

**Table S2.** List of international conventions or agreements analyzed to identify the societal and policy needs (societal drivers and pressures) that require or would benefit from sustained observations of ocean biological variables. Type: B=binding (in full or in part), NB=non-binding, O=other

#	Type	CONVENTION/BODY
1	NB	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) - (Arctic Council)
2	B	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
3	O	Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
4	B	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
5	B	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)-Aichi Targets
6	B	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
7	B	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)
8	B	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) & it's Committee on Fisheries (COFI)
9	O	Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
10	NB	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
11	B	International Maritime Organization (IMO)
12	B	International Seabed Authority (ISA)
13	B	International Whaling Commission (IWC)
14	B	Large Marine Ecosystems (LME)
15	O	UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (UNESCO IOC/IODE)
16	B	UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme (UNESCO-WHMP)
17	B	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): UN Fish Stocks Agreement / Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)
18	O	United Nations Development Program (UNDP): Water & Ocean (UNDP Water & Ocean)
19	NB	United Nations Environment Program (UNEP): Global Program for Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (UNEP-GPA)
20	B	United Nations Environment Program (UNEP): Regional Seas Programme (UNEP-RS)
21	B	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (and the Kyoto Protocol)
22	NB	United Nations Millenium Development Goals (UN-MDGs)
23	NB	United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals (UN-SDGs)
24	O	World Ocean Assessment (WOA)