
6TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC)

The Hague, The Netherlands, 23 to 27 January 2019

FAC 6 – DOC 08.4

Explanatory Note Regarding the SPRFMO Database Developments and Updates

Secretariat

1. Background

The Secretariat has provided explanatory notes (FAC4-Inf01¹ and FAC5 Doc05 Suppl.4²) on the SPRFMO database developments at the last two FAC meetings. Both papers provided technical information on the performance of the database, on how outstanding issues should be addressed (such as individual datasheets stored outside the database environment) or on how to move forward in response to the proposed amendments to SPRFMO CMMs. The Secretariat in presenting this document is aiming to:

- inform the Commission about how the budget allocated to the database development for the financial year 2018-2019 (NZ\$ 30,000³) has been used and,
- support the budget proposal for the financial year 2019-2020 (FAC6-Doc 08), consolidating both the database hosting and database updates associated with the development of the Organisation as budget Items in the Annual budget.

2. Database developments and updates

2.1. Data base hosting cost

The Database is hosted by FINNZ⁴, an organisation based in Wellington that has a great deal of experience in fisheries related software development. Since 2009, the (interim) Secretariat has had a maintenance contract with FINNZ. This contract ensures a comprehensive backup and disaster recovery plan, a robust helpdesk service and an agreed escalation plan in the event of critical failures. For the 2018-2019 financial year, the regular cost of “keeping the lights on” was budgeted at NZ\$ 25,000.

2.2. Data base hosting updates

The operating platform (Hardware and Software) upon which the system is based have aged and are reaching the end of their supported life, consequently FINNZ have replaced their servers with new ones. The Secretariat informed Members about the transition to new servers on 2 November 2018 (G89-2018); this update was required to ensure continued efficient operation of the whole system. This server update was done at no cost for SPRFMO.

2.3. Database developments during financial year 2018-2019:

As mentioned in FAC5 Doc05 Suppl.4 “*While continuing to use the same database, it is likely to be more cost effective in the long term to develop additional modules or functionality by utilizing newer technology and gradually transitioning to a system that is easier/cheaper to maintain*”.

Therefore, in line with the hosting update of the server, upgrading the operating platform (from Excel 2007 to Excel 2016, from coding platform Net 3.5 to Net 4.6.2 and data storage from SQL Server 2005 to SQL 2015)

¹ <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/03-FAC-2017/FAC4-INF01-Database-Development-Explanatory-Note.pdf>

² <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/2018-COMM6/FAC5-2018/FAC5-Doc05-Suppl.-4-Database-software-development-and-update.pdf>

³ <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/2018-COMM6/00-Report-and-ANNEXES/COMM6-Complete-Report-with-Annexes.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.finnz.com/>



upon which the SPRFMO system is developed, is a cost-effective action to be implemented early 2019. This upgrade in software licensing plus the labour cost is budgeted at NZ\$ 16,000.

FINNZ has provided a commercial quote for the transshipment module is based on 15 days (10 development + 5 testing) at NZ\$ 960 = NZ\$14,400. As discussed during COMM 6 last year the Secretariat has identified development of a transshipment module the most important and cost-effective database upgrade at this time.

The following timeline is the one agreed with FINNZ for the implementation of the upgrade of the operating platform and the necessary developments on the SPRFMO database on the transshipment module.

| Development/Months | November 2018 | February 2019 | March 2019 | Cost (NZ\$) |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Transitioning hosting | | | | 0 |
| Upgrade operating platform | | | | 16 000 |
| Module on Transshipment | | | | 14 400 |
| Total Cost (NZ\$) | | | | 30 400 |

2.4. Potential Database developments for financial year 2019-2020:

As per the budget proposal for the financial year 2019-2020 (FAC6-Doc 08) the regular cost of hosting the database has been budgeted at NZ\$ 25,000.

Concerning the developments and the potential modifications to the CMMs after COMM 7, the Secretariat has budgeted at NZ\$ 30,000 the database developments for the financial year 2019-2020. This budget would allow the three 3 following new modules to enable closer consistency with CMMs:

| Development (New modules) | Cost (NZ\$) |
|--|---------------|
| Allowing separation of Bottom trawl, Midwater trawl, Lining, All Methods, Exploratory as well as future Potting & VME Management Areas | 9 600 |
| Allowing storage of Observer Potting data | 9 600 |
| Allowing storage of the Port inspection register associated with CMM 07–2017 | 9 600 |
| Total Cost (NZ\$) | 28 800 |

3. Maximising the performance of the SPRFMO database

Redevelopment of the core functionality would provide SPRFMO with an opportunity to incorporate a cutting-edge user interface and experience. Additionally, it future-proofs the system by providing the technical framework necessary to develop new modules so the changes above could be progressed in tandem resulting in cost and timing efficiencies.

| Redevelopment of core functionality | Cost (NZ\$) |
|---|---------------|
| Login screen, File Upload screen, File Upload Status screen, View Validation Results screen, User Management screen. The implementation plan would require the SPRFMO website to be run in parallel during the development & testing phase of the project. Total cost 60 days (30 development + 15 design + 15 test) | 57 600 |

4. Recommendation

The FAC is invited to consider recommending the Commission approving the proposed budget amount allocated to SPRFMO database regular cost and database developments for the Financial Year 2019-2020.