Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UNEP

Record of the

deep seas fishing industry meeting

2-4 March 2016 • Rome, Italy

ABNJ Deep Seas Project

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

gef GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Please reference this publication as:

ABNJ Deep Seas Project (2016) Record of the deep seas fishing industry meeting, 2-4 March 2016, Rome, Italy. ABNJ_DSP-2016-Doc-01 (Industry meeting). Rome, FAO.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Representatives of 11 deep-sea fishing industry bodies met at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 2-4 March 2016, to exchange information and opinions on the forthcoming UN General Assembly (UNGA) review of deep-sea fisheries. The meeting was organized by the industry associations and was facilitated by the ABNJ Deep Seas Project. The meeting commenced with presentations on a range of matters affecting deep seas fishing. Discussions followed on strategies to address the international concerns about deep-sea fishing, what information the industry would like to contribute to the UNGA review, and the best ways to communicate this information. An outline of possible submission content was discussed by the meeting participants and this was provided to industry representatives for further development.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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

1. Background and opening of the meeting

1. In October 2015, the Coordinator of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project met with fishing industry representatives in Vigo, Spain to discuss a range of matters relating to the implementation of the project. A major outcome of this meeting was a request to the Project/FAO to facilitate a meeting of deep seas industry members, where they would be able to hold discussions on a range of important topics; but in particular, the UNGA review of bottom fishing that would take place in the second half of 2016.

2. The deep seas fishing industry meeting was facilitated by the ABNJ Deep Seas Project at the FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy from 2-4 March 2016. Representatives from 11 deep sea fisheries bodies and the FAO attended. The list of participants is attached as Appendix_I.

3. Mr Geoff Tingley was elected Chairperson.

4. The meeting adopted the Agenda (Doc 1.1) as presented in Appendix_II to this report. The documents and presentations referred to at the meeting are listed in Appendix_III.

5. Note, participants attended this meeting with an expectation that it would provide a venue for free and frank discussions. In this spirit, the below record meeting record intentionally excludes details of the discussions and exchanges.

2. Overview of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project

6. The Project Coordinator gave a brief overview (ppt-01) of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project and the overarching Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Programme – often referred to as Common Oceans – which is a broad scale initiative supporting efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.

3. Deep seas fisheries – the current situation

7. Merete Tandstad informed the workshop about the international guidelines for the management of deep seas fisheries in the high seas and on the current events and global fisheries issues of relevance. The presentation included an overview of The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), the key features of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), the key concepts of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and an overview of the Aichi biodiversity targets and UNGA resolutions that are relevant to deep sea fisheries (ppt-02).

4. Impacts of deep seas fishing

8. The Coordinator presented the scientific paper *Impacts of deep seas fisheries on benthic communities* prepared by Malcolm Clark. The paper concluded that the fishing impacts on deep-sea benthos can be severe as many deep-sea benthic taxa have biological attributes are sensitive to impacts from trawl gear. The study reported that longlining was less damaging than trawling; and that spatial management with open and closed areas was the most effective management option (ppt-03).

9. Mike Kaiser from Bangor University gave a presentation on the results of an *evaluation of best practices for impacts of bottom trawling on benthic marine ecosystems*. A team of international experts undertook an independent assessment of benthic impacts by determining i) the footprint

of bottom trawling, ii) the effects of trawling on benthic biota, iii) ecosystem impacts on target species, iv) evaluation of best practices. They concluded that the resolution at which data is analysed is important and that when data is analysed at a fine scale, trawl footprints occupy a small proportion of the seabed; core fishing grounds occupy a smaller proportion of the overall trawl footprint and this concentration of fishing effort is likely to significantly reduce impact; species composition can be reduced by towed bottom fishing gear and some species are affected more than others; heavily trawled areas continue to produce strong year classes of dependent species (ppt-04).

10. Graham Patchell (Sealord) described fishing industry experiences with encounter protocols and impact assessments. He reported some instances of apparent scientific inconsistencies in the collection, interpretation and presentation of information and advice being given to RFMOs and UNGA. And he described some of the difficulties for fishing vessels that can arise from move-on rules (ppt-05).

