



Youth Engagement at Our Ocean Conference 2022

April 12, 2022 (Palau)

Youth Statement on Small-Scale Fisheries

We, the youth representatives who proudly represent the countries of Canada, Japan and the Republic of Palau appeal to you, the Global Leaders at the Our Ocean Conference 2022 to commit yourselves to support the following ideas, born out of our experiences and knowledge of our ocean and our people:

First, youth involvement is limited within the fisheries sector and we want that to change. We want to be more involved with our local fisheries management and decision-making. We are the future leaders in sustainable fisheries management and we need to learn from our leaders to ensure we develop and carry on proper management skills and expertise into the future of our fisheries.

Second, we see that there is a great lack of consumer awareness in terms of sustainable fisheries and sustainable products. We must incentivize consumers to take a stand and make the sustainable choice in order to incentivize the fishing industry to implement sustainable practices into their operations.

Third, we need to develop and implement a uniform and efficient data collection method that will capture the necessary data that will inform sound legislation and fisheries policies.

Therefore, we call on you, global leaders, to listen and raise the voices of the youth on the these issues and commit to the following solutions:

- We, the youth, call for the establishment of programs that will encourage the youth to be more involved in fisheries management. The stigma that surrounds fisheries as an undesirable career choice needs to be changed and instead they should be encouraged and taught to pursue these opportunities.
- We also call to involve the fisheries industry to join in the efforts towards sustainable management within the fisheries industry to produce sustainable products and raising awareness among consumers to use these sustainable products.
- Finally, there needs to be more involvement of community members and leaders in research and data collection in the fisheries sector. There is a disconnect between policy makers and resource users that needs to be resolved. Resources users and owners need to be well informed and involved in policy decisions in order to receive the maximum benefits as a result of any fisheries regulations that are put in place.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Youth representatives from the OOC 2022