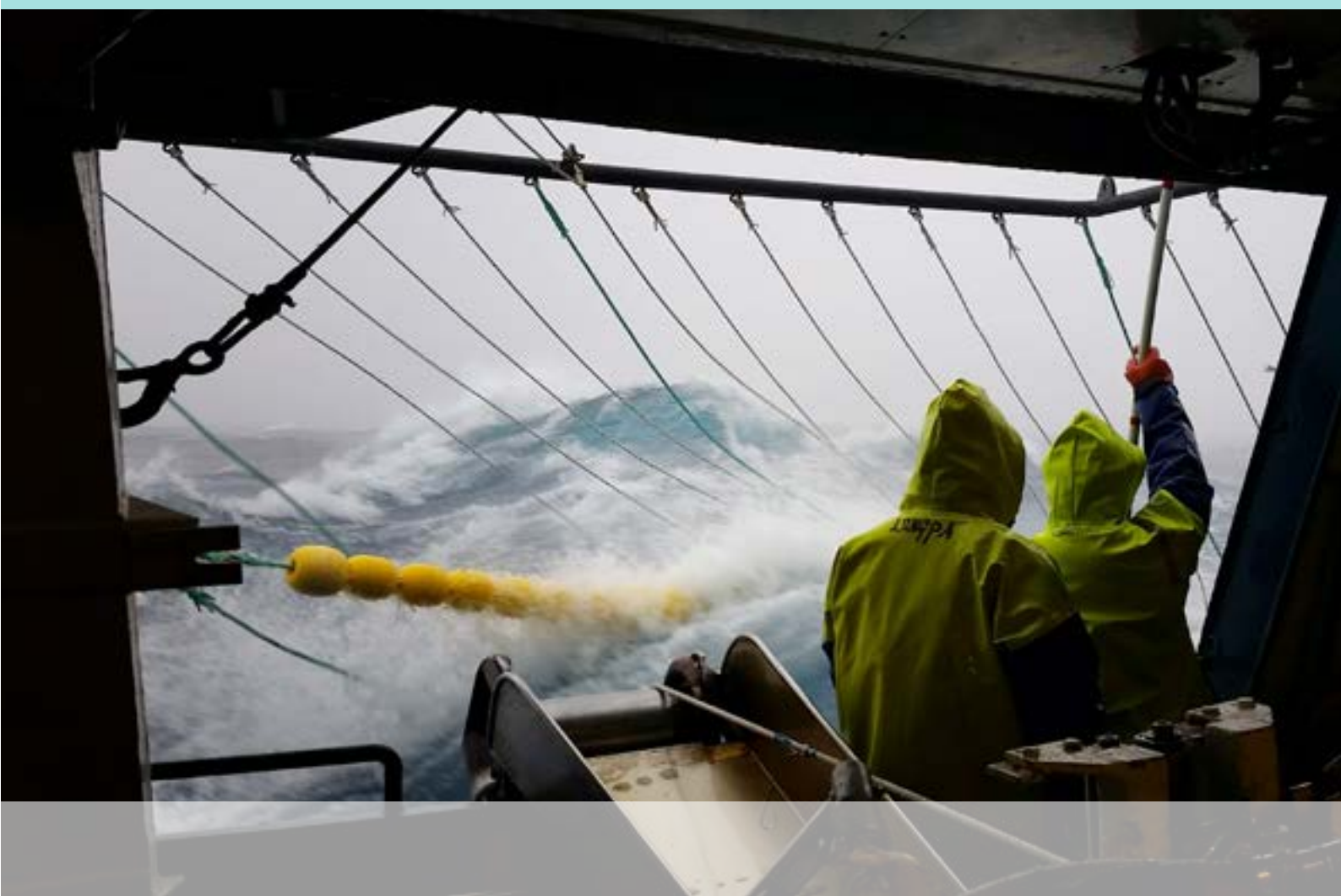




Catch documentation schemes for deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ

Their value, and options for implementation



Cover photograph: Photograph by Rory Stevens on board the Isla Eden, fishing for Patagonian toothfish around Heard Island in Australia's sub-Antarctic during the winter of 2016.
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Preparation of this document

This technical paper has been prepared under the auspices of the FAO-managed deep-sea fisheries component of the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction project funded by the Global Environment Facility.

A limited number of countries, fisheries administrations, industry players and regional fisheries management organizations were visited physically within the remit of this work. Many consultations took place remotely during online meetings and electronic mail exchanges. Stakeholders from public and private sectors in the following countries and territories were involved in the consultations: Australia; Canada; China, Hong Kong SAR; Italy; Japan; Namibia; New Zealand; Spain; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the United States of America. Consultations were undertaken in 2017, while the drafting of the paper was undertaken in the last quarter of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018.

Abstract

This paper discusses the potential value of catch documentation schemes (CDS) in deep-sea fisheries (DSF), and the implementation modalities that have to be envisaged, to ensure the effectiveness of this trade-based tool to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The paper argues that CDS are indeed capable of directly addressing a number of IUU fishing practices known to occur in DSF, and that their adoption would improve compliance with fisheries management requirements. Key infringements that may be directly detected and addressed through a CDS include – but are not limited to – violations of closed areas harbouring protected vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the deep ocean, and quota overfishing. The paper also establishes the notion that partial coverage of given species through a CDS at the level of individual RFMOs is incongruous from a trade monitoring and control perspective, and that CDS should be considered as either/or propositions with regard to species coverage. With most DSF species having broad distributions straddling many RFMOs, the implementation modality that avails itself as the most suitable option, enabling the operation of an effective CDS, is that of a centrally operated electronic CDS platform – called a super-CDS – shared by a plurality of institutional and state players.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
ALC	Automatic Location Communicator
BCD	Bluefin Catch Document (ICCAT)
CA	See RA (below)
CBP	United States Customs and Border Protection
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CDS	Catch Documentation Scheme
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure
Code (the)	1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
DCD	Dissostichus Catch Document (CCAMLR)
DSF	Deep-Sea Fisheries
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
FAOCA	Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 24 November 1993
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
HS	Harmonized System
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
IPOA-IUU	2001 International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (fishing)
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSRA	2006 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (United States of America)
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission