

Distinguished delegates, esteemed colleagues,

It is an honour to address you on the urgent need to foster sustainable fisheries in an era of transformation.

I represent the Government of the Faroe Islands — a self-governing country within the Kingdom of Denmark.

We are a small island nation with a vast ocean territory in the North Atlantic. Per capita, we are the world's largest exporter of aquatic food products.

In fact, 95% of our exports come from fisheries and aquaculture — providing healthy and sustainable aquatic food to the global market. In addition seaweed farming is a growing industry on our islands.

We are active members of several **Regional Fisheries Management Organizations**, which remain the cornerstone of high seas governance.

Through science-based mandates — from setting quotas to compliance monitoring — RFMOs play a vital role in ensuring sustainability across jurisdictions.

Climate change is reshaping marine ecosystems. The Faroe Marine Research Institute plays a key role in monitoring the Gulf Stream and oceanographic changes in the North Atlantic — work that enhances our understanding of climate impacts on fish stocks and biodiversity.

The Kingdom of Denmark — comprising the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark — currently holds the Chairship of the **Arctic Council**.

Oceans and climate change are high on our agenda. As a part of this the Faroe Islands will host an **international Ocean Conference** in 2026, in cooperation with the UArctic Congress, focusing on connectivity, species migration, and sustainable marine governance in the Arctic.

Another priority of the chairship is **advancing marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management** — tools to reduce conflict and support co-existence between sectors.

This is vital for a **small ocean nation as ours**, where fisheries intersect with aquaculture, shipping, tourism, and renewable energy. The challenge is to develop effective tools to align these interests to use our marine space effectively.

A resilient **Blue Economy** also means maximizing the value of what we harvest — through innovation, reduced waste, and circular seafood systems. But to realize this, we must also address tariff and non-tariff trade barriers that limit market access.

In closing, our oceans demand governance that is science-based, climate-aware, and inclusive. Let us strengthen cooperation and advance sustainable fisheries together – regionally and globally.

Thank you.