



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Breakfast Briefing: Fisheries Management as Climate Action

Wednesday, 29 June, 08h30-09h30

Honest Greens, Alameda dos Oceanos 21101F, 1990-225 Lisbon

Organized by: Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V., German Postcode Lottery, Our Fish, Sciaena, University of British Columbia Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries.

Background on the event

This interactive panel discusses how fisheries management is a means to responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis. Global experts provided the basics of the science, before the panel discussed the politics and opportunities for transforming fisheries management into a positive driver for mitigating climate change and restoring ocean health.

Key Issues discussed

- Lacking awareness that fishing has a big effect on the climate: fish sequester carbon, as does the seafloor
- Weakening ocean ecosystems from overfishing weakens its ability to sequester carbon and adapt to climate change
- We need to restore fish populations and marine ecosystems
- Lack of political will is the main challenge for delivering the action we need to halt the nature and climate crisis
- Germany and the EU have substantial potential and power to transform fisheries management so that it delivers climate action

Key recommendations for action

- The European Commission's new Ocean Action Plan should address bottom trawling and its impacts on the ocean carbon pump
- We need more protected areas, including on the high seas, to be effectively managed
- Harmful subsidies should be removed
- Ambition and rhetoric need to be followed up with action
- We should manage our fisheries for the 7th generation