

Introduction

FAO is committed to supporting responsible fisheries, including in the ABNJ and in accordance with international law, through the implementation of its Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its associated international plans of actions and guidelines. The most relevant to deep sea fisheries (DSF) is FAO's International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("the Guidelines") that were adopted in 2008. These support States and RFMO/As to implement paragraphs 76-95 of UNGA Resolution 61/105 (adopted December 2006). Though much of the follow-up action by States and RFMOs has focused on the protection of VMEs from significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing, achieved particularly through area closures, there has been associated work on establishing the bottom fishing footprint, exploratory fishing protocols outside of the footprint, and VME encounter protocols, that work synergistically to manage bottom fisheries more generally whilst also ensuring protection to known and

and ecosystems are less well known. RFMOs in the other regions are mainly recently established and

difficulties in abiding by some of the RFMO conservation and management measures especially as relates to observer coverage.

The principal States involved in high seas⁹ demersal fishing in 2016 are in order of decreasing catch:

