

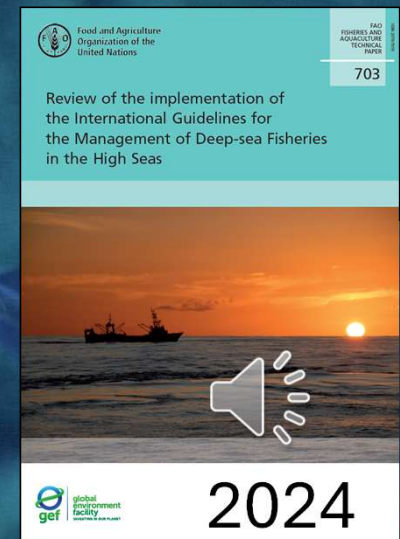
Review of the implementation of the *International Guidelines for the Management of Deep- sea Fisheries in the High Seas*

By Anthony Thompson and Keith Reid

FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Project

2024 – 118 pp

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0243en>



FAO DSF Guidelines

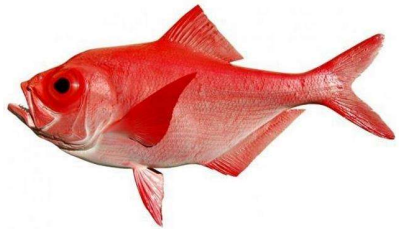
International guidelines (voluntary)

Adopted in 2008 by FAO member countries

Management of bottom-contact fishing gears in the high seas

- Catch of long-lived slow-growing fish species
- Impacts on bottom habitats

Support the *Law of the Seas* convention

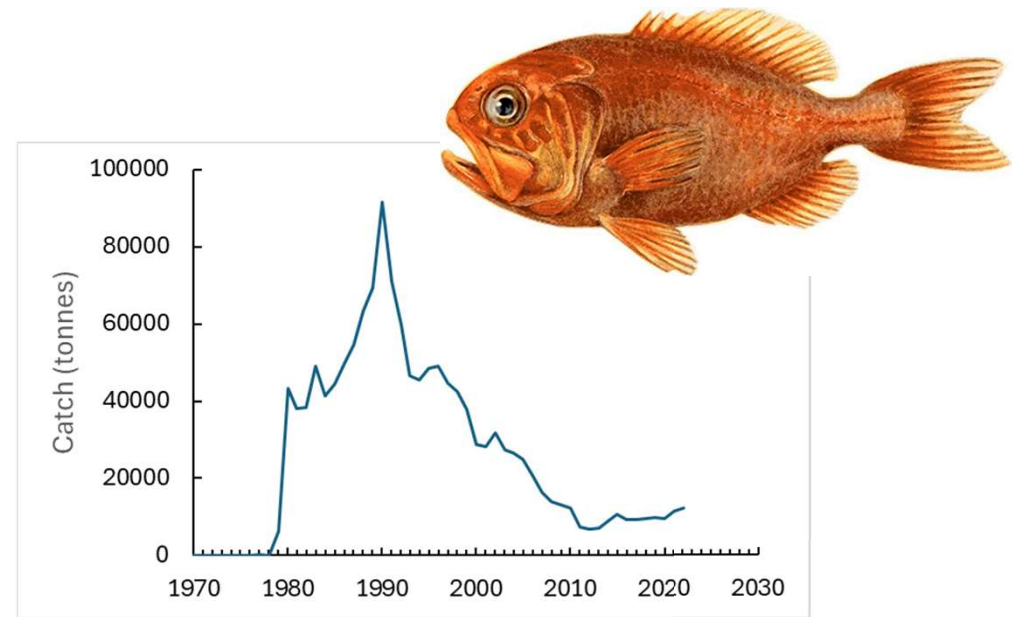


Recent history of deep-sea fisheries

Unsustainable fishing by distant water fleets in the 1970 to 1990s

Concerns for:

- **Short-lived high-effort fisheries**
- **Slow-growing long-lived species**
- **Biodiversity loss**



Global catch of orange roughy (FAO, statistics)



Control of fishing in the high seas

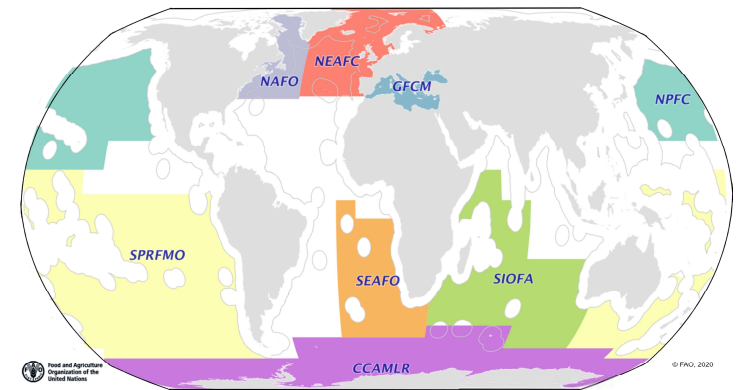
The high seas are outside of national jurisdiction

Fishing is controlled by international treaties

Regional Management Organisations

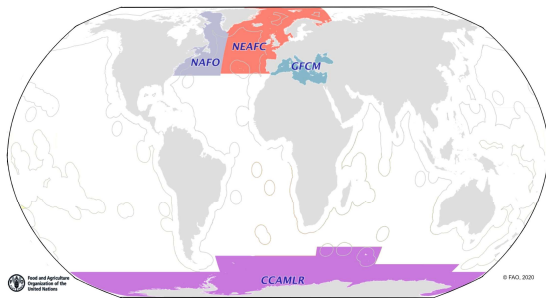
- Provide scientific advice
- Adopt binding fisheries management measures

