

7th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

La Havana, Cuba, 7 to 12 October 2019

SC7-Doc09

July 2019 Intersessional SC web meeting(s)

Secretariat

Background

The SPRFMO SC continued the practice of holding annual intersessional web meetings in July to help plan and prepare for the main Scientific Committee meeting held during September/October. This year, due in part to the Members diverse geography, 2 web meetings were held over a couple day period.

The 1st web meeting was held on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 (1am) and concentrated on Jack mackerel, Squid (including workshop preparations) and Habitat monitoring topics. The 2nd meeting held on Wednesday 3rd July 2019 (1pm) focused on Deepwater, Exploratory fishing, and the Research CMM proposal. At both meetings participants addressed crosscutting issues and were openly commenting on all topics.

This paper summarises the discussions held during these web meetings (participants are listed in Annex 1).

Jack mackerel

Chile informed that it has been working on a new growth model, age-length key and historical analysis along with the usual data. They confirmed that age-length data used in the assessment would be completely updated pending the results of their work. The work has been more than anticipated and age-determination using otoliths continues to be challenging.

The SC Chair reminded participants that the Commission was expecting updated growth results. However, due to the challenges and unresolved issues, it was noted this work might have to be completed at a future full JM assessment workshop.

Peru confirmed that it was not fishing in the Convention Area and commented that within zone catches were good so far and larger than in recent years. There were indications that abundance and availability had changed although the relative strength of each was unknown at this stage.

The EU has started the project on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) (15 July) and employed a researcher. There were concerns raised that MSE would be sensitive to any change in growth assumptions. A project summary and timeline will be provided to the SC.

- The EU offered to co-ordinate the MSE activity.

China was preparing to ask its government to open its fishing data to the SC for use in the combined CPUE calculation and it was noted that information should be available in a couple of weeks. If needed, the China specific CPUE standardization will continue as in past. The EU confirmed that it intended to update the combined CPUE calculation.

Korea informed that it will have a new scientist arriving as part of its delegation with CPUE expertise.

Ecuador is preparing a historical report for length frequencies and catch data for the SC.



Participants expressed support for continuing to use part of the SC funds for analytical and expert support for SC7 (Jack mackerel assessment).

The Secretariat reminded Members to use the data templates which are available online.

- The Secretariat agreed to write to the Jack mackerel “key persons” and remind them about using the SC CJM assessment data templates ([Age-Length](#); [Survey](#)).

Squid

China is planning reports on stock structure and environmental aspects, genetic structure, observer coverage and stock assessment.

Chile will show their acoustic approaches and how they perform their surveys for squid. Chile will also have information on size composition etc. Chile has noticed a change in the fishery and a lack of squid in coastal areas. The likelihood that this pattern will persist is a topic they are interested in pursuing and discussing during the Squid working group.

Peru informed that progress from what’s been presented in previous years has been limited. They also noted that there seems to be different conditions now and size compositions suggest a different phenotype/regime. They were unsure if their current work will be completed in time for SC7. They have begun the sampling for the SC lead genetics programme and also encouraged sample sharing.

- Logistics for the sharing of squid samples was to be discussed within the Squid working group.

Chinese Taipei informed that during 2018 data have been collected and will be presented to the SC within the annual report.

Korea informed that squid samples were collected last year and will continue to be collected. Stomach samples have also been collected and results may be presented next year.

The agenda for the Squid workshop has been drafted and will be made available shortly along with the Draft SC agenda.

Squid expertise was deemed important for the success of the workshop and SC7 as a whole. China is bringing an expert on genetics and the EU is also bringing a squid expert. The meeting strongly felt that additional external help would be useful especially on biology, behaviour, population dynamics and how those parameters might influence stock assessment assumptions. There was general agreement that expertise existed in the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands and that their experience in monitoring and management would be helpful.

- Chile agreed to make the initial approach to an identified expert in the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands to see if they were interested in attending the squid workshop and potentially SC7.

Habitat Monitoring

The SC Chair relayed the working groups plans for evaluating applicability of acoustic data. The Group had met in April in a side event to the main ICES meeting¹ and there was SNP² funded work taking place now in Lima.

A workshop might take place in Havana prior to the SC, further updates would be forthcoming from the working group Chairperson(s) during SC7.

¹ ICES WG-FAST (Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics, Science and Technology)

² Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería.



Deepwater

New Zealand will have an updated ORY stock assessment for part of the Louisville and age frequency data will be used. The min-max assessment (worse-case scenario) will also be updated, time permitting. New Zealand may also have new work to present on the Westpac bank ORY straddling stock.

Australia was encouraged by recent work and felt it may assist with updating the advice formulated during SC5. Australia will present a paper to the SC suggesting candidate species for stock structure analyses. An ERA for teleosts will also be updated and submitted by Australia, which may assist with prioritising species for assessment and for categorising species into the SPRFMO assessment framework.

