

14th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

7 to 12 September 2026, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

SC14 - Doc 13

Timeline for Implementation of Recommendations of the 2nd Performance Review

Chair of the PR2IWG

Summary

You will recall that at the 13th Annual Meeting of the SPRFMO Commission in 2025, the Commission agreed to establish an Intersessional Working Group (IWG) with the objective of developing a draft implementation plan for the recommendations arising from SPRFMO's Second Performance Review.

At COMM14 in 2026, the Commission adopted COMM14-Report Annex 8a (*PR2 Recommendations Implementation Plan, rev.3*) and COMM14-Report Annex 8b (*Revised Terms of Reference for the PR2 IWG*), setting out the actions to be progressed by the PR2 IWG during the 2026 intersessional period.

This document is the IWG's review of recommendations relevant to the Scientific Committee and details the IWG's comments on suggested timeframes for implementation for each of the recommendations.

Objective

The IWG requests that SC14 review the IWG's suggestions below in red/highlighted yellow (Attachment A) and provide advice to COMM15 regarding timing for implementing the recommendation. Specifically, clarity is sought from SC14 on;

- milestones;
- notable work items in the SC multiannual workplan related to that recommendation; and/or
- estimated completion date (using SPRFMO Commission meetings as a marker);

SC14's notes regarding timeframes are important for both the IWG and COMM15 to go forward with the Implementation Plan. Nil response on recommendations will infer that SC14 agree with the IWG's comments. Deferring advice to COMM15 can also be a suitable response.

PR2IWG Timeframe for SC-relevant recommendations

PR2IWG Chair

Attachment A

No	Recommendations	SC13 2025 Recommendation	COMM Response (Agree/Agree in part/ Do not agree)	COMM Priority	Relevant bodies	IWG comments on timeframe for implementing recommendation	SC comments to COMM15 2027 – on SC-component of the recommendation
2	The Review Panel recommends the development of a Business Plan with a three-year planning horizon and an associated budget. The first Business Plan should include a review and enhancement of the Headquarters Agreement with the New Zealand Government. COMM14 Comments: COMM14 noted the interconnected nature of many of the PR2 recommendations and the need to ensure that the development of a revised planning framework does not result in duplicative/redundant documents. This will be considered in the development of the Implementation Plan.	SC has started thinking about how its workplan can be translated into a three-year planning horizon including consideration of resources.	Agree in part	HIGH	COMM, FAC, CTC, SC	[COMM15 2027] – Specific to Business Plan – needs decision on whether to implement/ progress. HQA review considered a low priority. Clarity is sought from COMM15 as to whether a fully-funded, comprehensive Business Plan is necessary to achieve the outcomes of this rec.	
3	The Review Panel recommends that the Commission improve its direction to subsidiary bodies, the Data Working Group, and the Secretariat by approving their work plans/programmes through the proposed integrated business plan, with a three-year planning horizon and associated budget/funding model. Commission oversight can be strengthened by assessing the performance of the subsidiary bodies and Secretariat against their components of the proposed Business Plan. This would involve developing a Workplan for the CTC and FAC,	Flexibility is important within the 3 year workplan. SC would welcome prioritisation from Commission	Agree	HIGH	COMM, FAC, CTC, SC	[COMM15 2027] – Workplans suggested completion date. The development of workplans were agreed at COMM14 2026 and development of workplans should be ready for COMM15 consideration	

