

ABNJ Deep Sea Fisheries Project

(development Dec 2019 – Jul 2021)
(execution Jan 2022 – Dec 2025)



William Emerson
Tony Thompson
Lena Westlund



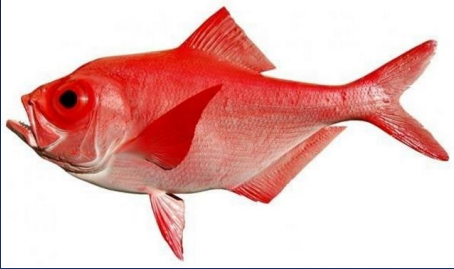
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

**SIOFA Webinar
17 July 2020**

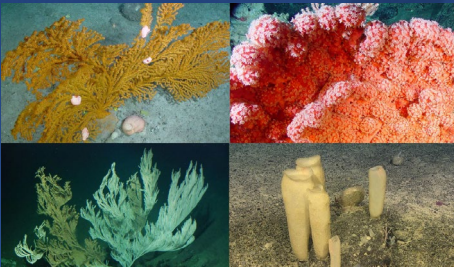
Outputs most relevant to SIOFA's scientific work



- Alfonsino – output 2.2.2 (data-limited stocks)
output 2.2.3 (socio-economic, certification)



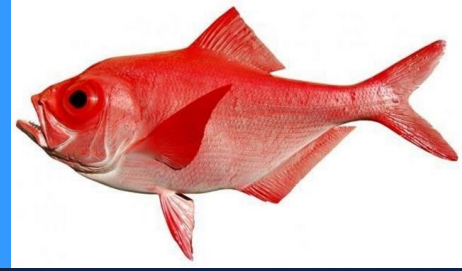
- Deepwater sharks – output 2.3.1 (impacts)



- VMEs – output 2.3.2 (impacts)

Alfonsino - Output 2.2.2

Low-yield and data-limited stocks assessed



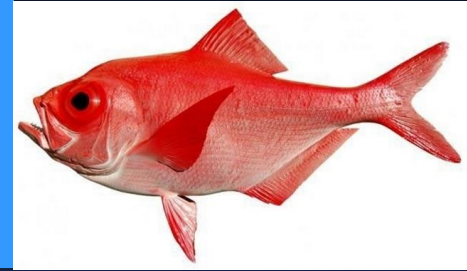
Project activity 1: Data collection

- SIOFA have been requesting data from flag States since 2004*.
- Constraints to data collection?
- Support and training needed – observers, crew, at ports?
- Confidentiality issues?
- New technologies helpful?
- Data collection protocols and fit-for-purpose?
- Difference among countries/fisheries?

Deliverables: Direct support and training for data collection; FAO Technical Report addressing constraints to data collection

* Resolution on data collection concerning the high seas in the southern Indian Ocean”. More formally since 2019 under CMM2019/10.

Alfonsino (ctd)



Project activity 2: Stock assessments

The project would focus on:

- Data requirements
- Output from assessments¹

¹ The assessment itself would be an in-kind contribution

FAO. 2016 *Global review of alfonsino (Beryx spp.), their fisheries, biology and management*, by Ross Shotton. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1084. Rome, Italy.

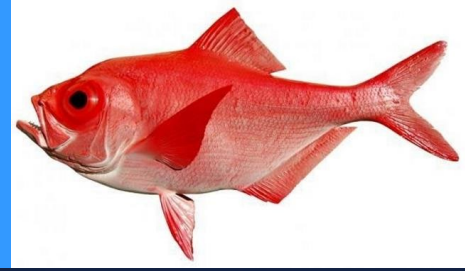
Deliverables : FAO Report on “Assessment Methods of Data-limited Stocks”

- Fit-for-purpose data collection
- Assessment methodologies
- Reference points
- Forecasting

Training, etc

Report non-technical. Useful to fisheries managers, compliance experts, biodiversity, mining and shipping sectors

Alfonsino (ctd)



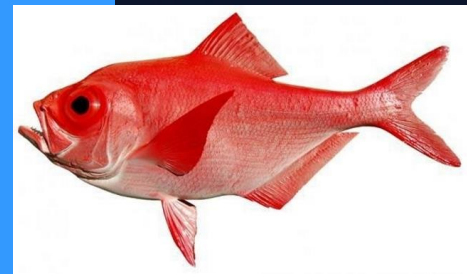
Project activity 3: Scientific advice on data-poor stocks

- Advice given by scientific committees
- Measures adopted by management committees.

The focus here is managing fisheries that are poorly or not assessed and how the precautionary approach should be applied.

Deliverables : ??

