



Written intervention from the Marine Stewardship Council

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We have heard this week about the critical importance of fishing for many communities around the world. Whether in Fiji or France, India or Iceland, communities rely on a thriving healthy ocean and abundant marine resources for their livelihoods, food security and future.

But over a third of fisheries are overfished. As populations rise and seafood consumption increases, the pressure to further overexploit our marine resources for short-term economic gain is immense.

If we take care of the ocean, it takes care of us. Fish stocks are the ultimate renewable food resource. When managed sustainably, they are more productive and resilient long-term and stocks which have been overfished, can be rebuilt. Sustainable fishing, should be at the centre of the 'blue food' revolution, as we create resilient food systems for the future.

Unlike many SDG targets, there is global consensus on the actions needed to accelerate progress towards target 14.4, and end overfishing. This target was due in 2020. We are already late – and put it plainly – our Ocean cannot wait.

The Marine Stewardship Council sets the world's most recognised sustainability standard for seafood. 19% of the wild marine catch comes from fisheries engaged with our programme. Our pledge to this Conference, is that by 2030, that will rise to **one-third** of the entire global wild marine catch.

Everyone has a part to play. We particularly need governments to do more. To look beyond national self-interest and act to secure the long-term future of this shared resource – our global commons – not least to put in place stronger measures to manage fish stocks sustainably across national boundaries.

We call on all gathered here, to recognise the grave threat overfishing presents. But also to be optimistic. If we prioritise and deliver action, we can end it.