



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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**Summary Report – 24th Ocean and Fisheries
Working Group Meeting 2025**



**24th Ocean and Fisheries Working
Group Meeting
Gyeongju, Korea
27-28 February 2025**



24th Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) Plenary Meeting

SOM1, 2025 – Gyeongju, Korea

Time: 09.30 – 17.00, Thursday-Friday, 27th-28th February 2025

The 24th Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) Plenary Meeting was held in Gyeongju, Korea from 27th to 28th February 2025. The meeting was chaired by **Lead Shepherd, Ms. Jin-hee Seo** and opened with a welcoming remark from **Deputy Minister Hong Lae-Hyoung**, Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries.

Article: [From Gyeongju to Busan: APEC Takes Key Steps Toward Sustainable and Resilient Marine Sector | APEC.](#)

Session I – Opening

1.1 Opening Remarks by the OFWG Lead Shepherd

OFWG Lead Shepherd, Ms. Jin-hee Seo, expressed warm welcome to all members and guests. The 24th OFWG meeting marked her first meeting with the position as the Lead Shepherd (LS). The LS emphasized members' contributions to OFWG works as well as the discussions on ocean and fisheries challenges given the upcoming APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting. In addition, she expresses hope for greater unity and collaboration among APEC economies to further refine and advance pressing priorities this year, such as OFWG TOR, Strategic Plan, and Work Plan.

1.2 Host Economy's welcoming remarks

Deputy Minister of Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries Hong Lae-Hyoung welcomes delegates to Gyeongju, Korea, emphasizing the city's cultural significance. The Deputy Minister acknowledged the OFWG's efforts in addressing the critical marine challenges facing the region, including climate change, marine debris, ecosystem destruction, and illegal fishing, stressing the need for global and regional cooperation.

In 2025, the Republic of Korea, as the Chair of APEC 2025, noted their commitment to building on these achievements and announces the 5th APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM5) in Busan, Korea, from April 30 to May 1, with the theme "Navigating Our Blue Future: Connection, Innovation, and Prosperity.", resuming Ministerial meeting after a decade.

The AOMM5 will become a crucial platform to connect policies and institution across the region, innovate through cutting-edge technologies for marine conservation and sustainable development; and prosper together by fostering a sustainable ocean economy that benefits all. The Deputy Minister invited active participation from all delegates to ensure meaningful discussions and impactful outcomes, expressing gratitude for their involvement.

1.3 Delegations and quorum

The meeting was attended by 16 economies: Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea (day2); Peru; The Philippines; Russia; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; The United States; and Viet Nam. Quorum for this meeting was reached.

1.4 – 1.5 Adoption of the meeting agenda and 23rd OFWG meeting report

OFWG members adopted the 24th OFWG meeting agenda and 23rd OFWG meeting report.

Session II – APEC & OFWG in 2025

2.1 APEC 2025 Theme and Priorities

Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Korea presented APEC 2025 Theme and Priorities. Korea's theme is Building a Sustainable Tomorrow, embody APEC's commitment to realize an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia Pacific by 2040. The three key priorities:

- Connect: Promotes a fair, transparent trade and investment environment, advancing discussions on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and The Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda.
- Innovate: Enhances economic competitiveness in the Asia-Pacific through innovation, especially digital, and ensures technology benefits are accessible to all.
- Prosper: Focuses on sustainability and inclusivity.

2.2 OFWG Work Plan 2025

The Lead Shepherd urged members to exchange views and reach agreements on pending issues to finalize the Work Plan as soon as possible, given that OFWG is now behind schedule for submitting the Work Plan to SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE).

Some members expressed appreciation to the works so far and would be open for engagement to achieve consensus to the Work Plan. Korea informed that an in-person meeting in the third Senior Officials Meeting cluster (SOM3) would not be possible due to the Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting taking place this year and would appreciate members' understanding.

The Philippines proposed reviewing the Work Plan in alignment with the Strategic Plan and restructuring it for greater clarity.

2.3 OFWG contributions to achieve the APV 2040 and La Serena Roadmap

Contributing to the implementation of APV2040 and La Serena Roadmap, it is crucial for OFWG to uphold the alignment to ensure continuity in our strategic approach and reinforced on the

broader goals set by APEC leaders. The Lead Shepherd emphasized the importance of OFWG works in 2025 to achieve these goals, particularly developing OFWG governance documents and implementing projects for gender economic empowerment.

Session III – OFWG Governance

3.1 Discussion on OFWG renewal

3.1.1 OFWG Program Director restated 7 instructions on OFWG renewal from Senior Officials and underlined that OFWG Terms of Reference (TOR) with those of sub-bodies should be submitted for SCE's approval in advance of 31st December 2025, otherwise OFWG will be sunsetted. Information on TOR for sub-bodies was also provided.

To renew OFWG TOR, a drafting group was established, including Chile, China, Korea, New Zealand, Russia, Peru, and The Philippines, and noting that other interested economies are welcomed. The group first met virtually on 18th February and agreed to: 1) have the current TOR (2022-2025) as the zero draft and to review and update as appropriate; 2) set a tentative timeline¹ to complete the TOR before the said deadline.

3.1.2 *[Russia] The summary of the key issues of the OFWG's methods of influence and tools of its practical implementation*

Russia summarized key issues of OFWG's methods of influence and tools of its practical implementation. The focus of the OFWG shifts towards a global agenda. Many internationally recognized legal instruments such as FAO Port State Measures Agreement, WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, BBNJ Agreement create a sophisticated legal framework for OFWG. However, not all economies joined those agreements, which may create a difficult working condition to reach a consensus within OFWG.

In this regard, Russia provided suggestions for aspects of developments as well as methods for consensus in OFWG including a package method of consideration. Economies may need to balance and find harmonization and rationale among OFWG updated agenda, global agenda and economic development, taking into account OFWG traditions and economic benefits of all members. This means that APEC's involvement in the process of practical implementation of some international agreements leaves a certain room for manoeuvre, for example, within the framework of forming by-laws of individual APEC economies. Also, OFWG should use the linkage between strategic documents to reach consensus.

China supported Russia's presentation and willing to join similar discussion in the future.

