

12TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, 29 January to 2 February 2024

COMM 12 – Prop 19

PROPOSAL TO:

<input type="checkbox"/> Amend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create	CMM XX-2024 RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT AREA IN THE HIGH SEAS ADJACENT TO SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC (SQUID R&M AREA) AIMED TO ENHANCE OUR UNDERSTANDING AND FACILITATE THE COLLECTION OF DATA REGARDING FISHING ACTIVITIES TARGETING JUMBO FLYING SQUID
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Submitted by: ECUADOR

Summary of the proposal:

The SPRFMO Convention reaffirms its commitment to the long-term conservation and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources in the South Pacific, emphasizing the application of precautionary and ecosystem approaches to safeguard the marine ecosystem. It acknowledges the need to consider economic, geographical, and special requirements of developing States in the conservation, management, and sustainable development of fishery resources, ensuring equitable benefit distribution.

The proposal highlights the concentration of long-distance fishing vessels targeting Jumbo Flying Squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) in the SPRFMO area, particularly within the high seas adjacent to the national jurisdiction waters of South American countries. Despite SPRFMO's establishment of a fishing effort limit for Jumbo Flying Squid vessels in 2023, there is insufficient knowledge regarding the cumulative effects of such a significant number of vessels operating in a concentrated area, impacting not only the target species but also associated species and the broader ecosystem at various trophic levels.

Aligned with the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries, the proposal emphasizes the need to prevent excess fishing capacity and ensure fishing effort aligns with sustainable use. The FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity underscores that excessive capacity contributes to overfishing, resource degradation, reduced food production, and economic waste. The management of capacity, as outlined in §9. iv, should prioritize conservation, sustainable use of fish stocks, protection of the marine environment, and adherence to the precautionary approach.

Despite evidence from satellite data and aerial sightings revealing a concentration of vessels during the fishing season, SPRFMO has not conducted necessary assessments of the fishing effort in the area. The proposal underscores the potential negative impacts of vessel concentration, emphasizing the need for comprehensive data collection to inform measures addressing interactions with other vessels, associated species, waste disposal, and historical records.

While SPRFMO has established capacity limits, data standards, and monitoring requirements, the proposal advocates for enhanced data collection to address the concentration of fishing operations in specific areas. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the recent international instrument for the conservation of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction emphasize the importance of area-based management tools. RFMOs, including SPRFMO, are urged to demonstrate commitment and preparedness in managing their fisheries responsibly.



The proposal complements CMM 18-2023 by identifying a specific area of concern within the Convention Area, consistent with the precautionary and ecosystem approaches. This targeted approach aims to improve data collection, research, and management of Jumbo Flying Squid while ensuring SPRFMO's compliance with capacity limits and conservation objectives. The identified area spans between the national jurisdiction waters of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador, extending to the Meridian 125° longitude West, and between Parallels 40° latitude South and 1°30' latitude North. Special measures proposed in the CMM will apply to vessels authorized to fish for Jumbo Flying Squid in this area until the Commission agrees on substantive measures to ensure the sustainable management of the capacity limit and the overall health of the ocean in the Convention Area.

Objective of the proposal:

The establishment of an “area of concern” for research and management of Jumbo Flying squid in the Convention Area.

Has the proposal financial impacts or influence on the Secretariat work?

Yes

No

Ref: COMM12-PROP19

Received on: 10 December 2023

This document is intended to be one-page long only.

CMM XX-2024

Conservation and Management Measure for a Research and Management Area in the High Seas Adjacent Area of South American Countries (SQUID R&M AREA)

The Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation;

ACKNOWLEDGING a significant surge in catches and fishing effort for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area since 1990;

CONSIDERING the concentration of fishing operations targeting jumbo flying squid within the Convention Area, specifically between the limit of the waters of national jurisdiction of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador, and the Meridian 125° longitude West, spanning from Parallels 40° latitude South to 1°30' latitude North.

RECALLING the definition in Article 2 of the Convention, highlighting its objective to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources by applying a precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to safeguard the marine ecosystem.

