

Aquatic blue foods for nutrition, livelihoods, and climate resilience

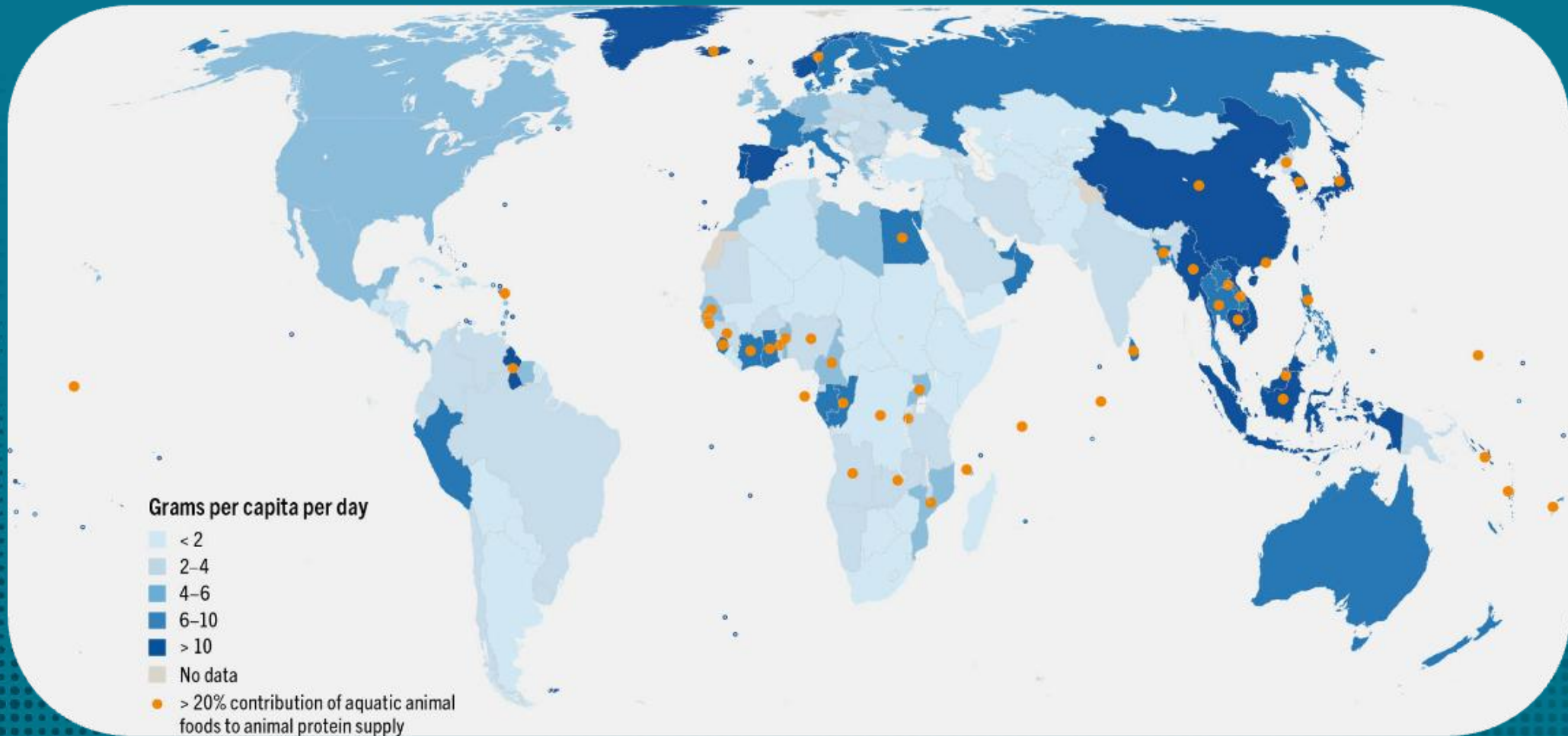
Jón Erlingur Jónasson,
Iceland's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Chair Aquatic Blue Food Coalition

THE CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE TO FOOD SECURITY Stocktake +1
Thursday 29 January 2026



