Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas
FAO programme and activities

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Outline

- Background and goals of the FAO Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas Programme
- Review of the implementation of the FAO International Guidelines
- The four components of the programme
- Current and ongoing FAO activities
Background

- DEEP SEAS 2003 International Conference
- COFI (2005 and 2007) and UNGA (61/105) discussions
- Development of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas
  - Workshops on data issues, VMEs
  - Expert and technical consultations
  - Review of ABNJ deep-sea fisheries
The FAO Programme: goals and objectives

- **Overarching goal**: ensuring sustainable use of living marine resources and protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas

- **Aim**: assist states, specifically developing countries, institutions and RFMO/As, in the implementation of the FAO International Guidelines and respond to requests in the Guidelines

- **Time frame**: already initiated and ongoing, full breadth of activities dependent on incremental funding from external funding sources.
Issues in implementation of the Guidelines

Busan Workshop (May 2010)

- Multi-stakeholder participation (RFMOs, NGOs, scientists, managers and industry)
- 3 background papers
  - Challenges to RFMOs in applying the Guidelines on management of fisheries
  - Experience of RFMOs in identifying and protecting VMEs
  - Implementation of the Guidelines in areas where there are no RFMOs
Busan workshop recommendations

- **Support**
  - development of new and developing RFMO/As;
  - developing countries in implementation of Guidelines
  - work on deep-sea high seas stock assessments to ensure sustainable fisheries

- **Compile, develop guidance, make available information on:**
  - impacts and risk assessment;
  - encounter protocols and related mitigation measures, and the move-on rule;
  - use of the VME criteria, including triggers for what degree of presence constitutes a “significant concentration”

- **Facilitate opportunities for discussions among fishing nations operating in the same area**
Further recommendations

- Evaluation of the implementation of the Guidelines and convening of further workshops at regular intervals
- Other recommendations
  - Step-wise approach to implementation, prioritize the main provisions
  - Procedures to build confidence between scientists and industry for improved collaboration including protocols for collaboration
  - Collection of historical data
  - Increasing participation in international, FAO and scientific meetings
  - Sharing experiences and best practices between RFMOs & RFMO scientists
  - Build awareness among deep-sea skippers, operators and crew
Best practices and support tools for implementation of the Guidelines

- Ecological and economic analysis of ABNJ deep-sea fisheries and ecosystem services
- Development of good practice tools
  - Species ID guides, collaboration with industry, best practices for EIAs, data collection standards, etc
- Guidance on management measures
  - Spatial measures, market-based incentives, etc
Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)

- Development of a VME database
- Improved methodologies for use of existing VME criteria
- Guidance on:
  - Indicators and thresholds for VMEs
  - Protocols and management responses
- Development of networks of practitioners
FAO Programme: Component 3

**Area specific demonstration activities**

- **Information for management and decision making**
  - Fishery independent surveys
  - Stock assessment workshops
  - Gap analysis for information and data
  - Gathering of historical data
  - Industry collaboration in providing data for management
  - Risk assessment
  - Management plans

- **Establishment of collaborative mechanisms (industry, scientists, managers, NGOs)**

- **Gathering of best practices and testing of tools from the other components**
Global coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and dissemination of information

- Compilation of best practices for legal and policy frameworks
- Global coordination and cooperation
  - Development of global partnerships and networks
  - Readily available Information and tools
- Monitoring implementation of the Guidelines
  - Analysis of constraints in implementation of Guidelines
  - Review of implementation
- Coordination of information and data
  - Global review of deep-sea high seas fisheries and ecosystems
  - Identify and evaluate further required programmes
Current and upcoming activities

- **Designated web space for deep-sea issues**
  - Accessibility of information on vessel list, impact assessment etc

- **Species identification guides**
  - Vulnerable Species identification Workshop
  - Development of shark guides

- **Working with industry**
  - Fishing Vessel Execution of Acoustic Surveys for Assessment of Deep-sea Species

- **Data collection**
  - Manual on data collection for vulnerable deep-sea species

- **Regional workshops on VME data**
Current and upcoming activities

- **VME database**
  - **Objectives**
    - Facilitate multi-stakeholder access to data, sharing of information
    - Facilitate decision-making and management decisions
    - Facilitate partnerships and the creation of a network among the community of users
  - **Initial Workshop in 2011**
    - Assess data and information needs for management bodies
    - Design a development strategy (data mechanisms and website architecture)
GEF ABNJ Programme

- **Programme Goal**: promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ in accordance with agreed global targets
- **GEF Agencies**: FAO, World Bank, UNEP
- **Executing partners**: Conservation International, Global Oceans Forum, IUCN and WWF, and others
- **Projects**
  - Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation
  - Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems
  - Ocean Partnership Fund, and
  - Global coordination for marine ABNJ
Sustainable Management of Deep-sea Fisheries and Conservation of Biodiversity in the High Seas

Enabling collaboration and capacity building in regional and global processes

Biodiversity conservation
- Policy Frameworks
- Area – based tools
- Knowledge base/Scientific Advice
  - EBSA Process

Stakeholder consultation
- Regional demonstrations
- Information and data sharing, scientific collaboration

Sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries
- Governance (Policy and Legal Frameworks)
- Management approaches tools and methods
- Knowledge base/Scientific Advice
  - VME Process/fisheries and Resources

Global coordination, knowledge sharing and dissemination of best practices for enhanced management of deep-sea fisheries and conservation of marine biodiversity
Questions?