

9TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

New Zealand, 27 September to 2 October 2021

SC9-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 the 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](#).

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. 2021) or as ongoing items (2021+).

The SC is requested to:

- consider the forecasted workplan spends detailed in Table 2 and update the table as necessary.
- note that the SC might wish to recommend that, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 2.4, the Commission agrees to carry funds forward to next financial year considering that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit SC activities.
- consider the voluntary contributions shown in Table 3 and, in association with the relevant Member, confirm the amounts and encourage Members to make proposals for SC activities to be supported by these contributions.
- identify a project team and/or SC contact for large or significant items in the workplan.

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 2021. This includes all of the previous years' 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 | Budget and Voluntary Contributions NZ\$ | Expenses NZ\$ | | Remaining NZ\$ |
|---|---|--|--------|----------------|
| 2015-2016 | 20 000 | GITHUB | 424 | 19 576 |
| 2016-2017 | 20 000 | GITHUB | 432 | 39 144 |
| 2017-2018 | 12 000 | GITHUB | 431 | |
| | | FAO ABNJ workshop | 1 517 | |
| | | Invited experts to 5 th SC 2017 | 3 835 | |
| | | Invited experts to JM workshop 2018 | 15 899 | |
| Subtotal expense for FY 2017-2018 | | | 21 682 | 29 462 |
| 2018-2019 | 20 000 | GITHUB | 460 | |
| | | Invited experts & participation, 6 th SC 2018 | 27 464 | |
| | | Squid - related research | 5 000 | |
| | | Deep sea research | 679 | |
| Subtotal expense for FY 2018/2019 | | | 33 603 | 15 859 |
| 2019-2020 | 20 000 | GITHUB | 430 | |
| | | Invited experts & participation, 7 th SC 2019 | 20 254 | |
| Subtotal Year-to-date for FY 2019/2020 | | | 20 684 | 15 175 |
| 2020-2021 | 80 000 | Expert for JM assessment data, 8 th SC 2020 | 7 000 | |
| | | GITHUB | 444 | |
| | | Subtotal Year-to-date for FY 2020/2021 | | |
| Amount available to be carried forward ² | | | | 84 715 |
| 2021-2022 | 57 060 | Available funds (as at 1 st of July 2021) | | 141 775 |

² As per FR 2.4 (which caps the SC fund at NZ\$ 50k), and the FAC8 recommendation to exceptionally carry forward NZ\$34,715 if the COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit activities.



During February 2021, the Commission agreed to make an exceptional decision allowing for an amount of NZ\$34,715 to be carried over into Financial Year 2021-2022 and approved an allocation of NZ\$ 57,060 towards the SC Fund for the 2021-2022 period. Furthermore, the forecast budget for 2022-2023 contains an allocation of NZ\$ 50,000 that was intended to be consistent with the SC Multi-Annual Workplan.

2.2 Forecast Status of the SC Fund

Table 2 below shows the forecast status for the SC Fund, as well as the expected expenses identified from the Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Workplan ([COMM9-Report, Annex 4a](#)) for the next 2 years. Table 2 considers the Workplan presented in February 2021 at the Commission Meeting as well as the effects of the ongoing global pandemic.

Table 2: Forecast status of the SPRFMO SC Fund

| Financial Year | Available Funds NZ\$ | Work plan Task | Work plan Objective | Expense NZ\$ | Balance NZ\$ |
|---|----------------------|--|--|---------------|--------------|
| 2021-2022 | 141 775 | GITHUB Annual Cost | | 460 | |
| | | Jack mackerel assessment | SC and other funds to support experts | 10 000 | |
| | | Jack mackerel data workshop | To address issues including revised age terminations and CPUE indices | 0 | |
| | | Deep water Stock structure | Use modelling and observation data to predict connectivity: Using genetic, microchemistry, morphometric, parasite prevalence and tagging experiments | 23 600 | |
| | | Squid workshop | Organise a workshop to estimate fishing effort prior to SC09 (two days meeting), provide advice on a potential management measure | 0 | |
| | | Estimated subtotal for FY 2021-2022 | | | |
| Amount available to be carried forward | | | | 50 000 | |
| 2022-2023 | 100 000 | GITHUB Annual Cost | | 460 | |
| | | Jack mackerel assessment data | SC and other funds to support experts | 10 000 | |
| | | Habitat Monitoring Symposium ³ | Symposium 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 2022-2023 | | | |

Last year, for the FY 2021-2022, NZ\$ 35,000 was set aside to support an in-person workshop on Jack mackerel alongside NZ\$ 10,000 for a Squid workshop. Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic the Jack mackerel workshop was held remotely with no associated SC expense, while the Squid workshop was cancelled and the identified work carried out during a series of virtual meetings, again with no associated SC expense.

