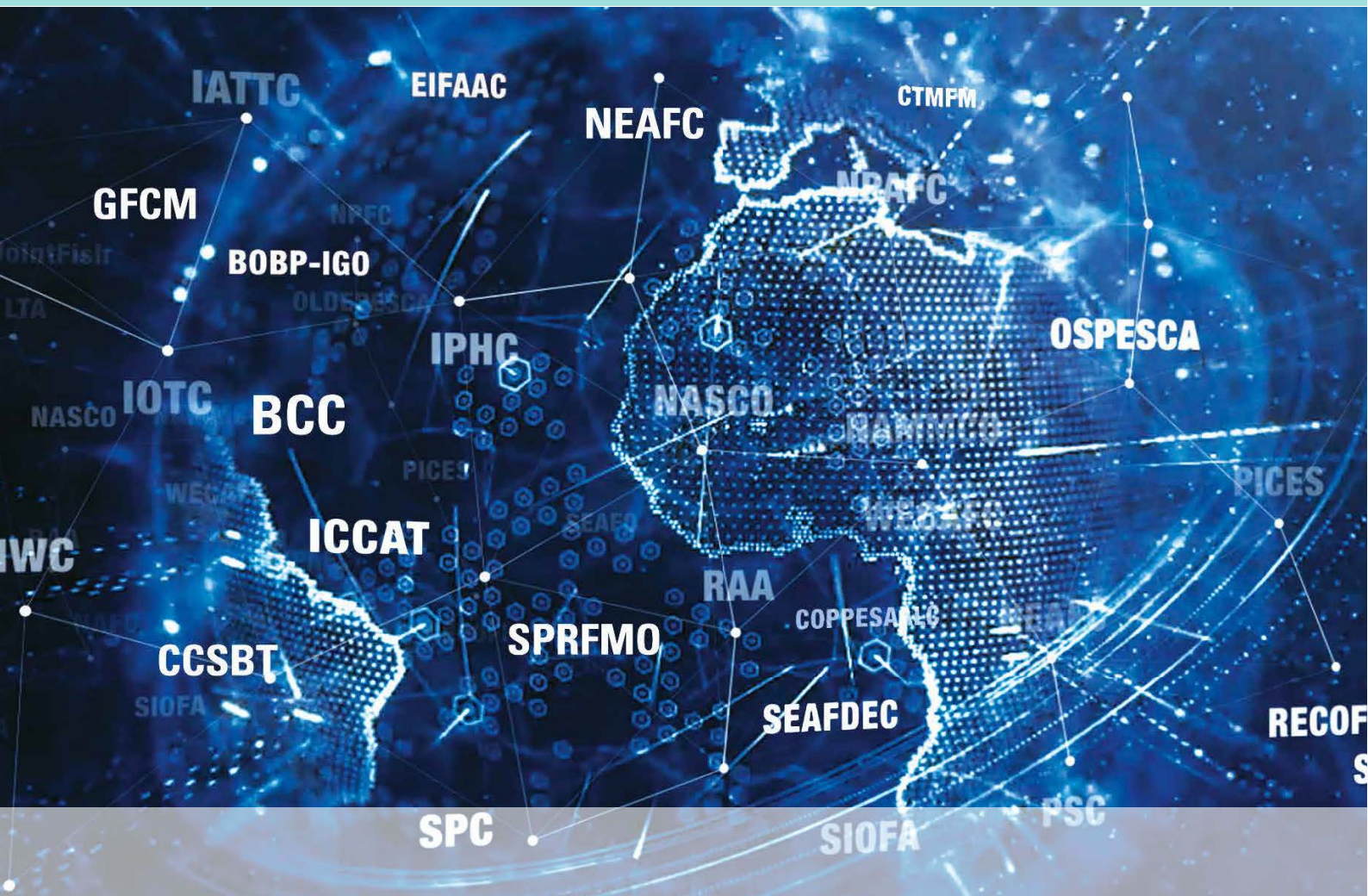




Regional fisheries management organizations and advisory bodies

Activities and developments, 2000–2017



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graphic elaboration of a still taken from the "Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) – OUR COMMON BLUE HEART" video
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Regional fisheries management organizations and advisory bodies

Activities and developments, 2000–2017

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TECHNICAL
PAPER

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Preparation of this document

This technical paper was prepared through funding from the Government of Japan in support of ongoing activities in the Fishery Policy, Economics and Institutions Branch at FAO. The technical paper aims to provide information on the activities and developments of regional fisheries management organizations and regional fisheries advisory bodies during the period from 2000 to 2017. The paper is intended to communicate to a wide audience the role and work of RFMOs and RFABs in the context of regional and global ocean governance in general and fisheries sustainability in particular.

Abstract

The regional dimension is key to international fisheries management policy, as demonstrated by the rapid expansion of the family of regional fisheries bodies (RFBs). There are some 50 RFBs worldwide. Most provide only advice to their members, and are hence referred to in this work as regional fisheries advisory bodies (RFABs). Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) have mandates to adopt legally binding conservation and management measures based on the best scientific evidence. Global instruments and normative processes have to be implemented and translated into actions at the country and regional levels, as appropriate. In this regard, regionalization of fisheries and aquaculture governance can provide opportunities not only to address common concerns, create synergies and mainstream the global objectives of relevant UN bodies, but also to broaden outreach on the global fisheries agenda to regional partners that may not be directly concerned with fisheries, as well as to the general public. The present study provides an overview of the activities and developments of RFMOs and RFABs from 2000 to 2017. It is based on a compilation of data and information for 46 RFMOs and RFABs.

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Responsibility for the final text lies with the authors.

Abbreviations and acronyms

ABNJ	area beyond national jurisdiction
ACAP	Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDS	catch documentation scheme
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
CWP	Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIRMS	Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IGO	intergovernmental organization
ISA	International Seabed Authority
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	marine protected area
NGO	non-governmental organization
PSMA FAO	Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (“Port State Measures Agreement”)
RFAB	regional fisheries advisory body
RFB	regional fishery body
RFMO	regional fisheries management organization
RSN	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats’ Network
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
VMS	vessel monitoring system
VME	vulnerable marine ecosystem

Regional fisheries management organizations

CACFish	Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CTMFM	Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
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NPAFC	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
PSC	Pacific Salmon Commission
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
SIOFA	South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Regional fisheries advisory bodies

APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
ATLAFCO	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme-Intergovernmental Organization
CECAF	Fishery Commission for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CIFAA	Committee on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
COPPESAALC	Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean
COREP	Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
EIFAAC	European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission
FCWC	Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
GLFC	Great Lakes Fishery Commission
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
OLDEPESCA	Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries
OSPESCA	Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre
SRFC	Subregional Fisheries Commission
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

Introduction

The international community has increasingly recognized that strengthening governance of shared fisheries is best achieved by enhancing the role of regional fishery bodies (RFBs). There are some 50 RFBs worldwide. Most provide only advice to their members, and are hence referred to in this work as regional fisheries advisory bodies (RFABs). Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) have mandates to adopt legally binding conservation and management measures based on the best scientific evidence.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the importance of regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development. The regional level is the most appropriate level for establishing a collaborative framework to preserve and protect whole ecosystems efficiently while also providing opportunities for participating States to benefit sustainably from the services they render.

Global instruments and normative processes have to be implemented and translated into actions at the country and regional levels, as appropriate. In this regard, regionalization of fisheries and aquaculture governance can provide opportunities not only to address common concerns, create synergies and mainstream the global objectives of relevant United Nations (UN) bodies, but also to broaden outreach on the global fisheries agenda to regional partners that may not be directly concerned with fisheries, as well as to the general public.

The regional dimension is key to international fisheries management policy, as demonstrated by the rapid expansion of the family of RFBs. RFMOs and RFABs continue to evolve in response to calls for sustainability, improved management and governance, and as a result of lessons learned and stronger commitment by their members.

For many years, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has promoted and supported RFMOs and RFABs. It has participated directly in the establishment of many of them, formalizing existing opportunities for sharing experiences within a given region, or implementing the processes needed for sustainable management of shared resources. These RFBs have benefited from FAO's advice on technical matters as well as its secretariat, legal, financial and process support.

FAO is actively committed to bolstering regional cooperation through the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN), which provides a forum for promoting consultation and regional dialogue, addressing priority issues of common concern and fostering ongoing cooperation and exchange of information.¹

The present study provides an overview of the activities and developments of RFMOs and RFABs from 2000 to 2017. It is based on a compilation of data and information for 46 RFMOs and RFABs.

This overview is intended to communicate to a wide audience the role and work of RFMOs and RFABs in the context of regional and global ocean governance in general and fisheries sustainability in particular. This is particularly relevant today, as countries face the challenges posed by the Sustainable Development Goals and engage in discussions on the governance of areas beyond national jurisdictions, for example in relation to biological diversity, prohibition of harmful fisheries subsidies contributing to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, overfishing and overcapacity, and establishment of cross-sectoral cooperation between RFMOs/RFABs and regional seas conventions and programmes.

¹ www.fao.org/fishery/rsn

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Two global intergovernmental fora provide guidance on fisheries and fisheries-related issues which underpins the work of RFMOs and RFABs:

- Since 2003, the United Nations General Assembly has annually adopted a specific resolution on fisheries, the so-called Sustainable Fisheries Resolution, addressing numerous issues, including the implementation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA); IUU fishing; monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) and enforcement; fishing overcapacity; large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing; fisheries bycatch and discards; subregional and regional cooperation; responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem; and capacity building.
- The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) examines major international fisheries challenges and issues and negotiates global binding agreements and voluntary instruments concerning fisheries (see Box 1). A key treaty is the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (“Port State Measures Agreement”, PSMA), which entered into force in June 2016.

The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, adopted by COFI in 1995, provides a framework for national and international efforts to ensure sustainable exploration of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment. Its overall objective is to promote sustainable development, protection of the aquatic environment and the maintenance of biodiversity while contributing to the safety of fishing operations. It is a voluntary instrument containing principles (set out in Article 6) and standards applicable to the conservation, management and development of all fisheries. Articles of particular relevance to RFMOs and RFABs include Article 7, which comprises provisions on management objectives, management framework and procedures, data gathering and management, application of the precautionary approach and the establishment and implementation of management measures; and Article 8, which deals with fishing operations and contains provisions on the duties of flag States and port States.

The importance of collecting and sharing complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities in a timely manner is recognized in international instruments such as UNFSA (Article 5 and Annex I) and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Article 7.4).

BOX 1

Examples of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) voluntary instruments providing guidance to the regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and the regional fisheries advisory bodies (RFABs)

- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)
- International Plan of Action for the Management of Capacity (1999)
- International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (1999)
- International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2001)
- International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards (2011)
- International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (2008)
- Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (2014)
- Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (2014)
- Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (2017)

METHODOLOGY

This review is based on information gathered through a survey questionnaire distributed to RFMOs and RFABs, as well as information from their websites and relevant publications, including FAO reports and RFB performance reviews. The questionnaire focused only on factual information, enabling secretariats to respond without consulting members of a particular RFB.

Information was sought on conservation and management activities and approach, organizational governance, international cooperation and performance reviews.

The key pillars of conservation and management are scientific assessment; establishment of conservation and management measures; and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), which is key for ensuring compliance with these measures. Accordingly, the review of conservation and management activities covers:

- the number of fish stocks assessed;
- the number of fisheries managed (for RFMOs) or number of fisheries for which advice is provided (for RFABs);
- fishing activities, as indicated by the number of vessels operating within the agreement area;
- whether a data collection system is in place, and if so whether data are shared;
- whether schemes for MCS are in place (for RFMOs) or supported (for RFABs), including mandatory vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and measures targeting IUU fishing such as IUU vessel listing, transshipment regulations and port State obligations.

The review also highlights whether the constituent instruments of the RFBs refer to application of the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach, which are regarded as important approaches for sustainable fisheries management. As the principles of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approach were developed globally in the early 1990s and did not appear in a treaty until UNFSA was adopted in 1995, agreements adopted before UNFSA do not contain direct references to these two concepts. However, most treaties that have been amended in the past 20 years have incorporated references to the precautionary approach and ecosystem approach into their respective statutory documents; and the review also considers language that could be interpreted as referring to the ecosystem approach where that term is not directly used.

Criteria assessed in relation to governance of the organizations included the governance structure, meeting activities, establishment of compliance mechanisms and transparency.

On several occasions the international community has called for collaboration, coordination and exchange among RFMOs, RFABs and regional seas conventions or programmes. The report therefore assesses whether each organization cooperates with other international bodies of this kind, and whether it has established any formal arrangement (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] or similar) for such collaboration.

To supplement the questionnaire and review of the constituent instruments, details have been checked on the RFB websites, which have also been used to gather information concerning performance reviews, membership, structure and activities. However, the level of detail in this report is uneven, owing in some cases to lack of response to the questionnaire or lack of precision in the replies, as well as the failure of many of the organizations to maintain comprehensive and updated information on their websites.

RFMOs are reviewed in Part I, and RFABs in Part II. Each part begins by summarizing the trends for all organizations as a group. The summary is followed by a review of each organization. Due to the diversity among the RFABs, it is rather difficult to summarize the trends concerning all the topics covered, but indications are given for some of them.

Part I

Regional fisheries management organizations

Overview

Regional fisheries management organizations are among the most important building blocks of fisheries management, as they have the authority to adopt international legally binding conservation and management measures concerning fishing operations and associated activities.

The 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), which entered into force in 2001, is the key global treaty relevant to RFMOs (see Box 2). It improved

BOX 2

The 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement: policy keystone for regional fisheries management organizations

The objective of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In particular, UNFSA focuses on the duty of States, pursuant to UNCLOS Article 117, “to take, or to cooperate with other States in taking, such measures for their respective nationals as may be necessary for the conservation of the living resources of the high seas”. UNFSA establishes the rights and obligations of States in relation to the conservation and management of these stocks and associated and dependent species, as well as the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment.

Article 5 of UNFSA sets out general principles for conserving and managing fish stocks and stipulates that States must adopt measures to ensure their long-term sustainability and to promote their optimum utilization; must ensure that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available; and must apply the precautionary approach. Article 6 of UNFSA further describes the application of the precautionary approach. Annex II provides guidance for the application of precautionary reference points.

UNFSA Article 5 also promotes the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity in the marine environment, in what could now be considered a reference to the ecosystem approach. It calls for minimizing pollution, waste, discards and catch by lost or abandoned gear, and requires assessment of the impact of fishing on target stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks. The precautionary approach and ecosystem approach to fishing activities have become common standards for the conservation and management of living marine resources.

Article 18 of UNFSA details flag State duties concerning fishing vessels. The agreement also contains provisions on enhanced compliance control mechanisms, including strengthened enforcement by flag States and port States.

Parties to UNFSA have met 13 times since 2001 in informal consultations focusing on implementation of the agreement at the national, subregional, regional and global levels and increasing the number of countries that have ratified and acceded to it. The United Nations Secretary-General convened review conferences in 2006, 2010 and 2016 to assess the agreement’s effectiveness in securing the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and, if necessary, to propose means of strengthening the substance and implementation of its provisions in order better to address any continuing problems in conservation and management of the stocks.

the legal regime for regional cooperation and identified RFMOs as the mechanism through which States can fulfil their obligations to conserve and manage fish stocks. UNFSA encourages States having an interest in the fisheries concerned to become members of RFMOs. The agreement stipulates that only those States that are members of the relevant organization, or that agree to apply the measures established by the organization, shall have access to the fisheries resources in question.

At both the United Nations General Assembly and COFI, there have been numerous calls to increase membership of RFMOs, to establish RFMOs in areas where such an organization is lacking, to update the mandates of existing RFMOs and to enhance cooperation among them, as well as to review their performance.

Most RFMOs have been established for conservation and management in marine waters covering high seas and national waters, while a few are bilateral arrangements. One RFMO covers inland waters. There are basically two types of RFMOs: generic RFMOs (i.e. responsible for conservation and management of living marine resources or fishery resources in general in their area of competence) and species-specific RFMOs (i.e. responsible for the conservation of a particular stock or species). Within the latter group, a notable subgroup is tuna RFMOs (i.e. responsible for conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species). Three of the generic RFMOs also include aquaculture in their mandates.

This review covers 22 RFMOs, of which 12 are generic, 5 are tuna RFMOs, 3 manage anadromous stocks, 1 manages halibut and 1 manages cetaceans (Table 1, Figures 1 and 2).

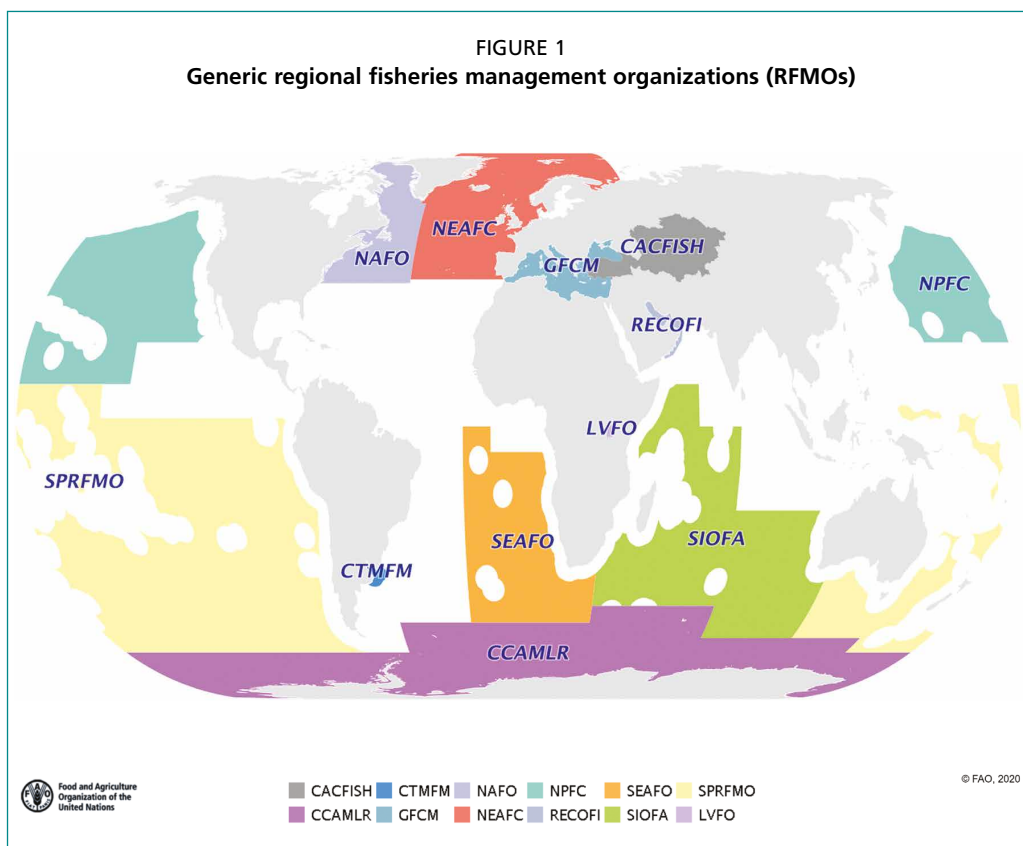
TABLE 1
RFMOs included in this report

Acronym	Organization name	RFMO type	Area of competence
CACFish	Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission	Generic (including aquaculture)	Inland waters
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources ^a	Generic	Areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), exclusive economic zone (EEZ) ^b
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	Tuna	ABNJ, EEZ
CTMFM	Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front	Generic	EEZ
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	Generic (including aquaculture)	ABNJ, EEZ, territorial waters
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	Tuna	ABNJ, EEZ, territorial waters
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	Tuna	ABNJ, EEZ
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	Tuna	ABNJ, EEZ, territorial waters
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission	Specific	EEZ, coastal waters
IWC	International Whaling Commission	Specific	ABNJ, EEZ, territorial waters
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization	Generic (including aquaculture)	Inland waters
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization	Generic	ABNJ, EEZ ^c
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization	Specific	ABNJ, EEZ
NEAFC	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission	Generic	ABNJ, EEZ ^c
NPAFC	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission	Specific	ABNJ
NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission	Generic	ABNJ
PSC	Pacific Salmon Commission	Specific	Coastal waters, inland waters
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries	Generic (including aquaculture)	EEZ
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization	Generic	ABNJ
SIOFA	South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	Generic	ABNJ
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization	Generic	ABNJ
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	Tuna	ABNJ, EEZ

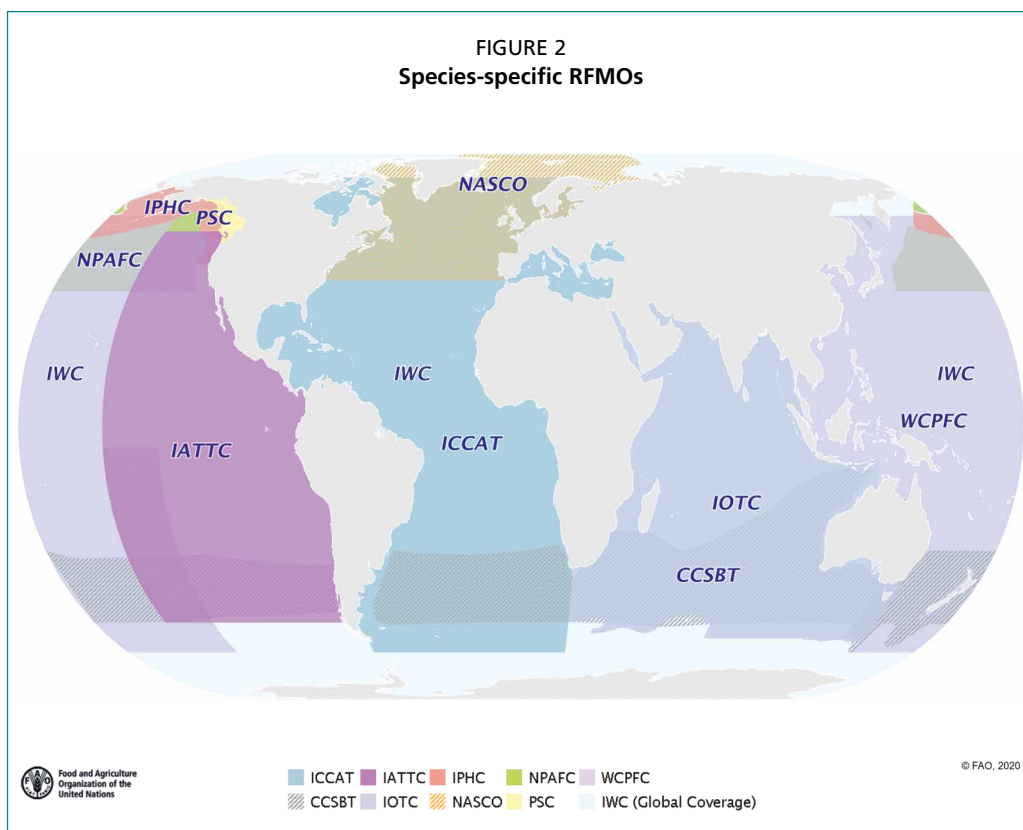
^a CCAMLR is a conservation organization with some attributes of an RFMO (CCAMLR-XXI, Paragraph 15.2).

