



## **SIDE EVENT: The IOTC and the Agreement for Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction**

The Maldivian, Australian, and EU delegation to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), together with the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), are pleased to host a lunchtime discussion on the new Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and its connections with tuna fisheries governance in the Indian Ocean.

 Monday, 11 May 2026

 12:45pm

As the BBNJ Agreement entered into force in January 2026, IOTC members are entering a crucial period for shaping how this global ocean treaty will interact with regional fisheries management.

Adopted in June 2023 under UNCLOS, the BBNJ Agreement is a comprehensive framework dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. This Agreement recognises the significant contribution of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to protecting biodiversity. While the BBNJ Agreement should be interpreted and applied in a way that does not undermine RFMOs, but rather in a way that promotes coherence and coordination with these frameworks with respect to their competence in fisheries management and conservation, there will be interactions between those two legal frameworks, and it will be important to discuss how these interactions will work from an RFMO perspective.

The final Preparatory Commission (PrepCom) meeting ahead of COP1 was conducted in March 2026, and the first COP has been scheduled for January 2027.

*This side-event will:*

- Explore the BBNJ Agreement and its linkages with the IOTC
- Feature insights from government and non-government experts
- Invite questions and discussion from all IOTC participants