

SPRFMO NEWSLETTER

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mr Craig Loveridge

Dear SPRFMO community,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the SPRFMO Newsletter 2020, providing updates on the intersessional work of the SPRFMO Commission and the Secretariat.

This is my first newsletter as the SPRFMO Acting Executive Secretary, and I must say it has been an interesting and, at times, chaotic first 6 months leading work of the Secretariat. I am extremely fortunate that the Staff remain ever committed and that SPRFMO Members have continued to show their willingness to cooperate. It is a privilege to work in an organisation where everyone is determined to explore new ways of working collectively, and one which continues to develop effective conservation and management measures based on the best scientific information available while applying both the precautionary and ecosystem approaches.

We are rapidly approaching the SPRFMO Annual Meeting and unfortunately the effects of COVID-19 have not subsided. The Secretariat feels blessed to be headquartered in Wellington, New Zealand. I genuinely hope you, your families and friends are safe and well, wherever you are, and that you are coping with the new normal in which working from home is a common reality.

In light of the impacts of the pandemic, the Commission has made an intersessional decision to convene its 9th Annual Meeting, electronically in January/February 2021. This follows the successful conclusion of the 1st virtual meeting of the SPRFMO Scientific Committee in early October. Even though this meeting required hard work from everyone (particularly our Chairpersons), this experience and those of other RFMOs show it is possible to make the most of limited meeting time and deliver on anticipated outcomes. The SC worked very hard to achieve its outcomes (listed later in this newsletter) and I would like to thank all 148 participants from the different delegations for their excellent work under such trying circumstances.

The Secretariat has been busy keeping the organisation running as smoothly as possible. Since the last newsletter in May, we have farewelled Sebastián Rodríguez and Pablo Ortiz who have both returned home. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their time with SPRFMO and their contributions to the Organisation as well as their ability to foster respectful and empathetic relationships across the entire organisation. We have also welcomed a new Compliance Manager, Mr Randy Jenkins, from Canada. Randy is very happy to have passed New Zealand's COVID-19 quarantine procedures and is eager to meet with you all in due time.

The Secretariat are currently focused on preparing for the upcoming meeting, making necessary arrangements and writing the various papers for each of the subsidiary committees. We are all disappointed that it will not be possible to greet you all in person due to the current international situation, however our experiences during the Scientific Committee meeting means we are looking forward to the virtual meeting and optimistic that these new approaches will facilitate our future work.

I appreciate your support and I know that we can count on each other's understanding in these extraordinary times. Thank you for your continuing commitment to the SPRFMO, stay safe and my best wishes to everyone. All the best, **Craig L.**



Craig Loveridge
Acting Executive Secretary

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UPCOMING DEADLINES AND DUE DATES

- 22 Dec - Comments on Initial Draft Compliance Report
- 26 Dec - Other papers for Annual Meeting
- 26 Dec - Comments on the Draft IUU Vessel List
- 21 Jan - Start of the SPRFMO Commission Meeting
- 30 Jan - Submission of Annual List of Active Vessels

(calendar of [relevant dates available on the SPRFMO website](#), also iCalendar for [download](#))

LATEST NEWS [See more](#)

- 9th SPRFMO Annual Meeting
- SPRFMO Record of Vessels upgrades
- SPRFMO welcomes new Compliance Manager
- SPRFMO SC8 meeting

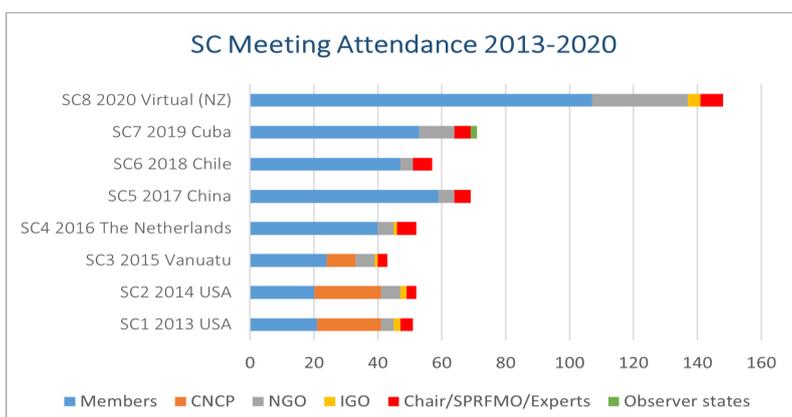
8TH SPRFMO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING



- The 8th SPRFMO Scientific Committee Meeting, 3-8 October 2020, was chaired by Dr Jim Ianelli and hosted by the Government of New Zealand, but held virtually in Microsoft Teams, enabling a collaborative working environment.
- The SC8 was preceded by the 3rd SC Deepwater Workshop (SCW10), between 29 September and 2 October.
- Three sessions of approximately two hours were held each day, scheduled to ensure that all participants had maximum opportunity to engage during normal waking hours in their time zone. Because of the limited time available to present and discuss papers, seven pre-SC web meetings were held, where much of the material was covered before the formal opening of SC8 on Saturday 3 October 2020. Reports and recordings of presentations from these meetings were made available to meeting participants.
- The SC8 assessed more than 70 working papers.

KEY OUTCOMES

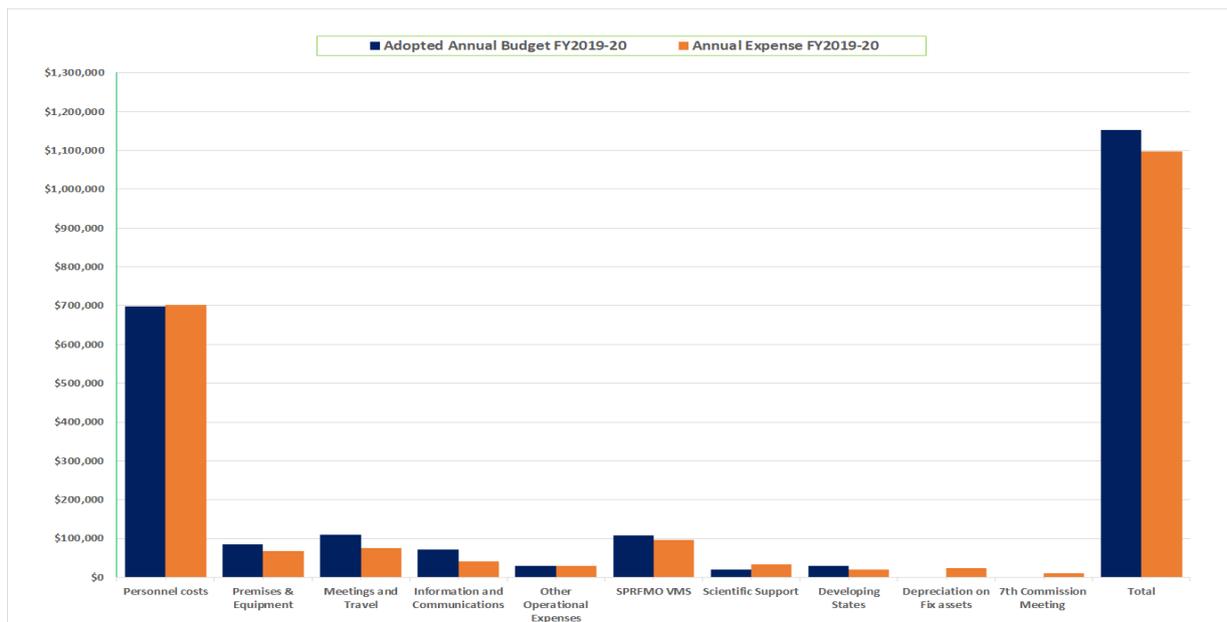
- The estimated biomass of Jack mackerel in the southeast Pacific increased from 2019 to 2020 and is now estimated to be well above the interim B_{MSY} . According to the accepted rebuilding plan the SC therefore recommended that the Jack mackerel catch limit throughout the range be increased by 15% in 2021, to 782 000 tonnes. The advice for catch limits in 2021 does not depend on the stock hypothesis that is used.
- The SC recommended that the Orange roughy annual catch limit be set at 396 tonnes for the Northwest Challenger stock for 2021, 2022, and 2023; at 261 tonnes for the Lord Howe Rise stock for 2021 and 2022; and at 54 tonnes for the West Norfolk Ridge stock for 2021 and 2022.
- New Zealand and Australia presented a joint Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment which the SC agreed represents the best science available to the SC at the current time.
- With regards to Jumbo flying squid, the SC progressed several important pieces of work such as data template development in preparation for the full implementation of CMM 18-2020 on 1 January 2021.
- Chile has offered to host a Symposium on the State of Art Habitat Monitoring covering habitat monitoring research for multiple species and habitat types, ideally to be held in January 2022.



