

OFFICIAL SUMMARY



Common Oceans: Why Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Are Essential for People and Planet

High-Level Dialogue and Global Media Forum

*On the Occasion of the Inauguration of the World's First-Ever
Large-Scale High Seas Aquarium and Exhibit*

26-28 June 2018

**NAUSICAA, The French National Sea Center
Boulogne-sur-Mer, France**

*Organized by the Common Oceans Program through the
'GEF/FAO/GOF Project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ
(Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction)*



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Global Ocean
Forum



Nausicaá
Le l'Her est sur Terre



COMMON OCEANS

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***Common Oceans:
Why Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)
Are Essential for People and Planet***

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**On the occasion of the Inauguration of the World’s First-Ever
Large-Scale High Seas Aquarium and Exhibit**

**June 27, 2018, 9:00am to 4:30pm
Océan Atlantique Conference Room**

**Nausicaá, French National Sea Center
Boulogne-sur-Mer, France**

**Organized by the Common Oceans Program through the
GEF/FAO/GOF Project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively
Manage ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction)**

Official Summary

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1. Background

The Common Oceans ABNJ Program, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), works towards achieving efficient and sustainable use of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) by fostering international cross-sectoral cooperation and information-sharing, increasing capacities to sustainably manage ABNJ, and promoting an ecosystem approach for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ.

Covering 62 percent of the surface of the oceans, and nearly 95 percent of its volume, ABNJ includes complex ecosystems at vast distances from coasts, making sustainable management and biodiversity conservation difficult, but imperative for planetary survival and for human wellbeing.

The complex ecosystems in the ABNJ are subject to a variety of challenges and threats from human activities in many sectors, from shipping to marine pollution to overfishing, and the list of threats is likely to increase with time. But above all, the seriousness of these threats on the health of the oceans is compounded by the weak implementation of regulatory frameworks and management options and by a general lack of coordinated, cohesive and integrated interventions. Without urgent action, unsustainable management will have devastating results on marine biodiversity, and the socio-economic well-being and food security of the millions of people directly dependent on ABNJ resources.

Moreover, the problems facing the ABNJ are multi-faceted, cutting across the interests of the diverse array of stakeholders, all of whom have different priorities and agendas. These include industries and fishers themselves, artisanal and industrial, conservationists, marine shipping, the Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), representing the coastal countries as well as the distant water fishing nations. The Common Oceans ABNJ Program plays a key role in building and improving cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder dialogue, engaging high-level decision-makers, and contributing to information sharing and public awareness of ABNJ issues.

As part of planned public outreach activities and exhibits, the Common Oceans ABNJ Project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ,¹ in close collaboration with fellow Common Oceans ABNJ Projects,² and partners Nausicaá³ and the World Ocean Network⁴ showcased the major issues facing the ABNJ and insights derived through the Common Oceans ABNJ Program at the newly-opened large-scale High Seas Aquarium inaugurated at Nausicaá in May 2018. The meeting brought together high-level experts working on ABNJ as well as media practitioners.

¹ The Common Oceans GEF/FAO/GOF ABNJ Capacity Project is jointly executed by the Global Ocean Forum and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

² Fellow Common Oceans ABNJ Projects include Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity, Sustainable use of Deep-Sea Living Resources and Biodiversity, and Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation

³ Nausicaá, the French National Sea Center, is the largest marine aquarium in France. The name Nausicaá was inspired by Homer's Odyssey whereby a princess resembling a goddess with the same namesake falls in love with a stranded Odysseus. After staying on the beach for three years, Odysseus is guided home with the help of Nausicaá. The name is meant to evoke a sense of poetry, the sea, and adventure.

⁴ The World Ocean Network (WON) is an international association, representing over 400 museums and aquaria around the world, working to raise public awareness about the importance of the ocean for humanity and the impact that our everyday actions can have on the marine environment.

2. The Nausicaá Opportunity

This first-ever high seas aquarium opened in May 2018 at Nausicaá, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. Encompassing 35,000 square meters, this new addition to Nausicaá makes it Europe's largest aquarium, highlighting the relationship between mankind and the high seas, where visitors can discover this unique marine environment in a fun, educational, and scientific way. The new building housing the high seas exhibit, built by noted architect Jacques Rougerie, is shaped like a manta ray and contains one of the world's largest aquaria, including nearly 60,000 sea creatures and a large-scale 10,000m³ capacity tank. Nausicaá's intent in creating the exhibit is to rally the public around efforts to improve the way in which oceans and their resources are managed, with emphasis on the areas beyond national jurisdiction which lie outside the control of any one nation.

The High-Level Event on *Common Oceans--Why Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Are Essential for People and Planet*, took place on June 27, hosted 70 participants and speakers, showcased the major issues facing the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) as well as possible solutions to the issues, with sessions highlighting: The values and issues surrounding ABNJ; the Common Oceans Program experiences; discussions on solutions to challenges in ABNJ; and global media workshop with media representatives and ABNJ experts. This important event was aimed at building and improving cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder dialogue, engaging high-level decision-makers, and contributing to information sharing and public awareness of ABNJ issues. The outstanding venue of the new Nausicaá exhibit provides heightened inspiration and motivation for the achievement of wise stewardship of the marine ABNJ. The High Level Event was twofold, both exposing and spurring deliberation on the major issues, and examining and drawing lessons from existing experiences related to ABNJ, especially highlighting the efforts of the Common ABNJ Oceans Program⁵ aimed at achieving sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.

