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## IFOP participated in the 14th meeting of the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), held in Panama

IFOP participated in the Chilean delegation at the 14th meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), held in Panama in early March (<https://www.sprfmo.int/meetings/comm/14th-commission-meeting>). The IFOP members who participated were the Executive Director, Gonzalo Pereira, and researcher Ignacio Payá. In his role as Vice-Chair of the Commission's Scientific Committee, Payá participated in technical meetings held prior to the Commission meeting: 1) general coordination meeting for the Commission meeting, 2) workshop on Electronic Monitoring, and 3) "dialogue with stakeholders on the progress of Management



Strategy Evaluation for jack mackerel fisheries" meeting.

Payá provided technical advice to the delegation, with special emphasis on conservation measures for jack mackerel and squid (jibia) fisheries, and on the Scientific Committee's work plan. In the case of jack macke-



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rel, the 2026 catch quota was agreed upon by consensus, and the working group was assigned to conduct an indicators and benchmark workshop in May in Peru, a workshop on Management Strategy Evaluation in June in the Netherlands, and to present a set of candidate management strategies for the 14th Scientific Committee to be held in September. Regarding squid fisheries, it was agreed by consensus to reduce the permitted effort limit in the convention area, and that the squid working group will conduct a stock assessment and catch quota recommendation, or another conservation measure, to be analyzed by the Commission in 2027. It was also agreed to hold a stock assessment workshop and to continue simulations using the SQUIDSIM program developed by I. Payá.

## IFOP researcher Ignacio Payá was re-elected as vice-president of the Scientific Committee of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization

The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), at its 14th meeting held in Panama in March, approved the proposal of its 13th Scientific Committee (SC) and re-elected Dr.(c) Ignacio Payá as Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee for a second 2-year term (<https://www.sprfmo.int/meetings/comm/14th-commission-meeting>).

Dr.(c) Payá will continue to participate as a member of the Chilean delegation, except when he must substitute for the Chair of the Committee. Dr.(c) Payá has participated for 12 years in the jack mackerel and squid (jibia) working groups of the SC, and in Chile, he conducts abundance estimations and catch quota ranges for these fisheries (<https://sites.google.com/view/ignacio-paya-c>; [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ignacio\\_Paya](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ignacio_Paya)).



## IFOP's participation in the 4th Maullín River cultural and environmental festival, bringing science closer to the community

On March 14, researchers from the Environment Department of the Aquaculture Research Division of the Fisheries Development Institute (IFOP) participated with an educational stand in the Maullín River Cultural and Environmental Festival. This activity brings the community together to value the natural, cultural, and environmen-



rivers and understand how the presence of *Didymo*, by modifying the riverbed substrates, can alter biological communities and displace native species.

The activity also addressed the ecological connection between rivers, estuaries, and regional productive activities, such as aquaculture. In this context, the role of aquatic ecosystems in the development of mytiliculture and mussel production—an emblematic resource of southern Chile—was highlighted. Additionally, the interactive platform “Semilla Endémica” (Endemic Seed) was presented to the community, a tool that allows users to explore content related to biodiversity, aquaculture, and sustainability. Mytilid larvae monitoring – IFOP, at the service of scientific research for fisheries and aquaculture.

Participation in these types of events reinforces the commitment to environmental education and scientific outreach, promoting knowledge about aquatic ecosystems and fostering a more informed citizenship committed to the care of Chile’s aquatic environments.

## IFOP Strengthens Ties with Hualaihué Artisanal Fishermen Through Results Presentation and Technological Training

Contao, Hualaihué – In a day marked by technical dialogue and the active participation of the artisanal fishing sector, researchers from the Fisheries Development Institute (IFOP) participated in an activity organized by the Hualaihué Fishermen’s Federation, held in the town of Contao.

The event included the participation of professionals from the Fisheries Research Division and the Aquaculture Research Division, who presented the main



tal heritage of this territory. The meeting took place in the city of Llanquihue and was organized by the Fundación Legado Chile with the aim of promoting environmental education and the connection between people and one of the most emblematic fluvial ecosystems in the Los Lagos region.

During the event, Mario Ortiz and Macarena Herrera developed an educational experience aimed at children, youth, and adults, based on didactic and interactive material that allowed visitors to learn more about the invasion of the exotic microalga *Didymosphenia geminata*, commonly known as “Didymo” or “rock snot.” As a complement to the exhibition, a digital map was displayed detailing the geographical areas declared as Pest and Pest Risk through Exempt Resolution No. 2032-2024 (scan QR code). It is important to note that, although this invasive species is found across a wide geographical range, it has not been detected in the Maullín River.

The stand provided an opportunity to explain the morphological characteristics of *Didymo* blooms and cells, the hypotheses regarding its arrival and expansion routes in Chile, as well as the preventive measures to avoid its spread between basins—especially through the cleaning and disinfection of equipment used in recreational and research activities in rivers and lakes.

One of the main attractions of the stand was a three-dimensional model representing a river mouth and its connection to the sea. This resource allowed for a visual explanation of how fluvial ecosystems integrate with estuaries and coastal systems, highlighting the importance of the biodiversity inhabiting these environments. From this representation, visitors were able to recognize part of the fauna present in



results of the Demersal and Deep-Sea Fisheries Monitoring Program. Researchers Patricio Gálvez, Rodrigo San Juan, Renato Céspedes, Daniela Yepsen, and José Pérez presented updated information on the status and dynamics of resources of high importance to artisanal fishing, such as southern hake, golden conger eel, and stingray.

During the event, an open dialogue was fostered, where fishermen and leaders raised various questions and reflections on the information presented, along with aspects related to fisheries management and institutional coordination with agencies such as SUBPESCA and SERNAPESCA.

Additionally, Macarena Herrera, a researcher from the Department of the Environment, conducted a training session on the use of the

interactive platform “Endemic Seed,” a tool designed to strengthen the capacities of the aquaculture sector, particularly in the area of monitoring and managing mussel resources.

In this context, Celso Subiabre was also introduced as IFOP’s new Scientific Observer. Recently incorporated into the institution, he is also a member of the Hualaihué Fishermen’s Federation, and his prompt integration and professional performance in the work carried out in the municipality were highlighted.

The activity strengthened the link between science and the local production sector, promoting access to relevant information for decision-making and the sustainable development of fisheries in the southern region of the country.



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