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2016 Ocean Health Index Global Assessment: Ecuador Profile

This document provides a brief summary of the results for Ecuador 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).

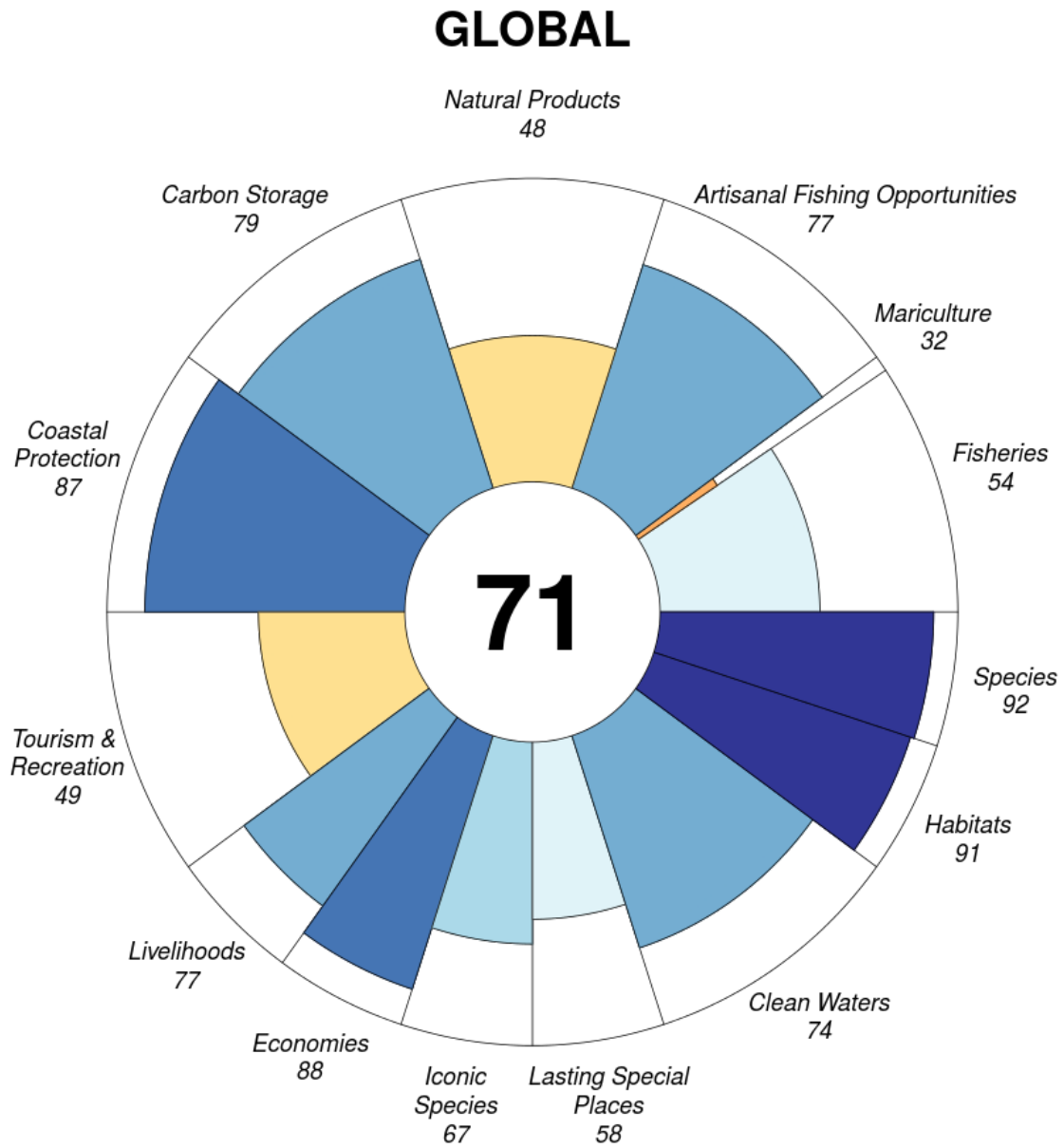


Figure 1: OHI 2016 Global Assessment Flower Plot

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>

Ecuador’s Results

The 2016 Index score for Ecuador is of 74. Ranking 47 out of 221 countries and territories assessed.

