

Mapping the Institutional Architecture of Global Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Governance

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Preface

This technical report is a deliverable of the CONNECT project (Coping with Fragmentation: Assessing and Reforming the current Architecture of Global Environmental Governance), funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) under grant number 016.125.330. CONNECT (1) takes stock of the existing level of fragmentation across a number of issue-areas in global environmental politics (including climate change; biodiversity; marine fisheries and aquaculture; forestry); (2) explains the causes of fragmentation of global governance architectures based on a carefully designed set of variables; (3) analyses the implications of fragmentation across different scales of governance (i.e. international, regional and domestic levels); and finally, (4) suggests policy responses to increased fragmentation. Each analytical step is accompanied by a number of technical reports that explain the methodologies developed for data-gathering and analysis. For more information and access to deliverables under CONNECT, please visit: www.fragmentation.eu.

1 Introduction

Our oceans face multiple challenges, from plastic pollution to acidification due to climate change. High levels of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including low and declining catch rates, environmental impacts, and poor economic returns (Garcia & Doullman, 2005) make sustainable fishing a key challenge for ocean governance. The FAO's "The state of world marine fisheries and aquaculture" (2016) report suggests that the share of fish stocks kept within biologically sustainable levels has decreased from 90% in 1974 to 68.6% in 2013. Governing fisheries effectively is thus becoming increasingly urgent to maintain healthy ecosystems whilst continuing to derive the social and economic benefits from fisheries (Pita, Chuenpagdee, & Pierce, 2012).

This report maps the institutional architecture of global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance. Global aquaculture governance institutions are included due the increasing relevance of aquaculture for fish consumption. Aquatic food production has transitioned from being primarily based on capture of wild fish to the cultivation of increasing numbers of farmed species. In 2014, the aquaculture sector's contribution to the supply of fish for human consumption overtook that of wild-caught fish for the first time (FAO, 2016). However, the growth of aquaculture activities, driven by increasing consumer demand, further intensifies the destruction of coastal zones, mangroves and wetlands by impairing their function as natural spawning grounds and nurseries for marine species (Kalfagianni & Pattberg, 2013).

At the international level, marine fisheries and aquaculture are primarily governed by Regional Fisheries Agreements (Mediterranean Sea, North Pacific Ocean, etc.) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Key institutions include the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (establishing the Exclusive Economic Zones, EEZ), the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries¹. In addition, transnational institutions initiated by private and public actors are proliferating, such as the Marine Stewardship Council's labelling scheme. International and transnational institutions are creating an increasingly dense governance architecture, aiming to govern global fisheries and aquaculture.

Our mapping of the global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture operationalizes a framework originally proposed by Abbott and Snidal (2009a), intended to visualize the transnational climate change governance architecture, which we in turn complement with Keohane and Victor (2011) notion of the international regime complex. Since no central data repository exists for marine fisheries and aquaculture institutions, data collection relies largely on desk research surveying academic literature and reports (e.g. Kalfagianni and Pattberg, 2013), fisheries related websites, as well as some online data collections, including the International Environmental Agreements (IEA) Database Project.

The report consists of four sections aside from this introduction: First, an overview of concepts and definitions necessary to understand the methodology employed. Second, we explain in detail our mapping the global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture. Third, we present our results and analysis, and finally we summarize and elaborate on future work.

¹ See: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/governance/institutions/en>

2 Concepts and definitions

A “governance architecture” can be conceptualized in similar terms as “regime complexes” (Keohane & Victor, 2011; Orsini, Morin, & Young, 2013a; Raustiala & Victor, 2004), or “institutional landscape” (Shkaruba & Kireyeu, 2013). For the purpose of this study we use the term governance architecture initially proposed by Biermann and colleagues as an “overarching system of public and private institutions that are valid or active in a given issue area of world politics” (Biermann, Pattberg, Van Asselt, & Zelli, 2009, p. 15).

We consider a “policy domain” a socially constructed “component of a political system that is organized around substantive issues” (Burstein, 1991, p. 28) and their constituent parts as “issue areas”, “sharing inherent substantive characteristics which influence how they are framed and dealt with” (ibid). By mapping the governance architecture across policy domains, this report maps the various transnational and international institutions, all “different in their character (organizations, regimes, and implicit norms), their constituencies (public and private), their spatial scope (from bilateral to global), and their subject matter (from specific policy fields to universal concerns” (Biermann *et al.*, 2009, p. 16). All the transnational and international marine fisheries and aquaculture governance institutions included in this mapping fall within a collective, albeit fragmented, governance architecture as they all share a clear governance goal related to the issue area of marine fisheries and aquaculture (e.g. to prevent overfishing or to promote sustainable fisheries management).

3 Mapping the global marine fisheries and aquaculture architecture

The report uses a two-step mapping procedure. First, a database is created containing the governance institutions active at the time of mapping; and second, the report visualises the overall architecture by means of a governance triangle (illustrating the architecture by type of actors = zone) and a governance decagon (visualising by governance function = role). This section describes the procedure in more detail.

3.1 Criteria

Constructing a database of governance architecture, which enables comparison across governance architectures, demands clear and unambiguous selection criteria of institutions. Across the data collections undertaken as part of the CONNECT project, we apply four criteria outlined by Widerberg, Pattberg and Kristensen (2016). We include (i) international and transnational institutions, which not only have the (ii) intentionality to steer policy and the behaviour of their members or a broader community, but also explicitly mention the (iii) common governance goal, accomplishable by (iv) significant governance functions.

Marine fisheries and aquaculture governance is linked to other policy domains. The fisheries governance (in this report marine fisheries and aquaculture) nests in the marine biodiversity governance domain, which in turn nests within the oceans governance domain, and, more broadly, within sustainable development (Ridgeway, 2014).

Therefore, in this report we also include the most important institutions of the oceans and biodiversity architecture that strongly link to marine fisheries and aquaculture. The two most central ones are: The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which lays down a “comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans”² and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which ensure that “international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival”³.

Finally, the governance goals considered for delineating the marine fisheries and aquaculture domain are: a sustainable marine fisheries and aquaculture management in order to address fleet overcapacity, overfishing and declining catch rates; reduction of the high levels of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; improvement of fishing methods and bycatch mitigation.

3.2 Governance triangle and governance decagon

To visualize the institutional architecture in the global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance domain, we place the institutions fitting our criteria in a ‘governance triangle’ (Abbott, 2012; Abbott & Snidal, 2009a, 2009b). Here, institutions are positioned according to their constituent actors, members and participants vital to the institution’s rules and norms. The report distinguishes between three such groups: Public, Firm and Civil Society Organization (CSO). These three categories are defined to include all participants in transnational and international governance (see table 1).

Table 1 Actors divided into three actor types

² See: http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm

³ See: <https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>

Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual states • Collection of states • Cities • Regions • International organizations (IOs)
Firm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Investors • Industry associations
CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) • Other CSOs • CSO networks and coalitions

The governance triangle (see Figure 1) is divided into seven zones representing the different combinations of the actor types. Institutions in zones 1-3 are dominated by a single type of actor; those in zones 4-6 include two actor types; and those in the central zone 7 involve all three actor types. Additionally, the horizontal shadings divide the triangle into three tiers, differentiating the institutions governance setup: Public tier (public actors are dominant), private tier (firms or CSO actors dominate) and hybrid tier (governance is shared between public and private actors in public-private partnerships).

Moreover, each institution is colour coded to indicate the role or governance function: Standards & commitments (red), operational activities (orange), information & networking (green) and financing (blue). In determining institutions' roles, we only consider the primary activities they employ in pursuing their marine fisheries and aquaculture governance goal. Governance functions are not necessarily undertaken on an either/or basis, many institutions simultaneously engage with several activities. In such cases, we include the two main activities.

Standards & commitments institutions focus on activities such as rule-making, mandatory compliance, measurement standards, information disclosure as well as voluntary and private operation standards. Operational schemes engage, for instance, with technology research and development, implementing (pilot) project, demonstration and deployment, skills enhancement and dissemination of best practices. The latter often also require some degree of standard-setting. Financing include only that specific activity, but in relation to various types of financing. Finally, information & networking include institutions focusing on establishing networks and forums and/or sharing information related to, for instance, technical consulting, training, capacity building, practical experience, information services and to support of local government.

Finally, as an important supplement to the governance triangle, the governance decagon visualizes the institutional architecture of global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance by dividing initiatives according to their governance functions (roles).

3.3 Data collection

The global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance institutions database includes both international and transnational institutions.

Since there are no existing data repositories of transnational marine fisheries and aquaculture governance institutions, the gathering of data to map this governance architecture rely heavily on desk research including reviews of academic literature, articles such as Kalfagianni and Pattberg (2011) and websites including the FAO (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/en>).

In collecting inter-state arrangements, the report primarily relies on the International Environmental Agreements (IEA) Database Project (<http://iea.uoregon.edu/>) provided by Ronald Mitchell. The complete list of initiatives has been narrowed down by excluding inactive initiatives, amendments, bilateral agreements as well as agreements with the sole purpose of establishing organizations or research endeavours. All international agreements, original protocols and regional agreements are included.

For composing an initial list of relevant international and transnational institutions for our database, each of them was individually scrutinized to ensure compatibility with our criteria as well as accuracy of the coded information. The data we collected includes: Year of initiation, purpose, governance scope and functions, membership data and headquarter location (see Annex I). In some instances, when assessing the institutions roles and type, the choice is not immediately obvious. This might for instance be because an institution employs more than two functions in meeting its goal. In such cases, it has been up to the authors to make the final call as to how the institutions should be classified.

4 Results and analysis

The second step in mapping the global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture is visualizing it. The results presented in this section include different visualizations, useful to highlight particular aspects of the institutional architecture. First, the governance triangle provides an up to date depiction of the types of initiatives and actors engaged with global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance. Second, the governance decagon indicates the way these initiatives operate to achieve their governance goals. Finally, an overview of members, a map of headquarter locations and a timeline aid in understanding the state and development of the marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture as well as its geographical distribution.

For more detailed information: Annex I contains the complete database of institutions included in the global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture, including acronyms, full names, homepages and year of initiation, membership numbers, headquarter locations plus the information provided in both the triangle and decagon (zone, actors, type and role); and Annex II presents brief descriptions of each institution.

4.1 Global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance triangle

The composition international and transnational marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture is represented in figure 1, which shows a modified version of Abbott and Snidal's governance triangle (Abbott, 2012; Abbott & Snidal, 2009a, 2009b).

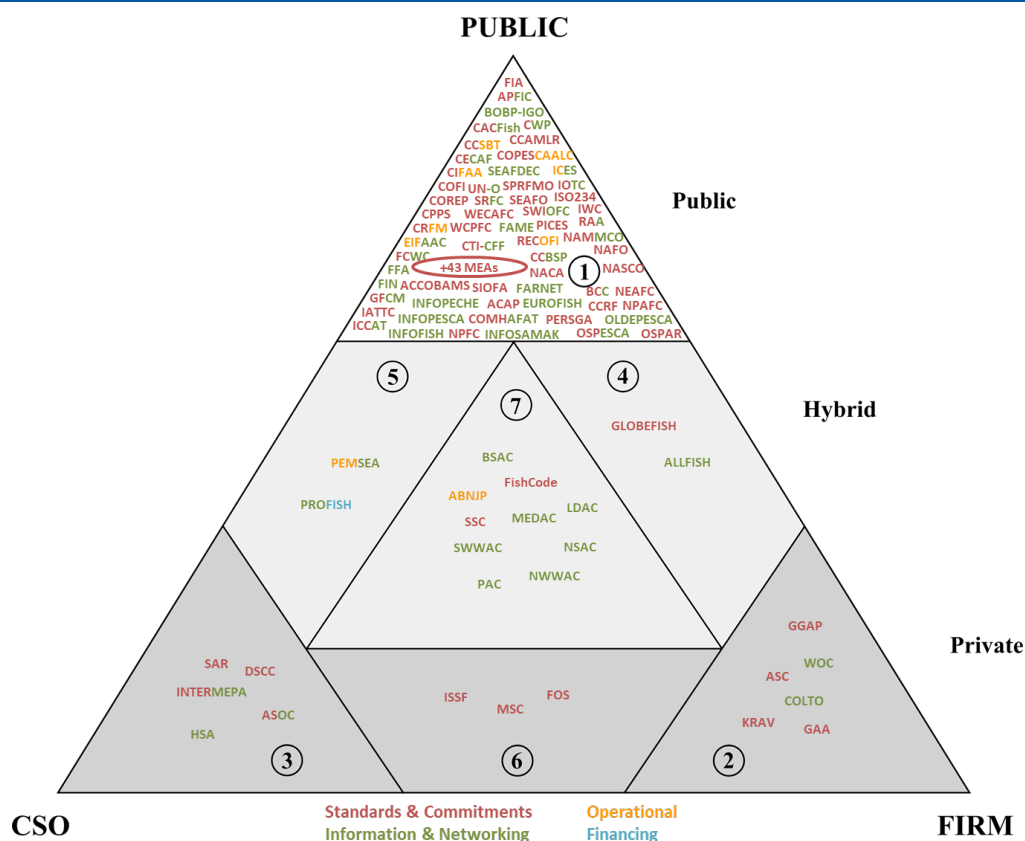


Figure 1 Global Marine fisheries and aquaculture Governance Triangle (updated 16 June 2017). Modified from Abbott and Snidal (2009a, 2009b), Abbott (2012) and Keohane and Victor (2011). Note: the oval that says '+43 MEAs' refers to all these agreements that does not fit inside the triangle, but they are part of the zone 1. All of them are classified as Standard & Commitments.

Although the global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture continuously changes, the triangle provides a helpful snapshot in time of its institutional complexity. It helps to deconstruct the architecture's institutional complexity by highlighting the actor-constellations and initiatives currently undertaking marine fisheries and aquaculture governance. Although purely public-led governance schemes also represent the majority of initiatives in issue areas such as forestry or climate change governance, the public nature of governance is extremely evident in the case of marine fisheries and aquaculture governance. Nevertheless, the presence of private and hybrid (transnational) initiatives has increased during the last decades, reflecting the general trend towards transnational governance

4.2 Global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance decagon

The governance decagon in figure 2 visualizes the institutional architecture of global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture by dividing initiatives according to their governance functions (*roles*).

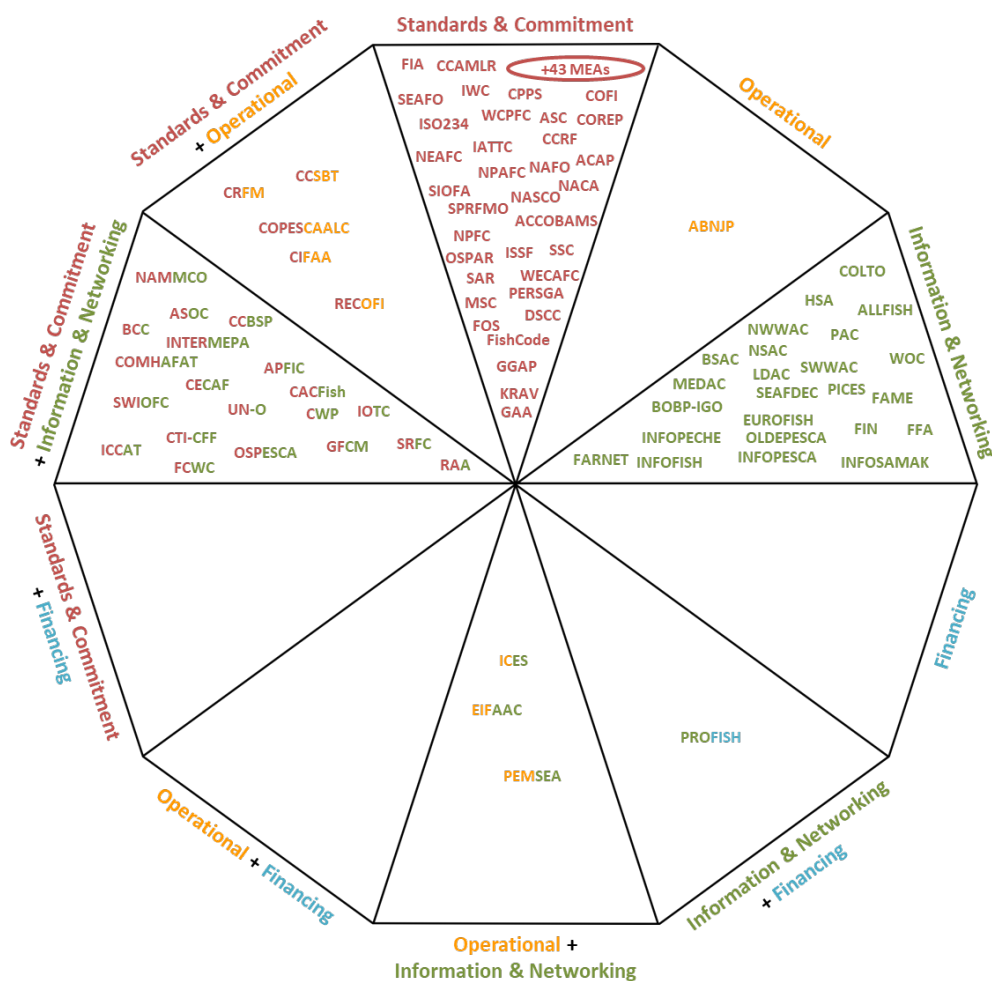


Figure 2 Global Marine fisheries and aquaculture Governance Decagon. Ordering 133 initiatives according to their governance functions (roles). Note: the oval that says “+43 MEAs” refers to all these agreements that does not fit inside the triangle, but they are part of the zone 1. All of them are classified as Standard & Commitments.

The decagon serves as an important supplement to the governance triangle, as it indicates how different initiatives are approaching marine fisheries and aquaculture governance. It is plausible that institutional complexity is different depending on whether one considers types of actors or the way they govern. Table 2 summarizes our findings through a cross tabulation of the figures 1 and 2, providing a deeper understanding of the complexity within the marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture. Figure 3 visualises this information, enabling easier comparison regarding the functions institutions apply across the different zones.

Table 2 Overview of the global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture. A summary of the information provided in the governance triangle and decagon. N = 133

	Standards & Commitments	Operational	Information & Networking	Financing	Standards & Commitments + Operational	Operational + Information & Networking	Information & Networking + Financing	Standards & Commitments + Information & Networking	Standards & Commitments + Financing	Operational + Financing	Total (Zone)	%
1	66	0	14	0	5	2	0	18	0	0	105	78.9%
2	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4.5%
3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	3.8%
4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.5%
5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1.5%
6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.3%
7	2	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7.5%
Total (Role)	77	1	26	0	5	3	1	20	0	0	133	100%

The global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture includes some 133 institutions (as of June 2017). Of these, public institutions are clearly dominant. Whereas 105 of the 133 institutions are purely public, 119 (89%) of them include public actors. In comparison, only 21 institutions (16%) include firm actors, while CSOs are represented in only 20 schemes (15%). The large number of international institutions is largely due to the way marine fisheries and aquaculture governance is structured.

International schemes are predominantly regional (i.e. Mediterranean Sea, North Pacific Ocean, etc.). 47 of these institutions⁴ are clustered in a network called “Regional Fishery Bodies” (RFB) (supported by the FAO) through which States or organizations that are parties to an international fishery agreement or arrangement work together towards the conservation, management and/or development of fisheries. However, only eight of the 47 (called “Regional Fishery Management Organizations”, RFMOs) have the capacity to adopt measures that are binding on their members and, in some areas (Arctic, Central and Southwest Atlantic); no RFMOs currently exist with a mandate to manage deep-sea fisheries⁵.

The most common roles across the 133 institutions are Standards & Commitments used in 77 institutions (58%) and Information & Networking used in 26 institutions (20%). Considering figure 3, it is apparent that these roles dominate in all the zones except zone 5. No institutions operate only with Financing and only one employs Operational activities. In addition, the combination of Financing with Operational and Standards & Commitments never occurs. 104 (78%) of the institutions solely use one type of function to achieve their marine fisheries and aquaculture related governance goals. Of the remaining 29 institutions employing dual roles, the combination of Standards & Commitments and Information & Networking is used in 20 (69%).