3.2 OFWG Specialised Centers' updates

3.2.1 *[China] APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center*

APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (AMSDC) updates its activities in 2023-2024 and follow-up in 2025. AMSDC aims to strengthen sustainable ocean management, promote blue economy cooperation deepen ocean disaster prevention and mitigation and achieve sustainable

¹ The first draft is expected to be circulated in March, followed by second draft in May and final draft in August. Members can take the opportunity of AOMM to meet and discuss about the TOR.

ocean development in the Asia-Pacific region. According to the objectives, in 2023 - 2024, AMSDC actively engaged in OFWG and related meetings, developed and implemented 6 APEC projects, including held the 2024 APEC Training Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning and APEC Workshop on Marine Ecological Environment Health in November and October, 2024 respectively; held the 7th APEC Blue Economy Forum and Workshop on Blue Carbon Ecosystem Conservation and Management in the APEC Region in December, 2023; developed and published the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report III with wide engagement by 14 APEC economies; conducted the Capacity Building for Blue Citizen in APEC Region with the APEC Blue Citizen Guidebook; and shared 2 policy recommendations or reports. As a follow-up, AMSDC is planning to conduct the APEC Blue Citizen Communities Workshop and 8th APEC Blue Economy Forum in 2025.

3.2.2 [Korea] APEC Marine Environmental Training and Education Center

The APEC Marine Environmental Training and Educational Center (AMETEC) delivered a presentation outlining its mission, key achievements, and strategic direction for the future. Established in 2002 following the first APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting, AMETEC is hosted by the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) and is dedicated to enhancing marine environmental capacity across the APEC region through training, education, and joint research. To date, AMETEC has trained 450 participants from APEC economies in areas such as pollution control, integrated coastal management, and advanced monitoring technologies.

Looking ahead, AMETEC plans to expand its focus to emerging priorities including coastal resilience, biodiversity monitoring through Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS), and advancements in remote sensing. In 2025, a major workshop will be held to create synergies with key initiatives such as the Roadmap on combatting IUU Fishing and Roadmap on Marine Debris. AMETEC also aims to strengthen collaboration with APEC economies by forming expert teams, holding online intersessional meetings, and improving coordination with the APEC Secretariat. Efforts will be made to diversify funding sources and develop a multi-year strategic plan to ensure continued relevance. Member economies were invited to actively participate by nominating experts, sharing best practices, and proposing joint activities aligned with regional priorities.

3.2.3 [Russia] APEC Digital Transformation Center of ocean, fisheries and aquaculture

Russia introduced the idea of a new specialised center under OFWG for members' consideration, named APEC Digital Transformation Center of ocean, fisheries and aquaculture. The main goal of the center is to provide a reliable web service and relevant assistance to all APEC Economies to share their achievement in digitalization of ocean, fisheries and aquaculture. The center will focus on best practice sharing in above mentioned field of study. APEC Digital Transformation Center of Ocean, Fisheries and Aquaculture could become the best tool of practical implementation of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 as well trade and investment, innovation and digitalization, strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Chile commented that there should be clear governance and periodic reporting mechanism for the specialised centers to enhance transparency and facilitate the dissemination of their work.

Chile also clarified that participants from research centers, academia would not represent official position of governments in any center while noting the benefits from diversity.

Japan requested further information including administrative or financial issues related to the centre. Japan considers that topic of harmonization and digitalization as well as CDS themselves could one of the possible topics to be discussed in the future and if all OFWG members agree to do so and OFWG could function as a platform to share good practice in those areas in line with the OFWG mandate on voluntary basis.

Russia replied to Japan's request that the ADTCOFA will use internal resources of the Federal Agency for Fisheries which will take care about administrative and financial resources of the center. Russia acknowledged that there is no need to attract APEC funds for ADTCOFA funding. ADTCOFA is a voluntary initiative of Russia. First of all, ADTCOFA will focus on the website to provide a service and tools for analyse. Secondly, Russia also noted that APEC experts' participation is possible to summarize the materials, received from member economies. ADTCOFA website will allow economies to use collected information it in the common purposes and for a good practice sharing mentioned by Japan.

Chinese Taipei appreciated the dedication and looking forward to continued engagement in these vital endeavours; and would want to hear more about the experts participating in these activities.

The Lead Shepherd suggested Russia to circulate an information document on the Center for members to review and cooperate so that further discussions can be held. Russia agreed with the Lead Shepherd and would prepare zero draft of TOR for the Center. Russia requested for a template of the TOR for references and Lead Shepherd agreed to provide if OFWG has one.

3.3 OFWG Strategic Plans 2024-2025 and 2026-2028

The Lead Shepherd explained that the Strategic Plan 2024–2026 was initially drafted prior to the 23rd OFWG meeting and had since undergone seven rounds of intersessional revisions. These revisions included substantial adjustments to accommodate concerns raised by various member economies, resulting in a version that reflects a broad level of consensus achieved through extensive coordination and compromise.

She expressed concern that the prolonged pending status of the Strategic Plan had hindered the Working Group's ability to define its strategic direction and sustain momentum in its collective efforts. Leaving the matter unresolved, she cautioned, could continue to limit forward-looking discussions and effective collaboration among member economies.

In light of these challenges, the Lead Shepherd proposed endorsing the portion of the Strategic Plan that had already gained consensus—covering 2024–2025—and suggested developing a separate plan for 2026–2028. This new plan, she noted, could provide an opportunity to better reflect emerging policy directions and evolving priorities of the group.

In this regard, she encouraged member economies to actively participate in the intersessional drafting group and to adopt a step-by-step, inclusive approach in developing the Strategic Plan 2026–2028, thereby helping to strengthen the long-term foundation of OFWG's work.

The United States reserved on the Strategic Plan 2024-2025 due to pending policy guidance. Australia, Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Korea; New Zealand; Russia; The Philippines; and Peru supported the endorsement of the Strategic Plan 2024-2025 and focus on the development of next period.

China, Russia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Chinese Taipei volunteered to join the drafting group for OFWG Strategic Plan 2026-2028.

Session IV – AOMM Preparation

4.1 AOMM Preparation

Korea AOMM team presented key details of the AOMM5, including logistics and protocol information.

The AOMM5 theme is “Navigating Our Blue Future: Connection, Innovation, and Prosperity.” with three agendas “Enhancing ocean resilience and conserving marine environments for sustainable economic growth”; “Combating IUU fishing and promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture”; “Advancing inclusive and sustainable economic development in the ocean and fisheries sector”.

AOMM will be held for two days (30 April – 1 May). The first day is for High-level officials pre meeting. The second day, the ministerial meeting will take place on May 1st from 9 am to 4 PM, followed by the adoption of joint statement and press conference. Only the Minister Chair, the SOM Chair, and APEC Secretariat Executive Director will participate in the press conference.

Members do not need to register to participate in Our Ocean Conference, which will be held prior to the AOMM in Busan.

4.2 AOMM Statement

Korea Representative briefed on the status of AOMM Statement after 2 rounds of circulation and highlighted key changes from the second draft and paragraphs with divided opinions.

