

European Union and its Member States submissions

The role of seafood in global food security

EUROPEAN UNION

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The fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger together with the right to have access to adequate, safe, sufficient and nutritious food was recognized at the third UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20¹. Furthermore, the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in achieving food security was also stressed². In this context, at Rio+20, States recommitted to meet the 2015 target as agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis through the development and implementation of science-based management plans, including by reducing or suspending fishing catch and fishing effort commensurate with the status of the stock and to manage by-catch and discards.

Fish are an important source of protein, minerals including selenium, zinc, and iodine, vitamins and micronutrients as well as an excellent source of long-chain omega-3 fatty acids which are required for numerous normal body functions, such as controlling blood clotting and building cell membranes in the brain. Since the human body cannot produce omega-3 fats, they must be obtained through food and in this respect marine sources are very beneficial. In particular, oily fish such as mackerel, salmon and sardines have a high content of these omega-3 fatty acids. Regular consumption (one to three times per week) of fish can reduce the risk of various diseases and disorders particularly cardiovascular disease. It can also have benefits for brain health and development, inflammatory conditions and may help reduce the risk of premature birth.

Relevant activities of the EU

- Internal legislative context

The rules for the management of fishing and fisheries, including aquaculture, at the EU level are established by the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The latest reform of the CFP updated these rules and took effect on 1 January 2014 by Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

¹ Paragraph 108, "The Future we want", A/RES/66/288

² Paragraph 113, "The Future we want", A/RES/66/288

The CFP aims to ensure that fisheries are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable based on principles of good governance including decision-making based on best available scientific advice and on the precautionary principle, broad stakeholder involvement and a long-term perspective. One of its goals is to contribute to increased productivity and to ensure the supply of highly nutritional food and thereby increasing the EU's self-sustainability which also has the corollary of increasing global food availability. To achieve this and to act against the continued decline of many fish stocks, the new CFP rules implement the commitment undertaken by the EU at Johannesburg and reiterated at Rio+20 to ensure the exploitation of marine biological resources at rates which restore and maintain populations of harvested stocks above levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield by 2015. Achieving such exploitation rates by a later date are only permitted if achieving them by 2015 would seriously jeopardise the social and economic sustainability of the fishing fleets involved. However the CFP establishes that those rates should be achieved as soon as possible and in any event no later than 2020. Furthermore, the new CFP contains measures to reduce the high levels of unwanted catches and to gradually eliminate discards, including an obligation to land catches which will decrease the waste of edible fish being thrown back dead into the sea.

To ensure that the objective of sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources is more effectively achieved, the CFP also takes a multiannual approach to fisheries management, establishing as a priority multiannual plans reflecting the specificities of different fisheries. Such multiannual plans will have clearly defined management objectives in order to contribute to the sustainable exploitation of the stocks and to the protection of the marine ecosystems concerned.

The CFP also obliges Member States to take specific measures to align the number of Union fishing vessels with available resources, based on their assessments of the balance between the fishing capacity of their fleets and the fishing opportunities available to them.

Through the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, the CFP also contributes to the protection of the marine environment, to the sustainable management of all commercially exploited species, and in particular to the achievement of good environmental status by 2020. In this, it supports the objectives of the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive³. In line with these objectives, the CFP foresees the protection of areas that are biologically sensitive by designating them as protected areas.

The CFP gives a prominent role to the development of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable aquaculture. Aquaculture is also one of the five areas identified as crucial for blue growth, i.e. the potential of the oceans for job and income creation, together with marine biotechnology, coastal tourism, ocean energy and seabed mining. Developing aquaculture can contribute to meet the growing demand for seafood and for the creation of alternatives to overfishing. Moreover, based on current labour productivity, each percentage point of current EU seafood consumption produced internally through aquaculture would help create between 3.000

³ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy

and 4.000 full-time jobs. This would substantially contribute to the quality of life in coastal and rural areas. The CFP aims to promote aquaculture through an open method of coordination: a voluntary process for cooperation based on Strategic Guidelines and Multiannual national strategic plans identifying, common objectives and, where possible, indicators to measure progress towards these goals.

