148, floor 14
LBY	Tune Libya Fishing Co.	First September St. No 109.

Press releases also help us to keep up to speed on government plans



Arab States

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

OUR IMPACT

GET INVOLVED

Ministry of Marine Resources and UNDP sign agreement to advance Libya's Blue Economy

APRIL 19, 2026



[Link to the press release](#)

Our attention can also for old problems. Were they solved?

Administrative control follows up the issue of the season of fishing tuna with Libyan regional waters

One minute 854

March 26, 2019



[Link here](#)

Takeaways from point #3

1. LLMs or AI-powered platforms can point to “dorking directions”, but it should be on us to execute the commands and filter out credible sources.
2. Meeting notes, press releases, and other supporting documentation help give color to the reporting.





4. Tracking lobbying efforts and PEPs

Why look into lobbying?

The influence corporations can have on politics (and vice versa) is regulated in some countries. It can be illegal (bribery, non-disclosure, revolving door). If not illegal, it can be immoral. Accountability stories should look into this confluence of power and money.

In the US, the pharmaceuticals and health product industry has spent \$6,837,768,877 since 1998. Oil and gas spent \$3,139,968,031. Defense and aerospace spent \$1,496,860,084.

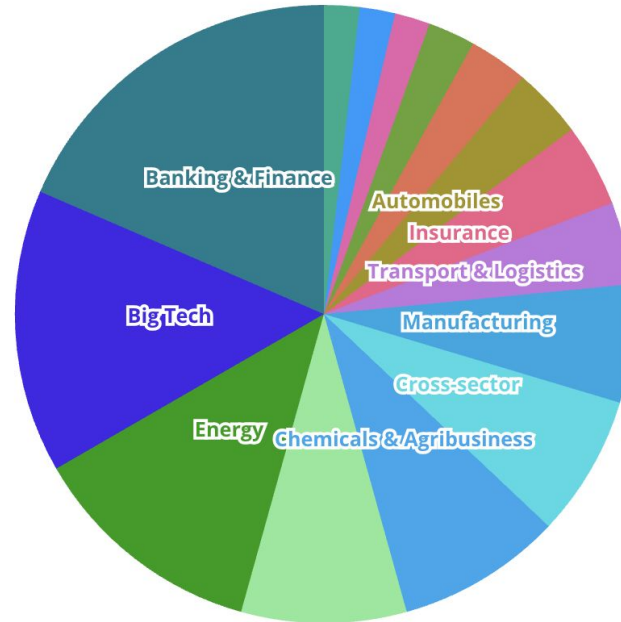
More than \$5 billion has been spent by foreign governments and other overseas politicians in the past decade to gain influence and push policy changes. (Source: OpenSecrets)



Who are the lobby big spenders?

The 162 corporations and trade associations collectively spend at least €343 million a year

■ Big Tech ■ Banking & Finance ■ Energy ■ Chemicals & Agribusiness ■ Cross-sector
■ Pharma ■ Insurance ■ Manufacturing ■ Automobiles ■ Transport & Logistics
■ Tobacco ■ Services ■ Food ■ Metals and mining ■ Defence & Security



Source: [Corporate Europe Observatory](#), [LobbyControl](#)

STORY

MONGABAY JULY 31, 2025
HERE & INSPIRATION FROM NATURE'S FRONTLINE

A Sales-Pitch Pivot Brings Deep-Sea Mining Closer to Reality

Country:

CANADA

Author:



Elizabeth Claire Alberts
ORN FELLOW



ENGLISH

Project
Deep-Sea Mining's Race to the Bottom

READ MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT

- *However, in 2024, another message overtook the first in TMC's communications, according to an analysis by Mongabay and collaborators. It now cast these same rocks as strategic assets, essential for strengthening the mineral dominance and national security of the U.S., where the company has a subsidiary.*

TMC has used this national security rationale for its mission to cultivate support in Washington, D.C., as evidenced in the lobbying disclosures filed by firms working on the company's behalf. These disclosures indicate the lobbying efforts focused not only on national security in broad terms, but also on specific legislation such as the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Critical Minerals Security Act. The emphasis on national security seems



Sources (USA)

- [OpenSecrets](#)
- [Lobbying Disclosure Act \(LDA\) Website](#)

