



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

NOT A DROP IN THE OCEAN

KEY SUCCESSES

COMMON OCEANS ABNJ PROGRAM

2014–2019



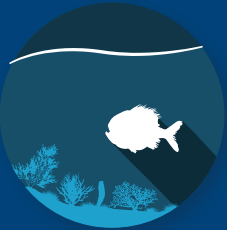
Common Oceans ABNJ Program

4 PROJECTS



1

The **Tuna Project** contributed to achieve sustainable and effective tuna fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.



2

The **Deep Sea Project** aimed to ensure efficient and sustainable use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.



3

The **Capacity Project** promoted global and regional coordination on key ABNJ issues related to fisheries and biodiversity conservation to improve capacity and understanding.



4

The **Ocean Partnerships Project** worked towards the development of a series of business cases to catalyze investments in sustainable management of migratory fish stocks spanning areas within and beyond national jurisdictions.

Introduction

Oceans are essential to life on earth. They help regulate our climate and produce oxygen for us to breathe. They also provide food, jobs, energy and transport for millions of people around the world.

Yet, our oceans are in peril. Overfishing, pollution and climate change are some of the threats facing the marine environment, as well as the supply of goods and services oceans provide to humankind.

The need to protect the oceans is gaining momentum on the international agenda and global action is being taken, targeting even the ocean's remotest parts, known as the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) – which cover over 60 percent of the ocean's surface and 40 percent of the planet's surface.

Far from land, outside national boundaries, the complex management of the rich marine resources and biodiversity of the ABNJ requires international cooperation. This has improved since the UN Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was adopted in 1982. Nevertheless, challenges remain to achieve the responsible and sustainable use of these important ecosystems.

To contribute to meet these goals, the Common Oceans ABNJ Program brought together global stakeholders and partners to promote the sustainable use of fisheries and the protection of marine biodiversity in the ABNJ.

The Program, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), involved the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank Group (WBG), as well as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and other intergovernmental organizations, national governments, the private sector, civil society and academia.

This report presents the results obtained by the Common Oceans ABNJ Program between 2014-2019. It highlights the value, importance and benefits of sustainably managing fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, and how the collateral impact of fishing is less harmful to the marine environment now than when the program started out in 2014.

KEY SUCCESSES at-a-glance

Improving tuna fisheries



Consensus on developing harvest strategies— a pre-agreed approach to determine catch limits **for all major commercial tuna stocks** – is making tuna fisheries more sustainable and transparent in all **5** tuna RFMOs.

Tuna stocks



experiencing overfishing down from 13 to 5.



Turtle mortality in Western and Central Pacific Ocean

is expected to go down by



First-ever global estimate on seabird bycatch

in tuna longline fishing in the Southern hemisphere.



Protecting marine life

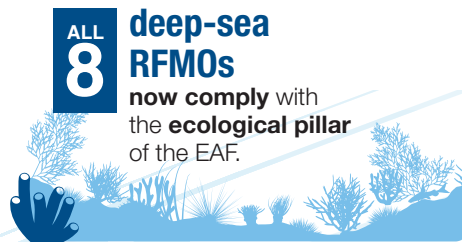
SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ECOSYSTEMS AND CHAMPIONING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES (EAF)



Designated, **protecting deep-sea habitats** and species such as **corals and sponges**.



have agreed to **develop plans for the implementation of the EAF**.



DEVELOPING NEW TOOLS FOR TACKLING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING



First university-certified training course in **fisheries enforcement and compliance** for Fisheries Officers from Pacific Island countries.



Electronic monitoring systems trialed in Fiji and Ghana to improve monitoring, compliance and data collection in tuna fishing.



Global, comprehensive list of authorized vessels updated in real time available online.

RAISING AWARENESS ON OCEAN ISSUES AND FOSTERING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



organized for stakeholders and media to exchange information, and raise greater awareness of ABNJ issues.



spurred investments and engaged industry and governments to take action to improve the management and conservation of billfish in the Caribbean, tuna fleet capacity management in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the impact of climate change on tuna fishery management.



participated in the **Regional Leaders Program**



1

Sustainable management of tuna fisheries & biodiversity

Every year, approximately seven million tonnes of various tuna and tuna-like species valued at almost USD ten billion are landed at ports worldwide, accounting for around eight percent of the total catch of global capture fisheries, supporting the livelihoods of thousands of communities.

However, the strong demand for tuna, combined with overcapacity of fishing fleets, creates excessive pressure on tuna stocks, leading to declining stocks and fisheries not reaching optimal catches.

Tunas are a group of highly migratory species. They move across the seas and oceans, obviously unaware of man-made boundaries between the exclusive economic zones (EEZs), where nations have exclusive rights, and the ABNJ.

In collaboration with the five tuna RFMOs and a large number of partners - including intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector - the **Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project** has promoted effective and sustainable tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ. It has paved way for future cooperation and knowledge sharing to ensure a positive and lasting impact on the world's tuna fisheries.

Better decision making in fisheries management

The project has positively influenced the way that catch limits are decided among RFMO members. Traditionally, tuna catch limits were set through long and difficult negotiations that often resulted in outcomes that did not follow the best scientific advice. Now, tuna RFMO members have reached consensus in developing pre-agreed decision rules based on simple inputs that address uncertainty in the condition of stocks.

This improved procedure, closely related to the implementation of the precautionary approach, means that the allowed tuna catches will be more in line with scientific advice, therefore being more sustainable and transparent and, in turn, less contentious.

With contribution of the project, management procedures have now been adopted in six tuna stocks – compared

Precautionary approach

The precautionary approach is a set of agreed actions that take into account existing and unavoidable uncertainties and the potential irreversible consequences of a wrong decision, and aim at minimizing the risks of damage to natural resources, the environment and to people.

to just one when the project started – and more procedures are being developed around the world for all the major stocks. As a result of improved management in general, the number of major commercial tuna stocks experiencing overfishing decreased from 13 in 2013 to five in 2019.

The project has also created a forum for tuna RFMOs to discuss implementation of

Ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF)

The purpose of an EAF is to plan, develop and manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiple needs and desires of societies, without jeopardizing the options for future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by marine ecosystems.

the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF). A transparent dialogue between decision-makers, scientists and other stakeholders resulted in renewed commitment to push for an implementation plan of EAF management principles within all tuna RFMOs.

Conservation and management measures implemented

If conservation and management measures adopted by RFMO members are not applied adequately, they will have less effect, possibly compromising the sustainability of the fish stocks and revenue lost to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Reinforcing the ability of RFMO members to fully apply adopted regulations is one of the major outcomes of the project. It was achieved using a two-prong approach:

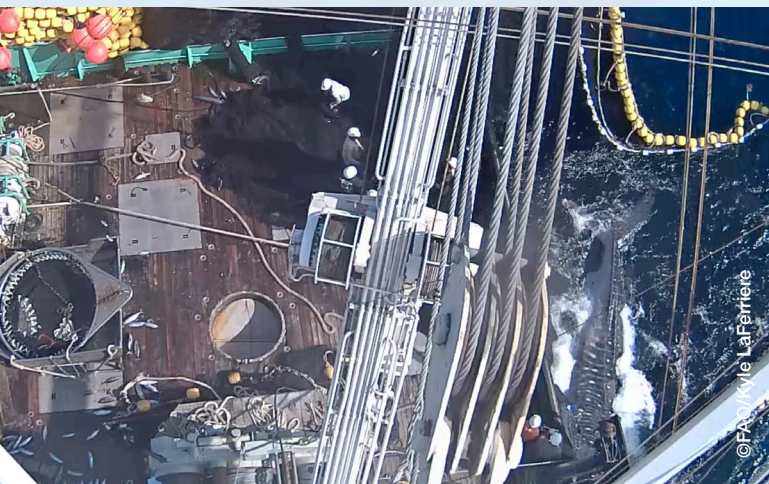
New training techniques, to create career paths for professionals on monitoring, control and surveillance; geared up to strengthen national administrations and build mechanisms for global exchanges between enforcement officials.



New tools to combat IUU fishing, promoting innovative technologies and developing new processes to support improved compliance by RFMO members.

Training people for longer-lasting impact

A certification-based course implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) was supported in the Pacific, providing the first university-certified professional training relating to the enforcement of and compliance with regulations to a total of 70 officers who successfully completed the course. This course is now being used as a model for replication in other regions to ensure better preparation for future officers.



Electronic monitoring systems using high-definition cameras that record fishing operations, have been tested on tuna fishing vessels in Fiji and Ghana.

Capacity to improve compliance with regulations has also been strengthened at the national level through the development of compliance support missions, that provide customized and integrated advice to the countries facing the biggest compliance challenges.

These missions, established by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) with assistance from the project, have led to stronger commitments and plans for implementing changes in various countries. They are now being replicated in other RFMOs.

Knowledge sharing and cooperation on compliance across RFMO officials was enhanced by the creation of a Tuna Compliance Network (TCN), encompassing all five tuna RFMOs to exchange information to support and strengthen the implementation of conservation and management measures.

