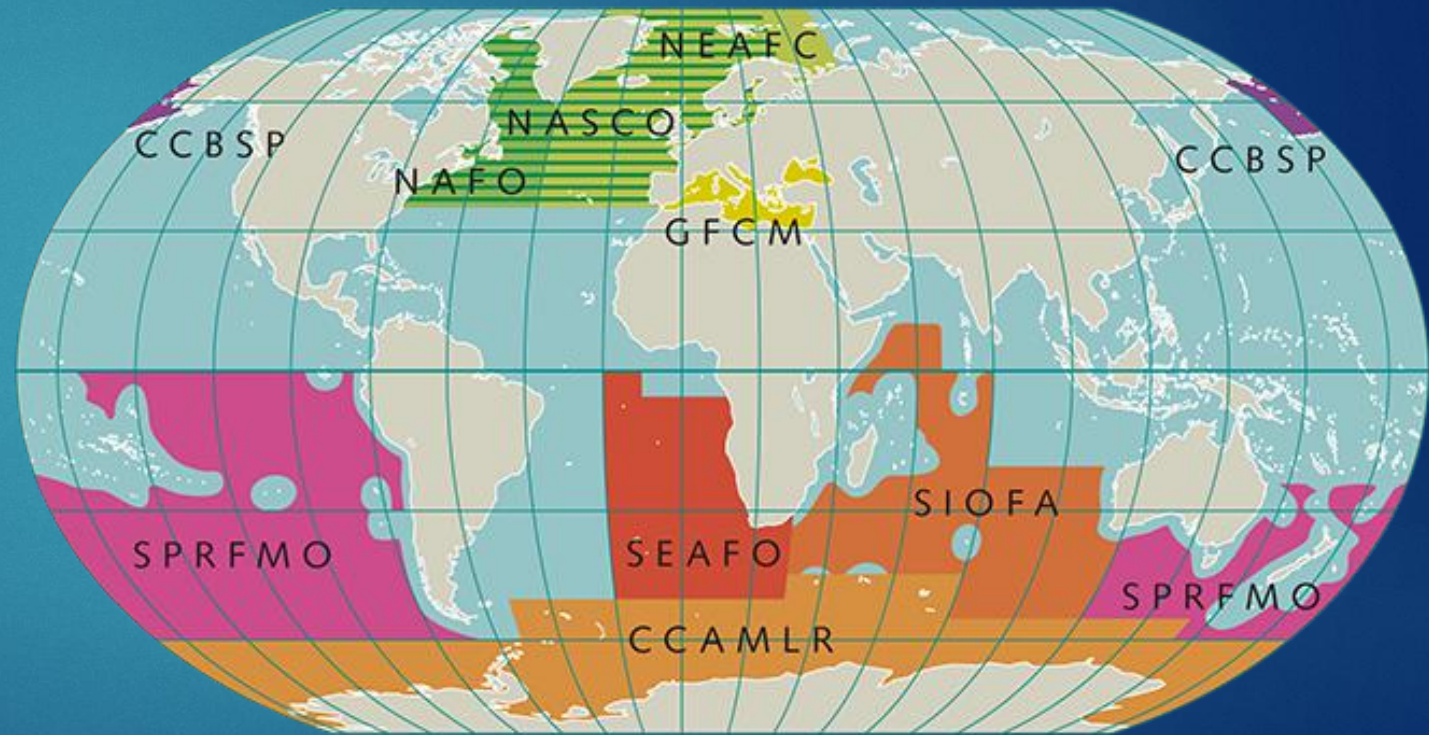


# South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation



- ▶ SEAFO's CA lies in the Southeast Atlantic ocean beyond the EEZ's of the coastal states of Angola, Namibia, South Africa and United Kingdom (in respect of St. Helena and its dependencies of Accession Islands and Tristan da Cunha).
- ▶ It is a very large water mass covering approximately 15 million hectares.
- ▶ It is demarcated by the line beginning at the outer limit of Angolan EEZ at 6 degree S extending due west to 10 W degree, then north along 10 W up to the equator, then west to 20W, then due south all the way to 50 S degree, then due east to 30 E degree, then due north to the east coast of South Africa



