

9th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Held virtually, 27 September to 2 October 2021

SC9-Doc08

Status of previous SC Recommendations

Secretariat

1. Background

The 8th Scientific Committee Meeting (SC8) of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) took place from 3-8 October 2020 (hosted by New Zealand but held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Over 140 participants (scientists from 14 SPRFMO Members, representatives from 6 NGOs, 2 IGOs, one external invited expert, and the Secretariat) reviewed and assessed over 70 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.

- SC9 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 [SC8-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 2021), In Progress, Not Addressed, or Considered (not implemented).



Table 1: Status of 2020 Scientific Committee Recommendations (as of September 2021).

Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status	Comment
Deepwater	<p>The SC recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 29):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the median yield estimate of 396 tonnes be set as the annual catch limit for 2021 and 2022 and 2023 for the NW Challenger stock; • that 0.75 of the median yield estimate of 348 tonnes, being 261 tonnes, be set as the annual catch limit for 2021 and 2022 (unless an updated assessment is done in this time) for the Lord Howe Rise stock; • that 0.5 of the median yield estimate of 108 tonnes, being 54 tonnes, be set as the annual catch limit for 2021 and 2022 for the West Norfolk Ridge stock; • that these Orange roughy catch limits apply for no more than 2 years (and 3 in the case of NWC), noting that a more precautionary approach should be taken if insufficient advancement is made in data collection to support stock assessments including acoustic surveys for the relevant stocks in that time. 	Commission	Implemented	CMM 03a-2021 paragraph 5b
Deepwater	Concerning VME encounters and spatial management, the SC agreed (SC8-Report Paragraph 36) that an assessment of how ID guides could be developed should be added to the work plan	Commission	Implemented	On the SC 2021 work plan
Deepwater	<p>The SC also recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 74):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that in its review of CMM 03-2020 (Bottom Fishing), the Commission may wish to consider additional precautionary management measures for areas and taxa at higher risk from bottom trawl fisheries to address uncertainty and provide additional confidence that the CMM will meet its objective; • that the Commission provides guidance to the Scientific Committee on the level of protection, structure, or function of VMEs it requires to assure that Significant Adverse Impacts on VMEs are prevented, or requests advice on this in the multi-annual workplan. 	Commission	Implemented	On the SC 2021 work plan



Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status	Comment
Jack mackerel	The SC recommended (SC8-Report , Paragraph 86) that intersessional work on comparison of protocols and exchange of otoliths between Members take place, including a possible intersessional workshop;	Members	Considered, not implemented	On the SC 2021 work plan but postponed until 2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
Jack mackerel	The SC recommended (SC8-Report , Paragraph 117) a 15% increase in 2021 catches throughout the range of Jack mackerel- at or below 782 kt	Commission	Implemented	See Paragraph 10 of CMM 01-2021
Jack mackerel	The SC recommended (SC8-Report , Paragraph 127) that a Jack mackerel data workshop (3-4 days) be held in 2021	SC	Implemented	Held 9-11 August 2021
Jack mackerel	The SC recommended (SC8-Report , Section 128) that a Jack mackerel benchmark workshop (minimum of 4 days) be held in 2021	SC	Considered, not implemented	On the SC 2021 work plan but postponed until 2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
Squid	The SC recommended (SC8-Report , Paragraph 136) that Members check the catch data contained in tables 1 and 2 of SC8-SQ01_rev1 and liaise with the Secretariat in cases where significant discrepancies exist	Members	Implemented	Ongoing
Squid	The SC agreed (SC8-Report , Paragraph 160) that the Squid Monthly Catch and Effort data template in SC8-SQ01_rev1 was appropriate at this time and recommended that it should be used to collect this type of data from the squid fishery	Commission	Implemented	See Annex 13 Part B of CMM 02-2021
Squid	The SC (SC8-Report Paragraph 165) accepted the Squid Jigging Observer Data Template with the understanding that the Secretariat would make the updates referred to in Paragraph 162 and also remove the transshipment tab pending a possible future CTC discussion on the merits of its inclusion into this specific template.	Commission	Implemented	See Annex 7 E of CMM 02-2021



Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status	Comment
Habitat Monitoring	Regarding the nomination of a subgroup of specialists to evaluate advantages and biases of analysis methods and a subgroup to organise classification of fishing fleet, the SC recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 203) that Members encourage participation of scientists interested in habitat modelling at large (e.g. from the Deepwater group) to be involved in these subgroups so as to increase cross collaboration on similar issues.	Members	In progress	No subgroups formed but remains on the SC 2021 work plan and discussed at HMWG meeting 24/08/2021
Habitat Monitoring	Regarding the Symposium on the State of Art Habitat Monitoring, the SC recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 205) that the steering committee prepare a detailed plan for the Symposium to be presented to the Commission in its January 2021 meeting	Symposium steering committee	In progress	Deadline not met but remains on the SC 2021 work plan and discussed at HMWG meeting 24/08/2021
Exploratory fisheries	The SC requested (SC8-Report Paragraph 208) that interested parties work intersessionally to update the checklist with additional detail in accordance with CMM 13-2020 (Exploratory Fisheries) and based on their experience of reviewing exploratory fishing proposals in recent years. On a potential need to develop a template for Fisheries Operation Plans to assist proponents to meet the requirements of CMM 13-2020 (Exploratory Fisheries), the SC requested the Secretariat to work with Members intersessionally to develop such a template.	Members	Implemented	Draft in SC8-DW03
Exploratory fisheries	On the Cook Islands' exploratory fisheries plan, the SC accepted (SC8-Report Paragraph 225) the latest version of Cook Island's Fishery Operational Plan (SC8-DW01_rev1) and recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 223): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the SPRFMO Commission allocate no more than an annual total allowable catch (TAC) of 300 t a year for fishing years for the period October 2021- June 2023; • within the global TAC, facilitate feature specific limits with the extension of the exploratory fishing area to include 'Box 2' area; 	Commission	Implemented	See CMM 14b-2021 paragraphs 5-18



Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that fishing operations shall take place over no more than 80 fishing days per trip (Trip Total Allowable Effort), setting and hauling no more than five lines of 100 traps a day the period October 2021- June 2023; noting that during the course of fishing operations, additional seamounts may be discovered, if these fall shallower than 500 m and feature structure deem suitable, opportunities shall be allowed for their exploration; that five experimental days be added to the trip TAE for one trip between October 2021- June 2022. Note: all catches taken during experimental fishing are counted against the TAC; allowing the flagged vessel to test alternative trap designs. 			
Exploratory fisheries	On Chile's exploratory fisheries plan, the SC (SC8-Report paragraph 241) on SC8-DW06_rev3) recommended that a small group continue to provide some additional advice on the Chilean proposal, noting that the work is likely to extend intersessionally and result in a revised proposal being provided to the 9th meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2021 unless the scope of the proposal is reduced to include only the Chile Rise and additional information provided.	Members	Implemented	No further action required as proposal not progressed
Exploratory fisheries	On the European Union's exploratory fisheries plan, the SC (SC8-Report paragraph 248) accepted the Fishery Operational Plan and checklist (SC8-DW16) for the European Union proposal for an exploratory toothfish fishery.	Commission	Implemented	CMM 14e-2021
Other matters	On the level and use of the Commission's scientific support budget item, the SC recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 280) that the Australian contribution be firstly used to cover the projected deficit (\$23,060) and to use the remainder on high priority workplan items including aligning the Deepwater and Habitat Monitoring work;	Commission	Implemented	COMM 9 -Report Annex 5a Budget
Other matters	On the level and use of the Commission's scientific support budget item, the SC recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 281) that notwithstanding regulation 2(4) that the Commission exceptionally agree to carry funds forward to next financial year if the	Commission	Implemented	COMM 9 -Report Annex 5a Budget



Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status	Comment
	COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit activities that can be undertaken during the 2020-21 financial year			



3. Progress on 2020 recommendations

Of the eighteen recommendations, the Commission was the responsible body for ten, with the Members responsible for five, Scientific Committee two, with one remaining recommendation for the Habitat Monitoring Symposium Steering Committee. Fourteen of the recommendations have already been implemented, two were considered but delayed because of COVID-19 and two are in progress.

All four of the recommendations that have not yet been implemented are on the [2021 work plan](#) that will be considered at SC9.