Event Highlights:

- Numerous ABNJ challenges were discussed throughout, followed by possible tangible solutions and ways forward for effectively managing ABNJ, including: importance of science-based evidence, sharing information and data, need for capacity building, threat of climate change and pollution, must build on and promote sustainable fishing practices, need for strategic partnering at all levels to build a stronger ocean community, focus on greater engagement with media.
- Opportunities presented included the forthcoming negotiations, replicating and scaling up best management practices, ensuring a link to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially with the implementation of SDG14, building on momentum and success of various high-level ocean initiatives, including to engage more widely with media.

⁵ The Common Oceans ABNJ Program is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

3. Opening

Mr. Guy Lengagne, President and CEO of Nausicaá, Former Secretary of State, France

Welcome to Nausicaá

Nausicaá started on the idea of mobilizing the business world and the general public regarding the protection of the ocean. It has been established at a time where fish stocks had diminished and it was important to show the need to protect the sea and what the sea provides to humankind. The audience will hear suggestions, from scientists and lawyers, but eventually, the decision will be made by politicians. Therefore, the High Level Event is an important opportunity to convince politicians of the importance of ABNJ.

Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum
Opening Remarks

Dr. Cicin-Sain gave opening remarks. On behalf of all the organizers, especially the FAO, the GEF, Nausicaá, and the GOF, a very warm welcome to all, here in this magnificent exhibit on the high seas at Nausicaá.

Why are we here?

1. This meeting is first of all about enhancing global stewardship of the oceans, especially those areas beyond national jurisdiction for which no nation has authority or control--Enhancing stewardship on the part of governments and of peoples and groups everywhere. And working with the media, as well, as the interlocutor between people and the wider world.

A little bit of historical context

Traditionally, up until the 20th century, the world thought of the ocean as limitless, invariably bountiful, and forever resilient. In the 20th century, new maritime activities came on the scene such as offshore oil and gas development, offshore aquaculture, marine tourism, joined the traditional uses of fishing, shipping, and war, creating conditions of conflicts among uses, decline of resources, and pollution. The conflicts of use, the varying practices of different nations ultimately led to the adoption in 1982 of the LOS, the constitution for the



world's oceans, giving control to nations for nations of 200 Exclusive Economic Zones, with the areas beyond national jurisdiction (which constitute 64% of the ocean) divided into two parts: the high seas (the water column) where users have a variety of freedoms: of navigation, fishing, overflight, scientific research, laying of submarine cables, etc. and the bottom of the ocean—the Area—with the mineral resources of the Area to be exploited as the Common Heritage of Mankind. For the ABNJ, we thus have a bifurcated or dual regime.

Over the last 20 years, in particular, we have gained deep understanding of the central role that the oceans play in the climate system as the major carbon sink. And of the central role of marine biodiversity—the greatest biodiversity in the world, and so many species that are still unknown. We don't yet understand. And the relationship of biodiversity to climate change. At the same time, we have seen many other phenomena affecting the oceans including marine pollution, overfishing, illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, and piracy.

Concerns with the loss of marine biodiversity led to the beginning of UN deliberations on this question in 2004, and for over a 10 year period, UN government representatives tried to grapple with the many dimensions involved in this issue. Quite a bit of conflict among nations which essentially have and still have different

visions—much of the developing world believing that marine biodiversity should be part of the common heritage of mankind, while many developed nations adhere to the idea of maintaining and enhancing the freedoms of the high seas.

In 2015, nations decided to pursue a legally binding instrument and we will hear about the major issues that are being deliberated on. Central questions being addressed include marine genetic resources, area-based management tools, environmental impact assessments, and capacity building and technology transfer, as well as questions related to possible institutional arrangements for governance of the ABNJ.

Thus now at a key point in time, for governments and peoples everywhere to contribute to these central questions and to enhance global stewardship of our common ocean, our marine biodiversity, our planet.

Main purposes of the meeting:

1. Expose and deliberate on the major issues
2. Examine and draw lessons from existing experiences with ABNJ, challenges, successes, opportunities. Especially Common Oceans—pioneer investment by the GEF 50 million \$ with much co-financing, 4 projects—tuna project, deepsea project, fishery partnerships project, capacity project.
3. Host interaction between the media and the public and ABNJ experts, something that has not yet happened systematically before
4. And, perhaps most of all, to go beyond the intellectual and the conceptual, and to see and feel first-hand the great creatures—large and small, that inhabit the high seas—the magnificent Nausicaá exhibit on the high seas, the brain child of Nausicaá General Manager Philippe Vallette, who more than 10 years ago in our first joint workshop on ABNJ in Nice, developed the vision to bring to the public, in a very tangible way, the habitats, living organisms, and issues of the ABNJ. Congratulations to all the Nausicaá leaders—Mr. Lengagne, Mr. Vallette, on achieving such a magnificent result through a gigantic undertaking.

