

Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS)

OUR PLEDGE FOR OCEAN STEWARDSHIP – OUR PLEA TO GOVERNMENTS

PREAMBLE

Producing healthy food to feed more than nine billion people by 2050, while sustaining the biosphere, is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. We are convinced that an expansion of global seafood production, including both from wild capture fisheries and aquaculture, represents a critical opportunity to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adequately regulated and managed seafood production, together with innovative technologies, will increase the supply of healthy food, which in turn can alleviate pressure on terrestrial food production systems.

Seafood already plays a central role in the global food portfolio, contributing 20 % of the global intake of animal protein. Capture fisheries – the only large-scale food production system based on harvest of a wild resource – provide half of global seafood. However, many improvements must be made for all wild-capture fisheries to be sustainable. While some regulated fisheries result in overfishing, the global community has so far failed to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries, modern slavery on fishing vessels, and destructive impacts on habitats and non-target species. These problems could be addressed with better scientific information, more effective regulations and better mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing compliance. Governments also have much to learn from each other. Improved fishery management, sometimes including a reduction of fishing pressure over the short term, often corresponds to rebuilding of stocks and long-term benefits for both ecosystems and people. Global fisheries landings could increase substantially if stocks are managed properly.

Aquaculture has dramatically changed global seafood supply. The provision of healthy and sustainable seafood needs to increase further to meet future demand. However, the aquaculture sector is highly diverse in terms of environmental performance. To meet future needs, governance needs to address more comprehensively the challenges of feeds, pollution, spread of diseases and overuse of antibiotics.

Increasing the production of healthy and sustainable food from the ocean is not just about seafood production – it must rely on a foundation of ocean stewardship. Seafood producers from around the world, regardless of their scale of operations, have one thing in common: they all depend on healthy, functioning ecosystems. If the ocean is not managed in a sustainable way, fisheries and aquaculture will not be able to deliver its full potential.

Well managed fisheries and aquaculture, produced in resilient ecosystems, result in healthy and sustainable protein supplies. Adequate regulations and best practices are critical for sustaining and expanding future seafood production in ways that contribute to meeting the SDGs. There is no seafood industry in a dead ocean. And we believe there is no chance to meet the Global Goals without seafood.

WHO WE ARE

We, members of the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS) initiative, represent nine of the largest seafood producers in the world. We operate on every continent and in all segments of seafood production. We are the global industry leaders in fisheries and aquaculture.

We work closely together with scientists to identify problems and solutions to achieve a healthy ocean and a planet where people from all parts of the world can eat healthy and sustainable seafood. Together, we represent a global force, with a unique ability to inspire business actors along the entire seafood value chain and support governments in achieving the SDGs. We are committed to use our combined power to lead by example, and to use our united voice to argue for change.

We will improve our own operations, and challenge the rest of the industry to follow. We will also offer our support to regulators, in order to ensure that fisheries, aquaculture, and the ocean at large, are managed in a sustainable way.

Our work started in November of 2016, when eight of us met for the first time in a global dialogue about the future of the ocean. This meeting, termed the Soneva Dialogue, resulted in a joint statement, published in December of 2016, where we expressed our intent to take on a leadership role for the ocean and when we announced the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship initiative. In May 2017, we met again, this time in Stockholm and with additional companies, in order to further develop this initiative.

OUR PLEDGE

We represent a young initiative, but are already able to make a number of strong commitments for ocean stewardship.

We pledge to work diligently to eliminate IUU products and any form of modern slavery in our supply chains. We will develop a code of conduct for our own operations and for our suppliers, in order to deliver on these commitments. We will also work towards full traceability and transparency throughout our supply chains.

We pledge to make efficient use of aquaculture feeds and to use fish feed resources from sustainably harvested stocks. We pledge to actively use and develop fish health management systems and health prevention methods before treatments. We will actively use and apply existing certification standards and prevent harmful discharges and habitat destruction. We call on the whole industry to do the same.

We also pledge to work actively together with governments to improve existing regulations for fisheries, for aquaculture, and for the ocean.

We will report on our progress with this work, one year from now, in June of 2018.

OUR PLEA

We strongly urge all governments to work together to address IUU fishing. In order for wild capture fisheries to further develop, we encourage governments to end overfishing and rebuild depleted stocks. This critically means respecting scientific advice on quotas and the sharing of best practices in regulations.

We urge all governments to work together to improve regulations in international waters. We call on all governments to sign up to the FAO Port States Measures Agreements (PSMA) and to develop a regulatory international treaty, analogous to the PSMA, which bans all landing of IUU fish, for UN members to ratify.

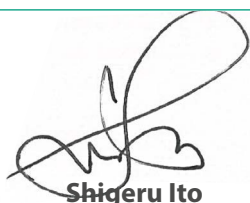
We urge governments to develop a shared framework for sustainable aquaculture. Governments have an important role to play in developing regulations that improve resource usage and manage diseases. It is critical to take this responsibility seriously. We also urge governments to actively share experiences between countries to improve existing policies.

We welcome new technologies and innovation that contribute to improved fisheries and aquaculture management, regulations and policy, as well as the monitoring of compliance to such regulations.

Finally, we demand that governments of the world address the challenges currently facing our industry, originating from outside of our sector. We are unable to safeguard and much less expand our production of healthy and sustainable protein to meet the needs of a growing and wealthier world population if toxic pollutants or plastic particles contaminate fish, if there is no clean water for our aquaculture operations nor if climate change, ocean acidification, and low dissolved oxygen levels undermine our long-term operations.

We will support you in all these efforts to the best of our ability.

SIGNATORIES



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Norio Hosomi
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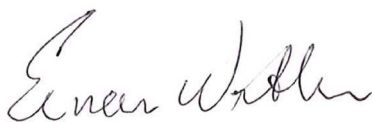
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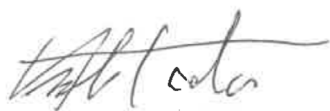
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