

## *Foreword*

This report considers how marine biotechnology can contribute to economic and social prosperity and offer potential solutions to global challenges by making use of recent advances in science and technology. It looks at how these advances are improving our understanding of marine life and facilitating access to and study of marine organisms and ecosystems and their largely untapped potential. It examines the challenges associated with the development of these resources, which exist in complex ecosystems and are distributed throughout a vast shared environment. The report argues for a new global framework for the sustainable development of marine biotechnology and identifies areas that may benefit from greater attention as governments develop policies to support marine biotechnology. It also notes some early policy lessons learned by governments that have sought to benefit from bioresources.

An OECD Global Forum on Biotechnology was held in Vancouver, Canada, in 2012 to discuss the opportunities and challenges of marine biotechnology. The forum, entitled *Marine Biotechnology – Enabling Solutions for Ocean Productivity and Sustainability*, brought together policy makers, regulators, industry leaders, academics and social and natural scientists from the 34 OECD countries and from non-member and developing countries to review recent research and debates and to discuss how to realise the potential of marine biotechnology. Insights gained from expert speakers and roundtable discussions over two days were combined with substantive background research by the OECD's Working Party on Biotechnology in order to define opportunities as well as areas in need of further attention. This report presents a synthesis of that work.

The report was drafted by Rachael Ritchie and Jim Philp under the direction of the Working Party on Biotechnology (WPB). Special thanks go to the WPB steering group (composed of representatives from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Israel, Korea, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, the United States, the European Union and BIAC); Genome Canada, Genome British Columbia, Genome Atlantic, Health Canada, the Research Council of Norway, the Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Korean Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, which provided support for the Vancouver meeting; and Jody Wright of the University of British Columbia, whose summary of the Vancouver workshop made an invaluable contribution to this report.



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