

# **Strengthening Cooperation and Management of Unregulated Fisheries**

Summary of Workshop  
Busan, Korea 26-27 February 2025

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# Workshop Overview

## Busan, Korea 26-27 February 2025

An informal workshop co-hosted by :

- Korean Maritime Institute (KMI)
- Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS)

Gathered officials, stakeholders and experts to share information on flag State regulations and policies for distant water fishing fleets in RFMO absent high seas



# Why This Issue Matters



## Growing Activity

Rising fishing intensity in areas where no Regional Fisheries Management Organization exists.



## Governance Gap

Unregulated does not mean illegal, but lack of management creates significant sustainability risks.



## Target Species

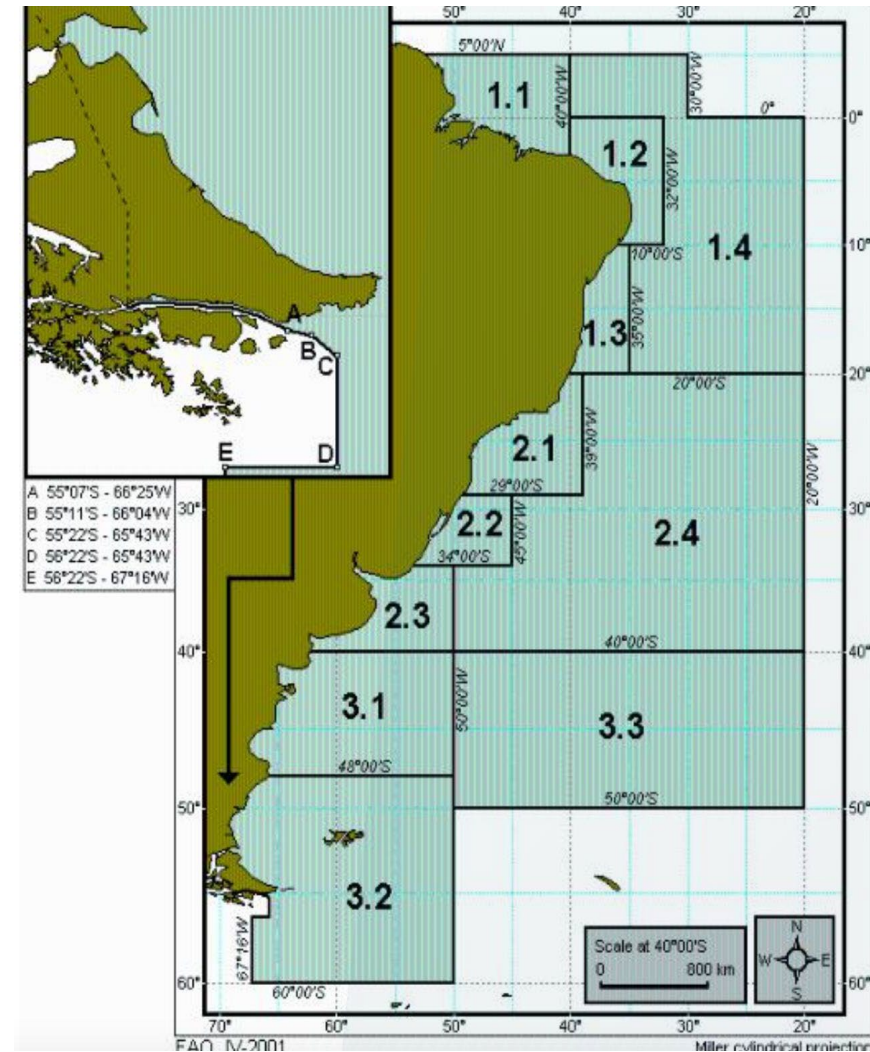
Highly concentrated transboundary stocks, particularly squid, lack effective management frameworks.

# Pilot Case : FAO AREA 41

## SouthWest Atlantic Ocean

The Southwest Atlantic represents one of the most significant RFMO absent high seas zones.

- Center of high seas squid fisheries
- No established RFMO or coordinated stock assessments
- Limited data-sharing
- High risk of overexploitation due to regulatory vacuum



# Global Policy EVOLUTION



## BBNJ Agreement

Mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments(EIAs) and Area-based Management Tools(ABMTs) in high seas



## WTO Fisheries Subsidies

Prohibition of subsidies for fishing in unregulated high seas,  
Increasing pressure for transparency.



## Universal Expectation

Global shift toward transparency and traceable sustainability in all maritime zones

# Technology and Rule



## Remote Monitoring

AIS/VMS integration with AI-based monitoring removes "dark fleet" anonymity



## Traceability

Blockchain-based seafood documentation ensures catch legitimacy from high-seas to final market.



## Big Data

Integrated satellite platforms now provide real-time oversight of transshipment and fleet behavior.

# DWF National Policy Evolution

## **China**

Vessel cap at 3,000; mandatory e-logbooks (2024); seasonal squid moratoria in SW Atlantic.

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## **Republic of Korea**

24-hour FMC; automatic RFMO integration; 100% observer coverage for toothfish.

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## **Japan**

Contraction of DWF (60% decrease); shift to "Coastal State" mindset due to climate shifts.

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## **Chinese Taipei**

Active participation in major RFMOs; zero-tolerance enforcement for IUU offenders.

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# Pathways

## Targeting the Southwest Atlantic

The workshop selected Area 41 as a pilot case due to its significant squid fisheries and the absence of a formal regulatory framework.



### Science-Led

Establishing data-sharing as a low-risk vital first step to assess stock status effectively.



### Sustainability

Reframing the central issue from 'regulation' to long-term 'ecological viability'.



### Trust-Building

Incentivizing engagement through market forces and inclusive dialogue between actors.

# Conclusion

- **Unregulated fishing in RFMO-absent areas is a sustainability challenge**
- **Major distant-water fishing nations are strengthening IUU control policies**
- **Science-led cooperation offers a pragmatic pathway forward**
- **FAO can support science, transparency, and trust-building**

UPCOMING EVENT

# The Next Step: 2026 Busan Dialogue

- **Date:** June 16 – 17, 2026
- **Location:** Busan, Republic of Korea
- **Host :** Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) & ANCORS