

Improving the management of shared small pelagic stocks through harvest strategies.

The example of West Africa

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15 October 2026, LDAC WG4 meeting

Pew

Pew's work in international fisheries management

Aim: Pew works to protect global marine biodiversity and provide food and livelihoods for the world's fast-growing population by addressing one of the main threats to ocean health—inadequate management and control of large-scale fishing”.

Priorities include:

- Advancement of precautionary harvest strategies (management procedures) and effective compliance regimes for international fisheries.
- Improved policies and actions aimed at ending illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
- Advancement of ecosystem considerations in the management of fisheries

Pew's work in international fisheries management

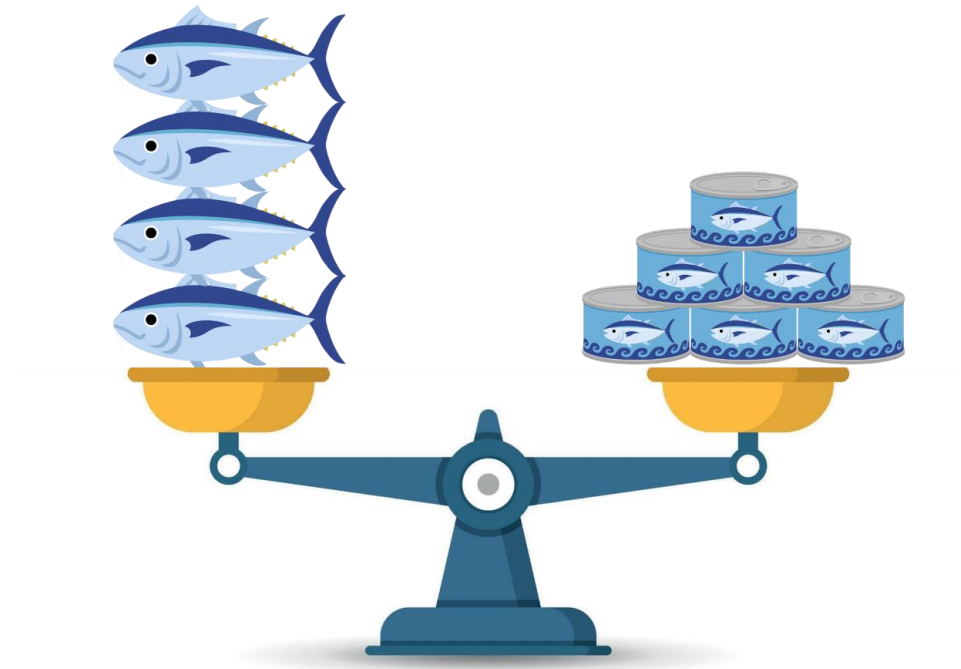
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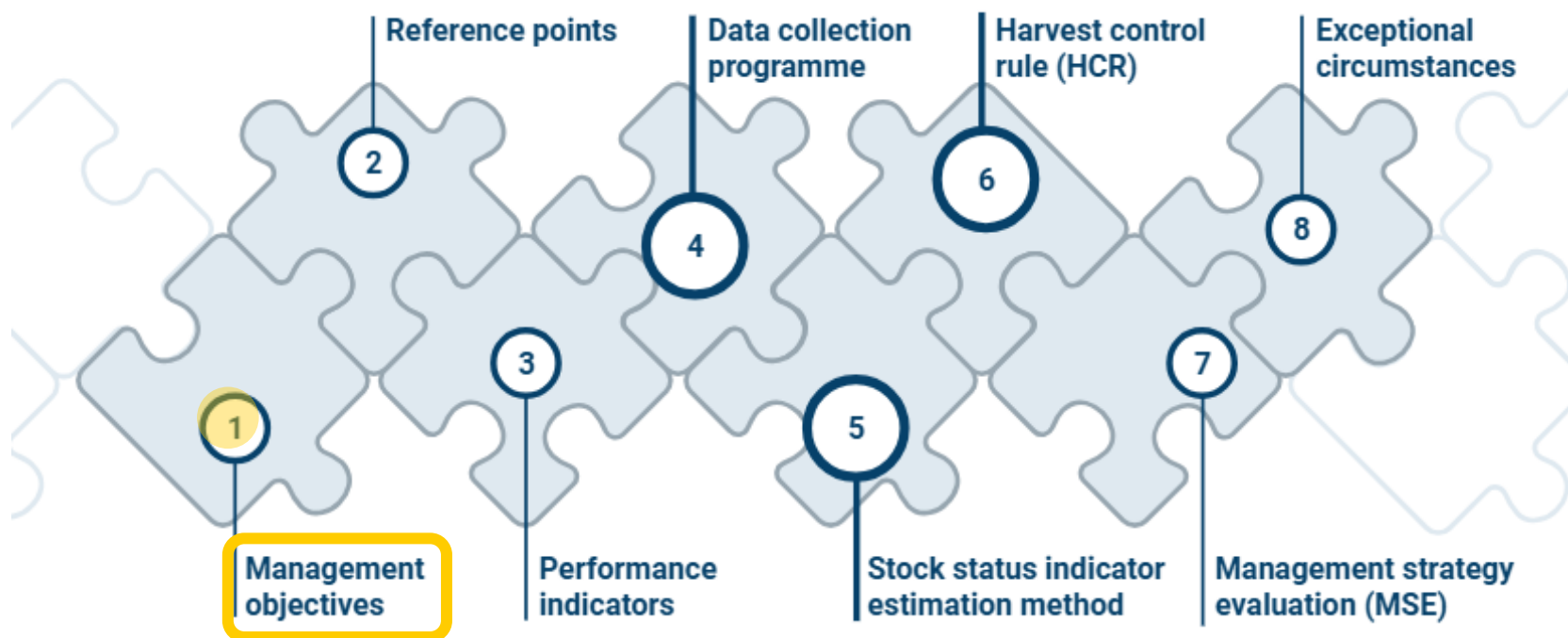
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What are Management Procedures/Harvest Strategies?

