



Unlike other multilateral fisheries agreements, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources not only regulates fishing, but also addresses ecosystem conservation. This

of the living aquatic resources. Although the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is not legally binding, it is important for fisheries management. Despite the voluntary nature of the Code, the FAO Committee on Fisheries believes that all people involved in fisheries and aquaculture are obliged to adhere to the principles and objectives defined therein and to adopt practical measures to fulfil them.

The topic of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management was also reflected in the Reykjavík Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem of 2001. The Declaration contains calls for such an approach and sets out the immediate steps for its implementation.

On the whole, regional fisheries management organizations now apply an ecosystem approach to their activities. However, such an approach is set out in only some of the international treaties under which these organizations were founded.

In its annual resolutions on sustainable fisheries, the United Nations General Assembly urges regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to improve transparency and to ensure that their decision-making processes are fair and transparent, to rely on the best scientific information available and to incorporate the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches.

Article 4 of the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement of 2006 provides that cooperation by States parties is based on a number of principles, including that measures shall be adopted on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management.

Article 2 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean of 2009 provides that the objective of that Convention is, 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 and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur. In addition, article 3 of the Convention stipulates that marine ecosystems must be protected, in particular those ecosystems which have long recovery times following disturbance.

According to article 3 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean of 2012, States parties must adopt and implement measures in accordance with the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries.

The principle of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management is also reflected in regulations of the European Union. For example, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the common fisheries policy and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in 2009. In this resolution, the European Parliament stresses that an ecosystem approach to fisheries currently provides the best basis for a global management and decision-making system. The European Union confirms that its fisheries policy is based on an ecosystem approach and conforms to international law.

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core of this principle is that States should, in making decisions about fisheries management, be guided by the need to prevent and avoid harm to other living or non-living resources and to the environment as a whole.

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December 2021

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