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Identification and definition of stock units of the commercially important demersal resources off Angola

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The Angola-Benguela Front (ABF) is considered as an area with very high productivity, fact that makes the Angolan coast very rich in specific composition. The distribution of 27 demersal fish species commercially important, grouped in 9 families, were mapped in order to delineate the stock units and examine how far these species are distributed along the Namibian coast. 4 different fauna were registered as follows: The northern and central Angola fauna, southern Angola, northern and central Namibia and southern Namibia fauna. The number of species decreased gradually southward from northern Angola (27 species) to southern Namibia (4 species). Same trend was registered in the distribution of the species according to depth: the number decreased from the shallower depth (26 species) to the higher depth (4 species). The distribution by size of some species showed different concentrations of small fish along the Angolan coast, and the size of fish increases with depth. The higher composition in the northern region off Angola and the decreasing trends southward demonstrates the different ecological niches provided by the Angola Current off northern Angola, the cold Benguela Current off northern Namibia, and the Angola-Benguela Front off southern Angola.

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