KEEPING IN MIND the Conservation and Management Principles and Approaches outlined in Article 3 of the Convention, particularly emphasizing the prevention or elimination of overfishing and excess fishing capacity ("(iii)"), the protection of marine ecosystems with extended recovery times following disturbance ("(vii)"), and the minimization of pollution, waste, and impacts on other species and marine ecosystems originating from fishing vessels ("(x)"). Additionally, recognizing the commitment to applying an ecosystem approach broadly for the conservation and management of fishery resources, ensuring their long-term sustainability and the protection of marine ecosystems ("2 (b)").

EXPRESSING CONCERN over the prevailing uncertainty surrounding the potential exponential impacts on the broader ecosystem due to the concentrated presence of hundreds of vessels simultaneously targeting the same stock in a limited section of the Convention Area. This uncertainty may result in a lack of understanding of these impacts or the failure to adopt timely measures to prevent irreparable environmental damage.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the existing CMM 18-2023 for the Conservation and Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid in the broader Convention Area;

RECOGNIZING the commitment to making decisions based on the best available scientific and technical information, as articulated in Article 3 of the Convention;

AFFIRMING the Commission's dedication to achieving the Convention's objective, including the adoption of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) for specific fish stocks, in alignment with the primary function outlined in Article 19;

UNDERLINING its commitment to ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable management of jumbo flying squid, associated species, and the overall health of the ocean, aligning with the objectives set forth in United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14;

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

HEREBY ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Articles 8 and 21 of the Convention:



IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AREA OF CONCERN FOR THE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF JUMBO FLYING SQUID (SQUID R&M AREA)

1. For the purposes of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM), the term "Area of Concern" refers to the region within the Convention Area, extending from the limit of the waters under the national jurisdiction of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador to the Meridian 125° longitude West. It is situated between Parallels 40° latitude South and 1°30' latitude North.
2. Fishing vessels operating within the "Area of Concern" during the fishing season, engaging in activities related to either catching or interacting with Jumbo Flying Squid, are required to submit pertinent information to their Flag State. Subsequently, the Flag State is mandated to report to the Commission on a quarterly basis. This report, in addition to the data mandated by CMM 02-2022, must include details such as the time, location, and composition of interactions involving Jumbo Flying Squid when it is not the primary target species. Moreover, information on interactions with associated species (excluding those classified as "species of concern" as outlined in Annex 14 of CMM 02-2022) must be provided when Jumbo Flying Squid is the targeted species. For uniformity, the information submission should adhere to the template outlined in Annex 1.
3. In addition to the mandated data outlined in CMM 12-2023, vessels engaged in transshipping activities are required to submit reports to their Flag State. The Flag State, in turn, is obligated to relay this information to the Commission on a quarterly basis. These reports, derived either from observers or the vessel's crew, should detail any instances of undeclared Jumbo Flying Squid discovered in the Area of Concern. This is especially pertinent when the unloading manifest fails to mention Jumbo Flying Squid, or conversely, when there is an identification of any other species not declared, particularly when the unloading manifest specifies Jumbo Flying Squid. To ensure consistency and clarity, the provided information must adhere to the template delineated in Annex 2.
4. Fishing vessels conducting operations in the Area of Concern are required to identify and report to their Flag State any collaborative or supporting actions undertaken in conjunction with other vessels—whether fishing vessels or those providing support—that may have contributed to the fishing activity. The Flag State is then responsible for conveying this information to the Commission on a quarterly basis. For uniform reporting, details of such joint or supporting actions must be provided using the template specified in Annex 3.
5. Fishing vessels are obligated to identify and report to their Flag State the number of vessels, along with available identification data, pertaining to any other fishing or transshipping vessels operating within a one-nautical-mile radius of the reporting fishing vessel during harvesting operations. The Flag State is then responsible for submitting this information to the Commission on a quarterly basis. To ensure consistency in reporting, all relevant details should be furnished using the designated template found in Annex 4.
6. Vessels engaged in fishing and transshipping activities within the Area of Concern are strictly prohibited from disposing of solid or chemically non-degradable wastes in the designated area. Any violation of this regulation will be treated as a severe infraction.
7. In addition to the stipulations outlined in CMM 07-2022, the data records gathered in accordance with this measure must be accessible to port authorities whenever foreign fishing or transshipping vessels enter port for inspection purposes.
8. The data gathered under this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) will be at the disposal of the Scientific Committee for analysis in 2025, with subsequent updates on an annual basis. The outcomes of this analysis will be presented to the Commission for deliberation, aiming to enhance management measures within the designated Area of Concern.
9. Vessels operating in the Area of Concern are required to promptly report to their Flag State any occurrence of satellite signal interruption concerning both the AIS or the VMS system. Subsequently, the Flag



State is responsible for conveying this information to the Commission. The report should encompass the date and time of the interruption, the corresponding recovery time, geographical positions for both events, and the presumed circumstances leading to the interruption. Failure to report this event will be deemed a serious infringement.

