

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

**Sixth International Meeting on the Establishment of the proposed South
Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

**Canberra, ACT, Australia
6 – 10 October 2008**

REPORT

1. The Sixth International Meeting to discuss the establishment of a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation was held in Canberra, ACT, Australia 6-10 October 2008. The meeting was chaired by the independent Chair, elected at the first International Meeting, Bill Mansfield.
2. The Meeting adopted Annex A as its agenda.
3. The Chair reported that, as requested by the Fifth International Meeting, he had revised the draft Convention (SP/05/WP1) discussed at that Meeting, and taking into account the comments participants had made both in Guayaquil and following, had circulated a fourth revision of the draft text to participants (SP/06/WP1).
4. Robin Allen, the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat, presented the Report of the Interim Secretariat (SP/06/WP2) to the Meeting (Annex B). The Meeting noted the report, in particular that there is sufficient funding for the operations of the Interim Secretariat until July 2009. The meeting agreed that the future funding of the Interim Secretariat would need to be considered at the next meeting.
5. The Executive Secretary presented a report on participants fishing pelagic stocks in the Area in 2007 (SP/06/WP 3). This report was noted by the Meeting.
6. The Executive Secretary also presented a summary of data received by the Interim Secretariat that had been submitted to the Data and Information Working Group (SPRFMO-VI-DIWG-10). Several participants commented on the report and undertook to provide revised or omitted data. The Meeting agreed that the information in the paper should be presented to succeeding meetings in the same format.

7. Kelly Denit, Chair of the Data and Information Working Group (DIWG) presented the report of the DIWG (Annex C), which had met in Canberra from 29 September to 1 October 2008. The report noted the work done by the DIWG on data standards during the intersessional period, proposed a future work plan for the DIWG, and also noted with concern the lack of detailed catch and effort data submitted to the Interim Secretariat to date. The Meeting adopted the DIWG report and a consolidation of all the SPRFMO data standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data (Annex D).
8. Andrew Penney, Chair of the Science Working Group (SWG) presented the report of the SWG (Annex E), which had met in Canberra from 29 September to 3 October 2008. Both the Jack Mackerel and Deepwater Subgroups met during the week. The report noted the progress made by the group in its intersessional work, and an intersessional work plan for the SWG. The work of the Jack Mackerel Subgroup resulted in preliminary advice on the current status of the Chilean jack mackerel under various stock structure hypotheses developed by the intersessional Jack Mackerel Workshop. The SWG report also noted that the Interim Secretariat had received data, in varying degrees of completeness, from some participants. The SWG stressed the critical importance for their work of all required data being submitted. The Meeting adopted the SWG report, approved the request for the release of non public domain data to the Jack Mackerel Subgroup for the purposes of stock assessment, and approved the other aspects of the intersessional work plan.
9. Following the reports of both the DIWG and SWG, the Meeting strongly encouraged all participants to submit data in accordance with the data standards adopted at previous meetings.
10. Much of the Meeting's work was carried out in small working-group mode. This enabled a frank and constructive discussion of many of the articles of the draft Convention text and the key underlying issues, and was helpful in drawing the positions of delegations closer together. Some delegations also submitted specific textual proposals, which are available on the SPRFMO website. The Meeting requested the Chair to circulate a further revision of the draft Convention text, taking into account the comments made by delegations on the draft Convention text. The Meeting expressed its commitment to speed the process and to consider different working methods in this regard.
11. The Meeting agreed that the Seventh International Meeting to discuss the establishment of the proposed South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation would be held in Lima, Peru, from 18 to 22 May 2009, with the DIWG and SWG meeting the week prior (11 to 15 May).

12. The Meeting thanked the Government of Australia for hosting the Meeting.
13. The Meeting was closed at 12:45 pm on 10 October 2008.
14. The Meeting was attended by those representatives who appear in the List of Participants (Annex F).