

Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS)

OUR PLEDGE FOR COMBATTING IUU FISHING RELATED TO JAPAN

PREAMBLE

1. Welcoming the amendment to the Fishery Act of Japan:

As members of the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship initiative (SeaBOS), our companies welcome the recent amendment to the Fishery Act of Japan that was adopted on 8th December 2018. By contributing in an important way to developing and improving the scientific management of Japan's fishery resources, the Fishery Act amendment will help ensure the sustainability and profitability of the Japanese seafood industry for years to come. We support the appropriate implementation and enforcement of the amended law.

2. Our aspirations for future policy developments in Japan:

As major seafood companies, we recognize and appreciate the role that Japan plays as one of the largest and most important fish consuming and producing nations. By modernizing the scientific basis for management of Japan's fisheries and aquaculture, the new Fishery Act amendment is an important step forward. However, efforts to ensure the sustainability and profitability of Japan's seafood industry continue to face negative impacts from illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which persists in many fisheries around the world including in the EEZ of Japan. As long as the products of IUU fishing are able to enter markets in Japan and elsewhere, responsible seafood products will face unfair competition. For this reason, we strongly support the future development of systems that help eliminate IUU fishing from seafood supply chains.

OUR PLEDGE

3. Elimination of any IUU fishing and modern slavery from our supply chain:

In our capacity as an initiative of ten of the largest seafood companies in the world, we have pledged to make it a priority to ensure that IUU fishing and modern slavery are eliminated from our supply chains. This work has only recently begun, but we are already making progress in developing corporate strategies, policies and practices, that will substantially reduce the risks of such problems. One important mechanism is through improved traceability, including through our collaboration with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST).

4. Sharing our progress and experiences in eliminating IUU fishing:

We pledge to share our progress and experiences in eliminating IUU fishing and modern slavery, and in improving traceability. We welcome an opportunity to collaborate with the Japanese government and production countries' governments in the move towards such goals.



Chairman Shigeru Ito,
on behalf of all SeaBOS members