

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

Panama, 24-27 February 2026

CTC 13 – Doc 15 Discussion Document - CTC Workplan Proposal *CTC Chair/Secretariat*

1. Summary and Recommendations

This discussion document proposes that CTC develop a Workplan to guide its work over the coming years. This is in response to CTC experience and Commission deliberations, and the 2nd Performance Review recommendations.

The **CTC13** is invited to:

- **Note** *this paper and provide suggestions to aid in the achievement of objectives.*
- **Recommend** *to the Commission that the key deliverables for the CTC during 2026-2029 will be to:*
 - *Review the CMMs and update if required*
 - *Develop a modern Integrated Fisheries Information Management System*
 - *Implement the CTC themed recommendations from the 2nd Performance Review*

2. Background

Members have raised questions and concerns in Commission over the current practice of “automatically” extending the review dates of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), without any consideration of the CMM or whether it would benefit from modifications or amendments to improve implementation. It was suggested that a more strategic approach, with prioritisation, be taken to reviewing the CMMs in future. The Second SPRFMO Performance Review similarly reported that there was no systematic plan in place for the Committee to review all key CMMs or to prioritise compliance assessments. Few CMMs had been meaningfully reviewed beyond extending their review dates, meaning the Commission has little assurance that they are functioning as intended.

The Performance Review made a series of CTC related recommendations. It recommended a serious transformation in the way SPRFMO manages its data and information and that the work of the CTC be better directed through the annual approval of a work programme, with a three-year planning horizon. This would, amongst other things, address concerns that the time spent on compliance monitoring was detracting from the Committee’s other important roles, such as reviewing CMMs and analysing MCS risks.



3. Overarching Workplan Considerations

While progress and finetuning of the CTC Workplan can occur at subsequent annual meetings and through intersessional work, it is suggested that the core priority items for the focus of the CTC Workplan consist of:

- CMM Review - Developing and implementing a strategic approach and process for the prioritisation and systematic review of CMMs.
- Integrated Fisheries Information Management System – Enhancements to all aspects of SPRFMO Data processes to improve data collection, management, processing, analysis, and reporting to aid in decision making and identifying risks.
- Performance Review Recommendations – Collaborating with the IWG and others to develop and advance an Implementation Plan for the CTC assigned recommendations.

Advancing the elements of the CTC workplan with require commitment and rigour from Members to participate in any established processes or working groups, including assisting in the championing or leading on specific tasks or components.

4. From Ad Hoc to Regular CMM Review

The SPRFMO CMMs should generally be subject to regular review and updating but in practice it is often only when a specific issue of interest to a Member/CNCP arises that a CMM is reviewed, and specific amendments proposed. Despite some CMMs having established review dates, there is not an established process to initiate a holistic review of CMMs. There have been working group efforts to lead the review of some CMMs in the recent past, but these are not routinely established. There was previously an approach of extending the review date by three years, regardless of the CMM and whether it is an established CMM or a new CMM and without any significant review taking place.

International policy frameworks and governance on issues potentially impacting fisheries management and RFMOs is constantly evolving. The UN, its specialised agencies (such as the FAO, IMO, ILO), and other international bodies and/or international agreements produce and update guidelines, policy direction, and best practices on a variety of issues ranging from fisheries management, food security, climate change, safety at sea, and labour issues that may impact RFMOs and require reflection in the CMMs (where applicable).

There is also the need to ensure that the wording of the CMMs accurately reflect the practicalities of high seas fishing, monitoring, and the evolution and best practices for the collection and transmission of data in an efficient and effective manner.

Additionally, as the list of CMMs expand, duplication and/or conflicting statements within/amongst the various CMMs can arise. There can be a need to harmonise, or reference for consistency, similar or relevant provisions across CMMs. There is also a need to ensure that any overarching requirements and considerations such as emerging scientific advice, climate change, and ecosystem impacts are incorporated into all applicable CMMs in a timely manner.



4.1 Two-Phase Review Process

To facilitate the review of CMMs¹, a 2-phase approach is proposed for discussion.

First, it is proposed that to facilitate a broader review of the CMM, if a Member/CNCP proposes an amendment to a CMM with a specified review date then they would also assume the lead to review the broader context of the CMM and identify any areas that may benefit from updating of the language and context². The development of a generic checklist (Annex 1) covering the issues in earlier paragraphs may aid in documenting the overarching review and would accompany the proposal to bring to the attention of Members, solicit comments and/or draft additional text if required.

