

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

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COMM-01-04

Implementation of Interim Management Measures Report

Interim Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

This paper reports on Implementation of the various Interim Management Measures adopted by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) International Consultations and Preparatory Conference.

The information presented is based upon data/reports which have been submitted to the Interim Secretariat or presented at Science Working Group and/or Data & Information Working Group meetings.

The Interim Measures which have been previously adopted are voluntary and include:

- i. 2007 Interim Management Measures (from 30 Sept 2007);
- ii. 2009 Interim Measure for Deepwater Gillnets (from 1 Feb 2010);
- iii. 2009 Revised Interim Measures for Pelagic Fishing (1 Jan 2010 until 31 Jan 2011);
- iv. 2011 Interim Measures for Pelagic Fisheries (1 Feb 2011 until 3 Feb 2012);
- v. 2012 Interim Measures for Pelagic Fisheries (from 4 Feb 2012).

Similar Measures have been grouped together for ease of presentation. This paper only reports on Measures that are quantifiable, intended for Participants and that the Interim Secretariat feels it is able to assess impartially.

Note, all 2012 figures are preliminary.

MEASURES FOR PELAGIC FISHERIES

Effort management

2007 IM, Paragraph 1 requires that:

Participants limit the total level of gross tonnage (GT) of vessels flying their flag fishing for pelagic stocks (excluding squid) in 2008 and 2009 to levels of total GT recorded in 2007 in the area.

2007 IM, Paragraph 2 provides that:

Coastal and fishing States with a catch history in the pelagic fisheries in the South Pacific, but not exercising their fisheries activities in 2007, may enter the fishery in the Area in 2008 and 2009 and will exercise voluntary restraint of fishing effort. These States will promptly notify the Interim Secretariat of the names and characteristics, including GT, of their vessels engaged in the fishery in the Area.

2009 RIM Paragraph 6 (*Trachurus spp*):

.. Participants that have not already done so are to communicate to the Interim Secretariat, by 31 December 2009, the GT¹ of those vessels flying their flag that have been actively fishing in 2009

2009 RIM Paragraph 8 (*Trachurus spp*):

From 1 January 2010, participants are not to exceed the levels of total GT¹ listed in Table 1 of these Interim Measures

2011 IM Paragraph 10 (*Trachurus spp*):

From 1 February 2011, participants are not to exceed the levels of total GT¹ listed in Table 1 of these Interim Measures

2012 IM Paragraph 10 (*Trachurus spp*):

From 4 February 2012, participants are not to exceed the levels of total GT¹ listed in Table 1 of these Interim Measures

¹*In the event that GT is not available, participants are to utilise Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) for the purposes of these Interim Measures*

Table 1: Vessels that have actively fished for pelagic stocks (excluding squid) compared with Interim Measures Gross Tonnage (GT) limits

Participant	Interim Management GT limits				Total GT of Vessels active in <i>Trachurus</i> Fisheries					
	2008/09	2010	2011	2012	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Belize	9,814	9,814	9,814	9,814	9,814	9,814	9,814	9,814	Nil	Nil
Chile	103,849	96,867 + 3,756 (GRT)	96,867 + 3,756 (GRT)	96,867 + 3,756 (GRT)	103,849	56,782 + 1,572 (GRT)	60,968 + 1,572 (GRT)	50,305	40,781	13,141
China	55,508	74,516	74,516	74,516	55,508	55,508	74,352	61,833	45,195	23,189
Cuba	Nil	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7,765	Nil
Cook Islands	12,613 (GRT)	12,613 (GRT)	12,613 (GRT)	12,613 (GRT)	12,613 (GRT)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
European Union	62,999	78,610	78,610	78,610	62,999	58,592	74,184	67,031	30,942	Nil
Faroe Islands	23,415	23,415	23,415	23,415	23,415	7,805	7,474	15,610	Nil	Nil
Korea	10,473	15,222	15,222	15,222	10,473	10,473	10,473	10,777	10,777	10,777
Peru		65,000	75,416	75,416			75,416	15,161	1,936	13,912
Russian Federation		23,235	74,470	74,470	Nil	4,638	74,470	49,173	12,375	Nil
Vanuatu	31,220 (GRT)	31,220 (GRT)	31,220 (GRT)	31,220 (GRT)	31,220 (GRT)	31,220	31,220	31,220	15,610	15,610

Note: Tonnage is in GT units unless otherwise stated; blanks indicate that there has been no report.

