



SPRFMO COMMISSION  
14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Report

*Panama City, Panama*

*2 to 6 March 2026*

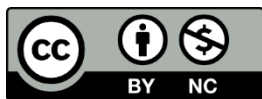
**Document name:** SPRFMO COMM14-Report

**Meeting location:** Panama City, Panama

**URL:** <https://www.sprfmo.int/meetings/comm/14th-commission-meeting>

**Recommended citation:**

SPRFMO (2026). 14<sup>th</sup> SPRFMO Commission Meeting Report. Wellington, New Zealand, 2026.



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**Acknowledgements:**

The 14<sup>th</sup> SPRFMO Commission Meeting (COMM14) report was prepared under the overall direction of the Chairperson of the Commission, Ms Jung-re Riley Kim, with support from the rapporteur, Mr Jacques Chaumont.





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# 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

*Panama City, Panama, 2 to 6 March 2026*

## COMM14 – Report

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Chairperson of the Commission, Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Republic of Korea), opened the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the SPRFMO Commission (COMM14) and welcomed all participants. The Executive Secretary, Mr James Brown, also welcomed participants. Mr Eduardo Carrasquilla (Administrator of the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama) delivered opening remarks. On behalf of the meeting, the Chairperson thanked Panama for its welcome and for hosting the meeting. The speech by Mr Eduardo Carrasquilla is contained in Annex 9a of the report.

#### *a. Meeting Arrangements*

2. The Secretariat provided an overview of the meeting arrangements and facilities.
3. The Rapporteur (Mr Jacques Chaumont) was appointed, and Spanish interpretation was provided for the meeting by Panama.

#### *b. Adoption of the Agenda and Participation*

4. **The Commission adopted the Meeting Agenda** (COMM14-Doc01, Annex 1) with one amendment to add a report on “Updates on Science-Management Dialogue on Jack Mackerel” under agenda item 3. The List of Participants is contained in Annex 2.

#### *c. Meeting Documents*

5. The Secretariat introduced the List of Meeting Documents (COMM14-Doc03\_rev3) including the meeting schedule (COMM14-Doc04, Annex 3), which was **adopted by the Commission**. A late paper was accepted. The list of meeting documents and meeting schedule were updated throughout the meeting.

### 2. Membership

#### *a. Status of the Convention*

6. New Zealand, as Depository of the SPRFMO Convention, provided an update of the status of the Convention (COMM14-Doc05), noting that no new instruments of ratification, approval or accession, nor any notifications of withdrawal had been received since the last Commission meeting.

### 3. Scientific Committee (SC)

#### *a. Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SC (SC13)*

7. The Chairperson of the Scientific Committee (SC), Dr Ricardo Oliveros-Ramos (Peru), presented the report and scientific advice of the 13<sup>th</sup> SC meeting (SC13), held in person in Wellington, New Zealand, from 8 to 13 September 2025.



8. The Chairperson of the SC presented the highlights from the SC.
9. **The Commission endorsed the recommendations of SC13 and accepted the SC13 report.**
10. The Commission commended the SC and its Members for their work.

#### *b. 2026 SC Workplan*

11. The SC Chairperson introduced the draft SC Multi-Annual Workplan 2026–2028 (COMM14-Doc06), noting that following recommendations from the Second Performance Review, the workplan had been restructured on a three-year planning cycle to provide greater predictability and stability, while retaining flexibility to update activities annually. Key funding requests included funding for expert support during the SC assessment process, an MSE in-person workshop, a squid workshop, squid operating model development, an ecosystems data workshop, and a jack mackerel connectivity workshop. The SC Chairperson noted that while the workplan had been reorganised on a three-year planning cycle, it was difficult for many Members to plan science work three years in advance.
12. The workplans for the squid, ecosystems, data, and other crosscutting items were endorsed by the Commission without further amendment. However, the workplans for jack mackerel and deepwater required further deliberation.
13. The SC Chairperson presented a revision to the SC Workplan (COMM14-Doc06\_rev1), incorporating changes based on feedback from Members, primarily relating to the prioritisation of work on jack mackerel MSE-related activities. It also included deepwater species, the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridge area, and VMEs.
14. **The Commission adopted the SC Workplan as revised on the floor** (COMM14-Doc06\_rev2, Annex 4a).

