SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN SW ATLANTIC:

A SCIENTIFIC-BASED APPROACH

MARCH 4TH, 2021

An Overview of Deep Sea Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ABNJ Deep Sea Project (2014-19)

- ABNJ Deep Sea Fisheries Project (2022-27)

- FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas

ABNJ DEEP SEA PROJECT (2014-19)

4 Components

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
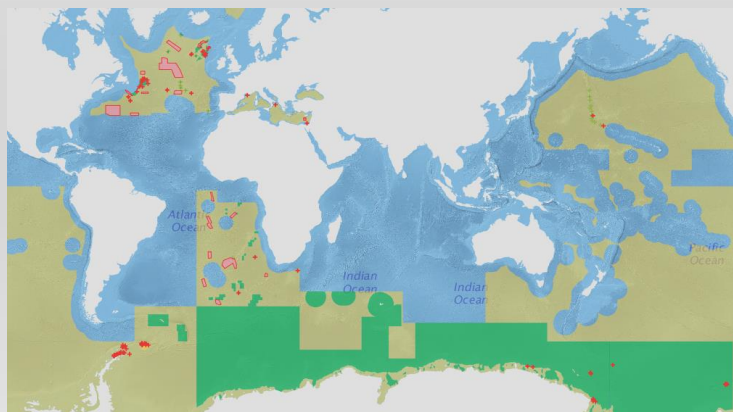
ABNJ DEEP SEA PROJECT PARTNERS

KEY OUTCOMES

- **Increased knowledge, understanding and awareness** of deep sea fisheries in the ABNJ (reviews and studies)

- Significant **reduction of environmental impact** of deep sea fisheries

- Enabling and developing **capacity of countries to engage** in deep sea management (training: legal requirements, MCS, VME protection)

- Facilitating **cooperation and information exchange** between the 8 deep sea RFMOs

- Strengthening **stakeholder networks** (e.g. formation of the informal (RFMO) Secretariats network; dialogue between industry groups)

- Adapted to **address new and pressing issues** – e.g. impact of climate change of deep sea ecosystems
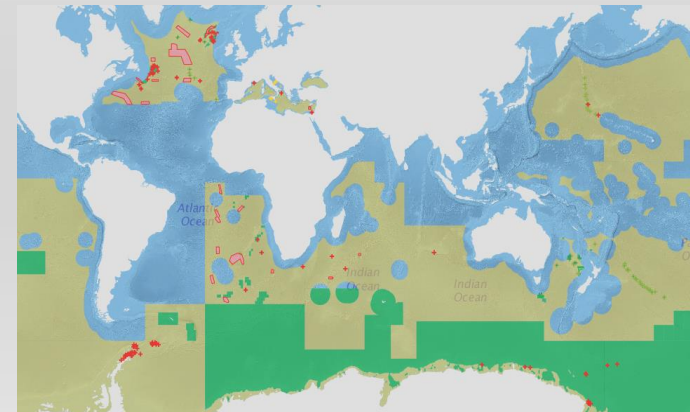
KEY OUTCOMES

- The Deep-Sea project has **educated, mobilized and empowered RMFOs to protect VMEs**.

- New protocols to enable all **8 RFMOS to conduct impact assessments** on the marine biodiversity in potential VMEs sites prior to fishing.

