

## Scientific Committee Workplan for 2016

Article 10 of the SPRFMO Convention establishes the Scientific Committee (SC) whose functions are, in summary, to:

- (a) plan, conduct and review scientific assessments of the status of fishery resources;
- (b) provide advice and recommendations to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies based on such assessments;
- (c) provide advice and recommendations to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies on the impact of fishing on the marine ecosystems in the Convention Area;
- (d) encourage and promote cooperation in scientific research; and
- (e) provide such other scientific advice to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies as it considers appropriate.

Specific tasks outlined for 2016 relative to these elements are provided in the sections below.

### Jack mackerel

Regarding the scientific advice for 2017 on Jack mackerel stock status, the Commission endorses the research priorities outlined in SC-03 and specifically requests the Scientific Committee undertake the following tasks.

Task	Objectives
<p><b>Jack mackerel assessment</b>                      Intersessional work including data call in May with follow-up in July plus 2-day workshop prior to SC and finalized at the SC</p>	<p>Conduct the stock assessment of Jack mackerel. Advice from these results should be based on application of the adjusted rebuilding plan adopted by the 2nd Meeting of the Commission as proposed from SC02.</p> <p>Details include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An evaluation of alternatives including hypotheses on stock structure</li> <li>Updating all input data and considering results from the 2015 data workshop (e.g., qualitative scoring)</li> <li>Ensuring that age and growth protocols are applied appropriately</li> <li>Considering options for frequency of assessment and TAC advice (e.g., planning full assessments in 2 or 3 year timeframes)</li> <li>Evaluating new information relative to the current interim reference points</li> <li>Evaluating the applicability of acoustics data collected from fishing vessels</li> </ul>

## General Issues / reporting

Task	Objectives
<b>Assessment requirements</b> To be done at SC04 based on submitted papers. China, Peru, NZ, Chinese Taipei	In relation to CMM 3.02 paragraph 1(e), consider and advise on the level of detail required for the data on fishing activities and the impacts of fishing to be provided to the Secretariat in order to facilitate effective stock assessment. This should include consideration of, at a minimum, the level of detailed data required for the stock assessment of jack mackerel, orange roughy and squid.
Australia	Review electronic at-sea monitoring and consider how it may meet SPRFMO's data standard

## Deepwater stocks

Develop a scientifically robust spatial management approach for bottom fisheries in order to appropriately protect VMEs while enabling viable fisheries to operate. To the extent possible, the spatial management approach should seek to define open and closed areas and minimise the need for move-on rules that are impractical to administer. Update the spatial decision support analysis to generate putative spatial management measures as a focus for discussion with bottom fishing Members and CNCPs and their stakeholders.

Task	Objectives
<b>Orange roughy assessment</b> Intersessional NZ	Build on previous progress made by New Zealand on the development of stock assessment methods for demersal species in the SPRFMO Area, particularly for orange roughy, to develop estimates of initial biomass, productivity, and stock status for relevant orange roughy sub-stocks. This work should include simulation testing and subsequent review of the spatially disaggregated CPUE models
<b>CMM 2.03</b> Intersessional, NZ, Chile and Australia	Review and recommend modifications, if necessary, to CMM 2.03 including minimum data reporting guidelines for stock assessment purposes for the CMM on bottom fisheries.
<b>Fishing impact on VME</b> Intersessional, NZ, Chile and Australia	Update data available and evaluate the impact of fishing activities on VMEs and EBSAs in the convention area and evaluate appropriate spatial management options.
<b>Modeling VME taxa</b> Intersessional, NZ	Continue the collection of relevant data and development of models to predict VME indicator taxa

## Longer term considerations

Investigate the possibility for SPRFMO funded research projects, their costs and where funds may be best allocated.

Convene discussions or workshops for stakeholders to view and understand options and to develop and test the likely performance of any other proposed possible spatial management measures for deepwater stocks.