2012-2016 Scores for Ecuador Using 2016 Methods

goal	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Index	73	74	74	74	74
Artisanal Fishing Opportunity	68	69	69	69	69
Species	91	91	91	91	91
Biodiversity	92	92	92	93	93
Habitats	94	94	94	94	94
Coastal Protection	82	82	82	82	81
Carbon Storage	78	78	78	78	78
Clean Waters	68	64	64	66	68
Coastal Economies	71	100	100	100	100
Livelihoods and Economies	86	100	100	100	100
Coastal Livelihoods	100	100	100	100	100
Wild Caught Fisheries	51	44	42	41	39
Food Provision	69	67	63	65	68
Mariculture	100	100	100	100	100
Iconic Species	66	68	68	68	67
Sense of Place	83	84	84	84	83
Lasting Special Places	100	100	100	100	100
Natural Products	91	91	89	86	85
Tourism and Recreation	13	13	14	15	16

Improving scores

- Food provision goal increased by 3 points
- Clean waters score increased by 2 points
- Tourism and recreation increased by 1 point

Declining scores

- Wild Caught Fisheries declined by 2 points
- Iconic species, natural products, and sense of place declined by 1 point each

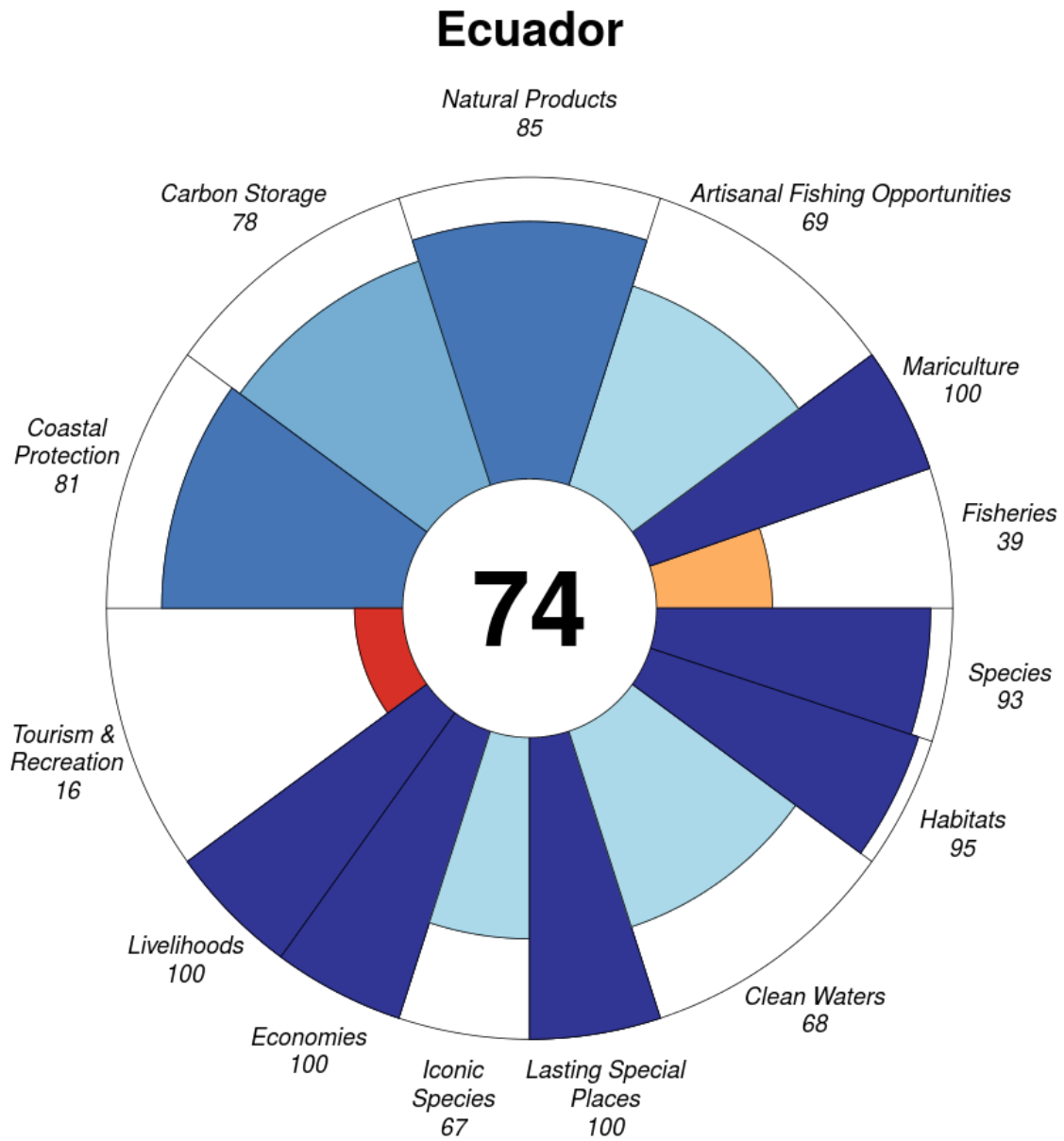


Figure 2: OHI 2016 Global Assessment: Ecuador's Flower Plot

Explanation of Ecuador's scores

The overall score for Ecuador is 74, which is unchanged from 2015. Tourism and recreation remains the lowest scoring goal, which means that a small percentage of the coastal population is involved in the tourism industry, implying that tourism benefits are unequally distributed. Also, wild caught fisheries remains under 50, which means that some fisheries resources are being harvested beyond sustainable level while others may be under harvested.

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