

# 2026 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

(1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026)

## 1. Introduction

This annual report is published in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, which provides that:

*“The Commission shall publish an annual report, which shall include details of decisions taken by the Commission to achieve the objective of this Convention. The report shall also provide information on actions taken by the Commission in response to any recommendations from the General Assembly of the United Nations or the FAO.*

*Copies of the report shall be publicly available and shall be provided to the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the FAO”.*

This report also serves to respond to the request made pursuant to paragraph 377 of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 80/110 (2025), for contributions to the annual report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

## 2. Membership

There were no changes in Membership or CNCPs in the reporting period. As of 31 March 2026, the SPRFMO Commission comprised 17 Members: Australia, Belize, Republic of Chile, People's Republic of China, Cook Islands, Republic of Cuba, Republic of Ecuador, European Union, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Republic of Panama, Republic of Peru, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, and the Republic of Vanuatu.

In addition, the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) was held by Curaçao and the Republic of Liberia.

## 3. Activities of the Commission

The Commission met once during the reporting period, in its 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Panama, from 2 to 6 March 2026. The Commission considered 20 proposals, resulting in decisions on amended and/or newly adopted Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), Decisions, as well as Staff Regulations and internal policies. This and other SPRFMO meetings during the reporting period are detailed in Annex 1.

### 3.1. Decisions taken by the Commission to achieve the objective of the SPRFMO Convention

Most decisions taken by the Commission during the reporting period were taken during COMM14, with one taken intersessionally.

#### 3.1.1 Conservation and Management Measures

The Commission amended seven existing CMMs:

- **CMM 01-2026:** CMM for *Trachurus murphyi* (Jack Mackerel)
- **CMM 02-2026:** CMM on Data Standards
- **CMM 03a-2026:** Management of Deepwater Species in the SPRFMO Convention Area
- **CMM 05-2026:** Commission Record of Vessels
- **CMM 07-2026:** Minimum Standards of Inspection in Port
- **CMM 09-2026:** Seabirds
- **CMM 18-2026:** Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery.



The Commission adopted one new CMMs:

- **CMM 20-2026:** Electronic Monitoring Standards for SPRFMO

### 3.1.2 Other decisions

The Commission made a number of other key decisions:

- adopted the final **2026 IUU Vessel List**, which contains one vessel
- renewed the **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP)** status for Curaçao and Liberia
- adopted amendments to the **SPRFMO Staff Regulations**
- continued the intersessional Working Group to approach the implementation of the **Second Performance Review** recommendations
- endorsed the continuation of the Working Group on **Electronic Monitoring Standards** on an as-needed basis
- adopted an updated version of the Policy for **Secondments and Internships**
- adopted **Guidelines for SPRFMO Observers**

### 3.1.3 Intersessional decisions

The Commission made one intersessional decision (Decision 20-2025) to amend CMM 05 Record of Vessels.

## 3.2. Subsidiary Bodies

The Commission has three active subsidiary bodies that report, advise, and make recommendations and contribute to regular reviews of the effectiveness of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. These subsidiary bodies are the Scientific Committee (SC), Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC), and the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC). There are also four Working Groups reporting to the SC, and three current Working Groups reporting to the Commission, i.e., the Performance Review 2 Intersessional Working Group, the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards, and the Data Working Group (see Figure 1).

