



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Informal Consultations of States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement  
• Fourteenth round • “Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements”

FAO side event

# Regional fishery advisory bodies and management organizations: the path to positive change

UN HQ - New York  
Conference room 3 (CB)  
2 May 2019

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# Background

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In recent years, the international community has focused on the need to strengthen regional fishery advisory bodies and management organizations (RFABs and RFMOs), given the importance of their work to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources and key role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first regional fishery bodies were established between 1920s and 1960s; since then, the number of RFABs and RFMOs has steadily increased over time, reaching 53 of such bodies. It is through them that Member States and organizations work together towards the conservation, management and development of fisheries and aquaculture, following the United Nations Convention of Law of the Sea, the Fish Stocks Agreement and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

As a forum that brings together RFABs and RFMOs, the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) provides an invaluable tool to tackle a number of emerging regional issues linked to, among others, biodiversity and ecosystem approach needs; climate change impact; concerns on stocks and species of mutual interest such as transboundary disease; the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing affecting sustainability of resources; and the need for performance reviews as a practice to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of fisheries resources. FAO hosts and coordinates the Network and has a well-established collaboration with its members and related bodies, supporting Member States to address fisheries and aquaculture issues through concrete and results oriented approach for delivering Agenda 2030.

Global achievements are built upon regional efforts. That is why the RSN focusses on enhancing regional cooperation as an essential mechanism through which Members States can work together towards the SDGs. The vision of a fairer future for all is one that requires RFABs and RFMOs to lead in their areas of expertise, contributing to global efforts with their unique knowledge of local issues. Their performance and its periodical assessment provide opportunities to improve capacities and functioning, identify good practices and work efficiently for sustainable development. Each RFAB or RFMO operates in a particular geo-political environment, while there is a degree of commonality in the factors affecting their performance, specific circumstances in each regional context might be taken into consideration.

# Programme

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**13:15 - 13:25**

Opening remarks

**Ms Margo Debye** Chair, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the UN

**13:25 - 13:35**

Introduction to the RFABs and RFMOs and the Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariats' Network (RSN) as key instrumental players for sustainable fisheries governance. Video presentation.

**Mr Guillermo Compeán** RSN Chairperson

**13:35 - 13:45**

The FAO overview of RFABs and RFMOs activities and developments from 2000 to 2017. RFBs facts and figures.

**Mr Piero Mannini** Senior Fisheries Liaison Officer, FAO

**Ms Eliana Haberkon** Fisheries Institutions and Policy Expert, FAO

**13:45 - 14:05**

The practice of performance reviews: regional experiences and lessons learned.

**Mr Sebastian Rodriguez Alfaro** Executive Secretary, SPRFMO

**Mr Abdellah Srouf** Executive Secretary, GFCM

**14:05 - 14:15**

Effectiveness reviews of Regional Sea Organizations: learning from other regional mechanisms.

**Mr Takehiro Nakamura** Coordinator, Marine Ecosystems Unit, UNEP

**14:15 - 14:25**

Discussion with audience

**14:25 - 14:30**

Closing remarks

**Ms Margo Debye** Chair, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the UN



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