

**FAO Expert Advisory Panel for
Assessment of CITES Marine and Aquatic Proposals**
(Rome, Italy. 6-10 June 2016)

Submission by SPRFMO Secretariat

The Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) is pleased to be able to provide the following information for consideration by the CITES Expert Advisory Panel for the assessment of proposals to amend CITES Appendices II for fishery species (June 2016).

1. Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

SPRFMO while still being a relatively young RFMO has implemented very detailed reporting requirements. These requirements are fully described in [CMM 4.02 \(Data Standards; 2016\)](#). Briefly, CMM 4.02 requires that all Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) annually submit data on fishing activities and the impacts of fishing to the SPRFMO Secretariat. These submissions can be grouped into the following categories:

- a) Annual catch totals for all species caught during the year;
- b) Data on fishing activities by fishing method and;
- c) Observer collected information.

Annual catch data contains a total “live weight” for each species caught within each FAO statistical area. Fishing activities data contains information on the date, time and location of estimated catches and discards (for all target, bycatch and other species of concern). Observer information generally contains similar information as fishing activity data and additionally includes biological and scientific information.

Along with marine mammals, seabirds and reptiles, and since January 2015, captures of other species of concern must be specifically identified and recorded in both fishing activity and observer information submissions. The SPRFMO definition of other species of concern includes one of the proposed Appendix II species (*Mobula* spp, refer Annex 14 of CMM 4.02).

It is also worthwhile noting that SPRFMO has prohibited the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets and all deepwater gillnets in its Convention Area as detailed in [CMM 1.02 \(Gillnets; 2013\)](#).

The SPRFMO Secretariat has interrogated its databases for any catch records relating to the proposed species to be discussed by the CITES expert panel and the results of that search are presented below (refer Annex I for a complete list of species codes that were used in the search).

2. Catches of proposed species from the SPRFMO Area

Currently there are 4 main fisheries operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area; in order of catch magnitude they are the:

- Squid jig fishery operating on the eastern side of the Pacific which straddles into adjacent EEZs;
- Jack mackerel trawl/purse seine fishery operating on the eastern side of the Pacific which also straddles into adjacent EEZs;
- Bottom trawl fishery operating on the western side of the Pacific targeting mainly Orange roughy;
- Bottom longline fishery operating on the western side of the Pacific catching various species including Morwongs, Yellowtail amberjacks, Bluenose warehou, Emperors and Hapuka.

Annual catch totals

The SPRFMO annual catch totals extend back to 1965 and includes information for all of the main fisheries. An indication of the extensiveness of this series can be found on the [Catch Information](#) webpage of the SPRFMO website. Of the 7 species that are being proposed for inclusion in CITES Appendix II, only ALV (*Alopias vulpinus*) was present in SPRFMO annual catch totals as shown in Table 1.

Reporting Member	Year	Capture Area	Species	Catch weight (kg)
Australia	2011	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher	100
New Zealand	2013	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher	88
New Zealand	2014	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher	200

Table 1: Annual catch totals for proposed Appendix II species

Fishing activities

By contrast the fishing activity data series is more detailed, but less extensive historically. This reflects the age of the organisation and the years in which CMMs or their precursors (voluntary interim measures) were adopted. Again only one of the proposed species was present in SPRFMO's fishing activity data as shown in Table 2.

Fishery	Reporting Member	Year	Capture Area	Species	Retained catch (kg)	Discarded catch (kg)
Bottom Longline	Australia	2007	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher	50	
Bottom Longline	Australia	2011	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher	100	
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2007	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher	300	
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2012	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher	100	
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2014	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher	200	
Bottom Trawl	Australia	2011	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Thresher		70

Table 2: Fishing activity estimates for captures of proposed Appendix II species

It is important to note that the years for which SPRFMO holds fishing activity data varies by fishery. Squid fishing activity data are currently limited (from 2012-14), data for the jack mackerel fishery encompasses 2008-14, while fishing activity data for both bottom fisheries encompasses 2002-14.