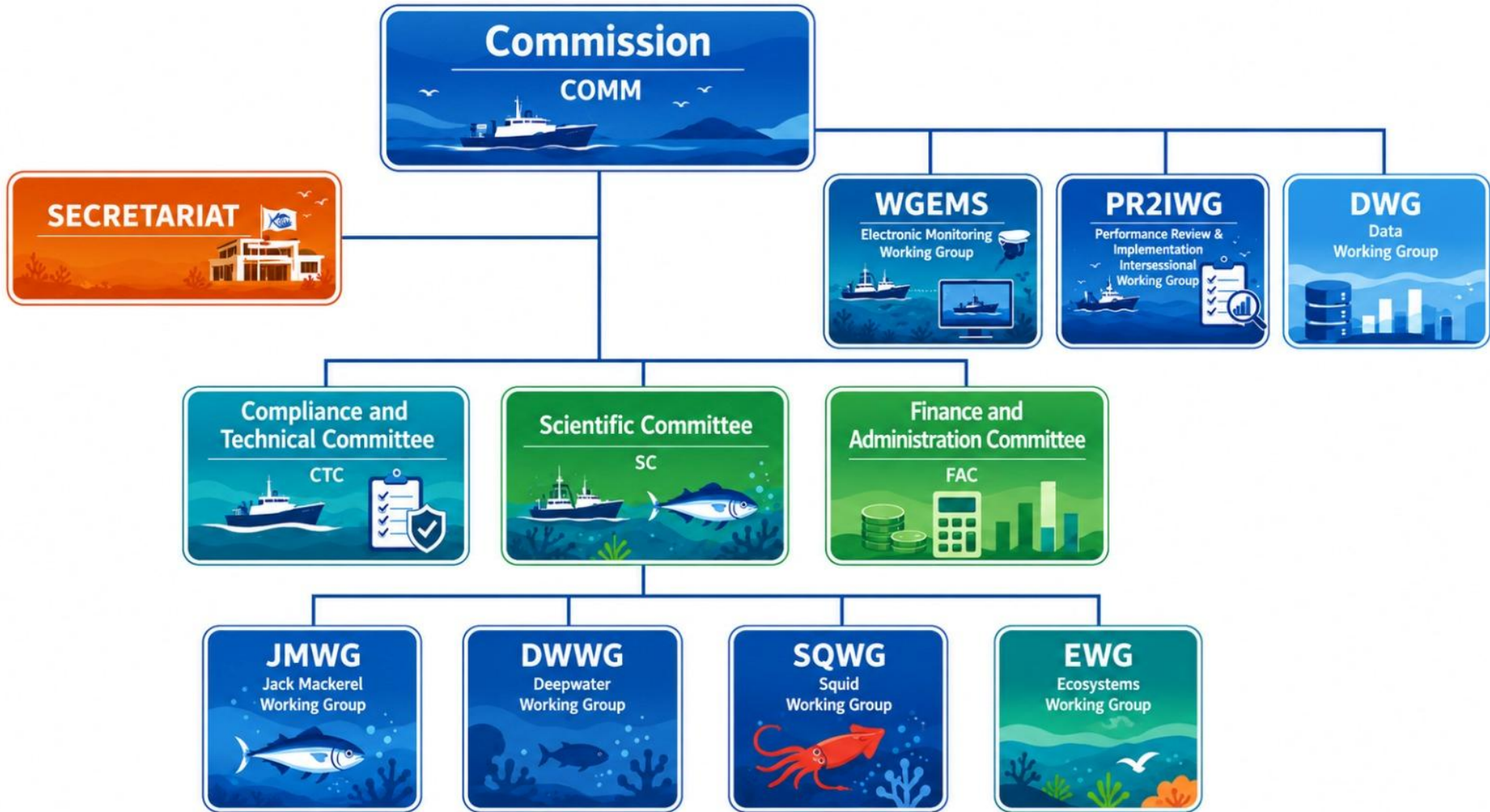


Figure 1. Current structure of the SPRFMO Commission



### 3.2.1 Scientific Committee (SC)

The 13th meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC13) was held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 8 to 13 September 2025. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ricardo Oliveros-Ramos (Peru) and attended by 85 participants, including one invited expert and the Secretariat.

The Chairperson of the SC presented the report and scientific advice of SC13 to COMM14 and presented the highlights from the SC. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of SC13 and accepted the SC13 report. The Commission commended the SC and its Members for their work.

