



# The perspective of ICFA on opportunities and challenges in further addressing the impacts of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems and long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks

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# ICFA Membership

25 members in 5 continents

Asia: Japan, Taiwan

Africa: Morocco

Americas: United States, Canada, Alpescas (Peru, Chile, Mexico, Brasil, Argentina, Colombia, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama)

Europe: Iceland, Norway, France, Denmark, Spain, Netherlands, United Kingdom)

Oceania: New Zealand, Australia.



# Framing our situation

- We are fully aware that our activity has an impact on the environment
- Importance of breaking stereotypes
- Our industry is composed of people worried about the status of the Ocean and worried about its future as it will be their own.
- Frustration of being signaled
- Doubt on the future of fisheries is a brake on investment and technology, even research
- Simplest and more “exportable” solutions come from the industry: gear technology, fishing tactics, vessel design...



# Framing the situation

- If the debate between the two camps is not properly framed by society, no impulse will arrive and measures will continue to be eroded by the criticism of one or the other camp, continuing the cycle of polarization.
- Fishing has an impact on the environment, we are aware of it and also aware that it is impossible to produce food for the world population without such impacts.
- The question cannot be how we eliminate all those fishing impacts, as eliminating them completely can only be done by eliminating the activity.



# What we would like to see

- Define which are the ACCEPTABLE IMPACTS
- Full mapping of the Oceans
- High precision closures and control of the activity
- Develop proper metrics of the sustainability and net gains and losses for each decision.
- Establish a clear scientific base for the ocean, not based on the activity that is being stewarded, but rather as an absolute:
- MPAs and its objectives must be made clear beyond the ending of fishing activities
- Strengthening of the governance:
  - Areas under RFMO
  - Areas lacking RFMO



**“ICFA as a representative of the industry has always been and will continue to be engaged in the protection of the environment, and it will do so without rest or limitation other than to maintain coastal culture, heritage and livelihoods and to continue to produce a much-needed sustainable protein, this will be our only red line.”**



**Enjoy eating seafood,  
you will be happier 😊**