



United Nations
Global Compact

ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD



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INTRODUCTION

The global community is challenged with meeting a growing demand for fish as an important climate friendly source of nutrition and provider of livelihoods and economic prosperity while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of harvested stocks and farming practices.¹

Sustainable aquaculture and marine capture fisheries could supply over six times more food than they do today,² in turn, representing more than two-thirds of the edible meat that the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates will be needed to feed the future global population.³

Aquaculture in particular is expected to significantly contribute to this growth. Since 2014, aquaculture has provided more fish for human consumption than capture fisheries. By 2030, it is projected to provide about 59 per cent of the fish available for human consumption.⁴

While seafood has the potential to deliver on healthy diets within planetary boundaries,⁵ the sector is facing a number of sustainability challenges, including overexploitation of resources, habitat destruction, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, limited transparency, overuse of antibiotics and forced labour. Promoting more responsible marine stewardship while mainstreaming sustainable management and practices wherever feasible will require a collective effort across the entire seafood value chain and beyond. Stakeholders throughout the value chain need to be suitably informed, empowered and incentivized to make decisions that align with a more responsible seafood industry which can meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This brief is the outcome of a 'sprint' convened by the United Nations Global Compact Action Platform for Sustainable Ocean Business. With both the UN Food Systems Summit and the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) taking place this year, 2021 represents a unique opportunity for the world to accelerate the development of sustainable seafood production.

Over three calls, 50 stakeholders from policy, business, science and finance discussed how the sustainable development of the seafood sector can be accelerated. The first meeting focused on the role of **measurement**, including the tools and means to enable effective comparison of seafood companies. This meeting discussed how new forms of sustainability assessments have enabled a 'race to the top' between companies, in turn, accelerating the sustainable development of the seafood industry.

The second meeting focused on the role of **finance** and how both traditional and innovative financial mechanisms can play a key role in driving the sustainable development of the seafood industry. Financing sustainable seafood means both unlocking private and public capital towards sustainable projects as well as acting as important 'gatekeepers' to ensure investments are directed towards more sustainable practices and decent working conditions.

The final meeting focused on the role of **policy and regulatory frameworks** in creating a level playing field for the seafood value chain. The meeting heard from several recent policy case studies which demonstrated ambition. This meeting made clear that Governments are essential to catalyze action and define a common language and even playing field on sustainability for the market.

Throughout all meetings, there was one resounding theme: shifting towards sustainability will require a **collective and collaborative effort** across the entire seafood value chain.

The conclusions of this report are based on inputs received during these meetings as well as written submissions. We are incredibly grateful to the many comments we received over the course of the sprint.

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1. United Nations Global Compact (2020) Practical Guidance Fisheries. Available: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/practical-guidances-for-the-un-global-compact-sustainable-ocean-principles>

2. Costello, C., L. Cao, S. Gelcich et al. (2019). The Future of Food from the Sea. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available online at www.oceanpanel.org/future-food-sea

3. FAO. 2020. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. Sustainability in action. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9229en>

4. ibid

5. Troell, M., M. Jonell, and B. Crona. (2019). Scoping report: The role of seafood for sustainable and healthy diets. The EAT-Lancet Commission report through a blue lens. https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2019/11/Seafood_Scoping_Report_EAT-Lancet.pdf

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its core, shifting towards sustainability in the seafood sector will require a collective effort from all systemic shapers, from policymakers and regulatory bodies to business, civil society, the scientific community and the financial industry. Through focusing on the role of regulation, finance and measurement, six key enablers were identified during the sprint which could be advanced by all systemic shapers to accelerate the sustainable development of the seafood industry.

The first involves the **improved utilization and ratification of existing frameworks**. Ratifying international conventions — such as the 2016 [Agreement on Port State Measures](#) (PSMA) and the [C188 Work in Fishing Convention](#), 2007 (ILO 188) — are paramount in the fight against IUU. Harnessing their supporting instruments and utilizing meta-governmental frameworks, such as the [FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 1995](#), as well as dedicating adequate resources to ensure compliance with existing national regulations are essential to enabling a global push towards sustainable seafood. Finance and business can support this by utilizing international standards and conventions as references when financing projects.⁶

The second concerns ensuring a **socially sustainable seafood sector**, where the fight against IUU fishing remains closely linked to human rights. As trends towards mandatory human rights legislation meet increasing investor demand for the 'S' of ESG (environmental, social and governance), seafood companies can prepare by harnessing existing benchmarks⁷ while certification and labelling schemes can expand their focus to include social sustainability dimensions.

Thirdly, **unlocking sustainable finance** will be key to supporting leadership and performance. This requires the right enabling environment, resulting from partnerships with multilateral banks, the incorporation of non-financial sustainability factors into the financial system and the continued analysis of how social-ecological risks translate into financial risks. Financial "gatekeepers", from stock exchanges and creditors to insurance companies and private equity, can leverage their power and influence sustainability by deciding what to finance and under which conditions.

Fourthly, access to **high-quality, standardized non-financial data** remains a critical bottleneck. Quality data throughout the value chain is important to inform decision making, both within companies and for investors assessing the sustainability of individual companies and sectors. To foster an environment of corporate data disclosure, there is scope for enhanced mandatory non-financial reporting throughout the supply chain, in close collaboration with producers and processors.

ESG benchmarks and indices, which are useful in enabling comparisons between companies, could be further strengthened through standardized industry reporting agreements on key performance indicators (KPIs), such as in the [Global Salmon Initiative](#) (GSI).

However, transparency and data alone do not necessarily equate to performance. Moving **beyond disclosure, quantifying progress and rewarding performance** are important next steps to accelerate the sustainable development of the seafood industry. Here there is a need to develop standardized tools which take the entire value chain into account and enable companies to track and quantify progress made against commonly defined science-based targets.

The sixth concerns the importance of recognizing the present and future **role of seafood in global food systems**.⁸ The upcoming UN Food System Summit, scheduled for 2021, is an opportunity both to catalyze the cross-governmental coordinated action needed to holistically bridge food production with nutritional needs and strengthen the political recognition of seafood.

Reframing seafood and unlocking all identified enablers will require a fundamental shift in global narrative and mindset. This shift, which includes the need to cement unsustainable practices as a fundamental business risk, will demand the collective and collaborative effort of all systemic shapers.

Collaborations, such as in the UN Global Compact Action Platform for Sustainable Ocean Business, show there is a willingness to rise to the challenge from the seafood industry.

