

## 7<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

*La Havana, Cuba, 7 to 12 October 2019*

### SC7-Doc10

#### Secretariat's report on Scientific Committee related activities

*Secretariat*

### 1. Introduction

This paper informs SC7 about relevant activities conducted over the past year by the Secretariat. These activities include [external meetings](#), [project inputs](#) and [data releases](#). This current paper continues on from the previous papers on this topic (most recent [SC6-Doc06](#)).

### 2. External meetings/workshops

- **11<sup>th</sup> FIRMS Steering Committee (FSC11)**

13-18 May 2019, Rome, Italy

The Data Manager, Mr. Craig Loveridge, attended this biannual meeting and concluded the [Partnership Agreement between SPRFMO and FIRMS](#) as approved by the Commission during its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2019. [A report of the meeting and relevance to SPRFMO](#) has been prepared and is available on the SPRFMO website. The Data Manager was also invited to observe the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (details are in the linked report).

- **ABNJ deep sea project “Rights Based Management Workshop”**

10-12 April 2019, Rome, Italy

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro, was invited to participate as a panellist. The [workshop](#) aimed at considering the application and effectiveness of rights based management approaches for deep sea fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Dr Rodríguez gave a presentation using SPRFMO as a case study and also provided a SPRFMO perspective on factors controlling quota management, conferring of entitlements and other incentive-based approaches.

- **CPPS-ABNJ Workshop on Science for Solutions: Bringing Stakeholders Together to Improve Ocean Planning and Governance in ABNJ of the South-East Pacific**

13-15 March 2019, Guayaquil, Ecuador

The Executive Secretary was invited to participate as a panellist at this workshop. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> STRONG High Seas dialogue workshop aimed at giving an overview of a range of ongoing initiatives to improve governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) at the regional level. The scientific developments of both projects (Common Oceans-ABNJ Project and Strong High Seas) was [also discussed](#).



- **EU DG MARE, NEAFC, IHS Markit and IMO**

29 January-04 February 2019, Brussels, Belgium followed by London, United Kingdom

After the 7<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting, SPRFMO's Data Manager visited the EU Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Units DG MARE B2 (RFMOs) and D4 (Fisheries Control and Inspection) in Brussels, and later visited the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), as well as IHS Markit and International Maritime Organisation (IMO). A report of this training, learning and exchange experience is [now available](#).

- **ICES and Eurofish**

7-9 August 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark

SPRFMO's Coordination and Communications Officer, Ms Susana Delgado, visited ICES and Eurofish to learn from their experience on science dissemination and in the development and implementation of a Communication Strategy and produced this [summary report](#).

- **Domestic New Zealand**

10-13 July 2018, Christchurch, New Zealand

The SPRFMO Secondment Officer, Mr. Jongkwan Ahn, facilitated a technical visit to various Recreational Fishing and Salmon Aquaculture centres in the South Island of New Zealand. A [report](#) of Mr. Ahn's mission is available.

### 3. External project contributions

- August 2019; Provided inputs for the [Fish Safety Foundation's](#) Pacific Island workshop planning.
- April 2019; Coordinated Responses for the [ABNJ Deep-Sea Project](#) supporting the work necessary to improve Ecological Risk Assessments for Deep-water elasmobranchs caught in the High Seas.
- April 2019; Provided information on SPRFMO "VME Indicators" for the [ABNJ Deep-Sea Project](#).
- March 2019; Provided input for the [ABNJ Deep-Sea Project](#) on a regional overview and document the various approaches taken in the different regions in relation to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) framework.
- March 2019; Provided comments on the consultation document for the revision of the EU Multi annual plan for data collection after 2021 (Ares (2019)166543). Internal reference DC43-2019.
- January 2019; Provided [input](#) for the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES ([CoP18](#)).
- January 2019; Completed the [European Fishery Statistics Data Producers and Users Survey](#).
- August 2018; Provided information and reviewed the draft [OECD report on IUU fishing](#);
- March 2019; Provided inputs for the [2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Port State Measures Agreement](#) (PSMA) and its "Part 6" working group (later discussed in the June meeting held in Santiago, Chile).
- March 2019; [Contribution](#) for the 14<sup>th</sup> round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement ([ICSP-14](#)).



#### 4. Data releases

- September 2019; SUBPESCA, Chile. Various links and geospatial datasets referenced in the current SPRFMO BFIAS for use in an exploratory fishing proposal.
- August 2019; NZ scientist. Permission given from the affected Member to supply Australian fishing vessel catch and effort data for Orange roughy catch within the SPRFMO Convention Area to the end of 2018. Data used to conduct/test a stock assessment for Orange roughy for presentation to the SPRFMO Scientific Committee meeting.
- August 2019; EU Scientist. Permissions given from affected Members to supply a file containing fishing activity data for vessels operating in the SPRFMO Area during 2008 to 2018 using trawl methods and operating in the high seas area of FAO 87. Data used to produce a CPUE index for these fleets for input into the Jack mackerel stock assessment conducted by the SPRFMO Scientific Committee.
- August 2019; ABARES, Australia. Summary data (catch vs method) for the Deepwater species caught in SPRFMO for use in the updated ERA for demersal teleosts as well as for potential categorisation of species into the SPRFMO SC assessment framework.
- August 2019; ABARES, Australia. Historic annual SPRFMO catch histories for Orange roughy as well as for other fish caught in FAO areas 81 (and 57) up to, and including, the year 2017 for use in the annual fishery status reports.
- March 2019: FAO, Italy. Copies of New Zealand produced shapefiles describing the new bottom fishing areas in SPRFMO for use in the [FAO VME database](#).
- March 2019; ABARES, Australia. An update for historic total catches for the 3 major SPRFMO fisheries (Jack mackerel, Squid and all others combined) was released for use in the annual fishery status reports.
- February 2019; CSIRO, Australia. A dataset showing the occurrence of bottom fishing, by method, within 20-minute blocks (without specifying flag, any vessel identification, or measure of fishing effort) over the period 2011-2016. Data used in conjunction with the FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Project supporting the reduction of adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity.
- November 2018; MPI, New Zealand. [Public data set](#) containing annual, 5x5 decimal degree, Orange roughy catch data for the SPRFMO bottom fishing trawl fishery for the period 2007-2017.
- August 2018; MPI, New Zealand. Permission given from the affected Member to supply data on Australian flagged vessels using non-trawl methods in the SPRFMO Area during the period 2007-2017. Data used to undertake or commission spatial analysis in combination with catch and effort data from New Zealand flagged vessels in the SPRFMO Area of Application.
- July 2018; NIWA, New Zealand. A password – protected dataset containing quarterly, 5x5 decimal degree, fishing effort data alongside observed bycatch of seabirds and related observer coverage to support a New Zealand MPI seabird risk assessment project (Southern hemisphere). Links to shapefiles for the SPRFMO Area were also provided.