

New Zealand submission on the fourteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the 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 (the Agreement).

30 March 2019

Introduction

1. New Zealand welcomes the focus topic of “Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements” (RFMO/A).
2. New Zealand is pleased to provide this contribution in response to the invitation for States Parties to the Agreement to provide written contributions on the focus topic.

Background

3. New Zealand is a member of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). New Zealand is also a member of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), a Co-operating Non-Contracting Party to the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), and a signatory to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

Function of Performance Reviews

4. New Zealand strongly advocates that RFMO/A undertake periodic reviews of their performance. Performance reviews provide a useful critique of the performance of RFMO/As relative to agreed performance review criteria and can identify any gaps in management which need to be addressed. Every RFMO/A in which New Zealand participates has undertaken at least one performance review.

5. In our view, the primary purpose of performance reviews

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Arrangements

SPRFMO

8. The inaugural performance review of SPRFMO took place during the 2018/19 inter-sessional period. The chair of the Review Panel (Dr Penelope Ridings) presented the Panel's report to the Commission. The panel made a number of specific recommendations

recommendations in the report have been given sufficient consideration by the WCPFC membership.

CCAMLR

12. Two performance reviews of CCAMLR have been undertaken; in 2008 and 2017. The second CCAMLR review panel used the first review as a reference point, noting that, overall the Commission and Scientific Committee had made significant progress in implementing many, though not all, of the recommendations arising from the first CCAMLR performance review. The second performance review emphasised areas that still require improvement and made a number of new recommendations. Importantly as the mandate and responsibilities of CCAMLR are not limited to fisheries management, the recommendations made by the review panel are broader than those seen in RFMO's.