6. Please see UN Global Compact Practical Guidance for Fisheries and Aquaculture for comprehensive overview: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/practical-guidances-for-the-un-global-compact-sustainable-ocean-principles>

7. For instance, the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark or the Seafood Stewardship Index.

8. Tlustý, Michael F., et (2019) al. "Reframing the sustainable seafood narrative." *Global Environmental Change* 59: 101991.

HARNESSING ALL SYSTEMIC SHAPERS

OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTIONS TO COLLECTIVELY ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

Key Enablers

Recommended Actions

1.

Ratification, regulatory compliance and meta-governance

- **Policymakers** can ratify existing international conventions,⁹ dedicate adequate resources to ensure compliance of existing legislation, and utilize meta-governmental frameworks for global regulatory alignment (e.g. the [FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries](#) (1995); [Global Dialogue for Seafood Traceability](#))
- **Financial institutions** can utilize international conventions and regulatory frameworks as conditions for financing aquaculture and fisheries projects. (Please see: [UN Global Compact Practical Guidance](#) on Fisheries and Aquaculture for overview)
- Both **financial institutions** and **companies** can utilize leverage and advocate for responsible policy-making and the ratification of international conventions

2.

Ensuring a socially sustainable seafood sector

- **Policymakers** can implement mandatory human rights due diligence legislation, as well as incorporate minimum human rights safeguards into upcoming taxonomies/other environmental legislation
- **Financial institutions** can advocate for human rights due diligence legislation and utilize international human rights standards as conditions for financing (e.g. such as states having ratified ILO Convention 188)
- **Aquaculture and fisheries companies** can utilize benchmarks such as the [Corporate Human Rights Benchmark](#) and the [World Benchmarking Alliance's Seafood Stewardship Index](#)
- **Sustainability-related services**, such as certification and labelling schemes, could be strengthened through incorporating a stronger human rights approach to certification, thereby expanding their focus to incorporate social sustainability dimensions.

3.

Unlocking sustainable finance

- **Policymakers** can incorporate non-financial sustainability factors into the banks risk system to lower the risk capital allocation to incentivize sustainability-linked loans
- **Policymakers** can incorporate fisheries and aquaculture in future taxonomies (e.g. the European Union) to provide a common language for the market on seafood sustainability
- **Financial institutions** can bind aquaculture and fisheries companies to more sustainable practices by incorporating sustainability criteria into loan covenants
- **Financial “gatekeepers”** such as stock exchanges and insurance companies can discuss ways to incorporate sustainability criteria into listing rules and insurance contracts
- **Multilateral banks** can enter into partnerships with commercial banks to help create an enabling environment and enhance investor confidence
- **Financial institutions** can make use of existing financial principles relevant to seafood as guidelines e.g. the UN Global [Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles](#) (please see the annex for an overview of relevant financial principles)
- **Aquaculture and fisheries companies** can consider issuing a blue bond, using available guidelines and frameworks, such as the [UN Global Compact Practical Blue Bond Guidance](#)
- **Sustainability-related research and services** can conduct analysis of how social-ecological risks translate into financial and reputational risks

9. Please see the annex for an overview of relevant international conventions and guidelines

4.

High-quality, standardized non-financial data

- **Policymakers** can implement mandatory non-financial reporting requirements, including for seafood companies
- **Policymakers** can enhance company sustainability disclosures through collaboration with producers and processors to adopt standardized data collections, for instance through the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability
- **Public and private finance** can unlock funding for companies to facilitate the collection of data and support electronic traceability throughout supply chains
- **Financial institutions** can harness minimum standards on data collection as a prerequisite for funding vessels e.g. systems that allow traceability of the catch.
- **Cross-industry initiatives** can work towards standardized industry reporting agreements on key performance indicators (KPIs), such as is done in the [Global Salmon Initiative](#) (GSI). This would help to ensure that such benchmarks can accelerate the performance of companies
- **Benchmarks and indices** can disclose the sustainability-related rating methodologies and harness robust certification as KPIs as a form of indirect third party verification

5.

Beyond transparency: from quantifying progress to rewarding performance

- **Members of the seafood value chain** can work with scientific institutions and initiatives, such as the [Science-Based-Targets](#) Initiative, the [Science-based-Targets Network](#), and other relevant initiatives,¹⁰ to develop seafood-specific science-based targets and tools which accurately quantify progress against these targets
- **Companies** and **financial institutions** can harness financial mechanisms such as blue bonds as a way of rewarding companies in transition
- **Aquaculture and fisheries companies** can assess ESG risks and opportunities throughout the entire value chain and incorporate climate action in their sustainability strategies, recognizing that decarbonizing seafood supply chains enhances the industry's environmental footprint, and is increasingly expected from investors and consumers
- **ESG researchers** could consider collective effort and risk mapping across the entire value chain, as well as broader climate footprint to enable asset managers/lenders to integrate sustainability

6.

Recognizing seafood within sustainable food systems

- **Policymakers** can set-up cross-governmental food system task forces to enable holistic, coordinated and cross-ministerial policy-making to advance sustainable food systems
- **Aquaculture and fisheries companies** can align communication narratives and build multi-stakeholder coalitions in the run up to the UN Food Systems Summit to increase the political recognition of seafood in sustainable food systems
- **Sustainability-related services** can utilize the UN Food System Summit as an arena to discuss expanding the focus of certification and labelling to consider a broader set of food system-relevant indicators in the context of the entire value chain, including nutritional, environmental, and social sustainability elements, as well as undertake robust research on the role of seafood in global sustainable food systems

10. For instance, by way of illustration, the Carbon Disclosure Project.

AN EXAMPLE ILLUSTRATING COLLECTIVE EFFORT ACROSS THE ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN FOR A FISHING VESSEL



The yards where the fishing vessel is made should be audited for labour rights compliance



There are requirements at the building phase for efficient fuel usage



Implement requirements for registration under approved flag states



Implement requirements in the building and longer-term loan agreements that the fishing vessel and owner/operator fish using quotas and in well-regulated waters



A financed vessel must have installed systems that allow traceability of the catch and minimize the risk of fishing in sensitive areas or disputed waters as well as systems for minimizing marine waste



Incorporate into loan agreements that fishing in 'other waters' must be approved or can result in a default of the loan, as can illegal fishing activities



The operator of the vessel must demonstrate good management and reporting systems that can be audited



The owner should agree to sell a used vessel only to operators with quotas in regulated markets



Scrapping should be performed according to the Hong Kong Convention and European Union laws; not doing so would impact future financing



SIX KEY ENABLERS FOR ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

1

RATIFICATION, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND META-GOVERNANCE

Governments play a central role in accelerating market changes aligned with science and supporting sustainable management practices. The European Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy and Japan's acts against IUU fishing¹¹ are two recent examples of ambitious science-based legislative frameworks and potential **catalysts** for global action.