Improving tools to fight IUU fishing

The project has spearheaded the biggest electronic monitoring systems (EMS) testing initiative of its kind, allowing for the monitoring of fishing activities with high-definition cameras placed on board vessels. Land-based observers were trained to analyze footage recorded by the cameras and provide estimates of the bycatch and discards by species, as well as to identify any possible infractions.

One trial was carried out in the entire purse seine fleet in Ghana. It was led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and involved 14 vessels. A second trial in Fiji was led by the government and covered over 50 percent of their longline fleet – 51 out of 89 vessels.

Experiences and results from both locations demonstrate that EMS technology is a safe and transparent information source that could complement traditional on-board fisheries observers, and allow for independently verifiable information to be collected about compliance of the vessels. The initiative's success has since spurred on investment from the private sector to roll out EMS on a larger scale and to support EMS as a regular tool for compliance.

The project also produced several other tools to curb IUU fishing, including the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV). This real-time, global database of vessels authorized to fish by all tuna RFMOs has equipped them and the public in general with vital data to assist authorities to research, identify and verify fishing boats operating in their waters.

Working in partnership with the FFA, the project has supported improvements to ways of combining information from multiple sources on vessels to identify possible instances of IUU activities and produce actionable intelligence, helping countries to efficiently utilize their enforcement resources. This has become a model that has been reproduced in various other regions.

A legal template to aid developing countries to incorporate the provisions of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) into their national legislation was published in 2016. Becoming party of the PSMA is widely considered the blueprint to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, as it imposes sanctions, including denying vessels suspected of IUU fishing from entering ports and landing their catch. The template has become the preferred tool for countries around the world seeking to implement port State measures.

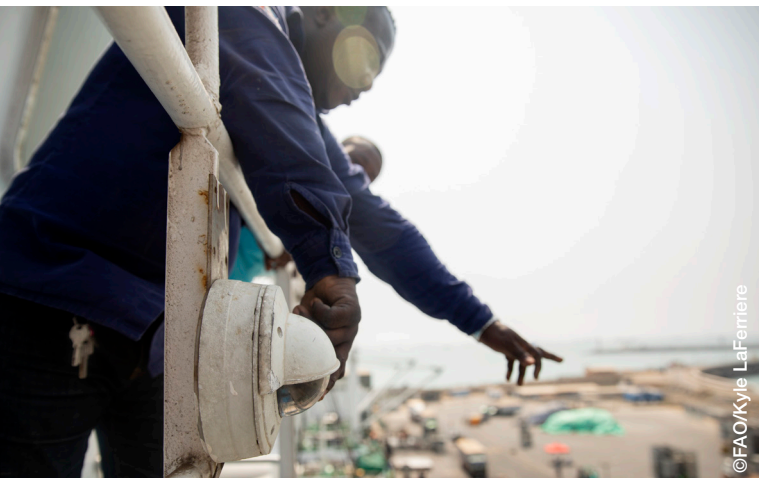


Pakistani fishermen now have the capacity to safely release untargeted species, such as sea turtles, back into the sea.

The project has also produced unique work on the design options of catch documentation schemes, and mechanisms to ensure that the origin of tuna fishery products in the markets can be traced at any point in the supply chain.

Reducing negative impacts of tuna fishing

Every year, thousands of marine species such as sharks, sea turtles, seabirds and other marine mammals are incidentally caught and discarded as unwanted bycatch. To reduce the negative impacts of tuna fishing on these animals – some of which are threatened with extinction – a number of initiatives were undertaken during the project lifecycle.



Electronic monitoring systems using high-definition cameras that record fishing operations, have been tested on tuna fishing vessels in Fiji and Ghana.

By collaborating with WWF Pakistan – a partner in the project – information was collected on the number of dolphins and sea turtles killed in Pakistani fisheries as a result of gillnet fishing. Gillnetting is an established tuna fishing method, but the highly unselective nets are killing thousands of marine mammals, seabirds and turtles every year.

The data was collected by fishermen and yielded estimates of both targeted and untargeted catches. Working directly with the crew also provided an opportunity to enforce guidelines and hands-on training in the handling of untargeted species.

Through training, crew members now know how to safely release threatened species back into the sea, and how to

keep records of catch quantities, sizes and fates of the animals caught as bycatch.

The training program has been a success – from involving crew on just four vessels at the start of the project to 75 vessels at project closure. It also offered an opportunity to test out simple, low-cost methods for less harmful gillnet fishing techniques – such as placing the nets two metres deeper.

With support from the project, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) organized two workshops, gathering over 30 participants from 16 countries, representing 34 fishing fleets, to estimate the mortality of four threatened sea turtle species, and explore



The use of more ocean-friendly materials in the construction of fish aggregation devices, was explored as a way to reduce the negative environmental impacts.

ways to reduce turtles from being harmed or killed by fishing activities.

