

The International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

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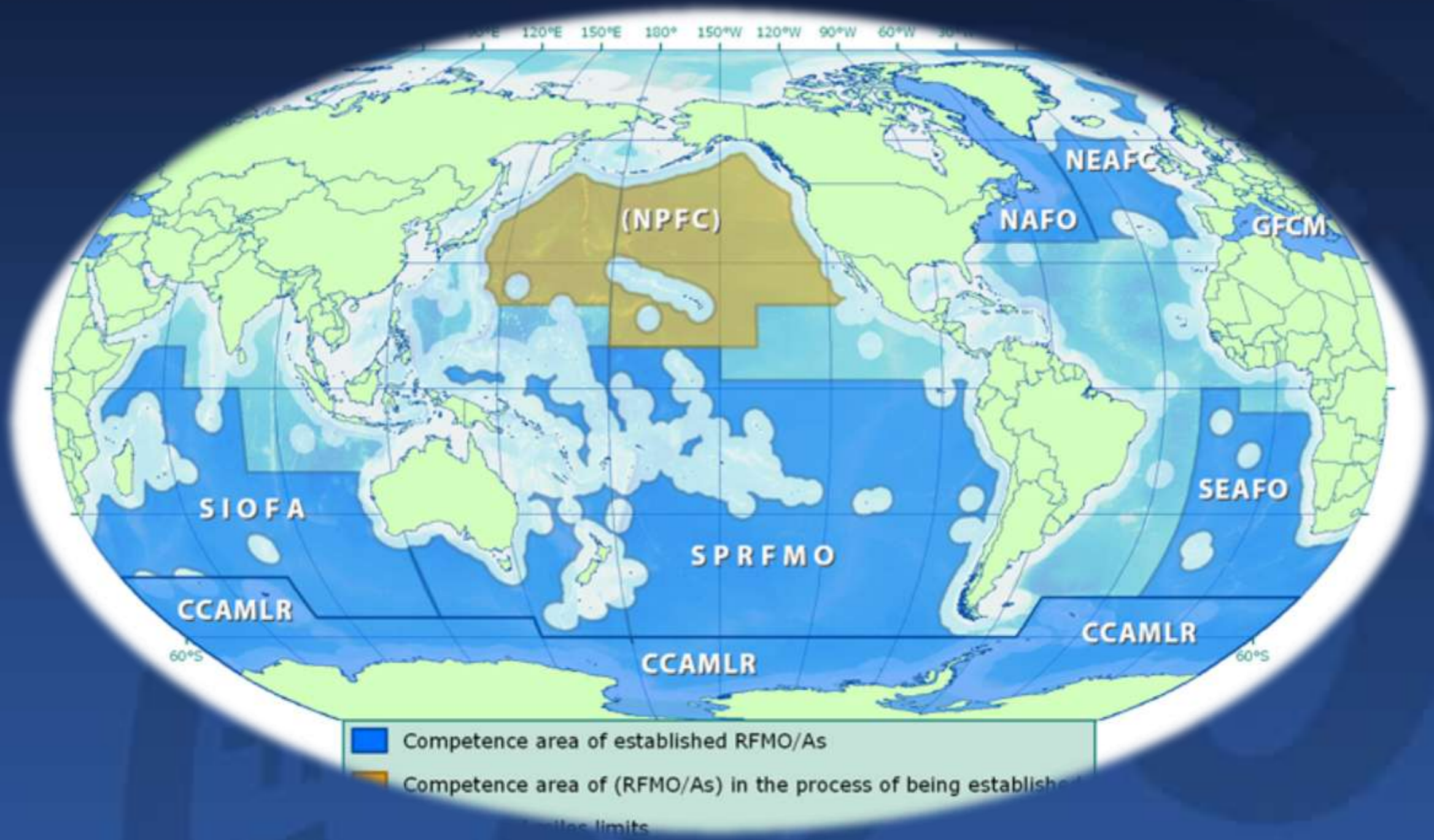
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FAO Regional Workshop on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the North Pacific Ocean

Tokyo, Japan

March 11 – 13, 2014

Deep-sea RFMOs



UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution

Resolution 61/105 (2006)

- 80. *Calls upon* States to take action immediately, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, to **sustainably manage fish stocks** ... recognizing the immense importance and value of deep sea ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain;
- 83. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries to **adopt and implement measures, in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law**, for their respective regulatory areas as a matter of priority, but not later than 31 December 2008:
 - (a) To assess, on the basis of the best available scientific information, whether **individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems**, and to ensure that if it is assessed that these activities would have significant adverse impacts, they are managed to prevent such impacts, or not authorized to proceed;
 - (b) To **identify vulnerable marine ecosystems** and determine whether **bottom fishing activities would cause significant adverse impacts to** such ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks, inter alia, by improving scientific research and data collection and sharing, and through new and exploratory fisheries;
 - (c) In respect of areas **where vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals**, are known to occur or are likely to occur based on the best available scientific information, to close such areas to bottom fishing and ensure that such activities do not proceed unless conservation and management measures have been established to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;
 - (d) To require members of the regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements to require vessels flying their flag to cease bottom fishing activities in areas where, in the course of fishing operations, **vulnerable marine ecosystems are encountered**, and to report the encounter so that appropriate measures can be adopted in respect of the relevant site.

Process for the Development of the Deep Sea Guidelines

Expert Consultation and workshops

- Expert Consultations (2006/2007) →
- Workshops
 - Data and Knowledge
 - Vulnerable Ecosystems and Destructive Fishing in Deep-sea Fisheries
 - A trawl industry perspective on the International Guidelines

Technical Consultation and adoption

- Technical Consultations (2008) →

Review

- Review of Implementation in Busan (2010) →



FAO Deep-sea Guidelines:

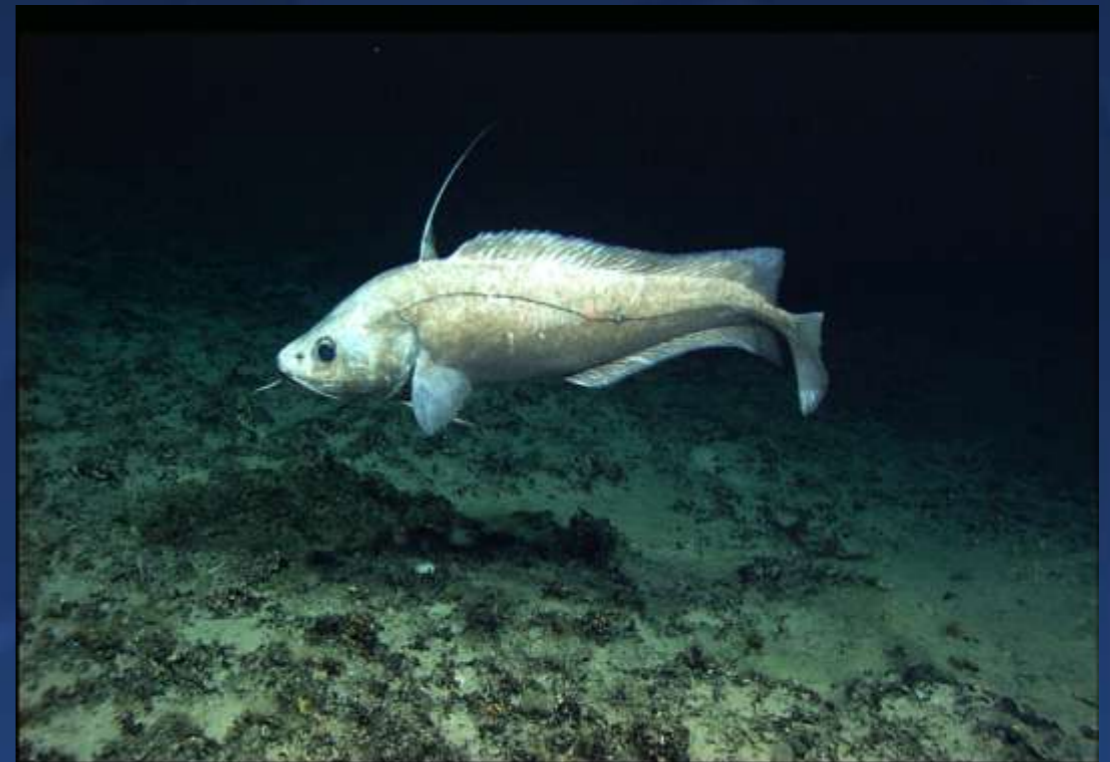
Scope

Guidelines designed for fisheries that occur beyond national jurisdiction, and where:

- catch includes species that can only sustain low exploitation rates, and
- fishing gear likely to contact the sea floor

Objective of the guidelines:

- to provide tools, and guidance on their application, and to facilitate and encourage the efforts of States and RFMO/As towards;
 - sustainable use of marine living resources,
 - prevention of significant adverse impacts on deep-sea VMEs,
 - protection of marine biodiversity that these ecosystems contain.



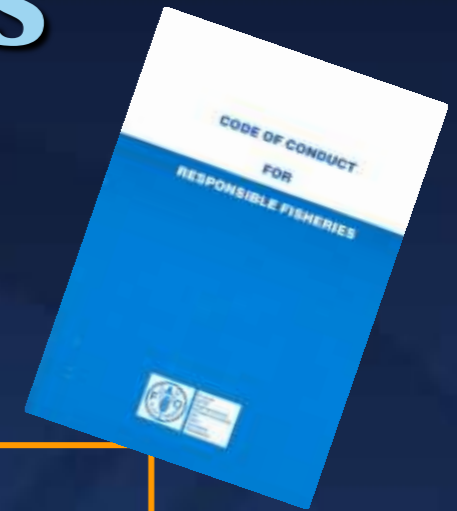
Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas

- SCOPE AND PRINCIPLES
- DESCRIPTION OF KEY CONCEPTS
 - Characteristics of species exploited by deep-sea fisheries
 - Vulnerable marine ecosystems
 - Significant adverse impacts
- GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
 - General management considerations
 - Governance framework
- MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION STEPS
 - Data, reporting and assessment
 - Identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems and assessing significant adverse impacts
- Enforcement and compliance
- Management and conservation tools
- Assessment and review of effectiveness of measures
- SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
- ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION



FAO Fisheries Products

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES



International Plan's of Action IPOAs

FAO Technical Guidelines

FAO International Guidelines

Seabirds

Sharks

Capacity

IUU Fishing



Description of Key Concepts

Vulnerability

Vulnerability ~ related to likelihood that a population, community, or habitat will experience substantial alteration from short-term or chronic disturbance / recovery / time-frame

The vulnerability of populations, communities and habitats must be assessed relative to specific threats

The risks to a marine ecosystem are determined by:

1. **its vulnerability,**
2. **the probability of a threat occurring, and**
3. **the mitigation means applied to the threat.**

Description of Key Concepts

Significant Adverse Impacts (SAIs)

SAIs compromise ecosystem integrity in a manner that:

(i) impairs the ability of affected populations to replace themselves

(ii) degrades long-term natural productivity of habitats

(iii) causes, on more than a temporary basis, significant loss of species richness, habitat or community types

The scale and significance should be consider:

1. the intensity or severity of the impact;
2. the spatial extent of the impact;
3. the sensitivity/vulnerability of the ecosystem;
4. the ability of an ecosystem to recover and rate of recovery;
5. extent to which ecosystem functions may be altered, and
6. timing and duration of the impact relative to the period in which a species needs the habitat during life history stages.

Duration and frequency at which impact is repeated

VME and EBSA Criteria

Applies only to organisms impacted by bottom-contact fishing gears

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

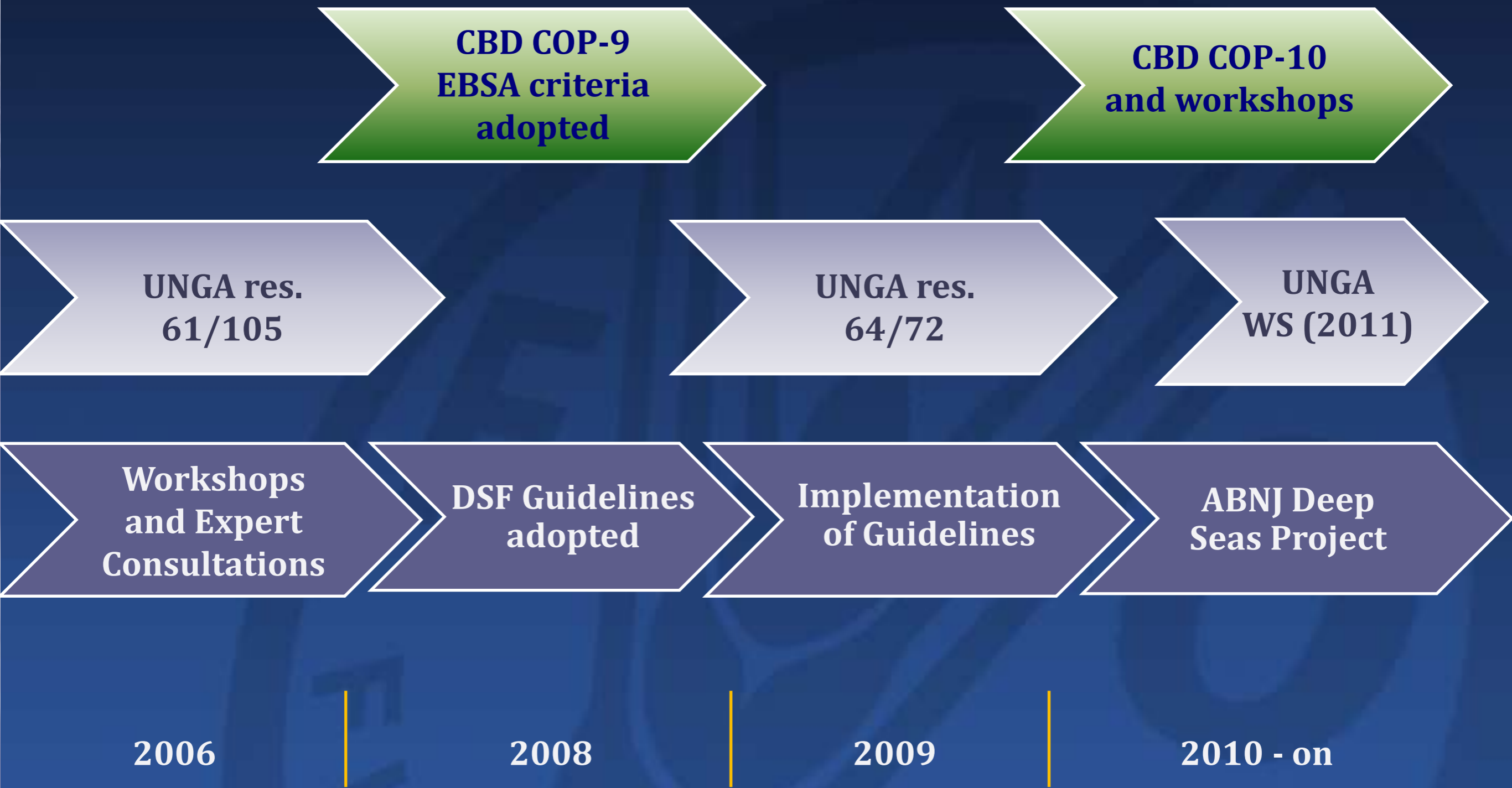
1. Uniqueness or rarity
2. Functional significance of the habitat
3. Fragility
4. Life-history traits of component species that make recovery difficult
5. Structural complexity

Applies to all organisms and zones (but no management)

Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas

1. Uniqueness or rarity
2. Special importance for life-history stages of species
3. Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitat
4. Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity,
5. Biological productivity
6. Biological diversity
7. Naturalness

Background



Issues in implementation of the Deep Sea Guidelines (Busan workshop)

- Compile, develop guidance, make available information on:
 - impacts and risk assessment;
 - encounter protocols and related mitigation measures, and the move-on rule; and
 - use of the VME criteria, including triggers for what degree of presence constitutes a “significant concentration”
- Hold joint meetings on VME and biodiversity issues of interest across RFMOs
- Compile experience in the implementation of VME components across RFMOs to increase coordination
- Develop field guides to facilitate data collection
- The standard suite of fisheries management tools should be used in relation to VMEs, including precautionary management approaches



Issues in implementation – General issues

- Step-wise approach to implementation, prioritize the main provisions as well as support to developing countries
- Procedures to build confidence between scientists and industry for improved collaboration
- Sharing experiences and best practices between RFMOs & RFMO scientists
- Evaluation of the implementation of the Guidelines and convening of further workshops at regular intervals
- Collection of historical data (for fisheries and VMEs)

UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions

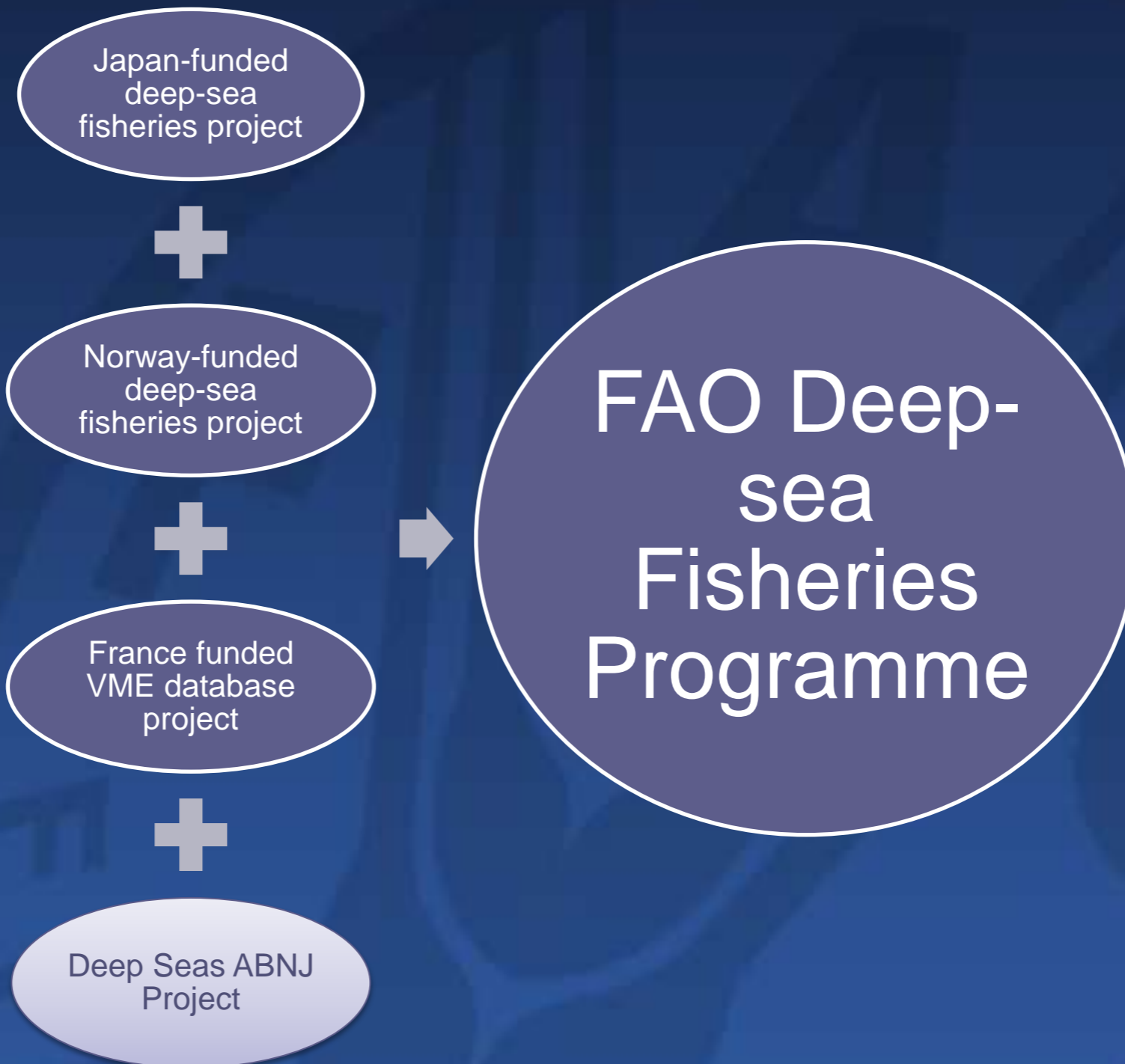
Resolution	Text
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(2006) 61/105	-Calls repeated each year - (87) calls upon States to make publicly available through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations a list of those vessels flying their flag authorized to conduct bottom fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the measures they have adopted
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(2009) 64/72	-further actions in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law are needed to strengthen the implementation of paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 -Conduct the assessments -Adopt conservation and management measures, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, on the basis of stock assessments and the best available scientific information
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(2013)	-Exercise voluntary restraint of fishing effort until adequate management and conservation measures are adopted - Continue implementing the Deep Seas Guidelines - Recalls “ The Future We Want” and the request to protect VMEs from SAIs -- Recalls request to implement 61/105, 64/72, 66/68 - notes coastal states measures on continental shelves - welcomes progress made by states in establishing new RFMOs and implementing the above recommendations - welcomes FAO work and encourages states to continue working on DSF and protection of VMEs
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FAO Deep Sea Fisheries Programme





THANK YOU