

FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards

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International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards

A new international instrument for fisheries

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/40157/en>



Presentation overview

- **Development of International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards**
 - Process – Why – Who – How
 - IGs within the broader framework of FAOs work
- **International Guidelines**
 - What they are not...
 - Scope, Purpose & Objectives
 - Measures To Manage Bycatch & Reduce Discards
 - Indicators at Program level and linkages to projects
 - Implementation of the Guidelines



Development of International Guidelines (IGs)

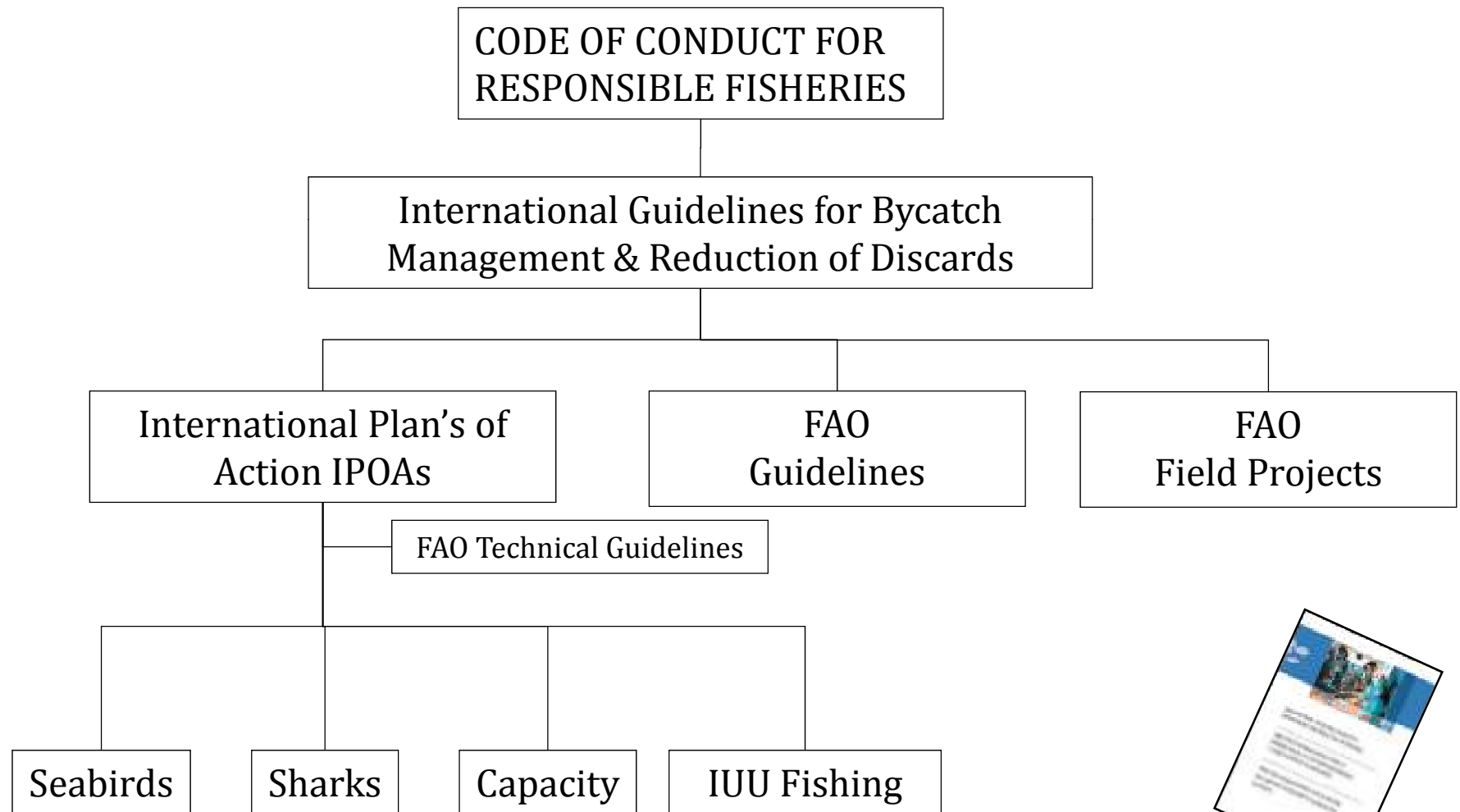


Process: UNGA – COFI – FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture Department

