

International Consultations on the Establishment of the
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

**Sixth International Meeting
Canberra, ACT, Australia
6 October - 10 October 2008**

Report of the Interim Secretariat

Introduction

The roles of the Interim Secretariat set out in the Reñaca Meeting Report are:

- (a) Data Management - The receipt, compilation, storage and dissemination (where appropriate) of data submitted by the Participants;
- (b) Document Management - The receipt, storage and dissemination of reports and documents submitted by the Participants;
- (c) Meetings - Providing assistance to the relevant host in organising meetings of the Consultations and of subsidiary bodies of the Consultations;
- (d) Website - The management of the contents of the SPRFMO website.

The offices of the Interim Secretariat are in a secure area of ASB House, 101-103 The Terrace, Wellington. [Contact details](#) are given on the SPRFMO web site.

Activities since the fifth meeting

Since March 2008, the Interim Secretariat has been involved in activities in each of the roles originally set out for it.

Various data have been provided by participants in response to the Data collection and sharing section of the [Interim Measures](#) and the Data Standards referred to in that section. The fishing activity data submitted have been in various degrees of aggregation. To date, most are at a lower level of resolution than that specified in the Standards, and it has been possible to maintain them in ad hoc files. A number of papers concerning data standards have been submitted for the consideration of the Data and Information Working Group

Arrangements have been made for building a database management system that will facilitate submission and display of selected data via the website. The first phase of the system is expected to be completed by November 2008. Some features, such as the continued development of a SPRFMO geospatial database of joint bottom trawl footprint, seamounts and VMEs, bathymetry and EEZ boundaries requested by the March 2008 meeting of the Scientific Committee will be implemented in a later phase.

During the period the Interim Secretariat has maintained regular communications with the Participants on routine matters including those relating to data, and to

arrangements for the Chilean Jack Mackerel Workshop and the Sixth Round of meetings. The Data Manager participated in the Chilean Jack Mackerel Workshop held in Santiago, Chile during 30-June to 4 July 2008.

The website has been maintained as a vehicle for distribution of information and to facilitate meeting arrangements via its registration system. The current web site depends on an obsolete software version which is no longer being supported by the vendor. Work is being carried out to upgrade the web site using current technology.

Other activities

Office computing network

Following a consultant's report and recommendations, the office computing network has been upgraded to provide improved stability and security.

Liaison with other bodies

The Interim secretariat received and responded to a questionnaire from the United Nations Division of the Law of the Sea soliciting information requested in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 62/177 on Sustainable Fisheries.

Arrangements have been made for the Interim Secretariat to be an observer to the FAO Combined Working Party for Fisheries Statistics and the Fisheries Resources Information System. These organizations, respectively, provide a mechanism to coordinate fishery statistical programmes of regional fishery bodies, and a unified partnership of international organizations and regional fishery bodies collaborating within a formal agreement to report and share high-quality information on the global monitoring and management of marine fishery resources.

Budget

The \$NZ 1 million provided by New Zealand to fund the first year of operation of the Interim Secretariat was only partially spent and the balance carried over in the current financial year. In July 2008, China provided a voluntary contribution of NZ \$26,000 for the work of the Interim Secretariat.

The expenditure for the first year of operation (ending 30 June 2008) and the budget for the year ending 30 June 2009 are shown in the table below.

	New Zealand \$ (\$NZ1=\$US0.70 approximately)	
	Actual expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2008	Expected expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2009
Personnel cost	\$160,409	\$323,000
Information technology	\$1,617	\$60,000
Office occupancy	\$30,459	\$10,000
Plant and equipment	\$2,753	\$10,000
Travel and accommodation	\$36,507	\$90,000
Contracted services	\$33,608	\$93,000
Other operating costs	\$6,913	\$26,000
Building services	\$48,047	\$58,000
TOTAL	\$320,313	\$670,000

There is sufficient funding from the contributions of New Zealand and China to fund the operations of the Interim Secretariat until July 2009.