

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Commission Auckland, New Zealand: 2 – 6 February 2015

COMM-03-08

### 2014 Draft Annual Report of the Commission Prepared by the Secretariat

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Paragraph 1 of Article 29 of the Convention provides that the “*Commission shall publish an annual report, which shall include details of decisions taken by the Commission to achieve the objective of this Convention. The report shall also provide information on actions taken by the Commission in response to any recommendations from the General Assembly of the United Nations or the FAO.*”

#### Membership

In 2013 the Commission had thirteen members, Australia, Belize, Republic of Chile, People's Republic of China, Cook Islands, Republic of Cuba, European Union, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, and Vanuatu.

Six countries were granted the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties: Colombia, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, Peru, and the United States of America.

#### Decisions taken by the Commission in 2014

The second Commission Meeting was held in Manta, Ecuador from 27 to 31 January 2014. The Commission adopted seven new or revised Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs):

CMM 2.01 (revision of CMM 1.01). *Trachurus murphyi*: addressing effort management, a total catch limit of 390 000 t, as well as detailed requirements for data collection and reporting;

CMM 2.02 (revision of CMM 1.03). Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data: these include data on fishing activities and the impact on fishing; observer data; VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) data; and historical data. Furthermore, mechanisms for data verification, data exchange and confidentiality are addressed.

CMM 2.03 (new). Management of bottom fishing. Objective: to promote the sustainable management of bottom fisheries including target fish stocks as well as non-target species taken as bycatch, in these fisheries, and to protect the marine ecosystems in which those resources occur, including *inter alia*, the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems. The Measure comprises the preparation of a bottom fishing footprint areas including limitation of bottom fishing to such areas; limitation of catches to average historical levels during a defined period (2002-2006); 100% observer coverage for bottom trawls and 10% observer coverage for other bottom gear; scientific assessment of bottom fishing; procedures for authorisation of bottom fishing outside the footprint or above reference period catch levels; stipulations for the closure of VMEs; Monitoring, control and reporting of bottom fishing; and cooperation with other States (not members of CNCPs). The measure will be reviewed in 2016 taking into account scientific advice.

CMM 2.04 (new). Minimising bycatch of seabirds. This measure specifies gear requirements to implement seabird mitigation measures; imposes data recording and reporting on all seabird interactions; and scientific reviews of seabird related information.

CMM 2.05 (new). Establishment of the Commission record of authorised vessels. The measure outlines flag state responsibilities when authorising a vessel to fish in the SPRFMO Convention Area and defines the standard for vessel data for the public vessel record on the SPRFMO website. The measure will be reviewed in 2016.

CMM 2.06 (new). Establishment of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The measure describes the purpose and intent of a future SPRFMO VMS administered by the Secretariat.

CMM 2.07 (new). Minimum standards of inspections in port. The measure defines the scope of the SPRFMO port inspection scheme and provides for the designation of points of contact and designated ports for each Members and CNCPs as well as the information to be provided by foreign fishing vessels prior to entry into port.

At its second meeting the Commission also considered the inclusion of fishing vessels in the SPRFMO IUU list and resolved that no vessel should be listed in 2014.

The report of the Commission and all related documents are available on the SPRFMO website at [www.sprfmo.int](http://www.sprfmo.int).

#### Actions taken by the Commission in response to recommendations from the General Assembly of the United Nations of the FAO

The 2014 decisions adopted by the commission refer to a number of UNGA resolutions as well as FAO agreements and recommendations, in particular:

- The SPRFMO data standards detailed in CMM 2.02 use the standards published and updated regularly by the Coordinating Working Party of Fishery Statistics (CWP) (established under FAO).
- The SPRFMO management of bottom fishing (CMM 2.03) closely follows the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO, 2009) and refers to UNGA Resolutions 61/105, 64/72 and 66/68.
- Minimising the bycatch of seabirds (CMM 2.04) implements the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (FAO, 1999) taking into account the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries concerning best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures for trawl and demersal longline fisheries. SPRFMO is collaborating with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in this regard and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ACAP in 2014.
- In the context of the Commission's record of authorised vessels (CMM 2.05) the FAO Global Record is mentioned with the intent to take any developments into account when the Commission revises this measure in 2016.
- Finally, the minimum standards of inspection in port (CMM 2.07) together with the 2013 SPRFMO IUU list (CMM 1.04) implement the Port State Measures Agreement (FAO, 2009), the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (FAO, 2001), the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO, 1995) and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (1993).