

On behalf of Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Law Institute and Monterey Bay Aquarium, we offer the following feedback on the Zero Draft of the declaration for the 2020 UN Oceans Conference to support the implementation of SDG14.

First and foremost, we greatly appreciate the work of the Co-Facilitators to advance the Zero Draft of the declaration and the opportunity to provide feedback. The new language in the Zero Draft is encouraging, and we believe that with targeted amendments and clarifications, the declaration can be further strengthened to support global efforts to scale up improvement toward Goal 14 outcomes.

- In Section 3, we strongly recommend that the text be revised to say, “The ocean supplies us with oxygen to breathe, **is essential to global** food security...”, instead of “... contributes to...”
- In Section 4, we urge a commitment to specific timelines to achieve the four Goal 14 targets that will mature in 2020, and to encourage mobilization of resources and technology to scale up improvements toward these targets.
- In Section 6, we recommend that the text be amended to say, “We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the ocean’s ecosystems and to protecting and restoring its resilience, **capacity to provide sufficient and nutritious food**, and ecological integrity.”
- In Section 10, subsection a, we recommend that “integrated ocean management, planning and decision-making” be called out as a necessary precondition of sustainable ocean development.
- In Section 10, subsection b, we note that IUU fishing is an important – but not the sole – driver of depleted fisheries. As such, we recommended adding new text (tentatively new subsection c), stating, “Transforming fisheries management to account for climate change so that vulnerable small scale fishing communities are not harmed unnecessarily by shifts in stock distribution and productivity”.
- In Section 10, we recommend adding new text (tentatively subsection d), stating, “Incentivizing sustainable aquaculture through innovative science-driven approaches, technology and best practices to support a blue economy, including food security and viable small-scale livelihoods.”
- Another way to recognize the critical impacts of climate change on wild fisheries would be as an amendment to (current subsection e), to read, “... including through **enhancing management of fisheries to account for changing stock productivity and distributions** ...”
- In Section 11, subsection l, we recommend that the text be amended to say, “... to ensure that **policies and regulatory frameworks** are informed by the best-available science, and to highlight policies, actions, **and legal models** that may be scalable...”

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this input and we stand ready to work with you towards a successful 2020 UN Ocean Conference and ultimately progress towards SDG14.