

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Preparatory Conference for the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Second Session

Cali, Colombia
24-28 January 2011

REPORT

1. The Second Session of the Preparatory Conference for the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation was held in Cali, Colombia, from 24 to 28 January 2011.
2. The Session was opened by Carlos Casteño Uribe, Vice Minister of Environment of the Republic of Colombia. Francisco José Lourido, Governor of the Department of Valle del Cauca, welcomed the Participants to the region. Bill Mansfield, Chair of the Conference, thanked the Minister and the Governor on behalf of the Participants.
3. The Chair introduced the Acting Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat, Neville Smith. The Conference expressed its best wishes for the speedy recovery of the Executive Secretary, Robin Allen.
4. The Conference adopted Annex A as its agenda for the Session.
5. The Acting Executive Secretary presented a *Report on the Funding of the Interim Secretariat* (PrepCon-02-INF-04). During discussion of the Report, some Participants indicated that they would be providing additional financial contributions to the Interim Secretariat during the coming year as reflected in PrepCon-02-INF-04 Rev 1.
6. The Depositary of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the South Pacific Ocean 2009, the Government of New Zealand, presented a *Report on the Status of the Convention* (PrepCon-02-INF-06). The Russian Federation and Cuba signed the Convention during the Session and a number of other Participants indicated that they would sign or ratify, accept or approve the Convention in the coming months.

7. The Acting Executive Secretary presented a *Report on Interim Management Measures* (PrepCon-02-INF-02 Rev 1) and an *Update of Data Submitted to the Interim Secretariat as at December 2010* (PrepCon-02-INF-03 Rev 1). The Conference discussed the implementation of the Interim Measures as recorded in the *Report on Interim Management Measures*, and as a result of further information received by the Secretariat, as well as queries raised by Participants, a revised Report was prepared (PrepCon-02-INF-02 Rev 2).
8. Andrew Penney, Chair of the Interim Scientific Working Group (SWG), presented a report on the ninth meeting of the Interim Scientific Working Group (Annex B).
9. The Conference thanked the SWG for completion of the jack mackerel stock assessment as requested in the revised interim measures annexed to the Final Act of the International Consultations on the Establishment of the Proposed South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation in November 2009 and commended the SWG on the quality of their report. The Conference expressed grave concern at the seriously depleted state of the stock revealed in the report. The Conference agreed that immediate and major reductions in catch are required if there is to be any reasonable certainty of the stock rebuilding and that it was essential for such reductions to be agreed by the Conference and implemented forthwith.
10. The Conference adopted the 2011 Interim Measures for *Trachurus* species fisheries effective from 1 February 2011 annexed to this report (Annex C). The delegations of Cuba, Faroe Islands, Korea and Venezuela were not able to agree with this decision and recorded the reasons for their positions. They confirmed they would implement all the data collection and reporting commitments contained in the 2011 Interim Measures. The delegation of China indicated it would communicate its position on the 2011 Interim Measures in a timely manner through the Interim Secretariat. The Conference offered special thanks to Holly Koehler (USA), Chair of a working group on the 2011 Interim Measures, for her major contribution to the development of the measures.
11. The Conference acknowledged the information from the delegation of Cuba concerning historical fishing by Cuba in the Convention Area. The Conference noted Cuba had not been able to enter the fishery in the Convention Area by 2009 under paragraph 2 of the 2007 Interim Measures relating to pelagic fisheries. The Conference acknowledged that the historic fishing in the Convention Area by Cuba prior to the adoption of interim measures would be relevant to decision-making by the Commission under Article 20 of the Convention as well as its restraint in not entering the fishery in 2010.

12. The Conference acknowledged the restraint exercised by other Participants who did not fish up to the maximum of their notified gross tonnage specified in the 2009 Interim Measures.
13. The Conference recognised that other developing coastal states, and territories and possessions in the region are interested in participating in the fisheries in future contingent on the full recovery of the stock.
14. The Conference adopted the report of the SWG, discussed its future work and requested the SWG to conduct the following work during 2011:
 - a. Conduct an updated stock assessment for *Trachurus* species, as detailed in Annex 1 of the 2011 Revised Interim Measures, and provide scientific advice to the Third Session of the Preparatory Conference on the state of the stock, projections for recovery and the effect of management measures.
 - b. Finalise a draft Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS) and provide the draft for consideration by the Third Session of the Preparatory Conference. This will require work by the inter-sessional drafting group.
 - c. Review the available squid data.
 - d. Develop a medium-term to long-term scientific work programme, based on the requested components outlined in Annex D.
15. Kelly Denit, Chair of the Data and Information Working Group (DIWG) presented a report on the eighth meeting of the DIWG (Annex E). The Conference adopted the report, including the revised Data Standards prepared by the DIWG (Annex F). The DIWG recommended that Rafael Duarte (EU) be appointed Chair of the Group. This recommendation was approved by the Conference.
16. The Conference agreed some changes to the draft Financial Regulations which were prepared at the First Session (Annex G) and held a further discussion on the recommendations to the Commission regarding the formula for the calculations of the contributions to the Commission's budget.
17. The Conference decided that its Third Session would be held from 30 January 2012 to 3 February 2012. Chile offered to host the Third Session and the Participants welcomed this offer.
18. The Conference thanked the Government of Colombia for hosting the Session.
19. The Session was closed at 5.30pm on 28 January 2011.

20. The Session was attended by the following States, regional economic integration organisations and fishing entities: Australia, Belize, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Cuba, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, France, Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russian Federation, United States of America, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Chinese Taipei. The following also attended as observers: Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, CEDEPESCA, Greenpeace International, World Wildlife Fund. A list of the attendees is attached as Annex H.