The CFP also foresees that the EU should promote the objectives of the CFP internationally, including through its active participation in regional fisheries management organisations, promoting the same principles and standards as those applicable under Union law at international level. In addition, the CFP establishes that the Union should cooperate with third countries and international organisations for the purpose of improving compliance with international measures, including combating IUU.

The new external dimension of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy also strengthens the EU's international commitment to addressing fishing overcapacity at a global level which jeopardises the sustainability of fish stocks and consequently food security. For this purpose, the European Commission will host an international conference on sustainable fishing capacity management, under the auspices of the current Greek Presidency of the EU, in Greece, on 13-14 March 2014.

The CFP is complemented by Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy. The measures provided for in this Regulation seek to establish a Community system for control, inspection, and enforcement with a global and integrated approach, so as to ensure compliance with all the rules of the CFP. Furthermore, the EU has also adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

- State of EU stocks⁴

Knowledge about the state of stocks is improving in all sea basins of the European Union, enabling management based increasingly on the basis of scientific knowledge and advice. Overfishing is also being reduced through adjustments in levels of fishing opportunities based on scientific advice, with adaptations to the permitted structure of fishing gear to improve selectivity.

As a result, the state of fish stocks in in Union waters, in particular in Atlantic waters, has improved. More stocks are exploited within their maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels. In fact, for fish stocks in European waters the proportion of overfished stocks (where the most recent fishing mortality is higher than that which will provide MSY) has fallen from 94% in 2004 to 47% in 2012 and furthermore to 39% in 2013. While in 2010 the EU had only nine stocks fished at a sustainable level, this number has increased to 27 stocks in 2014, representing approximately 80% of all landings in the EU.

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning a consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2014, COM(2013) 319 final

In the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea, the state of knowledge about fish stocks is improving gradually, though further progress needs to be made towards the objective at exploiting stocks in conformity with MSY. Until 2012 the state of 85 stocks was assessed with respect to MSY and the proportion of overfished stocks was found to be 88%. This is similar to the situation in the North-East Atlantic in 2008.

- Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements

Bilateral fisheries agreements between the EU and third countries constitute a highly regulated and transparent framework for fishing activities of the EU fleet in third-country waters. Current Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs) aim to create a partnership to promote sustainable fisheries, based on the best available scientific advice and information on the cumulative fishing effort in the waters concerned and have the objective to allow EU vessels to fish only surplus resources in the exclusive economic zones of a number of third countries, in line with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS. They constitute a transparent legal framework which aims to ensure that fishing activities of EU fleets are respectful of the stock status, of the environment and ecosystems and do not compete with local fishermen communities. Through these FPAs, while obtaining access to the surplus resources of third countries, the EU provides financial and technical support for the sustainable development of the fisheries sector of partner countries. Thus, they can contribute to enhancing food security, both directly (by increasing the local supply of fish) and indirectly (through generated income due to employment creation, harbour activities, processing factories, etc.).

- Trade policy

The EU also actively pursues, in the framework of its Free Trade Agreement Negotiations, reciprocal commitments and cooperation in view of long term sustainability of fisheries, promotion of sustainable aquaculture, cooperation at regional and international level with existing fisheries management organisations, the fight against IUU.

- Development policy

The EU development policy⁵ aims at improving food security and reducing poverty in the world while promoting sustainable management of fisheries. For the period 2007-2013, the EU development policy funds have financed several projects in the field of fisheries and aquaculture for a total of around 150M euros. Regional programmes in Africa, in the Indian Ocean and in the Pacific Ocean have focused on strategic governance issues including control, surveillance and the fight against IUU fishing. As a complement, national programmes have supported the formulation and implementation of national sectoral policies developed by partner countries as well as initiatives led by local communities. Fisheries have also benefited from EU development programmes on health surveillance, sanitary issues and market-access.

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, Fisheries and Poverty Reduction, COM(2000)724 final, of 8.11.2000

Finally, the EU would like to recall that in “The future we want”, States decided to establish an intergovernmental process on Sustainable Development Goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. We call upon States to ensure that the critical importance of the marine environment and marine resources for all three pillars of sustainable development, food security and poverty eradication is explicitly recognized in the post 2015 framework.

