

3rd Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Port Vila, Vanuatu
28 September - 3 October 2015

SC-03-06

United States of America Annual report

2014 Annual Report of the United States to the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)

The United States is currently a Cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of SPRFMO and has applied for continued CNCP status. The United States was an active participant in the International Consultations and Preparatory Conference meetings to establish SPRFMO and is a signatory to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (Convention). The U.S. process for final ratification under domestic law is ongoing. We submit this 2014 Annual Report in accordance with Article 24(2) of the Convention.

The United States currently has no vessels participating in the fisheries managed by SPRFMO. As such, the United States has no specific data or information to provide regarding implementation of SPRFMO's conservation and management measures and compliance and enforcement procedures for the 2014 calendar year. The United States has a continuing interest in the fisheries managed by SPRFMO and may have vessels that enter these fisheries in the future. If U.S.-flagged vessels enter SPRFMO-managed fisheries, the United States would provide SPRFMO with all relevant data and information and abide by all relevant measures adopted.

Historically, the United States had a small squid jig fishery that may have been operating on the high seas in the area of application of the Convention (Convention Area) approximately 10 years ago. The historical information on this fishery and the vessels that participated in the fishery was provided to the Secretariat last year. In response to inquiries by SPRFMO members at last year's meeting, we have conducted a search of our files and obtained no additional data on this fishery. The vessels were licensed under the U.S. High Seas Fishing Compliance Act to fish in the Convention Area and, based on unverified oral information provided by industry representatives, we believe that the fishery did conduct limited operations in the Convention Area, but we are unable to verify the exact areas of operation.