



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Well managed fisheries in the High Seas:

FAO & the BBNJ Treaty

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Biodiversity and sustainability in the high seas



Key messages

- High seas – **2/3 of world ocean**
- **Sustainable utilization and marine biological diversity conservation go hand in hand**
- **Excluding human activities from the equation will not yield lasting solutions**
- Sustainable and effective **fisheries management is critical**



The importance of the BBNJ Treaty



Core elements of the BBNJ Treaty

- **Fosters collaboration** and establishes a **robust legal and institutional framework** for global ocean governance
- Provides opportunities to **strengthen capacities**
- Facilitates establishment of **area-based management measures**
- Promotes **technology transfer**
- Drives **progress** towards the goals of the **2030 Agenda**

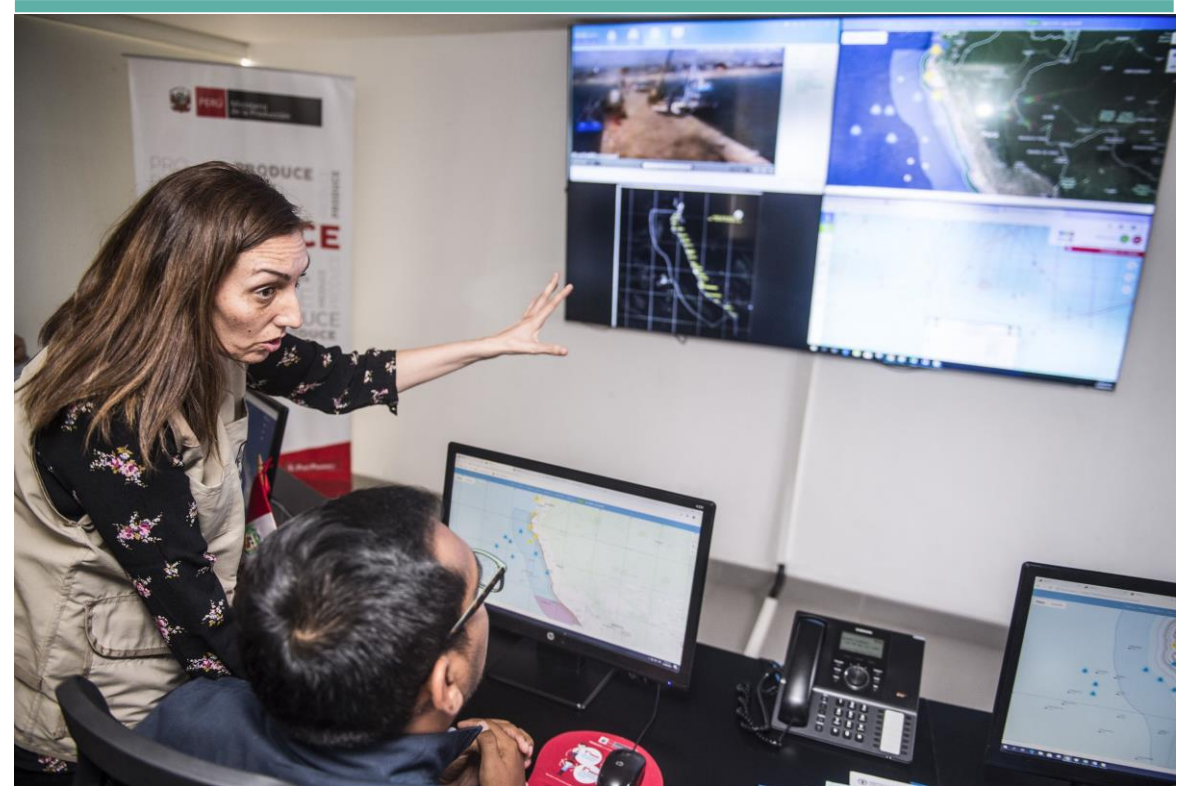


FAO a trusted partner for BBNJ implementation

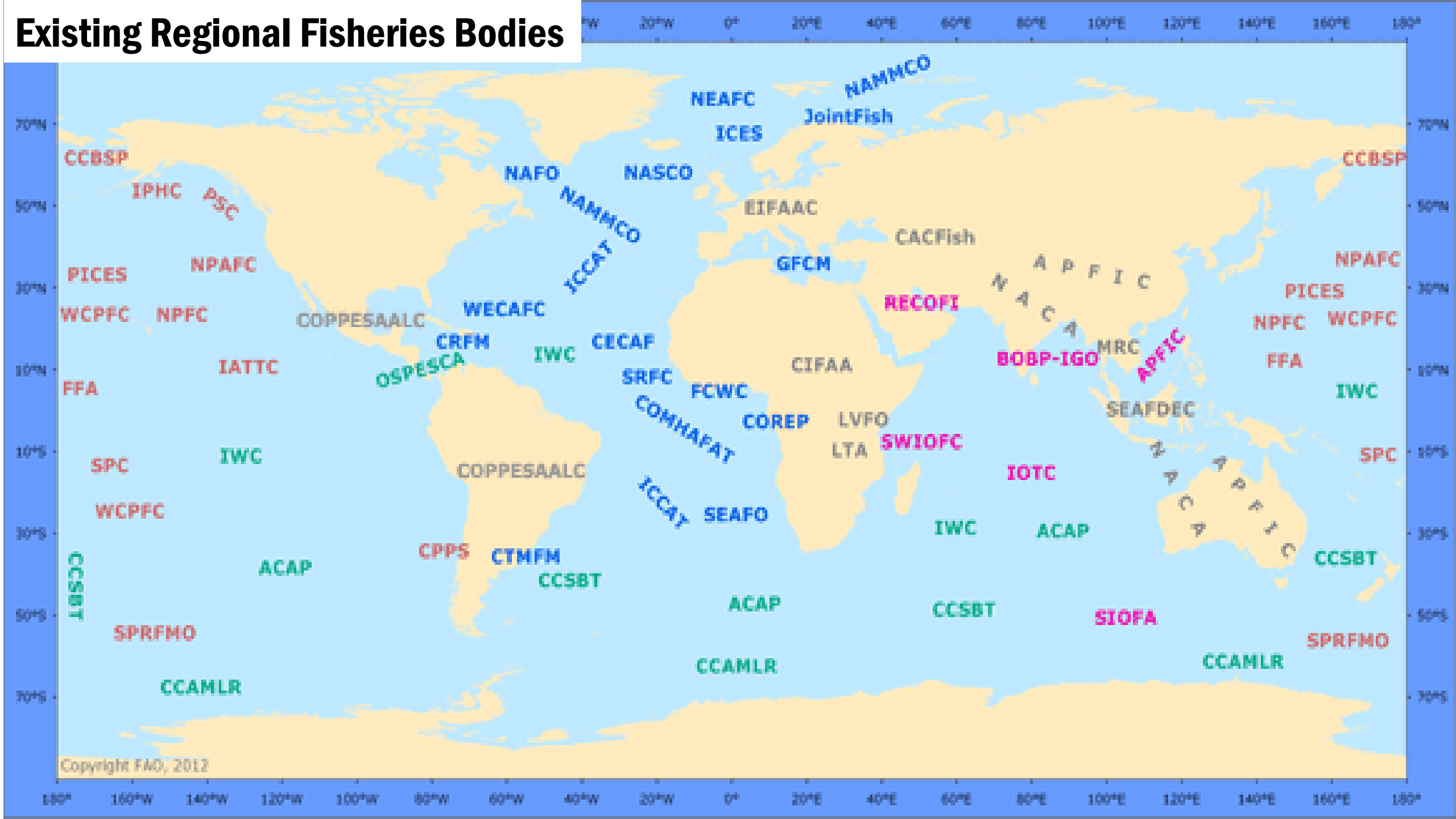


Areas of support

- **Ocean governance, coherence and coordination**
 - **RFBs** (treaty includes not undermining and cooperation language – e.g. art 4.2 and Art 6)
 - **FAO Committee on Fisheries**
- **Data collection and analysis**
 - **Leading intergovernmental organization** responsible for fisheries data collection
 - **Data Platforms** (CWS, FIGIS, FIRMS, GIES)



Existing Regional Fisheries Bodies



