SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

EU deep-sea fisheries management

The view of environmental NGOs

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Workshop on the management of deep sea species
Organised by the LD, NWW and SWW RACs
15-16 May 2013, Edinburg

The Commission's proposal is a promising step towards protecting the marine environment and transforming deep-sea fisheries into sustainable fisheries

Main impacts of deep-sea fisheries

- Irreversible damage to deep-sea ecosystems
- Declines in deep-sea fish populations

Sea floor before bottom trawling

Sea floor after bottom trawling

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UN General Assembly resolutions

- Ten years of extensive debate at the UN

- Four UNGA resolutions (59/25, 61/105, 64/72, 66/68)

- Core Agreement: prevent "Significant Adverse Impacts" on "Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems" and ensure long-term sustainability of deep-sea species through:

  - Conducting Prior Environmental Impact Assessments
  - Establishing Precautionary Area Closures where VMEs are known or likely to occur
  - Ensure Sustainability of Deep Sea Fish Stocks, including non-target species w/ stock assessments and the rebuilding of depleted stocks
  - Move on Rule

Adopt and Implement
OR ELSE NOT AUTHORIZE DEEP-SEA FISHING

EU regulations to date

- Council Regulation 1568/2005: Prohibits bottom trawling and gillnet fishing (below 200m) around the Azores, Canaries and Madeira Islands to protect deep-sea ecosystems

- Council Regulation 734/2008: Implements UNGA resolutions for EU fleets in high seas areas where no RFMO is in place

- Council Regulation 43/2009:

  Prohibits bottom gillnet fishing > 600m in EU waters

2010 study on Porcupine bight: period 1977-1989 & 1997-2002 77 species at fishable depths. Average decline in fish abundance: 69%

EU sets catch limits for only 14 of the 77 species:

Alepocephalus agassizii	Cottunculus thomsonii	Malacocephalus laevis
Alepocephalus australis	Deania calcea	Merluccius merluccius
Alepocephalus bairdii	Dipturus nidarosiensis	Microchirus variegatus
Alepocephalus productus	Echiodon drummondii	Molva dypterygia
Alepocephalus rostratus	Epigonus telescopus	Molva macrophthalma
Antimora rostrata	Etmopterus spinax	Mora moro
Aphanopus carbo	Gaidropsarus argentatus	Myxine ios
Apristurus laurussonii	Gaidropsarus macrophthalmus	Neocyttus helgae
Argentina silus	Galeus melastomus	Neoraja caerulea
Argentina sphyraena	Galeus murinus	Nezumia aequalis
Bathypterois dubius	Glyptocephalus cynoglossus	Notacanthus bonaparte
Beryx decadactylus	Guttigadus latifrons	Notacanthus chemnitzii
Caelorinchus caelorhincus	Halargyreus johnsonii	Pachycara crassiceps
Caelorinchus labiatus	Halosauropsis macrochir	Paraliparis hystrix
Cataetyx alleni	Halosaurus johnsonianus	Phycis blennoides
Cataetyx laticeps	Helicolenus dactylopterus dactylopterus	Polyacanthonotus rissoanus
Centrophorus squamosus	Hoplostethus atlanticus	Rajella bigelowi
Centroscymnus coelolepis	Hoplostethus mediterraneus mediterraneus	Rajella fyllae
Chimaera monstrosa	Hydrolagus mirabilis	Rhinochimaera atlantica
Conocara macropterum	Ilyophis blachei	Rouleina attrita
Conocara murrayi	Lepidion eques	Scymnodon ringens
Coryphaenoides carapinus	Lepidorhombus boscii	Spectrunculus grandis
Coryphaenoides guentheri	Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis	Synaphobranchus kaupii
Coryphaenoides mediterraneus	Leucoraja circularis	Trachyrincus murrayi
Coryphaenoides rupestris	Lophius piscatorius	Trachyrincus scabrus
	Lycodes terraenovae	Trachyscorpia cristulata echinata

Orange roughy
Blue ling
Greater forkbeard
Black scabbardfish
Roundnose grenadier
Alfonsinos
Leafscale gulper shark
Portuguese dogfish
Birdbeak dogfish
Velvet belly
Blackmouth catshark (Blackmouth dogfish)
Mouse catshark
Knifetooth dogfish
Deep-water catsharks

End deep-sea overfishing

- Regulate catch of all deep-sea species
- Permit fishing only if the catch, including of by-catch species, can be limited to sustainable levels, based on a scientific understanding of the status of the species and the impact of the fishery

27. mai 2013

Minimise by-catch

- Minimise and, where possible, eliminate by-catch of non-target species
- Prevent catch of most vulnerable species

Prevent adverse impacts on vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems

Require that areas where VMEs are known or likely to occur are closed to deep-sea bottom fishing unless conservation and management measures are in place to prevent significant adverse impacts

Impact assessments for all deep-sea fisheries

- Require prior impact assessments for all deep-sea fisheries, in new fishing areas as well as existing fishing areas, as a condition for authorisation to fish

- Ensure the impact assessments comply with the globally agreed standards (UNGA, FAO) and are subject to independent scientific and regulatory review

INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP-SEA FISHERIES
IN THE HIGH SEAS

DIRECTIVES INTERNATIONALES
SUR LA GESTION DE LA PÊCHE PROFONDE
EN HAUTE MER

DIRECTRICES INTERNACIONALES
PARA LA ORDENACIÓN DE LAS PESQUERÍAS
DE AGUAS PROFUNDAS EN ALTA MAR

Strengthen definition deep-sea fishery

- Expand list of Annex I deep-sea species, update list of most vulnerable species, and regularly review lists.
- Include a depth-based definition in addition to a species and catch based definition

End destructive fishing practices

Phase out of bottom trawling and bottom gillnet fishing for deep-sea species

Key requirements for deep-sea fisheries management

- End deep-sea overfishing
- Minimise bycatch and prevent catch of most vulnerable species
- Impact assessments for all deep-sea fisheries
- Prevent adverse impacts on vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems, including through area closures
- Phase out of bottom trawling and bottom gillnet fishing
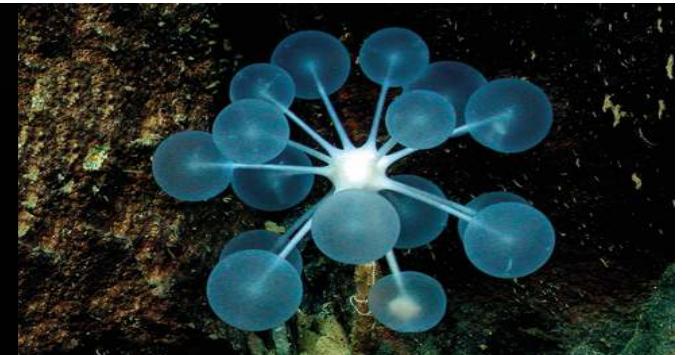
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Thank you for your attention

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