

# COMMON OCEANS

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



COMMON OCEANS

# Session 4 Experiences, priorities and opportunities in the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean

Chair: Thembile Joyini

- There are **several Conventions, RFMOs or regional fisheries bodies in the two regions some covering EEZs and ABNJ under their mandate** (e.g. IOTC in Indian Ocean and ICCAT in the Atlantic)
- Many **existing regional bodies, intergovernmental arrangements etc providing a platform to progress from**
- **Interagency Collaboration is often complicated by different scopes, mandates and environments**
- Insufficient communication can result in misunderstanding and misinformation. **Dialogue needed in particular between biodiversity and fisheries communities**
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# Session 4 Experiences, priorities and opportunities in the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean

- Organizations at the regional level work together well in the Bay of Bengal, **collaboration between agencies at the country level is often challenging**
- **Decreasing level of effectiveness of implementation with increasing distance from the coast**, but legal framework exists, institutional framework needs strengthening in some cases
- Activities of the **Common Oceans Projects** in the regions were highlighted
- **Lack of data, knowledge and access to technology** are key issues
- **Capacity development** not always efficient, **needs to be well structured, targeting the right people, provide career opportunities and has to be accompanied by high level political commitment in order to be sustainable and successful**

# Session 5 Experiences, priorities and opportunities in the Pacific

Chair: David Sheppard

- Innovation at the broad policy level needs to be linked to fisheries management and action.
- With respect to governance the importance of regional processes was noted: **systems processes have to come through the countries** if they are to be implemented and have **ownership**.
- Importance of having a mechanisms which **could prepare the grounds for negotiation by providing information** to participants in the process

## Session 5 Experiences, priorities and opportunities in the Pacific

- There is a **great value of information sharing and capacity development** and there is much we can learn from each other.
- Importance of **harmonizing management of oceans and their resources between the EEZ and ABNJ** and the need to be explicit of the benefits of measures such as the closure of high seas areas.
- Importance of **strong and effective regional agencies**, and noting the value of having an overarching political framework that is acknowledged by key players.

# Session 6: Experiences, priorities and opportunities in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean

Chair: William Gibbons-Fly

- Through the implementation of EAF, **focus of the RFMOs has changed from looking at target species only** to also look at impacts of the fisheries on non-target species and the ecosystem
- In the North Atlantic, collaborative relationships between NEAFC and OSPAR well developed, can **share valuable lessons learnt**
- Importance of recognizing **existing frameworks regulating human activities**, implementation of an increasing number of tasks is often challenging
- Gaps exist in terms of **lack of full coverage of relevant bodies, lack of linkages, cooperation and coordination**
- Challenges when to **generate working relationship between regional organizations with organizations with global mandate** such as IMO and ISA

# Session 6: Experiences, priorities and opportunities in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean

- Adequate legal-institutional structure does not guarantee an acceptable ecological state
- **Difficulties in taking decisions by consensus**, good and strong regional cooperation between sectoral agencies needed
- Regional organisations can only be as effective as the members, we need to make sure that **capacity building happens at the national level** as well
- **Need to move towards more integrated approaches** within and across sectors
- Importance of **knowledge sharing for capacity building** in particular on global topics such as Climate change
- Activities of the Common Oceans Projects in the Northern Atlantic and Mediterranean were highlighted