Points to note:

- China had a greater GT fishing in 2009 than the prescribed limit;
- European Union (EU) had a greater GT in 2009 than the prescribed limit, and the following additional information was provided:
 - Poland is an EU Member State with historical catches in the Area that had not exercised fishing activities in 2007 or 2008, and so entered the area in 2009, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of the 2007 Interim Measures. Poland entered the fishery in 2009, with 3 vessels with the total GT of 19,471. However, the total GT of the European Union vessels actively fishing in the area in 2009 at no point in time exceeded 63 000 GT.
- Peru re-entered the fishery in 2009;

The Russian Federation re-entered the fishery in 2008. However, for one of the vessels listed as actively fishing in 2009, the Interim Secretariat was provided with a copy of a port inspection report. The inspection took place on 24 January 2010 during the vessel's port call to Papeete. The report asserted that the vessel had not yet undertaken any fishing activity as there was no fishing gear or fishing equipment on board. Table 1 of the 2012 Interim Measures includes the following footnote: ⁴ This total includes the vessel Lafayette. Operational fishing data, in accordance with the consolidated data standards, has not been supplied to the Interim Secretariat in respect of this vessel and information supplied by some delegations indicates that the vessel probably was not capable of fishing in either 2009 or 2010. Some delegations requested the GT for this vessel (49,173 GT) should be held in abeyance pending receipt of operational fishing information. The Russian delegation stated that vessel Lafayette has duly obtained all certificates from the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping to be qualified for the fishing class; the vessel has undergone initial physical inspections and subsequent annual surveys to confirm its ability to be engaged in direct fishing operations.

Catch Management

2009 RIM Paragraph 9 (*Trachurus spp*):

Each participant is to voluntarily restrain catches by vessels flying its flag in the Convention Area to the annual level of catches recorded by that participant in either 2007, 2008, or 2009.

2009 RIM Paragraph 12 (*Trachurus spp*):

For 2010, the Faroe Islands agrees to voluntarily restrain, in accordance with paragraph 2, its catch effort to 2 vessels not exceeding a total of 15, 610 GT flying its flag in the Convention Area. Each of these 2 vessels will not catch more than what the vessel that was not affected by the force majeure situation caught in either 2007, 2008, or 2009...

2011 IM Paragraph 11 (*Trachurus spp*):

For 2011, each Participant is to limit its annual catch of *Trachurus* species by vessels flying its flag to 60% of its final recorded annual catch of that species in 2010 as reported to the Interim Secretariat. The Third Session of the Preparatory Conference will review the stock assessment for *Trachurus* species to be carried out by the SWG in 2011 in accordance with paragraph 3, and, unless decided otherwise, in 2012 Participants will, in principle, limit their annual catches of *Trachurus* species by vessels flying their flag to the order of 40% of their final recorded catch of that species in 2010, and taking into account paragraph 1.³

2012 IM Paragraph 12 (*Trachurus spp*):

In 2012 Participants will continue their efforts to reduce their annual catches of *Trachurus* species. To that end, in 2012 Participants will limit their annual catches of *Trachurus* species by vessels flying their flag to the order of 40% of their final annual recorded catch of that species in 2010, and taking into account paragraph 1³

³In applying this paragraph, account shall be taken of the procedures set out in article 20, paragraph 4, subparagraph a) of the Convention (which concerns fisheries which straddle the Convention Area and Areas under National Jurisdiction).

