

# South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

## First Meeting of the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Auckland, New Zealand  
28 January – 1 February 2013

### REPORT

1. The First Meeting of the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation was held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 28 January to 1 February 2013.
2. Gerard van Bohemen, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, welcomed the delegates and other attendees on behalf of the New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs.
3. The Commission elected Bill Mansfield as the Chairperson of the Commission. The Commission then adopted Annex A as its agenda for its first meeting.
4. The Commission also appointed Robin Allen as the Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat until such time as a permanent Executive Secretary is recruited. The Commission was informed about the process for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary.
5. The Government of New Zealand presented a *Report on the Status of the Convention* (COMM-01-02). A number of observer States indicated that they expected to complete their procedures for ratification, approval, acceptance or accession in the coming months.
6. The Acting Executive Secretary presented the *Report on the Implementation of Interim Management Measures* (COMM-01-04) and the *Data Submitted to the Interim Secretariat* (COMM-01-INF-07).
7. The Commission adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (Annex B).
8. Following the adoption of Decision 1.01 *Appointment of Officers for Subsidiary Bodies in the First Year of the Commission* (Annex C) the Commission elected a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson or Acting Chairperson or Acting Vice-Chairperson for the Commission and the following subsidiary bodies:

Chairperson of the Commission	New Zealand (Bill Mansfield)
Vice Chairperson of the Commission	Chile (Isauro Torres Negri)
Acting Chairperson of the Scientific Committee	United States of America (Jim Ianelli)
Vice-Chairperson of Scientific Committee	European Union (Neils Hintzen)
Acting Chairperson of the Eastern Sub-Regional Committee	Ecuador (Guillermo Morán)
Acting Vice-Chairperson of the Eastern Sub-Regional Committee	Vanuatu (Gerry Geen)
Chairperson of the Compliance and Technical Committee	Chile (Osvaldo Urrutia)
Acting Vice-Chairperson of the Compliance and Technical Committee	China (Chen Wan)
Chairperson of the Finance and Administration Committee	Australia (Gordon Neil)
Acting Vice-Chairperson of the Finance and Administration Committee	Peru (Nicolas Roncagliolo)
Chairperson of the Western Sub-regional Committee	It is not anticipated that this Committee will meet before the next Commission meeting and therefore a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may not need to be appointed at this time
Vice-Chairperson of the Western Sub-regional Committee	It is not anticipated that this Committee will meet before the next Commission meeting and therefore a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may not need to be appointed at this time
Acting Executive Secretary	Robin Allen

9. The Commission adopted Decision 1.02 *Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties* (Annex D). The Commission also adopted Decision 1.03 *Commission Decision on the granting of temporary Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status* (Annex E). The following non-Members were recorded as Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties in accordance with Decision 1.03: China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Peru, Tonga, Vanuatu and United States of America.

10. Jim Ianelli, Acting Chairperson of the Interim Science Working Group (SWG), presented a report on the eleventh meeting of the SWG.<sup>1</sup> In relation to jack mackerel, the report indicated some increase in the stock since 2010 but noted that the stock was still at very low levels ranging between 8% and 17% of estimated unfished levels. The Commission expressed continuing concern at the poor state of the stock and decided that catches in 2013 needed to be restrained to levels that, in accordance with advice of the SWG, provide a reasonable likelihood of an improvement in the spawning biomass.
11. The Commission adopted the Conservation and Management Measure for *Trachurus murphyi*, CMM 1.01 (Annex G).
12. Several delegations made statements concerning CMM 1.01. The delegations of Peru, Ecuador and Colombia requested that their statements be attached to this report (Annex H, I, J).
13. The Russian Federation made a statement (Annex K), in respect of CMM 1.01 and also the calculation for financial contributions to the Organisation, concerning the fact that data provided by the Russian Federation had not been taken into account.
14. The Commission adopted the Science Working Group report and, pursuant to article 8(m), provided guidance to the Scientific Committee regarding their work programme (Annex L).
15. The Commission adopted a Conservation and Management Measure for Gillnets in the SPRFMO Convention Area, CMM 1.02 (Annex M).
16. The Commission adopted a Conservation and Management Measure on Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data, CMM 1.03 (Annex N).
17. The Commission adopted a Conservation and Management Measure to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the SPRFMO Convention Area, CMM 1.04 (Annex O).
18. The Commission adopted the List of Vessels Authorised to Fish in the Convention Area as at 1 February 2013 (Annex P).
19. The Commission provided guidance to the Compliance and Technical Committee regarding their work programme (Annex Q).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.southpacificfmo.org/assets/11th-SWG-and-10th-DIWG-meetings/SWG-11/SWG11-report-final-rev-20-Nov.pdf>

20. New Zealand and Australia indicated their intention to work intersessionally during 2013 to develop conservation and management measures in respect of bottom fishing for the Convention Area. The measures will be submitted to the Scientific Committee and then to the Commission for consideration. New Zealand and Australia confirmed their intention to continue to apply the 2007 interim bottom fishing measures in 2013.
21. The Acting Executive Secretary presented a Report of the *Status of Finances and Funds to be transferred to the Commission* (Comm-01-05). The Commission adopted the budget for the five month period 2 February to 30 June 2013 and the first full financial year (2013/14) of the Organisation (Annex R). (The Russian Federation position regarding the calculation of the budget is recorded in Annex J).
22. The Commission adopted the Financial Regulations of the Commission, including the formula to calculate contributions to the Commission budget (Annex S).
23. The Chairperson assisted by a panel, comprising Australia and Chile, was authorised by the Commission to conclude an agreement between the Organisation and the Government of New Zealand as the Contracting Party hosting the Secretariat.
24. The Commission decided that its second meeting would be held in 27 – 31 January 2014. Ecuador offered to host the second meeting in the city of Manta and the Participants welcomed this offer.
25. The Commission thanked the Government of New Zealand for hosting the first meeting of the Commission.
26. The Session was closed at 5.51pm on 1 February 2013.

The Session was attended by the following Commission Members: Australia, Chile, Cook Islands, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, European Union, Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei; Observer States: China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Peru, Tonga, United States of America, and Vanuatu. The following also attended as observers: Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, Comision Permanente Del Pacifico Sur, Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Birdlife International, Centre for Development and Sustainable Fisheries, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, High Seas Group, International Coalition of Fisheries Associations, World Wildlife Fund International. A list of the attendees is attached as Annex T.