

**Speaking Notes**

**for**

**The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the  
Canadian Coast Guard**

**At the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference  
Leader Commitments**

**Nairobi, KENYA  
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**It is indeed a pleasure to be with you this morning.**

**The theme of this conference – the Sustainable Blue Economy – is about both challenges and opportunities.**

**Presently the world and our oceans face tremendous challenges ranging from the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, the sustainability of fisheries in the context of a world that has a growing population and large scale plastics pollution in our waters.**

**Each of these are global issues that will require co-ordinated global action to find and to implement globally effective solutions.**

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**The Blue Economy also provides significant opportunities associated with truly sustainable and technologically enabled fisheries – which can be a source of economic security and stability a growth; enhanced tourism and recreational opportunities; and efficient and environmentally sustainable transportation and export growth.**

**Canada well understands that addressing these challenges and accessing opportunities cannot be effectively addressed by any one country, or actor, acting alone. Significant and sustained progress will only be made through collective discussion, information sharing and the development of deep and effective partnerships.**

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**Domestically Canada has taken significant actions relating to ocean health and to economic development related to oceans. For example:**

- We are implementing a \$1.5-billion Oceans Protection Plan that is focused on enhancing marine safety and addressing concerns regarding marine biodiversity to protect Canada's coasts and waterways.**
  - As part of the Aichi process, Canada has committed to protect 10 percent of our marine and coastal areas by 2020, and are well on our way to meeting this target.**
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- **And the Government of Canada and the private sector have pledged up to \$153 million in an Ocean Supercluster which will enable the development of innovative practices and cutting-edge technologies that will assist Canada in becoming a global leader in the knowledge-based ocean economy. This Ocean Supercluster will foster new partnerships with key stakeholders that will help accelerate innovation and commercialization and drive increased sustainable economic growth from our oceans.**

**Further, over the past year Canada has announced several international actions relevant to this conversation:**

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- **Our Prime Minister recently announced a \$10-million investment to the Pacific Initiative for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience. Funding for this joint initiative with the European Union, France, New Zealand and Australia will support the Pacific region to adapt to climate change, protect biodiversity, and improve ocean and fisheries health.**
  
  - **We are also committing \$20 million in new funding for increased technical assistance and capacity development in Small Island Developing States.**
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**During Canada's Presidency of the G7, we focused on issues related to oceans sustainability, in particular around:**

- **Addressing marine plastic pollution through social and technological innovation;**
  - **Increasing our ocean knowledge by expanding global observation efforts as well as sharing scientific data;**
  - **Supporting innovative solutions and financing to develop clean and resilient energy systems in vulnerable coastal communities; and**
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- **Supporting sustainable oceans and fisheries by combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.**

**Une plus grande transparence, par exemple grâce au modèle ouvert et public de Global Fishing Watch, soutiendra des politiques clés comme l'Accord sur les mesures du ressort de l'État du port et le Registre mondial des navires de pêche, et s'appliquera à ceux qui pratiquent ou soutiennent la pêche INN tout en réduisant la dépendance à l'égard de l'application des règlements.**

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*(Greater transparency, such as through, Global Fishing Watch's open and public model will support key policies such as the Port States Measures Agreement and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels and bear down on those that engage in, or support IUU fishing while reducing the dependence on enforcement.)*

**Canada is very much looking to partner with countries from around the world to make progress in addressing key challenging and to pursuing significant opportunities. We are interested in dialogues where all parties bring their strengths - and collaboration can be for the benefit of all.**

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**In particular, Canada believes it has strengths in areas such as oceans science, waste infrastructure, clean fisheries and aquaculture technologies and investment capital. We are keen to work with all represented here today for the betterment of our environment and our economy.**

**We are at a critical time. Key environmental challenges are becoming increasingly pressing. At the same time, addressing these challenges in a thoughtful manner can help us all create enhanced economic security and economic opportunity for the future. It is very much time for us to seize on the momentum generated by this gathering to push forward in concretely addressing these important issues.**

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**Thank you.**