#### *c. Science-Management Dialogue on Jack Mackerel*

15. The Jack Mackerel Working Group (JMWG) Chair, Dr Jim Ianelli (USA), presented a report on the Jack Mackerel Science-Manager Dialogue and 2026 Work Planning (COMM14-WP13), summarising the key outcomes from the dialogue held on 28 February 2026 and proposing a clear pathway for Commission decisions on 2026 work.
16. The JMWG Chair presented an update on the jack mackerel MSE implementation pathways (COMM14-WP21).
17. Members expressed broad support for the proposed pathway, with several emphasising the urgency of completing the MSE given the length of time the process had been under way and that the Commission had decided in 2025 to complete the MSE work in order to use an updated HCR for the setting of a TAC in 2026. Some Members raised concerns regarding the contractor's past performance and the absence of a confirmed cost figure for the contract renewal. These Members also requested that all sources of uncertainty, including alternative stock structure hypotheses, be incorporated into the MSE, that outputs be interpretable for decision-makers, and that the contractor engage a team rather than work as a sole individual.
18. In response to concerns raised about the contractor's past performance, the Jack Mackerel Working Group Chair noted that, in his view, the delays in the MSE work were not attributable to the contractor. One Member confirmed its agreement with his view.
19. Members also raised questions about the risks of the timeline, the merits of falling back to the 2025 stock assessment model, and the process by which the Commission would formally adopt a management procedure at COMM15. The Commission also noted the need to account for climate change and stock status changes in determining the future frequency of MSE reviews.
20. The JMWG Chair developed a revised proposal incorporating cost figures, which was discussed further on the floor.
21. The European Union agreed to redirect part of an existing voluntary contribution to cover part of the MSE contractor cost in the short term. Vanuatu offered to make a voluntary contribution of NZ\$ 35,000 for this purpose and the European Union offered a further voluntary contribution to cover the remaining MSE contractor cost.



22. The Commission thanked the European Union and Vanuatu for their voluntary contributions in support of the jack mackerel MSE-related activities.
23. **The Commission endorsed the proposed pathway for jack mackerel MSE implementation** (COMM14-WP21, Annex 4b).

#### 4. Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)

##### *a. Report of the FAC13*

24. The Chairperson of the FAC, Mr Juan Santibáñez (Chile), presented the FAC report and its recommendations, noting that adoption of the budget and schedule of contributions was pending further discussions.
25. The Commission noted that staff positions now carry fixed terms and a reliance on the accumulated surplus excess to cover staff departure-related costs should not be treated as a precedent.
26. **The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the FAC.**
27. The Commission considered the Guidelines for SPRFMO Observers (COMM14-WP16), which was introduced by the FAC Chairperson as a revised working paper based on COMM14-Doc10, following feedback during the FAC from Members and observers.
28. The FAC Chairperson presented a further revision to the Guidelines for SPRFMO Observers, incorporating the views of interested Members and observers.
29. **The Commission adopted the Guidelines for SPRFMO Observers** (COMM14-WP16\_rev1, Annex 5a).
30. The Commission noted that DSCC, Pew, AIDA, and CALAMASUR each expressed concern about aspects of the adopted Guidelines, including the potential for provisions to be interpreted restrictively in ways that could limit Observer participation and public access to sustainability-related information.
31. The FAC Chairperson presented a revised FAC multi-annual workplan (COMM14-WP17), noting it reflected recommendations from Members made during the FAC meeting. The FAC Chairperson developed further revisions to address concerns about Secretariat capacity and aligning with workplans of the other subsidiary bodies.
32. **The Commission adopted the FAC Workplan as revised** (COMM14-WP17\_rev2, Annex 5b).

##### *b. Draft and forecast Budgets*

33. The Commission held extensive discussions on the draft budget for Financial Year 2026-27, particularly on reducing allocations for travel, and data systems 'Member Implementation & Support', and removing the internship allocation.
34. The Commission agreed to the appointment of an Administrative Officer (COMM-WP08) and agreed to cover the costs associated with the departure of the Compliance Manager and recruitment of his replacement from the Accumulated Surplus Account.
35. **The Commission adopted the budget** (FAC13-Doc13\_rev4, Annex 5c).

##### *c. Member Contributions*

36. The Commission agreed to utilise CNCP voluntary contributions and NZ\$ 150,043 from the Accumulated Surplus Account to offset Member contributions this year.
37. **The Commission adopted the schedule of contributions** (FAC13-Doc13\_rev4, Annex 5d).



## 5. Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC)

### *a. Report of the CTC13*

38. The Chairperson of the CTC, Ms Rebeca Espinoza (Ecuador), presented the report of the CTC13. She highlighted the CTC discussions and corresponding recommendations regarding proposals to revise CMMs, introduce new CMMs and Decisions, as well as the Provisional IUU Vessel List, Provisional Compliance Report, renewal of CNCPs and the implementation reports presented by the Secretariat, including the accreditation of observer programmes.
39. The CTC Chairperson noted that 22 potential issues of compliance were reviewed, and 18 were assigned a compliance status “Non-Compliant, No Further Action”, one was assigned “Non-Compliant, Further Action Required”, three were assigned “Priority Non-Compliant” and none were assigned “Compliant”.
40. **The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the CTC.**
41. **The Commission accepted the CTC13 Report.**

### *b. Final Compliance Report*

42. The CTC Chairperson presented the Provisional Compliance Report (COMM14-WP06\_rev1 RESTRICTED).
43. **The Commission adopted the Final Compliance Report (COMM14-WP10, Annex 6a).**

### *c. 2026 IUU Vessel List*

44. The CTC Chairperson presented the Provisional IUU Vessel List (COMM13-WP05 RESTRICTED), which contained one vessel.
45. **The Commission adopted the 2026 Final IUU Vessel List, which contains one vessel flagged to Sao Tome and Principe (COMM14-WP18, Annex 6b).**

### *d. Status of Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs)*

46. The Commission considered the applications from two existing CNCPs, Curaçao and Liberia, for renewed CNCP status on the basis of the CTC consideration.
47. Liberia and Curaçao submitted supplemental explanations in response to respective inquiries of Members raised during the CTC meeting (COMM14-WP12 and COMM14-WP14).
48. **The Commission renewed the CNCP status for Curaçao.**
49. **The Commission renewed the CNCP status for Liberia, requesting that Liberia provide detailed reporting to CTC14 on progress against each item contained in its action plan to address its non-compliance with CMM 05 on Record of Vessels and CMM 06 on VMS.**

### *e. Observer Programme Accreditation*

50. **The Commission accredited the observer programmes of the Cook Islands and the Russian Federation.**
51. **The Commission accredited Panama’s observer programme with respect to transshipment observation services, noting that any expansion to include data collection and harvesting activities would require further assessment.**



## 6. Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

### *a. Amendments to current CMMs and/or decisions*

#### *a1-a4. CMM 01 *Trachurus murphyi* (CHL, EU, KOR, PER)*

52. Chile (COMM14-Prop01), the European Union (COMM14-Prop02), Korea (COMM14-Prop03), and Peru (COMM14-Prop04) each put forward proposals to amend CMM 01 on jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*).
53. A working group, chaired by Mr Anthony Zuanich (Vanuatu), was formed during the Commission meeting and convened three times to deliberate on matters relating to jack mackerel, focusing on three main elements: introducing a banking (carry forward) mechanism, setting the TAC, and changing the submission deadline for annual national reports of observer data. The working group chair reported back to the Commission.
54. The working group chair presented the revised version of Korea's proposal (COMM14-Prop03\_rev1), which had been used as a basis for discussion as it encompassed all three above elements.
55. On the TAC, the working group discussed a figure representing a 19.59% increase over the 2025 SC advice and a 10% increase over the 2025 TAC, reflecting a level just below the midpoint between the two SC advice scenarios for this year.
56. Many Members noted their concerns about deviating from the agreed HCR again this year, especially in light of the commitment made by Chile last year "that the proposed TAC increase would be for 2025 only, after which the fishery would return to the existing HCR unless a new management strategy was adopted."
57. The Commission acknowledged that the full MSE remained incomplete at the time of the SC meeting.
58. In order to address, to some extent, the concerns about deviating from the agreed HCR, one Member proposed an additional paragraph to put a limit on the 2027 TAC should the Commission be unable to adopt a TAC based on the management procedure adopted through the MSE process, which was supported by many Members.
59. As the Commission was unable to agree on inclusion of the additional paragraph, a Heads of Delegation meeting was convened to seek a consensus on the TAC level.
60. One Member was still unable to accept the additional paragraph, and a compromise of the average of the two proposed options for TAC was agreed.
61. One Member expressed its concern about its domestic legal constraints regarding the carry forward arrangements.
62. Regarding the banking (carry forward) mechanism, some Members expressed legal and scientific concerns about the potential effects of this type of measure and recommended that the scientific aspects be evaluated by the SC within the framework of the MSE.
63. The Commission tasked the SC to evaluate a 20% up/30% down TAC change scenario within the MSE framework.
64. The Commission agreed that in the event it is unable to adopt a TAC based on the management procedure adopted through the MSE process, the TAC for 2027 shall not exceed 1,726,278 tonnes as per the agreed harvest control rule in 'adjusted Annex K' (Annex 12 of the SC13 report).
65. Belize recalled that they had reserved the right to seek reinstatement of historical catches and delivered a statement, to be reflected in the Commission report (Annex 9b).
66. **The Commission adopted the proposal COMM14-Prop03\_rev2 (Annex 7a).**