^b Subject to the Chairman's Statement, 1982, available at: www.ccamlr.org/en/organisation/camlr-convention-text#Chair.

^c The NAFO and NEAFC convention areas cover ABNJ and EEZ; however, their regulatory areas cover only ABNJ. With the consent of relevant coastal States, these RFMOs also establish measures within those States' EEZ.



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Summary of trends

ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

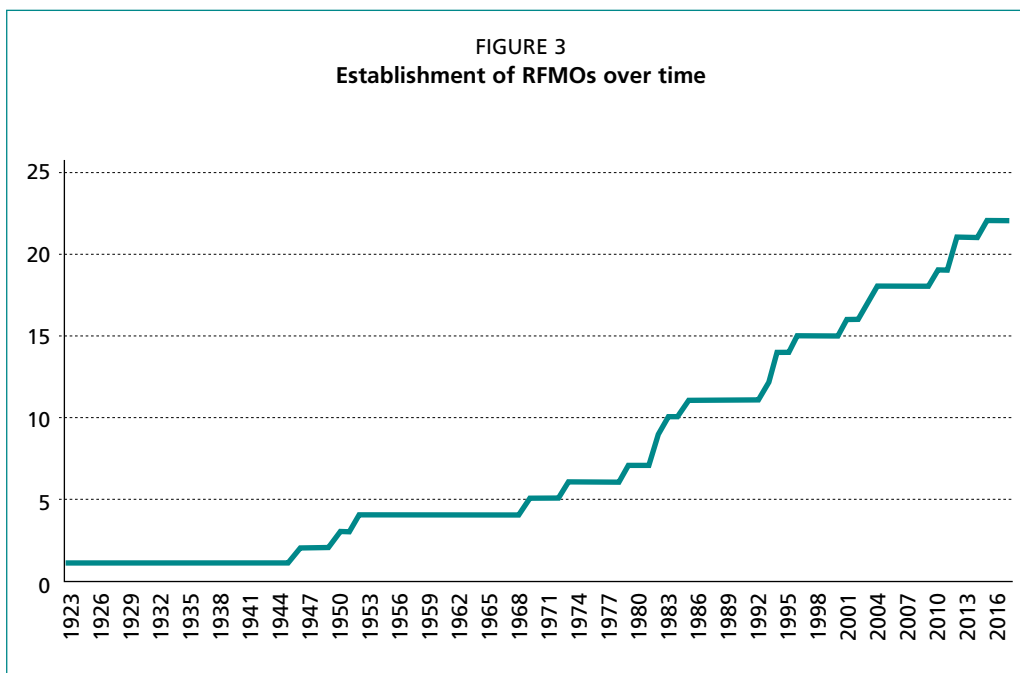
The number of RFMOs (conventions or agreements entering into force) has increased rather steadily over the past five decades (Figure 3). Seven (a third of all RFMOs) have been established since 2000, namely CACFish, NPFC, RECOFI, SEAFO, SIOFA, SPRFMO and WCPFC (with 5, 6, 8, 7, 10, 13 and 26 member States, respectively).

CTMFM, IPHC and PSC are bilateral organizations; nine others also have fewer than ten members; while the RFMOs with the most members are IWC (87), ICCAT (52), IOTC (31), WCPFC (26 member States plus seven territories) and CCAMLR (25) (Table 2).

In 2017, 152 States and regional economic integration organizations were members of one or more RFMOs (Box 3). Many States are members of more than one RFMO.

Between 2000 and 2017, 66 States that were not previously members of any RFMO joined one or more RFMOs (Box 3). Of these, 16 became members of IWC alone.

The membership has also changed in RFMOs established before 2000. During the period covered by the survey, two new members joined CCAMLR, three joined CCSBT, two joined GFCM (with one withdrawal), nine joined IATTC, 24 joined ICCAT, 14 joined IOTC (with two withdrawals), 42 joined IWC, one joined LVFO, NASCO had one withdrawal, one new member joined NEAFC (with two withdrawals) and one joined NPAFC.



Source: RFMO websites

BOX 3

Members of one or more regional fisheries management organizations in 2017

First-time members since 2000 are marked with an asterisk (*).

States and regional economic integration organizations

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia*, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan*, Bahrain*, Barbados*, Belgium, Belize*, Benin*, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi*, Cambodia*, Cameroon*, Canada, Cabo Verde, Chile, China, Colombia*, Comoros*, Congo*, Cook Islands*, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia*, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia*, European Union, Fiji*, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia*, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada*, Guatemala*, Guinea*, Guinea-Bissau*, Honduras*, Hungary*, Iceland, India, Indonesia*, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Iraq*, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati*, Kuwait*, Kyrgyzstan*, Lao People's Democratic Republic*, Lebanon, Liberia*, Libya, Lithuania*, Luxembourg*, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali*, Malta, Marshall Islands*, Mauritania*, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of)*, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro*, Morocco, Mozambique*, Namibia, Nauru*, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria*, Niue*, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau*, Panama, Papua New Guinea*, Peru, Philippines*, Poland, Portugal*, Qatar*, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*, Samoa*, San Marino*, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia*, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone*, Slovakia*, Slovenia*, Solomon Islands*, Somalia*, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname*, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan*, Thailand, Tonga*, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu*, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania*, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu*, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen*

Territories or other entities

Curaçao*, Taiwan Province of China*

Note: One organization (WCPFC) also has seven "participating territories" in addition to its member states.

TABLE 2
The number of members across RFMOs, 2017

RFMO ^a	Number of member States	RFMO ^a	Number of member States
CACFish*	5	NAFO	12
CCAMLR	25	NASCO	6
CCSBT ^b	6	NEAFC	5
CTMFEM	2	NPAFC	5
GFCM	24	NPFC*	8
IATTC	21	PSC	2
ICCAT	52	RECOFI*	8
IOTC	31	SEAFO*	7
IPHC	2	SIOFA*	10
IWC	87	SPRFMO*	15
LVFO	4	WCPFC* ^c	26

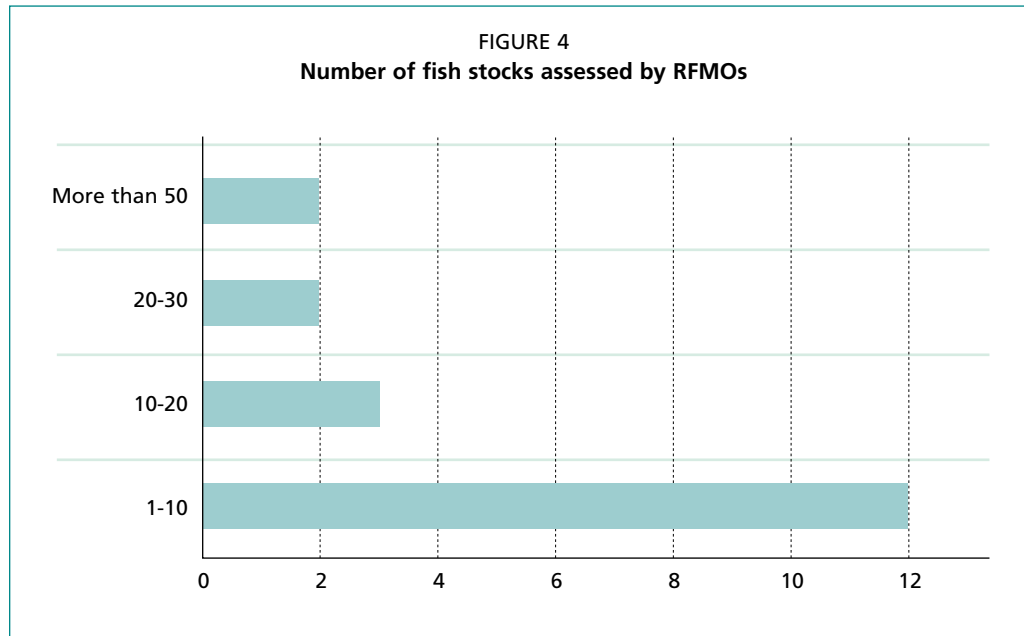
^a Organizations marked with an asterisk(*) were established during the survey period (2000–2017).

^b CCSBT has two additional members in its extended Commission.

^c WCPFC members also include seven territories in addition to these member States.

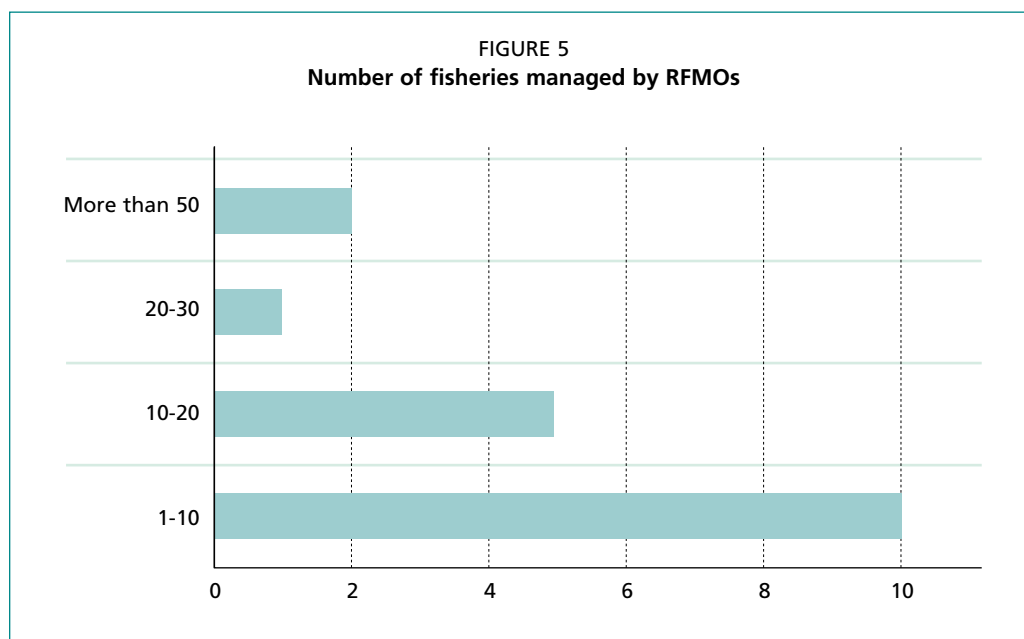
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Fish stocks assessed. Most RFMOs (12 of 19) regularly assess between one and ten fish stocks (Figure 4). Some RFMOs regularly assess more than ten fish stocks; more specifically, three RFMOs assess between 10 and 20 fish stocks, two assess between 20 and 30, and another two assess more than 50 fish stocks on a regular basis.



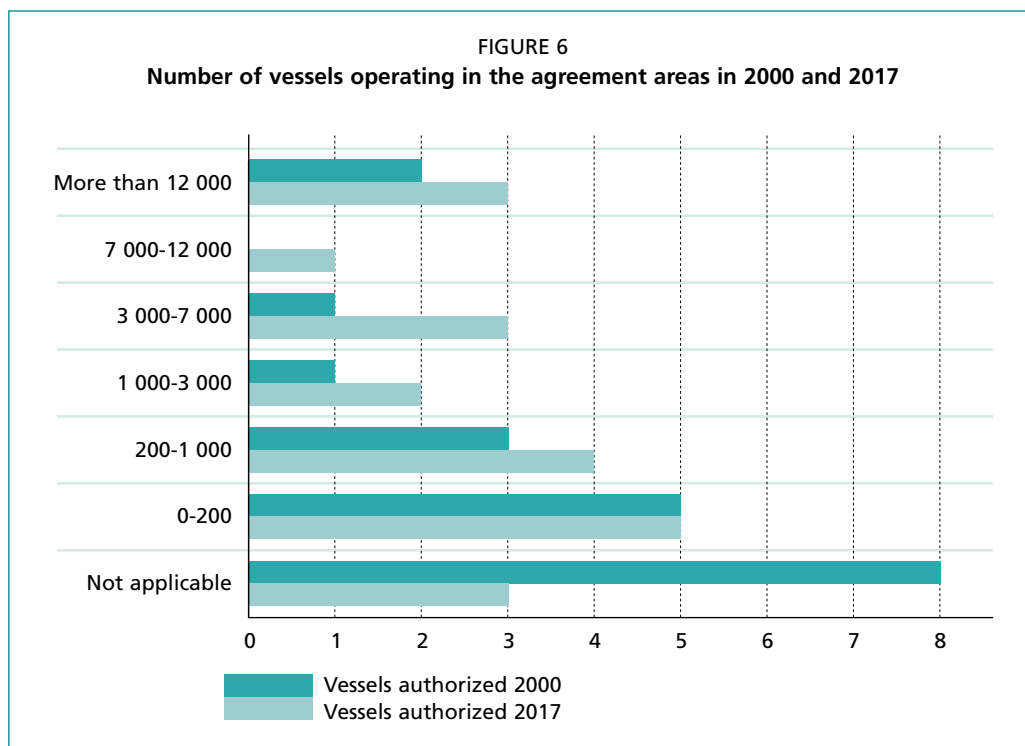
Source: Survey questionnaire (19 responses)

Fisheries managed. Most RFMOs (10 of 18) manage between one and ten fisheries (Figure 5). Some RFMOs manage more than ten fisheries. More specifically, five manage between 10 and 20 fisheries, one manages between 20 and 30, and another two manage more than 50 fisheries.



Source: Survey questionnaire (19 responses)

Fishing activities (as indicated by number of vessels). In 2017, the number of RFMOs covering areas where more than 200 vessels operate has increased (Figure 6). Moreover, whereas seven RFMOs replied that this question was not applicable in 2000, only three did so in 2017. These trends are likely to reflect the increasing number of RFMOs; the increasing number of RFMOs established before 2000 that have established records of authorized vessels; and possibly also an increasing number of vessels participating in fishing.



Source: Survey questionnaire (20 responses for 2000; 21 responses for 2017)

Precautionary approach and ecosystem approach. Two RFMO conventions refer directly to the term “ecosystem approach”, while others include language that could be interpreted as referring to the ecosystem approach although that term is not directly used. For example, some treaties contain language from UNFSA referring to the protection of marine ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment. References to required actions related to addressing the impact of fishing on target stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent on target stocks can be considered references to an ecosystem approach.

Almost half of the RFMOs (45 percent) make reference to both the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach (or use equivalent language), while another 14 percent make reference to one of the two concepts (Table 3). The remaining 41 percent of RFMOs do not refer to either of them.

It should also be noted that most RFMOs have used these two concepts in the work of their scientific bodies and when adopting conservation and management measures, even when there are no direct references to them in their basic texts.

TABLE 3
RFMO treaties that refer to the precautionary and ecosystem approaches

RFMO	Precautionary approach (or equivalent concept)	Ecosystem approach (specific mention)
CACFish	x	x
CCAMLR		x
CCSBT		
CTMFM		
GFCM	x	x
IATTC	x	x
ICCAT		
IOTC		
IPHC		
IWC		
LVFO		
NAFO	x	x
NASCO		
NEAFC	x	x
NPAFC		
NPFC	x	x
PSC	x	
RECOFI	x	
SEAFO	x	x
SIOFA	x	x
SPRFMO	x	x
WCPFC	x	x

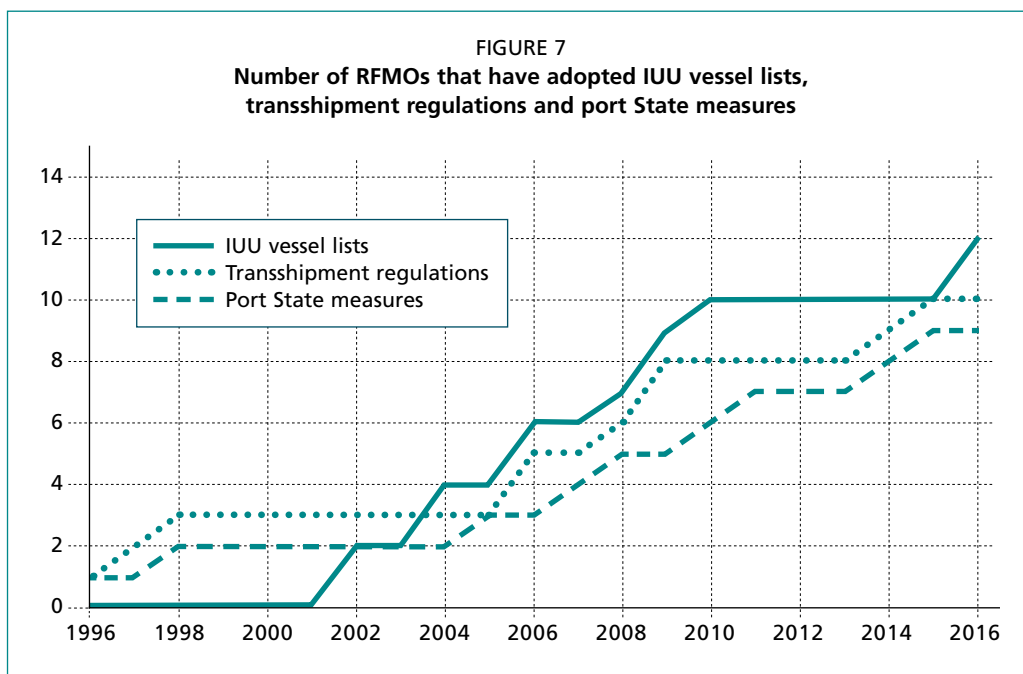
Data collection. The conventions and/or agreements of most of the RFMOs established since 2000 refer to the general duty of the parties to ensure that complete and accurate data are collected and shared in an appropriate manner. Similar wording is also incorporated in those treaties that have been amended.

According to the survey, 20 of the 22 RFMOs have adopted detailed data submission requirements, which include deadlines and the data-sharing obligations of the various secretariats. In general, data covered include catch of target and non-target species (daily, weekly and/or annual figures), VMS and logbooks; data are shared among members; and an aggregated version of the data is available on the organization's website.

Monitoring, control and surveillance. According to the survey, 60 percent of the RFMOs have adopted VMS requirements. Other means of MCS include boarding and inspection schemes, observer programmes and/or port inspections.

Measures targeting IUU fishing. IUU fishing has been identified as a major threat to fisheries conservation and marine biodiversity. It can lead to the collapse of a fishery, which in turn may have adverse consequences for the livelihood of the people depending on it. IUU fishing occurs in all fisheries, both within areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas. Since 2000, RFMOs have increasingly established a suite of measures to combat this phenomenon.

In 2000, no RFMO had established IUU vessel lists, only two had adopted port State measures and three had adopted transshipment regulations. By 2017, 13 RFMOs had adopted IUU vessel lists, 10 had adopted transshipment regulations and 11 had adopted port State measures (Figure 7; Table 4).²



Source: RFMO Secretariats

TABLE 4
RFMOs that have adopted measures to combat IUU fishing

RFMO	Year IUU vessel list adopted	Transshipment regulations in place	Port State measures in place
CCAMLR	2002	2008	1998
CCSBT	2008	2009	2017
GFCM	2009	–	2008
IATTC	2004	2006	–
ICCAT	2002	1997	2012
IOTC	2009	2014	2011
NAFO	2006	1996	1996
NEAFC	2004	1998	2007
NPFC	2016	–	2015 ^a
SEAFO	2006	2006	2005
SIOFA	2016	–	2017
SPRFMO	2017	2015	2014
WCPFC	2010	2009	2018

^a The NPFC Convention, which entered into force in 2015, makes provisions for port State measures, but NPFC has not adopted any specific measures of this kind.

² WCPFC adopted port State measures in 2018.

Most IUU vessel lists are established based on similar standards, while the parties' obligations concerning transshipments and control in ports vary greatly among RFMOs. Regarding transshipments, some RFMOs have established comprehensive and detailed regulations that include reporting, monitoring by observers and even a requirement that all transshipments take place in ports, while others have established rather simple reporting requirements. Similar variations appear among RFMOs in regard to port State measures. These differences are not reflected in Figure 7 or Table 4, which show only whether RFMOs have some kind of transshipment regulations or port State measures in place. However, the regulations and measures are detailed in the reviews of individual RFMOs.

GOVERNANCE

Compliance committees. In order to monitor and review members' compliance with conservation and management measures and to address IUU fishing in general, most RFMOs have established compliance committees (Table 5), which meet regularly. Many of these committees were established between 2000 and 2017.

TABLE 5
Establishment of compliance committees by RFMOs

RFMO	Name of Committee (year established)
CACFish	–
CCAMLR	Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (2003), preceded by Standing Committee on Observation and Inspection (1988)
CCSBT	Compliance Committee (2006)
CTMFM	–
GFCM	Compliance Committee (2006)
IATTC	Committee on Compliance Review (2010)
ICCAT	Compliance Committee (1995)
IOTC	Compliance Committee (2003)
IPHC	–
IWC	–
LVFO	–
NAFO	Standing Committee on International Control (1986)
NASCO	–
NEAFC	Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance (1999)
NPAFC	Committee on Enforcement (2015), preceded by Sub-committee on Enforcement (1993)
NPFC	Technical and Compliance Committee (2014)
PSC	–
RECOFI	–
SEAFO	Compliance Committee (2007)
SIOFA	Compliance Committee (2017)
SPRFMO	Compliance and Technical Committee (2014)
WCPFC	Technical and Compliance Committee (2005)

Source: RFMO Commission reports and websites

Transparency. Pursuant to UNSFA Article 12, States shall provide for transparency in RFMO decision-making processes and activities, and representatives from other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks shall be given the opportunity to attend meetings of RFMOs as observers.

RFMOs accept States and IGOs as observers to meetings of commissions and parties. New or amended conventions and/or agreements also contain specific provisions concerning NGO participation. Many RFMOs have established procedures to allow observers from NGOs, but whether they are also allowed to attend meetings of all subsidiary bodies and/or working groups varies among the RFMOs. For some RFMOs, NGO observer status remains valid for future meetings unless decided otherwise.

The website of each RFMO provides information concerning the organization; generally both current and past meeting reports and/or annual reports, as well other relevant information and publications, are available to the public.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Since 2000, some RFMOs have established cooperation with other RFMOs through formal mechanisms such as MoUs (Table 6). Such arrangements are most common between RFMOs managing tuna and tuna-like species, but also occur between RFMOs that operate in the same oceans. NAFO and NEAFC have also established joint working groups to harmonize reporting requirements.

