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End Overfishing: 300 Scientists **Urge EU To Protect Ocean Health As Climate Action**

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statement-of-support/)

Brussels, 10 September 2020:- "End overfishing" - that's the

message delivered to EU Commissioner for the Environment, <u>und-</u> Our fish use cookies to ensure give you the best experience on our website - but we don't track you for any Oceans Andi Eisherikein Kirgin üyes Sinkevičium teis week, as harsoff ag you're good with the shart of the

<u>statement (https://bit.ly/2yFYSNn)</u> signed by more than 300 <u>verk</u> Cool! Read more (https://our.fish/privacy-po

scientists calling for action by the European Commission, European Parliament and EU member states to end overfishing "as an urgent and necessary response to the biodiversity and climate crises".

The scientists are urging the EU to set fishing limits within scientific advice, and recognise that "ecosystem-based fisheries management is critical to the health of the ocean and its capacity to respond to climate change" [1,2].

The signatures will also be delivered to EU Member State fisheries ministers, before annual fishing limits are agreed for 2021, and to Members of the EU Parliament who are preparing their response to the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy [3].

The <u>statement (https://bit.ly/2yFYSNn)</u>, signed by leading voices in the marine science field, including Professor Carlos M. Duarte, Professor Hans-Otto Pörtner, Dr Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Professor Rashid Sumaila, Dr Ute Jacob, Dr Jean-Baptiste Jouffray, Professor Didier Gascuel, Dr Rainer Fröse, Professor Alex Rogers, Professor Victoria Reyes-Garcia, Dr Sandra Cassotta, Professor Stiig Markager, and Professor Daniel Pauly, was delivered this week to EU Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius by the Our Fish campaign.

"Overfishing and bycatch are the largest drivers of biodiversity loss in the ocean", said Professor Alex Rogers, Science Director at Rev Ocean. "We need a healthy and productive ocean, and ending overfishing is key. This is especially the case when faced with the effects of climate disruption, which affects the whole ocean, including fish stocks themselves. As a scientist, I am calling on the EU to recognise that ecosystem-based fisheries management is critical to the health of the ocean and its capacity to respond to climate change. It is also vital for human health, including that of future generations". derueberfischung-<u>zum-</u> schutzdesklimas/? lang=de) <u>EN</u> (https://our.fish/press overfishing-300scientistsurge-eutoprotectoceanhealthasclimateaction/) ES (https://our.fish/press <u>con-la-</u> sobrepesca-300cientificosinstan-a-<u>la-ue-a-</u> protegerla-saludde-losoceanoscomo-<u>medida-</u> climatica/?

"Overfishing means taking more fish out of the water than can grow back. To be honest, that's pretty stupid. Because then the stocks shrink, and shrunken small stocks can only support small catches. So that makes no sense at all; it doesn't help the fishermen, it doesn't help the fish, it doesn't help anyone. The whole thing also has an impact on the climate; fish stocks that are too small cannot fulfill their role in the ecosystem. If the ecosystem does not function properly, it cannot breathe properly and cannot absorb CO2 properly", said Dr. Rainer Fröse, GEOMAR – Helmholtz centre for ocean research Kiel, Germany.

"The science is clear – now the EU must ensure that a healthy ocean is central to its response to the nature and climate crisis – and that means finally putting an end to overfishing", said Rebecca Hubbard, Programme Director of Our Fish. "Just like with our own health, if we continue to batter the ocean with overfishing, the whole system will weaken further, until it can no longer provide us with the lifesupport we need it for – oxygen, climate regulation, food and jobs. The EU must stop dragging its feet and take this clear and decisive action now, before it's too late", concluded Hubbard.

ENDS

Note: A number of the signatories, from several countries, are available to speak to media – please contact <u>press@our.fish</u> (mailto:press@our.fish) for further details.

Contact:

Dave Walsh, Our Fish Communications Advisor, +34 691 826 764, <u>dave@our.fish (mailto:dave@our.fish)</u>

Notes:

[1] Scientist Statement of Support: Ending Overfishing Is Climate Action <u>https://our.fish/news/ending-overfishing-is-climate-action-</u> <u>scientist-statement-of-support/ (https://our.fish/news/ending-</u> <u>overfishing-is-climate-action-scientist-statement-of-support/)</u> recent posts

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Irish Examiner:'It doesn't... (https://our.fish/ examineritdoesnthelpanyone-