	improving the approach to the SC Multiannual Work Plan, and developing an Operational Plan for the Secretariat, as well as an Information Management Strategy and associated Data Management Plan.						
7	The Commission should develop an Information Management Strategy and Data Management Plan, placing a high priority on improving its overall approach to information management. This could draw on the SC's existing progress through SC12-Doc12.	Refer to PR2 IWG comments to COMM	Agree	HIGH	SC; Data Working Group (DWG); CTC; FAC; COMM	[COMM14 2026] – Completed The COMM adopted the Data Strategy by the Data WG. To be reviewed annually.	
9	The Commission should work towards conducting a comprehensive review of CMM 02-2022, following the development of the Information Management Strategy and Data Management Plan, as part of the Business Plan.	SC13 partially addressed this with advice to COM14 on CMM02 changes. This could be further reviewed after development of a Strategy and Plan.	Agree	HIGH	SC; Data Working Group (DWG); CTC; COMM	[COMM14 2026] – Completed CMM 02 revision agreed by COMM14 2026	
10	Jack mackerel - Continue discussions and actions toward full cooperation with the jack mackerel fishery occurring in adjacent national jurisdictions. The Commission should explore ways to incentivise improved cooperation and compatibility. COMM14 comments: COMM14 noted the existing arrangements for cooperation and the importance of sovereignty in relation to management of resources within national jurisdictions. In developing implementation options for this recommendation, focus will be on strengthening voluntary cooperation	It was noted that there is scientific cooperation in relation to high seas and adjacent national jurisdictions through data sharing and stock assessment. This could be enhanced for example through MSE processes.	Agree in part	Medium	SC – Jack Mackerel Working Group (JMWG), COMM	[COMM18 2030] – Suggested completion date Progress should be reviewed annually by Commission and measured against workplan items (if any).	

	arrangements including for data sharing arrangements to support SPRFMO objectives.						
11	Jack mackerel - Undertake analysis of the jack mackerel fishery's impact on other fish stocks and the broader ecosystem. Provide scientific recommendations based on these reviews and adopt relevant management decisions as necessary, with particular attention to chub mackerel, protected species and species of concern.	It was noted that there is work underway and planned on chub mackerel bycatch. The MSE could include chub mackerel bycatch as a performance indicator.	Agree in part	MED/ LOW	SC – JMWG, Ecosystem Working Group (EWG); COMM	[COMM18 2030] – Suggested completion date. Progress should be reviewed annually by Commission and measured against workplan items (if any).	
12	Squid - To ensure effective and timely management of the squid fishery, it is essential to execute all tasks related to squid as outlined in the SC's Multiannual Workplan, which should be integrated into the broader Business Plan. This includes prioritising the development of management strategy evaluations (MSE) and harvest control rules (HCR), ensuring that work is directed and resourced in a more thoughtful and strategic manner, as part of an overall effort to achieve SPRFMO's long-term objectives. The Commission shall also consider alternative options if the stock assessment cannot be completed or if it is not suitable for management purposes.	The planning and timelines for these three elements are important and the subject of the SC multiannual workplan.	Agree	MED/ HIGH	SC – Squid Working Group (SWG); FAC; COMM	[COMM18 2030] – Suggested completion date. Progress should be reviewed annually by Commission and measured against workplan items (if any).	
13	Squid - Participants of the fishery, including Members with squid fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction, should fully cooperate with the Commission and the SC through data sharing to facilitate the assessment. COMM14 comments: Refer notes for Rec 10	Data sharing is a feature of the SC multiannual work plan, which would include meta data and analysis.	Agree	HIGH	SC – SWG, DWG; CTC; COMM	[COMM16 2028] – Suggested completion date. Progress should be reviewed annually by Commission and measured against workplan items (if any).	

