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A Regional Approach to Governance in the Western Indian Ocean ABNJ

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) area beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) is one of the least effectively managed regions in the world. Without cohesive regional management the WIO will continue to increase the level of exploitation and destruction of the deep-sea biodiversity that natural resource extraction and utilization has caused. This presentation will provide an overview of research on the activities, threats, and existing governance frameworks in the Western Indian Ocean ABNJ. With the depiction of the current state of affairs in the region and conducting a literature review on regional ocean governance in the ABNJ, an analysis of the criteria needed to establish an effective regional management structure in the WIO can be made. Finally, the presentation will briefly highlight and discuss the feasibility of the developing Western Indian Ocean Sustainable Ecosystem Alliance as an effective regional management tool for the ABNJ.