



COMISIÓN TÉCNICA MIXTA DEL FRENTE MARÍTIMO

Juncal 1355, P. 6 Esc. 604, Montevideo 11000, Uruguay
Tel.: +(598) 2916 – 2047 / 1973 / 2773 Fax: +(598) 2916 – 1578
secretariaadministrativa@ctmfm.org – secretariatecnica@ctmfm.org
www.ctmfm.org

Ref: 63/22/ST

Montevideo, June 10, 2022
A/Res76/72

Dear Mr. Serpa Soares,

The Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (Comisión Técnica Mixta del Frente Marítimo - CTMFM) is pleased to report to your division on the recent measures undertaken by our organization in the implementation of specific provisions of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/72.

The CTMFM is the only standing regional fishery body in the SW Atlantic with a history of over 45 years in the pursuit of promoting conservation, preservation and the adoption of measures for the rational exploitation of living resources, as well as, the protection of the marine environment in the waters of mutual interest of Argentina and Uruguay.

In exercise of regulatory powers conferred to this Organization by the Treaty of the Rio de la Plata and its Maritime Front, signed on 19 November 1973, the CTMFM establishes management and conservation measures based on scientific findings and recommendations provided by the binational Technical Groups at the request of the Commission. In addition, the CTMFM sponsors scientific workshops, symposia and training courses, as well as fishery and oceanography surveys to monitor trends in abundance of commercial and non-commercial species and to conduct complementary studies of marine ecosystems.

With reference to paragraph 199 (Section IX, Marine Environment and Marine Resources) the CTMFM, in compliance with Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has adopted a set of management rules for the conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources of the area. At present over 92% of the fishery resources caught in the Argentine-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone (CFZ) are regulated by specific management measures applying ecosystem approaches to avoid overfishing. The analysis of the state of these populations indicates that more than 70% of the assessed stocks are already being fished within biologically sustainable levels. In this respect, the report on the State of Fisheries Resources managed in the CFZ, posted on the website of this Commission, presents the results that support these indicators.

To:

Miguel de Serpa Soares
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel



COMISIÓN TÉCNICA MIXTA DEL FRENTE MARÍTIMO

Juncal 1355, P. 6 Esc. 604, Montevideo 11000, Uruguay
Tel.: +(598) 2916 – 2047 / 1973 / 2773 Fax: +(598) 2916 – 1578
secretariaadministrativa@ctmfm.org – secretariatecnica@ctmfm.org
www.ctmfm.org

The following management measures have been taken in recent times by this Commission:

- In 2021, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 10 species or groups of species was determined for the resources managed in the Treaty area.
- That same year, four seasonal closures were implemented in the Maritime Front for the protection of the juvenile hake.
- A Fishing effort restriction area was established for two species, *Percophis brasiliensis* and *Pagrus pagrus*, in order to ensure no captures beyond the TAC established for said species in 2021.
- As in previous years, a ban on bottom trawling was established in a high-density area of cartilaginous fish juveniles.
- Directed squid fishing was regulated in the Maritime Front by allowing this mode of fishing only for 5 months that year.

With reference to par. 220, also in Section IX, we are pleased to communicate that our organization reassumed in 2022 the activities of the Marine Environment Working Group with specific instructions to develop a multidisciplinary research program, involving several scientific institutions of the region, to address environmental concerns such as pollution, including microplastics, climate change, loss of biodiversity, etc. Environmental surveying of the CFZ has been reassumed and included in the stock assessment scientific cruises systematically carried out every year on board research vessels of both countries. In this framework, and after suffering long periods of inactivity imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a research cruise was carried out to survey the marine environment in 2019 termed "Environmental health and plankton in the Argentine-Uruguayan CFZ in a scenario of Global Change" aboard the fisheries and oceanographic research vessel (F.O.R.V.) "Victor Angelescu". A Workshop was held based on the information collected and analyzed that served to establish the goals of a future research cruise programmed for the spring of 2022. The objective is to compare the results of both surveys as a first approach to environmental knowledge in a sequential manner.

In reference to the support given by the CTMFM to the conservation of biodiversity, in May 2022, the Seabirds Working Group presented to the Plenary of this Commission the document titled "Regional Plan of Action to reduce the interaction of seabirds and fisheries in the area of the Rio de la Plata Treaty and its Maritime Front." Said document will be evaluated by both Delegations and, with their approval, it will be presented to the FAO to be included in the framework of the International Plans of Action as a contribution to the conservation and mitigation of the negative effects that some fishing activities can have on this type of birds.



COMISIÓN TÉCNICA MIXTA DEL FRENTE MARÍTIMO

Juncal 1355, P. 6 Esc. 604, Montevideo 11000, Uruguay
Tel.: +(598) 2916 – 2047 / 1973 / 2773 Fax: +(598) 2916 – 1578
secretariaadministrativa@ctmfm.org – secretariatecnica@ctmfm.org
www.ctmfm.org

This is, in brief, a summary of the recent contributions of our organization to the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/72.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Zapicán Bonino', written over a faint blue line.

Navy Captain (R) Zapicán Bonino
President of the CTMFM