

4th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands
10 - 15 October 2016

SC-04-DW-01

Collaboration between CCAMLR and SPRFMO in respect of Toothfish

The Secretariat

The SPRFMO Secretariat has received the attached letter (Annex 1) from CCAMLR concerning collaboration between the 2 organisations in regards to toothfish assessment and, in particular, toothfish tagging.

We have also attached an MoU between the 2 organisations (Annex 2) which aims at facilitating cooperation “particularly with respect to stocks and species which are within the competence and/or mutual interest of both organisations”.

As many will be aware, there is now an exploratory fishery for toothfish in the SPRFMO Convention Area (CMM 4.14 – Exploratory Toothfish fishing; 2016). This fishery is limited to a single New Zealand vessel and among the management measures is a requirement to implement a tagging programme that follows all of the current CCAMLR requirements. Through paragraph 16b, CMM 4.14 requires that CCAMLR measure CM 41.01 (Annex C) is to be applied and this ensures that:

- Tagging is done in accordance with the programme administered by CCAMLR;
- All tags are sourced from CCAMLR;
- All relevant data relating to both tag deployment and tag recovery is to be reported electronically to CCAMLR.

Annex I of CMM 4.02 (Data Standards; 2016) only considers tag recoveries and for this describes a slightly less comprehensive set of information than the one adopted by CCAMLR. Thus far the SPRFMO Secretariat has not received any information relating to tag recoveries for any species and hence has not set-up any systems for storing such information.

The letter from CCAMLR identifies opportunities for the exchange of experts and experience as well as operational considerations that may avoid duplication of effort and enhance the outputs of toothfish tagging programmes.

- The Secretariat invites the SC to consider the CCAMLR letter as well as the MoU and provide any advice it deems relevant regarding the operation of the toothfish tagging program in particular, relating to collection and storage of information on tag deployment and recovery.
- In addition, the SC might consider tasking the secretariat with asking CCAMLR if it would consider expanding the advice it produces on toothfish stocks¹ to also include advice specifically relating to the current SPRFMO exploratory fishery.

¹ Noting that the CCAMLR WG on Fish Stock Assessment usually meets during October and this year will meet from 3 to 12 October 2016 in Hobart, Australia.



Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
Commission pour la conservation de la faune et la flore marines de l'Antarctique
Комиссия по сохранению морских живых ресурсов Антарктики
Comisión para la Conservación de los Recursos Vivos Marinos Antárticos

13 July 2016

Dr Johanne Fischer
Executive Secretary
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
PO Box 3797
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Dear Johanne,

Further to our conversations during the FAO Committee on Fisheries in Rome this week regarding collaboration and cooperation among regional fishery conservation and management bodies with interests in the same resources, there may be significant potential to generate mutual benefits between CCAMLR and SPRFMO through collaboration on toothfish tagging. CCAMLR has implemented a tagging programme for *Dissostichus eleginoides* and *D. mawsoni* in fisheries throughout the CCAMLR Convention Area. Data from the programme has indicated that some toothfish undertake large-scale movements including movements between different ocean basins and across the boundaries of the Convention Area.

The development of toothfish tagging programs in areas adjacent to the CCAMLR Convention Area provides an opportunity, and possibly a need, for collaboration between the bodies that manage the respective programs. Such collaboration would naturally include the exchange of experience and expertise in order to ensure best practice implementation of the tagging activities.

At an operational level the collaboration could also provide coordination on the tags used so as to avoid duplicate tags being used in neighbouring areas. CCAMLR tags (i.e. tags provided by the CCAMLR Secretariat) have historically been used to tag fish outside the CCAMLR Area (in the SPRFMO, SEAFO and SIOFA regions) and details for these are in the CCAMLR tagging database. The CCAMLR Secretariat has a tag ordering inventory and tracks tags through purchase, delivery to Members, deployment on vessels and subsequent recaptures. It may be useful to explore whether this process and the associated database architecture could provide a synergistic environment to manage a suite of toothfish tagging programmes and avoid duplication of resources within regional body Secretariats.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this possibility.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wright
Executive Secretary