Alfonsino (ctd)



Project activity 4: Surveys to support assessments – acoustics

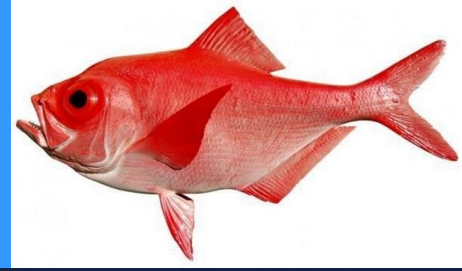
Joint acoustic survey in Indian Ocean with *R/V Fridtjof Nansen* and industry vessel to support assessments

(also comparative benthic sampling work on VME identification by research and commercial fishing vessels)

Deliverables : Calibrating acoustic systems for estimating alfonsino/orange roughy biomass to support SIOFA stock assessments, training, commercial vessel capabilities, etc

Alfonsino - Output 2.2.3

Socio-economic aspects of DSF assessed



- Supply (value) chain analysis
- Decent working conditions (gender equity)
- Catch documentation
- Certification (many outputs)



Deepwater chondrichthyans - Output 2.3.1

Impacts of DSF on deepwater sharks assessed and mitigated

Summary of work by RFMOs
circulated in 2019 (paper xxx)

26 June 2019

Regional summaries of current work on shark bycatch assessment

Tony Thompson, Consultant, ABNJ Deep-sea Project

CONTENTS

Contents	1
Introduction.....	1
Regional summaries.....	1
Southern Indian Ocean (SIOFA)	1
South Pacific Ocean (SPRFMO)	2
North Pacific Ocean (NPFC)	2
Northwest Atlantic Ocean (NAFO)	2
Northeast Atlantic (NEAFC)	4
Southeast Atlantic (SEAFO)	4
Southern Ocean (CCAMLR)	4
Mediterranean Sea (GFCM)	5
Future work.....	5
Selected FAO regional guides to deepwater shark identification.....	6

INTRODUCTION

This document summarises the current scientific work being undertaken by deepsea regional fisheries organisations on shark bycatch assessment. This complements the “*Ecological Risk Assessments for deep-water elasmobranchs caught in the high seas*” information note that was circulated on 25 February 2019 to the Secretariats of the general R(F)MOs mandated to manage bottom fisheries in the high seas¹. Considerable background information is included in that information note.

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

Southern Indian Ocean (SIOFA)

Deepwater chondrichthyan catches were discussed at the 2019 SIOFA Scientific Committee meeting² where, in addition to the scientific analyses, the following points (summarised from the original text) were agreed:

- Catch, effort and biological information is limited for many species.

Deepwater chondrichthyans - Output 2.3.1



Impacts of DSF on deepwater sharks assessed and mitigated

Project activity 1: data collection

- Shark identification: Difficult (impossible?) by onboard observers
- More training? Better guides? New technologies?
- Is spp id needed?
- Better reporting of vessel positions and gears used

Otherwise same thoughts as under data-limited stocks:

- Reasons for lack of catch data identified and solutions developed and implemented

Deliverables : FAO Technical report, training, supported studies

Deepwater chondrichthyans (ctd)



Project activity 2: Assessments of impacts

- Sharing methodologies among regions
- Improved transparency of information
- New assessments with improved data collected during project period

Deliverables : FAO Technical Report, RFMO publications

Deepwater chondrichthyans (ctd)



Project activity 3: Effectiveness of mitigation options

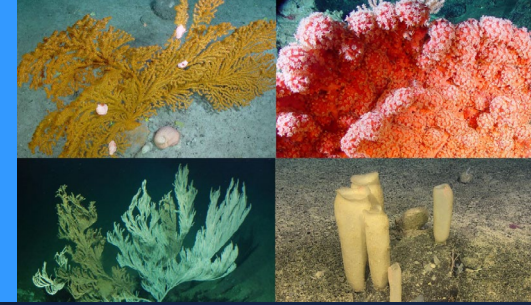
Project to support studies on analysing effectiveness of mitigation options:

- Move-on rule
- Closed areas
- Gear design and bycatch reduction devices
- Live release
- etc

Deliverables : FAO Technical Report

VMES – Project Output 2.3.2

Knowledge of impacts from fishing on VMES improved and mitigation measures developed and adopted



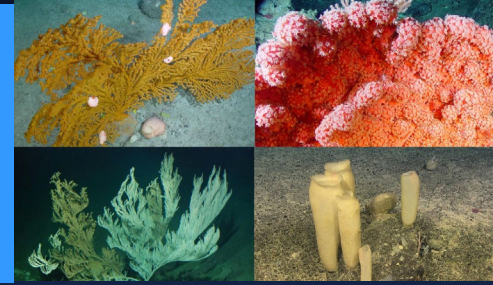
Project activity 1: Identification of VMES

- Joint cruise with R/V Nansen

Project activity 2: Review of implementation of FAO DSF Guidelines

- Assist with various activities, especially VME criteria, indicators and thresholds, encounter protocols

VMES (ctd)



Project activity 3: Monitoring and impacts

- Cumulative impacts by gears (and % area exposed to impacts)

Project activity 4: Mapping DSF

- Accurate bottom fishing footprints (support)
- Information on bottom fisheries (position, gear type, target spp – support)

Project activity 5: FAO VME database

- Continue contributing

Next steps

- We are drafting the Project Document and putting in ideas for activities under the various outputs and adding in where we see in-kind contributions from partners.
- This is done to guide us in future discussions only.
- We will then open up to RFMO Secretariats and seek to identify teams of 3-4 people (globally) who we can link to outputs as “advisors”.
- We then start the participatory part of the project development.



THANK YOU

William.Emerson@fao.org
Coordinator

Anthony.Thompson@fao.org
Consultant

Lena.Westlund@fao.org
Consultant