

9. Addressing climate change in fisheries and aquaculture: reporting on progress and elements for comment on the Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change

1. It is important to step up our efforts for emission reduction and to bolster the resilience of marine ecosystems by ending overfishing, opting for a precautionary approach and ensuring the protection of sensitive species and sensitive habitats. This is in line with the One Health Approach, which recognizes the interconnection between people, animal, plants and their shared environment.
2. At the same time, it is important to provide sound fisheries management to maintain the blue carbon sink function of marine ecosystems and preserve and increase the role of the ocean in climate change mitigation.
3. By the end of 2022, the European Commission will present a report on the functioning of the EU Common Fisheries Policy that will consider, among other aspects, how the Common Fisheries Policy caters for climate change, from both mitigation and adaptation perspectives. To inform the report, we are carrying out two studies that assess possible impacts of climate change on fisheries and how it can be made more resilient to current and forthcoming impacts while also mitigating the climate footprint of the sector.
4. We also need to improve our understanding of the interactions between climate and fisheries, including via nature-based solutions¹ and ecosystem-based approaches considering sea basins specificities. The EU will work to integrate climate change considerations in the works of the scientific committees of RFMOs, and other bodies and instruments dealing with the conservation and management of marine living resources.
5. The EU recently updated its International Ocean Governance agenda to highlight climate action as one of its key priorities, including through maritime transport measures and decarbonising the fishing sector.
6. As part of the implementation of its strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture, the European Commission will elaborate a guidance document for the development of climate adaptation plans and strategies specific to the aquaculture sector. This document will build on the results of EU-funded research and innovation projects. The EU will also support climate change mitigation in the aquaculture sector, including by promoting the types of aquaculture that contribute to mitigation of climate change impact.

¹ [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#)

7. We thank FAO for the Strategy on Climate Change recently endorsed by the 170th Council and for the inclusive and consultative process that guided this work.
 8. We welcome FAO's ambition on climate change, and its commitment to align with, among others, the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Glasgow Climate Pact, as well as its involvement in the future Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
 9. We also appreciate FAO's willingness to develop its partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders and the special attention given to countries most exposed to climate change, in particular small island developing states and least developed countries, including land-locked countries.
 10. We look forward to the action plan to promote the wide range of innovative solutions needed and we expect the strategy to be reflected and implemented throughout FAO's work on fisheries and aquaculture.
 11. At the 11th session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, the EU invited the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division to develop a specific guidance document for the aquaculture sector, considering the challenge posed by climate change and the specificities of this sector. Climate change should also be adequately mainstreamed in the draft Guidelines on Sustainable Aquaculture under preparation.
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