

International Consultations on the Establishment of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Eighth International Meeting

SP-08-WP-04

Report on INTERIM Management measures

Interim Secretariat

1. Measures for Pelagic Fishing

Paragraph 1 of the Pelagic Fisheries section of the Interim Measures adopted by the Third Round of Consultations requires that Participants limit the total level of gross tonnage (GT) of vessels flying their flag fishing for pelagic stocks (excluding squid) in 2008 and 2009 to levels of total GT recorded in 2007 in the area.

Table 1 below shows information on the number of pelagic (excluding squid) vessels that were **authorised** to fish in the High Seas SPRFMO Area between 2007 and 2009, and also for 2010 where data are already available. The combined Gross Tonnage (GT) of authorised vessels by participant is reported. Some vessel sizes were provided as gross registered tonnage (GRT) instead of gross tonnage (GT) as required in the Interim measures. Table 2 shows the same information for pelagic vessels (excluding squid) confirmed as **actively fishing** within the Area between 2007 and 2009.

Coastal & Fishing States Not Exercising Fisheries Activities in 2007

The Interim Measures also provide that Coastal and fishing States with a catch history in the pelagic fisheries in the South Pacific, but not exercising their fisheries activities in 2007, may enter the fishery in the Area in 2008 and 2009 and will exercise voluntary restraint of fishing effort. These States will promptly notify the Interim Secretariat of the names and characteristics, including GT, of their vessels engaged in the fishery in the Area.

Of the participants in this category, the Russian Federation provided vessel details for one vessel of 4,638 GT¹ that actively fished *Trachurus murphyi* and *Scomber japonicus* in the Area during 2008. The Russian Federation also confirmed that 4 vessels with a combined tonnage of 21,855 GT¹ are actively fishing in the Area this year. No other participants in this category have reported authorisations or actual fishing during 2008 or 2009.

¹ The Interim Secretariat is waiting for confirmation of tonnage type

2. Measures for Bottom Fisheries

In respect of bottom fishing, the Interim Measures required, *inter alia*, that fishing effort be restricted to existing levels, vulnerable marine ecosystems be identified, and that procedures be applied to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems. On 19 June 2009, the New Zealand delegation asked the Interim Secretariat to report on details of participants' authorised and actual bottom fishing, and a summary of which participants have submitted bottom fishing footprints, bottom-fishery impact assessments and VME information and encounter data.

Table 1 below shows information on the number of bottom fishing vessels that were **authorised** to fish in the High Seas SPRFMO Area between 2007 and 2009, and also for 2010 where data are already available. The total number of authorised vessels per participant is reported. Table 2 shows the same information for bottom fishing vessels that have been confirmed as **actively fishing** within the Area between 2007 and 2009.

Bottom Trawl Fishing Footprints

The Interim Benthic Assessment Framework adopted at the 4th Meeting in September 2007, noted that a 'joint trawl footprint' map should be expressed as grid blocks of 20 minute resolution, with a 'fished' block being defined as any grid block partially crossed by at least one trawl track. The period 2002 to 2006 should be used as the reference period for developing this joint trawl footprint map.

Therefore, participants that bottom trawled within the proposed SPRFMO area between 2002 and 2006, should have submitted data to generate the joint trawl footprint map.

According to the Interim Secretariat's data holdings and to the FAO's recent "Worldwide review of bottom fisheries in the High Seas"², Australia, Belize, China, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Ukraine flagged vessels did carry out some High Seas bottom fishing in the South Pacific Ocean during this period.

Of these participants, Chile and New Zealand have submitted high seas bottom trawl fishing footprints in 20 by 20 minute blocks for the period 2002 – 2006. The New Zealand trawl footprint map includes information from New Zealand and foreign-flagged vessels that submitted information on NZ High Seas Trawl Catch and Effort returns.

No other summary footprint data and maps have been submitted to the Interim Secretariat for this period.

Bottom fishing impact assessments

New Zealand has submitted a bottom-fishery impact assessment of bottom fishing activities carried out by New Zealand flagged vessels in the Area during 2008 and 2009.

² FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper 522

VME Information and Encounter Data

New Zealand has submitted the details of a single VME evidence encounter by New Zealand flagged bottom trawling vessels that occurred during 2009.

