13TH MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

Panama City, Panama 24-27 February 2026

CTC 13 – Doc 05

Implementation Report: SPRFMO Fisheries

Secretariat

1. Summary and recommendations

This paper provides the Secretariat's consolidated report on implementation of fisheries-related CMMs across SPRFMO fisheries, with emphasis on information most relevant to the CTC: operational implementation actions, reporting performance, data reconciliation/validation, and issues requiring follow-up.

The report covers jack mackerel, squid, deepwater (bottom) fisheries, exploratory fisheries, and transhipment. A transhipment section is included because transhipment activities are treated as "fishing" under the SPRFMO Convention and are material for compliance monitoring and data integrity.

CTC13 is invited to:

- note this implementation report and make any recommendations to strengthen timeliness, completeness, and standardisation of reporting.

2. Background

Each SPRFMO CMM establishes a range of requirements for Members, CNCPs and the Secretariat. The key requirements are reported against here in this annual implementation report. Many of the requirements (e.g. reporting and validation) are common across the CMMs, while there are some context specific variations. It is important to note the following points for interpretation:

- The narrative implementation updates draw primarily on the most recent operational year (2025).
- Verification of annual catch reports in this paper refers to 2024, consistent with the verification cycle and availability of reconciled datasets. Members are yet to submit their 2025 annual catch reports to the Secretariat at the time of writing of writing this paper as the deadline is 31 January.

3. *Trachurus murphyi* (CMM 01)

3.1. Entitlement transfers (Paragraph 10)

In 2025, the Secretariat recorded 16 entitlement transfers involving 13 Members/CNCPs. Transfers were notified to Members/CNCPs and reflected in the Secretariat's running catch limit tracking.

Table 1: Transfers (tonnes) of jack mackerel catch entitlement (rounded to nearest whole number)

Member	2025 catch entitlement	Transfers received	Transfers given	End of year Limit
Belize	1 646	0	1 646	0
Chile (total)	1 024 650	324 160	0	1 348 810
China	92 684	0	70 000	22 684
Cook Islands	1 582	0	1 582	0
Cuba	3 190	0	3 190	0
Ecuador (total)	18 070	0	17 570	500
European Union	92 558	0	61 000	31 558
Faroe Islands	15 853	0	15 853	0
Korea	18 506	0	18 411	95
Panama	1 582	0	1 582	0
Peru (high seas)	31 671	0	16 200	15 471
Russian Federation	50 301	0	50 300	1
Vanuatu	66 826	0	66 826	0
Total	**1 419 119**	**324 160**	**324 160**	**1 419 119**

3.2. Notification of catches against catch limits (Paragraphs 11 and 14)

Paragraph 11 of the CMM specifies the total catch limit for *Trachurus murphyi* (throughout its range). For 2025, this limit was 1 552 500 t.

As required by paragraph 11, the Executive Secretary informed Members and CNCPs on 27 November 2025 (by way of letter G139-2025) that total catches of *Trachurus murphyi* throughout the range of its distribution had reached 70% of this limit. At that stage 1 121 535 t had been caught, 72.2% of 1 552 500 t.

As required by paragraph 14, fifteen-day Member and CNCP reporting for the jack mackerel fishery was consequently implemented in December 2025.

The Executive Secretary notified Members and CNCPs when the limit had been reached. As of letter G05-2026, which provided information up to 20 December 2025, total catches of *Trachurus murphyi* throughout the range of its distribution had reached 91.4 % of that limit.

3.3. Monthly and 15-day catch reports (Paragraph 13 and 14)

Throughout 2025, the Secretariat circulated monthly and, when applicable, 15-day catch reports based on received submissions. Most Members provided their reports in time for processing, although there were occasionally delayed submissions. Following engagement by the Secretariat, complete reporting was ultimately achieved from all Members actively fishing.

3.4. Verification of 2024 annual catch reports (Paragraph 15)

The Executive Secretary verifies annual catch reports and informs Members/CNCPs of the outcome and any discrepancies identified. For CTC13, the verification exercise reported below relates to 2024 annual catch reports.