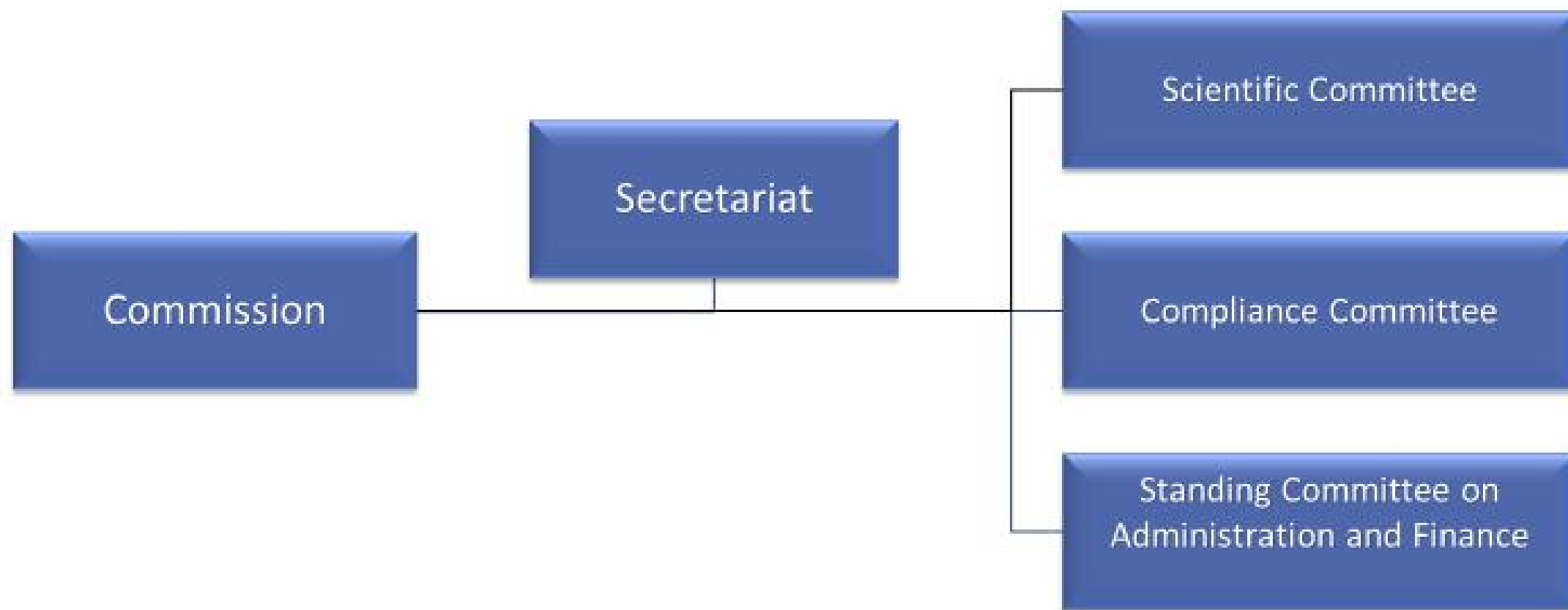
# Parties to the Convention



## Contracting Parties

	<b>Angola</b> <i>Acceded: 07 March 2006</i>
	<b>European Union</b> <i>Acceded: 08 August 2002</i>
	<b>Japan</b> <i>Acceded: 10 January 2010</i>
	<b>Rep. of Korea</b> <i>Acceded: 10 March 2011</i>
	<b>Namibia</b> <i>Acceded: 26 February 2002</i>
	<b>Norway</b> <i>Acceded: 12 February 2002</i>
	<b>South Africa</b> <i>Acceded: 18 June 2008</i>

# OVERVIEW OF SEAFO



# SEAFO mandate and objectives



- ▶ SEAFO is mandated to conserve and manage fishery resources that include, fish, molluscs, crustaceans, and some sedentary species on the high seas in the Southeast Atlantic with the exclusion of tunas.
- ▶ Its objective is to ensure long-term conservation and sustainable use of these resources through the adoption of conservation and management measures, applying the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management.

# GLOBAL INSTRUMENTS GUIDING MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES IN SEAFO CA



- ▶ 1982 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)
- ▶ The United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (2001)
- ▶ The FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) (2016)
- ▶ The FAO Compliance Agreement (1993- 2003)  
as well as soft law instruments, such as:
  - ▶ The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)
  - ▶ The International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing (2001)
  - ▶ The International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (2008)

