RFMOs and the new High Seas Treaty - The North-East Atlantic.

Dr. Darius Campbell
Secretary of NEAFC
Are the High Seas a...
Regional Expertise and Competence in ABNJ

NEAFC
North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
Overarching Global Frameworks

- UNCLOS
- UN Fish Stocks Agreement
- UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 14
- CBD Global Biodiversity Framework
- And now...UNCLOS BBNJ Implementation Agreement
Not undermining does not mean working in silos.

But understanding complementary competences and expertise.
A binding NEAFC regulation on area management measures for the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems = 98% of the high seas currently restricted from bottom fishing.
Precautionary Approach

Populations need to be maintained within safe biological limits - Certain that reproductive success is not impaired

Pragmatic Ecosystem Based Management

Balancing human activities & environmental stewardship in a multiple use context.

ICES Fisheries overviews

Fishing effort

Swept area

Species interaction

ICES Ecosystem overviews

Management

Politics

Social & use

Benthic

Habitat

Chlorophyll

Pelagic

Habitat

Informed by independent wholistic scientific advice

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NEAFC and OSPAR meet under the Collective Arrangement

- Monitoring and assessment
- Overlap of area based designations
- Bycatch
- Ecosystem Approach
- ...BBNJ
Monitoring and enforcing – understanding pressures and impacts

- Vessel Monitoring System
- Port State Control
- Control of non-Contracting Parties
- Electronic Reporting System
- Automated catch and transhipment reporting
- Joint surveillance
- Inspection at Sea and Ports
- Electronic Log books
Current EIA provisions on Exploratory bottom fishing may need widening

1. **Notice of Intent** with details on data, harvest plan, gear, effort restrictions, area limits, mitigation plan, (video) gear and catch monitoring, scientific observers.

2. **Preliminary Assessment** of anticipated impacts, guided by ICES, provided to the management and science committee, PECMAS.

3. **Evaluation** by PECMAS, precautionary approach, risks of significant adverse impact on VMEs, comparison to relevant existing fisheries and based on ICES advice.

4. **Advice to the Commission** if exploratory bottom fishing to be approved, and any mitigation measures

5. **(if) Approved by Commission;** preference for low contact, well mapped areas, considering impacts on other organisms.

6. **Commission Review;** assess after 2 years of exploratory fishing data, before allowing fishing to be as existing activity.
Implementing BBNJ

A lot of detail still to be resolved...
Ecosystem Approach – Balancing the pillars of sustainable development
Balancing environment, society and economics
SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE (SOI)
GLOBAL DIALOGUE WITH REGIONAL SEAS ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES ON ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS
SOI 세계 해양 - 수산 국제기금 포럼 / 26-29 September 2016 Seoul, Republic of Korea

15 RSOs out of 18 (20 rep)
15 RFBs out of 51 (17 rep)
10 UN orgs (17 rep)
18 EU/national gov/institutions (53 rep)
8 Int’l orgs (13 rep)

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Thank You..