11. Tony Thompson provided a comprehensive introduction to vulnerable marine ecosystems. He presented an overview of the UNGA resolutions that underpin the considerable action relating to VMEs that has been undertaken by RFMOs since 2006; and explained that DSF guidelines were developed to facilitate the implementation of conservation and management measures by RFMOs and flag states. He also described the differences between marine protected areas (MPAs) and EBSAs and benthic protected areas (BPAs), and gave a summary of the first global integrated marine assessment (ppt-06).

5. Science based management

12. An introduction to the science processes in RFMOs was provided by Geoff Tingley. The presentation covered the structure and functioning of RFMO technical processes, including working groups, scientific committees and the transmission of advice in support of management measures (ppt-07).

13. Tony Thompson informed the meeting about the role of industry in providing information for VME management. He provided a general description of RFB conventions and mandatory RFB measures on reporting. In addition, the presentation covered how industry involvement in VME management could be strengthened and discussed aspects of right-based management (ppt-08).

14. Graham Patchell discussed the provision of fishing industry data to management. This included how essential fishing industry acoustic research has been in the MSC certification of orange roughy fisheries in New Zealand. In the SIOFA area, fishers have been mapping habitats since 1997. Sustainable DSF management needs high quality data and SIODFA provides data from acoustic surveys to the Australian Integrated Observing system which is open access to marine scientists (ppt-09).

15. Aureliano Gentile informed the meeting about the SmartForms application, which is a mobile application to collect and review fishery and observer data. The app allows the user to collect onboard observations of species, to upload data to a data hub via WIFI and to manage the collected data (ppt-10).

16. Edoardo Mostarda presented on the development of identification guides for vulnerable deep sea species. He informed the meeting that identification guides for sharks, rays, sponges and corals and a manual for biological data collection were developed in collaboration with the fishing industry (ppt-11).

17. Merete Tandstad gave a presentation on best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments. The key messages of the 2015 expert workshop on encounter protocols and impacts assessments were presented. The overall objective of the workshop was to facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among regions on the VME encounters and impact

assessments. Briefly: the role of encounter protocols can vary between regions and depends on the fisheries and the management system in place; encounter protocols are useful in a fully developed and well enforced regulatory framework; encounter protocols must be practical and easy to apply but sufficiently rigorous to serve the dual purpose of minimizing encounters with VMEs and facilitating continued fishing activity; regional adaptations of encounter protocols reflect the different characteristics of regions and fisheries and the level of knowledge and available information; protocols may have to be most stringent for exploratory fisheries that are usually conducted in areas where there is greater uncertainty with regards to presence and character of VMEs and potential for significant adverse impacts; a continued challenge is the determination of suitable threshold levels for the encounter protocols; production of VME-indicator lists and/or identification guides is important; encounter protocols should ensure that the move-on distances and directions serve conservation objectives, while not placing undue burden on the fishing operators; recording and reporting to the relevant scientific body of all catches and observations, irrespective of the encounter thresholds, of the defined VME taxa in a given region is important in order to provide information for further analysis and assessments of VME presence in an area (ppt-12).

6. Interactions with other deep seas stakeholders

18. Ruth Fletcher provided an overview on actors and activities in the deep seas as this relates to component 4 of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project which aims to review applicability of area-based planning tools in the ABNJ, gather experience from regional area-based planning processes, and develop and test area-based planning tools in pilot regions. Activities that are competing for space in the ABNJ include fisheries, shipping, deep sea mining, cable laying; dumping of waste, bioprospecting, scientific research and military activity (ppt-13).

19. The preliminary results of the deep seas fishery industry gender analysis were presented by Anna Wall. The gender distribution of the deep sea RFMOs secretariats, heads of delegations and scientific WGs were examined, and a questionnaire on gender roles within the fishing companies was distributed. The study on RFMOs showed that the secretariats, heads of delegations and scientific working groups were all male dominated. The questionnaire did not receive enough replies for any concrete conclusions to be drawn (ppt-14).

7. Communication

20. John Connelly conducted an interactive session on communications; the meeting discussed the key audiences for the industry; what and how to communicate to different audiences; what opportunities are available in the calendar for industry to communicate messages; who might prepare messages (ppt-15).

8. International concerns about deep seas fishing

21. Geoff Tingley listed a range of concerns that the internal community has about deep sea fishing. He noted that it appeared that the principal concerns related to the impacts of deep sea demersal fisheries on the status of target stocks, by-catch and on benthic habitats and VMEs (ppt-16).

9. Developing an industry approach to the UNGA review on deep seas fisheries

22. The above presentations and discussions were intended to provide background information and stimulate thought and discussions in preparation for the deliberations on the development of an industry submission to the UNGA review.

23. Alastair MacFarlane led this session and began by providing the background to the forthcoming UNGA review.

24. Considerable discussion and debate ensued on what messages the deep seas fisheries industry should to convey to the UNGA review, and how to best communicate the messages.

25. A submission outline was developed during the meeting and further discussed by the participants. After agreeing on an outline, Mr MacFarlane was tasked by the meeting to draft a submission for review by meeting attendees and the wider fishing industry network.

10. Any other business

None.

Appendix I Meeting participants

Confederación Española de Pesca	**Pesquera Ancora SLU**
Javier Garat Pérez *Secretario General* javiergarat@cepesca.es	Ivan López Van der Veen *General Mpanager* ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com
Fisheries Iceland	**Sanford Ltd**
Kolbeinn Árnason *Chief Executive Officer* kolbeinn@sfs.is	Jack Fenaughty *Marine science specialist* jack.fenaughty@gmail.com
International Coalition of Fisheries Associations	**Sealord**
Alastair Macfarlane *Executive Secretary* Alastair.Macfarlane@seafood.org.nz	Graham Patchell *Sustainability Manager* Graham.Patchell@sealord.co.nz
Japan Overseas Fishing Association	**Scottish White Fish Producers Association Limited**
Mr. Junichiro Okamoto *Executive Managing Director* jokamoto@jdsta.or.jp	Mike Park *Chief Executive* mike@swfpa.com Alan Addison *Deep sea skipper* aja70@btinternet.com
National Fisheries Institute	**UK Fisheries**
John Connelly *President* jconnelly@nfi.org	Jane Sandell *Chief Executive Officer* jane@ukfisheries.net
Norwegian Fishing Vessel Owners Association (Fiskebåt)	**Chairperson**
Jan Ivar Maråk *Director* jan-ivar@fiskebat.no	Geoff Tingley fishinnz@hotmail.co.uk
FAO	**ABNJ Deep Seas Project**
Jessica Fuller *Fisheries consultant* Jessica.fuller@fao.org Aureliano Gentile *Information manager* Aureliano.gentile@fao.org Edoardo Mostarda *Consultant Deep-sea and species identification* Edoardo.mostarda@fao.org Merete Tandstad *Fisheries Resources officer* Merete.tandstad@fao.org	Chris O'Brien *Coordinator* Chris.obrien@fao.org Ruth Fletcher *Area based planning specialist* ruth.fletcher@unep-wcmc.org Anna Wall *Project assistant* Anna.wall@fao.org Tony Thompson *FAO Deep Seas Consultant* Tony.thompson@fao.org

Appendix II Agenda

Deep seas fishing industry meeting
2-4 March 2016
FAO, Rome

Agenda

Day 1, Wednesday 2 March

1   Opening of the meeting
1.1 Introductions
1.2   Appointment of Chair
1.3   Adoption of the Agenda

2   Overview of the ABNJ Deep Sea Project
2.1 The Deep Seas Project – brief overview; participation of industry — Chris O'Brien

3   Deep seas fisheries – the current situation

3.1 International guidelines for the management of deep seas fisheries in the high seas — Merete Tandstad (FAO)

3.2 Current events and global fisheries issues of relevance – e.g. UNGA resolutions, CCRF, BBNJ, Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi biodiversity targets, Port State Measures Agreement) — tbc (FAO)