Areas of support

- **Capacity building**
 - Track record in **implementing a range of non-FAO agreements relevant to its mandate**
- **Management tools**
 - **Area Based management tools including recent work on OECMs**
 - **Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Guidelines**
 - **Deep-Sea Fisheries Guidelines**



FAO's projects relevant to the high seas

■ Hands on work

- **Portfolio of projects** that are relevant to BBNJ
- **EAF-Nansen** and GEF **Common Ocean Programme** are particularly relevant
- Both entered a **new Phase**
- **EAF-Nansen (2018-2023)**: 5 High Seas surveys
- **EAF-Nansen (2023-2028)** includes **linkages** to international governance and agreements such as **BBNJ treaty**, and 5 High Seas surveys



>45 years of collaboration in 32 African countries

To build capacity in:

- **Fishery biology**
- **EAF fisheries management**
- **Stock assessment**

GEF Funded Common Ocean Program

- **Phase I (2014-2019)**

- Helped establish **18 new areas to protect VME**
- **Reduction of marine pollution**
- **Rebuilding tuna stocks** to more sustainable levels
- **Reduced by-catch of cetaceans** in the Indian Ocean and the threat to marine turtles in the Pacific Ocean
- **Building capacity** on BBNJ process
- Foster **public-private partnerships**

- **Phase II just started**

- **Global alliance** of stakeholders and partners
- Particular focus: **tuna** and **deep-sea fisheries**, the **Sargasso Sea** and **cross-sectoral cooperation**

