



Statement of: **Monterey Bay Aquarium**, California, United States of America

Presenter: Jennifer Dianto Kemmerly, Vice President, Global Ocean Conservation

Regarding: Ocean Action Panel 9: Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security

Strong governance is essential to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture that are socially just, environmentally responsible and economically viable, preserving the food, livelihood and climate services played by healthy oceans and coasts.

For more than two decades Monterey Bay Aquarium has assessed the environmental impact of global fisheries and aquaculture and built a market demand for sustainable seafood. Our global fishery and aquaculture projects work to address impediments to sustainability – an approach that warrants engagement of multiple stakeholders leveraging science and community-based approaches to facilitate improvement.

With support from the private, philanthropic and development sectors, and in coordination with NGOs, government and industry, we have developed and deployed inexpensive, fit for purpose social & environmental tools that 1) strengthen data collection among small scale producers, 2) improve the collective understanding of underlying issues impeding sustainability, and 3) verify performance to improve market access and de-risk investment.

We believe a multistakeholder approach is critical to addressing the multiple dimensions of sustainability and call on governments to support such initiatives through participation in project-specific dialogue & design, capacity building, and in supporting deployment of solutions that emerge from such efforts.

As such, we look forward to continued partnership in support of sustainable blue swimming crab fisheries with the Philippines and Tunisia, sustainable shrimp aquaculture in Vietnam, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh, and importantly, strong engagement with all aquaculture producing countries to adopt best practices, including those for bacterial management, so that we may fully realize the potential of blue foods for poverty eradication, food security, and thriving oceans.