

8TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

New Zealand, 3 to 8 October 2020

SC8-Doc08

Status of previous SC Recommendations

Secretariat

1. Background

The 7th Scientific Committee Meeting (SC7) of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) took place from 7-12 October in La Havana, Cuba. Over 70 participants (scientists from 13 SPRFMO Members, representatives from 3 NGOs, two external invited experts, and the Secretariat) reviewed and assessed almost 90 working papers, and SC recommendations were provided on a wide diversity of issues.

The purpose of this document is to review the implementation of Scientific Committee recommendations in order to help assess Scientific Committee needs (particularly in cases where the recommendations have not yet been implemented) and to monitor Commission feedback.

- **SC8 is requested to note the status of the various SC recommendations and provide feedback, or make comment, as deemed necessary.**

2. Identification of Recommendations

The Secretariat identified 18 recommendations from Annex 1 of the [SC7-Report](#). These are included as Table 1. Recommendations were classified by Category (subject area within the work of the Scientific Committee) and then the body (i.e. Commission, Secretariat etc) responsible for implementing the Recommendation. The Secretariat then identified which of the Recommendations were either Implemented (as of September 2020), In Progress, Not Addressed, or Considered (not implemented).



Table 1: Status of 2019 Scientific Committee Recommendations (as of September 2020).

Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status	Comment
Jack mackerel	The SC recommended (SC7-Report, Section 6.1) that for future years, the haul-by-haul data will continue to be made available by the Members of the offshore fleet, via the SPRFMO Secretariat, for the analysis of standardised CPUE and that Members work together on making historical (prior to 2008) haul-by-haul data available, via the SPRFMO Secretariat, for the analysis of standardised offshore CPUE.	Secretariat	Implemented	CPUE data provided by Secretariat, August 2020
Jack mackerel	The SC recommended (SC7-Report, Section 6.4) that an MSE Working Group be set up to progress the project prior to COMM 8 and that a Task Group be established by COMM 8 which includes Members of the SC and the Commission to progress the MSE for Jack Mackerel in 2020.	Commission	Considered, not implemented	On SC Multi-Annual Plan , proposed workshop between CTC8 and COMM9
Jack mackerel	In line with the accepted rebuilding plan (“Adjusted Annex K”) and because the Jack mackerel biomass is estimated to be above BMSY, the SC recommended (SC7-Report Section 6.6) a 15% increase in 2020 catches throughout the range of Jack mackerel resulting in a total catch limit at or below 680 thousand tonnes.	Commission	Implemented	Paragraph 5 CMM 01-2020 (Trachurus murphyi)
Deepwater	Identification guides and identification protocols for sharks and rays available from Members be collated and made available to fishers active in the SPRFMO Area (SC7-Report Section 5.2).	Members	In progress	Paragraph 26 of COMM8-report (Chile)
Deepwater	Where observers are on board, biological data, including length, sex, number of eggs/pups, and life status (i.e. condition) if discarded (e.g. alive-vigorous, alive-signs of life and dead) are collected for sharks through updates to CMM 02-2018 (SC7-Report Section 5.2).	Commission	Implemented	Annex 7 of CMM 02-2020
Deepwater	Sharks should be identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible, preferably to the species level (SC7-Report Section 5.2).	Commission	Implemented	Annex 7 of CMM 02-2020



Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status	Comment
Deepwater	That ERA assessments be repeated at least every five years and/or if there are substantial changes in the characteristics of SPRFMO bottom fisheries, and that this is reflected in the SPRFMO SC workplan. Such assessments could be expanded to include all SPRFMO fisheries (SC7-Report Section 5.2)	SC	In progress	On SC Multi-Annual Plan
Deepwater	The current catch limit of 1,140 t per year for Louisville Ridge is maintained for 2020-2022 (SC7-Report Section 5.3).	Commission	Implemented	Paragraph 5 CMM 03a-2020
Deepwater	A catch limit for Westpac Bank could sustainably be set at a level up to 306 t, but that a catch limit of 258 t would represent a suitably precautionary approach given uncertainties in the stock assessment, in particular with regards to potential recruitment, and would also be consistent with the assumption that 12.5% of the Southwest challenger stock biomass occurs in the Westpac Bank area and that the catch limit be proportional to the total catch limit for the stock in accordance with this assumption (SC7-Report Section 5.3).	Commission	Implemented	Paragraph 9 CMM 03a-2020
Deepwater	Consistent with the multi-annual workplan, a stock assessment for the northwest Challenger Plateau be developed as a priority in 2020 for review by SC8 and, as time and resources permit, for the Lord Howe Rise (SC7-Report Section 5.3).	SC	In Progress	On SC Multi-Annual Plan
Deepwater	The SC recommended (SC7-Report Section 5.4) that, when the Commission reviews CMM 03-2019 in 2021, the list of VME indicator taxa should be revised	Commission	In Progress	On SC Multi-Annual Plan
Deepwater	The SC recommended (SC7-Report Section 5.5) to the Commission that the revised BFIAS at Annex A of SC07- DW19 be adopted for any relevant BFIA processes undertaken in accordance with CMM 03-2019 and CMM 13- 2019.	Commission	Not Addressed	This recommendation was not included in the 2020 revision of CMM 03-2020
Deepwater	The SC recommends (SC7-Report Section 10.2) that the SPRFMO Commission extend the expiry date of CMM 14b-2019 to 2022, aligning the CMM to the start of fisheries operations.	Commission	Not Addressed	This recommendation was not included in the 2020 revision of CMM 14b-2020



Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status	Comment
Squid	The SC noted that the workshop participants supported a future CMM including data gathering and reporting for the jumbo flying squid fishery with several possible management approaches including catch limits, fishing efforts limits and temporal and spatial closures being discussed, however, there was no agreement on common elements for an appropriate CMM to be developed at this stage and recommends (SC7-Report Section 4.3) the Commission to consider the current situation on CMM discussion from the squid working group and allow adequate time to develop the elements of the CMM for the Jumbo flying squid fishery.	Commission	Implemented	CMM 18-2020 (Squid) , SC Multi-Annual Plan
Squid	The SC recommended (SC7-Report, Section 7.7) that the minimum number of at-sea full-time observers is 5 per Member or implement observer coverage in the range of 5-15% for a period of 3 years.	Commission	Implemented	CMM 18-2020 (Squid)
Squid	The SC recommended (SC7-Report, Section 12.4) considering the offer made by CALAMASUR to co-host a workshop on Squid.	Commission	Implemented	On SC Multi-Annual Plan , but recently cancelled due to Pandemic
Other	The SC recommends (SC7-Report Section 4.3) the Commission to consider mechanisms to harmonise coordination of data collection in observer programmes within the Memorandums of Understanding with relevant regional and/or sub-regional bodies	Commission	Implemented	Memoranda of Understanding with IATTC and WCPFC
Other	The SC recommended (SC7-Report, Section 9.3) that VMS data for scientific purposes should require the Permission of the Member or CNCP and that the review of CMM 06-2018 (Commission VMS) considers the input of SC7 so VMS data may also be used by the SC for analysis to support specific scientific advice requested by the Commission.	Commission	Implemented	Template for SC VMS requests adopted by Commission



3. Progress on 2019 recommendations

Of the eighteen recommendations, the Commission was the responsible body for fourteen, with the Scientific Committee two, and one recommendation each for the Secretariat and Members. Eleven of the recommendations have already been implemented, four are in progress, two have not been addressed and one was considered by Commission but not implemented.

Three of the recommendations that are in progress are on the [SC Multi-Annual Plan](#) that will be considered at SC8 with the remainder being a recommendation for Members to address.

The two recommendations that were not addressed are:

1. that the revised BFIAS at annex A of SC07- DW19 be adopted for any relevant BFIA processes undertaken in accordance with CMM 03-2019 and CMM 13- 2019 – although CMM 03 was updated in 2020, the old BFIAS from 2011 is still referred to.
2. the SPRFMO Commission extend the expiry date of CMM 14b-2019 to 2022, aligning the CMM to the start of fisheries operations – although CMM 14b was updated in 2020 the expiry date is still September 2021, although a fishery for the fishing year July 1 2021 to 30 June 2022 is referred to in Paragraph 31.

In addition the Commission considered the idea “that a Task Group be established by COMM 8 which includes Members of the SC and the Commission to progress the MSE for Jack Mackerel in 2020” but instead decided to progress the MSE with a workshop with Managers and Scientists to be on the day between CTC8 and COMM9 in February 2021.

Figure 1 summarises the status of the 18 (2019) Recommendations of the Scientific Committee.

