



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO's support to RFBs for sustainable fisheries management in the face of climate change

ICSP-17

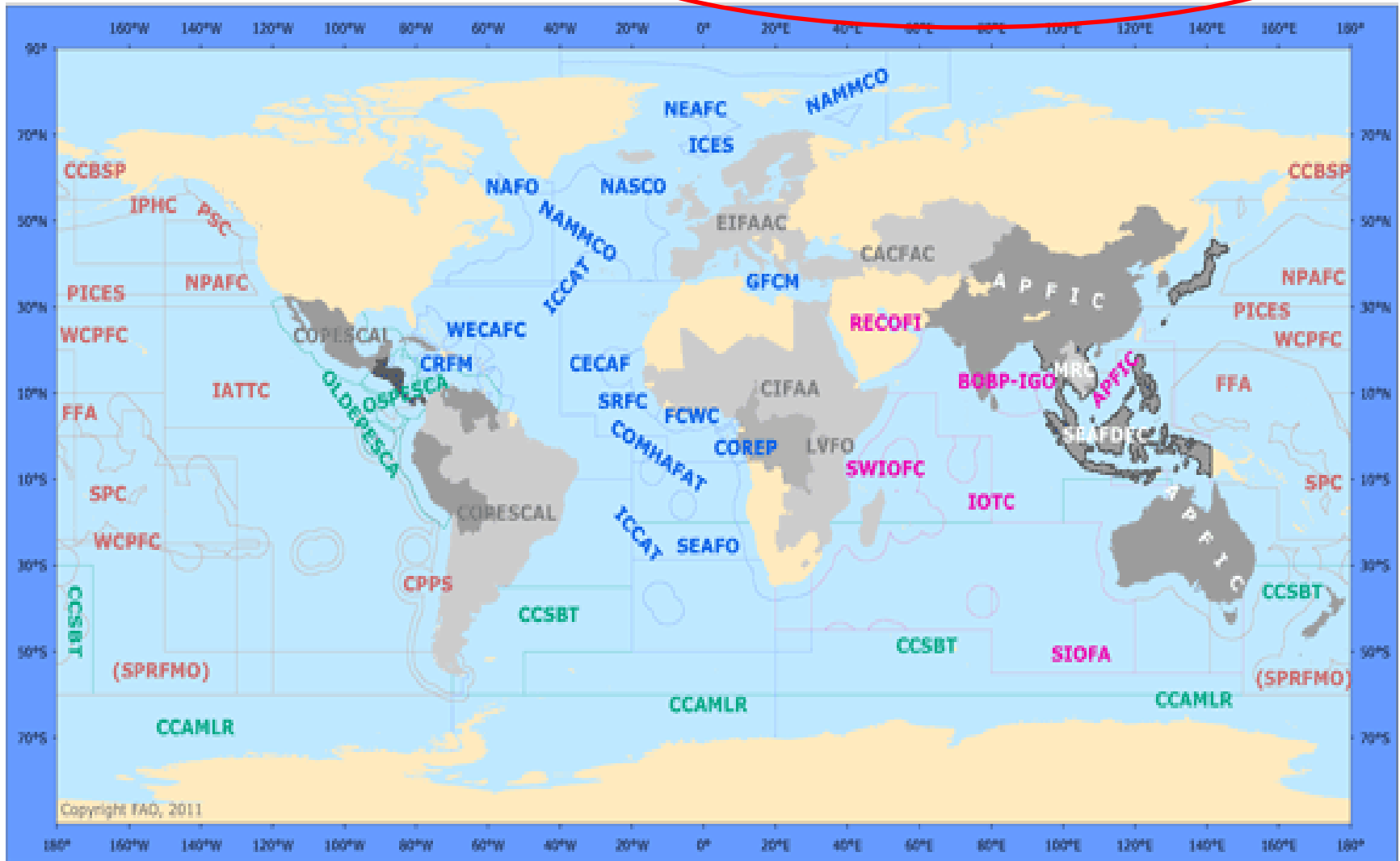
16 May 2024



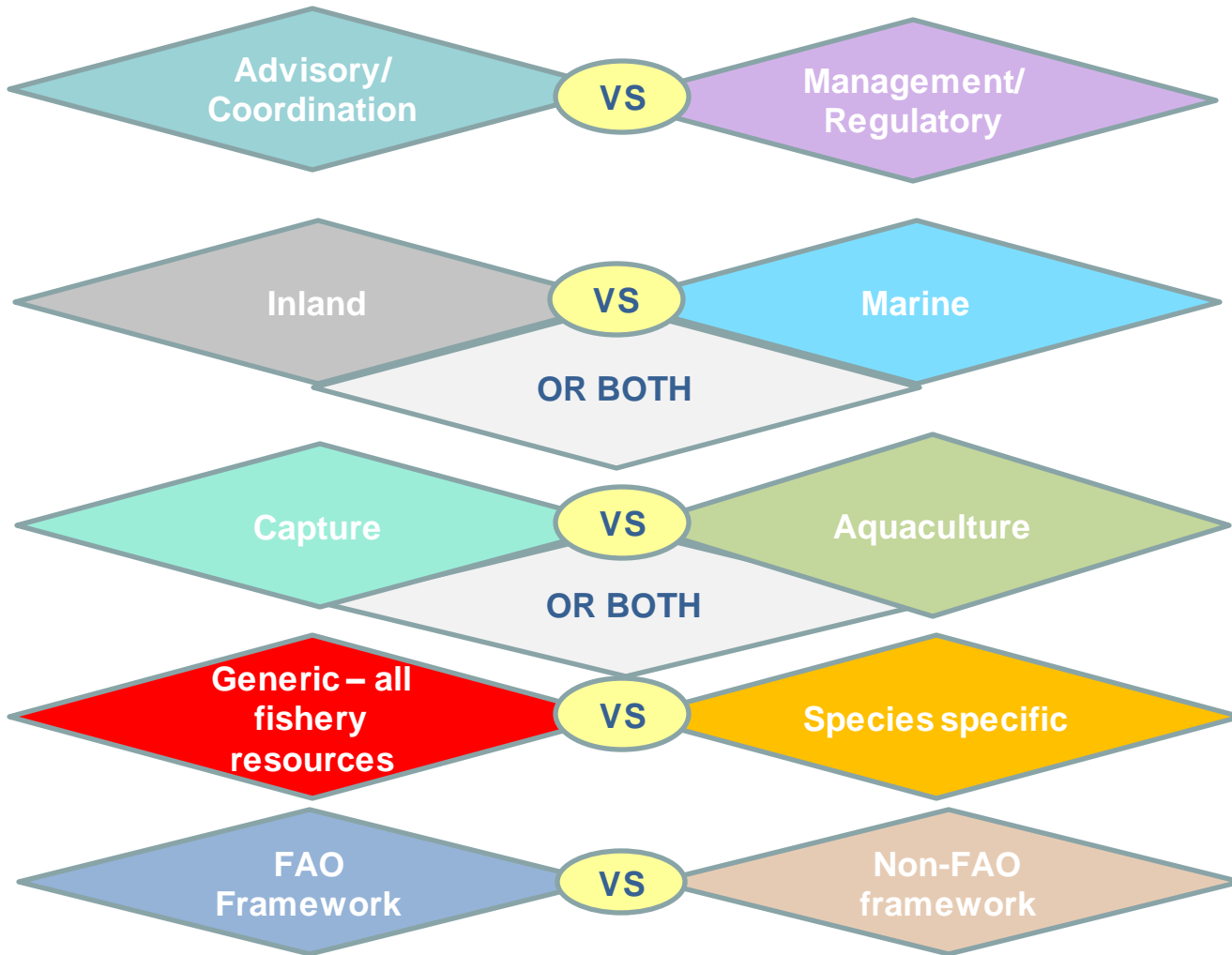
Piero Mannini, Lori Curtis, Tarub Bahri, Xuechan Ma
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division



RFABs/RFMOs Net(work?)