⁴ There are 58 RFB (or related institutions), but we only include 47 because we excluded the institution which do not fit our criteria.

⁵ See: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/166304/en>

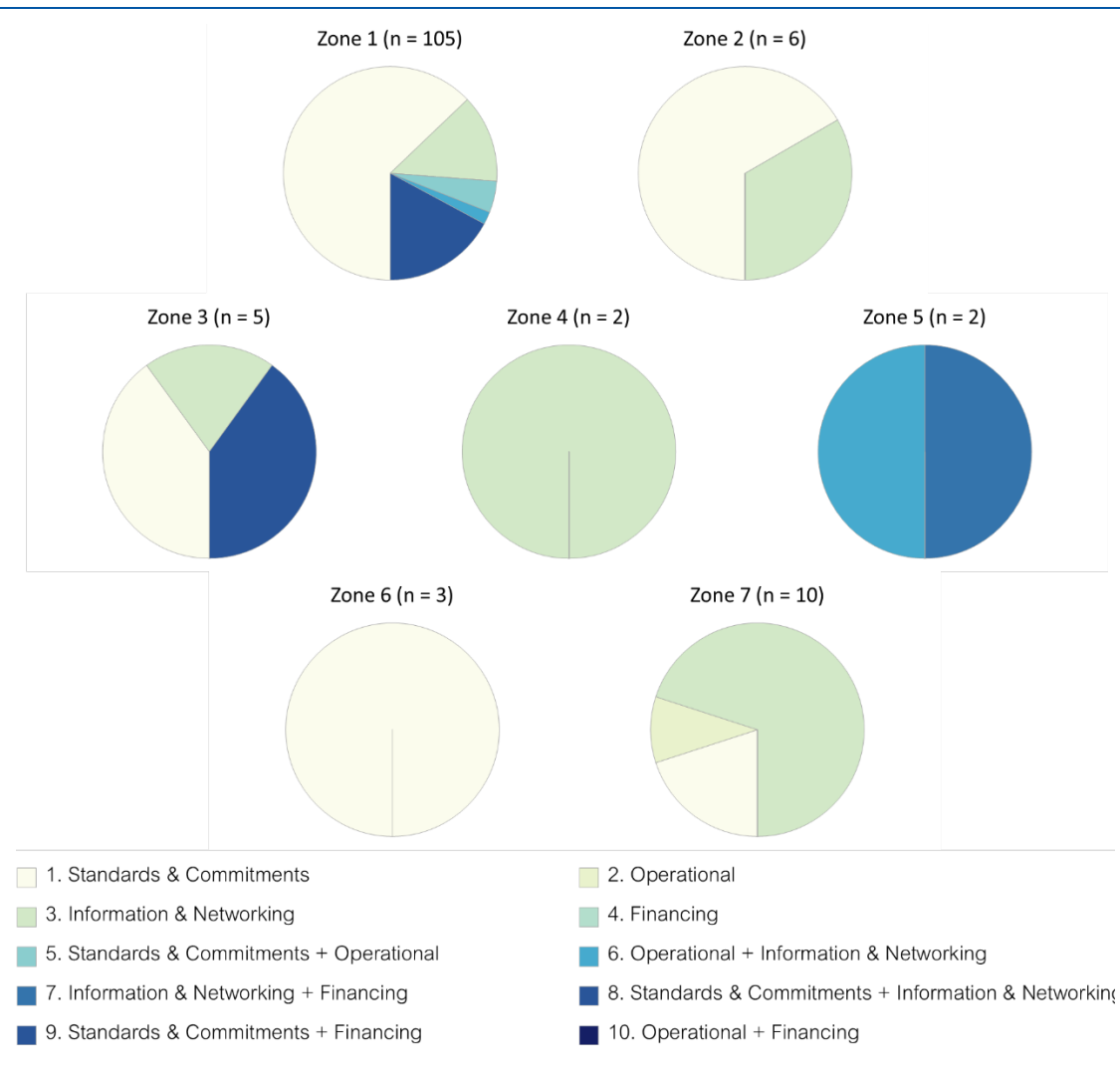


Figure 3 Institutions' roles across the seven different zones. $N = 133$.

4.3 Membership

Membership data was collected for each of the 133 institutions by scanning relevant websites and foundational documents. Members are defined as actors that have a formal position to influence rules, norms and/or performance of an institution. Actors that simply support or collaborate with an institution, ascribe to its values or mission without having any decision-making power and decisive influence are not included. In cases where individuals are members due to their position e.g. on a governing board of directors, we include the organization, firm or government they represent. In some instances, there is no clear information on the exact capacity of actors in an institution. Here the authors of this report have made a judgement call as to who should be included.

The following list of assumptions is applied in the data collection process:

- For institutions engaging with pledges and commitments, only the organizing or driving organizations have been included (e.g. all the RFBs)
- For institutions engaged in certifications and registries, only the organizations with the power to give out or change the certificates have been included, and organizations collecting the data for the registries (e.g. MSC and FOS);

- For institutions where a member can join a decision-making organ such as general assembly, steering committee, board of directors, etc., all members with that privilege have been included (e.g. GGAP).

Figure 4 presents an overview of the members across all 133 global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance institutions. The report identifies 3334 public and private members engaged with marine fisheries and aquaculture governance across the 133 institutions. When removing duplicate members active in more than one scheme, the number is 1053. When considering unique membership counts, the dominance of public actors seen in the triangle above become much less apparent. Although around 75% of the total number of members (2418 of 3334) are to be found in zone 1, this count is significantly reduced to 285 members when removing duplicates across the 105 publicly governed institutions. This, however, is not surprising considering the many MEAs included in zone 1. The relatively large numbers of members in zones 2 and 7 primarily come from the Global G.A.P (247 of 375) and the 7 Advisory Councils (285 of 325) respectively. Nevertheless, there are not many institutions with a lot of members: only the Global G.A.P and 5 global agreements have more than 100 members.

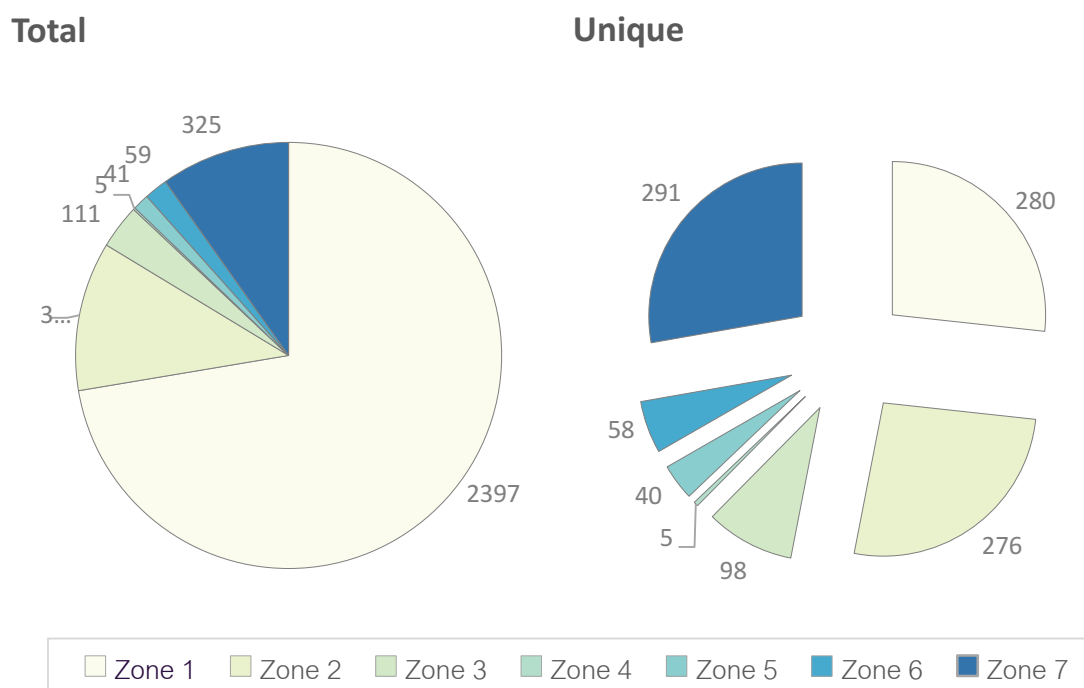


Figure 4 Active governing members in the 133 institutions across seven zones. Note: The unique counts are calculated on a zone-to-zone basis meaning that there are still potential overlaps between zones. $N = 3334$ (left) and 1053 (right).

Looking at our member data we see a large discrepancy in member participation between public and private members. Considering country participants, we see that 55 countries partake in 15 institutions or more, while 118 countries participate in 10 or more. Some countries such as Norway, France, Japan and The US are active in more than 30 institutions. Looking at private members such as companies and NGO we see relatively low participation rates. Of 145 NGO participants only WWF (8) and Oceana (6) partake in more than five institutions, while 128 are only active in one institution. There are 301 different company participants, but no company partake in more than two institutions.

Finally, figure 5 shows an overview of member-types across all the institutions. This gives a clearer picture of the involvement of public and private actors as it helps to distinguish between the actors

within the zones 4-7. The public dimension is divided into the categories National (including nation states, government ministries and departments and collection of states e.g. the EU), Sub-national (sub-national public actors including states, region and cities) and IOs (international organizations such as the UNEP or World Bank). The private segment distinguishes between Businesses and Investors (e.g. banks and insurance companies), and finally the CSO is divided into NGOs and Research (universities and research institutes). When looking at the total number of members, the national (2408) constitute a clear majority. However, when duplicates are removed, the national member count dwindles and private members (301 businesses and 142 NGOs) become more prominent.