# SEAFO management strategies



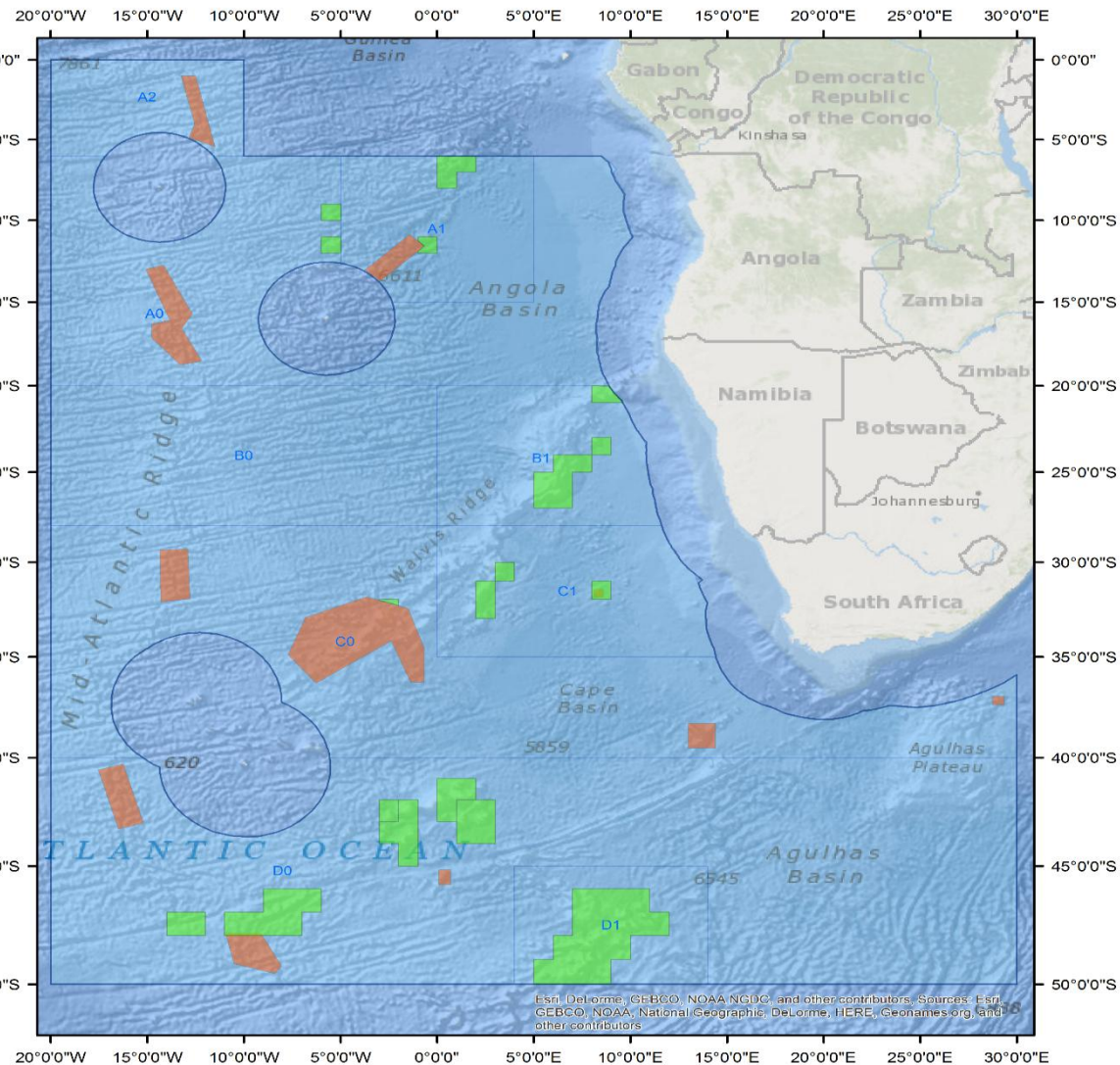
- ▶ SEAFO sets annual TACs for four deep-sea species and one deep-sea crab stock that also include bycatch regulations in one mixed fishery.
- ▶ A global TAC is allocated between parties, and a fishery is closed when the agreed total catch level is reached.
- ▶ Direct fishing on deep-sea sharks and the use of gillnets are prohibited.
- ▶ Measures to reduce incidental catch of seabirds have been established for longline and trawl fisheries based on the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries .

# SEAFO management Strategies



- ▶ A system to minimize the risk of “ghost fishing” by obliging parties to ensure that their vessels attempt to retrieve any lost gear, and if unsuccessful, notification requirements (gear type, position, etc.) is in place.
- ▶ Measures are adopted based on the best available scientific information and the application of the precautionary approach.
- ▶ SEAFO can adopt legally binding measures related to fishing in the Convention Area.
- ▶ A series of measures in order to protect VMEs from significant adverse impacts through deep-sea fishing are in place.

