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High Seas as a Legal Entity

[Hong Kong, Sustainable Ocean Summit, November 14, 2018] Global fisheries, a core planetary industry, and source of food are endangered. At the same time, advocates, industry leaders, and technologists are rallying to establish the economy necessary to meet this challenge.

Quite simply, humanity is facing a global crisis as life in the Oceans is threatened and the window of opportunity to help save these waters is rapidly closing. Though negotiations and meetings are underway to create a new treaty for managing biodiversity on the high seas, this will likely take years to enter into force. There is currently no effective management framework in place.

The world no longer has the time to wait for slow-moving international government agencies to attempt to solve the problem. Thankfully, new technologies now create the opportunity for global governance by participants and stakeholders in a new legal entity **The Ocean Commons**.

Seafood Commons in collaboration with the Brooklyn Law Incubator & Policy Clinic and the World Ocean Observatory is initiating a participatory Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) intended to use new technologies like blockchain and other digital distribution and organizing systems to establish a global **"COMMONS" as an international structure for community entity control, governance, and engagement**. MOU's, in international relations, fall under the broad category of treaties and are registered in the United Nations Treaty Collection.

The Seafood Commons MOU is intended to become an "Intelligent Living Charter" for open-source interoperable standards. The purpose of this ambitious undertaking is to regenerate the world's oceans governed by seafood stakeholders across industry sectors, regulatory agencies, and society at large.

It is informed by proven practices like Elinor Ostrom's self-governing resource systems, a universal approach to reverse the Tragedy of the Commons which won her the Nobel Prize in Economics, and enhanced by leading-edge open source technology developed with on-the-sea fishers and agriculturists.

The Seafood Commons will host a purpose-driven industry, or likely a planetary cooperative of businesses which will implement these low-cost regenerative practices to meet the needs of the global market.

Democracy.earth, will serve as an open source and decentralized democratic governance protocol for collaboration and governance. Additional technology partners of the Seafood Commons are establishing transparent supply chain sensor systems to automate and secure the tracking of regenerative approaches on the blockchain.

Industry stakeholders, business, NGO's, educators, researchers, and other interested organizations are invited to participate in the collaborative process at https://seafoodcommons.org