Policy subject: Marine Resources Sustainability and Waste Disposal Policy	Policy number: 18/P.D/2024	Date of last revision: 2024/11/15
Implementing body: Administrative Affairs Department	Implementing start date: 2024/11/20	Policy reference: Planning and Development Department

Overview: Palestine Ahliya University (PAU) is committed to promoting sustainable practices in marine resource management and reducing pollution to protect aquatic ecosystems. This policy focuses on implementing strict environmental standards to preserve water quality, minimize waste—particularly plastic—and encourage sustainable use of marine resources. PAU actively supports research and educational initiatives to raise awareness and develop innovative solutions for the sustainability of marine environments.

Objectives:

➢ **Ensure Compliance with Water Quality Standards:**
Protect marine ecosystems by ensuring all university operations align with strict water quality requirements.

➢ **Minimize Plastic Waste:**
Achieve significant annual reductions in plastic waste across all campus activities.

➢ **Support Sustainable Sourcing of Aquatic Food:**
Ensure that all seafood consumed at the university is sustainably sourced from non-threatened aquatic ecosystems.

Scope:

This policy applies to all university activities and initiatives related to marine resources and waste management, including:

1. Ensuring compliance with environmental standards for water quality.
2. Implementing strategies to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable practices.

3. Supporting educational and research programs focused on marine conservation and sustainability.

Statements:

PAU is committed to sustainable marine resource management by promoting environmentally responsible practices, reducing pollution, and supporting aquatic ecosystem conservation. By adopting innovative solutions and fostering awareness, the university ensures its operations contribute positively to the health and sustainability of marine environments.

Procedures:

1. **Set Standards:**

- Review national and international regulations on water quality, waste discharge, and sustainable aquatic food sourcing.
- Define clear criteria for water quality, plastic waste reduction, and sustainable aquatic food practices tailored to the university's needs and the local environment.

2. **Create Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:**

- Install devices to monitor water quality at discharge points and establish a periodic plan for analysis.
- Develop systems for tracking plastic waste generation, recycling, and the use of sustainable aquatic food practices.

3. **Training and Awareness:**

- Train staff and educate students on water quality standards, responsible plastic use, and sustainable consumption of aquatic resources.
- Organize workshops and awareness campaigns to promote environmental sustainability.

4. **Implement Treatment and Waste Reduction Processes:**

- Develop small-scale water treatment plants to remove pollutants and reuse water where possible.
- Replace single-use plastics with reusable alternatives and establish recycling stations across campus.
- Manage aquatic food waste and redirect surplus food for hunger relief initiatives.

5. **Conduct Regular Assessments:**

- Perform periodic checks on water quality, plastic waste, and food sourcing practices to ensure compliance with established standards.
- Prepare reports summarizing progress and improvements.

6. **Collaborate and Develop Partnerships:**

- Partner with environmental organizations and sustainable suppliers to promote best practices in water management, plastic reduction, and aquatic food sourcing.
- Support local suppliers committed to sustainability and environmental conservation.

7. **Reporting and Transparency:**

- Share reports on water quality and plastic waste reduction efforts with relevant authorities and publish results on the university's website.

KPIs:

- ➢ Compliance rate with water quality standards.
- ➢ Annual percentage reduction in plastic waste.
- ➢ Percentage of aquatic food sourced sustainably.