14	Squid - Increase the observer coverage rate to generate relevant data that supports the SC's work, addressing both the targeted squid fishery and its potential impact on associated species.	Members noted the recent increases in observer coverage and development of EM standards	Agree in part	MED	SC – SWG; COMM	[1 SEPT 2029] – Suggested completion date The completion date aligns with CMM 18 paragraph 22. Milestones include 1 Sept 2025 and 1 Sept 2027.	
15	Squid - Given the uncertainties regarding the current fishing capacity, consider further precautionary measures, including strengthening fishing effort limitations.	Refer to PR2 IWG comments	Agree in part	MED	SC – SWG; COMM	[COMM14 2026] – Partially Complete Note COMM14 tasked SC14 with providing further advice on this rec.	
16	Squid - The Commission should ensure adequate funding and resources, including financial support, to involve scientists from academic institutions with relevant expertise. Additionally, Members and Observers should be encouraged to maintain their cooperation through both in-kind and financial contributions.	SC noted that funding and resourcing is reliant on FAC and Commission. It further noted the potential to increase financial contributions to balance with in-kind resourcing. This could be considered as part of the wider business planning.	Agree in part	LOW	SC – SWG; SCAF; FAC; COMM	[COMM18 2030] – Progress on this rec needs review in 2030 at the end of the performance cycle.	
18	Deepwater - With respect to all other fish species captured by paragraph 11 of CMM 03a, implement an operational trigger which, if met, would activate the development of more specific fisheries management measures, for example, catch limits.	Work for hapuku and blue eye trevella is on the workplan	Agree in part	LOW	SC – Deepwater Working Group (DWWG) ; COMM	[COMM18 2030] – Needs decision in 2030 on whether to implement/ progress. Noting low priority. This rec can be revisited at the end of the performance cycle.	
19	Exploratory Fisheries - The Commission and its relevant subsidiary bodies should initiate discussions to clarify how to apply Article 28 of CMM 13. This includes identifying fisheries	Noted that the toothfish workshop for SC14 will begin to address this recommendation	Agree	HIGH	SC – DWWG; COMM	[COMM15 2027] – Suggested completion date (for toothfish).	

	approaching the ten-year mark and establishing a framework for transitioning them into established fisheries.					SC14, including the toothfish workshop in 2026 may help to bring forward a framework for COMM15 consideration.	
20	Exploratory Fisheries - The SC should conduct review of the cumulative impacts of exploratory fisheries on both target stocks and the broader ecosystem.	It was noted that the workshop described above will begin to address the accumulative impacts on toothfish	Agree	MED	SC – DWWG	[COMM15 2027] – Needs decision in 2027 on whether to implement/ progress. This rec will see some progress in 2026, with the outcomes of the toothfish workshop, which could require further advice from COMM15 in 2027 on timeframe. Progress should be reviewed annually by Commission and measured against workplan items (if any).	
21	Exploratory Fisheries - The Commission should work to strengthen cooperation with adjacent RFMOs, particularly regarding the management of toothfish fisheries. Engaging with CCAMLR can provide valuable insights and support for the effective management of these fisheries and the process to transition these into established fisheries.	Noted that the workshop will begin the process to transition exploratory fisheries to established fisheries. It was noted that there is already a strong cooperative SPRFMO/CCAMLR relationship	Agree	MED	SC – DWWG; CTC; COMM	[COMM18 2030] – Suggested completion date. Progress should be reviewed annually by Commission and measured against key actions. The IWG note that this rec has seen some progress with the FAO led workshop which focused on toothfish	

						cooperation, where there was representation by SPRFMO Secretariat. The IWG also note the upcoming toothfish workshop in 2026.	
22	All fisheries - To ensure the consistent application of the precautionary principle, the Commission should adopt a defined harvest strategy approach for all SPRFMO fisheries. This approach will provide a clear framework for decision-making, ensuring that measures are based on scientific advice, aligned with the Convention objectives, and adaptable to changing conditions. COMM14 comments COMM14 noted that in developing the implementation plan for this recommendation, it will be critical to consider the suitability of harvest strategy frameworks for small-scale fisheries, and in sequencing future Commission work on harvest strategies, the priority should be on large-scale fisheries.	SC noted that this would require Commission guidance including on how to approach this recommendation e.g. whether this might be done through an overarching framework that applies to all fisheries, or adopting individual harvest strategies for each of the fisheries. SPRFMO could draw from approaches taken in other RFMOs including SIOFA	Agree	HIGH	SC; COMM	[COMM17 2029] – Suggested completion date.	