The workshops resulted in revised management measures to reduce the threat to marine turtles, expanding the mandatory use of circle hooks and other mitigation measures, which were endorsed by the WCPFC in 2018. This is expected to curtail sea turtle interactions in tuna fishing by an average of 12 percent in longline fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

The project also succeeded in carrying out new assessments of the status of four Pacific-wide shark populations, involving new partners and data-sharing arrangements, resulting in proposals for management actions on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

Bycatch from tuna fishing also threatens seabird populations. Project partner BirdLife International organized thirteen workshops and trainings at sea and at ports with over 270 participants to lower seabird mortality from tuna fishing operations.

Promoting ocean-friendly materials

The project has also promoted the uptake of more ocean-friendly fish aggregation devices (FADs), which are often used to maximize catch. Unfortunately, this method also increases the chance of catching non-target species and undersized tuna, as they aggregate around or get entangled in the structures.

In partnership with the private sector, through the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), over 90 “skippers workshops” – gathering 2 500 participants in

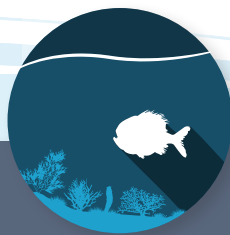


New assessments revealed the status of four Pacific-wide shark populations, such as the silky shark.

over 22 countries – were held to both inform and consult captains, fishing masters and crews about ways to reduce the bycatch while also exploring the use of biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs to reduce the environmental impacts.

Guidelines developed on non-entangling FADs have been successfully adopted by all tuna RFMOs. Biodegradable materials that reduce biodegradable materials that reduce the impacts of ghost fishing are currently being tested in tuna fisheries around the globe. Significantly, biodegradable FADs have been strongly supported by the skippers, which are actively encouraging the use of more ocean-friendly FADs.

2



Sustainable management of deep-sea living resources & biodiversity

Deep-sea areas are home to commercially valuable species and to unique underwater habitats. Fishing for deep-sea living resources occurs mostly at depths between 200 and 1 500 metres and although only around 300 vessels are involved in deep-sea fisheries globally, the economic value of these fisheries is high: USD 620 million annually.

Many deep-sea species are slow to reproduce and have are susceptible to overfishing. This has proven to be a major challenge to the sustainable management of fisheries for the deep-sea RFMOs.

The successful implementation of the **Common Oceans ABNJ Deep Seas Project** and its large number of partners – including the eight regional fisheries bodies responsible for the management of deep-sea fisheries, Regional Seas Programmes, fishing industry partners and international organizations – has generated progress towards the sustainable use of deep-sea fish stocks and protection of associated bycatch species and ecosystems in the ABNJ.

Protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems

International waters are home to deep-sea marine life whose species, community or habitat are especially susceptible to change or disturbance. These are known as vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). Many VMEs require protection from the adverse impacts that can result from fishing activities.

The project has educated, mobilized and empowered RFMOs to protect VMEs and to conserve marine biodiversity from adverse fishing impacts. It has supported the development of new protocols to enable all eight deep-sea RFMOs to conduct bottom fishing impact assessments on the marine biodiversity and ecosystems. These protocols restrict vessels from fishing in these areas until the results of impact assessments are known.

The project has contributed to the establishment of 18 new VME sites through knowledge sharing workshops, capacity building and strengthened cooperation between partners. Vulnerable species, such as corals and sponges, now benefit from greater protection from the negative impacts of fishing.

Identifying and monitoring VMEs

A series of workshops were held to bolster capacity building for RFMOs to assess and track VMEs and bottom fishing activities:

- 2 for the North Pacific Ocean;
- 1 for the Indian Ocean;
- 1 for the Western and Central Atlantic Ocean;
- 1 for the Mediterranean Sea;
- 1 for the Eastern and Central Atlantic Ocean.

A VME portal was created and maintained in collaboration with RFMOs, serving as a hub to document measures taken to manage bottom fisheries and to establish VMEs. The Portal is open access to enhance transparency.

