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Dr Robin Allen
Acting Executive Secretary
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
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By email: secretariat@southpacificrfmo.org
cc. Dr Jim Ianelli, Acting Chair, SPRFMO Scientific Committee

Dear Dr Allen

**Memorandum – request for inclusion of supplementary item to Scientific Committee
Provisional Agenda**

On 5 September Australia and New Zealand requested additional information and advice from the Scientific Committee to inform the development of a conservation and management measure for bottom fisheries in the SPRFMO Convention Area. The development of a bottom fishing measure will benefit from scientific advice on the distribution of fishing activities, vulnerable benthic taxa, move-on rules and the status of target species.

Subsequently, we ask that an item reflecting the request for advice is included in the provisional agenda for the 2013 Scientific Committee meeting:

8. Research to inform the development of a measure for bottom fisheries
 - 8.1 Identification and mapping of vulnerable marine ecosystems.
 - 8.2 Benthic protection, including spatial management and move-on rules for bottom fisheries.
 - 8.3 Mapping of bottom fished areas.
 - 8.4 Options for determining stock status and sustainable yields for target species.
 - 8.5 Advice to the Commission on bottom fishing measures.

Australia and New Zealand are undertaking analyses on these topics and intend to present several working papers at the Scientific Committee meeting. We encourage other participants to contribute to these topics and will request that the Deepwater Working Group's agenda also reflects these items.

Would you please arrange for this request to be communicated to all official contacts.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Peter Ward
Fisheries & Quantitative Sciences Branch
Australian Bureau of Agricultural & Resource Economics & Sciences
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Australian Government

18 September 2013