Due to Financial Regulation 2.4 in which unspent appropriations may only accrue up to a limit of NZ\$ 50,000, this means that, under current forecasting, NZ\$ 57,715 will not be available to be carried forward into 2022-2023.

The SC should note as per paragraph 62 of the [FAC8-Report](#), the FAC has requested that Secretariat provide a paper on the Scientific Support Fund carryover restrictions and cap for next year's meeting based on the Secretariat's experience managing these funds.

³ As announced at the 2nd SC web Meeting on 29/30 June 2021, held remotely (letter G100-2021), this symposium has been postponed to FY2022-2023.



The Habitat Symposium is currently planned to be in-person and held in the second week of December 2022 in Concepción, Chile. Consequently, the funds which were set aside to support this Symposium have been deferred.

3. Other contributions to SC activities

3.1. Voluntary contributions from the European Union (EU)

Completed: Support to jack mackerel assessment and data validation in SPRFMO, € 100,000 (NZ\$ 176,565).

This project was run from January 2019 to December 2020 and finalized in April 2021. The technical implementation part of the project was led by Wageningen University and Research. The project had 2 general objectives. The first was to update the Jack mackerel Management targets and Management Plan by developing a revised Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Jack mackerel in SPRFMO (see [SC9-JM03](#)) The second was 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 (See [SC9-HM06](#)). The work carried out in this project has achieved most of its objectives and technical goals with relatively minor deviations. This project supports the review of the Jack mackerel rebuilding plan in SPRFMO and contributes to the mapping of spatial-temporal population density distribution of jack mackerel (JM) using existing fisheries dependent data.

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

This grant, being coordinated by the Secretariat for the period July 2020 to December 2021 consists of three parts. The first part was intended to provide support for science in terms of logistics, material, travel, hotels etc for the organisation of two planned workshops – one in January 2021 to progress the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation for Jack mackerel by engaging with members of the Commission, and the second a Benchmark workshop planned for July 2021 for Jack mackerel to improve the scientific advice for Jack mackerel. Neither of these workshops have been able to be held due to the ongoing global pandemic.

The second part involved various database developments for the SPRFMO database. Work to redevelop and maximise the core functionality of the SPRFMO database to ensure longevity is complete, including the public facing SPRFMO Record of Vessels, and is available [online](#).

The third part involved developing a spatial management module to be integrated with the SPRFMO database, alignment of the SPRFMO database with the new SPRFMO website and staff training in spatial data management. Due to unavailability of development resources, this work has not yet commenced.

- *There is a possibility for the Secretariat to request that the EU agree to an extension to the project. To that end the SC is requested to advise if it intends to continue the work initially planned in association with this grant and what the likely timeframes are for delivery.*

3.2. Voluntary contributions from China

As per the suggestion made by the Chairperson for the squid working group (Dr. Gang Li) the remaining funds (NZ\$9,830 from Financial Year 2019-2020) have been combined with the new contribution (NZ\$26,912 in Financial Year 2020- 2021).

These funds will be used collect and analyse genetic samplings (Convention area and adjacent EEZs) as per the Squid Connectivity item in the Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Plan (NZ\$36,000).



3.3. Voluntary contribution from Australia

In Financial Year 2020-2021, the Secretariat received a voluntary contribution from Australia in the amount of NZ\$ 58,034 (G89-2020). Australia has confirmed that this contribution may be used to fund any aspect of SC work.

- *In association with Australia, the SC is encouraged 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 | Expenses/ Committed | 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 | Squid Connectivity To support the stock structure and genetic studies regarding the jumbo flying squid | 36 000 | 742 |
| Jul 2020 to Dec 2021 | EU | 92 000 | MSE workshop (50k) Benchmark workshop (42k) | Items have been deferred (beyond Dec 2021) | |
| Jul 2020+ | Australia | 58 034 | To be directed towards SPRFMO's science work, particularly those activities described in the SPRFMO SC multi-annual workplan | No activities currently identified | |