



## Deep-sea fisheries project

NPFC-2024-SC09-OP08

### **Re: Request for deep-sea fishing effort data by position and gear for fisheries using bottom contact gears**

**Request:** The FAO DSF Project would like to request fishing effort data by position and gear for fisheries using bottom contact gears, at 1° latitude by 1° longitude resolution, to develop a global map of spatial bottom fishing effort.

#### **Background:**

The FAO DSF Project would like to produce a map of deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ, which would provide a global overview of the spatial extent (distribution) and intensity (effort) of the use of fishing gears that are likely to come into contact with the seafloor. The availability of such a map would provide an important contemporary and definitive reference for the extent of deep-sea fishing in the ABNJ at a time when there is a great deal of interest in this topic.

Considering different data confidentiality arrangements in place, the first stage of this exercise will be to determine the appropriate spatial and temporal scale of aggregation of the data that could be made available for use in a global mapping product. An important aspect of this exercise will be to determine the most appropriate trade-off between different levels of spatial and temporal resolution and meaningful information content.

Based on preliminary discussions, our initial suggestion is to explore the possibility of RFMOs providing data at a spatial resolution at 1° latitude by 1° longitude<sup>1</sup>, and fishing effort measured in terms of vessel days per year, separately for demersal longline, pots, gill nets and bottom trawl gear, for each of the last 5 years.

There would be no data requested on actual catch, or on the fishing effort by Flag States or vessels.

#### **Action:**

The DSF Project would like to make a formal request for the relevant metadata outlined above, from the last 5 years. Aware that RFMOs have their respective data confidentiality requirements and data release permission processes, including consultation with data owners, we look forward to working with partner RFMOs to ensure that the appropriate data request formats are used to allow the release of the data in the format outlined above. If there are restrictions on the release of data at the scales outlined above, we would welcome advice on alternative approaches to spatial and/or temporal aggregation that would facilitate data being available for this mapping exercise.

---

<sup>1</sup> Each cell would be referenced to the mid-point of the cell, i.e. the 1° latitude by 1° longitude cell that has corners at 20° lat 120° lon, 20° lat 121° lon, 21° lat 121° lon and 21° lat 120° lon would be referenced by 20.5° lat 120.5° lon)