- **Eighteen new sites** have been established since the start of the project to protect VMEs - such as corals and sponges
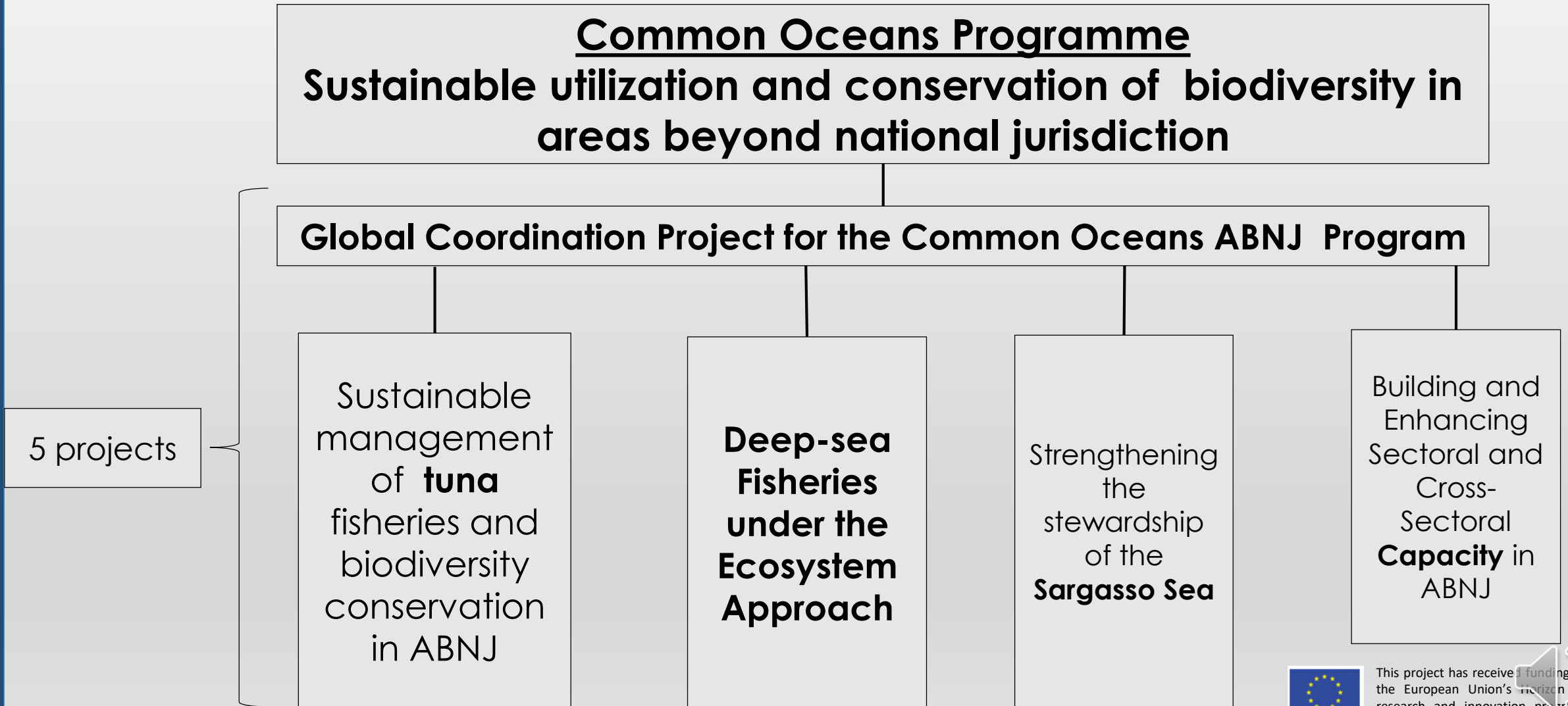
2014

2018

ABNJ DEEP SEA FISHERIES PROJECT (2022-27)

FarFish

Common Oceans Programme
Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

Global Coordination Project for the Common Oceans ABNJ Program

5 projects

Sustainable management of **tuna** fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ

Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach

Strengthening the stewardship of the **Sargasso Sea**

Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral **Capacity** in ABNJ

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Component 1 – Governance, legal, enforcement, compliance

- Component 2 – Science and science-management interface

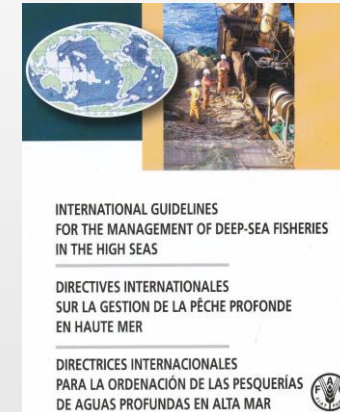Component 3 – Cross-sectoral activities affecting DSF

Component 4 – Knowledge management, communication

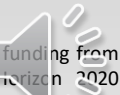# INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP-SEA FISHERIES IN THE HIGH SEAS

GENERAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

States and RFMO/As should... (Article 21)

i. adopt measures necessary to ensure the conservation of target and non-target species.. as well as measures for the prevention of significant adverse impacts on VMEs and the protection of the marine biodiversity that these ecosystems contain;

ii. identify areas or features where VMEs are known or likely to occur, and the location of fisheries in relation to these areas and features;
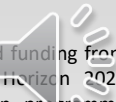
KEY ACTIONS IN DSF GUIDELINES

- Apply precautionary approach

- Enhance fisheries management

- Extend data collection and research programs

- Promote transparency

- Provide training

- Support RFMOs

KEY ACTIONS IN DSF GUIDELINES

Target fish

- Determine areas fished (and not fished)
- Undertake stock assessments
- Identify gears used (selectivity)
- Prevent IUU and over-fishing
- Manage fisheries sustainably

VMEs

- Surveys (description, location)
- Risk and impacts assessments
- Determine Significant Adverse Impacts
- Manage fisheries to prevent SAI on VMEs

Non-target species

- Bycatch reduction

RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

States participating in deep sea fisheries in the South West Atlantic should assess the research needs and priorities associated with the actions identified in the DSF Guidelines for the management of deep sea fisheries, particularly as they relate to:

- Fisheries sustainability (i.e. target species)

- Biodiversity conservation (i.e. VMEs and non-target species)

CONCLUSION

- The ABNJ Deep Sea Project (2014-19) focused on sustainable deep sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation.

- The ABNJ Deep Sea Fisheries Project (2022-27) is currently being developed. It will focus on 1) deep sea fisheries sustainability, with an emphasis on data poor stocks, and 2) on biodiversity conservation, with an emphasis on VMEs and deepwater sharks

- The FAO Deep Sea Fisheries Guidelines are a voluntary instrument that provides guidance for the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas.

Thank you!