Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program

BACKGROUND
Oceans and coastal areas provide a vital source of nutritious food, employment, recreation, commerce and socio-economic benefits as well as other crucial goods and services.

The Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and related ecosystems are subject to impacts from a variety of sectors including shipping, deep-sea mining and fishing. Seeking to generate a catalytic change, the Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ Program – referred to as Common Oceans – was approved by GEF under the lead of the FAO and in close collaboration with UNEP and the World Bank, as well as other partners.

Common Oceans aims to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ to achieve an efficient and equitable system capable of generating and sustaining wealth and conserving the biodiversity upon which ocean health and human well-being depend. The Program focuses on tuna and other shared highly migratory stocks, deep-sea fisheries and associated biodiversity and contributes to achieving the global targets agreed in international fora.

The five-year Program is an innovative, unique and comprehensive initiative working with a wide range of partners. It is made of four Projects which bring together governments, regional management bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry to work towards ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of ABNJ biodiversity and ecosystem services.

OBJECTIVE
The side event will provide information on Common Oceans with a presentation on key issues affecting ABNJ. Program partners will highlight their role and contributions. A moderated panel discussion will provide an opportunity to discuss challenges in implementing the Program, desired impacts and the way forward.

AGENDA
- Opening by the Chair, Peter Sinon, Minister for Investment, Natural Resources and Industry, Seychelles
- Welcome address by GEF and FAO
- Presentation of Common Oceans by Jeremy Turner, ABNJ Programme Manager.
- Panel discussion moderated by Shannon Dionne, Deputy Director Office of International Affairs, NOAA, USA, featuring:
  - David Agnew, Standards Director, Marine Stewardship Council
  - Aurelie Spadone, IUCN High Sea Biodiversity Initiatives
  - Susan Jackson, President, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
  - Hermínio TEMBE, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries, Mozambique
  - Andrew Wright, Executive Secretary, CCAMLR and Chairperson Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats Network
- Audience discussion moderated by the Moderator
- Wrap-up and conclusions by the Chair
Peter A. Sinon (Chair) is a Seychellois Cabinet Minister who has served as Minister for Investment, Natural Resources and Industry since July 2010. His core focus is the revival of a very much declined agricultural sector and the judicious management of the Fisheries sector. He previously served as Seychelles High Commissioner to South Africa and Republic of Namibia, and was an Executive Director at the African Development Bank. He represented 7 East African countries namely: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania, & Uganda on the Board of Executive Directors of the 77 regional and non-regional shareholders and members of the Bank.

Shannon Dionne (Moderator) is the Deputy Director of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of International Affairs in Washington DC. Ms. Dionne has been with NOAA since 2004 and her responsibilities include representing the United States and NOAA at international and interagency meetings on a broad range of oceans and fisheries issues, working with foreign representatives to further issues of mutual interest, developing and supporting U.S. policy positions, and advising NOAA leadership on international policy matters.

David Agnew is the Standards Director of the Marine Stewardship Council. His work focuses on the population dynamics and management of marine fisheries. He is particularly interested in Antarctic, Southern Atlantic and deep water fisheries biology and assessment, the practical implementation of ecosystem based fisheries management, the development of eco-labelling as a driver to sustainable fisheries management, recovery planning in marine fisheries, and the mitigation of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

Susan Jackson is the President of International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, a global partnership among scientists, tuna processors and environmental non-profits to undertake science-based initiatives for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks, reducing bycatch and promoting a healthy marine ecosystem. Prior to joining ISSF, Jackson was the Vice President for Government/Industry Relations and Seafood Sourcing for Del Monte Foods, where her responsibilities included government relations at the Federal, State and Local levels, and acting as Del Monte’s representative to trade and industry associations. Jackson was also responsible for the purchase of all raw tuna and tuna co-pack manufacturing for Del Monte’s StarKist brand. Jackson joined the H.J. Heinz Company in 1997 as an Attorney in the Law Department, later working with the company’s seafood sourcing and other areas of procurement.

Aurélie Spadone is working at IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) in Switzerland. She joined the Global Marine and Polar Programme in November 2010 and she took part in an expedition in the context of the IUCN-led southwest Indian Ocean Seamounts project. Her role on board: she is in charge of this expedition blog and is taking part in the scientific work (Remotely Operated Vehicle watch and physical oceanography measurements mainly). Her background is a PhD in Environmental Sciences (physical oceanography) which she did at the University Pierre & Marie Curie, in Paris (France). Before that she studied ocean sciences in Bordeaux and in Marseille.

Herminio Lima Alberto Tembé is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries of Mozambique. He was elected as chairman of the IOTC Compliance Committee for the next biennium.

Andrew Wright is the Executive Secretary for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in Tasmania, Australia, where he is responsible for the overall coordination of Secretariat services to Members, external relations, subject to the guidance of the Commission and administration of the Secretariat’s operations in Australia. This is the fourth executive position in a regional organization in the South Pacific that Mr. Wright has held. Before joining CCAMLR he was the Executive Director at the WCPFC.