Regional Management Organisations for deep-sea fisheries in 2024



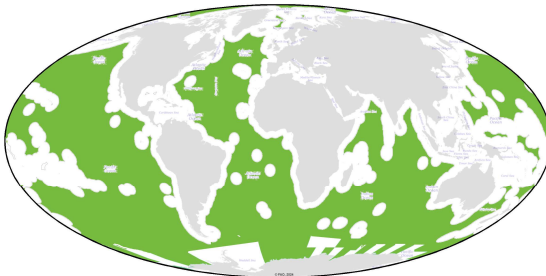
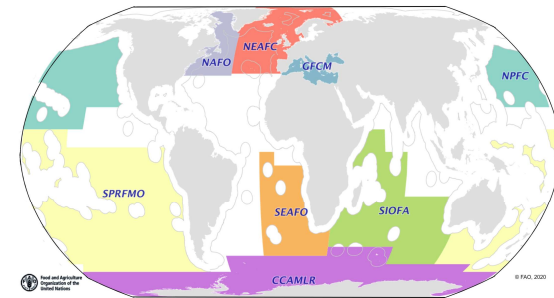
Changes to bottom fisheries

2000

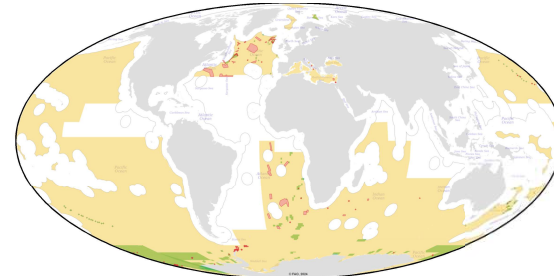



Management bodies


2024




Bottom fishable areas



 Bottom fishing permitted

 Closed to bottom fishing to protect VMEs

 Bottom fishing currently not permitted

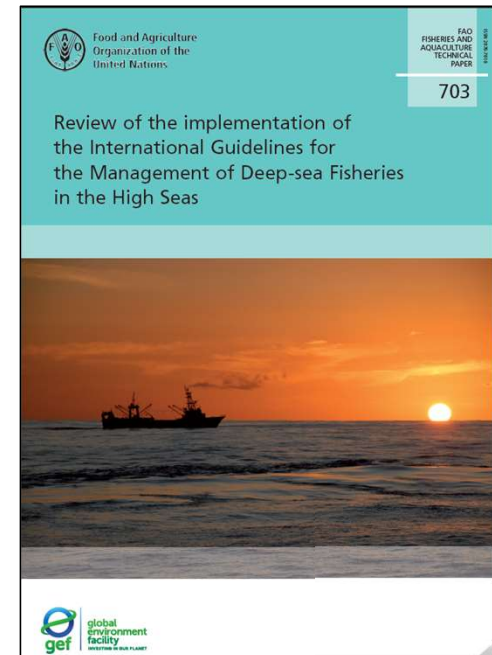


Development of the Implementation review

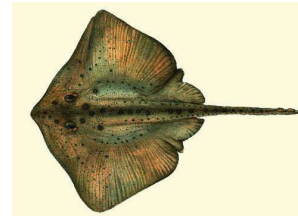
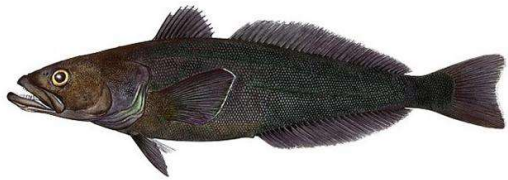
The implementation review examined the uptake of measures required to implement the DSF Guidelines:

- **Fishery assessment**
- **Vulnerable marine ecosystem (VMEs)**
- **Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)**

The review also provides examples of good practice



Fishery assessment



Successes

- Target catch limits
- Permitted bottom fishing areas defined
- Restrictions on new fisheries

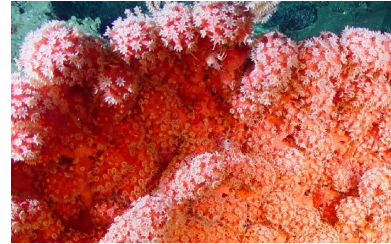
Future challenges

- Non-target catch limits
- Reference points
- Long-term management plans

Average uptake = 52% (for 6 indicators)



Vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs)



Successes

- Encounter thresholds
- Avoiding impacts
- VME closures
- Identification guides

Future challenges

- Reporting encounters
- Identifying VMEs

Average uptake = 73% (for 6 indicators)



Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

Successes

- Vessel monitoring systems (VMS)
- Fishing vessel lists
- Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) lists



Future challenges

- Haul level catch reporting
- Catch and transshipment verification
- On-board observers

Average uptake = 75% (for 6 indicators)



A blue shark is shown swimming in the ocean, viewed from a side profile. The shark's body is a deep blue color, and its eyes are a lighter, almost white color. The background is a dark, textured blue, suggesting the underwater environment. The text is overlaid on the shark's body.

**We hope this implementation
review will support future
uptake**

Thank you for your attention