- COFI 28 (2009) – FAO requested to develop Int. Guidelines through Expert Consultation (2009) + Technical Consultation (2010)
- COFI 29 (2011) – COFI adopted TC report & endorsed the Guidelines
- COFI further recommended FAO provides support in capacity building and implementation of the Guidelines

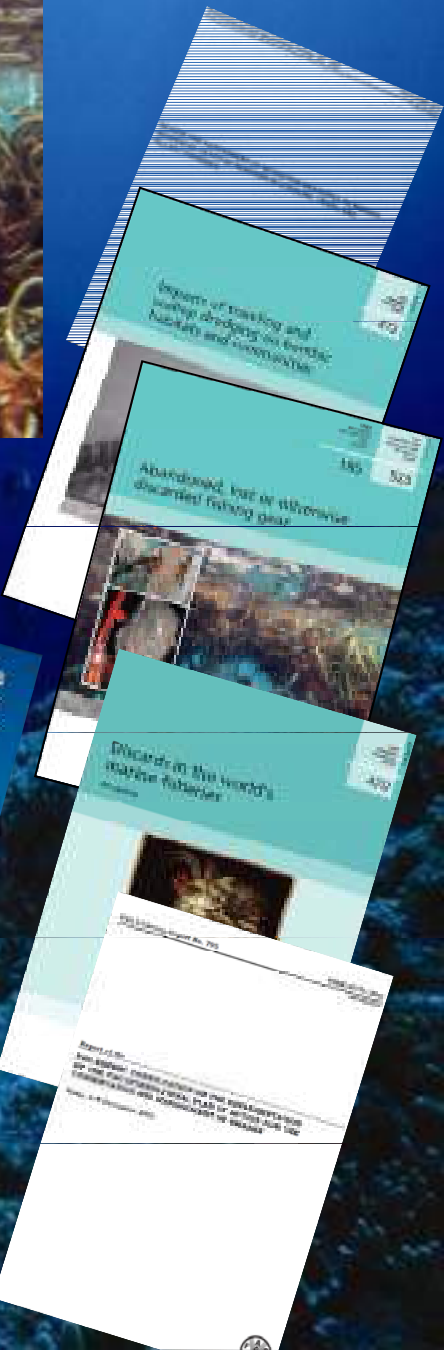


FAO products and services related to bycatch and discards



Bycatch dimensions

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The International Guidelines

- Not Prescriptive
- Developed and endorsed by FAO Members
- Voluntary
- Broadened scope of bycatch (CWP Statistics – generalized catch model)
- Provide an Framework through which Bycatch can be managed and discards reduced
- Consistent with other instruments (The Code, IPOAs, etc)
- Emphasized “management” of bycatch rather than simply “reduction”
- Addressed incentives
- Recognized importance of capacity building & role of industry
- Available in all FAO official languages



International Guidelines: The contents

- Characteristics of bycatch and discards
- Governance, Institutional and management frameworks
- Management planning
- Data collection, reporting, and assessment
- Research and development
- Technical measures to manage bycatch
- Pre-catch losses and ghost fishing
- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
- Awareness, Communication and Capacity Building measures



International Guidelines: The measures

States and RFMO/As should ensure that bycatch management and discard reduction measures are:

- (i) binding;
- (ii) clear and direct;
- (iii) measurable;
- (iv) science-based;
- (v) ecosystem-based;
- (vi) ecologically efficient;
- (vii) practical and safe;
- (viii) socio-economically efficient;
- (ix) enforceable;
- (x) collaboratively developed with industry and stakeholders; and
- (xi) fully implemented.



International Guidelines: The tools

States and RFMO/As should ensure that a range of **tools** to manage bycatch and reduce discards are available. Such tools include, inter alia:

- i. Input and/or output controls;
- ii. Improving design and use of fishing gear and bycatch mitigation devices;
- iii. Spatial and temporal measures [MPAs, Zones, Closures];
- iv. Limits and/or quotas on bycatches;
- v. Incentives for fishers to comply with measures to manage bycatch and reduce discards.



