



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2024/SOM1/OFWG/SUM

**Summary Report - 22nd Ocean and Fisheries
Working Group Meeting 2024**



**22nd Ocean and Fisheries Working
Group Meeting
Lima, Peru
25-26 February 2024**

22nd Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) Plenary Meeting

1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM1), 2024 - Lima, Peru

25th – 26th February 2024

Session I - Opening

1.1 Opening Remarks by Lead Shepherd

The 22nd OFWG plenary meeting (OFWG 22) was held in Lima, Peru, on 25-26 February 2024. The meeting was chaired Lead Shepherd (LS) by Ms. Monica Rojas (Chile) and opened with remarks from: 1) Vice Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Production Ms. Desilú León Chempén, the APEC Host economy representative; and 2) the APEC Secretariat's OFWG Program Director (PD), Ms. Uyen Pham.

The LS presented the main goal for the meeting: endorse the OFWG's 2024 workplan, identify goals for the 2024-2026 strategic plan, review recent project updates by members, and discuss progress on the implementation of the OFWG's Roadmaps on Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) fishing, marine debris (MD) and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture (SSFA).

1.2 Host Economy Remarks

Ms. Desilú León Chempén, Vice Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Production, elaborated on the priorities of Peru's Host Year 2024 under the theme "Empower. Include. Grow." Ms. Carolina Carranza, Deputy Director for Economic, Technical Cooperation and Social Affairs at the APEC and Specialized Forums Directorate, followed these remarks by providing a deliverables briefing.

1.3 Delegations and quorum

The meeting was attended by 14 economies: Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; New Zealand; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei and the United States. Quorum for this meeting was reached.

1.4 Adoption of the Agenda

OFWG members adopted the 22nd meeting agenda (OFWG 22).

Regarding the OFWG 21 summary report, a minor comment was made, and the report was not adopted. A small group was formed to reach agreement on the summary report, but consensus was not achieved.

Canada, Chile, China, Peru, and Russia volunteered to support the drafting of the OFWG 22 meeting report.

Session II: Implementation of Putrajaya Vision 2040

2.1 The LS summarized the central aspects of high-level documents such as: the Putrajaya vision 2024; ECOTECH; the Bangkok Goals; the La Serena Roadmap; Food Security roadmap and APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) recommendation. The LS emphasized the importance of being aware of higher-level objectives so that the OFWG can effectively contribute to such objectives.

2.2. Highlighting individual action:

- **Peru** focused on the role of the ocean in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. The connection of communities with the marine environment and the dependence on its resources for fishing, aquaculture and tourism.

Peru elaborated on their work carried out under Peru's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) indicating 18 measures on adaptation, focusing on climate risk planning and management in fisheries and aquaculture sectors, as well as the establishment of advanced early warning and oceanographic information systems. Peru has developed the Economy-wide Plan of Competitiveness and Productivity, along with the Roadmaps for a Circular Economy in key sectors such as industry, agriculture, and aquaculture, demonstrating Peru's holistic approach to sustainability. There is a Green Finance Roadmap to incorporating environmental considerations into financial management practices.

- **China** shared progress made in 2023 to implement 2040 Putrajaya Vision:

Reported having complied with the acceptance procedure by deposited its instrument of acceptance for the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies on 27 June 2023.

Reported also the implementation in October 2023 amended Marine Environment Protection Law of China providing an institutional upgrading and strengthening the prevention and control of marine environmental pollution and improve marine ecological protection.

China reported on activities carried out in November 2023 within the framework of APEC such as, OFWG 04 2023S - Workshop on International Policy Development of Marine Pollution Control, Including Marine Plastic Debris and Sustainable Waste Management.

Related to climate change mention the work carried out under the Decade Collaborative Centre on Ocean-Climate Nexus in 2022, as well as the annual report on climate action in November 2023, detailing China's policies and actions in addressing climate change.

