

## 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

30 September to 5 October 2024, Lima, Peru

### SC 12 – Doc 08 Status of the SC Fund (Scientific Support)

Secretariat

#### 1. Background

Financial Regulation 2.4. states that “Unless otherwise decided by the Commission, for the budget category “Scientific Support” unspent appropriations may accrue between financial years, up to a limit of \$50 000. Beyond this level such funds shall be treated as surplus and transferred to the accumulated surplus account.”

The SC is invited to:

- Note that the SC fund can cover the planned multi-annual work plan activities for 2024 and up to June 2025
- Note that several items require beneficiaries to invoice the Secretariat appropriately and/or identify an appropriate coordinator to ensure that allocated funds can be used for their intended purposes.

#### 2. Status of Scientific Support (SC) Fund

##### 2.1 Current Status of SC Fund

Table 1 below shows the status of the Scientific Support Fund, starting from 01 July 2023 up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Table 1: Status of the Scientific Support fund (non-project) as at SC12

Opening Balance as of 01 July 2023			195 146
Month	Expenses	Amount	
November 2023	Jack mackerel: SC and other funds to support experts during SC assessment.	11 011	
November 2023	Habitat Monitoring Symposium	63 000	
November 2023	Habitat Monitoring Symposium (USA Grant)	32 744	
June 2024	GITHUB fees	509	
Subtotal – Expenses from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024			(107 264)
Month	Income	Amount	
July 2023	Voluntary contribution (China) for Squid research	25 202	
September 2023	Category 8. Scientific support (Commission budget)	10 000	



Whole Financial Year	Other income (bank interest less bank fees, etc)	4 244	
<b>Subtotal – Income from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024</b>			<b>39 446</b>
<b>Balance as of 30 June 2024</b>			<b>127 328</b>

## 2.2 Forecast Status of the SC Fund up to 30 June 2025

Table 2 shows the forecasted status of the SC fund after including the identified activities from within the Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Plan. Note that this forecast ends 30 June to align with the SPRFMO financial year which runs from July through to June).

Table 2: Forecast Status of the Scientific Support fund up to June 2025

Balance as of 1 July 2024				127 328
Task	Subtask	Timeline	Coordinator	Funding required
Jack mackerel assessment	SC and other funds to support experts during SC assessment	2024+	SC Chair/ Secretariat	15 000
Squid workshop	6.5k will be used to support expert participation at SC12	2024	SQWG Chair/ Secretariat	10 000
Jack mackerel connectivity research	Will be used to support SC12 participation and costs for the pre-SC workshop on CJM connectivity	2024	Chile Peru	15 000
VC - China	Amount available for squid related research	2024+	SQ WG	97 570
VC - USA	Amount available for Habitat Symposium publication	2024	HM WG	9 731
	GITHUB Annual Fee	2025	Secretariat	550
<b>Subtotal – Estimated Expense from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025</b>				<b>(147 851)</b>
<b>Plus, Income - Commission Budget (Category 8. Scientific support)</b>				<b>40 000</b>
<b>Forecast Balance as of 30 June 2025</b>				<b>19 477</b>



### 3. Other contributions to SC activities

#### 3.1. Voluntary contributions from the European Union (EU)

*Note EU projects often subsidise the overall Commission budget, SC allocated funds and can support other work outside of those budgets. For this reason, and because EU projects have comprehensive reporting requirements, they are managed separately in SPRFMOs financial system.*

**Ongoing: 101089755 Science based decision making**, EUR120,000 (NZ\$191,000 approximately).

This grant was signed in August 2022 and has a project duration of 26 months (from 01/09/2022 to 31/10/2024).

This grant has two major objectives:

The first objective will build on previous works conducted over several years to prevent the occurrence of significant adverse impacts on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs). This objective is supported by 2 tasks (one on reviewing how to define VME thresholds and modelling abundance of VMEs). These tasks are being progressed by NIWA with guidance from the SPRFMO deepwater working group.

