

COMMON OCEANS

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

Workshop on Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction 17–20 February 2015, FAO, Rome, Italy



BACKGROUND

The marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), which comprise 64% of the oceans' surface, contain ecosystems with marine resources and biodiversity of great ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural importance. The ecosystems in the ABNJ include the water column and seabed of the high seas, and are located far from coastal areas, making the sustainable management of fisheries and biodiversity conservation in these areas challenging.

Issues related to ABNJ have risen to the top of the global ocean agenda,

and are being discussed at the highest governmental levels. There is widespread agreement on the need to improve conservation of marine ecosystems and sustainable use of resources in ABNJ at both global and regional levels.

In various ABNJ regions of the world, such as the Northeast Atlantic, the Sargasso Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific Islands, important initiatives are underway to adapt existing regional institutional processes to move toward ecosystem-based management of ABNJ and to implement tools such as multiple-use area-based management and environmental impact assessment.

This workshop will foster an open and constructive policy dialogue for supporting national, regional, and global processes in place (formal and informal) in enhancing ecosystem approaches to the management of ABNJ.

PARTICIPANTS AND PURPOSE

The workshop will bring together representatives from all sectors with expertise, knowledge and experience in ABNJ issues, including: global, regional, and national decision-makers; representatives from the fishing, shipping, and other industries operating in ABNJ; UN delegates; intergovernmental organizations; non-governmental organizations; participants in the Common Oceans Program (see www.commonoceans.org); policy experts; legal scholars; and academics, to:

1. Assess knowledge, ongoing efforts at national/regional and global levels, and available capacity relevant to sustainable management of fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ, with the aim of identifying knowledge gaps and capacity needs;
2. Establish cross-sectoral linkages for improved information-sharing on ABNJ across sectors, and between global and regional levels;
3. Share and exchange lessons learned, best practices, and emerging trends in research, development, and management of ABNJ resources from various regions of the world; and
4. Provide a synthesis on the current state of knowledge on relevant global and regional policy processes that could be used to: 1) address areas of uncertainty due to a weak knowledge base on fisheries and biodiversity, and 2) improve sustainable use of fishery resources and conservation of biodiversity in the ABNJ.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition	UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Government of France (French Marine Protected Areas Agency)	SeaOrbiter
Government of Korea (Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology)	UNESCO (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission)
Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), France	UNESCO (Natural Sciences)
International Maritime Organization	University of Delaware
International Ocean Institute	Vietnam National University
Nausicaa (Centre National de la Mer), France	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
	World Ocean Network

ORGANIZERS

The workshop is organized by the Global Ocean Forum and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in special cooperation with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the project partners of the Global Environment Facility/Food and Agriculture Organization/Global Ocean Forum Project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ, as part of the GEF/FAO Program on Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (“Common Oceans”) (www.commonoceans.org).

MAJOR TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED

- The importance of ABNJ
- Major uses and issues in ABNJ
- Experiences, priorities, and opportunities at the regional level: South Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Pacific, North Atlantic, and Mediterranean
- Advancing regional management of ABNJ
- Drawing lessons learned and charting directions

These topics will be addressed through presentations, moderated panel discussions, facilitated break-out sessions, and synthesis reports/sessions. Please kindly note that speakers are by invitation only.

SIDE EVENTS

There will be opportunities to organize side events on Day 1 and Day 2 (lunchtime). Side events will be selected based on the extent to which they address and advance discussions on issues central to the workshop. Contact Erica Wales (ewales@udel.edu) to propose side events (deadline, 5 January, 2015).

REGISTRATION

To participate in the workshop, please send a completed registration form by 5 January, 2015 to: Erica Wales (ewales@udel.edu).

DRAFT AGENDA

Tuesday, 17 February

Pre-workshop Activities
Informal Meetings and Side Events

Wednesday, 18 February

Opening Session – The Importance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
Setting the Stage: Major Uses and Issues in ABNJ
The Imperative of Capacity Development in ABNJ
Side Events (lunchtime)
Reception

Thursday, 19 February

Experiences, Priorities and Opportunities in the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean
Experiences, Priorities and Opportunities in the Pacific
Experiences, Priorities and Opportunities in the North Atlantic and in the Mediterranean
Side Events (lunchtime)

Friday, 20 February

Breakout Discussions on Advancing Regional Management of ABNJ
Learning Lessons, Charting Directions
Workshop Conclusions

Contact information

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