



SC14 Meeting Report

Annex 22: Terms of Reference for the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Task Team

Summary

At its 2024 annual meeting, the Commission adopted [Decision 17-2024](#) that tasked the Scientific Committee (SC) to include Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges as an agenda item for its meeting in 2024 and annually thereafter. Within this agenda item, the SC — taking into consideration its priorities and available resources during its first year — will compile and review all relevant scientific information and data about the area and recommend possible measures to the Commission at its following regular meeting, based on an ecosystem-based approach that aims at preserving its biodiversity and SPRFMO fishing resources as well as a sustainable use of marine resources.

The Multi Annual Workplan of the SC considers the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges as a cross-cutting task. In line with that tasking and to support the effective and efficient preparation of scientific advice for the Commission, the SC agreed to create a Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges Task Team with these terms of reference.

Terms of Reference

a. Objective

The objective of the Task Team, in line with Decision 17-2024, shall be to continue to review relevant scientific information and data about the area, including relevant information provided by Members and Observers, and to provide advice to the SC possible measures based on the ecosystem approach that aims at preserving the biodiversity in the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges and SPRFMO fishing resources, as well as sustainable use of marine resources.

All activities carried out by the Task Team will refer to the Area of Application of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as specified in its Article 5.

b. Structure

The Task Team is open to all interested Members, CNCPs and observers who may nominate one or more suitably qualified representatives to the Secretariat before 15 November on an annual basis.

Ideally, all meetings should allow the virtual participation so as not to unfairly discriminate against small delegations with limited ability to travel. In addition, the meeting calendar of this Task team shall consider the overlap with other RFMOs meeting dates to avoid clashes with SIOFA and WCPFC meetings, or any other relevant RFMOs.

c. Responsibilities

- 1) Complements the information previously presented to the SC14 (SC14-WP03) that reviews and summarises relevant scientific information relating to the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges (here after called “area”), including:
 - a. geological, oceanographic, biogeochemical (including carbon exportation), biodiversity, ecology, cultural, connectivity, potential benthic-pelagic coupling and conservation information.
 - b. data regarding SPRFMO’s benthic and pelagic resources fished within the area, as well as possible threats to those resources and the marine ecosystems in which they occur
 - c. current levels of fishing effort by gear including fishing activities from the most recent year and its possible impacts within the area
 - d. cross-sectoral pressures and impacts identified in the SC12- Doc 36;



- 2) Provide possible measures based on the ecosystem approach that aims at preserving the biodiversity in the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges and SPRFMO fishing resources, and based on identified causal risks, for the SC to consider; and
- 3) Propose a monitoring and evaluation scheme for future work:
 - a. Propose a monitoring and evaluation scheme for any proposed measure.