

## 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

*Panam City, Panama, 2 to 6 March 2026*

### COMM 14 – Prop 14

#### PROPOSAL TO:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amend <input type="checkbox"/> Create	<b>CMM 18-2025 on the Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b> Ecuador	
<p><b>Summary of the proposal:</b></p> <p>The proposal introduces a structural shift in the management approach for the jumbo flying squid fishery in the Convention Area, moving from a system based exclusively on effort controls (input measures) to an integrated framework that incorporates catch controls (output measures), consistent with the precautionary approach.</p> <p>The key proposed changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Establishment of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the distant water fleet, effective from 2027 onwards, together with binding national allocations of strict catch limits.</li><li>- Introduction of non-transferable individual vessel catch limits, supported by progressive reporting requirements and automatic alert thresholds to prevent overharvesting.</li><li>- Adoption of clear corrective and compliance measures, including automatic reductions of future catch limits in cases of overcatch and the suspension of fishing opportunities in the event of repeated non-compliance.</li><li>- Strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) through standardized reporting formats, near real-time tracking of catch utilization, Secretariat-level data verification, and systematic review by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance and Technical Committee.</li><li>- Establishment of a 10-nautical-mile no-fishing buffer zone for the distant water fleet along the outer limits of South American EEZs, aimed at improving enforceability, reducing operational conflicts, and protecting adjacent coastal fisheries.</li><li>- Reorganization and reinforcement of data collection and observer requirements, aligned with existing SPRFMO data standards, to ensure the availability of timely, accurate, and verifiable information.</li><li>- Interim and adaptive nature of the TAC regime, which will be reviewed and adjusted once a stock assessment and formal Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) procedures are adopted.</li><li>- Overall, the proposed amendments seek to prevent overexploitation, enhance accountability, and operationalize the precautionary approach, while remaining without prejudice to future allocation decisions.</li></ul>	

**Objective of the proposal:**

The jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) is a globally important fishery concentrated in the South Pacific, where a small number of Members account for almost all reported catches. While some Members apply catch limits within national jurisdictions, fishing in the high seas of the SPRFMO Convention Area continues under an open-access regime, creating a significant imbalance between national and international management. Available scientific and technical assessments indicate persistent gaps in management, including high uncertainty regarding stock status, the absence of agreed stock assessment models, and the lack of catch limits, despite the precautionary approach being a core obligation of the SPRFMO Convention. Recent declines in reported production further reinforce concerns about the sustainability of current fishing practices.

These proposed amendments aim to address these shortcomings by promoting the application of the precautionary approach, strengthening science-based management, and advancing the adoption of effective conservation and management measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of the jumbo flying squid fishery in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

**Has the proposal financial impacts or influence on the Secretariat work?**☐ Yes☒ No*To be filled out by the Secretariat:*Ref: **COMM14-Prop14**

Received on: 11 January 2026

This document is intended to be one-page long only.

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND**

**CMM 18-2025**

**Conservation and Management Measure on the Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery (supersedes CMM 18-2025)**

The Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization;

*NOTING* that there has been a substantial increase in catches of and fishing effort for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area since 1990;

*CONCERNED* that there is uncertainty concerning the stock status and exploitation rate of jumbo flying squid;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the discussions at the 2nd Squid Workshop on 17 August 2021; the Scientific Committee Squid Working Group Workshops on Effort (11 June 2022 and 2 September 2022); the 10th meeting of the Scientific Committee from 26 to 30 September 2022, including paragraphs 170 and 172 of its report; and the 11th meeting of the Scientific Committee from 11 to 16 September 2023, including paragraphs 171 and 199 of its report;

*BEARING IN MIND* the commitment to apply the precautionary approach and take decisions based on the best scientific and technical information available as set out in Article 3 of the Convention;

*RECOGNISING* that a primary function of the Commission is to adopt Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) to achieve the objective of the Convention, including, as appropriate, CMMs for particular fish stocks;

*AFFIRMING* its commitment to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable management of jumbo flying squid stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention;

