



## INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

relating to biodiversity in sustainable DEEP-SEA FISHING in the ABNJ are embodied in a wide range of instruments, and are implemented by States and eight regional bodies.

Deep-sea fishing occurs over continental slopes, seamounts, ridge systems and banks with bare muddy sediments, and on hard rocky substrates that may support species or communities that could be vulnerable to bottom fishing impacts. International efforts to address the potential negative impacts of deep-sea fishing have been ongoing for the last 40 years, and have progressed markedly in the last decade.

Currently, there are over 19 international instruments and eight regional conventions that address deep-sea fishing and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

In support of improved understanding and implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks, FAO, under the auspices of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, initiated an analysis of the existing legal and policy instruments related to biodiversity and sustainable deep-sea fishing in the ABNJ, including identifying the constraints and challenges related to their implementation.

The analysis showed the importance and need to address both impact and conservation issues in the management of deep-sea fishing is clearly recognized in all current instruments that pertain to management of living resources in the deep-sea areas of the ABNJ. This is further reinforced through the directions to implement ecosystem based management, which includes taking a precautionary approach in management actions.

In addition, there is major recognition of the need to control vessels, collect information and improve understanding of deep-sea resources, biodiversity and ecosystems; and undertake impact assessments before new resources or areas are exploited.

The release of this report will be accompanied by a training programme including a step-wise guide to assist countries, where necessary, to better integrate their international obligations into national laws and policies.



The ABNJ Deep Seas Project is a five year project designed to enhance sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ. The Project brings together over 20 partners working on deep-sea fisheries and conservation issues in the ABNJ globally.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

**Convention on Biological Diversity** 

**UN Fish Stocks Agreement** 

FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks

FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

> FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries

international instruments

THAT ARE RELEVANT TO

## **DEEP-SEA FISHING**

and its impacts on BIODIVERSITY IN THE AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION

of the regional bodies\* with a mandate for the management and conservation of deep-sea fishing

FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

UN General Assembly Resolutions 61/105, 64/72, and 66/68

FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations

FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas

FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards

**FAO Guidelines for Flag State Performance** 

**FAO Port State Measures Agreement** 

\*The regional bodies are: the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).