

**COMMON  
OCEANS  
PROGRAM**



PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY  
IN THE OCEAN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION

# Deep-sea fisheries project



**9th Scientific Committee Meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission**

Project Updates



## Implementing Agency

FAO

## Executing Agency

GFCM

## Partners

### RFMOs

GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC,  
SEAFO, SIOFA, SPRFMO

### Government

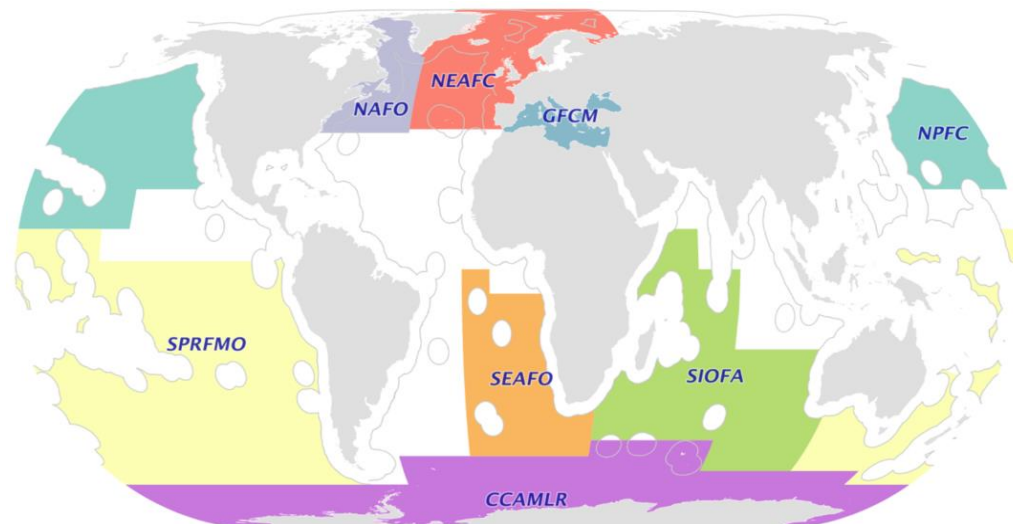
NOAA

### Science advisory body

ICES

### Private sector

SIODFA, ICFA



■ Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) ■ North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)  
■ General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) ■ South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)  
■ Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) ■ South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)  
■ North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) ■ South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)

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Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) with the competence to manage small pelagic and deep sea fisheries

Source: FAO Fisheries Division

## Timeframe

2022-2027

## Project Objective

DSF in the ABNJ are managed under an ecosystem approach,

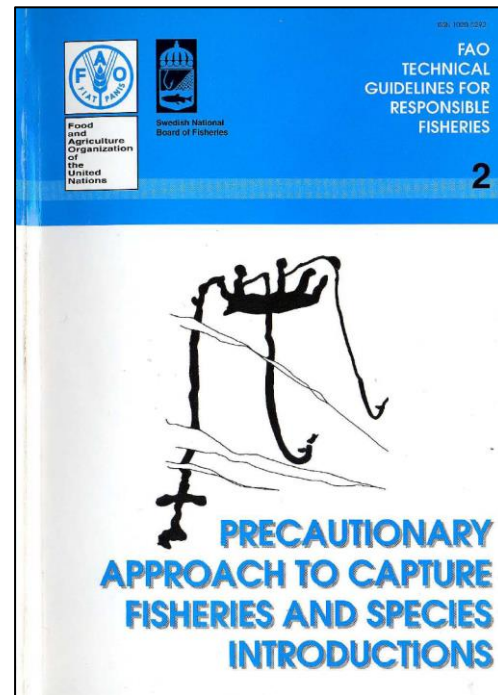
- with stocks at levels capable of maximizing sustainable yields, and
- minimizing impacts on biodiversity,

with a focus on

- data-limited stocks,
- deepwater sharks, and
- VMEs

# The application of the PA to DSF

- Desktop study in 2023 contrasted CMMs against obligations outlined in international instruments
- Weak implementation of PA in ABNJ overall
- Virtual workshop held on 15 October 2024 (recommendations made)
- Follow-up work planned for 2025