Secondly, for CMMs with a specified review date that are not subject to Member proposals there will need to be an assignment of that CMM to a Member to champion a review (against the checklist). Ideally a Member with an interest would volunteer to lead or champion the review (other Members welcome to refer information for consideration or collation). The Member would submit the completed checklist, and if desirable suggested wording for consideration at the next annual meeting.

Alternatively, there could be a small working group from interested Members who would undertake these reviews against the checklist intersessionally and submit their findings and suggestions of potential areas for review/modifications for discussion at the next CTC.

To help institutionalise CMM review, Members may want to consider a CTC standing agenda item on the matter and/or a new provision in the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (e.g. in Regulation 4, Order of Business) requiring CMMs to be regularly reviewed and updated.

5. Integrated Fisheries Information Management System

Significant progress has been made to move towards an Integrated Fisheries Information Management System for SPRFMO, which will bring tangible benefits for the work of CTC. SPRFMO has recognised there are deficiencies in its overall data management framework and processes. The Secretariat has increasingly struggled with the management and utilisation of the growing amount of data being collected as new data requirements come online. Early attempts to manage data collection on excel spreadsheets and limited databases without proper tools to automate processes, integrate new data holdings, carry out strategic analysis and reporting, has led to frustration and less than optimal utilisation of data holdings. The issues pertaining to Data management issues and a longer-term vision to enhance and improve performance has been documented and presented during previous annual meetings (e.g., [FAC10-Doc06.2](#); [FAC11-Doc07.2](#); [FAC12-Doc07.2](#)).

While some progress was being made, the scale of the changes and improvements to be made were significant and the plan to advance the IT and data components would not be achievable within the regular SPRFMO budget allocation. Member support for advancing the enhancement of the overall SPRFMO Data system and processes is positive and while work has commenced there is much more to be done to address database/data collection shortcomings and the impediments to modernise the SPRFMO database and processes and build an Integrated Fisheries Information Management System.

This remains a priority for the organisation and under the guidance of the Data Working Group, the Secretariat will continue to work with the database provider, DragonFly Data Science, and liaise with the Members, to streamline, enhance, advance, and improve data/database efficiency, automation, schema control, and data management in all aspects of SPRFMO data including collection, validation, automated error feedback, storage, exchange, cross-referencing, and analysis of data.

¹ Priority is on CMMs with specific review dates. Not including Member-specific Exploratory Fisheries CMMs.

² Not applicable to CMM amendments solely for the purpose of updating the Total Allowable Catch or catch limits as per Scientific advice.



As a starting point, FAC12-Doc07.2 outlined a framework for advancing the creation of a SPRFMO Integrated Fisheries Information Management System. The Integrated Fisheries Information Management System represents a fundamental shift towards data-centric, technology-driven fisheries management. With the guidance of the Data Working Group, the priorities and actions necessary to advance the development and implementation of the Integrated Fisheries Information Management System will continue to be finetuned and further structured with progress updated at the annual meetings. This work is already underway and CTC 13 - Doc 16 “Data Working Group Strategy and Workplan” will be presented at the annual meeting seeking the endorsement of the CTC.

6. Implementing the 2nd Performance Review Panel recommendations

SPRFMO undertook its Second Performance Review in 2024, which resulted in a set of 24 recommendations aimed at enhancing the functioning of the Organisation and improving its overall effectiveness. The 13th meeting of the Commission established a Working Group with the primary objective to develop an implementation plan for the recommendations of the Second Performance Review.

Following the presentation of the implementation plan at CTC13, the CTC can engage in discussion on specific actions to be taken or developed to advance the implementation of recommendations specific to CTC. This may necessitate intersessional processes and oversight from Members and/or working groups to “champion” the work and serve as a focal point for coordination and presenting back to CTC on implementation progress. The CTC will track implementation progress of each recommendation and contribute to the annual reporting process.



Annex 1 – CMM Review Checklist

Category	New/Updated Policy/Elements? Comments	Identify CMM Section/Paragraph(s) Impacted and/or Other Comments
Relevant International Policy Considerations and Resolutions (e.g., UN, FAO, OECD, IMO, ILO)		
Updated SC Advice/ Recommendations available		
Paragraphs/References - still relevant/correct? Require updating?		
Unclear, Conflicting, or Duplicated paragraphs/ wording within CMM		
Inconsistencies in language in different paragraphs that convey similar obligations		
Requirements that can be linked by association to another CMM		
Other considerations		