Table 2: Annual Catch Totals (*Trachurus spp*) compared with Catch Management Interim Measures (t)

Participant	Interim Management limits			Annual Catch Totals		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Belize	15,245	1,344	896	2,240	0	0
Chile	1,302,784 (ANJ + HS)	66,743 (HS only)	185,923 (ANJ + HS)	464,808 (ANJ + HS)	53,573 (HS only)	227,245 (ANJ + HS)
China	143,182	44,524 ⁶	25,443	63,606	32,862	12,971
Cuba	0		0	0	8	0
Cook Islands	7	0	0	0	0	0
European Union	123,511	40,649	27,099	67,749	2,248	0
Faroe Islands	38,700 ⁴		4,657	11,643	0	0
Korea	13,759		3,273	8,183	9,253	5,492 ⁹
Peru	13,326	24,310	16,206	40,516	674	3,587
Russian Federation	8,517 ⁵	24,310 ⁷	16,528	0 ⁸	8,229	0
Vanuatu	112,501	27,545	18,363	45,908	7,672	16,069

Note: ANJ = Areas under National Jurisdiction, HS = High Seas ⁴ Includes small quantities of unspecified mackerel species

⁵ Catch data was provided for 5 of the 6 vessels that were present in the Area in 2009

⁶ China took "measures to ensure 30% catch reduction from that of 2010"

⁷ The Russian Federation agreed to "reduce its annual catch in 2011 down to 50%"

⁸ Annual catch data was provided for a single vessel (the Lafayette) however it has not been included, pending receipt of operational fishing information. ⁹ Korea has distributed a letter regarding Korea's total Jack Mackerel catch in 2012 (refer letter 2012_0058)

Data Collection and Reporting

2009 RIM Paragraph 14 (*Trachurus spp*):

...Participants are to notify the Interim Secretariat which of those authorised vessels are actively fishing in the Convention Area. ... In addition, participants will provide a list of vessels that participated in transshipment during the course of the previous year

2011/2012 IM Paragraph 16 (*Trachurus spp*):

... Participants are to notify the Interim Secretariat of VMS records in the format prescribed by the (either consolidated or 2011) Data Standards and using the templates on the SPRFMO website, and vessels which are actively fishing or engaged in transshipment in the Convention Area within 10 days of the end of the quarter...

Table 3: Quarterly reports (*Trachurus spp*) received by Interim Secretariat

Participant	Submitted VMS		Submitted Active vessels		Submitted Transshipments		% Received within 10 days of quarter	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Chile	4	4	4	4	4	4	100	100
China	4	3	4	3	4	3	92	33
Cuba	2	Nil	2	Nil	2	Nil	25	n/a
European Union	4	Nil	4	Nil	4	Nil	25	n/a
Korea	4	3	4	3	4	3	75	67
Peru	3	3	3	3	3	3	75	50
Russian Federation	4	Nil	4	Nil	2	Nil	75	n/a
Vanuatu	4	3	4	3	4	3	60	33

2009 RIM Paragraph 13 (*Trachurus spp*):

All participants engaged in the fishery are to collect, verify, and provide all data to the Interim Secretariat, in accordance with the SPRFMO Data Standards, by 30 June of each year for their previous (January to December) year's fishing activities, including information relevant to stock status and recovery

Table 4: Fishing activity (*Trachurus spp*) compared with Data Standards

Participant	Submitted			Received prior to 30 th June		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Belize			Nil			n/a
Chile		✓	✓		✓	✓
China	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cuba	Nil	Nil		n/a	n/a	
European Union	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faroe Islands	Preliminary	✓	Nil		✓	n/a
Korea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peru		✓				
Russian Federation	✓		✓	✓		✓
Vanuatu	✓	✓	✓			

2009 RIM Paragraph 15 (*Trachurus spp*):

Participants are to provide to the Interim Secretariat estimated monthly catches of *Trachurus* species, as prescribed by the SPRFMO Data Standards, within thirty [30] days of the end of each month...