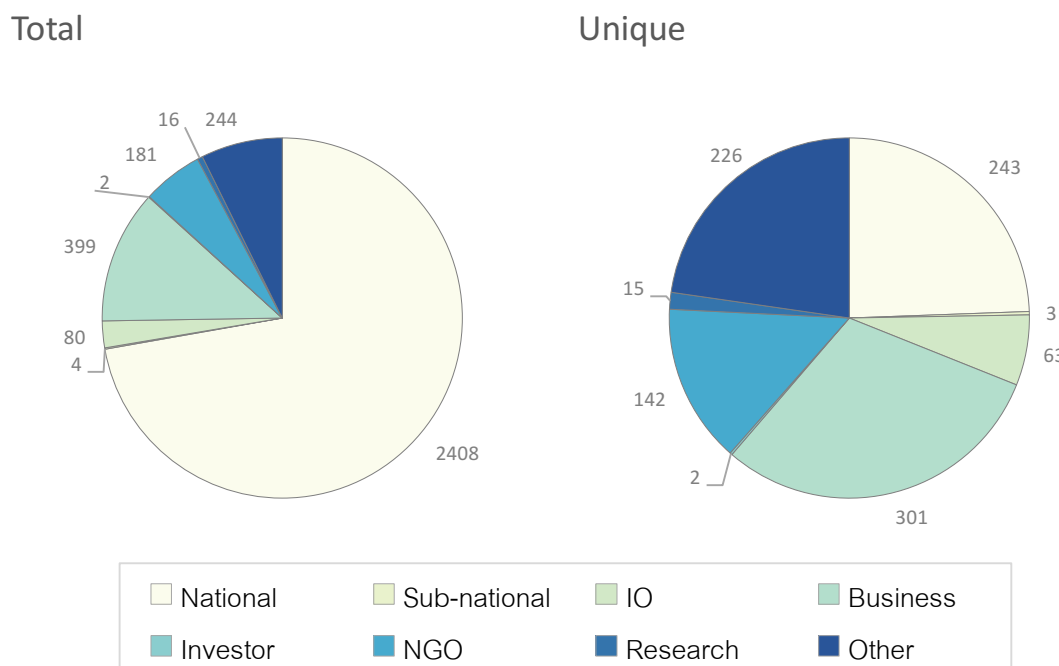


Figure 5 Types of actors involved in transnational and international marine fisheries and aquaculture governance. $N = 3334$ (left) and 1053 (right).

4.4 Year of initiation

Data on institutions' initiation year is presented in the graph below, providing a useful overview of the governance architecture's development over time. In the case of MEAs, "year" refers to the year they were signed, but in all the others, it refers to the year they were established. It should be noted that our data does not account for institutions that expired or ceased to operate before 2017.

Figure 6 shows both the total number of institutions and a comparison between public and transnational institutions. By transnational we refer to all the schemes in zones 2-7. Although some public institutions, those including sub-state actors, can also be considered transnational, these fall in the public category for the purpose of this visualisation.

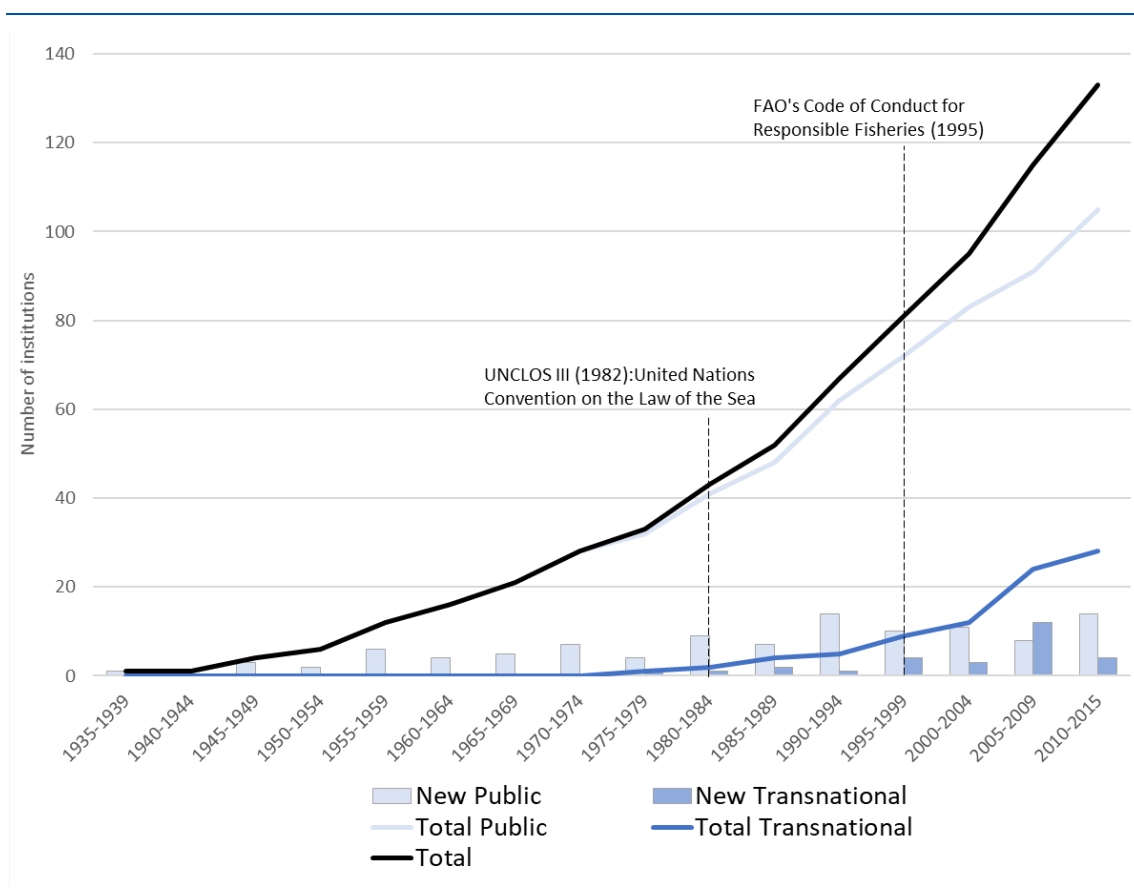


Figure 6 Initiation year of global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance institutions divided into 105 international and 28 transnational schemes. Bars show the increase in the indicated period and the lines indicate the accumulative number of institutions over time. $N = 133$.

4.5 Headquarters locations

Headquarter locations were collected based on the institutions' operational centre. In some cases, the institutions have their own headquarter, but in other instances institutions use the secretariat of a larger organization such as FAO or UN. The MEAs headquarters were taken to be that of the responsible organization (if there is no secretariat, we did not include any location), e.g. all FAO-managed agreements are situated in Rome. This is also clear from the map in that the US and Italy, the most prominent headquarter locations, are also the home of the most active IOs in the field of marine fisheries and aquaculture: the UN and FAO respectively. The UK and the Solomon Islands host a relatively large number of institutions, the reason for this is that they are the headquarter location of several different RFBs and other organizations.

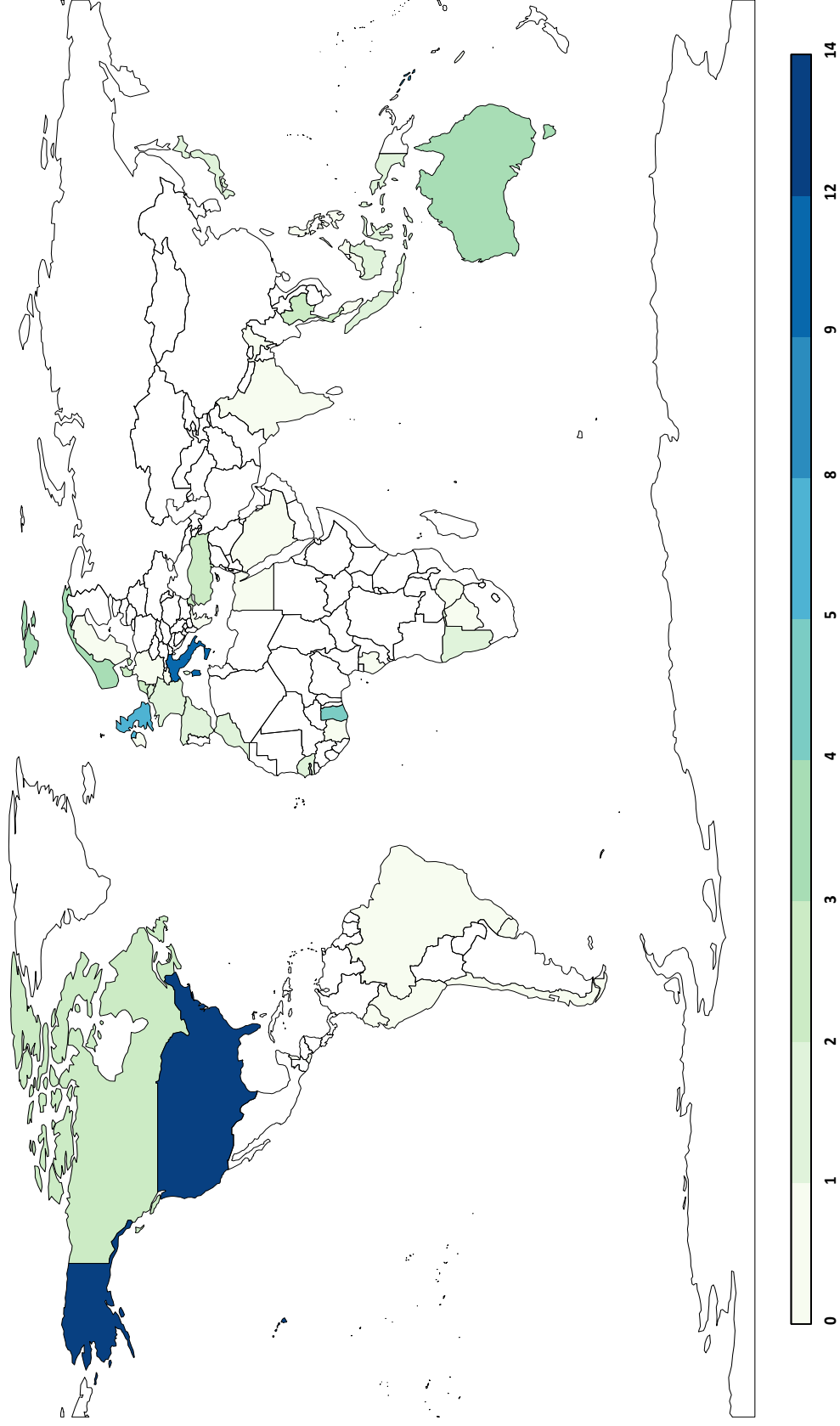


Figure 7 Headquarter locations of international and transnational marine fisheries and aquaculture institutions. 14 institutions do not have a set headquarter.
N = 119.