Sustainable use of marine resources China present the work under guidance and classification on land and space planning and China's Marine Ecological Red Line, which is part of its Ecological Conservation Red Line policy, designed to identify and protect crucial ecological zones management.

Several activities carried out under best practise and sharing experience like APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report III, and a survey on Capacity Building for Blue Citizen in the APEC Region was mentioned.

- **Japan:** referred to the collaboration and capacity building efforts they have made in combatting IUU fishing and disaster mitigation and prevention through, areas where Japan has developed cooperation and network and information sharing systems. Reference was made to the work carried out under the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) concept and its review that considers the emphasis on international cooperation based on applicable solutions, strengthening the link in a safe and predictable maritime domain and beneficial for all.

- **Chinese Taipei:** Referred to the work carried out within the OFWG that supports the implementation of 2040 Putrajaya Vision, and mentioned several projects on ocean conservation, capacity building and costal resilience and women's empowerment. It was underlined that there is space for more initiatives and effort emphasizing three issues: ocean conservation; coastal resilience (e.g. climate change and tourism); women and other economic groups that have previously untapped potential.

- **United States:** Raised the issue of Food security through fisheries and aquaculture, indicating that in most multilateral forums they are focus on agriculture and livestock, and then express the need to continue bringing fisheries to the Food Security discussion.
- **Chile:** Supported the vision expressed by the United States on food security, and in line with the SSA roadmap component promoting sustainable and resilient food system, and there is also the reduction of food waste, that could be approach.
- **Russia:** Recalled the origin of the formation of the joint meeting with the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) under APEC as well as the need to raise issues of interest in accordance with OFWG agenda.
- **Canada:** Suggest of looking towards multilateral or plurilateral groups that already exist on this topic like United Nations Food Systems Summit - UNFSS Aquatic Blue Food Coalition - and invite them to future OFWG meeting.

LS: Thanked all the intervention and opportunities shared and encourage to organize an international work on food security how to draw bluer foods/fisheries/aquaculture lens into the conversation on a broading scale.

Session III- OFWG Strategic plan 2024 – 2026

The LS invited member economies to present ideas to the group’s Strategic plan and provide opinion on the idea of extending the duration of the plan to 3 years.

Peru: Proposed three areas that could be prioritized in the strategic plan

- Emerging technologies are tools to support sustainable development. Digitalization plays a role in conservation of marine resources and mitigation of climate change. In that line add digitalization to the actual 5 priority area: Innovation – **digitalization** and cooperation.
- Amendment to goal 2 by introducing a 4th outcome: promoting innovative entrepreneurship in the fishery and aquaculture sector, through facilitating access to responsible fishing with the aim of enhancing employment and income.
- Introduce to the goal 3 by introducing a 4th outcome: resilient development of the sector.

Russia

- Regarding the consultation on the timeframe of the Strategic Plan express the convenience of maintaining the current horizon prefer to be conservative. Possibility to incorporate changes, but requires time to implement the changes
- Russia supports Peru’s suggestions overall digitalization. Russia has already digitalized many aspects of their fishing industry (e.g. fishing quotas, logbooks etc.)
- In relation to the OFWG Strategic Plan Russia noted that the main ideas and key issues of the OFWG agenda points can be found in the Vision and Misson statement. Therefore, these concepts should be reflected in the Strategic pillars and Priority areas as “sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture”. Russia would like to suggest to consider to have achievable edition of the Strategic pillars and Priority areas including the neediness of IUU combating sentence.
- Russia expressed interest in including in OFWG Strategic Plan in Objective 1. matters related to Port State Measures procedures and exploring the definition of a unified APEC form of certificate of legal origin and requesting to Lead Shepard to create a Group of the Friends of the Lead Shepard to conduct an intersessional work on 2024 OFWG Working Plan, 2024-2026 OFWG Strategic Plan and 2024 Edition of the IUU Combating Road Map.