A series of regulatory frameworks are already in place to support government action. The application of **international legislation** should be a priority to those Governments wishing to combat IUU. The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) is a powerful tool to eliminate IUU fishing, as is the ILO Convention 188.¹²

Such implementation in practice will need to be aligned with a measure of **"centralized meta-governance"** to draft regulatory guidelines and instruments for the global commons.¹³ The UN food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) offers several frameworks for incorporating international instruments into national policy and law. Instruments under the PSMA include tools such as the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes.

A variety of practical instruments have been established within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995) to assist fishers, industry and Governments (see annex).

Such instruments and guidelines are of critical importance to enable and support capacity building between countries and to create a level playing field.¹⁴

Challenges for Regulation

- **Bridging the nutrition-environmental gap:**
While Governments are beginning to address nutrition and sustainability together to meet the need for diets within our planetary boundaries, there is a complex road ahead
- **Ratification and regulatory compliance:**
Effective monitoring of regulatory compliance and ratifying international conventions is a key first step towards more sustainable seafood management
- **Knowledge and technical gaps:**
Common gaps and challenges need to be addressed, especially in terms of commitment and implementation; limited technical capacity is a key limitation for the adoption of full-chain traceability across nations
- **Distortive subsidies:**
IUU fishing is fuelled by distortive and highly harmful subsidies¹⁵
- **Lack of coordinated policymaking:**
Ministries often work in silos and lack the internal cross-governmental coordination needed to tackle cross-cutting policy issues
- **Short-term policymaking:**
There is a need to foster long-termism to meet mutual goals and reduce the incentives for short-term gains

11. The Revised Fisheries Act and the Domestic Trade of Specific Marine Animals and Plants Act.

12. Please see the Annex for an overview of relevant international conventions and guidelines.

13. Brodie Rudolph, T., Ruckelshaus, M., Swilling, M. et al. A transition to sustainable ocean governance. Nat Commun 11, 3600 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-17410-2>

14. The [Global Dialogue for Seafood Traceability](#) also offers a meta-governmental framework, through providing a platform for companies and stakeholders to help identify effective regulatory practices, and to promote international alignment of regulatory approaches.

15. Sumaila, U. Rashid, et al. "Updated estimates and analysis of global fisheries subsidies." Marine Policy 109 (2019): 103695. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X19303677>

Better Government enforcement of existing rules and regulations would also reduce the incentives for non-sustainable actions. For instance, in the European Union, research conducted by Planet Tracker has suggested that only 42 per cent of large vessels comply with the present European Union regulations on control technologies eight years after it was approved.¹⁶

The recent Japanese Acts against IUU fishing¹⁷ as well as the EU IUU Regulation (2010) and the US Seafood Import Monitoring Program (2018) are strong ambitions and important steps as political catalysts.

However, ensuring their compliance is equally essential to accelerate sustainability.

Financial institutions and companies can use these conventions and frameworks as references for financing projects.¹⁸ They can also promote the ratification of such agreements as part of their responsible policy engagement.

Emerging Key Actions

- **Policymakers** can advocate for the ratification of international conventions, such as PSMA (2016), ILO Convention 188 and the Cape Town Agreement (2012), within their Governments while promoting their existing implementation instruments, guidelines and tools¹⁹
- **Policymakers** can utilize meta-governmental frameworks, such as the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995), to assist their national policymaking and support global regulatory alignment
- **Policymakers** can, where possible, prioritize resources to monitor existing relevant regulations, thereby reducing incentives for unsustainable practices
- **Companies** and **financial institutions** can utilize collective leverage by using international conventions and regulatory frameworks as conditions for financing projects and advocate for their implementation

16. Please see: Planet Tracker (2020) The EU Must rock the Boat. Available: <https://planet-tracker.org/time-to-rock-the-boat-eu-must-enforce-rules-to-bring-transparency-and-sustainability-to-the-fishing-industry/>

17. The Revised Fisheries Act and the Domestic Trade of Specific Marine Animals and Plants Act

18. See the UN Global Compact Practical Guidances for Fisheries and Aquaculture for additional information on how companies and financial institutions can harness existing standards: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/practical-guidances-for-the-un-global-compact-sustainable-ocean-principles>

19. Please see the annex for an overview of tools and conventions.



2

ENSURING A SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD SECTOR

There is an inextricable link between climate and human rights.²⁰ This relationship is particularly visible in the seafood sector. While the aquaculture sector has the potential to produce nutritious food for the world, it can also have adverse impacts on workers and communities.²¹ Likewise, the fight against IUU is directly related to poor labour conditions at sea.²²

Many seafood companies are making **voluntary commitments** to uphold human rights and are reporting transparently for assessment through benchmarks such as the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark and the World Benchmarking Alliance's Seafood Stewardship Index. Companies are also demonstrating their commitment to human rights through joining voluntary initiatives with a responsible business code of conduct and certifying themselves against their standards. However, such initiatives, including those relevant to fisheries, often have poor accountability mechanisms.²³ Moreover, auditing and certifications have also demonstrated some limitations from a human rights perspective.²⁴

The adoption of **mandatory human rights due diligence legislation** is a trend gaining traction and already exists in some form in some countries.²⁵ Such legislation will require companies to report on their human rights practices and take action. The European Commission is intending to introduce legislation in 2021 requiring businesses in the European Union to carry out due diligence in relation to the potential human rights and environmental impacts of their operations and supply chains and provide for sanctions in the event of non-compliance.²⁶

Such legislation would also help to promote more sustainable finance. There is a growing demand from the finance community for companies to **demonstrate the 'S' in ESG**; in April 2020, more than 100 institutional investors called on Governments to put in place mandatory human rights due diligence legislation.²⁷ Moreover, under the EU Taxonomy's Article 18, an economic activity will only qualify as environmentally sustainable (i.e. be considered taxonomy aligned) if it meets minimum safeguards in the areas of international human rights.²⁸

Emerging Key Actions

- **Policymakers** can advocate for the introduction of mandatory human rights due diligence legislation, following the example of existing and incoming Modern Slavery legislative frameworks as a key way to fight IUU fishing and mitigate adverse labour impacts in the aquaculture sector
- **Companies** can measure against benchmarks which include a human rights element, such as the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark and the World Benchmarking Alliance's Seafood Stewardship Index
- **Policymakers** can advocate for incorporating minimum safeguards on human rights into potential future financial legislative frameworks