2011/2012 IM Paragraph 14 (*Trachurus spp*):

Monthly catch data should be sent by all Participants engaged in the fishery to the Interim Secretariat in the format prescribed by the consolidated Data Standards adopted by the third session of the Preparatory Conference and using the templates on the SPRFMO website. These data and records should be provided within 30 days of the end of the month...

Table 5: Monthly Catch data (*Trachurus spp*) compared with Interim Measures

Participant	Submitted			% Received within 30 days		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Belize	12	12*	Nil	58	n/a	n/a
Chile	12	12	12	75	100	100
China	10	12	11	90	75	100
Cuba	Nil	9	9*	n/a	67	n/a
European Union	10	12	11*	90	92	n/a
Faroe Islands	11	12*	12*	55	n/a	n/a
Korea	11	12	12	73	67	92
Peru	11	12	8	73	25	75
Russian Federation	12	12	8*	25	67	n/a
Vanuatu	8	12	11	100	92	73

*all submissions were for NIL catches

2011/2012 IM Paragraph 15 (*Trachurus spp*):

Except as described in paragraph 14 above, all Participants engaged in the fishery are to collect, verify, and provide all required data to the Interim Secretariat, in accordance with the (either consolidated or 2011) Data Standards and the templates available on the SPRFMO website

Table 6: Annual Catch submissions (*Trachurus spp*) compared with Data Standards

Participant	Submitted			Received within timeframes		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Belize	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chile	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
China	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Cuba	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cook Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Union	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faroe Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Korea	✓	✓	✓			✓
Peru	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Russian Federation	✓	✓	Preliminary figure provided at SWG10	✓	✓	✓
Vanuatu	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Table 7: Landings data (*Trachurus spp*) compared with Data Standards

Participant	Submitted			Received prior to 30 th June		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Chile		✓	✓		✓	✓
China			✓			✓
European Union		✓			✓	
Peru	✓					

No Landings data (reefer vessel) has been received by the Interim Secretariat.

Table 8: Transshipment data (*Trachurus spp*) compared with Data Standards

Participant	Submitted			Received prior to 30 th June		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Chile		Nil	Nil		n/a	n/a
China			✓			✓
European Union		✓			✓	
Peru	✓		Nil	✓		n/a
Vanuatu			✓			✓

Table 9: Authorised vessel data (*Trachurus spp*) compared with Data Standards

Participant	Submitted					Received prior to 30 th Sept	
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2012	2013
Belize	✓	✓	✓	Nil	Nil	n/a	n/a
Chile	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
China	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Cuba		✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Union	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Faroe Islands	✓	✓	Nil	Nil	Nil	n/a	n/a
Korea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Peru	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Russian Federation	✓	✓	✓	Nil	Nil	n/a	n/a
Vanuatu	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

2011/2012 IM Paragraph 17 (*Trachurus spp*):

In order to facilitate the work of the SWG, Participants will provide their annual national reports, in accordance with the existing guidelines for such reports, in advance of the (either 2011 or 2012) SWG meeting. Participants will also provide observer data for the (either 2011 or 2012) fishing season to the SWG to the maximum extent possible. The reports should be submitted at least one month before (either the 2011 or 2012) SWG meeting

2009 RIM Paragraph 19 (*Trachurus spp*):

*All participants engaged in the *Trachurus* species fishery are to provide an annual report to the Interim Secretariat describing how they have implemented these Interim Measures....*

Vanuatu was the only Participant to submit 2012 observer data one month prior to the 2012 SWG meeting. No 2011 observer data was submitted prior to the 2011 SWG meeting.

Table 10: Annual Reports (*Trachurus spp*) compared with Interim Measures

Participant	SWG meetings at which reports were presented				Received 1 month prior SWG	
	8 th SWG	9 th SWG	10 th SWG	11 th SWG	10 th SWG	11 th SWG
Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Belize	✓		Nil	Nil	n/a	n/a
Chile	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
China	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Chinese Taipei	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Ecuador				✓		
European Union	✓	✓	✓	Nil	✓	n/a
Korea	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
New Zealand	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Peru	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Russian Federation		✓	✓	Nil		n/a
Vanuatu	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

2011/2012 IM Paragraph 18 (*Trachurus spp*):

All Participants engaged in the Trachurus species fishery are to provide to the Interim Secretariat by 15 January of each year a report describing their implementation of these Interim Measures...