The SC Chairperson introduced the draft SC Multi-Annual Workplan 2026–2028, noting that following recommendations from the Second Performance Review, the workplan had been restructured on a three-year planning cycle to provide greater predictability and stability, while retaining flexibility to update activities annually. Key funding requests included funding for expert support during the SC assessment process, an MSE in-person workshop, a squid workshop, squid operating model development, an ecosystems data workshop, and a jack mackerel connectivity workshop. The SC Chairperson noted that while the workplan had been reorganised on a three-year planning cycle, it was difficult for many Members to plan science work three years in advance.

The workplans for the squid, ecosystems, data, and other crosscutting items were endorsed by the Commission without further amendment. However, the workplans for jack mackerel and deepwater required further deliberation.

The SC Chairperson presented a revision to the SC Workplan, incorporating changes based on feedback from Members, primarily relating to the prioritisation of work on jack mackerel MSE-related activities. It also included deepwater species, the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridge area, and VMEs.

The Commission adopted the SC Workplan as revised on the floor.

### 3.2.2 Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC)

The 13th meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC13) was held in Panama, from 24 to 27 February 2026. The CTC focused on reviewing compliance with SPRFMO measures and enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

The Chairperson of the CTC, Ms Rebeca Espinoza (Ecuador), presented the report of the CTC13. She highlighted the CTC discussions and corresponding recommendations regarding proposals to revise CMMs, introduce new CMMs and Decisions, as well as the Provisional IUU Vessel List, Provisional Compliance Report, renewal of CNCPs and the implementation reports presented by the Secretariat, including the accreditation of observer programmes.

The CTC Chairperson noted that 22 potential issues of compliance were reviewed, and 18 were assigned a compliance status “Non-Compliant, No Further Action”, one was assigned “Non-Compliant, Further Action Required”, three were assigned “Priority Non-Compliant” and none were assigned “Compliant”.

The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the CTC and accepted the CTC13 Report.

### 3.2.3 Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC13) was held in Panama, from 26 to 28 February 2026. The FAC reviewed the financial and administrative matters of the Organisation.

The Chairperson of the FAC, Mr Juan Santibáñez (Chile), presented the FAC report and its recommendations, noting that adoption of the budget and schedule of contributions was pending further discussions.

The Commission noted that staff positions now carry fixed terms and a reliance on the accumulated surplus excess to cover staff departure-related costs should not be treated as a precedent.

The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the FAC.



### 3.3. International Cooperation

In alignment with Article 31 of the SPRFMO Convention, the Commission continued to foster consultation, cooperation, and collaboration with other organisations. As of 2026, SPRFMO maintains nine Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and arrangements with regional and international bodies, together with additional operational agreements entered into by the Secretariat to support the Organisation's work.

Notable developments during the reporting period included:

- **Continued cooperation with regional and international organisations:** The Commission and Secretariat continued engagement with organisations including WCPFC, CCAMLR, NPFC, FAO, the International MCS Network, and other regional fisheries management organisations and bodies on matters of mutual interest, including fisheries science, compliance, monitoring and control, electronic monitoring, deep-sea fisheries, and biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- **Cross-organisational data and compliance collaboration:** SPRFMO continued participating in cooperative initiatives such as the Combined Regional Authorised Vessels Tool (CRAVT) and information-sharing initiatives through the International MCS Network, supporting improved transparency, vessel identification, and cross-RFMO compliance cooperation.
- **Support for international initiatives and capacity building:** The Commission noted continued collaboration with FAO and other partners in workshops, technical processes, and capacity-building activities related to sustainable fisheries management, deep-sea fisheries, electronic monitoring, and ecosystem-based management approaches.

These cooperative efforts continue to support SPRFMO's commitment to effective international collaboration, strengthened regional fisheries governance, and the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the South Pacific Ocean.

