

**7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)**

*Port Vila, Vanuatu, 10 to 12 February 2020*

**CTC 7 – Doc 15**

**Potential areas of collaboration between CTC and SC**

*CTC Chairperson*

## 1. Background

Effective fisheries management relies upon timely and accurate data being collected and analysed which ultimately informs scientific stock assessment and the measurement of the impacts of fishing on the surrounding marine ecosystem.

The data itself also needs to be verified so that we can have a high degree of confidence in the accuracy of the information. This is where traditional monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) tools are useful such as vessel monitoring systems (VMS), port inspections and at sea inspections to name but a few. Although the traditional MCS tools have served us well, we should also keep an eye to the horizon for new and emerging tools that may help us in assessing the accuracy of data we are obligated to collect.

In the context of SPRFMO we split the science and compliance functions between two separate committees, being the Scientific Committee (SC) and the Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC). These two committees, generally speaking do not have a formalised mechanism in place to exchange views on how compliance can support science and conversely how science could support compliance.

This information paper is aimed at promoting discussion at the upcoming CTC meeting, Port Vila, Vanuatu on the merits of increasing collaboration between the SC and CTC in the future.

## 2. Potential areas of collaboration

In order to initiate discussions, below are some ideas which can be discussed at the upcoming CTC;

- Collaboration in the development of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) where there is a need for both scientific and monitoring requirements to implement the objectives of the CMM;
- Improved data collection (e.g. port state inspections can compare monitored unload of product versus what has been declared to SPRFMO);
- Improved monitoring of areas where there is a scientific focus where compliance tools could assist (e.g. aerial surveillance, high seas boarding and inspection);
- New methodologies in assessing catch (e.g. scientific tools such as genetic sampling kits which could be deployed to the front line, vessel hold capacity quantification and updating observer methodologies);
- Satellite-based monitoring of pattern of fishing behaviour (i.e. ground testing of algorithms).

## 3. Proposed Approach

This paper is intended for noting only and does not require any decisions to be made by the CTC or Commission, however the below recommendations are open to be adopted by the CTC;

- Intersessional working group be established with clear terms of reference in order to bring a more formalised proposal to CTC and Commission in 2021;
- OR
- The Chairs of the CTC and SC undertake to develop a more detailed paper on how to potentially progress the above ideas and bring this back to CTC and Commission in 2021.