
7TH MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 10 to 12 February 2020

CTC 7 – Doc 11

SPRFMO Observer Programme Implementation Report

Secretariat

1. Background

Paragraph 45 of [CMM 16-2019 \(Observer Programme\)](#) requires that the Secretariat shall prepare a report on the implementation of the SPRFMO OP for presentation at each annual meeting of the CTC, using information from annual reports, observer data, and all other suitably documented and relevant information in its possession. This document represents the first of these implementation reports and summarises developments in the SPRFMO Observer Programme Implementation since the conclusion of the Commission's 2019 Annual Meeting where CMM 16-2019 was adopted.

2. CMM reporting requirements

2.1 Information on problems that have been encountered

Considering that CMM16-2019 came into force in June 2019, not many developments have taken place and the Secretariat has not encountered any problems in the implementation.

2.2 Recommendations for improving current standards and practices

The [7th Scientific Committee Meeting](#) made three specific recommendations relating to Observer Programmes and Observer data:

- The SC recommends (SC7-Report, Para 39) *“the Commission to consider mechanisms to harmonise coordination of data collection in observer programmes within the Memorandums of Understanding with relevant regional and/or sub-regional bodies”*.
- The SC recommended to the SPRFMO Commission (SC7-Report, Para 49) that *“where observers are on board, biological data, including length, sex, number of eggs/pups, and life status (i.e. condition) if discarded (e.g. alive-vigorous, alive-signs of life and dead) are collected for sharks through updates to CMM 02-2018”*.
- Advice to the Commission on Squid. The SC recommended (SC7-Report, Para 263) *“that the minimum number of at-sea full-time observers is 5 per Member or implement observer coverage in the range of 5-15% for a period of 3 years”*.

2.3 Developments in observer programmes and observational methods

The Developments in the SPRFMO Observer Programme can be monitored through Secretariat letters [G15-2019](#) (Update on the tender evaluation process of the SPRFMO Observer Programme (OP), 29 March 2019), [G39-2019](#) (Proposals received for Observer Programme Accreditation Evaluator, 31 May 2019) and [G79-2019](#) (Secretariat Evaluation of Observer Programme Evaluation Proposals, 28 August 2019).

In this regard, the Secretariat's evaluation was presented to the Scientific Committee for consideration (as paper [SC7-Doc12](#)) at the 7th SPRFMO Scientific Committee meeting at La Havana, Cuba (7-12 October 2019) where *“no specific advice was developed in relation to the process”*.



The technical and financial analysis of the Commission, FAC, CTC and SC Chairpersons providing advice to the CTC, FAC and Commission (R31-2019) is presented at the 7th meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee and the 7th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee as CTC7-Doc12 (restricted).

2.4 Constraints to accreditation

Considering only one Member reacted to Secretariat Letter R10-2019 (Intention to pursue accreditation under the SPRFMO Observer Programme, 17 July 2019), the Secretariat through the Implementation Reports submitted under the Convention and CMM 10-2019 (CMS) requested Members and CNCPs to identify in which year they were intending to begin the accreditation process of their National Observer Programmes. The results are summarised in the table below.

Timeline for Accreditation	Member/CNCP
Within the forthcoming year	Australia, Chile, European Union, New Zealand
Within the 2 forthcoming years	Chinese Taipei
Within the 2-5 forthcoming years	China, Peru, Russian Federation
No plans to pursue accreditation	Korea, United States of America, Liberia, Panama
No Information Available	Vanuatu, Curaçao, Colombia, Cuba, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Faroe Islands

As noted in paragraph 111 of the [COMM 7 Meeting report](#), “relevant expenses for accreditation will be covered by the EU contribution of 150,000 Euros for the first year, and Members’ contributions will be requested after that period”.

2.5 Any identifiable problem or obstacle in fulfilling the objectives and purpose of this CMM

The main obstacle refers to the constraints to accreditation as per Section 2.4 above.

3. Next steps

Considering that the cost for accreditation of the National Observer Programmes within the forthcoming year (Australia, Republic of Chile, European Union and New Zealand) is much lower than the European Union financial contribution:

- Members and CNCPs are encouraged to apply for accreditation in the forthcoming financial year.

The “[Process for Tender Evaluation of the SPRFMO Observer Programme Accreditation Evaluator](#)” identified that the SPRFMO Commission will select the SPRFMO OP Accreditation Evaluator during its 8th Annual Meeting in January 2020 and authorise the Secretariat to commence contract negotiations with the successful provider on the basis of parameters set by the Commission, unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

- Therefore, the Secretariat awaits guidance from the Commission on how to proceed according to the outcomes of the discussion based on CTC7-Doc12.