20. OHCHR (2015) Understanding Human Rights and Climate Change. Please see: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/COP21.pdf>

21. Rafto Foundation (2020) <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/rafto/Roundtable-Human-rights-in-the-salmon-farming-industry-2019-lo.pdf>

22. Kittinger, John N., et al. (2017) "Committing to socially responsible seafood." Science 356.6341: 912-913. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6341/912.summary>

23. Human Rights Watch (2020), Q & A on the Proposal for an EU Legislation on Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence. See: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/11/09/q-proposal-eu-legislation-mandatory-human-rights-and-environmental-due-diligence> and MSI Integrity (2020) Not Fit for Purpose. See: https://www.msi-integrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/MSI_Not_Fit_For_Purpose_FORWEBSITE.FINAL_.pdf

24. For instance, see: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/10/08/germany-paved-way-revamping-social-audits-italy-should-follow>. Additional research by the Danish Institute for Human Rights has also indicated that certification schemes in the seafood sector are often audited by auditors with an environmental background and tend to focus less on human rights issues inside companies and in communities. See forthcoming: Sector-wide impact assessment of the Chilean salmon farming industry, by the Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos (Chile) and Danish Institute for Human Rights (forthcoming, 2021),

25. For instance, the UK's Modern Slavery Act (2015) requires companies, including seafood companies, to report whether they have modern slavery in their operations and supply chains. With cases of labour exploitation at sea, this could expose companies to lawsuits.

26. European Parliament Briefing (2020) [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIEF/2020/659299/EPRS_BRI\(2020\)659299_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIEF/2020/659299/EPRS_BRI(2020)659299_EN.pdf)

27. Please see: <https://www.law.com/corpcounsel/2021/01/04/a-new-era-for-esg-investors-are-watching-esg-in-2021-theyll-look-to-measure-it/> and Investor Alliance for Human Rights (2020) The Investor Case for Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence. Available: https://investorsforhumanrights.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2020-04/The%20Investor%20Case%20for%20mHRDD%20-%20FINAL_0.pdf

28. Ecofact (2021) <https://www.ecofact.com/blog/minimum-safeguards-within-the-upcoming-eu-sustainability-taxonomy/>

- **Financial institutions** can advocate for mandatory due diligence legislation and request demonstrable human rights due diligence processes from aquaculture and fisheries companies as a condition for access to finance, such as a voluntary commitment or a proven benchmark
- **Certification schemes** could be strengthened and prepared for potential upcoming human rights legislation through incorporating a stronger human rights approach to certification, thereby expanding their focus to incorporate social sustainability dimensions.²⁹ For instance, certification bodies can ensure a mixture of auditors with an equal weight between those with a human rights and environmental background



29. For example the Marine Stewardship Council certification considers social dimensions

3

UNLOCKING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Financing sustainable seafood itself is arguably **two-dimensional**. On the one hand, there is a need to increase finance where it is lacking. Currently, there is a lack of finance for sustainable seafood, indeed, mirrored by the lack of financing for Sustainable Development Goal 14; more generally, ocean health remains significantly underfunded from a private capital perspective.³⁰ Here, it is critical to create the right **enabling environment** to unlock private capital towards seafood and Goal 14. Entering into partnerships with multilateral banks can be an important step in achieving this environment. For instance, through partnering with the World Bank and its triple A rating, Credit Suisse was able to inspire investor confidence in the Blue Economy.³¹

On the other hand, there is also a need to **transform** the way financial institutions consider sustainability in their decisions to allocate capital. Shifting the seafood industry towards sustainability will require a collective effort across the whole value chain, where players from financial institutions to insurance companies and authorities exercise their collective leverage. This includes private equity and lending which explicitly accounts for non-financial performance, whereby sustainability requirements are embedded into contracts and loan documentation.³² It also includes mobilizing other financial players, such as adapting **stock exchange listing rules** which host the world's largest publicly listed seafood companies.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange alone concentrates 53 per cent of the combined revenue of the world's top 45 listed seafood companies, while the exchanges of Tokyo, Oslo, Korea and Thailand together account for 86 per cent of revenues.³³ More stringent sustainability criteria in the listing rules of just a few stock exchanges could therefore have significant effects on the seafood industry.

Derivative exchanges and markets also offer opportunities through incorporating sustainability characteristics into contracts, in turn, redefining commodities. In the seafood context, NASDAQ is already offering the clearing of salmon derivatives traded on the seafood exchange Fish Pool ASA.

Challenges for Finance

■ **Lack of financial support and access:**

Sustainability measures often have short-term costs that might be difficult to overcome for small-scale players; small-scale fisheries in particular have limited access to finance

■ **Lack of awareness:**

While finance industry awareness of the risks posed by climate change has increased in the past few years, seafood risks — and more generally risks related to biodiversity — have been mostly ignored

■ **Lack of internal support and incentives:**

There is an under-appreciation of the tangible benefits of more sustainable operations. Seafood-specific and ESG departments within financial institutions often lack the full support of their top management to enable and accelerate their efforts

■ **Lack of standardization and seafood specific metrics:**

Ratings produced by various agencies on the market often produce conflicting results

■ **Lack of regulatory guidance:**

Scaling up sustainable finance will be difficult without regulatory authorities implementing regulations around sustainable finance and defining a common language for investment

Insurance companies can also use their leverage as gatekeepers for sustainability, for instance through prohibiting access to essential services relied upon by fishing vessels in the context of IUU fishing.³⁴

Notably, this also has several benefits for the marine insurance sector, including reduced risk of accidents and criminal activities and reducing insurance fraud risk and legal complications.

30. SDG IISD (2020) <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/world-bank-issues-sustainable-development-bond-for-ocean-planetary-health/>

31. World Bank (2019) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/11/21/world-bank-and-credit-suisse-partner-to-focus-attention-on-sustainable-use-of-oceans-and-coastal-areas-the-blue-economy>

32. This could also involve amending contracts defining commodities to include sustainability criteria. For instance, Nasdaq's Salmon Futures: <https://www.nasdaq.com/solutions/seafood-derivatives-clearing>

33. Jouffray et al. (2019) "Leverage points in the financial sector for seafood sustainability." Science advances 5.10 (eaax3324).

34. For additional information, please see guidelines developed by Oceana on marine insurance: https://europe.oceana.org/sites/default/files/oceana_insurance_guidelines_0.pdf

Stronger signals and leadership from **Governments** can help galvanize such efforts through providing the impetus for financial institutions to either establish or refine frameworks as well as tools to help them align their operations and strategies with science.

