

International Consultations on the Establishment of the  
**South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

**ANNOTATED AGENDA – SCIENCE WORKING GROUP**

**Noumea, New Caledonia  
4 - 7 September 2007**

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**3. Administrative Arrangements**

- 3.1. Meeting documents
- 3.2. Meeting arrangements

**4. Nomination of Rapporteurs**

**5. Inter-Sessional Work Programme**

- 5.1. Progress against inter-sessional scientific work programme

*The SWG will briefly overview the inter-sessional work plan since SPRFMO3, and note progress made on various items, as background to discussions under the ensuing agenda items.*

**6. Consideration of the Draft VMS Standard**

(This item will be discussed in the Joint D&IWG and SWG meeting)

*A draft standard for an interim SPRFMO VMS system has been developed as part of the D&IWG inter-sessional work plan. This will be discussed, and revised if necessary, with a view to proposing the standard for adoption by the SPRFMO Plenary.*

**7. Consideration of the Draft Observer Standard**

(This item will be discussed in the Joint D&IWG and SWG meeting)

*A draft standard for the scientific component of an interim SPRFMO Observer Programme has been developed as part of the D&IWG and SWG inter-sessional work plans. This will be discussed, and revised if necessary, with a view to proposing the standard for adoption by the SPRFMO Plenary.*

**8. Consideration of the Draft Benthic Assessment Framework**

- 8.1. Discussion of key issues relevant to the benthic assessment standard

*The SPRFMO interim measures require the SWG to develop a draft benthic assessment standard and process for use in evaluating benthic assessments submitted by participants who wish to continue bottom fishing in the SPRFMO area after 30 September 2007. There are a number of key uncertainties and issues relevant to*

*developing such a draft standard that need to be discussed, and scientific proposals developed to address these.*

8.2. Consideration of the draft benthic assessment framework

*The initial draft framework for a SPRFMO benthic assessment standard has been developed as part of the SWG inter-sessional work plan. This will be discussed, and revised if necessary with a view to proposing the framework for adoption by the SPRFMO Plenary as an initial guide for preparing and evaluating assessments, and to serve as the basis for further development of the detailed benthic assessment guideline during the first half of 2008.*

8.3. Consideration of the proposed assessment process

*The SWG needs to agree on a process for actually reviewing and commenting on benthic assessments submitted for comment after 30 September 2007. A draft proposal for this process has been developed, and will be discussed, with a view to proposing a process to the SPRFMO Plenary.*

**9. Jack Mackerel Research**

9.1. Election of convenor of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group

*Dr S. Morison of Australia has been nominated, and has served as, interim Convenor of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group. This nomination and appointment needs to be ratified by the SWG.*

9.2. Report back on progress with development of the *Jack Mackerel Stock Structure Research Programme*

*The Convenor of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group, or the Co-Convenors of the Jack Mackerel Task Team, have been requested to provide brief feedback on progress made to date with development of the research proposal for a multidisciplinary Jack Mackerel Stock Structure research programme.*

9.3. Report back on progress with arrangements for the *Jack Mackerel Stock Structure and Assessment Workshop*

*The Convenor of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group, or the Chilean workshop hosts, have been requested to provide brief feedback on progress made to date with arrangements for the Jack Mackerel Stock Structure and Assessment Workshop, to be held in Chile in early 2008.*

**10. SPRFMO / WCPFC Science Interests**

10.1. Presentation on relationships between pelagic species covered by SPRFMO (mackerels and squids) and the WCPFC

*Participants in the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the West & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) have noted potential common scientific interests between SPRFMO and the WCPFC related to trophic relationships between tuna species managed by the WCPFC, and potential pelagic prey species likely to fall under the jurisdiction of SPRFMO. A representative from the SPC will give a presentation on current knowledge in this regard.*

- 10.2. Discussion of options for future cooperation on matters of common scientific interest between SPRFMO and WCPFC

*Requirements and opportunities for scientific collaboration between SPRFMO and the WCPFC will be identified, briefly discussed and summarized for future reference.*

## **11. Deepwater Species Assessment Approaches**

- 11.1. Options for assessment of deepwater stocks

*The SPRFMO interim measures require participants to “establish conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on ... the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks”. The SWG needs to initiate discussions and inter-sessional work on determining what assessment approaches may be feasible for evaluating sustainable levels of fisheries for low-productivity, deep-sea stocks.*

- 11.2. Management options for low-productivity deepwater species

*Low productivity, deep-sea fish stocks present particular challenges for sustainable management, and traditional approaches have not been particularly successful. The SWG needs to initiate discussions and inter-sessional work to evaluate what management approaches might be effective for such stocks.*

## **12. Species and Habitat Profiles**

- 12.1. Review of new profiles

*Additional species profiles have been developed for cardinal fish, alphonsino, bluenose and oreos. These need to be reviewed, and agreement reached on the summaries for these species.*

- 12.2. Revisions to existing profiles

*There have been some slight revisions to the species profiles for jack mackerel and blue mackerel which will be brought to participant’s attention. It is not intended to review these profiles again.*

- 12.3. Prioritisation of further species profile development

*Inter-sessional work requirements on additional species or habitat profiles will be identified and prioritized.*

## **13. National Reports**

- 13.1. Development of proposed framework for National Reports

*Annual National Reports form an important component of the annual reporting by members to many other RFMOs, providing high level overviews of key developments in their fisheries in the preceding year. The draft Observer Programme standard already calls for SPRFMO National Reports to report on implementation of observer programmes. The SWG will discuss the possible requirement for such reports, and initiate work on guidelines for report sections and content.*

## **14. Future Scientific Work Programme**

- 14.1. Identification of short & medium term science requirements

*The SWG needs to identify and prioritize inter-sessional scientific work to be conducted after SPRFMO4, and to develop a scientific work plan for proposal to the SPRFMO Plenary.*

**15. Other Matters**

**16. Adoption of Report**

**17. Meeting Closure**

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