She encouraged members to engage in bilateral and multilateral discussions on the sidelines of the OFWG meeting before the drafting session; recommended that members focus on refining the existing text rather than introducing new content at this stage. Korea, as the host economy, we will consider the removal of parts of the text where consensus cannot be reached.

Korea would consider to have additional drafting sessions only if necessary.

Session V – OFWG Roadmaps

5.1 Roadmap on Marine Debris

5.1.1 Individual Actions to implement the Roadmap

1. Canada

Canada is implementing an ambitious, evidence-based and comprehensive plan to reduce plastic waste and pollution. Canada is advancing their plastic science agenda to conduct and

support research on plastic to inform future actions and measure progress; and provide transparent and robust data on the quantity and types of plastics that enter the market.

By 2027, Canada will finalize a Ghost Gear Action Plan to address marine debris from abandoned, lost or otherwise fishing gear (ALDFG, or 'ghost gear'). This plan will allow Canada to achieve modernized, resilient fisheries that contribute to Canada's zero plastic waste objectives. Fisheries and Oceans Canada will prioritize prevention measures for marine pollution from ghost gear and target removal efforts in high-risk areas. Canada is also strengthening information exchange and awareness raising and actively participating in regional and international events about this issue. Canada actively participates in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an ambitious and effective international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and will continue actively pursuing this goal at INC-5.2.

2. Chile

Chile shared their participation and discussions on Marine Debris and Plastic Waste in the framework of action of the Committees kept by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including the 82nd session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) (30 September to 4 October 2024); the 12th session of The Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) (27-30 January 2025); and prepare for the Triple Conferences of the Parties (COP). At the 12th session of the Sub-Committee on PPR, Chile joined the working group on PPR to present a document focusing on drafting Action Plan 2025; updating measures to address marine plastic litter from ships, grouping measures to align with IMP global strategy; table of regulatory considerations on plastic pellets; recommendations on the reporting of fishing gear losses, establishing standardized criteria for data collection in the IMO database. In this regard, Chile is involved in the review of background information related to International Cooperation and Coordination on issues linked to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and in the management of Plastic Waste, both issues addressed in the Basel Convention.

3. China

China shared some policy development on marine debris, such as, publishing the 14th Five-Year Special Plan for Scientific and Technological Innovation in Eco-Environmental Protection, the 14th Five-Year Plan for the Supervision of Ecological Conservation, and the 14th Five-Year Plan for Eco-Environmental Monitoring, etc . China also shared some information about the capacity building on marine debris. Through press conferences, seminars and training, media communication, quizzes, and distribution of promotional materials, the Chinese government has popularized laws and regulations with regards to sea areas, islands, maritime environmental protection, and the management of fishing vessels at sea.

4. Korea

Korea reported on its implementation of the Marine Debris Roadmap, highlighting efforts across four key areas: policy coordination, capacity building, technological innovation, and stakeholder engagement. A comprehensive strategy has been established to reduce marine debris inflow, with multi-stakeholder involvement including fishers, civil society, and the private sector. Korea

is also contributing to international efforts, including support for the UN treaty on plastic pollution.

In preparation for 2025, Korea is strengthening global cooperation, developing AI-based monitoring tools, and promoting public awareness through VR education and intergenerational learning. The Marine Debris Policy Forum, resumed in 2024, serves as a platform for inclusive dialogue with industry and experts on sustainable solutions.

5. *Peru*

Peru reported significant progress on implementing the Roadmap on Marine Debris. A harmonized protocol, validated for 17 Latin American and Caribbean economies, now enables standardized assessments of microplastics in sandy beaches, seawater, the water column, and marine sediments, supporting SDG 14.1.1b. In addition, Peru successfully implemented a protocol for analyzing microplastics in marine species' digestive tracts under the UK-funded "Reducing Plastic Waste in the Southeast Pacific" project. These advances lay the foundation for regional bioindicator monitoring. Future efforts will focus on strengthening microplastic analysis laboratories through the NUTEC Plastics project (supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency) and on identifying reliable bioindicators of microplastic ingestion in the Southeast Pacific, consolidating Peru's leadership in marine debris research.

6. *Chinese Taipei*

Chinese Taipei remains committed to marine environmental protection through the continuation of the Coastal Cleaning Plan, which focuses on sustaining cleanup efforts along coastlines. Additionally, the Vessel-Generated Domestic Waste Record Book has been drafted to improve waste management at sea. To further strengthen marine conservation initiatives, Chinese Taipei actively encourages vessels and divers to participate in the Ocean Cleanup Alliance and expand the network of Ocean Cleanup Stations. In collaboration with both public and private sectors, the Marine Debris Cleanup Network (MDCN) has been established to create a structured mechanism for reporting and removing marine debris. To enhance public awareness and engagement, a traveling exhibition will be held in five locations in 2025, educating communities on the environmental impact of marine debris.

Furthermore, advancements in technology-driven solutions for marine debris detection are underway. AI and UAV-based deep learning techniques will be developed for image recognition, alongside numerical modelling to identify marine debris hotspots. In 2024, draft guideline manuals on marine debris and microplastic investigations were produced to standardize research and cleanup efforts. Additionally, the Marine Debris Recycling Coalition has expanded, with over 60 companies joining the initiative to strengthen the recycling and reuse industry chain through enhanced partnerships and resource integration. These collective efforts underscore Chinese Taipei's commitment to tackling marine pollution through innovation, collaboration, and sustainable practices.

7. *Thailand*

Thailand to update details as needed.

Thailand has implemented various measures to support implementation to the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris focusing on four key areas. Thailand is in the broad process to developing regulation, which expand the responsibility for producer throughout the entire life cycle of packaging. Thailand has constantly enhance its capacity in the marine debris and microplastic research, thanks to the support from Japan. Thailand has implemented projects to apply technology and innovation, such as waste trapping devices; prevention of land waste entering the sea, among others. Lastly, Thailand actively promote public private sector partnership in marine debris management through voluntary initiatives and get stakeholders in the marine tourism sector to reduce the waste and extend their responsibility to benefit business sector.

5.1.2 Updates by Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris

The Secretariat of VWG on Marine Debris gave a presentation on the group's works and the ongoing efforts and collaborative work being done to combat marine debris in the region. The Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris was formed in 2014, a collaboration between the APEC Chemical Dialogue and the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group, involving both public and private stakeholders. The group focuses on innovative solutions for land-based waste management and policies to support APEC members in developing circular economies. The Secretariat showed other APEC groups that are implementing projects focusing on combatting marine debris or applied for MDMI Sub-fund. The VWG also has an APEC satellite website, provide details on activities and initiatives related to marine debris and circular economy issues and information about the Marine Debris Sub Fund and past APEC initiatives on marine debris.

