

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

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

### SC7-Doc 18

#### Status of previous SC Recommendations

*Secretariat*

#### 1. Background

The 6<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee Meeting (SC6) of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) took place from 9-14 September in Puerto Varas, Chile. Over 60 participants (scientists from 13 SPRFMO Members, representatives from 2 NGOs, external invited experts, and the Secretariat) reviewed and assessed almost 70 working papers, and SC recommendations were provided on a large diversity of issues.

The purpose of this document is to review the implementation of Scientific Committee recommendations in order to help assess Scientific Committee needs (particularly in cases where the recommendations have not yet been implemented) and to monitor Commission feedback.

#### 2. Identification of Recommendations

The Secretariat identified 30 recommendations from Annex 1 of the [SPRFMO SC6-Report](#). These are included as Table 1. Recommendations were classified by Category (subject area within the work of the Scientific Committee) and then the body (ie commission, secretariat etc) responsible for implementing the Recommendation. The Secretariat then identified which of the Recommendations were either Implemented (as of September 2019), In Progress, or Not Addressed.



Table 1: Status of 2018 Scientific Committee Recommendations (as of September 2019).

Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status		
			Implemented	Work in Progress	Not Addressed
Cross cutting	Recommended that the Commission adopt a Conservation and Management Measure to provide for research activities in the Convention Area taking into account the following key principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research should be enabled within sustainable limits.</li> <li>• Different types of research should be recognised and considered in terms of the risks and opportunities for the fishery resources managed by the SPRFMO Convention.</li> <li>• Research that will have additional impacts on SPRFMO target species or the wider ecosystem should have a high probability of meeting research objectives and contributing to SPRFMO’s objectives and the SC’s work plan.</li> <li>• Catch of fishery resources taken during scientific research should be accounted for within sustainable yield estimates, catch limits, and estimates of stock status as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Commission		In progress	
	Recommended that, based on the risk to sustainability and the importance of avoiding significant adverse impacts on VMEs, low-impact research be defined as research meeting either of two scenarios: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where there is not expected to be any additional impact on SPRFMO target species or the wider ecosystem, noting that ‘additional impact’ will need to be clearly defined, or</li> <li>2. Where the research will be carried out during normal fishing operations and all catch will be accounted for within current impact assessments and catch limits.</li> </ol>	Commission		In progress	
	Recommended that research that is expected to have additional impact on target species or the wider ecosystem be assessed by the SC against the key principles and the Commission consider each proposal based on advice from the SC, including potential advice on incorporation of the research catch within relevant catch limit advice, noting that ‘additional impact’ will need to be clearly defined.	Commission		In progress	
	Recommended to the Commission that low-impact research be notified to the Secretariat at least two weeks in advance, containing information on the planned activities including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vessel(s) to be involved</li> <li>• General area of research</li> <li>• Expected timeframe for research</li> <li>• Objectives of the research (e.g. biomass estimate for X species)</li> <li>• Expected maximum catch</li> <li>• Expected bottom contact area (if any)</li> </ul>	Commission		In progress	
	Seeks guidance from the Commission on the nature and certainty of its information needs on the bycatch of Seabirds, Marine Mammals, and Other Species of Concern, so that SC can more precisely advise on observer deployment requirements in SPRFMO fisheries.	Commission			Not addressed
Cross cutting	Agreed that New Zealand will work intersessionally with other members to provide advice on a definition of ‘additional impact’ to inform development of a draft research CMM to be presented to the Commission in January 2019.	New Zealand	Implemented		



Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status		
			Implemented	Work in Progress	Not Addressed
	Recommended that observer coverage levels and total effort be reported in this summary document in future (Species of Concern).	Secretariat	Implemented		
	As such the SC recommended that the Secretariat develop guidelines for presentations during plenary discussions.	Secretariat	Implemented		
Deepwater	Recommended that bottom fishing nations should provide detailed analysis of all benthic bycatch data and particularly those fishing events that exceed the thresholds described herein for annual review by the SC.	Bottom fishing Members		In progress	
	Recommended a mandatory review process for VME Indicator encounters (annual), benthic data (annual), and models underpinning spatial management approaches (roughly every 5 years or when evidence suggests those models are misleading), and to include the development of the review process in suggested SC work plans for consideration by the Commission.	Commission	Implemented		
	Recommended to the SPRFMO Commission that identification protocols and biological data collection for deepwater chondrichthyans is strengthened for SPRFMO demersal fisheries.	Commission			Not addressed
	Recommended that Annexes 1 and 3 of CMM02-2018 be updated to include a requirement for data on bycatch of benthic species to be reported in logbooks to fill a current gap in the understanding of the frequency of interactions with benthic species, particularly in bottom line fisheries.	Commission			Not addressed
	Recommended that this work (Interim categorisation of SPRFMO species into tiered assessment framework) is continued and supported as part of the SC workplan.	SC Members	Implemented		
	Recommended that a small intersessional working group be formed by members from Australia, New Zealand and other interested parties to systematically revise the BFIAS and to present a draft to SC7.	SC Members	Implemented		
	Requests that work to determine when observed bycatch rates indicate the models used to predict the distribution of VME taxa and underpin spatial management measures are misleading be added to the SC work plan for delivery in 2019.	SC Members		In progress	
	Agreed that further work should be done to enable more sophisticated use of bycatch data in habitat suitability models and the development of VME indicator taxa thresholds that may inform encounter protocols, where these might be required.	SC Members		In progress	
	Recommended that the SPRFMO Secretariat make sure that the protocol for design of acoustic surveys and sampling for Orange roughy stock assessments protocol is visible on the SPRFMO website.	Secretariat	Implemented		
Exploratory Fishing	Recommended that the assessment is adequate given relevant CMMs and that the revised proposal adequately addressed 8 out of 8 relevant criteria for paragraph 8 of CMM 13-2016 (Toothfish - NZ).	Commission	Implemented		
	Recommended observer data be provided 30 days prior to the SC meeting (Exploratory fishing).	Exploratory fishing Members		In progress	
Habitat Monitoring	Recommended creating a Working Group (WG) on "Habitat Definition, Description and Monitoring" with the main objective of providing environmental indicators associated to the habitat of the main commercial resources exploited in the SPRFMO area to complement decision making of fisheries management. The terms of reference for this Working Group can be found in Annex 10.	Working Group	Implemented		



Category	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Status		
			Implemented	Work in Progress	Not Addressed
	Recommended the WG activities to begin with the Chilean Jack Mackerel <i>Trachurus murphyi</i> as first case study, continuing with others as soon as possible (Habitat monitoring).	Working Group	Implemented		
	Recommended Dr. Mariano Gutierrez from IHMA (Peru) as Chairperson and Dr. Aquiles Sepúlveda from INPESCA (Chile) as Vice-Chairperson for a renewable mandate of 2 years (Habitat Monitoring).	Working Group	Implemented		
	For the period 2018-2019, the SC recommended that the Habitat Monitoring WG will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the state of the art of habitat research in order to recommend specific lines of investigation in this topic within the framework of the SPRFMO.</li> <li>• Explore the concept of CJM habitat through retrospective analysis (including bibliographical analysis).</li> <li>• Define a list of existing environmental data: satellite, acoustic surveys, acoustic fisheries surveys, fishing data, fishing vessel data (VMS, Observers...) in time and space that already exist inside the SPRFMO area.</li> <li>• Explore possibilities to organize a symposium on the topic of pelagic habitat in the 2020s.</li> <li>• Organize a workshop on the state of the art of habitat research in the same place as, and immediately before, the SC meeting.</li> </ul>	Working Group		In progress	
Jack Mackerel	The SC recommended status quo fishing effort which gives 2019 catches throughout the range of the Jack mackerel stock(s) at or below 591 kt. Although the stock is estimated to be in the “second tier” of the harvest control rule (>80% of BMSY), the retrospective analysis shows a tendency of overestimating the stock size. In addition, there is information that suggests that growth of jack mackerel has been underestimated. These two factors warrant additional precaution and further investigation	Commission	Implemented		
	The SC recommended a revision of the Harvest Control Rule and requests the Secretariat seek funds for re-evaluating the current management strategy and develop an alternative that is robust to assessment uncertainties	Secretariat	Implemented		
Squid	Recommended that direct correspondence with Japan be done to more accurately represent their data (Squid Assessment);	Secretariat	Implemented		
	Recommended that the Secretariat work with members to evaluate the potential for double counting of catch (e.g., catch reported by flag and also within EEZs).	Secretariat	Implemented		
	Recommended that a workshop on the jumbo flying squid stock structure and stock assessment be held immediately before the next SC meeting	Secretariat	Implemented		
	Recommended that members and CNCPs participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery join in the genetic analysis work for this species. This includes facilitating samples of the jumbo flying squid exchange and sharing between Members and CNCPs.	Squid fishing Members	Implemented		
	Recommended that coordinators within members and CNCPs be nominated to coordinate data sharing and sampling exchange.	Squid fishing Members	Implemented		



