

GEF ABNJ PROGRAM

FAO, Rome
February, 2015



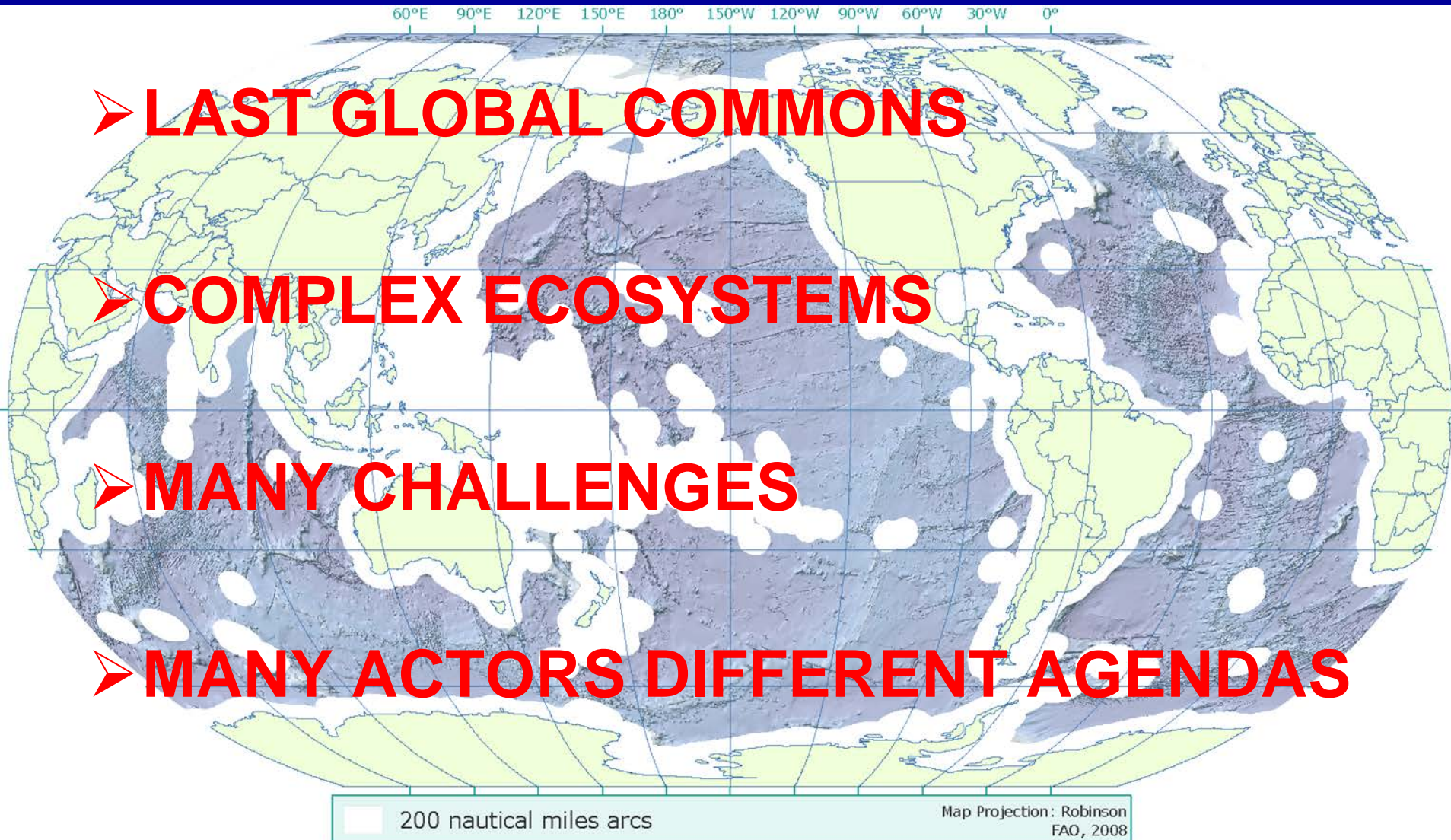
Global Sustainable Fisheries Management & Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

