

## **5th Meeting of the Scientific Committee**

Shanghai, China, 23 - 28 September 2017

### **SC5-Doc07\_rev3**

## **Revisions to the Guidelines for Annual reports to the Scientific Committee**

*Secretariat*

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During SC04 the Scientific Committee requested that the Secretariat update the current guidelines for annual reports and circulate a draft prior to SC05 (item 13, SC04 report). The requested draft “rev1” was circulated in letter 050-2017 on 2 May 2017.

The draft below considers Conservation and Management Measure decisions taken at this year’s Commission meeting in Adelaide and includes new text relating to Seabirds (CMM 09) as well as the observer implementation report referred to in the Data Standards (CMM 02). This “rev3” version now incorporates suggestions made by Birdlife international and ACAP as well as comments received during SC5.

## **GUIDELINES FOR ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE SPRFMO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (Sept 2017)**

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### **1. Purpose of Annual Reports**

Participants should submit reports to the Scientific Committee (SC) on an annual basis in order to keep the SC informed, in a concise format, of their fishing, research and management activities over the previous year.

Annual reports are also intended to assist Members and CNCs in meeting obligations detailed in the SPRFMO Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) including, *inter alia*, CMM01 (*T. murphyi*, para 18), CMM02 (Data Standards, para 2d) and CMM09 (Seabirds, paras 8 & 9).

Such annual reports are not intended to replace data submissions under CMM02 on Standards for collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data, or the submission of detailed scientific papers. Catch and effort data should still be submitted to the SPRFMO Secretariat in accordance with the prescribed data submission standards and procedures. Detailed information or scientific analyses on aspects of fisheries should be presented in specific scientific papers to SC meetings.

### **2. Annual Report Sections**

Annual Reports for Members and CNCs fishing in the Convention Area should include the following sections of specific relevance to the work of the Scientific Committee<sup>1</sup>:

#### **2.1 Description of Fisheries**

A general overview description of the fisheries of the flag State concerned over the previous five years, providing summarised information on:

- Fleet composition (number of vessels by gear type and size) and how this has changed by year.
- Summary tables of effort and total catches by year, gear-type, season and area.
- Brief description of significant changes and new developments in fisheries over the past year.

#### **2.2 Catch, Effort and CPUE Summaries**

Overview summary figures of trends in nominal effort, catch and CPUE in the SPRFMO Area over the history of the fishery, including:

- Trends and estimates for nominal fishing effort by gear type over time.
- Trends and estimates for catch by species for the main target, by-catch, as well as associated and dependent species<sup>2</sup>.
- Trends and estimates for nominal CPUE by gear type for the main species contributing to catches.

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<sup>1</sup> Reports for Members and CNCs with no activity in the Convention Area may instead comprise of an overall summary.

<sup>2</sup> All species should be reported by scientific names throughout these reports and identified taxonomically as far as possible

### **2.3 Fisheries Data Collection and Research Activities**

Brief description of the fisheries data collection systems implemented, and the research and assessment activities conducted, including:

- Description of the statistical data collection systems in use, and how these have changed or been improved over the past year.
- Description of surveys conducted, scientific analyses and stock assessments undertaken, or other relevant research activities conducted.
- Description and coverage levels for fisheries sampling programs (eg. self-sampling or conducted in port), and how these have changed or been improved over the past year.
- Information on other SPRFMO-related research activities over the past year.

### **2.4 Biological Sampling and Length/Age Composition of Catches**

- Overview summary of the coverage of biological and size-frequency sampling conducted.
- If available, simple summary tables or figures showing length and age-frequency distribution of the target species by gear, and how this has changed over the past five years.

### **2.5 Ecosystem Approach considerations**

- Description of the seabird mitigation measures used by each vessel (refer CMM09<sup>3</sup>) as well as those used for other taxa.
- Reporting of observed bycatch by species, and fishery and location for all seabirds, marine mammals, reptiles and other species of concern.
- Summary of observed seabird interactions, bycatch per unit effort, number of live birds released vs estimate of total birds killed (and potentially for other taxa).
- VME encounters including a summary of relevant State processes.

### **2.6 Observer Implementation Reports (refer CMM02<sup>4</sup>)**

- Programme design and coverage.
- Training.
- Type of data collected, including information on overall coverage rates achieved by observer programmes.
- Information on the level of observer coverage solely focussed on recording bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals, reptiles and other species of concern<sup>5</sup>.
- Any problems encountered (including safety issues) as well recent programme changes or improvements.

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<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 9 of CMM 09 (Seabirds) requires Members and CNCPs to report annually, on the seabird mitigation measures used by each vessel flying their flag and fishing in the Convention Area, as well as any observed seabird interaction data and the level of observer coverage focussed on recording seabird bycatch

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 2d) of CMM 02 (Data standards) requires provision of annual observer implementation reports adequate enough to allow the SC or the Commission to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of such programmes.

<sup>5</sup> “Other species of concern” are defined in Annex 14 of CMM 02 (Data standards)

### **3. Submission Deadlines**

Consistent with the Protocol for papers to be submitted to the SC, these reports should be provided to the Secretariat in electronic form at least 30 days prior to the SC Annual meeting (normally held September/October).

It has become customary to also provide a short (1-2 paragraph) executive summary which is ultimately collated into an Annex for inclusion into the Scientific Committee's final report.