3.3 Note European Union approach to closing access to deep sea trawling (Chair)

3.4 Discussion: [*how these affect the deep-sea fisheries industry*]

4   Impacts of deep seas fishing

4.1 The impacts of deep-sea fisheries on benthic communities — Malcolm Clark (NIWA) Presented by Chris O'Brien

4.2 The impacts of trawling on benthos (results from a study on coastal areas) including trawling best practice — Mike Kaiser (Bangor University, UK)

4.3 Analysis of Coral Bycatch by SIODFA Vessels Operating in the Southern Indian Ocean — Graham Patchell (Sealord)

4.4 What is a Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem — Tony Thompson (FAO)

4.5 Discussion: [*to identify issues/impacts to address in the UNGA submission; what the science indicates; recommendations for future analyses*]

5   Science based management – industry's contributions to research and best practices

5.1 Science processes in RFMOs — Geoff Tingley

5.2 What information from industry is needed for VMEs — Tony Thompson (FAO)

5.3 Collection of scientific data by industry — Graham Patchell (Sealord)

5.4 Electronic applications for reporting on-board observations from deep sea fishing vessels — Aureliano Gentile/Anton Ellenbroek (FAO)

5.5 Development of identification guides for vulnerable deep-sea species and manuals on collection of data on deep-sea species — Edoardo Mostarda (FAO)

5.6 Best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments — Merete Tandstad/Jessica Fuller (FAO)

Day 2, Thursday 3 March

6   Interactions with other deep seas stakeholders

6.1   Who else is operating/has interests in the deep seas and who is talking to who — Ruth Fletcher (UNEP-UCMC)

6.2   Preliminary results of the deep seas fishery industry gender review – Anna Wall (FAO)

6.3   Discussion [*what role the DSF Industry might seek in multi-sectoral dialogues*]

7   Communication – getting the message across

7.1   Communications — Discussion on who the key audiences for industry John Connolly (TBC)

8   International concerns about deep sea fishing

8.1   Overview of concerns about deep-sea fishing in general and ABNJ deep-sea fishing in particular — Geoff Tingley [bottom contact – midwater, netting, potting, lining].

8.2   Discussion: [*strategies to address the international concerns about ABNJ deep-sea fishing*]

9   Developing an industry approach to the UNGA review on deep seas fisheries

9.1   Background to the UNGA review — Alastair Macfarlane (ICFA)

9.2   Discussion: *messages to the UNGA review from the deep seas fishing industry*

9.3   Discussion: *how best to communicate the messages*

9.4   *Identifying key areas to cover in the UNGA submission.*

Day 3, Friday 4 March

10   Developing an industry approach to the UNGA review on deep seas fisheries

10.1   Writing and additional discussions.

10.2   Adoption of UNGA submission text by industry participants

11   Any other business

11.1   AOB

.

Appendix III List of presentations

Reference	Title
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt01	O'Brien – ABNJ Deep Seas Project Overview & what's in it for the industry?
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt02	Tandstad — International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt03	Clark — The impact of deep-sea fisheries: their effects on the megabenthos and lessons for sustainability
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt04	Kaiser — Evaluation of best practices for impacts of bottom trawling on benthic marine ecosystems
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt05	Patchell — Encounter protocols and impact assessments- industry experiences
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt06	Thompson — What is a VME?
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt07	Tingley — Science Processes in RFMOs
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt08	Thompson — What information from industry is needed for VMEs?
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt09	Patchell — Paradigm shift, fishing industry data to management uptake
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt10	Gentile — SmartForms
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt11	Mostarda — Improving the identification of vulnerable deep-sea species
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt12	Tandstad — Encounter protocols and impact assessments
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt13	Fletcher – ABNJ Actors and activities
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt14	Wall – Gender overview of the deep seas fishing industry
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt15	Connelly —Fisheries Manager and Harvesters Doing Things Well
ABNJ_DSP-2016-DSFI_ppt16	Tingley —International Concerns About Deep Sea Fishing

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

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

- strengthen policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas;

- reduce adverse impacts on VMEs and enhanced conservation and management of components of EBSAs;

- improve planning and adaptive management for deep sea fisheries in ABNJ; and

- develop and test methods for area-based planning.

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