

MARINE GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

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At Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA), our **Marine Governance Program** promotes evidence-based policies and inclusive decision-making to ensure the sustainable use and long-term conservation of Peru's marine ecosystems.

We envision a resilient and inclusive blue economy, one that delivers environmental, social, and economic benefits for present and future generations.

Our vision: A sea that is...

1. Effectively managed
2. Free from illegal activities
3. For the people
4. Connected beyond borders
5. Managed grounded in science





OUR APPROACH

We work hand-in-hand with:

- **Coastal communities**
- **Academic institutions**
- **National and local authorities**
- **Non-governmental organization**

Together, we tackle marine and coastal challenges from multiple angles, fostering collaboration across key sectors.

Our goal: A healthy, sustainable ocean and a legacy we can all be proud of.

1. AN EFFECTIVELY MANAGED OCEAN

The coastal and marine areas face complex management challenges, from the impact of land-based activities on the ocean, to the need for stronger protection of vital ecosystems, and urgency to manage artisanal fisheries sustainably and inclusively.

Our work

- **We promote** preventive strategies to address the potential impacts of economic activities on this ecosystems.
- **We support** and strengthen marine landscape-based conservation efforts — encompassing marine protected areas, fragile ecosystems, and critical habitats — complemented by effective monitoring and enforcement strategies.
- In coordination with fishing organizations and government authorities, **we advocate** for sound regulation and the effective implementation of fisheries management policies, including oversight mechanisms, monitoring systems, and capacity-building initiatives.





Our contributions

- Contributed to the design and support of a comprehensive management strategy for key protected areas, including the Dorsal de Nasca National Reserve (Ica), San Fernando National Reserve (Ica), Illescas National Reserve (Piura), Mar Tropical de Grau National Reserve (Piura), the Guano Islands, Islets, and Capes System Reserve (Lima sector), and the Manglares de Tumbes National Sanctuary (Tumbes).
- In response to the Repsol oil spill off Peru's central coast, we integrated actions in defense of artisanal fishing organizations and a high-impact communication axis through the website "Historia de un derrame", finalist in the SDG Action Awards, and "El silencio del mar", a report shortlisted for the 2023 National Journalism Award, both highlighting the pursuit of justice by coastal communities.

2.

AN OCEAN FREE FROM ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Many coastal livelihoods — such as artisanal fishing — operate informally. According to Peru's Ministry of Production, 60% of this sector lacks formal recognition. Moreover, the expansion of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing threatens marine biodiversity and well-being of communities that depend on healthy ocean ecosystems.

Our work

- **We promote the formalization** of artisanal fishers and responsible tourism operators to ensure legal, fair and sustainable opportunities.
- **We implement community-driven initiatives** to prevent and reduce IUU fishing.
- **We combat illegal marine wildlife trade** and strengthen capacity for improved traceability in the international trade of endangered marine species regulated by the CITES convention.





FORMALES
+ POR LA +
PESCA

Our contributions

- Provided legal and technical support to over 900 artisanal fishers across four coastal regions of Peru — Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, and Ica — helping them secure access rights, complete registration processes, and meet sanitary requirements.
- Contributed technical and legal analysis for the update of Peru's General Fisheries Law, modernizing a regulation that had remained unchanged for over three decades and aligning it with the needs of artisanal fishing communities.
- Launched the “Formales por la Pesca” campaign, delivering practical and accessible information on formalization through dockside outreach, public events, and a dedicated WhatsApp support line for fishers and artisanal vessels owners.

3. AN OCEAN FOR THE PEOPLE

Nearly 60% of Peru's population lives along the coast. Yet men, women, youth, and vulnerable groups still face barriers to making their voices heard and participating equitably in the management of coastal ecosystems and the resources that sustain them — resources that are essential for strengthening local autonomy and resilience.