Table 11: Interim Measures Implementation Reports (*Trachurus spp*) received

Participant	Interim Implementation Reports presented			Received by 15 th Jan	
	2009 RIM	2011 IM	2012 IM	2011 IM	2012 IM
Belize	✓	Nil	Nil	n/a	n/a
Chile	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
China		✓	✓	✓	✓
European Union	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faroe Islands	✓	Nil	Nil	n/a	n/a
Korea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peru	✓	✓			
Russian Federation	Letter only		Nil		n/a
Vanuatu		✓			

Monitoring and Control**2007 IM, Paragraph 7 requires that:**

*To ensure, to the extent practicable, an appropriate level of observer coverage on fishing vessels flying their flag in order to observe the pelagic fisheries in the Area and collect relevant scientific information**

**The Fourth International Meeting agreed to a minimum of ten percent observer coverage for pelagic fisheries.*

2009 RIM Paragraph 17 (Trachurus spp):

All participants engaged in the Trachurus species fishery are to ensure a minimum of ten percent observer coverage of trips for vessels flying their flag and ensure that such observers collect and report data as described in the SPRFMO Data Standards

2011/2012 IM Paragraph 21 (Trachurus spp):

All Participants engaged in the Trachurus species fishery are to ensure a minimum of ten percent scientific observer coverage of trips for vessels flying their flag and ensure that such observers collect and report data as described in the (either consolidated or 2011) SPRFMO Data Standards

Table 12: Observer Coverage in the Trachurus spp fishery

Participant	Coverage level				Data submitted to the Interim Secretariat			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Belize				Nil				n/a
Chile	8%	5%	11%	12.1%		✓	✓	✓
China	9%	23%	>25%	67%		✓		✓
Cuba	Nil	Nil	Nil		n/a	n/a	n/a	
European Union	27%	>15%	>10%	>10%	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faroe Islands			0%	Nil				n/a
Korea	4%	0%	0%	50.6% (by tow)	✓	Nil	Nil	✓
Peru	Nil		0%	>0%	n/a		Nil	
Russian Federation		31%		33%				
Vanuatu		0%	0%	0%		n/a	n/a	n/a

Note coverage levels vary, and may be in terms of tows, catch, days or vessels

MEASURES FOR BOTTOM FISHERIES

2007 IM, Paragraph 1 requires that:

Participants limit bottom fishing effort or catch in the Area to existing levels² in terms of the number of fishing vessels and other parameters that reflect the level of catch, fishing effort, and fishing capacity.

²Existing levels of fishing effort or catch means the average annual levels over the period 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006

The Interim Secretariat does not currently have comprehensive information available on the number and tonnage of vessels actively bottom fishing within the Area during 2002 – 2006.

Table 13: Bottom fishing effort; Number of Vessels and Tonnage actively fishing during 2007-11

Participant	Unit	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Australia	Vessels	4	3	3	3	2
	Tonnage	1,085	430	470	445	476
Belize	Vessels	1				
	Tonnage	1,314				
European Union	Vessels		2	2	1*	
	Tonnage		1,258	1,258	607*	
Korea	Vessels	1				
	Tonnage	899				
New Zealand	Vessels	12	7	10	9	9
	Tonnage	2,336	2,068	4,446	3,572	

*only operated in January 2010

Table 14: Bottom fishing Catch (t) during 2007 -11 compared with the average annual 2002-06 level

Participant	Total Bottom Catch figures						Received prior to 30 th June		
	Average catch 2002-2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Australia	468	301	177	106	106	81			✓
Belize	801	421					n/a	n/a	n/a
China	1,102	482					n/a	n/a	n/a
European Union			945	2,909	314		✓	✓	n/a
Korea	190	48					n/a	n/a	n/a
New Zealand	2,614	1,278	969	1,047	1,909	1,543	✓	✓	✓
Ukraine	50						n/a	n/a	n/a