UNITED KINGDOM

UK Contribution to discussions on the role of seafood in global food security

The UK Government invests approximately £410 million a year on agri-food research addressing food security, growth and sustainability. The research and innovation is coordinated via the Global Food Security Programme, which brings together funders, industry and academics to work in partnership to address these challenges.

Seafood makes a relatively small contribution to UK food security. However the UK Government Office for Science Foresight report, “the Future of Food and Farming”, published in 2011, recognises the importance of seafood in global food security. The report brought together over 400 leading experts and stakeholders from 35 countries. It explores the increasing pressures on the global food system generally between now and 2050 and asks how a future global population of 9 billion people can all be fed healthily and sustainably.

Other UK studies indicate the picture is quite different, where ongoing ocean acidification, climate change, litter, diseases and invasive species could cause significant changes in marine ecosystems, with the potential to affect food security which will hit developing countries with high dependence on marine protein sources hardest. Model projections indicate that by 2100 much of the North Sea will be seasonally under-saturated with respect to aragonite (needed by many shell-forming organisms), and the area of year-round ‘corrosive’ deeper water around the European shelf will also greatly increase. Such changes are likely to be deleterious for marine animals with calcium carbonate structures, such as molluscs, crustacean, echinoderms and corals as well as marine food webs. Similar impacts can be expected in many other regions around the world.

The UK Government recognises there are still many knowledge gaps and uncertainties. The UK is encouraged that, following collaborative working with European partners and maintaining liaison with industry the EU Common Fisheries Policy from 2014-2020 continue to take precautionary approach to fisheries management, and aim to ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield.

To improve our understanding of increased environmental stressors on marine ecosystems, fishers and aquaculture (and hence food security) there is need for more observational studies, additional experimental research and strengthening of the mechanisms for global coordination and synthesis, improved quantification of the sensitivity of marine aquaculture to global change, that might reduce the risk, moderate harm, build resilience or exploit beneficial opportunities within a sustainable development framework.

BACKGROUND NOTE

Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS,

22 - 25 APRIL 2014

1. Introduction

The *Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth* will be held in The Hague, the Netherlands from 22nd to 25th April 2014.

Hosted by the Government of the Netherlands with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), The World Bank Group, and partner countries: Grenada, Indonesia, Mauritius, Norway, and the United States of America, this Summit will bring together global leaders, ocean practitioners, business, science, civil society and international agencies to share experiences and demonstrate how combined action in partnerships for healthier and productive oceans can drive sustainable growth and shared prosperity while preserving natural capital for future generations.

The Summit will highlight the need to address the next frontier of successful integrated approaches that attract public-private partners, secure financing and catalyse good ocean governance while reconciling tensions and balancing priorities between (i) growth and conservation, (ii) private sector interests and equitable benefits for communities and (iii) Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) policy frameworks.

2. Background

2.1. The Opportunity

Eighty percent of all life on the planet is found in oceans. The ocean provides a global life support system that helps **regulate climate** and supplies half of the planet's oxygen needed for one in every two breaths that we take. Fish contributes 17 percent of the animal protein consumed by the world's population and thus is a critical source of **food security**, with demand expected to double in the next twenty years (FAO, 2012). Currently 3 billion people depend on fish for twenty percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein. About 660- 820 million livelihoods (or 10-12 percent of the world's population) are dependent on the fisheries. 97 percent of the livelihoods that are directly dependent on fisheries and aquaculture occur in developing countries, mostly via small-scale operations in Asia (FAO, 2010). Ocean **revenues** include some US\$161 billion annually from marine and coastal tourism, in addition to a growing range of products from the oceans, such as antibiotics, antifreeze, antifouling paints and a number of pharmaceutical products (UNEP, 2006). The ocean also

delivers essential **public goods and services** such as protection from natural hazards for the growing coastal population and carbon storage – in the form of 'blue carbon' sinks such as mangrove forests, sea grass beds and other vegetated ocean habitats, -which can sequester up to five times the amounts of carbon absorbed by tropical forests (Nellemann et al., 2009).

