

8TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)

New Zealand, 3 to 8 October 2020

SC8-Doc09

Status of the SC (Scientific Support) Fund

Secretariat

1. Background

Financial Regulation 2.4: For the budget categories “*Scientific Support (SC) and Developing States (DS), unspent appropriations may accrue between financial years, up to a limit of \$50,000 for the SC and \$30,000 for the DS. Beyond these levels such funds shall be treated as surplus and transferred to the accumulated surplus account. The Commission will review these categories once the defined level has reached or after 4 years, whichever occurs first, and at least every four years thereafter.*”

In accordance with Financial Regulation 2.4, the Secretariat established a separate account for Scientific Support Fund in 2017. This Fund contains the accumulated unspent appropriations from previous Financial Years (beginning Financial Year 2016¹) under the [budget item for Scientific Support](#). At the 8th SPRFMO Commission Meeting, in Port Vila Vanuatu, February 2020, the Commission approved an allocation of NZ\$ 80,000 towards SC Fund for the 2020-2021 period and forecast an allocation of NZ\$ 44,000 for the following year.

Each year the SC develops its [Multi-Annual workplan](#) which is then presented to the Commission to inform them about upcoming SC work and to identify any areas where additional funding may be required. Items in the workplan are generally identified by a calendar year in which the work is expected to be completed (e.g. 2020) or as ongoing items (2020+).

The SC is requested to:

- consider the proposed workplan spends detailed in Table 2b and adjust the spends so that the available funds are not exceeded.
- consider the voluntary contributions shown in Table 3 and, in association with the relevant Member, confirm the amounts and make proposals for SC activities to be supported by these contributions.
- identify a project team and/or SC contact for any amounts larger than 20k.

¹ Financial Year 2016 refers to the SPRFMO Financial period from 1 July 2015 until 30 June 2016.



2. Status of Scientific Support (SC) Fund:

2.1 Year-to-date Status of SC Fund

Table 1 below shows the year- to- date status of the Scientific Support Fund up to 30th September 2020. This includes all of the previous year's income and expenses for the SC fund as well as the allocations confirmed in the most recent SPRFMO budget.

Table 1: Income, expenses, and annual balances for the SPRFMO SC fund

Financial Year	Income NZ\$	Item/project	Expense NZ\$	Balance NZ\$
2021-2022	44 000	Income as per the Forecast budget	TBC	TBC
2020-2021	80 000	Projected expenses to be confirmed	TBC	95 175
2019-2020	20 000	GITHUB ²	430	
		Invited experts to 7 th SC 2019	20 254	
		Subtotal for FY 2019-2020	20 684	15 175
2018-2019	20 000	Invited experts & participation assistance, 6 th SC 2018	27 464	
		Squid related research	5 000	
		GITHUB	460	
		Subtotal for FY 2018-2019	33 603	15 859
2017-2018	12 000	GITHUB	431	
		FAO ABNJ workshop	1 517	
		Invited experts to 5 th SC 2017	3 835	
		Invited experts to workshop 2018	15 899	
		Subtotal for FY 2017-2018	21 682	29 462
2016-2017	20 000	GITHUB	432	39 144
2015-2016	20 000	GITHUB	424	19 576

² GitHub is a web-based hosting service that provides a platform to share data and is currently being used to hold the Jack mackerel assessment code and associated inputs.



2.2 Forecast Status of the SC Fund

Table 2a below shows the forecast status for the SC Fund (income as per the SPRFMO budget [COMM8-Report, Annex 6d](#)) as well as the expected expenses identified from the Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Plan ([COMM8-Report, Annex 8a](#)) for the next 2 years, as the plan stood in February 2020. This forecast had very small positive balance values at the end of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years.

Table 2a: Pre COVID Forecast status of the SPRFMO SC Fund

Financial Year	Available Funds NZ\$	Work plan Task	Work plan Objective	Expense NZ\$	Balance NZ\$
2020-2021	95 175	GITHUB Annual Cost		460	
		Jack mackerel assessment data	SC and other funds to support experts	10 000	
		Squid	Organise a workshop to estimate fishing effort prior to SC08 (two days meeting), provide advice on a potential management measure	10 000	
		2021 Symposium	Symposium on Habitat Monitoring is organised prior to the 2022 meeting of the Commission ideally during the first half of 2021 in South America	63 000	
		Jack mackerel assessment	Explore alternative stock assessment models and hold a benchmark workshop	10 000	
Estimated subtotal for FY 2020-2021				93 460	1 715
2021-2022	45 715	GITHUB Annual Cost		460	
		Jack mackerel assessment data	SC and other funds to support experts	10 000	
		Deep water Stock structure	Use modelling and observation data to predict connectivity: Using genetic, microchemistry, morphometric, parasite prevalence and tagging experiments	23 600	
		Estimated subtotal for FY 2021-2022		34 060	

Table 2b shows the effect on this forecast of the changes in the Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Plan due to the global pandemic. Because several large budget items requiring in-person meetings have been deferred from the 2020-21 to the 2021-22 financial year, the forecast expenses at the end of the 2020-21 financial year are much greater than had been anticipated.