➤ **LAST GLOBAL COMMONS**

➤ **COMPLEX ECOSYSTEMS**

➤ **MANY CHALLENGES**

➤ **MANY ACTORS DIFFERENT AGENDAS**



Program Goal

Promote effective management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) to ensure Sustainable Fisheries & Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Oceans



Mutually-Reinforcing Interventions in 4 projects:

1. Sustainable Management of **Tuna** Fisheries & Biodiversity Conservation-RBM/MCS/BYCATCH
2. Sustainable Fisheries Management & Biodiversity Conservation of **Deep-Sea** Ecosystems-Sust Mgt/VMEs-EBSAs/Area Base Planning
3. Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ
4. Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries & BD Conservation - Models for Innovation & Reform

3 GEF Implementing Agencies, Eas, PS & NGO Partners

- FAO – Program Coordinating Agency
- the World Bank
- UNEP

4. Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ transformational changes:

- 1. removing barriers to efficient international & cross-sectoral sharing of information & experiences concerning fisheries and ecosystems in the ABNJ through providing integrated information systems, advocacy platforms & social networks, & facilitating more dialogues & better coordination*
- 2. increased transparency in regional management & decision-making processes*
- 3. improvement in interest & capability of high-level government officials & other participants to better advocate their interest in global and regional ABNJ processes.*

1. Sustainable Management of **Tuna** Fisheries & Biodiversity Conservation- RBM/MCS/BYCATCH transformational change over time: a **significant progression** from the use of fisheries management systems and fishing practices that do not fully take into account the status of existing stocks as well as their sustainable levels and impacts on ecosystems, resulting in fishers competing harmfully for the largest catches, to **the adoption of management systems based on clear and fair fishing rights set according to a rigorous ecosystem approach**, thereby ensuring efficient and sustainable fishing over the years through:

1. sustainable management of tuna fisheries, in accordance with an **ecosystem approach**, will be improved and broadened throughout the 5 t-RFMOs,
2. a pilot **tuna fisheries sustainable management system** will be implemented in at least 1 t-RFMO
3. **MCS** systems will be **strengthened and harmonized over all 5 t-RFMOs**. The number of illegal vessels operating in 1 pilot t-RFMO will be reduced by 20% from the baseline at project start,
4. **Bycatch mitigation** best technologies and practices will be adopted by at least 40% of the tuna vessels operating in the areas under the jurisdiction of at least **2 t-RFMOs**

2. Sustainable Fisheries Management & Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-Sea

Transformational change: significant improvement in the capability of competent authorities and fishing industry for applying best practices in deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation, including better protection of VMEs and EBSAs through:

1. Decision-making by RFMO/As, member countries, relevant CBD countries, Regional Seas Programs, flag and port states will be substantially improved, mainly via more systematic application of management tools & methods
2. Improved management of deep-sea fisheries in high seas areas as a result of the application of an ecosystem approach, also leading to reduced impacts on deep-sea habitats;
3. Deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation practices, including protection of VMEs and EBSAs, will be substantially improved in the Southern/Western Indian Ocean and Southeast Atlantic regions, covering an area of 4,300 million hectares of seascapes
4. **Efficient area-based planning tools and methodologies are tested and are available to Regional Seas Programs and RFMO/As.**

3. Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries & BD Conservation - Models for Innovation & Reform

Transformational changes:

1. Development, testing and implementation of various types of seascape protection leading to sustainable conservation in close collaboration with countries, fishers and the private sector
2. Move away from the “race to fish” towards efficiency, conservation and less destructive exploitation, through the demonstration of fisheries management effectiveness in five priority seascapes: Caribbean, bay of Bengal, Western & Eastern Pacific
3. Shifting the discussions about ocean’s governance from supplying niches, small upscale markets for sustainable fish or applying command-and-control paradigms, to fostering efficient management systems to drive economic growth in developing countries, protect food security and save biodiversity

Move away from the
race to fish

Increased capacity to
protect fragile
ecosystems

**TRANSFORMATIONAL
IMPACT**

Fewer barriers to
international & cross-
sectoral sharing of
knowledge & experiences

Adoption of
management systems
based on clear & fair
fishing rights

The transformation is not only about fish, it is about people's livelihood, trade, sustainability, future generations opportunity, etc.

The value chain from ocean to plate – another aspect to integrate