



## OceanCare Statement

### **40<sup>th</sup> session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) May 30 – June 3, 2016**

Distinguished Chair and Delegates,

I am honoured for the opportunity to address you on behalf of OceanCare.

The future of humanity is inextricably linked to a healthy ocean. This fundamental fact should guide our interaction with the seas. However, scientists warn that harmful anthropogenic impacts such as climate change, overexploitation, and pollution are causing a devastating loss of marine biodiversity.

It was with this knowledge that OceanCare was founded in 1989. As a non-governmental organisation we work towards the conservation and sustainable development of marine ecosystems and the protection of marine species. OceanCare seeks to achieve long-lasting improvements through research, education, engagement with legislation and participation in international fora.

We are a solutions-oriented organisation, and attribute great weight to the relationships we form with scientific experts, technical partners and intergovernmental bodies that share our vision of building solutions for marine conservation.

Our work in fisheries extends back some decades, so we are especially honoured to be partnering with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.

Long before this partnership formed, we have had you in mind. OceanCare has advocated at the United Nations that the Food and Agricultural Organisation should be supported to investigate the impacts of underwater noise on fish stocks and catch rates, and the socioeconomic effects noise-pollution might be causing to fishing communities.

We look forward to supporting GFCM to consider the impacts of noise in fisheries. We also look forward to collaborating on bycatch and depredation, mitigation technology, capacity building and to developing initiatives to raise awareness and promote marine conservation that highlight the work of GFCM.

We take our partnerships seriously, and believe today marks the beginning of a productive, collaborative relationship. OceanCare thanks you for this opportunity.

Sigrid Lüber, OceanCare President (slueber@oceancare.org)