*RECOGNISING* the need for effective monitoring and control and surveillance of fishing for jumbo flying squid in the implementation of this measure pending the establishment of monitoring, control and surveillance measures pursuant to Article 27 of the Convention;

*RECALLING* Articles 19(1), 19(2), 20(3) and 20(4) of the Convention;

*FURTHER RECALLING* the need set out in Article 4 of the Convention to ensure compatibility of CMMs established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction, and the duty of Contracting Parties to cooperate to this end;

*RECALLING* also Article 21(1) of the Convention;

*NOTING THAT* Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the Jumbo Flying Squid cannot presently be conducted, and that formal Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) incorporating long-term Reference Points (RPs) cannot be adopted in the absence of an agreed stock assessment.

*MINDFULL* of the need to adopt interim alternative and precautionary measures designed to maintain the sustainability of the resource and to prevent irreversible adverse impacts due to the uncertainty created by the lack of agreeable stock assessment for the Jumbo Flying Squid,

*CONCERNED* about the potential collapse of any fishing resource if management based on science is not adopted, catches increase and CPUE shows reduction trends,

*RECOGNIZING* the need to strengthen the management of the Jumbo Flying Squid fishery through effective control of total catch and fishing effort;

*ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE* of timely, accurate, and verifiable data to support scientific assessments, compliance monitoring, and transparent decision-making;

*DESIRING TO ADOPT* a structured mechanism to prevent overharvest in any given year and to promote accountability in the management of national allocations;

*NOTING* the urgency of introducing additional management actions—including a TAC, hard limits, enhanced control measures and a monitoring and surveillance buffer area—as these actions fall within the core responsibilities of the Commission and cannot be deferred.

*ADOPTS* the following CMM in accordance with Articles 8 and 21 of the Convention:

## **Section 1. Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this CMM, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) “Hard Limit” shall mean the maximum catch quantity assigned to a Member for a given fishing year, which shall not be exceeded under any circumstances and which forms the basis for the application of the corrective measures described in this Measure.
- b) “Member Allocation” shall mean the specific portion of the TAC allocated to each Member, expressed in metric tons, as adopted by the Commission in accordance with the allocation framework. Such allocation constitutes a binding limit for management and compliance purposes.
- c) “Long-Distance Fleet” shall mean the group of vessels authorized by a Member to operate in the Jumbo Flying Squid fishery beyond its national jurisdictional waters within the Convention Area, and duly included in the Record of Authorized Vessels maintained by the Secretariat.
- d) “Catch Limit Utilization” shall mean the cumulative quantity of catch reported and verified for each vessel throughout the fishing year, as measured against its individual non-transferable catch limit, for purposes of monitoring and reporting in accordance with Section 4 of this Measure.

## **Section 2. General Provisions**

2. This CMM applies to all vessels flagged to Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) engaged in or intending to engage in fishing for jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) in the Convention Area.
3. Only fishing vessels duly authorised pursuant to Article 25 of the Convention and in accordance with CMM 05-2023 (Record of Vessels) that are flagged to Members and CNCs shall participate in the fishery for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area.