Australia referred to recent Deepwater Shark ERA work and noted that it intends to submit the draft manuscript to a journal soon, as well as providing the draft paper to the SPRFMO SC7

The meeting noted that there are data that appear in annual reports, e.g., LF and other information that could be used in assessments. Highlighting such information to the SC could also be helpful with plans for future assessments.

New Zealand has sent the Secretariat a revised list of papers with 6 on VME-related issues and spatial management. New Zealand is coordinating a domestic working group and collaborating with Australia on this work.

The EU reported that SIOFA was currently discussing VME issues at its Meeting of the Parties. Initially they were looking at using CCAMLR-type VME thresholds for longline gears and are still working through issues related to trawl fisheries. More discussion was seen to be needed on thresholds and potential protected areas.

The meeting noted that some of the management activity in the SPRFMO region was unique (i.e., habitat/species mapping, resolution of management areas ensemble models, etc.) and having contrast with other RFMO processes (including CCAMLR, NPFC, SIOFA etc) would be useful.

- New Zealand agreed to provide an overview paper on other RFMO VME activities, with assistance from volunteers.

Australia reminded members that the Commission required a revised BFIAS to be presented at SC7, after which, in 2020, a cumulative bottom fishing impacts assessment based on that standard will be conducted by Australia and New Zealand. The current standard is being reviewed systematically and updated. Exploratory fishing CMMs also require use of the BFIAS and this needs to be cross-checked to ensure consistency. The first draft is completed, and plans are to distribute it more broadly including to relevant Commissioners.

- Australia will provide marked up version of the BFIAS to the SC to seek interest and comments.

The Secretariat noted that the Deepwater working group (DWWG) was currently without a formal chairperson and in the past a deepwater session within the SC has been the fallback. Previously, funds for DWWG activities have been provided (e.g., Australia in 2017 and some from ABNJ project) outside of SPRFMO funds.

- The meeting suggested a 2020 DWWG meeting in advance of SC8 would be useful.



Exploratory fisheries

Neither the EU nor the NZ toothfish fishery has commenced. Their plans were to fish in the later part of the 2019 calendar year. It was noted that both of those proposals operate near the boundaries of SPRFMO (one just north of CCAMLR Area and the second close to the Australian EEZ).

The potting fishery had completed one cruise on seamounts and were nearing the end of their second trip. Information will be presented to SC7 in accordance with paragraph 27d of CMM14b (Exploratory Potting CK).

The meeting noted that the Commission had directed the Cook Islands to amend their proposal to have a more complete workplan ready for SC7. The meeting expressed concern that there was no Cook Islands representation at the web meeting; also, there was concern that dealing with review and critique of what has been an incomplete proposal consumes considerable time during SC7.

- The Secretariat was asked to request that the Cook Islands prepare and present a summary of 2019 activities to SC7.
- It was noted that the “scoring” table for exploratory fisheries will be re-used to rate proposals during SC7 and it would be helpful for Members putting in proposals to be reminded of that table prior to putting their proposal together.

The meeting noted that the Cook Islands has had recent staff changes so that contact with the operator who attended the previous SC, in conjunction with the Cook Islands government, should also be made.

There was also a general concern expressed about the 2019 Commission meeting in which new science was reviewed post SC6. Ideally, this type of information should be reviewed by the entire SC prior to its presentation to the Commission.

Research fishing

New Zealand reported that, using the list of interested parties identified during the last Commission, it had circulated a paper and received a lot of feedback on its proposed CMM. There were divergent views but a common will to promote scientific research. There was some concern that other interested SC participants had not yet been able to engage with the process.

New Zealand requested that time be made available during the SC meeting to discuss and make progress (~2 sessions) and reiterated its intent to summarize ideas prior to SC to focus discussions during SC.

There was some discussion on the merits of such a research CMM. Australia felt there were few real constraints to research currently in SPRFMO while Peru felt that there were gaps in definitions particularly in the Convention and that a CMM could address those gaps effectively. In previous work New Zealand had identified an issue regarding scientific objectives versus interpretation of the Convention and its implications. Korea recognised felt there was differences between fishing and research vessels and the SC meeting will provide a good venue to discuss those issues in more detail.

New Zealand felt that measures for scientific research that has minimal impact was receiving broad support and could be put in place quickly leaving other trickier issues to be addressed later; but it was concerned this could lengthen the work.

- New Zealand will distribute its current working paper and committed to further intersessional work to combine comments in time for SC7.



Cross cutting topics

Observer program (Coverage, available data, advice)

The Secretariat noted that the Observer CMM has been approved and an accreditation provider is being sourced this year.

China is going to present a report on optimising observation rate for the jumbo squid fishery. Peru welcomed this news and was concerned about the complexity of jumbo squid populations; wishing to see expansion of GIS observer coverage and data collection. Peru operates detailed data collection in zone and would like to see this replicated offshore. Chile wishes to also discuss observer coverage. New Zealand is developing a paper on cost-quality trade-offs (compilation of experiences) for observer data collection. Korea will prepare an observer report from squid boats (2 last year - 1 this year).