5.2 Roadmap on Combatting the IUU fishing

5.2.1 Discussion on developing the implementation plan of the Roadmap

Chile updated the status of the Implementation Plan of Roadmap on IUU fishing. As the implementation is already outdated, Chile requested approval of the final version circulated at the end of 2024 as there is no remaining time for further implementation. Moving forward, economies can briefly outline their individual efforts in line with their commitments to combatting IUU fishing in the Final Report of the Roadmap.

No further comment has been made to the implementation plan.

5.2.2 Individual Actions to implement the Roadmap

1. Canada

Canada's efforts toward the roadmap on IU are as follows.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada developed what is known as our Shared Ocean Fund, where Canada is taking a three-pronged approach to addressing the issue through: governance, enforcement, and partnerships. For example, Canada was instrumental in the adoption across two regional fishery management organizations of a full harvest strategy for north Pacific albacore tuna to keep the stock healthy, and successfully championed the adoption of an enforceable ban on the retention of salmon and steelhead trout species on board vessels in the north Pacific Ocean. Further, in 2023, Canada entered into a formal MOU with the Philippines for dark vessel detection and maritime domain awareness technologies. In collaboration with other key regional

partners, including New Zealand, Australia, and the United States, Canada has supported persistent space-based monitoring of the region's offshore fishery resources in support of collaborative efforts to ensure the protection of the marine ecosystem health and sustainability. Additionally, late last fall, Canada successfully completed a mission to detect and deter IUU fishing in the North Pacific.

In 2024 was that Canada took over the chairmanship of the IUU Action Alliance, which is a group of likeminded public and private actors driving forward initiatives to counter IUU fishing through efforts such as: effectively implementing international agreement; ensuring effective monitoring, control, and surveillance; and enhancing transparency. Canada will be driving forward key deliverables stemming from the IUU-AA and will report on progress at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2025.

2. Chile

Chile reported on activities carried out under the IUU Roadmap areas. Chile adopted the FAO GIES global system in 2024. Within the said year, 70 foreign vessels were inspected. Chile also joined the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) to promote transparency in fisheries governance. In 2024, Chile started to join a strategic dialogue for collaboration to fight against IUU fishing in the southern cone, with the support of the Pew Charitable Trusts. In March 2025, an educational program for Chilean officials would be held, titled "Regional collaboration to combat IUU fishing in the Southern Cone.". A species recognition system using AI was also developed.

Regarding information exchange on traceability and monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities, In 2024 Chile participates in information exchange network for the fight against IUU fishing Latin America and the Caribbean.

To promote collaboration with relevant regional and international fisheries bodies to identify where APEC can contribute, Chile held the 13th Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) in February 2025, focusing on addressing different resource conservation measures, including fishing quota allocations for different resources.

3. China

China introduced 3 points to combat IUU fishing recently. Firstly, China made continuous efforts to improve the legislation, the law and regulation; secondly, China took cross-sectors approach to fight IUU fishing; thirdly, China played an active role in global fisheries cooperation. It's also shared that it's expected that China will endorse the PSMA in 2025.

4. Korea

The Republic of Korea reaffirmed its commitment to combating IUU fishing as a responsible APEC economy and shared its key achievements under the Roadmap on combatting IUU fishing. Korea highlighted progress in legislative reforms, such as revising notifications and regulations, and active participation in multilateral and bilateral cooperation. Notably, Korea joined the IUU Fishing Alliance as the only Asian member, underscoring its leadership in regional efforts.

Korea also introduced advancements in electronic monitoring and AI-based onboard data collection systems aimed at improving fishing practice oversight. The delegation encouraged member economies to join in collective efforts to sustainably manage fisheries and move toward an IUU-free future.

5. *New Zealand*

New Zealand is committed to the fight against IUU fishing and our future efforts will be guided by the Government response in 2024 to a Parliamentary inquiry into IUU fishing in the Pacific and Southern Oceans. The Government committed a series of actions including in the following three areas: enhancing regional cooperation; updating New Zealand's own framework; and holding IUU fishing offenders to account.

New Zealand continues to participate in regional fisheries governance and in global initiatives against IUU fishing, including supporting the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its final stage of approving a recommendation on eliminating government support to IUU fishing.

New Zealand is also putting a stronger domestic framework in place against IUU fishing, including through the International Fisheries Bill and the review of the New Zealand's Plan of Action Against IUU fishing (POA-IUU). The Bill will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our permitting regime on the high seas, the powers to investigate IUU fishing activity, and our sanctions against IUU fishing. The Bill creates a new offence to engage in or support IUU fishing, provides boarding and inspection powers of stateless vessels, and improves the administrative penalties regime. The Bill is now at the final stages of its passage through Parliament. To support the review of New Zealand POA-IUU, we are also developing an APEC project on 'Best Practices Workshop on Development, Review and Implementation of Plans of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing'.

New Zealand welcomes further collaboration with APEC economies to implement the roadmap and is looking for economies' participation to the workshop.

6. *Russia*

Russia to update details as needed.

Russia updated on their efforts to combatting IUU fishing. Russia focused on digitalization in fisheries, continued to upgrade electronic system of traceability, trying to complete the system to issue catch certificate, certificate of origin, this year. Russia acknowledged and appreciated other economies for their support. Russia is thinking about the next step for digitalization process, the health certificate for fish quality.

7. *Peru*

Peru emphasized its commitment to preserving hydrobiological resources and combating IUU fishing, crucial for food security and economic sustainability. The Ministry of Production reported deploying 212 accredited inspectors, conducting over 163,000 inspections, and implementing technological tools such as the Electronic Log and the SITRAPESCA traceability system. Satellite tracking systems and open-source tools like Global Fishing Watch further enhance surveillance

of economy-wide and foreign fleets. Peru also reported progress on implementing Port State Measures, verifying compliance by foreign vessels arriving at Peruvian ports. Supreme Decree No. 014-2024-PRODUCE was highlighted, introducing stricter regulations to prevent IUU fishing by foreign vessels in adjacent high seas areas. Additionally, health and safety inspections complement enforcement actions, strengthening Peru's regulatory framework against IUU fishing.