#### *a5. CMM 02 Data Standards (KOR)*

67. Korea put forward its revised proposal (COMM14-Prop05\_rev1) to amend CMM 02 on Data Standards, seeking to formally incorporate the SC13 recommendations as set out in Annex 22 of the SC13 report.



68. Korea developed a further revision (COMM14-Prop05\_rev2) incorporating feedback from Members.
69. Members made additional suggestions, particularly concerning extension of data submission deadlines in exceptional cases, which Korea incorporated in a further revision. Further edits were made on the floor regarding the exceptional case of late submission of observer data.
70. **The Commission adopted COMM14-Prop05\_rev4 (Annex 7b).**

*a6. CMM 03 Bottom Fishing (AUS)*

71. Australia put forward a proposal (COMM14-Prop06) to amend CMM 03 on Bottom Fishing.
72. One Member expressed concern about the significant impact on its fishing industry if the boundaries are revised as set out in the proposal. The Member also referred to the Second Performance Review and IWG recommendation regarding the need to explore “alternative approaches to bottom fishing”.
73. Some observers welcomed the proposal by Australia. They considered that while this level of protection is not enough to prevent SAIs, its implementation is well overdue.
74. No consensus was reached and this proposal was not adopted.
75. Some Members expressed disappointment that the Commission had not fully implemented the bottom fishing framework in the revised CMM 03 and reiterated the importance of implementing the existing SC advice. Australia indicated it would work intersessionally towards implementation of the Commission’s bottom fishing framework.

*a7. CMM 03 Bottom Fishing (NZL)*

76. New Zealand put forward a proposal (COMM14-Prop07) to amend CMM 03 on Bottom Fishing.
77. New Zealand noted that its proposal sought to ensure a commercially viable fishery whilst preventing significant adverse impacts of VMEs and expressed support for the Second Performance Review recommendation to explore alternative approaches for managing the deepwater fishery.
78. New Zealand commented that the proposal to increase bycatch thresholds was consistent with the parameters recommended by SC9 in 2021 and agreed by the Commission in 2022. Further, SC13 in 2025 affirmed that since there has been no new relevant data since 2021, this advice “remains the best available science to inform thresholds and levels of risk for VME indicators”.
79. Some Members noted if the thresholds are amended, that would require an amendment to SPRFMO’s level of risk tolerance.
80. Some observers expressed concern that the proposal is not precautionary, has not been through the SC, and does not align with paper SC9-DW10.
81. No consensus was reached and this proposal was not adopted.

*a8. CMM 03a Deepwater Species (AUS/NZL)*

82. Australia and New Zealand jointly put forward a proposal (COMM14-Prop08) to amend CMM 03a on Deepwater Species, which sought to confirm catch limits for orange roughy in the Louisville Ridge, Tasman Sea, and Westpac Bank areas for the period 2026–2028. This was consistent with the 2022 stock assessment, which is relevant to the Louisville Ridge and Tasman Sea, and the 2024 stock assessment, which is relevant to the Westpac Bank.
83. New Zealand drew attention to a significant study from 2013 on the orange roughy population structure, which, in their view, concluded that there was no significant divergence in genetics between the Australia and New Zealand populations. This peer-reviewed study involved extensive sampling from both populations.



84. Some observers expressed concern that there were no new stock assessments for orange roughy and that the current catch limits are not precautionary and should be reduced.
85. Many Members expressed support for the direction of the proposal, and the proponents developed a revision together with interested Members. It was agreed that SC14 would give further consideration to the population structure issues.
86. **The Commission adopted COMM14-Prop08\_rev1** (Annex 7c).

