

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

**International Consultations on the Establishment of the South Pacific
Regional Fisheries Management Organization
Sixth International Meeting**

**DRAFT AGENDAS FOR THE SCIENCE WORKING GROUP
and SWG SUB-GROUPS
Canberra, Australia, 29 September - 3 October 2008**

**SCIENCE WORKING GROUP: PLENARY
DRAFT AGENDA**

The Plenary Meeting of the Science Working Group will review and comment on the reports of the Jack Mackerel and Deepwater Subgroups, deal with overall science issues that span across Sub-Groups, or have not been allocated to Sub-Groups, and will provide research and management advice to the Negotiations.

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. Report-Back from the Meeting of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group

(The Chair of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group will report back on the key conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group. The JMSG will provide a summary of these key results for inclusion in the SWG report under this agenda item. The SWG Plenary may add further comment from a Plenary perspective, after review of the JMSG Report. In addition, the detailed report of the JMSG meeting will be appended to the SWG report in full)

7. Report Back from the Meeting of the Deepwater Sub-Group

(The Chair of the Deepwater Sub-Group will report back on the key conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of the Deepwater Sub-Group.

The DWSG will provide a summary of these key results for inclusion in the SWG report under this agenda item. The SWG Plenary may add further comment from a Plenary perspective, after review of the JMSG Report. In addition, the detailed report of the DWSG meeting will be appended to the SWG report in full.)

8. Species and Habitat Profiles

- 8.1. Review of new species or habitat profiles.
- 8.2. Revisions to existing profiles.
- 8.3. Prioritisation and process for further species profile development.

9. Guidelines for Annual National Reports to the SWG

- 9.1. Consideration of draft guidelines for annual National Reports to the SPRFMO SWG.

(Further consideration of the draft guidelines for annual National Reports to the SWG, initially tabled and discussed at SPRFMO5 SWG meeting in Guayaquil.)

10. Future Scientific Work Programme

- 10.1. Identification of short & medium term science requirements.
- 10.2. Identification of research and assessment matters to refer back to each of the SWG Sub-Groups.

11. SWG Chairmanship

(Consideration of nominations for Chair of the SWG for the next term of office.)

12. Other Matters

13. Adoption of SWG Report

14. Meeting Closure

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**SCIENCE WORKING GROUP : JACK MACKEREL SUB-GROUP
DRAFT AGENDA**

In accordance with their interim terms of reference, the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group will deal with all matters related to research and assessment of jack mackerel, including related species caught in jack mackerel fisheries, and provide advice to the SWG Plenary on the status of the stocks, and evaluate conservation and management options, for jack mackerel in the SPRFMO area.

- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Administrative Arrangements**
 - 3.1. Meeting documents.
- 4. Nomination of Rapporteurs**
- 5. Report on the Jack Mackerel Stock Structure and Assessment Workshop**
- 6. Jack Mackerel Stock Structure Research Programme**
 - 6.1. Establishment of a Jack Mackerel Research Programme Steering Committee
 - 6.2. Identification of participants in the Research Programme
 - 6.3. Revisions of Budget
 - 6.4. Protocols and methods workshop
 - 6.5. Timetable of proposed research activities
- 7. Jack Mackerel Stock Assessment and Modelling Approaches**
 - 7.1. Data compilation, vetting and dissemination
 - 7.2. Plan for development of agreed assessment models
 - 7.3. 7.3 Management Strategy evaluation
- 8. Process for Provision of Advice to the Science Working Group on the Status of Jack Mackerel in 2009**
- 9. Revisions to the Jack Mackerel Species Profile**
- 10. Other Matters**
- 11. Adoption of Jack-Mackerel Sub-Group Report and Summary**

(In addition to preparation of a detailed JMSG Report for appending to the SWG Plenary Report, the JMSG will be required to prepare a summary of the key conclusions and recommendations of the meeting to insert into the SWG Plenary Report.)

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**SCIENCE WORKING GROUP : DEEPWATER SUB-GROUP
DRAFT AGENDA**

In accordance with their interim terms of reference, the Deepwater Sub-Group will deal with all matters related to research and assessment of deepwater species caught in bottom fisheries, including ecologically related species, and provide advice to the SWG Plenary on the status of the stocks, and evaluate conservation and management options, for deepwater species in the SPRFMO area.

1. Opening of the Meeting

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Administrative Arrangements

3.1. Meeting documents.

4. Nomination of Rapporteurs

5. Chairmanship of the Deepwater Sub-Group

(Report back on any email exchanges or proposals for nominations for this position, and nomination of a Chair for this Deepwater Sub-Group meeting.)

6. SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard

6.1. Report-Back on FAO Guidelines for Deep-Sea Fisheries on the High Seas

(Report back on the final session of the FAO Technical Consultation on Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries on the High Seas)

6.2. Progress with the SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard

(Report back on progress being made with developing a draft of the detailed SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard. Consideration of aspects of the FAO Deep-Sea Fisheries Guidelines that should be incorporated into the SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard, particularly related to definitions of VMEs, evaluation of significant adverse impacts and guidelines for content of benthic assessments)

6.3. Evidence and Existence of VMEs

(Discussion of any new papers submitted related to effective approaches for detecting evidence of VMEs during fishing operations, and for determining existence of VMEs)

7. Deepwater Species Assessment and Management

(Consideration of any aspects of the FAO Deep-Sea Fisheries Guidelines that should be incorporated into SPRFMO approaches for the effective assessment

and management of low-productivity deepwater species. Discussion of any new papers submitted on options for assessment and management of low-productivity deepwater species)

8. Benthic Assessments

(Review and comment on 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 SPRFMO5 in Guayaquil.)

9. Other Matters

10. Adoption of Deepwater Sub-Group Report and Summary

(In addition to preparation of a detailed DWSG Report for appending to the SWG Plenary Report, the DWSG will be required to prepare a summary of the key conclusions and recommendations of the meeting to insert into the SWG Plenary Report.)
