



SC14 Meeting Report

Annex 19: Summary of SGNTT Pre-SC and SC14 Sessions

The coordinator of the Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges Task Team (SGNTT) Team gave a brief presentation highlighting the significant progress undertaken during the last year. Members noted the progress of their work in compiling and evaluating the scientific information relevant to the Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges (SGN) area, pursuant to the Commission's [Decision 17-2024](#). The evaluation organised available scientific information according to the agreed Evaluation Criteria, reviewed fishing activity and associated data, evaluated potential impacts, and developed recommendations for consideration by the Scientific Committee (SC), with all these work items included in paper [SC14-SGN01 rev1](#). The SGNTT indicated that the compilation and assessment of information included in SC14-SGN01 provided a sound basis for developing advice to the Commission.

Members discussed the conclusions and proposed recommendations from SC14-SGN01, including the assessment that the evaluation criteria for SGN had been met and that the available information supported consideration of enhanced management measures. While there was broad support for the work undertaken, Peru noted that maintained technical reservations on some aspects of the document and that some of its comments and recommendations regarding the use of gray literature had not been incorporated. The coordinator of the Task Team indicated he attempted his best to balance differing interpretations of some of the information and data provided, and invited Members to re-familiarise themselves with the revised version of SC14-SGN01 (rev1) which he thought may help alleviate some of Peru's concerns. Members also identified the need to ensure that the scientific basis and wording of the recommendations accurately reflected the strength and limitations of the available evidence, including with respect to non-peer-reviewed literature and information requiring further validation. In that regard, it was proposed that a working paper would be open based on the contents of SC14-SGN01 (rev1) to allow for some minor edits to better reflect in the paper the basis of some of the proposed recommendations by the SGNTT.

Members expressed comfort with the recommendations as originally drafted in SC14-SGN01 (rev1), although some minor amendments were requested to ensure the alignment between the proposed wording and the text from the Commission Decision 17-2024. The coordinator indicated that he had not received further proposed recommendations prior to the meeting except for Chile, which were then shared with the wider SGNTT.

Chile's proposed recommendations drove a considerable discussion focused on information on bycatch and pelagic fishing activity in the area. Following discussion, four members explicitly stated their disagreement, noting that the information presented did not constitute scientific evidence of an impact from pelagic activities. Consequently, the task team did not include that recommendation in the report. However, members agreed on the importance of continued improvement in data collection and reporting, while differing views were expressed on whether the available information should be characterised as a "gap", given existing reporting



requirements under SPRFMO CMMs and the reported low levels of bycatch. It was agreed that the wording should more clearly distinguish between existing reporting obligations, uncertainty or incompleteness in the available information, and opportunities for improvement. Members also identified the need to verify that the fishing activity represented in the assessment was complete, particularly for jack mackerel fisheries, including data reported for 2021–2022, and to clarify the characteristics of the bycatch information presented in the report.

Chile also presented a recommendation to restrict pelagic fisheries to a confined area within the SGN area. Following discussion, the Task Team reached the conclusion that such recommendation was not appropriately supported by available scientific evidence, and highlighted that further research would be needed to consider such recommendation. Members highlighted the need to distinguish the substantially greater benthic impacts associated with bottom trawling and midwater trawling targeting bentho-pelagic species (i.e., alfonsinos) from those associated with other bottom-contact methods, noting that some of those methods are currently authorised in some parts of the Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges area. Members also discussed the appropriate use of terminology, including consistency with the ecosystem-based approach referenced in Decision 17-2024, and the need for recommendations to provide sufficiently specific and actionable guidance to the Commission.

As a result, SC14-WP03_rev1, including the recommendations in therein, represent all the work produced by the task Team to be considered by the SC 2026.