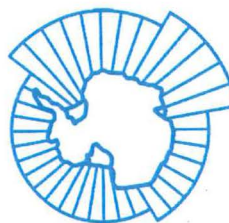


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Arrangement between the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (hereafter SPRFMO) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (hereafter CCAMLR):

Note that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (hereafter SPRFMO Convention) is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur;

Note further that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (hereafter CAMLR Convention) is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources;

Recognise that Article 31 of the SPRFMO Convention requires SPRFMO, *inter alia*, to cooperate, as appropriate, with other relevant organisations on matters of mutual interest and to seek to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with such other organisations;

Acknowledge that the Preamble to the CAMLR Convention recognises the desirability of establishing suitable machinery for recommending, promoting, deciding upon and coordinating the measures and scientific studies needed to ensure the conservation of Antarctic marine living organisms;

Note that Article II of the CAMLR Convention requires, *inter alia*, that any harvesting and associated activities in the area to which the Convention applies be conducted in accordance with principles of conservation which include preventing decrease in the size of any harvested population to levels below those which ensure its stable recruitment; the maintenance of the ecological relationships between harvested, dependent and related populations of Antarctic marine living resources and the restoration of depleted populations; and the prevention of changes or minimisation of the risk of changes in the marine ecosystem which are not potentially reversible over two or three decades;

Desire to put in place arrangements to promote and facilitate cooperation between SPRFMO and CCAMLR;

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Therefore SPRFMO and CCAMLR record the following arrangements:

1. Objective of this Arrangement

The objective of this Arrangement is to facilitate, where appropriate, cooperation between SPRFMO and CCAMLR ('the Organisations') in order to advance their respective objectives, particularly with respect to stocks and species to which are within the competence and/or mutual interest of both organisations.

2. Areas of cooperation

The Organisations will establish and maintain consultation and cooperation in respect of matters of common interest to both organisations. In particular the Organisations will:

- i. exchange meeting reports, information, documents and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, consistent with the information sharing policies of each Organisation;
- ii. exchange data and scientific information in support of the work and objectives of both Organisations, consistent with the information sharing policies of each Organisation including, but not limited to, information on:
 - a) vessels authorised to fish in accordance with conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO Convention and conservation measures adopted under the CAMLR Convention;
 - b) vessels suspected of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity and the IUU Vessel Lists established by each Organisation;
 - c) catch, bycatch and vessel information and/or data consistent with data use, access and confidentiality rules of each Organisation;
- iii. cooperate to harmonise approaches in areas of mutual interest and concern, including, but not limited to:
- iv. target species and bycatch of non-target, associated and dependent species (ecologically related species),
- v. monitoring, control and surveillance policies and systems, including with respect to Vessel Monitoring Systems;
- vi. where appropriate, collaborate on analyses and research efforts relating to species of mutual interest;
- vii. consider methods of recognising and supporting conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO Convention and conservation measures adopted under the CAMLR Convention; and
- viii. consistent with each Organisation's rules of procedure, grant permanent reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Organisations in relevant meetings of each Organisation.

3. Consultative process

To facilitate effective development, implementation and enhancement of cooperation, the Organisations may establish a consultative process between the two respective Secretariats that includes, telephone, email and similar means of communications. The consultative process may also proceed in the margins of meetings at which both Organisations' Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff.

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4. Modification

This Arrangement may be modified at any time by the mutual written consent of both Organisations.

5. Legal status

This Arrangement does not create legally binding rights or obligations.

This Arrangement does not alter the obligations of members of either Organisation to comply with conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO Convention and conservation measures adopted under the CAMLR Convention.

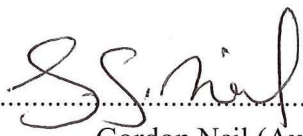
6. Others

This Arrangement will commence on the date of the second signature.

Either Organisation may terminate this Arrangement by giving six months' prior written notice to the other Organisation.

This Arrangement will operate for three (3) years. Before the end of the three year period, the Organisations will separately review the operation of this Arrangement to decide whether it should be renewed.

7. Signatures


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Gordon Neil (Australia)
Chairperson SPRFMO

Signed at CANBERRA

this 17th day

of February 2016


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Dmitry Gonchar (Russian Federation)
Chairperson CCAMLR

Signed at Moscow

this 15th day

of April 2016