

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

2nd Meeting of the Commission Manta, Ecuador: 27 - 31 January 2014

Report of the 1st Compliance & Technical Committee (CTC) Meeting

1. Welcome and Introduction

The participants were welcomed to the meeting by Mr Osvaldo Urrutia (Chile), Chairperson of the Committee. The Vice-Chair of the CTC is Mr Wan Chen (China).

2. Administrative Arrangements

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Provisional Agenda CTC-01-01(supp) was adopted as the meeting's Agenda and is attached as Annex 1.

2.2 Meeting Documents

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Meeting Documents listed in CTC-01-INF-02. It should be noted that an additional document was presented during the meeting being CTC-01-26 Peru's implementation report.

3. Assessment of compliance of Members and CNCPs

3.1 Annual report from Members on implementation of the Commission's measures in accordance with Article 24 (2) and paragraph 20 of CMM 1.01

The Chair noted that annual implementation reports have been submitted by Vanuatu (CTC-01-16), China (CTC-01-17), Australia (CTC-01-18), Chile (CTC-01-19), the United States of America (CTC-01-20), Korea (CTC-01-21), the European Union (CTC-01-22), Chinese Taipei (CTC-01-23), New Zealand (CTC-01-24) and the Faroe Islands (CTC-01-25). Peru also submitted an implementation report (CTC-01-26 during the meeting.

The CTC noted that implementation reports for the EU, Chinese Taipei, Faroe Islands, New Zealand and Peru were not received within the time frames specified in Para 20 CMM 1.01. It was also noted that Cuba, Belize, the Russian Federation and Ecuador did not provide an implementation report.

Australia reminded the CTC that article 24 (para 2) requires an annual report that covers all CMMs and is not limited to just CMM 1.01.

3.2 Secretariat report on compliance

The Executive Secretary presented an Assessment of compliance of Members and CNCPs (CTC-01-02). USA supported the level of detail present in the report and considered it helpful. EU requested that after the draft report was produced an updated version would be provided by the Secretariat in January, so that the most

recent information could be considered by the CTC. This idea was supported by Chile.

Chile expressed concern with the level of non-compliance in the report. Chile also observed that a lot of information is received after the specified deadlines and that this makes the work of the Secretariat and the SC more difficult.

China provided an explanation about the timing of vessel information. China reviews its vessel list at the end of each year and hence they are unable to submit the final information until January.

The EU expressed support for the INF document provided by the Chair on a compliance and monitoring scheme, and thought early adoption would help future discussions by providing a clear framework for the process.

Peru admitted that Observer information has not been provided and they will make efforts to improve that.

3.3 Template to facilitate reporting in subsequent years

The Chair proposed that, considering the tight agenda, the Secretariat should work on a template intersessionally and highlighted that the template should bear in mind article 24(2) of the Convention. The CTC agreed with this proposal. The EU reminded the CTC that there is no deadline requirement in the Convention and suggested an informal deadline was needed.

4. Assessment of Cooperating non-Contracting Parties' nominations

The Chair noted that the formal requirements contained in Para 3 (Decision 1.02) were generally met in the applications for CNCP status.

There was considerable discussion on the applications from Liberia, Panama and Peru.

Liberia provided a statement in support of its application. It stated that combatting IUU fishing is a high priority for Liberia. In response to concerns raised about transshipments by Liberian flagged vessels in the Convention Area, Liberia stated that it had started investigations and reiterated its commitment to impose adequate sanctions in case of non-compliance with the Commission's conservation measures.

Panama spoke in support of its application. Panama also submitted CTC-01-07(supp-1) which contained its commitment to comply with the provisions of the Convention and the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. After concerns were raised by Members regarding a Panamanian flagged reefer operating in the Convention area, Panama stated it had conducted an inspection and that investigations were ongoing.

Peru spoke in support of its application. Peru provided additional information including 2013 annual catches from within their Area of National Jurisdiction, 2012 Landings (nil), 2012 fishing and also transshipment information. Chile reminded Peru of the provision contained in Para 24 of CMM 1.01 which invites coastal states to apply all the data

collection and reporting requirements to *Trachurus murphyi* fisheries from within Areas of National Jurisdiction (ANJ). Peru expressed its deep commitment to the Convention, and also reiterated that while some of its information has been delayed Peru is also cooperating and participating fully in the SC.

After assessing all of the applications, the CTC recommends to the Commission that CNCP status is renewed for Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and the USA. The CTC also recommends granting CNCP status to Liberia and Panama.

5. Examination of current and draft IUU Lists

The Executive Secretary presented the draft IUU list (CTC-01-09) and reminded Members that according to CMM 1.04, the CTC shall examine the Draft IUU list and consider the information provided by the relevant flag States. A provisional list would then be adopted and submitted to the Commission for approval. He noted that since the initial information was prepared on 5 October 2013, information had been provided about transshipment(s) with a Curacao-flagged vessel which was not authorised to fish in the SPRFMO Area.

