PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF RFMOs: PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES

Piero Mannini - Senior Liaison Officer

ICSP-14, New York, 2 May 2019
Regional Fishery Management Organizations
(Non species-specific)
Species-specific (i.e. tuna, halibut, salmon, marine mammals, etc.)
COFI - XXVI Session (2005) - recognized importance of independent assessments of RFMOs’ performance

UNGA stressed the importance of PRs as independent evaluations for RFMOs/As and recommended:

- transparent criteria based on international instruments
- consider best practices for RFMOs
- elements of independent evaluation

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1072 (2012) and the FAO Circular No. 1108 (2015) provided a list of criteria for PRs and also showed that:

- Panels rely primarily on official documents and interviews with official RFMO staff, and that;
- Analysis of RFMO foundational texts are examined vis-à-vis the international conventions and soft-law fishery instruments
Commonly recognized criteria to PRs

FAO Circular No. 1108

- Conservation and management of fish stocks
- Compliance with and enforcement of international obligations
- Legal framework, financial affairs, organization
- Cooperation with other international organizations and non-member States
- Socio-economic aspects of fishing
- Duties of RFMOs towards developing countries
Outcomes of the resumed Review Conference on the UNFSA (23-29 May 2016)

- Enhancing PR consistency
- Making PR of RFMOs mandatory
- Adaptive, independent and regular review exercise
- Ensuring the principle of accountability, transparency and participation from civil society
- Time-bound implementation of recommendations
- Follow-up mechanism for implementing PR recommendations
The introduction of the practice of Performance Review is a milestone in the history of RFMOs (and RFABs).

Difficulties in finding criteria that can be accepted by all regions and that reflect particular circumstances.

Each RFMO operates in a specific geo-political and socio-economical environment.

Related factors to each regional context should be taken into consideration and reflected in the criteria applied.

Strong degree of commonality in the factors affecting RFMOs performance.

Outcome of the Resumed Review Conference on the UNFSA:

There is a need to adjust/include new elements and criteria so as to ensure a complete and clear picture of how the RFMOs are performing.
Future of Performance Reviews

- Performance review as an increasingly common practice for both RFMOs and RFABs
- Common key criteria need to be identified and established
- Independency and transparency must be ensured as well as inclusivity
- Performance reviews should be institutionalized and regularly carried out on periodic basis.
- Monitoring of follow-up actions and appraisal of effects of performance review findings and recommendations
RFMO performance reviews, 2000–2017
PERFORMANCE REVIEWS OF RFMOS: PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES

Piero Mannini - Senior Liaison Officer
piero.mannini@fao.org

ICSP-14, New York, 2 May 2019