



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

COMMON OCEANS PROGRAM

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

20–26 May 2023 at United Nations Headquarters in New York

COMMON OCEANS PROGRAM SIDE EVENT: A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTING UNFSA

24 May 2023, 13:15–14:30 in Conference Room 4

The Common Oceans Program is a global alliance of stakeholders and partners committed to transformational change, promoting sustainable use of marine resources and strengthened biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

Sustainable management of straddling and highly migratory species is at the core of the Program, with two projects focused on improving the management of tuna and deep-sea fish stocks in the ABNJ. In particular, the projects aim to strengthen cooperation, implement the precautionary approach to fisheries, and address data gaps and compliance challenges by applying innovative tools and approaches. Furthermore, the Program promotes coherence in the governance of ABNJ through cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

This side event will showcase our achievements and discuss the challenges and opportunities for the second phase of the Program, taking into account the progress in the international legislative framework. In the panel discussion, experts from regional fisheries management organizations, civil society, and industry partners will share their experiences and insights on sustainable fisheries management aligned with UNFSA recommendations.



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COMMON OCEANS PROGRAM SIDE EVENT: A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTING UNFSA

AGENDA

Opening remarks

Ms **Vera Agostini**, Deputy Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO

The Common Oceans Program and the implementation of UNFSA

Ms **Viktoria Varga Lencses**, Common Oceans Program Coordinator, FAO

Panel discussion

- Mr **Camille Manel**, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
- Ms **Susan Jackson**, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)
- Ms **Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir**, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
- Ms **Vishwanie Maharaj**, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Moderated by Ms **Viktoria Varga Lencses**

Open discussion with the audience

Closing remarks

Ms **Vera Agostini**, Deputy Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO



The Common Oceans Program is a global partnership funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), promoting sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) with a particular focus on tuna and deep-sea fisheries, the Sargasso Sea and cross-sectoral cooperation. Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Program brings together the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), regional fisheries management organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia.

COMMON OCEANS | Global coordination project

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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