### 3. Summary

Of the thirty Recommendations, the Commission was the Responsible Body for ten, with the Secretariat the Responsible Body for a further seven and Working Groups of the Scientific Committee a further four. The other Recommendations were aimed at Members.

Eighteen of the Recommendations have already been implemented, nine are in progress and only three have not been addressed. These were:

1. Seeks guidance from the Commission on the nature and certainty of its information needs on the bycatch of Seabirds, Marine Mammals, and Other Species of Concern, so that SC can more precisely advise on observer deployment requirements in SPRFMO fisheries.
2. Recommended to the SPRFMO Commission that identification protocols and biological data collection for deepwater chondrichthyans is strengthened for SPRFMO demersal fisheries.
3. Recommended that Annexes 1 and 3 of CMM02-2018 be updated to include a requirement for data on bycatch of benthic species to be reported in logbooks to fill a current gap in the understanding of the frequency of interactions with benthic species, particularly in bottom line fisheries.

Figure 1 summarises the status of the 30 (2018) Recommendations of the Scientific Committee.

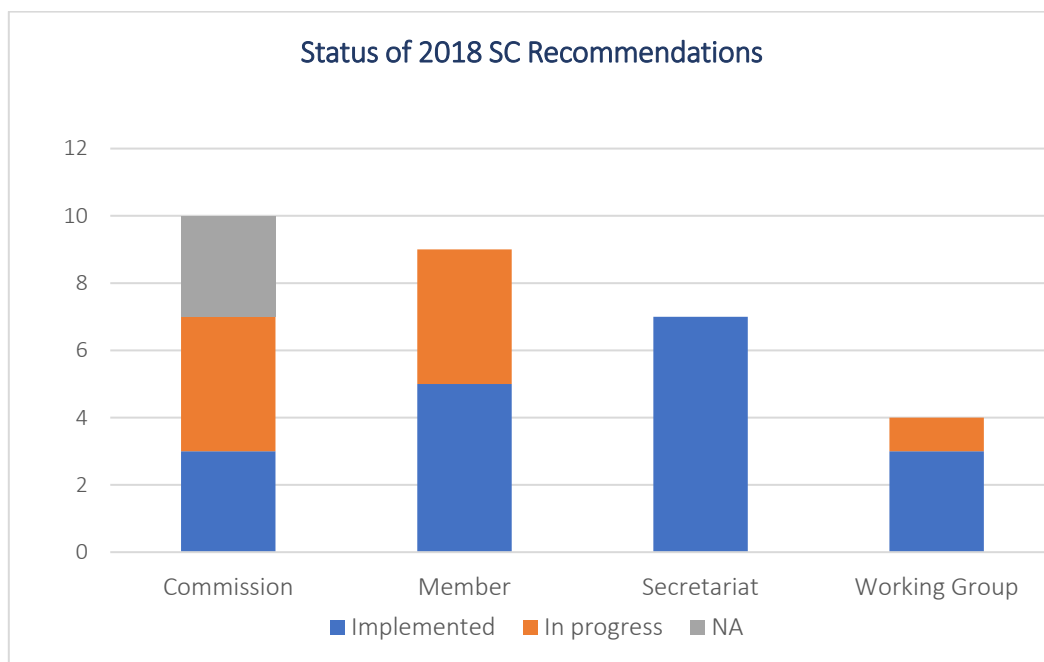


Figure 1: Status of 2018 Recommendations (SC6).

### 4. Final Consideration

The SC is invited to provide feedback to the Commission on how successful the implementation of Scientific Committee recommendations has been.