# SEAFO management strategies



- ▶ Areas that may or do contain benthic organisms have been identified and are closed to fishing (Red areas)
- ▶ A system of area management, defining “existing fishing areas” to be those areas where VMS data and/or other available data indicate that bottom fishing activities have been conducted, while “new fishing areas” are all other areas that are not defined as existing fishing areas has been established.
- ▶ Fishing in “new fishing areas” can only be undertaken as exploratory fishing.
- ▶ Parties must submit an assessment of the known and anticipated impacts that the fishing activity may have on VMEs in order to participate in exploratory fishing



# SEAFO management strategies

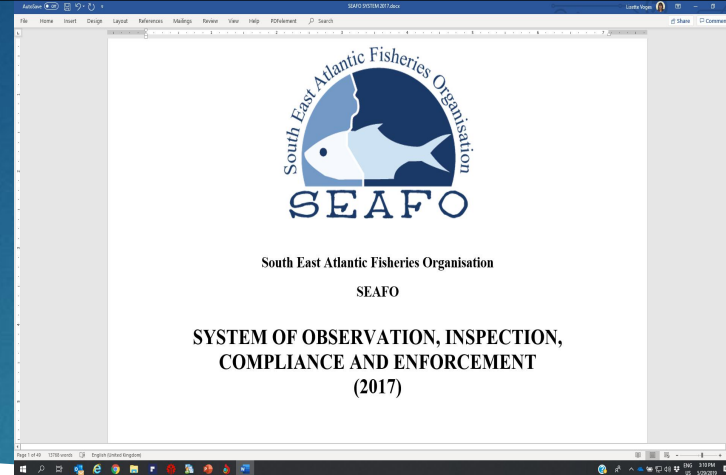


- ▶ Such exploratory fishing has to be approved by the SEAFO Commission after which a special authorization/licence is granted to the vessel by its flag state.
- ▶ Commercial deep-sea fishing can therefore only take place within an area defined as existing fishing area.
- ▶ However, within such an area, approval for an exploratory fishery is needed if there are significant changes in the conduct and technology of the deep-sea fishing.
- ▶ Thus, contracting parties shall establish national legislation prohibiting their vessels to fish outside such fishing areas.

# SEAFO strategies to protect VMEs



- ▶ To protect unidentified VMEs from significant adverse impacts, SEAFO has also established encounter protocols.
- ▶ An encounter is considered to occur when the bycatch of VME indicator species (live corals and sponges) is above threshold levels.
- ▶ The threshold values are different for trawls, longlines and pots.
- ▶ If the bycatch is above threshold levels, the vessel is required to cease fishing and move away at least 2 nautical miles from the end point of the trawl tow in the direction least likely to result in further encounters.
- ▶ If another gear is being used, then the “move-on” rule is 1 nautical mile from the most likely position of the encounter. The



- ▶ SEAFO has established a system of observation, inspection, compliance and enforcement that puts a series of obligations on those fishing for deep-sea species in the CA.
- ▶ These include general control measures, such as authorizations to fish, vessel requirements (e.g. marking of vessels, documents to be carried on board), marking of fishing gear and product labelling.
- ▶ There are requirements on logbook recording, mandatory implementation of VMS and communication concerning entry and exit to and from the CA, and catch reports every five days.
- ▶ In addition, parties have to ensure that all their vessels operating in the SEAFO area carry scientific observers.
- ▶ Transshipment operations at sea is prohibited.

# SEAFO MCS measures



- ▶ The system also contains details concerning monitoring of transshipments in port describing duties of contracting parties, both as flag states of any donor or receiving vessel.
- ▶ Furthermore, the scheme contains a chapter on port state control, corresponding with the **FAO PSMA** measures.
- ▶ Contracting parties must also adopt national legislation concerning obligations of masters on their vessels during inspection procedures in foreign ports.

- ▶ The system contains a specific chapter on measures to promote compliance, which in essence deals with vessels identified to have been involved in IUU fishing.
- ▶ They are listed (SEAFO IUU Vessel List), and the system subsequently obliges contracting parties to take a number of follow-up actions against those listed vessels.
- ▶ Actions requiring domestic implementation include the prohibition of port entry, refusal of granting nationality, and prohibition against chartering such vessels.

