

# Special Session

## Linking Deep Sea Science to International Decisions

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“Issues Confronting the Deep Oceans:

The Economic, Scientific, and Governance Challenges  
and Opportunities of Working in the Deep Sea”

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Sociedade Amor da Pátria  
HORTA, AZORES  
PORTUGAL



<http://www.turangra.com/deepocean>

# Agenda


1. *FAO “Vulnerable marine Ecosystems”*
- ② *Review of RFMO implementation*
3. *Habitat conservation in the US & int.*
4. *Cold-water coral modelling*
- ⑤ *Review of N Atlantic coral / sponge  
“encounter rules”*
6. *Open discussion*

# High Seas (HS) Fishing

- 2006 HS catch:
  - 250 000 tonnes
  - 0.3% of total global landings
  - \$450 M US
- 285 vessels, 80% flagged to 10 countries: Spain, Korea, New Zealand, Russian Fed., Australia, Japan, France, Portugal, Belize, Estonia.
- Little or no impact assessments done, but all states and RFMOs continue to authorize bottom fisheries.
- Some closures.
- Only EU has passed rules for areas without RFMOs

# N. Atlantic “move-on” rule

- 100 kg “live” corals
- 1000 kg “live” sponges
- But, trawl nets leave most of the species on the seafloor, so actually much more than this would be destroyed before fishing would be halted.
- Not scientifically defensible.

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- An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is dimly lit, with a prominent yellow branching coral in the foreground. A black and white striped fish is visible on the left side. The background shows more coral and a dark blue water column.
1. Using what we've got: How can the criteria be better applied in the short term?
  2. Filling critical gaps: What additional research is required in the medium term?
  3. Next Steps..?

# DISCUSSION

# Key points 1) Data

- **Access:** e.g. logbook; global repository
- **Quality:** e.g. VMS ping rates, statistical areas
- **Basics** -Distribution of human threats / stressors
  - Affected / indicator species abundance & distribution
  - Affected / indicator species basic life history

## Key points 2) Research

- **Applied research questions:** industry & resource managers need to better convey what they need to know
- **Research / no-extraction areas**
- **Regional biogeographic classifications**

# Key points 3) Sci. guidance

- Precautionary approach
- VME & EBSA implementation
- Recovery potential

## Key points 4) Cooperation / networks

- **Building a contact network:** there is the need to creating an informal list of people (scientists, industry, managers, policy-makers) so we can undertake the above work.

# Four Themes

- Data
- Research
- Guidance
- Cooperation

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