



International Consultations on the Establishment of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Report of the Interim Secretariat

Introduction

Participants at the Third International Consultation on the Establishment of the South Pacific RFMO in Reñaca, Chile accepted the offer of New Zealand to host an Interim Secretariat on the basis set out in [Annex G](#) of the Reñaca Meeting Report.

Appointment of personnel

The New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries established the web site, coordinated meeting arrangements and received and distributed data. Mr. Neville Smith of the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries was seconded as acting Executive Secretary following the Reñaca meeting to establish the Interim Secretariat.

Dr. Robin Allen was appointed as Executive Secretary effective 15 October 2007. Ms. Susie Iball was appointed as Data Manager for the Interim Secretariat effective 22 January 2008. There is provision in the budget for the appointment of another staff member for administrative duties. That appointment will be made after March 2008 if the work load for the Interim Secretariat merits it.

Activities since October

Since October 2007, the activity of the Interim Secretariat has focused on:

- Completion of the establishment of the office,
- Preparations for the Guayaquil meeting, and
- Establishing data collection, storage and dissemination.

The offices of the interim Secretariat are in a secure area of ASB House, 101-103 The Terrace, Wellington. [Contact details](#) are given on the SPRFMO web site.

Various data have been provided by participants in response to the Data collection and sharing section of the [Interim Measures](#) and the Data Standards referred to in that section. The fishing activity data submitted have been in various degrees of aggregation and so far are at a lower level of resolution than that specified in the Standards.

The Interim Secretariat has distributed to participants a summary of the responses received under the Pelagic Fisheries section of the Interim Measures relating to the gross tonnage of pelagic fishing vessels present in the area in 2007. It is working on revising the display of all data submitted in accordance with the public domain description in section 6 of the Data Standards.

Preparations are being made to contract the building of a web based data system that will facilitate submission and display of data in the agreed formats.

Budget

New Zealand is funding the first year of operation of the Interim Secretariat. The budget for the first two years (ending 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009) is shown in the table (\$NZ1=\$US0.80 approximately.) Evidently, the personnel costs for both years will depend on whether a third staff member is engaged.

	New Zealand \$	
	Year ending 30 June 2008	Year ending 30 June 2009
Personnel cost	\$168,522	\$369,000
Information technology	\$1,000	\$27,000
Office occupancy	\$29,626	\$5,000
Plant and equipment	\$9,399	\$10,000
Travel and accommodation	\$36,000	\$70,000
Contracted services	\$34,000	\$100,000
Other operating costs	\$13,809	\$26,000
Building services	\$28,023	\$36,000
TOTAL	\$320,379	\$643,000