

CC-05-INFO-08

5TH COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT
(CC5)

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ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries Project under the Ecosystem Approach -
Proposed workplan and activities relevant to the Compliance
Committee

RELATES TO AGENDA ITEMS:

CC5 1.1, 1.2, 2.2

WORKING PAPER

INFO PAPER X

DELEGATION OF FAO

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the development of the FAO ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project as it applies to the SIOFA Compliance Committee. and to seek feedback on the Project's proposed activities and their relationship to the SIOFA workplans. The project outputs, particularly on data-limited stocks, deepwater sharks, and VMEs and bottom fisheries, will be global and include management, scientific advice, and compliance activities. The DSF Project is in its development phase and will be executed in 2022-2027.

ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries Project under the Ecosystem Approach - Proposed workplan and activities

Introduction/Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the development of the FAO ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project and to introduce aspects that are relevant to the work of the SIOFA Compliance Committee.

Background

The FAO ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project (2022-2027) follows on from the ABNJ Deep-Sea Project (2014-2019). Information papers have been submitted to the following meetings: 6th SC (SC-06-INFO-01) and 3rd PAEWG (PARWG-03-INFO-01), 7th MoP (MoP-07-26), 5th SC and 2nd PAEWG (SC-05-INFO-03), 6th MoP (MoP -INFO-10, MoP6-INFO-11 and MoP6-INFO-19), and 4th SC (SC-04-INFO-04). The DSF project's concept note was approved by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in June 2020 and is available from FAO¹. Information contained within these documents will not be further elaborated here.

DSF Project development

The DSF Project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The Project will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat for endorsement towards the end of 2021.

The DSF project is currently in the project document drafting phase. The project document builds on earlier communication with potential project partners to identify the Project's thematic work areas. These work areas will be implemented through activities funded by the project and through partner in-kind contributions. The project is expected to start in 2022 with a duration of 5 years.

The project works with demersal fisheries in the ABNJ and is global in scope. The project's objective is:

To ensure that DSF in the ABNJ are managed under an ecosystem approach that maintains demersal fish stocks at levels capable of maximizing their sustainable yields and minimizing impacts on biodiversity, with a focus on data-limited stocks, deep-water sharks and vulnerable marine ecosystems.

The project's Theory of Change in Annex A summarizes the activities, outputs and outcomes that underpin the project. The successful achievement of the project's objective will require inputs and support from project partners, in particular the participating RFMOs and industry.

Annex B summarises work that is most relevant to the Compliance Committee. The project's main themes are:

- Improvements in the assessments of data-limited stocks
- Identification of impacts on deepwater sharks
- Protection of VMEs.

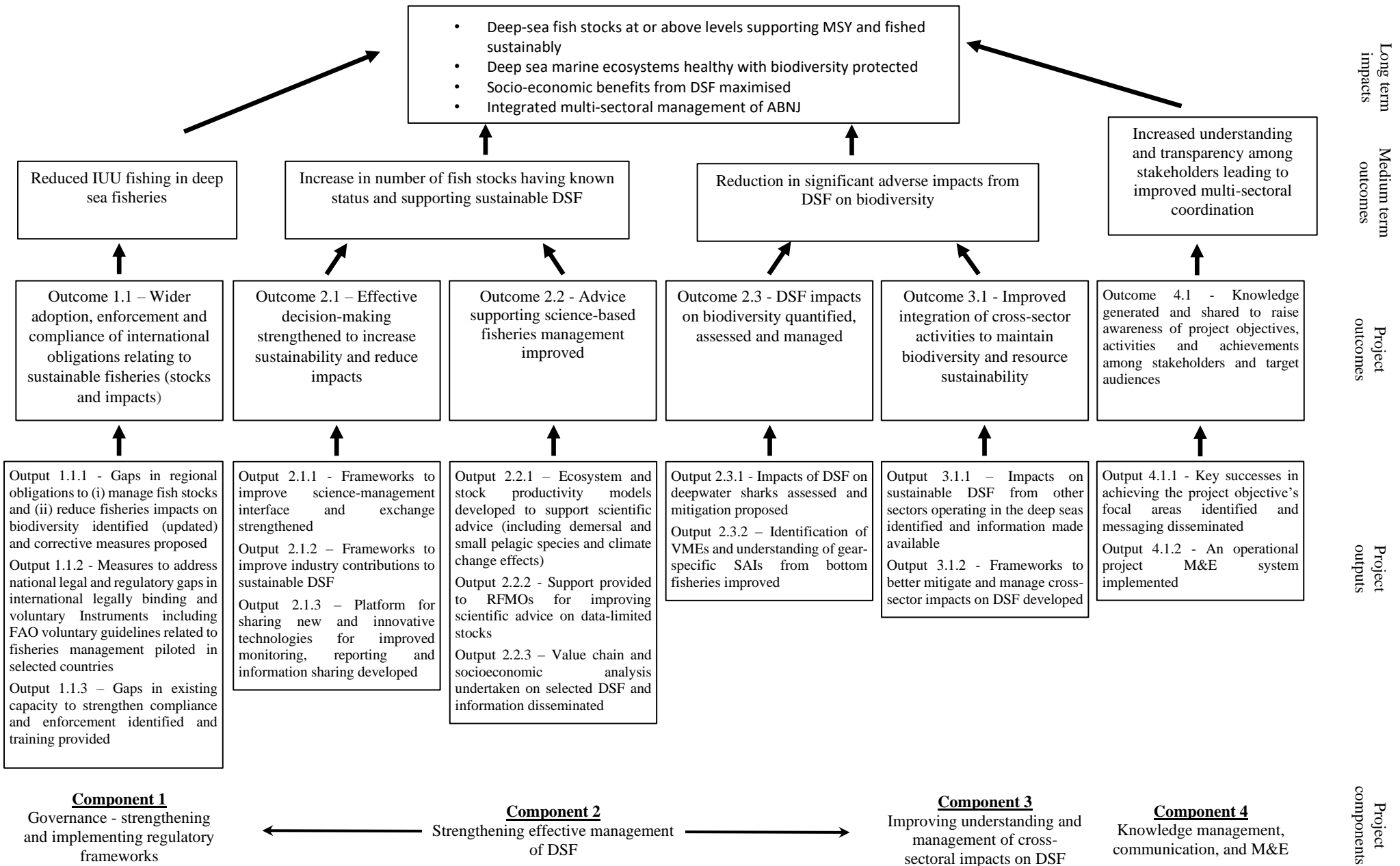
These are the areas of work where it is felt that the project can best support the RFMOs in managing deepsea fisheries. The project aims to provide support to all RFMO work areas (committees).

Conclusion

The DSF Project is in its development phase and will be launched in early 2022. The DSF Project would welcome feedback and suggestions for project activities.

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Annex 1. DSF Project Theory of Change (ver 10 06 2021)



Annex 2. DSF Project workplan and activities of relevance to SIOFA's Compliance Committee.

DSF Project output (see Theory of Change for full title)	Compliance Committee
1.1.1 - Gaps in regional obligations to meet international obligations	Support for improved monitoring of vessel activity (including gears used). Support for reporting obligations. Harmonised observer coverage.
1.1.2 - Addressing national legal and regulatory gaps	RFMO GEF eligible member countries providing in-kind support for updating their legislation (follow-up from GEF-5 project).
1.1.3 –Strengthen compliance and enforcement	Provide support to selected and GEF-eligible member states to DSF Project to work with capacity building to implement corrective measures where necessary. Follow-up work from GEF-5 with “Deep flip” survey.
2.1.1 - Science-management interface	Probably not relevant to CC
2.1.2 –Industry contributions	Aimed more at scientific aspects, but could include improved reporting (see 2.1.3)
2.1.3 –New and innovative technologies	Improved data submissions, especially in exploratory fisheries. FAO SmartForm app.
2.2.1 – Ecosystem and stock productivity models	Not relevant to CC
2.2.2 - Data-limited stocks	Improved data collection and submissions
2.2.3 – Value chains	Not relevant to CC
2.3.1 - Deepwater sharks	Improved reporting
2.3.2 – SAI on VMEs	Improved reporting Improved mapping of fisheries and effort.
3.1.1 – Impacts on DSF from other sectors	Not relevant to CC
3.1.2 - Frameworks for cross-sector impacts	Cross-sectoral mitigation measures
4.1.1 - Information sharing	Improvements in informing wider stakeholder audiences and the public of the compliance and monitoring work of SIOFA.