

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Preparatory Conference for the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

First Session

Auckland, New Zealand
19-23 July 2010

REPORT

- 1 The First Session of the Preparatory Conference for the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation was held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 19 to 23 July 2010.
- 2 The Conference was convened by the Government of New Zealand, as Depositary for the *Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean* (the Convention) adopted in Auckland on 14 November 2009.
- 3 The Conference elected Bill Mansfield as the Chair of the Preparatory Conference and adopted Annex A as its agenda. Arrangements to apply to sessions of the Preparatory Conference were established.
- 4 The Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat, Robin Allen, presented a Report on the *Funding of the Interim Secretariat* (PrepCon-01-WP-01). During discussion of this Report, some Participants indicated that they would be providing additional financial contributions to the Interim Secretariat during the coming year.
- 5 The Executive Secretary presented a Report on the *Functions and Staffing of the Secretariat* (PrepCon-01-INF-04) that analysed the functions of the Secretariat and provided an estimate of the minimum staff required to fulfill those functions.
- 6 The Executive Secretary presented a *Report on Interim Management Measures* (PrepCon-01-INF-05 Rev1). The Conference discussed the implementation of the Interim Measures as recorded in the Executive Secretary's Report and following the discussion some revisions were made to the Report (PrepCon-01-INF-05 Rev2). In discussion of the implementation of the Interim Measures, it was noted that the size of the fleet fishing for pelagic species had increased over the period of those Interim Measures while catches had decreased. Concern was expressed at indications of a lack of compliance with the Interim Measures by some Participants and indications that the size of the fleet might increase further.

- 7 The Session made substantial progress on drafting Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations based on the papers (PrepCon-01-INF-02 and PrepCon-01-INF-03) prepared by the European Union. The outcome of the work of the Session on these agenda items is attached as Annex B (PrepCon-02-WP-01) and Annex C (PrepCon-02-WP-02). The Small Island Developing States and Territories of the Pacific region indicated they had prepared draft principles and guidelines in respect of the Fund referred to in Regulation 5 of the draft Financial Regulations which would be provided to the Secretariat for the information of all Participants.
- 8 Andrew Penney, Chair of the Interim Scientific Working Group (SWG), gave a presentation on progress made to date with the jack mackerel stock assessment process. Andrew Penney noted that the SWG participants will be discussing by email how to complete the stock assessment during an October 2010 meeting of the Jack Mackerel Sub-Group. Concern was expressed by Participants at the fact that complete and finest scale data had not been supplied by all those Participants engaged in the fishery.
- 9 The Government of New Zealand presented a Report on the Status of the Convention (PrepCon-01-INF-06). The Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands signed the Convention during the Session and also deposited an instrument of approval with the Depositary. The European Union informed the Conference that its signature of the Convention will take place on 26 July in Wellington. The Participants welcomed these actions and expressed the hope that others would expeditiously complete their internal procedures to enable the Convention to enter into force as quickly as possible.
- 10 The Conference agreed that, in the period until the Chair of the Commission is elected at its first meeting, the Executive Secretary will be accountable to and report to the Participants in the Conference through the Chair of the Conference.
- 11 The Conference decided that its Second Session would be held from 24 to 28 January 2011. Subject to confirmation, Colombia offered to host the Second Session. This offer was welcomed by Participants.
- 12 The Conference thanked the Government of New Zealand for hosting the Session.
- 13 The Session was closed at 3pm on 23 July 2010.
- 14 The Session was attended by the following States, regional economic integration organisations and fishing entities: Australia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Cuba, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, France, Kiribati, Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russian Federation, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Chinese Taipei. The following also attended as observers: Food and Agriculture Organisation, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency,

International Coalition of Fisheries Associations, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Greenpeace. A list of the attendees is attached as Annex D.