



14TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Panama, Panama, 2 to 6 March 2026

COMM 14 – Prop 16

PROPOSAL TO:

<input type="checkbox"/> Amend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create	CMM XX ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUFFER, RESEARCH, AND MANAGEMENT ZONE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC HIGH SEAS, BORDERING SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES (SQUID BUFFER AREA), AIMED AT ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE YIELD OF JUMBO FLYING SQUID.
Submitted by: PERU	
Summary of the proposal: <p>This proposal complements (but does not amend or repeal) CMM 18-2023 by:</p> <p>A. Establishing a “buffer zone” within the Convention Area, 20 nautical miles off the waters of national jurisdiction of Ecuador, Chile, and Peru, to enhance the resilience of the jumbo flying squid population in the SPRFMO area, without the need to reduce fishing capacity.</p> <p>B. Ensuring the long-term effectiveness of jumbo flying squid fisheries management.</p> <p>C. Improving data collection and scientific assessment of the squid stock and its related fisheries.</p> <p>The SPRFMO Convention reiterates its objective of the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources in the South Pacific, safeguarding the marine ecosystem through the application of precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches. It also recognizes the importance of taking into account the economic and geographical considerations, as well as the special needs of developing States, in relation to the conservation, management, and sustainable development of fishery resources and ensuring equitable benefits from these resources.</p> <p>There are growing concerns from coastal States and the international community regarding the large number of fishing vessels operating throughout the year in the High Seas, adjacent to the waters under the national jurisdiction of South American Coastal States. This significant concentration of fishing vessels challenges the ability of coastal States to monitor, control, and protect the biomass within their national jurisdiction, while adhering to the precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches. Based on scientific evidence supporting the need to expand the feeding and growth area of jumbo flying squid, the global solution that has been widely accepted is the creation of a “Buffer Zone” that serves as a biological enhancement area for fishing resources, while avoiding conflicts between coastal and distant-water industrial fleets.</p> <p>This proposal is based on a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic challenges of the jumbo flying squid fishery, benefiting both coastal Members and distant-water and CNCP fishermen. The proposal provides a simple, sustainable, easy-to-implement, and win-win management measure.</p>	
Objective of the proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Establishment of a “buffer zone” to enhance the resilience of the jumbo flying squid population in the SPRFMO area, without requiring a reduction in fishing capacity.B. Identification of the Buffer Zone, defined as the area located 20 nautical miles within the Convention Area, off the waters of the national jurisdiction of Ecuador, Chile, and Peru. This zone is designed to ensure the productivity dynamics of the jumbo flying squid population by facilitating reproduction, feeding, and growth before the offshore spawning process, leading to higher yields of the population.C. Ensuring the long-term effectiveness of jumbo flying squid fisheries management.D. Enhancing data collection and scientific assessment of the stock and related fisheries.	
Has the proposal financial impacts or influence on the Secretariat work?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<i>To be filled out by the Secretariat:</i>	
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CMM XX-2026

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUFFER, RESEARCH, AND MANAGEMENT ZONE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC HIGH SEAS, BORDERING SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES (SQUID BUFFER AREA), AIMED AT ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE YIELD OF JUMBO FLYING SQUID.

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

MINDFUL of the increased fishing operations targeting jumbo flying squid in the Convention Area, immediately off the limits of the waters under the national jurisdiction of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador;

RECALLING that Article 2 of the Convention defines the objective of the Convention as ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources through the application of a precautionary approach and an ecosystem-based approach to safeguard the marine ecosystem;

MINDFUL of the Conservation and Management Principles and Approaches set forth in Article 3 of the Convention, particularly: “(iii) overfishing and excess fishing capacity shall be prevented or eliminated,” “(vii) marine ecosystems shall be protected, particularly those ecosystems that have long recovery times following disturbances,” and “(x) pollution and waste originating from fishing vessels, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, and impacts on other species and marine ecosystems shall be minimized,” and “(b) An ecosystem approach shall be applied widely to the conservation and management of fishery resources through an integrated approach under which decisions regarding the management of fishery resources are considered in the context of the functioning of the wider marine ecosystems in which they occur, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of those resources and, in so doing, safeguard those marine ecosystems”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the current CMM 18-2025 for the Conservation and Management of Jumbo Flying Squid in the broader Convention Area;

BEARING IN MIND the commitment to base decisions 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 specific and associated fish stocks;

AFFIRMING its commitment to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable management of jumbo flying squid, associated species, and a healthy ocean, as provided by United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14, in accordance with the objectives of the Convention;

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

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 8 and 20 of the Convention:

BUFFER, RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT ZONE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC HIGH SEAS BORDERING THE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES (SQUID BUFFER AREA) AIMED TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE YIELD OF THE JUMBO FLYING SQUID IS ESTABLISHED



1. A "Squid Buffer No Fishing Area" is established, located 20 nautical miles within the Convention Area, off the waters of the national jurisdiction of Ecuador, Chile, and Peru, in accordance with the conditions set forth in this CMM, without prejudice to the provisions contained in Paragraph 7 of CMM 18-2024.
2. Evaluation Period: This CMM shall be reviewed and revised as appropriate in 2029, based on the scientific advice provided by the Scientific Committee, taking into account relevant information, including reports arising from the implementation of this measure.
3. Effectiveness Indicators: The Commission shall assess the effectiveness of this measure, considering, among other factors, catch rates in adjacent areas and the reproductive condition of individuals.
4. Data Collection: Flag States shall ensure that all fishing data on spatial catch rates, length, weight, and reproductive condition resulting from jumbo flying squid fishing operations in the High Seas adjacent to the Buffer Zone are provided to SPRFMO in the format to be determined by the Secretariat. Data collection shall comply with the current data reporting requirements set by SPRFMO.
5. The data collected under this CMM shall be made available to the Scientific Committee for analysis in 2025 and updated annually thereafter.
6. Engaging in fishing activities within the time-area closure established by this resolution shall be considered a serious infraction.
7. This CMM shall enter into effect on XXXXX, 2026, and shall be reviewed by the Commission in 2029.