2007 IM, Paragraph 2 requires that:

Not expand bottom fishing activities into new regions of the Area where such fishing is not currently occurring

Table 15: Summary of Bottom Footprint Data Received by the Interim Secretariat

Participant	Time Period	Footprint Type	Resolution
Australia	2002-2006	Bottom Trawl and Demersal Lining Combined	20 x 20 minute
Chile	2002-2006	Bottom Trawl	20 x 20 minute
Korea	2001, 2002-2006, 2007	Bottom Trawl	20 x 20 minute
New Zealand	2002-2006	i) Bottom Trawl only*and; ii) Demersal Lining only	20 x 20 minute

* The New Zealand trawl footprint map includes information from foreign-flagged vessels that submitted information on NZ High Seas Trawl Catch and Effort returns

The Interim Secretariat has not yet been able to investigate Fishing Activity data. Hence there is no independent measure of Bottom fishing expansion (or lack thereof).

Note, Australia has advised that most fishing operations in 2010 occurred within the Australian fishing footprint, however there were some dropline operations (7 shots) outside of the Australian fishing footprint. In 2011, AFMA revised the high seas permit conditions for vessels operating in the SPRFMO area. The new permit conditions restrict vessels to fishing within the Australian fishing footprint as defined by a series of coordinates.

2007 IM, Paragraph 5 requires that:

Cooperate to identify, on the basis of the best available scientific information, vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Area and to map sites where these ecosystems are located, and provide such data and information to the Interim Secretariat for circulation to all Participants

2007 IM, Paragraph 7 requires that:

Require that vessels flying their flag cease bottom fishing activities within five (5) nautical miles of any site in the Area where, in the course of fishing operations, evidence of vulnerable marine ecosystems is encountered, and report the encounter, including the location, and the type of ecosystem in question, to the interim Secretariat ...

Both New Zealand and Chile have provided information via the Science Working Group concerning the potential location and identification of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. To date, no sites within the Area have been classified as actual VMEs.

In addition, New Zealand has reported evidence of potential VMEs within the Area to the Interim Secretariat for the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012:

- In 2009, New Zealand vessels conducted 14 tows within ‘move-on’ blocks, and in 1 of these sufficient benthic taxa were reported to trigger the move-on rule,
- During 2010, New Zealand trawl vessels conducted 48 tows within ‘move-on’ blocks, and in 2 of these sufficient benthic taxa were found to trigger the move-on rule,
- During 2011, New Zealand trawl vessels conducted 97 tows within ‘move-on’ blocks, and in 2 of these sufficient benthic taxa were found to trigger the move-on rule.
- During January to July 2012, New Zealand trawl vessels conducted 5 tows within ‘move-on’ blocks, and in 1 of these sufficient benthic taxa were found to trigger the move-on rule.

No other participants have reported potential VME encounter data to the Interim Secretariat.

2007 IM, Paragraph 8 requires that:

Notwithstanding paragraph 2, in regions of the Area where bottom fishing is not currently occurring, undertake, as appropriate, scientific research activities for stock assessment purposes in identified parts of such regions and only in accordance with a research plan that has been provided to the interim Secretariat for forwarding to the interim Science Working Group and all Participants, preferably 60 days prior to the commencement of that activity. Participants will provide promptly a report of the results of such scientific research activities to the interim Secretariat for circulation to all Participants

Both Australia and New Zealand have provided scientific research plans and subsequently conducted scientific research activities in the Area

2007 IM, Paragraph 9 requires that:

Appoint observers to each vessel flying their flag and undertaking or proposing to undertake bottom trawling activities in the Area and ensure an appropriate level of observer coverage on vessels flying their flag and undertaking other bottom fishing activities in the Area.*

**The Fourth International Meeting agreed to a minimum of ten percent observer coverage for bottom fisheries other than bottom trawling (noting that the bottom trawling coverage requirement was one hundred percent)*

Australia, the European Union and New Zealand reported observers on each of their bottom fishing vessels in 2009 and/or 2010 according to the coverage levels summarised in Table 16 below.

