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## 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

*Santiago, Chile, 11-14 February 2025*

CTC 12 – Doc 05 rev1

### Implementation Report: SPRFMO Fisheries

*Secretariat*

#### 1. Background

The Secretariat has prepared this implementation report to provide an overview of the various SPRFMO fisheries, while also addressing the broader implementation of SPRFMO Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) across those fisheries. This report also includes a section on transshipment (CMM 12) as these support activities are considered ‘fishing’ under the SPRFMO Convention.

It focuses on key aspects such as fishing activities, data validation, Scientific Committee (SC) advice and requests, and challenges related to the implementation of CMMs for jack mackerel, squid, bottom fishing, exploratory fisheries, and transshipment.

CTC12 is requested to:

- *note this implementation report and make any recommendations deemed appropriate.*

#### 2. *Trachurus murphyi* (CMM 01)

##### 2.1. Threshold (70%) and date of closure (Paragraph 6)

During 2024, four Members reached 70% of their catch limit. Chile was informed by letter on 3<sup>rd</sup> September (G101-2024), Korea on 29 November (G144-2024), the European Union on 29 November (G143-2024), and the Russian Federation on 29 November (G145-2024).

The European Union vessels finished operations towards the end of November 2024 as communicated in an email received by the Secretariat on the 6 December 2024.

##### 2.2. Entitlement transfers (Paragraph 8)

The Secretariat is responsible for notifying Members and CNCPs when each transfer occurs and circulating the approval of the receiving Member.

During 2024 there were 23 transfers involving 11 Members, as summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Transfers (tonnes) of jack mackerel catch entitlement (rounded to nearest whole number)

| Member             | 2024 catch entitlement | Transfers received | Transfers given | Current Limit    |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Belize             | 1 317                  | 0                  | 1 317           | 0                |
| Chile (total)      | 819 720                | 276 806            | 0               | 1 096 526        |
| China              | 74 147                 | 0                  | 74 000          | 147              |
| Cook Islands       | 1 266                  | 0                  | 0               | 1 266            |
| Cuba               | 2 552                  | 0                  | 2 552           | 0                |
| Ecuador (total)    | 14 456                 | 0                  | 14 000          | 456              |
| European Union     | 74 047                 | 0                  | 56 768          | 17 279           |
| Faroe Islands      | 12 682                 | 0                  | 12 682          | 0                |
| Korea              | 14 805                 | 0                  | 12 724          | 2 081            |
| Panama             | 1 266                  | 0                  | 1 266           | 0                |
| Peru (high seas)   | 25 337                 | 0                  | 25 337          | 0                |
| Russian Federation | 40 241                 | 0                  | 22 700          | 17 541           |
| Vanuatu            | 53 461                 | 0                  | 53 461          | 0                |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>1 135 295</b>       | <b>276 806</b>     | <b>276 806</b>  | <b>1 135 295</b> |

### 2.1. Notification of catches against catch limits (Paragraphs 9 and 12)

Paragraph 9 of the CMM specifies the total catch limit for *Trachurus murphyi* (throughout its range). For 2024, this limit was 1 242 000 t.

By way of letter G102-2024 on 3 September 2024, the Executive Secretary informed Members and CNCs that total catches of *Trachurus murphyi* throughout the range of its distribution had reached 70% of the amount referred to in paragraph 9 (at that stage 884,188 t had been caught, which was 71.2% of 1 242 000 t).

Paragraph 12 states that when total catches have reached 70% of the amount indicated in paragraph 9, Members and CNCs agree to implement a 15-day reporting period. Fifteen-day reporting for the jack mackerel fishery was implemented in October 2024.

The Executive Secretary is to notify Members and CNCs when the amount referred to in paragraph 9 has been reached. As of letter G04-2025, which provided information up to 15 December 2024, total catches of *Trachurus murphyi* throughout the range of its distribution had reached 99.3 % of that limit.