3. Explanatory Notes for Tables 1 and 2

' ' [blank]: Means the Interim Secretariat (IS) holds no information

'At least ...': When used in Table 1 (authorised vessels) means:

- the IS has received information demonstrating active fishing in the Area by some vessels; therefore the IS assumed that the participant must have authorised at least this tonnage/number of vessels

'At least 1': When used in Table 2 (active vessels) means:

- the IS has received information demonstrating active fishing of 1 vessel in the Area, although the total number of vessels actively fishing is unknown.

Table 1: Tonnage of Pelagic Vessels and Numbers of Bottom Fishing Vessels Authorised to Fish in the Area between 2007 and 2010

PARTICIPANT		VESSELS AUTHORISED TO FISH			
		2007	2008	2009	2010
Australia	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	3,004	1,901	2,574	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	12	6	9	
Belize	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	76,136 GT	76,136 GT	68,331 GT	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	1	0	0	
Chile	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	104,404.71 GT + 6,962.86 GRT	102,826.61 GT + 6,290.37 GRT	105,324.15 GT + 6,290.37 GRT	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	21	22	23	
China	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	55,672 GT	55,672 GT	58,986 GT	
Cook Islands	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	12,613 GRT			
Ecuador	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0			
European Community	Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid): Germany	24,006 GT	24,006 GT	24,006 GT	24,006 GT
	Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid): Lithuania	31,995 GT	37,974 GT	17,785 GT	17,785 GT
	Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid): Netherlands	21,208 GT	21,208 GT	21,208 GT	21,208 GT
	Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid): Poland			19,471 GT	19,471 GT
	Number Bottom Fishing: Portugal	2	2	1	1
	Number Bottom Fishing: Spain		2	5	2
	Total: Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid)	77,209 GT	83,188 GT	82,470 GT	82,470 GT
	Total: Number Bottom Fishing	2	4	6	3
Faroe Islands	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	At least 23,415 GT (3 vessels)	1 vessel (tonnage unknown)		
France	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)				
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels				
Japan	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	4,350.62 GT	4,350.62 GT	4,350.62 GT	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	1	1	1	
Korea	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	10,473 GT	10,473 GT	10,473 GT	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels			2	
New Zealand	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	0	0	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	38	25	18	
Russian Federation	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	29,629 GT ¹	21,855 GT ¹	
USA	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)				
Vanuatu	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	31,220 GRT	31,220 GRT	31,220 GRT	31,220 GRT
Chinese Taipei Fishing	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	0	0	

¹ The Interim Secretariat is waiting for confirmation of tonnage type

Table 2: Tonnage of Pelagic Vessels and Numbers of Bottom Fishing Vessels Actively Fishing in the Area between 2007 and 2009

PARTICIPANT		VESSELS ACTIVELY FISHING		
		2007	2008	2009
Australia	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	0	0
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	2	2	3
Belize	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	9,814 GT	9,814 GT	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	1	0	0
Chile	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	103,849 GT		
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels			
China	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	55,672 GT	55,672 GT	
Cook Islands	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	12,613 GRT		
Ecuador	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0		
European Community	Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid): Germany	24,006 GT	24,006 GT	
	Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid): Lithuania	17,785 GT	13,378 GT	
	Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid): Netherlands	21,208 GT	21,208 GT	
	Number Bottom Fishing: Spain		2	2
	Total: Tonnage Pelagic (excl squid)	62,999 GT	58,592 GT	
	Total: Number Bottom Fishing		2	2
Faroe Islands	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	23,415 GT	1 vessel (tonnage unknown)	
France	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)		0	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels		0	
Japan	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	0	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels		0	
Korea	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	10,473 GT	10,473 GT	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels			
New Zealand	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	0	0
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	12	7	9
Russian Federation	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	4,638 GT ¹	21,855 GT ¹
USA	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	0	
	Number Bottom Fishing Vessels	0	0	
Vanuatu	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	31,220 GRT	31,220 GRT	
Chinese Taipei Fishing	Tonnage Pelagic Vessels (excl squid)	0	0	0

¹ The Interim Secretariat is waiting for confirmation of tonnage type