

**Contribution of the European Union to the 17th round of Informal Consultations of the State  
Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (ICSP-17)**

A key area for capturing climate change considerations is related to the development of Management Procedures (MPs) and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) frameworks for key fish stocks that are robust to uncertainties including those introduced or exacerbated by climate change. In this regard, the EU will promote the development of dedicated robustness tests, which could provide meaningful proxies for designing future MPs that are resilient to stressors driven by climate change. This will of course require dedicated dialogues between managers, scientists, and stakeholders to ensure that the design is fit for purpose.

The EU will also promote stronger collaboration between RFMOs to discuss shared challenges, best practices, optimise available resources, and identify potential areas for joint initiatives aiming at mitigating and adapting to climate change effects on fisheries.

Although the European Green Deal constitutes the framework instrument, it has been largely detailed and completed by numerous others among which the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the European Climate Law, and the Nature Restoration Law. This is without mentioning the recently adopted Communication on Managing climate risks - *to ensure sustainable fisheries in a changing climate, the synergies between the common fisheries policy and environmental legislation, as put forward in the Fisheries and Oceans Pact, should be fully exploited to ensure food security and livelihoods for fishers and coastal communities* <sup>3</sup>

From a fisheries and aquaculture perspective, environmental changes induced by climate change will

the ecosystem approach to fisheries management<sup>6</sup> commissioned by the European Commission to consider ecosystem variability, anthropogenic (e.g., pollution) and environmental changes, and notably those related to climate change.

The above may also allow for early detection of climate-induced changes and shocks or shifts in stock productivity that can affect the resilience of fish stocks. It will also allow for a better adaptation of management measures in line with the state of the stocks and marine ecosystems.

The funding instrument attached to the CFP, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), can also support the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the transition towards climate resilience. In particular, the EMFAF can help protect and restore marine biodiversity and ecosystems to achieve a good environmental status of marine waters (e.g., by creating and managing marine protected areas, implementing the spatial protection measures established by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, or protecting species in line with the Habitats Directive).

The EMFAF also helps fisheries and aquaculture adapt to the consequences of climate change, for