Food systems are
failing us

Billions depend on blue foods



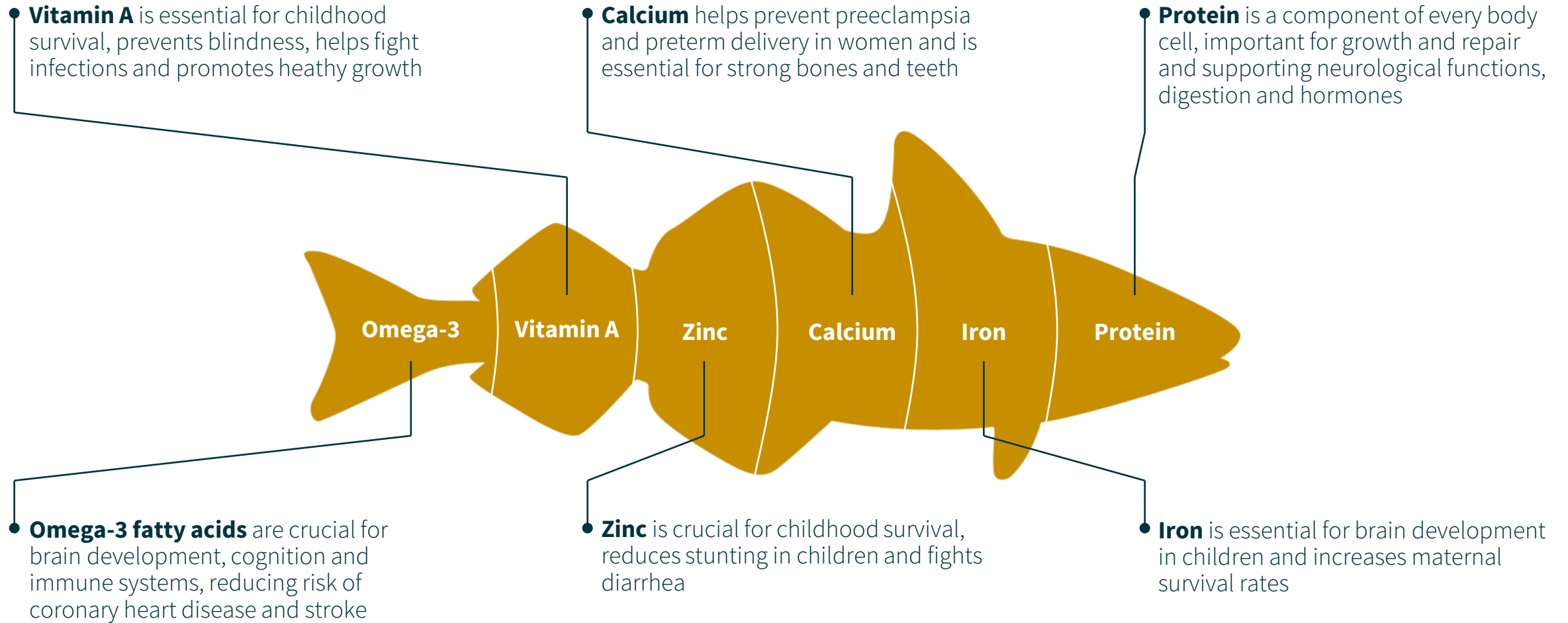
Blue foods are diverse



2,500 species or species groups of fish, invertebrates, algae and aquatic plants are caught or cultivated for food.