- [Foreign Agents Registration Act](#)
 - You can search filings [here](#)
 - Registration filings include:
 - A lobbyist's clients
 - Financial information
 - Campaign contributions
 - Whether they work with public relations firm

Site search



Search by company, client, firm, industry, or issue

Popular Donor Searches

TOP NAME SEARCHES

1. sheldon
2. craig
3. andrew
4. pharmacy
5. jason

TOP EMPLOYER SEARCHES

1. first
2. patton
3. irs
4. fedex
5. sullivan

TOP RECIPIENT SEARCHES

1. roy cooper
2. american
3. tony evers
4. senate
5. michael cusick

Popular Tools

RESEARCH TOOLS

Look up a Donor
Search any name in our political contributions database

State & Federal Lobbying
Explore our lobbying database

Candidates & Officeholders
View top contributors and spending trends for politicians

ISSUES CENTER

Climate Profile
How has the private sector shaped climate policy?

Guns in America
How have varying interests influenced gun policy?

Cryptocurrency
When a new industry hits the scene, what happens with political spending?

LATEST NEWS

Georgia Senate candidate reports \$50M self-loan; FEC issues warning letter

FEC Complaint
May 15, 2026

The same dark money groups keep turning up in redistricting fights

Dark Money
May 13, 2026



Search LD-1 & LD-2 Reports

Registrations & Quarterly Activity

12 reports matching...

Registrant Name or Senate ID: Vogel

Client Name or Senate ID: the metals company

Edit Search

1 - 12 of 12 Total

Print Results

Filter...

100 / page

/ page

Previous 1 Next

Registrant Name	Client Name	Report Type	Amount Reported	Filing	
				Year	Posted
THE VOGEL GROUP	THE METALS COMPANY	4th Quarter - Report	\$90,000.00	2025	01/19/2026 @ 09:21 PM
THE VOGEL GROUP	THE METALS COMPANY	3rd Quarter - Report	\$60,000.00	2023	10/18/2023 @ 01:59 PM
THE VOGEL GROUP	THE METALS COMPANY	2nd Quarter - Report	\$60,000.00	2023	07/19/2023 @ 12:12 PM
THE VOGEL GROUP	THE METALS COMPANY	Registration		2023	05/09/2023 @ 08:15 PM
THE VOGEL GROUP	THE METALS COMPANY	1st Quarter - Report	\$78,000.00	2025	04/20/2025 @ 07:30 PM
THE VOGEL GROUP	THE METALS COMPANY	2nd Quarter - Report	\$62,000.00	2024	07/09/2024 @ 02:57 PM
THE VOGEL GROUP	THE METALS COMPANY	3rd Quarter - Report	\$60,000.00	2024	10/17/2024 @ 12:30 PM
THE VOGEL GROUP	THE METALS COMPANY	3rd Quarter - Report	\$92,000.00	2025	10/20/2025 @ 12:23 PM

Outside of US

- [EU Transparency Register](#)
 - The Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) is an NGO focused on EU lobbying. They have a website called [LobbyFacts.eu](#).
 - Transparency International has some databases including [Integrity Watch EU](#)
- Australia [lobby register](#)
 - Chile: [InfoLobby portal](#)
 - Mexico: [Lobbying Registry Chamber of Deputies](#)
 - France: [public register](#) for lobbying
 - Netherlands: Dutch Parliament [lobby register](#)

Search the register

EU Transparency Register

Enter keywords OR registration (REG) number



Advanced search



List of all lobbyists

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#)
[O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) [Other](#)

Organisation's identification number

Organisation name

2968385100845-16

[A BIKE](#)

358591996470-30

[Å Energi AS](#)

659985144655-48

[A Place for Rover, Inc.](#)

4101481103566-87

[A Plastic Planet](#)

Welcome to LobbyFacts - exposing lobbying in the European institutions

LobbyFacts empowers journalists, activists, and researchers to search, sort, filter, and analyse data from the official EU Transparency Register, tracking lobbyists and their influence at the EU level over time. Use the search functions below to get the answers to these questions and more.

- Who are the biggest lobby spenders?
- Which lobby consultancies are working for which corporate interests?
- Are companies spending more on lobbying than last year?
- Who is lobbying on the latest EU hot topic?

