

# Policy for Marine Sustainable Development in China

Dr. Yan LIU

China Institute for Marine Affairs,  
State Oceanic Administration



# Outline

- Evolution of the legal and policy framework
- Recent developments and trends in national ocean policy
- Progress in meeting the SDG14
- Challenges and future prospects



# The seas in China's sustainable development

- Diverse coastal and marine ecosystems
- Ocean economy: 9.4% of national GDP and employs 35.5 million people
- Importance in addressing other sustainable development themes: food security, sustainable energy production and resilience to disasters.



Law on Marine Environmental Protection

Law on Sea Use Management

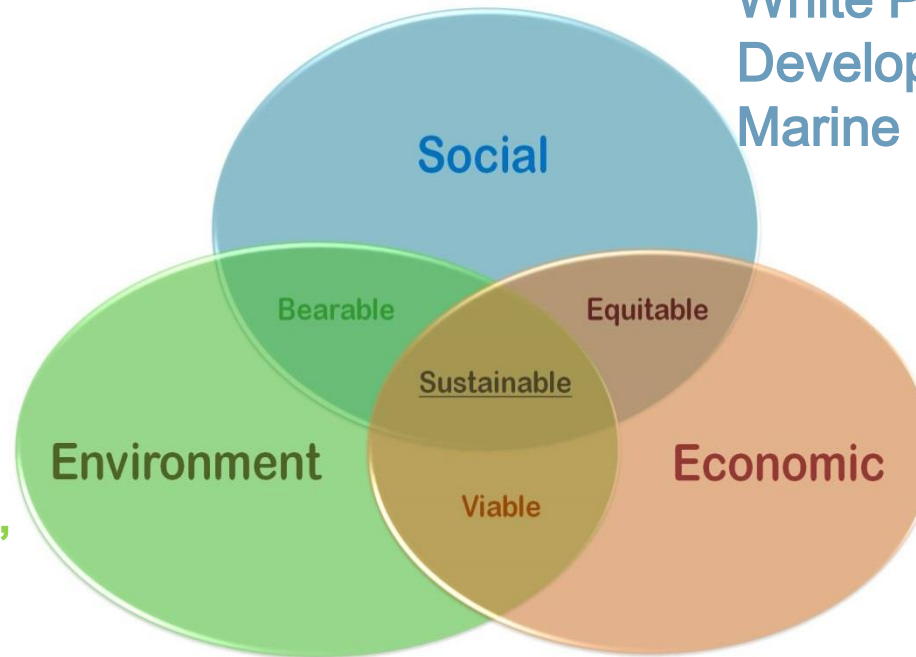
Law on Island Conservation

Regulations on oil exploitation, shipping, pollution from engineering and construction, etc

Rules on MPAs

Five-Year National Plan for Marine Affairs

White Paper on the Development of China's Marine Programmes



**Fishery Law**

**Five-Year National Plan for Marine Economic Development**

**Plans for Individual Marine Industry**



# Evolution of the legal and policy framework

- 1996: China Ocean Agenda 21
- 1998: White Paper on the Development of China's Marine Programs
- 2003: first national plan for ocean economic development
- 2006: inclusion of ocean development as a separate chapter in the National Social and Economic Development Plan
- 2008: first national plan for the development of ocean program
- 2012: establishment of National Ocean Council



<b>Document</b>	<b>Issuing year</b>	<b>Main focus</b>
Law on Marine Environmental Protection	1982	<b>Pollution control</b>
Fishery Law	1986	<b>Marine resource management</b>
Law on the Protection of Wild Life	1988	<b>Species conservation</b>
Rules on Marine Nature Reserves	1995	<b>Establishment of marine nature reserves</b>
Ocean Agenda 21	1996	<b>Sustainable development in the marine realm</b>
Revision of the Law on Marine Environmental Protection and Fishery Law	1999, 2000	<b>Ecological conservation</b>
Law on Sea Use Management	2001	<b>Ocean zoning and protection of the rights of users</b>
Law on the protection of island ecosystems	2009	<b>Protection of important marine ecosystems</b>

# Recent developments and trends in national policy

- **The Action Plan for Water Pollution Reduction and Treatment (16April, 2015)**
- **The General Plan on Institutional Reform for Ecological Progress /Civilization (22Sep.2015)**



# ■ The Action Plan for Water Pollution Reduction and Treatment (2015)

- 70% of sea water in coastal areas to meet category I and II quality standards by 2020, which indicates that SDG 14.1 will likely to be met, with increased government attention and investments, will be achieved through actions in the following areas:.
- pollution control and treatment of solid and liquid waste, economic restructuring and upgrading of production facilities, strengthening role of science, use of market-based mechanisms, effective law enforcement, improving ecological security, clear duties and responsibilities for government authorities and public participation.





# ■ The Plan on Institutional Reform for Ecological Civilization (2015)

- Ownership, property and user rights for natural resources
- Harvesting/exploitation targets
- Area-based conservation measures
- Payments for the use of natural resources and ecological compensation scheme
- Environmental assessments
- Green finance and green products
- .....