### 2.2. Monthly and 15-day catch reports (Paragraph 13)

Monthly and 15-day catch reports were circulated by the Secretariat throughout the year in a timely manner.

### 2.3. Verification of 2023 annual catch reports (Paragraph 15)

Each year, the Executive Secretary shall verify the annual catch reports and inform the Members and CNCs of the outcome of the verification exercise and any possible discrepancies encountered. The outcome of this exercise is shown in Table 2.



**Table 2:** Verification of annual catch (tonnes) from the *Trachurus murphyi* fishery (2023)

| Member             | CMM01 (2023) final catch limit | 2023 annual catch | Monthly reports | Fishing activities   | Transshipments | Landings |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Chile              | 862 128                        | 855 785           | 855 785         | Conducted in EEZ/ANJ |                |          |
| Ecuador            | 500                            | 3*                | 3               | Conducted in EEZ/ANJ |                |          |
| European Union     | 52 144                         | 51 690            | 52 590          | 49 180               | 0              | 51 690   |
| Peru (high seas)   | 20 175                         | 20 156*           | 20 175          | 20 056               | 0              | 20 056   |
| Russian Federation | 43 974                         | 43 374            | 42 744          | 43 937               | 0              | 13 655   |

\*From the Members implementation reports

Referring to Table 2, the data submitted by most Members shows no significant variations, with the 2023 annual catches closely aligning with reported monthly totals, fishing activities, and landings.

However, there is a notable variation between the annual catch figures and Transshipment/Landings for the Russian Federation. This discrepancy is partially because no data on transshipments/landings were received for the 2 of 3 Russian Federation vessels active in the fishery. The 3<sup>rd</sup> vessel also used a non-standard reporting format which increased time spent processing the data. To address these inconsistencies, the Data manager will engage with the respective Member.

#### 2.4. List of vessels having actively fished or engaged in transhipment (Paragraph 18)

The SPRFMO [Record of Vessels](#) details the list of authorised vessels and is available via the Organisation’s website. Vessels that have actively fished or engaged in transhipment for *Trachurus murphyi*, by month, in the 2024 calendar year are also shown on the SPRFMO website ([T. murphyi Fishery](#)).

A summary of this information is presented in Table 3. In addition, a report on the vessels active in the Convention Area during 2023 is included in the annual Record of Vessels Implementation report.

**Table 3:** Number of vessels having actively fished or engaged in transhipment (*T. murphyi*) in the SPRFMO Area (2023)

| Member/CNCP        | Number of Vessels | Vessel type   |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| European Union     | 4                 | Trawlers      |
| Peru               | 38                | Purse seiners |
| Russian Federation | 3                 | Trawlers      |

#### 2.5. SC advice and specific requests

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SPRFMO Scientific Committee was held in Lima, Peru from 30 September to 5 October 2024.

In terms of jack mackerel research, the Scientific Committee reviewed the jack mackerel stock assessment, finding the fishery was sustainable with biomass above target levels. A 15% increase in the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2025 was recommended, setting it at 1,428,000 metric tonnes, aligned with the current harvest control rule.

The SC12 endorsed additional scenarios to illustrate possible management outcomes in the 2025 advice to the Commission, while underscoring the need for thorough testing of any changes in management strategies within the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process.



### 3. Squid (CMM 18)

#### 3.1. Management for the Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery (Paragraph 3)

Table 1 of CMM 18 sets out the effort limitations for Members fishing for jumbo flying squid in the SPRFMO Convention Area (noting that these limits do not apply to fishing gears other than jigging).

As of the latest 2023 calendar period for the Squid Fishery, China had utilized 522 vessels out of its 671 vessel limit, operating at 78% of its total gross tonnage allocation (446,694GT used out of a limit of 644,820 GT).

Overall, across all Members, 522 vessels have been deployed out of a total allowable limit of 766, accounting for 68% of the combined gross tonnage limit (446,694 GT used out of 736,092 GT).