As only NZ\$50,000 of the unspent allocations may be accrued, there is a forecasted deficit of NZ\$23,060 occurring at the end of the 2021-22 financial year.



Table 2b: Post COVID Forecast status of the SPRFMO SC Fund

Financial Year	Available Funds NZ\$	Work plan Task	Work plan Objective	Expense NZ\$	Balance NZ\$
2020-2021	95 175	GITHUB Annual Cost		460	
		Jack mackerel assessment data	SC and other funds to support experts	10 000	
		Squid	Organise a workshop to estimate fishing effort prior to SC08 (two days meeting), provide advice on a potential management measure	0	
		2021 Symposium	Symposium on Habitat Monitoring is organised prior to the 2022 meeting of the Commission ideally during the first half of 2021 in South America	0	
		Jack mackerel assessment	Explore alternative stock assessment models and hold a benchmark workshop	0	
Estimated subtotal for FY 2020-2021				10 460	84 715
Amount available to be carried forward into the next financial year³					50 000
2021-2022	94 000	GITHUB Annual Cost		460	
		Jack mackerel assessment data	SC and other funds to support experts	10 000	
		Deep water Stock structure	Use modelling and observation data to predict connectivity: Using genetic, microchemistry, morphometric, parasite prevalence and tagging experiments	23 600	
		Jack mackerel assessment	Explore alternative stock assessment models and hold a benchmark workshop	10 000	
		Squid workshop	Organise a workshop to estimate fishing effort prior to SC09 (two days meeting), provide advice on a potential management measure	10 000	
		2022 Symposium	Symposium on Habitat Monitoring is organised prior to the 2023 meeting of the Commission ideally during the first half of 2022 in South America	63 000	
		Estimated subtotal for FY 2021-2022			

3. Other contributions to SC activities

3.1. Voluntary contributions from the European Union (EU)

Support to jack mackerel assessment and data validation in SPRFMO, € 100,000 (NZ\$ 167,000 approximately).

This project is scheduled to run from January 2019 to December 2020. The project has 2 general objectives. The first is to update the Jack mackerel Management targets and Management Plan by developing a revised Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Jack mackerel in SPRFMO; The second is to further define the Jack mackerel habitat by contributing to the mapping of spatial-temporal population density distribution of Jack mackerel using existing acoustic survey data and acoustic fisheries dependant data. The SPRFMO Secretariat is currently coordinating those actions and they are closely linked with the SC multiannual workplan. The technical implementation part of the project is being led by Wageningen University and Research.

³ Note that under Financial Regulation 2.4 only NZ\$50 000 unspent allocations may be accrued.



Support for science and data management in SPRFMO, € 125,000 (NZ\$ 208,750 approximately).

The project is scheduled to run from July 2020 to December 2021 and is comprised of 3 parts. Two of the parts, related to data management and training, are internal to the Secretariat; the third part is designed to follow-on from the previous EU grant and to support the SC multiannual workplan. It has 2 actions which consist of support for an MSE workshop and a benchmark workshop. The SPRFMO Secretariat will coordinate those actions.

3.2. Voluntary contributions from China

China has made 2 voluntary contributions in amount of NZ\$56,142 to support the SPRFMO's science work, particularly to support the squid sampling, stock structure and genetic studies regarding the jumbo flying squid.

During the first year this funding was used to support squid sampling and genetic research activities conducted in Chile, China, and Peru.

The Chairperson for the squid working group (Dr. Gang Li) has proposed that the remaining funds (NZ\$9,830 from Financial Year 2019-2020) be combined with the new contribution (NZ\$26,912 in Financial Year 2020-2021) and distributed in a similar manner as the first year. That is, the funds will be used by Chile, China, and Peru to support their jumbo flying squid sampling, stock structure and genetic studies.

The recipient Members are asked to confirm their acceptance of the proposal.

3.3. Voluntary contribution from Australia

In the current Financial Year 2020-2021, the Secretariat received a voluntary contribution from Australia in the amount of NZ\$ 58,034 (G89-2020). Australia specified that this contribution is to be directed towards SPRFMO's science work, particularly those activities described in the SPRFMO [Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Plan \(COMM8 – Report ANNEX 8a\)](#) as adopted by the SPRFMO Commission.

In association with Australia, the SC is asked to propose appropriate activities to be supported by this contribution.

Table 3: Current balance for voluntary contributions supporting SC activities

Period	Member	Contribution	Related SC Activities	Proposed/ Committed Expenses	Balance NZ\$
Jan 2019 to Dec 2020	EU	167 000	Support to jack mackerel assessment and data validation in SPRFMO (project led by WUR)	167 000	0
Jul 2019	China	29 230	To support squid sampling and genetic research in the SPRFMO Convention Area (Chile, China, and Peru).	19 400	9 830
Aug 2020+	China	26 912	To support the stock structure and genetic studies regarding the jumbo flying squid	36 000	742
Jul 2020 to Dec 2021	EU	91 850	MSE workshop Benchmark workshop	50 100 41 750	0 0
Jul 2020+	Australia	58 034	To be directed towards SPRFMO's science work, particularly those activities described in the SPRFMO SC multi-annual workplan	***	58 034