

8th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

New Zealand, 3 to 8 October 2020

SC8-DW16

EU Checklist for exploratory fisheries proposal

European Union



Checklist for Exploratory Fisheries Proposals CMM 13-2020 and CMM 14b-2020

Scientific Committee Considerations Fisheries Operation Plans

8. The Scientific Committee shall provide recommendations and advice to the Commission on each Fisheries Operation Plan on the following matters, as appropriate:

Fisheries Operation Plan Considerations	Rationale	Assessment
<p>a) management strategies or plans for fishery resources;</p> <p>[Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean as having a clear objective for the fishery]</p>	Main objective of the FOP is detailed 4.1 of the proposal. Please refer to this text	Yes
<p>b) reference points, including precautionary reference points as described in Annex II of the 1995 Agreement;</p>	This is an unexplored area with no fishing history.	Not available
<p>c) an appropriate precautionary catch limit;</p>	Section 4.1 of the proposal for the target species <i>Dissostichus spp.</i>	Yes
<p>d) the cumulative impacts of all fishing activity in the area of the exploratory fishery;</p>	Yes, detailed Risk Assessment conducted as per BFIAS (2011), with elements of BFIAS (2019), section 4.5 of the proposal	Yes
<p>e) the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem;</p>	Marine mammals, seabirds, VMEs, Elasmobranchs and finfish, potential of lost gear estimated, section 4.5 of the proposal	Yes
<p>f) the sufficiency of information available to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee's advice is provided;</p>	Detailed Risk Assessment document is appended to the proposal, and b) and c) are addressed in the proposal itself, section 4.5 of the proposal.	Yes
<p>g) the degree to which the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 of the Convention¹; and</p>	The precautionary limits and mitigations put in place should ensure this at the offset. The data collection will inform precautionary development throughout the 3 years of the proposal and beyond, section 5 of the proposal	Highly likely
<p>h) in respect of a Fisheries Operation Plan that proposes any bottom fishing activity, advice and recommendations in accordance with paragraph 20 (b) of CMM 03-2020 (Bottom Fishing)².</p>	Reflected in the proposal, section 4.1, 4.5 of the proposal.	Yes

¹ The objective of this Convention is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.

² The Scientific Committee shall undertake a review of the proposed assessment and provide advice to the Commission on:

- i. whether the proposed bottom fishing would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on deep sea fish stocks for which no stock assessment has been completed, bycatch species and/or VMEs and, if so,
- ii. whether any proposed or additional mitigation measures would prevent such impacts.

Data Collection Plans

9. When considering a Fisheries Operation Plan [...] the Scientific Committee shall develop a Data Collection Plan in respect of that exploratory fishery which should include research requirements, as appropriate. 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. The Scientific Committee shall review and update the Data Collection Plan for each exploratory fishery annually as appropriate.

10. The Data Collection Plan shall require, as appropriate:

Data Collection Plan considerations	Rationale	Assessment
<i>a) a description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 24;</i>	Section 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the proposal	Yes
<i>b) the dates by which the data must be provided to the Commission;</i>	Meet required deadlines by the flag state (Spain-EU) as well as SPRFMO, section 6 in the proposal	Yes
<i>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;</i>	Please see proposal section 5, Data Collection Plan	Yes
<i>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</i>	Please see proposal section 5, Data Collection Plan	Yes
<i>e) an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities</i> [Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean “when will data be analysed and available”]	Proponents will undertake analyses of first survey within six months of completion, and submit this to Spain-EU. This will be made available to the SC in line with publication deadlines for the SC.	Yes