We look forward to spirited presentations and discussions.. We hope that the discussions will identify new ideas, new ways of engaging the public imagination and of contributing to the global deliberations

Ms. Tina Farmer, FAO, Communication Advisor to the FAO Deputy Director General Maria Helena Semedo and chief technical advisor on the GEF/FAO/GOF ABNJ capacity project

Ms. Farmer presented the main features of the ABNJ Common Oceans program and the linkages to the public and the media. The FAO, GEF and key partners, developed the Common Oceans ABNJ Program to promote sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation across ABNJ. Launched in 2014, the Program (officially called “Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program”) is made up of four Projects: 1. Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ; 2. Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems in ABNJ; 3. Ocean partnerships for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation; 4. Strengthening global capacity to effectively manage ABNJ. The five-year Program is an innovative, unique and comprehensive initiative working with some 65 partners bringing together governments, regional management bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry. It offers an opportunity to move further by leveraging resources, knowledge and experience from partners to bring about transformational changes. So far, much has been done to strengthen management and improve biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, but there is still a need to do more. Hopefully, this event will galvanize more action, raise public awareness, and inspire engagement toward greater sustainability in the common oceans.

To set the scene and raising awareness of the common oceans, a [video](#) prepared by the Common Oceans ABNJ Program was presented.



Mr. Philippe Vallette, General Manager, Nausicaá
Mr. Vallette welcomed the audience. Nausicaá has first developed its concept around humankind and the sea, focusing on coastal communities. Fifty percent of the ocean is high seas, and the decision of extending Nausicaá to include the High Seas, and launching the new experience was made during Rio+20 in 2012. The high seas are a major stake of the 21st century, coupled with climate change (and Nausicaá will open soon another extension on climate change and the sea). Nausicaá regularly organizes international conferences, and now they will be able to organize and co-organize more conferences on the high seas.

Special Address: H.E. Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for Ocean
The Global Ocean Agenda

H.E. Thomson addressed the audience via video

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to join you via video today.

I regret not being able to attend this exciting event in person and, as UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, congratulate the organizers—the Global Ocean Forum, FAO and Nausicaá, with the support of the Global Environment Facility, for this topical and timely gathering. This High Seas Exhibit at Nausicaá is an excellent backdrop to emphasize the importance of the common oceans, the nearly two thirds of our ocean beyond national jurisdiction for which no one nation has sole responsibility and which demands our focused attention and action.

To respond to the significant challenges facing the oceans, the international community adopted the universally-agreed Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), an ambitious global agenda for the ocean aiming to conserve and sustainably use marine resources.



The Ocean Goal seeks to balance protection with sustainable use, to mitigate the increasingly adverse impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, in order to ensure our planetary survival and a sustainable heritage for future generations.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

We have been given an extraordinary opportunity to enhance the responsible management of the oceans and help achieve SDG 14 through the negotiations for a new international legally-binding instrument for the areas beyond national jurisdiction which will kick-off in September.

The areas beyond national jurisdiction, or common oceans, represent highly unique and diverse ecosystems, comprising about 95 percent of the water in our oceans, and used for valuable sectors such as fishing, shipping, scientific research, medicines from marine genetic resources, and so much more.

These major uses of ABNJ are crucial for providing food, income and jobs, contributing billions of dollars to our global economy. At the same time there are prospective uses such as offshore mariculture, renewable energy, and carbon capture and storage to name a few.

And while we have made some major strides in better managing areas beyond national jurisdiction, for example by combatting illegal fishing, they still face major threats including climate change, ocean acidification, loss of biodiversity, overfishing, and pollution.

The business as usual treatment of ABNJ will only magnify these threats, affecting the socio-economic well-being and food security of millions of people dependent on marine resources and associated activities. It is time for real change.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

Oceans are life. As the planet's biggest biosphere, they provide us with half our oxygen and act as the world's largest carbon sink. I believe we all have a responsibility to become ocean stewards. This means better responding to the need for sustainable management and conservation of our common oceans. For this, the media can play a key role in mobilizing and informing the public on ABNJ issues which can appear so far away and remote but which affect us all.

Events like this to bring together the public, media, and ABNJ leaders and experts, as well as the negotiations to create a new legal instrument for ABNJ are needed for the successful and sustainable management of one of the most complex and biodiverse areas of the world. The world's oceans are vital, and bettering the management of ABNJ is a monumental step in the right direction toward healthy and sustainable oceans and for achieving the Ocean Goal.

Thank you for your attention and wishing you fruitful discussions that can pave the way forward for the sustainable use of ABNJ.

4. Session 1: Setting the Scene: The Values and Issues Surrounding Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)



Chair: H.E. Ambassador Serge Segura, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of France

Ambassador Segura emphasized that everyone has a different understanding of the ocean, economically, scientifically or politically. The high seas and their definition changes depending on the expertise. For sailors, the high seas start at 12 nautical miles whereas they start at 200 miles for legal experts. That adds complexity to the question. Legal experts also base their structure of the high seas on the water column but not the seabed and the underground.

