



An index to assess the health and benefits of the global ocean

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The ocean plays a critical role in supporting the human well-being, from providing food, livelihoods and recreational opportunities to regulating the global climate. The sustainable management aimed at maintaining the flow of a broad range of benefits from the ocean requires a comprehensive and quantitative method to measure and monitor the health of coupled human–ocean systems. The Ocean Health Index, which is used to comprising ten diverse public goals for a healthy coupled human–ocean system and calculated the index for China. The index provides a powerful tool to raise public awareness, direct resource management, improve policy and prioritize scientific research.