

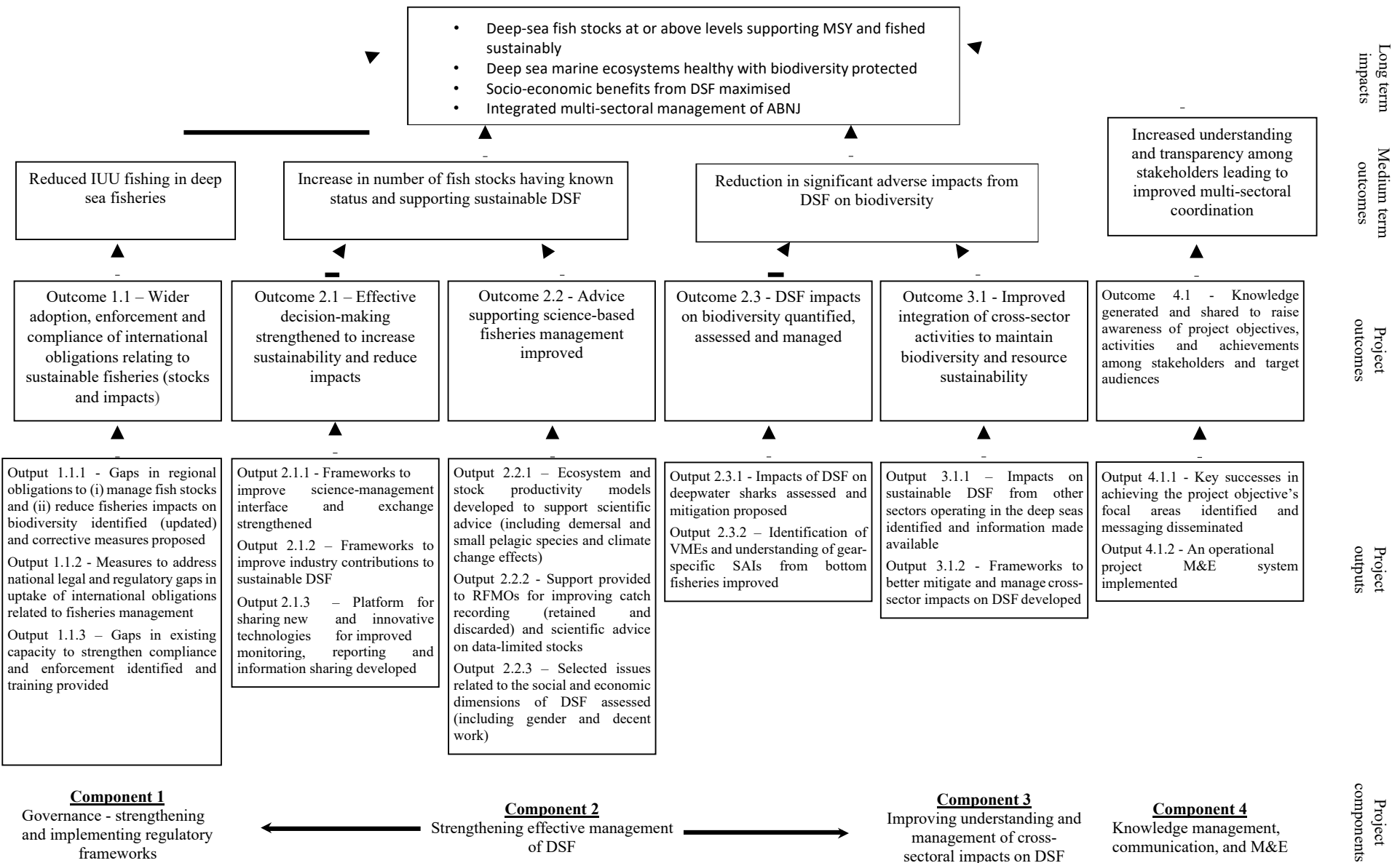


10TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Held virtually, 24 to 28 January 2022 (NZDT)

