



Concept note

ABNJ DEEP SEA MEETING 2019
7–9 May 2019 | FAO | Rome, Italy



Background

The marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) make up 62 percent of the ocean's surface and provide a range of services, including fisheries, biodiversity, biotechnology, minerals, and transport routes for shipping, among others.

Because these areas are located beyond the national waters of coastal countries, the sustainable management of fisheries and biodiversity conservation is challenging. To address such challenges, the FAO, together with partners, developed the **ABNJ Deep Seas project**, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

This project is jointly implemented by the FAO and UN Environment, in partnership with regional fisheries bodies, other multi-sectoral organizations, the fishing industry, and governments.

The overall objective is to achieve efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and improve biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach.

The FAO is also partner to the **SponGES project**, which is a research and innovation project funded under the H2020 Blue Growth call aimed at *“Improving the preservation and sustainable exploitation of Atlantic marine ecosystems”*.

Its goal is to develop an integrated ecosystem-based approach to preserve and sustainably use deep-sea sponge ecosystems of the North Atlantic.

The Meeting

The DEEP SEA Meeting 2019 aims to build on the two projects to showcase existing knowledge, practices, and innovative research for sustainable deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.

In doing so, invited speakers will present on key topics and address emerging issues for ABNJ governance and policy, and deep-sea research, monitoring, and management of relevance to ongoing global discussions.

The overall objective of the Conference will be to provide a platform for informative presentations and interactive discussions from stakeholders representing multiple sectors within the ABNJ, to synthesize the opportunities and challenges faced by these sectors and to support sustainable deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.

The three-day meeting will be organized by FAO in collaboration with UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the SponGES project consortium.

Participation

Participation from partner organizations in the ABNJ Deep Seas Project and the SponGES project are anticipated, while safeguarding diversity and complementarity from relevant stakeholders, and a link for registering for the conference will be sent to invited participants.

Participation from other organizations is welcome and subject to space limitations. Presentations will be given by invited speakers.

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More information:

Common Oceans
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H2020 SponGES
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