

As a contracting member of *the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)*, the Chinese government has duly fulfilled its obligations as a responsible state, taken active measures to strengthen the conservation of marine fishery resources and made great achievements in recent years.

Firstly, we implement the TAC management system. Since 2017, the Chinese government has promoted the implementation of TAC management system, till now, the actual catch in China's offshore waters has been kept within 10 million tons, and all 11 coastal provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) have launched pilot programs to implement fishing quota systems. **Secondly, we continuously improve the fishing moratorium system.** Since 1995, the marine fishing moratorium system has been fully implemented with closure period extended as well as prohibited fishing types expanded all the time. At present, except for tackle fishing, all types of fishing are prohibited during the closure season which lasts for three to four-and-a-half months with more than 100,000 fishing boats and millions of fishermen involved. **Thirdly, we actively promote the fish stocking movements.** Since the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), more than 30 billion aquatic breeds have been released each year which plays an important role in restoring fish stock resources, improving

ecological environment of water area, promoting fishery efficiency and increasing fishermen's income. **Fourthly, we prominently promote the construction of marine ranches.** Since 2015, the Chinese government has actively promoted the standardized and scientific development of marine ranch construction, by 2022, more than 200 marine ranches have been built among which are 153 state-level ones, and it has made great achievements in economic, ecological and social aspects. **Fifthly, we strengthen the protection of precious and endangered aquatic wildlife.** The Chinese government strengthens the protection of precious and endangered aquatic wildlife and their habitats with the focus on flagship species, seven action plans have been formulated for the protection of Chinese white dolphins, harbor seals and turtles, meanwhile, seven conservation leagues have been established with the Chinese government's support. Research on artificial breeding of aquatic wildlife has been carried out to improve the capacity for receiving and rescuing aquatic wildlife. Various kinds of science popularization activities have been carried out at important points such as Aquatic Wildlife Science Popularization Publicity Month and World Turtle Day. The Chinese government also duly implements *the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* and cracks down on illegal trade in aquatic wildlife. After years of efforts, the decline of the

flagship species of aquatic wildlife has been initially curtailed, and a sound situation with the whole society participating in the protection of aquatic wildlife has been formed.

In addition, we take active measures to conserve resources and implement voluntary fishing moratorium in the high seas.

To promote long-term sustainable utilization of high seas squid resources, the Chinese government launched the pilot fishing moratorium in some high seas in 2020, besides, from 2021, the Chinese government officially implemented voluntary fishing moratorium in key fishing grounds including the southwest Atlantic and eastern Pacific where Chinese squid fishing vessels mainly operate. The Chinese government also organizes relevant parties to strengthen resource dynamic monitoring and assessment, follows up the results of the implementation of fishing moratorium in a timely manner, and actively studies the feasibility of expanding fishing moratorium zones.