COMM 10 – Report ANNEX 8c SPRFMO-FAO ABNJ DSF Project Partnership *(COMM 10 – WP 15_rev2)*

ANNEX 1. DSF PROJECT THEORY OF CHANGE (VER 10 06 2021)



ANNEX 2. DSF PROJECT WORKPLAN AND ACTIVITIES OF RELEVANCE TO SPRFMO

Component 1: Governance -strengthening and implementing regulatory frameworks

Outcome 1.1 – Wider adoption, enforcement and compliance of international obligations relating to sustainable fisheries (stocks and impacts)

Project Outputs	Project Activity	SPRFMO Partner Activity (in kind)
1.1.1 - Gaps in regional obligations to (i) manage fish stocks and (ii) reduce fisheries impacts on biodiversity identified (updated) and corrective measures proposed.	Scoping study on international obligations (under UNCLOS, UNFSA, and other instruments ¹) in managing fish stocks and reducing impacts in ABNJ, including reference to data-limited and bycatch species. Workshop and report developed under participatory process. Run by project consultant	Take part in scoping study workshop to identify international obligations, noting earlier analyses already undertaken on this topic Provide Compliance and Technical Committee and Commission meetings and reports SPRFMO measures and national legislation In-kind support from Secretariat to support project consultant, <u>as appropriate to SPRFMO's mandate</u>
1.1.2 - Measures to address RFMO and national legal and regulatory gaps in international obligations related to fisheries management.	Development of fisheries management self-assessment tools for RFMOs and their member states based on the step-wise guide ² and unpublished assessments undertaken during GEF-5 based on the DeepFlip Questionnaire ³ . This includes uptake of obligations identified under 1.1.1. Workshop and report developed under participatory process. E-learning tool developed by FAO ⁴ . Run by project consultant	Assist in the development of self-assessment tools for RFMOs and member states based on requirements in binding and voluntary international instruments. Attendance at one workshop (online or in person) to develop self-assessment tools, <u>subject to budget constraints</u> . Act as advisor, if relevant, to the development of the e-learning tool. In-kind support from Secretariat staff (Executive Secretary, Compliance manager, <u>Data Manger-fisheries coordinator</u>) to support project consultant
1.1.3 - Gaps in existing capacity to strengthen compliance and enforcement identified and filled.	Focus on GEF-eligible countries following on from GEF-5 project Observer training (compliance and scientific) Port inspection training Deepwater shark catch monitoring and bycatch reduction (support to output 2.3.1) VMS and mapping of DSF by gear type (support to output 2.3.2) Run by project consultant	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. No anticipated contribution from RFMOs.

¹ Harrison, J., Lobach, T., Morgera, E. and P. Manoa. 2017. Review and analysis of international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction. FAO, Rome. 94 pp. [Produced by GEF-5 Deep-Sea project]

² Harrison, J., Lobach, T., Morgera, E., Diz, D., Kuemlengan, B., Manoa, P. and Hamley, G. 2019. Step-wise guide for the implementation of international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction. Rome, FAO. [Produced by GEF-5 Deep-Sea project]

³ Deep sea fisheries legislation reviews based on questionnaires of nine participating states. [Produced by GEF-5 Deep-Sea project]

⁴ [FAO elearning Academy](#)

Component 2: Strengthening effective management of DSF

Outcome 2.1 – Effective decision making strengthened to increase sustainability and reduce impacts