Credit: McPig

Blue foods are critical sources of valuable nutrients



3 billion
people depend
on aquatic
foods for their
livelihoods



A diversity of blue foods means a diversity of climate impacts



**species
distribution**



**ocean
acidification**



heat waves



hurricanes



drought



**pests &
pathogens**



sea level rise



crop losses



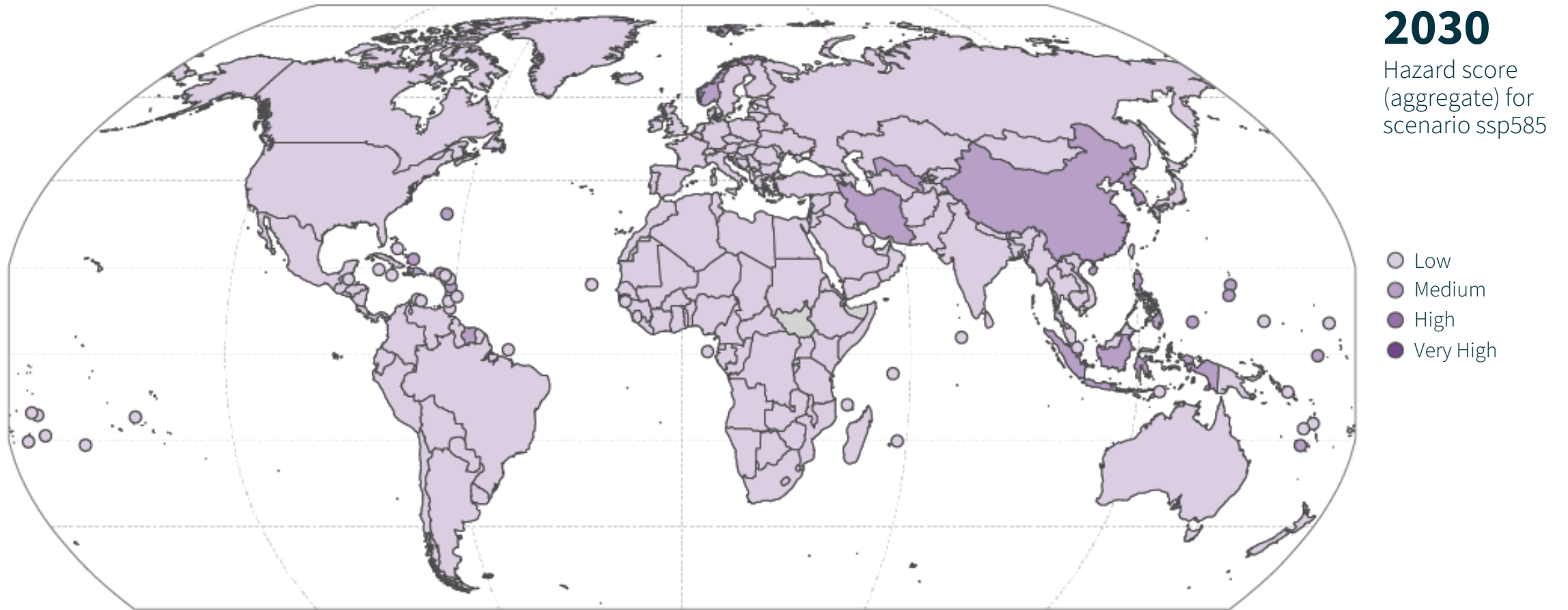
flooding



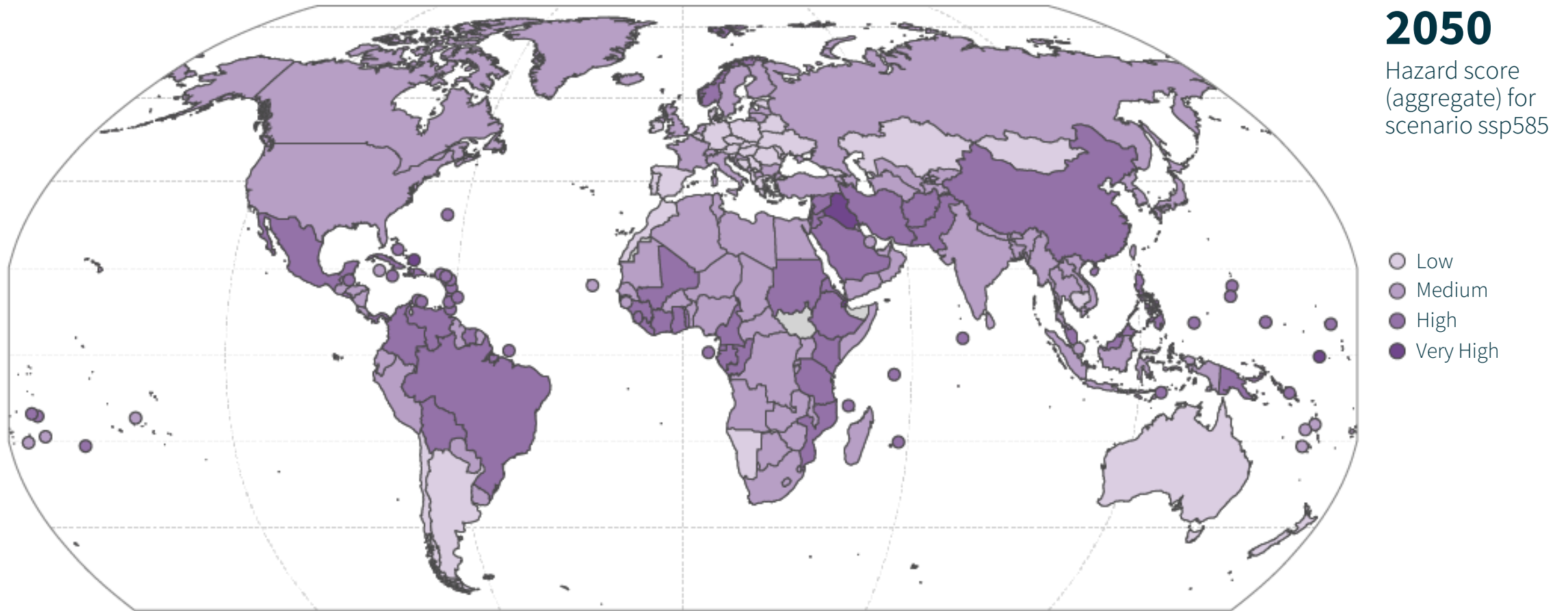
sea ice loss



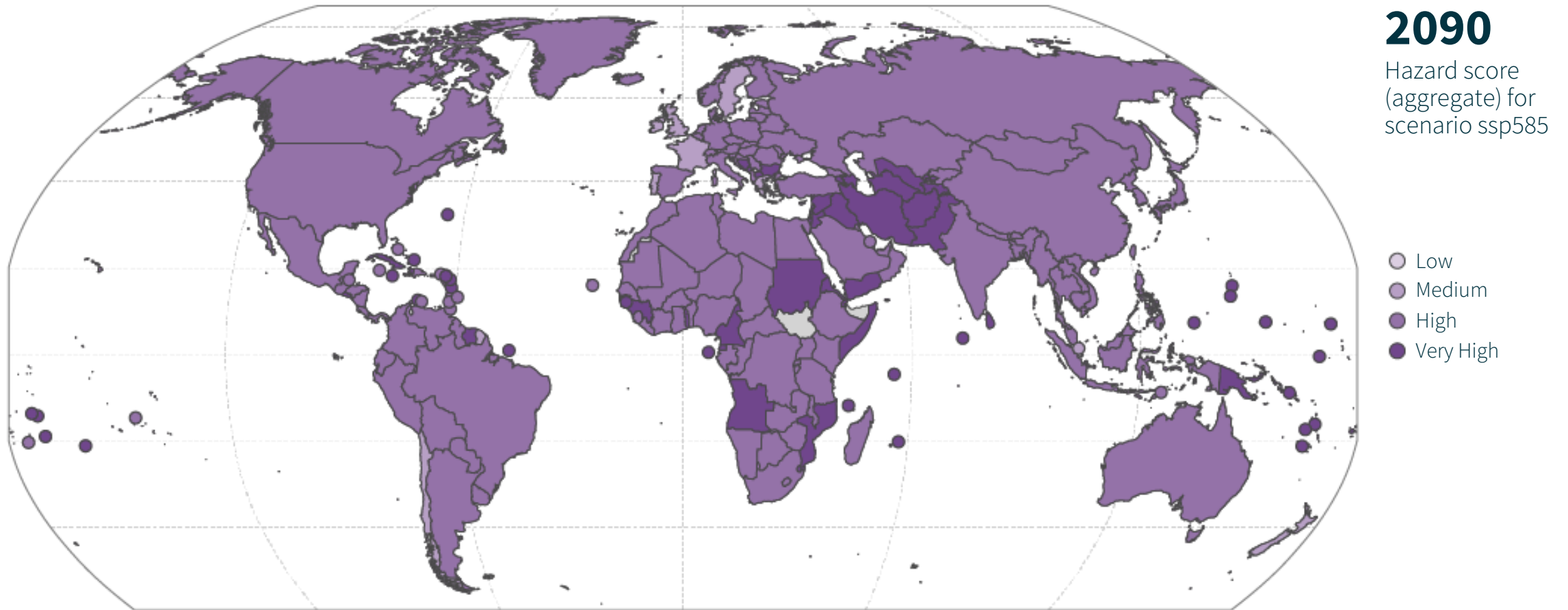
Climate change is impacting blue food production around the world



