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Dear UN Oceans Conference:

With this letter the **Aquatic Life Institute** is pleased to submit its written intervention at the 2022 UN Oceans Conference.

Achieving truly sustainable ocean conservation practices requires that we prioritize the main stakeholders -- and that is the aquatic animals themselves. International bodies such as UN Oceans must begin to take aquatic animal welfare into its discourse, as healthy and humanely treated animals also benefit people and the environment, ultimately contributing to SDG14.

We urge for a more concerted and coordinated movement on research, investment, regulations and technological innovation in both aquaculture and fisheries to help reduce unnecessary suffering and mortality, and thereby strengthen the health of fish populations and the entire marine ecosystem.

The Aquatic Life Institute is an international NGO working to improve the welfare of all aquatic animals in both aquaculture and capture fisheries. We believe in multi-stakeholder collaborations and have created international coalitions to propel the movement forward for aquatic animal protection at all levels of society. Since earlier this year, we embarked on a new journey to improve animal welfare in marine capture fisheries, by advocating for an animal welfare-based approach to commercial fishing.

We are pleased to announce our commitment to continuing advocating on behalf of aquatic animals for their welfare and the health of the oceans for decades to come.

We hope that the UN Oceans Conference can formally recognize the importance of incorporating aquatic animal welfare for sustainable development.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Xu