- The SC8 was attended by 148 delegates from 14 Members, two IGOs; and six NGOs. Attendance was almost twice as high as the biggest SC meeting so far. Increased attendance is thought to be related to the online format, which meant that delegations could bring a larger number of representatives. The Deepwater Workshop which preceded SC8 was attended by 38 participants.

FINANCES AT A GLANCE

- The SPRFMO financial year is the period from 1 July to 30 June. The graph below shows the figures (NZ\$) for the adopted budget vs. actual expenditure for the Financial Year (FY)2019-2020 that ended on 30th June 2020.



- Crowe as the appointed independent auditor conducted the auditing work for SPRFMO Financial Year 2019-2020. The auditors did not identify any issues or concerns. The Auditor's opinion: *"The accompanying special purpose financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organisation as at 30 June 2020, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Financial Regulations of the Commission."*
- The certified SPRFMO Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2020 are also made available on SPRFMO's website.

COMPLIANCE

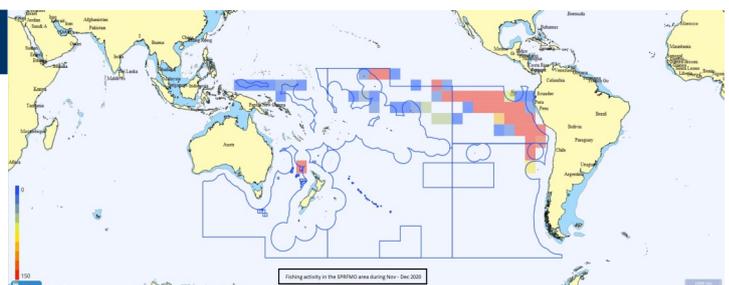
- COMPLIANCE MANAGER.** Mr Randy Jenkins is the new Compliance Manager of SPRFMO, and he started working with the Secretariat in November. His initial work has focused on the CMS and CMM 07-2019 (Port Inspections).
- COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME.** Eighteen individual Initial Draft Compliance Reports were sent by the Secretariat to Members and CNCs of SPRFMO for comments in November.

OBSERVER PROGRAMME

At the COMM8, MRAG was selected as the provider to fulfil the role of Observer Programme Accreditation Evaluator. In 2020 Australia, Chile, and New Zealand initiated the accreditation process and MRAG have completed draft Assessment Reports for all three Members. MRAG noted that they were encouraged by the levels of engagement they had with these countries.

