



Food and Agriculture
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INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

relating to biodiversity in sustainable DEEP-SEA FISHING in the ABNJ are embodied in a wide range of instruments, and are implemented by States and eight regional bodies.

Deep-sea fishing occurs over continental slopes, seamounts, ridge systems and banks with bare muddy sediments, and on hard rocky substrates that may support species or communities that could be vulnerable to bottom fishing impacts. The potential negative impacts of fishing on vulnerable deep-seas habitats in the high seas has been an issue of international concern over the last decade.

In support of improved implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks, FAO, under the auspices of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, initiated an analysis of the existing legal and policy instruments related to biodiversity and sustainable deep-sea fishing in the ABNJ, including identifying the constraints and challenges related to their implementation.

An analysis and guide for the implementation of international legal and policy instruments relating to biodiversity and sustainable deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ will be available in late 2016.

The release of this report will be accompanied by a training programme including a step-wise guide to assist countries, where necessary, to better integrate their international obligations into national laws and policies.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project is a five year project designed to enhance sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ. The Project brings together over 20 partners working on deep-sea fisheries and conservation issues in the ABNJ globally.

For more information see www.commonoceans.org



*The regional bodies are: the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPPFC), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).