

FAC 4 – INF 01
Database Development: Explanatory Note
Secretariat

In FAC4-Doc05 on “Draft budgets and allocations for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19” the Secretariat “strongly recommends to add \$50 000 for database development also into the upcoming 2017-2018 budget if the Commission decides to develop a SPRFMO VMS”.

The reason behind this request for an additional 50k is as follows:

The SPRFMO database is a web-based system (using Microsoft SQL Server) which enables Members to enter their data directly (although currently this feature is not being used). The data load process has an extensive in-built validation procedure which detects any data quality issues (for instance identifying duplicate vessels, inconsistent vessel features, impossible times etc) and was recently upgraded to enable the Secretariat to query across the various modules contained within the database (including vessel, fishing activity, catch, VMS, observer and landings).

However, all of the modules were built during the period 2010-12 and were necessarily based upon the Interim measures that were in-force at that time. Since the organization’s 1st meeting in 2013 the main CMMs that have an influence upon what data is to be stored have undergone various amendments annually (eg. data standards and the record of vessels). While most of those changes have been able to be reflected in the database there are still some outstanding changes that have not been able to be fully implemented into the SPRFMO database and are currently being stored in individual datasheets outside the database environment. The most important of those include:

- a) The observed mitigation descriptions approved in 2015 and details in CMM 4.02 (data standards)
- b) Transshipment notifications and Transshipment details associated with CMM 3.05 and entering into force last year.
- c) Port inspection register associated with CMM 2.07 (port inspections)

The 50k would be used to incorporate the observed mitigation into the current observer tables as well as develop new web-based modules for input and storage of transshipment and port inspection data. In addition, the Secretariat anticipates that there will be some minor developmental work required for a data feed consisting of Vessel and historic VMS data from the SPRFMO database into any new VMS.