2.2. The Challenge

Today, the world faces one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century: how to feed 9 billion people by 2050 in the face of climate change, economic and financial uncertainty and the growing competition for natural resources. The multiple challenges of food insecurity, climate change, degradation of ecosystems, and economic recession require an integrated response and an urgent transition of the world economy towards a sustainable, inclusive and resource efficient path.

Healthy oceans are one key to rising to this challenge. But three key threats to ocean health - overfishing, habitat change and pollution - affect our ability to use the oceans to drive strong economies and healthy communities. Actions to solve these threats have often been unsuccessful. Moreover, they have contributed to the tensions between (i) growth and conservation, (ii) private sector interests and equitable benefits for communities and (iii) EEZs and ABNJ policy frameworks.

2.3. Rising to the challenge

This is why the Global Oceans Action Summit is bringing together stakeholders from across the public-private-civil society spheres to co-design solutions that can achieve healthy oceans at the speed and scale necessary to meet the challenges we face.

2.4. Breaking Down Barriers

The tensions mentioned above have been highlighted at recent Ocean Summits and meetings and through new initiatives that focus, for example, either on EEZs or on the high seas. The Global Oceans Action Summit aims to bring together stakeholders from various "schools of thought" to examine success stories where competing interests can be reconciled with a view to identifying actions, partnerships and financing that can help scale up activities that ultimately result in shared prosperity today and for future generations.

Balancing Growth and Conservation

Governments, policy makers and international institutions keen to boost food security and eradicate poverty face a careful balancing act between conservation and growth. While fisheries and aquaculture generate considerable social and economic benefits for hundreds of millions of people around the world, and have the potential to increase their contribution to human well-being and growth, these activities have inevitable impacts on biodiversity and the environment. These are impacts that, if not managed and controlled effectively, can cause irreversible damage to aquatic ecosystems and resources that are additional to the impacts of other human activities, such as those

due to coastal and offshore mining, oil and gas extraction, coastal and riparian zone development, pollution from land-based sources, which are often not adequately managed.

Sustainable development, based on the pillars of ecological, social and economic sustainability, entails reconciling several intersecting agendas. Often agendas are promoted that reflect either the economic, or social or conservation objectives. However, there is a clear need to address all three pillars concurrently. There is also a need to link institutions that deal directly or indirectly with ocean issues across spatial and jurisdictional scales in ways that are efficient and effective, avoiding duplications and conflicts.

National governments can play a key role in addressing these challenges, acting on their own and in concert with others through international treaties including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and other regional mechanisms such as the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP). FAO is working on many fronts to find solutions to these problems. Major areas of activity include, for example, development and implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture, eco-labelling and certification, cooperation with CITES on commercially-exploited aquatic species, management of by catch and discards and others.

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth highlights solutions for meeting this balance between growth and conservation with a view to delivering actionable approaches towards projects for scaled-up action.

Balancing private sector growth and equitable benefits for communities

More than 38 million people are directly employed by capture fisheries, including marine and inland fisheries. Over 90% of these work in small-scale fisheries, primarily in developing countries. Globally, fish provide about 3 billion people with almost 20 percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein. In some countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Bangladesh, Ghana and Indonesia, fish accounts for more than 50 percent of the animal protein intake.

While governments can create legal, regulatory and policy frameworks and incentives, it is the private sector that is the main driver of economic growth through investment and entrepreneurial initiatives which range from global billion-dollar corporations that are vertically integrated to small-scale fishers.

Given the wide range of actors in the private sector and the differences in their goals, in the context of Blue Growth, efficiency not only relates to the monetary return on investment in sustainable fisheries but also the wider societal gains - in particular from small-scale operations for local economic growth, poverty reduction and food security.

Strong momentum exists to reshape the context in which the private sector, independently of its scale, currently operates in order to ensure sustainable growth with equitable benefits for communities. For example, one priority action identified during the recent Asia Conference on

Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth (ACOFB, 2013) is *"Ensuring that opportunities for blue growth do not marginalize small scale, local community- level fisheries and aquaculture."* Along the same lines, in the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, members of the international community agreed to *"encourage the private sector to contribute to decent work for all and job creation for both women and men, and particularly for the youth, including through partnerships with small and medium enterprises as well as cooperatives."* These objectives require policies that create incentives for producers and consumers to adopt sustainable practices and behaviour.

