

## Intervention delivered 2 February 2015

Thank you Mr Chair and good morning delegates

We have listened carefully to the Chair's report on SC2 and we thank the Chair for that very helpful report.

DSCC has prepared a briefing and it is on the website. I will be brief.

DSCC recommended firstly that the Commission should ensure that States co-operate to ensure that the Scientific Committee (SC) carries out the roadmap tasks specified in Paragraph 5 of CM 2-03, including stock assessments of deep-sea fish stocks. It is past time for the Commission to manage bottom fisheries to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, including non-target species.

In our submission, the Scientific Committee should also be instructed to provide clear information on where vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) are known or likely to occur so as to allow the Commission to act to effectively implement the UNGA resolutions and SPRFMO measure. The UNGA confirmed in its sustainable fisheries resolution that it will conduct a review of the implementation of the bottom fishing resolutions 61/105, 64/72 and 66/68 in the second half of 2016.

Secondly, as the Commission goes forward, it should ensure that any amendment or replacement of Conservation Measure 2-03 will implement and be consistent with United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 64/72 (2009) paragraphs 119 and 120, and resolution 66/68 (2011), as well as resolution 61/105 (2006) and the 2008 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Deep Sea Fishing Guidelines. This includes ensuring the sustainability of deep-sea stocks and non-target species. The SC 2 report should be read in this light and the management objectives formulated accordingly. More details are given in our briefing. We refer specifically to the recommendation on page 16

“• *The SC therefore recommends that the Commission implements a spatial management approach for these fisheries in order to appropriately protect VMEs while enabling viable fisheries to operate. The spatial management approach should use open and closed areas defined by the best available evidence, including evidence of where VMEs occur or are likely to occur. Such spatial management may render unnecessary the need for a move-on rule.*

DSCC strongly submits that the UNGA resolutions and FAO Guidelines, as implemented by RFMOs around the world, do not contemplate or encompass eliminating the move-on rule.

On midwater trawling, we welcome Australia's and the Eu's intervention on midwater trawling and Australia's commitment to apply CM 2.03 to midwater trawling.

Finally, DSCC recommends that the 3rd Scientific Committee be tasked with developing recommendations on the protection of ecologically or biologically sensitive areas (EBSAs) in the SPRFMO area.

In this regard, we welcome the recommendation of BBNJ<sup>1</sup> two weeks ago to decide to develop an international legally-binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. SPRFMO can be proud that its objective is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term

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<sup>1</sup> 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 .

conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.

Mr Chairman, we look forward to SPRFO showing the world how it can lead in biodiversity protection and safeguard marine ecosystems in which the precious marine resources live.