Four RFMOs have established MoUs with regional seas conventions or programmes: Both NASCO and NEAFC have MoUs with the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the North East Atlantic; GFCM has an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP) Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; and RECOFI has an MoU with the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

TABLE 6
Formal cooperation arrangements established between RFMOs^a

RFMO	CCAMLR	CCSBT	GFCM	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	NAFO	NEAFC	NPAFC	SEAFO	SIOFA	SPRFMO	WCPFC
CCAMLR		x								x	x ^b	x	x
CCSBT	x				x	x							x
GFCM					x								
IATTC													x
ICCAT		x	x										
IOTC		x											x
NAFO								x					
NEAFC							x						
NPAFC													x
SEAFO	x												
SIOFA	x												
SPRFMO	x												
WCPFC	x	x		x		x			x				

Source: RFMO websites

^a Formal arrangements include MoUs and joint working groups.

^b The MoU between CCAMLR and SIOFA was established in 2018.

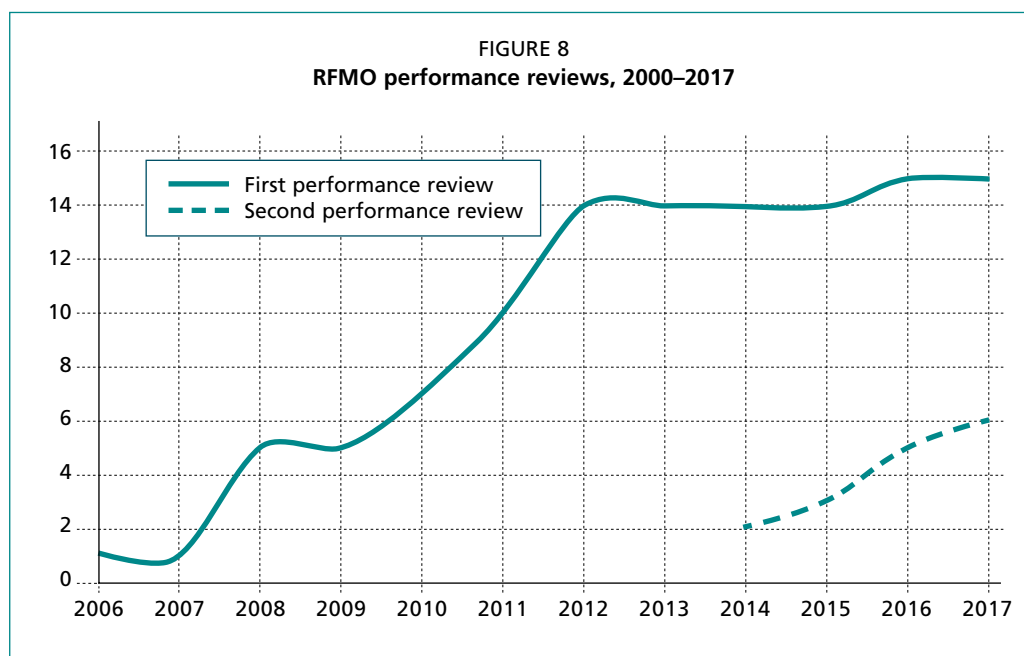
In addition, CCAMLR, CCSBT, SPRFMO and WCPFC have established MoUs with the secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

A number of RFMOs have established formal collaboration with the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), which provides a mechanism for coordinating the statistical programmes conducted by regional fishery bodies and other intergovernmental organizations with a remit for fishery statistics; and with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS), which provides access to a wide range of high-quality information on the global monitoring and management of fishery marine resources.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

Responding to calls and recommendations from a variety of fora, 15 of 22 RFMOs have undertaken performance reviews (Figure 8). The first performance review was conducted in 2006. Six of these RFMOs also had a second performance review between 2006 and 2017. (In addition, NAFO had a second performance review in 2018, after the survey was completed.)

In essence, RFMOs have been using four general criteria to review their performance: assessment of conservation and management of fish stocks; the level of compliance with international obligations; the status of legal frameworks and organizational and financial affairs; and the level of cooperation with other international organizations and non-member States. Such reviews have become institutionalized and are undertaken with increasing regularity and frequency.



Source: RFMO Commission reports and websites

Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

CACFish was established in 2009 under the provisions of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and the CACFish agreement entered into force in 2010. The Commission's objective is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living aquatic resources. The organization also deals with aquaculture. CACFish has the authority to adopt conservation and management measures in the convention area, that is the inland waters of States of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

MEMBERS

CACFish has five members, of which two joined since 2000: Armenia, Azerbaijan (2014), Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey (2011).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

CACFish manages one to ten fisheries. As specified in its agreement, the Commission applies the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to conservation and management decisions and takes into account the best scientific evidence available.

CACFish has not yet adopted any particular system for data collection, but is developing one. The Commission's recommendation on fisheries MCS mentions promotion of the establishment of national and regional databases and other information systems, including data and information on fishing vessels, catch and effort. The collection, analysis and dissemination of small-scale fisheries data and information is also mentioned as part of a CACFish programme for implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

CACFish has not adopted any specific measures targeting IUU fishing, nor put in place a VMS. However, CACFish has adopted MCS measures, which include several references to combating IUU fishing. It also supports the fight against IUU fishing through regional projects; the review, updating and strengthening of national fisheries legislation; the promotion of internationally agreed market-related measures; the strengthening of institutional and administrative structures; and public awareness raising on the impact of IUU fishing. CACFish does not have any specific port State measures in place.

GOVERNANCE

Since its inception, the Commission has generally met on an annual basis, except in 2012. The Commission meetings are generally attended by all members.

CACFish currently has one subsidiary body, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), established in 2011, which provides technical and scientific advice to the Commission. The TAC has met annually or biannually since its establishment, and has been attended by all members.

Since the establishment of CACFish, IGOs and NGOs have been accepted as observers to the meetings of the Commission.

The website of CACFish is provided by FAO, and reports of the Commission and TAC are available there. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CACFish has not established any formal arrangements for collaboration with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

CACFish has not been subject to a performance review.

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)³

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

CCAMLR was established through the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which entered into force in 1982. Its objective is “the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources”, which include populations of finfish, molluscs, crustaceans and all other species of living organisms, including birds, found south of the Antarctic convergence. The convention area comprises a vast area in the Southern Ocean.

MEMBERS

CCAMLR has 25 members, with two having acceded to the convention since 2000: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China (2006), European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Namibia (2000), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

CCAMLR regularly assesses one to ten fish stocks and manages 10 to 20 fisheries. The number of vessels authorized to fish has been stably in the range of 1 to 200 in the period 2000 to 2017.

The convention does not include specific reference to the precautionary approach or ecosystem approach. However, it specifies that any harvesting in the convention area shall be conducted following principles of conservation which include preventing changes or minimizing the risk of changes in the marine ecosystem, taking account of direct and indirect impacts of harvesting, introduction of alien species and associated activities on the marine ecosystem, and considering the effects of environmental changes.

CCAMLR adopted measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in 2007, requiring members that undertake bottom fisheries to assess potential impacts and measures to mitigate such impacts. Additional measures to protect VMEs were adopted between 2008 and 2011.

The Commission has also established marine protected areas (MPAs), the first in 2002, and adopted a general framework for the establishment of MPAs in 2011. Following this framework, an MPA was created in the Ross Sea in 2016.

CCAMLR has adopted several measures related to non-target species, including the conservation of sharks (2006), limiting bycatch in new and exploratory fisheries (2000) and limiting incidental mortality in seabirds and marine mammals (adopted prior to 2000).

CCAMLR has established a data collection system. The first data collection measure was adopted in 1991, and since then several additional measures have been adopted for different fisheries. The requirements for data submission vary depending on the region and whether the fishery is established or exploratory; for some fisheries, daily

³ CCAMLR is a conservation organization with some attributes of an RFMO (CCAMLR-XXI, Paragraph 15.2).

reporting of catch and effort data is required, while for others reporting is required on a five-day, ten-day or monthly basis.

In 1998, CCAMLR adopted a binding measure requiring members to ensure that vessels are equipped with VMS.

Since 2000, CCAMLR has adopted measures for targeting IUU fishing, including an IUU vessel list in 2002, a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for toothfish species in 2001 and port inspection of fishing vessels in 2002. In addition, in 2008 CCAMLR adopted measures to provide a notification system to be used for transshipments.

GOVERNANCE

Commission meetings are held annually and are generally attended by all members.

A Scientific Committee, created when the convention came into force, provides scientific information, recommendations and advice to assist the Commission in its decision-making. The Scientific Committee meets annually prior to the Commission meeting, and its meetings are generally well attended by scientists from all member countries. It has established four working groups on ecosystem monitoring and management; fish stock assessment; statistics, assessments and modelling; and incidental mortality associated with fishing. In addition, a specialized subgroup on acoustics, survey and analysis methods meets during the year and assists in formulating scientific advice.

The Commission has two subsidiary bodies: The Standing Committee on Administration and Finance meets annually and provides advice related to financial audits, budgets and secretariat operations. The Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance, established in 2003 (replacing the Standing Committee on Observation and Inspection, established in 1988), meets annually and provides information, advice and recommendations on fishery monitoring and compliance issues.

IGOs and NGOs may attend the meetings of the Commission as observers unless a member of the Commission objects.

The meeting reports of the Commission, the subsidiary bodies and working groups are all available on CCAMLR's website. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

By 2017, CCAMLR had established formal arrangements to cooperate with the following RFMOs: CCSBT (2015), SEAFO (2017), SPRFMO (2016) and WCPFC (2013).⁴

CCAMLR has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

CCAMLR observes meetings of the other RFMOs IATTC, IWC and SEAFO and the RFABs FFA and SPC. These organizations regularly attend CCAMLR meetings as well.

CCAMLR also signed an MoU with the ACAP secretariat in 2015.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

CCAMLR has been subject to two performance reviews, concluded in 2008 and 2017.

⁴ In 2018, CCAMLR and SIOFA agreed on an arrangement for cooperation.

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

CCSBT was established when the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna came into force in 1994. It applies to the management of southern bluefin tuna throughout its distribution, rather than in a particular geographical region. The objective of CCSBT is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of southern bluefin tuna.

MEMBERS

CCSBT has six members, of which three have joined since 2000: Australia, Indonesia (2008), Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea (2001) and South Africa (2016).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

CCSBT manages southern bluefin tuna and regularly assesses its stock status. In 2017, between 200 and 1 000 vessels were authorized to fish in the area.

The CCSBT convention does not specifically refer to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. In 2008, CCSBT adopted a non-binding recommendation to mitigate the impact of fishing for southern bluefin tuna on ecologically related species. In this recommendation, CCSBT members are advised to comply with all current binding and recommendatory measures adopted by ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC aimed at the protection of ecologically related species, including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks, when fishing in their convention areas.

CCSBT has established a specific system for data collection. Members and cooperating non-members are expected to provide information on the total catch of southern bluefin tuna per fleet, aggregated catch and effort information, and catch-at-size and catch-at-age data. CCSBT also collects additional trade information through the CDS described below.

In 2008 the CCSBT VMS came into effect, requiring members and cooperating non-members with vessels fishing for or taking southern bluefin tuna to adopt and implement a VMS that complies with the VMS requirements of CCAMLR, ICCAT, IOTC or WCPFC.

In 2010, a CDS came into effect, replacing the previous statistical documentation scheme from 2000.

CCSBT has adopted several measures to combat IUU fishing, including IUU vessel lists (in 2008) as well as minimum standards for inspection in port, which came into force in 2017. CCSBT has also established binding measures for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels, which came into force in 2009; they were revised in 2015 to include requirements for monitoring transshipments in port.

GOVERNANCE

The CCSBT Extended Commission includes, in addition to the members, the European Union (since 2015) and Taiwan Province of China (since 2002). All participants in the

Extended Commission have equal voting rights, and all decisions of the Extended Commission become decisions of the Commission, unless the Commission objects.

Commission meetings are held annually with the participation of all members of the Commission and Extended Commission.

In 2003, CCSBT agreed to invite countries with an interest in the southern bluefin tuna fishery to participate in its activities as formal cooperating non-members. Cooperating non-members cannot vote, but otherwise participate fully in the business of CCSBT. Cooperating non-members are required to adhere to the management and conservation objectives of CCSBT and to the agreed catch limits. Cooperating non-member status is regarded as a transition prior to full membership and accession to the convention. South Africa was a cooperating non-member before becoming a member in 2016, and the European Union was a cooperating non-member before joining the Extended Commission. The Philippines has been a cooperating non-member since 2004.

CCSBT has established the following subsidiary bodies:

- the Standing Committee for Finance and Administration;
- the Scientific Committee, which assesses and reports to the Commission on the status of southern bluefin tuna and makes recommendations concerning its conservation, management and optimum use;
- the Compliance Committee (established in 2006), which assesses compliance and makes recommendations to the Commission about new compliance measures.

The Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee meet annually, and their meetings are well attended by members of the Commission and Extended Commission.

A Working Group on Ecologically Related Species provides the Commission with information and advice on the nature and extent of ecologically related species (including, for example, seabirds and sharks), the effects of the southern bluefin tuna on these related species and potential measures to reduce such effects.

CCSBT may approve long-term observer status for IGOs and, on request, NGOs, for specific types of meetings. Such approvals remain in force until cancelled by the Commission. Any member may request the withdrawal of approved long-term observer status but must do so in writing, including the reasons for the request. An NGO wishing to send observers to a meeting of the Commission must provide the Executive Secretary with information explaining the organization's competence concerning southern bluefin tuna and the attainment of the objectives of the convention.

The CCSBT website provides meeting reports of the Commission, subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CCSBT has MoUs or other formal collaborative arrangements with the following RFMOs: CCAMLR, ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC. In addition, CCSBT has an MoU with ACAP. These organizations also attend the meetings of CCSBT.

CCSBT has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

CCSBT has been subject to two performance reviews, in 2008 and 2014.

Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (CTMFM)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

CTMFM was established under the Treaty between Uruguay and Argentina concerning the Rio de la Plata and the Corresponding Maritime Boundary, signed in November 1973, which also defines the area covered under the Commission's mandate, the so called "Common Fishing Zone".

CTMFM conducts studies and aims to adopt and coordinate plans and measures relevant to the conservation, preservation and rational exploitation of living resources, and to protect the maritime environment in the Common Fishing Zone of Argentina and Uruguay. In addition, CTMFM sponsors scientific workshops, training courses and joint surveys employing four research vessels in the area covered under its mandate.

MEMBERS

CTMFM has two members: Argentina and Uruguay.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

CTMFM regularly assesses between 11 and 20 fish stocks and manages 11 to 20 fisheries. The number of vessels authorized to fish in the period 2000 to 2017 was in the range of 200 to 1 000.

The Commission takes the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management as the guiding principles in the implementation of science-based management decisions.

CTMFM has a VMS in place. Each member has been responsible for applying the VMS to the vessels in its fleet since 2005.

CTMFM has established a data collection system, and the data are shared. Measures related to data collection and scientific and technical research started in 1984, with other resolutions requiring data collection and research subsequently adopted for specific fisheries and environmental issues. The required frequency of data provision or information exchange differs according to the subject.

CTMFM has port State measures in place. Its member States are responsible for the control and surveillance of vessels with the national flag in the Common Fishing Zone, and for the implementation of measures regarding these vessels.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission consists of five delegates from each party. It meets in plenary sessions once a month, with active participation by the delegations of both parties. Three of the five delegates from each party are required to create a quorum.

The Commission receives scientific advice from the national fishery laboratories and academics of both member countries. It has five scientific working groups that meet periodically to advise jointly on fishery resources and marine environment, focusing on anchovy, hake, coastal resources, environmental issues and chondrichthyans. The working groups develop technical information through resource assessments and environmental studies.

Before plenary sessions, subcommittees with representation from the fisheries institutes of both countries, the delegations and the CTMFM secretariat analyse the preparatory work carried out by the scientific working groups.

CTMFM has a website which contains updated information on the organization's activities and active resolutions. Meeting reports from CTMFM sessions are not publicly available on the website.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CTMFM does not have formal arrangements to collaborate with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

The Commission has not been subject to a performance review.

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

GFCM was established in 1949 under the provisions of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and entered into force in 1952. It manages fisheries in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters. Its objective is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources. GFCM applies to all living resources in its area of competence. Since 1996 the Commission has collaborated with ICCAT on matters concerning tuna resources. The GFCM Agreement has been amended four times, most recently in 2014.

MEMBERS

GFCM has 24 members, of which two have joined since 2000: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro (2008), Morocco, Romania, Slovenia (2000), Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey.

Serbia withdrew in 2007.

Georgia and Ukraine were granted status as cooperating non-contracting parties in 2015, and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

GFCM assesses more than 50 fish stocks and manages between 10 and 20 fisheries. In 2017, the number of authorized vessels was between 7 000 and 12 000.

The Commission has a series of functions and responsibilities relating to fishing and biodiversity conservation and also deals with aquaculture. The Commission must apply the precautionary approach to conservation and management decisions and take into account the best scientific evidence available. It must also consider need to promote the development and proper utilization of the marine living resources. The amended GFCM Agreement now requires the Commission consider possible negative impacts on marine ecosystems.

GFCM has established general measures to reduce incidental bycatch of seabirds and sea turtles (2011), measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans (2012) and management measures for the conservation of sharks and rays (2012).

In order to protect sensitive deep-sea habitats, GFCM established a system of fisheries restricted areas in 2006 and general measures on area-based management of fisheries in 2013. The Commission also established a permanent working group on VMEs in 2017.

Contracting parties are required to submit national data to the GFCM secretariat on catch, incidental catch of vulnerable species and fishing effort, as well as socio-economic and biological information and information needed to assess the status of those stocks that the Commission considers to be of priority. Reporting is annual (or biennial for some of the socio-economic data). For this purpose, GFCM has established the Data Collection Reference Framework, launched in 2013.

With regard to monitoring and control, in 2005 the Commission established a record of vessels over 15 metres long authorized to operate in the GFCM area, and in 2009 a regional fleet register. GFCM agreed to minimum standards for VMS in

2009 and established a GFCM logbook in 2010. The Commission has maintained an IUU vessel list since 2009, and in 2008 it established a regional scheme on port State measures to combat IUU fishing, which was replaced in 2016 by a regional scheme to align with the PSMA.

GOVERNANCE

Commission meetings are held annually and are attended by about 80 percent of the members on average.

GFCM has four subsidiary committees and one working group:

- the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries;
- the Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture;
- the Compliance Committee (created in 2006), which assesses compliance and provides advice to the Commission related to MCS issues;
- the Committee on Administration and Finance (created in 2009), whose functions concern financial and budgetary matters of GFCM;
- the Working Group for the Black Sea.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries provides technical and scientific advice related to fisheries conservation and management decisions. It meets annually, and its meetings are on average attended by about 80 percent of the member States. This committee has established subcommittees on statistics and information; stock assessment; marine environment and ecosystems; and economics and social science.

Representatives from other IGOs and from NGOs are allowed to take part in the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including many working group meetings. NGOs that wish to participate as observers must notify GFCM of this beforehand. Unless the Commission expressly determines otherwise, these organizations will be provided observer status.

The GFCM website, under the umbrella of the FAO site, provides the meeting reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

GFCM and ICCAT have established a joint working group on large pelagic species in the Mediterranean. GFCM also collaborates with ATLAFCO, an RFAB.

In terms of collaboration with regional seas conventions and programmes, GFCM has an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP) Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. GFCM also collaborates with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution.

GFCM has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

GFCM was subject to a performance review in 2011.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

IATTC was established by the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in 1949. That convention was replaced in 2003 by the Antigua Convention, which entered into force in 2010. The objective of the Commission is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention. IATTC manages tuna and tuna-like species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

MEMBERS

IATTC has 21 members, of which nine have joined since 2000: Belize (2007), Canada, China (2009), Colombia (2007), Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union (2006), France, Guatemala (2000), Japan, Kiribati (2011), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru (2002), Republic of Korea (2005), Taiwan Province of China (2010), United States of America, Vanuatu and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

IATTC assesses between 10 and 20 fish stocks on a regular basis and manages 20 to 30 fisheries. Between 3 000 and 7 000 vessels were authorized to fish in the IATTC agreement area in 2017, and the number has been stably within this range since 2000.

The Antigua Convention specifies that IATTC shall apply the precautionary approach for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the convention. The convention text does not specifically mention the ecosystem approach, but states that the Commission shall review the status and the efficacy of conservation and management measures in relation to non-target, associated or dependent species as well as target species.

IATTC has adopted several measures for mitigating bycatch and for conserving non-target species, including several species of sharks (first measure adopted in 2005), seabirds (in 2005) and sea turtle (in 2004), with additional measures adopted in recent years.

IATTC also provides the secretariat for the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program, a legally binding multilateral agreement covering dolphins in the Eastern Pacific Ocean which entered into force in 1999, succeeding the 1992 Agreement on the Conservation of Dolphins.

IATTC established a data collection system in 2005. Data on the total catch in numbers (and weight, if available), fishing effort and length or weight of individual fish are to be provided by species and by fishing gear on a monthly basis.

Since 2004, IATTC has required that each party with tuna-fishing vessels having a length of 24 metres or more shall have VMS.

IATTC has adopted several measures to address IUU fishing, including IUU vessel lists (adopted in 2004) and well as a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (in 2006). The Commission has not established any port State measure regulations.

GOVERNANCE

In 2003, IATTC adopted a resolution providing status of cooperating non-member or cooperating fishing entity to the IATTC. This resolution has been updated two times, in 2004 and in 2007. At present, IATTC has granted status of cooperation non-member to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia.

Commission meetings are held annually, with some years having two or three Commission meetings. These meetings are well attended by members of the Commission.

IATTC has established three subsidiary bodies, the Committee on Administration and Finance, Scientific Advisory Committee, (previously Stock Assessment Review Meeting), Committee on Compliance Review (established in 2010), which meet annually and are generally attended by about 75 percent of the members. IATTC has in place two working groups: one on fleet capacity and one on bycatch.

IGOs and NGOs may participate as observers in the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. An NGO desiring to participate as an observer may do so unless at least one-third of the members of the Commission objects.

IATTC has established a website, which provides meeting reports of the Commission, subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

IATTC and WCPFC have established formal cooperation through an MoU.

IATTC has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

IATTC was subject to a performance review in 2016.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

ICCAT was established by the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, which was signed in 1966 and entered into force in 1969. The objective of the Convention is to conserve tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and to maintain the populations of these fishes at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch.