- ▶ Pre-agreed, science-based framework for making fisheries management decisions (such as determining catch or effort limits) that are designed to achieve specific management objectives
- ▶ Typically tested using **management strategy evaluation (MSE)** to ensure robust performance under uncertainty



What are Management Procedures?



Key first step:

Agree management objectives, to be decided between managers, stakeholders and scientists.

Examples of MO include:

Status: Maintain a healthy stock level

Safety: Avoid dangerously low level

Yield: Maximize catch

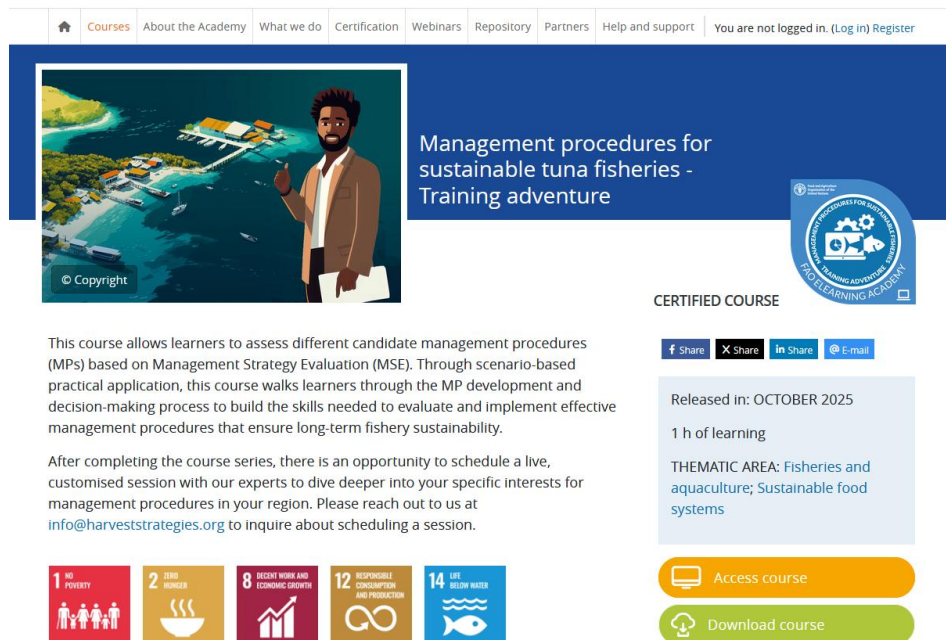
Stability: Minimize change in catches from year to year

