

6th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Puerto Varas, Chile, 9 - 14 September 2018

SC6-Doc33

Should SPRFMO (continue) participating in the ABNJ?

SPRFMO Secretariat

Background

In December 2013 (Ref:0151-2013) SPRFMO confirmed its participation in the FAO-GEF¹ Project “Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”. Decisions on the nature and extent of SPRFMO’s participation in the various parts of the project were made on a case-by-case basis where SPRFMO in-kind contribution over the period 2014-2018 was then estimated at USD 200,000.

An information paper on the Update on Status and Activities of the ABNJ Deep-seas project (COMM-03-INF-06)² was presented in the Annual Commission meeting in Auckland, New Zealand 2 – 6 February 2015. The same year, at the third meeting of the SPRFMO Scientific Committee (SC) held in Port Vila, Vanuatu 28 September - 3 October 2015, the SC reviewed the FAO-ABNJ Deep Seas Project information paper (SC-03-INF-03)³, stating in the SC meeting report⁴ “*The SC reaffirms earlier recommendations that the Commission:*

- *remains aware of EBSAs within the Convention Area and of the factors that led to their definition; and*
- *addresses any conservation needs for EBSAs through the normal process of developing Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) for the fisheries.*”

SPRFMO has been regularly participating in the annual ABNJ Steering Committee Meetings⁵ where has been confirmed satisfactory progress of the project implementation to date.

Final consideration

Considering that SPRFMO participation in the ABNJ project expires at the end of 2018, the SC is invited to consider whether it would like to recommend that SPRFMO continues its participation in the ABNJ Project and the scope of such participation.

¹ FAO is a partner agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a partnership of 18 agencies and 183 countries to address the world’s most challenging environmental issues related to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, chemicals, and international waters.

² <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Meetings/Meetings-2013-plus/Commission-Meetings/3rd-Commission-Meeting-2015-Auckland-New-Zealand/COMM-03-INF-06-SPRFMO-ABNJ-deepseas-activities.pdf>

³ <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Meetings/Meetings-2013-plus/SC-Meetings/3rd-SC-Meeting-2015/Papers/SC-03-INF-03-ABNJ-Deep-Seas-Project.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Meetings/Meetings-2013-plus/SC-Meetings/3rd-SC-Meeting-2015/Report/SC-03-Final-report-14Oct15-A1-7.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7356e.pdf>