MEMBERS

ICCAT has 52 members, of which 25 are new since 2000: Albania (2008), Algeria (2001), Angola, Barbados (2000), Belize (2005), Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao (2014), Egypt (2007), El Salvador (2014), Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada (2017), Guatemala (2004), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau (2016), Honduras (2001), Iceland (2002), Japan, Liberia (2014), Libya, Mauritania (2008), Mexico (2002), Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua (2004), Nigeria (2007), Norway (2004), Panama, Philippines (2004), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2006), Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal (2004), Sierra Leone (2008), South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic (2005), Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey (2003), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu (2002) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Following a recommendation adopted by the Commission in 2003, ICCAT may grant the status of cooperating non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity. Currently, this status is held by: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Guyana, Suriname and Taiwan Province of China.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

ICCAT regularly assesses between one and ten fish stocks and manages more than 50 fisheries. In 2017, the number of authorized vessels exceeded 12 000.

ICCAT's convention text does not specifically refer to the precautionary or ecosystem approaches. However, ICCAT has established several binding measures for mitigating bycatch and for conserving non-target species, including multiple measures for shark species (the first adopted in 2004) as well as measures for seabirds (in 2007) and sea turtles (in 2010).

ICCAT has established a system for data collection for nominal annual catches, number of fishing vessels by size, gear and flag, catch and effort by area, gear, flag, species and month, actual size frequencies of fish, and catch-at-size data (with several adjustments adopted in recent years). ICCAT also encourages the provision of data on interactions with, and incidental catches of, seabirds and turtles.

ICCAT established requirements for minimum standards for the establishment of VMS in the ICCAT convention area in 2003, and they entered into force in 2007.

ICCAT has also adopted several measures to combat IUU fishing, including IUU vessel lists (adopted in 2002), transshipment regulations (amended several times) and port inspections (adopted in 2012).

GOVERNANCE

The Commission meets annually and is generally attended by about 80 percent of its members. ICCAT has established three subsidiary bodies, i.e. the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics and the Compliance Committee, which also meets annually. The last two are attended by about half of the members.

ICCAT has established two permanent working groups, one on improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures, and one on dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers.

IGOs and NGOs may participate in the meetings of ICCAT. NGOs that wish to participate must apply beforehand, and this application will be considered as accepted unless an objection is expressed by one-third of the contracting parties in writing.

ICCAT has established a website, which provides the meeting reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and working groups.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ICCAT has MoUs with CCSBT and GFCM.

ICCAT has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

ICCAT has been subject to two performance reviews, in 2008 and 2016.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

IOTC was established in 1993 under the provisions of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution and entered into force in 1996. It manages tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. Its objective is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of these fish stocks and to encourage sustainable development of the fisheries.

MEMBERS

IOTC has 31 members, of which 12 joined since 2000: Australia, China, Comoros (2001), Eritrea, European Union, France (overseas territories), Guinea (2005), India, Indonesia (2007), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2002), Japan, Kenya (2004), Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique (2012), Oman (2000), Pakistan, Philippines (2004), Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia (2013), South Africa (2016), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (overseas territories), United Republic of Tanzania (2007) and Yemen (2012).⁵

Belize joined in 2007 but withdrew in 2016. Vanuatu joined in 2002 but withdrew in 2015.

The following States have been granted the status of cooperating non-contracting parties: Bangladesh (since 2015), Liberia (since 2015) and Senegal (since 2006). Prior to becoming contracting parties the following States had obtained cooperating non-contracting party status: Indonesia (2003–2006), Philippines (2000–2003) and South Africa (2005–2015). Belize had that status in 2006, before joining in 2007, and Uruguay (2007) and Djibouti (2014) had the status for one year only.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

IOTC's objective entails adopting, on the basis of scientific evidence, conservation and management measures to ensure conservation of the stocks. IOTC has established a Scientific Committee that provides advice to the Commission in this regard.

IOTC assesses between 10 and 20 fish stocks and manages between 10 and 20 fisheries. In 2017, between 3 000 and 7 000 fishing vessels were authorized to fish, which is an increase over the number with this authorization in the year 2000 (between 200 and 1 000 vessels).

The Commission has adopted conservation and management measures in line with the principles of the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based fisheries management, although these terms are not specified in the IOTC Agreement. In 2012, the Commission adopted a measure on the application of the precautionary approach consistent with UNFSA Article 6, and it reinforced some elements in 2015 through a measure on target and limit reference points and a decision framework. In relation to ecosystem-based fisheries management, the Commission has adopted measures concerning bycatch of seabirds (2012), marine turtles (2012), large-scale driftnets (2013), cetaceans (2013) and whale sharks (2013).

⁵ Following the survey, Bangladesh joined IOTC in 2018.

Since 2000 IOTC has adopted or amended a wide range of measures concerning the collection of fisheries data, i.e. annual catches, fishing craft statistics, catch-and-effort data, length frequency data and observer data.

IOTC established a system for listing IUU vessels in 2005 and port control measures to combat IUU fishing in 2010. The latter incorporate provisions of the PSMA in a regional context.

IOTC has established a record of authorized vessels, mandatory VMS (in 2006) and a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels and carrier vessels (in 2014).

GOVERNANCE

The Commission meets annually is attended by about 80 percent of its contracting parties on average. IOTC has established three subsidiary bodies, which also meet annually:

- The Scientific Committee provides the Commission with advice on the status of fish stocks and management actions need to ensure the sustainability of managed fisheries. Its meetings are attended by about half of the contracting parties on average.
- The Standing Committee on Administration and Finance advises the Commission on administrative and financial matters, including budget matters, and meets annually.
- The Compliance Committee (established in 2003) monitors the compliance of contracting and cooperating non-contracting parties with the measures adopted. Its meetings are generally attended by about 80 percent of the contracting parties.

IOTC has also established working groups for specific technical problems for specific stocks. Currently there are seven working groups.

With regard to transparency, non-parties and international organizations are permitted to attend IOTC meetings, pursuant to the IOTC Agreement. The Rules of Procedure also permit NGOs to attend meetings. The Commission has agreed on a list of approved observers.

IOTC has established a website, which provides the meeting reports of the Commission, subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

IOTC has signed MoUs with WCPFC in 2007 and with CCSBT and the ACAP secretariat in 2009. All three MoUs were renewed in 2015.

Since 2001, an MoU has been in place between IOTC and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan.

IOTC has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

IOTC has been subject to two performance reviews, in 2008 and 2015.

International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The IPHC Convention was concluded in 1923 and entered into force the same year. The convention applies within the respective EEZs of its two members, Canada and the United States of America. Its objective is to develop the stocks of Pacific halibut in the convention waters to levels that will permit optimum yield from the fishery and to maintain the stocks at those levels. The convention has been revised several times (most recently in 1979) to extend the Commission's authority and meet new conditions in the fishery.

MEMBERS

IPHC has two members: Canada and United States of America. As IPHC is a bilateral organization, it has had no changes in membership since 2000.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

IPHC manages one fishery, the Pacific halibut, and regularly assesses the status of the stock. Since 2000, the number of vessels authorized to fish has been stably in the range of 1 000 to 3 000.

The IPHC Convention text does not specifically refer to the precautionary or ecosystem approaches.

The Commission has established a system for data collection, but it has not established specific measures to address IUU fishing. Each party may prosecute or take other action under domestic law to address violation of the convention or of any regulations adopted pursuant to it. This means that either party may take actions against vessels entitled to fly its flag for violations anywhere in the convention area, and against vessels entitled to fly the flag of the other party within its national waters.

GOVERNANCE

IPHC has established five subsidiary bodies:

- The Conference Board is a panel representing Canadian and American commercial and sport halibut fishers; it gives IPHC the fishers' perspective on Commission proposals.
- The Management Strategy Advisory Board is a panel of harvesters, fisheries managers, processors, staff, commissioners, science advisers and academics created in 2013 to oversee and advise staff on IPHC's Management Strategy Evaluation.
- The Processor Advisory Board represents halibut processors and was formed in 1996.
- The Research Advisory Board, formed in 1999 and comprising both fishers and processors, offers suggestions on the focus of the Commission's research.
- The Scientific Research Board, a small group of fisheries science experts, was formed in 2013. It provides an independent scientific review of Commission science products and programmes and supports and strengthens the stock assessment process.

IPHC also has a Finance and Administration Committee.

With regard to transparency, the convention does not make reference to observer participation, but according to the Rules of Procedure, meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies may be open to observers and the general public unless the Commission decides otherwise. IPHC may invite States, RFMOs and other relevant governmental and intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to participate.

IPHC has established a website, which provides reports of recent Commission and subsidiary body meetings. Reports of meetings held before 2010 are, however, not available. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the annual reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

IPHC reported in the survey that it has entered into formal collaborative arrangements with other international organizations. The Commission signed an MoU with the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) in 2000, and the two organizations have continued to work together since then.⁶

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

IPHC was subject to a performance review in 2012.

⁶ A new MoU with PICES was signed in 2019.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling entered into force in 1948. The convention was amended in 1956, and the schedule to the convention is amended annually.

The purpose of the convention is to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry. The convention applies to factory ships, land stations and whale catchers under the jurisdiction of the contracting governments, and to all waters in which they carry out whaling.

MEMBERS

IWC has 87 members, of which 42 have joined between 2000 and 2017:⁷ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium (2004), Belize (2003), Benin (2002), Brazil, Bulgaria (2009), Cambodia (2006), Cameroon (2005), Chile, China, Colombia (2011), Congo (2008), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire (2004), Croatia, Cyprus (2007), Czechia (2005), Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (2007), Eritrea (2007), Estonia (2009), Finland, France, Gabon (2002), Gambia (2005), Germany, Ghana (2009), Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau (2007), Hungary (2004), Iceland (2002), India, Ireland, Israel (2006), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati (2004), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2007), Lithuania (2008), Luxembourg (2005), Mali (2004), Marshall Islands (2006), Mauritania (2003), Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco (2001), Nauru (2005), Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua (2003), Norway, Oman, Palau (2002), Panama, Peru, Poland (2009), Portugal (2002), Republic of Korea, Romania (2008), Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino (2002), Senegal, Slovakia (2005), Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname (2004), Sweden, Switzerland, Togo (2005), Tuvalu (2004), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania (2008), United States of America and Uruguay (2007).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Commission reviews and revises as necessary measures governing the conduct of commercial and aboriginal subsistence whaling throughout the world (laid down in the schedule to the convention). These measures, among other things: provide for the complete protection of certain species; designate specified areas as whale sanctuaries; set limits on the numbers and size of whales that may be taken; prescribe open and closed seasons and areas of whaling; and prohibit the capture of suckling calves and female whales accompanied by calves.

In 1994 the Commission endorsed a Revised Management Procedure applicable to commercial whaling, which balances the somewhat conflicting requirements to ensure that the risk to individual stocks is not seriously increased while the highest yield is maintained.

⁷ Liberia and Sao Tome and Principe joined IWC in 2018, after the survey period.

Key IWC documents include no specific references to the precautionary approach or ecosystem approach. However, the work programme of the Conservation Committee (see below under “Governance”) under its new strategic plan adopted in 2016 – which establishes a long-term vision for healthy and well-managed populations and recovered cetacean populations worldwide – includes a bycatch mitigation initiative and a joint programme with the Scientific Committee to consider the impact of marine debris on cetaceans.

IWC has established a Data Availability Working Group, which has developed separate procedures for obtaining access to different types of data, i.e. data to support provision of the best management advice on catch limits, and data to support provision of other advice to the Commission. The data comprise generic and sightings data, as well as other relevant information.

IWC has not adopted any particular measures to address IUU activities. In 2005 the Commission agreed on terms of reference for a compliance working group, to analyse the range of possible legal, technical and administrative measures available to the Commission for strengthening compliance and to explore possible mechanisms for monitoring and possibly addressing non-compliance of contracting governments.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission has been meeting biennially since 2012; before that, meetings were held annually. Meetings are attended by about 75 percent of the members.

IWC has established three subsidiary bodies:

- The Scientific Committee, which meets annually, provides scientific advice to the Commission on management regimes for aboriginal subsistence whaling; estimating incidental capture and consideration of mitigation measures; assessing the effects on cetaceans of environmental change, such as global warming and pollution, and whale watching activities; and promoting cooperation between coastal and range States to conserve and manage small cetaceans.
- The Conservation Committee works closely with the Scientific Committee on environmental and conservation issues. It provides advice on the strategic development of whale watching and on the development of conservation management plans.
- The Finance and Administration Committee focuses on expenditure, budgets and staffing.

IWC has also established two subcommittees – one on aboriginal subsistence whaling and one on infractions – as well as a working group on whale killing methods and welfare issues.

Observation at IWC meetings is open to non-member governments, IGOs and accredited NGOs.

IWC has established a website, but the meeting reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies are not available there. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the biennial reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

IWC has not entered into formal collaborative arrangements with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

IWC has not undergone a full-fledged performance review, but according to its website a governance review has been undertaken.

Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

LVFO was established in 1994 through the adoption of the Convention for the Establishment of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization. Its founding objectives were to harmonize national measures for the sustainable use of the living resources of Lake Victoria, to develop conservation and management measures and to foster related cooperation.

LVFO has become a specialized institution of the East African Community (EAC), which entered into force in 2000. In 2016 the LVFO convention was amended to extend its mandate to all EAC fisheries and aquaculture resources and to open membership to all EAC partner States.

MEMBERS

LVFO has four members, of which one has joined since 2000: Burundi (2017), Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

LVFO's role includes, among other things, promoting the proper management and optimum utilization of fisheries and other resources of EAC water bodies.

LVFO regularly assesses and manages between one and ten fish stocks. Since 2000, the number of vessels authorized to fish in the agreement area has consistently been over 12 000.

LVFO has established a system for data collection, and the data are shared.

The convention does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. However, the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project, which supported the establishment of LVFO, recommended an ecosystem approach to ensure optimum results from management of the lake.

In 2004, LVFO adopted a regional plan of action to combat IUU fishing in Lake Victoria and its basin. LVFO has not put in place VMS or port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

Since the convention was amended in 2016, the structure of LVFO has changed. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectoral Council of Ministers is the governing body of LVFO. The Coordination Committee consists of the Chief Executive Officers of the respective ministries, while the Senior Officials include heads of departments responsible for fisheries and aquaculture management and research. A Fisheries Management Technical Committee and a Scientific Technical Committee have also been established.

NGOs may be invited by the Coordination Committee and the Senior Officials to participate as observers in the meetings of the Sectoral Council of Ministers.

LVFO has established a website. Meeting reports of the Sectoral Council of Ministers are not publicly available.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

According to the survey, LVFO has entered into formal arrangements for collaboration with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

LVFO has not been subject to a performance review.

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The NAFO Convention was agreed in 1978, entered into force in 1979 and was amended in 2006. NAFO is responsible for the conservation and management of fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic. Sedentary species and species managed under other international treaties are excluded.

The amended convention asserts that NAFO's objective is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the convention area and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found. NAFO has authority to adopt conservation and management measures in all parts of the convention area, but measures for areas under national jurisdiction are conditional on the relevant coastal State proposing and supporting them. Thus, in practice NAFO is largely focused on the parts of the convention area that are beyond national jurisdiction, referred to as the "regulatory area".

MEMBERS

NAFO has 12 members: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of Saint Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America.

There has been no change in membership since 2000.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

NAFO assesses between 20 and 30 fish stocks on a regular basis and manages more than 50 fisheries. The number of authorized fishing vessels has been between 1 and 200 since 2000.

The convention text makes specific reference to both the precautionary and ecosystem approaches. More specifically, it states that contracting parties shall apply the precautionary approach in accordance with Article 6 of UNFSA; and that they shall take due account of the impact of fishing activities on other species and marine ecosystems and, in doing so, adopt measures to minimize harmful impact on living resources and marine ecosystems, taking due account of the need to preserve marine biological diversity

NAFO has updated bycatch regulations and introduced specific measures for the protection of certain non-target species. Regulations for VME protection came into force in 2008 and have been modified on several occasions. NAFO has closed several areas that may or do contain benthic organisms.

NAFO uses numerous sources for data collection, i.e. daily and monthly catch reports, biological sampling data, VMS data, logbooks, port inspection reports and observer reports. It has also established a Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group.

NAFO has a scheme for control and enforcement in place, which includes general control measures such as authorizations, duties on logbook recording and VMS. The scheme obligates contracting parties to transmit information on daily catch and

transshipment operations to the secretariat, and also contains provisions on reciprocal boarding and inspections at sea.

Since 2000 NAFO has adopted several measures to address IUU fishing, including maintenance of an IUU vessel list, which is transmitted to other RFMOs. NAFO receives the NEAFC IUU vessel list and amends its IUU vessel list accordingly. The port control system was amended in 2014 to align with the PSMA.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission meets annually, always with participation by all contracting parties. The Scientific Council meets twice a year, holding its main meeting in June and also meeting in connection with the annual Commission meeting. Scientists from most contracting parties attend the Scientific Council meetings, but two or three parties rarely participate in the scientific work.

NAFO is charged with adopting measures based on the best scientific advice available. This advice is in essence provided by the Scientific Council, but is also based on inputs from several working groups, which are formed to discuss specific issues and continue to work on those issues for as long as the Commission feels they are useful. Current working groups include:

- the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies;
- the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management;
- the Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment;
- the Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

NAFO has established the following standing committees:

- the Standing Committee on International Control, which meets twice a year (once for a special meeting and once in connection with the annual meeting of the Commission) and provides advice on MCS issues and assesses compliance by contracting parties;
- the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration, which meets during the Commission's annual meeting.

Most contracting parties attend the committee and working group meetings, but those with minor fishing opportunities tend not to make them a priority, particularly the working group meetings.

In relation to transparency, NAFO allows representatives from other IGOs and from NGOs to take part in its meetings, including many working group meetings.

NAFO has established a website, which provides the meeting reports of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

NAFO and NEAFC cooperate through a Joint Advisory Group on Data Management created in 2013 and also collaborate concerning a fish stock that straddles their respective regulatory areas. Recently, NAFO has reached out to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and to the secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). There is no relevant regional sea convention or programme in the area. NAFO observes the annual meetings of NAMMCO, NEAFC, NPAFC and SEAFO.

NAFO has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

NAFO was subject to a performance review in 2011, and a second review was undertaken in 2018 (after completion of the survey).

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The NASCO Convention entered into force in 1983 and applies to the salmon stocks that migrate beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction of coastal States of the North Atlantic Ocean throughout their migratory range. The objective of NASCO is to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon through international cooperation, taking account of the best available scientific information, which the organization obtains from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) based on an MoU in vigour since 2007, and through NASCO working groups and committees.

MEMBERS

NASCO has six members: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Norway, Russian Federation and United States of America.

Iceland withdrew from NASCO in 2009. No other changes have been made to the membership.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

NASCO manages the Atlantic salmon. Pursuant to the convention, fishing is (with two exceptions) prohibited in areas beyond 12 nautical miles of the parties.

There are no references to the precautionary approach or ecosystem approach in the Convention, but NASCO agreed on a Plan of Action for the Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat in 2001, and on Guidelines for the Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat in 2010.

NASCO has established implementation plans detailing the measures to be taken over five year periods (2007–2012 and 2013–2018) in relation to management of salmon fisheries; habitat protection and restoration; and minimizing the adverse impacts of aquaculture. Progress in carrying out these plans is reported and evaluated annually through focus area reports.

The convention stipulates that each party shall provide to the NASCO Council catch statistics and other available scientific and statistical information on applicable salmon stocks taken in its rivers and areas of fisheries jurisdiction. In this regard, NASCO has adopted Minimum Standard for Catch Statistics.

NASCO has not established any particular measures to address IUU fishing.

GOVERNANCE

NASCO is governed by a council and three regional committees, the North American Commission, the West Greenland Commission and the North East Atlantic Commission. It has established a Finance and Administration Committee and an International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (in 2001). The council and the research board both meet on an annual basis and are attended by all members.

States and IGOs may attend NASCO meetings. NAFO and NEAFC attend council meetings as observers. France (in respect of Saint Pierre and Miquelon) also attends meetings as an observer.

NASCO has established a website, which provides meeting reports of the NASCO Council, subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the council report.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

NASCO and the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the North-East Atlantic agreed on an MoU in 2013.

Observers from NAFO, NAMMCO, NEAFC and NPAFC generally attend NASCO meetings.

NASCO has a formal arrangement for collaboration with FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

NASCO was subject to a performance review in 2012.

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

NEAFC was originally established in 1959, but a new convention entered into force in 1982, which has since been amended twice, in 2004 and 2006. NEAFC's objective is to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilization of the fishery resources in the convention area, providing economic, environmental and social benefits.

NEAFC has authority to adopt conservation and management measures in all parts of the convention area, but its management role within areas under national jurisdiction is conditional on the relevant coastal State proposing and supporting such measures. Thus, in practice NEAFC is largely focused on the parts of the convention area that are beyond national jurisdiction, referred to as the “regulatory area”.

MEMBERS

NEAFC has five contracting parties: Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russian Federation.

Poland and Estonia were formerly members (Estonia only since 2003), but after acceding to the European Union in 2005 they discontinued their membership in the Commission in 2006.

Bahamas, Canada, Liberia, New Zealand and Saint Kitts and Nevis have been granted status as cooperating non-contracting parties.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

It is specified in the NEAFC Convention that the Commission shall seek scientific advice from ICES. Since 2000, an MoU for that purpose has been established between the two organizations, the latest version agreed in 2007.

Based on the recurring scientific assessment and advice provided by ICES on the main commercial stocks targeted in the regulatory area, NEAFC manages between 10 and 20 fisheries. Since 2000, the number of vessels authorized to fish in the regulatory area has been stably in the range of 200 to 1 000.

Following its 2006 amendment, the NEAFC Convention now specifies that the Commission shall apply the precautionary approach and that it shall take due account of the impact of fisheries on other species and marine ecosystems, as well as take due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity.

NEAFC adopted measures to protect VMEs in 2004 by closing five seamounts to bottom fishing. Following those closures, various other measures were introduced during the period 2005–2012 to protect VMEs, which led to the establishment of a refined and consolidated regulatory framework for the protection of VMEs in 2014. NEAFC adopted bycatch regulations for some shark species in 2006, and conservation and management measures for additional non-target species have been in place since 2009.

NEAFC has established a system for collection of catch figures and has established the Working Group on Fisheries Statistics to ensure that the data are regularly updated and shared for the most complete and real-time statistics.

NEAFC adopted a scheme on control and enforcement in 1999 and has refined it continuously ever since. The scheme includes general control measures such as

authorizations, duties on logbook recording, VMS, and reporting of daily catch and transshipment operations. The scheme also contains provisions on reciprocal boarding and inspections at sea.

Since 2000, NEAFC has adopted several measures to address IUU fishing, including the establishment of an IUU vessel list in 2004, which since 2006 has incorporated vessels listed by CCAMLR, NAFO and SEAFO. A full-fledged port State control system was agreed in 2007 and was amended in 2014 to align with the PSMA.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission meets annually, always with participation by all contracting parties. NEAFC has established three permanent committees:

- the Finance and Administration Committee, which always meets in connection with the annual meeting of the Commission;
- the Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance, which meets twice a year;
- the Permanent Committee on Management and Science, established in 2005, which mainly drafts requests for specific scientific advice and which usually has an annual special meeting in addition to meeting in connection with the annual meeting of the Commission.

