

Sixth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Discussion Panel A

**Fisheries and their contribution to
sustainable development**

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Extractive fishing sector

Scope

- › Spanish companies with long

Regulated and strategic economic sector

- › Drives the economy of many regions.
- › Sector with direct influence on the economic and social development of other important sectors.
- › Sector that contributes to the economic and social development of less developed countries.



Sustainable fishing

- › Responsible fishermen's objective: makes it possible to obtain the maximum possible benefits from the ecosystem in a longlasting manner.
- › Ideal situation: by applying a given level of effort, maximum catches are obtained and sustained over time.
- › 76% of fish stocks in good condition: 3% underexploited, 21% moderately exploited, 52% fully exploited (FAO).
- › 24% overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion (16, 7 and 1% respectively) (FAO).

Involvement in the decision-making process



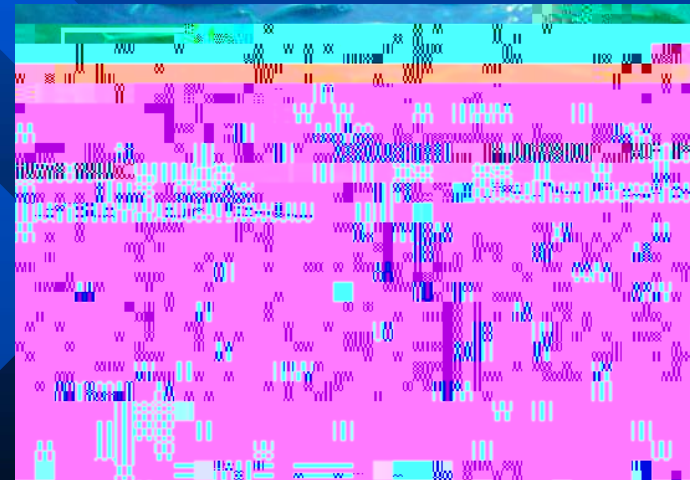
- › A useful, efficient system of fisheries management calls for understanding, acceptance, consensus of opinion, co-responsibility and participation by the sector.



- › Establish permanent institutional frameworks to allow the scientists, sector and administrations to meet.

Legal protection and stability

- › Develop acceptable measures with the consensus of opinion of companies.
- › Need to analyze and study the restrictive measures required in each case on a zone by zone basis.
- › September 2003 – “European Code of good practices for sustainable, responsible fishing”.



Fight against IUU fishing: RFOs role

- › Need for multilateral

Other factors influencing the conservation of the marine environment

- › Contamination caused by activities on land and by hydrocarbons
- › Effects of climatic change
- › Effects of oil and gas prospection
- › Effect of maritime transport
- › Dumping waste
- › Etc.

Conclusions

- › The responsible, legal extractive fishing sector is a strategic, highly regulated economic sector that needs the following to develop sustainable fishing:
 - Legal protection and stability
 - Active participation from the outset, in the decision-making process, working together with scientists and administrators
 - **Combat IUU fishing**
 - For the RFOs to