

5th Meeting of the Commission
Adelaide, Australia, 18 to 22 January 2017

COMM 5 – DOC 04
DRAFT Annual Report of the Commission for the year 2016

Paragraph 1 of Article 29 of the Convention provides that the “*Commission shall publish an annual report, which shall include details of decisions taken by the Commission to achieve the objective of this Convention. The report shall also provide information on actions taken by the Commission in response to any recommendations from the General Assembly of the United Nations or the FAO.*”

1. MEMBERSHIP

In December 2016 the Commission had fourteen members: Australia, Republic of Chile, People's Republic of China, Cook Islands, Republic of Cuba, Republic of Ecuador, European Union, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Republic of Peru, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, and the Republic of Vanuatu.

In December 2016 four countries had the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs): Republic of Colombia, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Panama and the United States of America.

2. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION IN 2016

The fourth Commission Meeting was held in Valdivia, Chile, from 25 to 29 January 2016.

The Commission adopted the following three new Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs):

CMM 4.13. Management of New and Exploratory Fisheries in the SPRFMO Convention Area

CMM 4.14. Exploratory Fishing for Toothfish in the SPRFMO Convention Area

CMM 4.15. Vessels without Nationality in the SPRFMO Convention Area

The Commission adopted the following seven amended CMMs:

CMM 4.01 (revision of CMM 3.01). *Trachurus murphyi*. The revision sets the total allowable catch for 2016 at 410 000 t in accordance with the scientific advice.

CMM 4.02 (revision of CMM 3.02). Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data. The revision relates to the inclusion of standards for observer data collected during a landing or while a vessel is in port (including a new Annex 7.O).

CMM 4.03 (revision of CMM 2.03) Management of Bottom Fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area). The revision relates to the extension of application of the CMM until the close of the annual Commission Meeting in 2017.

CMM 4.04 (revision of CMM 1.04). Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported, And Unregulated Fishing Activities in the SPRFMO Convention Area. The revised CMM includes a new paragraph 21 titled “*Information indicating a change of circumstances of vessels appearing on the current IUU List*”.

CMM 4.05 (revision of CMM 2.05). Establishment of Commission Record of Vessels Authorised to Fish in the Convention Area. The revision relates to the inclusion of an additional field in the vessel database indicating the original date of the authorisation given

by the flag State (“Flag Authorisation Start”) and re-labelling of the current “Authorisation Start Date” to “Date of Inclusion into the SPRFMO Record”.

CMM 4.09 (revision of CMM 2.04). Minimising bycatch of seabirds in the SPRFMO Convention Area. The revision related to Annex 1, paragraph 1(b) and Annex 2, paragraph 2. In both cases the words “*for 5 or more years*” are replaced with the words “*for the previous 5 consecutive years*”.

CMM 4.10 (revision of CMM 3.03). Establishment of a Compliance and Monitoring Scheme in the SPRFMO Convention Area. The revision relates to a number of technical editorial changes to Annex II (Template for the Implementation Report of the SPRFMO Conservation and Management Measures).

In addition, the Commission made the following decisions:

SPRFMO IUU List: At its fourth meeting the Commission decided to add one vessel to the SPRFMO IUU list; the two vessels already listed previously were not removed. Other RFMOs were notified of the SPRFMO IUU List after the meeting.

SPRFMO Compliance Report: The Commission adopted the first SPRFMO Compliance Report which included the request for submission of “compliance action plans” by some Members and CNCPs to address identified compliance issues.

Progress was made with regard to a **SPRFMO VMS**, and the Commission decided to publish a Call for Proposals for a VMS service provider and adopted a tender evaluation process.

The Commission also amended its **Decision 1.02** on Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, to include in their application for CNCP status “*a statement on how any compliance issues previously identified by the Commission have been addressed*” (new paragraph 3[e]).

The report of the Commission and all related documents are available on the SPRFMO website at www.sprfmo.int.

3. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNGA OR THE FAO

The SPRFMO Convention and the decisions and CMMs adopted by the Commission include numerous references to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and FAO agreements, resolutions and recommendations which have been reported in previous years.

The newly adopted 2016 measures refer to the following recommendations of the UNGA and FAO:

CMM 4.13 refers to:

- UNGA Resolution 61/105 which calls upon regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) to assess, on the basis of the best available scientific information, whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, and to ensure that if it is assessed that these activities would have significant adverse impacts, they are managed to prevent such impacts, or not authorized to proceed;
- UNGA Resolution 64/72 which calls upon RFMOs to establish and implement appropriate protocols for the implementation of UNGA Resolution 61/105, including definitions of what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a VME, in particular threshold levels and indicator species; and to implement the FAO Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO, 2009; FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines) in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

CMM 4.15 refers to the FAO International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and illuminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing).