

## SC 12 – WP 10

### SALAS Y GOMEZ AND NAZCA TASK TEAM

#### Terms of Reference and Workplan

#### SUMMARY

At its 2024 annual meeting, the Commission adopted [Decision 17-2024](#) that tasked the Scientific Committee (SC) to include Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges as an agenda item for its meeting in 2024 and annually thereafter. Within this agenda item, the SC — taking into consideration its priorities and available resources during its first year — will compile and review all relevant scientific information and data about the area and recommend possible measures to the Commission at its following regular meeting, based on an ecosystem-based approach that aims at preserving its biodiversity and SPRFMO fishing resources as well as a sustainable use of marine resources.

For the consideration of the SC 12 Chile presented the SC12 Doc 36: Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges: the need for protection, with a minimum impact on fisheries, which “recommends that the area located in ABNJ of the Salas y Gómez and Nazca EBSA should be permanently closed to fishing activities regulated by the SPRFMO as soon as possible”, This recommendation was not agreed by the Scientific Committee.

Peru presented the SC12 - Doc 37 Nazca Ridge Report: Geology, Chemistry and Biophysical Coupling components, which states that the Easter-Salas y Gomez Seamount Chain (ESC) and Nazca Ridge are separate units or systems with important differences in their history, geology, oceanography, hydrodynamic features, structure and function; in that sense, the degree of dependence on matter and energy between the surface and the seabed (benthic-pelagic coupling) could be different between both systems. Finally, it recommends greater scientific research effort in order to achieve a better understanding of key processes, such as, the carbon export in relation to the pelagic fishery.

Finally, the creation of a Task Team for SGN was proposed and supported by some CNCPs. In this regard, the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges Task Team will produce a report for presentation to SC13 in 2025 that

- 1) complements the information presented to the SC12 that reviews and summarizes relevant scientific information relating to the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges (here after called “area”).
- 2) includes the characterisation geological, oceanographic, biogeochemical (including carbon exportation), biodiversity, ecology, cultural, connectivity, benthic-pelagic coupling and conservation information of the area.
- 3) includes the current status of SPRFMO’s benthic and pelagic resources fished within the area, as well as possible threats to those resources;
- 4) assesses the current level of fishing effort by gear including 2024 fishing activities and its possible impacts within the area;
- 5) considers the current possible level of impact of the other threats identified previously in the SC12-Doc 36;
- 6) Present to the SC possible measures based on the ecosystem approach that aims at preserving the biodiversity in the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges and SPRFMO fishing resources, as well as sustainable marine resources and provide possible actions for the SC to consider; and
- 7) propose a monitoring and evaluation scheme for future work.

### 1. Introduction



At its 2024 annual meeting, the Commission adopted [Decision 17-2024](#) that tasked the Scientific Committee (SC) to include Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges as an agenda item for its meeting in 2024 and annually thereafter. <sup>1</sup> Within this agenda item, the SC — taking into consideration its priorities and available resources during its first year — will compile and review all relevant scientific information and data about the area and recommend possible measures to the Commission at its following regular meeting, based on an ecosystem-based approach that aims at preserving its biodiversity and SPRFMO fishing resources as well as a sustainable use of marine resources.

In addition, the [2025 multiannual work](#) plan of the SC considers the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges as a cross-cutting task, defining the following subtasks; 1) research cruises aimed to know the biooceanographic and meteorologic characteristics of Salas y Gomez ridge; as well as biodiversity, current circulation, morphology and geology of sea bottom for 2023 – 2024; 2) Climate change impacts of fisheries in Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges for 2024 and, 3) expedition to Salas y Gomez and Nazca aboard oceanographic research vessel for 2024-2025.

In line with that tasking and to support the effective and efficient preparation of scientific advice for the Commission, the SC agrees to create a Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges Task Team with these terms of reference.

## 2. Terms of Reference

### a. Objective

The objective of the Task Team, in line with Decision 17-2024, shall be to review relevant scientific information and data about the area (including the papers in References), as well as other relevant information provided by members and observers, and to provide advice to the SC possible measures based on the ecosystem approach that aims at preserving the biodiversity in the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges and SPRFMO fishing resources, as well as sustainable marine resources

All activities carried out by the Task Team will refer to the Area of Application of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as specified in its Article 5.

### b. Structure

The Task Team is open to all interested Members, CNCPs and observers who may nominate one or more suitably qualified representatives to the Secretariat before 15 November 2024.

Ideally, all meetings should allow the virtual participation so as not to unfairly discriminate against small delegations with limited ability to travel. In addition, the meeting calendar of this Task team shall consider the overlap with other RFMOs meeting dates to avoid clashes with SIOFA and WCPFC meetings, or any other relevant RFMOs.

### c. Responsibilities

- 1) complements the information presented to the SC12 that reviews and summarizes relevant scientific information relating to the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges (here after called “area”).



- 2) includes the characterisation geological, oceanographic, biogeochemical (including carbon exportation), biodiversity, ecology, cultural, connectivity, benthic-pelagic coupling and conservation information of the area.
- 3) includes the current status of SPRFMO's benthic and pelagic resources fished within the area, as well as possible threats to those resources;
- 4) assesses the current level of fishing effort by gear including 2024 fishing activities and its possible impacts within the area;
- 5) considers the current possible level of impact of the other threats identified previously in the SC12- Doc 36;
- 6) Present to the SC possible measures based on the ecosystem approach that aims at preserving the biodiversity in the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges and SPRFMO fishing resources, as well as sustainable marine resources and provide possible actions for the SC to consider; and
- 7) propose a monitoring and evaluation scheme for future work.
- Produce a report for presentation to SC13 in 2025.
- Propose a monitoring and evaluation scheme for any actions listed.
- Submits a report to the Secretariat and the SC Chair to be discussed in the 2025 SC meeting.
- Creates an open repository of the documentation reviewed for the SC members.

## Workplan

The activities of the Task Team will require several meetings, but endeavours to virtually meet at least twice a year and if cost effective, also include an in-person workshop before the following 2025 SC meeting.

Activity	Date	Objective
Virtual meeting	November 2024 (last week)	Agreed the procedural aspect of the work of the Task Team and agreed the matters and topics for the workshop.
In person workshop*	TBC at the first task team meeting	Address the relevant scientific information relating to the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges.
Virtual meeting	August 2025	Work on the results and recommendations.
In person meeting	Sept/Oct. 2025 (in the margins of SC-13)	Agreed the final document including the recommendations.

\* Chile and the Center for Ecology and Sustainable Management of Oceanic Islands (ESMOI) are available to organize the in-person workshop and finance all arrangements including the participation of one representative from each Member. To maximise participation and reduce travel and SPRFMOs carbon footprint it is preferable for this meeting be held just prior to, or after to SPRFMO COMM13.

The dates will be confirmed at the first task team meeting.

## 1. References (to be made a WP)

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## **SC12-Doc37** NAZCA RIDGE REPORT GEOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND BIOPHYSICAL COUPLING COMPONENTS

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