The upcoming EU Taxonomy is a strong example and is already accelerating action in the financial industry by providing a common language for sustainability.

Such leadership may also help commercial banks realize how social-environmental risks translate into financial risk and thereby incentivizing them to engage more in sustainability linked loans.

Emerging Key Actions

- **Multilateral banks** can enter into partnerships with commercial banks to enhance investor confidence through triple A ratings, thereby contributing to creating the enabling environment needed to unlock private capital
- **Companies** can consider issuing a blue or green bond to unlock private capital, utilizing existing frameworks and guidelines; for instance, the [UN Global Compact Practical Guidance on how to issue a Blue Bond](#)
- **Financial institutions** can make use of existing financial principles relevant to seafood as global guidelines for financing, including the FAO Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture, the UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles and the Sustainable Blue Economy Principles³⁵
- **Financial institutions** can consider incorporating sustainability criteria into loans with aquaculture and fisheries companies as a way to accelerate sustainability³⁶
- **Policymakers** can provide the impetus for financial institutions by implementing mandatory non-financial sustainability factors into the banking risk system, such as climate risk. This would lower the risk capital allocation for loans to more sustainable companies. In this case, the "greener" an investment, the lower the risk and needed capital allocation
- **Financial "gatekeepers"** such as stock exchanges and insurance companies can incorporate sustainability criteria into listing rules and insurance contracts with the seafood value chain:
 - ☐ Stock exchanges can connect with the [Sustainable Stock Exchange](#) Initiative to discuss steps towards embedding sustainability into listing requirements
 - ☐ Discussions can be initiated with commodity exchanges, such as Oslo Børs, to discuss embedding sustainability into salmon commodity contracts
 - ☐ Insurance companies can proactively engage with the seafood value chain to identify risks and areas where insurance prohibition may accelerate sustainable development
- **Policymakers** can promote the incorporation of fisheries and aquaculture into upcoming and future taxonomies to provide a common language for the market on seafood sustainability
- **Researchers** can help strengthen the narrative that sustainability pays off through:
 - ☐ robust and credible transdisciplinary research highlighting the short-term benefits and arguments for both financial performance and environmental protection
 - ☐ continued quantification and analysis of how social-ecological risks translate into financial and reputational risks
 - ☐ language that speaks to shareholders and financial institutions

35. Please see the annex section for an overview of relevant principles

36. For instance, AgroSuper was given a "green loan" by RaboBank which contains several environmental and social conditions that AgroSuper must comply with. Please see: <https://www.rabobank.com/en/raboworld/articles/the-global-salmon-supply-is-about-to-get-more-sustainable.html>

4

HIGH-QUALITY, STANDARDIZED NON-FINANCIAL DATA

A key requirement of forming sustainable investment strategies is access to high-quality sustainability related data, ratings and research. At present, the lack of standardized data and metrics from non-financial reporting is preventing effective comparison between seafood companies. Moreover, as not all companies disclose data, there are massive data holes.

Against this backdrop, there is increasing scope for **mandatory non-financial reporting policies**. This is already the case for a number of companies in the European Union under the Non-Financial Data Directive, which is being updated in 2021, and will be the case for more companies under the incoming EU Taxonomy.³⁷ The new United States administration also foresees disclosure requirements.³⁸

Governments can help to **enhance company sustainability disclosures** with the aim of improving the comparability and standardization of non-financial reporting among seafood companies. The seafood sector has already established a number of good frameworks and standards. Policymakers can harness existing frameworks from the International Standards Organization (ISO),³⁹ as well as work with producers and processors to adopt standardized data collections, for instance through the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability.

Challenges for Measurement

■ Lack of standardized data and metrics:

There is still a lack of data disclosed by companies that is critical for transparency. When companies do undertake sustainability disclosures, these are considered to lack comparability and consistency

■ The proliferation of certification schemes:

This has led to competing and conflicting requirements and confusion amongst consumers.⁴⁰ Moreover, there are market-entry barriers for small-scale producers

■ Benchmarks and indices:

While benchmarks and indices are meeting investor demand, there is some fear that this could come at a cost and replace more robust specific standards

■ Rewarding progress:

Disclosure and transparency in themselves do not equate progress and performance. There is a need to quantify progress and subsequently reward it

■ Incorporating broader climate targets:

broader climate targets should be incorporated into the measurement of sustainable seafood; this involves adopting an entire value chain approach

37. In regards to the EU Taxonomy, the financial community has already raised concerns over the quality of data and called for better, standardized data management tools. UNEP FI and the European Banking Federation (2021) Testing the Application of the EU Taxonomy on Core Banking Products. Available here: <https://www.uneofi.org/publications/banking-publications/testing-the-application-of-the-eu-taxonomy-to-core-banking-products-high-level-recommendations/>

38. See: <https://joebiden.com/climate-plan/>

39. For instance, ISO 14001 provides requirements with guidance for use that relate to environmental systems and ISO 9001

40. See Ruffieux, B., Crosetto, P.; Lacroix, A.; Mullera, L (2018) Nutritional and economic impact of 5 alternative front-of-pack nutritional labels: experimental evidence. for a study using nutritional labelling

The non-financial data released by companies are key for sustainability related services: **certification, labelling, benchmarking and indices**. Certifications such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) have been instrumental to the sustainable development of the seafood sector. Through adhering to robust guidelines such as the FAO Eco-Labeling guidelines,⁴¹ incorporating multi-stakeholder objectives and implementing robust third-party verification systems, they have strongly accelerated sustainability performance.

Certification and other eco-labelling are nonetheless subject to challenges, including their proliferation and conflicting requirements of schemes. To tackle these challenges, there is scope for balanced Government intervention in close collaboration with stakeholders.

At present, sustainability related products and services are not regulated by public authorities. Governments can either support existing services, for instance France's '[Pêche Durable](#)', or set-up new public schemes, like Denmark's [NaturSkansom](#).⁴²

Standardized non-financial data is also key to the success of benchmarking frameworks and other indices, such as the [FAIRR Protein Producer Index](#). These ESG benchmarks are increasingly in demand from investors to enable effective comparison. However, the fact that benchmarking is not currently subject to third-party verification poses credibility challenges. Moreover, there are concerns that such benchmarks do not necessarily accelerate the performance of companies.

CASE STUDY | **NATURSKANSOM**

The Danish state-controlled brand 'NaturSkansom' was developed in a multi-stakeholder group consisting of the fishing industry, buyers, Government and environmental stakeholders amongst others. The brand can be applied to seafood products by those fishermen who can prove that they fish in a sustainable manner. The scheme enjoys broad-scale support from the seafood value chain. This case illustrates that Government intervention in the certification market should be in close collaboration with a multi-stakeholder group.