These principles for private sector growth and equitable benefits are also enshrined in a number of internationally adopted instruments developed to guide policy makers in decision-making on development in fisheries, namely the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Right to Food Guidelines, the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines).

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth will highlight examples of success where large scale private sector and small scale operators have worked harmoniously and provide frameworks and partnerships for scaled-up action.

Uniting EEZ and ABNJ Agendas

There are a number of common issues that have an impact in EEZs and in the high seas in regard to resource use and conservation. A few of the most important include Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, overcapacity, harmful subsidies, and pollution.

IUU Fishing is a serious global problem and increasingly is seen as one of the main obstacles to the achievement of sustainable world fisheries. IUU fishing respects neither national boundaries nor international attempts to manage fishing on the high seas. Many factors contribute to circumstances where IUU fishing flourishes, including economic incentives which negate attempts to make fishing behaviour more responsible. It thrives where limited capacity or weak governance arrangements prevail and is further encouraged by the failure of countries to meet their international responsibilities. It puts unsustainable pressure on fish stocks, marine wildlife and habitats, subverts labour standards and distorts markets.

Although the overall extent and value of IUU fishing is very difficult to estimate with any real degree of accuracy, recent studies⁶ put the worldwide value of IUU fishing at between \$10 billion and \$23.5 billion annually. IUU fishing imposes significant economic costs on some of the poorest countries in the world where dependency on fisheries for food, livelihoods and revenues is high and undermines efforts by these countries to manage natural resources as a contribution to growth and welfare.

⁶ Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing, 2009 David J. Agnew, John Pearce, Ganapathiraju Pramod, Tom Peatman, Reg Watson, John R. Beddington, Tony J. Pitcher <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0004570>.

Another common issue of the ABNJ and coastal fisheries which directly affects overfishing is the large number of harmful subsidies that have resulted in marine capture fisheries underperforming as a global asset. Perverse subsidies to the fisheries sector (such as for vessel construction and fuel tax waivers) reduce the real costs of fishing and enable fishing to continue when it would otherwise be unprofitable. The Sunken Billions study⁷ shows that the difference between the potential and actual net economic benefits from marine fisheries is in the order of \$50 billion per year - equivalent to more than half the value of the global seafood trade. The cumulative economic loss to the global economy over the last three decades is estimated to be in the order of two trillion dollars. In many countries the catching operations are buoyed up by subsidies, so that the global fishery economy to the point of landing (the harvest sub-sector) is in deficit.

From small-scale artisanal fisheries to large-scale industrial fisheries, and whether in national waters or ABNJ, the related issues of who has the right to exploit the fishery's resources and the nature of that right are a key part of the sustainable management of the resource. The experience to date with a variety of types of user access systems - customary, traditional, and current – provides a basis for assessing when the use of such systems may help in ensuring that fishing effort is commensurate with the maximum sustainable productivity of fisheries resources. This experience may also help determine when such systems can provide fishers and fishing communities with a tool that can create incentives for conserving and responsibly using fisheries resources.

An additional issue linking the ABNJ and EEZs is the growing impacts of marine pollution on ocean living resources. Marine pollution includes marine litter and debris, waste water and excess agricultural nutrients. Marine debris includes any anthropogenic, manufactured, or processed solid material (regardless of size) discarded, disposed of, lost or abandoned that ends up in the marine environment. It includes, but is not limited to, plastics, metals, glass, concrete and other construction materials, paper, polystyrene, rubber, rope, textiles and hazardous materials, such as munitions, asbestos and medical waste. Marine debris may result from activities on land or at sea and is a complex cultural and multi-sectoral problem that exacts tremendous ecological, economic, and social costs around the globe. In the few decades since mass production of plastic products commenced, plastic debris, driven by currents, has accumulated in the open ocean, on shorelines of even the most remote islands and in the deep sea.