**Table 4: 2023 Effort limitation in the jumbo flying squid fishery (2023)**

| Member/CNCP    | Vessel Number Limit | Vessel Number Actuals | Total Gross Tonnage Limit | Total Gross Tonnage Actuals (2023) |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| China          | 671                 | <u>522</u>            | 644 820                   | <u>446 694</u>                     |
| Korea          | 50                  | 0                     | 45 773                    | 0                                  |
| Chinese Taipei | 45                  | 0                     | 45 499                    | 0                                  |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>766</b>          | <b><u>522</u></b>     | <b>736 092</b>            | <b><u>446 694</u></b>              |

#### 3.2. Historical record in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery (Paragraph 4)

The squid information held by the Secretariat and provided under CMM 18 identifies the following Members and CNCPs has having had a historical record in the jumbo flying squid jigging fishery:

**Table 5: Members and CNCPs other than developing coastal States (as defined in CMM 18) with an historical record jigging for Jumbo Flying Squid**

| Member/CNCP        | Year | Number of Vessels | Total Gross Tonnage | Catch weight (t) |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Russian Federation | 1965 | 3                 | 2 629               | 12               |
| Russian Federation | 1966 | 3                 | 2 629               | 7                |
| Russian Federation | 1981 | 1                 | 912                 | 3                |
| Russian Federation | 1982 | 5                 | 4 560               | 15               |
| Russian Federation | 1983 | 3                 | 2 736               | 8                |

The above information was circulated to Members and CNCPs in Letter G82-2023 (5 July 2023).

#### 3.3. Verification of 2023 annual catch reports (Paragraph 10)

Each year, the Executive Secretary shall verify the annual catch reports and inform the Members and CNCPs of the outcome of the verification exercise and any possible discrepancies encountered.

It should be noted that due to the relatively long fishing trips that are typical of vessels targeting squid, landings data can be hard to interpret with respect to annual catch and fishing activity data. For example, a single landing



event may comprise squid from fishing activities that occurred over several years. Disaggregating these catches to apportion them to the respective year in which they were harvested may not be possible. In addition, there are challenges associated with collating and analysing transshipment data (discussed further in Section 6.3) which means that currently annual catches are only verified using fishing activity data.

**Table 6:** Verification of Annual catch (tonnes)<sup>1</sup> from the squid fishery in SPRFMO Area (2023)

| Member | 2023 Annual catch | 2023 Fishing activities |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| China  | 494 000           | 477 681                 |

Referring to Table 6, there is no significant discrepancy between the annual catch data and fishing activity data received by the Secretariat for the Jumbo flying squid fishery.

### 3.4. List of vessels having actively fished or engaged in transshipment (Paragraph 6)

The SPRFMO [Record of Vessels](#) shows the list of vessels that are authorised and is available via the Organisation’s website. On the Member’s section of the SPRFMO website, there are summary tables detailing the transshipment notifications received (as well as the carrier vessels involved with the transshipments), and a summary of the transshipment details reported, following transshipment events.

A report on the vessels active in the Convention Area during 2023 is included in the annual Record of Vessels Implementation report.

### 3.5. SC advice and specific requests

The Scientific Committee (SC12) acknowledged progress in the stock assessment of jumbo flying squid while noting that the availability of catch data remains a significant challenge, particularly in terms of timeliness, which causes delays in stock assessments and the provision of management advice.

A decline in squid availability in the South Pacific was observed alongside a strong and prolonged climate event. The assessment results were once again split in terms of stock status, with two models explicitly considering environmental effects, marking an important step forward given the complexities associated with phenotypic variability and the current environmental conditions. Additionally, progress was noted in genetics studies for jumbo flying squid.

To address these challenges, the SC agreed to enhance cooperation among Members for data collection and sharing in support of stock assessments and scientific research, as well as to share assessment models and simulation codes on SPRFMO’s GitHub to ensure transparency. A single template for data collection was proposed to implement stock assessment methods currently in use, along with templates for additional desirable data to improve existing approaches. The SC also emphasized the need to reinforce research on the relationship between the squid resource and the environment.

