

China Statement to the Scientific Committee of SPRFMO

September 15, 2023

Panama City, Panama

To the Scientific Committee,

- China recognizes and values the importance of the on-board observer in collection of scientific information to support research and functions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
- China has done the best to dispatch observers on board to collect scientific data and share it with members to support the squid genetic research and stock assessment. In 2022, the observers and studying vessels have collected information on over 100,000 squid and taken tons of samples to send to the lab for analysis. These samples covered the entire year and the entire fishing ground.
- Based on these practices above mentioned and the highly selectivity of the squid jigging fishery, China believes that the current of observer coverage level meet the requirements of the scientific and compliance purposes.
- Since the Scientific Committee does not reach a consensus with regard to the pilot observer placement program, it is not appropriate to included it in the 2024 SC Multi-Annual Work Plan (2024 SC Workplan), because according to the provisions of article 10, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which stipulates that “the rules of procedure of the Commission shall provide that where the Scientific Committee is unable to provide its advice by consensus, it shall set out in its report the different views of its members.” So, it is China’s view that the SC meeting report should include the different views of its members on this issue.
- China is willing to maintain communication and cooperation with members on the issue of observer coverage.