

13th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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CPPS-SPRFMO Cooperation for the Implementation of
Decision 13-2023 on Climate Change

CPPS



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CPPS–SPRFMO COOPERATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION 13-2023 ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The cooperation between the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) is framed within the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 18 March 2022. In particular, Clause 2(iii)(f) of the MoU establishes the exchange of scientific data and information for studies concerning the monitoring of ENSO (El Niño–Southern Oscillation), as well as other climate variability and marine ecosystem matters. This provides a framework for joint efforts to address the impacts of climate change through coordinated monitoring, research, and the sharing of scientific findings between both organizations. The purpose of this cooperation is to support the implementation of SPRFMO Decision 13-2023 on Climate Change by demonstrating potential impacts in the Southeast Pacific, developing recommendations on adapting conservation and management measures (CMMs), and proposing new CMMs to enhance resilience in the Convention Area.

The mission of CPPS is to facilitate, strengthen, and articulate, among its Member States, political, technical, and scientific cooperation and coordination for the sustainable conservation and use of the ocean and its resources for the benefit of their people. This mission is guided by an integral approach in the framework of international agreements and on due respect of the national policies and mechanisms of its Member States. This guideline, applied in the marine areas under the national sovereignty and jurisdiction of Member States, leads the projection of CPPS beyond them.

The Regional Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (Estudio Regional del Fenómeno de El Niño - ERFEN) is one of the most important scientific cooperation initiatives of CPPS. Created in 1974, ERFEN aims to improve forecasting and understanding of ENSO events, mitigate their adverse effects on coastal communities, fisheries, and ecosystems, and enhance national capacities for data management and interpretation. ERFEN operates through coordinated oceanographic and atmospheric monitoring, joint research cruises, and the exchange of expertise among Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Its interdisciplinary and multinational approach allows the integration of scientific results into decision-making processes, which is crucial in the context of climate change, where the interaction between ENSO variability and long-term climatic ocean–atmosphere trends must be understood.

One of ERFEN's most relevant tools is the Climatic Alert Bulletin (Boletín de Alerta Climático - BAC), a monthly publication that provides a regional consensus forecast and alert on ENSO conditions. The BAC is built through a process that integrates data from satellite observations, local oceanographic information, and national meteorological



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services; analyses of sea surface temperature anomalies, subsurface temperature profiles, atmospheric pressure patterns, and precipitation anomalies; and consensus discussions among regional climate experts. The bulletin summarizes the current ENSO and local climate status, presents projections, and provides risk assessments and recommendations. All BAC issues are available at: <https://cpps-int.org/index.php/2015-11-09-19-28-49/boletines>

The Scientific Committee ERFEN, composed of representatives from each Member State, coordinates the collection and exchange of oceanographic and climatic data, assesses regional ENSO conditions, and reviews advances relevant to marine and coastal management. Every year, the Committee produces an Annual Technical Report that synthesizes oceanographic and climatic conditions in the Southeast Pacific, analyses observed impacts, and presents forecasts for the coming period. The latest technical report can be downloaded from: <https://archivo.cpps-int.org/index.php/s/U9KHvXb538RaqvM>

In the framework of the CPPS–SPRFMO MoU, both organizations may advance on enhancing cooperative climate-related science to better understand the effect of ENSO and climate change on fisheries and its ecosystems in order to create stronger, science-based adaptive strategies for the South Pacific.