



---

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,  
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

**Circular No.: 2021/92  
Date: 21 October 2021  
No. pages: 03**

**SPC's Notification of the Fourth Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme Cruise Planning  
Advisory Committee Meeting**

Dear All,

Further to WCPFC Circular 2021/20 (*SPC's Notification of the Third Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme Cruise Planning Advisory Committee*), and as requested by the Pacific Community (SPC), I wish to advise that the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme Cruise Planning Advisory Committee will be held from **11:00am to 12:00pm (Pohnpei time) on Tuesday, 2 November 2021** to review the results of 2021 CP15 Cruise and to consider the 2022 tagging experiment choices. The meeting will be online using Microsoft Teams. The meeting agenda and background information are attached to this Circular.

Should you have any query concerning the said meeting or wish to attend the meeting, please contact Bruno Leroy of SPC-OFP at [BrunoL@spc.int](mailto:BrunoL@spc.int) for the online meeting invitation.

Yours sincerely,

**Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## The Fourth PTPP Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

11:00am – 12:00pm (Pohnpei time)

Tuesday, 2 November 2021

### Standing Agenda

1. Welcome, Preliminaries
2. 2021 CP15 cruise results
3. 2022 tagging experiment choices
4. Cruise Implementation: Vessel and crew availability
5. Cruise Implementation: formalities and permitting
6. PS fishery drifting FAD access
7. Tag Recovery
8. Other Business

### Pre-meeting background

Tuna tagging activity of the WCPFC-PTTP<sup>1</sup> scheduling currently assumes a biennial program that alternates two main cruise types targeting different species and area and using different platform and fishing gears.

- Western Pacific (WP) type cruises are implemented onboard pole and line tuna vessels with range of action limited to areas where adequate live bait supply could be captured. This is mostly achievable west of 165E longitude within limited distances<sup>2\*\*</sup> around large islands that possess productive coastal ecosystems (rivers, mangroves). The fishing gear is effective on tuna schools exhibiting surface activities in the equatorial zone (Latitudes between 10 N and 10 S) and captures essentially skipjack tuna of all sizes (between 70 and 80% of the catches) and a lower proportion of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye.
- Central Pacific (CP) type cruises are using long range longline tuna vessels that could be equipped with a variety of fishing gears allowing efficient and safe capture of tuna associated with Fishing Aggregation Devices (FAD). Although less efficient than pole and line for capturing large quantities of tuna in optimized condition for their release, the CP cruise could operate without live bait supply and could target bigeye tuna species that scarcely appears in pole and line catches.

---

<sup>1</sup> tagging programs are part as the ongoing WCPFC science work since 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Operational distances depend on the boat live bait tank capacities and on bait species survival when kept inside those tanks; survival most often less than one week for the fragile species found in the WP.

**The Planning Advisory Meeting provides the following opportunities for members and collaborators:**

- An overview of recent tagging activities
- Outlines and discussion for logistics for upcoming cruise planning
- A chance to anticipate administrative and technical requirements in good time
- Outline current tag recovery activities
- Coordination of potential research objectives with regional partners