

Statement of Iceland at UNOC 3, Nice, France
Ocean Action panel 9:
Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean
for poverty eradication and food security

Moderator, Co-Chairs, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to deliver this intervention on behalf of Iceland and in my capacity as Chair of the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition.

Let me highlight three key points:

First, we must raise global awareness of the essential role that aquatic blue foods play in achieving food security, improved nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods. These foods provide vital nutrition to billions of people and support the livelihoods of over 600 million individuals worldwide. Yet, despite their immense value, aquatic blue foods remain underrepresented in major global food and climate dialogues. This must change. We must elevate their visibility and recognize their contributions to food security, public health, equity, and climate resilience, economic and social well-being.

Second, the importance of aquatic blue foods must be acknowledged at the highest levels of climate policy. As we look ahead to COP30, we urge countries to incorporate the significance of aquatic blue foods into their national policies and negotiating positions. This UN Ocean Conference must deliver a clear and unified message to COP30: blue foods and oceans must be integral to the COP30 outcomes. Food systems are central to climate solutions, and aquatic blue foods are a critical component of those systems.

Finally, I wish to emphasize the role of the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition. Launched at the UN Ocean Conference in 2022 as a follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. The Coalition has since evolved into a dynamic platform for international collaboration. It brings together governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector to advocate for the inclusion of blue foods in climate, ocean, and food system dialogues across global forums. We encourage like-minded countries to join the Coalition and help elevate aquatic blue foods to the prominence they deserve.

In closing, Iceland stands ready to work with all partners to ensure that aquatic blue foods are fully integrated into global efforts toward a food-secure, climate-resilient, and equitable future.