

8th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

New Zealand, 3 to 8 October 2020

SC8-DW17

Key changes in rev1 of the BFIA

New Zealand and Australia

Key changes to the cumulative Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment in the rev1 version submitted 11 September 2020

New Zealand and Australia submitted a joint, cumulative Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment on 4 August 2020. A revised (rev1) version was submitted on 11 September 2020 including substantial changes to the sections dealing with impact and risk assessments for benthic habitats and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). The key changes in the rev1 version (in the order in which they appear in the document) are as follows:

- General tidy up, including references and appendices
- Updated summary and detail related to interactions of bottom fisheries with marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, and other species of concern (section 4.3.2).
- New introductions, schematics and workflow diagrams to provide context for the various analyses presented on impacts on benthic fauna and VME taxa (section 4.4.1).
- More information on the new habitat suitability models for VME indicator taxa, including model performance and sensitivity of outputs to modelling choices (section 4.4.2).
- A new section on estimation of relative benthic status (RBS) at a range of spatial scales: RBS provides an assessment of the current and likely future status of benthic taxa in given areas (section 4.5.1). Sensitivity to different assumptions about the relationship between HSI and abundance, weighting procedures, and excluding areas with low information in the HSI models is included.
- Completely revised “post-accounting” analyses to assess the performance of current spatial management arrangements at protecting each VME indicator taxon (section 4.6.5). Three different post-accounting approaches are presented together with sensitivity analyses for model choice, excluding areas with low information in the HSI models, and the lower limit to the depth of fishing.
- A new section on the relationship between model predictions of habitat suitability indices (HSI) for VME indicator taxa and observed abundance from surveys (section 4.8.3).
- A new section on the catchability of VME indicator taxa in fish trawls (section 4.8.3).

The rev1 version is available on the SPRFMO website at: <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/0-2020-SC8/SC8-DW07-rev-1-Cumulative-Bottom-Fishery-Impact-Assessment-for-Australia-and-New-Zealand.pdf>. A MS-Word version is available on request or from ShareFile at: <https://mpinz.sharefile.com/d-s32353be3f6849ce8>.