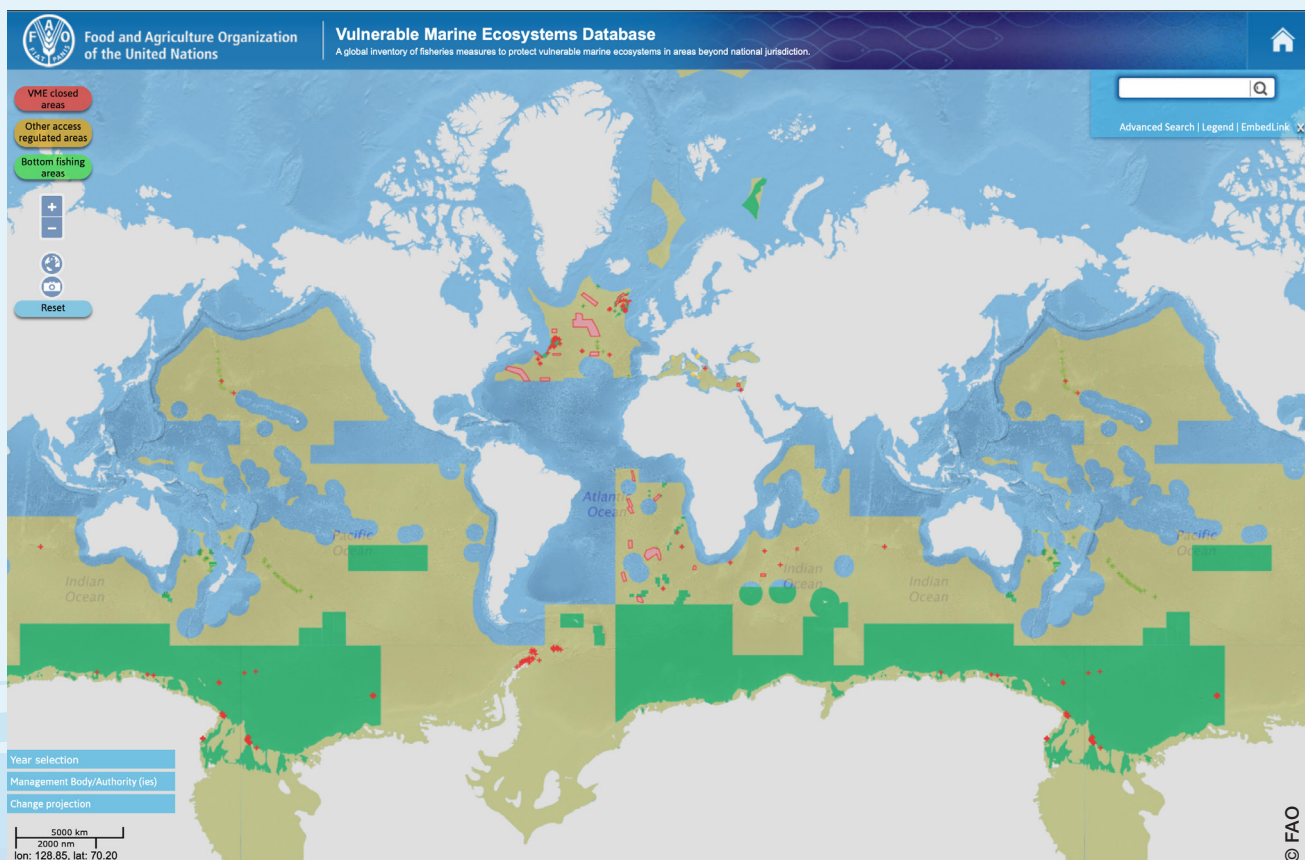
Championing the ecosystem approach

Under the project, a baseline review was carried out on the implementation of EAF management principles in the deep-sea RFMOs, considering ecological, institutional and socio-economic components. It showed that all eight RFMOs now have legal and administrative structures in place that are 'mostly' or 'fully compliant' with the ecological component of the EAF, which is considered a key mitigating measure to address an overfished stock.

Fostering North-South cooperation and knowledge sharing between RFMOs

The project has boosted cooperation and knowledge sharing between deep-sea RFMOs in the north and south. Well established RFMOs, such as the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the North-east Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), have provided guidance, even sending their staff to assist the more recent RFMOs with technical or administrative matters.

This is a key project achievement, laying down a strong and lasting foundation for communication and cooperation between all deep-sea RFMOs to improve deep-sea fisheries globally.



Source: FAO. 2021. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Database - A global inventory of fisheries measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In: FAO Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems [online]. Rome. [Cited March 2021]. <http://www.fao.org/in-action/vulnerable-marine-ecosystems/vme-database/en/vme.html>

The map shows the huge advances in regulation and VME closure sites – in 2015 compared to 2019 – in the Southern Indian Ocean thanks to the project.

In the north of the Pacific Ocean, two VME sites have been established by the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFCC).

In the Mediterranean, three new VME closure sites have been designated by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). Under the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), seven VMEs sites were declared.