*a9. CMM 05 Record of Vessels (PER)*

87. Peru put forward its revised proposal (COMM14-Prop09\_rev1) to amend CMM 05 on the Record of Vessels, which aimed to provide exceptions to the IMO requirement for small-scale vessels under 15 metres, and to clarify that alternative satellite systems are compatible with Secretariat requirements.
88. Some Members suggested further clarifying edits to the proposal on the floor.
89. **The Commission adopted the proposal COMM14-Prop09\_rev2** (Annex 7d).

*a10. CMM 07 Port Inspections (EU)*

90. The European Union put forward its revised proposal (COMM14-Prop10\_rev1) to amend CMM 07 on Port Inspections, which sought to align the current CMM with the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).
91. The European Union developed further revisions incorporating feedback from Members, including on the proposed minimum inspection rate (COMM14-Prop10\_rev2).
92. The Commission noted many Members' disappointment that no agreement could be reached to increase the minimum inspection rate beyond the current 5% and encouraged Members to continue inspecting vessels at a higher rate.
93. **The Commission adopted the proposal COMM14-Prop10\_rev3** (Annex 7e).

*a11. CMM 09 Seabirds (NZL)*

94. New Zealand put forward its revised proposal (COMM14-Prop11\_rev2) to amend CMM 09 on Seabirds, noting that the proposal sought to better align the CMM with best practice guidance from the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and to give effect to most SC13 recommendations in Annex 23.
95. Many Members expressed support for the proposal, and New Zealand worked with other Members during the Commission meeting to resolve outstanding issues.
96. New Zealand presented a revised version of its proposal (COMM14-Prop11\_rev3) to reflect the views of Members. An additional edit to a footnote text was made in plenary.
97. **The Commission adopted COMM14-Prop11\_rev4** (Annex 7f).

*a12. CMM 12 Transhipments (ECU)*

98. Ecuador put forward its proposal (COMM14-Prop12) to amend CMM 12 on Transhipments, which aimed to require fishing vessels engaged in transshipment on the high seas to carry an observer on board, with vessels lacking an observer being restricted to conducting transfer activities only in port.
99. Ecuador's proposal was considered in the wider context of the squid proposals discussion.
100. Due to time constraints at the meeting, Ecuador withdrew its proposal.



*a13. CMM 12 Transshipments (PER)*

101. Peru put forward its revised proposal (COMM14-Prop13\_rev1) to amend CMM 12 on Transshipments, which sought to strengthen transparency over transshipment and other transfer activities, including crew, fuel, bait, and gear transfers.
102. Many Members expressed general support of the direction of the proposal, but shared concerns about crew personal information requirements.
103. Following extensive discussions Peru withdrew its proposal, noting that the revised text no longer fully reflected its original intent. Peru reiterated that its objective remains to strengthen transparency and traceability in transshipment operations and indicated its intention to present a revised proposal at a future meeting.

*a14-15. CMM 18 Squid (ECU, USA/NZL)*

104. Ecuador put forward a proposal (COMM14-Prop14), and the United States and New Zealand put forward a joint proposal (COMM14-Prop15) to amend CMM 18 on squid.
105. Many Members acknowledged the importance of taking steps to manage the squid fishery more effectively.
106. Many Members held the view that TAC shall be based on the best available science with SC's prior advice, and it shall apply to all fisheries.
107. One Member expressed the view that a TAC could be set as an effort limitation.
108. A working group, chaired by Ms Alexa Cole (United States), was formed during the Commission meeting to jointly consider proposals on squid.
109. The working group convened multiple times during the meeting, and the chair of the working group produced a consolidated proposal (COMM14-WP19\_rev3). Minor corrections were agreed on the floor.
110. **The Commission adopted the consolidated proposal (COMM14-WP19\_rev4, Annex 7g).**
111. The Commission thanked the working group chair for her leadership and noted the spirit of compromise and collaboration demonstrated during the discussions.
112. One Member recalled the importance of applying the precautionary approach, as reflected in the UNFSA, noting that the lack of complete scientific information should not delay conservation measures. The Member expressed regret that more robust measures had not been possible.
113. One Member noted that a step-by-step approach would be appropriate in the management of squid fisheries and that the establishment of a buffer zone could be considered once the Commission adopts a new provision for catch limits in the future.
114. Some Members noted that fleet size should be taken into account in future squid management considerations.
115. One observer spoke in support of the proposal and offered to provide analyses that could support the work of the SC and the CTC.
116. Some observers acknowledged the efforts of the Commission Members, however they urged the creation of more measures to strengthen the conservation of jumbo flying squid under the precautionary approach.

