

COMMON
OCEANS
PROGRAM



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

Deep-sea fisheries project



9th Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission

Project Overview of activities 2024-2025

Doc Ref: NPFC-2025-COM09-OP07

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Agency

GFCM

Partners

RFMOs

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

Government

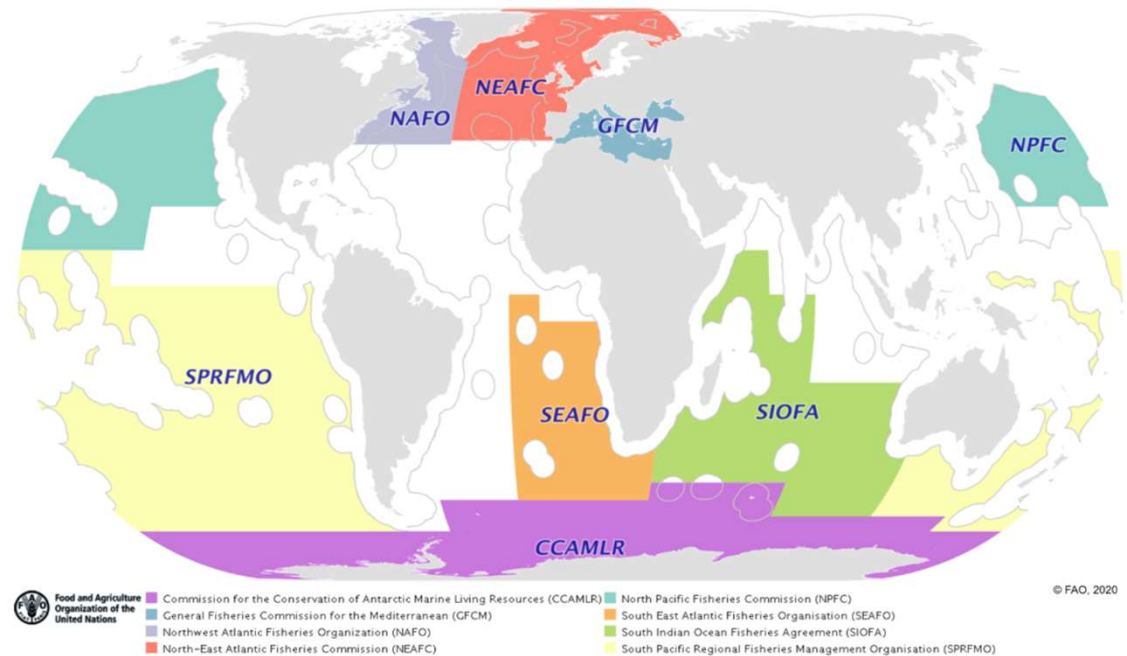
NOAA

Science advisory body

ICES

Private sector

SIODFA, ICFA



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

Source: FAO Fisheries Division

Timeframe

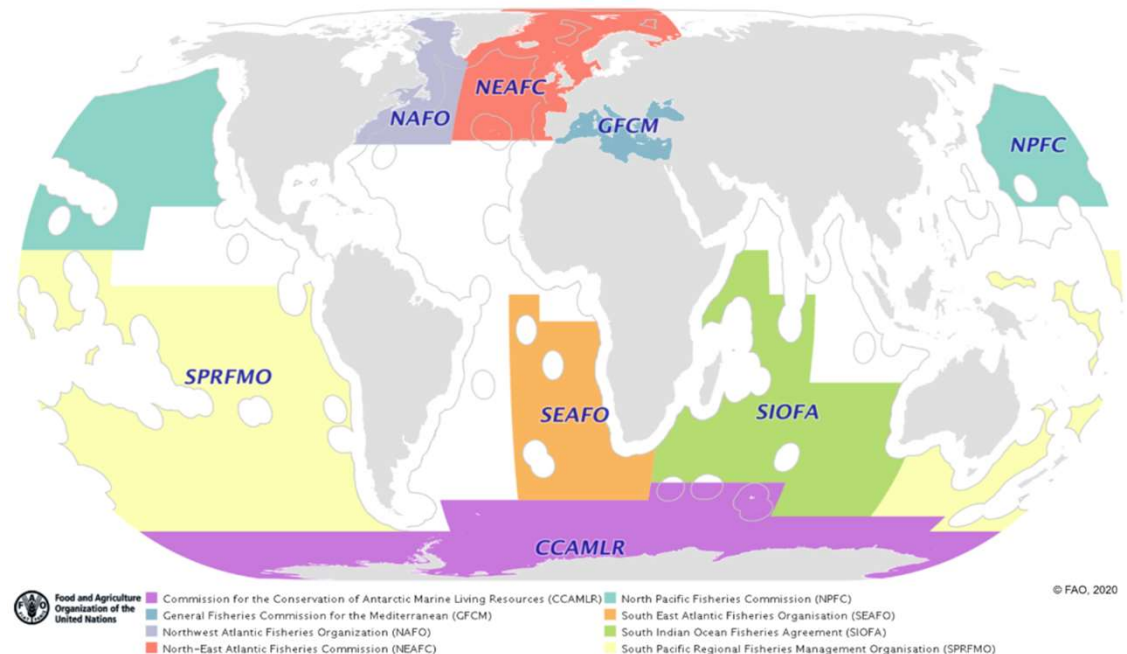
2022-2027

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

Areas of work

- Strengthen and implement regulatory frameworks
- Improve deep-sea fisheries management
- Reduce environmental impact



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

Source: FAO Fisheries Division

Key Achievements



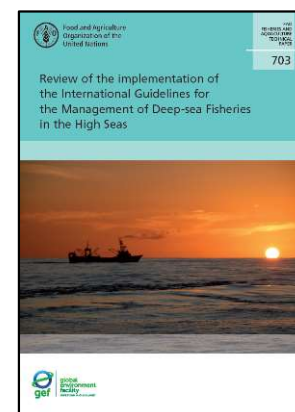
E-LEARNING COURSE:
Strengthening deep-sea fisheries management
in areas beyond national jurisdiction



REVIEW OF IMPL. OF DSF GUIDELINES:
Review of the implementation of the
International Guidelines for the Management of
Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas



**Workshop on the application of the precautionary
approach (PA) to the management of DSF stocks**
Webinar to take stock of dsRFMOs' application of the PA
(frameworks and management plans) - 15 October 2024



Key Achievements



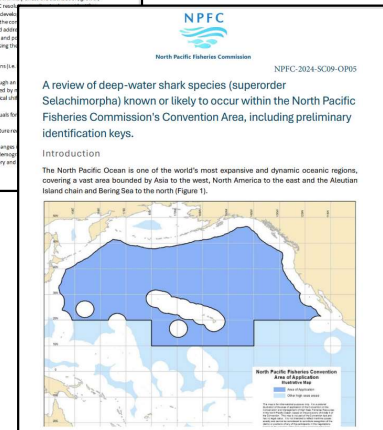
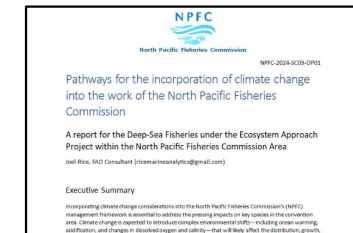
SUPPORTING CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTIONS

Consultancies to support RFMOs in implementing their new climate change resolutions (NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC, SPRFMO)