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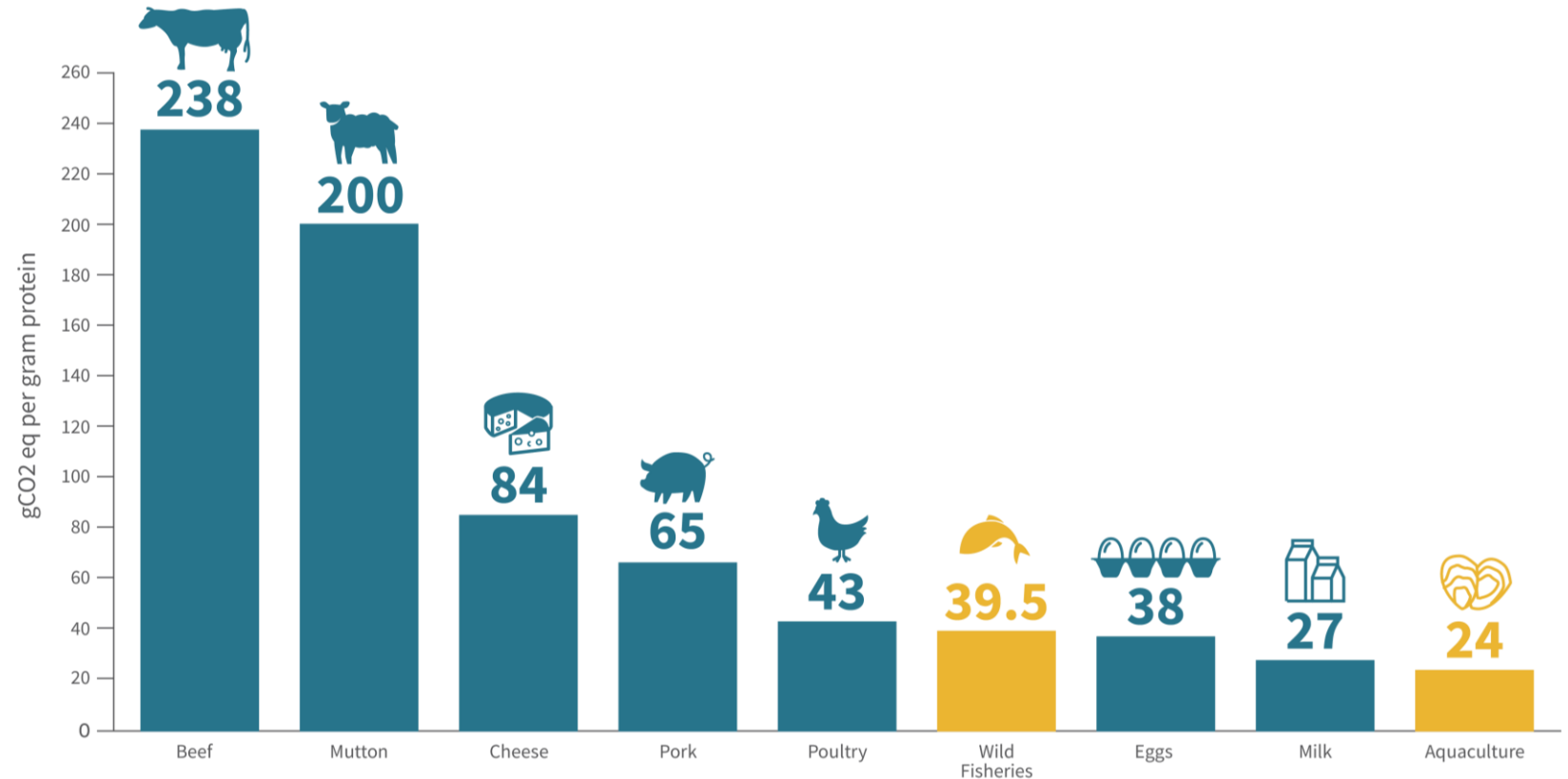