*a16. Proposal to amend the SPRFMO Staff Regulations (KOR)*

117. Following initial discussion in the FAC, Korea put forward a revised proposal (COMM14-Prop19\_rev1) to amend the SPRFMO Staff Regulations.
118. Korea developed a revision incorporating feedback from interested Members (COMM14-Prop19\_rev2).
119. **The Commission adopted COMM14-Prop19\_rev2 (Annex 5e).**



*a17. Proposal to amend the Policy on Secondments and Internships (SEC)*

120. The Secretariat's proposal to amend the Policy on Secondments and Internships was amended and resubmitted by the FAC Chairperson. The FAC Chairperson presented the revised proposal (COMM14-Prop20\_rev1).
121. **The Commission adopted COMM-Prop20\_rev1** (Annex 5f).

*b. Proposals for New CMMs and/or Decisions*

*b1. Proposal for a new CMM on a Buffer Zone for Squid (PER)*

122. Peru presented its proposal (COMM14-Prop16) for the establishment of a 20-nautical-mile non-fishing buffer zone in high seas areas adjacent to the EEZs of Ecuador, Chile, and Peru, presented as a precautionary, ecosystem-based measure to strengthen stock resilience and reduce fishing pressure in areas surrounding national jurisdictions.
123. Many Members pointed out that the proposed establishment of the squid non-fishing buffer zone lacks a clear legal and scientific basis to support its implementation.
124. Peru's proposal was considered in the working group formed to discuss other squid proposals.

*b2. Proposal for a new CMM on Labour Standards (NZL/USA)*

125. New Zealand and the United States presented the revised proposal (COMM14-Prop17\_rev1) for a new binding CMM on crew labour standards, noting the text was largely drawn from a WCPFC labour standards CMM adopted in 2024.
126. Many Members supported the proposal, and the Cook Islands, Korea, and Australia joined as co-sponsors of the proposal.
127. Some Members expressed the view that SPRFMO does not possess a mandate to prescribe labour standards for fisheries within the Convention Area.
128. A working group, led by Ms Heather Ward (New Zealand), was formed during the Commission meeting to consider this proposal.
129. The Commission was unable to reach a consensus, and the proposal was not adopted.
130. New Zealand committed to leading intersessional work together with the co-sponsors and interested Members, with a view to adopt a new measure at COMM15.
131. Many Members and the co-sponsors expressed strong support for the objectives of the proposal, highlighting its consistency with Members' broader international obligations, including the SPRFMO Convention, the vulnerability of crew on fishing vessels, and the need for ethical fishing practices.
132. One Member noted that such minimum standards already exist under ILO Convention 188, and that a decision by WCPFC should not prevent SPRFMO from adopting higher standards.
133. One Member pointed out the geographical overlap between the Convention Area with other RFMOs.
134. One Member noted that in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Article 25 of the Convention, the Commission has limited mandate to establish any regulation regarding safety at sea for vessels and their crews.
135. The Commission thanked the chair of the working group for her efforts to progress this proposal.

*b3. Proposal for a new CMM on Electronic Monitoring Standards (WGEMS)*

136. The Co-Chairperson of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards (WGEMS), Mr Colin Brinkman (United States), presented the report of the working group (COMM14-Doc08) and an update on the Co-Chairs' proposal for minimum standards for electronic monitoring in SPRFMO fisheries (COMM14-Prop18\_rev1).
137. The Co-Chair reported that at a meeting held on the Saturday prior to the Commission meeting, the WGEMS had made good progress on required EM data fields, reaching common understanding on most proposed



fields. However, questions remained regarding the initial review and approval of EM programmes, particularly in relation to the development of an accreditation scheme.

138. The Co-Chair discussed with Members on the margins to produce a revised version (COMM14-Prop18\_rev3), with substantive changes including a new paragraph requiring EM coverage to be representative of the fishery as a whole, replacement of the Commission approval procedure for EM domestic programme descriptions with a notification requirement, and new several sections adapted from CMM 16-2025.
139. The Co-Chair presented a further revision (COMM14-Prop18\_rev4), which incorporated both editorial and substantive changes relating to the definition of EM coverage units, alignment of data submission deadlines with CMM 02, direct incorporation of reporting requirements from CMM 16 2024, and proposed dates for entry into force. Additional minor edits were made on the floor.
140. **The Commission adopted COMM14-Prop18\_rev5** (Annex 7h).
141. Many Members expressed their appreciation for the adoption of the measure, recognising it as a significant step forward in monitoring, control and surveillance for SPRFMO and in the collection of independent fisheries data.
142. The Commission congratulated the Co-Chair for his leadership and expressed appreciation for the work done. The Commission extended its appreciation to members of the WGEMS for their significant efforts over the preceding two years in developing the measure.
143. The Commission recalled its endorsement of the CTC recommendation for the WGEMS to continue its work on an as-needed basis to address remaining technical elements related to the implementation of the measure.

