

2 August 2022

Bottom fishing can be sustainably managed through:

- Input controls
- Output controls
- Area closures and/or move-on rules

Most effective when complemented by comprehensive observer programs

- Comprehensive data collection programs, including data on VME interactions

Strongly guided by the UNGA bottom fishing resolutions

Key policy objective is to implement these resolutions in our high seas bottom fishing activity

- through domestic practice and our membership and engagement in bottom fishing RFMOs (SPRFMO and SIOFA)

Target species:

- Orange Roughy
(*Hoplostethus atlanticus*)
- Alfonsino
(*Beryx decadactylus*)
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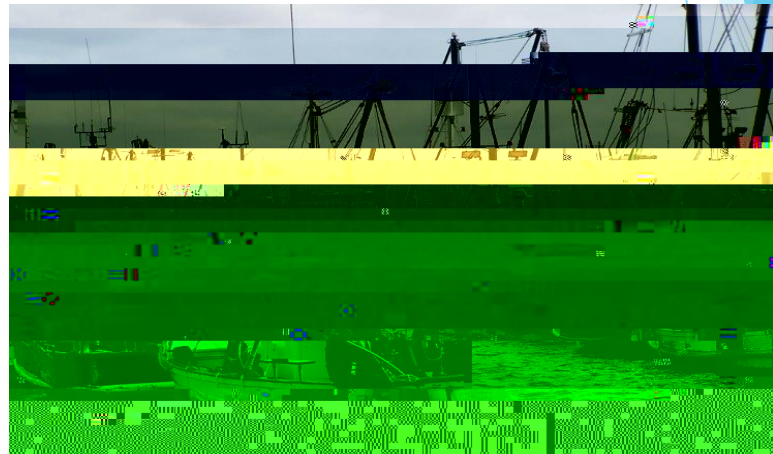
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Inform a revised SPRFMO bottom fishing measure to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems through effective fisheries resources management

Review is considering:

- appropriate spatial and management scales
- levels of protection
- thresholds
- encounter protocols
- precautionary principle



Revised measure will implement the Guidelines and associated UNGA resolutions

In the Southern Indian Ocean

In 2011, Australia prepared a Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (updated in 2018 and 2020)

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- VME trigger thresholds and move-on protocols established
- Catch monitoring

BFIAs found that the potential for demersal trawling and demersal auto-longlining to be low when it considered:

- Low fishing effort of Australian vessels and few areas of high fishing density
- Spatial restriction of fishing
- Largely low spatial overlap with bathomes most likely for VMEs
- Management arrangements to monitor and mitigate risks on benthic habitats

efforts over time

In the Southern Indian Ocean

The 2016 SIOFA bottom fishing measure (revised in 2020) seeks to address this through:

- Requiring all CPs, CNCPs and PFE to prepare and submit a first BFIA by 2018 and updated BFIA's prior to authorising vessels to bottom fish
- Commitment to progressing SIOFA-wide BFIA and footprint
- Catch/effort limits, spatial distribution, encounter protocol



Orange roughy success story



Orange roughy heavily fished in the late 1980s and early 1990s, leading to overfishing

Targeted fishing for orange roughy in Australian EEZ ceased in 2006

Comprehensive rebuilding strategy implemented

Successfully rebuilt the eastern zone portion of the stock to within sustainable limits

Commercial total allowable catch set in 2015 for the first time in 10 years (500 tonnes)

- Current TAC is 900 tonnes now classified as a sustainable stock

Reflections

UNGA Resolutions set reasonable and manageable standards but continued implementation is important

Cooperation is the key to implementation

- scientific cooperation across RFMOs is crucial
- continue to build understanding of deep-sea fishery resources through exchange of data, knowledge, ideas and practice
- understanding of risk and risk thresholds also critical

RFMOs are a central lever but not the only one

- domestic action also plays a key role in driving sustainability