



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION  
DES NATIONS  
UNIES POUR  
L'ALIMENTATION  
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION  
DE LAS NACIONES  
UNIDAS PARA  
LA AGRICULTURA  
Y LA ALIMENTACION

منظمة  
الغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم  
المتحدة

SAFR/DM/SWIO2/04/INF 5

## FOURTH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Mahe, Seychelles, 13 – 16 July 2004

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEEPWATER FISHERIES IN THE SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN

1. The Second Ad Hoc Meeting on Management of Deepwater Fisheries Resources of the Southern Indian Ocean was held in Fremantle, Western Australia from 22 to 24 May 2002. It was attended by ten national government officers from eight countries, one manager of a commercial fishing company (Australia), one representative from a fishing industry organization and two officers from the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

#### Meeting Recommendations

2. Given the experience of management of fisheries for these deepwater species in other oceans of the world, i.e. the rapid depletion and commercial extirpation of many fisheries for these species, there is an **urgent** need to introduce effective management measures to prevent fisheries in the Southern Indian Ocean for these species from suffering the same fate.

3. The following measures should be taken **at a minimum** to implement effective management of these fisheries:

- i. Catch and effort data should be secured in appropriate detail by appropriate statistical areas. It should be noted that statistical areas might vary by species (Definitions of these areas were prepared by the meeting - see Figure 2).
- ii. Appropriate management areas should be used for each species. It was noted that management areas might vary by species.
- iii. Countries fishing in the area should take **immediate** management measures to control catch and/or effort for their nationals fishing in the area at levels **no greater than** current levels. (Note: The 1<sup>st</sup> Ad Hoc Meeting on Management of Demersal Fisheries Resources of the Southern Indian Ocean expressed concern that current levels of catch and effort may already exceed levels that will permit sustainable fisheries in the area.).
- iv. Measures should also be taken wherever possible to effectively control unreported and unregulated fishing.

4. The meeting identified various issues that would need addressing: These follow.

### *Strategic Issues*

- i. Agreement on what "sustainability" will mean as an objective in a management context, especially for orange roughy and the associated bycatch species (mainly oreos<sup>1</sup>) which are also long long-lived.
- ii. Consideration and articulation of appropriate (and mutually acceptable) management objectives.
- iii. How to address the problem raised by unregulated and uncontrolled fishing, in the first instance obtaining data on the operations of such vessels.
- iv. The need to ensure that all countries that have their flag vessels operating in the study region participate in the management process.
- v. The issue of controlling catches and effort on the high-seas fisheries in the study region.

### *Operational Issues*

- i. Consideration of the costs involved in managing fisheries that may exploit a large number of small discrete stocks and thus the implications for costs and benefits of management actions.
- ii. Consideration of the advice required by a decision making body on the cost implications of undertaking stock assessments and attempting management actions.
- iii. Developing protocols for pooling data from different companies and countries that are acceptable to all involved in terms of operator confidentiality requirements.
- iv. Agreement on how to proceed with incomplete data sets in the provision of management advice in the context of an acceptably precautionary approach.
- v. Determination of recommendations for future biological research.
- vi. Documentation of Conversion Factors.

### *Research Activities*

**5.** It was agreed that a common strategy was need for research activities and that the minimum research requirements be identified for management purposes; the 'secretariat, should, as possible, take an initiative in developing this analysis and report back to a subsequent meeting.

**6.** The desirability of producing "information" sheets that document the characteristics of the fishery and which could form the basis of future stock status reports was discussed. It was agreed that such documents would be desirable and the NIWA would investigate the feasibility of their making use of existing material to produce them.

**7.** It was agreed that the results of this meeting and that of the preceding meeting held in Swakopmund, Namibia in 2001 were important and should be conveyed to relevant international fisheries bodies. One of these was COFI (FAO). It was also thought important that those involved in the consultation process regarding the establishment of a new fisheries commission for the region be advised of the groups deliberations, and particularly of the concerns of the group in the relation to the urgent need for management actions if the resources of the study area are to be managed so as to ensure sustainable fisheries.

**8.** The report of the Meeting was adopted on 24 May 2002. In closing the Meeting the Chairman thanked all those attending for their valuable contributions during the meeting and noted that good progress had been made towards identifying future activities that would support responsible fisheries management in the study area.

**9.** The Meeting expressed its thanks to the Chairman, Richard Tilzey, BRS, for guiding the work of the Meeting, to Ross Shotton, FAO, for his technical support and especially to Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Australia for hosting the Meeting and the highly satisfactory arrangements that had been provided.

---

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 13, page 3, FAO 2001. Report of the *Ad Hoc Meeting on Management of Deepwater Fisheries Resources of The Southern Indian Ocean*. FAO Fish. Rep. No. 652. FAO, Rome. 61pp.