## 7. 2<sup>nd</sup> SPRFMO Performance Review

### *a. PR2IWG Report to Commission*

144. The Co-Chairperson of the Intersessional Working Group on the recommendations of the Second Performance Review (PR2IWG), Mr Mat Kertesz (Australia), delivered a presentation on the outcomes of the working group (COMM14-Doc9\_rev1), with reference to the revised draft Implementation Plan (COMM14-Doc09.1\_rev1) and Implementation Timeline (COMM14-Doc09.2).
145. The Commission noted the report of the PR2IWG.
146. The Commission expressed appreciation to the PR2IWG Co-Chairpersons and members for their extensive intersessional work on reviewing all recommendations.

### *b. Allocation of recommendations to COMM*

147. The PR2IWG Co-Chairperson guided the Commission through a review of each of the 24 recommendations from the Second Performance Review, using the consolidated table contained in COMM14-Doc09.1\_rev1. Each recommendation was given a pre-assessment by the PR2IWG for the Response and Priority columns, which the Commission either agreed to or amended, adding explanatory notes as needed.
148. The PR2IWG Co-Chairperson presented a revised version of the draft Implementation plan (COMM14-Doc09.1\_rev2).
149. **The Commission considered, amended, and adopted the draft Implementation Plan as revised** (COMM14-Doc09.1\_rev3, Annex 8a).

### *c. Workplan for addressing recommendations*

150. The Commission acknowledged that it would not be possible to finalise a complete implementation plan, including detailed timeframes, within the current meeting.
151. The Commission agreed that this work should be continued intersessionally and directed that the PR2IWG continue its work to develop a finalised implementation plan for consideration at COMM15.



152. The PR2IWG Co-Chairperson presented the revised Terms of Reference for the PR2IWG (COMM14-WP22).
153. **The Commission adopted the revised Terms of Reference and expressed gratitude to Australia for agreeing to continue leading this work (Annex 8b).**

## 8. Climate Change

### *a. Consideration of SC and CTC recommendations*

154. **The Commission noted and endorsed the recommendations from SC and CTC regarding climate change.**

### *b. Other Considerations*

155. Some observers welcomed the CTC recommendation to task the Secretariat to compile climate-change related information from the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and other RFMOs and referred to the DSCC's observer paper COMM14-Inf03 section 8 on climate change.

## 9. Cooperation Priorities

### *a. Report on Arrangements and MoUs*

156. The Executive Secretary presented the Report on Cooperation Efforts and MoUs (COMM14-Doc07\_rev1).
157. The Commission noted that the MoU with IATTC had automatically renewed in January 2025, confirming that it remained comprehensive and sufficiently broad without any need for amendment.
158. **The Commission endorsed the renewal of the MoU with NPFC for another three years and directed the Secretariat to arrange for its signing subject to NPFC agreement, noting that the NPFC Commission would hold its next annual meeting in April 2026.**
159. **The Commission endorsed the termination of the agreement with RMIT University and the MoU with Red LAC de Pesca INDNR.**

### *b. External cooperation engagements*

160. The European Union presented its information paper on the interaction between RFMOs and the BBNJ Agreement (COMM14-Inf03), noting that the Agreement had entered into force on 17 January 2026 and that preparatory work for the first Conference of the Parties (COP1) was underway. The European Union encouraged SPRFMO to begin reflecting on how it would interact with the Agreement as an organisation, noting that some other RFMOs had already commenced similar processes.
161. The Commission noted the European Union's information paper and the broad support among Members for beginning reflection on SPRFMO's relationship with the BBNJ Agreement.
162. Members emphasised that any engagement must respect the non-undermining principle in the BBNJ Agreement, that the SPRFMO Secretariat may provide information to BBNJ bodies but not receive direction from them, and that any future work should be sequenced carefully given the organisation's limited capacity.
163. The Commission noted that this matter would require ongoing attention as the BBNJ process develops.
164. Some observers referred to the paper COMM13-Obs03 and proposed a standing agenda item on BBNJ.
165. FAO advised that it was implementing two GEF-supported projects to support ratification and implementation readiness of the BBNJ Agreement and noted that the tools and resources generated would be accessible to regional fisheries bodies and other stakeholders. FAO presented its report on the Common Oceans Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project (COMM14-Obs01), providing an overview of key activities and achievements from 2022-26.