### **Section 3. Effort Management for the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery<sup>1</sup>**

4. Members that have authorised squid jigging vessels on the Commission Record of Vessels as of 31 December 2020 shall limit both the number and total gross tonnage of squid jigging vessels flying their flag authorised to fish for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area to the level of their squid jigging vessels as set out in Table 1 of this CMM. Members may substitute their squid jigging vessels as long as the number and total gross tonnage of the vessels for each Member does not exceed the level represented in the Table.
5. Members and CNCs, other than developing coastal States, that have no authorised squid jigging vessels on the Commission Record of Vessels as of 31 December 2020 but have a historical record in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery in the Convention Area shall submit to the Executive Secretary, by 30th June, their historical record of jumbo flying squid jigging fisheries in the Convention Area in the format of the number of vessels, total gross tonnage and catch weights (t) by year, for inclusion in the squid information held by the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall circulate this information to all Members and CNCs.
6. Members and CNCs referred to in paragraph 4, other than developing coastal States, may develop their jumbo flying squid jigging fishery. These Members and CNCs shall limit the number and total gross tonnage of the squid jigging vessels flying their flag authorised to fish for jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area, taking into account the state of squid resources, and not exceeding their highest historical levels. The historic high levels will be determined by the information provided pursuant in paragraph 4.
7. Members and CNCs, other than developing coastal States, that have no historical record in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery in the Convention Area, have no authorised squid jigging vessels on the Commission Record of Vessels as of 31 December 2020, and want to participate in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery shall submit a proposal to the Scientific Committee at least 90 days in advance of the next Scientific Committee meeting. These proposals shall include, at a minimum, information on the proposed number of fishing vessels, gross tonnage limit, and the type of jigging gear. The Scientific Committee shall provide its advice on the potential impact of the proposed effort increase. The Commission shall consider these proposals in conjunction with any advice from the Scientific Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> The effort limitation in this measure applies to fishing for jumbo flying squid in the SPRFMO Convention Area and does not apply to fishing gears other than jigging.

8. Developing coastal States<sup>2</sup> are allowed to develop their jumbo flying squid fisheries in the Convention Area without restrictions, either with jigging or other fishing gears used to fish jumbo flying squid, in a manner consistent with SPRFMO CMMs. Such developing coastal States shall provide notification of the number of vessels and gross tonnage involved, in accordance with the time specified in paragraph 13.
9. This CMM is not to be considered a precedent for future allocation decisions.

#### **Section 4: Catch Limits, reporting and Control Measures:**

10. A “Total Allowable Catch (TAC)” corresponding to the maximum catch limit authorized for the long-distance fleet participating in the Jumbo Flying Squid fishery in the Convention Area as detailed in Table 1, effective in 2027 and following years in the amount of 396,671 tonnes and the corresponding national allocations of hard catch limits assigned to each respective Member in that Table is hereby established<sup>3</sup>. By the end of October 2026, the Secretariat shall calculate and inform each Member in Table 1 their allocated portion of the TAC.
11. Each Member shall implement the following provisions to prevent overharvest during Catch Limit Utilization of the Jumbo Flying Squid in any given year:
  - a) A portion of each Member Allocation shall be allocated to each vessel of the Long-distance fleet authorized to fish for Jumbo Flying Squid in the Convention Area as an individual, non-transferable catch limit.
  - b) Each vessel shall be required to report quarterly to its Flag State the utilization of its individual catch limit until 80 percent (80 %) of such limit has been reached.
  - c) Upon reaching 80 percent (80 %) of the assigned limit, the reporting frequency shall increase to weekly once 95 percent (95 %) of the limit is reached, and the Flag State shall adopt appropriate measures to progressively reduce fishing activity to ensure the limit is not exceeded.
  - d) If the hard limit allocated to a Member is exceeded in any given year, that Member’s limit for the subsequent year shall be reduced by an amount equal to the excess plus an additional ten percent (10 %) of the excess.
  - e) If such excess occurs in two consecutive years, the Member’s limit for the following year shall be reduced by an amount equal to the excess plus fifty percent (50 %) of the excess.
  - f) If such excess occurs in three consecutive years, the Member shall not exercise any fishing opportunities in the subsequent year.
12. Each Member shall establish internal mechanisms to ensure that vessel-level monitoring, control, and reporting systems are in place to track catch utilization in near real time.

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<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this CMM only, developing coastal States are Cook Islands, Panama, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, and Vanuatu and shall not prejudice future decisions of the Commission regarding the definition of developing coastal States.

<sup>3</sup> on the basis of the average annual catches reported by these Members from 2019 through 2024

13. Each Member shall report to the Commission, through the Secretariat, on the progress of each vessel's catch-limit utilization as soon as catch reports per paragraph 11 are received, and no later than fifteen (15) days following the end of each reporting period.
14. The Secretariat shall develop, in consultation with Members, a standardized reporting template for the transmission of catch-limit information, including cumulative data on individual vessels and national totals.
15. The Secretariat shall compile the data received and provide quarterly summaries to the Scientific Committee and the Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC) for review.

