

8th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

New Zealand, 3 to 8 October 2020

SC8-DW18

Chile Checklist for Exploratory Fisheries Proposal

Chile



Checklist for Exploratory Fisheries Proposals CMM 13-2020 and CMM 14b-2020

Scientific Committee Considerations Fisheries Operation Plans

8. The Scientific Committee shall provide recommendations and advice to the Commission on each Fisheries Operation Plan on the following matters, as appropriate:

Fisheries Operation Plan Considerations	Rationale	Assessment
<p><i>a) management strategies or plans for fishery resources;</i></p> <p>[Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean as having a clear objective for the fishery]</p>	<p>Chilean Fisheries Operation Plan (FOP) for the SPRFMO area (Foundation Seamounts chain (FSC) and Chile Rise (ChR) regions) is described on the proposal SC8-DW06_rev1 submitted in accordance with CMM 13-2020. Refer to proposal section 2 and 4 for details.</p> <p>The purpose of the FOP for data-poor regions FSC and ChR is to assess the local status and structure of the Jasus spp. and Chaceon spp. stocks, as well as its role for the total lobster and crab stock within the sea region.</p> <p>To allow a FOP consistent with the objectives of the SPRFMO and a precautionary approach, the argumentation to comply with the asked considerations in this Checklist, is based on the rationale that the Chilean activities will be harmonised and arranged with the past and current fishing reported by the Cook Islands and the pertinent CMMs.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>b) reference points, including precautionary reference points as described in Annex II of the 1995 Agreement;</i></p>	<p>Chile expects to provide data to contribute to the definition or identification of reference points for Lobster and Crabs taken along FSC and ChR. Meantime, the Chilean FOP should overlap the precautionary reference points used by the Cook Islands in FSC, these are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.- Catch limits currently adopted by the Commission which were set using the catches and CPUE surveyed by Cook islands. Annual TAC of 300 tonnes, effort limitations of 80 fishing day per trip, 100 pots by line during a set. 2.- Specific limit in Kopernik seamount, according to the CMM 14b-2020. 3.- CPUE threshold <p>See proposal section 4.</p>	<p>In development</p>
<p><i>c) an appropriate precautionary catch limit;</i></p>	<p>The fishing sets during the three-year survey schedule (2021, 2022, 2023) shall be effort limited and a precautionary catch limit of 600 tons. Chile plans to allocate 300 tonnes along with the FSC, which is consistent with the precautionary catch assigned to the Cook Islands, and 300 tonnes for ChR. Since the catch rate in ChR is unknown, it is impossible to determine when the 300 tonnes catch limit for ChR should be reached. See proposal section 6.</p> <p>The proposed research is not expected to have an additional impact on stock status. The catch by region will be based on the catch limits of FSC which are designated to provide reasonable assurances against negative effects on the stock status, consistent with the objectives of the SPRFMO and a precautionary approach.</p>	<p>In development</p>

<p><i>d) the cumulative impacts of all fishing activity in the area of the exploratory fishery;</i></p>	<p>Based on the fishing activities reported by Cook islands, the Chilean FOP should focus on the catch rate depletion pattern by seamounts and population structure, which might improve the poor knowledge about fishing impacts.</p> <p>By integrating new fishing data from the Chilean surveys, it is possible to standardise the fishing efficiency (without overlap fishing operations) and describe in a better way the potential impact of fishing activities, mainly, in FSC. ChR is an unexplored area with no fishing history; therefore, it will be speculative any argument about fishing impact.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>e) the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem;</i></p>	<p>It is unknown how the fishing strategy by the Chilean vessel (FV Antarctic Bay) could impact the fishing region; therefore, the better way is carrying out comparative analyses with the current fishing realised by the Cook Islands.</p> <p>Chile will follow all the criteria used by the Cook Islands regarding the VME and benthic footprint protocols (SC8-DW04). Also, the indications stated in the New Zealand contributions of encounters with potential VME (SC8-DW12) and identification of VME species and associated taxa (SC8-DW11) should be considered. Section 3.3 of the Chilean proposal provide some details about the planned protocol. See proposal section 4.1.1</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>f) the sufficiency of information available to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee's advice is provided;</i></p>	<p>As indicated in the Chilean proposal and compliance with the protocols of the CMM 03-2020, all bottom fishing performed by Chile shall be subject to assessment by SPRFMO SC to determine if such activities have some adverse impact level on VMEs. Operations from the Chilean FOP are expected to provide complementary information to the past researches (SC7-DW02; SC8-DW02, SC8-DW-03, SC8-DW-04), thereby providing support for the developing of a benthic crustacean fishery in SPRFMO.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>g) the degree to which the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 of the Convention¹; and</i></p>	<p>Chile entirely supports the Chilean FOP using the FV Antarctic Bay. The vessel and crew have extensive experience in exploratory fishing in the CCAMLR area, fulfilling with all the requirement for ensuring adequate exploratory fishing. Accordingly, the Chilean delegation anticipates that a similar and better fishing behaviour should happen in the fishing regions of SPRFMO. See proposal section 3.1</p> <p>Because of the incipient nature of this new exploratory fishing, the Chilean FOP doesn't consider a sequence of activities or sampling design of stations for the sets over the seamounts, hence explicit arguments to ensure proper deployment of exploratory fish in the SPRFMO regions are not possible.</p>	<p>In development</p>

