

Section 4

Changes since the second *World Ocean Assessment*

Section 4 of the third *World Ocean Assessment* is focused on providing details of the changes that have occurred in the ocean since the period covered by the second *Assessment*, i.e. between 2018 and 2023, relating directly to the corresponding chapters in the second *Assessment*. All relevant information is described with respect to various geographical ocean regions.

Chapter 1 (Drivers) of section 4 provides a list of drivers updated since the second *World Ocean Assessment*. Chapter 2 (Scientific understanding) is focused on improvements and advancements in ocean science and technology, including various human-ocean interactions and relationships. Chapters 3 (Trends in the physical and chemical state of the ocean), 4 (Biodiversity) and 5 (Habitats) provide updates since the second *Assessment*. A subchapter on cephalopods has been incorporated into chapter 4 and a subchapter on fjord systems has been added to chapter 5. Furthermore, the subchapter entitled “Open ocean” in the second *Assessment* has been replaced by the subchapter “Pelagic domain”, which also includes shelf areas. Chapter 6 (Pressures) provides a cross-cutting analysis of changes in pressures, such as erosion and sedimentation, and cumulative effects.