

Joint horse (jack) mackerel stock assessment workshop: Mauritania, Namibia and Chile

Proposal by Mauritania small pelagic FIP (Jo Gascoigne, co-coordinator), August 2025

Introduction

Mauritania, Namibia and Chile all have very large stocks of *Trachurus* spp. (horse or jack mackerel) associated with valuable fisheries (Mauritania: *Trachurus trachurus* and *T. trecae*; Namibia: *T. capensis*; Chile: *T. murphyi*). The Mauritanian stocks are assessed by CECAF (Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic – a regional grouping), the Namibian stocks by the Namibian government (NatMIRC) and the Chilean stock by SPRFMO (South Pacific RFMO – a regional fisheries management organisation; these assessments are chaired by Dr Jim Ianelli of NOAA / University of Washington). The Chilean fishery has MSC certification.

Proposed activity

It would be beneficial to all three parties, but particularly to Mauritania and Namibia, to hold a joint assessment workshop on *Trachurus* stock assessment. The objectives of this workshop would be:

- To pool knowledge on horse mackerel biology, life history and assessment models;
- To review data from all three fisheries and suggest any changes or additions to data collection strategies;
- To test and compare different stock assessment techniques on the different stocks, according to the data available;
- To evaluate the best assessment technique for each stock;
- To assess uncertainty in the stock assessments, how best to communicate it and the most efficient / cost effective way to reduce it
- To compare and discuss the management strategies for the different stocks, and learn lessons from the different management systems
- To return home with a comprehensive strategy for data collection, stock assessment and management for these stocks.

Proposed methodology and costs

Dr Jim Ianelli has kindly agreed to host the workshop at the University of Washington, where all facilities are available, as well as a wide range of expertise to draw on.

It is proposed that the workshop would last for 5 full days, with travel days to/from Namibia and Mauritania in addition to this.

The main costs are estimated as follows (in US\$):

Item	Unit cost (US\$)	Number of units	Total
Dr Ianelli fees, including preparation and write up if required	800 / day	8 days	6400
Return flights Namibia -Seattle (John Kathena, Erich Maletzky)	2000	2 experts	4000

Return flights Mauritania – Seattle (Cheikh-Baye Braham)	2000	1 expert	2000
Accommodation (University of Washington) and meals	250	3 people x 8 nights	6000
Total			US\$ 18400