

## 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

*Port Vila, Vanuatu, 14 to 18 February 2020*

### COMM 8 – Doc 06

## Regional processes relevant for SPRFMO

*Secretariat*

### 1. BACKGROUND

The Secretariat receives numerous requests for inputting in several regional processes on different fisheries management related areas. These inputs not only cover those where the Commission instructed the Secretariat to engage such as the ABNJ<sup>1</sup> or FIRMS<sup>2</sup> but also many others where SPRFMO is required to provide technical input. A non-exhaustive list of the latest would be: CITES on “*Proposals to amend Appendices I and II for marine species*” (12/03/2019), OECD on “*Closing Gaps in National Regulations Against IUU Fishing*” and “*Intensifying the Fight Against IUU Fishing at the Regional Level*” (06/03/2019), or several FAO requests “*Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*” (26/02/2019), “*Best Practices to Prevent and Reduce ALDFG*” (09/05/2019) or the “*FAO Study on Transshipment*” (23/09/2019).

However, there are other regional processes concerning specific policy areas where the Secretariat has been requested to provide input. Some of these regional processes relevant for SPRFMO would be: BBNJ<sup>3</sup>, CBD<sup>4</sup>, the SDG 14<sup>5</sup>, etc.

### 2. OTHER REGIONAL PROCESSES

The Commission has not given a clear line to take or allocated the human and financial resources for the Secretariat to engage or not on these regional processes related with the conservation and management of high seas fisheries resources (from a policy point of view) and therefore the Secretariat is looking for guidance from the Commission on how to approach these regional processes.

The Commission is invited to consider providing guidance to the Secretariat on the level of engagement (if any) and how to make it operational<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Common Oceans ABNJ (areas beyond national jurisdiction) Program, Deep Sea Project - Future phases, Right Based Management Workshop, Deep Sea Workshop 7-9 May 2019, SPRFMO and the Expert Workshop on Ecosystem Risk Assessments in the ABNJ, ABNJ Deep Sea Project co-financing, STRONG High Seas project ...

<sup>2</sup> SPRFMO FIRMS Template (Draft 1) (25/09/2019), FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> Session (Rome, Italy 13-14 and 18 May 2019), Formal Application to FIRMS (10/05/2019) ...

<sup>3</sup> Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of [marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction](#) (General Assembly resolution 72/249).

<sup>4</sup> The [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

<sup>5</sup> Sustainable Development Goal 14 – [Life Below Water](#) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

<sup>6</sup> The Commission would consider: Intersessional decisions, Intersessional Working Group on strategic discussions on BBNJ, UNGA, UNFSA, CBD global developments... Informal Members consultations, etc.