8. The Philippines

The Philippines presented updates with regards to the implementation of the OFWG IUU Fishing roadmap and its action plan. Recent developments such as the ongoing amendment of Fisheries Code, issuance of Fisheries Administrative Orders and implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action on IUU fishing were reported. Some of the efforts the Philippines include the adoption of the Port State Measures and strengthening the implementation of its provision, continuous conduct of monitoring, control, and surveillance activities. Further, the Philippines promotes collaboration with relevant regional and international fisheries bodies through its membership to RFMOs and other multilateral fora. Moreover, the Philippines promotes the public-private partnership engagements through various platforms and programs. The PHL also recognize the need to increase the capacity of our manpower, specifically the law enforcers and key stakeholders in managing fisheries resources.

9. Chinese Taipei

To combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, Chinese Taipei has strengthened fishery management through four key strategies: enhancing the legal framework, improving monitoring, control, and supervision (MCS), ensuring traceability, and fostering international cooperation. As part of its commitment to global fisheries governance, Chinese Taipei officially deposited its instrument of acceptance for the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies on 18 February 2025. Moving forward, the government will continue to enforce relevant laws, adjust domestic fishing capacity as needed, and take proactive measures to prevent IUU fishing activities, ensuring sustainable and responsible fisheries management.

10. Thailand

Thailand to update details as needed.

Thailand has implemented various measures to support OFWG works on combatting IUU fishing, including legal frameworks, fisheries management, monitoring control and surveillance, traceability, and law enforcement. Thailand also cooperated with international organization on project implementation, such as FAO, to enhance knowledge and capacity building.

5.2.3 Final Report of the Implementation of IUU Roadmap and the Roadmap's future

Chile presented the work carried out by the drafting group, comprised of New Zealand, Peru, Russia, Chinese Taipei, the United States, and Chile. Thanks to the flexible workload, it was possible to present a simplified template proposal for economies to report on, allowing them to follow the areas and actions of the IUU roadmap. OFWG members' report can help and guide them. Russia offered to share their completed individual report around the end of March as an example for other members.

It was considered that economies could submit their reports during April and the end of May and have a first draft of the IUU Final Report, then coordinate an open meeting for all members to provide additional information and contribute to the draft.

The final IUU Report must be endorsed by OFWG members by September so that it can be presented to the SCE.

5.2.4 Update on the Virtual Working Group on PSM challenges

Russia to update details as needed.

Russia incorporated members' comments into the revised Terms of Reference, as an attempt on the track to establish the Virtual Working Group. The clean version has been circulated to OFWG and welcome members' comments.

5.3 Roadmap on Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquacultures (SSFA)

5.2.1 Discussion on developing the implementation plan of the Roadmap

The draft implementation plan for the Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture (SSFA) was developed with the efforts of key staff from the BFAR based on the deliverables under the SSFA Roadmap. The draft was submitted to the APEC OFWG Secretariat in December 2024 for circulation to the members of the drafting committee, Thailand, USA and VietNam. Comments from the member economies were received and integrated into the draft and circulated to all member economies for their further inputs and recommendations. It was approved and adopted in February 2025.

5.2.2 Individual Actions to implement the Roadmap

1. Korea

Korea presented its progress on implementing the Roadmap on Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture, emphasizing efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of Jeju Haenyeo (female divers), recognized as part of the FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS). Korea has supported Haenyeo-related tourism, value-added seafood products, and educational initiatives to ensure this tradition is passed on to future generations while contributing to sustainable coastal livelihoods.

Korea also highlighted its climate adaptation strategy, including fisheries permit reform, climate-responsive aquaculture relocation systems, and development of resilient species. These efforts aim to enhance the adaptive capacity of the fisheries sector amid changing marine conditions. Korea reaffirmed its commitment to balancing cultural preservation with sustainable marine resource management through international collaboration and knowledge sharing.

2. Peru

Peru addressed the challenges facing its artisanal fisheries sector, including climate change impacts, declining fish stocks, and resistance among fishermen to control measures. To promote sustainable management, Peru has prohibited the construction of new artisanal vessels, completed formalization programs, and created a domestic fishing fleet database. The gradual implementation of the Satellite Tracking System (SISESAT), to be completed by 2026, will

enhance surveillance capacities. In parallel, Peru is investing in modern unloading infrastructure to improve traceability and community well-being. Recognizing the need for collaboration, Peru seeks to draw on APEC economies' experiences to promote clean fishing techniques and alternative livelihoods for artisanal fishermen. Additionally, the Artisanal Fisheries Extension Service (SEPA) has been strengthened to deliver training and capacity-building programs for artisanal communities, reinforcing Peru's commitment to sustainability and social inclusion.

3. The Philippines

The Philippines presented its updates on the initiatives for the five action areas under the road map of the Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture, which also aligns with the APEC framework to enhance the sustainability and resilience of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. The Philippines implements data collection through the Fisherfolk and Fishing vessel and gear registration. Also, recognizing the important role of SSF in sustainable fisheries management, the Philippine Plan of Action on SSF was developed and launched in collaboration with key stakeholders. As part of promoting women's participation in SSFA, the Philippines also conducts activities to recognize their potentials and contributions to the fisheries sector. Further, the Philippines continues to support the coastal communities through the Adopt-A-Village program, provision of livelihood interventions to sustain their income, and strengthening communities through social preparation. The PHL also offer programs on fingerling distribution, support to MSMEs, and marketing assistance and enterprise development.

4. Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei has enacted and implemented comprehensive management measures for coastal and offshore fisheries to ensure the sustainable utilization of marine resources. These measures focus on six key areas: reducing the number of operating fishing vessels, regulating fishing gear and methods, managing economically significant coastal and offshore species, preserving marine habitats, restoring resources, and strengthening law enforcement at sea. These efforts aim to balance resource conservation with the needs of the fishing industry.

Meanwhile, the aquaculture industry faces challenges such as an aging workforce and a declining birthrate, leading to labor shortages. To address this issue, there is an urgent need to enhance mechanization and transition towards an automated business model. Additionally, adopting Internet of Things (IoT) technology drives the industry's digital transformation, improves labor efficiency, and optimizes production processes. These advancements are expected to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the aquaculture sector.

5. Thailand

Thailand to update details as needed.

Regarding the SFA road map, Thailand has implemented activity in line with the roadmap as follow. The first one is enhancing understanding of small-scale fisheries and agricultural sector, including license collecting and identify and address fisherman's needs. Secondly, Thailand had exhibited a working group on the sustainable development of small-scale fishery to formulate policy recommendation and guidelines for the development of small-scale fishery. The third one is enhancing awareness of women role in their potential in small scale additional fishery and

author culture. Thailand through the Department of Fishery, organized training program to promote gender equity in the fishery sector.

To support coastal community, Thailand has implemented various projects to promote participation of local fishing communities in managing, maintaining, reserving, restoring and sustainable utilized fishing resources; strengthen fishery production, and register farming organized group. Thailand also support this sector by providing fisherman physical and online shops for the sustainable marketplace and selling their products in the long term.