CASE STUDY | **FAIRR PROTEIN PRODUCER INDEX**

The FAIRR benchmarking process draws on metrics from existing benchmarks, expert inputs and the companies themselves who also provide feedback on the methodology. Aquaculture companies score highly on the index. One of the KPIs considers the extent of certification schemes throughout the value chain. FAIRR's assessments are not audited externally by third-party verifiers and are reliant on non-financial data disclosure.

Emerging Key Actions

- **Policymakers** can implement mandatory non-financial reporting requirements which apply to seafood companies to ensure a minimum level of transparency. Policymakers should seek global alignment on such requirements which will be key for international seafood companies
- **Policymakers** can help to enhance company sustainability disclosures through working with producers and processors to adopt standardized data collections. For instance, through the GDST
- **Public and private finance** can unlock funding for companies to facilitate the collection of data and support electronic traceability throughout supply chains
- **Policymakers** can work closely with stakeholders to identify the appropriate solution to challenges raised by certification schemes. For instance, through a public labelling scheme or through unlocking funding for small-scale access to a private scheme

41. For an extensive overview on best practices and standards, please see UN Global Compact Practical Guidances: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/practical-guidances-for-the-un-global-compact-sustainable-ocean-principles>

42. For additional information on NaturSkansom, see: <https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2020/11/02/danish-state-launches-sustainable-seafood-brand/>

- To reduce conflicting requirements between existing certification and eco-labelling schemes, **policymakers** can consider mandatory baseline standards, harnessing existing frameworks, such as the FAO Eco Labelling guidelines and those that bench against it, such as the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative
- **Financial institutions** can use robust minimum standards when assessing seafood companies for finance, as outlined in the [UN Global Compact Practical Guidances](#). For instance, financial institutions can harness minimum standards on data collection as a prerequisite for funding vessels (e.g. systems that allow traceability of the catch)
- **Benchmarks and indices** can disclose their sustainability related rating methodologies to enhance their credibility. This should include key factors, such as the specific assessment criteria and data sources. Moreover, the utilization of certification as KPIs would strengthen credibility as a form of indirect third-party verification
- **Cross-industry initiatives** can work towards standardized industry reporting agreements on key performance indicators (KPIs), such as in the [Global Salmon Initiative](#) (GSI). This would help to ensure that such benchmarks can accelerate the performance of companies



43. Global green bond issuance reached a record high of \$269.5 billion by the end of 2020 and could reach \$400-\$450 billion in 2021. Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI): <https://www.climatebonds.net/2021/01/record-2695bn-green-issuance-2020-late-surge-sees-pandemic-year-pip-2019-total-3bn>

44. Cicero assessed seafood companies Grieg and Mowi harnessing a value chain approach in 2020. More information is available here: <https://cicero.green/>

45. According to DNB Bank, there are increasing reports of companies wanting to take out sustainability-linked loans to highlight their progress (DNB)

46. Decarbonizing the value chain has been identified as a key lever to reach net zero and has been referred to as the "next level of corporate action" by a recent World Economic Forum report. Please see: World Economic Forum (2021) The Supply Chain Opportunity. Available: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Net_Zero_Challenge_The_Supply_Chain_Opportunity_2021.pdf

5

BEYOND TRANSPARENCY: FROM QUANTIFYING PROGRESS TO REWARDING PERFORMANCE

While transparency and data disclosure are vital pre-conditions to compare seafood companies — either using benchmarks or certification — transparency and data alone do not **monitor progress** nor necessarily equate performance. Policies towards disclosure, such as the European Union's Non-Financial Reporting Directive and the new United States administration's disclosure requirements, see disclosure as the minimum. However, to reward ambitious and sustainable companies leading on seafood stewardship, there is arguably a need to move beyond disclosure and certifications, which only capture a moment in time.

There is a growing need to **reward progress** and performance. This will require enhanced monitoring and tracking of improvements. In the seafood sector, there is a growing demand from investors to finance those companies transitioning towards more sustainable production through green, blue or sustainability linked bonds.⁴³

By harnessing “shades of green” methodologies — which are increasingly adopting a ‘food system’ approach by taking the **entire value chain** into consideration — sustainability rating agencies are able to depict those companies in transition; moreover, they are able to help define KPIs for companies to meet and highlight progress made.⁴⁴ This demonstrates increased market demand for progress rather than perfection and also enables companies to publicly demonstrate their progress through meeting targets.⁴⁵

However, there is arguably scope and market demand to develop **additional, standardized tools** which enable companies to track progress against a set of commonly defined targets which take the entire value chain into consideration.⁴⁶ Climate targets aligned with 1.5°C have been established by Governments through the Paris Agreement. Incorporating seafood into the Science Based Targets initiative or having a seafood specific guide in other relevant initiatives, such as the Carbon Disclosure Project, would help companies to report against these targets.

Emerging Key Actions

- **Aquaculture and fisheries companies** can assess ESG risks and opportunities in the entire value chain and incorporate climate action in their sustainability strategies, recognizing that decarbonizing seafood supply chains enhances the industry's environmental footprint, and is increasingly expected from investors and consumers. Such an approach extends responsibility to all players in the value chain e.g. energy use across production, processing efficiency
- **Members of the seafood value chain** can work with scientific institutions and initiatives, such as the Science Based Targets initiative, the Science Based Targets Network and other relevant initiatives,⁴⁷ to develop seafood-specific science-based targets and tools which accurately quantify progress against these targets
- **Policymakers** can reward those companies demonstrating progress towards common targets through a Government scheme
- **Financial institutions** can harness financial mechanisms such as green and blue bonds to reward companies in transition
- **ESG researchers** could consider collective effort and risk mapping across the entire value chain as well as the broader climate footprint to enable asset managers and lenders to integrate sustainability

43. Global green bond issuance reached a record high of \$269.5 billion by the end of 2020 and could reach \$400-\$450 billion in 2021. Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI): <https://www.climatebonds.net/2021/01/record-2695bn-green-issuance-2020-late-surge-sees-pandemic-year-pip-2019-total-3bn>

44. Cicero assessed seafood companies Grieg and Mowi harnessing a value chain approach in 2020. More information is available here: <https://cicero.green/>

45. According to DNB Bank, there are increasing reports of companies wanting to take out sustainability-linked loans to highlight their progress (DNB)

46. Decarbonizing the value chain has been identified as a key lever to reach net zero and has been referred to as the “next level of corporate action” by a recent World Economic Forum report. Please see: World Economic Forum (2021) The Supply Chain Opportunity. Available: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Net_Zero_Challenge_The_Supply_Chain_Opportunity_2021.pdf

6

RECOGNIZING SEAFOOD WITHIN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The concept of a 'food system' has re-emerged as a renewed interest amongst policymakers due to the inextricable relationship between the environment, equity, trade, diet and health.⁴⁸ The 2019 EAT-Lancet report underlines the need to shift current paradigms on health and sustainability to include the environmental element, labelling current food systems as this century's "greatest health and environmental challenge."⁴⁹

While Governments are increasingly adopting a more holistic approach to food through the re-emergence of 'food systems' as a way of addressing nutrition and sustainability within our planetary boundaries, there is a long and complex road ahead to further integrate these variables. Moreover, these efforts are stifled by the lack of **coordinated, cross-governmental policymaking**.