Main categories of RFABs and RFMOs



FAO and RFBs

- FAO has committed to:
 - **provide** its technical and administrative support to its own RFBs to strengthening their effectiveness
 - **promote** collaboration and consultation among all RFBs on matters of common concern
 - **facilitate** meetings and communication among RFAB and RFMOs
 - **cooperate** to report on status and trends of fisheries
 - **support** the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN)
- **FAO is also involved in the process of establishing new RFB**



RSN

REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK



WORKING TOGETHER

REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

A unique coordination mechanism bringing together 58 key fishery and aquaculture actors from across the globe



- Promoting sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture
- Learning and sharing best practices on critical issues of common concern
- Unlocking the potential of regional cooperation for regional and global fisheries governance
- Focusing on communication and visibility of regional fisheries bodies' work



MEMBERS		
	ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
	ACFR	Advisory Committee on Fishery Research
	APFC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
	DLTAFED	International Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic
	ECC	European Council Commission
	BOBRFO	Bay of Bengal Programme, Inter-governmental Organisation
	CACP	Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
	CBLT	Lake Chad Basin Commission
	CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
	CCSBT	Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea
	CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
	CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
	CIFA	Commission on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa
	COPIESALC	Commission for small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean
	CORP	Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea
	COPR	Prevention Commission for the South Pacific
	COPR	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
	CTMFM	Joint Technical Commission for the Argentinean/English Maritime Front
	CWP	Coordinated Working Party on Fishery Statistics
	EPRCA	European Island Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission
	FCWC	Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
	FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
	FRMS	Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System
	GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
	GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
	GLFC	Great Lakes Fishery Commission
	IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
	ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
	ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

MEMBERS		
	IOFC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
	IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
	IWC	International Whaling Commission
	JCRF	Joint Korea-Japan Fisheries Commission
	LTA	Lake Tanganyika Fishery
	LFIPO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation
	MFC	Mediterranean Fish Commission
	NAFO	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
	NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries
	NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
	NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation
	NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
	NPFC	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
	NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
	OLDFECSA	Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development
	OPFSA	Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organisation
	PCCS	The North Pacific Marine Science Organisation
	PSC	Pacific Salmon Commission
	SAA	Red de Acuicultores de las Américas
	SECFOP	Regional Commission for Fisheries
	SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
	SEAFOP	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
	SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
	SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
	SIFC	Subregional Fisheries Commission (SIFC)
	SWOPFC	Southeastern Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
	WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
	WCPAC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

Regional action, global impact

FI-RSN-Secretariat@fao.org | www.fao.org/fishery/rfb



REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK



Fisheries and Aquaculture

[Key Areas](#) [Statistics](#) [GeoInfo](#) [Fact Sheets -](#) [Publications](#) [Calendar](#)



Search Geographical Information Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB)

Search through the collection of Regional Fishery Body fact sheets using a simple word search or browsing RFBs sorted by categories. [\[more...\]](#)
Explore RFBs area of competence through the RFB map viewer

Available Formats & Information Products

Dataset

FAO Regional Fishery Bodies - Article VI

[CECAF](#) [CFAA](#) [COPPESAALC](#) [EIFAAC](#) [SWIOFC](#) [WECAFC](#)

FAO Regional Fishery Bodies - Article XIV

[APFIC](#) [CACFish](#) [GFCM](#) [IOTC](#) [RECOFI](#)

Basic Information on RFBs and aquaculture networks sorted by oceanic and continental Regions

Global and trans-ocean

[ACAP](#) [CCAMLR](#) [CCSBT](#) [IWC](#) [OSPESCA](#)

Pacific Ocean

[APFIC](#) [CCBSP](#) [FFA](#) [IATTC](#) [IPHC](#) [NPAFC](#) [NPFC](#) [PICES](#) [PSC](#) [SEAFDEC](#) [SPC](#) [SPRFMO](#) [WCPFC](#)

Mediterranean and Black Sea

[GFCM](#)

Indian Ocean

[BOBP-IGO](#) [IOTC](#) [RECOFI](#) [SIOFA](#) [SWIOFC](#)

Atlantic Ocean

[CECAF](#) [COMSHAFAT](#) [COREP](#) [CRFM](#) [CTMFM](#) [FCWC](#) [ICCAT](#) [NAFO](#) [NAMMCO](#) [NASCO](#) [NEAFC](#) [SEAFO](#) [SRFC](#)

[WECAFC](#)

Continents

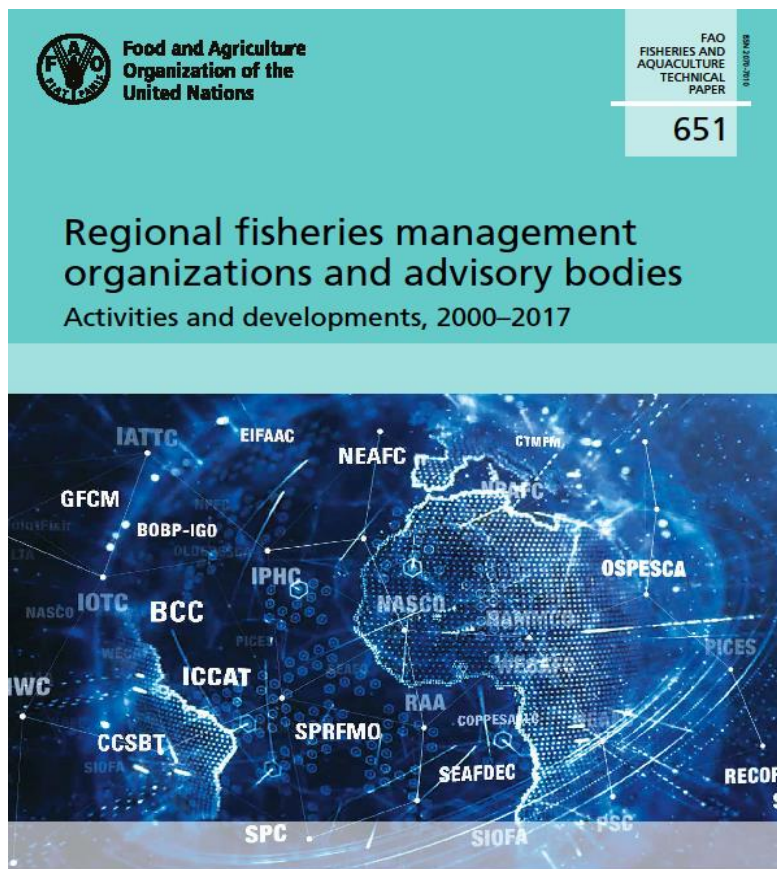
[APFIC](#) [CACFish](#) [LCBC](#) [CFAA](#) [COPPESAALC](#) [EIFAAC](#) [LTA](#) [LVFO](#) [NACA](#) [MRC](#) [RAA](#)

