

Statement Switzerland

Agenda Item 11 - Addressing climate change and other environment-related matters in fisheries and aquaculture

We would like to make a short statement to highlight the importance of better understanding and addressing the effects of underwater noise.

At the 33. Session of COFI the Committee noted with concern the issue of anthropogenic underwater noise and encouraged the FAO to conduct a review of the socio-economic impacts of underwater noise on marine living resources.

The Government of Switzerland is currently funding such a study, which is being carried out by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in collaboration with OceanCare. The study investigates the potential effects of underwater noise on demersal fisheries in a Fisheries Restricted Area in the Adriatic Sea. One of the main aims of the study is to propose a regional practice, which could then be considered and replicated in other regions by relevant RFMOs. As indicated in the document prepared by the COFI Secretariat for this session, this study is currently ongoing and will be submitted to the consideration of the FAO-GFCM Scientific Advisory Body on Fisheries in due course.