VMS

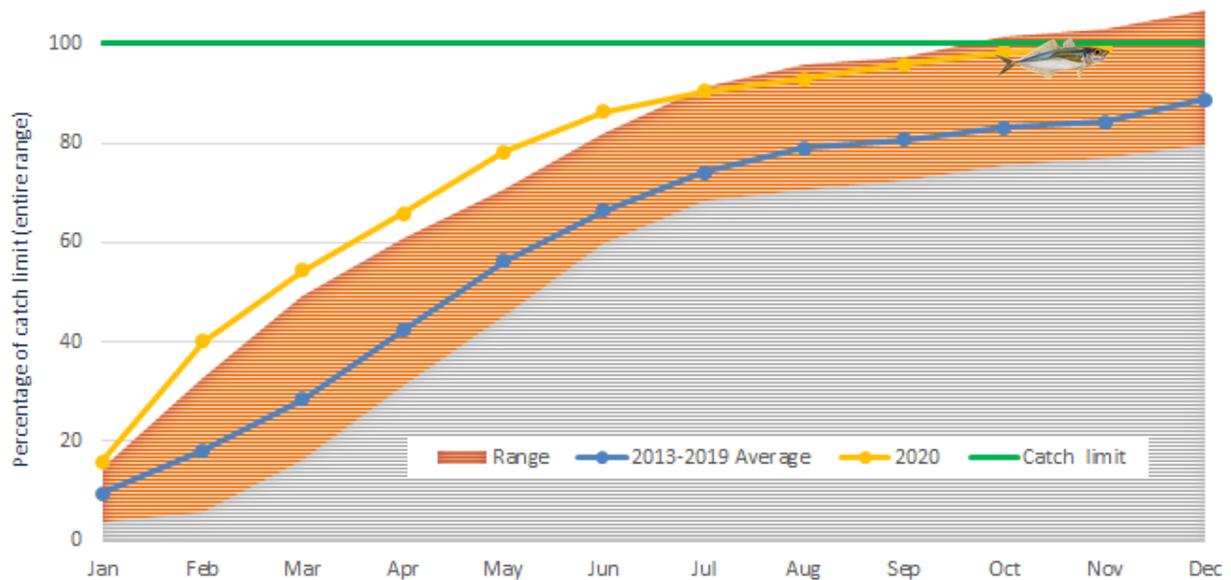
- The heat map on the right, obtained from Themis, is a representation of the numbers of vessels that were on the SPRFMO Record and present in the SPRFMO Area in a 1-week period during Nov/Dec of 2020.



- All communications that used to be addressed to John Cheva or Pablo Ortiz should now be addressed to Mr [Randy Jenkins](#) who becomes the primary contact for the SPRFMO Commission VMS.

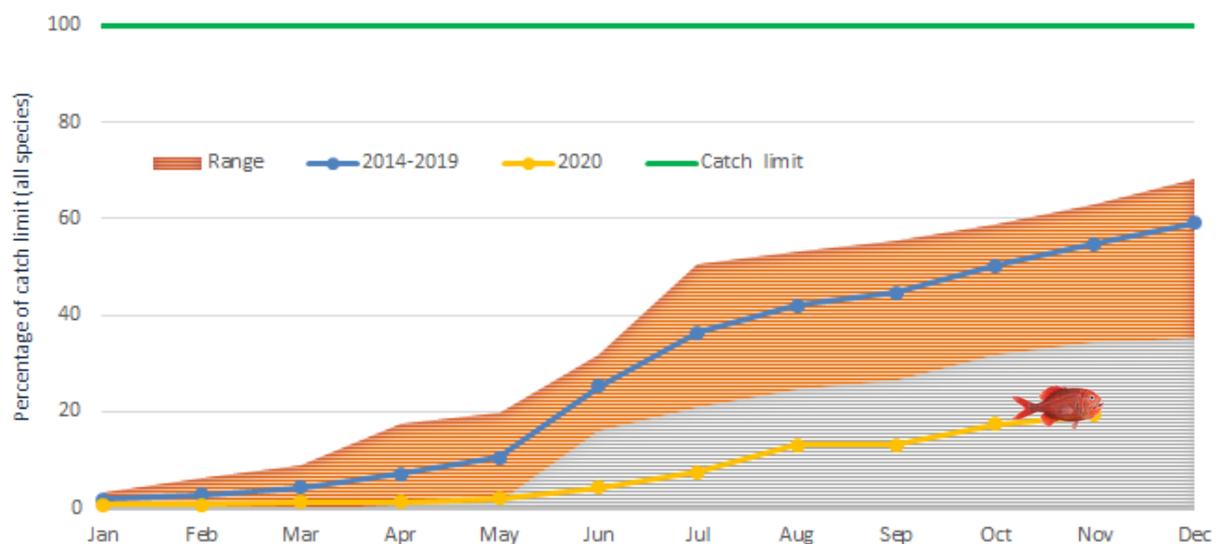
DATA AND FISHERIES

Jack mackerel



- Thus far (to the end of November), total Jack mackerel catches (throughout its entire range) represent 99.4% of the amount specified in CMM 01-2020, as shown in the graph above.