That adds complexity to the question. Legal experts also base their structure of the high seas on the water column but not the seabed and the underground. These parts of the area are covered by the Montego Bay convention. Nonetheless, the biological resources of this seabed and this underground are not part of any agreement and they should be protected as well. Negotiating on the ocean requires to be open-minded and accept different definitions. Echoing President Lengagne, it is emphasized that states are extremely egoistic. It is often forgotten, but during UN negotiations, it creates challenges. France is egoistic. When the ocean and especially the high seas are spoken about, States should be less egoistic, which is very difficult. It is essential because everyone has a role to play. Most of the politicians do not know that much about the ocean and are not interest in the maritime stakes if they do not impact their administrative district. The civil society should raise awareness about the importance of the sea and lead its politicians to feel concerned by the future of the ocean and ABNJ. Some countries have the capacities to know and create management method (sciences, funding, techniques) and it is crucial to build capacity and transfer technology. For the non UN specialist, a side event in NYC is a small event which enables external organizations to complete the negotiation with a different approach. Side events became very special moment and very important moments of these negotiations. Everyone needs to play a role at the international level.

Dr. David Johnson, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative
Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Why Should We Care?

Dr. Johnson began by explaining that the special nature of ABNJ is important to keep in mind, taking up a vast space, with unique and sensitive ecosystems and connectivity. ABNJ issues are happening now, and it is important to engage because negotiations are happening at a critical time, as major ecosystem changes and threats are occurring. There are a range of issues and threats such as climate change, higher temperatures, regime shifts of plankton, changes to ocean circulation and ocean acidification to name a few. There are significant uses such as overfishing, IUU fishing, piracy, and different forms of pollution. ABNJ is used extensively for a range of issues such as transport, fishing, cables, scientific research, gas and oil exploitation, as well as perspective uses such as DSM, carbon capture and storage, renewables and aquaculture. Areas that are significant, large dynamic areas, need to be identified and protect areas of this nature throughout Marine Protected Areas. OSPAR is currently putting together some such areas. Being aware of tipping points and when

will human interaction be too much is integral to effective management of ABNJ. UNCLOS can be word soup, and the new implementing agreement could potentially add to that. There are ongoing debates about future policy direction such as data collection, coordination, financial resources, compliance etc. Moving forward it will be necessary to harness new technologies, engage in climate change mitigation, and participate in sustainable food security. The new BBNJ regime will need to address gaps, be viable, be inclusive and equitable, be based on consensus, and enable governments to achieve targets and shape future marine sustainably.

Mr. Romain Trouble, Director General,
Tara Expeditions

What Our Oceans are Suffering—Climate Change, Marine Pollution, Plastics: The Findings of the Tara Expeditions

Mr. Trouble described the meeting as a capacity building opportunity, as was done last week in Paris, and as should be done every month around the globe. Tara expeditions is now in the plastic gyre of the North Pacific Ocean, between Hawaii and Portland. The aim of this expedition is to understand the coral reefs, the impact of climate change and how to tackle these changes. It is a scientific expedition, based



on the study of DNA changes, genomics, and microplastics studies. They have done more than 40 sampling in different coral reefs. The high seas play a crucial role in the biodiversity of the ocean, they contain the wider fish stocks and they represent the wider surface for thermic and chemical exchanges with the climate system. Ecosystemic services of the high seas are key to humankind. The increase in temperature of the high seas triggers a stratification of the ocean, hindering exchanges between the different layers of the water column and deoxygenation. Acidification of the ocean increases stress on ecosystems. Finally, plastic can be found everywhere in the high seas and impacts directly the biodiversity. There are two important questions: how to understand better the ocean and how to share this information. Microscopic organisms are key to carbon capture and storage and we realize how much we don't know about the sea, as we have discovered 5,037 species of marine virus and 150 million on new genes. We are the beginning of our understanding of how it works and how it will work. Tara raised awareness during a side event of BBNJ Prep Coms on the topic and the negotiator of the G77 countries came to us and said that developing countries can't sign such an agreement as long as they don't have the technical ability to study these ecosystems. It is crucial to develop capacity building and train developing countries researchers to this science.

Ms. Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations
Outlook for the Negotiations on a New International Legally Binding Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

Ms. Goettsche-Wanli presented on the outlook for the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), or the BBNJ process for short. Development of a new instrument as soon as possible is the goal, with work and results of the conference being fully consistent with UNCLOS. Negotiations will grapple with topics addressed in the BBNJ package in 2011 which includes marine genetic resources, environmental impact assessments, area based management tools (including marine protected areas) and capacity building and technology transfer. There is currently no cross-sectional coordinating mechanism, which proves a challenge. The negotiations consist of an open ended informal consultative process, informal working groups, preparatory committee, and is taking so long because it the issue complex and highly politically sensitive. Governance

issues, of which cross cutting issues are one, are not mentioned in the package. The preparatory committee outcomes for a draft text of an instrument included non-exclusive elements that generated convergence among most delegations, main issues on which there is a divergence of views, and recommended the convening of an intergovernmental conference. Some of the main issues on which there is a divergence of views include common heritage of mankind and freedom of the high seas, marine genetic resources (whether to regulate access; nature of the resources; what benefits should be shared; whether to address intellectual property rights; whether to provide for monitoring of the utilization), area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (most appropriate decision-making and institutional set up), environmental impact assessments (degree to which the process should be conducted by States or be “internationalized”; whether the instrument should address strategic environmental assessments), and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology (terms and conditions for TMT), to name a few. Regarding the intergovernmental conference, and the length with respect to 2018, 2019, and first half of 2020—the conference will meet for four sessions, 10 working days each, and include broad participation, with every effort to reach agreement on substantive matters by consensus (2/3 majority), with substantive support by UNCLOS. The BBNJ trust fund, which is a special voluntary trust fund established for the purpose of assisting developing countries especially least developed countries, is urgently in need of additional contributions. It is important to note the exciting announcement earlier this year of H.E. Rena Lee, Singapore, as the newly elected president of the BBNJ Process. As an additional note made by Ms. Goettsche-Wanli, there is a World Ocean Assessment 2015, with the next assessment expected to be completed in 2020, including technical abstracts on several important topics accessible to the media.

