



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



Record of the meeting with deep-sea fishing industry representatives

6 October 2015 • Vigo, Spain

ABNJ Deep Seas Project

**Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources
and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction**



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Please reference this publication as:

ABNJ Deep Seas Project (2016) Record of the meeting with deep sea fishing industry representatives, 6 October 2015, Vigo, Spain. ABNJ_DSP-2015-Doc-01 (Industry meeting). Rome, FAO.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project is a five year project being jointly executed by FAO and UNEP. The project has 18 partner organizations comprising ten deep-sea fisheries organizations, including the fisheries industry. The deep seas fishing industry is providing significant co-financing to the Project and is a collaborating partner for many activities.

The annual International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) meeting was held in Vigo, Spain on 6 October 2015. Given the congregation of industry members, the Coordinator of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project travelled to Vigo to lead a two hour planning meeting for a future, Project supported, Global Deep Sea Fishing Industry Symposium; and obtain a first-hand introduction to industry's perspective on challenges being faced by industry and implementing the DSF guidelines in particular.

The Coordinator briefed participants on the progress of the Project, then facilitated a discussion on the nature and extent of a deep sea fishing industry symposium for late 2016/17 (guided by a draft symposium agenda). While there was general support for the symposium, the participants seized on the opportunity to air a range of pressing issues. A major outcome of this meeting was that participants asked the Project/FAO to facilitate a meeting of deep seas fishers, where they would be able to hold free and frank discussions on a range of important topics; but in particular, to produce a statement from industry to be submitted to the UNGA review of bottom fishing that will take place in the second half of 2016.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	MPA	Marine Protected Area
ABP	Area-Based Planning	NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction	NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
CCAMLR	Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic	OPP	Ocean Partnerships Project
COFI	Committee on Fisheries	PIR	Project Implementation Review
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	PMU	Project Management Unit
CPPS	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (Permanent Commission for the South Pacific)	PPR	Project Progress Report
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization (Australia)	PSC	Project Steering Committee
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area	RFMO/A	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or Arrangements
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	RSN	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	RSP	Regional Seas Programme
GOBI	Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GOF	Global Ocean Forum	SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
ICFA	International Coalition of Fisheries Associations	SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
IGO	Inter Governmental Organization	SIODFA	Southern Indian Ocean Deep-sea Fishers Association
IMO	International Maritime Organization	SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
ISA	International Seabed Authority	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	UNEP-WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
IUCN-FEG	IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Fisheries Expert Group	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated	UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stock Agreement
LTO	Lead Technical Officer	VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	WOC	World Ocean Council
MDG	Millennium Development Goals	WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation		

Background

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project is a five year project being jointly executed by FAO and UNEP. The project has 18 partner organizations comprising 10 deep-sea fisheries organizations, including the fisheries industry. The deep seas fishing industry is providing significant co-financing to the Project and is a collaborating partner for many activities.

The annual International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) meeting was held in Vigo, Spain on 6 October 2015. Given the congregation of industry members, the Coordinator of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project travelled to Vigo to lead a two hour planning meeting for a future, Project supported, Global Deep Sea Fishing Industry Symposium; and obtain a first-hand introduction to industry's perspective on challenges being faced by industry and implementing the DSF guidelines in particular.

The meeting was chaired by the ABNJ Deep Seas Project Coordinator, Chris O'Brien. And the list of participants is given below.

Presentation by the Coordinator

The Coordinator briefed participants on the progress of the Project, then facilitated a discussion on the nature and extent of a deep sea fishing industry symposium for late 2016/17 (guided by a draft symposium agenda). While there was general support for the symposium, the participants seized on the opportunity to air a range of pressing issues.

Discussion and outcomes

Overall, the participants discussed a wide range of matters:

- the possibility of developing a submission to the UNGA deep seas fisheries review;
- the need to better communicate the positive aspects of deep seas fisheries;
- clarifications of Industry responsibilities in fisheries management;
- Industry rights, privileges and entitlements;
- how to engage with the other sectors operating in the deep seas areas;
- science based management and how industry can better contribute information and data;
- better science based descriptions of what is in the deep seas; the nature and extent of deep sea biogenic habitats and fishing; when is an impact an adverse impact;
- preservation versus conservation of the marine environment;
- understanding Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 and its indicators.

A major outcome of this meeting was that participants asked the Project/FAO to facilitate a meeting of deep seas fishers, where they would be able to hold free and frank discussions on a range of important topics; but in particular, to produce a statement from industry to be submitted to the UNGA review of bottom fishing that will take place in the second half of 2016.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project Coordinator agreed that he would investigate the possibilities for convening this meeting in FAO Rome in February 2016 under the following modality:

- participation in the meeting would be by invitation only, and the deep seas fisheries industry would issue the invitations;
- participants would pay their own travel and associated costs;

- the Project would pay for meeting costs;
- the Project may support the costs for a facilitator, perhaps some technical experts;
- participants would be invited from the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations, the High Seas Fishing Group, the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (Australia, Japan New Zealand, South Africa), EuroPesche, industry reps from high seas fishing countries such as Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, Peru, Korea, Republic of, Taiwan Province of China, and the United States of America.

The meeting would result in the production of a submission, written by and for industry, to the UNGA review of bottom fisheries that identifies important issues that industry need to be put before the review.

Participants

Mr Kristjan Loftsson	Icelandic Fisheries Association	kl@hvlur.is
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Mr Chris O'Brien	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	chris.obrien@fao.org

The Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea Living Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Project (ABNJ Deep Seas Project for short) is a five year project supported by the Global Environment Facility, and implemented jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Environment Programme. The UNEP project component is executed through the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre.

The Project is designed to enhance sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach. It brings together over 20 partners who work on deep-sea fisheries and conservation issues in the ABNJ globally. The partnership includes regional organizations responsible for the management of deep-sea fisheries, Regional Seas Programmes, the fishing industry and international organizations. The Project aims to:

- strengthen policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas;
- reduce adverse impacts on VMEs and enhanced conservation and management of components of EBSAs;
- improve planning and adaptive management for deep sea fisheries in ABNJ; and
- develop and test methods for area-based planning.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project started in September 2015 and is one of four projects under the GEF Common Oceans Programme. More information is available from www.commonoceans.org