Bottom fisheries



- The 2020 Bottom fisheries (all species) are progressing at a much lower rate than average.
- New Zealand has advised that under Paragraph 17 of CMM 03a-2020 it will be carrying forward 10% of its Orange roughly allocated catch limit in each of the Westpac Bank and Tasman Sea areas to the 2021 fishing year.

Exploratory Fisheries

- There was no fishing under any of the exploratory fisheries programmes in the second half of 2020.
- The third year of the Cook Islands potting exploratory fishery operating under CMM14b ends on 30 June 2021.
- The third year of the New Zealand exploratory fishery for toothfish under CMM 14a ends on 31 December 2021.
- There is one proposal from the European Union to be considered by COMM9 (COMM9-Prop 16) for a new exploratory fishery for toothfish.

Data

- **DATABASE UPGRADES.** Seven new and upgraded modules plus a redevelopment of the core functionality of the SPRFMO database website have gone live.
- **RECORD OF VESSELS.** Users of the new-look [public SPRFMO Record of Vessels](#) will now be able to access images of the vessels from the SPRFMO Image database, and will also be able to see historical as well as current vessel authorisations.
- **VESSEL DATA.** 2020 saw 84 new vessels on the SPRFMO Record of Vessels and 3 450 changes to details on the SPRFMO Record of Vessels
- **ALDFG.** In the context of CMM 17-2019 (Marine Pollution), the Secretariat has received and circulated 26 reports of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in this calendar year.
- **TRANSHIPMENT DATA.** 3 993 records of transshipment data were loaded to the SPRFMO transshipments database for 2019.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- **SPRFMO-WCPFC MoU.** The MOU was signed by the SPRFMO Chairperson, Mr Osvaldo Urrutia, in March 2020, and was signed by the Chair of the WCPFC, Ms Jung-Re Riley, in August 2020. The objective of this MoU is to facilitate the cooperation between the Organisations in their shared interests and management objectives.
- **SPRFMO-RMIT Agreement.** In May 2020, the Executive Secretary, Dr Sebastián Rodríguez, signed a partnership agreement with the RMIT University of Australia with an aim to translate the SPRFMO Convention into languages other than English. The first task was to translate the Convention into Chinese (simplified Chinese and traditional Chinese). The translations have been finalised and been submitted to the delegations of China and Chinese Taipei for reviewing. The final versions of all the translated versions of the SPRFMO Convention will be made available to the Commission.
- **SPRFMO-NOAA MoU.** The Secretariat and the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding in September 2020, which is aimed at financially supporting the SPRFMO Secretariat in the implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance measures, including the VMS system, the Observer Programme, data collection and analysis, compliance and enforcement procedures and to assist the Secretariat with other measures as appropriate. The MoU is valid for a period of 5 years starting in 1 July 2020, until 30 June 2025.

UPCOMING SPRFMO MEETINGS

- The 2021 SPRFMO Annual Meeting was scheduled to take place in St Petersburg but due to the global pandemic, the Commission, through a series of intersessional decisions, has agreed that it will take place virtually. The SPRFMO Chairpersons have convened to engage in discussions about the format and platform for the virtual meeting and further information will be forthcoming.
- The 2021 Annual meeting is scheduled to take begin on the 21st January 2021 and will use Microsoft Teams. Registrations are open and delegations are encouraged to register as soon as possible so that they can get set up on Microsoft Teams for full collaborative functionality.

CONTACT THE SECRETARIAT

Email: secretariat@sprfmo.int

Web: www.sprfmo.int

Phone: +64 4 4999889

Mailing address: PO Box 3797, Wellington, New Zealand

Find us on social media:



SNEAK PEEK

Take a look at issue 6 of this Newsletter:

- Outcomes from the 9th SPRFMO Annual Meeting
- Results of the Recruitment of a new Executive Secretary
- Amended Conservations and Management Measures
- Progress of the Observer Programme
- 2021 SPRFMO IUU Vessel List