[2] Definition of ecosystem-based fisheries management:	<u>irish-</u>
As opposed to traditional fisheries management, which focuses on	academics-
managing single species only, Ecosystem-Based Fisheries	back-
Management (EBFM) is part of the broader ecosystem-based	<u>call-to-</u>
management approach that addresses all environmental,	<u>stop-</u>
ecological, and anthropogenic (including fisheries) impacts on an	overfishing-
ecosystem and takes into account the interconnectedness and	<u>in-eu/)</u>
interdependence of various components of an ecosystem.	10/09/2020
https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-	
<u>sciences/ecosystem-based-fisheries-management</u>	Euronews:
	<u>EU</u>
(https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-	<u>must</u>
<u>sciences/ecosystem-based-fisheries-management)</u>	<u>end</u>
[3] EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	overfishing
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm	<u>to</u>
<pre>(https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm</pre>	<u>(Inteps.// Out.listi/</u>
About Our Fish	<u>must-</u>
Our Fish is working to end overfishing and restore a healthy ocean	<u>end-</u> overfiching
ecosystem. By collaborating with others, and deploying robust	<u>overfishing-</u> <u>to-</u>
evidence, we are calling for an end to overfishing as a critical and	protect-
significant action to address the biodiversity and climate crisis	<u>our-</u>
	<u>oceans-</u>
Website: <u>https://our.fish (https://our.fish)</u>	say-
Follow Our Fish on Twitter: <u>@our_fish (https://twitter.com/our_fish)</u>	<u>scientists/)</u>
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IS CLIMATE ACTION

SCIENTISTS CALL ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EU MEMBER STATES TO RECOGNISE THAT ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IS CRITICAL TO THE HEALTH OF THE OCEAN AND ITS CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND THAT FISHING LIMITS MUST BE SET ACCORDINGLY.



Doctor Heidi Acampora | Assistant Lecturer, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology Ms Santa Mervien Alexandra | Graduate Student, University of Hamburg Doctor Eduardo Almansa | Senior Researcher, Spanish Institute Mr Bruno Almón | PhD Student and Fisheries Advisor, Instituto Español de Oceanografía Doctor David Alonso | Senior Research Scientist, CSIC Professor Ken H. Andersen | Professor, DTU Aqua Ms Samantha Andrews | PhD Researcher, Memorial University Ms Flora Artzner | Marine project adviser, IUCN French Committee Doctor Asta Audzijonyte | Chief Researcher, Nature Research Centre, Lithuania Doctor Asta Audzijonyte | Chief researcher, Nature Research Centre, Lithuania Mr Rodríguez Augusto | Researching assistan. PhD student, IEO Doctor Mark Auliya | Post-doctoral researcher, Zoological Research Museum lexander Koenig Professor Yasmina Avia | PhD Candidate, Universitat de Barcelona Doctor Daniel Ayllón | Post-doctoral researcher, Universidad Complutense de Madrid Ms Cynthia Barile | PhD student, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology Ms Rachel Barrett | PhD Student in Marine Geophysics, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel, Germany Doctor Marisa Batista | Researcher, MARE, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa Doctor Anna Lena Bercht | Post-doctoral researcher, Department of Geography, Kiel University, Germany Doctor Melanie Bergmann | Senior Scientist, Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar und Meeresforschung Doctor Melanie Bergmann | Senior Scientist, Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre For Polar and Marine Research of Agricultural Sciences Doctor Simon Berrow | Chief Executive Officer and Lecturer, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology Doctor Ivo Bobsien | Post-doctoral researcher, GEOMAR Mr Francisco Borges | Biology PhD Student, Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon Doctor Kai Borkenhagen | Research Associate, Research and Technology Centre (FTZ), University of Kiel Ms Sien Boschma | Sea First Representative Seas At Risk, Sea First Fraining, GMIT reland Galw Doctor Paul Brooks | Post-doctoral researcher & Teaching Fellow, University College Dublin ofessor Colin Brown | Emeritus Professor, Earth and Ocean Sciences, ttional University of Ireland, Galway Professor Heiko Brunken | Full professor in Ecology and Nature Conservation, Dity University of Applied Sciences Bremen (Hochschule Bremen) Doctor Liam Burke | Lecturer, NUI Galway Ms Elke Burkhardt | Scientist, Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research Doctor Martin Butzin | Research Scientist, Alfred Wegener Institute Bremerhaven, Germany

Mr Wasseem Emam | Doctoral Researcher - Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Stirling Mr Collie Ennis | Zoology research associate, Trinity College Dublin Professor Karim Erzini | Professor Catedrático (Full Professor), Centre of Doctor Jean Louis Etienne | Président, Océan Polaire Doctor Alice Evans | Project Officer, The Royal Parks Doctor Fernando Ángel Fernández-Álvarez | Postdoctoral Research Fellow, National University of Ireland Galway University of Agde Doctor Katharina Fietz | Marine Conservation Referee, Deutsche Umwelthilfe Doctor Blanca Figuerola Balañá | Post-doctoral researcher, Institute of Marine Mr Padraic Fogarty | Campaign Officer, Irish Wildlife Trust Doctor Pierre Freon | ex-Emeritus Research Director, IRD Mr François Frey | President, Fonds 1.618, Programme Esprit de Velox Doctor Joao Frias | Principal Investigator on microplastic pollution, GMIT Doctor Rainer Froese | Senior Scientist, GEOMAR Professor Eric Galbraith | Research Associate, Universitat Autonoma de Barcel Doctor David García del Amo | Ph.D. candidate, ICTA ssor Didier Gascuel | Head of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Center, Doctor Miguel Gaspar | Senior Researcher, Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmo Doctor Meritxell Genovart | Senior Researcher, CEAB (CSIC) Mr Henry Gøhlich | PhD researcher, GEOMAR Professor Emanuel Gonçalves | Associate Professor and Vice-Director, MARE, Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada Doctor Conor Graham | Lecturer, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology Mr Martin Grau | Student, AgroParisTech Doctor Donal Griffin | Researcher, Queen's University Belfast Doctor Hannes Grobe | Senior scientist, Alfred-Wegener Ott-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg Doctor Anja Hagedorn | Lecturer, Akad University Doctor Kim Halvorsen | Post doctoral researcher, Institute of Marine arch, Norway Doctor Jenny Hanafin | Senior EO Scientist, ICHEC Doctor Patricia Handmann | Post-doctoral researcher, GEOMAR Doctor Charlotte Havermans | Junior Group Leader, Alfred Wegener Institut Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research Doctor Angela Helbling | Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin/ Scientific Staff, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt Doctor Fabian Herder | Ichthyologist, Head of Vertebrata Department, Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig fessor Alma Hernández de Rojas | Researcher, Spanish Institute

