

## 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Puerto Varas, Chile, 9 - 14 September 2018

### SC6-DW04

#### Data Management for Exploratory Fisheries

*Secretariat*

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### Summary paragraph

This year SC6 will be reviewing 3 fisheries plans for conducting exploratory fishing in the SPRFMO Area.

The Secretariat has prepared this paper to inform the SC about the already existing data processes that the Secretariat operates and to enable the SC to make recommendations regarding data management and storage procedures for the current exploratory fishing proposals.

The Secretariat has examined the data collection plans contained within the 3 current exploratory fishing proposals and this paper identifies some gaps and proposes practical solutions particularly for data submission for each of the 3 proposals.

Annex 1 of this paper documents the various requirements imposed by the CMMs for Exploratory Fisheries, the Record of Vessels and the Data Standards. In order to support those requirements, the Secretariat has developed a number of standardised data submission templates (<https://www.sprfmo.int/data/data-submission/>). The templates are supported by various explanatory PDFs which contain instructions on how to complete the template along with associated examples.

Annex 2 contains a newly developed SPRFMO observer potting form for submission (not necessarily collection) of observed potting data. This form has been designed to be consistent with the existing SPRFMO forms as well as the Cook Islands exploratory proposal.

### New Zealand Exploratory Toothfish proposal

This proposal (SC6-DW03) specifies that the vessels to be used will be the *San Aspiring* and the *Janas*.

- The *San Aspiring* is currently on the SPRFMO Record of Vessels and is authorised through until 30 April 2019;
- The *Janas* is also on the SPRFMO Record of Vessels and is authorised through until 30 April 2019;

The Proposed Data Collection Plan (Section 3.7) quotes the SPRFMO Standard for Bottom line fishing activity data and states that “*In addition, the New Zealand observer on board will meet or exceed the requirements of Annex 7 of CMM02-2018...*”.

The additional data requirements in Section 3.7.2 clarifies that “*Data will be recorded and reported to SPRFMO and shared with CCAMLR using the CCAMLR fine-scale catch and effort data (C2 longline fisheries) forms and CCAMLR observer forms and species codes for maximum consistency*”.

Under the previous CMM 4.14 ([Exploratory Toothfish fishing](#)) New Zealand submitted the following data to the Secretariat:

- 2016 and 2017 fishing activity data using the C2 CCAMLR format
- 2016 Observer data using the SPRFMO format
- 2017 Observer data in CCAMLR format

The SPRFMO Secretariat facilitated the exchange of the information that was collected during 2016 and 2017 with the CCAMLR Secretariat as well as loading all the collected information into the SPRFMO Database.

**Proposed SC recommendations (assuming the fisheries plan in SC6-DW03 is accepted):**

- That CCAMLR C2 forms are used by the New Zealand vessels when conducting exploratory toothfish fishing in the SPRFMO Area (as suggested by the proposal).
- That the CCAMLR observer forms are used by the observers when conducting exploratory toothfish fishing in the SPRFMO Area (as suggested by the proposal).
- That all information is submitted to the SPRFMO Secretariat who will be responsible for loading the information in to the SPRFMO DB and for sharing it with the CCAMLR Secretariat (under the existing Arrangement and as suggested by the proposal).
- That data for the exploratory fishery is included into the SPRFMO Landing submission as well as the annual Catch totals.

## European Union Exploratory Toothfish proposal

This proposal (SC6-DW02) specifies that the vessel to be used will be the *Tronio*.

- The *Tronio* is currently on the SPRFMO Record of Vessels, but its most recent authorisation ended 31 December 2009.

The Proposed Data Collection Plan (Section 5) confirms that “*The F/V Tronio will fulfil with the data to be collected detailed in CMM 02-2018, and specifically those included in Annex 3 (bottom longline fishing activity) and Annex 7 (Observer data)*”. The proposal acknowledges the Arrangement between SPRFMO and CCAMLR and proposes to use CCAMLR tags and CCAMLR VME identification guides.

The Vessel and the observers have extensive experience fishing under the CCAMLR regime and using CCAMLR forms.

**Proposed SC recommendations (assuming the fisheries plan in SC6-DW02 is accepted):**

- That consistent with para 6 of CMM 05-2016 the *Tronio* is authorised by the European Union at least 15 days prior to entering the Convention Area.
- That CCAMLR C2 forms are used by the Spanish vessel when conducting exploratory toothfish fishing in the SPRFMO Area.
- That the CCAMLR observer forms are used by the observers when conducting exploratory toothfish fishing in the SPRFMO Area.
- That all information is submitted to the SPRFMO Secretariat who will be responsible for loading the information in to the SPRFMO DB and for sharing it with the CCAMLR Secretariat (under the existing Arrangement).
- That data for the exploratory fishery is included into the SPRFMO Landing submission as well as Annual Catch totals.

## Cook Islands Exploratory Potting proposal

This proposal (SC6-DW01) specifies that the vessel to be used will be the *Great Southern*.