10. This Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) will come into effect on June 1st, 2024, and is scheduled for review by the Commission in 2028.



ANNEX 1

Interaction with Jumbo Flying Squid and associated species

Data to be collected when Jumbo Flying Squid is NOT the target species:

1. Data are to be collected on a daily basis
2. The following fields of data are to be collected:
 - a) Vessel flag;
 - b) Vessel name;
 - c) Vessel call sign;
 - d) Registration number of vessel;
 - e) UVI (Unique Vessel Identifier)/IMO number;
 - f) Date of fishing activity (UTC date);
 - g) Position at start of fishing (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
 - h) Position at end of fishing (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
 - i) Incidental captures of JUMBO FLYING SQUID by number
 - j) condition of each individual when captured (alive / death)
 - k) sampling data as available
 - l) condition of the capture: retained / discarded (alive/dead)

Data to be collected of associated species when Jumbo Flying Squid IS the target species:

1. Data are to be collected on a daily basis
2. The following fields of data are to be collected:
 - a) Vessel flag;
 - b) Vessel name;
 - c) Vessel call sign;
 - d) Registration number of vessel;
 - e) UVI (Unique Vessel Identifier)/IMO number;
 - f) Date of fishing activity (UTC date);
 - g) Position at start of fishing (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
 - h) Position at end of fishing (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
 - i) Incidental captures of associated species different from species of concern, by number and taxa i.d. (Yes/No/Unknown);
 - j) FAO species code and estimated live weight of catch retained on board for associated species caught
 - k) FAO species code and estimation of the amount⁹ of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable.



ANNEX 2

Data to be collected by transshipping vessels related to undeclared species found upon unloading:

1. Data are to be collected upon downloading when crew members and/or observers participate in the unloading process
2. The following fields of data are to be collected:
 - a) Transshipping Vessel Flag
 - b) Transshipping Vessel Flag
 - c) Donor Vessel flag;
 - d) Donor Vessel name;
 - e) Transshipment operation date;
 - f) Transshipment operation location;
 - g) Unloading operation date;
 - h) Unloading operation location;
 - i) Species declared upon transshipment
 - j) Identification of Undeclared Species found by taxa and FAO code
 - k) Number / weight of Undeclared Species found;
 - l) Destination of the undeclared catches (unloaded to the consignee / Retained by port inspectors)
 - m) sampling data / photography as available



ANNEX 3

Record of nearby fishing activity when fishing for Jumbo Flying Squid

2. Data are to be collected on a daily basis when fishing
3. The following fields of data are to be collected:
 - a) Fishing Vessel flag;
 - b) Fishing Vessel name;
 - c) Fishing Vessel call sign;
 - d) Fishing Registration number of vessel;
 - e) Fishing UVI (Unique Vessel Identifier)/IMO number;
 - f) Number of vessels operating within a 1-mile range
 - g) Identification (as available) of vessels operating within a 1-mile range (Flag, Name, type, IMO number);
 - h) Position at start of fishing (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
 - i) Position at end of fishing (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
 - j) Summary of the nearby activity



ANNEX 4

Record of Joint / Supporting actions while fishing for Jumbo Flying Squid

1. Data are to be collected on a daily basis when fishing
2. The following fields of data are to be collected:
 - a) Fishing Vessel flag;
 - b) Fishing Vessel name;
 - c) Fishing Vessel call sign;
 - d) Fishing Registration number of vessel;
 - e) Fishing UVI (Unique Vessel Identifier)/IMO number;
 - f) Support Vessel flag;
 - g) Support Vessel name;
 - h) Support Vessel call sign;
 - i) Support Registration number of vessel;
 - j) Support UVI (Unique Vessel Identifier)/IMO number;
 - k) Date of fishing activity (UTC date);
 - l) Position at start of fishing (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
 - m) Position at end of fishing (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
 - n) Summary of the supporting activity
 - o) Time and date of the supporting activity (start / end)