



INPUTS

ON THE TOPIC OF THE 14TH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FISH STOCKS AGREEMENT

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The Philippines submits the following comments on the topic of “Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and arrangements:”

1. The Philippines is a member of the following RFMOs:
 - a. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
 - b. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); and
 - c. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).
2. In general, the scope of RFMO performance reviews (PRs) cover:
 - a. Conservation and management of fish stocks;
 - b. Compliance with and enforcement of international obligations;
 - c. Legal framework, financial affairs, and organization;
 - d. Cooperation with other international organizations and non-Member States.
3. Performance Reviews often base their criteria on international instruments, such as the subject Agreement. Hence, Performance Reviews are important in the enforcement and operationalization of the Agreement’s provisions.
4. As described by the Food and Agriculture Organization, Performance Reviews are conducted mostly by panels of experts either composed in a mixed manner between representatives from member States of each RFMO and external experts or solely composed by external and independent experts.

The methodology for carrying out the review may take different forms, while in most case it consists of a couple of meetings among Panel members and intercessional review of information and documents collected. For example, where there is an independent Panel, in some cases a joint meeting of experts may be convened in the beginning of the process in order to prepare a first draft, or in other cases an organizational meeting may be held before the writing may be undertaken by each Panel member at home base and coordinated by the Chair according to the outcome of the organizational meeting. The chosen methodology depends on many factors including the composition of the panel, the simplicity/complexity of the regional fishery body (RFB) and consequently the review, as well as the budget for the review. In any case, the draft report of performance reviews was eventually subject to discussion by a commission of each RFBs for endorsement as well as consideration of follow-up actions.

5. The Philippines views that these Performance Reviews must involve an independent evaluation to ensure unbiased and truthful assessment. In addition, the process must be transparent, results must be made publicly available.