



SC14 Meeting Report

Annex 7: Scientific Committee Multi Annual Work Plan

Summary

This paper submits to the meeting the current SPRFMO Scientific Committee (SC) Multiannual Workplan, as adopted by the 14th annual meeting of the Commission in March 2026. It sets out the next agreed programme of scientific work to be undertaken by the Scientific Committee, its Working Groups, and associated groups over a rolling three-year planning period. It identifies the principal scientific activities, their expected timing, the Members or bodies coordinating the work, and any associated resourcing requirements. The workplan provides a common framework for coordinating intersessional scientific work and for identifying the resources required to support the Committee's programme. It will be reviewed at the annual Scientific Committee meeting in September 2026 and updated as necessary for consideration and approval by the 15th Commission in March 2027.

How the workplan is developed and updated

The workplan operates as a rolling three-year plan. Each year, the Scientific Committee reviews the current workplan during its annual meeting and considers any changes required in light of implementation progress, and new scientific needs and priorities identified by the Committee or the Commission.

As part of this annual review, activities may be maintained, removed, rescheduled, amended or added as appropriate. The SC then submits the updated workplan, as part of its report, to the next Commission meeting for consideration (in the January–March period of the following year). The Commission may amend the workplan, including its funding, before adopting it. Once adopted by the Commission, the workplan provides the framework for the SC's intersessional work until the next annual review.

Where activities require funding, this is detailed in the plan. Activities are funded from the Organisation's budget and/or voluntary contributions of Members or Observers. Budgetary costs are included in the draft annual budget that is developed by the Executive Secretary for the next financial year (1 July 2027–30 June 2028) to be considered by the next Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) and subsequent adoption by the Commission.

The workplan presented to SC14 (as SC14-Doc05) is the version adopted by the Commission at its 14th Annual Meeting (Ref: COMM14 Report-Annex 4a) in March 2026. During SC14 in September 2026, the Scientific Committee reviewed progress and considered any updates required for the next planning period. The current workplan in this document will be submitted to the 15th Commission in March 2027 for consideration and adoption.



How to read the workplan

The tables that follow organise activities by Working Group and cross-cutting area and identify, where applicable:

- **Activity:** the scientific task or work to be undertaken.
- **Coordinator:** the Member delegation(s), SC body, Chairperson or Secretariat responsible for coordinating progress on the activity. Where no coordinator is identified, responsibility rests with the SC collectively.
- **Year:** for the purposes of the workplan, a year represents the financial year.
- **Funding:** the anticipated funding requirement for the activity in each year and the funding source, i.e., Organisation budget or voluntary contributions. “In-kind” indicates that the work is expected to be undertaken by Members or other identified contributors without additional funding from the Commission; “N/A” indicates that no funding requirement is identified for that year. The funding corresponds to that financial year.
- **Multi-year activities:** activities shown across more than one year are expected to continue over multiple intersessional periods and are reviewed as part of the SC's annual workplan review.



1. Jack Mackerel Working Group

Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
1.1 Jack Mackerel assessment								
1.1.1	Review available input data and its quality for the JM assessment	Secretariat	JMWG	SC15 SC16 SC17	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item
1.1.2	Provide TAC advice according to Commission request	SC	N/A	SC15 SC16 SC17	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item
1.1.3	Expert support during SC assessment	SC Chair	Secretariat	SC15 SC16 SC17	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	• Standing item • Invited expert • Funding from SSF
1.1.4	Continue to update and compare standardizations of commercial tuning indices among different fleets and the impacts of increased efficiency in the fleets	JMWG Chair	CHL EU PER	SC15 SC16 SC17	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item
1.1.5	Workshop to review CPUE and abundance indices for JM – TORs to be developed for COMM15	JMWG Chair	JMWG	SC15 (2027)	\$30,000	N/A	N/A	• Workshop (in-person) before the independent review (1.1.6)
1.1.6	Full independent external review of the JM assessments – TORs to be developed for COMM15	JMWG Chair	JMWG	SC15 (2027)	\$60,000	N/A	N/A	• Workshop (5 days) • Invited experts (x2)
1.1.7	Benchmark workshop to review the data and configuration of the Jack Mackerel stock assessment model, pending results from 1.1.6 – TORs to be developed for COMM15	JMWG Chair	JMWG	SC16 (2028)	N/A	\$60,000	N/A	• Workshop (tbd)
1.2 Jack Mackerel MSE								
1.2.1	Plan developed for JM MSE review	JMWG Chair	JMWG	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	
1.2.2	Second MSE workshop to agree an exceptional circumstances protocol for the HCR approved by COMM14, and to review advances in the implementation of model-based MSE	JMWG Chair	JMWG	TBD COMM15 decision	\$30,000	N/A	N/A	• Workshop (5 days)



Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
1.3 Jack Mackerel Ageing Techniques								
1.3.1	Workshop to evaluate methodologies for implementation in age readings in otoliths of jack mackerel (<i>T. murphyi</i>) among the age and growth laboratories of the SPRFMO – TORs to be developed for review at SC15	JMWG Chair	JMWG	SC16 (2028)	N/A	\$30,000	N/A	• Workshop (tbd)
1.4 Chub Mackerel								
1.4.1	To discuss feasibility of a chub mackerel stock assessment	JMWG Chair	JWMG	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	

2. Deepwater Working Group

Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
2.1 Orange roughy stock status								
2.1.1	Estimate stock status and provide advice	NZL	AUS	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• CMM 3a-2026 requires new orange roughy TACs for 2029+
2.2 Deepwater stock structure								
2.2.1	Investigate the stock structure of orange roughy on the Westpac Bank and adjacent New Zealand EEZ	NZL	COK	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• NZL contact: Alexander Arkhipkin



Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
2.3 Other stock assessments and ecological risk assessments								
2.3.1	Review the risk assessment of teleost and elasmobranch species considering new available information and methods	AUS		SC18 (2030)	N/A	N/A	N/A	• AUS contact: Trent Timmiss
2.3.2	Assess other assessment options for hapuku and blue eye trevalla including standardised CPUE	AUS		SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	N/A	• AUS contact: Trent Timmiss
2.3.3	Refine species list for chondrichthyans in SPRFMO area and review the suitability of distribution data	AUS	NZL	SC15 (2027) or SC16 (2028)	N/A	In-kind	In-kind	• AUS contact: Trent Timmiss
2.4 VME encounters and benthic bycatch								
2.4.1	Develop an ID guide for benthic bycatch (including VME indicator taxa), following the steps proposed in SC9-DW12, and associated training videos	NZL		SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• NZL contact: Jordi Tablada
2.4.2	Evaluate the performance of the spatial management measures	NZL	AUS	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Relies on the abundance models in 2.5.2 • NZL contact: Alexander Arkhipkin
2.4.3	Improve the particle tracking model used in the validation of the bioregionalization and investigate connectivity amongst geographically separated areas of the same bioregion	NZL		SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	N/A	
2.4.4	Develop a standard to identify a VME eligible to be listed in Annex 9 of CMM 03	NZL	AUS	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	N/A	• NZL contact: Alexander Arkhipkin
2.5 Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment								
2.5.1	The SC shall review, and update if required, the SPRFMO BFIAS every 5 years, to ensure that it reflects, as appropriate, best practice	DWWG		SC18 (2030)	N/A	N/A	N/A	• Standing item
2.5.2	Improve and validate abundance models for VME taxa, using independent data	NZL		SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	N/A	



Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
2.5.3	Update cumulative BFIAS	NZL	AUS	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item • NZL contact: Alexander Arkhipkin • AUS contact: Trent Timmiss
2.5.4	Derive an SAI threshold from an empirical study tailored to the dRBS approach	NZL		SC17 (2029)	In-kind \$46,000	In-kind	In-kind	• \$46,000 from the EU grant (Work Package 4) • NZL contact: Jordi Tablada
2.6 CMM 03 request regarding encounters with VMEs								
2.6.1	Developing a multi-spatial scale risk-based approach to assess encounters with VME indicator taxa	NZL		SC17 (2029)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• NZL contact: Alexander Arkhipkin
2.6.2	Review all reported VME encounters	NZL		-	In-kind	As needed	As needed	• NZL contact: Alexander Arkhipkin
2.7 CMM 03 request regarding ongoing appropriateness								
2.7.1	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	DWWG		-	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Seeking clarification from COMM15 if this work is a priority
2.8 CMM 03 request regarding marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, and other species of concern								
2.8.1	Direct and indirect interactions between bottom fishing and marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern	AUS NZL		SC16 (2028)	In-kind	-	In-kind	• AUS contact: Trent Timmiss • NZL contact: Alexander Arkhipkin



3. Squid Working Group

Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
3.1 Squid assessment								
3.1.1	Form a task team to conduct simulation and model evaluations for squid stock assessments	SC Chair	ASTT	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	
3.1.2	Squid workshop including potential assessment techniques, abundance indices simulated assessment and MSE road map development	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC15 (2027)	\$50,000	N/A	N/A	• Workshop (in person, 7 days, tbd May 2027) • \$50,000 from SSF • Invited expert (x1)
3.1.3	Develop a template for biological data, including time, location, length, weight and maturity stage	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	
3.1.4	Protocol for data submission and template management	Secretariat	SQWG	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	
3.1.5	Review available input data and its quality for stock assessment	Secretariat	SQWG	SC15 SC16 SC17	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item
3.1.6	Perform a stock assessment to evaluate the status of the jumbo squid	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC15 SC16 SC17	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item
3.1.7	Develop an Operating Model to support MSE and other simulation work, including support for multiple phenotypes	SQWG Chair	CHL CHN	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	
3.1.8	Extend the Operating Model to explicitly incorporate environmental effects on population dynamics, enabling research on climate change impacts	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	N/A	
3.1.9	Expert support for intersessional work and the SC assessment (including attendance to the SC)	SC Chair	Secretariat	SC15 SC16 SC17	\$75,000	\$78,000	\$82,000	• Standing item • Technical consultant



Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
3.2 Squid CMM development								
3.2.1	Develop a plan for more detailed within-season fishery monitoring	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC17 (2029)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.2.2	Explore and develop alternative approaches to provide management advice if a stock assessment cannot be completed or is not suitable for management purposes	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.3 Squid connectivity								
3.3.1	Collect samples for population genomic studies (Convention Area and adjacent National Jurisdiction Areas)	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.3.2	DNA Sequencing using lcWGS, for population genomics analysis	SQWG Chair	CHN	2027	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.3.3	Review the DNA extraction protocols and analysis pipelines to lcWGC in an online workshop	SQWG Chair	PER	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Workshop (online, March/May 2027 tbd)
3.3.4	Provide a report with a phylogeographic analysis using the complete mitochondrial genome obtained from the lcWGS short reads, integrating data from all Members and include a review of the existing protocols	SQWG Chair	CHN	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.4 Squid MSE								
3.4.1	Develop a staged roadmap for the Squid MSE, identifying the main technical and management components, respective roles, decision points and expected outputs	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.4.2	Facilitate dialogue with the Commission, managers and relevant stakeholders to identify management objectives, operational constraints, priority trade-offs and other considerations to guide the MSE	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	



Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
3.4.3	Develop the technical specifications for the Squid MSE, including operating-model scenarios, data and implementation assumptions, performance metrics and criteria for evaluating candidate management procedures	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.4.4	Design annual harvest control rules or other management procedures compatible with the SPRFMO management cycle, including climate-aware alternatives	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC17 (2029)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.4.5	Evaluate the performance of candidate management procedures through MSE to determine their robustness to biological, fishery, data and environmental uncertainty	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC17 (2029)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
3.4.6	Present preliminary MSE results and management trade-offs to the Commission, managers and relevant stakeholders, and use the feedback to refine the MSE framework and candidate management procedures	SQWG Chair	SQWG	SC18 (2030)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	



4. Ecosystems Working Group

Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
4.1 Species distribution and preferences								
4.1.1	Analyse the habitat preferences of jack mackerel to identify environment-related changes in their distribution and abundance	CHL	CHL PER	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
4.1.2	Second technical workshop to implement and evaluate regional species distribution models (SDMs) for priority species, using harmonised datasets and workflows, and advance applications under climate change scenarios	EWG Chair	EWG	SC15 (2027)	\$30,000	N/A	N/A	• Workshop (in person, 5 days) • Invited expert (x1) • CHL VC for \$24,000 • \$6,000 from SSF
4.1.3	Explore the implications of potential spatial and temporal shifts in species distributions for management measures under climate change scenarios	EWG Chair	EWG	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
4.1.4	Analyse behaviour, distribution, and abundance information about mesopelagic, euphausiids and other key species of the Humboldt Current System	CHL PER	CHL PER	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
4.1.5	Analyse the habitat preferences of jumbo squid to identify environment-related changes in their distribution and abundance	EWG Chair	CHL PER CHN	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
4.2 Standardised data products and modelling								
4.2.1	In collaboration with the Data Working Group, advance the harmonisation and interoperability of ecosystem-related datasets provided by Members, including their linkage to a common metadata repository	EWG Chair	EWG DWG	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	



Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
4.3 Ecosystem assessment								
4.3.1	Develop and progressively expand the Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) to provide the Scientific Committee with an integrated assessment of ecosystem conditions and variability across the Southeast Pacific, including the SPRFMO Convention Area and adjacent EEZs	EWG Chair	EWG	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
4.3.2	Strengthen collaboration between the EWG and other Scientific Committee Working Groups to identify and progressively develop ecosystem-related indicators, analyses and research activities relevant to their work	EWG Chair	EWG	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
4.3.3	Explore ecosystem indicators and metrics that could support the progressive implementation of ecosystem-based fisheries management within SPRFMO, including their potential application to priority fisheries and management questions	EWG Chair	EWG	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
4.4 Data collection from fishing vessels								
4.4.1	Evaluate the requirements and limitations for integrating existing acoustic survey data across areas into regional indicators of jack mackerel distribution and relative abundance	CHL	CHL PER	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	• Online workshop
4.4.2	Advance the integration of acoustic information collected from fishing vessels across areas to support regional indicators of jack mackerel distribution and relative abundance	CHL	CHL PER	SC15 SC16 SC17	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
4.4.3	Explore methodological approaches for combining acoustic information from scientific surveys and fishing vessels to improve the regional spatial and temporal characterization of jack mackerel distribution and relative abundance	EWG Chair	CHL PER	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	



Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
4.4.4	Develop acoustic monitoring approaches using fishing vessels to derive spatial indicators of zooplankton distribution and relative abundance	CHL	CHL PER	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• CHL contact: Nicolas Alegría
4.5 Jack Mackerel connectivity								
4.5.1	Define the practical sampling and technical requirements for progressing work on the priority jack mackerel connectivity topics identified by the Workshop (genetics, tagging, early life stages and reproduction)	CHL PER	N/A	SC15 (2027)	\$12,500	N/A	N/A	• SSF funding source
4.5.2	Identify feasible opportunities to incorporate connectivity-related sampling into existing national surveys, monitoring programmes and fishing operations, and develop options for subsequent small-scale implementation	CHL PER	N/A	SC16 (2028)	\$12,500	N/A	N/A	• SSF funding source

