



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

TALKING POINTS

BY

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ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY IN GLOBAL FISHERIES

ORGANIZED BY

GLOBAL FISHING WATCH

BALI - INDONESIA

30 October 2018

TALKING POINTS

- **What opportunities does greater transparency offer Namibia to improve ocean governance?**
 - Namibia has been a frontrunner in many ways. We have been an African and global leader in ambitious and successful fisheries management, allowing us to rebuild fish stocks to contribute significantly to our GDP.
 - Though Namibia has a more closely managed fishery than other African countries, resources to patrol our waters still pose a challenge.
 - As a country, we will carefully consider the option to share our vessel lists as well as vessel monitoring data. It is true to say that being more transparent with our fishery, perhaps by seeking to share our authorized vessel list publicly or pushing for public tracking of fishing vessels, provides the opportunity to have a more in-depth understanding of what is happening.

- **What are the current challenges to greater transparency in your country and what are your plans to overcome these in 2019?**
 - Namibia is a regional champion, hosting the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Convention Secretariat, the SEAFO Secretariat and cooperating in the SADC, as well as other regional activities and processes. The SADC Protocol on Fisheries – and later the SADC Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing – encourages information sharing and cooperation, both between governments and with NGOs.
 - Namibia was a key driver in both of these processes, actually at the helm, and looks forward to continuing to drive this process through leading regional cooperation.
 - There are some challenges about being open with tracking data because some of our fisheries are not migratory, so vessels tend to be very private as to where they fish.
 - His Excellency Dr Godfrey Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, is now on the new High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy that was formed last month, with Norway leading. ‘The Panel is focused on three goals; promoting a shared understanding of the relationship between the ocean and the economy, pursuing recognition of the balance between conservation and use of the ocean, including the mutually supportive nature of ocean protection and economic production, and highlighting innovations in governance, markets, incentives and policy to

align economic development with protection of the ocean's natural capital. Over the next 18 months, the panel will consider evidence-based proposals for dealing with the global ocean crisis, including proposals on sustainable fisheries, ocean-based energy solutions, tourism, new approaches to marine protected areas, and the ocean economy.'

- **Is there a commitment here to work towards increased transparency? What are your next planned steps?**
 - We are keen to open discussions with Global Fishing Watch about our consideration to join their transparency platform, following the example of Indonesia, and work with other African nations to support public access to fishing information and Transparency, including possible joining of the VMS open data system.
 - This will support greater transparency in the fisheries sector, which helps us progress towards our goal of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the domestic implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement.