

COFI 34; Ag 11.1 – Biodiversity; Cdn Intervention (Feb. 4)
(as delivered)

- **We thank the FAO for their efforts to mainstream biodiversity across fisheries and aquaculture, including through its work to define Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).**
- **Canada provided funding that supported this work, as well as the roll-out of an expert workshop on testing and improving a systematic approach to identification, use and performance assessment of OECMs in marine capture fisheries. We encourage the FAO to continue this work.**
- **In our view, this work is instrumental to demonstrate how fisheries management can contribute to both sustainable use and conservation. Conservation and sustainable use, the central themes of ongoing processes under BBNJ and CBD.**
- **As noted in my earlier intervention, the role for FAO goes beyond the few SDG indicators.**
- **As fisheries managers we manage fish and the space in which they live, so current deliberations on area-based tools, or how much area to set aside, or how to determine how much to set aside, are all directly relevant, and need FAO input.**
- **It is critical that FAO continue its work on defining how fisheries management measures can contribute to conservation and sustainable use.**

- **What are other effective area-based conservation measures and how to use them for fisheries and aquaculture? If the sector does not define this, it will be defined by other processes.**
- **Fisheries managers need to understand what measures and approaches they can undertake to have positive biodiversity outcomes in the course of their work.**
- **For these reasons, Canada is calling for a process to develop guidelines for OECM use in fisheries management.**