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum

The Central Importance of Building Capacity for Understanding and Managing Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Dr. Cicin-Sain discussed the central importance of building capacity for understanding and managing ABNJ. Mobilizing broad networks of people, at both the national and regional leaders as well as assessing the needs and gaps, and regional and national perspectives on ABNJ are key for understanding and managing ABNJ. Needs for capacity vary region by region, and work is being done by the Global Ocean Forum and partners on a global survey to aggregate ABNJ efforts and cross-sectoral workshops to assess these needs. The Forum has also developed communities of practice and is currently developing a policy brief on these issues to be presented at the UN in September at the First Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ. It is a new realm, and it is challenging to understand the system, build ocean stewardship, and create new regulation. Outreach with the public and media, and receiving comments on the draft media guide are essential for raising awareness of ABNJ. Countries will need long term capacity, with different countries and regions having different needs; assessment will be necessary for these needs. Approaches have to be tailored to each to each country and region, and be cross-sectoral. It is emphasized that capacity building needs to benefit both people in their own national jurisdictions as well as ABNJ. As far as international prescriptions, there have been several, but there was limited implementation in the past, and more training has been on sectoral matters at the individual level. Discussions so far in the BBNJ process have stayed mainly at conceptual, general level, but are now becoming more detailed. As part of outlining the policy brief, financing is a challenge of building capacity and needs to be tied to a mechanism, and UNCLOS does not have a lot of money. A financing mechanism that is funded to support all aspects of the treaty and especially capacity development is necessary. Also featured in the policy brief is a possible clearing-house mechanism that can help to show what aspects would be useful in BBNJ. Overall, linking the global, regional and national is necessary, and one innovative way to bridge these gaps would be to use the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) approach under the Paris Agreement, so that each nation would have to think about, report, and set goals on how ABNJ affects them. Overall, there are solutions to ABNJ, with capacity building being an essential component to the successful and sustainable management of ABNJ.

Mr. Philippe Vallette, General Manager, Nausicaá

Public Understanding Underpins Wise Management of the ABNJ

Mr. Vallette discussed the sea center. Nausicaá chose to tackle the challenge of interesting the general public to something as abstract as the high seas. Most of the people do not know what the national jurisdictions are, and the high seas are far away. People are intrigued, but no one knows that there is abundant life in the high seas. It is not empty, it is full of resources which should be exploited sustainably. Nausicaá tells a story, the story of the island of Malpelo. It is a Colombian island with 4,000 meters of deep sea. It's an oasis for migratory species, migrating from Cliperton to Galapagos. The work of Sandra Bessudo in convincing the Colombian government to protect this area brings hope and shows that solutions do exist. We depend on the sea in all our daily life aspects. If the civil society and industry are not convinced of this, then governments cannot be. That is why it is crucial to raise awareness in the civil society.

5. Session 2: Tell Your Story: Common Oceans Experiences

Chair: Dr. Alejandro Anganuzzi, FAO, Coordinator, Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project
The Common Oceans Program: Key Messages for ABNJ Management



Ms. Corli Pretorius, Deputy Director, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Toward Area-Based Planning in ABNJ

Ms. Pretorius gave a presentation on area based planning, with a cross sectoral focus. Together with the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, UNEP-WCMC is testing methodologies for area-based planning, with the aim of developing one standardized approach that will help different parties come together and plan activities for the high seas. This effort has three components: capacity building and knowledge-sharing, data and tools, and governance framework. In relation to this, different challenges and mechanisms associated with strengthening cooperation were discussed, and the importance of bringing stakeholders together and helping all the interested parties and stakeholders to make connections between SDG 14 and all other sustainable development goals, were recognized. Moreover, it was noted area based planning is a tool that can help pave the way forward by recognizing the existing challenging, involving regional and global organizations and capacity development.

Mr. Ludovic Schultz, Secretariat de la Mer, Prime Minister's Office, France
Challenges in Achieving Concerted Public Action in ABNJ

Mr. Schultz discussed the difficulties in mobilizing public action, and making public officials aware of ocean issues. Mr. Schultz met difficulties throughout his career, and noticed the public having trouble understanding the sea. Managing wild resources and complex ecosystem is not the same as managing industry, with its many parameters and inputs.



It is difficult to make long term considerations in the short term interest, and even more difficult in the marine setting. The ocean can seem empty and distant, and the complexity or biodiversity of the marine world can seem

unknown. It is only very recently that the public began understanding ocean policy, and if successful results are hoped to be achieved, strong political involvement is needed. ABNJ issues should be both a public and political matter. Nausicaá is so important, because it gives the public an opportunity to see the deep sea and is a step toward the public connecting with the deep seas.

