For the last three years, the United Nations General Assembly has been discussing the possible adoption of an interim prohibition on high seas bottom trawling, a fishing method widely considered as wasteful and detrimental to the survival of many vulnerable deep-sea species and habitats which we are hardly starting to discover around seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals.

Two weeks before the UN Informal Process on the Ocean and the Law of the Sea (UNICP) will discuss in New York its recommendation to the General Assembly on what to do to protect deep sea species and habitats, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition is inviting you to this unique workshop in Lisbon hosted by the Luso-American Foundation.

The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition is an alliance of more than 50 NGOs worldwide, created to promote high seas biodiversity conservation through a moratorium on high seas bottom trawling.

High Seas Marine Biodiversity
The Bottom Trawling Test: The Role of Portugal
Programme

14:30-14:45 Short Film & Opening remarks
Charles A. Buchanan, Administrador Luso-American Foundation

14:45-15:05 Towards a United Nations moratorium on high seas bottom trawling: the growing momentum
Rémi Parmentier, Director of The Varda Group

15:10-15:50 Moratorium on high seas bottom trawling: a scientific imperative
Dr. Alex Rogers, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London

Coffee break

16:00-16:30 A view from the Azores, what can we do to preserve deep-sea living resource.
Professor Ricardo Serrão Santos, Director of the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, Pro-Rector, University of the Azores

16:30-17:00 Opportunity for leadership in the conservation of high seas biodiversity.
The European Union: Monica Verbeek, Seas at Risk Fisheries Policy Officer.

17:00-18:00 Dialogue with the audience.
Facilitated by Charles A. Buchanan.

Lisbon, Tuesday 30th May 2006
Auditorium of the Luso-American Foundation,
Rua do Sacramento à Lapa 21, 1249-090 Lisboa.
Tel: (+351) 21 393 5800