## 4. Office Holders

At COMM14 the following office holders were re-confirmed or elected:

- **Commission Chairperson:** Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Republic of Korea) was re-elected to continue serving as the Chairperson of the Commission (2024-2026 term, re-elected for 2026-2028).
- **Commission Vice-Chairperson:** Ms Alexa Cole (United States) was confirmed to continue serving as the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission (2025-2027 term).
- **Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC):**
  - **Chairperson:** Ms Rebeca Espinoza (Ecuador) was re-elected to continue serving as the Chairperson of the CTC (2024-2026 term, re-elected for 2026-2028).
  - **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Zhao Ming (China) was confirmed to continue serving as the Vice-Chairperson of the CTC (2025-2027 term).
- **Finance and Administration Committee (FAC):**
  - **Chairperson:** Mr Juan Santibañez (Chile) was confirmed to continue serving as the Chairperson of the FAC (2025-2027 term).
  - **Vice-Chairperson:** Ms María Sierra (Panama) was confirmed to continue serving as the new Vice-Chairperson of the FAC (2025-2027 term), replacing Mr Andres Couve (Chile).
- **Scientific Committee (SC):**
  - **Chairperson:** Dr. Ricardo Oliveros-Ramos (Peru) was re-elected to continue serving as the Chairperson of the SC (2024-2026 term, re-elected for 2026-2028).
  - **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr. Ignacio Payá (Chile) was re-elected to continue serving as the Vice-Chairperson of the SC (2024-2026 term, re-elected for 2026-2028).



The full report of the Commission meeting and all related documents are available on the SPRFMO website at [www.sprfmo.int](http://www.sprfmo.int).



## Annex 1 SPRFMO meetings and working group activities during the reporting period (April 2025 – March 2026)

Activity/meeting	Details	Date
Jack Mackerel Working Group	MSE Technical Session	1-Apr-25
Jack Mackerel Working Group	MSE Technical Session	1-Apr-25
Ecosystems Working Group	Web Meeting 1	10-Apr-25
Ecosystems Working Group	Ecosystems WG Web Meeting 1	10-Apr-25
Climate Change Task Team	CCTT - Post survey session with other Orgs	15-Apr-25
Climate Change Task Team	CCTT - Post survey session with other Orgs	15-Apr-25
Climate Change Task Team	CCTT - Session 2	21-May-25
WG on Electronic Monitoring Standards	WGEMS meeting 5	18-Jun-25
Ecosystems Working Group	Web Meeting 2	26-Jun-25
Jack Mackerel Working Group	MSE Science-Managers virtual session	3-Jul-25
WG on Electronic Monitoring Standards	WGEMS meeting 6	3-Jul-25
Jack Mackerel Working Group	MSE In-person technical workshop	14-Jul-25
WG on Electronic Monitoring Standards	WGEMS meeting 7	23-Jul-25
Squid Working Group	Squid WG Preparatory Session1 (Stock Assessment)	24-Jul-25
Jack Mackerel Working Group	Jack Mackerel WG Preparatory Session 1	28-Jul-25
Ecosystems Working Group	Ecosystems WG Preparatory Session	31-Jul-25
Performance Review 2 Intersessional Working Group	PR2IWG Meeting 2	5-Aug-25
Squid Working Group	Squid WG Preparatory Session 2 (Genetics)	6-Aug-25
Jack Mackerel Working Group	Jack Mackerel WG Preparatory Session 2	7-Aug-25
Scientific Committee	SC Preparatory Meeting	26-Aug-25
Deepwater Working Group	Preparatory meeting - in person	5-Sept-25
Squid Working Group	Assessment and simulated assessment workshop	6-Sept-25
SGN Task Team	SGN Task Team - Session	7-Sept-25
Scientific Committee	13th SC Annual Meeting	8-Sept-25
Performance Review 2 Intersessional Working Group	PR2IWG Meeting 2	5-Nov-25
WG on Electronic Monitoring Standards	WGEMS meeting 8	10-Dec-25
Compliance and Technical Committee	13th CTC Annual Meeting	24-27 Febr 2026
Finance and Administration Committee	13th FAC Annual Meeting	26-28 Feb 2026
SPRFMO Commission	14 <sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting	2-6 Mar 2026