

9TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Held virtually, 25 January – 2 February 2021

COMM 9 – Prop 15

European Union

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amend <input type="checkbox"/> Create	CMM 18-2020 on the Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery
Submitted by: European Union (EU)	
Summary and objective of the proposal: <p>The jumbo flying squid (JFS) fishery is the largest fishery by volume in the SPRFMO Convention Area. Presently, there are no directed management measures to ensure sustainable exploitation in place. Spatially resolved catch statistics, scientific observer information and biological understanding of resource behaviour are required for the Scientific Committee to develop advice to the Commission on sustainable management measures. The necessary data are currently unavailable and the Scientific Committee is currently working to be able provide advice to enable the Commission to manage this fishery sustainably.</p> <p>However, the information available in document SC08 (SC8-SQ01_rev1) demonstrates that over the past six years, the size of the fleet has increased in number of active vessels as well as in total gross tonnage of active vessels without a corresponding increase in catch.</p> <p>The SPRFMO Convention states that the contracting parties are committed to ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the South Pacific Ocean. Effective conservation and management measures must be based on the best scientific information available and the application of the precautionary approach.</p> <p>In view of those considerations, it is appropriate to promote the sustainable exploitation of JFS by limiting to the current levels the total gross tonnage of the jumbo flying squid fleet from 2021 to 2023. This is done following the precautionary approach, and subject to a review by the Scientific Committee in 2022 pending the availability of further data on the activities of those fleets and progress on the stock assessment for JFS.</p> <p>Together with this management measure, the proposal also envisages the possibility for developing coastal States to submit a request to the Commission to increase their individual capacity limits. This option is available to countries with established jumbo flying squid fisheries in national jurisdictional waters willing to expand their jumbo flying squid fishing activities to the Convention area.</p> <p>Finally, the proposal incorporates the template developed by the Scientific Committee for the provision of catch and effort data.</p>	
Has the proposal financial impacts or influence on the Secretariat work? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 	
Ref: COMM9-PROP15	Received on: 05 December 2020

CMM 18-2021

Conservation and Management Measure on the Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery

(Supersedes CMM18-2020)

The Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation;

NOTING that there has been a substantial increase in catches of and fishing effort for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area since 1990;

CONCERNED that there is uncertainty concerning the stock status and exploitation rate of jumbo flying squid;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the discussions at the 2nd Squid Workshop on 5-6 October 2019, the 7th meeting of the Scientific Committee from 7 to 12 October 2019 and the 8th meeting of the Scientific Committee from 3 to 8 October 2020;

BEARING IN MIND the commitment to apply the precautionary approach and take decisions based on the best scientific and technical information available as set out in Article 3 of the Convention;

RECOGNISING that a primary function of the Commission is to adopt Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) to achieve the objective of the Convention, including, as appropriate, CMMs for particular fish stocks;

AFFIRMING its commitment to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable management of jumbo flying squid stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention;

RECOGNISING the need for effective monitoring and control and surveillance of fishing for jumbo flying squid in the implementation of this measure pending the establishment of monitoring, control and surveillance measures pursuant to Article 27 of the Convention;

RECALLING Articles 20(3) and 20(4) of the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING the need set out in Article 4 of the Convention to ensure compatibility of CMMs established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction, and the duty of Contracting Parties to cooperate to this end;

RECALLING also Article 21(1) of the Convention;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 8 and 21 of the Convention:

General Provisions

1. This CMM applies to all vessels flagged to Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) engaged in or intending to engage in fishing for jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) in the Convention Area.
2. Only fishing vessels duly authorised pursuant to Article 25 of the Convention and in accordance with CMM 05-2019 (Record of Vessels) that are flagged to Members and CNCs shall participate in the fishery for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area.



