

FAO COFI 2022
Statement of Iceland under agenda item 9
Addressing climate change in fisheries and aquaculture: reporting on progress and
Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031

Mr Chair

Climate change is clearly one of the most pressing issues of our times. Iceland places great emphasis on addressing climate change and is happy to note FAOs emphasis on the issue

In the context of COFI, we are of course focused on the connection to fisheries and aquaculture, i.e. how fisheries and aquaculture contribute to climate change and how climate change affects fisheries and aquaculture, not least the impact on fisheries management.

In addressing an all-encompassing issue like climate change, it is easy to loose focus. We encourage FAO to be aware of that challenge and ensure that the focus of the work maintains a clear fisheries and aquaculture focus.

When it comes to fisheries management, there are certainly plenty of challenges. We have already started to see changes in the distribution and migration patterns for several fish stocks. This can be a great challenge for fisheries management, both at the national and regional level, and is one of the issues that should be included in the work of FAO regarding climate change and could be a fitting subject for a subcommittee on fisheries management.

Thank you, Mr Chair.