

International Consultations on the Establishment of the
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

**Fifth International Meeting on the Establishment of the proposed South
Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

**Guayaquil, Ecuador
10 – 14 March 2008**

REPORT

1. The Fifth International Meeting to discuss the establishment of a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, 10 – 14 March 2008. The meeting was chaired by the independent Chair, elected at the first International Meeting, Bill Mansfield.
2. The Meeting adopted Annex A as its agenda.
3. The Chair reported that, as requested by the Fourth International Meeting, he had revised the draft Convention (SP/04/WP1) discussed at that Meeting, and taking into account the comments participants had made both in Noumea and following, had circulated a third revision of the draft text to participants (SP/05/WP1).
4. Dr Robin Allen, the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat, presented the Report of the Interim Secretariat (SP/05/WP2) to the Meeting (Annex B).
5. Kelly Denit, Chair of the Data and Information Working Group (DIWG) presented the report of the DIWG (Annex C), which had met in Guayaquil from 5 - 7 March 2008. The report noted the work done by the DIWG on data standards during the intersessional period, proposed a future work plan for the DIWG, and also noted with concern the lack of detailed catch and effort data that has been submitted to the Interim Secretariat to date. The Meeting adopted the DIWG report and the Standards for the collection, reporting and exchange of observer data (Annex 3 to the DIWG report); and the Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data for drop line and dahn line fishing (Annex 4 to the DIWG report).

6. Dr Andrew Penney, Chair of the Science Working Group (SWG) presented the report of the SWG (Annex D), which had met in Guayaquil from 3 - 5 March 2008. The report noted the progress made by the group in its intersessional work, and proposed interim Terms of Reference for the Jack Mackerel and Deepwater Sub-Groups, and an intersessional work plan for the SWG. The SWG report also noted that the Interim Secretariat had received data, in varying degrees of completeness, from some participants. The SWG stressed the critical importance for their work of all required data being submitted. The Meeting adopted the SWG report.
7. Following the reports of both the DIWG and SWG, the Meeting strongly encouraged all participants to submit data in accordance with the data standards adopted at previous meetings. The Meeting emphasised that timely submission of complete data would be particularly important in advance of the Jack Mackerel Workshop to be held in Santiago in June/July 2008. Accordingly participants were urged to make every effort to have all relevant data, including catches from 2007, submitted to the Interim Secretariat by 31 March 2008. It was noted that data submitted should include information on all fishing vessels and should distinguish support ships, carrier vessels and any other vessels directly engaged in fishing operations. The Meeting also requested that the Interim Secretariat follow up with participants whose data submissions were incomplete.
8. A small informal working group of some delegations met to discuss the issue of the northern boundary of the Convention Area and reported to the Meeting on their discussions.
9. Much of the Meeting's work was carried out in small working-group mode. This enabled a frank and constructive discussion of many of the articles of the draft Convention text and the key underlying issues, and was helpful in drawing the positions of delegations closer together. Some delegations also submitted specific textual proposals. These will be made available by the Interim Secretariat on the SPRFMO website. The Meeting requested the Chair to circulate a further revision of the draft Convention text, taking into account the comments made by delegations on the draft Convention text.
10. The Interim Secretariat presented a report on Vessel and Catch and Effort Data Received by the Interim Secretariat (SP/05/INF/13) (Annex E). This report and other issues related to the implementation of the interim measures were discussed by the Meeting. The Meeting agreed that participants whose vessels were active in the Jack Mackerel fishery in 2007 would provide their VMS data to the Interim Secretariat in respect of those vessels for that year. The Executive Secretary was asked to

prepare a report to the next Meeting on the active fishing capacity in the Area for 2007 including catches.

11. The Meeting agreed that the Sixth International Meeting to discuss the establishment of the proposed South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation would be held in Canberra, Australia, 6 – 10 October 2008, with the DIWG and SWG meeting the week prior (29 September – 3 October).
12. The Meeting thanked the Government of Ecuador for hosting the Meeting and the CPPS for its support.
13. The Meeting was closed at 1:00 pm on 14 March 2008.
14. The Meeting was attended by those representatives who appear in the List of Participants (Annex F).