5 Final remarks

This report provides a mapping of the global marine fishery and aquaculture governance architecture as well as a detailed methodology of how it was carried out. The mapping is intended as a basis for assessing the fragmentation of the global forest governance architecture in a way that can be compared to the fragmentation of other issue-areas such as climate change, energy and forestry.

We have identified 133 international and transnational institutions in the governance triangle and decagon, and mapped the types of governing institutions (public, private and hybrid) as well as their modes of operation (roles). Considering our institutional data, we can see that the FAO (and COFI) takes on a focal role in marine fishery governance. This makes for a clear governance discourse, which is considerably adopted by the RFBs and other independent institutions. Additionally, we notice an evident majority of public governance institutions and how their cumulative regional coverage establishes a widespread global governance network. However, private actors, through purely private or hybrid institutions, are increasing their presence worldwide during the last decades. These new institutions generally complement the governance functions of some regional public institutions, but others also apply mechanisms of certifications and labelling, good practices' promotion, etc.

In terms of governance functions, Standards & Commitments and Information & Networking are most significantly represented across the marine fisheries and aquaculture architecture, whereas Operational activities and Financing are barely employed at all.

The current report provides some indication as to the fragmentation of global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance and provides an essential steppingstone for further research.

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Annex A The global marine fisheries and aquaculture governance architecture database

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	A1NAC MFCI	First Arrangement Implementing the Nauru Agreement Setting Forth Minimum Terms and Conditions of Access to the Fisheries Zones of the Parties	1983	8	Public	Public	1	Marshall Islands	http://www.pnatuna.com/
1	A3NAC MFCI	Third Arrangement Implementing the Nauru Agreement Setting Forth Additional Terms and Conditions of Access to the Fisheries Zones of the Parties	2008	8	Public	Public	1	Marshall Islands	http://www.pnatuna.com/
1	ACAF	Agreement between Iceland, Norway and Russia Concerning Certain Aspects of Cooperation in the Area of Fisheries	1999	3	Public	Public	1	Norway	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1999-fisheriescooperationentxt
1	ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels	2004	13	Public	Public	1	Australia	http://www.acap.aq/en
1	ACCOB AMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area	2001	23	Public	Public	1	Monaco	https://accobams.org/
1	ACFSZO ECS	Agreement Establishing Common Fisheries Surveillance Zones of Participating Member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	1991	8	Public	Public	1	Saint Lucia	http://www.fao.org/3/a-br465e.pdf
1	ACMF	Agreement Concerning Cooperation in Marine Fishing	1962	6	Public	Public	1		https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1962-cooperationmarinefishingentxt

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	ACSGIJM	Agreement between Norway, Greenland/Denmark, and Iceland about the Capelin Stock in the Area between Greenland, Iceland, and Jan Mayen	1998	3	Public	Public	1		http://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1998-capelinnotxt
1	AFWSFI	Arrangement relating to Fisheries in Waters Surrounding the Faeroe Island	1973	6	Public	Public	1		https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1973-fisheriessurroundingfaeroeislandentxt
1	AICMFVHS	Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas	1993	40	Public	Public	1	Italy	http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/003/x3130m/X3130E00.HTM
1	ALOSSMFS	Agreement for the Implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks	1995	82	Public	Public	1	United States of America	http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_fish_stocks.htm
1	APFIC	Agreement for the Establishment of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	1948	21	Public	Public	8	Thailand	http://www.fao.org/apfic/en/
1	APSBS	Agreement Concerning Protection of the Salmon Stock in the Baltic Sea	1962	4	Public	Public	1		https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1962-balticseasalmonentxt
1	APSMIUU	Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing	2009	36	Public	Public	1	Italy	http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/legal/docs/037t-e.pdf
1	ARAFS	Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway on reciprocal access to fishing in the Skagerrak for vessels flying the flag of Denmark, Norway and Sweden	2015	2	Public	Public	1		http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/prepareCreateTreatiesWorkspace/treatiesGeneralData.do?step=0&redirect=true&treatyId=10661
1	ARAPW	Arrangement between Japan, Norway and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the Regulation of Antarctic Pelagic Whaling	1973	3	Public	Public	1	United Kingdom	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1973-arrangementsantarcticpelagicwhaling

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
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1	ARFNEA C	Agreement between The United Kingdom, Norway and The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Regulation of the Fishing of North-East Arctic (Arcto-Norwegian) Cod	1974	3	Public	Public	1	Norway	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1974-north-eastarcticcodentxt
1	ASEANS IPF	ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocol for Fisheries	2004	9	Public	Public	1	Indonesia	http://asean.org/?static_post=asean-sectoral-integration-protocol-for-fisheries
1	ASINTC SPR	Agreement on Strengthening Implementation of the Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region	2012	5	Public	Public	1	Solomon Islands	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/2012-implementationagreement-1992-fisheriescooperationsouthpacificentxt
1	ATFPIU S	Agreement among Pacific Island States Concerning the Implementation and Administration of the Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of The United States of America	1987	16	Public	Public	1	Solomon Islands	http://www.ffa.int/system/files/USA-PI%20States%20Treaty%20on%20Fish.pdf
1	AUNCL OS	Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	1994	150	Public	Public	1	United States of America	http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_part_xi.htm
1	BCC	Benguela Current Convention	2012	3	Public	Public	8	Namibia	http://www.benguelacc.org/index.php/en/
1	BOBP- IGO	The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation	2003	4	Public	Public	3	India	http://www.bobpigo.org/

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	C1AFC WCGG	Convention on Minimum Requirements for Access to the Fishery Resources of the Area of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea	2013	5	Public	Public	1	Ghana	http://www.fcwc-fish.org/publications/documents/administrative-docs
1	C2AFC WCGG	Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data on Fisheries in the Zone of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea	2014	5	Public	Public	1	Ghana	http://www.fcwc-fish.org/publications/documents/administrative-docs
1	CACFish	Agreement on the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission	2010	5	Public	Public	8	Turkey	http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cacfish/en
1	CCAMLR	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	1982	25	Public	Public	1	Australia	https://www.ccamlr.org/en
1	CCBSP	Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea	1995	6	Public	Public	8	United States of America	http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/CBS/convention_description.htm
1	CCFONA	Convention on the Conduct of Fishing Operations in the North Atlantic	1967	13	Public	Public	1		https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1967-conductfisheriesoperationsnorthatlantic.txt
1	CCMHS FRNPO	Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean	2012	6	Public	Public	1	Japan	http://npfc.r-cms.jp/About_Convention/
1	CCRF	FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	1995	195	Public	Public	1	Italy	http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/v9878e/v9878e00.htm
1	CCSBT	Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	1994	8	Public	Public	5	Australia	https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/home
1	CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic	1967	34	Public	Public	8	Ghana	http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cecaf/en

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	CFBS	Convention Concerning Fishing in the Black Sea	1959	3	Public	Public	1	Turkey	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1959-blackseafishingentxt
1	CFCLRB S	Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts	1973	6	Public	Public	1		https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1973-livingresourcesbalticseaaa19940900entxt
1	CFCLSH S	Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas	1958	40	Public	Public	1	United States of America	https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXI-3&chapter=21&clang=_en
1	CHS	Convention on the High Seas	1958	63	Public	Public	1	United States of America	https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXI-2&chapter=21&clang=_en
1	CIFAA	Committee on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa	1971	37	Public	Public	5	Ghana	http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cifaa/en
1	CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	1973	183	Public	Public	1	Switzerland	https://www.cites.org/
1	CMCSRF C	Convention on the Determination of the Minimal Conditions for Access and Exploitation of Marine Resources within the Maritime Areas under the Jurisdiction of the SRFC's Member States	2012	7	Public	Public	1	Senegal	http://www.spcsrp.org/en/legal-instruments
1	COFI	Committee on Fisheries - Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FAO)	1965	132	Public	Public	1	Italy	http://www.fao.org/fishery/about/cofi/en
1	COMHA FAT	Regional Convention on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean	1989	22	Public	Public	8	Morocco	http://www.comhafat.org/en/index.php

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	COPESC AALC	Commission for in land Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean	1976	21	Public	Public	5	Chile	http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/copesc/aalc/en
1	COREP	Convention on the Regional Development of Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea	2009	5	Public	Public	1	Gabon	http://www.corep-se.org/?t=eng
1	CPFLDS P	Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific	1989	14	Public	Public	1	Solomon Islands	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1989-prohibitiondriftnetssouthpacificentxt
1	CPPDSK S	Convention between Denmark, Norway and Sweden Concerning the Preservation of Plaice and Dab in the Skagerrak, Kattegat and Sound	1937	3	Public	Public	1		https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1937-preservationplaicedabskagerrakkattegatentxt
1	CPPS	Declaration on the Maritime Zone (Declaration of Santiago)	1952	4	Public	Public	1	Ecuador	http://cpps-int.org/
1	CRFM	Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	2003	17	Public	Public	5	Belize	http://www.crfm.int/
1	CTI-CFF	Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security	2009	6	Public	Public	8	Indonesia	http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/
1	CWP	Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics	1959	19	Public	Public	8	Italy	http://www.fao.org/fishery/cwp/en
1	EFC	European Fisheries Convention	1964	13	Public	Public	1		https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1964-europeanfisheriesentxt
1	EIFAAC	European in land Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission	1957	34	Public	Public	6	Turkey	http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/eifaac/en
1	EUROFI SH	International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Central and Eastern Europe	2002	12	Public	Public	3	Denmark	https://www.eurofish.dk/
1	FAME	SPC Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems	1947	26	Public	Public	3	New Caledonia	http://www.spc.int/fame/
1	FARNET	Fisheries Areas Network	2007	20	Public	Public	3	Belgium	https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	FCWC	Convention for the Establishment of the Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea	2006	6	Public	Public	8	Ghana	http://www.fcwc-fish.org/about-us/about-fcwc
1	FFA	South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention	1979	18	Public	Public	3	Solomon Islands	http://www.ffa.int/
1	FIA	FISH-i Africa	2012	8	Public	Public	3		https://www.fish-i-africa.org/
1	FIN	FISH INFONetwork	1986	8	Public	Public	3	Italy	http://www.globefish.org/the-fishinfonetwork.html
1	FSMA	Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement for Regional Fisheries Access	1994	7	Public	Public	1	Solomon Islands	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1994-regionalfisheriesaccessmicronesiaentxt
1	GFCM	Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	1952	24	Public	Public	8	Italy	http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/en
1	IATTC	Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between The United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica ("Antigua Convention")	2008	21	Public	Public	1	United States of America	http://www.iattc.org/
1	ICCAT	International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	1969	51	Public	Public	8	Spain	http://www.iccat.int/en/
1	ICES	Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	1964	20	Public	Public	6	Denmark	http://www.ices.dk
1	INFOFISH	Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region	1981	13	Public	Public	3	Malaysia	http://infofish.org/v2/