REVIEW OF DEEP-WATER SHARK SPECIES

Review of dw sharks known or likely to occur within the NPFC's Convention Area, including preliminary ID keys



Key Achievements



EAFM Symposium

Applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in ABNJ - 11-13 March 2025, Rome, Italy

<https://eafm-symposium.nafo.int/>

Key take-aways:

- ✓ Many tools and guides already available
- ✓ Most RFMOs are already doing a lot
- ✓ Importance of cross-RFMO dialogue
- ✓ Importance of science-manager dialogues
- ✓ Importance of RFMO-level roadmap/plan



Upcoming Activities – Key Highlights



Deepwater sharks workshop

Workshop to address key issues related to dw sharks reporting quantity and resolution, 14-16 July 2025, Rome, Italy



Assessment of data-limited stocks

ICES-led work to develop assessment methodologies for data-limited stocks, work to begin in September 2025



Workshop on cross-sectoral interactions with DSF

Workshop on how to manage the integration of cross-sectoral activities to maintain biodiversity and resource sustainability in ABNJ, Q4 2025, Rome, Italy



COMMON OCEANS | Deep-sea fisheries project



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:



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

FAO's activities to support BBNJ implementation

- “Translating” the BBNJ treaty for the fisheries sector – much to be done
- Programme of activities to support, collaborate & build capacity
- **GEF Enabling Activities and ratification Support for the BBNJ Agreement**
 - Partner agency
 - **National-level support for ratification and implementation readiness**
 - 175,000 USD per country
 - **Global and regional supporting activities**