Other fisheries related institutions and networks

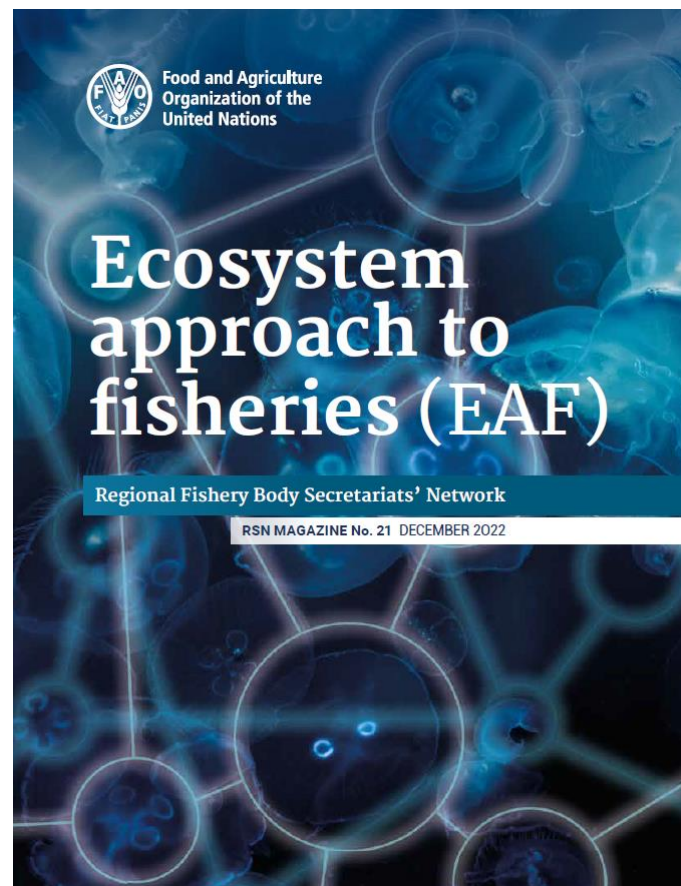
[ACFR](#) [CPPS](#) [CWP](#) [FIRMS](#) [GESAMP](#) [ICES](#)



FAO/RSN publication series



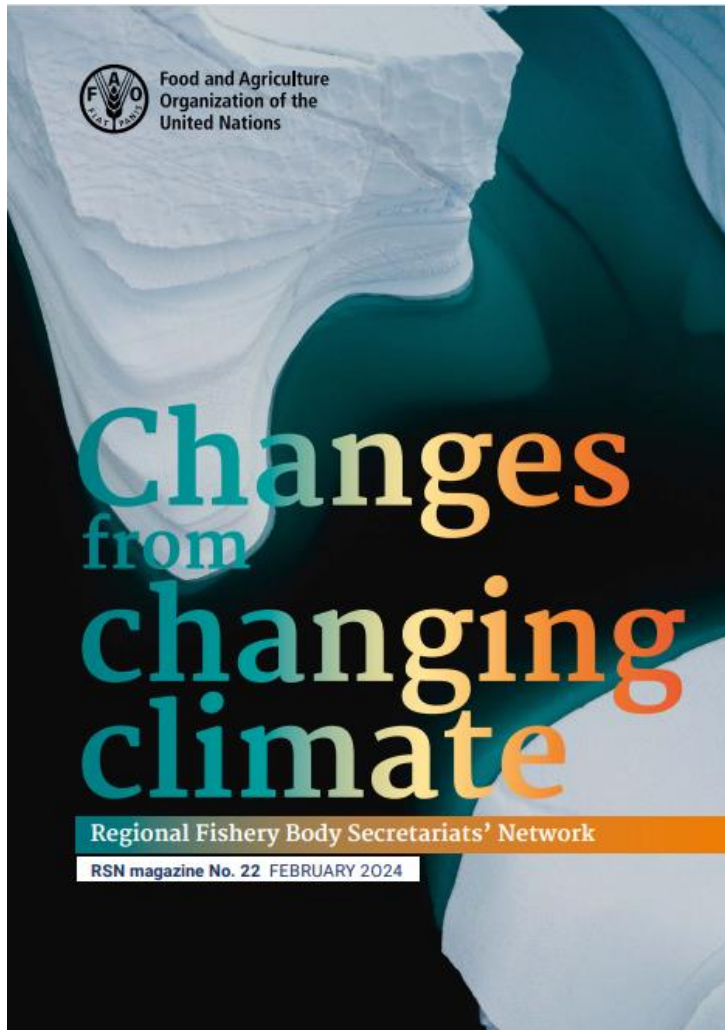
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Card page: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3719en>
PDF URL: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3719en/cc3719en.pdf>



FAO/RSN publication series



Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network
Magazine, No. 22 - February 2024

PDF URL: <http://www.fao.org/3/cc9471en/cc9471en.pdf>

Card page: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc9471en>



UNFSA Review Conference (2016) reiterated:

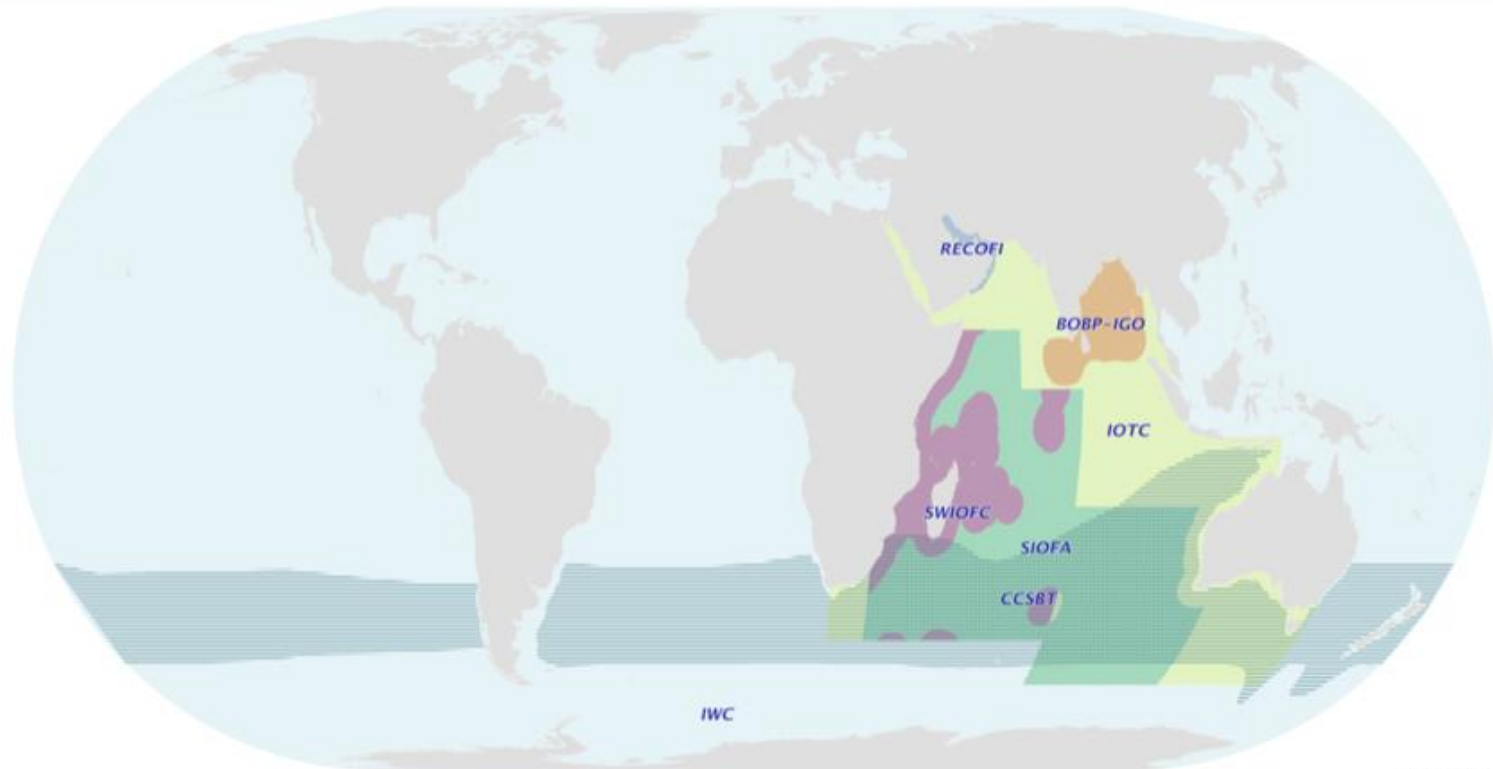
- Its encouragement for regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to strengthen **cooperation,**

FAO COFI (2021) highlighted:

- ❑ the key role that RFMOs and Regional Fisheries Advisory Bodies (RFABs) play in combatting IUU fishing and expressed appreciation for the actions undertaken to strengthen conservation and fisheries management measures, and encouraged RFMOs to **increase cooperation** to continue to strengthen these measures;
- ❑ the central role of RFMOs and RFABs, within their sphere of competence, in the implementation of **international fisheries instruments**;
- ❑ RFMOs and RFABs play a key role in supporting and strengthening fisheries science, fisheries management and monitoring, control and surveillance, at both **national and regional level**; and
- ❑ its appreciation of the role of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network in supporting RFMOs and RFABs, and stressed that regional fishery bodies **should cooperate** to ensure common approaches on a number of cross-cutting issues

Regional Consultation on the Development of a Coordination Framework among Regional Fishery Bodies in the Western Indian Ocean

(Maputo, Mozambique, 22 – 24 June 2022)

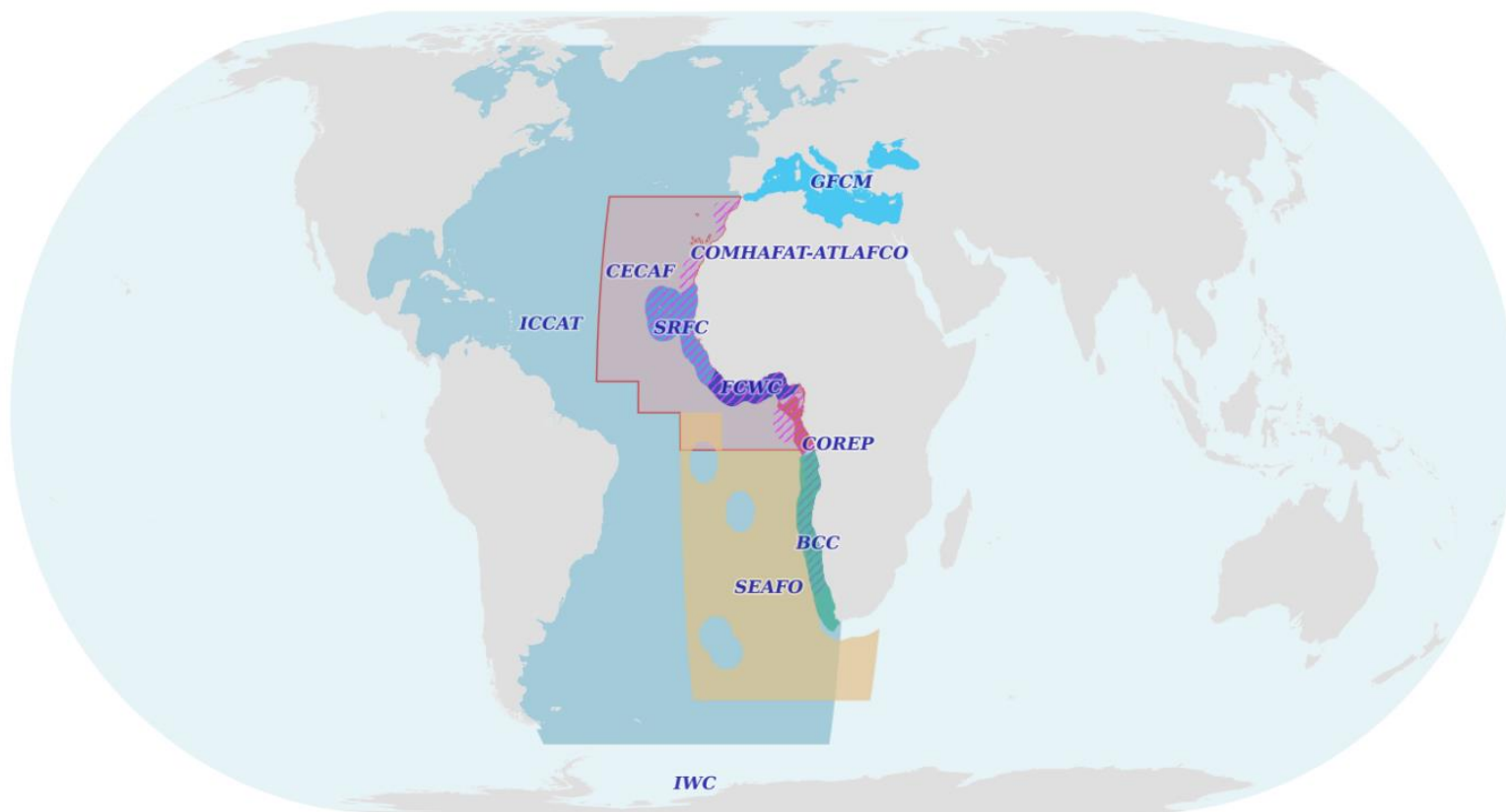


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Regional Consultation on the Development of a Coordination Framework among Regional Fishery Bodies in the Eastern Central Atlantic Ocean

