

Comm-04-04

Annual Report of the Commission for the year 2015

Paragraph 1 of Article 29 of the Convention provides that the “*Commission shall publish an annual report, which shall include details of decisions taken by the Commission to achieve the objective of this Convention. The report shall also provide information on actions taken by the Commission in response to any recommendations from the General Assembly of the United Nations or the FAO.*”

Membership

In December 2015 the Commission had fourteen members: Australia, Belize, Republic of Chile, People's Republic of China, Cook Islands, Republic of Cuba, Republic of Ecuador, European Union, Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, and Vanuatu.

In December 2015 five countries had the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPS): Republic of Colombia, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Panama, Republic of Peru and the United States of America.

Decisions taken by the Commission in 2015

The third Commission Meeting was held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 2 to 6 February 2015.

The Commission amended its Decision 1.02 on *Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties*, to require an application for CNCP status to include a statement of intent to make voluntary financial contributions commensurate with what would be assessed should the CNCP become a Member (new paragraph 3[f]).

The Commission adopted the following three new Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and two amended CMMs:

CMM 3.01 (revision of CMM 2.01). *Trachurus murphyi*: This CMM addresses effort management, catch limits as well as detailed requirements for data collection and reporting; for 2015, the total allowable catch was set at 410 000 t.

CMM 3.02 (revision of CMM 2.02). Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data. The revision relates to data collection involving bycatch of species of concern (including a new Annex 14).

CMM 3.03 (new). Establishment of a Compliance and Monitoring Scheme. This CMM seeks to ensure that Members and CNCPS implement and comply with obligations under the Convention and CMMs adopted by the Commission.

CMM 3.04 (new). Boarding and inspection procedures in the SPRFMO Convention Area. This CMM was adopted as an interim CMM in accordance with Article 27(3) of the SPRFMO Convention noting that it has not yet been possible for the Commission to adopt an at-sea inspection regime specifically for the SPRFMO Convention Area. This CMM provides that the Commission's procedures on at sea inspection in the SPRFMO Convention Area shall be those contained in Articles 21 and 22 of the 1995 Agreement (UN Fish Stocks Agreement) and that the CMM shall be effective from 24 August 2015.

CMM 3.05 (new). Regulation of transshipments and other transfer activities in the SPRFMO Convention Area. This measure includes advance notification and reporting requirements for the transshipment of *T. murphyi* and demersal species in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

SPRFMO IUU List: At its third meeting the Commission decided to add two vessels to the SPRFMO IUU list. Other RFMOs were notified of the SPRFMO IUU List after the meeting.

The report of the Commission and all related documents are available on the SPRFMO website at www.sprfmo.int.

Actions taken by the Commission in response to recommendations from the UNGA or the FAO

The SPRFMO Convention and the decisions and CMMs adopted by the Commission include numerous references to UNGA and FAO agreements, resolutions and recommendations which have been reported in previous years.

The newly adopted 2015 measures include particular references to the UN Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA):

- CMM 3.04 provides that the Commission's procedures on at sea inspection in the SPRFMO Convention Area shall be those contained in Articles 21 and 22 of the UNFSA
- CMM 3.05 refers to Article 18 (3)(f) and (h) of the UNFSA
- Annex 14 of CMM 3.02 refers to Appendix 1 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS or Bonn Convention) and to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)