#### **Section 5: Compliance Provisions:**

16. The Compliance and Technical Committee shall annually review Members' reports and any detected overages and shall make recommendations to the Commission regarding the application of the corrective measures described in paragraph 1.1 (d–f).
17. Members found to have exceeded their annual limit shall provide to the Commission, within thirty (30) days of notification, a Corrective Action Plan specifying measures to prevent recurrence.
18. The Commission may apply additional compliance actions in accordance with its rules and procedures in cases of repeated or serious non-compliance.
19. The Secretariat shall maintain an updated record of annual catch allocations, overages, and applied reductions, which shall be made available to Members in the annual compliance report.
20. The catch limitation Scheme and TAC shall be reviewed as soon as the Commission endorses the Jumbo Flying Squid stock assessment and MSE procedures for this resource is adopted.

#### **Section 6: Data Collection and Reporting**

21. In order to facilitate the work of the Scientific Committee, Members and CNCPs shall provide their annual national reports including their Jumbo Flying Squid fisheries, [in accordance with the existing guidelines for such reports] [in accordance with CMM 02-2025 (Data Standards)] and using the templates prepared by the Secretariat and available on the SPRFMO website, including catch report detailing catches on a monthly basis every year in advance of the Scientific Committee meeting. Members and CNCPs shall also provide observer data to the Scientific Committee to the maximum extent possible. The reports shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary at least one month before the Scientific Committee meeting in order to ensure that the Scientific Committee has an adequate opportunity to consider the reports in its deliberations. Members should notify the Executive Secretary in the event they will not be submitting an annual report together with the reasons for not doing so.



22. Each Member and CNCP participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall further make efforts to collect, verify, and provide data as required by the Scientific Committee to the Executive Secretary.
23. The Executive Secretary shall verify the annual catch reports submitted by Members and CNCPs against the submitted data. The Executive Secretary shall inform Members and CNCPs of the outcome of the verification exercise and any possible discrepancies encountered.

## **Section 7. Monitoring and Control**

24. Members and CNCPs participating in the jumbo flying squid fisheries shall implement a vessel monitoring system (VMS) to the Long-Distance Fleet in accordance with CMM 06-2023 (VMS) and other relevant CMMs adopted by the Commission.
25. Each Member and CNCP participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall provide the Executive Secretary a list of vessels<sup>4</sup> they have authorised to fish in the fishery in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention and CMM 05-2023 (Record of Vessels) and other relevant CMMs adopted by the Commission. They shall also notify the Executive Secretary of the vessels that have actively fished or engaged in transshipment in the Convention Area within 30 days of the end of each year. The Executive Secretary shall maintain lists of the vessels so notified and will make them available on the SPRFMO website.
26. The Executive Secretary shall report annually to the Commission on the list of vessels having actively fished or been engaged in transshipments in the Convention Area during the previous year using data provided under CMM 02-2025 (Data Standards)
27. In order to strengthen the monitoring, surveillance and control of the fishery, while protecting fishing grounds adjacent to national jurisdictions and to minimize potential interactions between long-distance fleets and coastal fisheries, a buffer (no fishing) zone for vessels referred to in Paragraph 3, Table 1, comprising ten (10) nautical miles within the SPRFMO Convention Area along the outer limit of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of South American Members is hereby established, with a view to reducing the impact of the largest and most impactful fleets operating in areas where increased fishing effort may adversely affect the fishing opportunities of coastal developing States and their artisanal fishers.
28. Within this buffer zone, fishing by long-distance fleets shall be prohibited, except for duly authorized scientific research activities conducted under Commission-approved programs.
29. The Secretariat, in consultation with affected Members, shall develop and maintain a precise geospatial delineation of this buffer zone, to be disseminated through official maps and digital coordinates for enforcement and monitoring purposes.
30. Members shall cooperate with the Secretariat to design and apply MCS mechanisms, including but not limited to vessel monitoring systems (VMS), observer coverage, at-sea inspections,

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<sup>4</sup> Fishing vessels as defined in Article 1 (1)(h) of the Convention.



and real-time catch reporting, to ensure full transparency and compliance across Long-Distance fleets operating within the Convention Area.

