



International Coalition of Fisheries Associations

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ICFA RESOLUTION ON MARINE PLASTICS

Preface

Since November 2022, parties to the United Nations have been developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The treaty will address the full lifecycle of plastic, including its production, design and disposal.

The International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) notes that:

- Fisheries support the elimination of plastic pollution in the world's oceans. ICFA looks forward to supporting the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution objectives of reducing plastic, improving waste management and recycling methods to prevent harmful pollution in the marine environment.
- The majority of marine plastic pollution found in the ocean comes from land-based sources such as urban and stormwater runoff, sewer overflows, littering, and inadequate waste disposal and management.¹ The remainder comes from sea-based activities. Plastic pollution negatively impacts marine life and biodiversity; human health, safety, and livelihoods; and the fishing and shipping industries, including the economics of local communities that rely on these industries. As oceans are a shared global resource, the seafood industry is committed to working with global partners, governments, industry and communities to find meaningful solutions and advancements in research and innovation to reduce plastic pollution in our oceans.
- Although the impact on fish and human health is a growing area of study, there is no current evidence that consuming seafood has an impact on human health². Based on the

¹ [Our World in Data-Ocean Plastics](#)

² [Microplastics in Fish and Shellfish - A threat to Seafood Safety](#)

available science; microplastic in seafood are a small source of human exposure compared with air, water, and other dietary sources³.

- Certain forms of sea-based marine plastic pollution such as abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), can be sources of marine plastic pollution. ICFA members support and actively participate in efforts to explore fishing technologies and methods such as recycling programs and gear development and monitoring initiatives that would maintain a prosperous fishing industry while also reducing the risk of entanglements and as a source of pollution.
- ICFA members are also supportive of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) being the main international convention for addressing ship sourced pollution.

Therefore, ICFA calls for –

- An international agreement that looks to holistically address legitimate ocean plastic pollution issues on land and sea while also considering the linked goals of ensuring food security, food safety, nutrition, and the social and economic sustainability of seafood systems.
- Adopting a multi-layered government approach to eradicating marine plastic pollution mutually reinforces individual, sub national, national and regional actions.
- The fishing industry, fisheries agencies and international organizations including FAO to be fully integrated into the decision-making process regarding potential marine pollution treaty core obligations and targets, control measures, action plans, and implementation measures.

³ [A Review of Microplastics in Table Salt, Drinking Water and Air :Direct Human Exposure pdf](#)