Protecting Biodiversity through Fisheries Management

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All food production impacts biodiversity

- Through habitat conversion, water use, pollution, carbon production and direct exploitation
Intertidal ecosystems
Places affected by tides are particularly at risk from sea-level rise and encroaching coastal development.

Nearshore ecosystems
Shellfish and rocky reefs are among the nearshore areas vulnerable to dredging, trawling, and other fishing practices.

Offshore ecosystems
Many species in the deep sea are accustomed to stable conditions. Even small changes in ocean acidity can wreak havoc on species living around underwater mountains called seamounts.
Biodiversity needs habitat and protection from excess exploitation.
Fisheries management works


- By measuring abundance, and limiting catch and fishing effort
We know how to reduce bycatch

• Gear and fishing method changes
• Incentives to fishing fleets
We know how to reduce the impact of fishing gear
We know how to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems

- Map locations
- Don’t allow mobile bottom contact gear
Fisheries produce food without destroying trophic structure
Effective fisheries management protects biodiversity

• It has been demonstrated across all the major threats to biodiversity

• In the last 50 years the fisheries sector has gone through enormous transformations in production, management, and use. More targeted Blue Transformation is needed to feed a 10-billion world”.

• Fisheries are a way to provide food at low impact to biodiversity as a key element of a sustainable blue economy

• We should aim to join hands across sectors to protect 100% of the ocean with effective fisheries management, and use instruments such as the post-2020 framework to help us do this