

10TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

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COMM 10 – Obs 05

CALAMASUR Position Statement for the 10th Meeting of the SPRFMO Commission

CALAMASUR



Lima, 23th December 2021

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The Committee for the Sustainable Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid of the South Pacific - CALAMASUR-, in its capacity as observer non-governmental organization to the SPRFMO, wishes to present to the 10th Meeting of the Commission its position statement regarding the fishery of the Jumbo Flying Squid (*Dosidicus gigas*), as follows:

- The fishery of Jumbo Flying Squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) in the Area of Application of the SPRFMO has experienced an important increase in its fleet size, especially from distant waters flag Members. Despite such increment, landings have not increased correlatively, which points out to a possible oversize of the harvesting fleet which may be depleting squid stocks, calling for the adoption of effective conservation measures.
- Current management measures in force for this fishery lack of fundamental conservation provisions, resulting that SPRFMO is not complying with its mandates under international law binding and voluntary instruments, particularly its own Convention: The sole adoption of provisions to ensure data collection do not represent compliance with Article 8 a) of the Convention which requires for conservation and management measures to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur. Without proper conservation measures in place, Jumbo Flying Squid fishery in SPRFMO risks that it may be declared as “IUU”, since the activity is in fact “unregulated” as qualified by the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU).
- Precautionary approach calls SPRFMO to adopt robust conservation measures even if available scientific information is limited. It is urgent to stop the increase of the fleet size from distant waters flag Members before it is too late. CALAMASUR encourages SPRFMO Members not to fail this year in adopting limits to the fishing effort in this fishery, covering all fleets involved. Consistently, CALAMASUR encourages coastal developing countries to accelerate the process for inclusion of their vessels into the Commission Record of Vessels Authorised to Fish in the Convention Area (the official register) in a timely manner to guarantee their participatory rights.
- It is also necessary to conduct a stock assessment for understanding the situation of the stock and subsequently determining a fleet size that ensures the sustainable use of this marine resource, as well as the economic analysis that will lead to a profitable activity for the coastal communities. CALAMASUR encourages SPRFMO Members to accelerate the development of the first formal stock assessment for the Jumbo Flying Squid at a regional level. The Scientific Committee has had comprehensive discussions about models, data limitations, and potential caveats to consider, so now actions are needed to mobilize the will of its members to reach concrete outputs in this regard.
- Besides the necessary conservation measures identified above, current management measure CMM-18-2020 should be amended and strengthened to provide a more robust framework for



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the fishery, seeking to guarantee that only Jumbo Flying Squid caught in a manner consistent with responsible fisheries will enter domestic and international markets. With this purpose in mind, improvements regarding port inspections, broader access to data of the Vessel Monitoring System in the SPRFMO Convention Area, limitation on fishing effort to new vessels from distant waters fleets and consistent provisions to limit the official record, a robust observer program and a catch documentation scheme are of essence.

- CALAMASUR supports the proposals tabled by Ecuador and the European Union on this subject matter, and strongly considers that those initiatives are good starting points to achieve the goals set out in previous points, in conjunction with the existing management measures, to have full conservation and management measures for the Jumbo Flying Squid.
- Further, CALAMASUR encourages SPRFMO Members to eliminate the Transshipment CMM's exceptions for the distant waters fleet and to mandate the Secretariat for using the vessels' VMS data to determine if vessels listed in this RFMO have incurred in illegal fishing. This is consistent with the need to improve the levels of monitoring, controlling, and surveillance in the SPRFMO. There have been dozens of public complaints and technical analyses about presumed illegal squid fishing in the last years. However, neither the affected countries nor the Commission's Secretariat has echoed these claims to promote compliance. Members should actively make use of the mechanisms adopted by SPRFMO to report, identify, and ensure compliance from vessels presumable having engaged into illegal fishing,
- Finally, CALAMASUR encourages SPRFMO to build an adaptive management system that allows dealing with the climate change consequences. The first steps for moving in that direction implies increasing data collection resolution and building models to link demographic outcomes to climate variability. Attention in squid management efforts should improve monitoring and assessment protocols. Research efforts should fill gaps in our understanding of how squid populations respond to climate variability at the different life stages.

CALAMASUR is willing to continue working with SPRFMO and its Members in pursue of a sustainable squid fishery in the South Pacific and is pleased to make available to the Commission, in support to this statement, a comprehensive review note that considers the current management scheme of the Jumbo Flying Squid fishery in the SPRFMO and identifies the required actions necessary to ensure that Jumbo Flying Squid becomes a responsible fishery aligned with the goals to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.