As a result, the SC recommended that the Commission request coastal Members to make data from jurisdictional waters available to ensure transparency in estimating key quantities for stock assessment. The exploration and development of new management strategies tailored for short-lived species was also encouraged, along with further research on the interaction between squid populations and environmental factors.

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<sup>1</sup> Catch records are rounded to the nearest whole number



## 4. Deepwater species (CMM 03a)

### 4.1. Notification of catches against catch limits (Paragraphs 17 and 22)

In 2023, neither Australia nor New Zealand achieved the catch thresholds, relating to orange roughy, to trigger a notification from the Secretariat.

On 10 December 2023, the Secretariat received a notification from New Zealand indicating that they intend to carry forward 10% of their allocated orange roughy catch limit (all stocks) into 2024. Similarly, on 10 December 2024, the Secretariat received a notification from New Zealand indicating that they intend to carry forward 10% of their allocated orange roughy catch limit (all stocks) into 2025.

Following the annual meeting all revised catch limits were reflected in the monthly reports.

### 4.2. Monthly catch reporting (Paragraphs 28 and 31)

Monthly catch reports were circulated to Members/CNCPs throughout the year in a timely manner.

### 4.3. Catch validation

~~There is no explicit provision in the CMM for the Executive Secretary to verify the catch reports, but for consistency and transparency, catch reports from the various bottom fishing data submissions were cross validated to identify any potential inaccuracies.~~

Each year, the Executive Secretary shall verify the annual catch reports submitted by Members and CNCPs against the submitted data. The Executive Secretary shall inform Members and CNCPs of the outcome of the verification exercise and any possible discrepancies encountered. The outcome of the verification exercise is shown in Table 7.

**Table 7:** Verification of annual catch (tonnes) from the bottom fishery in SPRFMO Area (2023)

| Member      | CMM03a (2023)<br>final catch limit | 2023 annual<br>catch | Monthly<br>reports | Fishing<br>activities | Landings |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Australia   | 358                                | 123                  | 117                | 141                   | 137      |
| New Zealand | 1 832                              | 38                   | 38                 | 35                    | 32       |

Referring to Table 7, there is one notable discrepancy between Australia's ~~the~~ 2023 annual catch submission and the estimated total catch taken when using fishing activity data. The Data manager intends to follow-up with Australia to better understand this discrepancy.

### 4.4. SC advice and specific requests

In terms of the Deepwater matters the SC12 endorsed management measures specific to each fishery, rather than blanket regulations, to effectively mitigate benthic impacts.

On the basis of the related New Zealand national decision, the SC recommended that the SPRFMO Commission amend CMM 03a to set a catch limit on the Westpac Bank FMA noting that catch from the Westpac Bank FMA will continue to be accounted for against the Total Allowable Catch for the Southwest Challenger Plateau orange roughy stock, for New Zealand vessels, which has just been reduced by 57% based on new stock assessment results. If the Commission maintains the historical 12.5% allocation to the Westpac Bank, then the TAC should be set at 111 tonnes.



## 5. Exploratory fisheries (CMM 14 variants)

### 5.1. Toothfish

In 2023, both New Zealand (CMM 14a-2022) and the European Union (CMM 14e-2023) participated in exploratory toothfish fisheries in the SPRFMO Convention Area. Table 7 compares the reported toothfish catches from the different data submissions.

**Table 7:** Verification of annual catch (tonnes) from the exploratory toothfish fisheries in SPRFMO Area (2023)

| Member         | Exploratory Limits (toothfish) | 2023 annual catch | Monthly reports | Fishing Activities | Landings |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------|
| European Union | 54                             | 42.0              |                 | 43.0               | 42.0     |
| New Zealand    | 240                            | 34.4              |                 | 34.3               | 34.5     |

All data submissions were well aligned with each other. Reporting of monthly catch data for exploratory fisheries is voluntary.

