

**BRAZILIAN MARITIME GDP, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL
MOTIVATIONS FOR ITS MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING****Israel de Oliveira Andrade**

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Being a nation of continental dimensions, Brazil has the sea as an important national heritage. Historically, the oceans are environments of discovery, full of opportunities that cross sectors such as trade, transportation, food, energy, and leisure, among many others. The relevance of the sea for Brazil can be seen in figures – more than 90% of the country's agricultural and livestock production flows by sea and approximately 95% of the oil and natural gas are extracted from basins located on the Brazilian continental shelf.

The relationship between the sea and the economy has given this environment huge strategic importance. In this sense, from the development of Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) and knowledge that allows different forms of exploitation of these spaces, the oceans have been identified as a new economic frontier, especially in the context of the so-called "blue economy". Above all, it is a vision of the sea as a source of economic growth, based on the sustainable use of the natural resources. In this way, it becomes possible to generate jobs and investments, in a coordinated way, while promoting the conservation of maritime spaces.

The means of economic exploitation of the sea are diverse, covering sectors such as energy, fishing, tourism, transport, biotechnology, and naval construction.

The extensive national maritime space provides Brazil with great opportunities to take advantage of its potential. However, the different possibilities also result in challenges to be overcome by the country. It is essential, in this context, the development of public policies aimed at economic activities carried out in Brazilian waters. To this end, a study of the data and statistics regarding these activities is fundamental for a correct understanding of their dimension.

This discussion paper is based on the method of descriptive inference, conducted through a bibliographical survey and consultation of official sources. Its objective is to point out the importance of measuring, in a continuous and systematic way, the so-called Brazilian Maritime GDP, by means of a methodology to be implemented and officially recognized. The aim is to answer the following research problem: what are the main motivations for the systematic measurement and monitoring of the Brazilian Maritime GDP? It is hypothesized that there are social, economic and environmental motivations that recommend a more attentive and effective approach by the State.

From the surveys conducted throughout this work, it is possible to observe important initiatives regarding public policies for the sustainable use of

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the sea and, more specifically, efforts to measure the Brazilian Maritime GDP. In this sense, the creation of the Technical Group “Maritime GDP”, within the Interministerial Commission for Sea Resources (CIRM), in 2020, stands out.

Supporting the relevance of measuring the Brazilian Sea GDP, the need for updated data was observed as a necessary tool to assist in the formulation of public policies and decision making on the subject. The importance of accurate information about all sectors involved is in accordance with the optics of the data-driven economy and data-driven innovation, concepts explored throughout this paper. Thus, the mapping and integrated monitoring of the activities related to the Blue Economy are fundamental, and thus are priority steps for the treatment of the issue in Brazil.

Taking into consideration the factors explored along this text, it is recommended that the State seek to further expand the debate with the Brazilian society, accompanied by evidence, through updated data and information that point to the economic, social and environmental relevance of the Blue Amazon. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the close relationship between the Blue Economy and Sustainable Development and to take advantage of the international momentum favorable to the seas and oceans agenda – as highlighted in the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Ocean Science. It is also recommended that the debate around the subject should not be restricted only to government and academia, but should involve civil society in a broader and more transversal way.