

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Data and Information Working Group

Chile, 27-29 October 2010

DIWG-08-INF-02

Progress Update on SPRFMO Database

Interim Secretariat

1. Introduction

The Interim Secretariat of SPRFMO has been working with an external contractor to develop and implement a database application capable of:

- i) storing all participants' standard data submissions,
- ii) carrying out automated data checking of standard submissions, *i.e.* data validation,
- iii) providing participants with on-line access to public domain data,
- iv) providing participants with data summary reports of public domain data, and
- v) providing administrative functions to Interim Secretariat personnel.

The most recent update on progress and demonstration of the SPRFMO database was presented at the 7th Data and Information Working Group held in Lima, Peru between 11 – 12 May 2009. An initial brief report on the work planned was presented at the 6th Data and Information Group in Canberra, Australia between 29 September – 3 October 2008.

2. Project Progress: Summary

This paper provides a further update on the progress of the SPRFMO database application.

The main points to note are:

- Development work on the database application by the external contractor continues
- Development has taken longer than planned due to additional work which was required in three key areas (additional details are provided in Section 3 below)
- The first phase of the database has been completed and released internally to SPRFMO personnel
- SPRFMO personnel have successfully submitted some vessel and fishing activity data to the application; these data have been validated and stored on the database
- User acceptance testing by SPRFMO personnel continues on a weekly basis
- Weekly project meetings and updates are held with the contractor.

3. Project Progress: Additional Details

Database development has continued during 2009 and 2010. The development has taken longer than envisaged due to three key issues:

- 1) There were problems with the initial set-up of vessel and vessel authorisation data, in particular with the ability to be able to store and display historical changes made to key vessel parameters, e.g. name, registration and/or flag changes,
- 2) Detailed initial security audit testing was completed by the contractor and took longer than anticipated,
- 3) There are a very large number (approximately 1,120) of automated data-checking (validation) rules which take significant time to both implement and test.

The project has now been split into four main Stages (1A, 1B, 2, and 3) to facilitate a phased testing and release of these Stages as they are completed. The four main Stages are described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: SPRFMO Database Project Stages and Modules

Stage	Functions	Modules	Completion Date
1A	Submit, validate, edit, search	Vessel, Annual catch (including 5x5) data; diary/admin notation	16 Sept 2010
	Submit, validate	Tow by tow trawl data	
1B	Submit, validate, edit, search	Observer (3 methods), landings, bottom fishing footprint, VMS and seamount data	In progress
	Submit, validate	Fishing activity set by set data for purse seine, bottom longlining, squid jigging, potting and drop/dahn lining	
2	Validate	Cross-checking of vessel authorisations/ vessel parameter values (at activity date) submitted on observer, landings and VMS submission templates against vessel master details for the corresponding dates	In progress
	Maintain/update	Security - user access permissions based on user type	
3	Select and run	Standard Reports	Not commenced

Stage 1A

The first completed Stage (1A) of the database application was released to a 'live' environment on 22 July 2010. The 'live' application is currently only accessible to SPRFMO personnel and the contractor. Following this initial release, a series of issues were discovered and this stage needed to be re-released twice: on 16 August 2010 and on 16 September 2010. The issues have now been resolved.

Stages 1B - 3

The final phases of development are continuing simultaneously on Stages 1B and 2. This work continues in parallel with continued testing by SPRFMO personnel of Stage 1B. Development work on Stage 3 (standard reports) has not yet commenced.

4. Population of Data onto the Database Application

Once each stage of the database application has been completed, data held by the Interim Secretariat will need to be validated and accepted onto the database. This will take some time to complete as it will involve liaising with participants in cases where data corrections or clarifications are required.

This process has commenced and some vessel data, and tow by tow data for the jack mackerel fishery have already been accepted onto the database.