## **Section 8. Observer Coverage**

31. Members and CNCPs participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall ensure a minimum observer coverage of 5% of fishing days on Jumbo Flying Squid Jigging vessels flying their flag and ensure that such observers collect and report data as described in CMM 02-2025 (Data Standards). Members and CNCPs that fished in the fishery in 2022, but did not achieve a minimum observer coverage of 5% of fishing days, shall ensure a minimum level of observer coverage of 2% of fishing days by 1 September 2025. From 1 September 2027, a minimum level of human observer coverage of 5% of fishing days is required. If the Commission has adopted electronic monitoring standards by this time, 3% of the required 5% of monitoring may be from electronic monitoring.
32. As a derogation to paragraph 17, Members with vessels under 15 meters of length overall registered in the SPRFMO Record of Vessels fishing for jumbo flying squid shall ensure a minimum coverage of:
- 5% of the trips of the artisanal fishing vessels involved, through observers on board, who will provide detailed information on the catch, fishing areas, fishing effort and biometric and biological data of what is caught; and
  - 80% of the landings (and trips) of the artisanal fishing vessels involved, through observers in port, who will provide information on the catch, the fishing areas and fishing effort; and
  - 90% of the trips of the artisanal fishing vessels involved, through an information system using a traceability application running on portable smartphones, with which fishermen will provide in real-time all relevant information on their fishing trip, including on their catch, fishing areas and fishing effort.
33. From September 1, 2029, the overall monitoring in this fishery shall increase to 10% of fishing days with a minimum of 2% of fishing days monitored by human observers.
34. The Scientific Committee in 2030 and the subsequent Compliance and Technical Committee in 2031 shall review the effectiveness of monitoring of this fishery and provide the Commission advice on any changes needed to ensure adequate data collection and monitoring.

## **Section 9. Scientific Committee Reports**

35. By [2028] [...], the Scientific Committee, with advice from the Squid Working Group, shall report on the status of the *Dosidicus gigas* stock for the Commission's consideration.
36. The information collected under paragraph 21, and any stock assessments and research in respect of the jumbo flying squid fishery shall be submitted for review to the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will conduct the necessary analysis and assessment, in accordance with its SC Multi-annual workplan agreed by the Commission, in order to provide advice on stock status.

## Section 10. Special Requirements of Developing States

37. In recognition of the special requirements of developing States, in particular small island developing States and territories and possessions in the region, Members and CNCPs are urged to provide financial, scientific and technical assistance, where available, to enhance the ability of those developing States and territories and possessions to implement this CMM.

## Section 11. Review

38. This CMM supersedes CMM 18-2025.
39. This CMM shall be reviewed at the Commission's annual meeting in 2027 and subsequently every year, taking into consideration if:
- a) the Scientific Committee recommends a reduction in total effort or other controls on the squid fishery based on the best scientific information available; or
  - b) if the number of active vessels or the total gross tonnage equals or exceeds the total amount in Table 1.
40. The review shall take into account the latest advice of the Scientific Committee and the Compliance and Technical Committee and shall include a review of the effort levels between Members listed in Table 1 and other Members entitled to develop their Jumbo Flying Squid fisheries.
41. The observer coverage provisions of this measure shall be reviewed at the Annual Meeting in 2027 if the Commission has not yet adopted electronic monitoring standards.
42. By 2031, the CMM shall be reviewed in relation to the advice provided by the Scientific Committee pursuant to paragraph 20.

Table 1: Number and total gross tonnage of vessels referred to in paragraph 4.

Member	Vessel Limit Number	Total Gross Tonnage (GT)
China	671	644 820
Korea	50	45 773
Chinese Taipei	45	45 499
Total number of vessels and gross tonnage	766	736 092