

**Third International Meeting on the Establishment of the Proposed South Pacific  
Regional Fisheries Management Organization**

**Report of the Data and Information Working Group  
Reñaca, Chile  
April 23-25, 2007**

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Dr. Dean Swanson (United States).

**2. Administrative matters**

The Chair and a member of the meeting Secretariat provided logistic and administrative information to the participants. The Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as Annex 1. A list of participants is attached as Annex 2.

**3. Election of Rapporteur**

Ms. Kelly Denit (United States) was elected rapporteur for the meeting.

**4. Intersessional Work Items**

The Chair began by thanking the participants for their efforts during the intersessional period with regards to the tasks of the Data & Information Working Group (DIWG).

The DIWG used the text that was developed intersessionally, “Draft SPRFMO standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data” as a basis for discussion. The entire document was reviewed on a section by section basis. There was extensive discussion by the participants on the issue of data confidentiality, particularly at what level of aggregation data could be made public and the process for providing non-public data to participants. A small drafting group was convened to develop text related to data confidentiality.

There were also requests for further clarification on some of the items referenced in the document (e.g., ISO17799), which were addressed by providing the websites where those items could be located.

The DIWG had detailed discussions regarding the standards for data collection for trawling, purse seining and bottom longlining and the standards for vessel authorization. Modifications were made to the document based on the discussion and input from the

participants. The DIWG acknowledged that additional data fields may be required in the future (e.g., mitigation measures in place, mesh size, bait type, hook size & type, etc.) for the different fisheries, but stressed that for interim purposes, the data fields presented in the Annexes are the most important. It was also noted that time for developing mechanisms to collect some of the data fields may be necessary, but all the participants agreed that the objective was to be collecting all the data fields in the future.

Regarding historical catch, the DIWG noted the benefits to future stock assessments of having catch information differentiated between areas of national jurisdiction and on the high seas. It was noted that the data related to catch within areas of national jurisdiction could be provided on a voluntary basis.

Participants also discussed data verification, specifically the importance of scientific observer programs and data exchange aspects of the draft document and were able to reach consensus on these items.

Overall, the DIWG reached consensus on draft text to be submitted to the Plenary session for its consideration and adoption. The final text is provided under separate cover, titled “SPRFMO standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data, [April 25, 2007]”.

## **5. Other work items and development of a new work plan**

There was concern expressed regarding discussions of other work items because those items had not been specified in advance of this meeting and therefore delegations were not prepared to discuss them.

The DIWG did agree on a work plan in order to continue to make progress on various topics prior to the next meeting of the Plenary session. The areas of priority identified for the upcoming intersessional period include:

- a) Develop draft standards for operational-level catch and effort data for traps and squid jigging
- b) Develop draft data standards for a vessel monitoring system (VMS) and scientific observer programs

Other issues that need to be addressed in the long-term include data standards for other fishing methods, standards for landing and transshipment data, and market-related data and other items as needed.

The participants agreed to continue to work via email intersessionally on the above issues and noted that another meeting of the DIWG in advance of the next Plenary session would be beneficial.

## **6. Other Business**

The DIWG recognized the need to collaborate with the Science Working Group and therefore agreed to hold a joint session with that Group to discuss certain issues further.

The Chair of the DIWG noted his intention to step down from his position following this meeting. There was agreement that the United States continue in the Chair position, and Ms. Kelly Denit was recommended to serve as the Chair of the next meeting of the DIWG.

The participants thanked Dr. Swanson for his efforts during the current meeting in addition to the work done intersessionally in preparation for this meeting. New Zealand's contributions to the drafting of the proposed text were also acknowledged.

## **7. Adoption of Report**

The report was adopted by consensus.

Data and Information Working Group  
April 23-25, 2007  
Renaca, Chile

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Administrative matters
3. Election of rapporteur
4. Intersessional work items
  - A. Agree on standards for data security and terms and conditions for access to data
  - B. Agree on an [interim] list of data types that will be collected by the SPRFMO
  - C. Agree on standards for compiling and managing catch history and effort history data
  - D. Agree on standards for operational-level catch and effort data for trawling, purse-seining, and bottom longlining
  - E. Agree on standards for vessel authorization
5. Other work items (as time permits) and development of a new work plan
  - A. Agree on standards for operational-level catch and effort data for other fishing methods
  - B. Agree on standards for trip report data
  - C. Agree on standards for landing and transshipment data
  - D. Agree on a work program for subsequent years, which is likely to include the development of standards for:
    - Market (catch documentation) data
    - VMS data
    - Observer data, etc.
6. Any other business
7. Adoption of the report

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**DATA AND INFORMATION WORKING GROUP  
23- 25 APRIL 2007**

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