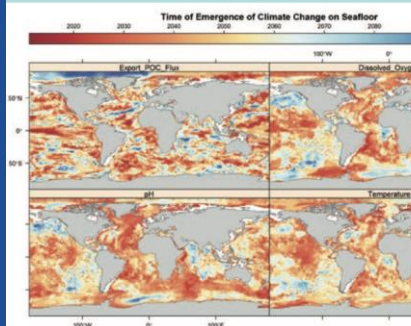
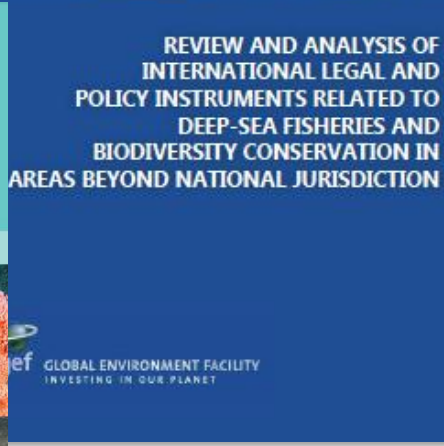
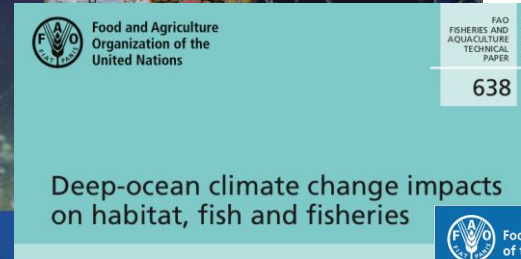
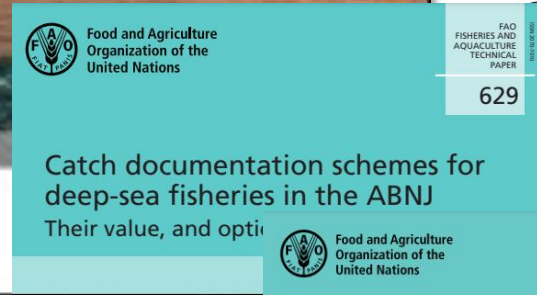
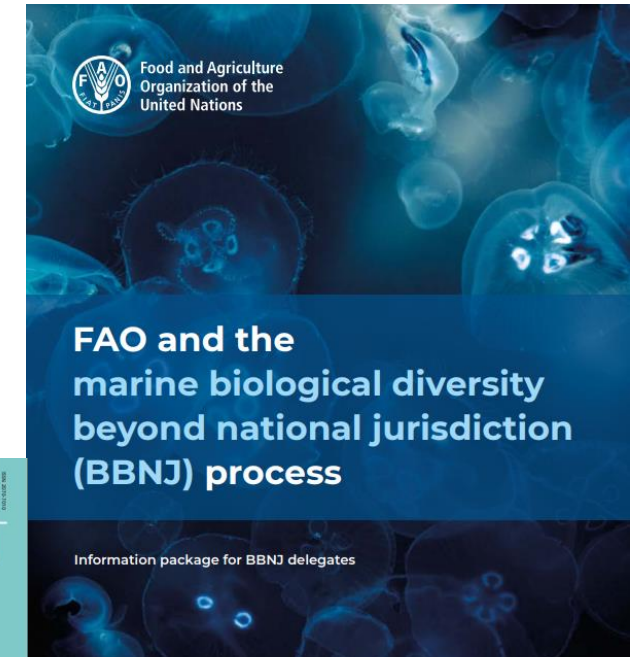
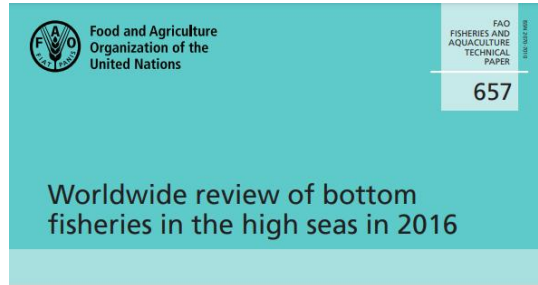


FAO's actions to support BBNJ Treaty implementation

- **“Translating” the BBNJ treaty** for the fisheries sector – much to be done
- Developing a **programme of collaboration & capacity building**
 - Support and complement **ratification efforts**
 - Enhance Member’s **capacity to operationalize the Treaty**
 - **Support parties’ compliance** through cooperation and capacity building on:
 - Area Based Management Tools (ABMTs)
 - Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)
 - Cooperation mechanisms for data sharing & management



FAO's publications



The vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME) concept emerged from discussions at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and gained momentum after UNGA Resolution 61/105. VMEs constitute areas that may be vulnerable to impacts from fishing activities.



BLUE TRANSFORMATION

THANK YOU



**HARNESSING THE
POSSIBILITY OF TOMORROW**