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	INFOPECHE	Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fish Products in Africa	1984	18	Public	Public	3	Cote d'Ivoire	http://www.infopeche.ci/ang/index.php
1	INFOPE SCA	Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fish Products in Latin America and the Caribbean	1977	10	Public	Public	3	Uruguay	http://www.infopesca.org/
1	INFOSAMAK	Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region	1986	22	Public	Public	3	Morocco	http://www.infosamak.org/english/index.cfm
1	IOTC	Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	1996	32	Public	Public	8	Seychelles	http://www.iotc.org/English/index.php
1	ISO234	ISO/TC 234 Fisheries and Aquaculture	2007	22	Public	Public	1	Norway	http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_technical_committee%3Fcommid%3D541071
1	IWC	International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	1946	98	Public	Public	1	United Kingdom	http://iwc.int/home
1	NACA	Agreement on the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific	1990	18	Public	Public	1	Thailand	http://www.enaca.org/
1	NACMF CI	Nauru Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Management of Fisheries of Common Interest	1982	8	Public	Public	1	Marshall Islands	http://www.pnatuna.com/
1	NAFO	Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries	1979	12	Public	Public	1	Canada	http://www.nafo.int/
1	NAMMCO	Agreement on Cooperation in Research, Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic	1992	4	Public	Public	8	Norway	http://www.nammco.no/
1	NASCO	Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean	1984	6	Public	Public	1	United Kingdom	http://www.nasco.int/
1	NEAFC	Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in Northeast Atlantic Fisheries	1980	5	Public	Public	1	United Kingdom	http://www.neafc.org/

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	NPAFC	Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean	1993	5	Public	Public	1	Canada	http://www.npafc.org/new/index.html
1	NPFC	Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean	2015	7	Public	Public	1	Japan	http://npfc.r-cms.jp/
1	NTCSPR	Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region	1992	15	Public	Public	1	Solomon Islands	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1992-fisheriescooperationsouthpacificentxt
1	OLDEPE SCA	Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development	1982	12	Public	Public	3	Peru	http://www.oldepesca.com/
1	OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic	1992	15	Public	Public	1	United Kingdom	http://www.ospar.org
1	OSPESCA	Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization	1995	8	Public	Public	8	El Salvador	http://www.sica.int/ospesca/
1	P1CPFL DSP	Protocol I to the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific	1990	2	Public	Public	1	Solomon Islands	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1990-protocol1-1989-prohibitiondriftnetssouthpacificentxt
1	P2CPFL DSP	Protocol II to the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific	1990	1	Public	Public	1	Solomon Islands	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1990-protocol2-1989-prohibitiondriftnetssouthpacificentxt
1	PAMWP PSF	Palau Arrangement for the Management of the Western Pacific Purse Seine Fishery	1992	6	Public	Public	1	Marshall Islands	http://www.pnatuna.com/
1	PCNSSH NA	Protocol on the Conservation Rational Utilization and Management of Norwegian Spring Spawning Herring (Atlanto-Scandian Herring) in the Northeast Atlantic	1996	4	Public	Public	1		https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1996-conservationmanagementatlanto-scandianherringthenortheastatlantice nt.txt
1	PERSGA	Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden	1995	7	Public	Public	1	Saudi Arabia	http://www.persga.org/

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
1	PICES	Convention for a North Pacific Marine Science Organization	1992	6	Public	Public	3	Canada	http://www.pices.int/
1	PICRW	Protocol to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	1956	86	Public	Public	1	United Kingdom	https://iea.uoregon.edu/treaty-text/1956-protocol-1946-whalingentxt
1	PTSADC	Protocol on Fisheries to the Treaty of the Southern African Development Community	2001	12	Public	Public	1	Botswana	http://www.sadc.int/files/5613/5292/8363/Protocol_on_Fisheries2001.pdf
1	RAA	The Aquaculture Network for the Americas	2012	15	Public	Public	8	Brazil	http://www.racua.net/
1	RECOFI	Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries	1999	8	Public	Public	5	Egypt	http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/recofi/en
1	SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center	1967	11	Public	Public	3	Thailand	http://www.seafdec.org/
1	SEAFO	Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fisheries Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean	2003	7	Public	Public	1	Namibia	http://www.seafo.org/
1	SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	2012	9	Public	Public	1	France	http://www.siofa.org/
1	SPRFMO	Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean	2012	14	Public	Public	1	New Zealand	https://www.sprfmo.int/
1	SRFC	Convention for the Establishment of a Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries	1985	7	Public	Public	8	Senegal	http://www.spcsrp.org/
1	SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission	2004	12	Public	Public	8	Zimbabwe	http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/swiofc/en
1	TFPIUS	Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of The United States of America	1987	17	Public	Public	1	Solomon Islands	http://www.ffa.int/system/files/USA-PI%20States%20Treaty%20on%20Fish.pdf
1	TVMA	Cooperation Arrangement between the Ministry of Marine Resources of the Cook Islands, the Ministry of Fisheries of New	2010	6	Public	Public	1		http://www.tevakamoana.org/

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
		Zealand, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Niue, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa, the Ministry of Agriculture & Food, Forestry and Fisheries of Tonga, and Department of Economic Development Natural Resources and Environment of Tokelau (“Te Vaka Moana Arrangement”)							
1	UN-O	United Nations-Oceans	2003	22	Public	Public	8	United States of America	http://www.unoceans.org/
1	UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	1982	168	Public	Public	1	United States of America	http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm
1	WCPFC	Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean	2004	26	Public	Public	1	Micronesia	http://www.wcpfc.int/
1	WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission	1973	34	Public	Public	1	Barbados	http://www.wecafr.org/es/
2	ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council	2010	2	Firm	Private	1	Netherlands	http://www.asc-aqua.org/
2	COLTO	Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators	2003	21	Firm	Private	3	Australia	http://www.colto.org/
2	GAA	Global Aquaculture Alliance	1997	18	Firm	Private	1	United States of America	https://www.aquaculturealliance.org/
2	GGAP	Global G.A.P	1997	247	Firm	Private	1	Germany	http://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/
2	KRAV	KRAV-Label	1985	27	Firm	Private	1	Sweden	http://www.krav.se/english
2	WOC	World Ocean Council	2008	60	Firm	Private	3	United States of America	http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
3	ASOC	Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition	1978	27	CSO	Private	8	United States of America	http://www.asoc.org/
3	DSCC	Deep Sea Conservation Coalition	2004	7	CSO	Private	1	Netherlands	http://www.savethehighseas.org/
3	HSA	High Seas Alliance	2011	35	CSO	Private	3		http://highseasalliance.org/about-us
3	INTERM EPA	International Marine Environment Protection Association	2006	7	CSO	Private	8	Greece	http://www.intermepa.org/index.html
3	SAR	Seas at Risk	1986	34	CSO	Private	1	Belgium	http://www.seas-at-risk.org/
4	ALLFIS H	ALLFISH	2009	4	Public/ Firm	Hybrid	3		http://www.allfish.org/about.html
4	GLOBEF ISH	GLOBEFISH	1984	1	Public/ Firm	Hybrid	3	Italy	http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/en/
5	PEMSEA	Partnerships in the Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia	1994	32	Public/C SO	Hybrid	6	Philippines	http://www.pemsea.org/
5	PROFIS H	World Bank Global Program on Fisheries	2005	9	Public/C SO	Hybrid	7	United States of America	http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/global-program-on-fisheries-profish
6	FOS	Friend of the Sea	2006	1	Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	1	Italy	http://www.friendofthesea.org/
6	ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation	2009	23	Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	1	United States of America	http://iss-foundation.org/
6	MSC	Marine Stewardship Council	1997	36	Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	1	United Kingdom	http://www.msc.org
7	ABNJP	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program (Common Oceans)	2014	3	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	2	Italy	http://www.commonoceans.org/home/en/
7	BSAC	The Baltic Sea Advisory Council	2006	42	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	3	Denmark	http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC/About-the-BSAC

Zone	Acronym	Name	Year	Members	Actors	Type	Role	Hq	Website
7	FishCode	Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries (FishCode Programme)	1995	29	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	1	Italy	http://www.fao.org/fishery/fishcode/en
7	LDAC	Long Distance Fleet Regional Advisory Council	2007	50	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	3	Spain	http://ldac.eu/home
7	MEDAC	Mediterranean Advisory Council	2008	42	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	3	Italy	http://en.med-ac.eu/index.php
7	NSAC	North Sea Advisory Council	2004	37	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	3	United Kingdom	http://www.nsrac.org/
7	NWWAC	North Western Waters Advisory Council	2005	70	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	3	Ireland	http://www.nwwac.org/english
7	PAC	Pelagic Advisory Council	2005	39	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	3	Netherlands	http://www.pelagic-ac.org/
7	SSC	Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea	2014	8	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	1	United States of America	http://www.sargassoseacommission.org/index.php
7	SWWAC	Southern Western Waters Regional Advisory Council	2007	5	Public/ Firm/ CSO	Hybrid	3	France	http://www.cc-sud.eu/index.php/en/

