



**Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction  
31 March – 4 April 2014**

**Opening Intervention 31 March 2014**

**Role of Fish: How should an Implementing Agreement take into account fisheries?**

Thank you co-chairs. This intervention is for Greenpeace, the High Seas Alliance and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition.

In listening to the very interesting and constructive discussion on the role of fisheries in an implementing agreement, four considerations arise.

1. The importance of cumulative impact assessments, taking into account climate change, ocean acidification and other stressors.
2. The mandate of RFMOs is limited to certain fish stocks and do not extend to the conservation and sustainable use of all marine biodiversity in ABNJ. The objective of the Fish Stocks Agreement is stated in article 2 to “ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks” through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention. Put simply, RFMOs manage fish, taking into account the ecosystem approach. They do not manage all biodiversity. The most RFMOs have been prepared to go, for this reason, – with the exception of CCAMLR – is to establish open and closed areas to fishing, regulate the way fishing can take place, or to regulate the times that fishing can take place. These are far short of a full MPA.
3. There is a need to address multiple impacts, such as protecting vulnerable marine areas from multiple impacts from seabed mining and bottom trawling and shipping.
4. By way of suggestions:
  - The scope of the implementing agreement should be designed to complement the UNFSA. There should be recognition of the UNFSA, which is also an UNCLOS implementing agreement.
  - The implementing agreement should recognize existing international agreements and international organizations.
  - No sectoral activities, including fishing, should be excluded from the scope of the implementing agreement.
  - As Argentina and others have said, the question is not whether fisheries or other sectors are in or out, but how they can be best brought into a more integrated approach.