Project Outputs	Project Activity	SPRFMO Partner Activity (in kind)
2.1.1 - Frameworks to improve science-management interface and exchange strengthened following an ecosystem and precautionary approach	<p>Desk top study on how dsRFMO (deep sea RFMOs) committees communicate internally (e.g. by requests for advice, joint groups, etc.) and to trail new ways if appropriate.</p> <p>Further development of the Precautionary Approach and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) frameworks by dsRFMOs.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant</p>	<p>Topics of interest include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References points (target and limit) for stocks. • Impacts on ETP spp. under EAF. • Sharing VMS information with Scientific Committee (SC). • Collaboration between the Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC) and SC (see CTC report and CTC7-Doc 15) <p>Improved communication between committees. Take part in project workshop on PA and EAF frameworks (including the social and economic pillars of EAF, data-poor stocks, deepwater sharks and VMEs).</p>
2.1.2 - Frameworks to improve industry contributions to sustainable DSF	<p>Desk top study on how industry works with dsRFMOs and to trail new ways if appropriate applicable to the management, compliance, and scientific committees. Including better identification of communication and data sharing strategies. Conclusions discussed at workshop and frameworks developed as appropriate.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant</p>	<p>Scoping study and workshop to examine options for a more cooperative partnership between RFMOs and industry.</p> <p>Sharing of information frameworks among industry and dsRFMOs (including via delegations) and discussions with Secretariats and industry.</p> <p>Take part in project workshop on industry – dsRFMO cooperation.</p> <p>Follow-up as required.</p>
2.1.3 – Uptake of new and innovative approaches and technologies for improved monitoring, reporting and information sharing piloted and introduced	<p>Development of web-area (under Common Oceans Programme?) for sharing information from researchers and developers with a wider audience (such as dsRFMOs) of new and innovation technologies that support sustainable fisheries.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant</p>	<p>Topics of interest include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloting new technologies. • On-line implementation of the Port State Measures agreement • Technologies to support or replace observers. <p>RFMO Secretariats to help identify “needs and constraints” that could be solved through the application of technology.</p> <p>Support and promotion of SPRFMO Observer programme</p> <p>Support population of dedicated FAO developers/users forum site advertising new technologies for uptake</p>

2.2 - Improved advice supporting science-based fisheries management

Project Outputs	Project Activity	SPRFMO Partner Activity (in kind)
2.2.1 - Stock productivity models developed and advice generated and tested (including demersal and small pelagic species and climate change effects)	<p>Organise symposium on Application to fisheries management of ecosystem and stock productivity models under changing conditions – short, medium and long term implications”.</p> <p>Promote relevant work undertaken by dsRFMOs, including CC work.</p> <p>Draft publication on current work and its use in sustainable fisheries.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant</p>	<p>Ecosystem status overviews at seasonal to decadal scales (via SPRFMO Habitat Monitoring WG)</p> <p>Sharing of relevant work by RFMO management and science committees</p> <p>Support of the project symposium on ecosystem and stock productivity models</p>
2.2.2 - Support provided to RFMOs for improving catch recording (retained and discarded) and scientific advice on data-limited stocks	<p>(Focus fisheries are alfonsino and armourhead)</p> <p>Review and support appropriate and coordinated data-collection programmes.</p> <p>Identify and support current RFMO assessment methods.</p> <p>As appropriate, coordinate training workshops, possibly with ICES.</p> <p>Assist in evaluation of stock status for data limited stocks.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant</p>	<p>Alfonsino assessment work</p> <p>Alfonsino data collection</p> <p>Alfonsino (various areas), (for information purposes: orange roughy (Louisville ridge, NZ straddling stock, Westpac Bank))</p> <p>Various work undertaken consistently with the Deepwater section of the Scientific Committee’s multi-annual work plan and SPRFMO stock assessment framework.</p> <p>Sharing data-collection and assessment methodologies through RFMO reports and access to stock experts consistently with data confidentiality rules and procedures.</p> <p>If appropriate, have stock assessments reviewed in an open forum with other RFMOs (focus fisheries are alfonsino and armourhead)</p>
2.2. 3 – Selected issues related to the social and economic dimensions of DSF assessed (including gender and decent work)	<p>Undertake value chain analysis of 1-4 fisheries that supports the sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries and EAF.</p> <p>Perform gender and decent employment analyses as part of the value chain work.</p> <p>Examine relevance of value chains to work of RFMOs.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant.</p>	<p>Subject to the Commission discussing these topics and providing a mandate to engage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRFMO recognise-consider the socio-economic and cultural importance of ABNJ. (see e.g. 2020 Commission report, paras 29 (CI), 144 (NZ), 147 (HSFG)). • Consideration of dDecent work – e.g. security and welfare of observers according to international standards or guidelines (CMM 2020 Art 30.8.d) • Inclusion-Consider inclusion of social and economic aspects in the EAF Framework (if appropriate). Selected value chain data collection. • Consider Ggender work throughout entire fisheries chain (including management, science and MCS).

2.2 - DSF impacts on biodiversity quantified, assessed and managed

Project Outputs	Project Activity	SPRFMO Partner Activity (in kind)
2.3.1 - Impacts of DSF on deepwater sharks assessed and mitigated	<p>Collate and assess data collection programmes and data collected among dsRFMOs. Providing support, training and testing of future data collection programs including new technologies to aid identification.</p> <p>Promotion of risk assessment methodologies involving shark distribution, fishing effort distribution (by gear), and catch susceptibility.</p> <p>Reviews of impact assessment methodologies and comparison of results from high seas regions through workshop or symposium as appropriate.</p> <p>Methods to review effectiveness of mitigation options.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant.</p>	<p>Share Rrisk assessments <u>previously undertaken</u> using PSA and SAFE methods.</p> <p>Collaboration with project to support this output, including sharing of work undertaken for RFMO meetings.</p> <p>Consistent with obligations and current work of RFMOs, undertake a deepwater shark stock and impact assessments with RFMOs, <u>if included in the SC multi-annual work plan</u>.</p> <p>Working jointly with the project, review effectiveness of any mitigation measures to protect deepwater shark species.</p>
2.3.2 – Knowledge of impacts of fishing activities on VMEs improved and mitigation measures developed and adopted	<p>Review of current methods used to identify VMEs in ABNJ, including those used in exploratory fisheries, and produce publication entitled “VME identification methodology”.</p> <p>Review implementation of FAO DSF Guidelines (follow-up of Busan meeting in 2010)</p> <p>Methods to monitor the health of VMEs in closed areas to see if they are changing, either negatively through non-fisheries impacts or positively through recovery.</p> <p>Improved monitoring and analysis of fishing effort by gear type (essential fundamental requirement to monitoring of fisheries and impacts).</p> <p>Run by Project consultant.</p>	<p>RFMO collaboration, mainly through the provision of meeting reports and working documents, but sometimes by expert in-kind contributions, to advance work on VMEs. <u>Possible topics are listed below, noting work will be undertaken consistently with the SC multi annual workplan and the Bottom Fishing intersessional process adopted pursuant to CMM 03-2022, including:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat modelling and cross-collaboration (SC8 para 203) • Pursue operational definitions of SAI (spatial scales), ideally with FAO as part of an across-RFMO initiative. • Innovative bottom fishing footprint and 3-tier VME protection/fishing • VME ID Guides and data collection • Better use of VMS and other supporting methods (COMM8, para 53) • Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment in exploratory fisheries – methods to determine (COMM8, para 190-194) <p>Representation by RFMOs at various workshops to develop and conclude work of this output.</p> <p>Some joint work with Compliance Committees and Scientific Committees on how to improve the monitoring and mapping of fishing effort, whilst respecting confidentiality requirements and restricted access rules.</p>

Component 3. Improving understanding and management of cross-sectoral impacts on DSF

Outcome 3.1 - Improved integration of cross-sector activities to maintain biodiversity and resource sustainability

