

3rd Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Port Vila, Vanuatu
28 September - 3 October 2015

SC-03-01

Provisional Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Administrative Arrangements
 - 2.1. Adoption of Agenda
 - 2.2. Meeting documents
 - 2.3. Nomination of Rapporteurs
3. Discussion of Annual Reports

Participants will have an opportunity to present key aspects of their reports (~5 minutes), and to ask questions related to reports tabled by other participants. Noting that annual reports are due by 28 August 2015.
4. Commission guidance and other Inter-Sessional activities
 - 4.1. Commission SC Roadmap

The Current SC Roadmap as provided by the Commission will be reviewed and discussed, both in order to guide the work during this meeting and to provide feedback to the Commission.
 - 4.2. Secretariat SC related activities

The Secretariat will report back on its participation in recent meetings of the CWP, FIRMS and other fora.
 - 4.3. Data Workshop report

The Data workshop that will be held immediately prior to the Scientific Committee meeting will provide a short report on its activities.
 - 4.4. Fishery dependent acoustic Task Group

The Coordinator of the fishery dependent acoustic data task group will be given the opportunity to provide a short report on the results of the first workshop.

5. Jack Mackerel Working Group
 - 5.1. Report on Inter-Sessional assessment/research by Participants

Participants will be invited to summarise the results of any inter-sessional Jack mackerel stock assessments that may have been completed.
 - 5.2. Inter-Sessional Progress with the Jack Mackerel Stock Structure Research Programme

The Commission, in its current Road map, requests the SC to evaluate the work presented by the EU at COMM-03 and clarify conclusions about how TAC advice may differ.
 - 5.3. Inter-Sessional Progress with Jack Mackerel Age/Growth Task Team

Updates will be sought for the collaborative otolith studies on age and growth of Jack mackerel. Noting the SC-02 request for a working plan in order to advance the work on daily rings.
 - 5.4. Jack Mackerel Stock Assessments – Technical Session
 - 5.4.1. Updating stock assessment data sets

Participants will report on any updated data sets that were provided for the meeting (due date 28 August 2015). Participants are reminded to ensure that they have complied with all of the jack mackerel data submission requirements, and that they submit all updated data prior to this meeting in a format suitable for input into the stock assessment models (in line with the protocol for submission of papers to the SC).
 - 5.4.2. Re-run of the 2014 stock assessment model configuration including new data

As requested by the Commission, the SC will specify and conduct a re-run of the 2014 stock assessment in order prepare the 2016 advice to the Commission on Jack mackerel stock status.
 - 5.4.3. Conducting additional stock assessment runs to investigate alternative stock structures

The SC's assessment work on the 2016 advice will include alternative hypotheses on Jack mackerel stock population structure.
 - 5.5. Advice to the Commission on Jack Mackerel stock status

The Road map requested the SC to provide advice on the stock status of Jack mackerel, based on stock assessments Agenda item 5.4.2.

 - 5.5.1. Apply the Adjusted Rebuilding plan

The Road map requests the SC to apply the adjusted rebuilding plan (from the proposal presented by SC-02) and present the probabilities that the spawning stock biomass will reach target and limit reference points (or their proxies) in 2016, and also 10 and 20 years into the future.
 - 5.6. Other Jack Mackerel topics
 - 5.6.1. Suitable Habitat Indicators

The Road map requests the SC to define indicators for suitable habitat for Jack mackerel in order to inform the spatial and ecosystem management of the resource (see also the current research program).
 - 5.6.2. Tagging Feasibility

The Road map requests the SC to evaluate the feasibility of tagging Jack mackerel using alternative approaches (e.g. pit-tags, conventional spaghetti tags or pop-ups).

6. Deepwater Working Group

6.1. Inter-Sessional assessments of Deepwater species

The Road map requests the SC to evaluate examples of deep-water assessments and determine if they are applicable for the SPRFMO Area.

6.2. Applications to fish outside the footprint or above reference period catch levels

Any applications to fish outside the current footprint or above current reference catch levels will be assessed.

6.3. Collate and present advice as requested under CMM 2.03 Para 5(a)-(f)

6.3.1. Impact of gear type on VMEs

Assessments of the likely impact of specific gear types, particularly trawl, on VMEs, to further inform the definition of bottom fishing.

6.3.2. Deepwater stock assessments

Undertake stock assessments of principal deep-sea fishery resources targeted, and, to the extent possible, caught incidentally in these fisheries, including straddling resources.

6.3.3. VME encounter evidence

Develop and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on criteria for what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a VME, in particular threshold levels and indicator species.

6.3.4. VME encounter response

Develop and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on the most appropriate response to a VME encounter, including inter alia closing particular areas to a particular gear type or types.

6.3.5. SPRFMO Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard

Review and streamline the SPRFMO Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard (SPRFMO BFIAS) agreed by the Scientific Working Group in 2011 to take account of the latest scientific information available.

6.3.6. Bottom Footprint definition

Provide advice on the appropriate spatial resolution and time period for footprint mapping.

6.3.7. VME distribution in the Convention Area

Develop maps of VME distribution in the Convention Area.

7. Squid Assessment

The Road map requests the SC to evaluate examples of Squid assessments and determine if they are applicable for the SPRFMO Area. The Secretariat will collate and summarise the information it has available, but other participants are encouraged to submit relevant material prior to 28 August 2015.

8. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management

8.1. Fishing activities, Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and EBSAs

The Road map asks the SC to update available data on impacts and to evaluate appropriate spatial management options. The Secretariat will report on the recent CBD recommendations regarding EBSAs in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

8.2. Other Species of Concern

CMM 3.02 Annex 14 contains a list of “other species of concern” consisting of 6 shark species (or groups). The SC will review the list and make recommendations on potential additions or removals.

8.3. Bycatch information

Prepare an overview of available bycatch information and identify gaps in data collection with a focus on species of concern (i.e. marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and the others referred to in Agenda item 8.2).

8.4. Minimizing bycatch

Provide any further guidance to improve best practices to minimize bycatch impacts.

8.5. Data collection and reporting

The road map requests that the SC review data collection and reporting standards (e.g. seabird interactions) as provided in CMM 3.02 and observer protocols, including in-port inspections, to ensure collections are consistent across the extent of the fisheries to inform management considerations

9. Observer Programme

Article 28 of the Convention indicates that the Commission shall establish an observer programme, within three years of the Convention’s entry into force (or other such period as the Commission may agree). It also states that the programme shall be developed taking into account advice from the Scientific Committee and the Compliance and Technical Committee. The SC will discuss and recommend the ways to develop a proposal for an Observer programme; including Article 28 requirements and taking into account the CMM 3.02 “Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and exchange of Data”.

10. Advice to the Commission

10.1. Jack Mackerel

10.2. Deepwater

10.3. Other

11. SC Research Program

The research program will be updated to identify short term research and assessment requirements as well as future research areas. The five components of the programme are:

- *Environmental variability,*
- *Jack mackerel (Agenda item 5),*
- *Deepwater (Agenda item 6),*
- *Squid (Agenda item 7) and,*
- *Ecosystems approach to Fisheries Management (Agenda item 8)*

12. Other Matters

13. Next Meeting

14. Adoption of Report

15. Meeting Closure