

**11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

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**SC11 – WP03\_v2**

*Scientific Staff Analysis and Proposal*

*Submitted by Ecuador*



## SPRFMO Scientific Staff Analysis and Proposal

A Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) is a critical international entity responsible for managing and conserving shared fishery resources in specific ocean regions. RFMOs play a crucial role in ensuring sustainable fishing practices, protecting marine ecosystems, and addressing overfishing. Having permanent Science manager/coordinator within an RFMO is important for several reasons:

1. **Data Collection and Analysis:** Permanent scientific staff can process, analyze, and maintain critical data on fish stocks, population dynamics, and ecosystem health. This data is essential for making informed decisions about fishing quotas, conservation measures, extraction control rules and resource management strategies driven by the Scientific Committee.
2. **Consistency and Continuity:** Fisheries management is a long-term endeavor. Having permanent scientific staff ensures continuity in data collection and research efforts to be integrated in database, reducing the risk of disruptions due to changing personnel or funding.
3. **International Collaboration:** RFMOs often involve multiple member countries with diverse interests and priorities. Permanent scientific staff can facilitate international collaboration by providing a consistent and trusted source of scientific information that members can rely on.
4. **Capacity Building:** Permanent scientific staff can play a role in capacity-building efforts by training personnel from member countries in data collection, analysis, and research techniques, ultimately strengthening the scientific capabilities of the organization.

### General Roles and Responsibilities:

- Follow up in data-driven scientific research to support fisheries management decision-making driven by the Scientific Committee.
- Report to the Scientific Committee about the scientific information provided by Members and the activities according to Multi-annual Scientific Plan.
- Collaborate with other divisions and international organizations to share information and scientific knowledge.
- Participate in conferences, seminars, and scientific workshops to stay updated on advancements in fisheries research and marine conservation.

### **PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF SPRFMO SCIENTIFIC AND DATA-RELATED STAFF:**

1. **Science Manager:** to take follow up actions on modelling and stock assessment activities and workshops driven by the Scientific Committee, and scientific support as decided by the Scientific Committee according to Multi-annual Scientific Plan. PROFILE: fish stock management expert (PhD), preferably bilingual. Long-term position, *remotely* or based in New Zealand (Professional Category – new position)
2. **Data manager:** strategic and technical advice regarding the development of data services and database architecture, will be in charge of continually improve data processing, data auditing and quality, data reporting, and analyses of data (Professional Category – old position).



3. Data Analyst: Secretarial tasks of the Data Manager so allow that person to develop better ways of managing the data: managing transshipment notifications, ROV, incoming data, meetings, communications, web updates, etc. PROFILE: technical junior staff. Short-term (2-year<sup>1</sup>) locally recruited (General Services Category – new position)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Permanent science staff within an RFMO are essential for ensuring the organization's effectiveness in managing and conserving shared fishery resources.
- Chairperson of the SC-SPRFMO shall be selected among Members to support permanent Science Manager, two years to be reelected once (Article 7 – The Commission). Nevertheless, Chairperson shall not have the full-time responsibility to deal with daily Secretarial tasks. This position shall be surveillance and coordination and a representation of Members to the Commission in scientific manners. Chair would receive information and reports permanently from Data and Science Manager.
- Data Manager and Compliance Manager are a complement to the organization and their duties should not be overly burdened by administrative tasks to ensure high quality outcomes from research and analysis.
- Some Members noted that Chairperson shall have a proper role in the SC which means that Chair shall not only lead the discussions but work actively in workshops and researching and decisions making processes driven by the SC. The SC also noted that a project may be developed in order that Chairperson post was a paid position in order to ensure participation and continuity.

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<sup>1</sup> This position is anticipated to become less critical with the transition of data services providers, database and data processing upgrades, and expected developments by the Data manager, given the additional time to do so.