

SC-02-INFO-03

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific  
Committee

13-17 March 2017, Saint Denis, La Reunion

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Report on proposed deepwater stock assessment and VME impact  
assessment framework workshop

*Relates to agenda items: 8, 10*

Working paper  info paper

## Delegation of Australia

### Abstract

This paper provides information to the SIOFA SC on Australia's intention to host the SPRFMO Scientific Committee's Deepwater Working Group for a workshop on deepwater stock assessment and associated issues in Hobart in May 2017 (dates not yet finalised). The main objective of the workshop is to contribute to the revision of the SPRFMO bottom fishing measure.

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## **Workshop objectives**

Australia intends to convene the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Scientific Committee's Deepwater Working Group (DWG) for a workshop to:

- Review current assessments of orange roughy, including:
  - Australian eastern zone stock (CSIRO)
  - Preliminary stock assessments for orange roughy in the western SPRFMO Area using spatially disaggregated CPUE and Bayesian biomass dynamic models (NZ Ministry for Primary Industries and National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWAR))
- Develop a stock assessment framework for consideration at the 5<sup>th</sup> SPRFMO Scientific Committee meeting (September 2017)
- Review the methods used by Australia, New Zealand and others for mapping and assessing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and develop a framework for evaluating adverse impacts on VMEs
- Map out the detail of the management strategy evaluation required to ensure that spatial management achieves its purpose. This work will feed into a working paper for the SPRFMO SC to consider at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Benefits**

The benefits of the workshop are that it will provide information for development of stock assessment and VME assessment frameworks that could be applicable to both SPRFMO and SIOFA. The stock assessment framework will eventually contribute to development of harvest strategies and associated reference points and harvest control rules for relevant stocks in the SPRFMO Area. The work will be used in the review of the SPRFMO bottom fishing CMM and other relevant CMMs, which could be used to inform development and refinement of relevant SIOFA CMMs. The workshop report will be publicly available and will be shared with the SIOFA SC and Chair.

## **Participation**

The workshop will be open to all SPRMO Members, CNCs and Observers. As an Observer to SPRFMO, SIOFA may be represented. Experts from CSIRO (Australia), Ministry for Primary Industries (NZ) and National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NZ) have been invited. Funding for the workshop is being provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

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