

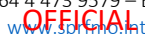


SC 12 – WP 12
Checklist for Exploratory Fisheries Proposals
CMM 13-2020 and CMM 14b-2020

Scientific Committee Considerations Fisheries Operation Plans

8. The Scientific Committee shall provide recommendations and advice to the Commission on each Fisheries Operation Plan on the following matters, as appropriate:

Fisheries Operation Plan Considerations	Rationale	Assessment
<p><i>a) management strategies or plans for fishery resources;</i></p> <p>[Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean as having a clear objective for the fishery]</p>	<p>The overall aim of these proposals is to assess the viability of sustainable fisheries for toothfish within the proposed exploratory fishery areas. Key objectives are identified on page 8 of the proposal (SC12-DW01)</p>	Yes
<p><i>b) reference points, including precautionary reference points as described in Annex II of the 1995 Agreement;</i></p>	<p>Proposed new areas are unexplored with no recorded history of fishing within the last 10 years. Catches from this SPRFMO research will be included in the current CCAMLR stock assessment as has been the case for the previous project further east.</p>	Partial
<p><i>c) an appropriate precautionary catch limit;</i></p>	<p>See section 4.1.6 of SC12-DW01</p>	Yes
<p><i>d) the cumulative impacts of all fishing activity in the area of the exploratory fishery;</i></p>	<p>The proposal has been prepared to comply with all requirements of Articles 2 and 22, CMM- 13-2024 (exploratory fisheries), CMM03-2023 (bottom fisheries), and the BFIAS. The proposal incorporates the cluster design, used in the previous programme to distribute research effort which incorporates a maximum hook limit per cluster thus minimising any cumulative effects on one area.</p>	Yes
<p><i>e) the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem;</i></p>	<p>See sections 4.3 to 4.5 of SC12-DW01</p>	Yes
<p><i>f) the sufficiency of information available to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee's advice is provided;</i></p>	<p>Annex 1 of SC12-DW01 contains a detailed risk assessment (updated from the previously approved programme) in accordance with FAO's Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries, considering the SPRFMO Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard, BFIAS. Annexes 2-5 detail proposed mitigation measures for seabirds, non-target fish and</p>	Yes



	Chondrichthyes, VME, and Marine Mammals and turtles.	
<i>g) the degree to which the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 of the Convention¹; and</i>	This proposal is an extension of previous agreed research, to be carried out in a stepwise manner and which is based on precautionary catch limits, mitigation measures, and measures to limit local depletion and spread research effort.	<u>Yes</u>
<i>h) in respect of a Fisheries Operation Plan that proposes any bottom fishing activity, advice and recommendations in accordance with paragraph 20 (b) of CMM 03-2020 (Bottom Fishing)².</i>	Fully covered in the proposal section 4.7 and in Annex 1	Yes

Data Collection Plans

9. *When considering a Fisheries Operation Plan [...] the Scientific Committee shall develop a Data Collection Plan in respect of that exploratory fishery which should include research requirements, as appropriate. The Data Collection Plan shall identify and describe the data needed and any operational research actions necessary to obtain data from the exploratory fishery to enable an assessment of the stock, the feasibility of establishing a fishery and the impact of fishing activity on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs. The Scientific Committee shall review and update the Data Collection Plan for each exploratory fishery annually as appropriate.*

10. *The Data Collection Plan shall require, as appropriate:*

Data Collection Plan considerations	Rationale	Assessment
<i>a) a description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 24;</i>	A full fisheries operation plan is presented in Section 5 of the proposal (SC12-DW01). This plan incorporates and builds on previous research in the more easterly exploratory fishery from 2016 onwards.	Yes
<i>b) the dates by which the data must be provided to the Commission;</i>	Covered in the proposal section 5.3. The timing of data submission will be conditional on the timing of fishing operations. Following CM 02-2022, data from Jan – Dec will be provided no later than 30 September the following year. As required by CMM 02-2022, annual interim reports will be submitted to the SPRFMO SC. As this proposal covers the three calendar years 2025 – 2027, it is anticipated that reports will be submitted in 2026 and 2027 with a final, more detailed report submitted in 2028.	Yes

¹ The objective of this Convention is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.

² The Scientific Committee shall undertake a review of the proposed assessment and provide advice to the Commission on:

- i. whether the proposed bottom fishing would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on deep sea fish stocks for which no stock assessment has been completed, bycatch species and/or VMEs and, if so,
- ii. whether any proposed or additional mitigation measures would prevent such impacts.

<p><i>c) a plan for directing fishing effort in an exploratory fishery to allow for the acquisition of relevant data to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impact;</i></p>	<p>A full fisheries operation plan is presented in section 4 of the proposal.</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p>
<p><i>d) where appropriate, a plan for the acquisition of any other research data obtained by fishing vessels, including activities that may require the cooperative activities of scientific observers and the vessel, as may be required by the Scientific Committee to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target, associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts; and</i></p>	<p>Covered under section 5 and subsections 5.2.1 to 5.2.5 of the proposal.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>e) an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities</i></p> <p>[Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean “when will data be analysed and available”]</p>	<p>Covered under section 5 and specifically subsections 5.3 and 5.5 of the proposal.</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p>

Scientific Committee recommendations (SC to complete)

The SC discussed the [insert Member/CNCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection plan and Agreed that the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure that the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 of the Convention, with the following requested modifications (*to be added if necessary*):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Or:

The SC discussed the [insert Member/CNCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection plan and recommended that a small working group [led by xxx and composed of xxx] meet post SC and to provide additional advice on the proposal, noting that the work is likely to extend intersessionally and would be expected to result in a revised proposal being provided to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee. Aspects of the proposal which are currently deficient include

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Or:

The SC discussed the [insert Member/CNCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection plan and agreed that the proposal was lacking critical information in several important areas and was not consistent with the SPRFMO objective. The SC noted that the Fisheries Operational Plan in its current form would require substantive modification to ensure that sufficient information would be available to enable the SC to evaluate the long-term potential and impacts, of the proposed exploratory fishery, and to ensure that the fishery resources would be developed on a precautionary and gradual basis a required by the CMM.