



Intervention 19 October 2013

Thank you Madam Chair, and good morning delegates

This intervention is being given by the [Deep Sea Conservation Coalition](#) (DSCC), which has over 70 members, and [Greenpeace International](#), which is a member of the DSCC.

We welcome the entry into force of SIOFA and welcome the initiative of the Parties to hold this First Meeting. The entry into force of SIOFA, and this meeting, has been long and eagerly awaited. Delegates should already have our briefing which was distributed earlier.

We want to observe that the UNGA has a review of its deep sea fishing resolutions in 2015, and it is of the utmost importance that SIOFA puts into place a measure, or at the very least an interim measure, which is compliant with resolutions [61/105](#) (2006), [64/72](#) and [66/68](#), to which all states represented here have agreed. The UNGA in its fisheries resolution 66/68 (2011) urged States with an interest in fishing in the SIOFA area to [I quote] “agree on and implement interim measures, including measures in accordance with paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 117, 119, 120, 122 and 123 of resolution 64/72 of 2009, to ensure the conservation and management of the fisheries resources and their marine ecosystems and habitats in the area to which that Agreement applies until such time as that Agreement enters into force.”

DSCC therefore encourages this meeting to establish a robust and transparent procedure to put into place the procedures and requirements laid down in the UNGA resolutions, including to

1. carry out the required assessments;
2. to put into place compliant measures, including those required to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and
3. carry out stock assessments and put into place conservation measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, including non-target or bycatch species, and the rebuilding of depleted fish stocks.
4. Also, crucially, SIOFA should require States not to authorize bottom fishing activities until such measures have been adopted and implemented.

DSCC also calls on this meeting to follow the South Pacific RFMO (SPRMO), in its measure [CMM 1.02](#) (2013), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization ([SEAFO](#)) and CCAMLR to ban deepwater gillnets. CCAMLR called it “a potentially destructive fishing method, and a practice which may undermine the ability of the Commission to achieve its conservation objective” and said that it was greatly concerned by the impacts on non-target species, especially sharks and rays. Deep-sea gillnets, by their indiscriminate nature, pose a significant risk to almost all marine life, including marine mammals. Gillnets cause large quantities of by-catch, ghost fishing by lost or discarded gillnets, and large scale habitat disturbance due to nets dragging along the sea floor. That is why CCAMLR banned it in their measure [22-204](#) in 2010.

Finally, DSCC calls on SIOFA to adopt Rules of Procedure which, as far as possible, follow [the SPRFMO Rules of Procedure](#), and which follow international best practice with respect to transparency, and agrees a management measure to establish a blacklist of IUU vessels as a matter of urgency.

Thank you

Duncan Currie