Table 16: Observer coverage (by vessel) in the Bottom Fisheries as advised to the Interim Secretariat

Fishery	Participant	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bottom Trawl	Australia	Nil	Nil	Nil	100%
	New Zealand	100%	100%	100%	100%
Demersal Line	Australia	33%	15%	17%	21%
	New Zealand	20%	20%	50%	0%
Gill Net	European Union	Nil	100%	100%	Nil

In addition, the Data Standards also require the submission of various data types. Adherence to those standards are summarized in Tables 17, 18 and 19.

Table 17: Fishing activity (*deepwater*) compared with Data Standards

Participant	Submitted			Received prior to 30 th June		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Union	✓	✓	Nil	✓	✓	n/a
New Zealand*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* New Zealand fishing activity data has been submitted at 5x5 degree resolution

Table 18: Landings data (*Deepwater*) compared with Data Standards

Participant	Submitted		Received prior to 30 th June	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 19: Authorised vessel data (*Deepwater*) compared with Data Standards

Participant	Submitted			Received prior to 30 th Sept		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
Australia	✓	✓	✓		✓	
New Zealand*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* New Zealand vessels are authorised by permit year (May – Apr) rather than calendar year.

2007 IM, Paragraph 11 resolves that Participants:

Assess, on the basis of the best available scientific information, whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, and to ensure that if it is assessed that these activities would have significant adverse impacts, they are managed to prevent such impacts, or not authorized to proceed.

2007 IM, Paragraph 11 resolves to apply the following:

- a) *Participants are to submit to the interim Science Working Group their assessments of whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the proposed management measures to prevent such impacts, and make these assessments publicly available.*

The following information has been submitted about risk and impact assessments:

- Australia submitted a bottom fishery impact assessment and provided a description of conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts;
- The European Union have submitted a preliminary risk assessment of bottom fishing and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) by the Spanish set gillnet fishery in the Area for 2009/10;
- New Zealand submitted a bottom-fishery impact assessment of bottom fishing activities carried out by New Zealand flagged vessels in the Area during 2008 and 2009;
- Papers were submitted to the 8th Science Working Group describing measures adopted to prevent adverse impacts by Chile and New Zealand.

MEASURES FOR DEEPWATER GILLNETS

2007 IM for Deepwater Gill nets:

Participants commit themselves to:

1. require any vessel flying their flag not to use deepwater gillnets in the Convention Area until relevant conservation and management measures are adopted by the future Commission, which will be established following the entry into force of the Convention; and

The European Union announced it would discontinue its bottom gillnet fishing in the Area by 1 February 2010; The Interim Secretariat has not received any information to indicate that bottom gillnet fishing was undertaken by participants in the SPRFMO Area since 1 February 2010.

2. require any vessel flying their flag seeking to transit the Convention Area carrying gillnets to give advance notice of its intent, including the expected dates of its passage through the Convention Area, to the Interim Secretariat.

The Interim Secretariat has not received any notifications from participants to indicate that any vessels transiting the Convention Area were carrying gillnets.

In July 2011, a sighting report was provided by New Zealand of two vessels, one from Nigeria and the other from Curaçao, which were fishing in the SPRFMO Area with gillnets in 2011. The Interim Secretariat advised the governments of the Netherlands (on behalf of Curaçao) and of Nigeria of the Interim Measure and requested that they cooperate with the participants by removing the vessels. The Interim Secretariat has received a positive response from the Netherlands, but no response from Nigeria.

In January 2012, Australia provided a sighting report of Honduran vessel fishing with bottom nets in the SPRFMO Area. The Interim Secretariat has advised the Honduran government of the Interim Measure and requested it cooperate by removing the vessel from the Area.