# Engagement with the DSF private sector

Workshop with deep-sea fishing industry, Barcelona, Spain  
(21-22 April 2024)

- Recommendations:
  - for improving non-target catch reporting
  - providing a platform for marine science & practical implementing management measures
- Agreement to conduct second workshop in May 2025



# Assessment of data-limited DSF stocks

- DSF Project will work with partners to improve data collection and assessment methodologies on data-limited stocks
- Led by ICES and their WKLIFE expert group
- There will also be opportunities for training



# Assessing impacts of DSF on deepwater sharks

- Assess impacts of DSF on deepwater sharks
- The level of reporting on deepwater sharks is highly variable, both in terms of quantity and quality
- Work to improve identification and reporting
- Global workshop in 2025
- see NPFC-2024-SC09-OP05 and follow-up talk



# VME identification methods

- VMEs are difficult to identify and delineate
- But we should not bottom fish on VMEs
- The DSF Project will produce a publication on the various methods used by research and commercial fishing vessels to identify VMEs



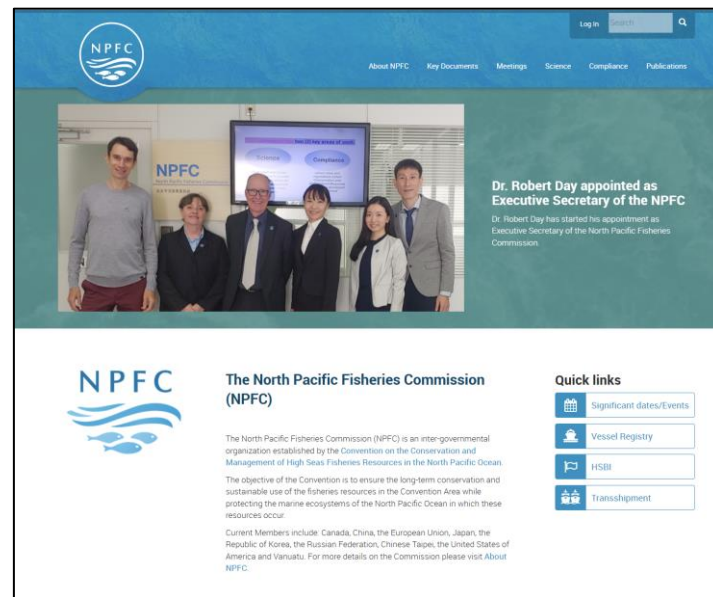
# Observers

- The DSF project is working to support observers



# RFMO websites and outreach messaging

- RFMO websites were originally designed as member's only areas
- They have diversified in recent years
- But still do not, in plain language, advertise the good work of the RFMOs
- Nor do they show how RFMOs contribute to global targets
- The DSF Project will talk to RFMO web designers to develop suggestions for improvement




# New technologies


The DSF project is working to support:


- Use of underwater cameras on bottom trawl nets
- Use of innovative identification keys (see shark presentation)


# Climate change work

- Several RFMOs have CC resolutions (CCAMLR, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC, SPRFMO)
- The DSF Project has work on climate change with NPFC, NAFO, NEAFC, and upcoming with SPRFMO. SIOFA and CCAMLR are also working on CC.
- Separate talk by Joel Rice for NPFC

 NPFC-2024-SC09-OP01  
Report\_FAO\_NPFC\_CC\_Resolution.docx

 NPFC-2024-SC09-OP02 Developing the  
Climate Test\_Carruthers.docx

 NPFC-2024-SC09-OP03 PMs for Evaluating  
Climate Readiness\_Carruthers.docx

 NPFC-2024-SC09-OP04  
HSClimateChange\_Pew\_TOF.docx

# EAFM Symposium

- Day 1 – Scientific aspects of EAFM
- Day 2 – Management aspects of EAFM
- Day 3 –Developing guidance for implementation of EAFM







Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



General Fisheries  
Commission for  
the Mediterranean



The Common Oceans Deep-sea fisheries project brings together a global partnership dedicated to advance responsible deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), led by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and executed by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), it works in collaboration with the seven deep-sea RFMOs, private sector, national and international organizations.

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



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