



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Side event

### A regional framework among regional fishery bodies: scaling up cooperation and coordination towards sustainable fisheries

Organizer: FAO

United Nations Headquarters – New York – Conference room 4  
23 May 2023



## Background

In response to recommendations by the thirty-fourth session of COFI in 2021, FAO has convened in 2022 two Regional Consultations on the development of coordination frameworks among Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs)\*. The objective of these first consultations was to identify focus areas and key issues for coordination and cooperation to support sustainable fisheries in the respective region.

The consultations were organized in the Western Indian Ocean and in the Central Eastern Atlantic Ocean regions and RFMOs, RFABs as well as Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were invited.

The Regional Consultations focused on RFBs' geographical connections and overlaps, species of common interests, both target and bycatch species, on aspects of conservation of biodiversity, as well as on incoherency regarding conservation and management measures and advice. The value of coordination and cooperation in the context of preventing, deterring, and eliminating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing was chosen as a case study and discussed in a dedicated session.

\* Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and regional fisheries advisory bodies (RFABs) are collectively referred to as regional fishery bodies (RFBs)

The format of the consultation enabled the identification of the focus areas and key issues to be addressed through improved coordination and cooperation among RFBs in the region, the reasons why this would be important, the relevant regional organizations to be involved which should be part of finding solutions to the issues addressed, and, as a way forward, how such issues should be tackled through coordination and cooperation.

The side event focuses on the outcomes of these two Regional Consultations with an emphasis on the challenges and opportunities that emerged during the discussions. In the framework of this

pivotal initiative, speakers will be invited to elaborate on the merits of the development of regional coordination frameworks to support responsible fisheries management and sustainability of fisheries resources, as well as on the benefits for RFB members, particularly for coastal States with multiple memberships in RFBs in the region.

The event will also provide the possibility to discuss the importance of strengthening linkages between RFBs and RECs, which actively support sustainable fisheries governance through national and regional economic policies, and in so doing contribute to food security and poverty reduction.

## Programme

### 13:15–13:20 **Opening remarks**

Vera Agostini (Deputy Director – Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO)

### 13:20–13:30 **Introduction to the event**

Piero Mannini (FAO)

### 13:30–13:40 **Outcome from the Western Indian Ocean**

Paulpandian Krishnan (BoBP)

### 13:40–13:50 **Outcome from the Eastern Central Atlantic**

Camille Jean Pierre Manel (ICCAT)

### 13:50–14:00 **Benefits of coordination and cooperation among RFBs to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing**

Abdennaji Laarmich (ATLAFCO)

### 14:00–14:10 **Coastal States perspective**

Obinna Anozie (AU-IBAR)

### 14:10–14:25 **Open discussion**

Darius Campbell (NEAFC)

Chairperson of the Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats' Network

### 14:25–14:30 **Closing remarks**

Vera Agostini (FAO)