Our work

- **We recognize** traditional ecological knowledge into the development of fisheries management measures.
- **We support** local value chains and entrepreneurship, offering guidance on accessing competitive funding opportunities.
- **We build** local capacity to foster participatory management of marine protected areas, fisheries, and decision-making processes.
- **We highlight** the essential contributions of women in the marine sector and amplify the voices of marine environmental defenders.



pesca artesanal e
Ecuador

Este evento se realiza en el marco de los proyectos Por la F

ON FAMILY
MOATION



EDILBERTA RUBINOZ

Producción Hidrobiológica Puñá del Mar (Jenel)

GREGORIA GALAN

Jorja del Mar (Lambayeque)

Our contributions

- Over 3,000 fishers from Tumbes and Piura participated in updating the Peruvian Hake Fisheries Management Regulation (*Merluccius gayi*), a milestone that had delayed for more than 20 years.
- “Mujeres a la mar” is a capacity-building and empowerment initiative for women in artisanal fisheries and marine conservation, which promotes media visibility of stories to showcase their critical role in the value chain.
- Strengthening of platforms that position citizens as key actors in the management of five protected marine and coastal areas.
- More than 90 professionals from various disciplines trained through the Fisheries Law Training Course, delivered in partnership with leading universities over the past four years.

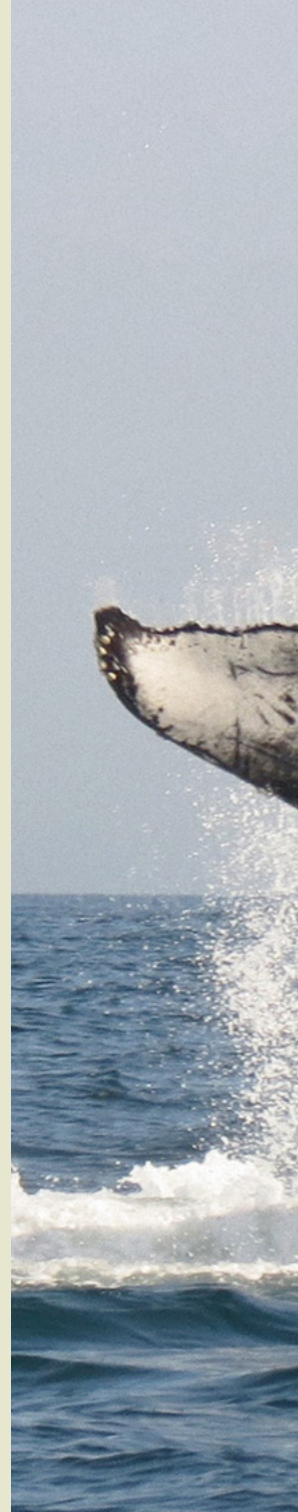
4.

AN OCEAN CONNECTED BEYOND BORDERS

The ocean connects species, ecosystems and people
— it is a vast space where critical ecological processes occur, requiring governance and conservation strategies that transcends national boundaries.

Our work

- **We promote** the protection of migratory marine megafauna through the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) under a marine corridor approach.
- **We develop** policy proposals to improve the management of high-seas resources such as squid, tuna, and jack mackerel, and advocate for the formal inclusion of artisanal fleets in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).
- **We help** raise public awareness and promote dialogue around the agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction - BBNJ, a landmark, a landmark international agreement that strengthens global ocean governance.