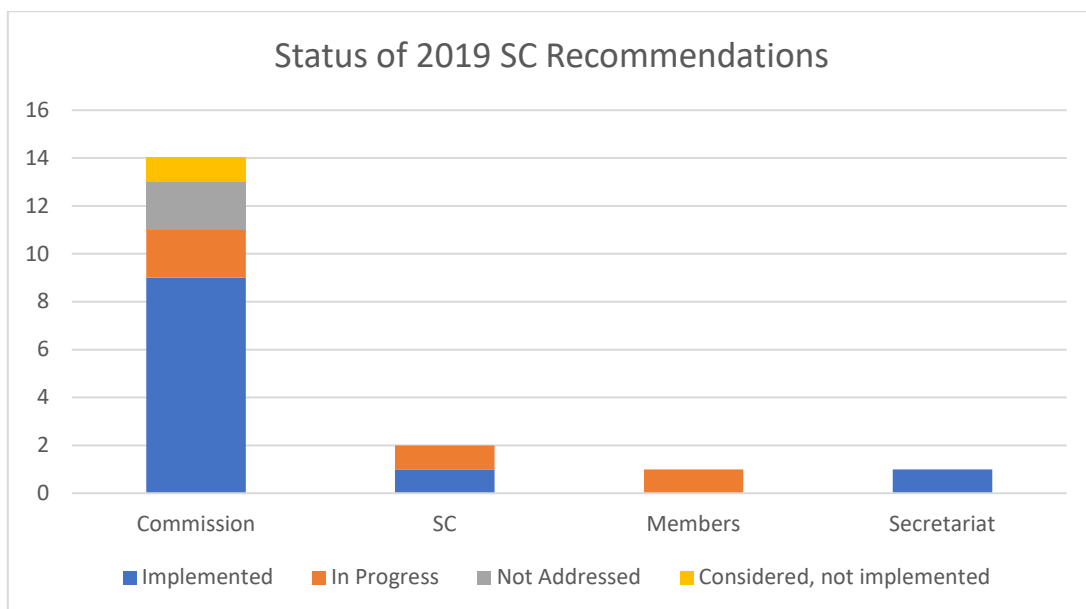


Figure 1: Status of 2019 Recommendations (SC7).



4. Progress on 2018 Recommendations

At SC7, [SC7-Doc18](#) documented 30 recommendations that had been identified from Annex 1 of [SC6-Report](#). At that time eighteen of the recommendations had been implemented, nine were in progress and three had not been addressed. Of the three recommendations that were outstanding at the Seventh meeting of the Scientific Committee, two were implemented at the Eighth meeting of the Commission ([COMM8-Report](#)).

1. Recommended to the SPRFMO Commission that identification protocols and biological data collection for deepwater chondrichthyans is strengthened for SPRFMO demersal fisheries – Implemented in 2020 [CMM 02-2020 \(Data Standards\)](#).
2. Recommended that Annexes 1 and 3 of CMM02-2018 be updated to include a requirement for data on bycatch of benthic species to be reported in logbooks to fill a current gap in the understanding of the frequency of interactions with benthic species, particularly in bottom line fisheries – Implemented in 2020 [CMM 02-2020 \(Data Standards\)](#).
3. Seeks guidance from the Commission on the nature and certainty of its information needs on the bycatch of Seabirds, Marine Mammals, and Other Species of Concern, so that SC can more precisely advise on observer deployment requirements in SPRFMO fisheries – Not implemented

Of the nine recommendations that were in progress as of October 2019:

1. Four related to a proposed CMM to provide for research activities in the Convention Area, which was considered (COMM7-Prop 15), but withdrawn during COMM7 (para 126 of [COMM7-Report](#)).
2. One asked that bottom fishing nations should provide detailed analysis of all benthic bycatch data and particularly those fishing events that exceed the thresholds described herein – Likely in progress but if acceptable, the Secretariat could be tasked with updating the [SC guidelines for annual reports](#).
3. Requests that work to determine when observed bycatch rates indicate the models used to predict the distribution of VME taxa and underpin spatial management measures are misleading be added to the SC work plan for delivery in 2019 – In progress in [SC Multi-Annual Plan](#).
4. Agreed that further work should be done to enable more sophisticated use of bycatch data in habitat suitability models and the development of VME indicator taxa thresholds that may inform encounter protocols, where these might be required – In progress in [SC Multi-Annual Plan](#).
5. Recommended that observer data be provided 30 days prior to the SC meeting (Exploratory fishing) – Not implemented although [CMM 13-2020](#) (Exploratory Fisheries) has been updated, there is no mention of observer data being supplied to the SC (c.f. para 20 of [CMM 01-2020](#)).
6. Set out workplan items for the Habitat Monitoring Working Group – In progress in [SC Multi-Annual Plan](#).