China

- In relation to the OFWG Strategic Plan, China noted the importance to work based on the documents that achieved consensus at the Ministerial Meeting and OFWG mentioned the points from which to cooperate, marine environmental conservation and ecosystem conservation restoration; marine coastal management; science and technology and fisheries and trade.
- On the other hand, related to the work carried out within the framework of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report III, 5 collective actions were identified: (1) Blue infrastructure for resilient development; (2) Blue growth for common prosperity; (3) Blue community for inclusive development; (4) Blue technology for innovative development; (5) Blue partnership for shared future. All those could be considered in the pillars of the new Strategic Plan.

The LS thanked those economies that made an intervention, and committed to review the pillars of the Strategic Plan. It was agreed that they would be worked on intersessionally by a Strategic Plan working group: Canada, Chile, China, Russia, Chinese Taipei, USA.

Session IV- Overview of the Year Ahead Under session IV

4..1 Host Priorities for 2024 Overall theme: Empower. Include. Grow.

Priority 1: Trade and Investment for Inclusive and Interconnected Growth.

Trade Liberalization; Trade Facilitation and Trade Inclusion. More inclusive trade. The deliverables under this priority: A new look at the “Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific” (FTAAP) and organize the first APEC joint Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade and Ministers of Women.

Priority 2: Innovation and Digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy. As deliverable APEC Roadmap to promote transition to the formal and global economy

Priority 3: Sustainable Growth for Resilient Development. Deliverables: APEC policy guidance to develop and implement low-carbon hydrogen policy frameworks in the Asia-Pacific – APEC Principles for preventing and reducing food loss and waste in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The LS thanked Peru for the information and expressed OFWG is engaged with the priorities and innovation and digitalization are essential, and our work can contribute through the 3 roadmaps and also by the focus on food security.

14. OFWG Workplan 2024

The LS thanked the economies that made comments and contributed to the formulation of the 2024 workplan, referred to the need to resolve a pending issue and that the document needs to be endorsed by the OFWG and presented to the SCE. After which, the floor was offered to the economies.

- Russia explained the rationale behind the proposal to include in the work plan to explore the development of a Catch certificate of legal origin in the APEC region.
- Japan expressed that it believes this could duplicate the work carried out by regional fisheries management organizations and that existing certification schemes work. Japan also expressed that work could be focused on facilitating/improving the issuance of certificates of legal origin within APEC.
- US expressed that the initiative before being included in the workplan should be discussed given that there are many elements that need to be reviewed and suggests the creation of a working group. It was suggested to share experiences in the implementation of the capture schemes and work on it during the year.

- NZ expressed its support to the development of a working group and indicated NZ's experience in matters relating to PSM implementation.

The LS invited Japan, NZ, Russia and US to a small group to agree the pending issues of the workplan.

Session V- Project updates

5.1 Secretariat's updates on OFWG projects- OFWG Program Director

The Secretariat present updates on 2023 project contribution by APEC fora and on OFWG projects, provide information on Submission and Approval Dates for Project Session 1, 2024 and encourage Project Overseer (Pos) to attend Project Management Unit (PMU) trainings and give recommendations on best practices.

5.2 Economy update:

5.2.1 Indonesia

OFWG 03 2021A Workshop Determining Microplastics Distribution in Coastal Aquaculture Input Systems and Developing a Mitigation Plan towards Seafood Safety

OFWG 08 2021A, Capacity Building on Vessel Innovation Symposium to Combat Marine Debris.