Project Outputs	Project Activity	SPRFMO Partner Activity (in kind)
3.1.1 - Interactions between fisheries and other sectors operating in the deep seas identified and information made available.	<p>Scoping study to identify possible interactions with DSF (including overlap with current spatial extent of fishing by stock and gear).</p> <p>Methodologies identified to identify significance of threats (including where identified in similar cases for EEZ fisheries).</p> <p>Guidance developed on consequences of threats (fisheries production, ecological, social, economic).</p> <p>Run by Project consultant.</p>	<p>General interest in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBSAs, marine pollution and climate change (SC report 2019, 11.2-11.3). Impacts on DSF from other sectors <p>Information in RFMO reports and working papers</p> <p>Consultations with RFMO Secretariat staff, scientific committees, and members as appropriate.</p> <p>In-kind contributions to workshops and project publications</p>
3.1.2 - Mechanisms to better mitigate and manage cross-sector impacts on DSF developed.	<p>Project consultant to draft report on current and planned multi-sectoral marine use (to include all spatial aspects of fisheries including distribution of fishing effort and biodiversity protection measures).</p> <p>To inform RFMOs on developments in international instruments affecting the use of the ABNJ.</p> <p>As appropriate, any follow-up work necessary to mitigate the negative effects of interactions with DSF.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant.</p>	<p>Assigning responsibilities for assessing impacts to fish and biodiversity (in part, contributing to the BBNJ process).</p> <p>Improved understanding of the spatial extent of the fished areas</p> <p>Oil and gas work SC 2020 p. 66, WGESAs 2019, p. 120-128 (ATLAS project).</p> <p>Development of the VME Database, if desired, to include other spatial management measures and other sectors to facilitate integrated ecosystem assessments</p> <p>RFMO meeting reports and working papers</p>

Component 4. Knowledge management, communication and M&E

Outcome 4.1 Knowledge generated and shared to raise awareness of project objectives, activities and achievements among stakeholders and target audiences

Project Outputs	Project Activity	SPRFMO Partner Activity (in kind)
4.1.1: Key successes in achieving the project objective's focal areas identified and messaging disseminated.	<p>Review and support to RFMO websites with an emphasis on sharing information with a wider multi-sectoral audience to better display the remit of RFMOs and the work they undertake with fisheries and environmental monitoring.</p> <p>Run by Project consultant.</p>	<p>In-kind discussions between Secretariat and project's communications experts on current website design and possibilities for improvement in messaging.</p>
	<p>Programme level messaging via Global Coordination Project</p>	<p>No inputs</p>
4.1.2: An operational project M&E system implemented	<p>Project monitoring and evaluation undertaken by Project Management Unit</p>	<p>RFMO Secretariat to provide annual updates to DSF project on their contributions to the project as specified in the co-financing letter.</p>

3. Template for co-financing letter

Jeffrey Griffin
 Senior Coordinator, GEF Unit
 Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB)
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, ITALY

Date:

Subject: Confirmation of co-financing for the GEF Project ‘Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach’ and Project Symbol GCP/GLO/1002/GFF

Dear Mr Griffin,

I have the pleasure to confirm that the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation accepts to co-finance the GEF project “Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach” through our global activities in 2022-2027.

The co-financing will amount to an **in-kind** contribution of **up to USD 1,500,000** comprising a contribution in staff time of the SPRFMO Secretariat ~~and of SPRFMO's Contracting Parties~~ and other operating expenses devoted to activities supporting the objectives of this project.

The total co-financing contribution to the GEF project will be **up to USD 1,500,000** and the split by component is as follows:

Component	USD Amount	Type of Co-financing
Component 1:		grant
Governance - strengthening and implementing regulatory frameworks	225,000	in-kind
Component 2:		grant
Strengthening effective management of deep sea fisheries	975,000	in-kind
Component 3:		grant
Improving understanding and management of cross-sectoral impacts on deep sea fisheries	225,000	in-kind
Component 4:		grant
Knowledge Management, Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation	75,000	in-kind
Project Management Costs (equal to 5% of the co-financing)		grant
	zero	in-kind

SPRFMO Members understand that our participation in the Deepsea Fisheries Project does not create any legally binding obligations on the Secretariat or the SPRFMO membership. Furthermore, SPRFMO understands that the SPRFMO’s participation does not create any additional workload on the Secretariat beyond the activities already

directed by the Commission and which achieve the objectives of SPRFMO. SPRFMO understand that it retains full discretion to determine its activities.

SPRFMO Members note that CMM 02-2020 contains the relevant rules and procedures for disclosing data and information. SPRFMO reserves the right not to disclose any confidential data without the prior and explicit authorization of its members.

Finally, the Secretariat will keep SPRFMO Member informed on the progress of this project through regular reporting. SPRFMO looks forward to the successful implementation of this project.

Yours Sincerely,

Luis Molledo
Chairperson