### 5.2. Potting

In 2023, the Cook Islands carried out exploratory potting under CMM 14b-2023. Table 8 compares the reported potting catches from the different data submissions.

**Table 8:** 2023 Verification of annual catch (tonnes) from the exploratory potting fisheries in SPRFMO Area

| Member       | Exploratory limit | 2023 annual catch | Monthly reports | Fishing Activities | Landings |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------|
| Cook Islands | 300*              | 26.2              | 20              | 26.2               | 26.2     |

\* the fishing year for CMM 14b-2023 (Exploratory Potting CK) begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th.

As can be seen from Table 8 overall, these statistics suggest a strong correlation between reported fishing activities, actual landings, and the total annual catch, with minor deviations likely due to reporting and data processing methodologies.

### 5.3. SC advice and specific requests

Regarding Exploratory Fisheries, during SC12 the SC assessed the Fisheries Operation Plans of the proposed exploratory fisheries put forward by New Zealand and Korea and deemed that they meet all the requirements set out in the respective CMM, and therefore it recommended that they be accepted by the Commission.

## 6. Transshipments (CMM 12)

Transshipment activities are primarily associated with the jumbo flying squid fishery; however, each year there



are generally a few transshipment events associated with the *Trachurus murphyi* fishery. This section summarises the trends in transshipment activities, for reference, as this information is not reported elsewhere.

In 2021, the Secretariat received 2,996 transshipment notifications and reports, corresponding to approximately 3,725 transshipment events. In 2022, the number of notifications increased to 5,263, with 4,993 transshipment events reported throughout the year. The data collected for 2023 and 2024, despite being received, has not yet been uploaded into the SPRFMO database. This delay reflects the complexities of managing all the different types of data, the amount of cleaning that transshipment data needs before it can be uploaded and balancing the various data priorities.

These challenges associated with reconciling transshipment notifications and events across both catching and receiving vessels has been previously discussed and the new transshipment measure (CMM 12-2024) will streamline and minimize the types of transshipment data collected. However, this CMM is yet to take effect (1 October 2025).

The Data manager will provide an update on the status of the quarterly transshipment data during the CTC meeting.

### 6.1. Transshipment notifications and details (paragraphs 4 and 9)

The Secretariat is required to make the transshipment notifications and transshipment details received, available on the Member's section of the website. The notifications and transshipment details are available on the SPRFMO website.

### 6.2. Vessels undertaking transshipments

**Table 8.** Summary of the number of vessels involved with transshipments in the SPRFMO Area during 2023, by Member/CNCP. (compiled from Member reports of active vessels as per paragraph 13 of CMM 05-2023 (Record of Vessels))

|                 | China | Liberia | Panama | Vanuatu | Russia |
|-----------------|-------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Reefer vessels  | 31    | 6       | 65     | 9       | 1      |
| Fishing vessels | 522   |         |        |         |        |

### 6.3. Data quality and compliance

The challenges associated with managing and accurately assessing data quality and compliance were highlighted in the Data Management Update paper [FAC11-Doc07.2](#). Over the past year, the Secretariat has been developing and utilizing ad hoc scripts not only to verify the quality and accuracy of transshipment data but also to analyse these data in relation to compliance. However, until a more robust system for managing these data is established, these challenges will persist, and the utility of the data will remain constrained.

To advance the future direction of the relevant systems, a Data Working Group (DWG) has been established. The SC12 (2024) approved the DWG Terms of Reference, as outlined in [Annex 1 SC12-Doc12-rev1](#). Moving forward, the DWG will guide the redevelopment of an enhanced data platform and portal to address current limitations and strengthen the organization's data management infrastructure. This initiative aims to streamline data integration, validation, and reporting while enhancing the user experience for stakeholders. Key improvements are expected to include automated reporting, dynamic geospatial data visualizations, and



enhanced data storage solutions.

However, the DWGs work is impeded as it is yet to appoint a chairperson.