The **UN Food System Summit** scheduled for 2021 is a key opportunity to bring together cross-governmental bodies and **catalyze cross-ministerial working groups**.

As an industry which is able to both make important contributions to food and nutrition security — especially in low income countries — as well as offer a more sustainable source of animal food than land-based meat production, the seafood industry has a vital role to play within sustainable food systems.⁵⁰ However, this role is often overlooked by policymakers. The UN Food System Summit will be an important opportunity to holistically bridge policymaking with dietary needs and food production.

It is a key opportunity to give seafood, and in particular sustainable aquaculture, a role in future food systems and strengthen the sector's social license to operate. The entire seafood value chain can leverage this opportunity.

Emerging Key Actions

- **Policymakers** can set up holistic cross-governmental food system task forces or commissions consisting of representatives from various governmental bodies, including the relevant aquaculture and fisheries departments alongside health, environment, labour and trade — recognizing the cross-ministerial nature of food systems
- The **FAO** can utilize the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit to demonstrate best governmental practices and highlight ways that Governments can work holistically together to advance sustainable food systems
- **Aquaculture and fisheries companies** can align communication narratives and build multi-stakeholder coalitions in the run up to the UN Food Systems Summit to increase the political recognition of seafood in sustainable food systems
- **Certification bodies** can utilize the UN Food System Summit as an arena to discuss expanding the focus of certification and labelling to consider a broader set of food system-relevant indicators in the context of the entire value chain, including nutritional, environmental and social sustainability elements. Current labelling schemes are siloed into the 'nutritional' front of package labelling (e.g. the European Union's [Nutri-Score](#)) and "eco-labelling" (e.g. the Marine Stewardship Council)
- **Members of the seafood value chain** can join the Blue Food Working Group within the UN Global Compact Blue Road to COP26 initiative to leverage the upcoming UN summits as an opportunity to feed recommendations for accelerating blue food

48. Béné, C., Oosterveer, P., Lamotte, L., Brouwer, I., Prager, S., Talsma, E., Khoury, C. (2019). When food systems meet sustainability – Current narratives and implications for actions. *World Development* 113 (2019) 116–130

49. p. 449

50. Tlustý, Michael F., et al. "Reframing the sustainable seafood narrative." *Global Environmental Change* 59 (2019): 101991. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378018313530>

CONCLUSION

Over the course of three meetings and through over 20 written submissions, the “sustainable seafood sprint” has identified a number of important action items to be taken forward. It should be noted that there are a number of ways the sustainable development of seafood could be accelerated and the actions outlined in this brief were those consistently referenced by participants during the sprint process.

Moving towards enhanced sustainability in the seafood sector will undoubtedly demand a collective approach across the entire value chain. To catalyze this action, there remains a strong need for first movers and champions to raise ambition and pave the way for stewardship across the seafood value chain;⁵¹ for instance, the work of SeaBOS as a science-industry collaborative platform, as well as the leading work on the blue economy from banks such as Credit Suisse and DNB Bank.⁵² Multi-stakeholders collaborations such as the High Level Panel on a Sustainable Ocean Economy is another example of recent leadership initiatives.

Such leadership drives ambition across all systemic shapers, including by influencing responsible policymaking. The efforts of leading companies will need recognition in the financial market, for instance through innovative financial incentives and mechanisms such as Blue Bonds⁵³ as well as ambitious sustainable financing frameworks.

The upcoming **UN Food System Summit** and the UN 2021 Climate Change Conference, or **COP26**, in Glasgow are key opportunities for the seafood value chain to demonstrate its leadership and collaboration as well as further cement the role of seafood as a sustainable and nutritious source of protein during the upcoming summits.

The UN Global Compact Action Platform for Sustainable Ocean Business will continue working towards further catalyzing the actions and recommendations outlined in this brief to accelerate sustainable seafood. This includes collaborating with other key organizations to leverage seafood during the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit, as well as continuing to work closely with the seafood value chain to strengthen the voice of sustainable seafood as an ocean-based climate solution at COP 26.

We will also continue our engagement with the finance community, from working with commercial banks to pilot sustainability linked loans to aquaculture and fisheries companies, as well as continue to promote blue bonds as a method to unlock private capital towards ambitious companies demonstrating sustainable practices.

Finally, our [Practical Guidances for Fisheries](#) and [Aquaculture](#) set an important baseline for sustainable ocean business and we will continue promoting its utilization among all systemic shapers. We look forward to engaging in discussions with you all on how we can drive forward tools that can quantify and measure progress made towards common science-based targets.

51. UN Global Compact (2030) Ocean Stewardship. Available here: <https://unglobalcompact.org/library/5742>

52. For additional information on the work of Credit Suisse, kindly see: <https://www.credit-suisse.com/il/en/private-banking/secure-your-legacy/sustainable-investing/engaging-for-blue-economy.html>

53. The UN Global Compact has several resources on Blue Bonds, please see here for the Practical Guidance for companies on how to issue a Blue bond: <https://ungc-communications-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/publications/Practical-Guidance-to-Issue-a-Blue-Bond.pdf>

EXAMPLES OF RELEVANT GLOBAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS AND INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SEAFOOD

■ **THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)**

At the heart of international ocean governance is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), adopted in 1982. It constitutes the primary governance framework for marine capture fisheries, defining Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) within which the coastal state has “overseign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non- living” (Article 56). In the case of shared stocks, states are called upon to “seek, either directly or through appropriate sub-regional or regional organizations, to agree upon the measures necessary to coordinate and ensure the conservation and development of such stocks”.

■ **AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES (PSMA) (2016)**

The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) is a key instrument in combating IUU fishing. Supplementing and further reinforcing the PSMA are several other instruments, including the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes. The 2016 Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement to specifically target illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Its objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches.

