

2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

(March 2021 – March 2022)

Paragraph 1 of Article 29 of the **Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean** provides that:

“The Commission shall publish an annual report, which shall include details of decisions taken by the Commission to achieve the objective of this Convention. The report shall also provide information on actions taken by the Commission in response to any recommendations from the General Assembly of the United Nations or the FAO.

Copies of the report shall be publicly available and shall be provided to the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the FAO”.

1. Membership

As of March 2022, the SPRFMO Commission had fifteen Members: Australia, Republic of Chile, People's Republic of China, Cook Islands, Republic of Cuba, Republic of Ecuador, European Union, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Republic of Peru, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, and the Republic of Vanuatu.

In addition, four countries held the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs): Belize, Country of Curaçao, Republic of Liberia, and the Republic of Panama.

2. Outcomes from the 2022 Commission Meeting

The 10th Meeting of the Commission (COMM10) of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation was held remotely from 24 to 28 January 2022.

Over 225 participants (from 15 SPRFMO Members, 3 CNCs, 2 Observer States, 6 IGOs, 8 NGOs along with invited experts) attended the meeting. The Commission reviewed and accepted recommendations made by the preceding meetings of its subsidiary bodies, including the 9th Scientific Committee (SC9), the 9th Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC9) and the 9th Finance and Administration Committee (FAC9).

During the Commission meeting, 13 proposals were discussed and as a result, 8 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) were amended, 1 new CMM was adopted and 2 cooperation arrangements with other regional organisations were renewed. One CMM decision was taken by vote with all other decisions being taken by consensus.

2.1. Subsidiary Bodies and associated decisions

The Commission has three active subsidiary bodies that report, advise and make recommendations to the Commission and contribute to regular reviews of the effectiveness of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. These subsidiary bodies include the Scientific Committee, Compliance and Technical Committee, and the Finance and Administration Committee.

The 9th meeting of the Scientific Committee was held from 27 September to 2 October 2021, with the 9th meetings of the Compliance and Technical Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee held immediately prior to the Commission meeting from 18 January to 22 January 2022. All the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies were convened virtually due to the continued disruptions to international travels caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic.



The report of the 9th Scientific Committee¹ was presented to COMM10, and the SC Chairperson reviewed progress against the 2021 SC multi-annual workplan, summarised the SC9 recommendations for the Commission, and introduced a proposed 2022 SC multi-annual workplan. The SC Chairperson noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic an in-person meeting was not possible and so SC9 was held remotely consisting of two 3-hour sessions per day. Similarly, the 3 SC workshops and 13 SC web meetings that were held intersessionally prior to SC9 were all held remotely.

The Commission accepted and endorsed the SC9 Report, and the Commission commended the Chairperson of the SC, the Vice-Chairperson of the SC, and Members of the SC for their excellent work. The Commission also amended and adopted a new SC multi-annual workplan².

The Chairperson of the 9th Finance and Administration Committee presented the FAC9 report³ and explained that the Organisation is in a reasonably healthy financial position, and that the Secretariat has managed within its budget. The FAC Chairperson highlighted that SPRFMO has balanced Member assessed contributions and CNCP voluntary contributions to support the 2022-23 budget.

The Commission adopted the Budget by consensus and the FAC Chairperson and some Members highlighted that for the first time in the history of SPRFMO, the organisation was to apply the budget formula as specified in the Financial Regulations. The Commission noted that this is a significant step for a solid budget footing moving forward and in minimising year-on-year fluctuations.

The report of the 9th Compliance and Technical Committee⁴ was presented by the CTC Chairperson. He highlighted the CTC discussions and corresponding recommendations on proposals to amend existing CMMs, Draft IUU Vessel List, accreditation of observer programmes, renewal of CNCPs, and the implementation reports presented by the Secretariat.

The Commission accepted the CTC9 Report and adopted all its recommendations, including the recommendation to extend CTC10 by one day in order to give adequate time to address a number of outstanding VMS compliance issues. The Commission approved accreditation of the two Observer Programmes from the Republic of Korea and Chinese Taipei. The Final (2022) Compliance report was adopted (with 1 issue deferred to CTC10) as well as the 2022 final IUU Vessel List (containing no vessels). The Commission also renewed CNCP status for Curaçao, Liberia and Panama and granted Belize CNCP status.

