RIO+20 and SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES: HOW TO CONVERT COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

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Building on Rio+20 and oceans

What this means for fisheries
1992 Rio Declaration

2002 JPOI
- Reduce fishing capacity by 2005
- Tackle IUU fishing by 2004
- Restore fish stocks to MSY by 2015
- Eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU and over-capacity
- Develop networks of marine protected areas by 2012
- Significantly reduce biodiversity loss by 2010

2012 The Future We Want
intense negotiations...
The Future We Want

- 9 drafts
- 20 paragraphs on oceans

United Nations
General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 59
Sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

The future we want

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 64/226 of 24 December 2009, in which it decided to organize the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level in 2012, as well as its resolution 66/197 of 22 December 2011,
1. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Brazil for hosting the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June 2012, and for providing all the necessary support;
Address biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction

- Marine pollution, marine debris

- Ocean acidification and climate change

- Commit to achieve sustainable fisheries

- Fully implement UNFSA, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FAO international plans of action and technical guidelines

- Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing

- Enhance transparency and accountability of RFMOs

- Eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU, overcapacity

- Importance of area-based conservation, MPAs
What did States commit to on fisheries?

- reaffirmed the goal to restore depleted fish stocks;
- committed to:
  - urgently take measures to maintain or restore fish stocks to at least levels that can produce MSY;
  - eliminate IUU fishing;
  - implement measures to strengthen monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement;
  - implement science-based management;
  - enhance management of bycatch and discards;
  - protect vulnerable ecosystems; and
  - increase transparency & accountability of RFMOs.
17 RFMOs
- Overlapping geographic areas
- Near global remit
- 91% of the world’s ocean

RFMOs: key to implementing Rio Commitments
But RFMOs need work... and political will and commitment

- Historically have not prevented overfishing
- Do not cover all species or all ocean areas
- Ignore scientific recommendations
- Have failed to adopt ecosystem-based fisheries management despite mandates to do so
States Agreed to:

- Maintain or restore all stocks to at least MSY
- Implement science based management
- Enhance management of bycatch and discards
- Protect vulnerable ecosystems
- Fully implement UNFSA, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and FAO international plans of action and technical guidelines

How can Rio help RFMOs?
States Also Agreed to:

- Eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing
- Build capacity and support for monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement
- Call on RFMOs to regularly undertake performance reviews and make them publically available

How can Rio help RFMOs?
Priority Areas for RFMO improvement

1. TUNA
2. SHARKS
3. FORAGE FISH
4. IUU FISHING
5. TRANSPARENCY
TUNA

- Adopt precautionary catch limits
- Require 100% observer coverage on large scale longliners
- Manage, track and limit the use of Fish Aggregating devices (FADs)

Turning words into action...
SHARKS

- Develop and fully implement NPOAs for sharks
- Prohibit take of threatened species
- No science based management plans, no fishing
- Collect species specific data
- Prohibit wire leaders
- Require fins attached

Turning words into action...
FORAGE FISH

- Implement precautionary measures to limit forage fisheries
- Suspend development of new fisheries until they are deemed scientifically and ecologically sustainable
- Implement spatial and temporal closures as needed to support critical predator foraging locations

Turning words into action...
Encourage States to ratify the PSMA and adopt measures that are consistent with the PSMA

Call on developed States to assist developing States in implementing port State measures

Require the use of unique vessel identifiers

Recognize illegal fishing as international crime

Require States to close ports and markets to IUU fish and collaborate

Turning words into action...
RFMO Transparency

- Increase observer coverage on surface longline vessels
- Be made accountable to the UNGA
- Improve compliance with existing RFMO measures
- Update treaties to include the precautionary principle, ecosystem based management and shark conservation and management

Turning words into action...
Building on Rio+20:

Action at the RFMO and UN levels

Fulfill the Rio commitments

Sustainable development
Thank You