



Written Statement/Input to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference

Global Fishing Watch | Submitted by Tony Long, Chief Executive Officer

Theme of the Conference: Scaling up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

Multiple SDGs recognize that humanity's well-being is intertwined with the health of the ocean. For coastal populations, the ocean is not only a source of food and livelihoods, it is an intrinsic part of their culture and heritage. For the millions of people who earn their living from the ocean, it is a source of income and a way of life. The pressures on the ocean are intense and growing – but we know recovery is possible. Crucially, a healthy ocean holds the solutions to many of the world's challenges. Putting sustainability at the centre of ocean management is essential for protection, production and prosperity that benefits people, nature and the economy.

[Global Fishing Watch](#) is an international nonprofit organization founded on the belief that information about the ocean, our global commons, should be common knowledge. Our purpose is to create and publicly share knowledge about human activity at sea to enable sustainable use of our ocean. We create knowledge using cutting-edge technology to turn big data into actionable information. We share that information publicly to accelerate science and drive fairer, smarter policies and practices that reward good behavior and protect biodiversity and livelihoods. And we promote international cooperation and [transparency](#) around ocean data to enable a new era of ocean governance.

Transparency, information sharing and global cooperation are central to the international community's ability to scale up ocean action and secure the implementation of SDG 14 and the other closely linked goals. Transparency is crucial for good governance, inclusive decision-making and accountability: putting information on vessels, States, international organizations or even private actors in the public domain enables scrutiny, encourages compliance, and builds trust in the regime.

High quality, usable and accessible data can improve the science we need for the ocean we want during the [The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#). Equitable and open access to [data and data science methodologies](#) facilitates use by a culturally and economically diverse and distributed network of researchers and academic institutions - inspiring novel collaborations, driving innovation and amplifying ocean science impact.

Global Fishing Watch is in the vanguard of global efforts to realize a transformational shift toward transparency in ocean governance and data-led decision making. Since 2017, a [growing number of governments](#) have adopted public sharing of their vessel monitoring system data via our [ground-breaking map](#), and harnessed our open tools and analysis to strengthen monitoring and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.



Global Fishing Watch

Working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Fishing Watch published the [Global Atlas of AIS-Based Fishing Activity](#) which demonstrates the potential for transparency to assist with fisheries management and research around the globe by enabling stakeholders to understand the opportunity and challenges of [mapping and analyzing fishing activity](#) with public data. These innovative methods have allowed us to take stock and estimate [the global footprint of fisheries](#) and to scale up our action by bringing together previously isolated datasets that – when combined – can [prevent illegal catch from being laundered at sea](#) or [determine where and how marine protections will be most effective](#).

Transparency facilitates progress and partnerships at every opportunity. By [publishing what is possible](#), we continue to increase our network of [academic](#), [operational](#) and [government](#) partners seeking to scale up ocean action. Many stakeholders around the world have [embraced transparency as a solution](#), and the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference represents an opportunity for others to join them.