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CEOs of SeaBOS member companies CP Foods, Cermaq Group, Maruha Nichiro, Skretting, Thai Union, Cargill Aqua Nutrition, Dongwon Industries (Vice President), Kyokuyo, Nissui, Dongwon Industries (CEO) at the APEC House in Busan, Korea.

SeaBOS CEOs call on APEC to end IUU fishing in the Pacific

SeaBOS represents nine of the largest seafood producers in the world. As the CEOs of those member companies, we have reaffirmed our pledge to work diligently to eliminate illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing (IUU) products and modern slavery in our supply chains. To deliver on those commitments we adhere to a code of conduct for our own operations and for our suppliers. We are also working towards full traceability and transparency throughout our supply chains.

IUU fishing and the landing of IUU catch in Pacific region ports present a significant threat to the economic viability and brand integrity of all companies across the seafood sector - including those operating in the Pacific region and those who sell Pacific seafood products around the world. Yet while our companies work together to address IUU fishing in the seafood value chain, we recognise that private, voluntary action can only succeed if we are able to work with governments committed to implementing measures agreed to as Parties to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), relevant RFMO Port State Measures, and FAO voluntary measures.

While elimination of IUU fishing across the Pacific region remains a priority for our actions, we understand that ratification of the PSMA, improvement of RFMO regional Port State Measures, transparent fisheries data, standardized RFMO processes, and the adoption of measures on trans-shipment - all critical to the elimination of IUU catch from supply chains - are actions that only APEC Economies can implement.

From our meeting here at APEC House in Busan, South Korea, we call on APEC 2023 to endorse the Seafood Sector's 2023 Call to Action to Combat IUU Fishing in the Pacific. In turn, and in the context of APEC prioritisation of Public-Private partnerships to achieve lasting food security across the Pacific region, we commit to using our best efforts to support and complement APEC efforts against IUU fishing and modern slavery through our own actions.

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