# SPRFMO SC Jack Mackerel working group report

16 July 2024

# Summary

The meeting began with introductions and delegation presentations from Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Korea, EU, US, external experts and PEW foundation representatives. The agenda for the meeting was discussed and adopted.

The meeting covered various topics, including the age reading workshop, CPUE standardization, the Jack Mackerel Connectivity Task Group, science developments for the SC meeting, update on MSE and need for external expertise. The discussion on the age reading workshop focused on the progress made by the Chilean delegation in organizing the workshop and seeking input from other member countries. Concerns were raised about the funding for the workshop and the complications in extending the use of allocated funds from the EU.

### Action Items

* Ignacio Paya will bring an update and next steps for the age reading workshop for the next preparatory session.
* All Delegations will discuss and determine the total catch projections for 2024 and submit the information to the Secretariat.
* All delegation will prepare an overview of data availability on chub mackerel
* All delegations with a fishery on jack mackerel are requested to send in the catch and sampling data following the available templates and submit these at 19th of August the latest to Niels and the secretariat.

## Opening

The Jack mackerel chair, Niels Hintzen, opened the working group meeting and participants introduced themselves. He proceeded to adopt the agenda (no changes) for the meeting and reviewed the status of work.

## Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted

## Progress age-reading workshop organisation

A discussion was held on the organisation of an age reading workshop. The Chilean delegation was working to organize a workshop and will be seeking agreement from other member countries soon. Ana Alegre from the Peruvian delegation supports the proposal to hold the workshop in January and highlights the need for coordination with the SPRFMO field.

Concerns of the use of SC funding were raised and will be discussed bilterally with the secretariat and the SC chair.

## CPUE standardisation

No active work has been undertaken to further standardize CPUE. The Chilean delegation indicated this to be brought forward at a next benchmark. Although this would be the appropriate place to bring new time series, it is considered useful to present progress at the SC and not await benchmark workshops. A tentative presentation was tabled for the next session on how Chilean scientists aim to combine recent work on CPUE standardization into a more coherent proposal.

## Connectivity study

An online session on the connectivity study is scheduled for the 18th of July. Work will be undertaken on bibliographic reviews. A workshop will be planned prior to SC12 to discuss progress on the desk study and select topics relevant for the sampling design. The outcomes of the first workshop should lead to a second workshop in which externals will be invited to help prioritize research lines.

## Science developments for the SC

Several papers and presentations will be prepared for the SC. Among them will be a manual for the use of the JJM model, a WD on trophic ecology in the region, a WD on the extension of the risk decision table, highlighting the analysis to include higher levels of increase in the F multiplier and stabilization percentages. The conversation also covered the development of algorithms, coordination with team members, development of a WD on the acoustic survey and spatio-temporal dynamics of Jack mackerel. Additionally, there was a focus on the total catch projections for 2024 and the concerns about catch transfers between countries, particularly with respect to Chile. The group noted that this is the first year where the secretariat will be short-staffed in terms of some of the technical details they covered for previous assessments. In particular, accounting for the catch projection estimates of catches for 2024 will be needed. Additionally, assistance with the processing of data from members will also be required. Niels highlighted his process of coordinating data submissions from members and Ignacio agreed to help him.

Niels pointed out that there will be a need to provide information on chub mackerel as well and requested members to provide details of catch, effort, sampling information that is available.

Members requested how the assessments would be prepared. Niels recapped the process from last year in which he coordinated data compilation and worked with LeeQi to perform data bridging exercise and present draft final assessments for consideration to the members prior to the SC (~2 week prior). He suggested to do the same for 2024.

## Update on MSE

An update of the development of the MSE was given by Jim Ianelli and supplemented with further info by Niels. Already 5 technical meetings had taken place. The MSE will make sure it's compatible with national laws. The MP is suggested to be simple and data driven but will be compared to MPs in which jjm is used as an estimator of stock size. There will be a need to annually check, with the use of jjm, if management is still on track and stock development is still in line with what was tested in the MSE. OpenMSE will be involved in dissiminating MSE results. The discussion on OM condition has been closed and further details on the development will be provided in a working document to be drafted by the contractor Iago Mosquiera.

## External expertise

LeeQi has accepted to join the SC and work prior to the meeting on preparing a draft final stock assessment. Niels pointed out that availability of LeeQi cannot be guaranteed into the future and he would welcome members to come forward with experts that could take over the role of stock assessor. Both Peru and Chile responded positively to this invite.

## Concluding & planning next session

Niels thanked everyone and closed the meeting and noted the date set for Aug 20 for the second preporatory session.

## Participants

Chile: Mauro, Aurora, Sebastian, Nicole, Jose

Peru: Ana, Crisely, Yosymar, Giovanna

Ecuador: Manuel

Korea: Eunjung

EU: Jasper, Niels

US: Jim

External experts: LeeQI

Observers: Ashley