



10TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Held virtually, 24 to 28 January 2022 (NZDT)

COMM 10 – Report ANNEX 8b Cooperation Arrangement between CCAMLR and SPRFMO *(COMM 10 – Prop 12)*

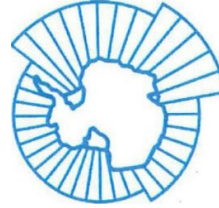


South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management
Organisation

PO Box 3797 Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

Tel: +64 4 499 9889 – Fax: +64 4 473 9579 –

Email: secretariat@sprfmo.int



Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine
Living Resources

PO Box 213, North Hobart 7002, Tasmania, Australia

Tel: +61 6210 1111 – Fax: +61 3 6224 8744 –

Email: ccamlr@ccamlr.org

Arrangement between the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (hereafter SPRFMO) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (hereafter CCAMLR):

Note that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (hereafter SPRFMO Convention) 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;

Note further that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (hereafter CAMLR Convention) is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources;

Recognise that Article 31 of the SPRFMO Convention requires SPRFMO, *inter alia*, to cooperate, as appropriate, with other relevant organisations on matters of mutual interest and to seek to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with such other organisations;

Acknowledge that the Preamble to the CAMLR Convention recognises the desirability of establishing suitable machinery for recommending, promoting, deciding upon and coordinating the measures and scientific studies needed to ensure the conservation of Antarctic marine living organisms;

Note that Article II of the CAMLR Convention requires, *inter alia*, that any harvesting and associated activities in the area to which the Convention applies be conducted in accordance with principles of conservation which include preventing decrease in the size of any harvested population to levels below those which ensure its stable recruitment; the maintenance of the ecological relationships between harvested, dependent and related populations of Antarctic marine living resources and the restoration of depleted populations; and the prevention of changes or minimisation of the risk of changes in the marine ecosystem which are not potentially reversible over two or three decades;

Desire to put in place arrangements to promote and facilitate cooperation between SPRFMO and CCAMLR;

Therefore SPRFMO and CCAMLR record the following arrangements:

1. Objective of this Arrangement

The objective of this Arrangement is to facilitate, where appropriate, cooperation between SPRFMO and CCAMLR ('the Organisations') in order to advance their respective objectives, particularly with respect to stocks and species which are within the competence and/or mutual interest of both organisations.

2. Areas of cooperation

The Organisations will establish and maintain consultation and cooperation in respect of matters of common interest to both organisations. In particular the Organisations will:

- i. exchange meeting reports, information, documents and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, consistent with the information sharing policies of each Organisation;
- ii. exchange data and scientific information in support of the work and objectives of both Organisations, consistent with the information sharing policies of each Organisation including, but not limited to, information on:
 - a) vessels authorised to fish in accordance with conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO Convention and conservation measures adopted under the CAMLR Convention;
 - b) vessels suspected of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity and the IUU Vessel Lists established by each Organisation;
 - c) catch, bycatch and vessel information and/or data consistent with data use, access and confidentiality rules of each Organisation;
- iii. cooperate to harmonise approaches in areas of mutual interest and concern, including, but not limited to:
 - a) target species and bycatch of non-target, associated and dependent species (ecologically related species);
 - b) monitoring, control and surveillance policies and systems, including with respect to Vessel Monitoring Systems;
- iv. where appropriate, collaborate on analyses and research efforts relating to species of mutual interest;
- v. consider methods of recognising and supporting conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO Convention and conservation measures adopted under the CAMLR Convention; and
- vi. consistent with each Organisation's rules of procedure, grant permanent reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Organisations in relevant meetings of each Organisation.

3. Consultative process

To facilitate effective development, implementation and enhancement of cooperation, the Organisations may establish a consultative process between the two respective Secretariats that includes, telephone, email and similar means of communications. The consultative process may also proceed in the margins of meetings at which both Organisations' Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff.

4. Modification

This Arrangement may be modified at any time by the mutual written consent of both Organisations.

5. Legal status

This Arrangement does not create legally binding rights or obligations.

This Arrangement does not alter the obligations of members of either Organisation to comply with conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO Convention and conservation measures adopted under the CAMLR Convention.

6. Others

This Arrangement will commence on the date of the second signature.

Either Organisation may terminate this Arrangement by giving six months’ prior written notice to the other Organisation.

This Arrangement will operate for three (3) years. Before the end of the three year period, the Organisations will separately review the operation of this Arrangement to decide whether it should be renewed.

7. Signatures

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Luis Molledo (European Union)

Chair SPRFMO

Signed at thisday

of 2019 2022

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Dr. Jakob Grant (Sweden)

Chair CCAMLR

Signed at thisday

of 2019 2022

Implementing Annex 1

Noting

- the decisions of CCAMLR in CCAMLR-XXXVII paragraph 11.20, SCIC-2018 paras 26-27, SC-CAMLR-XXXVII paragraphs 10.31-10.32); and
- the decision of SPRFMO in COMM7 paragraph 169.

the following activities are agreed between the parties in furtherance of the objectives of the Arrangement:

A1. Consistent with the Arrangement's paragraphs 2(ii) and (iii), CCAMLR and SPRFMO will cooperate on toothfish tagging research as follows:

- a. Toothfish tagging in SPRFMO should follow CCAMLR tagging protocols and use tags sourced from the CCAMLR Secretariat to avoid the use of duplicate tag sequences and the replication of data management process in respective Secretariats. SPRFMO vessels may obtain CCAMLR series tags for toothfish from the CCAMLR Secretariat.
- b. SPRFMO and CCAMLR will exchange biological data, tag-release and tag-recapture information on all toothfish that are released in the waters of one Convention and recaptured in the waters covered by the other Convention.

A2. Consistent with the Arrangement's paragraphs 2(ii) and (iii), CCAMLR and SPRFMO will cooperate to apply the CCAMLR Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. (CDS) in respect of toothfish caught in SPRFMO waters:

- a. CCAMLR and SPRFMO will collaborate to encourage or require any Contracting Party and Member of SPRFMO that catches toothfish to implement the CDS. The CCAMLR Secretariat will provide assistance and capacity building to SPRFMO as required. SPRFMO and CCAMLR will coordinate actions including CDS training workshops and outreach to states that are NCPs to CCAMLR and Contracting Parties and Members of SPRFMO and that are a priority for CCAMLR's CDS engagement.
- b. CCAMLR will provide to SPRFMO summary CDS data for all *Dissostichus* Catch Documents (DCDs) originating from catches in the SPRFMO Convention Area. CCAMLR could include in the DCD a declaration on whether fish was caught in a respective Convention Area in compliance with relevant conservation measures.

A3. Consistent with the Arrangement's paragraph 2(ii), CCAMLR and SPRFMO will provide reciprocal links to each other's IUU vessel lists on their websites.

A4. Consistent with the Arrangement's paragraphs 2(ii-iv), CCAMLR and SPRFMO will develop a scientific observer programme knowledge exchange program, which will involve the following:

- a. Exchange of information on observer training materials, particularly with respect to toothfish, toothfish tagging, and monitoring of incidental mortality including on seabirds and sharks.
- b. Exchange of information on data structures and data management of observer data, such that observer data collected on activities and species of mutual interest may be shared subject to data access rules.