In the Southern Pacific Ocean, one more area has been closed to fishing to protect VMEs by the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

In the Southern Indian Ocean, five new VMEs sites are listed by the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

New value known for deep-sea ecosystems

Thanks to the project, more is now known about the economic value of deep-sea ecosystems in the ABNJ. Bottom fisheries in the ABNJ represent a small amount of global wild fish catch – just 0.2 percent but have a high economic value – USD 620 million in 2014. The total economic value of services and goods within the ABNJ deep seas are in the USD 30–70 billion range. The value data from a project study has been presented in various international fora to underpin the ecological and socio-economic business case for sustainable deep-sea fisheries.

Scientific reviews of key deep-sea species

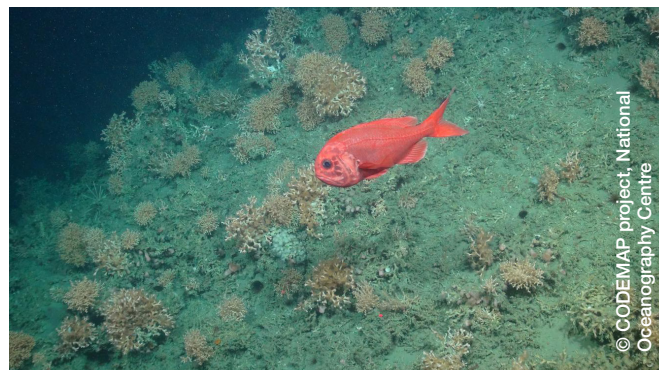
Within the project, two key bottom fisheries – orange roughy and alfonsino – have been the focus of research and capacity building. Orange roughy is an important fishery for New Zealand, Chile, and Japan among others. Its management is particularly important because it is a

slow-growing and low-productivity species that can only support low levels of fishing pressure.

The project organized two workshops to foster knowledge and data sharing on orange roughy and alfonsino. As a result, two scientific reviews were produced to determine

Rights-based management

A fisheries management regime in which access to the fishery is controlled by use rights that may include not only the right to fish, but also rights on input controls (fishing effort, gear or size of boat) and output controls (total allowable catch).



Two reviews to assess the state and management of key deep-sea species, including orange roughy, were completed.

the state, assessment and management of these fisheries worldwide.

Catch documentation schemes and rights-based management

Tackling IUU fishing remains a priority for deep-sea fisheries. One way to do so is through the use of catch documentation schemes for deep-sea fisheries. Further investments into these schemes are required, but an initial study found that the cost of implementing one is high relative to the value of fisheries in individual RFMOs.

Promoting rights-based management can create a “win-win situation” from both the sustainability and the economic perspective in deep-sea fisheries. Rights-based management systems establish secure property rights for a specific share of a fishing resource. This creates an incentive for the long-term sustainability of the stock, as the amount of fish that can be caught – and, hence, the value of the rights – increases when the fishery is healthy.

3



Strengthening global capacity to effectively manage ABNJ

Prior to the Common Oceans ABNJ Program, there were no multi-stakeholder initiatives connecting global, regional or national organizations involved in policy and management of the ABNJ related to fisheries and biodiversity conservation. There was a need for stronger global and regional coordination, stakeholder engagement as well as greater information exchange, capacity development and awareness on key ABNJ issues.

The **Common Oceans ABNJ Capacity Project**, developed in collaboration with the Global Ocean Forum and partners, has played a key role in filling that gap by building and improving cross-sectoral dialogue, engaging high-level decision-makers, and fostering public outreach.

Strengthening the capacities of regional leaders

The “ABNJ Regional Leaders Program” was set up to promote knowledge sharing and leadership development regarding ABNJ issues among regional and national stakeholders.

Organized by the University of Delaware and the Global Ocean Forum, the program surpassed expectations four-fold, with participation of 44 regional leaders from 34

countries. Training focused on the ABNJ and related policy frameworks to gain background information and knowledge on ABNJ policy issues across all sectors, especially on fisheries and biodiversity conservation, giving them a more active say and participation in global and regional fora.

The regional leaders participated in Preparatory Sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ABNJ (BBNJ process).



