Agenda 6.8: Deep Sea Mining

SC20-EB-WP-14

20th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee
Manila, Philippines

Why is this issue on the agenda?

SC20

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

- Article 5 and 15 of the Convention

- Rule 11.3 of WCPFC Rules of Procedure

- Cooperation with IATTC on shared matters of interest

- Develop awareness and understanding within WCPFC on ocean-related activities that may have an impact on WCPO fisheries managed by the WCPFC

General Overview

SC20 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

- Currently no commercial mining activities taking place anywhere in the world.

- Deep sea mining exploration currently occurring in the Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ).

- Discussions in process to develop a Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP) for the Northwest Pacific.

- DSM regulations in DRAFT, under consideration by ISA

Recommendations

15. SC20 is invited to:

   a.   **Note** that ISA activities in the Pacific Ocean region overlap with the WCPFC Convention Area.

   b.   **Note** the planned activities by the ISA in the Northwest Pacific toward deep sea exploration and the ongoing deep sea exploration activities in the CCZ and the present uncertainties around interactions between deep sea mining activities and commercial fisheries for pelagic species.

   c.   **Recommend** that the Commission task the Secretariat to engage with a broad range of stakeholders to gather information to support WCPFC awareness and understanding of deep seabed mining activities taking place in the WCPFC Convention Area.

   d.   **Recommend** that the Commission task the WCPFC Secretariat to apply for Observer status* for the WCPFC to the ISA, to be represented by the Secretariat.

   Observers from the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations may participate in the deliberations of the Assembly if invited by the President of the Council on questions within the scope of their competence. Click here for more information. At present, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is an ISA observer but there are no international fisheries bodies with observer status to the ISA.