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2016 Ocean Health Index Global Assessment: China Profile

This document provides a brief summary of the results for China from the 2016 Ocean Health Index (OHI) Global Assessment.

Global results

As in previous years, this assessment updated datasets and methods to integrate new knowledge and information. The Index Global score for 2016, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) area weighted average of region (countries and territories) scores, is 71. This value did not vary statistically significantly from 2012 to 2016.

Several goals had significant changes:

Improving scores

- Lasting special places scores increased by an average of 0.5 points per year
- Artisanal opportunities scores increased by just over 0.15 points per year
- Species condition scores improved by a small, but statistically significant, 0.03 points per year

Declining scores

- Natural products declined by over 2.5 points per year on average
- Coastal protection declined by 0.12 points per year on average
- Clean waters declined by 0.15 points per year on average
- Species condition was ranked the goal with the highest score of 92, while mariculture was ranked the goal with the lowest score of 32.

For a detailed summary of global results visit: <http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/region-scores>

Methods and dataset updates

For 2016, all goals and subgoals were updated, except for livelihoods and economies and coastal protection (due to data availability limitations).

Additional years of data were available for the following goals/subgoals: artisanal opportunities, species condition, habitat and coastal protection (sea ice), mariculture, clean waters (land-based pollution), iconic species, lasting special places, natural products, tourism and recreation.

Improved data were available for the following goals/subgoals: fisheries, species condition (bird data are now included), clean waters (trash trends are calculated using actual trash data, rather than proxy population data), iconic species (trend is now directly estimated from data).

