

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

11th Meeting of the Science Working Group

Lima, Peru, 15-19 October 2012

SWG-11-INF-04

Minutes of Bio-Acoustics Technical Group Meeting

Bio-acoustics South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
(BA_SPRFMO)

23/4/12 Minutes of meeting held in Brest France IRD/IFREMER host Ann
Lebourges-Dhaussy.

Agenda:

1. Update of SPRFMO meeting in Vanuatu Sept. 2011
2. Update of activities relevant to SPRFMO and CJM
3. Preparation of a draft terms of reference
4. Plans for next meeting

Attendees:

Rudy Kloser (Australia coordinator)
Gary Melvin (Canada)
Francois Gerlotto (France/EU)
Richard O'Driscoll (New Zealand)
Arnaud Bertrand (France)
Erwan Josse
Jeremie Habasque
Ann Lebourges-Dhaussy

Appologies: Hecta Pena(Norway),Sascha Fassler (Nederlands), Vladimir Severin (Russia),
Jorge Castillo (Chile), Mariano Gutierrez (Peru)

Meeting Notes:

1. Update of the SPRFMO meeting in Vanuatu

Rudy Kloser updated on the meeting highlighting the main outcomes:

- Dr Kloser (Australia) agreed to act as coordinator of an intersessional process to develop draft terms of reference for a possible acoustics group, and to communicate with participants regarding a workshop to discuss the design of a pilot acoustics project. It was noted that such a workshop could be linked to the next ICES FAST working group meeting, to be held in Brest in 2012.
- Francois Gerlotto, Ad Corten (EU), Jorge Castillo and Aquiles Sepulveda (Chile) were proposed as initial contact persons for intersessional communication with Dr Kloser.
- Peru and Russia undertook to identify suitable contact persons and the Secretariat was requested to write to these countries after the meeting requesting nomination of contact persons for this work.

Unfortunately due to conflicting time constraints and lack of funding the proposed workshop could not be achieved. We propose this is carried forward to Pasaia, Spain, April 15 2013 prior to the next WGFASST working group meeting. Progress on the terms of reference was suggested as an activity for this meeting.

2. Update of Activities:

2.1 Jeremie Habasque updated on a processing package (Echopen) that could be used for processing data collected from fishing vessel in SPRFMO with an emphasis on defining the oxycline layer.

2.2 Francois Gerlotto and Arnaud Bertrand presented a project titled “**Hydrography and jack mackerel stock in the South Pacific**” that has been submitted to- and approved by the DG MARE (marine environment and fisheries) of the European Commission.

This 2 year long-1/2 million euros (approx) project led by Dr Niels Hintzen (IMARES, Netherland) gathers scientists from IMARES (Netherland), IRD (France), CLS (France) and CMR (Netherland).

The objectives of the project are

- 1 To achieve a review on the biological and ecological characteristics of the South Pacific Jack Mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*)
- 2 To gather and analyse all the available data on this species, with the objective of designing an ecological model of its populations (structure, recruitment)
- 3 To insert this ecological model into a wider assessment model of the population(s).

2.3 R. O’Driscoll updated on several projects of relevance to the SPRFMO: recent surveys of Jack Mackerel in NZ waters incorporating *in situ* target strength measurements: four transects across the Pacific ocean to a depth of ~600 m currently being analysed by a Chilean Masters student.

2.4 R. Kloser updated on the Australian IMOS BASOOP program that has vessels contributing from transects through the SPRFMO waters (<http://imos.org.au/basoop.html>), and the associated development of an international meta data standard occurring through the ICES WGFAST that would enable SPRFMO fishing vessel data to be easily accessible.

There was an update of the CCAMLR, SG-ASAM in Bergen April 2012 and the complementary aims of development of acoustic protocols for fishing vessels with focus on krill.

3. Preparation of a draft terms of reference for a BASOOP group

After some discussion draft terms of reference were proposed to be discussed at the October SPRFMO meeting in Peru 2012.

Draft terms of reference:

1. Provide a forum for discussion on scientific methods in the use and application of acoustic and complementary technologies for SPRFMO species.
 - a. Assessment applications
 - b. Ecological applications
 - c. Data management.

Specifically for Jack Mackrel (JM) the meeting discussed some terms of reference to assist in their management.

- Review the protocols for acoustic biomass estimates
- Facilitate a pilot program for incorporating fishing vessel acoustic data to understand the biomass and distribution of JM.

4. Plan for next SPRFMO meeting and FAST

- a. Francois Gerlotto would attend the next meeting of SPRFMO in October 2012 to present the work plan.
- b. That participants would meet prior to the next ICES WGFAST meeting in Pasaia, Spain, April 15 2013 to update on activities and the outcome of the October 2012 SPRFMO meeting held in Peru.