OFWG 02 2022A Workshop on Promoting Bioplastic Materials to Reduce Marine Plastic Litter

OFWG 03 2022A Workshop on Fisheries Enforcement Strategies to Prevent, Combat, and Deter IUU Fishing in Relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic

https://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2024/OFWG/OFWG1/24_ofwg1_005.pdf

Potential project:

- Developing Decision Support System (DSS) Using Digital Data To Support Sustainable Fisheries Management in the APEC Region.
- Enhancing Market Access and Livelihoods: APEC's Initiative for Mangrove-Dependent Communities

https://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2024/OFWG/OFWG1/24_ofwg1_006.pdf

5.2.2 New Zealand

OFWG 07 2023S Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit

https://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2024/OFWG/OFWG1/24_ofwg1_007.pdf

5.2.3 Peru

OFWG 01 2023 Research and workshop on the development of sustainable small-scale aquaculture ventures in APEC economies

OFWG 201 2023 Developing best practices to address coastal marine oxygen loss in APEC economies for improving the management of marine living resources

OFWG 202 2023A Exchange of experiences in the development and implementation of a Fisheries and Aquaculture Traceability System, to strengthen the traceability of hydrobiological resources or products, and combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

Potential project:

- Early detection of diseases affecting the main aquaculture species, contributing to their Sustainability.
- Situational diagnosis regarding the exposure to microplastics contained in hydrobiological resources of importance in food security and trade.
- Associative Models Development for Small Fish Farmers to Strengthen the Supply and Trade of Aquaculture Products.
- Sharing knowledge and experiences in Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing estimations
- [Peru Ongoing Projects](#)

5.2.4 Chinese Taipei

[Workshop on Harnessing Innovative Technologies for Advancing Women’s Engagement in the Marine Industry in the APEC Region.](#)

[The 23rd APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment](#)

5.2.4 United States

OFWG 01 2022S - [Knowledge Sharing for Coastal Resilience in the Asia Pacific Region.](#)

OFWG 203 2023A - [APEC Clean City and Ocean Initiative Policy Toolkit](#)

5.2.5 China

OFWG 06 2022A - [Capacity Building for Blue Citizen in the APEC Region](#)

OFWG 01 2023S - [APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report III](#)

OFWG 08 2023S – [7th APEC Blue Economy Forum](#)

Potential projects:

2024 APEC Training workshop on Marine Spatial Planning

APEC Workshop on Blue Citizen City

APEC Workshop on Marine Health Assessment

5.2.6 Chile

[Strengthening Small – Scale Aquaculture Governance for Food Security and Sustainable Development in APEC.](#)

Session VI- Roadmaps implementation**6.1 Roadmap on Marine Debris**

Peru: present the action developed to implement APEC roadmap on MD since 2020 with the adoption of a Circular Economy Roadmap for the industrial Sector which present a 70% in its

implementation. Additionally in 2023 a Circular Economy in the Fisheries and aquaculture Sector Roadmap was adopted, and includes industrial extraction, artisanal and medium-scale extraction, artisanal processing, and aquaculture. Peru is currently working on the definition of a new Roadmap towards a Circular Economy in the Agricultural and Irrigation Sector.

Actions contributing to the implementation of the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris: Develop a Domestic Action Plan for the integrated management of plastics; Elaborate a domestic Inventory on sources of plastic pollution; Establishment of a Domestic Platform for Action on Plastics in Peru (NPAP Peru) Special regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility in Packaging waste with circular approach domestic awareness and education campaign on plastic pollution. At international level Peru is actively involve in INC process - Promote an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution with ambitious and effective measures globally.

In the area of capacity building as a result of the Collaboration Agreement between IMARPE and The University of Exeter a Research and promote knowledge sharing - to assess marine debris impacts on coastal ecosystems and potential impacts on human health –

United States: MD Implementation Plan Action Area Progress in Public - Private partnership initiatives on:

The Save Our Seas Initiative: Is a program from the United States Agency for International Development or USAID. is a USAID initiative to combat ocean plastic pollution globally. This initiative includes 14 programs in key economies and regions contributing to the flow of plastic waste into the ocean, including five APEC economies and funding of just over \$100 million US dollars for the first two years of the program. The projects funded by the program focus on two areas. The first is scaling up successful model solutions to achieve greater impacts and focus on building private sector relationships and pooling funding to achieve greater impact.