Blue foods are “climate
smart” and can be
managed for resilience

Blue foods have
a lower carbon
footprint than
other animal-
based foods

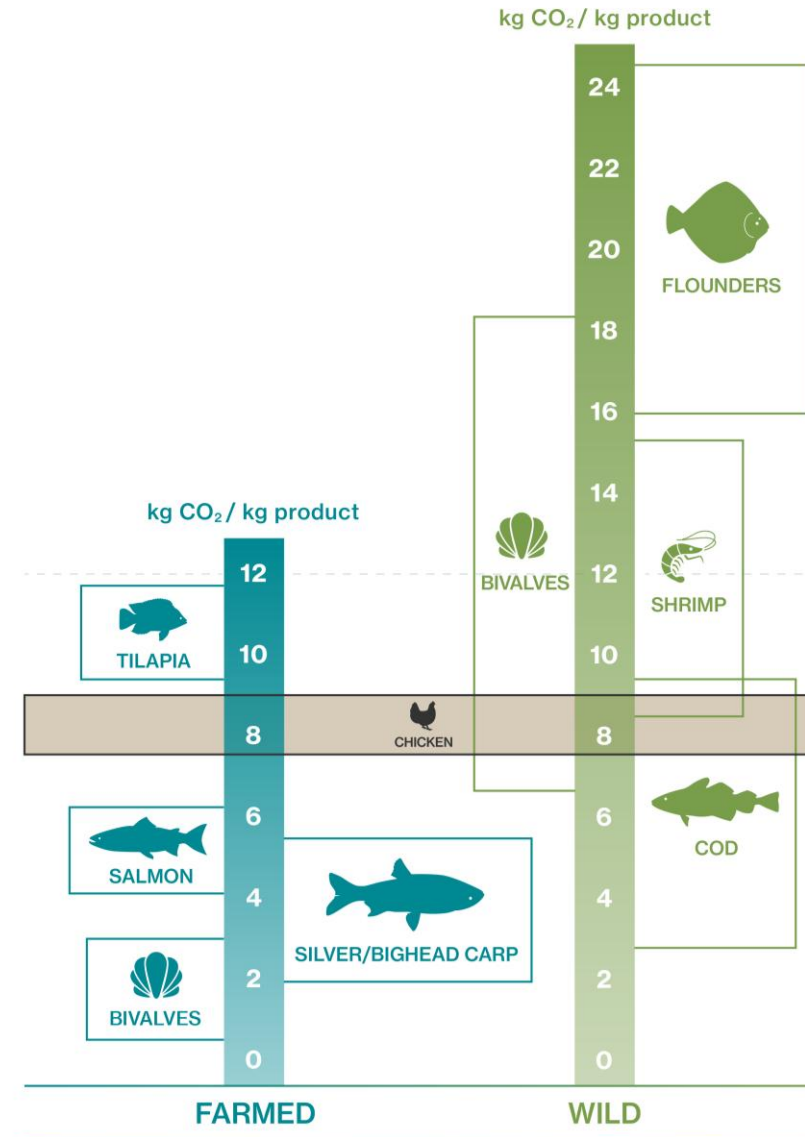
CO₂e Emissions of Protein Sources



Footprint generally
on par with or lower
than chicken

Large diversity within
blue foods – shift to
low-carbon species

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OF BLUE FOODS



Gephart et al., 2021

Data obtained from: Gephart, J.A., Henriksson, P.J.G., Parker, R.W.R. et al. Environmental performance of blue foods. Nature 597, 360–365 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03889-2>

This graphic was developed as part of the Blue Food Assessment



Blue foods' potential
has been ignored



**AQUATIC
BLUE FOOD
COALITION**

Aquatic Blue Food Coalition

Coalition members

Parties: Brazil, Canada, European Union, Fiji, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Palau, Portugal, Sierra Leone, United States of America

Intergovernmental Organizations: African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), One CGIAR, The Pacific Community (SPC), WorldFish

Academic Institutions: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, Korea Maritime Institute, Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute, Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions, Stellenbosch University

