



**ICFA RESOLUTION FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS  
ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA (ICP-24)**

**June 2024**

**Preface**

From June 18-21, 2024, ocean stakeholders from around the world will gather for the ICP-24 Meeting. This event will provide a platform to discuss the latest developments in ocean-related issues. This year, the focus of the discussion will be on the theme "The Ocean as a Source of Sustainable Food."

**ICFA notes that:**

- Over 3.3 billion people around the world depend on fish for their primary source of protein. Rich in essential nutrients, fish and seafood supports brain, bone, eye and immune system health and reduces the risks of various chronic diseases, lowering risk of heart attacks, strokes, and arrhythmias. Fish and seafood also contribute to improved maternal and child health outcomes.
- The earth's oceans, covering 70% of the planet, are vital for global food security, offer sustainable, high-quality seafood products that can support both current and future generations.
- Effective management strategies have successfully rebuilt fish stocks and increased catches within ecological limits. ICFA members are fully committed to enhancing fisheries management as the essential means to secure the fishing industry's role in providing food for the world's growing population.
- Recognizing the critical role of food security in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ICFA emphasizes the potential of properly managed fisheries of all sizes to contribute to ending hunger, promoting employment, and alleviating poverty.
- FAO Reports in the State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024 that 77% of the world's wild capture fisheries landings by volume are from sustainably managed stocks.<sup>1</sup> This performance deserves better recognition on the international stage.
- The fishing industry faces pressure from environmental NGO's that often overlooks the extensive efforts made to sustainably manage fisheries and their crucial role in global food supply.
- Fish provides livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people and is one of the least environmentally impactful foods. No other natural source of protein can match fish in terms of climate footprint,

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<sup>1</sup> See UN Food and Agriculture Organization State of World Fisheries 2024.

nutritional value, and taste. As the world's population continues to grow, ensuring a stable food supply is a critical global task.

**Therefore, ICFA urges:**

- Recognize the critical importance of sustainable fishing practices for both the environment and food security, emphasizing the balance between conservation and sustainable use of marine resources to alleviate strain on land resources. Fishing is not a problem. It is part of the solution.
- Strengthening and promotion of effective fisheries management practices to rebuild and maintain fish stocks.
- Collaboration between industry, governments, and environmental NGOs. This collaboration should recognize the valuable role fishers play in feeding the world, promote effective fisheries management, and shift the narrative around the fishing industry by highlighting its contribution to global food security. By engaging in constructive dialogue, all stakeholders can work together for a sustainable future for our oceans as primary source of food supply to the World's growing population.