# Guidelines for fisheries research and basic marine science activity in the SEAFO Convention Area



- ▶ The primary purpose of these guidelines is to facilitate that high-quality science is conducted freely and to the benefit of all while ensuring that the activity is conducted in a manner which does not cause significant adverse impacts (SAI) on the marine ecosystems and organisms, including fisheries resources.
- ▶ The party is requested to submit to the Executive Secretary of SEAFO, preferably no later than 6 months of the intended period of sea-going activity, a letter of intent explaining the activity being planned.
- ▶ The ES provides guidance on any management measures that may be relevant to the intended research activity, as well forms and routines for submitting reports and/or data.
- ▶ Upon receiving the response from SEAFO, the party is requested to submit, no later than one month prior to the sea-going activity, a more detailed plan outlining methods to be used, areas to be sampled, sampling intensity, samples generated, and data to be gathered.
- ▶ The plan should also provide information on what measures will be implemented to mitigate anticipated negative impacts on fisheries resources and biodiversity, in particular VMEs.
- ▶ Upon receipt the letter of intent and detailed plan is forwarded to all SEAFO Contracting

# Capacity building initiatives



- ▶ Scientific observer and Port Inspector training are conducted in cooperation with ABNJ deep seas project
- ▶ Developing countries were trained on international instruments relevant to deep-sea fisheries and associated biodiversity during the first DEEP-FLIP training workshop which was held in October 2019 in Thailand, with selected countries from the SIOFA and SEAFO regions - ABNJ deep seas project
- ▶ A MCS workshop for SIOFA and SEAFO was conducted for members to identify gaps in their MCS frameworks and develop plans of actions to address the gaps - ABNJ deep seas project

- ▶ RFMO's are regarded as appropriate mechanisms for cooperation in managing high seas fish stocks, which include deep-sea species.
- ▶ RFMO's provide a platform for **nations with a 'real interest' in the ABNJ to share in the responsibility for proper management and conservation of ABNJ**, shifting the focus from 'no-one' to 'everyone'. RFMO/As are also important mechanisms through which other fisheries instruments are implemented.



- ▶ The role of RFMO/A's is significantly strengthened by UNFSA.
- ▶ NPFC, SEAFO, SIOFA and SPRFMO's have been established after the adoption of UNFSA, using the agreement as a template for negotiating the treaties
- ▶ Since the adoption of UNFSA, all RFMO/As have used the agreement as a basis and inspiration for the development and subsequent adoption of conservation and management measures.
- ▶ Most pre-UNFSA RFMO/As have revised and/or amended their founding treaties in order to bring themselves in line with modern management principles.

# Cooperation with other RFMO's and other organisations



- ▶ The Commission embraces cooperation with other RFMO's
- ▶ to strengthen global high seas fishery governance
- ▶ sharing of information, such as IUU fishing activities
- ▶ SEAFO attends annual meetings of CCAMLR, ICCAT, NAFO, NAMMCO and NEAFC
- ▶ Has close working relationship with other agencies, including FAO
- ▶ SEAFO have MoU's with ACCAP and CCAMLR and is in the process to sign a MoU with ICCAT

# The role of RFMOs in a future Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement



- ▶ RFMO/As are tasked with collecting fisheries statistics, assessing resources, making conservation and management decisions, and monitoring activities.
- ▶ The eight deep-sea RFMOs cover 77% of the ABNJ area, and regulate a large majority of the catches of deep sea species in these areas.
- ▶ Many RFMOs are adopting the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, recognizing the need to manage fisheries more holistically.
- ▶ Ecosystem issues are addressed through the adoption of actions to mitigate the impact on non-target species, or the ecosystem habitat and structure.
- ▶ In deep-sea RFMOs, protocols have been adopted to cease fishing if there is a Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem is encountered.

# The role of RFMOs in a future Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement



- ▶ For the tuna RFMOs, ecosystem considerations include stricter controls to reduce or eliminate bycatch, and mitigate the impact of fishing gear lost at sea through the use of biodegradable materials.
- ▶ As a result, the state of many of these resources is recovering (in the case of the slow-growing and vulnerable bluefin tuna) or close to recovered (e.g. yellowfin and bigeye tunas in the Indian and Pacific Ocean) to what it was a few years ago.

# The role of RFMOs in a future Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement



- ▶ In spite of this shared responsibility, there is no specific mechanisms to coordinate efforts to address biodiversity concerns among the various users of the ABNJ.
- ▶ There are challenges in ensuring sufficient knowledge sharing and coordinated action to ensure that impacts on biodiversity, coming from any user, are monitored and mitigated.
- ▶ The role of RFMO's need to be recognized and strengthened by bridging the gaps the BBNJ Agreement.
- ▶ Will improve biodiversity conservation, promote sustainable utilization and assist in combating IUU.