

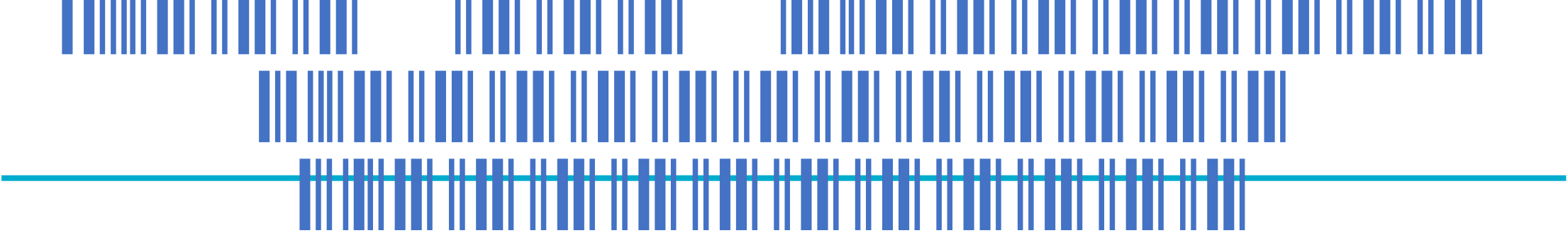
The background image shows a fisherman in a small, traditional boat on a body of water. The fisherman is silhouetted against a bright, cloudy sky, and is in the process of casting a net. The net is spread out in the air, with several red floats visible. The water is dark blue, and the overall scene is captured in a dramatic, low-key lighting style.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS
*FLEXIBLE, PREDICTABLE AND RECOGNISED TOOLS FOR
MODERN OCEAN MANAGEMENT*

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- https://wwf.zoom.us/rec/play/vJEtcbyr-js3GNXD5QSDU6J-W466KaqsgSQYr_cKnxm0WnIAMFCiZuAQNLGj6-UASLxrHexKfaPcJViC?continueMode=true

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- **SEA is a family of flexible/adaptable approaches and is a globally recognised process and decision support tool**
 - **SEA evaluates policies, plans and programmes, including supporting the use of area-based management tools (ABMT), especially marine spatial planning (MSP) and facilitates EIA.**
 - **SEA facilitate engagement from regional bodies, authorities at different scales, industry, NGOs, local and indigenous people**



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- **It has ample authority under International law in the context of ABNJ**
 - **Provides a recognised framework for public scrutiny, and aids in the duty to cooperate and supports ABMTs, CB and TT**
 - **Does not require new institutional decision-making architecture**
 - **If one agency takes responsibility for an SEA, the process allows for strategic inputs from other agencies and stakeholders.**







- **SEA ought to be viewed as an element of due diligence where planning and assessment is required to make decisions about future activities,**
- **SEA ought to be viewed as being necessary to implement the obligation to cooperate of states party to UNCLOS.**
- **Provides for coherence and integration of environmental objectives across sectors**
- **Facilitates implementation of long-term, strategic sustainability objectives**





- **SEA provides a recognised process for coordination and planning across multiple sectors and jurisdictions in relation to larger scales and time horizons.**
- **There is no need for the development of new institutional arrangements**
- **It can provide a platform for coordination between states**



- The SEA process is **flexible, predictable and recognised**.
- A more certain framework for **the evaluation of planned and ongoing activities**:
 - assessment at larger spatial scales
 - cumulative impacts
 - contributing to much needed baseline data
- Integration of environmental and sustainability criteria **across sectors and jurisdictions**
- **priority setting and longer term, strategic management**
- An **effective and participatory** framework to aid decision making to deliver the ILBI





Article 6(ter) Strategic Environmental Assessment and Marine Spatial Planning

States should cooperate in the conduct of strategic environmental assessments to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the marine environment, including its biodiversity and including marine resources and their exploitation, relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

States should cooperate in the conduct of marine spatial planning exercises, especially at the sub-regional level, to guide and strengthen arrangements to ensure the orderly conduct of maritime activities relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The COP shall maintain guidelines to assist States in the conduct of SEA and MSP.



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