

11th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

11 to 16 September 2023, Panama City, Panama

SC11 – Doc07

Secretariat's report on Scientific Committee related activities

Secretariat

1. Introduction

This paper informs SC11 about relevant activities conducted over the past year by the Secretariat. These activities include [external meetings](#), [project inputs](#) and data releases. This current paper continues on from the previous papers on this topic (most recently [SC10-Doc07](#)).

- SC11 is requested to note the contents of this paper

2. External meetings/workshops

- **FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring (FIRMS) 13th Steering Committee (FSC13) Meeting:** The Data Manager attended the FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring ([FIRMS](#)) 13th Steering Committee ([FSC13](#)) meeting in London, UK from 26 – 30 June. SPRFMO is a partner of FIRMS and has responsibilities to support the FIRMS objectives through data submissions on the fisheries, stocks, and marine resources of the SPRFMO Convention Area. These data have been updated, based on the most available information from SPRFMO Members. The FIRMS website provides valuable information on global fisheries resources and may be a useful tool for Members/CNCPs. A full report from the meeting can be found here [soon to be published], as well as the meeting site with associated papers and presentations.
- **FAO Coordinated Working Parties (CWP) Intersessional Meeting:** The [CWP](#) held its intersessional meeting from 28-30 June in London, UK in advance of the 28th session of the CWP on Fishery Statistics (anticipated to be held in 2025). The SPRFMO Data Manager attended the meeting as the timing and location coincided with the FIRMS FSC13 meeting. The CWP aims to develop global standards and to harmonize fishery statistics, data collection, and terminology. There are several CWP working groups that may be of interest for the SPRFMO Secretariat to participate in in the coming years. In addition, there have been important updates to CWP standards (e.g., ISSCFV, ASFIS codes) that are relevant for SPRFMO data collection (i.e., CMM 02). SPRFMO may want to consider becoming a party of the CWP moving forward, to keep updated with data harmonization efforts and to contribute to these efforts from the unique SPRFMO perspective. A full report of this meeting can be found here [not yet published].
- **International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference (IFOMC):** The Data and Compliance Managers attended the [10th IFOMC](#) held in Hobart, Australia from 6-10 March 2023. This conference brought together participants from around the globe to discuss aspects of monitoring fisheries, including: fisheries observers, electronic monitoring and reporting technologies, safety at-sea, compliance and law enforcement, fishery certifications, etc. Dr Tiffany Vidal gave a talk on *International collaboration to standardise high seas monitoring*. This conference was extremely valuable from a science, data, and compliance perspective. During and outside of the



conference sessions SPRFMO participants were able to interact with colleagues and participants from CCAMLR, WCPFC, NPFC, NOAA, MRAG, CapMarine, ACAP, tech consulting companies and others to discuss relevant issues and strengthen collaborations. Click for the [full Proceedings of the 10th International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference](#).

- **CCAMLR** SPRFMO and CCAMLR staff met in May 2023 to discuss the MoU to ensure active collaboration and knowledge sharing between the organisations on topics of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by all SPRFMO Secretariat staff and with CCAMLR counterpart staff. Recently the SPRFMO Secretariat has shared details of releases and recaptures in the SPRFMO area with the CCAMLR Secretariat as foreseen in the MoU. The CCAMLR Secretariat continues to report to SPRFMO on recaptures that came from fish tagged in SPRFMO and SPRFMO recaptures that were tagged in CCAMLR. The two Secretariats have worked over the past year to solidify the data sharing agreements and confidentiality rules, for transparency and consistency.

3. External project inputs

April 2023 – The Data Manager conducted a peer-review of a manuscript focused on fishing dynamics around the Galapagos Marine Reserve using AIS data.

4. Data releases

- March 2023 – Annual data summaries provided for the public domain on the SPRFMO website
- May 2023 – Annual catches from Australia-flagged vessels including a summary of orange roughy and all other species from FAO statistical area 81 and 51 (Australia)
- May 2023 – Request from NIWA (NZ) for fishing activity data related to catches of Patagonian toothfish, and associated observer collected biological data and tagging data.
- May 2023 – CCAMLR request (from NZ) as part of our data sharing agreement for additional information associated with tagged fish that were tagged or recaptured in SPRFMO but recaptured or tagged in CCAMLR.
- May 2023 – CCAMLR request (from AUS) as part of our data sharing agreement for additional information associated with tagged fish that were tagged or recaptured in SPRFMO but recaptured or tagged in CCAMLR.
- June 2023 – NIWA (NZ) request for operational data from the Australian fleet for activities that harvested orange roughy.

5. Specific Requests to Secretariat

Document	Request	Status
SC10-Report Para 22	The SC recommended that the new habitat suitability models are added to the geodatabase of habitat suitability layers for VME indicator taxa held by the Secretariat so they can be provided to Members and CNCPs to aid in the evaluation of potential encounters with VMEs	Ongoing. Models currently under New Zealand stewardship and discussions ongoing to determine best ways to share and update Secretariat held information.



SC10-Report Para 268	The SC requested the Secretariat to liaise with Panama regarding specific dates and location with consideration for other RFMO meetings. The potential of in person workshops immediately prior to the SC should also be considered when deciding dates. The SC noted that the number of days for the SC11 meeting will be contingent on how much work is done beforehand	COMM11-Report para 135 noted Panama's acceptance to host SC11.
SC10-Report	The SC requested the Secretariat to work with CPPS to advance the proposed workplan.	Ongoing. Initial meetings held and next steps involves identification of persons within each org to be included into communications and presentation of work priorities to each respective committee
Workplan – Jack Mackerel assessment	SC Chair and Secretariat to coordinate SC and other funds to support experts during the SC assessment	Ms Lee Qi was engaged to support the jack mackerel stock assessment at SC-11.
Workplan – Squid workshop	SQWG Chairs/Secretariat coordinate a squid workshop including potential assessment techniques and appropriate measures of fishing effort (prior to SC11)	Four intersessional meetings of the squid working group were held in preparation for SC11. Two meetings were dedicated to stock assessment techniques and model review, one to genetics and connectivity, and one to prepare for the SC (e.g., summary of intersessional activities, advice to SC).
Intersessional Commission request	Update the species composition analyses with the Russian Federation's historical data through 2022.	Document SC11-Doc11 has been prepared by the Species Composition Task Group, which has been supported by the Secretariat.

Annex 1: Summary of toothfish tag recaptures provided by CCAMLR

Table 1. Tagged toothfish release year and location mapped to the year and location of recapture. Numbers in the table represent the number of individual fish associated with that release/recapture combination.

Year released	Release location		Year recaptured	Recapture location	
	SPRFMO	CCAMLR		SPRFMO	CCAMLR
2005		1	2020	1	
2007		1	2016	1	
2016	2		2017	2	
2016	1		2019		1
2019	1		2019	1	
2019	4		2020	4	
2019	1		2021		1
2020	1		2022	1	
Total	10	2		10	2

In total, 10 toothfish tagged in the SPRFMO Area have been recaptured, 8 in SPRFMO and 2 in CCAMLR. Two toothfish tagged in the CCAMLR Area have been subsequently recaptured in the SPRFMO Area.