All contracting parties attend all committee meetings, and this has been the case since their respective establishment.

In addition, working groups are formed to discuss specific issues, usually attended by representatives of all contracting parties.

With regard to transparency, IGOs have been accepted as meeting observers since the NEAFC Convention entered into force. In 2001, the Rules of Procedure were amended to allow NGOs to participate in Commission meetings. Following a series of NGO requests, in 2013 NEAFC decided to allow NGOs to participate also in meetings of the Permanent Committee on Management and Science.

The NEAFC website provides meeting reports of the Commission, subsidiary bodies and working groups dating from 2008 onwards.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2008 NEAFC and the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the North-East Atlantic agreed on an MoU to promote mutual cooperation towards the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, including protection of marine ecosystems, in the North-East Atlantic. This cooperation was extended further by the adoption in 2014 of the “Collective Arrangement between competent international organizations on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the North-East Atlantic”, which was conceived to bring on board other relevant organizations with mandates in the areas beyond national jurisdiction in the North-East Atlantic, such as ICCAT, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), ISA and NASCO.

In 2009, IMO and NEAFC signed an agreement of cooperation which focuses on exchange of information on issues of common interest, including mutual observation of relevant meetings.

Through the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management, created in 2013, NEAFC and NAFO cooperate on the design of relevant frameworks and any technical issue related to the generating, storing, transmitting and use of fisheries data, including data processing, protocols, standards, data security and confidentiality.

Representatives of NEAFC observe the annual meetings of CCAMLR, ICCAT, ICES, NAFO, NASCO and SEAFO, and representatives of those organizations also observe the annual meetings of NEAFC.

NEAFC has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

Two performance reviews have been conducted, the first concluded in 2006 and the second in 2014.

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The NPAFC Convention entered into force in 1993. The primary objective of the Commission is to promote the conservation of anadromous stocks in the international waters of the North Pacific Ocean and adjacent seas.

MEMBERS

NPAFC has five members, of which one acceded to the Convention after 2000: Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea (2003), Russian Federation and United States of America.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

NPAFC aims to reach its objective by promoting the acquisition, analysis and dissemination of scientific information pertaining to anadromous stocks and related species, and by coordinating efforts and establishing an effective mechanism for international cooperation to promote their conservation. Scientific advice is provided by the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics, which has created working groups on stock assessment, salmon marking and stock identification.

NPAFC assesses between one and ten fish stocks on a regular basis. Since 2000, the number of authorized vessels has been stably in the range of 1 to 200.

The convention text does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. Nevertheless, in prohibiting directed fishing of anadromous fish in the convention area, minimizing incidental catch and prohibiting retention of incidental catch, the convention effectively calls for the implementation of a precautionary approach.

The exchange of catch and effort data is stipulated in the convention.

NPAFC has not established an IUU vessel list *per se*, but it maintains a list of apprehended illegal salmon fishing vessels which dates back to 1993. In addition, members coordinate patrol scheduling, conduct joint patrols and arrange personnel exchange for air and sea patrols.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission meets annually and is attended by all members. Three subsidiary bodies have been established:

- The Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics, established under the convention, meets annually in conjunction with the Commission meeting and is attended by all members. It has established a Science Sub-Committee (in 1995) and four working groups: on stock assessment, salmon marking, stock identification and the International Year of the Salmon (2018–2019).
- The Committee on Enforcement also meets in conjunction with the Commission and is attended by all members. Its function is to detect and deter IUU fishing vessels in the convention area. In recent years it has focused on joint patrols, coordinated through annual virtual meetings.
- NPAFC also has a Committee on Finance and Administration.

In regard to transparency, the Commission may invite any IGO or other organization to observe selected Commission meetings. It may also invite additional persons to

participate as guests or observers at such meetings. Any organizations desiring to participate as observers need to apply beforehand, and a decision on the matter shall be taken by consensus among all parties.

NPAFC has established a website, which provides the NPAFC annual reports for 2000, 2001 and the period 2010–2017. However, meeting reports of the Commission, subsidiary bodies and working groups are not directly available. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the annual reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

NPAFC and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) negotiated an MoU in 1998 and agreed in 2014 on an NPAFC–PICES Enhanced Scientific Framework in the North Pacific Ocean.

The Science Sub-Committee coordinates with NASCO.

NPAFC and WCPFC signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in 2010.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

NPAFC was subject to a performance review in 2010.

North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The NPFC Convention was agreed in 2013 and entered into force in 2015. The Commission is responsible for managing fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean, excluding sedentary and catadromous species, marine mammals and those species managed through other international instruments. The objective is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources while protecting the marine ecosystems in which they occur.

MEMBERS

NPFC has eight contracting parties: Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Taiwan Province of China, United States of America and Vanuatu.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

NPFC assesses between one and ten fish stocks on a regular basis and manages between one and ten fisheries. In 2017, between 1 000 and 3 000 vessels were authorized to fish.

The convention specifies that conservation and management measures shall be based on the best scientific information available and be adopted and implemented in accordance with the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries. Measures shall be adopted for the conservation and management of non-target species and for the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment, including prevention of significant adverse impacts on VMEs.

Prior to the establishment of NPFC, the negotiating parties agreed in 2007 on interim voluntary measures for the protection of VMEs in the northwestern Pacific Ocean, and such measures for the eastern Pacific Ocean were agreed in 2011. The Commission adopted amended versions of these voluntary measures in 2016.

No specific system for data collection has been established, but contracting parties are to ensure that complete and accurate data are collected and shared in an appropriate manner.

NPFC established a system for listing IUU vessels in 2016. No specific port State measures have been established.

In 2016, NPFC established a list of authorized fishing vessels and a conservation and management measure on transshipment procedures.

As mandated in the convention, the Commission has established procedures for high-seas boarding and inspection of fishing vessels, adopted in 2017. The convention also calls for the establishment of VMS requirements.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission meets annually, with the participation of all contracting parties.

NPFC has established two subsidiary bodies: The Scientific Committee advises the Commission, and the Technical and Compliance Committee monitors and reviews compliance with conservation and management measures and makes recommendations to the Commission on MCS issues. Each of these committees meets annually and is attended by all members.

The convention specifies that representatives from IGOs and NGOs shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies as observers. NGOs wishing to participate shall apply beforehand and can be denied observer status if a majority of the members object. Observer status remains valid for future meetings unless the Commission decides otherwise.

NPFC has established a website, which provides meeting reports of the Commission, subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

According to the survey, NPFC has entered into formal cooperation arrangements with other organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

NPFC has not been subject to a performance review.

Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

PSC was established in 1985 in order to implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The treaty was amended in 1999 and 2009. Its objective is to prevent overfishing of the Pacific salmon so as to achieve optimum production and ensure that the members receive equal benefits from the production of salmon originating in their waters.

MEMBERS

PSC is a bilateral body between Canada and the United States of America. As such, no change has been made to its membership since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

PSC is responsible for the management of all Pacific salmon originating from the transboundary waters of the two member countries. It applies to five species of Pacific salmon: Chinook, chum, coho, pink and sockeye, which are found along the western coast of North America and migrate from the ocean to freshwater to spawn. PSC also takes into account the conservation of steelhead trout.

PSC did not reply to the survey, so information on the number of fish stocks regularly assessed, number of fisheries managed, number of authorized fishing vessels, data collection and sharing, VMS and port State measures is unavailable.

The treaty makes specific reference to the precautionary approach, but not to the ecosystem approach.

PSC has established a system for data collection and sharing. The Joint Data Sharing Technical Committee manages this system; its role is to facilitate data exchange between the two parties and develop a standard reporting method.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission holds three regular meetings each year. Its subsidiary bodies include five panels that provide management advice to the Commission and a number of bilateral technical committees that provide scientific advice to the Commission and the panels on specific topics or regions. The panels and technical committees generally meet at least twice a year.

The PSC treaty does not specify observer accreditation rules, but according to the Rules of Procedure, meetings of the Commission and the panels are open to stakeholders unless otherwise designated by the respective chairs.

PSC has established a website, which provides annual reports (dating back to 1985) which include meeting reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies during the year. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

PSC has not established any formal arrangement for collaboration with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

PSC was subject to a performance review in 2012.

Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries was concluded under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. It was approved by the FAO Council in 1999 and came into force in 2001.

The objective of RECOFI is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources within the area of the agreement, i.e. the Gulf and the Sea of Oman. The Commission also deals with aquaculture.

MEMBERS

RECOFI has eight members: Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

There has been no change in membership since the agreement entered into force.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

RECOFI regularly assesses between one and ten fish stocks and manages between one and ten fisheries. Since the establishment of the organization, more than 12 000 vessels have regularly operated in the agreement area.

RECOFI's agreement specifies that the Commission shall apply the precautionary approach and take into account also the best scientific evidence available in relation to conservation and management decisions. It does not specifically mention the ecosystem approach.

In 2012, RECOFI established a recommendation on minimum data reporting.

The Commission has not established VMS.

REFOCI has not established specific measures to address IUU fishing, such as IUU vessel lists, port State measures or transshipment regulations. However, the Commission has expressed concern about IUU fishing in the area during its meetings and has convened workshops on IUU fishing in collaboration with FAO.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission meets biennially and is well attended by the members. RECOFI has created two working groups, one on fisheries management and one on aquaculture.

IGOs may participate in the meetings of the Commission and its committees or working groups as observers, unless the Commission determines otherwise.

The RECOFI website is provided by FAO, and meeting reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and working groups are available there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

RECOFI and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) have formalized their cooperation through an MoU.

RECOFI has a formal arrangement for collaboration with FIRMS and is considered a "participating organization" in CWP.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

RECOFI was subject to a performance review in 2011.

South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The SEAFO Convention was agreed in 2001 and entered into force in 2003. SEAFO manages fishery resources in the high seas of the southeastern Atlantic Ocean, but excludes highly migratory species (typically tuna and tuna-like fish). Its objective is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources.

MEMBERS

SEAFO has seven contracting parties, of which four have acceded to the convention since 2000: Angola (2006), European Union, Japan (2010), Namibia, Norway, Republic of Korea (2011) and South Africa (2008).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

SEAFO assesses one to ten fish stocks on a regular basis and manages one to ten fisheries. The number of authorized fishing vessels has consistently been between 1 and 200 since the establishment of the organization.

To meet its objective, SEAFO is to base its measures on the best scientific evidence available and to apply the precautionary approach. The convention text does not make specific reference to the ecosystem approach. Nevertheless, it does refer to taking due account of the impact of fishing operations on ecologically related species such as seabirds, cetaceans, seals and marine turtles. Furthermore, it mentions that the Commission shall assess the impacts of fishing activities on species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks, to ensure that fishery practices and management measures take due account of the need to minimize harmful impacts on living marine resources as a whole and to protect biodiversity in the marine environment.

Regulations for VME protection came into force in 2008 and have been modified on several occasions. SEAFO has closed several areas that may or do contain benthic organisms. It has established measures on incidental bycatch of seabirds, on reduction of sea turtle mortality and on incidental catches of sharks. SEAFO banned the use of gillnets in 2009.

SEAFO has established a system for collecting and sharing complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities related to all target and non-target species within the convention area, including reporting of logbooks, positions and catch reports (aggregated weekly and quarterly).

An annex on interim measures on authorization, vessel requirements, logbooks and reporting entered into force simultaneously with the convention in 2004. The Commission adopted mandatory use of VMS and port control measures in 2005, and a ban on transshipments at sea in 2007. All control measures were amended in 2013 and merged into a full-fledged system of observation, inspection, compliance and enforcement.

SEAFO has maintained an IUU vessel list since 2006; since 2007 it also incorporates IUU vessels listed by CCAMLR, NAFO and NEAFC.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission and its subsidiary bodies – including the Scientific Committee, which provides advice to the Commission; the Compliance Committee; and the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance – meet annually. These meetings are attended by all contracting parties, with the exception of the Scientific Committee, which some members give less priority.

Representatives from non-contracting parties, IGOs and NGOs may participate in the meetings of the Commission, Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee as observers.

SEAFO has established a website, which provides meeting reports of the Commission, subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SEAFO organized an Arrangement for Cooperation with CCAMLR in 2016. It participates in meetings of the Benguela Current Commission, ICCAT, NAFO, NAMMCO and NEAFC.

SEAFO has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

SEAFO has been subject to two performance reviews, in 2010 and 2016.

South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

SIOFA was adopted in 2006 and entered into force in 2012. It concerns the management of fishery resources on high-sea areas in the southern part of the Indian Ocean, excluding sedentary species and highly migratory species listed in Annex I of UNCLOS. Its objective is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the resources under its auspices, through regular studies of the fish stocks and the impact of fishing on the environment as well as the implementation of conservation and management measures.

MEMBERS

SIOFA has ten contracting parties, of which four joined the agreement after it entered into force in 2012: Australia, Comoros, Cook Islands, European Union, France (on behalf of its Indian Ocean territories) (2012), Japan (2014), Mauritius, Republic of Korea (2014), Seychelles and Thailand (2017).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

SIOFA assesses between one and ten fish stocks on a regular basis and manages between one and ten fisheries. The number of authorized fishing vessels has consistently been between 1 and 200 since the establishment of the organization.

The SIOFA text states that parties shall: adopt measures based on the best scientific evidence available, taking into account sustainable use and implementing an ecosystem approach; apply the precautionary approach; take due account of the need to minimize the harmful impact that fishing may have on the marine environment; and protect biodiversity. SIOFA has established a Scientific Committee which provides advice in this regard.

In 2016, SIOFA established measures on authorization to fish, VMS requirements and measures for the management of bottom fishing for the protection of VMEs. The same year, it also adopted measures for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data relating to fishing activities; these include vessel catch and effort data, scientific observer data and VMS data.

A system for listing IUU vessels was established in 2016. In 2017 SIOFA amended the VMS regulation and introduced transshipment regulations and a port control scheme aligned with the PSMA.

GOVERNANCE

A Meeting of the Parties is convened annually, with participation by all contracting parties. A Scientific Committee has been established; its first meeting was held in 2016 and was well attended by the members. SIOFA's Compliance Committee and the Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group each held a first meeting in 2017. (Following the survey, the Stock Assessment Working Group held its first meeting in 2018.)

As stipulated in the agreement, representatives from non-contracting parties, IGOs and NGOs may participate in the meetings of SIOFA as observers.

SIOFA has established a website, which provides reports of the Meetings of the Parties, subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the reports of the Meetings of the Parties.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

At the time of the survey, SIOFA had not established any formal arrangements for cooperation with other international organizations. However, SIOFA and CCAMLR agreed on an Arrangement for Cooperation in 2018.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

SIOFA has not been subject to a performance review.

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The SPRFMO Convention was agreed in 2010 and entered into force in 2012. SPRFMO manages fishery resources in high-sea areas of the southern Pacific Ocean, excluding sedentary species, highly migratory species listed in Annex I of UNCLOS, anadromous and catadromous species, marine mammals and marine reptiles.

The objective of the SPRFMO Convention is to ensure, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.

MEMBERS

SPRFMO has 15 contracting parties, of which five joined after the convention entered into force in 2012: Australia, Chile, China (2013), Cook Islands, Cuba, Ecuador (2015), European Union, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands), New Zealand, Peru (2016), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Taiwan Province of China, United States of America (2017) and Vanuatu (2013).

Belize withdrew in 2016.

Cooperating non-contracting parties are Colombia, Curaçao, Liberia and Panama.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

SPRFMO assesses between one and ten fish stocks on a regular basis and manages between one and ten fisheries. In 2017, between 200 and 1000 vessels were authorized to fish.

The convention text calls for decision-making based on the best available scientific advice, application of the precautionary approach as described in UNFSA, and the wide use of an ecosystem approach in order to protect fishery resources and preserve the marine ecosystems in which they occur.

SPRFMO banned large-scale and deep-water gillnets in 2013. It adopted measures for minimizing bycatch of seabirds in 2014 and measures for the management of new and exploratory fisheries in 2016. In 2017, SPRFMO established conservation and management measures concerning bottom fishing to avoid significant adverse impacts on VMEs.

In 2013, the Commission adopted a measure on standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data concerning fishing activities and the impacts of fishing, observer data and VMS data.

SPRFMO has maintained an IUU vessel list since 2013.

In 2014 the Commission established VMS and a record of vessels authorized to fish in the convention area. In 2015, it adopted minimum standards for inspection in ports, a compliance and monitoring scheme, boarding and inspection procedures and regulation of transshipments.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission, its Scientific Committee and its Compliance and Technical Committee each hold annual meetings which are well attended by the members. The work of the Commission is also assisted by a Finance and Administration Committee.

The Convention specifies that representatives from non-contracting parties, IGOs and NGOs may participate in the meetings of SPRFMO as observers.

SPRFMO has established a website, which provides meeting reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the reports of the Finance and Administration Committee.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2014 SPRFMO and ACAP agreed on an MoU, and in 2016 SPRFMO entered into an Arrangement for Cooperation with CCAMLR.

SPRFMO has a formal arrangement for collaboration with FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

SPRFMO did not have any performance reviews during the survey period, but a review was undertaken in 2018.

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

WCPFC was established by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, which entered into force in 2004. The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in this area.

MEMBERS

WCPFC has 26 members, of which nine joined after its inception in 2004: Australia, Canada (2005), China, Cook Islands, European Union (2005), Fiji, France (2005), Indonesia (2013), Japan (2005), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau (2005), Papua New Guinea, Philippines (2005), Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Taiwan Province of China, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America (2007) and Vanuatu (2005).

WCPFC also has seven participating territories: American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

WCPFC regularly assesses between one and ten fish stocks and manages between one and ten fisheries. In 2017, the Commission authorized between 3 000 and 7 000 vessels to fish in the convention area.

The convention specifies that the parties shall apply the precautionary approach in their conservation and management measures. It does not specifically mention the ecosystem approach, but specifies that members of the Commission should monitor non-target or associated or dependent species in addition to target stocks. WCPFC has also adopted several binding measures for the prevention of bycatch and for the conservation of non-target species, including various shark species (several measures, the first adopted in 2006), seabirds (2007), sea turtles (2008) and cetaceans (2011).

WCPFC has established a system for data collection, with specific requirements for annual catch estimates, aggregated catch and effort data, operational catch and effort data and size data.

The Commission decided to adopt a VMS in 2007, and the system was put in place in 2009.

WCPFC has adopted several measures to combat IUU fishing, including IUU vessel lists, adopted in 2010; regulations of transshipment, adopted in 2009; and port State measures, adopted in 2018 (after the present survey).

GOVERNANCE

The Commission and its three subsidiary bodies – the Scientific Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and the Northern Committee – hold annual meetings which are well attended by the members. The work of the Commission is assisted by a Finance and Administration Committee.

Since the inception of WCPFC in 2004, the Commission has adopted measures outlining the status of cooperating non-members, with the latest amendment in 2009. There are currently seven cooperating non-members: Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Mexico, Panama, Thailand and Viet Nam.

IGOs and NGOs may participate in the meetings of the Commission as observers. NGO observer status must be requested before the meeting and will be granted unless a majority of members objects. Such observer status is also valid for future sessions unless the Commission decides otherwise.

WCPFC has established a website, which provides meeting reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and working groups. Information about annual budgets is available to the public in the Commission reports.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

WCPFC has established MoUs with the following RFMOs: CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, IOTC and NPAFC. The Commission also has MoUs with FFA, SPC, ACAP and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

WCPFC was subject to a performance review in 2012.

Part II

Regional fisheries advisory bodies

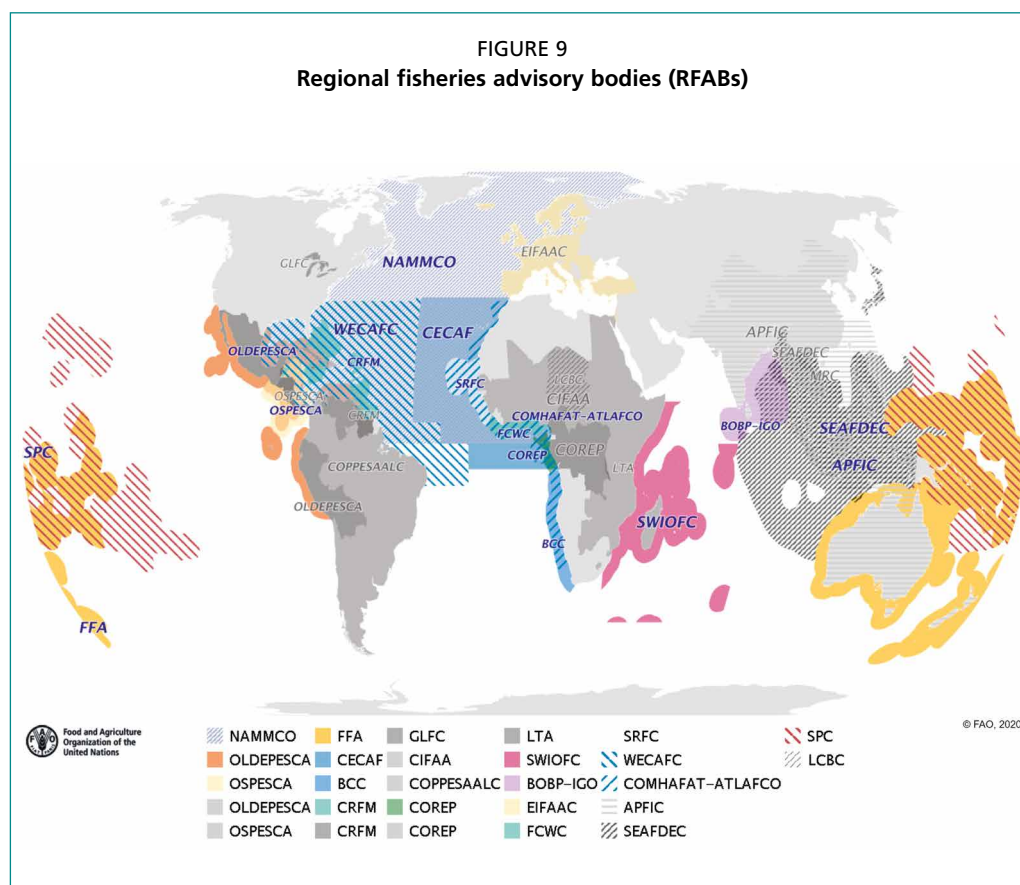
Overview

Regional fisheries advisory bodies (RFABs) provide fora for collaboration and coordination and promote sustainable utilization of living aquatic resources by suggesting specific actions and by providing advice to members on fisheries conservation and management. In contrast with RFMOs, RFABs do not have the authority to adopt legally binding conservation and management measures concerning fishing operations and associated activities.

As for RFMOs, there have been numerous calls in various international fora, among them COFI and the United Nations General Assembly, to strengthen RFABs.

RFABs vary greatly in size, focus areas and activities. One RFAB focuses only on marine mammals, while the others address more general fisheries and fisheries-related issues. Most of the RFABs have been established to oversee marine living resources in national waters, while eight cover inland waters and rivers. Many RFABs also address issues related to aquaculture.

This review covers 24 RFABs (Table 7, Figure 9). Because of their diversity, the collective trends cannot be summarized for all of the topics covered in the review, but indications are given for some of them.



Source: ©FAO/Statistics and Information Branch, FIAS

TABLE 7
RFABs included in this report

Acronym	Organization name	RFAB type
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	Generic (including aquaculture)
ATLAFCO	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean	Generic (including aquaculture)
BCC	Benguela Current Commission	Generic
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme-Intergovernmental Organization	Generic
CECAF	Fishery Commission for the Eastern Central Atlantic	Generic
CIFAA	Committee on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa	Generic (including aquaculture)
COPPESAALC	Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean	Generic (including aquaculture)
COREP	Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea	Generic (including aquaculture)
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	Generic (including aquaculture)
EIFAAC	European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission	Generic (including aquaculture)
FCWC	Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea	Generic
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency	Generic
GLFC	Great Lakes Fishery Commission	Generic
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission	Generic
LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority	Generic (including aquaculture)
MRC	Mekong River Commission	Generic
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission	Specific (marine mammals)
OLDEPESCA	Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries	Generic (including aquaculture)
OSPESCA	Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus	Generic (including aquaculture)
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre	Generic (including aquaculture)
SPC	Pacific Community	Generic (including aquaculture)
SRFC	Subregional Fisheries Commission	Generic
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission	Generic
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission	Generic

Summary of trends

ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

Since 2000, six additional RFABs have been established: BCC (2013), BOBP-IOG (2003), CRFM (2002), FCWC (2006), LTA (2008) and SWIOFC (2004).

In 2017, 156 States were members of one or more RFABs (Box 4).

BOX 4

Members of one or more regional fisheries advisory bodies in 2017

First-time members since 2000 are marked with an asterisk (*)

States and regional economic integration organizations

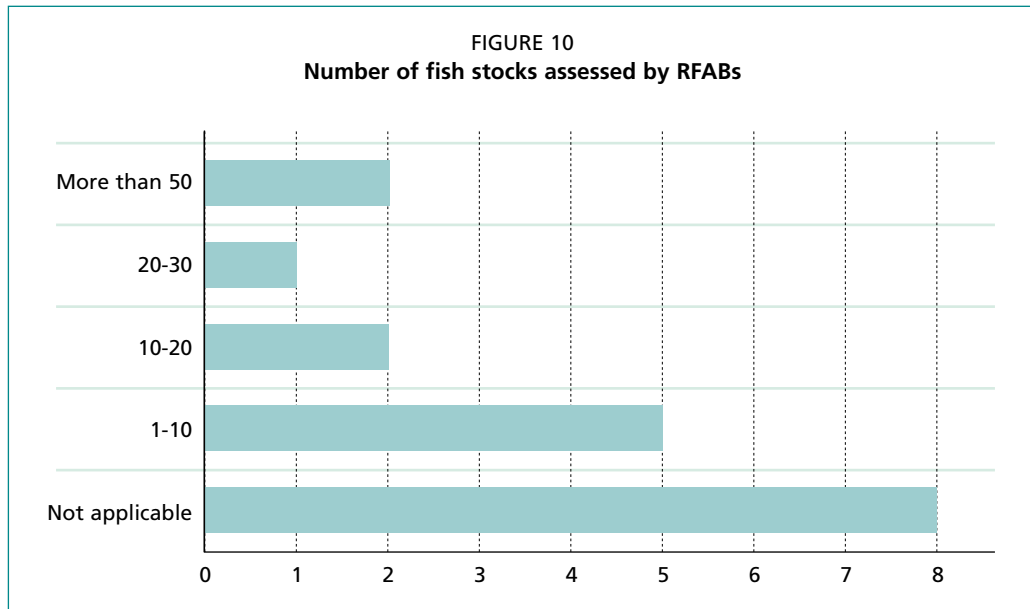
Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya*, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives*, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Mozambique*, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles*, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa*, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste*, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen*, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Territories and other entities

American Samoa, Anguilla, Faroe Islands, French Polynesia, Greenland, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, Wallis and Futuna Islands

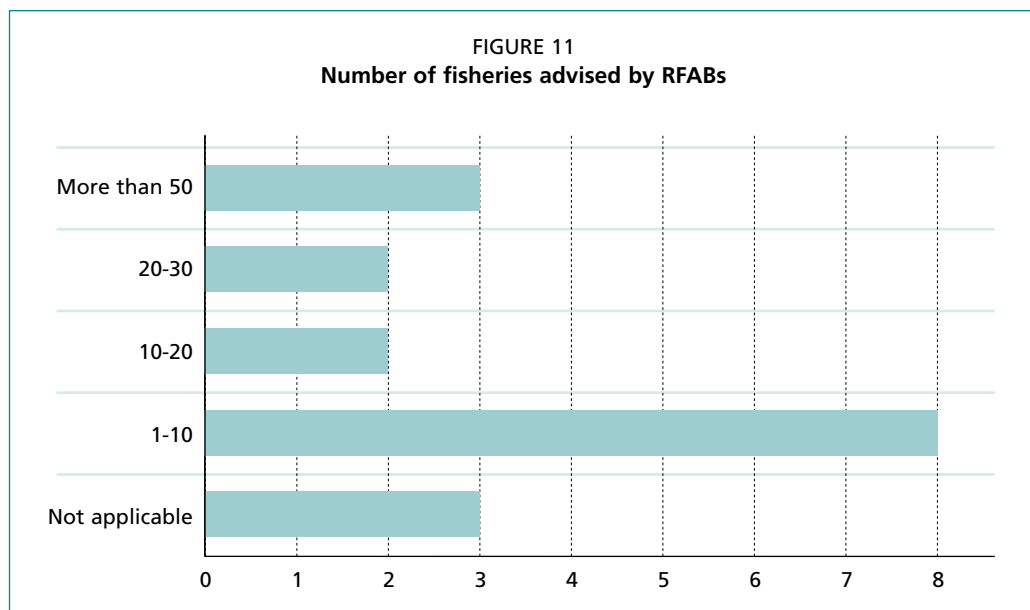
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Fish stocks assessed. According to the survey, five RFABs regularly assess between one and ten fish stocks, two RFABs between 10 and 20 fish stocks, one RFAB between 20 and 30 fish stocks and two RFABs more than 50 stocks (Figure 10). Eight RFABs replied that the question regarding number of fish stocks assessed was not applicable, thereby indicating that they do not regularly assess the status of fish stocks.



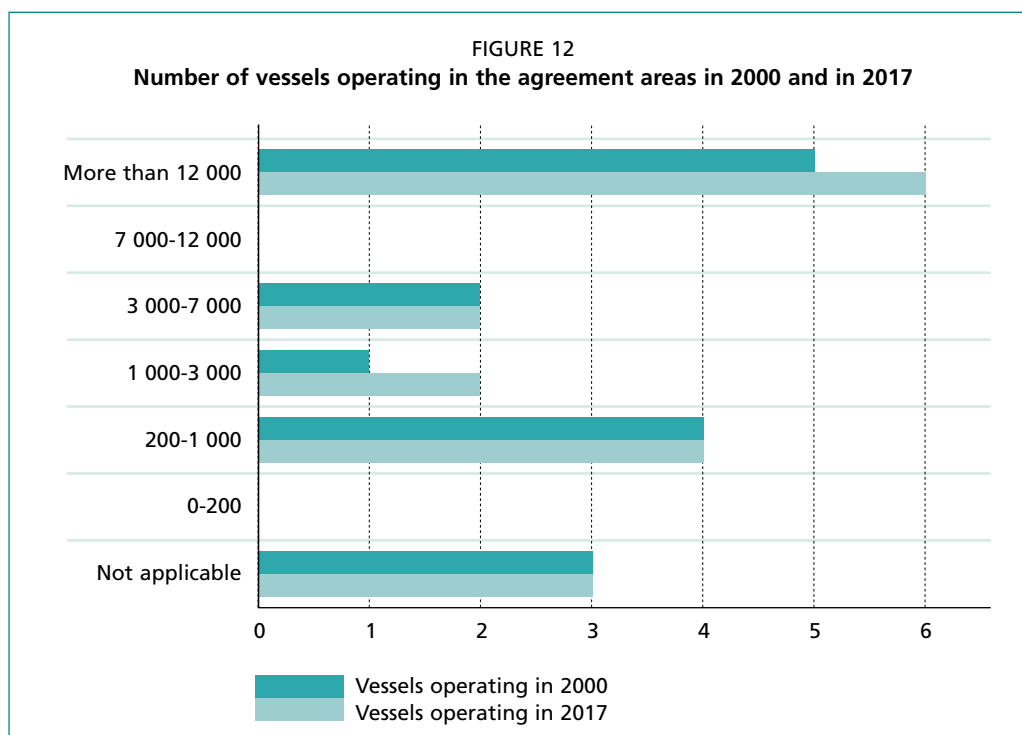
Source: Survey questionnaire (18 responses)

Number of fisheries for which advice is provided. Eight RFABs provide advice for between one and fisheries. Two RFABs provide advice for 10 to 20 fisheries, two RFABs for 20 to 30 fisheries and three RFABs for more than 50 fisheries (Figure 11). Three RFABs replied that the question was not applicable, probably because they do not provide scientific advice for particular fisheries.



Source: Survey questionnaire (18 responses)

Fishing activities. The number of vessels operating within the agreement areas of the respective RFABs varies greatly, but has been relatively stable over time (Figure 12).



Source: Survey questionnaire (15 responses for 2000, and 18 for 2017)

Precautionary approach and ecosystem approach. Few RFABs make specific reference to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in their treaty texts (Table 8). Four RFABs (BCC, EIFAAC, SWIOFC and WECAFC) refer specifically to both approaches. Two RFABs (CRFM and LTA) refer to the precautionary approach only, and one (COPPESAALC) refers to the ecosystem approach only. However, some RFABs refer to the precautionary and ecosystem approaches in key policy documents. For example, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Integration Policy for the Central American Isthmus, which guides the work of OSPESCA, refers specifically to the promotion and application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture, although this approach is not mentioned in the act that established the organization (the Act of San Salvador).

TABLE 8
RFAB treaties referring to the precautionary and/or ecosystem approach

RFAB	Precautionary approach	Ecosystem approach
APFIC		
ATLAFCO		
BCC	x	x
BOBP-IGO		
CECAF		
CIFAA		
COPPESAALC		x
COREP		
CRFM	x	
EIFAAC	x	x
FCWC		
FFA		
GLFC		
LCBC		
LTA	x	
MRC		
NAMMCO		
OLDEPESCA		
OSPESCA		
SEAFDEC		
SPC		
SRFC		
SWIOFC	x	x
WECAFC	x	x

Data collection. According to the survey, 11 of the 18 RFABs that responded to the survey have adopted a detailed system for data collection and sharing, and another four RFABs are establishing such systems.

Monitoring, control and surveillance. MCS, including VMS, is a key component of fisheries management for which RFABs can provide support to their members. Of the 18 RFABs that responded to the survey, 8 reported that they support measures to implement VMS in the area of their agreement. Another five RFABs replied that actions to support the implementation of VMS are being established. Most RFABs also support their members in implementing MCS and combating IUU fishing through workshops, working groups or regional projects.

GOVERNANCE

Meeting activity. RFABs vary in the frequency of their meetings; some bodies meet regularly (at one- or two-year intervals), while others meet less often (sometimes every third or fourth year) or irregularly. It is difficult to identify any general trends in the meeting activity from 2000 to 2017, partly because a number of RFABs do not update meeting information on their websites or make their meeting reports publicly available.

Transparency. All RFABs have either established their own website or have a website provided by FAO. The websites provide general information about the organizations and often make meeting reports publicly available.

Most RFABs have established processes for granting observer status to international organizations, including NGOs.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

A number of RFABs have signed MoUs or other formal arrangements for collaboration with other RFABs (Table 9). Joint working groups have sometimes been created as a means for collaboration; the joint working groups established by CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC are an example.

SPC has signed an MoU with one regional seas programme, SPREP, and with one RFMO, WCPFC. FFA also has signed an MoU with WCPFC. ATLAFCO has also signed an MoU with one RFMO, GFCM. EIFAAC collaborates with GFCM and ICES on a joint project on eels in inland fisheries and aquaculture.

A number of RFABs also have formal arrangements for cooperation with CWP and FIRMS, as described in the summary for RFMOs.

TABLE 9
Formal arrangements for cooperation established between RFABs since 2000^a

RFAB	ATLAFCO	COPPESAAALC	COREP	CRFM	FCWC	FFA	MRC	OSPESCA	SEAFDEC	SPC	SRFC	WECAFC
ATLAFCO			x		x	x				x	x	
COPPESAAALC								x				
COREP	x											
CRFM								x				x
FCWC	x											
FFA	x									x		
MRC									x			
OSPESCA		x		x								x
SEAFDEC							x					
SPC	x					x						
SRFC												
WECAFC				x				x				

Source: RFAB websites

^a Formal arrangement include MoUs and joint working groups.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

Five of the RFABs have been subject to performance reviews between 2000 and 2017: CECAF (2012), CRFM (2013), FFA (twice, in 2010 and 2017), SWIOFC (2013) and WECAFC (2014).

Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council was established by the FAO Council in 1948, under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and in 1993 it elected to change its name to Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (as endorsed by the FAO Council in 1994). The APFIC Agreement was amended by the FAO Council in 1977, 1994 and 1997.

The objective of the Commission is to promote the full and proper utilization of living aquatic resources by the development and management of fishing operations. It covers all living marine and inland aquatic resources – marine, fresh and brackish water species – including stocks of coastal and high-sea fisheries as well as aquaculture and inland fisheries.

MEMBERS

APFIC has 21 members, of which one has joined since 2000: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste (2011), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Viet Nam.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

To meet its objectives, the Commission has a broad mandate in formulating and recommending measures for conservation and management of the resources.

The survey indicated that since 2000, more than 12 000 vessels have consistently operated in the agreement area. APFIC responded that the questions on number of fisheries assessed and number of fisheries for which advice was provided were not applicable.

The agreement text does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. According to the survey, however, APFIC supports actions to mitigate bycatch of non-target species in the agreement area and to implement area-based management tools. For example, APFIC has published reports on MPAs and has developed guidelines for implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries and provided training on their application.

According to the survey, there is no specific system in place to collect data on catches in the agreement area. Nevertheless, APFIC provides a regional overview of fisheries and aquaculture on its website, with biannual reports. According to the survey, the Commission has supported measures for the adoption of VMS in the agreement area since 2014. APFIC has developed, for example, regional guidelines for the management of tropical trawl fisheries, including a recommendation to implement VMS on all large vessels.

APFIC has carried out a number of workshops focusing specifically on combating IUU fishing. According to the survey, APFIC has also supported actions to implement port State measures since 2014, for example by providing training courses and producing material on the subject.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission holds biennial sessions, which are generally attended by 75 percent of the members. The Commission is assisted by the Executive Committee, which meets between regular Commission sessions; it comprises the chair, vice-chair, outgoing chair and two members elected by the Commission.

The Commission's biennial sessions are complemented by the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM), which is attended by government officials of the member countries, project staff, regional and intergovernmental fisheries bodies and other UN organizations. The deliberations and recommendations of RCFM feed into the processes of the APFIC sessions.

APFIC has established a specific process for observer accreditation, allowing international organizations to participate in the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

APFIC's website is provided by FAO, and the Commission and Executive Committee meeting reports are publicly available there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

APFIC has not established any formal mechanism for cooperating with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

APFIC has not been subject to a performance review.

Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic (ATLAFCO)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO) (also well known by its French acronym, COMHAFAT) was created in 1989. Its constitutive convention, the Regional Convention on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in July 1995.

The main objectives of ATLAFCO are the promotion and strengthening of regional cooperation on fisheries development and the coordination and harmonization of efforts and capacities of stakeholders for the conservation and exploitation of marine living resources in African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

MEMBERS

ATLAFCO has 22 members: Angola, Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

According to the survey, ATLAFCO provides advice for more than 50 fisheries, and in 2017 more than 12 000 vessels operated in the agreement area. ATLAFCO replied “not applicable” concerning the number of fish stocks regularly assessed.

The ATLAFCO convention does not make specific references to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. According to the survey, ATLAFCO supports actions to mitigate bycatch of non-target species and to implement area-based management tools in the agreement area. ATLAFCO has not established a specific system for data collection. The organization is developing a VMS to be used by members in the agreement area, and it supports measures to implement port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

The Conference of Ministers is the governing body of ATLAFCO and met five times between 2005 and 2017. More than 80 percent of members attended these meetings. Other States and competent IGOs and NGOs may be invited as observers to meetings of the Conference of Ministers.

ATLAFCO has established a website, where reports of the Conference of Ministers are publicly available.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ATLAFCO has established MoUs with other RFABs including COREP, FCWC and SRFC, and with one RFMO, namely GFCM.

ATLAFCO also has agreed to an MoU with the Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council, which is an EU stakeholder body.

The meetings of the Conference of Ministers are regularly observed by COREP, FCWC, CSRP and ICCAT.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

ATLAFCO has not been subject to a performance review.

Benguela Current Commission (BCC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

BCC was established in 2013. Its objective is to promote a coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, and to provide economic, environmental and social benefits. The BCC Convention relates to all human activities within the EEZs of Angola, Namibia and South Africa, including fishing and the conservation and management of transboundary marine living resources.

MEMBERS

BCC has three members: Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

General principles of BCC include sustainable use and management of marine resources, the precautionary principle, protection of biodiversity in the marine environment and conservation of the marine ecosystem. Parties have made a commitment, among other things, to take all necessary measures to protect the marine ecosystem against any adverse impacts, to undertake environmental impact assessment for proposed activities that are likely to cause adverse impacts on the marine and coastal environments, to protect vulnerable species and biological diversity, and to establish mechanisms for collection, sharing, exchange and analysis of relevant data and information, including statistical, biological, environmental and intersectoral data.

According to the survey, BCC regularly assesses the status of one to ten fish stocks and provides advice for the same number of fisheries. Between 200 and 1 000 vessels operated in the agreement area in 2017.

The BCC Agreement text makes specific reference to both the precautionary and ecosystem approaches. According to the survey, BCC supports action to mitigate bycatch of non-target species and to implement area-based management tools in the agreement area. BCC also promotes collaboration on monitoring, control and surveillance, including joint activities.

According to the survey, BCC has established a system for data collection and data sharing. The Commission has agreed to a data management policy and protocol addressing, for example, ownership and intellectual property, data submission, data management and data access and release.

According to the survey, BCC supports actions to combat IUU fishing, by supporting implementation of VMS, and to implement port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission is BCC's operational body and is governed through the BCC Ministerial Conference, which meets annually with attendance of all three members. BCC has three permanent advisory committees: the Ecosystem Advisory Committee, Finance and Administration Committee and Compliance Committee.

Stakeholders are allowed to participate in BCC meetings.

BCC has established a website, which provides the annual reports (which include a summary of the Ministerial Conference meeting) for 2011 to 2017.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

BCC has not established any formal mechanism for cooperating with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

BCC has not been subject to a performance review.

Bay of Bengal Programme – Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The BOBP-IGO Agreement was adopted in 2003. Its objective is to promote, facilitate and ensure the long-term development and utilization of coastal fisheries resources in the Bay of Bengal through responsible fishing practices and environmentally sound management. To this end, it provides technical and management advice to its members. The agreement applies to all marine fish stocks.

MEMBERS

BOBP-IGO has four members: Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The membership of the organization has remained the same since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

BOBP-IGO provides management advice for one to ten fisheries. Since the inception of the organization, more than 12 000 vessels have consistently operated within the agreement area.

The BOBP-IGO Agreement text does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or ecosystem approach to fisheries. However, according to the survey, BOBP-IGO supports measures for bycatch mitigation and for area-based management.

A system for collecting data has not been established, but is currently being developed.

In regard to IUU fishing, the organization has not taken any particular action to support the implementation of VMS, but since 2008 it has supported actions by members to implement port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

The governing body of the organization is the annual Governing Council, attended by the four members, although no information is available about meetings held since 2012. A Technical Advisory Committee advises the Governing Council on technical matters.

The organization has established specific procedures for granting observer status for sessions of the Governing Council to non-member governments, organizations and institutions that can contribute to the activities of the organization.

BOBP-IGO has a website which provides some information about the activities of the organization. The website is not up to date, but more recent information about meetings is available on Facebook. Reports from meetings of the Governing Council held from 2007 to 2011 are publicly available on the website.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

BOBP-IGO has not established any formal agreements for collaboration with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

BOBP-IGO has not been subject to a performance review.

Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

CECAF was established in 1967 under Article VI, Paragraph 2 of the FAO Constitution, replacing the Regional Fisheries Commission for Western Africa, which had been abolished by the FAO Conference the same year. The Committee's statutes were last amended in 2003. Its objective is to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources in the Eastern Central Atlantic by the proper management and development of the fisheries and fishing operations.

MEMBERS

CECAF has 34 members, of which only one has joined since 2000: Angola (2006), Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Togo and United States of America.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

CECAF's role includes keeping the state of the resources under review; promoting the collection, interchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information; establishing the scientific basis for regulatory measures leading to the conservation and management of marine fishery resources; formulating such measures; and providing advice for the adoption of regulatory measures by its members. It also provides advice on MCS, especially as regards issues of a subregional and regional nature.

According to the survey, the Committee regularly assesses the status of more than 50 fish stocks and provides management advice for between 20 and 30 fisheries. CECAF replied that the number of vessels operating in the agreement area was not applicable.

CECAF's statutes do not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or ecosystem approach, but its Scientific Sub-Committee has recommended that members implement the precautionary approach when establishing fisheries measures. According to the survey, CECAF supports measures to mitigate bycatch of non-target species and to implement area-based management tools within the agreement area. For example, FAO and CECAF co-hosted a technical Workshop on Deep-Sea Fisheries and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems of the Eastern Central Atlantic in 2016.

CECAF has not established a specific system for data collection and has not addressed implementation of VMS by members.

Since 2016, CECAF has supported actions to implement port State measures. For example, CECAF co-hosted a workshop on port State measures with FAO in 2009, and the Committee prepared a working document on actions against IUU fishing in the CECAF area, including the implementation of the PSMA, for its twenty-first session in 2016.

