

Statement by the Regular Process for Ocean Action Panel 9: Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Group of Experts of the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects – I would like to contribute few points related to this discussion.

We are well into the final stages of the third cycle of the Regular Process for producing the World Ocean Assessment – which provides a comprehensive view of the state of global marine environment.

Not surprisingly, we are finding that all components of the ocean are affected by climate change and human activities. Since the last World Ocean Assessment, we are finding that changes are occurring more rapidly than we thought.

Increases in global population, resource use and urbanisation are driving changes to the marine environment. Many of the benefits that humans derive from the ocean, especially food, are at risk.

Food systems are highly dependent on the environment and exert substantial pressure on it. Marine food sources are not evenly distributed and those in need of food are not always near the source. There is work to be done to integrate global policy frameworks and improve on value chains to foster an equitable and resilient food systems. Aquaculture is rapidly developing, but is also exerting substantial pressures to local marine environments.

There are positive steps taking place globally. Since World Ocean Assessment #2, significant progress has been made in prioritising seafood systems. Technological advances have been made in processing will help with sustainable growth of food security, with aquaculture products increasing and taking place of wild harvested seafoods.

Trade regulations, certifications and traceability tools support sustainability. New remote technologies are assisting to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. New techniques are being developed to increase shelf life, increase revenue and enhance nutritional value of seafood products.

The results of the third World Ocean Assessment will be finalised in the coming months with more details available for you on food sustainability and security.

We trust that the results from World Ocean Assessments will assist policy makers globally. We plan to commence the 4th cycle of the Regular Process soon.

I am happy to talk about the Regular Process with anyone with questions in between sessions of this Conference.

Thank you.