2.2. Amended and New Conservation and Management Measures

COMM10 amended 8 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) including:

- CMM 01-2022, *Trachurus murphyi*, where catches of *Trachurus murphyi* in 2022 throughout the range of the stock should not exceed 900,000 tonnes as per advice of the SPRFMO Scientific Committee.
- CMM 02-2022, Data Standards, where the review date for the CMM was updated to 2025.
- CMM 03-2022, Bottom Fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area, where a new intersessional process to review the CMM and report back to the 2023 Commission meeting was adopted alongside new review dates that meant the Commission could take into account relevant technical information from the United Nations bottom fishing review scheduled for 2022, any related resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas.

¹ <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/2021-SC9/Report/SC9-Report-Final.pdf>

² <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/2021-SC9/Report/SC9-Report-Final.pdf>

³ <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/2022-Annual-Meeting/04-Meeting-Reports/FAC9-Report/FAC9-Report-Final-withAnnexes.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/2022-Annual-Meeting/04-Meeting-Reports/CTC9-Report/CTC9-Report-final-withAnnexes.pdf>



- CMM 05-2022, Record of Vessels, to ensure that the minimum information required by Annex 1 of the CMM is included for all vessels on the Record of Vessels and the Commission clarified both the Secretariat and Member responsibilities in this regard. Members noted the fundamental importance of the Record of Vessels to ensuring that Members, CNCPs and the Secretariat have complete and accurate vessel information available to support effective monitoring, control and surveillance of the SPRFMO Convention area.
- CMM 07-2022, Port inspections, based on a recommendation from the Port Inspection Intersessional Working Group and CTC9 to reflect that the amounts recorded in the port call request are estimated.
- CMM 14b-2022, Exploratory Potting (Cook Islands), to make minor amendments to the CMM and the associated Fisheries Operation Plan.
- CMM 16-2022, Establishing the SPRFMO Observer Programme, following a recommendation from the CTC to extend for one additional year (i.e., 1 January 2025) the deadline regarding the obligation to deploy only observers sourced from accredited programmes on board vessels fishing for resources for which a minimum level of observer coverage applies and incorporated changes to clarify that the accreditation process may be spread over several years without the need for the Final Evaluation Report to be submitted to CTC/Commission until the Member or CNCP pursuing accreditation considers that it is ready.
- CMM 17-2022, Marine Pollution, where the review date for the CMM was updated to 2024.

In addition, COMM10 adopted 1 new CMM being:

- CMM 14a-2022, Exploratory Toothfish (New Zealand), to extend the exploratory fishery for toothfish for fishing in 2022, 2023, and 2024 with an annual catch limit of 240 tonnes of toothfish and an expanded geographical area.

2.3. Intersessional Activities

Consistent with its Rules of Procedure⁵ during 2021 the Commission took 3 intersessional decisions:

- Decision 10-2021, Intersessional Decision to formally adopt the COMM9 Meeting Report
- Decision 11-2021, Intersessional Decision to insert a new paragraph into CMM14e-2021, Exploratory Toothfish (European Union), modifying the fishing period and implementing additional precautionary measures for November 2021 activities.
- Decision 12-2021, Intersessional Decision on format, dates, and schedule for COMM10

2.4. International Cooperation

The 10th Meeting of the Commission continued to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation, and collaboration with such other organisations by:

- Renewing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS);
- Extending the Arrangement with the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);
- Endorsing a proposal for SPRFMO to join the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance network (IMCS Network); and,
- Approving SPRFMO's participation in the Global Environmental Facility funded FAO Deep-Sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach project.

⁵ <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Basic-Documents/Rules-of-Procedure-31Mar20.pdf>



2.5. Office Holders

Mr Luis Molledo, European Union, continues as the Chairperson of the Commission, with Mr Michael Brakke, United States of America, as the Vice Chairperson.

The Compliance and Technical Committee elected Ms Katherine Bernal, Chile, as the new CTC Chairperson; the CTC Vice Chairpersonship remains vacant.

Mr Jimmy Villavicencio, Ecuador, continues as the Finance and Administration Committee Chairperson and Mr Andres Couve, Chile, was appointed as FAC Vice Chairperson.

Dr Jim Ianelli, United States of America, continues as the Scientific Committee Chairperson, with Dr Niels Hintzen, European Union, as the SC Vice Chairperson.