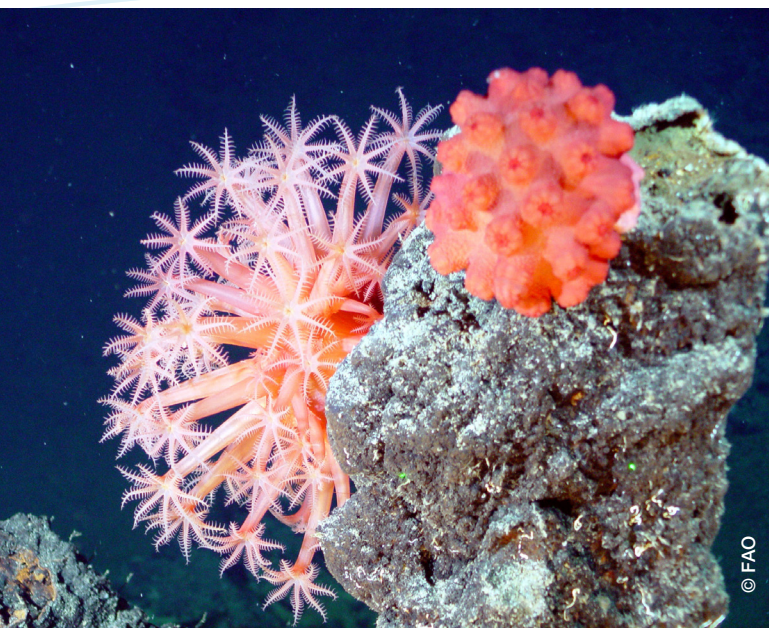
44 regional leaders participated in the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program.



Cross-sectoral dialogues

The project also exceeded expectations on the number of high-level dialogues on ABNJ at the BBNJ process: eight dialogues and side events at the UN Preparatory Meetings and Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ, as well as other sessions and events to raise the awareness of decision-makers and encourage their involvement in current and future policy discussions.

Additionally, a survey and two cross-sectoral workshops provided a comprehensive assessment on needs, gaps and understanding of capacity development in ABNJ from a global, regional and national perspective.



The ABNJ are home to a rich and complex variety of marine life, species and habitats, all crucial to healthy biodiversity.

Building capacity through communities of practice

The project brought together two Communities of Practice, one on fisheries, biodiversity, and climate change, and another on multisector-based planning. Both helped curate and develop two key policy papers on capacity development for BBNJ, which addressed the challenges of capacity building in ABNJ and contributed directly to the discussions on capacity building in the BBNJ process:

A Policy Brief on “Capacity Building as a Key Aspect of a New International Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction”.

A Policy Brief on “Capacity Development for Implementing the BBNJ Agreement: Possible Modalities for Addressing Area-Based Management, Environmental Impact Assessment and Marine Genetic Resource: in the Context of Climate Change.”

Raising awareness on ocean issues

For public information and outreach purposes, a three-day global media forum on “Common Oceans – Why Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Are Essential for People and Planet” was organized during the High Seas International Conference in 2018 at the Nausicaá national sea center in France – the world’s first large-scale high seas aquarium.

Altogether, 583 people from 90 countries – including 27 developed and 63 developing countries – from organizations at the national, regional and global levels engaged in a series of activities.



A global forum was organized at the Nausicaá national sea center in France that has the world's first large-scale high seas aquarium.

4



Oceans partnerships for sustainable fisheries & biodiversity conservation

Tunas, billfish and other tuna-like species migrate through the waters of coastal states and the ABNJ. They support small-scale fisheries and livelihoods in developing countries and industrial fisheries. They represent a billion dollar business.

However, the short-term economic impact of management measures to improve both economic and ecological sustainability often makes it difficult to reach agreement across nations, leading to economic, social and environmental inefficiencies within their fisheries.

The **Common Oceans ABNJ Ocean Partnerships Project**, which engaged partners including the Bay of Bengal Programme, Conservation International (CI), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), the WWF and the FFA has facilitated the development of business cases for both small-scale and industrial fisheries, to catalyze investment in sustainable management of ABNJ stocks.

Business cases

Grenada longline fishery

The business case envisaged creating incentives for commercial small-scale fishers to adopt catch, tag and release systems for iconic species in exchange for financial compensation from the recreational sector.

For Grenada and WECAFC, these are expected to catalyze public-private investment and improved fisheries management in an area covering 26 000 km² and 15 000 000 km² respectively, while enhancing an estimated 10 000 livelihoods.

Galapagos handline fishery

The business plan in support of the yellowfin tuna small-scale fishery in the Galapagos Marine Reserve, Ecuador, sought to improve the biological, social and economic performance of the Galapagos tuna fisheries.

The implementation of the business plan is forecast to lead to tangible improvements in fisheries management within the Galapagos Marine Reserve which spans an area of 133 000 km², while creating an additional USD 860 000 per year for fishery stakeholders.

Eastern Pacific purse seine sector

Efforts to reduce capacity in the Eastern Pacific tuna purse seine sector led to the development of business cases outlining different management scenarios prioritized by stakeholders with the collaboration of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

The business cases put forward are projected to result in industry profits of USD 45 million annually and to positively impact 75 000 people directly or indirectly.

