

2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE
ONLINE STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING: INPUTS TO THE POLITICAL
DECLARATION ZERO DRAFT

23 March 2022

10:30 – 11:30 AM (EDT, New York)

Written Statement

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The Pew Charitable Trusts is a global research and public policy organization, operating as an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to serving the public. We provide technical expertise, develop and manage research projects, and communicate scientific results to inform conservation policy and the sustainable management of natural resources. We thank the UN Ocean Conference organizers this opportunity to input on the Zero Draft and offer the following comments:

- The Zero Draft should include reference to SDG 14.6 and the need to eliminate harmful fisheries subsidies. Should the WTO reach an agreement at MC12 this summer the declaration could include the following text: **“Welcoming the outcomes of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference and the conclusion of negotiations of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement we commit to the effective implementation of the new agreement, recognizing the importance of technical assistance and capacity building for the developing and least developed countries in their efforts to achieve SDG target 14.6.”** If an agreement is not reached before the UN Ocean Conference there should be a call for a speedy conclusion at the WTO to end harmful fisheries subsidies.
- In addition, fisheries subsidies should be included in paragraph 11.b (underlined and in bold):
 - Restoring fish stock to levels that produce at maximum sustainable yield in the shortest time feasible and minimizing waste, unwanted by-catch and discards, through **eliminating harmful fisheries subsidies**, combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing including through the use of communication tools and other technological tools for monitoring, control and surveillance, as well as through the use of an ecosystem approach to fisheries that protect essential habitats and promote collaborative processes for decision-making that include all stakeholders, including small-scale and artisanal fisheries, recognizing the importance of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
- It is also important that stakeholders are involved in ocean governance and not left out of the room due to covid or other circumstances, we thus offer the following addition to paragraph 9 (underlined and in bold):
 - We recognize the importance of concluding the work undertaken by the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction **in 2022, with the full participation of all Observers, including civil society representatives.**

Thank you for your consideration.