of Oceanography Doctor Claas Hiebenthal | Scientist, GEOMAR <u>news</u> (https://our.fish/

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End Overfishing: 300 Scientists Urge EU To Protect Ocean Health As Climate Action - Our Fish



SIGNED BY MORE THAN 300 SCIENTISTS

Doctor Joan Llort | Recognised Researcher, Barcelona Supercomputing Centre Professor Gil de Sola Luis | Researcher, Instituto Español Oceanografía Doctor Annika Mackensen | Advisor Sustainable Fisheries, GIZ Doctor Ana Marçalo | Post-doctoral researcher, CCMAR, Universitadade do Algarve

Doctor Lazaro Marin-Guirao | Researcher, Spanish Institute of Oeanography (IEO)

\$\$\$\$\$

Professor Stilg Markager | Professor in Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecology, Aahus University Doctor Nele Markones | Senior Researcher, FTZ, Kiel University

Professor Horst Marschall | Head of Department, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt Ms Angela Martin | Research Fellow (PhD student), University of Agder Mr Nick Martin | Researcher, ICTA-UAB

Mr Pablo Martín-Sosa | Researcher, Spanish Institute of Oceanography Doctor Valérie Masson-Delmotte | Senior Solentist, IPSULSCE Doctor Morten Mattingsdal | Post-doctoral researcher, Universitet of Agder Doctor Bastlan Maus | Staff Scientist, University of Münster Mr Paddy Mc Carthy | Marine Geophysicist, MC's Geophysics

- Doctor Rob McAllen | Senior Lecturer, University College Cork Doctor Adon McFarlane | Student, GMIT
- Mr Ryan McKenna | Research Masters Student, GMIT
- Doctor João Paulo Medeiros | Researcher, MARE, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa

Doctor Alba Medrano | Post-doctoral researcher, Universitat de Barcelona Mr Rafael Meichßner | PhD student, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel Mr Lucas Meissner | Student, HTW Berlin

Professor Ricardo Melo | Coordinator of Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa

Doctor Katja Mintenbeck | Senior Scientist, Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research

Mr Stephan Moldzio | Course Director, Reef Check Professor Gesine Mollenhauer | Scientist, Alfred Wegener Institute

Professor Gesine Molerinader | Scientist, Aired Wegener Institu Professor Christian Mølimann | Professor, Hamburg University Ms Hazel Monk | Teacher, Springlands School Fish are an important part of the marine ecosystem, playing a critical role in ocean health. Marine ecosystem goods and services are under severe pressure from fishing and human accelerated climate change.

Overfishing reduces fish biomass, impacts biodiversity, alters the marine food web and degrades marine habitats. This makes the marine ecosystem more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

In the EU it is estimated that at least 38 percent of fish stocks in the North East Atlantic and Baltic Sea, and 87 percent in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, are being overfished.

The combined effects of climate change and overfishing are accelerating the decline of ocean health. Ending overfishing would reduce the cumulative pressures on the ocean, increase its resilience and contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change. It would be decisive and important climate action and it can be taken today.

Doctor Rita Sá | Head of Oceans and Fisheries Programme, Associação Natureza Portugal / WWF Professor Lina María Saavedra Díaz | Associate Profesor, Universidad

del Magdalena

Ms Johanna Sackel | Akademische Rätin, University of Paderborn Ms Jainie Salazar | PhD student, Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC) Professor Rui Santos | Associate Professor, Center of Marine Sciences of University of Algarve

Doctor Jorge Santos Gonçalves | Researcher, CCMAR Universidade do Algarve Professor Rafel Sardá | Senior Scientists, Consejo Superior Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)

Doctor Aida Sartimbul | Associate Professor, Brawijaya University Doctor Christian Schäfer-Neth | Head of systems branch, computer centre / Physical Oceanographer, Alfred Wegener Institute Doctor Janin Schäffer | Post-doctoral researche, Alfred-Wegener-Institut Doctor Michelle Schärer | Ad Honorem, Universidad de Puerto Rico



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