Mr. Tony Thompson, FAO Deep Seas Consultant and VME expert
Deep Seas Fisheries and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)

Mr. Thompson explained that there are changes in the ocean that are not always seen to the naked eye. One example is bottom fisheries in 2006, which sparked huge discussion and debate. Now there is movement on fisheries in ABNJ. There has been huge response from deep sea fishery management organizations to control deep sea fisheries, to fully embrace the concerns of conservation and put forward a series of measures to try and protect both fish stocks and the bottom environment. These fisheries have identified vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), existing bottom fishing areas, and areas where there are no existing bottom fisheries. If a State wants to fish in some of these areas, they need to go through a complex process. UNCLOS includes freedom to fish in the high seas, which holds true but is subject to strong restrictions, for example abiding by regulations of an RFMO governing that area. Coming full circle, there has been tremendous change in the last few years regarding the deep seas and fisheries, even if it cannot be seen.

Ms. Lizanne Aching, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations and Negotiator for Trinidad and Tobago for BBNJ and other Law of the Sea Processes, New York
Trinidad and Tobago—Challenges and Opportunities in ABNJ

Ms. Aching discussed that as a State Party to UNCLOS, Trinidad and Tobago is committed to its full and effective implementation, and sustainable use and conservation of marine environment & resources. Trinidad and Tobago is actively engaged in the negotiations at the UN aimed at creating a new legally binding BBNJ instrument under UNCLOS. The Marine environment is integral to cultural, social and economic identity in Trinidad and Tobago, but the country is vulnerable due to the unprecedented rate of loss of marine biodiversity and the impacts of unsustainable practices in ABNJ. Challenges in ABNJ include limited research opportunities and marine scientific research due to lack of technology and vessels. There have been increased ABNJ activities happening in Trinidad and Tobago, however greater capacity building and technology transfer is needed for effective management of resources in ABNJ and successful implementation of new BBNJ instrument. Capacity building and technology transfer is needed in several areas such as access to research vessels, enhanced institutional capacity, protected area management, and the need for a clearinghouse mechanism. The way forward will need to include a more integrated approach to ocean management, fostering awareness among stakeholders and decision-makers, creating an overarching global institutional mechanism, strengthening existing entities, and sustained funding.

Dr. Vishwanie Maharaj, World Wildlife Fund, World Bank ABNJ Ocean Partnership Project
Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation

Dr. Maharaj presented an overview of the efforts of FAO's Common Oceans ABNJ Project on Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity in the ABNJ, that is funded by GEF and implemented by the World Bank, and how it has responded to the need to overcome the barriers to reform (short term economic losses) and improve the effectiveness of RFMO management arrangements, through partnerships and innovative incentive based tools to improve both the ecological and economic performance of fisheries. The summary discussed how each of the executing partners under the Project is developing a business case with a number of industry, government and other partners taking them through the journey of jointly designing solutions, carrying out financial and other technical analyses and engaging policymakers at the national and regional levels.



Dr. Shelley Clarke, FAO Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project Technical Coordinator ABNJ tuna project – shark components

Other Fish in the Sea: Shark Conservation in the ABNJ

Dr. Clarke told her shark story and discussed personalizing sharks. Using shark fin as a window into shark populations through auction records, Shelley was able to provide the number of sharks used annually in the shark trade which was three to four times higher than what was thought previously, many of them deep sea sharks. The common oceans project has tagged some sharks, and some have moved more than 2000 km in a month. The message is that if we care about what happens to sharks, we cannot ignore that they are passing through ABNJ, and when Tuna management is discussed, it needs to be in the context of their interaction with sharks. Bycatch, when sharks are caught by accident among tuna and swordfish fisheries, also account for shark mortality. It is important to make sure high seas sharks are not out of sight or out of mind, and that they require international management. Also important is to dispel the cycle of poor data, ambiguous assessments and ad hoc management, and intervene to have smarter data collection and management that is based on science. Better catch reporting and new methods for assessing four populations of sharks and promoting safe release techniques are in the works through the Common Oceans program currently. As an action item, ask

where your seafood comes from, and find out the shark implications of the fishery where the seafood is coming from.

Mr. Cyrille Barnerias, Senior Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility

Perspectives on ABNJ in GEF-7

Mr. Barnerias discussed GEF, which is the financial mechanism for projects linked with pollution and waste management. It is based on a four year cycle, with the new cycle starting in July 2018. G7 Member-States are the main funding sources, they commit to provide 4 billion dollars over the next 4 years. There is one pillar on ABNJ, one pillar on the blue economy and one pillar on the coastal communities. The GEF supports projects working on ecosystems restoration, fisheries management in the deep sea and the capacity building of RFMOs. It renews the strategic capacities of the different organizations and community. It supports data collection of sharing. Another priority is the reduction of IUU fishing and the reinforcement of public private partnerships, and setting up agreements to reduce the harmful subsidies. Companies should be responsible, whether they are fisheries or part of the food chain. Management capacity should be supported, and stakeholders should be connected, from the high seas and the coasts.