Session VI – Project Guidelines

The Project Management Unit – APEC Secretariat gave presentation on OFWG project data and instructions on steps of project application and implementation.

Session VII – Thematic Discussions

7.1 Connect

1. *[China] Introduce on Capacity Building Training for APEC Regional Ocean Observation Network*

This potential project aims to strengthen regional cooperation among APEC economies on ocean observation technologies and renewable energy supplies, fostering sustainable development and marine disaster mitigation. The project will hold a workshop that will focus on sharing ocean observation technologies such as onshore observation technologies, offshore observation technologies, unmanned underwater observation technologies, and exploring the joint utilization of wave energy, current energy, and solar power for sustainable marine observation. Through focused discussions and knowledge exchanges, the workshop seeks to further share experiences in marine observation technologies, equipment, and the applications of marine renewable energy and improve the strategy and capability of coastal regions. Ultimately, a summary report will be produced.

2. *[China] Introduce the Development of Biological Resources and the Capacity Building for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in the Asia-Pacific Waters under the Context of Climate Change*

The potential project introduced that climate change profoundly impacts the natural environment on which humanity relies for survival, as well as the sustainable development of economic and social systems. Affected by global climate change, extreme events such as super typhoons, severe storm surges, and hazardous marine waves are becoming increasingly frequent. These events have severely affected marine fisheries. Therefore, this project aims to enhance capacity building, strengthen research and application of technologies, and to showcase APEC economies' best practices in marine hazard prevention and mitigation in fisheries. This workshop is scheduled to be held in July 2025 in Nanjing, China, and is hosted by the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center, Ministry of Natural Resources, China. The workshop encourages economies to consider qualified female participants in their nominations.

3. *[Korea] Share the 2025 AMETEC project on climate change impact on marine ecosystem (self-funding project)*

As part of AMETEC's capacity-building efforts, Korea delivered a presentation titled "Climate Change Impact on Marine Ecosystem: Digital Monitoring and Prediction Tools". This initiative marks one of the steps Korea is taking to contribute actively to regional education and training on marine environmental issues under the AMETEC framework.

The presentation introduced the use of Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS) as a harmonized and cost-effective tool for assessing marine biodiversity. Widely used in global marine research, ARMS technology is being applied in Korean waters—particularly off Jeju Island—to track changes in ecosystems affected by climate change. Through visual documentation and genetic analysis, ARMS enables comprehensive monitoring of cryptic marine species and supports biodiversity conservation efforts. The presentation concluded with a warm invitation to all APEC economies to join this meaningful initiative, emphasizing the importance of collective action to protect our shared marine environment.

Korea also highlighted plans to further promote regional collaboration by hosting a workshop in Busan in May 2025. This event will provide training on ARMS installation, retrieval, and analysis, with the aim of building regionally aligned marine monitoring methods across APEC member economies.

4. *[Peru] APEC Project OFWG 2024A: Exchange of Experiences in the Development of Indicators for Ex-Post Regulatory Impact Assessment of Fisheries Management Regulations for Jack Mackerel and Jumbo Flying Squid in Asia-Pacific Economies (OFWG 202 2024A)*

As part of APEC Peru 2024, the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate developed the project proposal "Exchange of Experiences in the Development of Indicators for Ex-Post Regulatory Impact Assessment of Fisheries Management Regulations for Jack Mackerel and Jumbo Flying Squid in Asia-Pacific Economies."

This proposal seeks to facilitate the exchange of best practices and experiences in developing indicators to assess the effectiveness of fisheries management regulations for two key resources in the Pacific Ocean: Jack Mackerel and Jumbo Flying Squid. By strengthening capacities in designing and applying these indicators, the project aims to enhance the efficiency of ex-post regulatory evaluations.

The proposal was pre-approved by the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG), and with the co-sponsorship from China; Indonesia; Russia; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

We now look forward for next steps, including the organization of a workshop in Lima, where we look forward to receiving you again.

5. *[Chinese Taipei] Turning the tide on marine debris: public-private collaboration for a thriving blue economy.*

Chinese Taipei introduced a long-term initiative of the Asia-Pacific Marine Debris Collaboration Platform to tackle marine debris through a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach. The platform is guided by three key visions: strengthening partnerships across stakeholders, fostering technological innovation for marine debris management, and promoting the blue circular economy by revitalizing industrial chains. Four collaboration models have been established to

achieve these objectives—driving the blue circular economy, capacity building, policy exchange, and scientific research. Successful examples, such as partnerships between the textile industry and NGOs to develop recycling systems, were highlighted as key achievements in promoting environmental sustainability and economic growth.

The presentation also covered the platform’s key achievements in 2024, including hosting multiple international workshops on marine debris management, policy frameworks, and public-private partnerships. Looking ahead to 2025, the platform aims to expand cross-economy partnerships, enhance data-sharing mechanisms, introduce new funding opportunities for businesses addressing plastic pollution, and strengthen regulatory frameworks for sustainable waste management. These efforts are expected to accelerate progress toward a cleaner, more sustainable blue economy. The meeting concluded with a call for further stakeholder collaboration and participation to support the platform’s initiatives.

7.2 Innovate

1. [China] Share about the 8th APEC Blue Economy Forum

The potential project aims at fostering sustainable marine biological resource collaboration across Asia-Pacific economies. Key objectives include promoting innovation in marine resource utilization, advancing business engagement in marine biopharmaceuticals, and establishing government-research-industry partnerships. The main outputs of the project include a forum and a case study report. The forum is scheduled to be held in Nov 2025 in Xiamen, China, addressing three themes: sustainable marine resource management, technological advancements in marine biomedicine, and regional cooperation. The case study report will compile best practices in marine resource utilization. The key outputs encompass the forum, a project summary report, and a case study report highlighting sustainable marine biological resource utilization. The initiative aims to strengthen public-private cooperation and enhance policy alignment for marine biotechnology innovation, ultimately driving APEC-wide collaboration in sustainable marine resource utilization.

2. [Korea] Introduce on advancements in fishing vessel modernization and related technologies based on project OFWG 10 2024S - Strengthening Sustainable Growth and Resilience in Small-Scale Fisheries through Fishing Vessel Modernization Fishing Vessel Modernization

Korea, represented by the Korea Maritime Transportation Safety Authority (KOMSA), presented a project titled “Strengthening Sustainable Growth and Resilience in Small-Scale Fisheries through Fishing Vessel Modernization” as part of its continued efforts to support small-scale fisheries in the APEC region. The initiative addresses interrelated challenges—including outdated technologies, low fuel efficiency, environmental degradation, and insufficient safety measures—that hinder the sustainable growth of small-scale fisheries, particularly in coastal and island communities.

