

Immediate release – 11am GMT, 28 May 2014

Seafood industry under threat from climate change and ocean acidification - global reduction of CO2 emissions required to safeguard future

11am GMT, 28 May, 2014: A new briefing issued today distils the key findings from the recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report and reveals the growing threat of climate change and acidification to marine resources. The briefing, published jointly by Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and Judge Business School and supported by the European Climate Foundation, reveals that:

- The total loss of landings to global fisheries by 2050 due to climate change range from USD 17 to 41 billion based on a global warming scenario of 2 degrees.
- Fishery yields will increase 30 – 70% in high latitudes but fall by 40 – 60% in the Tropics and Antarctica based on 2 degrees of warming. Large species like tuna in the Pacific and Indian oceans are likely to move eastwards.
- 400 hundred million people depend critically on fish for their food and face reduced access to marine protein because of climate change and acidification. Artisanal fishermen in the Tropics are most at risk.
- Changes in the distribution of particular marine species may lead to conflict between fishing nations and significant increases in illegal fishing.
- The impacts of climate change and ocean acidification are generally exacerbated by other factors like pollution, habitat loss and over-fishing

The briefing, and an associated infographic, is being distributed across the seafood industry with a call for action to address this global threat.

Commenting on the report, Chris Brown, Senior Director, Sustainable Business, Asda Walmart said: "There is a growing threat of climate change and acidification to the marine resources upon which we rely. This report is a timely reminder of the pace of change in the oceans and the need for those of us with direct and indirect stakes in the seafood industry to promote action at every level."

Blake Lee-Harwood of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership added: "This report is a wake up call for the seafood industry to recognise the scale of the threat to ocean resources from climate change and acidification. We need to see urgent action in trying to mitigate the likely impacts while adapting wherever that's practically possible."

Eliot Whittington of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership said: "This

briefing highlights the business-critical implications of climate change for the fisheries sector, representing tens of billions of dollars in future costs and damages for the industry. Companies in this sector will have to take the implications of climate science into account as they plan for the future. We hope that this briefing, developed with experts from both business and science, will help them do so.”

The briefing cites areas where action can be taken to lessen the impact of climate change:

- Adapt where possible – for instance, some shellfish hatcheries in the north west USA have learned to avoid taking in seawater during periods of high acidity
- Undertake vulnerability assessments of fisheries and aquaculture operations
- Strengthen coastal zone management to reduce land-sourced pollution, over-harvesting and physical damage to resources
- Create new habitats such as artificial reefs to act as fish nurseries in areas where coral reef destruction occurs

The report is available at [www.sustainablefish.org and www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/ipcc] and is accompanied by an infographic which summarizes the situation.

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Notes for Editors

The report is one of a series of thirteen, based upon The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). AR5 represents the most comprehensive overview of climate science to date and is the fact base that will be used by governments and businesses to formulate climate policy in the coming years. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, the European Climate Foundation, the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and the Cambridge Judge Business School have worked together to distil relevant AR5 findings into concise, clear, relevant findings and visuals derived from, and in line with, the original text.

The set of summaries cover the broad implications of climate change, how the IPCC works and give an overview of the physical science, as well as adaptation and mitigation options. The specific summaries cover the energy sector, investors and financial institutions, the transport sector, the tourism industry, the agricultural sector, fisheries and aquaculture, the defence sector, primary industries and cities, buildings and employment.

The full set of summaries will be posted at www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/ipcc in the coming weeks

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) brings together business, government and academia to find solutions to critical sustainability challenges. Through our educational programmes, business platforms and strategic engagement initiatives, we deepen leaders' understanding of the context in which they operate and help them to respond in ways that benefit their organisations and society as a whole. <http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/>

Cambridge Judge Business School (CJBS) is in the business of transformation. Many of our academics are leaders in their field, creating new insight and applying the latest thinking to real-world issues. <http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/home/>

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) is a charity dedicated to protecting seafood supplies and livelihoods while achieving environmentally sustainable fisheries and fish farming. The organisation works with businesses to identify the challenges in seafood sourcing and catalyse practical improvements while also maintaining a global public database of fishery information. <http://sustainablefish.org/>

The European Climate Foundation (ECF) was established in 2008 as a major philanthropic initiative to promote climate and energy policies that greatly reduce Europe's greenhouse gas emissions and to help Europe play an even stronger international leadership role to mitigate climate change. <http://europeanclimate.org/>