

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

**Sixth International Meeting
Canberra, ACT, Australia
29 September - 3 October 2008**

**SCIENCE WORKING GROUP
DRAFT AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Administrative Arrangements**
 - 3.1. Meeting documents.
 - 3.2. Meeting arrangements.
- 4. Nomination of Rapporteurs**
- 5. Inter-Sessional Work**
 - 5.1. Report from the Interim Secretariat on status of catch & effort data submission.
 - 5.2. Update by the Interim Secretariat on status of the SPRFMO bottom fishing footprint maps, and the SPRFMO GIS database.
- 6. Chairmanship of the Deepwater Sub-Group**

(Report back on any email exchanges or proposals for nominations for this position.)
- 7. SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard**
 - 7.1. Report-Back on FAO Guidelines for Deep-Sea Fisheries on the High Seas
(Report back on the final session of the FAO Technical Consultation on Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries on the High Seas)
 - 7.2. Progress with the SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard
(Report back on progress being made with developing a draft of the detailed SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard. Consideration of aspects of the FAO Deep-Sea Fisheries Guidelines that should be incorporated into the SPRFMO Benthic Assessment Standard, particularly related to definitions of VMEs, evaluation of significant adverse impacts and guidelines for content of benthic assessments)
 - 7.3. Evidence and Existence of VMEs

(Discussion of any new papers submitted related to effective approaches for detecting evidence of VMEs during fishing operations, and for determining existence of VMEs)

8. Deepwater Species Assessment and Management

(Consideration of any aspects of the FAO Deep-Sea Fisheries Guidelines that should be incorporated into SPRFMO approaches for the effective assessment and management of low-productivity deepwater species. Discussion of any new papers submitted on options for assessment and management of low-productivity deepwater species)

9. Benthic Assessments

(Review and comment on any benthic assessments that may have been submitted for proposed fisheries in the SPRFMO area, or discussion of questions which have arisen about these assessment requirements or process since SPRFMO5 in Guayaquil.)

10. Species and Habitat Profiles

- 10.1. Review of new species or habitat profiles.
- 10.2. Revisions to existing profiles.
- 10.3. Prioritisation and process for further species profile development.

11. Guidelines for Annual National Reports to the SWG

- 11.1. Consideration of draft guidelines for annual National Reports to the SPRFMO SWG.

(Further consideration of the draft guidelines for annual National Reports to the SWG, initially tabled and discussed at SPRFMO5 SWG meeting in Guayaquil.)

12. Consideration of the Report of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group

13. Future Scientific Work Programme

- 13.1. Identification of short & medium term science requirements.

14. SWG Chairmanship

(Consideration of nominations for Chair of the SWG for the next inter-sessional period.)

15. Other Matters

16. Adoption of SWG Report

17. Meeting Closure