



INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE BIODIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION - BBNJ

WPRFMC Report
May 2023 CCC Meeting
Fifth Session of BBNJ
Finalized March 2023



BBNJ Themes

General provisions, regarding 'high seas' on the following themes:

 Marine genetic resources

 **Area-based management tools (ABMTs)**

 First agreeable framework to develop MPAs or other ABMTs on the high seas, under UNCLOS

 2030 UN Framework - The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – including a '30 x 30' milestone

 Environmental impact assessments

 Capacity building

 Institutional arrangements







Outcomes

- Finalized March 5, 2023 – fifth session since 2019
- No hierarchy between RFMOs and BBNJ
 - ABMTs or MPAS need to be established with RFMOs
- Two groups: “Common Heritage of Humankind” and “Freedom of the Seas”
- Decision-making and criteria for implementing ABMTs added
- Scientific and Technical Body to be formed







US Positions

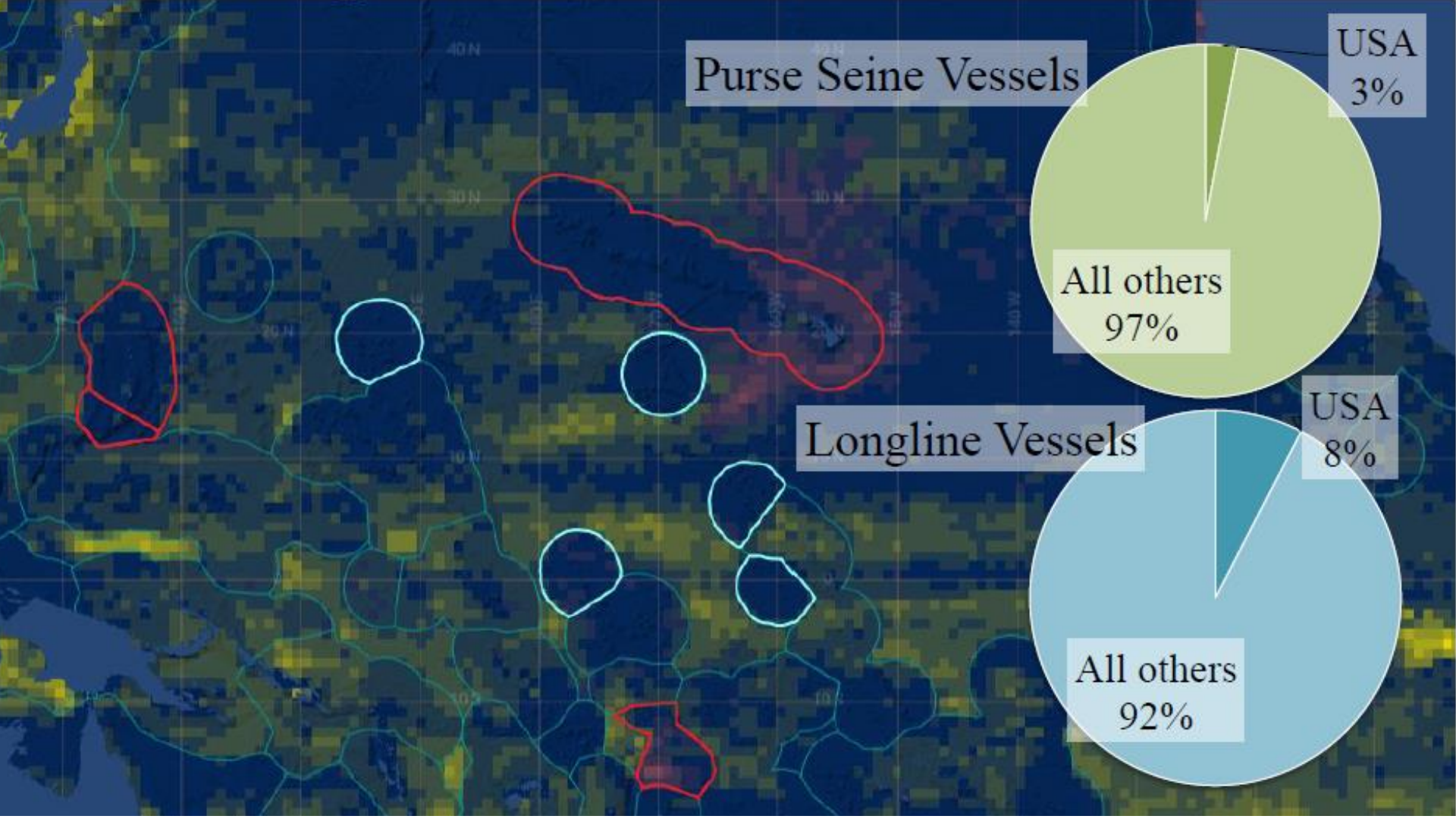
-  US position: relevant bodies (e.g., RFMOs) exist and have jurisdiction over relevant activities (fisheries)
-  BBNJ may only recommend management measures regarding such activities to those relevant bodies for their consideration, and may not adopt or implement management measures itself
-  No hierarchy between RFMOs and BBNJ
-  Many delegations shared US position



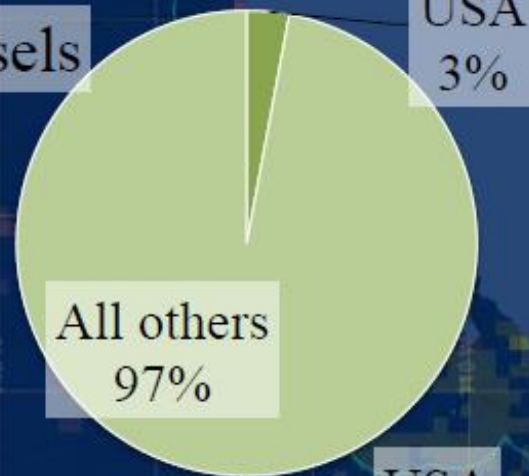
Concerns Expressed Regarding ABMTs

-  Unintended consequences of static closures
-  Economic stability of Hawaii and US Territories
-  Need precise measures to tackle IUU and other threats
-  Adjacency to existing closures (up to 61% WP US EEZ closed to fishing)

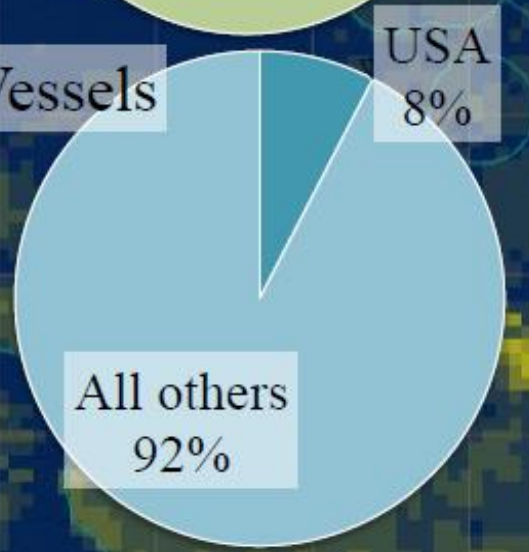




Purse Seine Vessels



Longline Vessels





QUESTIONS?