Resilience to climate change

Management Procedures: An Evolution of Fisheries Management

MPs represent a shift away from short-term, reactive decision-making towards a pre-planned approach, offering greater predictability for fishing industries and instilling confidence among consumers and other stakeholders in the effective management of fisheries.

FAO elearning Academy



The screenshot shows the FAO elearning Academy website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Courses, About the Academy, What we do, Certification, Webinars, Repository, Partners, Help and support, and a login/register prompt. The main banner features an illustration of a man in a suit pointing towards a sustainable fishing scene. The course title is 'Management procedures for sustainable tuna fisheries - Training adventure'. Below the banner, it states 'This course allows learners to assess different candidate management procedures (MPs) based on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). Through scenario-based practical application, this course walks learners through the MP development and decision-making process to build the skills needed to evaluate and implement effective management procedures that ensure long-term fishery sustainability.' It also mentions a live session opportunity. At the bottom left, there are icons for Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 8, 12, and 14. On the right, it says 'CERTIFIED COURSE' and provides social media share buttons. Below that, it lists 'Released in: OCTOBER 2025', '1 h of learning', and the 'THEMATIC AREA: Fisheries and aquaculture; Sustainable food systems'. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Access course' and 'Download course'.

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Management procedures for sustainable tuna fisheries - Training adventure

CERTIFIED COURSE

This course allows learners to assess different candidate management procedures (MPs) based on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). Through scenario-based practical application, this course walks learners through the MP development and decision-making process to build the skills needed to evaluate and implement effective management procedures that ensure long-term fishery sustainability.

After completing the course series, there is an opportunity to schedule a live, customised session with our experts to dive deeper into your specific interests for management procedures in your region. Please reach out to us at info@harveststrategies.org to inquire about scheduling a session.