The second objective will build on previous works to continue to develop and update SPRFMOs management of the Jack mackerel fishery. The first task (to continue MSE Development for jack mackerel in SPRFMO) is being completed under contract by Wageningen Marine research with guidance from the SPRFMO jack mackerel working group. The funds allocated to the second task, to support connectivity and variability, are being used to support the activities of the Chair of the Jack mackerel connectivity task team.

*The 3rd task, to support Otolith exchange leading to an age reading workshop, looks unlikely to be achieved despite numerous attempts by the JMWG to progress this task.*

The timeline for this project is currently in SC’s multi-annual workplan and the Secretariat is coordinating the activities with the relevant working groups.

*Table 3: Status of scientific projects as at SC12 – Project “101089755 Science based decision making”, project end date October 2024.*

Working group	Subtask	Task lead(s)	Funding NZ\$	Expensed NZ\$
Jack mackerel	Jack mackerel connectivity research	JM connectivity task group	15 000	15 000
	Continue the development of the MSE framework etc	EU – contracted	57 000	57 000
	<i>Organise an otolith exchange leading up to an age reading workshop with experts from all relevant SPRFMO members etc.</i>	<i>Awaiting details</i>	<i>15 000</i>	<i>0</i>
Bottom fishing	Reviewing how to define the threshold between good state and SAI for VMEs at different spatial scales etc.	NZ - contracted	74 000	74 000
	Modelling abundance of VMEs.	NZ - contracted	15 000	15 000

**New grant: 101189418 Support to Science based decision making**, EUR240,000 (NZ\$430,000 approximately).

This grant was signed in June 2024 and has a project duration of 24 months (from 01/06/2024 to 30/06/2026).

This grant has two major objectives relating to SC activities:



Objective one is to ensure the sustainable management of the Jack mackerel stock by supporting the continuation and completion of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the jack mackerel fishery in SPRFMO.

Objective two is to ensure the sustainable management of other species in the SPRFMO Convention Area that are subject to targeted fishing operations (e.g., chub mackerel *Scomber japonicus*).

This will be achieved by updating the existing tier-based assessment framework and developing stock assessments for those species, even if data limited, and especially where the fishing is not associated with a science-based monitoring scheme.

Table 4: Status of scientific projects as at SC12 - Project 101189418 Support to Science based decision making, project end date June 2026

Tasks	Task lead(s)	Funding NZ\$	Project components
Jack mackerel MSE	<i>Jack mackerel working group</i>	153 000 (EUR85K)	Establish contract to finalise MSE; Support virtual SC WGs, Capacity building workshop, SC-policy workshop in Feb 2025 (AM)
Assessments for other fished species	<i>Jack mackerel working group</i>	45 000 (EUR25K)	Develop assessments for other fished species (eg Chub)

- *The Secretariat would appreciate some direction on the expected allocation of these funds.*

### 3.2. Voluntary contributions from China

China has been making regular voluntary contributions for SC squid related research activities. These funds alongside the historic unused balance in total amount of NZ\$97,570 are currently available for collecting and analysing genetic samplings (Convention area and adjacent National Jurisdiction Areas). As per the Squid Connectivity item in the Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Plan, NZ\$90,000 has been allocated to 2024-2025.

- *The Secretariat would appreciate some direction on the expected allocation of these funds.*

### 3.3. Voluntary contributions from the USA (State)

In September 2022 SPRFMO received a USD25,000 voluntary contribution from the USA State department to support the SPRFMO Habitat Monitoring symposium that was ultimately held from 6 to 8 November 2023 in Concepcion, Chile. The funds were provided to support the travel of invited speakers and costs associated with publishing the proceedings report.

After contributing to the costs of invited speakers the remaining amount (NZ\$9,731) is available to support publishing the proceedings report.

- *The Secretariat would appreciate some direction on the expected allocation of these funds.*