(Accra, Ghana, 30 November – 2 December 2022)



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West Africa countries with multiple membership in RFBs

	CECAF	COREP	FCWC	SRFC	SEAFO	ATLAFCO	ICCAT	BCC
Morocco	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Mauritania	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
C. Verde	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Senegal	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Gambia	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Guinea Bissau	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Guinea	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Sierra Leone	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Liberia	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Côte d'Ivoire	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Ghana	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Togo	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Benin	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Nigeria	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cameroon	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Equatorial Guinea	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Sao Tome and Principe	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Gabon	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Congo	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Congo DRC	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Angola	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Namibia	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
South Africa	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

FAO. 2023. *A regional framework among regional fishery bodies - Scaling up cooperation and coordination towards sustainable fisheries.* Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5979en>



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

A regional framework among regional fishery bodies

Scaling up cooperation and coordination
towards sustainable fisheries



Climate change & Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)

2021

Hot fish: The response to climate change by regional fisheries bodies

Jonathan Sumby^a, Marcus Haward^{a,b}, Elizabeth A. Fulton^{b,c}, Gretta T. Pecl^{a,b}

Most of the studied **17 RFBs** are **practising business-as-usual**, despite broad-scale awareness of CC and desire to learn about its implications. **Data and capacity gaps** are identified as primary contributing factors.

Committee on Fisheries
Thirty-fifth Session, 5-9 September 2022
Rome, Italy

2022

Highlighted the need for **guidance on climate resilient fisheries management**, including by convening a **workshop with RFMOs and RFABs**

2022

9th Meeting of RSN: climate change included in the agenda
Regional consultations with RFBs from Western Indian Ocean & Eastern Central Atlantic Ocean: climate change identified as a priority area

2023

Survey input received from: **20 RFBs**

Changes from changing climate

Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network
RSN Magazine No. 22 August 2023

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, 2023

Status quo: RFBs are increasingly aware of the challenges posed by climate change, and some have initiated actions. However, many admitted facing difficulty engaging in the topic of climate change despite the existence of good science.



Upcoming FAO workshops



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

2 FAO international workshops on “Mainstreaming climate change into international fisheries governance – the case of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs)”

1

October 2023

Chennai, India

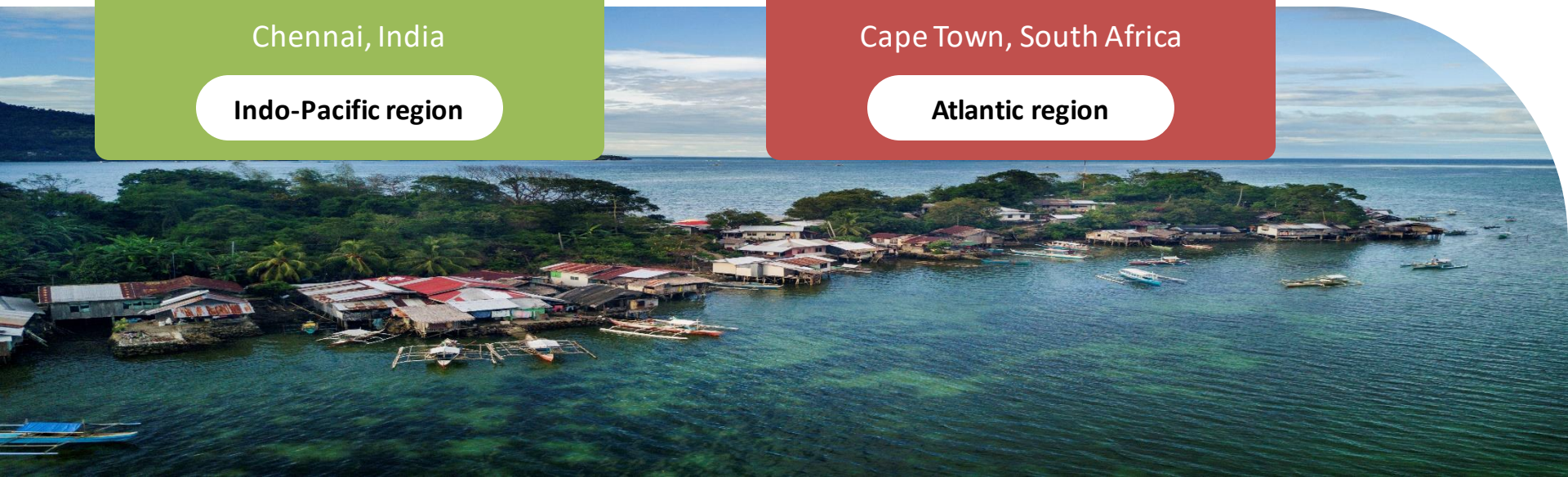
Indo-Pacific region

2

June 2024

Cape Town, South Africa

Atlantic region



Global review of RFB actions to integrate climate change impact to ensure sustainable fisheries management

Objective & methodology

❖ Objective

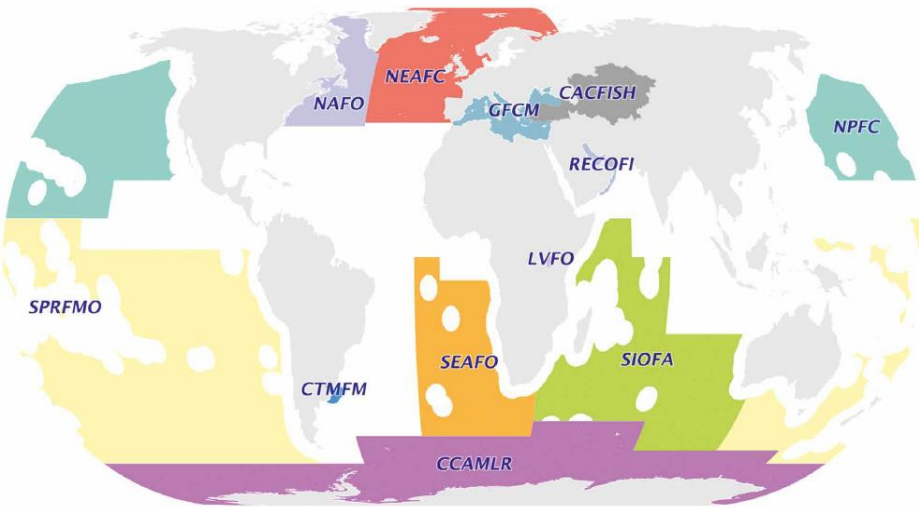
- Provide an overview of how RFBs are addressing climate change in multilateral fisheries governance practices
- Highlight the trends in how RFBs are responding to climate change
- Demonstrate examples of good practices and how to incorporate them into RFB practices