166. The Commission noted the report and SPRFMO's active participation in the project, including through the Secretariat's participation in online and in-person workshops, and the forthcoming support from the project for SPRFMO's Data Working Group Strategy and Workplan.

## 10. Office Holders

### a. *Election of Officers*

167. The Commission noted the working paper on office holders (COMM14-WP23).
168. The Commission thanked Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Republic of Korea) for her excellent work as Chairperson of the Commission, and renewed her appointment for a second two-year term, and confirmed that the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms Alexa Cole (United States), will continue in her position for another year.
169. The Commission renewed the appointment of Ms Rebeca Espinoza (Ecuador) as Chairperson of the CTC for a second term, and confirmed that the Vice-Chairperson of the CTC, Mr Zhao Ming (China), will continue in his position for another year.
170. The Commission confirmed that the Chairperson of the FAC, Mr Juan Santibáñez (Chile), will continue to serve in his position for another year, and the Vice-Chairperson of the FAC, Ms María Sierra (Panama), will continue to serve in her position for another year.
171. The Commission renewed the appointment of Dr Ricardo Oliveros-Ramos (Peru) and Mr Ignacio Payá (Chile) as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the SC, respectively, both for a second two-year term.
172. The Commission endorsed SC13's recommendation to renew the appointment of Dr Jim Ianelli (USA) as an Interim Chairperson of the Jack Mackerel Working Group for another year and acknowledged his commitment and thanked him for staying in the position for another year.
173. The Commission endorsed SC13's recommendation to renew the appointment of Dr Gang Li (China) for one more term of the Squid Working Group and acknowledged his commitment and thanked him for staying in the position for another terms.
174. The Commission appointed Ms Karolina Molla Gazi (European Union) as the Data Working Group Chairperson.
175. The Commission thanked Mr Trent Timmiss (Australia) for leading the Data Working Group as Interim Chairperson.

## 11. Arrangements for Future Meetings

176. The Commission noted the working paper on arrangements for future meetings (FAC13-Doc21).
177. Regarding venues for the next meeting of the Commission, the Commission welcomed and accepted the European Union's offer to host the Annual Meeting (COMM15, FAC14, CTC14) from the week starting 22 February to the week starting 1 March 2027.
178. In response to a comment from one Member about the right to equal representation of all Members, the European Union noted that this right is enshrined in Article 7, paragraph 1, of the SPRFMO convention, which provides that "*Each Contracting Party shall be a member of the Commission and shall appoint one representative to the Commission who may be accompanied by alternative representatives, experts and advisers*". The European Union expressed its full commitment to respecting the Convention and confirmed that, as host of the 2027 annual meeting, it would seek to enable in person participation by all Members, CNCPs, and Observers, by informing and assisting, as necessary, any participant with travel entry requirements.
179. The Commission welcomed and accepted the Republic of Korea's offer from the previous year to host the 2028 Annual Meetings.



180. Regarding venues for the next annual meetings of the SC, the Commission welcomed and accepted the Faroe Islands' offer to host the 2026 meeting of the SC from 7 to 12 September 2026.
181. The Faroe Islands confirmed that the meeting venue would also be available from 5 to 6 September 2026 to facilitate pre-SC activities and advised that meeting information, including accommodation and entry requirements, will be circulated shortly after COMM14.
182. The Commission encouraged voluntary contributions of Members to facilitate provision of Spanish interpretation for SC14.
183. The Commission welcomed and accepted China's offer to host the 2027 meeting of the SC.

## 12. Other Matters

184. Greenpeace International delivered a presentation on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems identified from direct observations within the Central Lord Howe 2024 temporary suspension of bottom fishing VME encounter area (COMM14-Obs05).

## 13. Adoption of the Commission Report

185. The Commission adopted its meeting report on 6 March 2026 at 05:29pm Eastern Standard Time (EST).

## 14. Close of the Meeting

186. The 14<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting was closed on 6 March 2025 at 05:36pm in Panama City, Panama.