- The *Great Southern* is not currently on the SPRFMO Record of Vessels.

The Data Collection Methods (Section 8) confirms that “*data will be collected daily in accordance with CMM 02-2017 using two daily logs*” and “*During all EPF operations conducted by GS during each trip the following standard data will be collected, as defined by the SPRFMO data standard for exploratory research fishing activity*”. This information is consistent with the current SPRFMO Potting form.

Section 8.6 describes a scientific sampling plan. As the SPRFMO currently does not have an observer potting form the Secretariat has designed a template for the submission (not necessarily collection) of observed potting data. This form has been designed to be consistent with the existing SPRFMO forms as well as the Cook Islands exploratory proposal.

**Proposed SC recommendations (assuming the fisheries plan in SC6-DW01 is accepted):**

- That consistent with para 6 of CMM 05-2016 the *Great Southern* is authorised by the European Union at least 15 days prior to entering the Convention Area.
- That SPRFMO potting activity forms are used by the Cook Islands vessel when reporting on exploratory potting in the SPRFMO Area (as suggested by the proposal).
- That the template shown in Annex 2 is used by Cook Islands vessel when reporting on observer data collected during the exploratory potting in the SPRFMO Area.
- That data for the exploratory fishery is included into the SPRFMO Landing submission as well as Annual Catch totals (as suggested by the proposal).

## Annex 1

Relevant sections from current Conservation and Management Measures are:

**CMM 13-2016 (Exploratory Fisheries)**

Para 5a) *submit an application to the Commission to permit a vessel or vessels that fly its flag to fish in that exploratory fishery. This application shall include information that satisfies paragraphs 2 and 3 of Annex 1 of CMM 05-2016 (Record of Vessels);*

Para 9 *“...The Data Collection Plan shall identify and describe the data needed and any operational research actions necessary to obtain data from the exploratory fishery to enable an assessment of the stock, the feasibility of establishing a fishery and the impact of fishing activity on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs. ...”*

Para 10 *The Data Collection Plan shall require, as appropriate:*

- a) a description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 24;*
- b) the dates by which the data must be provided to the Commission;*
- c) a plan for directing fishing effort in an exploratory fishery to allow for the acquisition of relevant data to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impact;*
- d) where appropriate, a plan for the acquisition of any other research data obtained by fishing vessels, including activities that may require the cooperative activities of scientific observers and the vessel, as may be required by the Scientific Committee to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target, associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts; and*
- e) an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities.*

Para 17 *Members and CNCPs shall ensure that where their flagged vessels fish in an exploratory fishery, the data required by the Data Collection Plan is provided to the Commission. That data shall be provided to the relevant standard prescribed in CMM 02-2018 (Data Standards). Members and CNCPs whose vessels participate in exploratory fisheries shall be prohibited from fishing in the relevant exploratory fishery if the data specified in the Data Collection Plan has not been submitted to the Commission for the most recent season in which the fishing occurred, until the relevant data has been submitted to the Commission and the Scientific Committee has had the opportunity to review that data.*

**CMM 05-2016 (Record of Vessels)**

Para 6 *Members and CNCPs shall inform the Executive Secretary of the vessels flying their flag authorised to fish in the Convention Area at least 15 days previous to the first entry of such vessels in the Convention Area. In doing so, Members or CNCP shall provide the Executive Secretary the vessels details, as indicated in Annex 1 of this Measure.*

**CMM 02-2018 (Data Standards)**

Para 1a) *ensure that for each calendar year, Members and CNCPs collate annual catch totals raised to “live” weight for all species/species groups caught during that year, and that these are collated as described in Annex 13. Members and CNCPs will provide by the 30 September, their previous year’s (January to December) annual catch totals raised to “live” weight for all species/ species groups caught*

Para 1b) *ensure that data on fishing activities are collected from vessels according to the operational characteristics of each fishing method;*

*iii. for bottom long lining methods, Members and CNCPs are to collect the data described in Annex 3;  
v. for potting methods, Members and CNCPs are to collect the data described in Annex 5;*

Para 1c) *ensure that data to assess the impacts of fishing on non-target and associated or dependent species are collected from vessels;*

Para 1e) *compile data on fishing activities and the impacts of fishing and provide these in a timely manner to the Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) using the SPRFMO data submission templates. The data under this subparagraph will be used for the assessment and monitoring of stocks. Members and CNCPs will provide by the 30th June, their previous (January to December) year’s data on fishing activities and the impacts of fishing described in sections 1b) – 1d) above.*

Para 2c) *Data Provision*

*Observer data should be provided to the Secretariat of the SPRFMO in a standardised format, to be included in a SPRFMO Observer Database. Specifications and standards for observer data submissions are on the SPRFMO website. Until the Secretariat determines a change is needed, observer data will be submitted in Microsoft Excel format. Members and CNCPs will provide by 30 September, their previous (January to December) year’s data.*

## Annex 2

A separate Excel workbook is annexed to this paper (Annex 2).