

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

**AGENDA – SCIENCE WORKING GROUP**  
**Guayaquil, Ecuador**  
**3 - 5 March 2008**

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Administrative Arrangements**
  - 3.1. Meeting documents.
  - 3.2. Meeting arrangements.
- 4. Nomination of Rapporteurs**
- 5. Inter-Sessional Work**
  - 5.1. Report from the Interim Secretariat on status of catch & effort data submission.
  - 5.2. Update by the Interim Secretariat on status of the SPRFMO bottom fishing footprint maps, and the SPRFMO GIS database.
- 6. Establishment of the Deepwater Sub-Group**
  - 6.1. Terms of Reference for the Deepwater Sub-Group.
  - 6.2. Chairmanship of the Deepwater Sub-Group.  
*(If a Deepwater Group can be fully established at this meeting, then SWG agenda items 7 - 9 could be dealt with by the Deepwater Sub-Group)*
- 7. SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard**
  - 7.1. Development of the Benthic Assessment Standard.  
*(Update on progress to date with development of the detailed SPRFMO Benthic Impact Assessment standard)*
  - 7.2. Definition of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.  
*(Consideration of updated definitions of VMEs from the 2007 / 2008 FAO Expert and Technical Consultations on Management of Deepwater Fisheries)*
  - 7.3. Evidence and Existence of VMEs.  
*(Consideration of effective approaches for detecting evidence of VMEs during fishing operations, and for determining existence of VMEs)*
  - 7.4. Mapping of Seamounts.  
*(Consideration of an information paper submitted by Valerie Allain, SPC, provided an update on mapping of seamounts in the Pacific Ocean region)*

**8. Deepwater Species Assessment and Management**

*(Discussion of any papers submitted on options for reliable assessment and effective management of low-productivity deepwater species)*

**9. Benthic Assessments**

*(Discussion of process for consideration of any benthic assessments that may have been submitted for proposed fisheries in the SPRFMO area, or discussion of questions which have arisen about these assessment requirements or process since SPRFMO4 in Noumea.)*

**10. Species and Habitat Profiles**

- 10.1. Review of new species or habitat profiles.
- 10.2. Revisions to existing profiles.
- 10.3. Prioritisation and process for further species profile development.

**11. Guidelines for Annual National Reports to the SWG**

- 11.1. Consideration of overview by the SPRFMO Secretariat on National Report guidelines from other RFMOs.
- 11.2. Consideration of draft guidelines for annual National Reports to the SPRFMO SWG.

**12. Consideration of the Report of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group**

**13. Future Scientific Work Programme**

- 13.1. Identification of short & medium term science requirements.

**14. Other Matters**

**15. Adoption of SWG Report**

**16. Meeting Closure**