❖ Methodology

- Reviewed RFBs: both management RFMOs (**n=22**) and advisory RFABs (**n=24**), marine and inland
- Stage 1: Desk review of publications, reports, webpages of RFBs
- Stage 2: Consultation through workshops (1 held for Pacific and Indian Ocean, 1 upcoming workshop for the Atlantic/ trans-ocean RFBs)

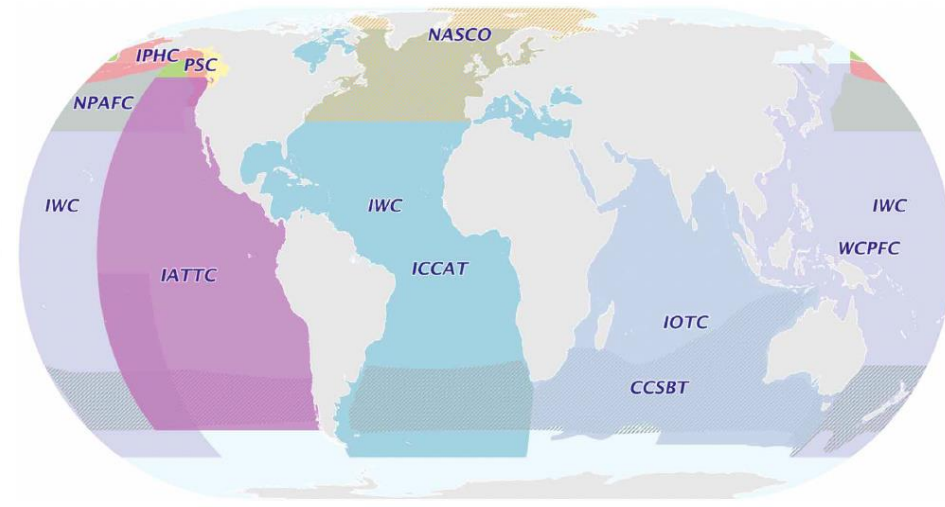
Reviewed RFBs: 22 RFMOs + 24 RFABs

12 generic RFMOs



- CACFISH ■ CTMFM ■ NAFO ■ NPFC ■ SEAFO ■ SPRFMO
- CCAMLR ■ GFCM ■ NEAFC ■ RECOFI ■ SIOFA ■ LVFO

10 species specific RFMOs

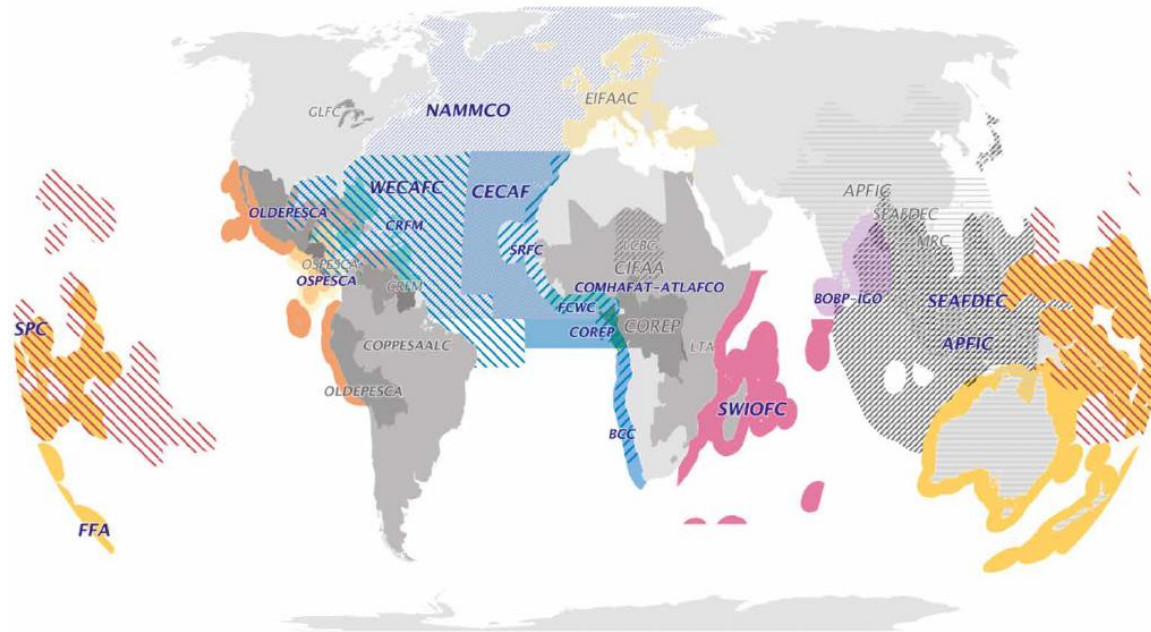


- ICCAT ■ IATTC ■ IPHC ■ NPAFC ■ WCPFC
- CCSBT ■ IOTC ■ NASCO ■ PSC ■ IWC (Global Coverage)

Source: Løbach et al 2020, FAO

Reviewed RFBs: 22 RFMOs + 24 RFABs

24 RFABs



Source: Løbach et al 2020, FAO

Enabling environment to address climate change

Inclusion of the **precautionary approach** and **ecosystem approach** in RFB treaties or practices

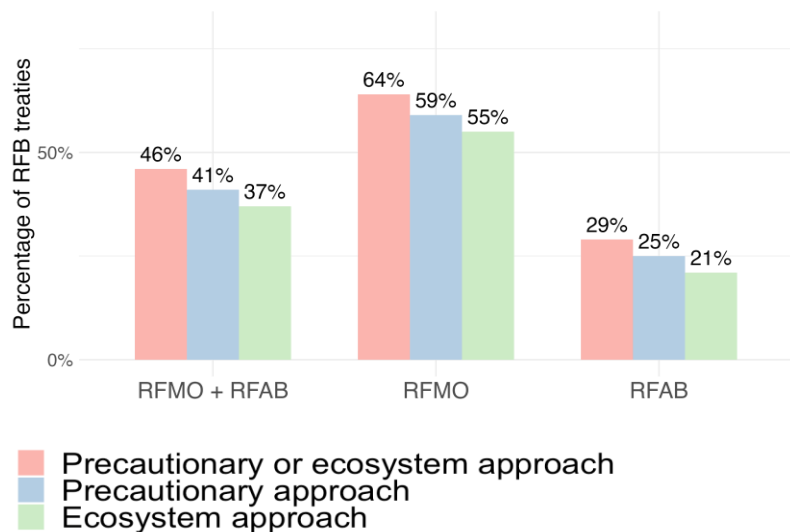


Figure. Inclusion of precautionary approach and ecosystem approach in RFB treaties

Source: Løbach et al 2020, FAO

Formalized cooperation with relevant entities (other RFBs, Regional Seas Organizations, Science-based Institutes, Conservation Orgs)

