

# Biodiversity is Everyone's Business:

The seafood industry takes a stand on biodiversity  
in the High Seas

Oliver Tanqueray

*Sustainable Seafood Coalition Coordinator*



# Overview

- 1 Introducing our partners:  
the Sustainable Seafood Coalition, the Global Tuna Alliance and the Hong Kong SSC.
- 2 What is the High Seas Treaty, and why does it matter to seafood businesses?
- 3 Overview of the joint-industry statement.
- 4 Next steps in our advocacy.

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# Introducing our pre-competitive collaboration platforms



45 members with joint commitments to Codes of Conduct on responsible sourcing and environmental claims.



香港環保海鮮聯盟  
HK SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD COALITION

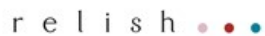
18 members in a coalition aiming to advance the sustainable seafood market in Hong Kong through good sourcing practices.



49 partners in a sector-wide, multi-stakeholder initiative to build shared, global and non-competitive solutions to sustainability issues in the global supply chain.







# The Global Tuna Alliance



RD Tuna Canners Ltd.



# 2

## What is the High Seas Treaty and why does it matter to seafood businesses?

*“At Tesco, we want to make it easier for our customers to buy affordable, healthy, sustainable food. We are **committed to sourcing from healthy marine ecosystems**, however, currently **there’s no robust global conservation framework for fishing** in areas beyond national jurisdiction, or the High Seas. As a partner of both the Global Tuna Alliance and the Sustainable Seafood Coalition, we are pleased **a strong common position** on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) has been established, and call on governments to **accelerate action for a robust High Seas Treaty**, including a 30×30 commitment for a network of Marine Protected Areas.”*

Giles Bolton, Responsible Sourcing Director



## 2

# Why does the High Seas Treaty matter to seafood businesses?

- Data shows dramatic increase in fishing pressure since 1980s – but catches are stagnating,
- High Seas fisheries account for up to **US\$16 billion** annually in gross catch,
- Estimates of the economic value of carbon storage by the High Seas range from **US\$74 billion** to **US\$222 billion** a year,
- High Seas inextricably linked to coastal ecosystems – exemplified by highly migratory species,
- Yet many nation states are sceptical of including fisheries in the High Seas Treaty.



# 3

## Overview of the joint industry statement

### **We recognize the impacts of fisheries**

- ✓ Commercial fisheries impacts represent the largest direct driver of biodiversity decline in the High Seas.

### **We need increased protection of ABNJs**

- ✓ Transformative change is required to address the climate and biodiversity crises.
- ✓ Currently only ~1% of the High Seas are protected and there is insufficient oversight or accountability of activities that could impact on the global commons.

### **We need a High Seas Treaty that harmonizes responsibilities of RFMOs**

- ✓ BBNJ Treaty capable of complementing the conservation and management measures of RFMOs.
- ✓ Treaty must address the cumulative impacts of human activities that RFMOs do not have the capacity or mandate to monitor and manage.

### **We want the process to involve those most affected by the treaty**

- ✓ One of the last global commons, where only a few actors currently stand to profit.
- ✓ Retailers and suppliers of seafood.
- ✓ Small Island Developing States.

# 5

## Next steps...

### NGOs

- ✓ Use this industry statement in your BBNJ advocacy efforts.
- ✓ Encourage your industry partners to sign up to support the statement.

### Policy decision-makers

- ✓ Consider how this statement might affect your negotiating positions.
- ✓ Refer to this industry position where helpful – especially when facing resistance to an ambitious treaty.

### Industry

- ✓ Reflect on your reliance on a healthy High Seas, both directly and indirectly.
- ✓ Sign up to support this position statement.
- ✓ Encourage your suppliers, customers, competitors and trade bodies to sign.