International Guidelines: Cooperation

- Take into account fishers' opinions on bycatch management measures;
- Provide clear explanations to fishers on why it is necessary to manage bycatch, the consequences of failing to do so and the benefits of adopting bycatch management measures;
- Communicate regularly with fishers;
- Coordinate and strengthen the activities and programmes of fishers' cooperatives, companies and similar organizations to manage bycatch;
- Provide adequate training to fishers to facilitate bycatch management;
- States and RFMO/As should collate and share best practice methods for monitoring, estimating and managing bycatch



International Guidelines: Research and Development

Research and development

- States and, as appropriate, RFMOs should conduct and promote research that is essential for planning on bycatch management
- Fishing gear and fishing method-based measures tested under commercial fishing conditions
- Assessments should address the entire distribution range of the species of concern
- Establish research and development programmes for more selective fishing gears or alternative fishing methods that are practical, safe, effective, socio-economically viable
- Map seabed habitats, distributions and ranges of species taken as bycatch to ascertain where species taken as bycatch might overlap with fishing effort
- Establish partnerships or collaboration with institutions responsible for the development of the fishing sector



International Guidelines: Developing States

Special requirements of developing States

FAO should give special consideration to providing technical assistance to developing States:

- (i) Development of management frameworks and effective bycatch management planning;
- (iii) Data collection, assessment, monitoring and reporting;
- (v) Development and implementation of measures;
- (vi) Pre-catch losses and ghost fishing;
- (vii) Development of effective MCS;
- (viii) Research development;
- (ix) Awareness, communication and capacity building measures

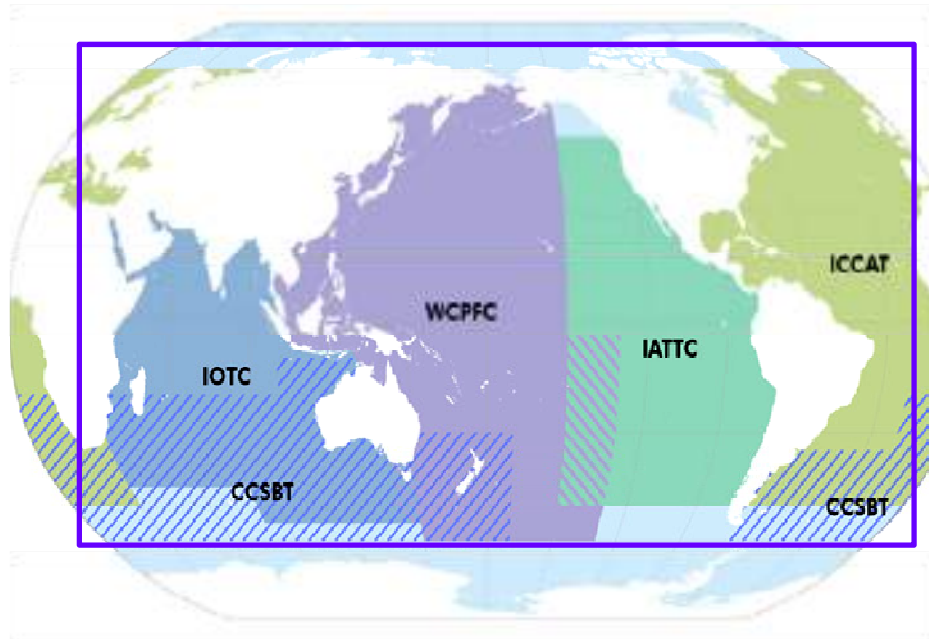


FAO products and services related to bycatch and discards

- International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU)
- International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity)
- International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds)
- International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks)
- International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards (FAO 2011)
- Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations
FAO 128
- FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries
 - No.1: Fishing Operations
 - No. 1 Suppl. 2: Best Practices to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries
 - No. 2: Precautionary Approach to Fisheries Management and Species Introduction
 - No. 4: Suppl. 1 Conservation and management of sharks
 - No. 4: Suppl. 2 The ecosystem approach to fisheries
 - No. 4: Suppl.2 add. 2 The ecosystem approach to fisheries
 - No. 2.2: The human dimensions of the ecosystem approach to fisheries
 - No. 4: Suppl. 3 Managing Fishing Capacity
 - No. 12: Information Sharing and Knowledge Sharing



FAO recent, ongoing and pipeline bycatch projects



GEF Global tuna project



GEF Oceanic Fisheries management Project – WCP



GEF REBYC I – global shrimp



GEF REBYC II – CTI



GEF REBYC II – LAC



National studies