5. Data

Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
5.1 Data								
5.1.1	Prioritise data needs for SC research and reporting to the Data Working Group	SC Chair	SC	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	



6. Other (cross-cutting issues)

Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
6.1 Climate change								
6.1.1	Identify management implications of climate change on habitat and fisheries in the SPRFMO area (Decision 13-2023)							
6.1.2	Develop climate-change scenarios for use in stock assessment, operating models and MSE, in collaboration with the JMWG and SQWG							
6.2 Research in the Salas y Gomez and Nazca ridges area								
6.2.1	Provide a spatial analysis of the magnitude of the benthic-pelagic coupling across the Salas y Gomez and Nazca ridges area	CHL	N/A	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	N/A	• CHL contact: Carlos Gaymer
6.2.2	Evaluate the existence of a causal nexus between pelagic fishing activities and the integrity of bottom ecosystems across the Salas y Gomez and Nazca ridges area	PER	N/A	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	• PER contact: Maritza Saldariagga
6.2.3	Review and discuss all compiled data and information and present possible measures to SC	SGNTT Coordinator	N/A	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item
6.2.4	Provide a spatial analysis of marine mammal distribution across the Salas y Gomez and Nazca ridges area	CHL	N/A	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	N/A	• CHL contact: Carlos Gaymer
6.3 Seabird bycatch								
6.3.1	Compile and characterise existing data relevant to seabird interactions with squid jigs and recommend future data collection protocols	NZL	CHN CT KOR ACAP	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• NZL contact: Simon Lamping • Coordinate with SGNTT
6.3.2	Conduct trials on purse seine mitigation technologies, taking into account those described in	CHL	N/A	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	



Code	Activity	Lead	Participant	SC Reporting	Funding by Financial Year (NZ \$)			Planning
					2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	
	the ACAP toolbox, and report on the outcomes of these trials including seabird bycatch rates							
6.3.3	Summarise and characterise seabird bycatch-related data held by the Secretariat and to work with interested Members and ACAP to identify any future potential improvements to data collection and reporting processes	Secretariat	NZL	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	NZL contact: Simon Lamping
6.4 CMM 17 Marine Pollution								
6.4.1	Research marine pollution related to fisheries in the SPRFMO Convention Area to further develop and refine measures to reduce marine pollution and are encouraged to submit to the SC and the CTC any information derived from such efforts	SPRFMO Members and CNCPs	N/A	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	N/A	Standing item
6.5 Cooperation								
6.5.1	Continue engaging with the FAO, including through relevant projects such as the ABNJ Deep Sea Fisheries project	Secretariat	SC	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
6.5.2	Continue to cooperate and collaborate with CPPS through the SPRFMO-CPPS MOU	Secretariat	SC	SC16 (2028)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	
6.5.3	Explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration on science work under existing MOUs (e.g., on climate change, ecosystem approach to fisheries, etc.)	Secretariat	WG Chairs	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	
6.5.4	Explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration on science work under the BBNJ Agreement	CHL	SC	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	Report to COMM15 on the BBNJ COP in January 2027 on implications and way forward for SPRFMO



6.6 Secretariat scientific support								
6.6.1	Continue with analyses of catch composition and fishing activities; support CPUE analyses and general scientific analyses, as capacity allows	Secretariat	SC	SC15 SC16 SC17	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item
6.6.2	Engage professional rapporteur services for the SC Annual Meetings	Secretariat	N/A	SC15 SC16 SC17	\$17,000	\$28,000	\$32,000	• Standing item
6.7 Other cross-cutting								
6.7.1	Update long version profiles (FAO species synopsis format) for jack mackerel, chub mackerel and jumbo flying squid for the SC Annual Meeting	Secretariat	N/A	SC15 SC16 SC17	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	• Standing item
6.7.2	Develop a TOR template for SC activities to be submitted at each SC Annual Meeting	Secretariat	N/A	SC15 (2027)	In-kind	N/A	N/A	• Standing item