

COFI 35 – WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS

A – BASIC INFORMATION

Document Number	COFI/2022/9
Document Title	Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture
Commenting Observer	The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Referred paragraph numbers (if applicable)	-

B – COMMENT RECEIVED

IUCN cannot overstress in this meeting the importance of the Intergovernmental Conference on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction. In this respect, IUCN greatly appreciated the recent FAO publication on **FAO and the Marine Biological Diversity Beyond National Jurisdiction**, recently distributed at the 5th Session of the Conference as a useful contribution to the process.

IUCN would also like to stress that at the last United Nations Conference on the UN Fish Stock Agreement, it made a presentation underlining the potential role of OECMs in the UNFSA under the ecosystem approach. **IUCN encourages FAO and its members to pursue their efforts to facilitate the identification and effective use of OECMs under all jurisdictions.**

IUCN would also like to inform FAO that, at the UN Ocean Conference, it stressed the need to:

- Ensure that fisheries management is compatible with conservation of species, vulnerable habitats and marine ecosystems as well vulnerable fishing and coastal communities within the ecosystem approach.
- Effectively involve the communities concerned, including Indigenous people and other local communities into participative data collection, assessment, policy development and management, respecting tenure rights.
- Give first priority to the fight against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing (IUU fishing) at local, national and regional levels, and
- Support scientific research and harmonization of data collection protocols, leveraging funding and building capacities for joint assessments and multi-species management plans.

IUCN and its Commissions stand ready to collaborate with FAO in supporting countries in their efforts to address biodiversity and fisheries management in a coordinated manner.