! Almost all data is declared by the registrants themselves which means it has not necessarily been independently verified as accurate. Find out more [here](#) !

Search

GET STARTED

LOBBY ORGANISATION BY NAME

ACCREDITED PERSONS BY NAME

LOBBY CLIENTS BY NAME

TOPIC SEARCH

MEETINGS SEARCH

Lobby register category

-- select --

Country of origin

-- select --

On date

dd/mm/yyyy



Belgian office

Either

European Parliament passholder

Either

High-level European Commission meetings

Either

Lobby register financial category

any

Search

Reset

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Parlevliet & Van der Plas BV lobby client details

Lobbyists having Parlevliet & Van der Plas BV as a client

- [G Plus Ltd](#)

G PLUS LTD (T/A PORTLAND) (PORTLAND)

EU TRANSPARENCY REGISTER [722377790-86](#)

First registered on 15 Dec 2008

GOALS / REMIT On June 4th 2020, GPlus became Portland, a fellow Omnicom-owned political consultancy and strategic communications agency.

With dedicated communication and policy specialists in Berlin, Brussels and Paris, G Plus Europe (t/a Portland) specialises in devising and implementing public affairs and communications strategies across the Continent.

Date	07 Dec 2016	Location	Brussels
Subject	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, Ocean Governance		
Cabinet	Cabinet of Vice-President Karmenu Vella		
Portfolio	Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries		
Attending	Andras Inotai (Cabinet member)		

Other ways to find lobbying activity

- FOIA: Consider where lobbyists might have sent letters in order to influence officials or policies, perhaps to an agency or ministry about a proposed law or regulation.
- Search ads that run on Facebook and Instagram at [Meta's ad library](#).
- GIJN has a more [detailed guide](#) to report on lobbying (includes more countries).
- Build your own database. Name PEPs and cross reference them against other datasets. (You can get them from government websites, sources, FOI, political party websites, e.g.).



PEPs

Politically exposed persons



Trending

Unveiling the shadowy nexus: Power, PEPs and opacity in Ghana's fisheries sector

Gideon Sarpong X · 1 week ago

9 minutes read

This story was produced in partnership with the Pulitzer Center's Ocean Reporting Network.

All



Nana Ama Ayensua Saara III (PEP)

Owens Meng Xin 7 and Meng Xin 10 vessels

Background: Omanhema (traditional leader) of the Denkyira Traditional Area and a board member of GCB Bank PLC



Rex Daniel Wussah (PEP)

Owens LU RONG YUAN YU 927 and LU RONG YUAN YU 926 vessels

Background: Former District Chief Executive (DCE) of Ada East and a Member of National Democratic Congress



Stephen Adjokatcher (PEP)

Owens vessels such as LU RONG YUAN YU 970, LU RONG YUAN YU 967, LU RONG YUAN YU 966, LU RONG YUAN YU 930, LU RONG YUAN YU 988, and LU RONG YUAN YU 917

Background: Board Member of the Fisheries Commission



Patrick-Appiah Opong (PEP)

Owens LU RONG YUAN YU 982 vessels

Background: Senior Marine Engineer, Ghana Maritime Authority

POIs & PEPs

- Person of interest (POI)
 - Someone who might be related to a criminal activity
- Politically exposed persons (PEP)
 - “an individual who holds a prominent public position” ([Moody's](#))
 - [LexisNexis Risk Solutions definition](#)

These are terms from financial regulation and due diligence industry (Checking whether a company is sketchy).

- Organizations have lists of them
 - LexisNexis
 - Reuters
 - Acuris
- Some countries too
 - Brazil CGU PEP List
 - Mexico DeclaraNet Plus Public Servant Registry
- You can also use sanctions lists (with **caution**)
- Or things like the France Ministry of Labor Blacklist



Where to find these lists

Corporate data platforms (\$\$\$)

- Sayari
- Orbis
- LexisNexis

Leaks databases

Incomplete, need to be lucky

- Wikileaks
- ICIJ Offshoreleaks

Some of the lists can be accessed through **journalist-friendly organizations**

- OCCRP's AlephPro
- DARC's OpenAleph
- OpenSanctions
- AMLWatcher

You can also request it from government using FOI (**caution**)



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THANK YOU!

Don't miss: Webinar 3 - Follow the Money