End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative (EPPIC) is a Public-Private Partnership EPPIC is designed to drive innovation and investment that can transform the plastic life cycle towards circular solutions. EPPIC aims to advance a whole of society approach by galvanizing action on plastic pollution at the economy level down to local levels of government, also the private sector, civil society, academia, other stakeholders, and engage partners and stakeholders in shaping circular approaches to plastic design, production, consumption, reuse, recovery, and waste management. We see this initiative as a complement to the International Instrument on Plastic Pollution that is currently being negotiated.

Finally International Instrument on Plastic Pollution express the aware of the INC Plastics Treaty negotiations.

Chinese Taipei: Related to MD present the progress made in scientific research under the analysis of the scientific project during the past five years related to the problem of marine debris. Plastic waste and abandoned fishing gear are the main type of marine debris in Chinese Taipei since 2017. A total of 70 scientific research projects were conducted from 2019 to 2023 and total research funding amount is roughly three million USD dollars. Bibliometric method was used to analyze the content of the 70 projects, many project are focusing on the microplastic found on the living organism and organic pollutant absorbed on them. Part of the result has already been published in leading scientific journals such as Science of Total Environment and Marine Pollution Bulletin.

Summarizing the research currently trained in our economy is to enhance the understanding of the distribution of marine debris and microplastic, as well as to investigate the toxic component on

them. However, current research gap was also identified, such as the lethal and sublethal toxic effect of microplastic ingested by marine organisms has not yet been thoroughly studied.

A marine debris governance platform and action plan to reduce marine debris through source reduction, prevention and removal, investigation, and to foster public-private partnership. Current Research Trends in marine debris, the research topic focuses on “microplastic”, “organic pollutants”, “assessment”.

Finally, regarding the INC Plastics Treaty negotiations, we consider more research on the management and governance of marine debris is needed to advise policymaker.

Canada: referred to the importance of the ocean at different levels and brought awareness to the impacts of marine pollution and the effect of ghost gear on ocean life and ecosystems. Canada highlighted that fishing gear can be damaging to marine animals such as whales and noted that Canada joined the Global Ghost Gear Initiative in 2018 to combat this issue. Canada also spoke to the funding component of the domestic Ghost Gear program, whereby over \$58 million has been invested in 143 projects, including 9 international projects. These projects funded ghost gear retrieval, recycling and responsible disposal options for fishing gear, uptake of new technologies to prevent and mitigate ghost gear, and international leadership.

Canada reiterated the two projects undertaken the APEC region: In 2022, Canada funded a project with the Environmental Justice Foundation to improve and expand its net-free seas work in Thailand. And, through the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, administered by the UN Environment Program, a workshop on Ghost Gear in the East Asian Seas was held in Thailand in March 2023. The workshop brought together regional actors, including representatives from APEC member economies, which included the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

In 2024, Canada is seeking to support a project with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, to host two virtual capacity building workshops to provide training and foster knowledge-sharing on the implementation of best practices for managing ghost gear, including increasing the use of effective gear-marking strategies, as part of an integrated gear-loss reporting system.

Chile: Marine Debris Implementation Plastic Waste in the frame of action of the Committees kept by the International Maritime Organization, such as the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) and Consultative Meetings of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol and London Convention. Participation in the framework of the Intergovernmental the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee in support of the development of the Legally Binding Instrument for Plastic Pollution and an official side event on the reuse of plastics to reduce waste generation Negotiation Committee in support of the development of the Legally Binding Instrument for Plastic Pollution and the official site event to reuse of plastic to waste generation. A technical webinar on potential provision to address abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear and the future legally binding instrument to the end plastic pollution, including the marine environment which be carried out within the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean group.

China : Share the work done through the project held in China in 2023 and also the domestic work innovative solutions an example in Zhejiang province. We have an island to collect marine debris and to the circular, linking with the circular economy to combat marine debris and clean cities “Zero Waste Cities” program.