Annex B Description of initiatives in the database

Acronym	Description
A1NACMFCI	An Arrangement to implement the Nauru Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Management of Fisheries of Common Interest.
A3NACMFCI	An Arrangement to implement the Nauru Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Management of Fisheries of Common Interest.
ABNJP	Broad-scale, innovative approach to achieve efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in marine areas that do not fall under the responsibility of any one country.
ACAF	Agreement to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable utilization of the fish stocks concerned in their entire area of distribution, and committed to the principle of responsible fishing.
ACAP	Agreement to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels, by conserving and restoring habitats, eliminating or controlling non-native species detrimental to albatrosses and petrels, reducing bycatch, and to research, educate, raise awareness and disseminate information.
ACCOBAMS	Legal conservation tool based on cooperation with the purpose of reducing threats to cetaceans notably by improving current knowledge on these animals.
ACFSZOECS	Agreement to establish common fisheries surveillance zones of participating Member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States for the purpose of surveillance and enforcement of the national fisheries laws.
ACMF	Agreement To foster cooperation in the development of marine fishing, fishing techniques, fish processing technology and scientific research into the condition of living marine resources.
ACSGIJM	Agreement to establish cooperation on the conservation and management of the solder stock in the waters between Greenland, Iceland and Jan Mayen.
AFWSFI	Agreement to establish immediate measures for the purpose of conservation of fish stocks in the Faroe Area
AICMFVHS	Agreement to create a framework for strengthening international cooperation with a view to ensuring compliance by fishing vessels on the high seas with international measures for the conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas and their rational, responsible and sustainable use.
ALLFISH	Public-private partnership created to establish more economically and environmentally sustainable fisheries and successful aquaculture operations, particularly in developing countries.
ALOSSMFS	Agreement to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention.
APFIC	Agreement establishing a Commission to promote the full and proper utilization of living aquatic resources by the development and management of fishing and culture operations and by the development of related processing and marketing activities in its area of competence (Asia-Pacific).

Acronym	Description
APSBS	Agreement to take measures to prevent the great decrease in catches of salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) in the Baltic Sea
APSMIUU	Agreement to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the implementation of effective port State measures, and thereby to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems.
ARAFS	This Agreement maintains the exclusive access granted to vessels from Denmark, Norway and Sweden to each other's waters outside 4 nautical miles from the baselines. Among other measures, it ensures continued reciprocal access for the 3 countries to the respective waters of the other Parties in the Skagerrak area, whilst at the same time, ensuring sound conservation and management measures for fisheries in the area.
ARAPW	Arrangement to regulate the Antarctic pelagic whaling.
ARFNEAC	Agreement to take appropriate measures to regulate fishing by persons and vessels under their jurisdiction in the North-East Arctic Area so that the total catch of North-East Arctic (Arcto-Norwegian) cod taken in that area in 1974 shall not exceed sustainable limits.
ASC	It aims to be the world's leading certification and labelling program for responsibly farmed seafood. The ASC's primary role is to manage the global standards for responsible aquaculture, which were developed by the WWF Aquaculture Dialogues.
ASEANSIPF	Protocol to spell out measures to be taken by Member States on a priority basis so as to enable the progressive, expeditious and systematic integration of the fisheries sector.
ASINTCSPR	Agreement to enhance active participation in cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities by providing a framework for the Parties to share resources and exchange information, including fisheries data and intelligence.
ASOC	It seeks to guarantee the highest possible level of environmental protection for the Antarctic region and, therefore, to assure a sustainable fisheries management. As the environmental observer within the Antarctic Treaty System, ASOC plays a special role as the representative of the global conservation community on Antarctic issues.
ATFPIUS	Agreement upon the manner in which the benefits of the TFPIUS shall be distributed and the obligations discharged.
AUNCLOS	Agreement to address certain difficulties with the seabed mining provisions contained in Part XI of the United Nations Convention On The Law Of The Sea, which had been raised, primarily by the industrialized countries.
BCC	Multi-sectoral inter-governmental initiative to foster cooperation between its members and work towards an integrated, science-based and regional approach for the conservation, protection and sustainable use and management of the BCLME.
BOBP-IGO	Intergovernmental organisation mandated to enhance cooperation among member countries, other countries and organisations in the Bay of Bengal region and provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management.
BSAC	Advisory Council promoting and providing advice on the management of Baltic Sea fisheries in order to achieve a successful running of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

Acronym	Description
C1AFCWCGG	Convention to establish a coordinated and harmonized approach to the exploitation of fishery resources in the zone by the fishing vessels of the FCWC Member States and vessels of non-contracting parties, by the determination of minimum standards of Access and exploitation of these resources, taking into consideration the interest of artisanal fisheries and coastal communities.
C2AFCWCGG	This Convention has as an aim the data collection, the pooling, the sharing and the division of information and data on fisheries of the Member States of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) zone.
CACFish	Agreement establishing a Commission to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living aquatic resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the inland waters and areas within the territorial boundaries of the States of Central Asia
CCAMLR	This Convention is a multilateral response to concerns that unregulated increases in krill catches in the Southern Ocean could be detrimental for Antarctic marine ecosystems particularly for seabirds, seals, whales and fish that depend on krill for food. Therefore, the objective of this Convention is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources.
CCBSP	Convention establishing an international regime for conservation, restoration, management, and optimum utilization of Pollock resources in the Central Bering Sea.
CCFONA	Convention to ensure good order and conduct on the fishing grounds in the North Atlantic area.
CCMHSFRNPO	Convention to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur.
CCRF	This Code sets out principles and international standards of behaviour for responsible practices with a view to ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity.
CCSBT	Convention to ensure, through appropriate fisheries management, the conservation and optimum utilization of southern Bluefin tuna.
CECAF	It promotes the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources within the Eastern Central Atlantic by the proper management and development of the fisheries and fishing operations.
CFBS	Convention to ensure the rational utilization of the fishery resources and the development of marine fishing in the Black Sea.
CFCLRBS	Convention to achieve greater and closer cooperation between the Parties in order to maintain the maximum stable productivity of the marine living resources of the region.
CFCLSHS	Convention to solve, through international cooperation, the problems involved in the conservation of the living resources of the high seas, considering that through the development of modern techniques some of these resources are in danger of being over-exploited.
CHS	International treaty which codifies the rules of international law relating to the high seas, otherwise known as international waters.
CIFAA	The main objective of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) is to promote the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Africa.

Acronym	Description
CITES	Convention to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants.
CMCSRFC	Convention to revise the provisions of the Convention of 14 July 1993 on the Determination of the Conditions of Access and Exploitation of Fishery Resources Off the Coast of the Member States of the SRFC.
COFI	It is the only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined and recommendations addressed to governments, regional fishery bodies, NGOs, fish workers, FAO and international community, periodically on a world-wide basis.
COLTO	Coalition founded by legal industry members to eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing of Toothfish, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of Toothfish resources, and the rich and critical biodiversity of the southern oceans.
COMHAFAT	Convention establishing a Ministerial Conference for the promotion and strengthening of regional cooperation on fisheries development and the coordination and harmonization of efforts and capacities of stakeholders for the conservation and exploitation of fisheries resources.
COPESCAALC	Regional Fishery Body to promote the responsible use of inland fishery resources, advise governments in fishery management measures and support the development of aquaculture.
COREP	Agreement establishing a Commission to assist Member States in the sustainable protection and development of fisheries resources and the promotion of aquaculture development in order to optimize the exploitation of the potential of aquatic environments and to guarantee the well-being of a huge number of inhabitants.
CPFLDSP	Convention to restrict and prohibit the use of drift nets in the South Pacific region in order to conserve marine living resources.
CPPDSKS	Convention protecting the plaice and dab in the Skagerrak, Kattegat and Sound.
CPPS	Declaration establishing a Commission to coordinate and promote the maritime (and fisheries) policies of Member States for the conservation and responsible use of natural resources and their environment for the integral and sustainable development of their peoples.
CRFM	Agreement establishing an inter-governmental organization to promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region.
CRMS	Convention to regulate the meshes of fishing nets and the size limits of fish of the North Atlantic fisheries.
CTI-CFF	Multilateral partnership of six countries working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change, fisheries management marine biodiversity.
CWP	It provides a mechanism to coordinate fishery statistical programmes of regional fishery bodies and other inter-governmental organizations with a remit for fishery statistics.
DSCC	Conservation Coalition to address the issue of bottom trawling on the high seas, in the absence of an effective regime for the management of deep-sea fisheries on the high seas and in response to international concerns over the harmful impacts of deep-sea bottom trawling.

Acronym	Description
EFC	Convention to establish a regime of fisheries of a permanent character in European waters.
EUROFISH	European intergovernmental organization which contributes to the development of fisheries and aquaculture by publishing marketing and industry related information as well as by organizing conferences, workshops, seminars, business-to-business meetings and by implementing a variety of projects in the fields of post-harvest fisheries, aquaculture, processing, and trade and marketing.
FAME	It provides the SPC's member countries and territories with the information they need to make informed decisions on the management and development of their aquatic resources, and help to provide the tools and strengthen the capacity needed to implement these decisions.
FARNET	FARNET is the community of people implementing Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). This network brings together Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs), managing authorities, citizens and experts from across the EU to work on the sustainable development of fisheries and coastal areas.
FCWC	Convention establishing a Committee to promote cooperation among the Contracting Parties with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of the living marine resources covered by the Convention and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such resources.
FFA	Convention establishing an Agency to enable Member Countries to manage, conserve and use the tuna resources in their Exclusive Economic Zones and beyond, through enhancing national capacity and strengthening regional solidarity.
FIA	Organization to improve cooperation among its Task Force, information and intelligence sharing in order to take enforcement actions against illegal fishing operators.
FIN	Network of intergovernmental and governmental institutions created to develop the fisheries and aquaculture sector particularly in developing countries and countries in transition. It provides services to private industry and to governments and executes multilateral and bilateral projects.
FishCode	Program to raise the economic, social and nutritional benefits obtained from the fisheries and aquaculture, especially in developing countries, through the adoption of responsible development, management and conservation practices, including improved institutional and legal arrangements.
FOS	It is a certification scheme for products from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Any fishery or aquaculture can apply and potentially aim at certification, independent of geographical location, size, gears and methods used, number of vessels of farms involved.
FSMA	This Agreement introduces measures to facilitate and control the access to the exclusive economic zones and fisheries zones of the Parties to this Agreement ("Arrangement Area"). It harmonizes access conditions and provides for a regional access license.
GAA	International non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing responsible aquaculture. GAA acts as a voice for responsible aquaculture, working with industry, the NGO community, governments, academia and the investment community to address the challenges and opportunities facing aquaculture.
GFCM	Agreement establishing a Council to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters.

