



13TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Wellington, New Zealand, 8 to 13 September 2025

SC 13 – Doc 11.1 Datasets held by the Secretariat *Secretariat*

1. Summary

This paper responds to a request from the Chairperson of the SC to outline the datasets held by the Secretariat that are created from data submitted through the standardised Data Submission Templates. These templates operationalise the data requirements in the Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs). They provide structured inputs for holdings such as fleet registry, catch and effort, observer observations (bycatch and length-frequency), landings, transshipment notifications and declarations, port inspections, VMS manual position reports, VME encounter notifications, ALDFG events, and Scientific Committee templates (age-length keys, survey data for jack mackerel assessments). These datasets underpin SC and CTC analyses including stock assessments, bycatch estimation, spatial and habitat assessments, and cross-checks among catch, landing, and transshipment records.

It is intended to transition to fully automated receipt and processing of these templates. Until then, most submissions arrive as email attachments that must be manually handled before uploading them to the database.

The SC is invited to:

- **note** the completeness and interoperability of Secretariat data holdings built from the templates, and to request any additional derived products.
- **Consider** recommending to the Commission an amendment to CMM 02 (Data Standards) to address the current misalignment between data submission deadlines and the timing of the SC meeting.

2. Scope and sources

All datasets summarised below are derived from submissions made via the Secretariat's Data Submission Templates ([Data ► Data Submission Templates page](#)). Each template is paired with an explanatory note that maps fields to the relevant CMM provision(s) and standardises variable names, units and codes (e.g., FAO 3-alpha species codes, ISSCFG gear codes, UTC date-time formats, and decimal-degree coordinates).

3. Secretariat data holdings by template

3.1. Fleet Register / Record of Vessels (CMM 05)

Source template: Vessel Details (submission) with accompanying explanatory note. Key variables include: current and previous vessel names; flag; registration number; radio call sign; IMO/UVI;



port of registry; ISSCFV vessel type and ISSCFG gear; build info; dimensions (length, beam, moulded depth), tonnage (GT/GRT); engine power; hold capacity; owner/operator details; VMS brand/model; communications; external markings; authorisation start/end dates; and photos.

3.2. Annual Catch – all species (CMM 02)

Source templates: Annual Catch (standard) and Annual Catch (GIS). Key variables: calendar year; sea type (HS/EEZ); FAO major area; species name and FAO 3-alpha code; stock unit where applicable; fishing method (ISSCFG); and annual live-weight catch (t).

3.3. Jack mackerel (CJM) reporting (CMM 01)

Source templates: Monthly Report and 15-day Reporting. Key variables: monthly or 15-day estimated CJM catch in the Convention Area and under national jurisdiction; names of active fishing vessels; and names of vessels engaged in transshipment (from/to).

3.4. Deepwater & Exploratory fisheries (CMM 03a)

Source templates: Monthly Return (Deepwater & Exploratory Fisheries) and Daily/Weekly orange roughly reports. Key variables include monthly catch totals (by species) and, where required, weekly/daily reporting for specified stocks; these complement operational fishing-activity logs below.

3.5. Fishing activity (tow/set) datasets — operational level (CMM 02)

Source templates (each with gear-specific notes): Trawl, Purse Seine, Bottom Long-line, Squid Jigging, Potting, and Hand/Drop/Dahn lining. Common variables: UTC start/end date-time; start/end positions (decimal degrees); intended target species (FAO code); retained and discarded catch by species; and an indicator for incidental captures of species of concern. Gear-specific variables include:

- Trawl: trawl type (TB/TM), net opening height/width, gear depth, bottom depth.
- Purse seine: net length/height; (school association field unused).
- Bottom longline: number of hooks; bottom depth at start of set.
- Squid jigging: positions at start/end of drift; echo sounder (Y/N); numbers of single/double/'per line' jig machines; max operating depth; deck light power; hours fished.
- Potting: depth at start/end; pot count; pot type and bait type.
- Hand/Drop/Dahn line: hooks used and lost; number of line lifts; leader and bait details; depth at start/end.