Table 2: Verification of 2024 annual catch (tonnes) from the Trachurus murphyi *fishery*

Member	*CMM 01 (2024) final catch limit*	2024 annual Catch*	Monthly reports	Fishing activities	Transhipments	Landings
Chile	819 720	1 079 424	1 079 417	Conducted in EEZ/ANJ		
Ecuador	14 456	No data provided	56	Conducted in EEZ/ANJ		
European Union	74 047	17 255	17 774	17 774	0	17 255
Korea	14 805	1 814	1 797	1 797	0	1 745
Russian Federation	40 241	12 110	15 857	12 138	0	11 961

**From the Members implementation reports*

Verification summary (2024):

- Overall alignment: generally consistent across streams, being mostly aligned with minor rounding errors.
- Russia's monthly catch estimates show notable variability (~3,700 tonnes/30%), although its annual catch, fishing activity, and landings reports remain relatively consistent. It may be beneficial for Russia to review its estimation methods to help reduce potential margins of error.
- Main drivers of differences observed (where applicable):
    - Missing transhipment/landing submissions for active vessels during parts of the year;
    - Timing mismatches between catch, transhipment and landing events (especially where landings reflect aggregated trips).
- Secretariat follow-up: the Secretariat will engage bilaterally with the relevant Member(s)/CNCP(s) to reconcile and identify corrective steps for future reporting.

3.5. List of vessels having actively fished or engaged in transhipment (Paragraph 18)

The SPRFMO Record of Vessels details the list of vessels authorised by the Member to fish in the Convention Area and is available via the Organisation's website (here). Vessels that have actively fished or engaged in transhipment for *Trachurus murphyi*, by month, in the 2024 calendar year are also shown on the SPRFMO website (here).

A summary of this information is presented in Table 3. In addition, a report on the vessels active in the Convention Area during 2024 is included in the annual Record of Vessels Implementation report.

*Table 3: Number of vessels having actively fished or engaged in transhipment (*T. murphyi*) in the SPRFMO Area (2024)*

Member/CNCP	Number of Vessels	Vessel type
European Union	2	Trawlers
Korea	1	Trawler
Russian Federation	2	Trawlers

4. Jumbo Flying Squid (CMM 18)

4.1. Vessel numbers and gross tonnage (Paragraph 3)

Table 4 reports the 2024 actual active number of vessels and total gross tonnage of vessels in the fishing for jumbo flying squid in the SPRFMO Convention Area, as compared to the limits set in paragraph 3 and table 1 of CMM18. Note that these limits do not apply to fishing gears other than jigging.

Overall, across all Members, 529 vessels were deployed out of a total allowable limit of 766, accounting for 37% of the combined gross tonnage limit (274 028 GT used out of 736 092 GT).

Table 4: 2024 Fishing effort in the jumbo flying squid fishery (2024)

Member/CNCP	Vessel Number Limit	Vessel Number Actuals	Total Gross Tonnage Limit	Total Gross Tonnage Actuals
China	671	528	644 820	273 900
Korea	50	1	45 773	128
Chinese Taipei	45	0	45 499	0
Totals	**766**	**529**	**736 092**	**274 028**

4.2. Historical record (Paragraph 4)

One Member has notified the Secretariat of having a historical record in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery under paragraph 4 (Table 5).

Table 5: Members and CNCPs other than developing coastal States (as defined in CMM 18) with an historical record jigging for Jumbo Flying Squid

Member/CNCP	Year	Number of Vessels	Total Gross Tonnage	Catch weight (t)
Russian Federation	1965	3	2 629	12
Russian Federation	1966	3	2 629	7
Russian Federation	1981	1	912	3
Russian Federation	1982	5	4 560	15
Russian Federation	1983	3	2 736	8

4.3. Annual catch reports verification (Paragraph 10)

The Executive Secretary verifies the annual catch reports and informs the Members and CNCPs of the outcome of the exercise and any possible discrepancies encountered.

It should be noted that due to the relatively long fishing trips that are typical of vessels targeting squid, landings data can be hard to interpret with respect to annual catch and fishing activity data. For example, a single landing event may comprise squid from fishing activities that occurred over several years. Disaggregating these catches to apportion them to the respective year in which they were harvested may not be possible. In addition, there are challenges associated with collating and analysing transhipment data (discussed further in Section 6.3). Annual catches are therefore currently verified using only fishing activity data.

No significant discrepancy between the annual catch data and fishing activity data received by the Secretariat was found for the Jumbo flying squid fishery (Table 6).

Table 6: Verification of 2024 annual catch (tonnes)[1] from the squid fishery in the SPRFMO Area

Member	2024 Annual catch	2024 Fishing activities
China	273 900	273 910
Korea	128	128

5. Deepwater species (CMM 03a)

5.1. Notification of catches against catch limits (Paragraphs 17 and 22)

In 2024, and in accordance with paragraph 18(b) of CMM 03a-2023, the Secretariat reviewed its catch data records and determined that reported catches of orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) from the Northwest Challenger stock had reached 84 t as at June 2024—equivalent to 52.5% of the 160 t catch limit specified in paragraph 6(b)(i). The Secretariat therefore acted as required by formally notifying all Members and CNCPs through the June 2024 monthly catch report, which served as the official communication that the 50% threshold had been reached and that daily catch reporting must now commence. Daily catch reporting is to be provided electronically in line with paragraph 29 and footnote 17 of CMM 03a-2023, covering catch taken from 0000 to 2359 hours (NZST) and submitted to the Secretariat by 1:00 pm (NZST) on each day catch is recorded.

