

# COMMON OCEANS

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT  
AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN AREAS  
BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION



COMMON OCEANS

# Session 1. Opening Session: Importance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

Co-Chairs: Arni Mathiesen and Ambassador Angus Friday

- Need for **joint efforts** to foster existing and emerging partnerships
- Importance of capacity building and the need for **candid, open and constructive discussions** to advance our common understanding of the issues facing ABNJ
- GEF/FAO Common Oceans Program illustrates the **role of unique and powerful partnerships** in sustainably managing resources in ABNJ without compromising economic development
- Vision and overview **Common Oceans Program** focussing on transformational impact and move away from the race to fish

# Session 1. Opening Session: Importance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

- There are **many opportunities for oceans this year**
- Recent **BBNJ outcome** shows forward movement at the global level
- **Complexities of the BBNJ process**
- Importance of **protecting biodiversity** in the ABNJ
- Sectoral approaches should be integrated into **ecosystem based management**
- **Links between regional and global processes** emphasized

## Session 2. Setting the Stage: Major Uses and Issues in ABNJ

Chair: John Connelly

- There is a need for more **coordination and cooperation** in ABNJ management
- **Political will and participation** is lacking among countries and there is a need for better implementation
- **ABNJ** are **transboundary** in nature and livelihoods are impacted whether high seas or coastal

## Session 2. Setting the Stage: Major Uses and Issues in ABNJ

- Our knowledge of marine life and resources in ABNJ is growing but there is **still a lot of work to do**
- We need to figure out how to **quantify and monitor progress**
- ABNJ offers **vast resources** and high **potential for the future**; The ratio for useful compounds in ocean is higher than on land
- In summary, **progress has been made**, but there is still a **call for more data** to inform future decisions

# Session 3. The Imperative of Capacity Development in ABNJ

Co-Chairs: Awni Behnam and Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli

- **Capacity development** underpins all out work and is recognized in **many international instruments**
- We have to **engage** those with a stake in ABNJ and not just those directly related to ABNJ
- The Capacity Development Project has the potential to help **share issues and solutions** among stakeholders
- We need to **bridge the gap** between stakeholders, people, ABNJ specialists and decision makers

# Session 3. The Imperative of Capacity Development in ABNJ

- There are many **challenges** to raise public awareness on ABNJ issues
- We need to **educate, engage and inspire** the public on issues related to ABNJ
- Programs like the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program develop individual capacity but also promote the **exchange of views**, build **partnerships and forge collaboration**
- **Innovative ideas:** NAUSICAA and Tara expeditions