¹ The objective of this Convention is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.

<i>h) in respect of a Fisheries Operation Plan that proposes any bottom fishing activity, advice and recommendations in accordance with paragraph 20 (b) of CMM 03-2020 (Bottom Fishing)².</i>	Reflected in the proposal, sections 3.4, 4.1.1, 5.2 and 5.3	In development
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Data Collection Plans

9. *When considering a Fisheries Operation Plan [...] the Scientific Committee shall develop a Data Collection Plan in respect of that exploratory fishery which should include research requirements, as appropriate. The Data Collection Plan shall identify and describe the data needed and any operational research actions necessary to obtain data from the exploratory fishery to enable an assessment of the stock, the feasibility of establishing a fishery and the impact of fishing activity on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs. The Scientific Committee shall review and update the Data Collection Plan for each exploratory fishery annually as appropriate.*

10. *The Data Collection Plan shall require, as appropriate:*

Data Collection Plan considerations	Rationale	Assessment
<i>a) a description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 24;</i>	During the exploratory fishing, the data collection will be conducted according to the Conservation Measures of SPRFMO. Details about type, frequency and sample size (for biological and specific samples) is provided in the proposal section 5.	Yes
<i>b) the dates by which the data must be provided to the Commission;</i>	Not provided. However, Chile will meet required deadlines by SPRFMO regarding the CMM 02-2020 and CMM 13-2020. After gain experience during the first fishing season or trips during the year (2021), Chile is able to provide methods and analysis schedule (time-line) for this fishing research plan.	Not available
<i>c) a plan for directing fishing effort in an exploratory fishery to allow for the acquisition of relevant data to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impact;</i>	Together with the data collection for catch and effort (consideration a.), the Chilean proposal includes further analysis for underwater video recording (See proposal section 5.3). Data collection on the environment is planned to be performed using Benthic Camera System (BCS), with particular attention in the VME encounter spots, areas with high and anomalous CPUE, sensitive bycatch zones, and potting gear issues.	Yes
<i>d) where appropriate, a plan for the acquisition of any other research data obtained by fishing vessels, including activities that may require the cooperative activities of scientific observers and the vessel, as may be required by the Scientific Committee to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships</i>	Data on catch, effort, and bycatch is an essential input into scientific understanding to manage the lobsters and crabs fish stocks sustainably. Recognising that and multi-vessel or multinational research programmes may provide a more robust approach for surveys in FSC and also help to understand this kind of data better, the Chilean FOP suggests that the current (the Cook Islands and Chile) and future proponents should collaborate to produce a single multi-member coordinated exploratory fishing.	Yes

² The Scientific Committee shall undertake a review of the proposed assessment and provide advice to the Commission on:

- i. whether the proposed bottom fishing would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on deep sea fish stocks for which no stock assessment has been completed, bycatch species and/or VMEs and, if so,
- ii. whether any proposed or additional mitigation measures would prevent such impacts.

<p><i>among harvested, non-target, associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts; and</i></p>	<p>It is important to have vessel calibration trials so that the CPUE between vessels can be estimated and standardised for use in subsequent analyses. Also, the fishing methods and operational procedures used by each vessel such as soak time, length of the line, and depth and locations fished will be standardised to the extent possible given the different gear configurations. Chile will promote this kind of interaction during the duration of the FOP three-year schedule.</p>	
<p><i>e) an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities</i></p> <p>[Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean “when will data be analysed and available”]</p>	<p>Although not available, Chile is open to define a proper deadline (after a fishing trip) which allow undertake analysis required.</p>	<p>Yes</p>