Australia did not meet the catch threshold to trigger a notification from the Secretariat.

On 10 December 2024, the Secretariat received a notification from New Zealand indicating that they intend to carry forward 10% of their allocated orange roughy catch limit (all stocks) into 2025.

Following the annual meeting all revised catch limits were reflected in the monthly reports.

5.2. Monthly catch reporting (Paragraphs 28 and 31)

Monthly catch reports were circulated to Members/CNCPs throughout the year in a timely manner.

5.3. Catch validation (Paragraph 32)

The Executive Secretary verifies Members' and CNCPs' annual catch reports against the submitted data and advises Members and CNCPs of the outcome, including any discrepancies identified. No significant discrepancy between the annual catch data and fishing activity data received by the Secretariat was found for the deepwater species fishery (Table 7).

Table 7: Verification of 2024 annual catch (tonnes) from the bottom fishery in SPRFMO Area

Member	*CMM03a (2023) Final catch limit*	2024 annual catch	Monthly reports	Fishing Activities	Landings
Australia	*358*	136	157	141	160
New Zealand	*1 908*	355	361	336	124

[1] Catch records are rounded to the nearest whole number

6. Exploratory fisheries (CMM 14 variants)

6.1. Toothfish

In 2024, both New Zealand (CMM 14a-2022) and the European Union (CMM 14e-2023) participated in exploratory toothfish fisheries in the SPRFMO Convention Area. Table 8 compares the reported toothfish catches from the different data submissions.

Table 8: Verification of 2024 annual catch (tonnes) from the exploratory toothfish fisheries in SPRFMO Area

Member	*Exploratory Limits*	2024 annual catch	Monthly reports	Fishing Activities	Landings
European Union	*162*	150		150	150
New Zealand	*240*	34		32	32

All data submissions were well aligned with each other. Reporting of monthly catch data for exploratory fisheries is voluntary.

6.2. Potting

In 2024, the Cook Islands vessel that planned to undertake fishing activities did not complete any trips. The intention was for the vessel to continue targeting lobsters (Jasus caveorum) and crabs (Chaceon spp.) in 2024, and to commence fishing for hapuka (Polyprion oxygeneios) in 2025. However, due to logistical constraints, no fishing was conducted in 2024.

7. Transhipments (CMM 12)

Transhipment activities are primarily associated with the jumbo flying squid fishery.

China reported that, during January–December 2024, observers recorded a total of 28 at-sea transhipment activities, with detailed information provided in Annex 1 which shows

- Recorded at-sea transhipment events: 28
- Total weight transhipped: 2,809.4 t (≈ 153,288 cartons)
- Average per event: 104.1 t
- Vessels involved (by IMO): 12 fishing vessels and 14 receiving vessels
- Observer monitoring: 8 observers listed in the dataset; no marine mammals, seabirds, or turtles were caught by the jiggers.

The Secretariat is actively developing Transhipment Management module within the Integrated Fisheries Information System to implement the new CMM 12-2024 and address current data and oversight challenges. The module is designed to move from manual, paper-based reporting toward electronic, validated, and near real-time transhipment management. This development work is further explained here.

7.1. Current state and transition

Transhipment activities are still largely tracked through manual reporting, with limited oversight, no real-time monitoring, and labour-intensive reconciliation processes. The new Transhipment Management Module is under active development, core APIs have already been built, and integration with existing vessel and catch databases is progressing to support a phased transition away from manual workflows.

7.2. Transhipment authorization and declarations

The module will introduce structured transhipment authorization and electronic declaration functions aligned with CMM 12-2024. Key elements include an in-port transhipment notification system (with a 48-hour advance notice requirement, and authorised port verification), and electronic transhipment declarations for both the fishing (master) vessel and the receiving (carrier) vessel, coupled with observer verification and reporting, species and quantity reconciliation, and document upload capabilities.

7.3. Data validation and monitoring

To improve data quality and reduce inconsistencies, the system will embed automated data validation, including cross-referencing with vessel authorisation, catch history validation, quota availability checking, geographic position verification, and species composition consistency checks. Real-time or near real-time monitoring will be supported through VMS integration for vessel proximity detection and at-sea transhipment event detection.

7.4. Data quality and compliance

The Secretariat continues to invest significant effort in cleaning and validating transhipment data so that it can be used reliably for compliance monitoring and reporting. Key factors that constrain timely ingestion and analytics include the volume of reporting, heterogeneity in formats, and reconciliation requirements across catching and receiving vessels.

