

4th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

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

SC-04-25 (Draft)

Secretariat Scientific Committee related activities

Secretariat

This paper informs the SC about relevant meetings that the Secretariat had attended over the past year, in particular: The Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organisations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on “Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”, the UN Bottom Fishing Workshop, the FAO COFI and associated meetings (RSN-6, ABNJ-Deep Sea and MCS Network), MCS Training Workshop, Regional Data Workshop, 34th meeting of CCAMLR and Our Oceans 2015 Conference.

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organisations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on “Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”, 26-29 September 2016, Seoul, Korea. The Executive Secretary will attend this meeting, sponsored by the government of Korea and provide an oral report to the SC.

United Nations Workshop to discuss implementation of paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 on Sustainable Fisheries, addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks. 1-2 August 2016, New York, USA.

The workshop was moderated by Mr. Osvaldo Urrutia (Chile), Vice-Chair of the Commission and Chair of the CTC. Several SPRFMO Members attended the workshop and some also engaged as panellists, in particular Australia, Chile, European Union, and Korea. The Executive Secretary attended as a panellist of Segment 4 on "Progress made by regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements in addressing the impacts of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, in particular through the implementation of relevant paragraphs of resolutions 64/72 and 66/68". She reported on "[Bottom Fishing Measures of the SPRFMO](#)".

The Secretariat would like to highlight two segments that might be of particular interest to the SC (names of panellists and their presentations can be found on the website):

1. Segment 1. Impacts of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks. Panellists and participants highlighted the need for more research and data for deep-sea ecosystems but also noted that the scale of bottom fishing was declining and remained small in comparison with other fisheries. They also acknowledged good overall progress in the implementation of the International Guidelines for Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas but noted that some areas where progress was still needed, including in regards to assessments of cumulative impacts, seabed mapping, threshold-level determination, encounter protocols, footprint determination, and understanding of the nature of VMEs.
2. Segment 4. Progress made by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in addressing the impacts of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, in particular through the implementation of relevant paragraphs of resolutions 64/72 and 66/68. Panellists described the measures taken by RFMOs, including: the establishment of fishing footprints; exploratory fisheries protocols and impact assessments; VME identification and closures; development of encounter protocols; fish stock assessments; compulsory observer coverage; and the periodic review of

adopted measures. *Commonalities amongst the issues faced by RFMO/As in implementing the resolutions identified by participants included the paucity of scientific information, difficulties in the collection and sharing of data, and the challenges of ensuring an effective science-policy interface. Some participants underlined the need for collaboration among RFMO/As and between scientists across regions.* The ongoing dialogue between scientists and managers, as well as the need to enhance such dialogue, was emphasized. It was noted that more research was needed with regard to the effectiveness of fisheries closures for the improvement of ecosystem resilience. The development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ, General Assembly resolution 69/292) was noted. Also, the importance of sharing information and experiences amongst different RFMO/As was underlined, including through: informal cooperation at the secretariat level (e.g. Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network, RSN); participation in the ABNJ Deep-sea Project; formal bilateral cooperation amongst RFMO/As or related bodies through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs); cooperation in stock assessment and capacity-building; and sharing of information via the FAO VME database. In addition, the importance of cooperation between RFMO/As and regional seas programmes and action plans was underlined and, in this regard, activities similar to the ongoing cooperation between NEAFC and OSPAR were suggested for other regions.

In July 2016, the Executive Secretary attended the 2016 meeting of the [FAO Committee on Fisheries \(COFI\)](#), at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, and a number of meetings just before and during COFI, including:

- [Sixth Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network \(RSN-6\)](#), 9 and 15 July 2016. July: ABNJ Deep Seas Project meeting.
- 14 July: Meeting of the International MCS Network.

[5th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop](#), 7-11 March 2016, Auckland, New Zealand: The Data Manager participated in this biennial conference intended to improve and enhance capacity and communications between MCS professionals from around the world. The programme included International and Regional Cooperation case studies, application of the port State measures agreement, development of an MCS IUU Risk Framework and the FAO Global record of fishing vessels.

[Regional Data Workshop](#), 22 March 2016, Auckland, New Zealand: The Data Manager participated in this follow-up to the 2nd Regional Information Management workshop. The follow-up workshop concentrated on current data management practices for the Pacific's tuna fisheries (both State side and RFBs like FFA/SPC/CCSBT/WCPFC) as well as the general RFBs (CCAMLR/SPRFMO).

[Thirty-four Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources \(CCAMLR\)](#), 19 - 30 October 2016, Hobart, Australia: The Executive Secretary attended from 26-29 October as an observer. During these days some representatives of the VMS-WG met with CCAMLR staff members to discuss the CCAMLR VMS setup, costs and possible opportunity of sharing with SPRMO.

[Our Ocean 2015 Conference](#), 5-6 October 2015, Viña del Mar, Chile: The Executive Secretary attended the conference and participated in the Panel on IUU Fishing on the High Seas, a side event of the conference at the Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María in Valparaíso.