ABNJ Deep Seas Project

NEAFC-SPAR collective agreement meeting
May 2017
ABNJ Deep Seas Project

1. Improving application of policy and legal frameworks
2. Reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and components of EBSAs
3. Improving planning and adaptive management for ABNJ deep-sea fisheries
4. Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning
ABNJ Deep Seas Project: partners

**Funding:**
US$ 8 million from GEF for 5 years

**Co-funding**
estimate US$ 79 million

**Executing Agencies**

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA)
- GRID-Arendal
- Global Oceans Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Sealord Group
- Southern Indian Ocean Deepwater Fishers Association (SIOFA)
- Southern Indian Ocean Deepwater Fishers Association (SIOFA)

**Partners**

- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
- Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
- Duke University
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- National Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
- Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA)
- GRID-Arendal
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Sealord Group
- Southern Indian Ocean Deepwater Fishers Association (SIOFA)
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)
- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)
- North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
- Nairobi Convention
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
ABNJ Deep Seas Project in 2016

• Review of international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ completed.
• A global review of alfonsino fisheries, biology and management was published. A workshop of experts met to review of orange roughy biology and assessment (report expected to be published by mid 2017).
• Good progress has been made on the 2nd edition of the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas.
• The report on best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments published.
• Contributions to the VME portal and database.
ABNJ Deep Seas Project in 2016

• Data collection manual published - based on the additional requirements for reporting on vulnerable marine ecosystems included in the FAO International Guidelines for Deep-sea Fisheries

• Review and synthesis of the values of the sectors operating in the ABNJ - fishing, mining, oil and gas, waste disposal, cable laying, shipping and pharmaceuticals activities (contributes also to the SponGES work on economic valuation of the goods and services provided by sponge grounds)

• Informing the BBNJ process.
ABNJ Deep Seas Project in 2016

Area-based planning

• Review of institutional arrangements and legal instruments in Southeast Pacific and Western Indian Ocean
• Review of ABP tools and their applicability to deep sea ABNJ
• Review of the connectivity of biological resources between EEZs and ABNJ
2017 project activities

BBNJ Side Event (March)

Existing international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ

* Introduced the FAO-ABNJ study entitled: “Review and Analysis of International Legal and Policy Instruments related to Deep-Sea Fisheries and Biodiversity in ABNJ” and the elements of a ABNJ-UNEP regional study on institutional arrangements.

* Highlighted the roles of existing international instruments and institutions in the governance of deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity in ABNJ and sought to identify potential areas or issues relating to biodiversity that may be effectively addressed through existing instruments and institutions or the proposed implementing agreement.

Collaborators: FAO, UNEP-WCMC, CBD, University of Strathclyde, NEAFC
2017 project activities include

- Training on implementing international obligations relating to deep sea fishing and conservation in the ABNJ (SIOFA, SEAFO region).
- Development of an intersessional exploratory fishing review process (SEAFO)
- Development of observer training manual (Cook Islands)
- Reviews on:
  - traceability (including catch documentation schemes, ecolabeling, value chains)*
  - rights based management*
  - decent work
  - monitoring control and surveillance*
  - EAF practices in deep sea RFMO’s*

* Includes NEAFC
2017 project activities include

**Trialling of electronic monitoring tools:**

- SMARTFORMS - a mobile application (tablet based) for on board collection and storage of biodiversity and VME information
- Use of on board video camera’s to collect information on VMEs (SIOFA).
- Estimating biomass using acoustic methods (SIOFA orange roughy)
- Operationalising the recording bottom habitats using video. Testing of the ability to monitor fishing net from the bridge, and reaction time to be able to avoid impacts (Sealord Group).

**Support to SIOFA’s deepwater sharks Ecological Risk Assessment:**

- A framework for undertaking an ERA for deepwater sharks for SIOFA
- Includes: Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis and Sustainability Assessment for Fishing Effects