
10TH MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

Manta, Ecuador, 07 to 10 February 2023

COMM11 - WP 03

Modus operandi for flag States intending to fish for identified pelagic species

Secretariat

Ref: DC24-2021

Wellington, 24 February 2021

Sergey V. Simakov

Head of the International Cooperation Department,
Federal Agency for Fisheries
Russian Federation

Subject: *Modus operandi* for flag States intending to fish for identified pelagic species

Dear Mr Simakov,

Thank you for your letter *r.No Y03-52* from 18 February 2021 in which you ask for clarification regarding the *modus operandi* of the flag States in case of intention to fish using pelagic methods (as opposed to bottom fishing gear types) for the following species in the SPRFMO Convention Area:

- Cape bonnetmouth (*Emmelichthys nitidus cyanescens*), (FAO code – EMM);
- Pacific Chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), (FAO code – MAS);
- Splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*), (FAO code – BYS);
- Freshwater bream (*Abramis brama*), (FAO code – FBM);
- Pacific Pomfret (*Brama japonica*), (FAO code – BPQ);
- Bigeye grunt (*Brachydeuterus auritus*), (FAO code – GRB);
- Pacific Sardine (*Sardinops ocellatus* - Southern African pilchard), (FAO code – PIA); and,
- Pacific Sardine (*Sardinops melanostictus* - Japanese pilchard), (FAO code – JAP).

The first consideration is whether any of the above would fall under the definition of an “exploratory fishery” as per [CMM 13-2020](#). After consulting with the [catch data submitted to the SPRFMO Secretariat](#) we have determined that the only species which have been subject to fishing in the previous ten years using pelagic gear types are:

- Cape bonnetmouth¹ (*Emmelichthys nitidus cyanescens*), (FAO code – EMM);
- Pacific Chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), (FAO code – MAS); and
- Pacific Pomfret (*Brama japonica*), (FAO code – BPQ).

Therefore, flag States intending to fish for the above 3 species, and using pelagic methods, would only need to follow the provisions outlined in the following [general regulatory measures](#):

- CMM 05 (Record of Vessels); CMM 06 (VMS) and CMM 02 (Data Standards) as well as,
- CMM 07 (Port inspections), CMM 08 (Gillnets), CMM 09 (Seabirds), CMM 11 (Boarding and inspection), CMM 12 (Transshipment) and CMM 17 (Marine pollution)

¹ This species does appear in the SPRFMO pelagic catch records, but it may well be a case of misidentification as various reference sites identify this species as having a bathydemersal (rather than pelagic) distribution.



The remaining 5 species (Splendid alfonsino, Freshwater bream², Bigeye grunt³, and Sardine⁴ (2 spp)) have not been subject to fishing in the previous ten years using pelagic gear types. Therefore, under [CMM 13-2020](#) those fisheries would be considered “exploratory fisheries” and the requirements detailed in paragraph 5 onwards of that CMM would apply (in addition to the previously mentioned CMMs).

I trust this clarification is helpful, please continue to contact the Secretariat if you have any related enquiries.

Sincerely yours,


Craig Loveridge
Acting Executive Secretary

CC: Dmitry Kremenjuk, Alexander Okhanov

² This appears to be an eastern Atlantic species found off Africa and it is not expected to be found in the SPRFMO Area.

³ This appears to be a freshwater species and it is not expected to be found in the SPRFMO Area.

⁴ Noting there are also no pelagic catch records in the last ten years from the SPRFMO Area for the South American pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*).