There was a question on sampling representativeness over large spatial-temporal areas as found in the SPRFMO fisheries. The Secretariat confirms that it now collects VMS data for all fisheries including squid, and positional data was available for all fisheries alongside the observer collected data (amount varies by fishery). There was an expectation that the fishing effort/Observer overlap would vary (perhaps by catch/area or temporal scale) and that this variation needed to be identified and understood especially for those fisheries with less than 100% coverage. For example, it was noted that only Korea had ever submitted squid observer data (but this was typically only 1 trip per year).

- The EU offer to assist with the Secretariat produce a paper summarising observer data coverage in SPRFMO fisheries.

Chile mentioned that the time required for collecting and collating information may differ between fisheries. In some weekly reports might be appropriate to aid in within season management. This contrasts with other cases where monitoring is adequate on longer time scales (e.g., annual for species that have typical life spans longer than 1 or 2 years). This topic should be further discussed during SC7.

China also reminded members about the Squid data collection that they are coordinating and agreed that data needs to be collected at least monthly. China has provided a voluntary contribution of NZ\$25K to support the squid sampling programme. This news was welcomed by the meeting and the SC thanked China for its generous contribution in supporting SPRFMO research.

Like last year, the EU will bring industry self-sampling data for SC assessment and if the data is robust the expectation is that it will continue to be used in assessment.

Seabird/bycatch monitoring

Secretariat will update its bycatch/species of concern paper and the SC will consider this and relevant sections from the annual reports. New Zealand is likely to present a paper on albatross and overlap with CJM and GIS fisheries in SPRFMO.

EBSAs/Marine Pollution

These topics follow suggestions from the Commission with research on pollution encouraged with in the new CMM. There were no specific plans for papers to be submitted on these topics.

SPRFMO Performance Review (PR)

The Secretariat noted that the PR had categorised its recommendations by specific SPRFMO subsidiary bodies, i.e., SC, CTC, Commission. The recent Commission ran a process for evaluating the recommendations and setting timelines for associated work. The SC might consider following the same process based on a Secretariat written paper. One or two small working groups will be needed to



address the 14 recommendations which are specific to the SC. The EU noted that the recommendations had obvious links to the SC multi-annual workplan.

Other topics

Use of the SC support budget

The process for using the SC fund was reasonably flexible and so far, this seems to have been acceptable. Support for the SC meeting seen as beneficial by the group and, as mentioned, 2 specific experts were proposed.

SC/CTC Collaboration

The Commission has indicated that it would like reassurance that its subsidiary bodies are aware of each other's activities and corroborating when necessary. The CTC chair is developing a paper to SC to highlight these issues.

VMS Summary

There are 1 139 individual vessels authorised to carry fishing in the SPRFMO area (in accordance with CMM 05-2019 (Record of Vessels) and around 650 of those vessels have reported positional data to the VMS system. In May 2019, 349 individual vessels reported activity inside the SPRFMO Area. Reporting frequency varies from ~1 to 4 hrs between transmissions. Data is only available for High seas area. Secretariat will provide a paper summarising what is available as well as to prompt discussion on a possible process for SC to use the data.

Protocol for SC papers, presentation and annual report guidelines

This topic was discussed at SC6 in 2018, but it was inadvertently omitted from the report. Updates for these documents will be provided by the Secretariat and the SC will be asked to adopt a new protocol and new guidelines based on the Secretariat's papers.

Due date (deadline) for SC papers is 7 September 2019 (a weekend!). The 9th of July will be agenda/invitation and there will be 30 days for finalizing the meeting agenda. SC papers will be posted on the website as they become available.

- The Secretariat to put the updated guidelines and protocol on the website for SC7.
- Coordinate another brief web-meeting about mid-way between now and SC7. Secretariat to coordinate.

The SC Chair thanked everyone for their constructive comments and for being available for the web meetings (both of which were around 2hrs in length).



Annex I

List of Participants for the 2019 July Intersessional web meetings of the SPRFMO Scientific Committee

Web meeting held Tuesday 2nd July 2019 (1am, NZST)

Chairperson	James Ianelli
Chile	Mario Urbina, Mario Acevedo, Ignacio Paya, Karin Mundnich
China	Gang Li, Bilin Liu, Cong-Cong Wang
Ecuador	Manuel Peralta
EU	Niels Hintzen
Korea	Jung-hyun Lim, Kyum Joon Park, Seok-Gwan Choi
New Zealand	Martin Cryer, Tiffany Bock
Peru	Jorge Csirke, Miguel Ñiquen, Enrique Ramos, Luis Mariategui
Chinese Taipei	Han-Ching
Secretariat	Craig Loveridge

Web meeting held Wednesday 23rd July 2019 (1pm, NZST)

Chairperson	James Ianelli
Australia	Lee Georgeson, Ryan Keightley
EU	Marta Soffker
Korea	Jung-hyun Lim, Seok-Gwan Choi
New Zealand	Martin Cryer, Tiffany Bock, Kirstie Knowles
Peru	Jorge Csirke
USA	Brian Langseth
HSFG	Andy Smith
Secretariat	Craig Loveridge, Susana Delgado, Marianne Vignaux