Japan referred to monitoring marine waste, including microplastic, together with research institutions and local governments, and cooperating stakeholders to find ways for waste

management. Among various measures, waste gathering guidelines have been defined, supporting to innovate alternative materials, or publishing good practice. Latest efforts include worldwide microplastic monitoring database led by the Ministry of Environment, which is planned to be open to the public this year, based on the guidelines established in 2019 to monitor microplastics.

LS appreciates the interventions and contributions of the economies and areas in which they report the work carried out in MD, rescuing elements that can be explored under the work of the OFWG.

6.2 Roadmap on Combating the IUU fishing

As a general review of the Update on IUU the last version of the document was circulate and still pending for the agreement of members economies to endorse this final version.

Chile: Present the work doing under the IUU implementation plan and approach the work done in Ocean Inspection. Under the line innovative solutions, a species recognition program materialized and launched by the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service (SERNAPESCA) by artificial intelligence and fingerprint for jack mackerel fisheries in the landing of fishing resources.

Regarding the collaboration, Chile participates in several activity in the virtual exchange of fishing organizations by U.S and the Latin American Network for Exchange Information and Experience among economies in Latin America.

As example of education Blue Seal Responsible Consumption governmental program an accreditation that guarantee the origin of the fisheries and provide the information to responsible consumption of marine resources from legal origin.

Peru: Present the actions to implement the APEC Roadmap to Combat IUU Fishing: Active participation in meetings of the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and work carried on in a Workshop for Inspectors on the PSMA aimed to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, carried out in conjunction with the National Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Agency United States for International Development (USAID) and Peru. The domestic authority in fish health conducted sanitary inspections in fishing infrastructure to ensure the traceability of fisheries resources and to prevent or identify the entry of IUU fishing into the hydro-biological production chain.

Chinese Taipei: Reaffirm the commitment in fight again IUU fishing and to cooperate with APEC or not APEC economies. Chinese Taipei established the Examination Plan for Distant Water Fisheries Exporters to ensure their fisheries are not harvested from IUU fishing has effective measures to inspect foreign fishing vessels entering its ports under the PSM as well as the Catch Document Scheme (CDS) and Statistical Document (SD) on key species to control the importation of certain IUU-susceptible species in cooperation with relevant authorities.

Chinese Taipei increases the coordination of APEC economies; participated in 8 RFMOs; established cooperative relationship with 22 economies Strengthen public-private engagement; keeps collaborating with NGO Promote collaboration with relevant and international fisheries bodies; engages actively in multilateral fora Capacity building and established Chinese Taipei Trust Fund in WCPFC.

Russia: Reported on compliance (2023) with internal procedures on PSMA. The new provisions of the federal law correlate with the APEC roadmap to combat IUU fishing and refer to the documents and permits required at the port where foreign vessels can apply for entry under the PSMA. In that regard Russia put the effort in achieve a digitalization process in fishery management from paper

version to full scale digital system which is consist in four elements: Electronic Fisheries Logbook, Unified Electronic State System of Service (including application for mobile devices based on Android or iOS), Federal State Online System "VetIS" of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, Federal Information and Computing System "Fishing Quotas".

Russia is negotiating on the implementation of the electronic document scheme on seafood export from Russia to China and from Russia to the Korea since 2023, and intend to include discussions on use of electronic document management with Indonesia.

Considering that Russia made a proposal for consideration to establish APEC recognized form of certificate of legal origin for catches and aquaculture products and create an advanced PSM tool for effective implementation of the Port State Measures.

Canada: Presented on the implementation efforts of the APEC-OFWG's IUU roadmap. Canada established a Shared Ocean Fund, which invested approximately \$84 million over five years to combat IUU fishing and improve the health of marine ecosystems. Canada also negotiates for legally binding and science-based measures for the sustainable management of high seas fisheries. In 2023, Canada successfully championed the adoption of a harvest strategy for North Pacific Albacore tuna at two RFMOs, ensuring the long-term sustainable management of the stock across the Pacific Ocean. In July 2023, Canada led its first dedicated high seas vessel patrol and fisheries enforcement mission called Operation North Pacific Guard to combat IUU fishing in the North Pacific, and this was in conjunction with several other APEC economies.