Effort Management

2.bis The total gross tonnage (GT) of the active fleet that fishes for jumbo flying squid in the SPRFMO Convention Area in 2021 to 2023 shall be limited to the current levels¹. Members and CNCPs shall ensure that the gross tonnage of active vessels participating in the fishery for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area does not exceed the current levels. This is without prejudice to any future decisions by the Commission to consider requests by developing coastal States with established jumbo flying squid fisheries in national jurisdictional waters to expand their jumbo flying squid fishing activities to the Convention area. The Scientific Committee shall review the total gross tonnage, at the latest at its 2022 meeting and provide advice to the Commission.

Data Collection and Reporting

3. Each Member and CNCP participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall collect, verify, and provide all required data to the Executive Secretary, in accordance with CMM 02-2020 (Data Standards) and using the templates prepared by the Secretariat² and available on the SPRFMO website, including an annual catch report detailing catches on a monthly basis.

4. The Executive Secretary shall verify the annual catch reports submitted by Members and CNCPs against the submitted data. The Executive Secretary shall inform Members and CNCPs of the outcome of the verification exercise and any possible discrepancies encountered.

Monitoring and Control

5. Members and CNCPs participating in the jumbo flying squid fisheries shall implement a vessel monitoring system (VMS) in accordance with CMM 06-2020 (VMS) and other relevant CMMs adopted by the Commission.

6. Each Member and CNCP participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall provide the Executive Secretary a list of vessels³ they have authorised to fish in the fishery in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention and CMM 05-2019 (Record of Vessels) and other relevant CMMs adopted by the Commission. They shall also notify the Executive Secretary of the vessels that have actively fished or engaged in transshipment in the Convention Area within 30 days of the end of each year. The Executive Secretary shall maintain lists of the vessels so notified and will make them available on the SPRFMO website.

7. The Executive Secretary shall report annually to the Commission on the list of vessels having actively fished or been engaged in transshipment in the Convention Area during the previous year using data provided under CMM 02-2020 (Data Standards).

Scientific Committee Reports

8. Members and CNCPs shall provide their annual reports, in accordance with the existing guidelines for such reports, in advance of the 2021 Scientific Committee meeting. Members and CNCPs shall also provide observer data for the 2021 fishing season to the Scientific Committee to the maximum extent possible. The

¹ Current levels shall be set at the average of the three most recent years of available data for each Member or CNCP.

² For the submission of Monthly Catch and Effort data, the template set out in document 'SC8-SQ01_rev1' shall be used.

³Fishing vessels as defined in Article 1 (1)(h) of the Convention.



reports shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary at least one month before the 2021 Scientific Committee meeting in order to ensure that the Scientific Committee has an adequate opportunity to consider the reports in its deliberations. Members and CNCPs should notify the Executive Secretary in the event they will not be submitting an annual report together with the reasons for not doing so.

9. The information collected under paragraphs 3 and 8, and any stock assessments and research in respect of the jumbo flying squid fishery shall be submitted for review to the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will conduct the necessary analysis and assessment, in accordance with its SC Multi-annual workplan agreed by the Commission, in order to provide advice on stock status.

Observer Coverage

10. Members and CNCPs participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall ensure a minimum observer coverage of 5 full time at sea observers or 5% of fishing days for vessels flying their flag, and ensure that such observers collect and report data as described in CMM 02-2020 (Data Standards). The Scientific Committee shall review the minimum observer coverage, at the latest at its 2023 meeting and provide advice to the Commission, including in relation to the specificities of different fleet segments, including those up to 15 metres in length.

Special Requirements of Developing States

11. In recognition of the special requirements of developing States, in particular small island developing States and territories and possessions in the region, Members and CNCPs are urged to provide financial, scientific and technical assistance, where available, to enhance the ability of those developing States and territories and possessions to implement this CMM.

Review

12. This CMM shall enter into force on 1 January 2021.

13. This CMM shall be reviewed by the Commission in 2024. The review shall take into account the latest advice of the Scientific Committee and the Compliance and Technical Committee.