The two recommendations that are still in progress are:

1. Regarding the nomination of a subgroup of specialists to evaluate advantages and biases of analysis methods and a subgroup to organise classification of fishing fleet, the SC recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 203) that Members encourage participation of scientists interested in habitat modelling at large (e.g. from the Deepwater group) to be involved in these subgroups so as to increase cross collaboration on similar issues. No subgroups have been formed but this item remains on the SC 2021 work plan and was discussed at HMWG meeting 24/08/2021.
2. Regarding the Symposium on the State of Art Habitat Monitoring, the SC recommended (SC8-Report Paragraph 205) that the steering committee prepare a detailed plan for the Symposium to be presented to the Commission in its January 2021 meeting. This deadline was not met but the item remains on the SC [2021 work plan](#) and was discussed at HMWG meeting 24/08/2021

Figure 1 summarises the status of the 18 (2020) Recommendations of the Scientific Committee.

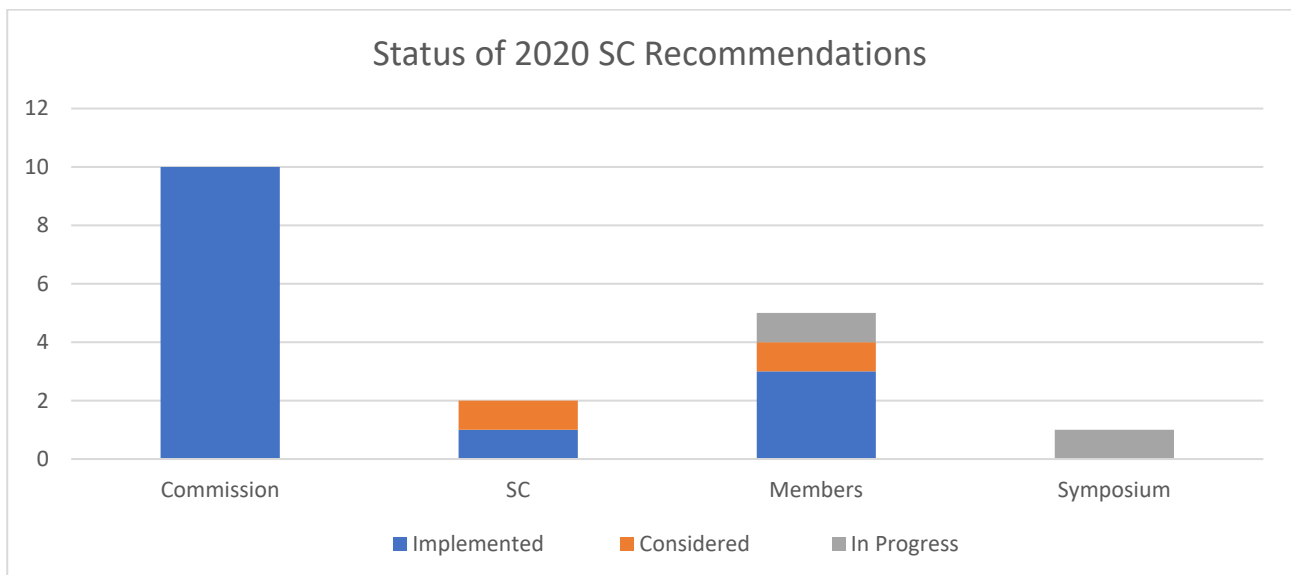


Figure 1: Status of 2020 Recommendations (SC8)



4. Progress on 2019 recommendations

As of September 2020 eleven of the eighteen recommendations from SC7 had already been implemented, four were in progress, two had not been addressed and one had been considered by Commission but not implemented.

The four recommendations that were still in progress were:

1. 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) – no update available.
2. 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) – for bottom fisheries, required as part of 3 yearly BFIA ([CMM 03-2021](#) Paragraph 22).
3. 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). – [SC8-DW10](#) presented a stock assessment for Northwest Challenger and Lord Howe Rise which was accepted by SC8 and reflected in [CMM 03a-2021](#).
4. 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 – SC9-DW11 presents an updated list of VME taxa for consideration.

The two recommendations that had not been addressed were:

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. This was addressed at COMM9 (see Paragraph 21a of [CMM 03-2021](#)).
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. This was addressed at COMM 9 (see Paragraph 34 of [CMM 14b-2021](#)).