GOVERNANCE

The Committee is the governing body of CECAF. Since 2008, the Committee has met every four years; previously it convened every two years. Attendance varies; in 2002, 2006 and 2012 fewer than 50 percent of members attended, while in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2016 between 55 and 75 percent of members were present.

In 1998, the Committee established the Scientific Sub-Committee, whose main function is to study the stocks, to assess their status and to advise the Committee on this basis. Its meetings are attended by 40 to 65 percent of the members. The Scientific Sub-Committee has in turn established five working groups: northern and southern groups on small pelagic fish, northern and southern groups on demersal species, and a group on artisanal fisheries.

CECAF's statutes do not contain a specific process for accrediting NGOs or others to observe meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies, but as CECAF is an Article VI body, in the absence of specific rules under either the statutes or the rules of procedure, the FAO General Rules apply. One NGO attended the Committee meeting in 2016.

CECAF's website is maintained by FAO and provides meeting reports of the Committee and the SSC, including its working groups.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CECAF has not established any formal arrangements for collaboration with other international organizations.

CECAF Committee meetings have since 2004 regularly been attended by other RFABs, including ATLAFCO, COREP, FCWC, the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project and SRFC.

CECAF has a formal arrangement for collaboration with FIRMS and has "participating organization" status in CWP.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

CECAF was subject to a performance review in 2012.

Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The Committee for Inland Fisheries in Africa was established by the FAO Council in 1971 under Article VI, Paragraph 2 of the FAO Constitution. Statutes were amended in 1973, 1975, 2007 and 2015. The 2007 amendment decreed the inclusion of aquaculture, recognizing its importance to Africa, and changed the name to Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA). The main objective of the Committee is to promote the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, and it covers all species in inland waters of member countries. The most recent amendment was made to address emerging socio-cultural and economic concerns such as biodiversity conservation, climate change, pressure on resources and sustainability.

MEMBERS

CIFAA has 37 members, of which only one (Mozambique) has joined since 2000: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique (2009), Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

CIFAA's role includes, among other things, promoting, coordinating and assisting national and regional fisheries in research and development leading to the rational utilization of inland fishery resources; and assisting members in establishing the scientific basis for regulatory and other measures for the conservation and improvement of inland fishery resources. Furthermore, the Committee is mandated to promote and coordinate national and regional efforts to prevent damage to the aquatic environment, and to assist in the collection, interchange, dissemination and analysis of statistical, biological and environmental data and other inland fishery information.

CIFAA's statutes do not make specific reference to the precautionary or ecosystem approaches. CIFAA has, however, recommended the implementation of a precautionary approach for the management of inland fisheries to members that lack adequate knowledge on the state of the stocks.

CIFAA did not reply to the survey, so information cannot be given on the number of fish stocks assessed, fisheries for which advice is provided or number of vessels operating in the agreement area, or on actions to support bycatch mitigation, actions related to area-based management tools, data collection and sharing, the significance of IUU fishing and whether any actions have been recommended to mitigate it.

GOVERNANCE

CIFAA has normally met every two years, but since 2010 sessions have been less frequent (every third or four year). Most Committee meetings held since 2000 have

been attended by about 60 percent of the members. However, in 2008 about 30 percent, and in 2010 about 40 percent, of the members were present.

CIFAA's website is provided by FAO and makes publicly available reports from most Committee meetings held since 2000.

CIFAA has not established a specific procedure for the accreditation of observer status to international organizations, but as it is an Article VI body, in the absence of specific rules under either the statutes or the rules of procedure, the FAO General Rules apply.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

No information is available about any formal arrangement for cooperation between CIFAA and other international organizations.

CIFAA Committee meetings are regularly attended by observers from LTA and LVFO.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

CIFAA has not been subject to a performance review. However, owing to increasingly poor attendance at CIFAA meetings, in 2010 the Committee created an ad hoc working group to make recommendations on the future role of CIFAA.

Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

COPPESAALC was originally established by FAO Council Resolution 4/70 in 1976 as the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America, under Article VI, Paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. The Commission was created to assist national and regional efforts to enable development and rational use of inland fisheries in the region. In 2010, the FAO Council adopted revised statutes for the Commission, extending its geographical scope to the Caribbean and its mandate to include aquaculture. In 2018, the statutes were amended to include also marine small-scale and artisanal fisheries, and the name was changed accordingly.

The objective of COPPESAALC is to promote the management and sustainable development of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and other applicable instruments adopted by FAO.

MEMBERS

COPPESAALC has 21 members, of which five have joined since 2000: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba (2010), Dominican Republic (2010), Ecuador, El Salvador (2010), Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica (2010), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama (2010), Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

COPPESAALC provides its members with the scientific basis for regulatory and other measures for the conservation and improvement of inland fishery resources; advice on appropriate recommendations for the adoption and implementation of these measures; as well as assistance in the collection, interchange, dissemination and analysis of data related to fisheries and aquaculture.

According to the survey, the Commission provides advice for between one and ten fisheries. COPPESAALC replied that the questions about the number of fish stocks under management and the number of vessels operating in the agreement area were not applicable.

The statutes of COPPESAALC make specific reference to the application of the ecosystem approach. According to the survey, COPPESAALC supports measures to mitigate bycatch of non-target species, but the Commission has not supported the implementation of area-based measures.

The Commission reported that it has not established a specific system for data collection or taken any action related to VMS. It has been supporting actions to implement port State measures since 2015.

GOVERNANCE

FAO provides the secretariat of COPPESAALC, based at the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Commission (the COPPESAALC governing body) has met with irregular frequency since 2000. Most meetings have been attended by about 75 percent of the members, although attendance varies year to year.

The COPPESAALC statutes provide a specific process for granting observer status to international organizations.

The website of COPPESAALC is provided by FAO. Meeting documents of recent meetings (from 2011–2017) are publicly available.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

COPPESAALC and OSPESCA have agreed to cooperate to address IUU fishing.

Commission meetings of COPPESAALC are regularly attended by OSPESCA and the Aquaculture Network for the Americas.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

COPPESAALC has not been subject to a performance review.

Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea (COREP)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

COREP was established in 1984 by the Convention Concerning the Regional Development of Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea. The convention was last amended in 2010. Since 2008, COREP has been a specialized organization of the Economic Community of Central African States. Its main objective is to assist its members in promoting and developing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development to maximize the potential of aquatic environments.

MEMBERS

COREP has five members, of which one has joined since 2000: Cameroon (2003), Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.

Angola and Equatorial Guinea have observer status.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

COREP replied to the survey that the questions about number of fish stocks assessed and fisheries advised were not applicable, and that the number of vessels operating in the agreement area was unknown.

The convention text does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. According the survey, COREP supports actions to mitigate bycatch of non-target species and to implement area-based management tools in the agreement area. COREP has established a system for data collection and data sharing. The Commission has supported actions to implement VMS in the agreement area since 2009, and actions to implement port State measures since 2016.

The Strategic Plan of Action specifies that COREP shall develop strategies to help members strengthen fisheries research and MCS in the region.

GOVERNANCE

COREP is governed by a Council of Ministers and has established two subsidiary bodies, the Technical Committee and the Scientific Sub-Committee.

International and regional organizations may participate as observers in COREP meetings. The convention also states that COREP shall cooperate with relevant subregional, regional and international organizations to achieve its objectives.

COREP has established a website, but the reports of the Council of Ministers, the Technical Committee and the Scientific Sub-Committee are not publicly available there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

COREP has signed an MoU with ATLAFCO.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

COREP has not been subject to a performance review.

Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

CRFM was established in 2002 within the framework of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and is considered an associated (rather than a formal) institution of CARICOM. Its objective is to promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region, by:

- assisting members in efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources within their respective jurisdictions;
- promoting and establishing cooperative arrangements among interested States for the efficient management of shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources;
- providing technical advisory and consultative services to members in the development, management and conservation of their marine and other aquatic resources.

It applies to all fisheries resources, including aquaculture, in areas under national jurisdiction and inland waters.

MEMBERS

CRFM has 17 members: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

There have been no changes in membership since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

CRFM covers all species within the area of its coverage – a wide range of species including reef fishes; shared, straddling and highly migratory marine resources; and other aquatic resources.

The CRFM agreement text makes specific reference to the precautionary approach to sustainable use and management of fisheries resources as a guiding principle. It does not refer to the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

CRFM did not reply to the survey, so no information is available on the number of fish stocks assessed, fisheries advised or vessels operating in the agreement area; any actions to support bycatch mitigation or area-based management tools; data collection and sharing; VMS; or port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

The Ministerial Council is the governing body and meets once a year.

A subsidiary body has been established, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, which comprises one representative from each member, associated member and observer, as well as representatives from fisher organizations, private fishing companies and NGOs. Its main function is to assist the Ministerial Council and determine the technical and scientific work of CRFM. The forum generally meets once a year.

The Caribbean Fisheries Forum is supported by the Executive Committee, which consists of seven member representatives. The Executive Committee meets twice a year, between the sessions of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum.

The Caribbean Fisheries Forum has established seven scientific working groups, focusing on: aquaculture; conch and lobster resources; reef and slope fish resources; shrimp and groundfish resources; small coastal pelagic fish resources; large pelagic fish resources; and data, methods and training. These working groups meet at an annual scientific meeting.

CRFM has established a process for observer accreditation for NGOs, fisher organizations and private fishing companies that wish to participate in the Caribbean Fisheries Forum.

The CRFM website makes publicly available the annual reports from the periods 2003–2006 and 2012–2016. Meeting reports of the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the Executive Committee are not available.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2012, CRFM and OSPESCA signed an MoU to draw up a Joint Action Plan, recognizing the importance of regional collaboration.

Since 2012, CRFM has also been an active partner in several technical and scientific working groups of WECAFC, for example those focusing on flying fish in the eastern Caribbean; development of sustainable moored fish aggregating devices; fishing in the Lesser Antilles; and IUU fishing. CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC have also established joint working groups.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

CRFM was subject to a performance review in 2013.

European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

EIFAAC was originally established by the FAO Council in 1957 as the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC), under Article VI, Paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. In 2010, the Commission incorporated aquaculture into its mandate and its title, and adopted new statutes. The main objective of the Commission is to promote sustainable development, conservation, management, protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources, by providing advice, recommendations and an international collaborative platform for information exchange. The Commission covers all inland waters, lakes and rivers in Europe and applies to all species commercially fished and raised in aquaculture.

MEMBERS

EIFAAC has 34 members, of which one has joined since 2000: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2002), Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

EIFAAC reported in the survey that the questions concerning number of fish stocks assessed, fisheries for which advice is provided and number of vessels operating in the agreement area, as well as that on actions to support bycatch mitigation, were not applicable.

The statutes of EIFAAC state that the Commission shall promote the application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approach.

EIFAAC reported that it supports measures to implement area-based management and has established tools and a system for data collection and sharing, but it has not taken any action to implement VMS or port State measures. Between 2006 and 2010, EIFAAC had an ad hoc working group focusing on IUU fishing and poaching.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission generally meets once every two years. Commission meetings held since 2000 have been attended by about half the members.

EIFAAC has a Management Committee, a Technical and Scientific Committee and projects on specific topics. The Management Committee consists of a chairperson, vice-chairpersons, the chairperson of the Technical and Scientific Committee and three members elected by the Commission for a term of two years. Its function is to follow up guidance provided by the Commission between sessions. The Technical and Scientific Committee consists of a chairperson and six experts, all elected by the Commission.

EIFAAC has established a specific process for accrediting observer status to NGOs that wish to participate in its meetings.

The EIFAAC website is provided by FAO, and the meeting reports from the most recent Commission meetings are publicly available there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Together with ICES and GFCM, EIFAAC participates in a joint project on eels in the inland waters, fisheries and aquaculture of EIFAAC member countries and Mediterranean countries that are not covered by ICES. EIFAAC has a coordinating role in bringing together and disseminating advice and information to a wide audience of scientists, managers and stakeholders.

No other RFABs or RFMOs participated in EIFAAC Commission meetings between 2000 and 2017. EIFAAC Commission meetings are regularly attended by representatives from NGOs and the private sector.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

EIFAAC has not been subject to a performance review.

Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

The Convention for the Establishment of the Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea was approved by its members in 2007. The convention applies to all living resources in the West Central Gulf of Guinea within the territorial seas and EEZs of the members.

The Committee's main objective is to promote cooperation among its members to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of the living marine resources, and to encourage sustainable development of fisheries based on such resources. Its functions include providing a forum for discussion on any fishery-related matter; improving the livelihoods of small-scale fishers and processors; promoting harmonization of national fisheries legislation and regulations; enhancing cooperation with distant-water fishing countries; strengthening subregional cooperation in MCS; promoting the development of fisheries research and standards for data collection, exchange and reporting; developing and promoting common policies and strategies; and promoting subregional cooperation in the marketing and trading of fish and fish products.

MEMBERS

FCWC has six members: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo.

There have been no changes to the membership of FCWC since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

FCWC assesses and provides advice for more than 50 fish stocks. Currently, between 200 and 1 000 vessels operate in the agreement area.

The convention does not refer to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. However, FCWC reported in the survey that it supports measures to mitigate bycatch and to implement area-based management within its agreement area.

According to the survey, a system for data collection and sharing has been established. With CEEAF and FAO, FCWC has co-organized regional workshops focused on improving the data collection systems in the region. It has also established an ad hoc working group for improving fisheries statistics.

FCWC has supported several measures to assist its members in establishing MCS systems and combating IUU fishing. For example, the Committee organized regional workshops on MCS and IUU in 2014 and has established regional projects to combat IUU fishing and other associated crimes, such as the project "Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa". This project is implemented by the West Africa Task Force, a collaborative initiative between FCWC and the technical partners Trygg Mat Tracking, Nordenfjeldske and Stop Illegal Fishing, focused particularly on IUU fishing.

VMS is currently under development. FCWC supports its members in implementing port State measures, for example through capacity building and by providing legal support to national fisheries departments.

GOVERNANCE

FCWC is governed by an annual Ministerial Conference. Five of the six members, on average, attended the meetings held between 2009 and 2016.

One subsidiary body has been established, the Advisory and Coordinating Committee, which holds meetings prior to the Ministerial Conference.

FCWC has established a specific procedure for observer accreditation for NGOs that wish to participate in the Ministerial Conference; such NGOs must notify the Secretary-General prior to the meeting, and their participation will be approved unless two contracting parties object.

FCWC has established a website, where meeting reports from most of the Ministerial Conferences are publicly available.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

According to the survey, FCWC has not established any formal arrangements for collaboration with other international organizations.

Three RFABs regularly participate in the FCWC Ministerial Conference: ATLAFCO, the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Programme for the Gulf of Guinea (GCLME) and SRFC. Representatives from NGOs and the private sector also regularly participate as observers at FCWC Ministerial Conferences.

FCWC has a formal arrangement for collaboration with FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

FCWC has not been subject to a performance review.

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

FFA was established in 1979 by the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention. It applies to tuna and tuna-like species in the South Pacific region. Its objective is to help members to manage, conserve and use highly migratory tuna resources in their EEZs and beyond, through enhancement of national capacity and strengthening of regional solidarity. To meet this objective, FFA facilitates, among other things, the collection, analysis, evaluation and dissemination of relevant statistical, scientific and economic information; the harmonization of policies related to fisheries management; and cooperation in surveillance and enforcement.

MEMBERS

FFA has 17 members, of which one has joined since 2000: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau (2002), Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

FFA provides advice for between one and ten fisheries. Since 2000, the number of vessels operating in the agreement area has consistently been between 3 000 and 7 000.

The FFA convention does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or ecosystem approach. Nevertheless, FFA actively supports its members in implementing the ecosystem approach. For example, it has provided reports on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management to Cook Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu. According to the survey, FFA supports measures to mitigate bycatch of non-target species and to implement area-based management measures. FFA has also established a system for data collection and data sharing.

FFA provides some services to its members to help them to assess the extent, impact and effects of IUU fishing. A regional VMS was established in 199. In 2010, FFA adopted a five-year regional strategy for strengthening MCS, which was recently updated for the period 2018–2023. According to the survey, FFA has also been supporting actions to implement port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

The Forum Fisheries Committee, which consists of one representative of each of the 17 members, is the main governing body of FFA. In general it meets annually, with special meetings between sessions. The meetings of the Forum Fisheries Committee held between 2007 and 2014 were attended by nearly all members.

The FFA convention specifies a process for accrediting States, territories and international organizations as observers at its meetings. NGOs and representatives from the private sector regularly participate as observers in meetings of the Forum Fisheries Committee.

FFA has established a website, where annual reports from the period 2004–2017 are publicly available. Meeting reports of the Forum Fisheries Committee are not publicly available there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

FFA cooperates with a number of regional organizations in the Pacific, including the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP, an advisory body), SPC and SPREP.

FFA and SPC signed an MoU in 2004 to collaborate on the development, conservation and management of the tuna and related resources of the Western and Central Pacific.

FFA and WCPFC signed an MoU in 2009 for exchange of information and activities related to highly migratory fish stocks, associated and dependent species in the Pacific Island subregion, so as to maximize the effectiveness of scientific and compliance activities.

SPC, SPREP and WCPFC are also regular observers to the Forum Fisheries Committee.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

FFA has been subject to two performance reviews, in 2010 and 2017.

Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

GLFC was established in 1955 by the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, a bilateral treaty between Canada and the United States of America with the following objectives: to coordinate fisheries research; to control the invasive sea lamprey; and to facilitate cooperative fishery management among state, provincial, tribal and federal management agencies.

MEMBERS

GLFC has two members, Canada and the United States of America; as it is a bilateral commission, its membership has not changed since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

GLFC assesses between 11 and 20 fish stocks on a regular basis and provides advice regarding all of those stocks. In 2017, between 200 and 1 000 vessels operated in the agreement area, and this range has remained the same since 2000.

The GLFC convention text does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. According to the survey, the Commission supports actions to address mitigation of bycatch and to implement area-based management in the agreement area. GLFC has established a system for data collection and data sharing. According to the survey, the Commission has supported actions to implement VMS in the agreement area since 2008, but it does not support any particular action to implement port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

GLFC's Joint Strategic Plan, signed in 1981, operates primarily through committees for each of the five Great Lakes, comprising senior officials from fishery agencies. The Council of Lake Committees, consisting of all lake committee members, addresses shared concerns. Other committees, on topics such as fish health and law enforcement, provide specific management advice and information to the Council of Lake Committees. Implementation of the Joint Strategic Plan is guided by the Council of Great Lakes Fishery Agencies, consisting of high-level fishery management agency representatives as well as federal agency representatives.

The GLFC Board of Technical Experts recommends an annual Fishery Research Program to address information needs for healthy, sustainable Great Lakes ecosystems. It also addresses research priorities identified by the lake committees.

GLFC's annual meetings are open to the public.

GLFC has established a website, where annual reports of the different committees are publicly available.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

According to the survey, GLFC has not entered into any formal arrangements to collaborate with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

GLFC has not been subject to a performance review.

Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

LCBC was established in 1964. Its mandate is to oversee the use of water and other natural resources in the basin; to initiate, promote and coordinate natural resource development projects and research within the basin area; to examine complaints; and to promote the settlement of disputes, thereby promoting regional cooperation.

MEMBERS

LCBC has six members, of which one has joined since 2000: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Libya (2008), Niger and Nigeria.

The Sudan was granted observer status in 2000.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

LCBC projects have addressed topics such as the contribution of fisheries to economic development in the Lake Chad basin and strengthening the relationship between the fisheries sector and research institutions.

The LCBC convention text does not make specific reference to the precautionary or ecosystem approach.

LCBC did not reply to the survey, so there is no information available on the number of fish stocks assessed, fisheries for which advice is provided or vessels operating in the agreement area, or on any actions to support bycatch mitigation, area-based management tools, data collection and sharing, VMS or port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

LCBC is made up of three organs:

- the Summit of Heads of State, which meets annually;
- the Council of Ministers, comprising two representatives per member State, which meets annually to adopt the budget and an annual action programme;
- the Executive Secretariat, which executes the decisions and resolutions of the Summit of Heads of State and the Council of Ministers.

LCBC has established a website, but the reports of the Commission meetings are not available there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

LCBC did not take part in the survey, and no information is available on its website about any formal arrangement for cooperation with other international organizations.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

LCBC has not been subject to a performance review.

Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

LTA was established in 2008. Its objectives are the protection of biodiversity and the sustainable management of the natural resources in the Lake Tanganyika Basin, for a healthy environment that continues to harbour high levels of biodiversity and provide sufficient natural resources to sustain future generations. It applies to all elements of the ecosystem of Lake Tanganyika. In meeting its objectives, LTA seeks to ensure sustainable and healthy fisheries, including aquaculture, in Lake Tanganyika, by gathering information on fishing techniques and recommending best practices.

MEMBERS

LTA has four members: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The membership of LTA has not changed since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

LTA regularly assesses between 20 and 30 fish stocks and provides advice for up to 10 fisheries. Since 2000, the number of vessels operating in the agreement area has consistently been more than 12 000.

The LTA convention text refers to the precautionary approach but not the ecosystem approach.

According to the survey, LTA has established a system for data collection, and the data are shared. It has not coordinated the establishment of VMS or port State control for the agreement area.

GOVERNANCE

A Conference of Ministers is the main governing body of LTA. One subsidiary body has been established, the Management Committee. The Conference of Ministers and the Management Committee met annually between 2007 and 2010, and those meetings were attended by all four member States. Information about subsequent meetings was not available at the time of preparation of this document.

LTA has established a process for granting observer status to NGOs that wish to attend the Conference of Ministers. The NGOs must notify the secretariat prior to the meeting, and observer status will be granted unless two or more contracting parties object.

LTA has established a website, but it has not been updated in recent years. It provides the meeting reports for the Ministerial Conferences and Management Committee meetings held between 2007 and 2010.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

According to the survey, LTA has not entered into formal arrangements for collaboration with other international organizations.

No other international organization attended the meetings of the Conference of Ministers and the Management Committee held between 2007 and 2010.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

LTA has not been subject to a performance review.

Mekong River Commission (MRC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

MRC was established in 1995 through the Agreement on the Cooperation for Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin. Its objectives cover a wide range of issues, including sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of fisheries. It applies to all species in the Mekong River Basin in member countries.

MEMBERS

MRC has four members: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. There have been no changes to the membership of MRC since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

MRC members have agreed to cooperate in fisheries management and to protect the environment, natural resources, aquatic life and conditions and ecological balance of the Mekong River Basin from pollution or other harmful effects.

MRC has established a Fisheries Programme which addresses socio-economic issues, such as the role of fisheries in maintaining livelihoods, and technical issues, such as environmental flow requirements for aquatic ecosystems, related to the impacts of development on the fisheries resources.

The MRC agreement text does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. However, through the Fisheries Programme, MRC supports the precautionary approach to fisheries management and addresses ecosystem-based fisheries management.

