

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Second Meeting of the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Manta, Ecuador
27– 31 January 2014

REPORT

1. The second meeting of the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation was held in Manta, Ecuador, from 27 to 31 January 2014.
2. The meeting was inaugurated by Guillermo Morán, Vice Minister of Aquaculture and Fisheries, and Fernando Yepez, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, of Ecuador.
3. The Commission adopted Annex A as its agenda for its second meeting.
4. The Commission noted that China (Chen Wan) had been confirmed as Vice Chairperson of the Compliance and Technical Committee following China's approval of the Convention in 2013. The Commission also noted that Vanuatu (Gerry Geen) had been confirmed as Vice-Chairperson of the Eastern Sub-Regional Committee following Vanuatu's accession to the Convention in 2013.
5. Following the adoption of Decision 2.01 *Appointment of officers for subsidiary bodies in the second year of the Commission* (Annex B), the Commission reappointed Ecuador (Guillermo Morán) as Acting Chairperson of the Eastern Sub-Regional Management Committee, Peru (Nicolas Roncagliolo) as Acting Vice-Chairperson of the Finance and Administration Committee and United States of America (Jim Ianelli) as Acting Chairperson of the Scientific Committee.
6. The Government of New Zealand, as the depositary of the Convention, presented the report *Status of the Convention on the Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean January 2014* (COMM-02-02).
7. Jim Ianelli, Acting Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, presented a report on the first meeting of the Scientific Committee.¹ The Commission received this report.

¹ <http://www.southpacificrfmo.org/assets/Scientific-Committee-1st-2/Report/SC-01-2013-Report-amended-16-Dec-13-a.pdf>

As a consequence of receiving this report, there was a recommendation to amend the data standards. The Commission adopted the *Conservation and Management Measure on Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data*, CMM 2.02 (Annex C). In relation to jack mackerel, the report recommend that 2014 catches remain at or below 440,000 tonnes to ensure the rebuilding of the stock. The Commission accepted this recommendation. In accordance with Article 8(m) of the Convention, the Commission provided guidance to the Scientific Committee regarding their work programme (Annex D).

8. Osvaldo Urrutia, Chairperson of the Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC) presented the report of the CTC to the Commission (Annex E). The Commission adopted this report. The Commission confirmed the CTC's recommendation that the Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) status of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and the United States of America be renewed and that Liberia and Panama's CNCP status be approved.
9. Guillermo Morán, Acting Chairperson of the Eastern Sub-Regional Management Committee, presented the report of the Eastern Sub-Regional Management Committee to the Commission (Annex F). This report was adopted by the Commission.
10. The Commission made extensive efforts to achieve a consensus on the *Conservation and Management Measure for Trachurus murphyi*, CMM 2.01 (Annex G). After all efforts at reaching a consensus had been exhausted it was agreed to proceed to a vote. CMM 2.01 was adopted by a vote of 8 to 1. Delegations agreed that the fact that a vote had been necessary on this occasion was not to be seen as a precedent for the future. The circumstances of this particular occasion were unusual and it was anticipated that similar decisions in the future would be able to be achieved by consensus.
11. Several delegations made statements concerning CMM 2.01. The delegations of the Cook Islands, Peru and the Russian Federation requested that their statements be attached to this report (Annex H, I and J).
12. The Commission also adopted the Proposed Jack Mackerel Rebuilding Plan (Annex K).
13. Gordon Neil, Chairperson of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), presented the report of the Finance and Administration Committee (Annex L). The Commission adopted this report and the budget for the 2014-2015 financial year. The Government of New Zealand offered to host the third Commission meeting in New Zealand and this offer was accepted by the Commission. The Secretariat will consult on potential dates and this will be notified intersessionally. The Commission

decided that a meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee would be held for two days before the third Commission meeting.

14. The Commission adopted the *Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Bottom Fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area*, CMM 2.03 (Annex M), the *Conservation and Management Measure for minimising bycatch of seabirds in the SPRFMO Convention Area*, CMM 2.04 (Annex N), the *Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of the SPRFMO Record of Vessels authorised to fish in the Convention Area*, CMM 2.05 (Annex O), the *Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of the Vessel Monitoring System in the SPRFMO Convention Area*, CMM 2.06 (Annex P) and the *Conservation and Management Measure on Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port*, CMM 2.07 (Annex Q). With respect to the last of these measures, CMM 2.07, the delegation of China noted that at the present time they had some difficulty in fully implementing the measure but expected to be able to do so in the future.
15. The Commission requested that the Secretariat explore the possibility of a memorandum of understanding on data exchange with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.
16. The Commission also adopted the Annual Report of the Commission, which is to be published pursuant to Article 29 of the Convention.
17. The Commission noted that the Contracting Parties, acting under Article 14(2) of the Convention, had appointed Johanne Fischer to succeed Robin Allen as the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat, to take effect in June of this year. The Commission expressed its great appreciation to Robin Allen for his work in establishing the Interim Secretariat and all of his work during the period of the negotiations of the Convention, the Preparatory Conferences and the first year of the Commission.
18. The delegation of Ecuador made a general statement which is attached to this report (Annex R).
19. The Commission thanked the Government of Ecuador for hosting the second meeting of the Commission.
20. The meeting was closed at 4.45pm on 31 January 2014.

The Session was attended by the following Commission Members: Australia, Chile, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu; Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties: Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, Peru, and United States of America. The following also attended as observers: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, Permanent Commission of the South Pacific, Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Birdlife International, Centre for Development and Sustainable Fisheries, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, New Zealand High Seas Fisheries Group. A list of the attendees is attached as Annex S.