

# The Blue Commons

## Rescuing the Economy of the Sea

### Guy Standing

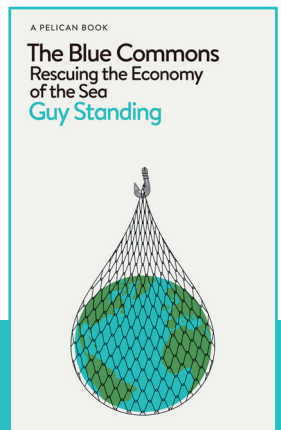
Planet Earth is mostly blue - about 70% of the earth's surface is covered by the oceans, which provide half of the oxygen we breathe and three-quarters of all life on Earth. But who owns the sea?

About 40% of the world's population lives in coastal communities and depends on ocean resources. They are in trouble. Since the twentieth century governments and corporations around the world, often corruptly, have pushed a fatally flawed maxim of 'blue growth', destroying fish populations and plundering vital ocean ecosystems.

The sea has been extensively enclosed for private gain, generating multiple inequalities. A system of rentier capitalism now dominates the marine economy, based on privatization, rapacious financial capital and a remorseless drive for profit over people and ecosystems.

*The Blue Commons* peels back the veil of the boundless exploitation and inherent criminality in the ocean economy. Written by an economist responsible for much of our contemporary understanding of inequality and possible solutions, this book not only reveals the scale of the challenge but points to a transformative alternative: building a blue commons, dismantling rentier capitalism and prioritizing the world's commoners and the health of our oceans.

To purchase a copy, visit:  
<https://smarturl.it/thebluecommons>

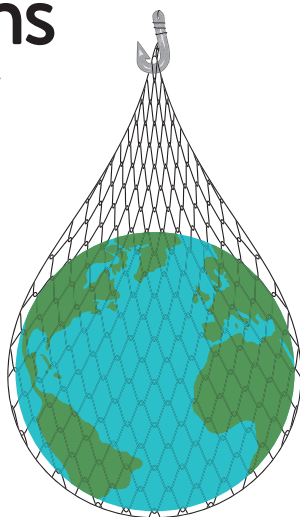


A PELICAN BOOK

# The Blue Commons

## Rescuing the Economy of the Sea

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‘Looking out of my window at the radiant blue of the Aegean Sea, I surrender to the dream of a near future where Guy Standing’s *Blue Commons* proposals have been implemented – an indispensable blue section of any genuine Green New Deal. It is a good dream, one that deserves a shot at infecting our sad reality’

YANIS VAROUFAKIS

‘Guy Standing writes with remarkable erudition, but also with passion and lyricism about the *Blue Commons*. He commands the reader to wake up to the threat posed by rentier capitalism’s violent policies for extraction, exploitation and depletion of that which is both common to us all, but also vital to our survival: the sea and all within it. He offers radical and hopeful alternatives to the dominant economics for ‘making a killing’ from the commodification of nature – giving hope to the dedicated stewards of the seas – fishers and ‘blue commoners’ – but also to his readers’

ANN PETTIFOR, AUTHOR OF *THE CASE FOR THE NEW GREEN DEAL*

‘As capital sets its sights on the seas, our planet’s final frontier, the struggle for the commons becomes all the more urgent. This is a **powerful, visionary book - essential reading for all who yearn for a better world**’

JASON HICKEL, AUTHOR OF *LESS IS MORE: HOW DEGROWTH WILL SAVE THE WORLD*

‘A powerful indictment of all that has gone wrong with contemporary oceanic governance, and an inspiring account of how it can be put right. Guy Standing shows how local communities can turn the tide on neoliberal excess and put a vibrant and inclusive politics in its place’

CHRIS ARMSTRONG, AUTHOR OF *A BLUE NEW DEAL: WHY WE NEED A NEW POLITICS FOR THE OCEAN*

‘Shines a bright light on the economy of the oceans, directing us brilliantly towards where a sustainable future lies’

DANNY DORLING

‘In this **landmark book**, Guy Standing not only documents how state-corporate collusion is destroying fragile ocean ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal communities. He explains how degrowth economics and fishery commons could restore the ‘Blue Commons-Wealth’ that belongs to all of us. *The Blue Commons* is at once a brilliant synthesis, a searing analysis, and an inspiring call to action’

DAVID BOLLIER