

**First International Meeting on the Establishment of the proposed
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

**Wellington, New Zealand
14-17 February 2006**

REPORT

1. A meeting to discuss the establishment of a South Pacific regional fisheries management organisation was held in Wellington, New Zealand, 14-17 February 2006. The meeting was opened by the Honourable Jim Anderton, New Zealand Minister of Fisheries.
2. Mr Bill Mansfield of New Zealand was elected as Chair.
3. The meeting adopted SP/01/Inf1 rev 2 as its agenda.
4. The meeting discussed an indicative outline of high seas area for the proposed RFMO (refer Annex II of SP/01/Inf 3 rev1) as follows:
 - the western boundary of the proposed South Pacific regional fisheries management organisation should abut the eastern boundary of the proposed convention area to be established under the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;
 - the southern boundary of the proposed South Pacific regional fisheries management organisation should abut the northern boundary of the convention area of the Commission for the Conservation of the Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCAMLR);
 - the eastern boundary of the proposed South Pacific regional fisheries management organisation should abut the outer limit of the maritime jurisdictions of South American states;
 - the northern boundary of the proposed South Pacific regional fisheries management organisation should not be delineated until the meeting had discussed the species to be managed, the regulation of high seas enclaves within the proposed area and had received further scientific and technical information.
5. The meeting noted that key issues, including the geographical scope, species to be covered, structural options, decision-making processes, composition of a commission and its subsidiary bodies, and provisions for co-operation with existing regional fisheries management organisations and other arrangements in the region, would need further discussion.

6. The Participants agreed to the following steps. They:

(i) Will work to establish, as a matter of priority, a legally binding instrument for the conservation and management of living marine resources, other than species listed in Annex I of UNCLOS, in the high seas of the South Pacific Ocean¹; it is understood that conservation and management includes the sustainable utilisation of resources and the protection of the marine environment;

(ii) Requested the Chair to develop, taking into account discussions held February 14-17, a draft Convention text and draft text for interim arrangements for circulation to Participants 60 days prior to the second meeting;

(iii) Established the following working groups to support the Chair during the intersessional period:

- Science working group – To provide scientific information.
- Data and information working group – To provide advice on data management, including confidentiality, security, collection and dissemination and data needs.

(iv) Will consider establishing an interim secretariat by the next meeting.

(v) Will consider at the next meeting the adoption of interim arrangements to apply prior to the entry into force of the instrument, in light of the information and advice provided by the working groups and participants.

(vi) Urge States, entities and territories to comply fully with their obligations under international law by taking such measures for their respective nationals and vessels flying their flag, which are engaged in fishing and other related activities, as may be necessary for the conservation and management of living marine resources falling under the intended instrument (consistent with paragraph 1 above);

(vii) Will co-operate to establish interim targeted protection mechanisms for vulnerable marine ecosystems;

(viii) Recognise the special requirements and development aspirations of developing States and territories, in particular small island developing states and territories.

7. An informal science working group met on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 February. Co-conveners Richard Tilzey (Australia), Rodolfo Serra (Chile) and Neville Smith (New Zealand) facilitated discussion. The science working group was asked to complete the tasks listed in Annex I of this report prior to the next meeting.

¹ Participants understood that the new instrument should, as far as possible, avoid duplication and overlap with existing international instruments and should be consistent with international law relating to law of the sea.

Participants were asked to provide comment on the draft species template² to co-convenor Neville Smith by 17 March 2006 (science@southpacificrfmo.org).

8. The meeting noted that New Zealand would continue to provide secretarial services in the intersessional period.

9. The meeting noted that the second meeting to discuss the establishment of the proposed South Pacific regional fisheries management organisation would be held in Australia, 6-10 November 2006.

10. The meeting closed at 12.45pm on Friday 17 February.

11. The meeting was attended by those representatives who appear in the List of Participants (Annex II).

12. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Chair and the co-convenors of the informal science working group. They also expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of New Zealand for hosting the meeting.

² SP/01/Science/01.

Tasks to be completed intersessionally by the science working group

It is intended that these tasks be completed largely by email and via the www.southpacificrfmo.org site. An iterative process will be required to complete these tasks comprehensively and in time for the next meeting.

1. Complete templates for target species, for habitat, and for associated and dependent species
2. Follow-up information offers from participants at the First International Meeting on the Establishment of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (to inform task three below).
3. Develop profiles using agreed target species template for:
 - a. Orange roughy
 - b. Jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*)
 - c. Squids
 - d. As many the following identified target species as possible:
 - *Beryx splendens*
 - *Epigonus telescopus*
 - *Epigonus notacanthus*
 - *Hyperoglyphe antarctica*
 - Oreosomatidae
 - *Dissostichus eleginoides*
 - *Pseudopentaceros richardsoni*
 - *Polyprion americanus*, *P. oxygeneios*
 - *Mora moro*
 - *Plagiogeneion rubiginosum*
 - *Etelis* spp., *Pristipomoides* spp.
 - *Jasus caveorum*
 - *Projasus bahamondei*
 - *Seriola lalandi*, *Seriola* spp.
 - *Centrolophus niger*
4. Develop profiles using habitat template for:
 - a. Seamounts
5. Develop profiles using agreed associated and dependent species template for:
 - a. Seabirds
 - b. Corals
6. Develop a list of priorities for species profile development for habitats and associated and dependent species.

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South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

**Wellington, New Zealand
14 – 17 February 2006**

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* **Bold text indicates Head of Delegation**

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