Released in: OCTOBER 2025

1 h of learning

THEMATIC AREA: Fisheries and aquaculture; Sustainable food systems

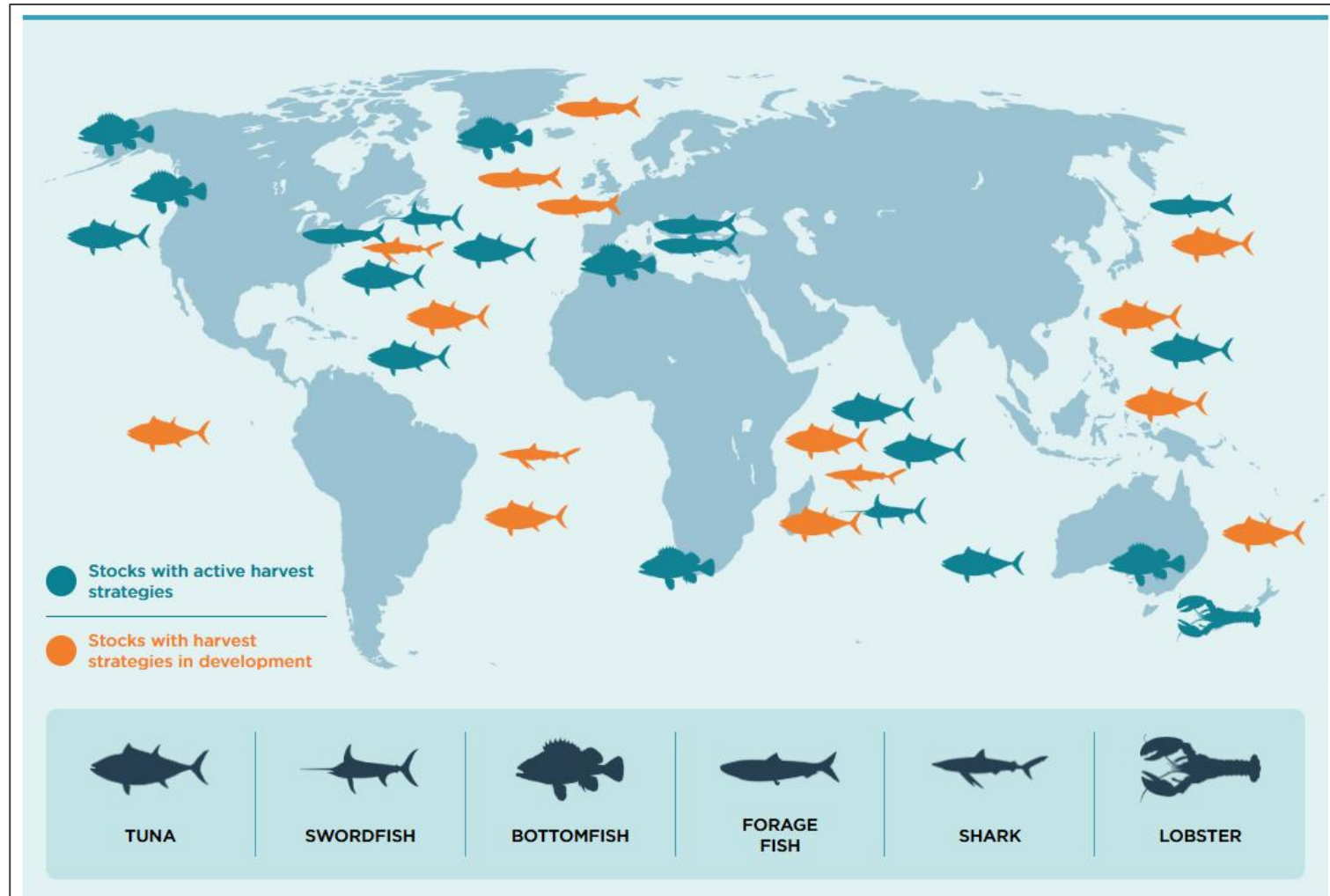
Access course

Download course

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/mp-series-en>

MPs in Action: Status of MPs Around the World

MPs are widespread across the globe. Many are already active and many others are in development:





COMMISSION SOUS-REGIONALE DES PECHES
SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION



Pew

Sub-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR SMALL PELAGIC FISHERIES IN WEST AFRICA

Under the High Patronage of His Excellency MOCTAR AHMED BOUCEIF,
Minister of Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructure of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania



May 19–20, 2026, IMROP Center, Nouakchott Headquarters, Islamic Republic of Mauritania



SRFC countries



— Outcomes of the workshop (from the workshop report)

- Fostered a **shared understanding among participants of Management Procedures and MSEs**, with broad consensus on their value for strengthening science-based, coordinated fisheries management.
- Identified **critical challenges to their implementation** (limited harmonization of data systems, insufficient compliance and stakeholder engagement, environmental uncertainties...)
- Initiated dialogue on **potential sub-regional management objectives** (such as stock rebuilding, long-term sustainability, food security, and catch stability) while highlighting the need to balance trade-offs.
- Participants expressed a strong **commitment to continuing this work** through a structured regional process under the SRFC framework



Thank you for attention.