Environmental pollutants comprise one of the major hurdles the marine food web is facing today. Contaminants that accumulate in wildlife, including fish, cause health problems for them and for humans who eat them. Reproductive and developmental problems, behavioural problems, diseases, and cancers have all been linked to chemical pollutants. Marine mammals, birds and fish may be even more sensitive than humans to low concentrations of these pollutants⁸.

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth brings together EEZ and ABNJ stakeholders around common issues which, if addressed holistically, can have positive impacts on ocean health, as a whole.

⁷ The Sunken Billions; The economic justification for fisheries reform. 2009. The World Bank and FAO.

⁸ From: <http://namanet.org/our-work/ecosystem-protection/toxic-pollution-fisheries>.

2.5. Turning the Tide: delivering solutions

Restoring the health of the world's oceans is a global challenge that can be solved. The challenge is to accelerate efforts to implement the commitments the world has already made and to seize this opportunity for the global economy. The institutional failures that have created the conditions for "The Tragedy of the Commons" with open access to ocean resources can be addressed effectively. A growing number of examples from around the world have shown that global coordinated action to increase investment can unlock the oceans' economic potential, benefiting millions of people.

Taken altogether, whether addressing growth and conservation, private sector and equitable benefits for communities or ABNJ and EEZ, these solutions should also help address fundamental ocean issues such as:

(a) Sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture; *with a view towards*: (i) Significantly increasing global food fish production from both sustainable aquaculture and sustainable fisheries by adopting best practices and reducing environmental risk to stimulate investment; and (ii) Enabling the world's overfished stocks to be rebuilt and increase the annual net benefits of capture fisheries by at least \$20 billion, including through reducing subsidies that promote overfishing and by encouraging responsible governance of tenure.

(b) Critical coastal habitat and biodiversity protection, *with a view towards*: (i) Halving the current rate of natural habitat loss and reducing habitat degradation and fragmentation, by applying ecosystem-based approaches to management; (ii) Increasing marine managed and protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, to include at least 10% of coastal and marine areas; and (iii) Conserving and restoring natural coastal habitats to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.

(c) Pollution Reduction, *with a view towards*: (i) Reducing pollution to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity; and (ii) Supporting implementation of the Global Program of Action to reduce pollution, particularly from marine litter, waste water and excess agricultural nutrients, and further develop consensus for identifying cost-effective interventions to reduce these pollutants.

Oceans and food security need to be at the heart of sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts. Healthy productive oceans are vital to global human welfare and are therefore part of the solution.

3. The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth will focus on surfacing solutions to meet the needs of countries to restore their oceans and use them to alleviate poverty, share prosperity and better absorb global shocks.

The Summit will emphasize Three Thematic Areas (growth and conservation; private sector and equitable benefits for communities; ABNJ/EEZ) with a view towards breaking down silos in the world of ocean policy and action while promoting integrated approaches. The Summit will focus on how to use this shared understanding to develop action-oriented partnerships, frameworks for existing and new financing mechanisms, and models for good governance.

3.1. Key Objectives

- Identifying solutions to ocean threats that can be replicated at speed and scale to deliver healthy oceans for every country.
- Identifying financial mechanisms and mobilizing partnerships to better fulfil the obligations embedded in UNCLOS.
- Using these solutions and the shared understandings across important ocean themes to serve as inputs to the post-2015 sustainable development framework.

3.2. Summit Logistics

Timing, program and location:

The Government of the Netherlands will host ***The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth*** from 21st to 25th April 2014 at The World Forum in The Hague, The Netherlands. A ministerial dialogue will be convened on Thursday April 24th.

Tentatively, the program will include:

- Day 1: Opening. Positioning the Oceans. Global State of the Oceans and challenges per region / Working Group sessions.
- Day 2: Working group sessions to examine success stories where competing interests can be reconciled with a view to identifying actions, partnerships and financing that can help scale up activities that ultimately result in shared prosperity.
- Day 3: High-Level Summit Event. Solution and action oriented engagement amongst stakeholders, including Ministers and CEOs.
- Day 4: Report back from High Level Event and Closing session.

Participation:

Participants are being invited from governments, private sector, the scientific community, local community and indigenous people, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic foundations.

More information:

Further information on the Summit will be available on the website:
www.globaloceansactionssummit.com