The full report⁶ of the Commission and all related documents are available on the SPRFMO website at www.sprfmo.int.

3. Bottom Fishing Actions taken after 2019

3.1. Relating to General Assembly Resolution 64/72

Paragraph 117

SPRFMO has implemented the 2008 FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas into the relevant Conservation and Management Measures including CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing), CMM 03a-2021 (Deepwater species) and CMM 13-2021 (Exploratory Fisheries).

Paragraph 119

Paragraph 36 of CMM 03-2022 specifically requires that the SPRFMO Scientific Committee “*review all available data and provide advice on the ongoing effectiveness of the management measures in this CMM to ensure the measure meets its objective and the objectives of the Convention and implements the relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions*” (referring to UNGA Resolutions 61/105, 64/72, 66/68, 71/123, 72/72 and any subsequent resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly).

Paragraph 119a

Both CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing) and CMM 13-2021 (Exploratory Fisheries) require an assessment that meets the SPRFMO Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS) using the best available data including consideration of the cumulative impacts of their flagged vessels’ bottom fishing activities. These assessments shall also include the mitigation measures proposed by the Member or CNCP to prevent such impacts.

Paragraph 119b

Since 2019 SPRFMO has continued to refine its habitat suitability models for VMEs alongside its bottom fishing management procedures. CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing) is a comprehensive set of rules based on a spatial management approach that aims to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of deep sea fishery resources including target fish stocks as well as nontarget or associated and dependent species, and, in doing so, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur, including inter alia the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Paragraph 119c

SPRFMO has a defined VME encounter protocol comprising threshold levels and indicator species. Significantly the SPRFMO protocol includes a biodiversity element in addition to single taxa assessments. Based on scientific advice the threshold levels were revised in 2020 and again in 2021 alongside the list of indicator taxa.

⁶ <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/2022-Annual-Meeting/04-Meeting-Reports/COMM10-Report/COMM10-Report-Final-NoAnnexes.pdf>



Paragraph 119d

The objective of CMM 03a-2021 (Deepwater species) is, *“through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of deep sea fishery resources, including target fish stocks as well as nontarget or associated and dependent species, and, in doing so, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur, including inter alia the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems”*.

CMM 03a-2021 sets precautionary catch limits for deep sea fish stocks based on the advice of the Scientific Committee (the CMM was updated to reflect SC reviewed assessments for orange roughy in 2020 and 2021). CMM 03a-2021 also implements weekly (and/or daily) monitoring on orange roughy stocks.

In 2019 the SPRFMO SC discussed the results of Ecological Risk Assessments for SPRFMO Deepwater Chondrichthyans as well as for Teleosts in SPRFMO Demersal Trawl, Midwater Trawl and Demersal Longline Fisheries. These assessments identified possible candidate Tier 1 and Tier 2 species, according to the SPRFMO tiered assessment framework, for which stock delineation studies were considered useful. The SC has an ongoing task to further develop a tier-based assessment framework for all Deep-Water stocks and recommend relevant reference points and/or management rules for these stocks.

SPRFMO continues to develop its exploratory fisheries (4) in a precautionary and gradual manner. SPRFMO exploratory fisheries require a data collection plan to identify and describe the data needed and any operational research actions necessary to obtain data from an exploratory fishery to enable an assessment of the stock, the feasibility of establishing a fishery and the impact of fishing activity on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs.

The data collection and monitoring described above is in addition to the suite of monitoring, control and surveillance CMMs that SPRFMO applies across all its fisheries (including VMS, Boarding and inspection, port inspections and observer programme requirements).

Paragraph 120

SPRFMO prohibits vessels from participating in bottom fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area other than in accordance with the provisions of CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing), CMM 03a-2021 (Deepwater species) and/or CMM 13-2021 (Exploratory Fisheries).

Paragraph 121

Article 19 of the SPRFMO Convention requires that the Commission shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing State Contracting Parties in the region, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, and of territories and possessions in the region, in relation to the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Convention Area and the sustainable use of such resources. SPRFMO has approved Exploratory Fisheries for a Developing Economy (Chile) as well as a Small Island Developing State (the Cook Islands).

