



RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE & FISHERIES

November 2024

Preface

The world's policymakers are gathering at the UNFCCC COP 29. In this framework, the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) would like to remind the negotiators of how fisheries are at the water and climate nexus. Namely, ICFA points to (1) the impact of climate change on marine ecosystems and fish stocks; and (2) the fisheries sector's contribution to mitigating climate change.

Resolution

Whereas climate change impacts marine ecosystems, fish stocks, and the activities at sea and its consequences such as rise of temperature, acidification, eutrophication, sea level rise, migration of species are intensifying;

Whereas these climate impacts directly threaten food security and the socio-economic well-being of many regions of the world and up to a third of the world's population;

Whereas COP 29 UNFCCC creates a momentum to find solutions to mitigate climate change with a focus on the water and climate nexus;

Whereas the fisheries sector contributes to the fight against climate change as fisheries products/blue foods have one of the lowest carbon footprints amongst animal proteins. Therefore, increasing the share of fisheries products/blue foods in the global diet will contribute significantly to lowering the carbon intensity of the global food system and facilitate achieving several SDGs such as SDG 2 "Zero hunger", SDG 3 "Good health and well-being", SDG 12 "Responsible consumption and production", SDG 13 "Climate action" and SDG 14 "Life below water";

Therefore, ICFA calls on the COP 29 UNFCCC to:

- Take fully into consideration the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems, fish stocks and economic activities at seas and encourage all parties to prioritize adaptation strategies to ensure the resilience of ocean and fish resources to these changes;
- Recognize that the fisheries sector plays a crucial role in combating climate change, as fisheries products and blue foods have among the lowest carbon footprints of all animal proteins. Increasing the proportion of these products in the global diet will substantially reduce the carbon intensity of the global food system, contributing significantly to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- Highlights the utmost necessity to bring together policy makers and the economic sectors, including the fisheries sector, to find pragmatic and implementable solutions to tackle climate change and to adapt to its unavoidable effects.