Our contributions

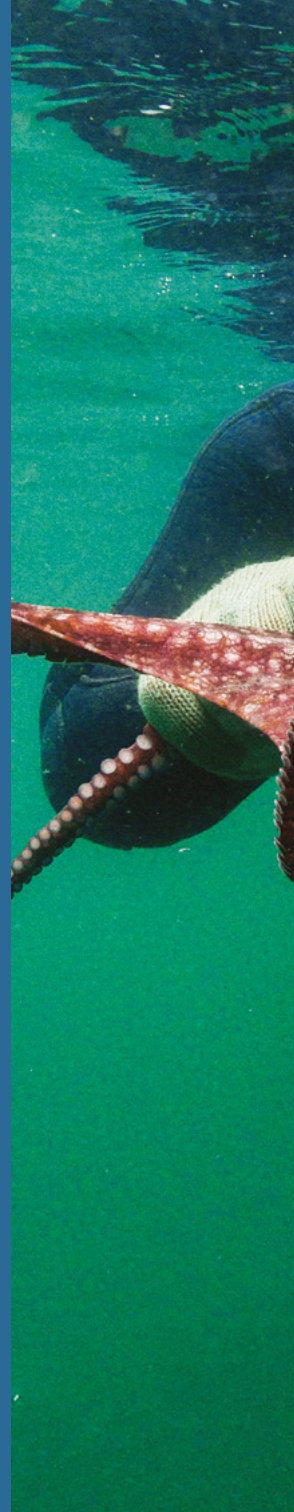
- Promoted the establishment of the Mar Tropical de Grau National Reserve, a long-standing demand from artisanal fishers and coastal communities from Piura and Tumbes for over a decade.
- Showcasing conservation stories on the international stage through the premiere of the documentaries “Illescas: Along the Coastal Route of the Fox and the Condor” and “Guardians of the Five Miles” at the CBD COP 16 in Cali, Colombia.
- Co-hosted Peru’s first international conference on the High Seas Treaty in Peru in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. A SCIENCE- BASED OCEAN

Traditional knowledge is enriched by scientific research to drive public policies that support the management and conservation of marine ecosystems. At the same time, there is a growing commitment to expand research efforts in this critical domain.

Our work

- **We carry out** research to better understand the functioning of marine ecosystems and inform evidence-based decision-making. We develop baseline studies to identify areas of high potential for marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of hydrobiological resources.
- **We analyze** how regulations are implemented from a social perspective to enhance their **impact and effectiveness**.





Our contributions

- Investigated the marine otter (*Lontra felina*), a species native to the Ancón area and severely impacted by the Repsol oil spill. Its role as an indicator of ocean health — due to its diet of fish and shellfish, similar to humans — had been previously underestimated.
- Analyzed the impact of blast fishing on marine ecosystems, addressing a significant gap in national research on the issue. We also conducted studies on minimum catch sizes and the population status of key species to provide data that support national food security.
- Integrated technical and scientific knowledge to develop zoning proposals for areas reserved for artisanal and small-scale fishing, incorporated into the update of Peru's General Fisheries Law.
- Promoted research by emerging professionals, on marine protected areas through the “Mar del Peru” scholarship program, funded for four consecutive years.

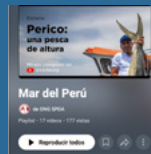
PUBLICATIONS & MULTIMEDIA



Mar del Peru Site
www.mardelperu.pe



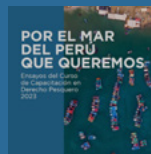
Playlist:
The Ocean We Want



Formalization Guide for Artisanal Fishing.
Sanitary, Registry, Business, and Access Aspects



For the Sea of Peru That We Want.
Essays from the Fisheries Law Training Course 2023



Arts and Fishing Methods of Peru.
Illustrated Series



Legal Guide for the Defense of Marine Ecosystems and Species in Peru



Challenges in the management of marine-coastal conservation areas. An exchange of experiences between Peru and Costa Rica



Human Rights and the Legal Protection of the Ocean. Specific Obligations of the Peruvian State



BBNJ Agreement. An Opportunity for Marine Biodiversity



Illustrated Guide to Responsible Recreational Fishing





PERUVIAN SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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We defend nature and our right to a healthy environment

The **Peruvian Society for Environmental Law** is a nonprofit civil organization founded in 1986. Its mission is educational and scientific, focused on the protection of the environment, the promotion of the right to a healthy environment, and the sustainable use of natural resources for their conservation, proper management, and improvement.

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