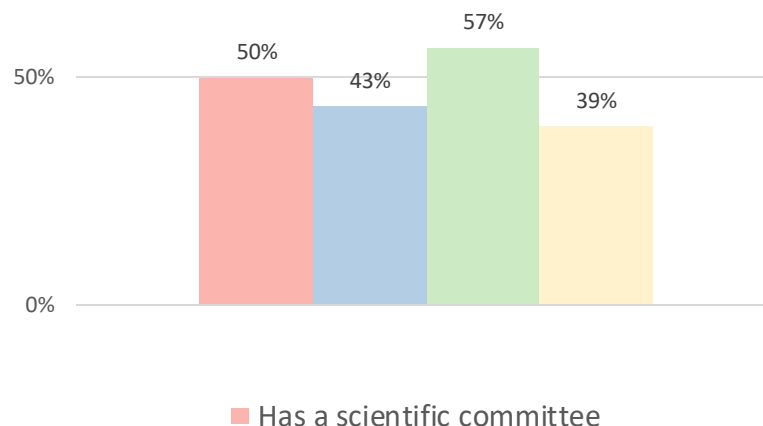
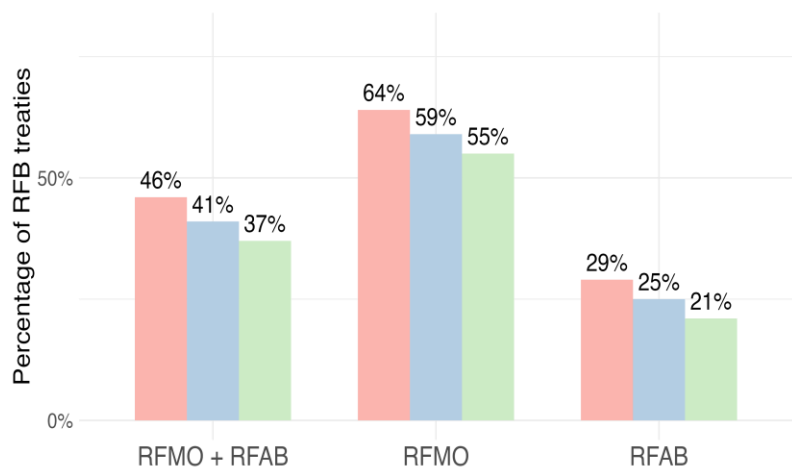


Figure. Formalized cooperation with relevant entities

Enabling environment to address climate change

Inclusion of the **precautionary approach** and **ecosystem approach** in RFB treaties or practices

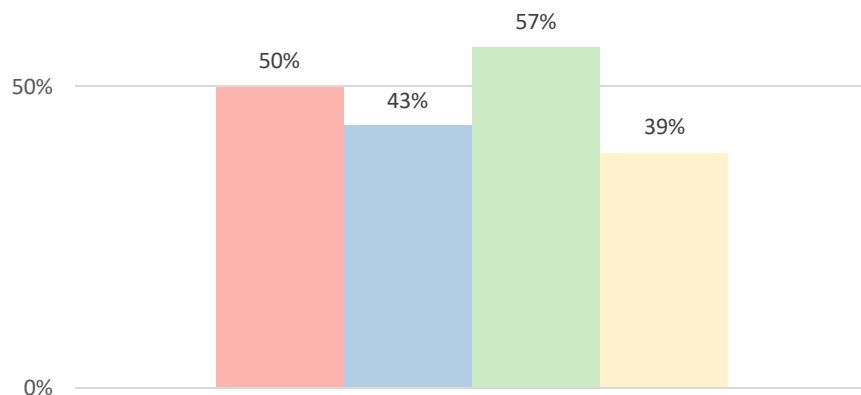


- Precautionary or ecosystem approach
- Precautionary approach
- Ecosystem approach

Figure. Inclusion of precautionary approach and ecosystem approach in RFB treaties

Source: Løbach et al 2020, FAO

Formalized cooperation with relevant entities (other RFBs, Regional Seas Organizations, Science-based Institutes, Conservation Orgs)



- Has a scientific committee
- Has partnership with a scientific organization
- Has a formal Partnership with other RFBs
- Has a formal relationship with a regional seas org or conservation org

