

Session 2 –  
World Ocean Assessment I –  
Findings on Biodiversity

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Group of Experts – Regular Process, Cycle 1

# Key Emergent Findings – pressures on biodiversity

- **All uses of the ocean are trending upward**
  - Rates vary among regions and sectors (fishing, shipping. Etc) within regions
- **In addition to sectoral uses, oceans provide many ecosystem services essential for life (including human life) on earth**
- **Contribution of food from the sea also is essential for human food security and need will increase in a changing climate**

# Key Emergent Findings – impacts on biodiversity

- **ALL uses of the ocean MAY decrease biodiversity** and most can decrease greatly, at least locally, if not well managed.
- **Downward trends in most biodiversity components documented more often than upward or sustainable ones** (lots of exceptions)
- **Management to keep uses sustainable IS possible** for most ocean use in most places, but requires KNOWLEDGE and Management effort
  - ALL knowledge systems, and ALL forms of management can be legitimate and effective.
  - Even areas that need enhanced protection need knowledge and management efforts to position correctly and manage protection effectively

# Topics of discussion

- WOA I far more encyclopedic but far less integrative within and across chapters, compared to other assessments in session. **Why and what does it imply for better and worse uses?**
- Among assessments, what are trade-offs of breadth (WOA) and depth (most others)?
- With limited resources, what is right balance of filling knowledge gaps vs addressing implementation lags from (uncertain) assessment to action?
- What is right trade-off of addressing inequities of distribution of benefits vs reducing pressures on biodiversity and pollution (“The Package” of the BBNJ)