

COFI34; Agenda 10-Global and Regional Processes; Cdn Intervention (Feb 4)

(as delivered)

- **The geographic coverage of RFMOs is increasingly comprehensive, they are well-situated to focus on specific species, and have the relevant states engaged**
- **As the appropriate regional bodies for fisheries management we need to continue to build the competencies of these organizations**
- **Canada continues to be a strong proponent of regular performance reviews to ensure convention objectives are met and the conservation and management measures are effective.**
- **Given the expanded network, FAO's role in coordinating secretariats, sharing experiences and best practices is even more pertinent.**
- **As the global body for fisheries, FAO's role also goes beyond RFMOs. The demand for fisheries management and development expertise has never been greater.**
- **As we have heard, recovering from the pandemic and increasing food and nutrition demands, means that FAO has a central role to play.**

- **Canada strongly supports the calls we have heard for FAO to ensure adequate expertise is provided to other bodies and processes, noting in particular WTO and BBNJ.**
- **Agendas are being set outside of Rome that will have a direct impact on fisheries management.**
- **For example, the language of SDG14 was originally negotiated under the CBD. As noted by Japan, the CBD is in the process of negotiating a renewed set of targets.**
- **Greater engagement from fisheries experts in these processes is needed, whether provided through direct engagement by FAO or by ensuring appropriate experts are included on national delegations to these processes, as pointed out by Iceland.**