



# The Aquatic Blue Food Coalition

*A Coalition to champion aquatic blue foods\* for nutritious, equitable, sustainable, and climate-resilient food systems.*

There is a growing global consensus among policymakers that transforming our food systems is a priority to addressing several interconnected global challenges – climate change, food security, biodiversity loss - and to achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable blue food systems are an integral part of this transformation. Thoughtful policy changes, increased investments, and partnerships to fully integrate blue foods into food systems decision-making at national, regional, and international levels are needed to foster equitable, sustainable, and climate-resilient food systems.

The Aquatic Blue Food Coalition uses its wide network of members and expertise to work with decision-makers to deliver on the potential of blue food solutions to benefit people and the planet.

## Why Blue Foods?



Blue foods provide **3 billion people** with 20% of their animal protein needs and **1 in 5 people** with essential micronutrients.



Blue foods are incredibly diverse nutrient-dense foods with a **carbon footprint** that is often lower than that of traditional land-based protein.



Globally, blue foods support millions of people's livelihoods and food security needs while generating approximately **\$424 billion** annually in global revenue.

**\*Blue foods: Foods derived from aquatic animals, plants or algae that are captured or cultivated in freshwater and marine environments.**

# Who We Are

The Aquatic Blue Food Coalition originated from the U.N. Food Systems Summit 2021 as an action group focused on fulfilling the potential of SDG14 (Life Below Water) for global food security, a resilient climate, and thriving biodiversity.

It has brought together more than 35 active members from government, the private sector, academic institutions, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society from around the world. It is jointly managed by the Environmental Defense Fund and the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions, with leadership and strategic guidance provided by Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

A Strategic Advisory Committee, representing blue food experts and other practitioners from both the Global South and North, supports and advises the Coalition.

# What We Do

- **We raise the profile of blue foods by engaging high-level decision-makers to advocate for the recognition and integration of blue foods in transformations towards food systems that deliver for both people and the planet.**
  - *For example, the Coalition has worked to secure the integration of blue foods in the COP28 Emirates Declaration on Food and Agriculture; and the Coalition was also a signatory of the Non-State Actors Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate.*
- **We mobilize support for countries, or groups of countries, looking to integrate blue foods into their food systems policy by connecting and working with multiple stakeholders to mobilize investment, technical capacity and partnerships.**
  - *For example, the Coalition has worked with the School Meals Coalition to integrate blue foods into their international guidelines on planet-friendly school meals.*
- **We drive knowledge exchange and place-based action by fostering discussions between our members and provide them with support to catalyze action in key regions and/or countries by helping them understand their blue food needs and possibilities, and matching them with funding and/or technical assistance.**
  - *For example, the Coalition holds bimonthly meetings where members share latest updates and exchange information about programs, engagements and collaboration opportunities.*

**Get involved**

**If you are passionate about making blue foods an integral part of our food systems, contact us to learn more about our work and explore the possibility of becoming a member.**