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-Essay-

## **Sustainable Development Goals: About 14 and 17**

The Ocean covers nearly 75% of the Earth's surface and represents 99% of the living space on the planet by volume. More than 37% of the global population depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods.<sup>1</sup> So Using these limited marine resources wisely is important to human prosperity and development. By this means the concept of 'Sustainable Development' has been discussed in the field of marine resources. In the 1940s concept of MSY(Maximum Sustainable Yield) is introduced to prevent overfishing. And in 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development Report(also known as Brundtland Report) first introduces the concept 'Sustainable Development' and make it a global paradigm. In this report, they define sustainable development as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"<sup>2</sup>. Later in 1992, UN Conference on Environment and Development(UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, establish United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development(UNCSD) and adopted Agenda 21.<sup>3</sup> In September 2015 United Nations General Assembly ratifies SDGs(Sustainable Development Goals) for 2016 to 2030 in succession of last agenda MDGs(Millennium Goals) which was for 2000 to 2015. SDGs is global goals covering universal humanity problems(poverty, disease, education, gender equality, refugee), environmental problems (climate change, energy, pollution, water, biodiversity), economic and social problem(technology, housing, employment, social structure, laws) and mean of implementation. It consists of 17 main goals and 169 targets. Each goal is interdependent and measured by specific indicator tracking and visualizing the process. (홍은경 2018, 3)

In here related to marine resources and sustainable development, We are going to deal with 'SDGs Goal 14: Life Below Water' and as a mean of implementation take a look at 'SDGs Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals'.

Goal 14 aims to conserve and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.<sup>4</sup> As mentioned before ocean and marine resources are essential to human

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans>

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_Development_Goals)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.hdhy.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=1102>

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_Development_Goals)

well being and the key to social and economic development. However, these resources are vulnerable so facing a problem such as pollution, acidification and depleted fishery. More than 40% of the ocean is heavily affected by pollution. Coastal water pollution and eutrophication(excessive nutrients in water) are getting worse. To solve these problems SDGs target to prevent and significantly reduce all kinds of marine pollution by 2025 especially land-based activities emitting nutrient and industrial waste.<sup>5</sup>The ocean absorbs nearly 30% of carbon dioxide produced by human activities mitigating global warming and climate change. However, there has been a 26% increase in acidification since the industrial revolution. Absorbed carbon dioxide acidify the seawater lower the PH level threatening the marine ecosystem especially weakening shell species and coral reef. SDGs set the target to manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystem to restore and strengthen resilience by 2020. Economically marine and coastal resources contribute 28 trillion USD every year through ecosystem service. However, Overfishing and exploiting marine resources reduce food production impairing the function of the ecosystem which reduces biodiversity. The proportion of world marine fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels has declined from 90% in 1974 to 68.6% in 2013. SDGs set the target to regulate illegal unreported overfishing and conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. And prohibit certain subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.<sup>6</sup>

Goal 17 seeks to strengthen the mean of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. To support SDGs increasing international cooperation, strengthen global partnerships and bring national governments, the international community, civil society together.<sup>7</sup>

Individuals can help the ocean by reducing their energy consumption and their use of plastics. However, in National-level cooperation between governments and civil society is important. After the adoption of SDGs establishing a national level governance system for implementing SDGs has become a task for the UN member states who agreed on SDGs. Not only developed countries but also developing countries are endeavoring to achieve the goal. In 2016 at the UN Economic and Social Council, High-Level Political Forum agreed to check the status of implementation and report Voluntary National Review(VNR). (홍은경 2018, 3)

In South Korea, many civil society and ministry of foreign affair, Korea International Cooperation Agency(KOICA) is working together to achieve the goal. If peace is successfully settled in inter-Korean relations there will be tangible results to achieve the SDGs goal. So cooperation between northeast Asia countries is essential. (윤유리 2018, 3)

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<sup>5</sup> <http://ncsd.go.kr/app/sub07/101.do>

<sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_Development_Goals)

<sup>7</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>