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“Keeping an Eye on the High Seas”

Klaudija Cremers
Research Fellow, International Ocean Governance at IDDRI



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IDDRI



International Ocean Institute
African Region





- MCS expert workshop I (technological tools) – Paris, July 2018
- MCS expert workshop II (policy options) – Paris, April 2019
- Regional MCS workshop CPPS – November 2019
- Regional MCS workshop Abidjan – 2020



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1. What is MCS and why is it important?
2. MCS challenges
3. The potential role of MCS in the treaty
4. Conclusion



1. What is MCS and why is it important?

- a) **Monitoring** - the continuous requirement for the measurement of fishing effort characteristics and resource yields;
- b) **Control** - the regulatory conditions under which the exploitation of the resource may be conducted;
- c) **Surveillance** - the degree and types of observations required to maintain compliance with the regulatory controls imposed on fishing activities.

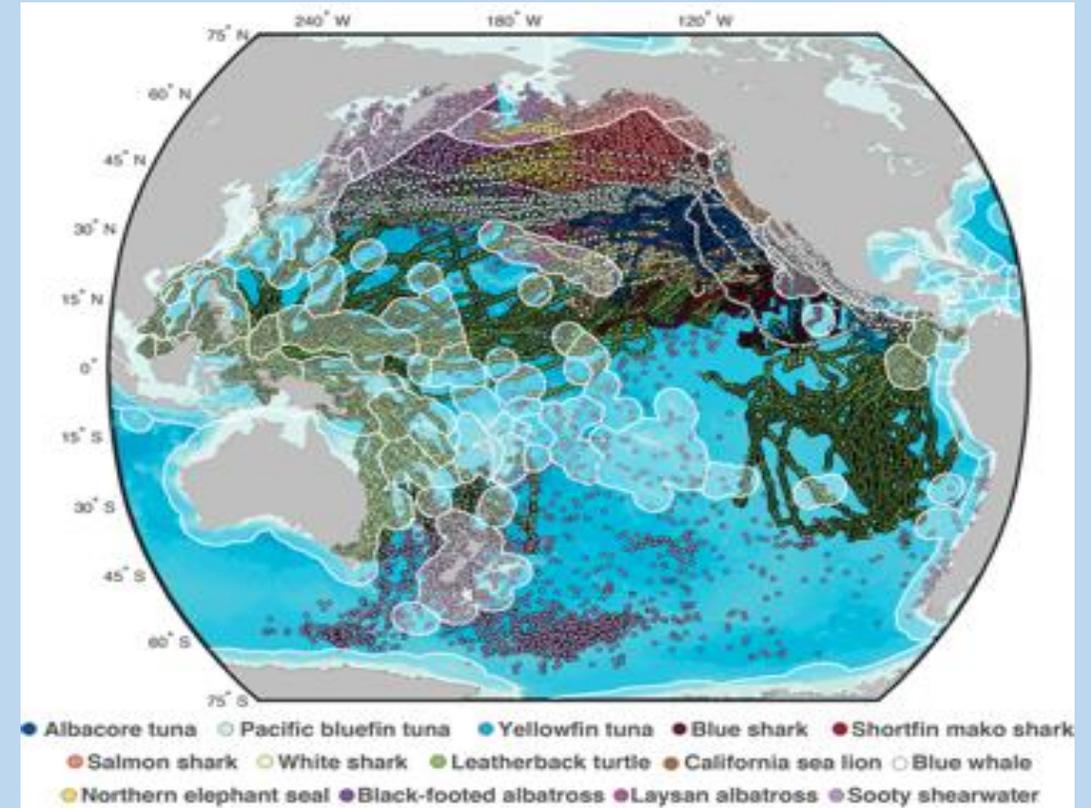
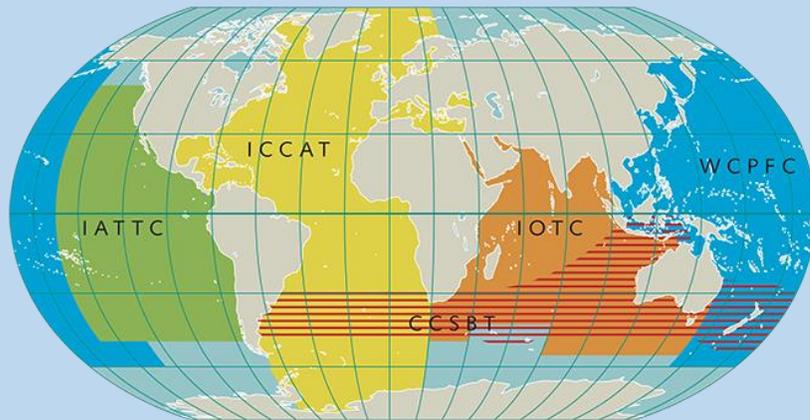
Source: FAO, 1981

1. What is MCS and why is it important?



2. MCS challenges

1. Flag State responsibility
2. Governance
3. Lack of capacity



3. The potential role of MCS in the treaty on ABNJ

- No global MCS system, but MCS as cross-cutting issue in negotiations
- Two-way relationship between MCS and the agreement
- Incorporate guiding principles
 - Cooperation and coordination
 - Transparency
 - Reporting



3. The potential role of MCS in the treaty on ABNJ

Four potential pathways to strengthen MCS provisions:

1. Consolidating and reinforcing MCS obligations and principles
2. Developing a strong MCS role for the clearing-house mechanism
3. Standardizing the application of MCS rules and reporting across RFMOs
4. Requiring submission of a MCS strategy in ABMT proposals

4. Conclusion

- Many MCS tools available, but problem of implementation gaps and lack of capacity
- No one-size-fits-all approach to MCS
- Cooperation and coordination is key:
 - Chair of the FISH-i Africa Task Force: “the cheapest tool in fighting IUU fishing is the sharing of information and intelligence through cooperation among all MCS practitioners”
- Future high seas treaty: global vs regional MCS standards

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Thank you!

klaudija.cremers@iddri.org
[@CremersK](https://www.instagram.com/CremersK)
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