

14TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Panama City, Panama, 2 to 6 March 2026

COMM 14 – Prop 15

PROPOSAL TO:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amend <input type="checkbox"/> Create	CMM 18-2025 on the Management of the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery
Submitted by: United States and New Zealand	
<p>Summary of the proposal:</p> <p>The Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery represents a significant proportion of the targeted fisheries in the SPRFMO Convention Area, yet it is one of the most difficult to characterize in terms of stock status and trends. Due to the species' short life span and highly variable, environmentally-driven recruitment dynamics, developing a quantitative stock assessment model that can reliably inform catch advice has proved challenging. The current management approach, and one adopted for nearly all other managed squid species globally, has focused on controlling effort. SPRFMO has considered setting effort limits based on historical high active effort watermarks, but given the diversity of gear types and other factors, (e.g., certain members not participating in the identified historic window) this has been challenging. The need for greater precaution in general has not been scientifically established, but the magnitude and variability of squid harvests in recent years raises concerns that a strengthened, interim CMM is needed until better monitoring and analyses are developed. This is consistent with a recommendation from Scientific Committee (SC) 10 that "in the interim, CMM development should monitor CPUE trends and constrain fishing effort as a precautionary approach". In 2024, a Korean jigging vessel targeting jumbo flying squid observed the lowest CPUE since 2015, while reports at SC13 noted that China's squid catch declined 45% despite a consistent number of vessels in the fishery and that the squid catch in Peru's EEZ declined by roughly 70%. In response to this decline in catch and low CPUE, the United States and New Zealand propose reducing the vessel number and tonnage limits specified in Table 1 of this CMM by 15% as a precautionary management action consistent with prior SC advice to monitor CPUE trends and constrain fishing effort.</p> <p>CMM 18-2025 states that it shall be reviewed in 2026, taking into consideration whether the SC recommends a reduction in total effort or other controls on the squid fishery based on the best scientific information available. Although efforts continue in the SC to address the challenges highlighted above, it was noted during the 2025 SC meeting that a lack of data and associated research remain barriers to the development of an analysis that could better guide the design of a CMM. Therefore, we encourage the Commission to take steps to limit effective effort on jumbo flying squid in the SPRFMO Convention Area until analyses and/or reliable stock assessments are developed to indicate appropriate measures.</p>	

Objective of the proposal:

(enter here the objective of your proposal or proposed amendments)

The objective of this proposal is to take action in response to the decline in jumbo flying squid catch and low CPUE by reducing the vessel number and tonnage limits specified in Table 1 of this CMM by 15% as a precautionary management action consistent with prior SC advice to monitor CPUE trends and constrain fishing effort.

This proposal also aims to gather more information to support a stock assessment model, and a requirement that SC provides recommendations to the Commission on more precautionary limits if there is no future agreement on a model.

Has the proposal financial impacts or influence on the Secretariat work?

☐ Yes

☒ No

To be filled out by the Secretariat:

Ref: **COMM14-Prop15**

Received on: 11 January 2026

CMM 18-2026

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 Organisation;

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;

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

General Provisions

1. 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.
2. 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.



Management for the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery¹

3. 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.
4. Members and CNCPs, 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 CNCPs.
5. Members and CNCPs referred to in paragraph 4, other than developing coastal States, may develop their jumbo flying squid jigging fishery. These Members and CNCPs 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.
6. Members and CNCPs, 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.
7. Developing coastal States² 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.
8. This CMM is not to be considered a precedent for future allocation decisions.

Data Collection and Reporting

9. Each Member and CNCP participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall collect, verify, and provide all required data to the Executive Secretary, in accordance with CMM 02-2025 (Data Standards), and any other relevant CMMs and using the templates prepared by the Secretariat and available on the SPRFMO website, including an annual catch report detailing catches on a monthly basis.
10. 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.
11. 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:

¹ 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.

² 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.



- a. 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
- b. 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
- c. 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.

Monitoring and Control

12. Members and CNCPs participating in the jumbo flying squid fisheries shall implement a vessel monitoring system (VMS) in accordance with CMM 06-2023 (VMS) and other relevant CMMs adopted by the Commission.
13. Each Member and CNCP participating in the jumbo flying squid fishery shall provide the Executive Secretary a list of vessels³ 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.
14. The Executive Secretary shall report annually to the Commission on the list of vessels having actively fished or been engaged in transshipment in the Convention Area during the previous year using data provided under CMM 02-2025 (Data Standards).

Scientific Committee Reports

15. Members and CNCPs shall provide their annual reports, in accordance with the existing guidelines for such reports, in advance of the Scientific Committee meeting of each year. Members and CNCPs shall also provide observer and EM data (if applicable) for each fishing season 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 and CNCPs should notify the Executive Secretary in the event they will not be submitting an annual report together with the reasons for not doing so.
16. The information collected under paragraphs 9 and 15, 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.

³Fishing vessels as defined in Article 1 (1)(h) of the Convention.



Observer Coverage

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.

Special Requirements of Developing States

20. 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.

Review

21. This CMM supersedes CMM 18-2025.
22. This CMM shall be reviewed at the Commission's annual meeting in 2027, taking into consideration if:
 - a) The Scientific Committee recommends further increases to levels of data collection, monitoring, and research to facilitate finalization of a squid stock assessment model;
 - b) the Scientific Committee recommends a reduction in total effort or other controls on the squid fishery based on the best scientific information available; or c) if the number of active vessels or the total gross tonnage equals or exceeds the total amount in Table 1.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. By 2031, the CMM shall be reviewed in relation to the advice provided by the Scientific Committee pursuant to paragraph 19.
26. If an adequate stock assessment model and/or analysis (i.e., CPUE-based) fails to provide indicative CMM guidance by SC14, SC14 will recommend more precautionary effort limits.



Table 1: Number and total gross tonnage of vessels referred to in paragraph 3.

Member	Vessel Limit Number	Total Gross Tonnage (GT)
China	570	548 097
Korea	43	38 907
Chinese Taipei	38	38 674
Total number of vessels and gross tonnage	651	625 678