MRC did not reply to the survey, so there is no information available on the number of fish stocks assessed, fisheries for which advice is provided or vessels operating in the agreement area, or on any actions to support bycatch mitigation, area-based management tools, data collections and sharing, VMS or port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

MRC consists of two permanent bodies, the Council and the Joint Committee. The Council meets once a year and the Joint Committee twice a year. Council meetings are generally attended by all MRC members.

The National Mekong Committees act as focal points for the Commission in each of the member countries and are served by the respective National Mekong Committee Secretariats.

MRC maintains regular dialogue with China and Myanmar, the two States of the upper Mekong River Basin.

Observers may attend sessions of the Council and the Joint Committee. No specific process has been established for granting observer status to NGOs.

MRC has established a website, where reports from most meetings of the Council and the Joint Committee held between 2009 and 2017 are publicly available.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MRC and SEAFDEC signed an MoU in 2017 and have held joint workshops to enhance their collaboration.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

MRC has not been subject to a performance review.

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

NAMMCO was established by the Agreement on Cooperation in Research, Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic in 1992. Its objective is to contribute, through regional consultation and cooperation, to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. It applies to all marine mammals within the area of its authority.

MEMBERS

NAMMCO has four members: Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway. The membership of NAMMCO has not changed since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Commission is mandated to propose measures for conservation and management to its members, on the basis of the best available scientific evidence and taking into account both the complexity and the vulnerability of the marine ecosystem. It has addressed interactions between marine mammals and fisheries, for example through workshops on ecosystem models and on methodological and analytical problems of estimating consumption by marine mammals.

NAMMCO regularly assesses and provides advice on 20 to 30 marine mammals. Since 2000, the number of vessels authorized to operate in the agreement area has consistently been in the range of 200 to 1 000.

The NAMMCO agreement text does not make specific references to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. However, NAMMCO has supported several measures to mitigate bycatch, including a reporting system for marine mammal bycatch and the establishment of a bycatch working group. According to the survey, NAMMCO also supports actions to implement area-based management in the agreement area.

NAMMCO has established a data collection system, and the data are shared.

The Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals, implemented in 1998, ensures observation of hunting activities in the member countries by international observers. The scheme has been expanded to include on-board observations.

According to the survey, NAMMCO does not support any particular measures for implementing VMS or port State measures.

GOVERNANCE

The Council, consisting of representatives from each of the members, is the governing body of NAMMCO. It meets annually, with the attendance of all member States, and acts upon the advice of the following subsidiary bodies:

- the Scientific Committee, which provides scientific advice to the Council and also meets annually;
- the Finance and Administration Committee, which provides recommendations on budgetary and administrative matters;

- the Management Committee on Seals and Walrus and the Management Committee on Cetaceans, which meet once a year jointly and once a year separately, and which advise the Council on conservation and management measures and on needs and priorities for scientific research related to marine mammals;
- the Committee on Hunting Methods, which advises the Council on hunting methods for marine mammals and meets annually.

In addition, working groups have been established to address issues such as bycatch, ecosystem-based management and user knowledge in management.

NAMMCO has established a process for granting observer status to NGOs wishing to participate in Council meetings. Such NGOs shall apply prior to the meeting and can be granted long-term observer status unless any contracting party objects.

NAMMCO has established a website, and meeting reports from the Council and the subsidiary bodies, as well as annual reports, are available there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

According to the survey, NAMMCO has not established any formal arrangements for collaboration with other international organizations.

NAMMCO Council meetings are regularly attended by representatives from ICES, IWC, NAFO, NEAFC and SEAFO.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

A performance review was planned for (and under way in) 2018.

Latin American Organization for Fishery Development (OLDEPESCA)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

OLDEPESCA was established in 1982 by the Constitutional Agreement of the Latin American Organization for Fishery Development, which entered into force in 1984. Its main purpose is to use Latin American fishery resource potential to meet the region's food requirements and to benefit its people, through concerted action in promoting national development and strengthening regional cooperation in the sector. Its mandate applies to all living marine resources, including aquaculture, in the inland waters, territorial waters and EEZs of its members.

MEMBERS

OLDEPESCA has 12 members: Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The membership of OLDEPESCA did not change during the survey period.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

OLDEPESCA did not reply to the survey, so no information is available on the number of fish stocks assessed, fisheries for which advice is provided or vessels operating in the agreement area, or on any actions to support bycatch mitigation, area-based management tools, data collections and sharing, VMS or port State measures.

The agreement text does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach, but includes the objective to promote environmental preservation.

GOVERNANCE

The Conference of Ministers is the governing body of OLDEPESCA and meets annually. The Governing Board is the technical agency of OLDEPESCA and meets at least once a year prior to the annual meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

OLDEPESCA does not currently have an operational website. Meeting reports from the Conference of Ministers and the Governing Board are thus not publicly available.

OLDEPESCA has not established a specific procedure for granting observer status to NGOs.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OLDEPESCA has signed MoUs with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and with the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

OLDEPESCA has not been subject to a performance review.

Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

OSPESCA was established in 1995 by the Act of San Salvador. In 1999, its member countries decided to integrate OSPESCA within the Central American Integration System (SICA) in order to promote the fisheries and aquaculture sector and strengthen integration in the subregion. OSPESCA's objective is to promote sustainable and coordinated development of fisheries and aquaculture in Central America by developing and implementing policies, strategies, programmes and projects of regional fisheries and aquaculture. It also supports joint efforts to harmonize and implement fisheries laws and promotes regional organization of fisheries producers. Its coverage includes all marine living resources in the inland waters, territorial seas and EEZs of its members.

MEMBERS

OSPESCA has eight members: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The membership of OSPESCA has not changed since 2000.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

OSPESCA regularly assesses and provides advice for between one and ten fisheries. The number of vessels operating in the agreement area has been stably in the range of 1 000 to 3 000 since 2000.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Integration Policy for the Central American Isthmus, which guides the work of OSPESCA, refers specifically to the promotion and application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture.

According to the survey, OSPESCA supports measures to mitigate bycatch and to implement area-based management. A data collection system is being established, and the available data are shared.

According to the survey, OSPESCA has been supporting measures to implement VMS in the agreement area since 2010, and has supported actions by members to implement port State measures since 2014.

GOVERNANCE

The Council of Ministers, the governing body of OSPESCA, meets twice a year. The meetings held between 2000 and 2017 have been well attended by the member States.

An Executive Committee supports the governing body and meets annually. OSPESCA also has a scientific and technical body, the Technical Commission, which meets twice a year.

In addition, OSPESCA has established working groups concerning fisheries and aquaculture policies, an interdisciplinary approach to fisheries and aquaculture policies, and harmonization of fisheries regulations or norms, as well as technical

working groups concerning aquaculture, fisheries, shark and highly migratory species, and sport fishing.

OSPESCA's website is provided by SICA, and reports of the OSPESCA meetings are publicly available there.

OSPESCA has not established a specific procedure for observer accreditation. However, representatives from the private sector and artisanal fishers contribute to the work of OSPESCA through the technical and scientific working groups. Representatives from NGOs also participate in OSPESCA meetings.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2012, OSPESCA and CRFM signed an MoU recognizing the importance of regional collaboration and drew up a Joint Action Plan. OSPESCA and IATTC signed an MoU in 2012. OSPESCA, CRFM and WECAFC have established joint working groups.

A number of other RFABs regularly attend meetings of OSPESCA, including CARICOM, COPPESAALC, CRFM, IATTC and WECAFC.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

OSPESCA has not been subject to a performance review.

South East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

SEAFDEC was established in 1967 by the Agreement Establishing the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center. The Agreement was last amended in 1994. It covers high seas, territorial waters, EEZs and inland waters in Southeast Asia and applies to all fishery resources. SEAFDEC also addresses aquaculture. The strategic objectives of SEAFDEC are to promote rational and sustainable use of fisheries resources, to enhance the capability of the fisheries sector to address emerging international issues, to enhance access to international trade, to alleviate poverty among fisheries communities and to enhance the contribution of fisheries to food security and livelihoods in the subregion.

MEMBERS

SEAFDEC has 11 members, of which two have joined since 2000: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia (2000), Indonesia (2002), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

SEAFDEC regularly assesses and provides advice for between one and ten fisheries. Since 2000, the number of vessels operating in the agreement area has been more than 12 000.

According to the survey, a system for data collection has been established, and the data are shared.

The agreement does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or ecosystem approach. According to the survey, SEAFDEC supports measures to mitigate bycatch and to implement area-based management tools. For example, between 2012 and 2016, the organization developed strategies for trawl fisheries bycatch management and conducted a number of on-site training sessions on applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in member countries.

SEAFDEC supports its members in combating IUU fishing in various ways, including projects on applying catch certification for international trade in fish and fishery products, developing a regional fishing vessel record for vessels longer than 24 metres, and supporting the implementation of port State measures through regional cooperation. SEAFDEC has also endorsed and is working to implement the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.

The Ocean and Fisheries Partnership, a collaboration between SEAFDEC and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), focuses on improving traceability to combat IUU fishing and on applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in Southeast Asia.

According to the survey, SEAFDEC supports actions to implement VMS in the agreement area.

Since 1998, projects under the Fisheries Consultative Group Mechanism of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership have helped mobilized technical expertise among SEAFDEC members to deal more effectively with important conservation and management issues.

GOVERNANCE

The Council is the governing body of SEAFDEC. It meets annually, and all members attend.

The operational body of SEAFDEC is its secretariat, which has five technical departments: Training; Marine Fisheries Research; Aquaculture; Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management; and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management.

SEAFDEC has not established a specific process for granting observer status to NGOs wishing to participate in Council meetings.

SEAFDEC has established a website, and Council meeting reports (since 2013) and annual reports (since 2007) are publicly available there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In recent years, MRC, SEAFDEC and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific have attended SEAFDEC Council meetings.

SEAFDEC and MRC signed an MoU in 2017 to enhance their collaboration and have held joint workshops.

SEAFDEC has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

SEAFDEC has not been subject to a performance review.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

SPC was established in 1947 by the Canberra Agreement. Its objective is to help Pacific people achieve their development goals by delivering technical, scientific, research, policy and training services. The agreement covers national waters and high seas and applies to all fishery resources. It has been amended five times, most recently in 2013.

MEMBERS

SPC has 26 member countries and territories: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

No new members have joined SPC since 2000.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

SPC regularly assesses between one and ten fish stocks and provides management and scientific advice for between 10 and 20 fisheries. The number of vessels operating in the agreement area has been stable since 2000, in the range of 3 000 to 7 000.

The Canberra Agreement does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or ecosystem approach to fisheries management. According to the survey, SPC supports measures to mitigate bycatch and to implement area-based management. For example, SPC and WCPFC cooperate, through the Common Oceans project, on the Bycatch Management Information System, an open-access resource for fishery managers, scientists, fishers and others interests in fishery management, created to support adoption and implementation of science-based management measures and to enable comprehensive and sustainable bycatch management.

According to the survey, SPC has established a data collection system, but the data are not shared.

SPC reported that it has not taken any particular action to support the establishment of VMS or port State measures in the agreement area, but the organization cooperates with WCPFC in relation to its VMS.

GOVERNANCE

The Conference of the Pacific Community is the governing body of SPC; it meets once every two years at the ministerial level. The Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administration is a subsidiary body of SPC and meets annually at the senior official level. A meeting of the Heads of Fisheries, attended by the top leadership of the fishery agencies of SPC member countries and territories, is held once every two years.

The Secretariat includes a Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems, which comprises two programmes: the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (which represents SPC in the annual Scientific Committee meetings of WCPFC) and the Coastal Fisheries Programme.

SPC has a website, which provides summaries of the outcomes of the Heads of Fisheries meetings as well as information about meetings and workshops of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme. Meeting reports of the Conference of the Pacific Community are not publicly available.

SPC has not established a specific procedure for granting observer accreditation to NGOs or other international organizations. However, the Secretariat may invite private-sector representatives and non-State actors to attend individual Pacific Community meetings.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As one of nine Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, SPC collaborates closely with the other CROP members such as FFA and SPREP. SPC and SPREP agreed to an MoU in 2017 in order to enhance collaboration for sustainable and resilient development in the Pacific region. SPC also signed an MoU with FFA in 2004, to collaborate on the development, conservation and management of the tuna and related resources of the Western and Central Pacific.

SCP and WCPFC have agreed to an MoU that establishes a cooperation mechanism on matters of common interest to the two organizations. It encourages reciprocal participation in meetings of the organizations as well as information and scientific exchange. Moreover, the MoU specifies that the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme shall provide scientific services to WCPFC, including data management and analysis; regional stock assessments; ecosystem analyses; scientific evaluation of management options; agreed conservation and management measures; and scientific advice in relation to monitoring, control and surveillance, including VMS.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

SPC has not been subject to a performance review.

Subregional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

SRFC was established by the Convention Establishing the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission, adopted in 1985 and last amended in 1993. The objectives of SRFC are to coordinate and harmonize national policies related to the conservation and exploitation of fisheries resources in the Canary Current and the Gulf of Guinea and to strengthen cooperation for the well-being of its members' populations. It applies to all fisheries resources in the territorial waters and EEZs of its members.

MEMBERS

SRFC has had seven members since its establishment: Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

SRFC's role includes ensuring harmonization and consistency of national policies concerning the conservation and exploitation of fisheries resources and fostering subregional cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries zones. It also provides institutional, legal and operational support to eliminate IUU fishing.

According to the survey, SRFC provides advice for between one and ten fisheries. Between 200 and 1 000 vessels operated in the agreement area in 2000, and between 1 000 and 3 000 vessels in 2017.

The convention does not make specific reference to the precautionary approach or the ecosystem approach. According to the survey, SRFC does not support any actions to mitigate bycatch in the area of its agreement, but does support measures to implement area-based management. Together with the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development, in recent years SRFC has co-organized workshops on the ecosystem approach to the management of fisheries and the marine environment in West African waters.

According to the survey, a system for data collection is being established. SRFC organizes and monitors fisheries surveillance and makes certain that the MCS system is tailored to ensure coordinated fisheries management in the SRFC area. The Commission's Department of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Fisheries Management is in charge of planning and implementing MCS activities for collaborative management of fisheries in the SRFC area. It includes a Coordination Unit for Fisheries Surveillance Operations. According to the survey, SRFC has supported actions to implement VMS in the agreement area since 2000, and actions to implement port State measures since 2009.

The 2012 Convention on the Determination of the Minimal Conditions for Access and Exploitation of Marine Resources within the Maritime Areas under Jurisdiction of the Member States of SRFC regulates minimal access conditions for foreign vessels and takes the PSMA into account.

SRFC has adopted declarations that promote members' efforts to fight IUU fishing and preserve the fisheries resources of the subregion. They capture the essence of international texts on IUU fishing and demand that all human, material, technical

and financial resources be mobilized for cooperation among the members in the fight against IUU fishing in the SRFC area.

In 1993 the Commission adopted the Convention on Sub-regional Cooperation in the Exercise of Maritime Hot Pursuit and the Protocol on the Practical Modalities for the Coordination of Surveillance Operations within the Member States of SRFC. These instruments provide terms and modalities for strengthening cooperation among MCS units of SRFC members and define the general principles governing the right of hot pursuit exercised towards any vessel operating in the waters under the jurisdiction of a member.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission consists of the Conference of Ministers, the Coordinating Committee and the Permanent Secretariat. The Conference of Ministers meets in regular and extraordinary sessions once a year or every two years, and sessions have been attended by all seven members. The Coordination Committee is a technical and advisory subsidiary body in charge of monitoring the implementation of the decisions taken by the Conference of Ministers. It also makes recommendations to the Conference of Ministers on technical issues. The Coordination Committee has met five times since 2007, always with the participation of all members.

SRFC has not established a specific process for granting observer status to international organizations. In practice, a number of NGO representatives participate in both Conference of Ministers and Coordination Committee meetings.

SRFC has established a website, which provides reports of the Conference of Ministers meetings held since 2007.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

According to the survey, SRFC has established some formal arrangements for collaboration with other international organizations.

In some years, the Conference of Ministers and Coordination Committee meetings have been attended by ATLAFCO and COREP.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

SRFC has not been subject to a performance review.

Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

SWIOFC was established in 2004 by the FAO Council under Article VI, Paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. Its main objective is to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the Southwest Indian Ocean region through the proper management and development of the living marine resources, and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by its members. It applies to all living marine resources and covers national waters.

MEMBERS

SWIOFC has 12 members: Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen.

The membership of SWIOFC has not changed since its inception.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Commission's role includes helping fishery managers in the development and implementation of fishery management systems that take due account of environmental, social and economic concerns; keeping under review the state of the fishery resources; promoting and coordinating research related to the living marine resources; promoting the collection, exchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information; providing a sound scientific basis to assist members in taking fisheries management decisions; providing advice on management measures; and providing advice and promoting cooperation on MCS, including joint activities.

The SWIOFC convention makes specific reference to the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. The Commission has contributed to the promotion of the ecosystem approach, for example by serving as a platform for projects on the application of the approach, such as the EAF-Nansen programme ("Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries").

SWIOFC regularly assesses between 11 and 20 fish stocks and provides advice for more than 50 fisheries. Currently, more than 12 000 vessels operate in the agreement area.

According to the survey, SWIOFC supports measures to mitigate bycatch and to implement area-based management in the agreement area.

SWIOFC reported that it has not established VMS in the agreement area but is currently developing it. The Commission has supported actions to implement port State measures since 2006.

According to the survey, a data collection system has been established and the data are shared.

SWIOFC has not taken direct action to support MCS in the region, but it functions as a forum for information sharing and has helped to promote better regional coordination of MCS activities that are being implemented by other organizations such as the Southern African Development Community and the Indian Ocean Commission.

GOVERNANCE

From the Commission's inception in 2005 until 2017, it held seven meetings. The frequency of meetings has varied, with the period between meetings ranging from one to five years. Commission meetings are attended on average by 85 percent of the members.

The Commission may establish committees or working parties on an ad hoc basis as considered necessary. A Scientific Committee was created in 2006, and its meetings have been attended by scientists from 80 percent of the member countries.

SWIOFC has established three working groups, addressing fisheries data and statistics; demersal and small pelagic fishes; and collaboration and cooperation in tuna fisheries.

SWIOFC's website is provided by FAO and makes reports of Commission and Scientific Committee meetings and workshops publicly available.

SWIOFC has established a specific process for granting observer status to NGOs that are interested in attending the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies or ad hoc meetings. NGOs have attended sessions of the Commission and the Scientific Committee.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SWIOFC has formal arrangements for collaboration with CWP and FIRMS.

IOTC regularly attends SWIOFC Commission and Scientific Committee meetings.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

SWIOFC was subject to a performance review in 2013.

Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVE

WECAFC was established in 1973 by the FAO Council under Article VI, Paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. Its statutes were amended in 1978 and 2006. Its general objective is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources in the Western Central Atlantic, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. WECAFC addresses common problems of fisheries management and development faced by its members. It covers national waters and the high seas, and applies to all living marine resources, irrespective of the management responsibilities and authority of other management organizations or arrangements addressing fisheries and other living marine resources in the area.

MEMBERS

WECAFC has 34 members, of which one has joined since 2000: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica (2013), Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, European Union, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

WECAFC's role includes assisting its members in implementing relevant international fisheries instruments; promoting, coordinating and, as appropriate, undertaking the collection, exchange, dissemination, analysis and study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information; promoting and facilitating the harmonization of relevant national laws and regulations and the compatibility of conservation and management measures; and assisting its members, at their request, in the conservation, management and development of transboundary and straddling stocks under their respective national jurisdictions. The Commission provides fishery management advice and recommendations to its members based on the best available scientific information.

WECAFC regularly assesses between one and ten fish stocks and provides advice for those stocks. Since 2000, the number of vessels operating in the WECAFC area has stably been more than 12 000.

WECAFC supports measures to mitigate bycatch and to implement area-based management. For example, together with FAO, the Commission has co-organized workshops on MPAs in the Caribbean and on bottom fishing in high-sea areas.

The statutes of WECAFC specify that the Commission shall promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, including the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

A system for data collection is being developed. WECAFC is coordinating VMS and has engaged in capacity building to support its establishment by member States.

WECAFC supports measures to combat IUU fishing. For example, the Commission has organized capacity building activities to assist its members in implementing the PSMA and has provided legal assistance. WECAFC has also organized workshops on IUU fishing, together with CRFM.

GOVERNANCE

The Commission is the WECAFC governing body and generally meets every two years. Between 2001 and 2012 five meetings were held, with 55 percent of members attending on average. Attendance at Commission meetings has increased in recent years, however; the two most recent meetings, in 2014 and 2016, were attended by about 80 percent of the members.

WECAFC has established a Scientific Advisory Group which provides scientific advice to the Commission and its ad hoc working groups and assesses the stock status and the situation, trends and prospects of fisheries in the region. It consists of no more than five scientists, with suitable scientific qualifications and experience. The group generally meets every two years, usually with the attendance of each of the five appointed experts.

WECAFC participates in joint working groups with OSPESCA and CRFM on spiny lobster; recreational fisheries and queen conch, and with CRFM on flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean and on shrimp and groundfish. WECAFC has also established joint working groups with other international organizations or research institutes on the development of sustainable moored fish aggregating devices; fishing in the Lesser Antilles; management of deep-sea fisheries; and spawning aggregations. Working groups have specific terms of reference and are time bound; they are made up of fishery scientists, experts, managers and decision-makers from member countries, regional partner organizations and NGOs. The data used by the working groups to generate fishery management advice and recommendations are collected by the participating countries and NGOs.

WECAFC has established a specific procedure for granting observer status to international organizations and NGOs that wish to attend meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies or ad hoc meetings.

WECAFC's website is provided by FAO and presents the reports of the Commission, Scientific Advisory Group, working group meetings and ad hoc workshops.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Most WECAFC working groups are joint bodies with other RFABs, specifically CRFM and OSPESCA.

WECAFC has a formal arrangement for collaboration with FIRMS and has "participating organization" status in CWP.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW(S)

WECAFC was subject to a performance review in 2014.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the importance of regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development. The regional level is the most appropriate level for establishing a collaborative framework to preserve and protect whole ecosystems efficiently while also providing opportunities for participating States to benefit sustainably from the services they render. Global instruments and normative processes have to be implemented and translated into actions at the country and regional levels, as appropriate. The regional dimension is key to international fisheries management policy, as demonstrated by the rapid expansion of the family of RFBs. The present study provides an overview of the activities and developments of RFMOs and RFABs from 2000 to 2017. It is based on a compilation of data and information for 46 RFMOs and RFABs. This overview is intended to communicate to a wide audience the role and work of RFMOs and RFABs in the context of regional and global ocean governance in general and fisheries sustainability in particular.