Planned 2026 actions:

- Strengthen standardisation and automated validation at submission (aligned to CMM 12-2024 requirements).
- Improve consistency of vessel identifiers (RoV linkages) across transhipment datasets; and
- System improvements / DWG-led initiatives (portal, ingestion pipelines, reporting automation)

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Annex 1: Observer recorded at-sea transhipment events (Jan – Dec 2024)

Date	Latitude	Longitude	Fishing vessel	Fishing IMO	Receiving vessel	Receiving flag	Receiving IMO	Cartons	Total weight (t)	Observer
2024-01-04	-1.21	-107.63	NINGTAI66	8778512	ACONCAGUA BAY	LBR	9019652	4417	88.34	QI Lei
2024-01-06	-1.43	-107.1	HONGPU701	8780292	MING HANG 7	VUT	9128037	4416	88.32	HAN Wei
2024-01-19	-18.6	-78	HAI XING1	8776382	HE TAI	PAN	9070137	12640	252.8	YUAN Zhi
2024-01-27	-0.95	-106.4	MING XING	8775273	XINHAILENG2	CHN	8549636	8366	104.575	LIU Bo
2024-02-04	-0.92	-103.65	NING TAI 22	8778718	ACONCAGUA BAY	LBR	9019652	5088	101.76	ZHANG Rui
2024-02-11	-15.9	-79.9	NING TAI 75	9821548	WEI NING	LBR	9064229	5000	100	YUAN Zhi
2024-02-15	-0.81	-101.55	MING XIANG 868	9822657	ACONCAGUA BAY	LBR	9019652	7273	92.713	HU Maoqing
2024-02-22	-14.9	-81.7	NING TAI 75	9821548	TRITON REEFER	PAN	8911102	4114	82.28	YUAN Zhi
2024-02-27	-14.35	-83.73	HONGPU701	8780292	ZHEPUYUANLENG7	CHN	8693190	4136	82.72	HAN Wei
2024-04-06	-12.9	-85	NING TAI 75	9821548	DAPINGYUYUN99	CHN	9931202	3156	63.12	YUAN Zhi
2024-04-13	-17.51	-78.95	NINGTAI66	8778512	DAPINGYUYUN99	CHN	9931202	4040	80.8	QI Lei
2024-04-19	-16.1	-85.1	MING XING	8775273	RONG ZHOU	CHN	8307260	6536	81.7	LIU Bo
2024-05-21	-14.17	-80.83	MING XIANG 868	9822657	HUA YANG	VUT	9014767	7632	98.94	HU Maoqing
2024-05-29	-13	-85	NING TAI 75	9821548	HUA YANG	CHN	9014767	3405	68.1	YUAN Zhi
2024-06-28	-5.05	-85.48	NINGTAI66	8778512	TRITON REEFER	PAN	8911102	5378	107.56	QI Lei
2024-07-19	-6.13	-85.3	NINGTAI55	8779059	TRITON REEFER	CHN	8911102	4644	92.88	QI Lei
2024-08-04	-5.27	-86.82	MING XIANG 801	8776124	HE TAI	PAN	9070137	8477	169.54	HU Maoqing
2024-09-19	-2.57	-85.17	NINGTAI66	8778512	HE TAI	PAN	9070137	3880	77.6	QI Lei
2024-11-10	-1.48	-115.14	NINGTAI66	8778512	NINGFENGLENG1	CHN	9995131	4388	87.76	QI Lei
2024-11-18	-1.88	-117.69	MING XIANG 817	8776253	WEI NING	LBR	9064229	6500	130	HU Maoqing
2024-11-24	-2.42	-112.65	NINGTAI66	8778512	NINGTAILENG5	CHN	9893694	6169	123.38	QI Lei
2024-12-20	1.1	-120.68	NINGTAI66	8778512	NINGFENGLENG1	CHN	9995131	6500	130	QI Lei
2024-12-21	0.7	-120.02	HONGRUN 17	9901142	HONGRUNLENG 1	CHN	1034709	5084	63.55	CAI Jialin
2024-12-26	1.3	-120.5	HONGRUN 668	8776954	WEI NING	LBR	9064229	5128	102.56	CAI Jialin
2024-12-28	1.35	-121.33	MING XIANG 817	8776253	WEI NING	LBR	9064229	7600	152	HU Maoqing
2024-12-30	1.33	-123.63	NINGTAI66	8778512	WEINING	LBR	9064229	5134	102.68	QI Lei
2024-12-31	1.1	-120.15	HONGPU 701	8780292	HAI JI LI	PAN	9677595	4187	83.74	YUE Zhien

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