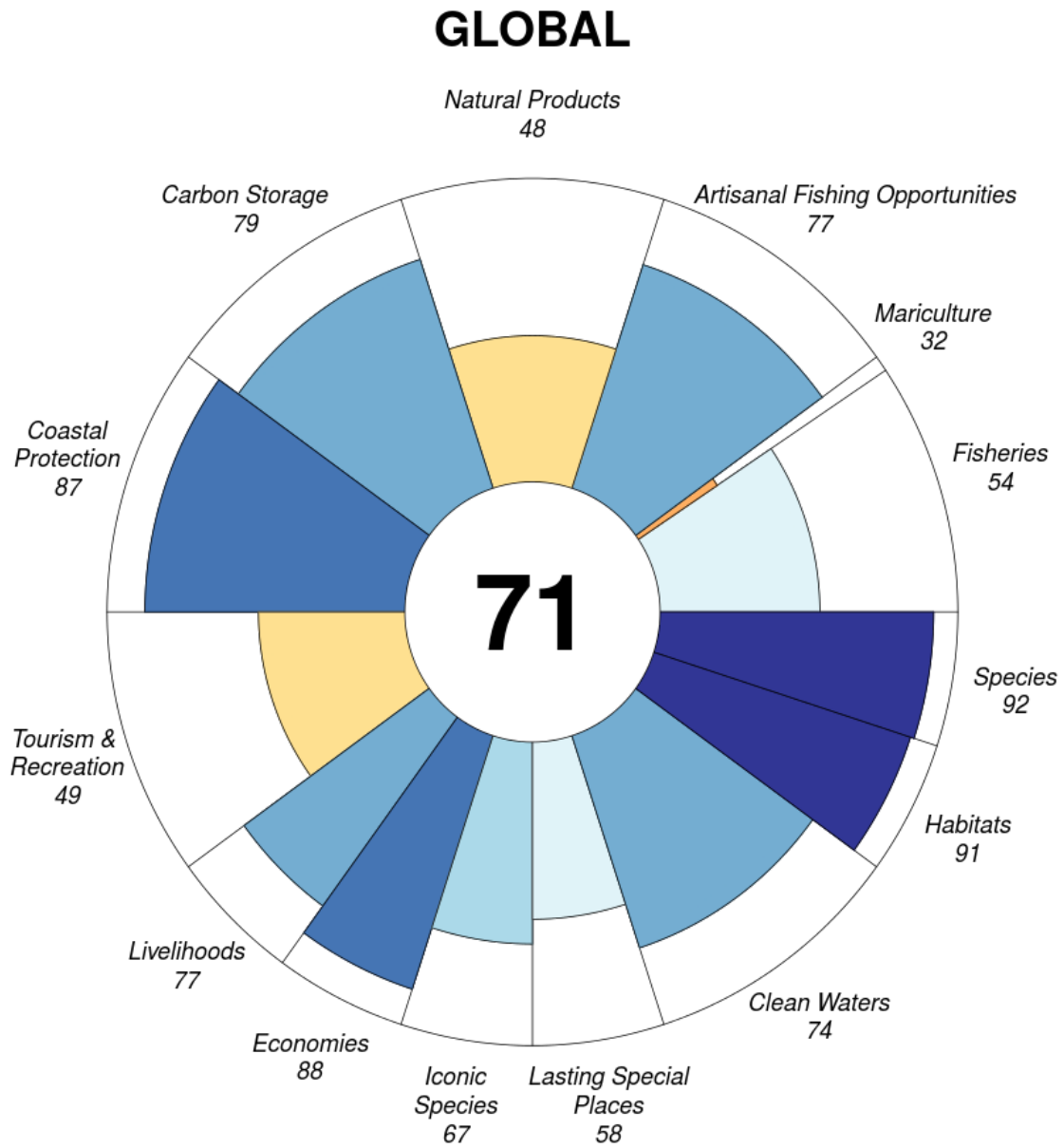


Figure 1: OHI 2016 Global Assessment Flower Plot

Pressures: Of the pressures data sets, 16 of the 20 pressure data layers were updated. Additional years of data for 7 pressures layers were added, and there were major improvements to source data for fisheries related pressures and sea level rise. Data from the Social Progress Index (<http://www.socialprogressimperative.org/global-index/>) was included as a “social” component of the pressure scores. **Resilience:** We restructured the resilience data within the OHI, so the data and calculations are more transparent and easier to understand and update. Data from the Social Progress Index (<http://www.socialprogressimperative.org/global-index/>) was added as a “social” component of resilience scores. Only two resilience data layers were updated: species condition and marine protected areas.

For detailed explanation of methods visit: <http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/methodology>

China’s Results

The 2016 Index score for China is of 63. Ranking 156 out of 221 countries and territories assessed.

2012-2016 Scores for China Using 2016 Methods

goal	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Index	65	66	65	64	63
Artisanal Fishing Opportunity	79	80	80	81	81
Species	85	85	85	85	85
Biodiversity	80	80	80	80	80
Habitats	76	76	76	75	75
Coastal Protection	73	74	73	71	71
Carbon Storage	53	53	53	53	53
Clean Waters	35	36	35	35	35
Coastal Economies	100	100	100	100	100
Livelihoods and Economies	96	97	97	97	97
Coastal Livelihoods	92	93	93	93	93
Wild Caught Fisheries	35	34	34	35	38
Food Provision	76	77	78	78	79
Mariculture	100	100	100	100	100
Iconic Species	60	62	62	62	61
Sense of Place	38	39	39	40	39
Lasting Special Places	16	16	17	17	17
Natural Products	74	76	75	66	57
Tourism and Recreation	44	46	42	39	37

Improving scores

- Wild caught fisheries score improved by 3 points and food provision increased by 1 point

Declining scores

- Natural products decreased by 9 points
- Tourism and recreation decreased by 2 points
- Iconic species and sense of place decreased by 1 point each

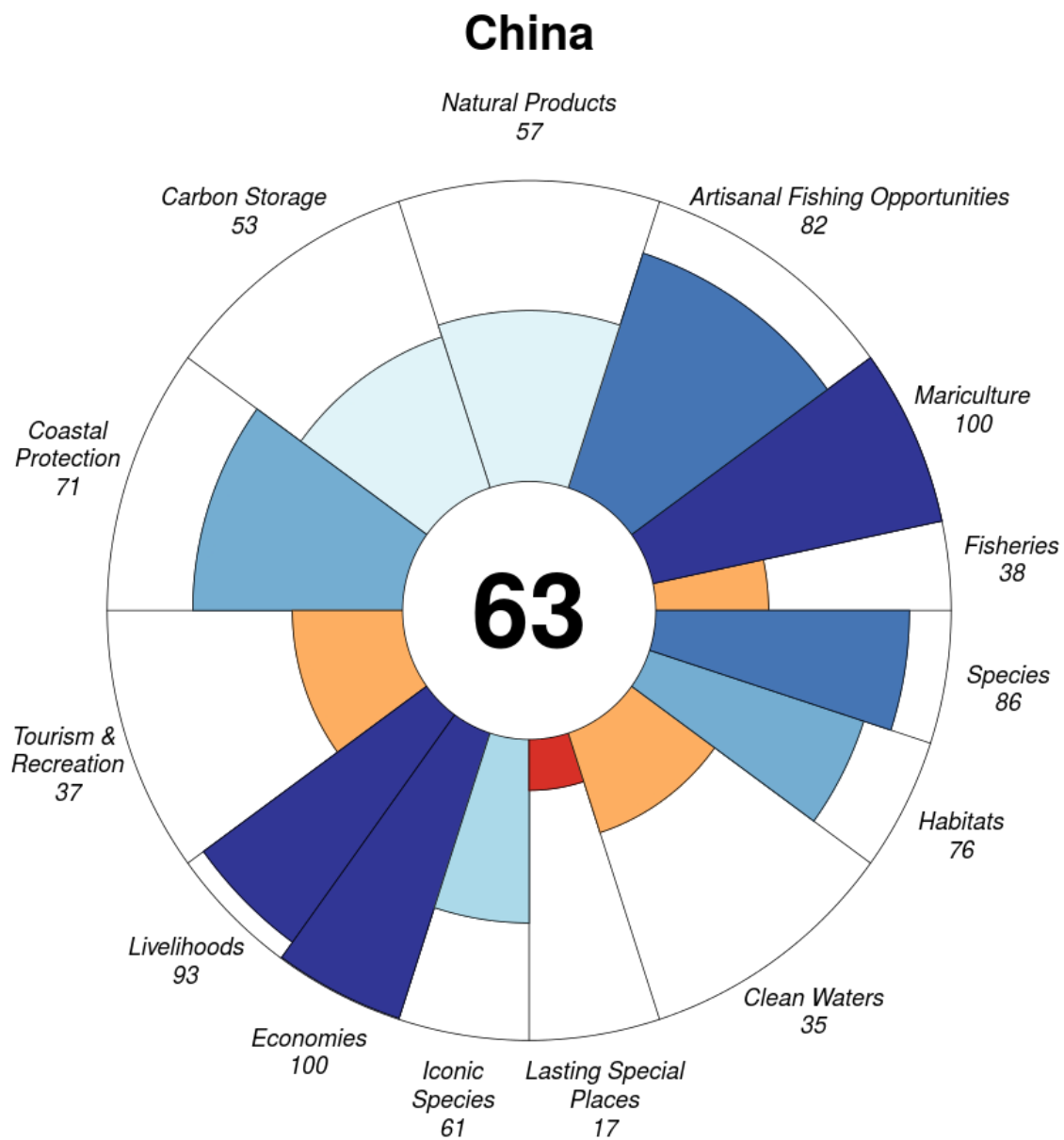


Figure 2: OHI 2016 Global Assessment: China's Flower Plot

Explanation of China's scores

The overall score for China is 63, which is 1 point lower than in 2015. This is mostly due to a decrease of 9 points in the score of Natural Products. The score for this goal decreased the most due to a decrease significant decrease in the harvesting of seaweed, according to FAO data. Since this goal uses a maximum sustainable yield reference point, underharvesting of resources is penalized.

For a detailed summary of Country results visit: <http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/region-scores/scores/china>