



March 13, 2025

Dear Council Members and Staff,

I have one update for you for the 202nd Council Meeting:

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Meeting: The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) met for its 13th annual meeting February 17 - 21, 2025 in Santiago, Chile. NOAA Fisheries led the U.S. delegation, with on the ground support from the Department of State (OES/OMC) and the NOAA Office of General Counsel. SPRFMO amended or adopted 12 Conservation and Management Measures, including a U.S. proposal to create a mechanism for reporting to the Commission IUU fishing that occurs in national waters adjacent to the SPRFMO Convention area in order to increase transparency, pressure Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) to take appropriate action to address IUU fishing by their vessels or nationals, and allow the Commission to consider the impacts of IUU fishing in its decision-making. After an extensive and transparent process, the Commission selected James Brown, who currently leads the international fisheries team of the Ministry for Primary Industries in New Zealand, as the new Executive Secretary.

Other adopted proposals related to:

- Setting the 2025 jack mackerel catch limit;
- Prohibiting subsidies to vessels on the IUU Vessel List and their operators;
- Ensuring all fishing vessels carrying toothfish harvested in the SPRFMO Convention Area have a 100% inspection rate;
- Establishing two exploratory toothfish fisheries (New Zealand and Korea);
- Establishing a framework for data collection for artisanal squid fishing;
- Making technical clarifications to the staff regulations and financial regulations;
- Establishing of a Voluntary Fund to support Spanish Interpretation.

Sincerely,

C. Colin Brinkman
Office of Marine Conservation