



14TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Panama City, Panama, 2 to 6 March 2026

COMM14 – Report ANNEX 4b Jack Mackerel MSE Implementation Pathway

(COMM14-WP21)

1. The Situation

The Jack Mackerel MSE programme is incomplete through no fault of past contractors and Member scientists efforts. Stock complexity (four structural hypotheses, JJM convergence challenges) required more iteration than anticipated. The Commission has declared MSE completion a **high priority to be achieved ASAP**. A new proposal from the existing WMR contractor was recently submitted; SPRFMO’s budget is largely allocated. This paper proposes funding a contract scaled appropriately to budgets and formal Member scientific contributions.

2. Proposed Approach: Hybrid (Reduced Contract + Member Contributions)

The WMR contract is retained for the technical core but scoped to minimum viable deliverables for SC14 (September 2026). Member scientists from Chile and Peru formally contribute to scenario runs. Interoperability with alternatives may serve to enhance WMR’s approach, including bringing results into a commonly used format (e.g., “Slick”).

Work Package	Original Scope	Reduced Scope (–25%)	Member Contribution
WP1 OM Conditioning	Full JJM reconditioning; all 4 stock structure hypotheses; robustness OMs	Unchanged — critical path to benchmark	—
WP2 MP Implementation	3 MP types: Buffer/K60, multi-index, surplus production; banking & borrowing	Retain Buffer/K60 + one model-based MP; third type deferred to post-SC14	Chile & Peru contribute model-free MPs on benchmarked OMs
WP3 Conducting MSE	Full robustness suite; ENSO scenarios; banking & borrowing; full metrics	Core scenarios only: ENSO offshore drop; 2 MPs; key SC14 performance metrics	Parallel runs on same scenarios by Chile/Peru; results formally submitted to JMWG
WP4 Meetings & Reporting	3 in-person meetings + travel; full technical report + source code	2 meetings (Lima, Wageningen); online JMWG coordination replaces third; interim report to SC14	JMWG Chair leads online sessions; Member scientists attend Wageningen

3. Milestone Timeline

When	Event	Deliverable	Output for
May 2026	Benchmark workshop, Lima (Peru hosting)	Candidate assessment models, modifications to SC13 approved model	SC Intersessional meeting (seeking approval of Benchmark results)
Late May 2026	SC Intersessional meeting	Model approval from Benchmark	Wageningen MSE workshop
Jun 15–19	MSE workshop, WMR (NL)	Candidate MP (CMP) shortlist	SC14 document
Sep 2026	SC14 — Scientific Committee	CMP recommendation to Commission	Commission decision
Nov 2026	WP4 final deliverable	Technical report, source code	SC15 / archive



4. The Commission is asked to endorse

- A WMR contract (scaled to fit within funding) to complete minimum viable MSE outputs for SC14; budget to be confirmed by the JM WG Chair.
- Recognition of parallel developments (where possible) of Members’ work on the contractor’s platform and alternatives that best advance the SPRFMO MSE by SC14.
- Direction to the JM WG Chair to finalise contract terms with WMR, report on budget at the next Commission session, and deliver the milestones above.

5. Timeline for SPRFMO and Contractor activities