Paragraph 122a

In October 2019 SPRFMO approved a new Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS). The purpose of the BFIAS is to provide a standardized approach for assessing cumulative impacts of bottom fishing activities on VMEs, deep sea fish stocks and marine mammals, reptiles, seabirds and other species of concern within the SPRFMO Evaluated Area and associated ‘Management areas’ specified in CMM 03 (Bottom Fishing), as well as a standardized approach for assessing bottom fishing impacts of new and exploratory fisheries in accordance with CMM 13 (Exploratory Fisheries) paragraph 5(b)viii.

Paragraph 122b

SPRFMOs bottom fishing assessments are made publicly available and public comment is invited. The Scientific Committee’s reviews of such assessments are also public.



Paragraph 122c

The current report, containing information on CMMs adopted, is also provided to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The SPRFMO Record of Vessels authorised to fish in the Convention Area is publicly available.

Paragraph 122d

SPRFMO CMM 15-2016 (Stateless vessels) encourages SPRFMO Members and CNCPs to take measures, including by sharing information about the activities of vessels without nationality and, where appropriate, by enacting domestic legislation, to prevent and deter vessels without nationality from engaging in fishing or fishing related activities in the Convention Area

Paragraph 123

SPRFMO has adopted CMM 02-2022 (Data Standards) which describes the VME information and data to be collected and provided to the Secretariat. In addition, CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing) contains Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of Notifications of Encounters with Potential VMEs.

SPRFMO provides annually updated guidance to its Scientific Committee by way of tasks listed in a multi-annual workplan. The Deepwater Working Group tasks include stock assessments for deepwater species, ecological risk assessments (for other teleost and elasmobranch species), VME Encounters/benthic bycatch (including development of a research programme), reviewing the ongoing appropriateness of CMM 03 (Bottom fishing) and ongoing work on Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment. The Commission relies upon this robust program of scientific work when taking decisions related to bottom fishing activities.

Paragraph 124

On 14 November 2009, the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean was adopted. The SPRFMO was officially established, and the Convention entered into force on 24 August 2012.

3.2. Relating to General Assembly Resolution 66/68

Paragraphs 121 and 126

SPRFMOs CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing), CMM 03a-2021 (Deepwater species) and CMM 13-2021 (Exploratory Fisheries) are consistent with the 2008 FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas.

Paragraph 129a

The procedures related to SPRFMO bottom fishing assessments were strengthened in 2019 (with the review of the BFIAS) and in 2021 (by inviting public comment on such assessments).

Paragraph 129b

SPRFMOs CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing) requires that bottom fishing assessments are submitted at least every 3 years, and also when a substantial change in the fishery has occurred such that it is likely that the risk or impact of the fishery may have changed.

Paragraph 129c

The SPRFMO Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard is subject to review, and update if required every 5 years, starting in 2025, to ensure that it reflects, as appropriate, best practice.



Paragraph 129d

In addition to SPRFMOs annual cycle of assessment of Member compliance, CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing) establishes mechanisms to promote and enhance compliance with applicable measures related to the protection of VMEs including strengthened VMS and fishing location reporting, heightened observer coverage (100% for bottom trawl activities) and immediate reporting of encounters with potential VMEs.

Paragraph 130

All SPRFMO bottom fishing impact assessments are publicly available on the SPRFMO website.

Paragraph 132

SPRFMO Members have undertaken marine scientific research in the Louisville Seamount chain to ground truth the habitat prediction models used to develop the bottom fishing Conservation and Management Measure.

Paragraph 133

Within the SPRFMO SC multi-annual workplan are plans to undertake marine scientific research in the Nazca and Salas y Gomez ridges area. The SC multiannual plan also details a series of tasks to undertake further research on deep-sea species assessments, VME encounters and benthic bycatch.

Paragraph 134

The Commission has an established fund to facilitate the effective participation of developing State Contracting Parties in the region, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, and, as appropriate, territories and possessions in the region, in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including assistance directed towards: a) improved conservation and management of the fishery resources and the development of fisheries for such resources; and b) building capacity in key areas such as monitoring, control and surveillance, compliance and enforcement, data collection, verification and analysis, stock assessment and scientific research. c) Participation in the meeting of the Commission and the Compliance and Technical Committee meetings and workshops of the Scientific Committee. The fund is supported by an annual allocation in the SPRFMO budget as well as voluntary contributions. In 2021 the SPRFMO financial regulations were amended to improve the operation of the Developing States Fund.

