



11TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, 13 to 17 February 2023

COMM 11 – Prop 18

PROPOSAL TO:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Amend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create | Decision XX-2023 on Climate Change |
| Submitted by: United States of America | |
| Summary of the proposal: The United States is concerned about the increasing global threat of climate change and potential impacts to fisheries managed by the Commission. The 2023 Work Plan of the Scientific Committee (SC) tasks the SC with identifying key areas and management implications of climate change on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the main fisheries in the SPRFMO area. The Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC) may play a role in evaluating any compliance or technical issues related to climate change. In order to prioritize the SC's and CTC's work on climate change and ensure the Commission appropriately considers climate change in its decisions, the United States proposes that climate change be included as a permanent agenda item for all SC, CTC, and Commission meetings. The United States also proposes that the Commission consider any recommended changes or new conservation and management measures proposed by the SC and CTC. | |
| Objective of the proposal: The objective of the proposal is to include consideration of climate change in Commission decisions. | |
| Has the proposal financial impacts or influence on the Secretariat work? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ref: COMM11-PROP18 | Received on: 24 December 2022 |

Decision XX-2023 on Climate Change

Submitted by the United States of America

Recognizing international initiatives to address climate change and its effects, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with specific reference to the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (2019) and the Sixth Assessment Report (2022).

Noting that several regional fisheries management organizations, including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, have recently taken additional steps to prepare for the emerging impacts of climate change on the fisheries under their jurisdiction.

Emphasizing that climate change is leading to shifts in the distribution and abundance of fisheries, altering ecosystems, affecting livelihoods, destabilizing food systems and challenging economic security worldwide.

Further emphasizing that climate change is a global, urgent issue affecting the South Pacific and requiring imminent action by resource managers to ensure sustainable use of marine resources.

Acknowledging that the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation could benefit from explicit consideration of climate change, potential impacts from climate change on the fisheries under its jurisdiction, and actions that could be taken to reduce or mitigate these impacts.

Recognizing the urgency of developing a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on fishery resources in the Convention Area, the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation decides as follows:

1. To task the Scientific Committee (SC) in 2023 and annually thereafter to include climate change as an agenda item. Within this agenda item, the SC will highlight analyses and data collection programs that best illustrate the potential impacts of climate change. As a result of these discussions, the SC is requested to make recommendations to the Commission on how existing conservation and management measures (CMMs) could be designed or proposed new CMMs established for the adaptation and resilience to climate change impacts in the Convention Area.
2. To task the Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC) in 2023 and annually thereafter to include climate change as an agenda item. Within this agenda item, the CTC will evaluate any compliance or technical issue related to climate change and provide advice to the Commission regarding amendments to existing CMMs or proposed new CMMs that may be necessary as a result of climate change impacts in the Convention Area.
3. To include climate change on its agenda in 2024 and annually thereafter, including the consideration of SC and CTC recommendations and any other considerations regarding climate change impacts.