12TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, 29 January to 2 February 2024

COMM 12 – Prop 18

PROPOSAL TO:

☒ Amend ☐ Create	CMM 18-2023 on the jumbo flying squid fishery

Submitted by: USA and New Zealand

Summary of the proposal:

The United States and New Zealand appreciate the progress made by the Commission towards the management of the jumbo flying squid fishery. At the 11th meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC), the SC discussed the current progress towards providing advice to the Commission on an appropriate level of observer coverage under CMM 18-2023, noting key limitations in understanding the observer requirements for compliance, biological sampling and bycatch rates. The current CMM requirement of "5 full-time at-sea observers" is significantly less than the requirement of "5% of fishing days observed." Last year for example, China reported 5 full-time observers covered less than 1% of fishing days. Current literature suggests that at least 20% observer coverage of fishing effort may provide a minimal level for quantifying bycatch; but to adequately estimate the true frequency of rare events, the coverage level should be higher. The existing level of observer coverage is very low and not commensurate with other RFMO observer coverage standards. Therefore, the SPRFMO Commission should increase the observer coverage of this fleet to meet at least minimally acceptable coverage levels.

The United States and New Zealand propose to increase the percentage of fishing days observed to 10%. This level is consistent with the jack mackerel and deepwater longline fisheries in SPRFMO. By 2027, the data collection and monitoring in this fishery shall increase from 10% to 20% coverage of fishing days. If SPRFMO has adopted an electronic monitoring program by that date, 10% of the monitoring may come from that program. In 2027, the Scientific Committee and the Compliance and Technical Committee shall review the observer coverage and provide advice to the Commission on a recommended observer coverage level.

Objective of the proposal:

The objective of the proposal is, through the application of the precautionary approach, to promote the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the jumbo flying squid stock/s in the SPRFMO Convention Area by improving the collection of scientific and compliance data through an increased level of observer coverage in the jumbo flying squid fishery.

Has the proposal financial impacts or influence on the Secretariat work?	☐ Yes X☐ No
Ref: COMM12-PROP18	Received on: 10 December 2023

CMM 18-2024

Conservation and Management Measure on the Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery

(supersedes CMM 18-2023)

The Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation;

NOTING that there has been a substantial increase in catches of and fishing effort for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area since 1990;

CONCERNED that there is uncertainty concerning the stock status and exploitation rate of jumbo flying squid;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the discussions at the 2nd Squid Workshop on 17 August 2021; the Scientific Committee Squid Working Group Workshops on Effort (11 June 2022 and 2 September 2022); the 10tj meeting of the Scientific Committee from 26 to 30 September 2022, including paragraphs 170 and 172 of its report; and the 11th meeting of the Scientific Committee from 11 to 16 September 2023, including paragraphs 171 and 199 of its report;

BEARING IN MIND the commitment to apply the precautionary approach and take decisions based on the best scientific and technical information available as set out in Article 3 of the Convention;

RECOGNISING that a primary function of the Commission is to adopt Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) to achieve the objective of the Convention, including, as appropriate, CMMs for particular fish stocks;

AFFIRMING its commitment to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable management of jumbo flying squid stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention;

RECOGNISING the need for effective monitoring and control and surveillance of fishing for jumbo flying squid in the implementation of this measure pending the establishment of monitoring, control and surveillance measures pursuant to Article 27 of the Convention;

RECALLING Articles 19(1), 19(2), 20(3) and 20(4) of the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING the need set out in Article 4 of the Convention to ensure compatibility of CMMs established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction, and the duty of Contracting Parties to cooperate to this end;

RECALLING also Article 21(1) of the Convention;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 8 and 21 of the Convention:

General Provisions

1. This CMM applies to all vessels flagged to Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) engaged in or intending to engage in fishing for jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) in the Convention Area.
2. Only fishing vessels duly authorised pursuant to Article 25 of the Convention and in accordance with CMM 05-2023 (Record of Vessels) that are flagged to Members and CNCPs shall participate in the fishery for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area.

Management for the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery[1]

3. Members that have authorised squid jigging vessels on the Commission Record of Vessels as of 31 December 2020 shall limit both the number and total gross tonnage of squid jigging vessels flying their flag authorised to fish for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area to the level of their squid jigging vessels as set out in Table 1 of this CMM. Members may substitute their squid jigging vessels as long as the number and total gross tonnage of the vessels for each Member does not exceed the level represented in the Table.
4. Members and CNCPs, other than developing coastal States, that have no authorised squid jigging vessels on the Commission Record of Vessels as of 31 December 2020 but have a historical record in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery in the Convention Area shall submit to the Executive Secretary, by 30th June, their historical record of jumbo flying squid jigging fisheries in the Convention Area in the format of the number of vessels, total gross tonnage and catch weights (t) by year, for inclusion in the squid information held by the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall circulate this information to all Members and CNCPs.
5. Members and CNCPs referred to in paragraph 4, other than developing coastal States, may develop their jumbo flying squid jigging fishery. These Members and CNCPs shall limit the number and total gross tonnage of the squid jigging vessels flying their flag authorised to fish for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area, taking into account the state of squid resources, and not exceeding their highest historical levels. The historic high levels will be determined by the information provided pursuant in paragraph 4.
6. Members and CNCPs, other than developing coastal States, that have no historical record in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery in the Convention Area, have no authorised squid jigging vessels on the Commission Record of Vessels as of 31 December 2020, and want to participate in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery shall submit a proposal to the Scientific Committee at least 90 days in advance of the next Scientific Committee meeting. These proposals shall include, at a minimum, information on the proposed number of fishing vessels, gross tonnage limit, and the type of jigging gear. The Scientific Committee shall provide its advice on the potential impact of the proposed effort increase. The Commission shall consider these proposals in conjunction with any advice from the Scientific Committee.
7. Developing coastal States[2] are allowed to develop their jumbo flying squid fisheries in the Convention Area without restrictions, either with jigging or other fishing gears used to fish jumbo flying squid, in a manner consistent with SPRFMO CMMs. Such developing coastal States shall provide notification of the number of vessels and gross tonnage involved, in accordance with the time specified in paragraph 12.
8. This CMM is not to be considered a precedent for future allocation decisions.

Data Collection and Reporting

9. Each Member and CNCP participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall collect, verify, and provide all required data to the Executive Secretary, in accordance with CMM 02-2022 (Data Standards) and using the templates prepared by the Secretariat and available on the SPRFMO website, including an annual catch report detailing catches on a monthly basis.
10. The Executive Secretary shall verify the annual catch reports submitted by Members and CNCPs against the submitted data. The Executive Secretary shall inform Members and CNCPs of the outcome of the verification exercise and any possible discrepancies encountered.

[1] The effort limitation in this measure applies to fishing for jumbo flying squid in the SPRFMO Convention Area, and does not apply to fishing gears other than jigging.

[2] For the purpose of this CMM only, developing coastal States are Cook Islands, Panama, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, and Vanuatu and shall not prejudice future decisions of the Commission regarding the definition of developing coastal States.

Monitoring and Control

11. Members and CNCPs participating in the jumbo flying squid fisheries shall implement a vessel monitoring system (VMS) in accordance with CMM 06-2023 (VMS) and other relevant CMMs adopted by the Commission.

12. Each Member and CNCP participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall provide the Executive Secretary a list of vessels[3] they have authorised to fish in the fishery in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention and CMM 05-2023 (Record of Vessels) and other relevant CMMs adopted by the Commission. They shall also notify the Executive Secretary of the vessels that have actively fished or engaged in transhipment in the Convention Area within 30 days of the end of each year. The Executive Secretary shall maintain lists of the vessels so notified and will make them available on the SPRFMO website.

13. The Executive Secretary shall report annually to the Commission on the list of vessels having actively fished or been engaged in transhipment in the Convention Area during the previous year using data provided under CMM 02-2022 (Data Standards).

Scientific Committee Reports

14. Members and CNCPs shall provide their annual reports, in accordance with the existing guidelines for such reports, in advance of the Scientific Committee meeting of each year. Members and CNCPs shall also provide observer data for each fishing season to the Scientific Committee to the maximum extent possible. The reports shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary at least one month before the Scientific Committee meeting in order to ensure that the Scientific Committee has an adequate opportunity to consider the reports in its deliberations. Members and CNCPs should notify the Executive Secretary in the event they will not be submitting an annual report together with the reasons for not doing so.

15. The information collected under paragraphs 9 and 14, and any stock assessments and research in respect of the jumbo flying squid fishery shall be submitted for review to the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will conduct the necessary analysis and assessment, in accordance with its SC Multi-annual workplan agreed by the Commission, in order to provide advice on stock status.

Observer Coverage

16. Members and CNCPs participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall ensure a minimum observer coverage[4] of 10% of fishing days on Jumbo Flying Squid Jigging vessels flying their flag, and ensure that such observers collect and report data as described in CMM 02-2022 (Data Standards). By 2027, the data collection and monitoring in this fishery shall increase from 10% to 20% coverage of fishing days. If SPRFMO has adopted an electronic monitoring program by that date, 10% of the monitoring may come from that program. In 2027, the Scientific Committee and the Compliance and Technical Committee shall review the observer coverage and provide advice to the Commission on a recommended observer coverage level.

Special Requirements of Developing States

17. In recognition of the special requirements of developing States, in particular small island developing States and territories and possessions in the region, Members and CNCPs are urged to provide financial, scientific and technical assistance, where available, to enhance the ability of those developing States and territories and possessions to implement this CMM.

Review

[3]Fishing vessels as defined in Article 1 (1)(h) of the Convention.

[4] In accordance with CMM 16-2023 (Observer Programme Annex 4) this level of observer coverage does not apply to Peruvian flagged artisanal fishing vessels less than 15m of length fishing for jumbo flying squid.

18. This CMM supersedes CMM 18-2020.

19. This CMM shall be reviewed at its annual meeting in 2025, taking into consideration if:

    a) the Scientific Committee recommends a reduction in total effort or other controls on the squid fishery based on the best scientific information available; or
    b) if the number of active vessels or the total gross tonnage equals or exceeds the total amount in Table 1.

The review shall take into account the latest advice of the Scientific Committee and the Compliance and Technical Committee, and shall include a review of the effort levels between Members listed in Table 1 and other Members entitled to develop their Jumbo Flying Squid fisheries.

Table 1: Number and total gross tonnage of vessels referred to in paragraph 3.

Member	Vessel Limit Number	Total Gross Tonnage (GT)
China	671	644,820
Korea	50	45,773
Chinese Taipei	45	45,499
Total number of vessels and gross tonnage	766	736,092