3.3. Relating to General Assembly Resolution 71/123

Paragraphs 171 and 175

The objective of the SPRFMO Convention is, *“through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur”*. The Commission applies the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach when taking decisions and this commitment is implemented by the Scientific Committee when it develops its advice as well as being explicitly recognised in CMMs that relate directly to SPRFMO fisheries

SPRFMO has implemented the 2008 FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas in several of its Conservation and Management Measures including CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing), CMM 03a-2021 (Deepwater species) and CMM 13-2021 (Exploratory Fisheries).

Furthermore, to support a review of CMM 03 (Bottom Fishing) in 2023, an intersessional working group (Bottom Fishing IWG) has been established by SPRFMO. Members of the Bottom Fishing IWG should consider whether the approach and outcome is consistent with all relevant international legal obligations, UNGA resolutions and international best practice regarding the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and safeguarding marine ecosystems while taking management practicality into consideration. The five interrelated components identified for the review are the scale of management to prevent and assess adverse impacts on VME; the protection scenarios; move on rule; specific



2020 VME encounter and reopening that area; and the encounter review process.

Paragraph 179

In October 2020 Australia and New Zealand jointly presented a cumulative Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment for their bottom fishing activities in the SPRFMO Area. An addendum to this assessment was added in 2021. The joint assessment builds on information contained in earlier assessments and is consistent with the SPRFMO BFIAS (which itself was developed to be consistent with the UNGA resolutions and the FAO deep-sea guidelines).

Paragraph 180a

Since the adoption of the first interim SPRFMO Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS) in 2011 by the 10th meeting of the Science Working Group in Vanuatu, the subject of significant adverse impacts of fishing gears on VMEs has received further attention and scientific investigation in both SPRFMO and the wider community. In response to the UNGA Resolutions and the implementation of the FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines, SPRFMO has adopted a spatial management approach through CMM 03 (Bottom Fishing) that seeks to protect potential VME habitat across large areas of the South Pacific Ocean while still allowing for sustainable and profitable fisheries to occur. This approach is complemented by precautionary measures to protect potential VME habitats within areas that are open to fishing (i.e. an encounter protocol with VME indicator taxa thresholds, move-on rules and review of benthic bycatch), and also requires scientifically-based assessments of cumulative impacts of past and proposed bottom fishing. This BFIAS and resulting bottom fishing impact assessments form part of a suite of measures aimed at promoting sustainable and profitable fisheries that minimise harm to the marine ecosystem.

Paragraph 180b

All proposals to undertake bottom fishing in the SPRFMO Area shall be subject to an assessment process. Any such assessment process shall be based on the best available scientific information and taking into account the history of bottom fishing in the areas proposed and cumulative impacts of past and proposed fishing. The assessment will determine if such fishing would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on VMEs, and to ensure that if it is determined that this fishing would make such contributions, that they are managed to prevent such impacts or not authorised to proceed.

Bottom fishing assessments are to be submitted to the Scientific Committee and Commission at least every 3 years, and also when a substantial change in the fishery has occurred such that it is likely that the risk or impact of the fishery may have changed.

Paragraph 180c

SPRFMO has a defined VME encounter protocol comprising threshold levels and indicator species. Significantly the SPRFMO protocol includes a biodiversity element in addition to single taxa assessments. Based on scientific advice the threshold levels were revised in 2020 and again in 2021 alongside the list of indicator taxa.

The SPRFMO SC has an ongoing request to review all available data and provide advice on the ongoing appropriateness of the management measures to ensure the CMM continues to achieve its objective and the objectives of the Convention and in 2021 the SC reviewed a paper containing a determination of optimal move-on distance in SPRFMO bottom trawl fisheries under CMM 03.

Paragraph 182

Since 2019 SPRFMO has continued to refine its habitat suitability models for VMEs along with its bottom fishing management procedures. The current CMM 03-2022 (Bottom Fishing) was significantly amended in 2019 to move from a historical fishing footprint to a spatial management approach for the management of bottom fishing. The CMM has been updated annually to provide for better protection of VMEs and incorporate the latest SC advice.



Paragraph 183

Since 2019, the SPRFMO SC has reviewed exploratory assessments for lobster, deepwater crab and toothfish, stock assessments for orange roughy (4 stocks), and ecological risk assessments for deepwater chondrichthyans and other teleosts caught in SPRFMO bottom fisheries. The resulting SC recommendations have been considered by the SPRFMO Commission and used to update the relevant CMMs (including by the adoption of science based TACs).