Civil Society: African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) – Malawi Chapter and Nigeria Chapter, Better Food Future, Blue Food Partnership, [CARE](#), Caribbean Aquaculture Education and Innovation Hub, Conservation International, Ethical Seafood Research, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD), Friends of Ocean Action (FOA), Future of Fish Feed (F3), International Associations of Fish Inspectors (IAFI), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPLNF), Lloyd’s Register Foundation, Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Monterey Bay Aquarium, Oceana, Ocean Wise, Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE), Positively Groundfish, [Rare.org](#), Regenerative Ocean Project, Regional Cluster “North-East” – Bulgaria, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Tropical Institute of Community Health and Development (TICH)-Africa, Village Farmers Initiative (VFI), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Women in Caribbean Aquaculture (WiCA), World Aquaculture Society – Africa Chapter, World Resources Institute (WRI), [WWF](#), Zero Hunger Coalition

Industry: Blue Food Partnership, COMEPESCA AC, FutureFish, Global Salmon Initiative, Global Seaweed Coalition, NatureDots, Wholechain

Coalition members

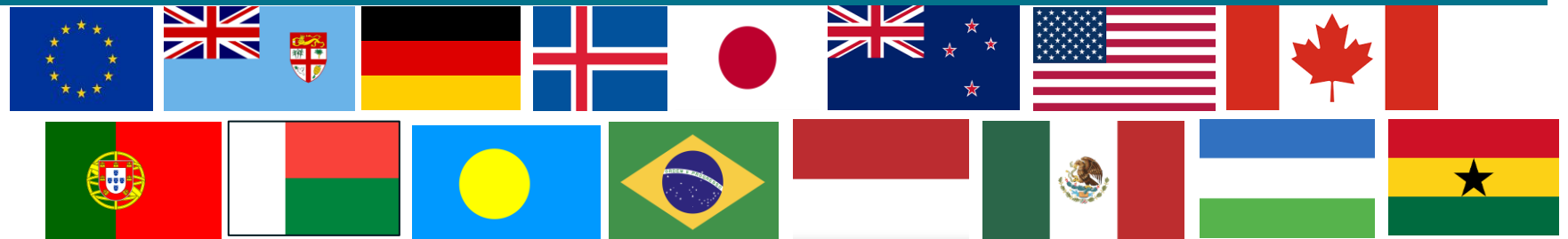
Leadership



Members



Member States and Parties



Key Objectives of the Coalition

Raise the profile of aquatic foods

We engage with high-level decision-makers at national, regional, and international levels to advocate for the recognition and integration of blue foods' potential in transformations towards food systems that deliver for both people and the planet.

Mobilize Support

We connect and work with multiple stakeholders to mobilize investment, technical capacity and partnerships for countries, or groups of countries, looking to integrate aquatic foods into their food systems policy.

Drive knowledge exchange and place-based action

We foster knowledge exchange 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.

Achievements in the Past Year

Raise the profile of aquatic foods

We engage with high-level decision-makers at national, regional, and international levels to advocate for the recognition and integration of blue foods' potential in transformations towards food systems that deliver for both people and the planet.

- Nutrition for Growth (March 2025)
- UN Ocean Conference (June 2025)
- Bonn Climate Change Conference (June 2025)
- World Aquaculture Safari in Uganda (June 2025)
- UNFSS+4 (July 2025)
- High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- Stockholm Food Forum (Oct 2025)
- COP30 (Nov 2025)
- Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (Jan 2026)

Achievements in the Past Year

Mobilize Support

We connect and work with multiple stakeholders to mobilize investment, technical capacity and partnerships for countries, or groups of countries, looking to integrate aquatic foods into their food systems policy.

- Revision of Sierra Leone's fisheries strategy.
- Indonesia national blue food assessment.

Achievements in the Past Year

Drive knowledge exchange and place-based action

We foster knowledge exchange 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.

- Guidelines for integrating aquatic foods into national climate strategies.
- Blue foods in Mexico NDCs.

An aerial photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, a large group of people are gathered on the sand, many wearing white conical hats. They are surrounded by numerous small, round, blue and green boats. Some people are standing, while others are sitting or lying on the sand. The beach is bordered by the ocean, where gentle waves are breaking. Several more small boats are visible in the shallow water. The overall scene suggests a busy day at a coastal location, possibly a market or a community gathering.

On the horizon

- Our Ocean Conference (June 2026)
- Caribbean Aquaculture Stakeholders Workshop (June 2026 - TBC)
- Committee on Fisheries COFI (Sept 2026)
- World Food Forum (October 2026)
- COP31 (Nov 2026)

Preserving and enhancing aquatic food supplies is possible if
we take action

