

### SWG Assessment Review Procedures for Bottom Fishing Activities

1. The SWG is to review identifications of VMEs and assessments of significant adverse impact on VMEs, including proposed management measures intended to prevent such impacts submitted by individual Members.
2. Participating States will submit their identifications and assessments to members of the SWG at least 21 days prior to the SWG meeting at which the review is to take place. Such submissions will include all relevant data and information in support of such determinations.
3. The SWG will review the data and information in each assessment in accordance with the Science-based Standards and Criteria for Identification of VMEs and Assessment of Significant Adverse Impacts on VMEs and Marine Species, previous decisions of the Inter-Governmental Meetings on Management of High Seas Bottom Fishing in the North Western Pacific Ocean, and the FAO Technical Guidelines for the Management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, paying special attention to the assessment process and criteria specified in paragraphs 47-49 of the Guidelines.
4. In conducting the review above, the SWG will give particular attention to whether the deep-sea bottom fishing activity would have a significant adverse impact on VMEs and marine species and, if so, whether the proposed management measures would prevent such impacts.
5. Based on the above review, the SWG will provide advice and recommendations to the submitting Members on the extent to which the assessments and related determinations are consistent with the procedures and criteria established in the documents identified above; and whether additional management measures will be required to prevent SAIs on VMEs.
6. Such recommendations will be reflected in the report of the SWG meeting at which the assessments are considered.