

Science 1: Setting the Scene

The International Context of Fisheries Science and Management

Context of science based advice on fisheries management

International Agreements

- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea,
- UN Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- Johannesburg Declaration of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Policy of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Nations.




UN Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement

Objective:

to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS
Sixth session
New York, 24 July-4 August 1995

AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA
OF 10 DECEMBER 1982 RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS

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UN Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement

General principles:

(a) adopt measures to ensure long-term sustainability;

(b) ensure that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield;

(c) apply the precautionary approach;

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(e) adopt, where necessary, conservation and management measures for species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon the target stocks, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

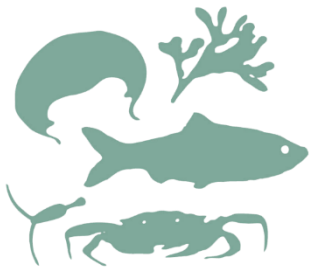
Policy of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) and Nations

Example: The Common Fisheries Policy – Objectives

- The CFP shall ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits, and of contributing to the availability of food supplies.
- The CFP shall apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management, and shall aim to ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield.
- The CFP shall implement the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management so as to ensure that negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem are minimised, and shall endeavor to ensure that aquaculture and fisheries activities avoid the degradation of the marine environment.

Policy Objectives – basis for scientific advice

- **Precautionary approach (PA)**
- **Maximum sustainable yield (MSY)**
- **Ecosystem-based approach**

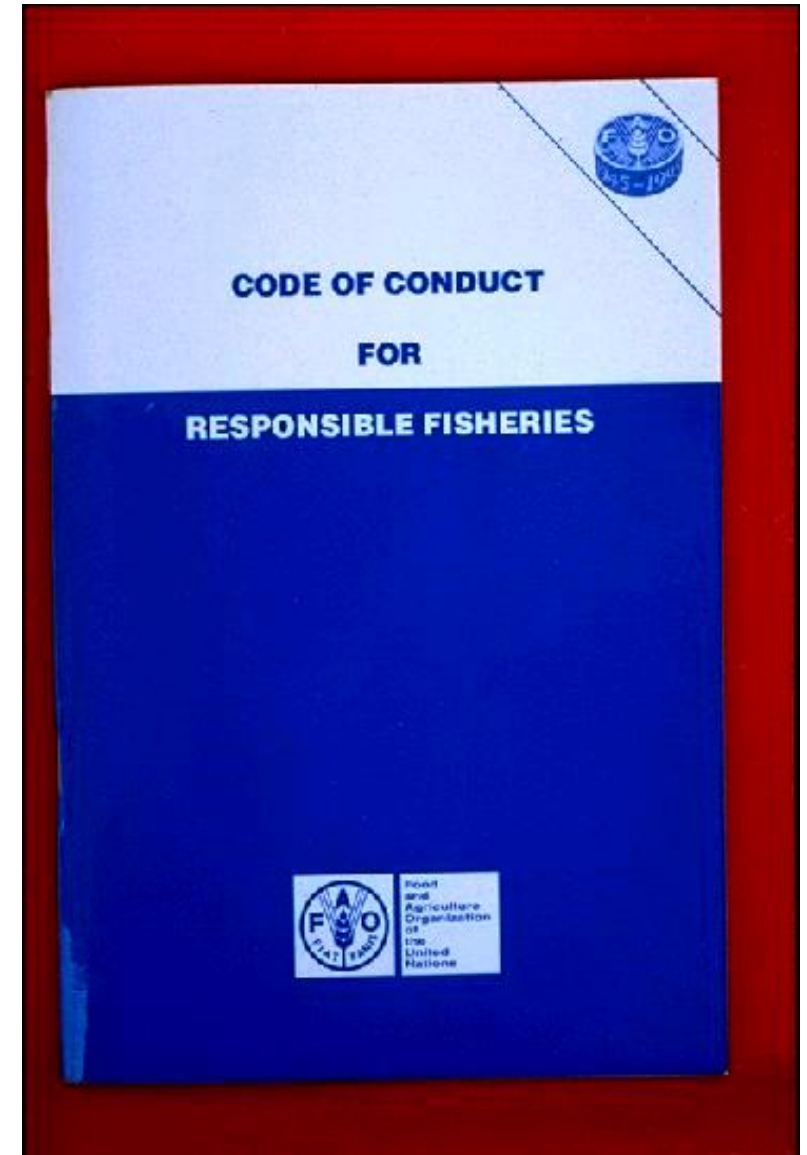


Objectives – Operational management

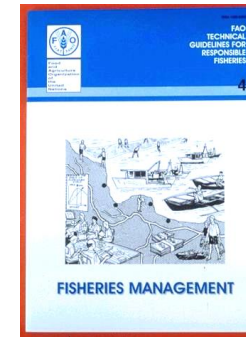
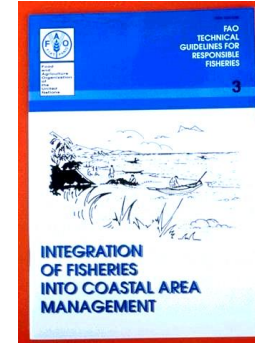
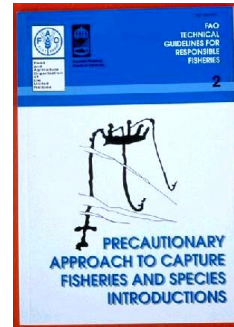
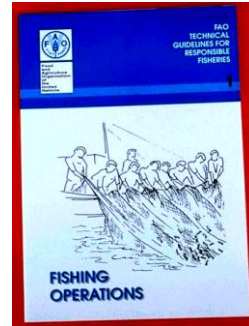
Management strategies

FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

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.



FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries



ICES ADVISORY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The role of ICES – The Advisory Committee (ACOM)