3.6. Observer datasets (CMM 02; CMM 12 for observed transshipments)

Source templates: Observer—Trawling, Purse Seining, Bottom Long-lining, Jigging; and Observer Transshipment logsheet. Content spans vessel/observer headers; detailed tow/set information (gear measurements, mesh size/type, gear and bottom depth); retained and discarded catch by species; and incidental captures recorded by taxon with fate/condition categories (e.g., adults/juveniles: vigorous, alive, lethargic, dead). Length-frequency worksheet structures are provided (e.g., purse seine).

3.7. Landings data (CMM 02)

Source templates: Fishing Vessel Landings and Reefer Vessel Landings. Key variables: trip dates, SPRFMO-area entry/exit dates; port/country of landing; FAO area; species (FAO code);



state/product type; container type and counts; landed weights by species; and (where applicable) observer/authority for verification.

3.8. Transshipment notifications and declarations (CMM 12)

Source templates: Transshipment Notification (advance & 12-hour notices) and Transshipment Details (post-event). Variables cover unloading/receiving vessel identifiers; anticipated/actual UTC date-time and positions; species and product-state by container type, counts and net weights; gear used to catch; reefer hold allocation; and destination/ETA.

3.9. Port State Measures (CMM 07)

Source templates: Port Call Request form and Port Inspection Report. Variables include designated port details and contacts; vessel identifiers; VMS status; vessel dimensions; authorisations; port entry/exit times; inspection timing, purpose and results; and follow-up reporting fields.

3.10. Manual VMS position reporting (CMM 06)

Source template: Manual VMS Reporting. Variables: vessel name, IMO, call sign, master's name, vessel activity (fishing/transit/transshipment), UTC position date-time, latitude/longitude. This complements the automatic Commission VMS and is used in exceptional cases to maintain track continuity.

3.11. VME Encounter notifications (CMM 03 – Bottom fishing)

Source template: VME Encounter Notification. Variables: shooting/ending UTC times and positions; gear type (bottom or mid-water trawl checkboxes); taxon encountered with weights; threshold indicators; and summary counts above threshold/weight limits.

3.12. Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) reports (CMM 17)

Source template: CMM 17 ALDFG reporting. Variables: gear type/material/quantity; event classification (abandoned/lost/retrieved); UTC date-time and position; circumstances and depth; measures taken to retrieve; and, for retrieved gear, vessel identifiers and photos.

3.13. Scientific Committee templates: Age–Length keys and Survey inputs

Source templates: Age–Length (ALK) and Survey information (jack mackerel). These standardise annual submissions for the CJM stock assessment (e.g., length–age pairing and survey index metadata).

4. Submission schedules relevant to science

Key science-relevant deadlines (see the Secretariat's consolidated deadlines list):

- 30 June: Fishing activity, landing and transshipment event data (CMM 02 annual submissions).
- 30 September: Annual catch totals (all species) and Observer data annual submissions (CMM 02).
- CJM: Monthly within 20 days; 15-day reports within 10 days when triggers apply (CMM 01).
- Deepwater/Orange roughy: Daily/weekly reports as specified; monthly returns within 20 days (CMM 03a).
- Transshipment: notifications (7 days in advance and 12 hours prior) and post-event details (generally within 7 days or quarterly for squid) (CMM 12).



- Port State: prior notification (≥ 48 h), inspection reports within 15 working days, and follow-up timelines (CMM 07).
- VME encounters: immediate notification (CMM 03).
- ALDFG: prompt reporting (CMM 17).

5. Misalignment of Data Submission Deadlines

An issue has been identified regarding the deadline established in CMM 02 for the submission of annual catch totals for all species and observer data, which is currently set at 30 September each year. These data are essential for advancing scientific analyses and for the preparation of documents to be considered by the Scientific Committee (SC), which form the basis of SC recommendations to the Commission on fisheries management. However, as the SC annual meeting usually takes place in September–October, these data are often submitted (as required) too late—frequently after the SC meeting has concluded. This year, data availability has again been problematic. The Secretariat therefore suggests reviewing the current submission deadline and considering an earlier date of 30 June, aligning with other relevant fishing activity data submissions.

6. Notes on access, standards, and quality

Templates embed field-by-field references to the governing CMM clauses, ensuring traceability. Standard codes include FAO species (3-alpha) and ISSCFG gear codes. Dates/times are UTC; positions are decimal degrees. Operational-level data (e.g., tow/set and observer) enable rigorous analyses but are typically subject to confidentiality clauses in CMM 2; aggregated outputs are used for public reporting where appropriate.