

Side event

Other Effective (Area-Based) Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the marine fishery sector.

Oslo, 'Our Oceans', 23-24 October, 2019

Collaborating organizations: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD); the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission of Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG) and the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)

In adopting Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in 2010, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) clearly articulated the central role of protected areas and area-based conservation measures in achieving the goals of the Convention for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 calls for, by 2020, having at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas **and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)**, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

An OECM has been defined by the CBD COP 14 in 2018 as a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values

OECMs are have a potentially important contribution towards the attainment of biodiversity targets in relation to SDG14. OECMs are existing or new areas from which specific human activities are excluded for reasons other than conservation (e.g. fishery closures, navigation corridors, oil and gas fields) but which also generate significant biodiversity conservation benefits. In that context, OECMs are likely to have management and monitoring regimes that are enforced.

Understanding the extent to which, in fisheries, OECMs can contribute positive outcomes for biodiversity is an important issue that requires consideration of the ecological and human factors that might influence the site ecological performance and hence its nomination. The FAO, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and IUCN-CEM-FEG, convened an expert meeting in May 2019 to consider some of the issues associated with the development of guidance that could be used to inform the identification, management and evaluation of OECMs in the marine capture fishery sector, such that they make a meaningful contribution to global conservation targets.

In this side event we will present a report on the major findings identified at the FAO OECM meeting. In addition, we will highlight the evidence that partially protected areas can confer significant conservation benefits, all be it that they may not achieve the same level of contribution of fully protected areas. We will introduce a stakeholder survey in which we invite attendees to participate. The survey will help prioritize issues that need to be addressed to empower the implementation of OECMs. The session will end with an open discussion to unearth key issues for consideration in moving this initiative forward.

Programme:

1. Introduction to event – what are we doing and why? Gunnstein Bakke (Directorate of Fisheries, Norway) ; Vera Agostini (FAO) Michel Kaiser (IUCN – CEM – FEG)
2. Overview of the contribution of partially protected areas to conservation – Michel Kaiser
3. Report on the FAO Rome meeting on OECMs – Vera Agostini
4. Prioritization survey – why are we doing this and what will it achieve? Vera Agostini and Michel Kaiser
5. Open discussion – moderated

Timings: 5 mins; 10 mins; 15 mins; 5 mins; 25 mins open discussion