Background
Countries of the region are making substantial investments in the sustainable development of their fisheries sector through improved governance of priority fisheries. The World Bank launched the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Program (SWIOFish) in 2015, representing an investment of more than $200 million for regional and national projects under the program. The program goal is to increase the economic, social, and environmental benefits to the region from sustainable marine fisheries.

The region is characterised by a diverse range of fisheries, which are equally variable in terms of how they are governed and the challenges faced in securing a transition to sustainability. However, the need to strengthen fisheries governance for improved ecological and socioeconomic outcomes is common to all countries in the SWIOFish family.

Fisheries governance processes and institutions are complex, spanning centralised, scientific, economic-driven management plans that evolved for industrialised fisheries, through participatory co-management, to decentralised institutions for decision-making and human rights-based approaches that are central to securing small-scale fisheries. To meet its goal, SWIOFish is addressing a wide spectrum of fisheries and governance contexts, focusing on institutional strengthening and capacity-building, enhancing collaboration, transiting to rights-based approaches, securing livelihoods, and empowering private sector and value chain actors. This session provides a unique opportunity to take stock of progress and benefit from regional expertise on emerging governance challenges and perspectives.
Addressing fisheries governance challenges in the Western Indian Ocean

Session Objectives

1. To take stock of SWIOFish progress in fisheries governance at regional, national and local levels
2. To identify emerging fisheries governance challenges in the region including integration with ocean governance and emerging blue economy agendas
3. To examine SWIOFish alignment with to best practice in fisheries governance, with a particular focus on small-scale fisheries
4. To identity opportunities for collaboration among SWIOFish projects and with other projects in the region
5. To scope opportunities for the next phase of World Bank fisheries support to the region

Session Outputs

Input to national SWIOFish project planning; An article for the WIOMSA newsletter; World Bank blog article.

Target Audience

The session will benefit from the participation of policy-makers, fisheries stakeholders, scientists and NGOs working on fisheries issues, intergovernmental organisations, and participants/beneficiaries of SWIOFish projects

Provisional Session Schedule

1130 - 1145: Overview of the SWIOFish family of projects, outline of session objectives
1145 – 1300: Presentations on national governance focus in Comoros, Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, Seychelles and Maldives
1300 – 1400: Lunch
1400 – 1430: Film on lessons learned and best practices in fisheries and aquaculture
1430 – 1515: Participant discussion – national fisheries governance priorities, emerging challenges
1515 – 1545: Presentation on regional governance challenges – supporting IOTC, SWIOFC, IOC
1545 – 1630: Participant discussion – regional fisheries governance priorities, emerging challenges
1630               Wrap up

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