Further, Canada will be taking on the chair role of the IUU Action Alliance (IUU-AA) group over a period of two years, starting in April 2024. In April 2024, a high-level roundtable event on the margins of the Our Ocean Conference in Greece will be hosted by Canada for the IUU-AA.

China: To combat IUU fishing, China attributes great importance to the scientific conservation and sustainable utilization of fishery resources and actively fulfils its international obligations and on prevent stop and combat IUU fishing activities, China's fishery authorities have been taking a series of measures to combat IUU activities.

First aspect is to strengthen monitoring of the position of distant water fishing vessels. China's distant water fishing vessels implement 24-hour position monitoring. which is VMS, and this system will automatically report the position of vessel every hour. The second aspect is to promote boarding inspections on the high seas. China supports the conduct of boarding inspections on the high seas for the purpose of combating IUU fishing within the framework of relevant international laws and conventions.

The third aspect is to crack down on illegal fishing activities. China firmly supports and cooperates with the international community in combating IUU fishing activities. All clues about violations for fishery regulations will be carefully inspected by Chinese authority. Severe penalties will be imposed on distant water fishery enterprises and fishing vessels that violate the regulations after the investigation and verification. The measures might include fines, suspension of fishing vessel operations, suspension or cancellation of enterprise qualifications, and putting those in the most serious cases, those captains or managers involving in IUU fishing might be put on the blacklist of employees.

The Philippines present a comprehensive overview of initiatives of the Philippines contributing to the realization of the key action areas and the roadmap on combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing or IUU. Six key action areas:

Under Action Area 1, the Philippines has already established its rules and regulations for foreign flag vessels entering the Philippine ports. This is also in accordance with the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, the Food and Agriculture Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, and the International Plan of Action against IUU Fishing and FAO Agreement on PSM. The rules include designated ports of entry, pre-arrival requirements, boarding, inspections, actions, as well as, yeah, those are the components of the rule for the Philippines on PSM.

Philippine vessels have VMS also the integrated marine environment monitoring system. Regarding action area 3, the focus revolves more on celebrating greater coordination among APEC economies. Collaborative efforts will strengthen our collectivises efforts to solve and address the IUU fishing effectively. To achieve this, collaboration with the URI-CRC USAID Fish Right Program. Through this partnership, Philippine developed IUU Fishing Index and Threat Assessment Tool, commonly known as IFIT.

6.3 Roadmap on Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture (SSFA).

Peru: highlight the commitment to supporting small-scale fishers and farmers vital for achieving the IPEC ultra-high ambition 2040. Peru presents the domestic strategies and specific actions related to APEC-SSFA roadmap achieved in 2023 were the enhance aquatic disease management to prevent economic setbacks and sustain food production. This involved adopting biosecurity and sustainable practices to protect marine life and stabilize fisheries and aquaculture sectors, the aquaculture policy for 2030.

Chile: Fishing and aquaculture economy and an artisanal fishing and a small-scale aquaculture sector are of great importance for our economy and development as well as for the social and cultural welfare. In this regard, Chile share the progress of mixed-scale aquaculture in Chile with respect to the roadmap through the characterization of the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sector and the challenge in consolidate the registration.

Session VII- Guest Speakers

1.- Managing fish populations in a changing climate- Dr. Ricardo Oliveros-Ramos, Marine Biodiversity, Exploitation and Conservation, Institut de recherche pour le développement (IDR)

The presentation refers to the impact of climate change in the Peruvian anchoveta fishery, a small pelagic fish and the largest monospecific fishery in the world. And it supports the largest monospecific fishery in the world. Also face the limitations of scientific studies and the difficulties in modelling the different dimensions and characteristics of fishing, in this case all the factors described for the study and characterization of anchovy that allow feeding the database with information and projections.

