

7TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

The Hague, The Netherlands, 23 to 27 January 2019

COMM7 – Doc11

Priorities regarding MoUs with other RFMOs

Secretariat

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Current Cooperation with other Organisations

SPRFMO has an MoU with ACAP¹ (signed in 2014) and an Arrangement with CCAMLR² (signed in 2016). The full texts can be seen through the links provided.

1.2. Developments since 2016

At the 4th Commission meeting (COMM04 -2016), the Commission asked the Secretariat to “*assess and advise the Commission on option for Memoranda of Understanding with neighbouring or overlapping RFMOs*”. As response to the Commission’s request at the 5th Commission meeting on 2017, the Secretariat presented Options for Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with other RFMOs ([COMM5-DOC-05 rev.1](#)). The CTC (CTC4-Report) assessed that document noting that:

- “*SPRFMO should prioritise cooperation with neighbouring or overlapping organisations;*
- *To include organisations in different regions with similar mandates and fisheries;*
- *The automatic recognition of IUU List should not be within the scope of MoUs;*
- *Scientific cooperation and exchange of vessels record information might be beneficial;*
- *The Secretariat was requested to ask for Observer status in other RFMOs where such status is not automatically granted;*
- *The CTC agreed that such activities should be decided on a case-by-case basis”.*

The Commission (COMM5-Report) “*voiced general support of the comments on this item in the CTC report*”.

Concerning the examination of the 2018 Draft IUU List during CTC5 (CTC5 Report, 7.a.) “*Members also suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding between SPRFMO and the IATTC would facilitate cooperation on issues such as presumed IUU fishing activity in the overlapping area of the two RFMOs*”.

At the 6th Commission meeting in 2018, The Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS) tabled a proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding between the CPPS and SPRFMO (COMM6-Obs03). Furthermore, Peru presented an important initiative called “*The Regional Network to combat IUU Fisheries from Latin American and the Caribbean*”. The Commission decided that the Secretariat “*prepare a draft with the aim to having a new version for CPPS consideration*” and encouraged the Secretariat to “*follow up on Peru’s initiative to cooperate and facilitate the exchange of relevant non-confidential information on fisheries activities and fishing vessels of mutual interest*”.

1.3. Implementing Article 31 of the Convention

In implementing these Commission decisions, the Secretariat realized that there was no guidance provided by the Commission on how to implement Article 31 of the Convention requiring the Commission to cooperate

¹ <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Cooperation-with-others/MoU-Between-ACAP-and-SPRFMO-final-signed-28-Oct-2014.pdf>

² <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Cooperation-with-others/SPRFMO-CCAMLR-MoU-15April2016.pdf>



with “other regional fisheries management organisations, the FAO, with other specialised agencies of the United Nations, and other relevant organisations on matter of mutual interest”.

Therefore, the Secretariat is presenting for Commission consideration:

- a set of criteria (Section 2.1 below) which could help identifying which relevant RFMOs the Commission could be interested in engaging on matters of mutual interest as per Article 31 and
- a decision-making matrix (Annex 1) to identify which RFMOs could be addressed first to engage on matters of mutual interest.

2. Cooperation Criteria

2.1. Identification of Cooperation Criteria with other RFMOs

Considering previous Commission discussions presented above in Section 1.2, the four potential criteria to consider if cooperating with other RFMOs are: Geographical distribution, mandate, beneficial scientific cooperation and fight against IUU fishing.

Each criteria’s relative significance (considering that not all criteria are equally important) are also presented (weighted) in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Potential Cooperation Criteria and Relative Significance

Potential Cooperation Criteria	Relative Significance
1. Geographical distribution (only one of the 3 sub criteria should apply)	0.3
1.1 Overlapping Organisation	0.3
1.2 Neighbouring Organisation	0.2
1.3 Different Region	0.1
2. Mandate	0.1
2.1 Similar mandate and fisheries	0.1
3. Beneficial scientific cooperation	0.3
3.1 Fisheries	0.1
3.2 Environment	0.1
3.3 Observer Programme	0.1
4. Fight against IUU	0.3
4.1 Fishing vessels operating in both RFMOs	0.1
4.2 IUU List	0.1
4.3 Compliance and Monitoring Scheme	0.1
Total	1

2.2. Identification of potentially eligible RFMOs³

There are 60 different Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and Networks. Considering not all of them are equally relevant for SPRFMO, a shortlist made up of 6 general RFMOs, 5 tuna RFMOs, 4 specialized RFMOs and 4

³ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/en>



Convention/arrangements (including the two current MoUs and the two potential ones) is presented in Annex 1.

All information gathered has been collected through the official web sites of these RFBs.

2.3. Provisional Evaluation

Therefore, to address a potential roadmap for cooperation with other RFMOs, the Secretariat has carried out a provisional evaluation in accordance with the above Cooperation Criteria.

Particularly relevant is the Observer Programme (OP) criteria, where the Secretariat has reviewed the state of play of the Observer Programmes of RFMOs (COMM-04-INF-04)⁴ and mapped which RFMOs have a similar OP approach.

According to this provisional evaluation (See Annex 1), these six RFMOs (See Table 2 below) are the ones ranking higher and therefore the ones that could be prioritised in terms of engaging on matters of mutual interest.

Table 2. RFMOs ranking higher in the provisional evaluation

RFMOs	Final score (out of 1)
1. The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)	0.8
2. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	0.8
3. The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)	0.7
4. The South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	0.7
5. Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)	0.7
6. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	0.7

3. The Secretariat's Recommendation

According to the results of such exercise, the Commission is invited to consider the proposed draft cooperation criteria, the relative significance of each of the criteria and the provisional evaluation outcomes of such exercise, and accordingly instructing the Secretariat on which RFMOs should be approached in the short and medium term in order to engage on matter of mutual interest.

⁴ <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Meetings/Meetings-2013-plus/Commission-Meetings/4th-Commission-Meeting-2016-Valdivia-Chile/COMM-04-INF-04-Observer-Programmes-of-RFMOs.pdf>



Annex 1

RFMO/CRITERIA		GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION (0.3)			MANDATE (0.1)	SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION (0.3)			FIGHT AGAINST IUU (0.3)			TOTAL
		Overlapping organisation	Neighbouring organisation	Different regions	Similar mandates and fisheries	Scientific Cooperation (Fisheries)	Scientific Cooperation (Environment)	Observer Programme	Fishing vessels operating in both RFMOs	IUU List	Compliance and Monitoring Scheme	
		0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	GFCM			0.1	0.1	0.1						0.3
The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission	NEAFC			0.1	0.1	0.1				0.1	0.1	0.5
The North Pacific Fisheries Commission	NPFC		0.2		0.1	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8
The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization	NAFO			0.1	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation	SEAFO			0.1	0.1	0.1		0.1		0.1	0.1	0.6
The South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	SIOFA		0.2		0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1	0.1		0.7
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	CCSBT	0.3					0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1	0.7
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	IOTC			0.1				0.1		0.1		0.3
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	ICCAT			0.1				0.1		0.1		0.3
The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	IATTC	0.3					0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		0.7
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	WCPFC	0.3					0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8
The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization	NASCO			0.1								0.1
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission	NPAFC		0.2							0.1		0.3
Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea	CCBSP			0.1								0.1
The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission	NAMCO			0.1								0.1
Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels	ACAP	0.3					0.1	0				0.4
The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	CCAMLR		0.2		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific	CPPS	0.3			0.1		0.1			0.1		0.6
Network against IUU fishing of LAC	NIUULAC	0.3								0.1	0.1	0.5