By focusing on four interconnected pillars—environmental protection, food security, industrial sustainability, and worker safety—the project positions vessel modernization not as a simple technical upgrade, but as a comprehensive strategy for resilience and inclusive development. In alignment with APEC’s sustainable development goals, the initiative promotes regional

collaboration and technological exchange. As part of these efforts, Korea will host a side event at the 5th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting in April 2025 in Busan, offering a platform for knowledge sharing and strengthened cooperation. Korea concluded by encouraging broad participation from APEC member economies and warmly welcomed nominations of speakers and experts to contribute to the ongoing success and regional relevance of this meaningful initiative.

7.3 Prosper

1. [Monterey Bay Aquarium] Balancing Production and Protection: Just Nature Transition and Antibiotic Stewardship in Aquaculture

Aquaculture is a big sector with 22.1 million people engaging in the sector. However, the sector is facing several challenges, such as a proper sanitary management and the use of chemicals to control diseases including antimicrobial products. Antibiotic consumption is expected to be increased by 33% by 2030, which will have multiple adverse impacts to the ocean, marine life and even human health.

Small number of report on antibiotic consumption makes it hard to estimate and analyze. There is limited information regarding the antimicrobial resistance process and interaction with human health. It is important to emphasize that sources of antibiotics to the ocean come not only from agriculture, but also from agriculture and humans. Other significant gaps also come from regional consumption, data metrics and assessment methods, but one of the most important relevant points related with the lack of training and disease management by stability and easy access to the medications.

Therefore, Monterey Bay Aquarium, collaborate with experts, organizations and economies around the world, has conducted several initiatives to tackle this issue. This includes the Antibiotic Reduction Program with Salmon Industry in Chile, aiming to reduce antibiotic consumption by 50% in 2025. In OFWG, the project *Strengthening Small-Scale Aquaculture Governance for Food Security and Sustainable Development in APEC Region* will be held in May, and the Project Overseer and MBA would welcome your attendance. Also, MBA has produced scientific publication prior on training for farmers and achieved a milestone with the 1st Congress of Bacterial Disease Management and sustainably antibiotic use. And finally, the just Nature Transitional Lab series will focus on blue transformation developing more efficient, inclusive and resilient and sustainable system with a particular focus on agriculture and future in developing economies through better access to resources, data and finance for small scale producers. MBA believes that APEC has a very important role in building agricultural sectors that will enable a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable industry, integrating the entire production chains and to protect our ocean and regional prosperity.

2. [Canada] Operationalizing Best Practices to Reduce Ghost Gear in the APEC Region (OFWG 06 2024S)

Canada to update details as needed.

Canada provided update on the self-funded project titled “Implementing best practices for the management of fishing and aquaculture gear in the APEC region”, in collaboration with Ocean

Conservancy's Global Ghost Gear Initiative. This project, endorsed by OFWG in 2024, involved hosting 2 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. The first workshop was held in November 2024 and our second workshop was held at the beginning of February 2025. The first workshop delivered a virtual interactive workshop fostering dialogue and cooperation around the implementation of best practices to manage gear in capture fisheries and aquaculture systems. The second workshop was held on February 4th, 2025 and focused on effective gear marking strategies for fishing and aquaculture gear in the APEC region, work on the compendium for the marking of fishing gear in the APEC region. Both workshops had a number of economies attended and joined discussion. Post workshop surveys are currently underway and a post workshop report will be distributed to participants as part of the project. The global Ghost Gear Initiative is also performing a gear impact analysis, which will include conducting an expanded assessment of the risks and impacts of lost, abandoned gear on aquatic species and ecosystems. Canada thanked all economies who supported the event both at the concept note stage and especially big thank to those who attended.

3. *[Chile] APEC project OFWG_102_2024A "Strengthening Small-Scale Aquaculture (SSA) Governance for Food Security and Sustainable Development in APEC Region"*

Chile thanked the project's co-sponsor economies: Canada, China, Indonesia, Peru, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand.

This project aims to strengthen institutions, simplify regulations, promote organization and participation, ensure responsible resource management, disease control, and fair stakeholder engagement, and support the SSFA roadmap. The workshop will include several sessions with varying dynamics, such as expert presentations, case study discussions, workshop sessions, and more, to maximize learning and retention.

This project, organized in conjunction with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, consists of a virtual phase in which a survey is conducted (March-April) and economies are encouraged to participate. This phase will be followed by a two-day workshop (May 20-21) in Monterey. A webinar is planned for September. The SSAGOT toolkit, as a result of the process, includes guidelines to improve local and regional governance, is planned for November.

4. *[China] to share APEC Workshop on Blue Citizen Communities for Ocean Literate Society (OFWG 103 2024A)*

The project aims to cultivate blue citizens from individuals to communities, and then to society in a bottom-up approach. It aims to enhance capacity building for promoting the transformation towards an ocean literate society. Key outputs include the APEC Blue Citizen Communities Workshop, the Blue Citizen Community Indicators Research Report and the Project Summary Report. The project features two main activities: holding a three-day workshop which focus on ocean literacy, coastal resilience, coastal city management, and community engagement; and compiling the blue citizen community indicators research report for guiding the improvement of blue citizen communities. A highlight is the session in the workshop: Practice in blue citizen community. In this session, representatives from schools and local communities will be invited

to participate the workshop and share the interaction of Family-School-Community for blue citizen development.

5. *[China] to share Workshop on Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Community Development in APEC Economies (OFWG 104 2024A)*

The initiative aims to enhance stakeholder capacity (particularly women) in marine conservation and develop strategic guidelines promoting cross-economy collaboration. Key outputs include conservation guidelines, an international workshop in Guangdong Province, and a policy recommendations report. The project features three main activities: guideline development through stakeholder engagement, a three-day workshop with plenary sessions and thematic forums, and post-workshop dissemination of outcomes. A highlight is the field trip to Qi'ao Mangrove Reserve in Zhuhai, showcasing successful community engagement where locals have transitioned from fishing to conservation work and ecotourism. The Qi'ao community demonstrates how alternative livelihoods and education programs can simultaneously protect marine biodiversity and support sustainable community development.

6. *[Korea] Strengthening Climate Resilience and Food Security via Stakeholder-Driven Sustainable Seaweed Supply Chains based on project OFWG 203 2024A*

Korea, represented by the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), presented a project titled “Strengthening Climate Resilience and Food Security via Stakeholder-Driven Sustainable Seaweed Supply Chains.” This initiative seeks to establish a regional network of stakeholders to share expertise, scientific knowledge, and business opportunities in sustainable seaweed production and distribution, thereby jointly addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change and food insecurity.

