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A hierarchical stock assessment risk framework for deep-water sharks

(Abstract of restricted document)

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Abstract	
<p>We propose a stock assessment advice framework that is consistent with various international agreements and can be applied to a variety of stocks and species, both by-caught and targeted, across a range of fisheries and management bodies. The framework combines a Productivity Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) with a hierarchical stock assessment framework. The first step is to use the PSA as a risk screening exercise to prioritise stocks and to evaluate potential mitigation measures. Although a PSA can help identify species at risk and the benefit of potential mitigation measures, it does not provide estimates of current stock status levels relative to target and limit reference points, required to estimate fishing pressure and impacts. For example, to make predictions about the consequences of alternative management actions, and to monitor the response of a stock to management. Therefore, a hierarchical assessment framework will be developed that can be applied to a range of data-limited, moderate and rich situations. The framework will follow the principle of risk equivalence, defined as the probability of a stock being depleted below a limit reference point or not being maintained at a target reference point being equal, irrespective of the stock assessment method used to provide management advice and the amount of data available.</p>	

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