

## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE SHANGHAI DECLARATION

The Shanghai Declaration - highlights the principles and strategic pathways to maximize the contribution of sustainable aquaculture in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and is a key output of the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium +20.

The Institute of Aquaculture at the University of Stirling, UK has a large concentration of expertise dedicated to aquaculture leading research on farmed and natural fish stocks, shellfish and aquatic plants. It brings together cross-disciplinary teams and approaches to tackle the diverse range of challenges faced by the world's fastest growing food production sector. Our mission is to deliver the research and provide innovative solutions to transform the global aquaculture sector to achieve greater sustainability, enhance food security and deliver resilience of aquatic species and ecosystems in a changing world. Our work encompasses fundamental and applied research that ranges from biological discovery, through optimisation of farm production to the development of modern commercial markets and the provision of urgently needed support to communities in developing countries.

We fully support the overarching commitments and the ten strategic priorities of the Shanghai Declaration.

The Institute of Aquaculture has made a commitment to contribute to the vision for sustainable aquaculture through the following actions corresponding to the five commitments:

- 1. Promote responsible aquaculture development.** We will apply evidence-based thinking and research knowledge to actions that promote responsible aquaculture development across the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, environmental and social impacts. Our expertise in education and research is highly focused on impact to positively make a difference to sustainable development of aquaculture in the world.
- 2. Promote good aquaculture governance.** We will use good governance principles – cohesion, openness, participation, effectiveness and accountability of the sector to build trust through transparency in decision-making and planning. We will co-create a values-driven institute that harnesses its expertise in research and education to help shape sustainable future aquaculture, working through collaboration with public, private and third sector representatives to achieve societal impact and drive change.
- 3. Strengthen partnerships to generate and share knowledge, information, and technology.** We will co-develop global partnerships that provide international learning and research opportunities to co-produce engaged global citizens and world-changing research and innovation in aquaculture. We will extend global education opportunities in aquaculture subjects and geographies which directly addresses the SDGs through partnerships, research and digital innovation.

**4. Invest in aquaculture innovation, research and development.** We will use systems thinking and open innovation to bring together our research community to work towards a shared vision of sustainable aquaculture research, creating new opportunities and synergies. Our culture and environment will position aquaculture at the centre of a global research and innovation community, delivering transformational fundamental and challenge-led research to accelerate innovation and tackle local, national and global aquaculture challenges.

**5. Create open and transparent communication about sustainable aquaculture.** We will be proactive and change the negative narrative around some types of aquaculture activity to emphasize positive benefits using evidenced-based and transparent dialogue, tailored to reach diverse stakeholder groups. We will work across disciplinary, institutional and geographical boundaries to move the public, private and third sectors out of their siloed comfort zones to empower an ever growing aquaculture community to make substantive progress to reach the SDGs.

The institute of Aquaculture staff, students, alumni and partners will strive to build a collaborative culture to support a strong aquaculture community to make positive impacts on realizing the full potential of the The Shanghai Declaration to reach the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



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