Observed catches

SPRFMO holds some observer data from 2008, with complete detailed data from 2013. Observer coverage varies by fishery being 100% in bottom trawl and a minimum of 10% in both bottom longline and Jack mackerel. There is currently no minimum coverage level in the squid fishery. Table 3 shows the results of interrogating SPRFMO held observer data for the 7 species that are being proposed for inclusion in CITES Appendix II.

Fishery	Reporting Member	Year	Capture Area	Species	Retained catch (kg)	Discarded catch (kg)
Bottom Trawl	Australia	2007	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Emperor nautilus	unknown	unknown
Bottom Trawl	Australia	2011	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Bigeye thresher		80

Table 3: Observed catch estimates for proposed Appendix II species

3. Summary

It can be seen from Tables 1-3 above that most of the species that are to be considered by the Expert Advisory Panel are very rarely caught in the SPRFMO Area. None of the proposed species have ever been reported by neither the Squid jigging fishery nor the Jack mackerel fishery; both of these fisheries operate on the eastern side of the Pacific.

Thresher sharks are rarely caught in the high seas portion of FAO area 81. These sharks have been reported mainly from the bottom longline fishery with a single record from bottom trawl. Similarly there was one observer report for a bottom trawl which caught Emperor nautilus, but the amount involved is unknown.

Importantly, the SPRFMO has identified *Mobula spp inter alia* as being a species of concern and implemented additional reporting requirements should those animals be captured during fishing activities.

It should be noted that while SPRFMO does have information on the exact date and position of many of the catches listed above they have not been released in this document due to SPRFMOs confidentiality requirements.

Further information may be requested from the SPRFMO secretariat (secretariat@sprfmo.int).

Appendix I: List of Marine and Aquatic species used to interrogate SPRFMO database holdings.

Proposal	CITES Species	CITES Common name	FAO 3A_CODE	Scientific_name	English_name	Family	Order
40	<i>Alopias</i> spp.	Thresher Sharks	ALV	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Thresher	Alopiidae	LAMNIFORMES
			BTH	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye thresher	Alopiidae	LAMNIFORMES
			PTH	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic thresher	Alopiidae	LAMNIFORMES
			THR	<i>Alopias</i> spp	Thresher sharks nei	Alopiidae	LAMNIFORMES
41	<i>Mobula</i> spp.	Devil Rays	MAN	Mobulidae	Mantas, devil rays nei	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMC	<i>Mobula coilloti</i>		Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RME	<i>Mobula eregoodootenkee</i>	Longhorned mobula	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMH	<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>	Lesser devil ray	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMJ	<i>Mobula japanica</i>	Spinetail mobula	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMM	<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Devil fish	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMN	<i>Mobula rochebrunei</i>	Lesser Guinean devil ray	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMO	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Smoothtail mobula	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMR	<i>Mobula robertsi</i>		Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMT	<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	Chilean devil ray	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
			RMU	<i>Mobula munkiana</i>	Munk's devil ray	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES
RMV	<i>Mobula</i> spp	Mobula nei	Mobulidae	RAJIFORMES			
42	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	FAL	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky shark	Carcharhinidae	CARCHARHINIFORMES
43	<i>Holacanthus clarionensis</i>	Clarion Angelfish	ANW	Pomacanthidae	Angelfishes nei	Pomacanthidae	PERCOIDEI
			HLK	<i>Holacanthus clarionensis</i>	Clarion angelfish	Pomacanthidae	PERCOIDEI
44	<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i>	Ocellate River Stingray	PPR	<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i>	South American freshwater stin	Potamotrygonidae	RAJIFORMES
			QEX	<i>Potamotrygon</i> spp	Freshwater river stingray nei	Potamotrygonidae	RAJIFORMES
45	<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>	Banggai Cardinalfish	TGK	<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>		Apogonidae	PERCOIDEI
47	Nautilidae	Nautilus	NUK	<i>Nautilus pompilius</i>	Emperor nautilus	Nautilidae	CEPHALOPODA
			NUX	<i>Nautilus macromphalus</i>	Bellybutton nautilus	Nautilidae	CEPHALOPODA

Refer <https://cites.org/eng/cop/17/prop/index.php>