

INTERVENTION OF THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION

11. Addressing climate change and other environment-related matter in fisheries and aquaculture

The study of climate change, and its implications and effects for fisheries has been a subject of increasing interest and relevance in oceanic and fisheries research programme of Argentina. For this purpose, we have a specific working group within the PAMPA AZUL initiative framework, an interministerial federal research programme led by our Ministry of Science and Technology, in which the National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP) plays a fundamental role.

The recent incorporation of the two research vessels, B/I VICTOR ANGELESCU and B/I MAR ARGENTINO, which has the latest generation equipment and tools that will allow not only to deepen the biological knowledge, but also to collect information about the environmental to better understand the climate change effects. Since 2000, INIDEP has a fixed monitoring station, in front of Mar de la Plata, called the “Permanent Station for Environmental Studies – EPEA”, where samples and information related to oceanographic, climatic and biological aspects are collected. In addition, since 2009, in order to expand those studies on the continental shelf, another series was started with seasonal frequency, covering an area in Buenos Aires from the coastal to the slope, called COSTAL section. In 2019, the expanded COSTAL was made within the CTMFM.

On a separate issue, and in relation to the Document COFI/2020/9, it is important to stress that any certification scheme oriented to the market that is oriented to the greenhouse gases reduction should be designed and implemented as the following:

- (i) to be compatible with the WTO rules, not constituting a disguised restriction on international trade;
- (ii) to be based on scientific evidence and to have real environmental benefits;
- (iii) its process is transparent and inclusive, through a consultative process with all stakeholders and/or potentially affected parties;
- (iv) that the special capacities and needs of developing countries are taken into account.

Finally, it should be recalled that Argentina has supported and recognized the need to deepen scientific knowledge in relation to the various international forums, such as the United Nations General Assembly, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and COFI itself. In this regard, Argentina coordinates the Working Group on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise that operates within the IWC Conservation Committee framework.

11.1. Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across fisheries and aquaculture

Argentina welcomes the concept of “Other effective area-based conservation measures” emanating from Decision 14/8 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB), held in November 2018, and shares FAO’s view in relation to the fundamental role that fisheries plays in preserving ocean biodiversity and the contribution to human welfare, in a much broader manner than marine protected areas.

Indeed, Goal 5 of SDG 14 does not make a specific reference to the constitution of Marine Protected Areas, nor does clarify the areas that would apply to. Rather, it refers to the need to conserve broadly coastal and marine zones. On the other side, Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, whose Parties are currently negotiating a new Global Framework for Biological Diversity later 2020, specifically refers to “other effective area-based conservation measures”.

In this regard, it would be of the utmost importance that FAO continue reinforcing this concept and collaborate with the corresponding organizations responsible for measuring compliance with goal 14.5, demonstrating the great positive impact that the implementation of fisheries management measures has on biodiversity that determine closure areas or restricted efforts, which beyond its main objective of the protection of fisheries resources, under certain conditions, collaborate with the protection against loss of biological diversity and the destruction of habitats or the ecosystems structure and function.

The concept of “other effective area-based conservation measures” as it has been defined at the 2018 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), represents an important opportunity for countries, such as Argentina and Uruguay, with solid fisheries management, which have established reliably and with strict control, and which have demonstrated vast fisheries closed areas in order to protect biological processes relevant to sustainability of population that constitute its main fishing resources, can fully comply with the commitments made in relation to Aichi Target 11 and SDG 14.5.