6. Session 3: Panel Discussion on Opportunities and Solutions to ABNJ Challenges

Moderator: Dr. William Emerson, Project Manager, Common Oceans ABNJ Deep Seas Project



Ms. Christine Valentin, World Ocean Council
Mobilizing the Essential Leadership and Collaboration of the Ocean Business Community
Ms. Valentin discussed the business sector perspective. Business is a part of the processes allowing for sustainable growth and ocean protection. The ocean is one interconnected ecosystem, and requires the inclusivity of all stakeholders and the business community. Economic growth is a key driver in developing governance, and it is important to take into account the complexity and fragmentation of the ocean business community. Businesses may have priorities that come before their interest in the

oceans, priorities that come before their interest in the oceans, but it is essential to engage the potential of businesses as a stakeholder in ocean issues. Deploying instruments to grasp data to put in regulations to ensure they are enforced could be one role for business, as there are a lot of gaps. Environmental impact assessments are something businesses know well. Collaboration from the business community in the reduction of ocean users and systems that support and reward no pollution, for example a social license to operate could be another role. Ocean issues are cumulative and cross-sectoral, with new and emerging users including involvement through research and development who may invent additional ocean uses. Most importantly, the ocean business community needs to be engaged in negotiations from the start to understand how they think and where they are coming from.

Mr. Eric Banel, Secretariat de la Mer, Prime Minister's Office, France, past chair, Federation of Shipping Organizations, France

The Solutions to ABNJ and the Contribution of the Blue Economy

Mr. Banel took the government perspective, and defined himself as a man of the sea who started his career in Boulogne sur Mer. The high seas concept has to be dealt with from an educational point of view to the general public. This event is designed to raise awareness to the public about the capacity being built and about the oceans. We need to create a culture of the sea, to raise awareness of the ocean role in our daily life and the interests of the society in protecting the sea. The high seas are very abstract for the public, but by including companies, the public and a broad range of stakeholders in ABNJ decision making, new perspectives can be evoked. Stakeholders in France made an early decision to develop a participatory method to promote ways of work which are pragmatic based on a permanent open dialogue through instruments or workshops. The economic sector and civil society need to participate, and there are tools that can access the needs of stakeholders. Some instruments are voluntary and others are binding, and economic actors are now being confronted by the discussion of international and national law. Concrete objectives are needed to develop goals that will help to reach objectives regarding ABNJ and the new legally binding instrument.

Mr. Ivan Lopez, International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), Spain
Perspectives of the Fishing Industry
Mr. Lopez brought an industry perspective by describing the complexity of fishing. Regarding ABNJ, fishing is often in the spotlight, but there is a big problem with the international debate being skewed in one way or another. Fishing is a complicated industry, working in the unknown. There is no holistic approach to solving ABNJ issues, as small but important problems are solved one by one. While politicians are not always great at listening, maybe industry is not hearing. An



extreme solution that industry would support would include concentrating all of the fishing knowledge with RFMOs, who has done well by fishers, as a holistic agency, eliminating any excess agencies. NGOs also play a big role in global fishing decisions, however they do not always coordinate, and need to create a comprehensive plan. It is a complex debate, and life is confusing for fishermen, for example they may be told to eliminate discard, only to be told discard is okay soon after due to an issue in the food chain. How much impact is acceptable is a big question, because the industry wants to fish, but is willing to fish sustainably if it can be done fairly. This acceptable impact level is a social contract, and the center of the debate is not the what, of course industry would like to remain sustainable and preserve the ocean for future generations. The question is how, wading through the many ways to get to the what. Listening to fishermen is important in ABNJ decision making.

Mr. Alejandro Anganuzzi, FAO, Coordinator, Common Oceans, ABNJ Tuna Project
Enhancing Compliance and Enforcement

The session two chair presented his take on the topic; *Key messages for ABNJ Management*. To begin, Mr. Anganuzzi shared his thoughts on how IUU-fishing is a big threat to the sustainability to vital species in the high seas, tuna in particular. However, in 2010 there was a big shift in the market resulting from the regulation prevent, deter and eliminate IUU-fishing in 2010 entering into force. Before, the issue was focused on the difficulty of how to intercept these vessels, but now, due to the regulation coming into force, steps can be taken to prevent illegal fisheries to operate. Furthermore, Mr. Anganuzzi underlined that there a process taking place to streamline the compliance process for RFMOs, through the organization of a compliance committee in effort to strengthen and harmonize current monitoring, control and surveillance practices. In addition, it was mentioned that RFMOs are looking at the entire supply chain, and it has become clear the collaborating with the private sector is key in forming a more comprehensive exchange of information between management mechanisms for all sectors. As an endnote, Mr. Anganuzzi that the RFMOs have taken a more holistic approach to fisheries, which is demonstrated in the ongoing progresses in the strengthening management processes in the ABNJ.

Ms. Safiya Sawney, Director, Blue Initiative, Grenada
Building the Blue Economy: Linking National and ABNJ Initiatives

Ms. Sawney took a SIDS perspective. While there is no one definition of the blue economy, it could be defined as supporting the sustainable development of the oceans through the preservation of ocean health, and figuring out ways to exploit economic benefits from the ocean in a way that ensures that its environmental integrity is maintained. SDG 14 describes that the blue economy will leverage much needed technical capacity, financing and long-term approaches so that SIDS can meet gaps in food security, environmental management and national development. While there are many challenges with ABNJ such as weak regulation, weak management options, and lack of coordination, there are solutions. There are two solutions: Development of multi-stakeholder

approaches and partnerships, and the centralization of implementation and impact under a regional coordinating hub and center of excellence. Grenada has started to figure out how to create solutions, such as the 'Blue Week' in 2016 to facilitate information and knowledge sharing as well as financing and meeting goals, and a Blue Coastal Master Plan which can conceptually provide a vision for coastal development under the blue economy framework. The future of ABNJ defined by the blue economy is the ability to set a solid foundation for achieving long term impactful management.



