

10TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

26 to 30 September 2022, Seoul, Korea

SC10 – Doc08 Status of the SC (Scientific Support) Fund *Secretariat*

1. Background

Financial Regulation 2.4. For the budget categories “*Scientific Support (SC) and Developing States (DS)*”, *unspent appropriations may accrue between financial years, up to a limit of \$50,000 for the SC and \$30,000 for the DS. Beyond these levels such funds shall be treated as surplus and transferred to the accumulated surplus account. The Commission will review these categories once the defined level has reached or after 4 years, whichever occurs first, and at least every four years thereafter.*”

The SC is invited to:

- Note that the SC fund can cover the planned multi-annual work plan activities for 2022-23;
- Acknowledge that if additional activities are identified that will require more than NZ\$ 4,000, then funds will need to be sought either from the Commission (via item 8 in the Annual Budget) or supported by voluntary contributions;
- Identify appropriate task groups and/or coordinators to ensure that the Voluntary Contributions can be utilised.

2. Status of Scientific Support (SC) Fund

2.1 Current Status of SC Fund

Table 1 below shows the status of the Scientific Support Fund, starting from 01 July 2021 up to 30 September 2022.

2.2 Forecast Status of the SC Fund up to 30 June 2023

Table 2 shows that with an expected available balance of NZ\$78,096 (as of 30 September 2022) the SC planned as per the 2022 Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Plan can be supported through until 30 June 2023 (forecast surplus of NZ\$4,636).



Table 1: Status of the Scientific Support fund as at SC10

Opening Balance as of 01 July 2022			131 496 ¹
Expenses for the period from 01 July 2022 to 30 September 2022			
Task	Subtask	Month	Coordinator
VME Encounters and benthic bycatch	A research programme within the SPRFMO Convention Area to allow the determination of taxon-specific estimates of catchability for VME indicator taxa (expense brought forward).	July 2022	23 600 ²
Jack mackerel assessment	Jack mackerel - SC JJM model workshop June 2022	Aug 2022	8 000
Jack mackerel assessment	Jack mackerel - assessment SC and other funds to support experts (funds committed)	Sept 2022	11 800
Intersessional meetings	External support for the planning and execution of SC intersessional web meetings and workshops (funds committed)	Sept 2022	10 000
Expected Balance as of 30 September 2022			78 096

Table 2: Forecast Status of the Scientific Support fund post SC10 and to the end of Financial Year 2022-23

Balance available as of 30 September 2022				78 096
Task	Subtask	Timeline	Coordinator	Funding required
Squid workshop	Squid Workshop including potential assessment techniques and appropriate measures of fishing effort.	2022	SQWG Chair/ Secretariat	10 000
2022 Symposium	Symposium on Habitat Monitoring prior to the 2023 meeting of the Commission to review the state of the art of habitat research in order to recommend specific lines of investigation in this topic within the framework of the SPRFMO	2023	Symposium Steering Committee	63 000
	GITHUB Annual Fee	2023	Secretariat	460
Forecast Balance as of 30 June 2023				4 636

¹ This opening balance contains the accumulated unspent appropriations from previous financial years (beginning from Financial Year 2015-16); Members' voluntary contributions received for SC activities are recorded independently.

² The total cost for this programme is NZ\$81,600, funded by Australia voluntary contribution of NZ\$58K, and SC Fund of NZ\$23.6K.



3. Other contributions to SC activities

3.1. Voluntary contributions from the European Union (EU)

Ongoing: Support for science and data management in SPRFMO, € 125,000 (NZ\$ 208,750 approximately).

This grant, being coordinated by the Secretariat for the period July 2020 to June 2023 (with an extension) consists of three work packages:

Work Package 1: The first part was intended to provide support for science in terms of logistics, material, travel, hotels etc for the organisation of two workshops:

The first workshop (SCW14 Jack Mackerel Benchmark Workshop) was held in July 2022, Seattle USA, for Jack mackerel to improve the scientific advice for Jack mackerel. The outcome of this workshop is available [online](#).

The second workshop is anticipated to be used to support a MSE Workshop, to progress the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation for Jack mackerel by engaging with Members of the Commission. The timeline for this workshop is currently the second half of 2022 or 2023 (*the SC is requested to consider the projects end date in its planning*).

Work Package 2: This part involved various database developments for the SPRFMO database. Work to redevelop and maximise the core functionality of the SPRFMO database to help ensure its longevity is complete, including an updated public facing SPRFMO Record of Vessels, and is available [online](#).

Work Package 3: The third part involved developing a spatial management module to be integrated with the SPRFMO database, alignment of the SPRFMO database with the new SPRFMO website and staff training in spatial data management. Due to unavailability of development resources, this work has not yet commenced.

New Grant: Support to MSE for Jack mackerel in SPRFMO, EUR60,000 (NZ\$96,000 approximately).

This is a new grant that was signed in June 2022 and has a project duration of 18 months.

This action is to support scientific analysis and management in SPRFMO by further developing and implementing a Management Strategy Evaluation for Jack mackerel.

This project is currently awaiting a task group and/or coordinator to undertake the work described above.

- *Interested Members of the SC are invited to identify themselves so that the work can begin.*

The SC is requested to note the related MSE workshop (previous grant) and the MSE framework funds (next grant).

New Grant: Science based decision making, EUR120,000 (NZ\$191,000 approximately).

This is a new grant, that was signed in August 2022 and has a project duration of 24 months.

This grant has two objectives: The first objective will build on previous works conducted over several years to prevent the occurrence of significant adverse impacts on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs); The second objective will build on previous works to continue to develop and update SPRFMOs management of the Jack mackerel fishery.

- *The SC is requested to identify specific teams for each activity*
- *The proposal anticipate 2 activities to be supervised by the Deepwater working group and 3 supervised by the Jack mackerel working group.*



Working group	Subtask	Identified Task lead(s)	Funding NZ\$
Jack mackerel	Organise an otolith exchange leading up to an age reading workshop with experts from all relevant SPRFMO members etc.		15 000
	Continue the development of the MSE framework etc		60 000
	Use modelling and observation data to predict connectivity and seasonal to decadal variability therein making use of state-of-the-art statistical techniques.		15 000
Bottom fishing	Reviewing how to define the threshold between good state and SAI for VMEs at different spatial scales etc.		74 000
	Modelling abundance of VMEs.		15 000

3.2. Voluntary contributions from China

In addition to its earlier contributions, China made a voluntary contribution of NZ\$26,231 for SC squid related research activities during 2021-22. These new funds have been combined with the historic unused balance of NZ\$20,700. Hence approximately NZ\$47,000 funds are available for collecting and analysing genetic samplings (Convention area and adjacent National Jurisdiction Areas) as per the Squid Connectivity item in the Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Plan.

- *The Secretariat would appreciate some direction on the expected allocation of these funds.*
- *Additionally, one Member was allocated funds (NZ\$7,300) in 2019-20 and the Secretariat has been unable to pay out those funds as per the previously agreed plan.*

3.3. Completed: Voluntary contribution from Australia

In Financial Year 2020-2021, the Secretariat received a voluntary contribution from Australia in the amount of NZ\$58,034. The SC identified in its Multi-Annual Plan that this funding associating with the SC appropriations of NZ\$23,600 to be used on a research programme within the SPRFMO Convention Area to allow the determination of taxon- specific estimates of catchability for VME indicator taxa. This research is being led by New Zealand, run from 01 June 2022 to 01 Oct 2022, and the final written report will be presented and reviewed at SC10.