

11 March 2011

Dear Colleagues

As the fishing for jack mackerel in 2011 gets underway I think it is appropriate for me as your Chair to note that we are in a very different situation this year from that in previous years, to advise you as to how the Interim Secretariat will be carrying out its functions in response to this situation and to ask you to do your best to assist the Secretariat in their tasks.

You are all aware that the Second Session of our Preparatory Conference for the Commission of the SPRFMO held in Cali, Colombia, in January, expressed its grave concern at the seriously depleted state of the jack mackerel stock as revealed in the Science Working Group's ninth report and agreed that immediate and major reductions in catch were required if there is to be any reasonable certainty of the stock rebuilding. You are also aware that those few participants that were unable to agree to the specific catch reductions contained in the 2011 Interim Measures for *Trachurus* species fisheries adopted by the Conference all confirmed they would implement all the data collection and reporting commitments contained in those measures. The Interim Measures provide that they are effective from 1 February this year.

In his memorandum of 4 March the Executive Secretary has advised participants of the timing and format for the reporting of monthly catches and noted that, in accordance with the Interim Measures, the Secretariat will circulate the monthly catches, aggregated by flag state, to all participants each quarter. It will greatly assist the Secretariat if the data is supplied as early as possible. The Secretariat will promptly remind any participants whose data is not received within the timetable specified in the Interim Measures and will also monitor reported catches against catch limits and communicate as necessary with participants as provided for in paragraph 19 of the Interim Measures

The data received, together with all the other reporting requirements set out in the 2011 Interim Measures for *Trachurus* species fisheries will be of great importance for the stock assessment for the species to be carried out by the Science Working Group later this year which, in turn, will be an essential component for the review to be carried out by the Third Session of the Preparatory Conference in accordance with the 2011 Interim Measures.

In light of the seriously depleted state of the jack mackerel stock as set out in the Science Working Group's ninth report and the general conclusions of the Second Session of the Preparatory Conference based on that report, I would urge all participants to have regard to the objective we all agreed to in adopting the Convention – that is, “... through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, 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.” While the Convention may

not yet be in force, that objective should surely guide us, even in this interim period, as we prepare for the entry into force of the Convention.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Mansfield". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Mansfield
Chair
Preparatory Conference for the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries
Management Organisation