Panama and Liberia requested that their vessels be removed from the draft IUU list. After assessing all of the information provided by both States, the CTC decided that all three vessels would be removed from the draft IUU list. This was done taking into consideration the recent entry into force of the Convention and on the condition of commitments from both Panama and Liberia that they provide reports on measures taken and any sanctions imposed within three months. Liberia and Panama agreed to this condition.

The CTC recommends that no vessel should be included on the 2013 provisional IUU list.

Members also raised the issue of fishing vessels that tranship to carrier vessels and how the CTC should deal with this issue. Some Members noted that there were responsibilities associated with both receiving and transshipping vessels and that flag States should provide appropriate sanctions.

The issue of transshipment(s) carried out by the vessel Sierra Loba was raised and deferred to Agenda item 12: Other business.

6. Record of vessels authorised to fish in the Convention Area

The CTC noted the list of Vessels authorised to fish in the SPRFMO Area during 2014 (CTC-01-10_rev1). In response to questions, the Executive Secretary clarified that some Members and CNCPs provide authorisations without an end date. However, these lists are updated each year.

Chile introduced document CTC-01-15, Proposed Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of the Record of Vessels Authorized to Fish in the SPRFMO Convention Area. The proposal was revised after discussion among Members and CNCPs. The CTC recommended that the Commission adopt the revised version.

The CTC noted the concerns expressed by Chinese Taipei regarding the IMO number requirements within the footnote of Annex I, and agree to consider this issue in the future if needed.

7. Development of a Vessel Monitoring Scheme

A proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of the VMS in the SPRMFO Convention Area (CTC-01-12) was presented by the EU. The proposal was revised after discussion among Members and CNCPs.

The CTC agreed to recommend to the Commission that the Secretariat prepare a cost-benefit analysis of each of the VMS options set out in paragraph 8 of the proposed measure.

In relation to this proposal, the CTC agreed to recommend to the Commission creating an intersessional working group in order to develop the rules and procedures for the operation of the SPRFMO VMS, in accordance with paragraph 9 of this proposed measure.

The CTC recommended that the Commission adopt the revised version.

8. Development of Port State Measures in SPRFMO

A proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure on Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (CTC-01-11) was presented by the EU. The proposal was revised after discussion among Members and CNCPs. The CTC recommended that the Commission adopt the revised version.

9. Development and establishment of an At Sea Boarding and Inspection Scheme

A proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure for boarding and inspection procedures in the SPRFMO Convention Area (CTC-01-13) was presented by New Zealand. New Zealand highlighted that an At Sea Boarding and Inspection Scheme forms an integral part of a compliance framework. There was an initial discussion and progress was made. Due to the time available, it was agreed that this CMM proposal should continue to be worked on intersessionally.

10. Development of procedures for Transshipment

A proposal for a CMM for the Regulation of Transshipments (CTC-01-14) was presented by Chile. Some Members were concerned about the level of observer coverage and practical implication of this proposal. Australia was concerned that the revisions being discussed would weaken the proposal. There was no agreement in the CTC and this proposal was referred to the Commission for a decision.

11. Development of a Compliance Monitoring Scheme

The CTC welcomed the informal paper prepared by the Chair on the development of a Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CTC-01-INF-01). The EU offered to lead an intersessional working group to advance the proposal. The CTC accepted the EU offer and agreed to work on this issue intersessionally.

12. Other Matters

There was a discussion about the transshipment(s) conducted by the Curacao-flagged vessel Sierra Loba. The Secretariat noted that it had received additional information concerning this vessel. The CTC agreed to list the Sierra Loba on the Draft IUU List 2014. The CTC also agreed that the Secretariat should send an invitation to Curacao to apply for the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party and to attend the next meeting of the Commission. Chile stated that the provisions in CMM 1.04 should not prevent the

CTC from examining information concerning IUU fishing activities, and that any vessel(s) involved may be able to be included on the Provisional List which is submitted to the Commission.

13. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted at 2:57pm on 31 of January 2014.

14. Meeting Closure

The Chair of the CTC closed the meeting after the adoption of the report.

Annex 1
Compliance & Technical Committee Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Administrative Arrangements
 - 2.1 Adoption of the Agenda
 - 2.2 Meeting Documents
3. Assessment of compliance of Members and CNCPs
 - 3.1 Annual reports from members on implementation of the Commission's measures in accordance with Article 24 (2) and paragraph 20 of CMM 1.01
 - 3.2 Secretariat report on compliance
 - 3.3 Template to facilitate reporting in subsequent years
4. Assessment of Cooperating non-Contracting Parties' nominations
5. Examination of current and draft IUU lists
6. Record of vessels authorised to fish in the Convention Area
7. Development of a Vessel Monitoring Scheme
8. Development of Port State Measures in SPRFMO
9. Development and establishment of at sea Boarding and Inspection Scheme
10. Development of procedures for Transshipment
11. Development of a Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS)
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of Report
14. Meeting closure