Acronym	Description
GGAP	It is a global standardization organization which sets voluntary standards for the certification of agricultural products (including aquaculture) with the purpose of creating private sector incentives for agricultural producers worldwide to adopt safe and sustainable practices.
GLOBEFISH	Unit within the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department responsible for information and analysis on international fish trade and markets.
HSA	Partnership of organizations and groups to facilitate international cooperation to establish high seas protected areas and to strengthen high seas governance.
IATTC	Conventions establishing a Commission to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna like species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law.
ICCAT	Conventions establishing an international Commission responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas.
ICES	Convention establishing a Council to coordinate and promote marine research on oceanography, the marine environment and ecosystems, and living marine resources in the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. ICES is a scientific and research organization for the provision of information and advice to member countries and international bodies.
INFOFISH	Regional intergovernmental organization providing marketing information and technical advisory services to the fishery industry of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond
INFOPECHE	Regional intergovernmental organization providing marketing information and cooperation services for fishery products in Africa.
INFOPESCA	Latin American intergovernmental organization with a vocation of service to governments, sector associations and companies in all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture development. Its particularity is to approach diverse projects of production, industrialization and commercialization, always having in mind a concept of marketing.
INFOSAMAK	Regional intergovernmental organization of trade in fishery and aquaculture products and for the encouragement and promotion of investments in the sector.
INTERMEPA	Voluntary, non-governmental and non-profit making entity to encourage the effective compliance of the members of every MEPA with the national and international laws and regulations adopted for the protection of the marine environment from pollution; to create and promote safety mindedness and security spirit within the industrial sectors and to promote cooperation, among other things.
IOTC	Agreement establishing a Commission to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas and to encourage sustainable development of fisheries.
ISO234	Standardization in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, including, but not limited to, terminology, technical specifications for equipment and for their operation, characterization of aquaculture sites and maintenance of appropriate physical, chemical and biological conditions, environmental monitoring, data reporting, traceability and waste disposal.
ISSF	Foundation to undertake and facilitate science-based initiatives for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of global tuna stocks, reducing bycatch and promoting tuna ecosystem health.
IWC	Convention establishing a Commission to create a system of international regulations to ensure proper and effective conservation and management of whale stocks.

Acronym	Description
KRAV	It is a Swedish organization (working in Scandinavian countries) which develops organic standards and promotes the KRAV-label for organic agriculture and farming products and services (including fish products).
LDAC	EU fisheries stakeholder body providing advice to the European Institutions and EU Member States in order to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of fishing resources.
MEDAC	Stakeholder-led organization which enables the European Commission to benefit from the knowledge and experience of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of fisheries management measures.
MSC	Independent non-profit organization which sets a standard for sustainable fishing to contribute to the health of the world's oceans by recognizing and rewarding sustainable fishing practices, influencing the choices people make when buying seafood, and working with partners to transform the seafood market to a sustainable basis.
NACA	Intergovernmental organization that promotes rural development through sustainable aquaculture and aquatic resources management. NACA seeks to improve the livelihoods of rural people, reduce poverty and increase food security.
NACMFCI	Agreement to coordinate and harmonize the management of fisheries with regard to common stocks within the Fisheries Zones
NAFO	Convention establishing an Organization to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found.
NAMMCO	Agreement establishing a Commission to develop, through regional cooperation, effective conservation and management measures for marine mammals, which should be based on the best available scientific evidence, and should take into account both the complexity and vulnerability of the marine ecosystem, and the rights and needs of coastal communities to make a sustainable living from what the sea can provide.
NASCO	Convention establishing a Commission to contribute, through consultation and cooperation, to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks taking into account the best scientific evidence available to it.
NEAFC	Convention establishing a Commission to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilization of the fishery resources within its area of competence, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits.
NPAFC	Convention establishing a Commission to promote the conservation and management of anadromous stocks in the North Pacific area.
NPFC	Convention establishing a Commission to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in its area of competence, while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean.
NSAC	Membership organization which prepares and provides advice on the management of fisheries in the North Sea on behalf of its members (fisheries organizations and other stakeholders including environmental organizations).

Acronym	Description
NTCSPR	Treaty to promote effectiveness in regional surveillance and enforcement through cooperation between member states and coordination of efforts of member states.
NWWAC	Representative and legitimate EU fisheries stakeholder body to bring together actors from across Europe, to advise the Commission on matters of fisheries management in respect of the North Western Waters.
OLDEPESCA	Agreement establishing a Commission to meet Latin American food requirements adequately, through permanent strengthening of regional cooperation, and to discover the potential of the Latin American fishery resources managed in a sustainable way for the benefit of Latin American people.
OSPAR	Convention establishing a Commission which is the mechanism by which 15 Governments & the EU cooperate to protect the marine environment and promote responsible fisheries of the North-East Atlantic.
OSPESCA	Organization encouraging the development and the coordinated management of regional fisheries and aquaculture activities, helping to strengthen the Central American integration process.
P1CPFLDSP	Protocol to implement the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific
P2CPFLDSP	Protocol to implement the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific
PAC	Advisory Council providing advice to the European Commission and relevant Member States on the management of pelagic fish stocks on behalf of the fisheries sector, environmental NGOs and other stakeholders. It covers the pelagic stocks of the Northeast Atlantic, the North Sea and the Celtic Sea and west of Scotland.
PAMWPPSF	Arrangement to ensure sustained conservation of living marine resources; to maintain the ecological relationship between dependent and associated populations; to prevent any decrease in the size of harvested populations below those necessary to ensure their stable recruitment; and to avoid adverse impacts upon the marine environment.
PCNSSHNA	Protocol to promote conservation, rational utilization and management of Norwegian spring spawning herring (Atlanto-Scandian herring) and to provide for long-term sustainable exploitation of the stock.
PEMSEA	This organization fosters and sustains healthy and resilient coasts and oceans, communities and economies across the Seas of East Asia through integrated management solutions and partnerships.
PERSGA	Convention establishing an Organization to promote the rational use of living and non-living marine and coastal resources, in a manner ensuring optimum benefit for the present generation, while maintaining the potential of that environment to satisfy the needs and aspirations of future generations.
PICES	Convention establishing an Organization to promote and coordinate marine scientific research in the North Pacific and particularly its living resources, but also including the ocean environment's interactions with land and atmosphere, its role in and response to global weather and climate change, its flora, fauna and ecosystems, and impacts upon it from human activities.
PICRW	Protocol amending the International Convention For The Regulation Of Whaling.

Acronym	Description
PROFISH	Programming and funding partnership to promote and facilitate the contribution that fisheries and aquaculture can make to poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth, better nutrition and economic opportunities for women.
PTSADC	Protocol is to promote responsible and sustainable use of the living aquatic resources and aquatic ecosystems of interest to State Parties in order to promote and enhance food security and human health; safeguard the livelihood of fishing communities; generate economic opportunities for nationals in the Region; ensure that future generations benefit from these renewable resources; and alleviate poverty with the ultimate objective of its eradication.
RAA	Intergovernmental organism of regional cooperation, of voluntary adhesion, that aims at contributing to the sustainable and equitable development of the aquaculture through regional cooperation of the countries of the American continent, focusing on the social, economic, scientific, technologic, and environmental aspects.
RECOFI	Agreement establishing a Commission to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture within its area of Agreement.
SAR	Umbrella organization of environmental NGOs from across Europe that promotes ambitious policies for marine and fisheries protection at European and international level.
SEAFDEC	It is mandated to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety to the people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities.
SEAFO	Convention establishing an Organization to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of all living marine resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean, and to safeguard the environment and marine ecosystems in which the resources occur.
SIOFA	Agreement to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the area of competence through cooperation among the Contracting Parties and to promote the sustainable development of fisheries, taking into account the needs of developing States bordering the competence area, and in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States.
SPRFMO	Convention establishing an Organization that aims, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources within the Convention area and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.
SRFC	Convention establishing a Commission to enforce the mechanisms of sustainable governance of fisheries resources. It is in line with strengthening the regional cooperation to enhance the sustainable management of fisheries resources in maritime waters under the jurisdiction of member States.
SSC	Declaration establishing a Commission to encourage and facilitate voluntary collaboration toward the conservation and fisheries management of the Sargasso Sea.
SWIOFC	It promotes the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the Southwest Indian Ocean region, by the proper management and development of the living marine resources, and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by its Members.

Acronym	Description
SWWAC	Advisory Council which brings together all actors who have an interest in Fisheries Management to put forward opinions to the European Commission and the Member States on the management of the fisheries in the South Atlantic.
TFPIUS	Treaty to ensure that USA co-operate with the Pacific Island parties through the provision of technical and economic support to assist the Pacific Island parties to achieve the objective of maximizing benefits from the development of their fisheries resources.
TVMA	Non-binding agreement to further the shared interests of its members including the sustainable use of domestic and high seas fisheries resources to secure, protect and enhance associated long-term economic benefits able to be derived from such fisheries, and protect their important contribution to the food security of communities
UNCLOS	The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.
UN-O	Inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the UN system and the International Seabed Authority, in conformity with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the respective competences of each of its participating organizations and the mandates and priorities approved by their respective governing bodies.
WCPFC	Convention establishing a Commission to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean.
WECAFC	It promotes the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources of the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by members of the Commission.
WOC	WOC brings together industry leaders in ocean sustainability, stewardship and science creating collaboration to address marine environmental challenges and oceans sustainable development and building bridges between the ocean business community and other ocean stakeholders.