



South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

COMM-03-WP-12

Roadmap for the Scientific Committee

Article 10 of the SPRFMO Convention establishes the Scientific Committee (SC) whose functions are, in summary, to:

- (a) plan, conduct and review scientific assessments of the status of fishery resources;
- (b) provide advice and recommendations to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies based on such assessments;
- (c) provide advice and recommendations to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies on the impact of fishing on the marine ecosystems in the Convention Area;
- (d) encourage and promote cooperation in scientific research; and
- (e) provide such other scientific advice to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies as it considers appropriate.

Regarding the scientific advice for 2016 on Jack Mackerel stock status, the Commission endorses the short term priorities as defined in the report of the 11th SWG Meeting. In addition to these priorities, the Commission requests the Scientific Committee to:

- a) Update the data for stock assessment of Jack Mackerel based on the 2014 model configuration including alternative hypotheses on Jack Mackerel stock population structure;
- b) Evaluate the EU report (presented at Comm03) and clarify conclusions regarding how TAC advice may differ;
- c) Apply the adjusted Rebuilding Plan adopted by the 2nd Meeting of the Commission as proposed from SC02;
- d) Provide a review of documented steps for all data components used for assessment purposes and evaluate strengths and weaknesses of each including a relative scale provided as input to the assessments and scale; convening a workshop ahead of the SC is recommended
- e) Update the collaborative otolith studies on age and growth of jack mackerel
- f) Define indicators for jack mackerel suitable habitat to inform spatial management of the fish resource (this links to the research program by linking environment to spatial management and stock trend of Jack mackerel);
- g) Evaluate the feasibility of tagging jack mackerel using alternative approaches (e.g., pit-tags, conventional spaghetti tags, pop-ups).

Regarding DW and other species

- h) Prepare assessment data for deep-water species and squid (possibly through the data workshop, linking to the research program)

Regarding the impact of fisheries on the marine ecosystem and the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management, the Commission requests the SC:

- i) Update data available to evaluate the impact of fishing activities on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and EBSAs within the Area of the Convention.
- j) Advance the work described in Paragraph 5 of CMM 2.03 for the Management of Bottom Fishing.
- k) Prepare an overview of available bycatch information and identify gaps in data collection (this should show the SC what is available and what can be done) with focus on species of concern
- l) Review data collection (e.g., seabird interactions) as provided in CMM 2.02 and observer protocols to ensure collections are consistent across the extent of the fisheries to inform management considerations
- m) Provide any further guidance to improve best practices to minimize bycatch
- n) The Commission requests the Members and Non Members to provide the necessary experts to the SC to address this roadmap and its specific requests.