2. Study on regional Port State Measures (PSMs) and Sharing of best practices on small scale fisheries – TNC

Nature Conservancy, or TNC is an international environmental NGO, present the results of a study on regional port state measures or PSM and how it could support efforts to combatting IUU fishing and sharing of best practices on small scale fisheries.

The study presented reviews the port state measures or PSM requirements at regional fisheries management organizations or RFMOs and how the RFMO measures align with the provisions of the Port State Measures Agreement or the PSMA to understand their similarities and differences in these measures. The methodology was looked at 12 different RFMOs that are the major ones , and with mandatory requirements were considered, but not the ones that has provided measures only

as voluntary guidelines. The goal was identifying the level of alignment between that RFMOs obligation and that of the PSMA and summarize the number of provisions that are in different level of alignments with PSMA by the RFMO. For example, we can see that the RFMO that has the highest number of provisions and allow to identify gaps between the implementation of PSMA measures and how they incorporate those measures in the particular RFMO regulations and PSMA become mandatory.

3. Update of the Virtual Working group to look on Marine Debris- Mr. Ryan McFarlane, Access Partnership

The Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris (VWG) was formed in 2014. It co-chaired by the United States (government) and the Philippines (industry) and is looking for new co-chairs.

The Group involves public and private sectors and focuses on innovative solutions to land-based waste management focus on innovative solutions for land-based waste management. The key activities is coordinate the different activities among the various APEC working groups. The VWG support via the marine debris sub fund projects from different APEC Subfora that help to support the development of policies and regulations to improve waste management, promoting the development of technical innovations that create value from plastic waste, looking to increase access to financing.

In July 2023 VWG announced the marine debris blog post series., that allow informational articles up on the website, one on chemical recycling, one looking at the Clean Cities Project.

The VWG look for 2024 -2025 to dive deeper into extended producer responsibility, some areas to develop are a checklist or some best practices around different EPR schemes in the Asia Pacific region to encourage harmonized approaches in APEC.

4. Observation Prediction and Early Warning System for Climate Impacts on Fisheries of the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem (aka S.A.P.O. www.sapohumboldt.org) - Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

The director in Peru of the Environmental Defense Fund an international NGO tackling climate change, present an offshore prediction and early warning system for the climate impact on the fishery, Humboldt current large marine Ecosystem is the most variable and productive ecosystem.

This is a collaborative work with Ecuador, Peru, and Chile governments, was born from the need to have more precise information about the effect of climate change, the natural pattern has changed, and more extreme events occur, we face greater uncertainty and the police makers, management, the fisheries, and also for the coastal community require better information.

The Environmental Defense Fund establish the early warning system called SAPO management, that involves regional collaboration to achieve: Strengthening regional ocean observations; standardization of stock assessments of transboundary fisheries; development and implementation of regional models for the environmental, biological, fisheries, socioeconomic and ecosystem spheres at a regional level (when required); creation of prediction and early warning indicators for the impacts of climate change that can be useful for decision makers and adaptive management of fisheries.

Session VIII – Closing and other business

8.1 Document Classification by the Secretariat.

PD present the document classifications list of the OFWG meeting on 25th and 26th February 2024 in Lima. The meeting documents will be published on the APEC meeting documents website.

8.2 Closing remarks by the OFWG LS Ms. Monica Rojas Noack.

LS thanked to all members for the participation and to the host economy for all the work done. The LS noted that a final version of the 22nd Summary Report would be circulated for endorsement. Regarding the approval of the 2024 workplan proposal, new version will be circulated for endorsement. On the creation of the virtual working group on the PSM implementation ask to the small group to provide ToR intersessionally.

The LS invited members to participate in project proposal session and to actively engage in the workshops and upcoming surveys. The LS announced that the PD's tenure with the APEC Secretariat was ending and thanked the PD for all of their work.