Figure. Formalized cooperation with relevant entities

Actions taken by RFBs to address climate change

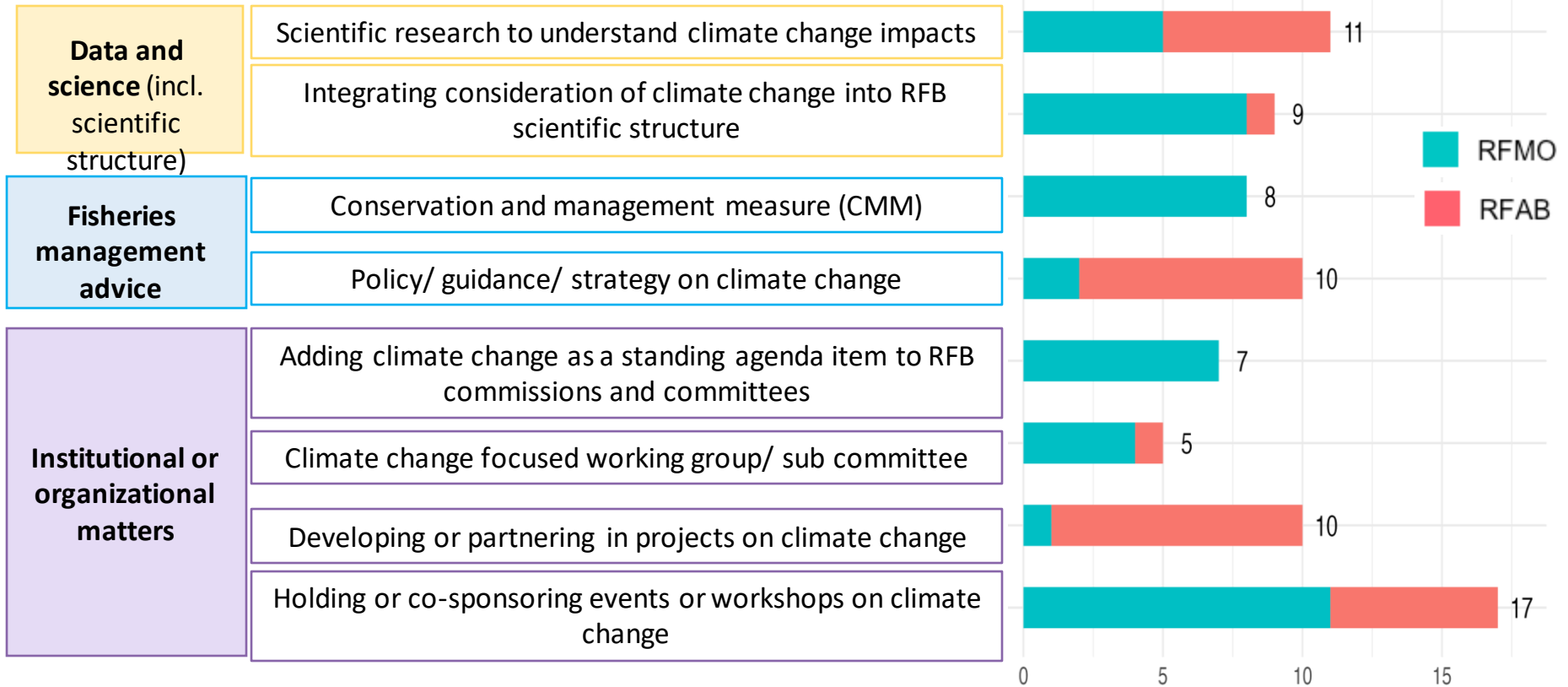


Figure. Number of RFBs that have taken the action

Preliminary findings about the current status

- **78%** of the RFBs reviewed had taken at least 1 action on climate change
- The average number of actions taken per RFB was **1.8**
- The most common actions taken were:
 - Holding or co-sponsoring **events or workshops** on climate change (17 RFBs)
 - **Scientific research** to understand climate change impacts (13 RFBs)
 - Developing or partnering in **projects** on climate change (10 RFBs)
 - **Policy/guidance/ strategy** on climate change (10 RFBs)
 - Integrating consideration of climate change into RFB **scientific structure** (10 RFBs)

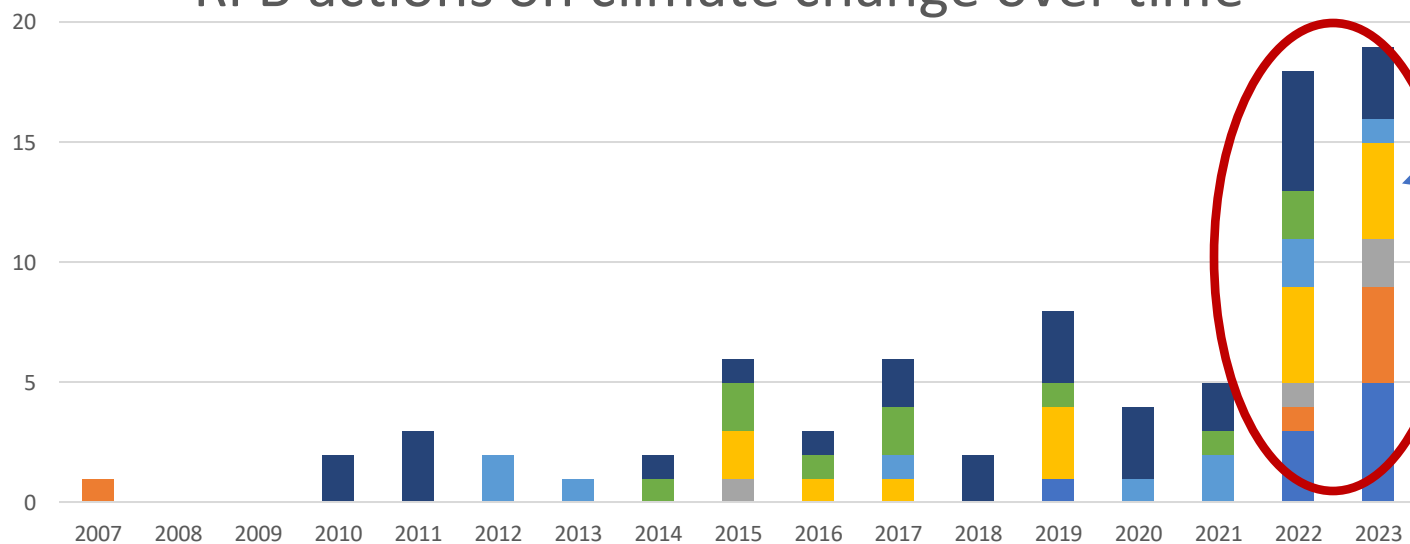


Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

RFB	CMM or Resolution	CC Agenda Item	CC focused Working Group/sub-committee	Integration of CC into science of RFB	Scientific research		Strategy/policy/guidelines on climate change and fisheries	Projects addressing climate change	Event on climate change
					Research topic	On-going research			
APFIC									
BCC					x	x	x	x	x
BOBP-IGO						x		x	
CACFish									
CCAMLR	x	x	x	x	x				x
CCSBT				x					
CECAF			x						
CIFAA				x					
COMHAFAT-ATLAFCO								x	x
COPPEAALC									
COREP									
CRFM							x	x	
CTMFM				x					x
EFAAC									x
FCWC									
FFA							x	x	x
GFCM							x		x
GLFC									
IATTC	x	x		x				x	x
ICCAT	x						x		x
IOTC	x			x					
IPHC				x	x	x			
IWC		x	x						x
LCBC							x		x
LTA							x		
LVFO									
MRC							x		
NAFO			x	x					x
NAMMCO					x				
NASCO		x	x						x
NEAFC									
NPAFC									x
NPFC	x	x							x
OLDEPESCA									
OSPESCA								x	
PSC						x			
RECOFI		x							x
SEAFDEC						x		x	
SEAFO									
SIOFA						x			
SPC						x	x		
SPRFMO		x		x	x				
SRFC									
SWIOFC								x	
WCPFC	x	x		x					
WECAFC					x		x	x	

Preliminary findings about the trend over time

RFB actions on climate change over time



Increase in # and
types of actions

Emerging types
of actions

e.g. standing item
on climate change,
resolution or CMM
to implement,
integration into
scientific program

- Event on Climate change
- Projects addressing climate change
- Strategy/policy/guidelines on climate change and fisheries
- Integration of CC into science of RFB

Observations and conclusions

❖ Observations

- Climate change is increasing in the number of RFBs that are addressing it, and the frequency with which it is addressed by each one
- All RFBs are still in the preliminary phases of addressing climate change, its too early to determine best practices
- RFBs are also looking to each other to see how climate change is being approached and addressed

❖ Conclusions

- Allocating resources to better understand climate change impacts in RFB coverage area is key
- Existing management measures, operating procedures need to be assessed to determine to what degree they can adapt to uncertainties and change
- Networks/initiatives and formal mechanisms for collaboration, exchanging experiences on adapting to climate change is likely to be valued by RFBs in these early stages

Next steps

- Continued consultation through the 2nd FAO workshop with Atlantic/ trans-ocean RFBs (scheduled 4-5 June 2024, Cape Town, South Africa)
- RFBs to share follow-up climate activities at the upcoming meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) to be held in conjunction with FAO COFI36 (July 2024)
- Development of guidance and capacity building programme to support RFBs in advancing climate resilient fisheries management and enhance regional coordination frameworks



1st FAO workshop with RFBs from Indo-Pacific Oceans, Chennai, India, October 2023



Food and Agriculture
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FAO's support to RFBs for sustainable fisheries management in the face of climate change

Thanks for your attention

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Global achievements are built upon regional efforts