Bay of Bengal small-scale fishers

Business case on financial incentives for small-scale fishers produced by enabling the supply of high-quality fish products from well-managed fisheries to high-value regional and international markets.

The implementation of this case happened across two sites – Vizag and Nagapattinam – and has been estimated to directly benefit 1 200 fishermen and roughly 12 000 people throughout the value chain. This has a direct and positive impact on around 66 000 dependent people.

The Bay of Bengal Programme has activated an agreement with the National Fisheries Development Board and the Government of India to implement and replicate the business case to continue improving the tuna fisheries value chain.

Through the process of developing these business cases, implementing partners also contributed to broader governance reform. The Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan has been finalized and technical support was provided for the development of tuna fleet capacity management in the Atlantic Ocean.

In the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, improvements are expected in the management of fish aggregation devices by the parties to the Nauru Agreement, in cooperative utilization of EEZ tuna fishery allocations by the South Pacific Group, and by making climate change adaptations to ensure sustainable tuna fishery management due to information provided by the project on possible effects of various climate change scenarios on the distribution of the resource.

Common Oceans - a partnership for sustainability in the ABNJ

Tuna Project partners

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Governments of Fiji, Ghana and Seychelles, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), BirdLife International, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), International Seafood Sustainability Association (ISSA), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), Pacific Community (SPC), Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA), Fiji Tuna Boat Owners Association (FTBOA), Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (OPAGAC) European Commission Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)

Deep Sea Project partners

UN Environment, UN Environment -World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Duke University, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), GRID Arendal, International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nairobi Convention, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), Sealord Group, Seascapes Ltd / GOBI Secretariat, South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), Southern Indian Ocean Deep-sea Fishers Association (SIODFA), Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

Capacity Project partners

Global Ocean Forum (co-executing agency), French Marine Protected Areas Agency, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIOST), Institute for International Relations and Sustainable Development (IDDRI), International Ocean Institute, Nausicaä Centre National de la Mer (France), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), World Ocean Network, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, UNESCO Natural Sciences, Vietnam National University, SeaOrbiter, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), International Maritime Organization (IMO), UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, University of Delaware, World Ocean Network

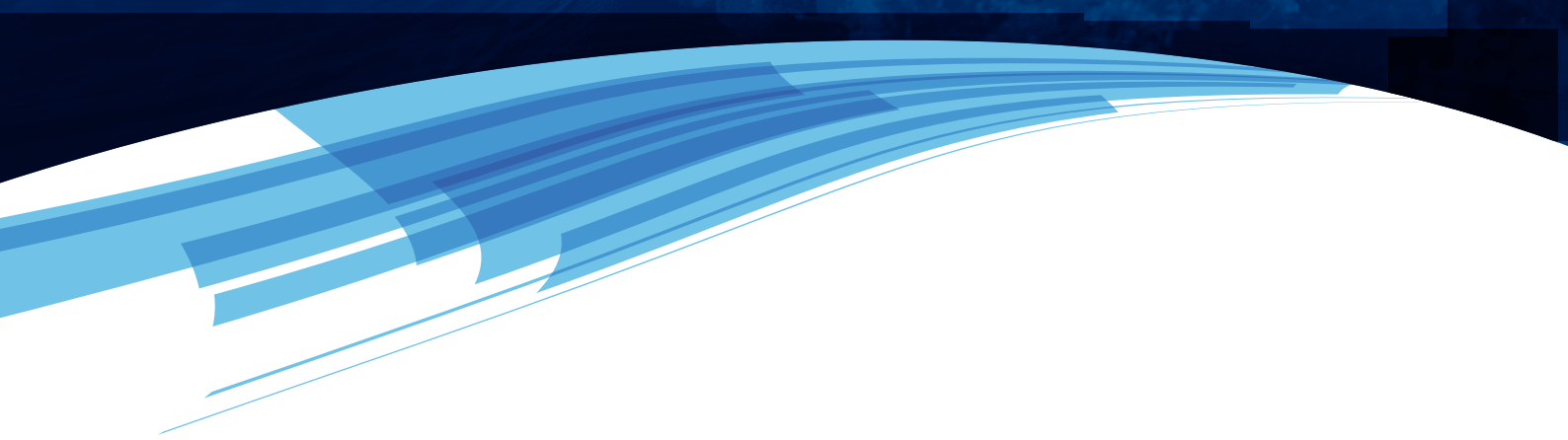
Ocean Partnerships Project

Conservation International (CI), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC)

**The Common Oceans ABNJ Program contributed to achieve the following
UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**



For more information:
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