Paragraph 184

Concerned about the impact of Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and plastic residues in the ocean greatly affecting marine life and the need to facilitate the retrieval of such gear, in 2019 SPRFMO adopted a CMM on Fishing Gear and Marine Plastic Pollution in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Paragraph 185

In 2019 the SPRFMO SC discussed the FAO report on “Deep-ocean climate change impacts on habitat, fish and fisheries”. As a result, the SC added an ongoing task into its multi-annual workplan to identify key area and management implications of climate change on VMEs and main fisheries in the SPRFMO Area. In addition, during 2023 there are plans to conduct research into climate change impacts of fisheries in Salas y Gomez and Nazca ridges.

Paragraph 186

CMM 03-2022 (Bottom fishing) requires all vessels to undertaking bottom fishing to implement seabird mitigation measures and members to report annually to the Commission on bycatch rates and total bycatch estimates for Marine Mammals, Seabirds, Reptiles and Other Species of Concern. The SPRFMO Other Species of Concern list currently contains 5 shark species and 2 ray taxa and was developed as advised by the SPRFMO Scientific Committee and informed by the Bonn Convention, the IUCN Red List and CITES.

The CMM also requires the SPRFMO Scientific Committee to provide advice biennially to the Commission on: a) direct and indirect interactions between bottom fishing and marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern; b) any recommended spatial or temporal closures or spatially/temporally limited gear prohibitions for any identified hotspots of these species; and c) any recommended bycatch limits and/or measures for an encounter protocol for any of these species.

Paragraph 187, 188 and 219

The Commission has an established fund to facilitate the effective participation of developing State Contracting Parties in the region, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, and, as appropriate, territories and possessions in the region, in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including assistance directed towards: a) improved conservation and management of the fishery resources and the development of fisheries for such resources; and b) building capacity in key areas such as monitoring, control and surveillance, compliance and enforcement, data collection, verification and analysis, stock assessment and scientific research. c) Participation in the meeting of the Commission and the Compliance and Technical Committee meetings and workshops of the Scientific Committee.



4. SPRFMO meetings and working group activities during the previous year

Activity	Format	Date(s)
8 th Meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC8)	3 days, virtual	Between 21 January and 1 February 2021
8 th Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC8)	2 days, virtual	22 and 28 January 2021
9 th Meeting of the SPRFMO Commission (COMM9)	7 days, virtual	26 January to 3 February 2021
Habitat monitoring working group	1 day, virtual	25 May 2021
Scientific Committee web meeting	1 day, virtual	26 May 2021
Scientific Committee web meeting	1 day, virtual	30 June 2021
Squid working group	1 day, virtual	14 July 2021
Habitat monitoring working group	1 day, virtual	15 July 2021
Scientific Committee web meeting	1 day, virtual	28 July 2021
Jack mackerel data Workshop (SCW11)	3 days, virtual	10 to 12 August 2021
Squid working group	1 day, virtual	18 August 2021
Habitat monitoring working group	1 day, virtual	25 August 2021
Scientific Committee web meeting	1 day, virtual	31 August 2021
Deepwater working group	1 day, virtual	8 September 2021
Intersessional working group (Port Inspections)	2 days, virtual	8 and 9 September 2021
Squid working group	1 day, virtual	15 September 2021
Jack mackerel working group	2 days, virtual	16 and 22 September 2021
Habitat monitoring Workshop (SCW12)	1 day, virtual	21 September 2021
Deepwater Workshop (SCW13)	3 days, virtual	22 to 24 September 2021
9 th Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC9)	6 days, virtual	28 September to 3 October 2021
Intersessional working group (Port Inspections)	1 day, virtual	10 November 2021
9 th Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC9)	3 days, virtual	18, 21 and 22 January 2022
9 th Meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC9)	4 days, virtual	19 to 22 January 2022
10 th Meeting of the SPRFMO Commission (COMM10)	5 days, virtual	24 to 28 January 2022
Intersessional working group (Bottom Fishing)	Electronic questionnaire (1 st)	21 February 2022
Intersessional working group (Bottom Fishing)	Electronic questionnaire (2 nd)	11 March 2022
Scientific Committee web meeting	1 day, virtual	22 March 2022