

DSCC intervention on Netherlands paper

Thank you Mr President

We too welcome the Netherland paper. It is a very helpful paper. We have 2 very brief observations.

Firstly, a brief update on the benthic protected areas SIOFA referred to in that paper. One aspect of DSCC's activities is to work in RFMOs to implement measures on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems from fishing. The nether.ands paper referred to the BPAs. We can report that in a meeting in late June, SIOFA agreed to close 5 of the benthic protected areas. Unfortunately long-line fishing is still permitted and DSCC is working with SIOFA parties for an effective network of protected areas in the Indian ocean and elsewhere.

It is also worth noting that there are contracts with this Authority in that area, underlining the need for cooperation coordination and addressing cumulative effects.

Secondly, as Fiji noted, in September 4-17 in NY, the intergovernmental conference on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, known as BBNJ, will get under way. This is a very important initiative on marine biodiversity protection, including area based management measures and environmental impact assessments, and we look forward to seeing many delegates at that session and subsequent sessions of the intergovernmental conference.