Mr. Herman Wisse, Managing Director, Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative, Netherlands

Affective Supply Chain Assurance and ABNJ

Mr. Wisse brought the market perspective. The market is an important driver for change. The idea that industry cares about responsible management is echoed, as fishing is the livelihood of many, and society needs fish on shelves. The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) includes over 70 companies, includes all actors in seafood supply chain, and has a public/private partnership with FAO. A credible scheme is needed for sustainable seafood, which is helped greatly by FAO guidelines and countries that have signed. Streamlining assurance systems has managed to take away some of the friction between the many stakeholders involved in the sustainable seafood market, to move beyond the tension and talk about real challenges and changes that need to take place in fishery policy. Reflection of 10 years in sustainable seafood shows successes on the part of retailers, fishing companies and NGOs trying to improve, and bridging the gap of the two big drivers in the fishing industry, the governments and markets has improved. It is a challenge that governments are responsible and accountable, and there is only so much an individual company in the fishing industry can do, but by trying to find a combination of private/public partnerships and building off of international agreements, the sustainable seafood market will move forward.

Mr. Ram Boojh, Advisor, Society for Environment Education & Development (SEED), Lucknow, India, Former Science Specialist, UNESCO

Creating Media and Information Literacy about Common Oceans (Video)

Mr. Boojh provided a transition between the third session and Global Media Forum with a video intervention on media literacy. The need for sensitizing and empowering media both traditional and new media with a critical set of competencies related to issues of common oceans or ABNJ is of great significance in view of the role of media in disseminating scientific information and educating general masses about the unprecedented environmental challenges of the world's oceans particularly the common oceans. The ABNJ issues have not found significant mention in media due to lack of and access to credible information and capacity of media persons to be able to seek information, critically evaluate it and create new information and knowledge for the media platforms. It is heartening however to see wide media coverage of the theme 'beat plastic pollution' in India recently, with mobilization of plastic clean ups, and huge social media surges. In order to bring ocean literacy for all, there is a need to foster media literacy which is closely linked to other types of literacies such as ICT literacy, digital literacy and access to information and knowledge. In this context and in preparation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development -2021 to 2030, there is need for developing ocean literacy communication tools for media right away.

Questions and answers from the public, participants, and speakers enriched the discussion after each session.

7. Global Media Forum: An Interactive Exchange Between the Media and ABNJ Experts

Mr. Lambert Wilson, French Actor/Director and Activist (*video*)

A video message was prepared by the French actor, director and activist Mr. Lambert Wilson on his fascination with the high seas, especially since portraying French explorer Jacques Cousteau in a major film. He underscored the huge potential offered by these valuable resources and the importance of their sustainable management– now, and for future generations.

Keynote speaker: Mr. James Honeyborne, Executive Producer for BBC Blue Planet II Series

Mr. Honeyborne joined via Skype and shared his experiences from having filmed and produced the BBC Blue Planet Series II, underlining the wonders of the high seas and the need to ensure their sustainable development. Ensuing discussion between the experts and media underlined the complexity of communicating successfully on the common oceans to the diverse array of stakeholders with a focus on the various definitions of high seas and need for consistent messaging. Generally speaking, there is a lack of awareness about the marine ABNJ among the general public, but also among government officials and other stakeholders. There is a clear need to strengthen and streamline current communications efforts, to build and give voice to a strong ocean community, to communicate clear, consistent and coherent messages and encourage an active interest and engagement in the ABNJ at all levels.

Moderators: Dr. David Dunkley Gyimah, Head of the Digital Interactive Storytelling LAB, University of Westminster, and **Ms. Tina Farmer**, FAO, Lead Technical Officer, Common Oceans ABNJ Capacity Development Project

Dr. Gyimah and Ms. Farmer facilitated the *Global Media Forum: An Interactive Exchange Between the Media and ABNJ Experts*, joined by expert panelists H.E. Ambassador Serge Segura, Dr. Shelley Clarke and Mr. Philippe Valette.

8. Closing Remarks

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum

Dr. Cicin-Sain gave concluding remarks. Organizers overcame many hurdles throughout organization, but are so excited about the impact that the event will have for the ocean community in regard to ABNJ. The event included an inclusive, diverse group of speakers with varying perspectives. Presentations and interventions were high quality and organizers very much appreciated all of the preparation that went into them. Participants are invited to provide comments on the draft media guide that was circulated during the event to further efforts in conveying the importance of ABNJ through the media. It was such a pleasure to have held this conference in France, a great world leader on the oceans. Very sincere thanks go to all of our colleagues at FAO and at Nausicaá and to Philippe Vallette for his incredible leadership in connecting the world's publics to the oceans.



The official summary was prepared by Alexis Maxwell, Global Ocean Forum, with many thanks to FAO and Global Ocean Forum colleagues for their contributions and edits, which are very appreciated.