The project highlights the critical role of seaweed in supporting climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable food systems, while also addressing the pressing need to overcome harmful farming practices and improve supply chain responsibility. Central to this effort is the promotion of sustainable production standards and inclusive cooperation across economies. As a key milestone, Korea will host a workshop on April 30, 2025, in Busan, as a side event of the 5th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting. This workshop is expected to serve as a catalyst for regional dialogue, foster multi-stakeholder collaboration, and identify actionable strategies for advancing traceability, market access, and policy alignment in the seaweed sector. Korea concluded by encouraging active participation from APEC member economies, expressing hope that the workshop will lay a meaningful groundwork for long-term cooperation and capacity building in sustainable seaweed development.

7. *[New Zealand] Updates on the Seabird Toolkit*

New Zealand completed its self-funded Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit project last year. We hosted an online industry roundtable with 73 participants from ten economies, and produced a Toolkit website. The website provides information for longline fishing businesses to help them to secure access to high-value markets and to address the global decline of seabird populations.

Indeed, many longline businesses are striving to achieve environmental credentials such as Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification to meet the requirements of large retailers and

consumer preferences. MSC requires fleets to use seabird-safe fishing practices, and to verify use. Lack of robust and accessible information is key barrier for businesses. This website addresses this barrier.

One key function of the Toolkit is to enable users to find out how seabird-safe their fishing is. Users can find out in what risk zone they fish in, identify their mitigation practices, select their verification methods and then, explore how to improve. The Toolkit includes “how-to” videos, downloadable resources, and case studies. The content has been informed by the November 2023 online roundtable and a Ground Truthing Group.

The Toolkit is being translated into Japanese, Traditional Chinese, and Simplified Chinese; and an imbedded application is being developed for a more integrated and interactive use. When done, New Zealand will invite economies and their longline industries to an online presentation.

New Zealand continues the work through a new APEC project, a Seabird-Safe Fishing ‘Capacity Gap Analysis’. This project will identify the practical challenges and capacity gaps that longline fleets face and the opportunities to address these. This will involve carrying out research with tuna longline industries to assess their key capacity gaps and the priority next steps to address the gaps. An evidence-based report will support companies, governments, and other organisations prioritise capacity building activities.

8. *[New Zealand] Best Practices Workshop on Development, Review and Implementation of Plans of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing (OFWG 207 2024A)*

New Zealand is developing its project on a ‘**Best Practices Workshop on Development, Review and Implementation of Plans of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing**’. This project aims to take stock of lessons learned in POAs-IUU development and implementation, and develop capability for updating or developing new Plans, through:

- Sharing information on IUU fishing concerns, regional challenges compromising the development and implementation of POAs-IUU, opportunities of collaboration in the region;
- Collaborating to initiate resilient solutions to combat IUU fishing through POAs-IUU, and similar tools;
- Building capacity to update and develop POAs to tackle IUU fishing;
- Supporting economies to continue developing their Policy work to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing in the APEC region.

To achieve it, New Zealand developed a questionnaire, that has been shared to APEC economies by the Secretariat, to gather information on their experience in developing POAs-IUU. We are collecting one answer per economy. New Zealand encourages economies that haven’t yet filled the questionnaire, to send their answers as soon as possible. The following step of the project is to host a capacity building workshop, the 29th April in Busan. New Zealand remains available to discuss these three projects with interested economies.

9. *[Chinese Taipei] Promoting the sustainable development of coastal communities and small-scale fisheries through area-based marine conservation efforts*

Chinese Taipei hosted the 23rd APEC Roundtable Meeting on Pursuing Economic Sustainability and Resilience through Marine Conservation, where 22 policy recommendations were concluded. The discussions highlighted that local communities are willing to engage in conservation efforts not only due to concerns over marine resource depletion but also because they recognize the economic opportunities that sustainable practices can provide. In particular, labor-intensive conservation activities that align with traditional knowledge have proven effective in fostering environmental and economic resilience.

One notable example presented at the meeting was a speaker who leveraged her family's set-net fishery expertise to establish a business integrating marine conservation with economic innovation. By collaborating with young professionals in creative fields such as art and marketing, she developed experiential and educational programs focused on sustainable fishery practices and fish-based diets. Additionally, her business introduced value-added products that promote whole-fish utilization. These insights underscore the importance of public education and the identification of charismatic local leaders in marginalized communities to ensure long-term marine conservation and economic sustainability across member economies.

10. *[Viet Nam] Enhancing Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change for the Sustainable Aquaculture of the Asia-Pacific*

Viet Nam shared updates on the implementation of project “Enhancing Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change for the Sustainable Aquaculture of the Asia-Pacific”. The project event will be held tentatively in August in Phu Quoc, Viet Nam, the destination for APEC 2027.

This workshop aims at Enhancing the capacity of economies in responding and adapting to negatives impacts of climate change on the aquaculture sector; Capturing and sharing key lessons learned among APEC economies in promoting sustainable aquaculture sector; and Developing a set of recommendations and regional cooperation network between different sectors of the economy to improve aquacultural sustainability.

Viet Nam hope to receive support from OFWG members towards a successful event. More details about the workshop will be shared in the upcoming months.

Session VII – Other issues and Closing

8.1 Thailand – BCG Awards

Thailand to update details as needed.

Thailand introduced BCG Awards winners in 2023, 2024, and provided information about BCG Awards in 2025. 3 categories are Women, Youth, and MSMEs with 2 objectives Recognise distinguished individuals or organisations that have successfully implemented BCG economy approaches; Winners will serve as examples and inspiration for others to learn from and apply in their own context. The nomination period is from 1 March to 20 June 2025, the winner will be announced at the AMM 2025 in Gyeongju with cash prize of 5,000USD for each winner.

8.2 Document classification

The Program Director confirmed that pending documents will be labelled as restricted. All documents would be available on MDDB after the meeting, logging in is required to view restricted documents.

8.3 Closing remarks by the OFWG Lead Shepherd

The Lead Shepherd expressed sincere appreciation to all APEC member economies for their active participation and valuable contributions throughout the two-day meeting. She noted that the progress achieved was a result of the strong spirit of collaboration and shared commitment among APEC economies, and emphasized that this cooperative momentum should continue to guide the collective effort in refining and consolidating key documents that form the foundation of the OFWG's vision and strategic direction. The Lead Shepherd also called upon all economies to do their utmost in the lead-up to the 5th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting, encouraging continued engagement and cooperation to ensure its success.