■ **ILO CONVENTION 188, 2007**

The International Labour Organization's Convention 188 is applicable to all types of commercial fishing. It sets out binding requirements to address the main issues concerning work on board fishing vessels, including occupational safety and health and medical care at sea and ashore, rest periods, written work agreements, and social security protection. It aims to ensure that fishing vessels are constructed and maintained so that fishers have decent living conditions on board. States ratifying Convention No. 188 commit to exercising control over fishing vessels, through inspection, reporting, monitoring, complaint procedures, and corrective measures.

■ **IMO CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT (2012)**

The 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), covers key parameters such as stability and associated seaworthiness, machinery and electrical installations, life-saving appliances, communications equipment, fire protection and fishing vessel construction. Although adopted in 2012, it will only enter into force after at least 22 States, with an aggregate 3,600 fishing vessels of 24 m in length and over, have expressed their consent to be bound by it.

■ **FAO'S 1995 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES**

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is a reference framework for national and international efforts to ensure sustainable fishing and production of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment. The Code is voluntary and is to be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law. The development of the Code of Conduct occurred over the same time period as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and has its roots in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. A variety of practical instruments have been established within the framework of the Code to assist fishers, industry and governments, including: four International Plan of Action (IPOA) and two strategies that apply to all States and entities aimed at improving the knowledge and understanding of capture fisheries and aquaculture.

EXAMPLES OF PRINCIPLES FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

■ UN GLOBAL COMPACT SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PRINCIPLES

The Sustainable Ocean Principles aim at promoting the well-being of the ocean for current and future generations, and to emphasize the shared responsibility of businesses to take necessary actions to secure a healthy and productive ocean. Companies signing on to the Sustainable Ocean Principles commit to assess their impact on the ocean and integrate them into their overall strategy. The principles provide a framework for responsible business practices in the ocean. They build upon and supplement the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

■ UN GLOBAL COMPACT BLUE BONDS

The United Nations Global Compact has launched an initiative to accelerate blue bond issuance in the financial markets and to create a broad consensus of what constitutes “blue”. The frameworks developed by the Sustainable Ocean Business Action Platform, the 5 Tipping Points for a Healthy and Productive Ocean and the Sustainable Ocean Principles, can guide investments and increase sustainable, science-based ocean solutions.

■ THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY FINANCE PRINCIPLES

In collaboration with the Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank, WWF developed this set of voluntary sustainable principles. These principles complement existing frameworks in sustainable finance and recognise the importance of compliance, transparency and disclosure, as well as the specific challenges of investment in the context of the ocean. They are designed to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 14.

■ THE TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

The TCFD recommendations are designed to solicit consistent, decision-useful, forward-looking information on the material financial impacts of climate-related risks and opportunities, including those related to the global transition to a lower-carbon economy. They are adoptable by all organizations with public debt or equity in G20 jurisdictions for use in mainstream financial filings.

RESOURCES

- 5 Tipping Points for a Healthy and Productive Ocean By 2030. UN Global Compact. Available here: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/5726>
- Practical Guidance for Aquaculture (2020) UN Global Compact. Available here: <https://ungc-communications-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/publications/UN-Global-Compact-Sustainable-Ocean-Principles-%20Aquaculture.pdf>
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- The Sustainable Ocean Principles. UN Global Compact, Action Platform for Sustainable Ocean Business. Available here: <https://d306pr3pise04h.cloudfront.net/docs/publications%2FSustainable+Ocean+Principles.pdf>

FAO International Guidelines

- [International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards](#)
- [International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas](#)
- [Voluntary Guidelines for flag State performance](#)
- [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#)

Other FAO Guidelines

- [Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries. Revision 1](#)
- [Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries](#)
- [Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification](#)
- [Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations](#)

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Measuring Sustainable Seafood

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 - Mr. François Mosnier, Financial Research Analyst, Planet Tracker
 - Mr. Jose Villalon, Corporate Sustainability Director, Nutreco
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Speakers

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- Ms Marisa Drew, CEO Impact Advisory and Finance, Credit Suisse
- Mr. Anthony Miller, Economic Affairs Officer, Coordinator Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative, UNCTAD
- Dr. Dana Miller, Senior Policy Adviser, Oceana
- Mr. Dag Sletmo, Senior Vice President and Seafood Analyst, DNB Bank

Written contributions

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Mr Kees Lankester, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
- Ms. Helen Packer, Lead Seafood Stewardship Index, World Benchmarking Alliance
- Mr. Nigel Edwards, Group CSR Director, Hilton Group
- Ms. Sigrid Brynstad, Senior Sustainability Advisor, GIEK
- Prof. Bert Scholtens, Professor of Banking and Finance, University of St. Andrews
- Ms. Tulika Bansal, the Danish Institute for Human Rights
- Dr. Dana Miller, Senior Policy Adviser, Oceana

Regulating Sustainable Seafood

Speakers

- Ms. Lorella de la Cruz Iglesias, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs, European Commission
- Mr. Audun Lem, Deputy Director, Fisheries Division, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Mr. Troels Land Christiansen, Project Lead, Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, Denmark
- Mr. Wakao Hanaoka, Founder, Seafood Legacy, Tokyo
- Ms. Lucy Holmes, Senior Program Manager for Seafood Finance, WWF

Written contributions

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- Ms. Sigrid Brynestad, Senior Sustainability Advisor, GIEK
- The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Ms. Tulika Bansal, the Danish Institute for Human Rights
- Mr. Nigel Edwards, Group CSR Director, Hilton Group
- Mr. Julio Moron Ayala, Director, the Producers' Association of Large Tuna Freezers (OPAGAC)
- Mr. Kees Lankester, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

DISCLAIMER

The inclusion of company names and/or examples in this publication is intended strictly for learning purposes and does not constitute an endorsement of the individual companies by the UN Global Compact.

THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

HUMAN RIGHTS

- 1 Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- 2 make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

LABOUR

- 3 Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- 4 the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- 5 the effective abolition of child labour; and
- 6 the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

ENVIRONMENT

- 7 Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- 8 undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- 9 encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

- 10 Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

As a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Launched in 2000, the mandate of the UN Global Compact is to guide and support the global business community in advancing UN goals and values through responsible corporate practices. With more than 10,000 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and more than 60 Local Networks, it is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world.

For more information, follow [@globalcompact](https://twitter.com/globalcompact) on social media and visit our website at unglobalcompact.org.



United Nations
Global Compact

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The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact are derived from: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.