# Trends of Policy development

- **In ecosystem conservation, area-based conservation measures such as ecological red lines remain as the most important areas for policy intervention.**
- **In integrated ocean management, spatial planning through ocean zoning, coupled with the regulation on sea use management, is emerging as the main means for incorporating and balancing multiple interests in decision-making.**
- **In ocean governance, a strong tendency towards more effective use of economic incentives and market-based instruments.**



# Progress in meeting SDG14

## SDG14.2 sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems

- Integrated ocean planning and management
- compensatory measures, ecological restoration
- ecological red lines



Beach Restoration in Xiamen Dongshan

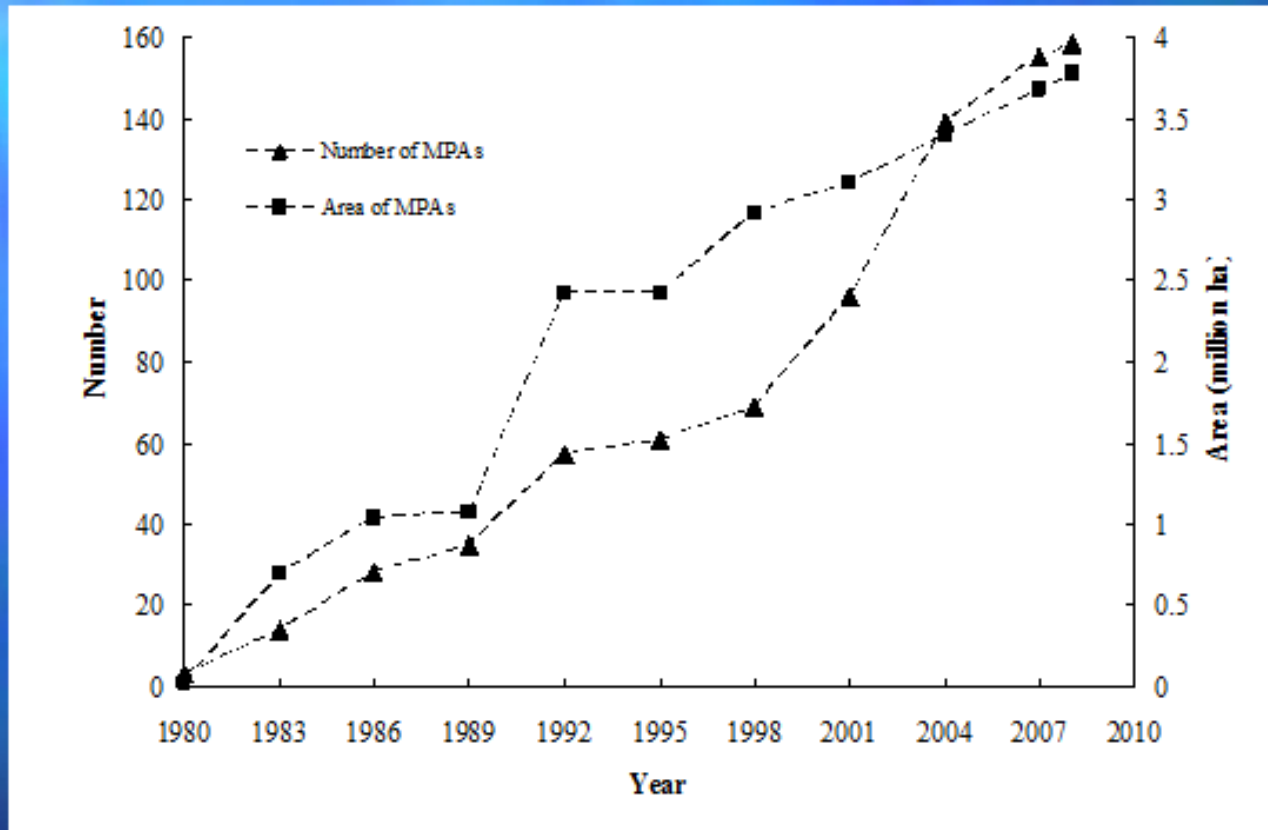
# SDG14.4 Sustainable management of fisheries resources

- **Technical measures:** such as restrictions on fishing gears , minimum mesh size, fisheries reserves
- **Input controls:** “zero growth” in fishing license,
- **Economic incentives :** supporting alternative livelihoods for fishermen



# SDG14.5 MPAs

No take marine nature reserves  
special marine protected areas



# Challenges

- Lack of details on mechanisms for implementation
- A degree of fragmentation in the legal framework
- Insufficient funds for enforcement
- Relying heavily on government administration and regulatory approaches
- .....



# Future Prospects

The combination of different tools and mechanisms is more likely to lead to better policy outcomes.

## ■ Integration between

- different agencies
- different levels of government

## ■ Innovated approaches and mechanisms ,

- market-based approaches

## ■ Public and stakeholder participation





Thank you

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[Liuyan@cima.gov.cn](mailto:Liuyan@cima.gov.cn)

