

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

(March 2022 – March 2023)

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.

At the 11th meeting of the Commission, a new decision was taken on Climate Change, and 2 observer States were invited to attend the 11th meeting. The Commission was held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 10 to 14 October 2022. The Commission was held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 10 to 14 October 2022. The Commission was held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 10 to 14 October 2022.

The Commission reviewed the 2022 SRMO Performance Report and tasked the Secretariat to bring forward a proposal to COM1 based on suggestions made during COM1.

Following a commemorative statement from the Secretariat and interventions from Members, the Commission recalled the significant achievements that the Organisation has made during the past 10 years, the commitment of SRMO to sustainability, the good progress and growth since the Organisation was created, the work done by the SC and the willingness of the Members to act on that advice, the ability of SRMO to take hard decisions, and the importance of the Convention.



1.1. Subsidiary Bodies

The Commission has three active subsidiary bodies (see Annex 1.1.1) established by the Commission in 1982, 1983 and 1984. The Commission's subsidiary bodies are the Commission's Technical Group (CTG), the Commission's Scientific Group (CSG) and the Commission's Observer Group (COG).



1.1. Decisions taken by the Commission to achieve the objective of the SPRFMO Convention

COMM11 amended 12 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) including:

CMM 01-2023, *Trachurus murphyi*, where a historical capacity limit was removed, catches of *Trachurus murphyi* in 2023 throughout the range of the stock were limited to 1,080,000 tonnes, and new percentages for the basis of allocation for catch limits from 2023 to 2032 were adopted.

CMM 03-2023, Bottom Fishing, where several regulatory amendments were introduced and adopted



1.2. International Cooperation

The 11th Meeting of the Commission continued to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation, and collaboration with such other organisations by:

Renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations (UN) on the High Seas (UN-HS) and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).



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

Activity/meeting	Format	Date
Scientific Committee web meeting	virtual	22 March 2022
Scientific Committee web meeting	virtual	4 May 2022
Scientific Committee web meeting	virtual	15 June 2022
Scientific Committee web meeting	virtual	16 July 2022
Scientific Committee web meeting	virtual	17 August 2022
Scientific Committee web meeting	virtual	16 September 2022
Habitat monitoring working group web meeting	virtual	29-30 April 2022
Habitat monitoring working group web meeting	virtual	19 May 2022
Habitat monitoring working group web meeting	virtual	23 June 2022
Habitat monitoring working group web meeting	virtual	15 September 2022
Jack mackerel modelling workshop	virtual	8-10 June 2022
Jack mackerel benchmark workshop (SCW14)	hybrid	5-9 July 2022
Jack mackerel connectivity task group	virtual	8 September 2022
Jack mackerel working group web meeting	virtual	14 September 2022
Squid working group web meeting	virtual	11 June 2022
Squid working group web meeting	virtual	22 July 2022
Squid working group web meeting	virtual	22 August 2022
Squid working group web meeting	virtual	2 September 2022
Squid working group web meeting	virtual	9 September 2022
Squid working group web meeting	virtual	21 September 2022
Deepwater working group web meeting	virtual	6 September 2022
Deepwater working group web meeting	virtual	13 September 2022
Deepwater working group web meeting	virtual	16 September 2022
Bottom Fishing intersessional working group	virtual	20 April 2022
Bottom Fishing intersessional working group	virtual	20 May 2022
Bottom Fishing intersessional working group	virtual	7-8 September 2022
Bottom Fishing intersessional working group	virtual	10-11 November 2022
Bottom Fishing intersessional working group	virtual	8 December 2022
Bottom Fishing intersessional working group	virtual	13 December 2022
10 th Scientific Committee (SC10)	hybrid	26-30 September 2022
10 th Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC10)	3 days, hybrid	7 to 10 February 2023
10 th Finance and Administration Committee (FAC10)	2 days, hybrid	9, 10 and 14 February 2023
Jack mackerel MSE workshop with Commissioners	1 day	11 February 2023
11 th SPRFMO Commission (COMM11)	5 days, hybrid	13 to 17 February 2023