



**COMMISSION
EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Electronic Meeting
1 – 7 December 2021**

**REFERENCE DOCUMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE HARVEST STRATEGY
WORKPLAN UNDER CMM 2014-06**

WCPFC18-2021-23_rev1¹
17 November 2021

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a quick reference guide to the recommendations of the WCPFC17 and SC17 in support of discussions for progressing the implementation of the WCPFC Indicative Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 (**Attachment A**) and the matter of a science-management dialogue.
2. The Commission needs to take actions on the following recommendations from the SC17.

Agenda	Recommendations (Paragraph numbers are from SC17 Summary Report)	Commission's Action
Review of the overall harvest strategy work	294. SC17 endorsed the work outlined in SC17-MI-WP-03 and to progress the Harvest Strategy Workplan recommends that the Commission take note of this work and <u>provide advice</u> on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of fisheries and fishery controls within the harvest strategy. • Procedures for identifying, selecting, and implementing the 'best' management procedure. 	Provide advice
Skipjack MSE framework	310. To progress the development of harvest strategies for skipjack, SC17 recommends that the Commission take note of the analyses outlined in SC17-MI-WP-04 and requests the Commission to <u>provide advice</u> on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multispecies impacts on other tropical tuna related harvest strategies; • Definition of fisheries and fishery controls within the harvest strategy; • Input into candidate MP designs; 	Provide advice

¹ This version replaces the original posted on 9 November. Rev 1 includes the proposal for a science management dialogue as considered at WCPFC17 in December 2020 as **Attachment B**

Agenda	Recommendations (Paragraph numbers are from SC17 Summary Report)	Commission's Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on presentational approaches to enhance decision making; • Procedures for selecting the 'best performing' MP. 	
Review of future progress of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan	332. Finally, noting that the development of the WCPFC harvest strategy framework is reaching a mature stage, and the increasing number of issues that require the attention of, and feedback from, managers in order to progress the Harvest Strategy Workplan (as noted in several recommendations above). SC17 again reiterates its previous recommendations for a <u>Science-Management Dialogue to be convened in 2022</u> . In addition, SC17 calls attention to the importance of such a dialogue to ensure the input of managers and stakeholders to the MSE process and to ensure timely execution of the Commission's harvest strategies workplan	SMD be convened in 2022
	333. SC17 also recommended that greater priority should be given during 2022 to Harvest Strategy work within the Commission Workplan.	noted

B. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS (*Paragraphs 261 and 275, WCPFC17 Summary Report*)

3. The Commission adopted the updated Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 (**Attachment A**).

4. The Commission acknowledged the utility of a science-management dialogue in progressing the implementation of the *Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies* but was unable to agree on the staging of such a dialogue. The Commission agreed to continue to explore in 2021 options convene a science-management dialogue. The documentation for the proposal for a science management dialogue as considered at WCPFC17 in December 2020 is in **Attachment B**.

C. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

C1. Review of the overall harvest strategy work (*Paragraphs 291 – 295, SC17 Summary Report*)

5. Noting the revised work plan for the adoption of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy under CMM 2014-06 (Attachment H, WCPFC17 Summary Report), SC17 reviewed the overall progress to date in the development of the harvest strategy covered by this workplan as outlined in [SC17-MI-WP-03 \(Recent progress in the technical development of harvest strategies for WCPFC stocks and fisheries\)](#).

6. SC17 noted several difficulties with the use of CPUE to inform a management procedure for South Pacific albacore and supported the continuing investigation of simple model-based alternatives. Incorporation of the new treatment of uncertainty (as included in the updated assessment for Southwest Pacific swordfish reviewed by SC17) should also be investigated.

7. SC17 continued to encourage a focus on capacity building workshops, particularly for SIDS and developing states, on understanding of harvest strategy functioning and implications. Building such capacity will assist all CCMs to participate fully in this complex process and have the confidence in the

harvest strategy development process and its outcomes when implemented. It will also assist the effective participation of all CCMs in any future Science-Management Dialogue.

8. SC17 endorsed the work outlined in [SC17-MI-WP-03](#) and to progress the Harvest Strategy Workplan recommends that the Commission take note of this work and provide advice on the following issues:

- Definition of fisheries and fishery controls within the harvest strategy.
- Procedures for identifying, selecting, and implementing the ‘best’ management procedure.

9. Finally, SC17 noted that while the current Harvest Strategy Workplan only goes through 2022, the funding support from New Zealand for the associated project (Pacific Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation) has been extended to the beginning of 2024. SC17 noted that the current timeline for completing the harvest strategy is ambitious.

C2. Skipjack MSE framework (*Paragraphs 304 – 311, SC17 Summary Report*)

10. Noting the planned schedule of adopting the management procedure for skipjack tuna in 2022, SC17 reviewed the progress on analysing the performance of candidate management procedures outlined in [SC17-MI-WP-04 \(Evaluations of candidate management procedures for skipjack tuna in the WCPO\)](#).

11. SC17 noted the SC14 recommendation to retain the full list of performance indicators for skipjack even for those that may be difficult to estimate. SC17 also noted that a scenario which assumes an annual 3% effort creep in the purse-seine fishery will be included in the robustness set for skipjack.

12. SC17 also noted that current candidate Management Procedures are developed using a single schedule applicable for both effort-controlled fisheries (PS) and catch-controlled (non-PS) fisheries, resulting in different projected yield patterns between two types of fisheries. For PS, the catch will increase if stock increases even if the effort is kept constant, while for non-PS fisheries catch will be kept constant even if the stock increases. This could cause problems as this may be seen as inequitable among stakeholders.

13. SC17 also commended the SSP for the PIMPLE app as it has served an important role in enhancing understanding of Management Procedures (MPs) and encouraged its use with managers in providing advice on the scientific aspects of candidate MPs. SC17 noted there are some MSY indicators presented within the PIMPLE software as this tool now includes both Kobe and Majuro plots.

14. SC17 noted that evaluations of candidate management procedures for skipjack tuna were based on a grid of operating models that was initially proposed at SC15 and subsequently revised at SC16. However, no formal agreement on the range of OMs to be used has been made by the SC. SC17 further noted that the details of the OMs including model diagnostics were available for inspection online at <https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/hierophant> but more detailed presentation and discussion are warranted at SC18.

15. SC17 noted the continuing high quality of the work on a skipjack MSE framework.

16. To progress the development of harvest strategies for skipjack, SC17 recommends that the Commission take note of the analyses outlined in [SC17-MI-WP-04](#) and requests the Commission to provide advice on the following issues:

- Multispecies impacts on other tropical tuna related harvest strategies;
- Definition of fisheries and fishery controls within the harvest strategy;
- Input into candidate MP designs;

- Feedback on presentational approaches to enhance decision making;
- Procedures for selecting the ‘best performing’ MP.

17. SC17 saw much value in presenting this work to managers and other stakeholders, and to achieve this and help address the requests made above a Science-Management Dialogue to be held in 2022 was strongly supported.

C3. Review of future progress of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan (*Paragraphs 329 – 333, SC17 Summary Report*)

18. SC17 noted the request from the Commission to review the steps required to further progress the Harvest Strategy Workplan and highlight issues for further guidance by the Commission, including how decisions on Management Procedures can be made and what the role of the SC might be in this process. This includes continuing to consider options to convene a Science-Management Dialogue to assist this process.

19. SC17 noted that while substantial progress has been made on the technical work to support harvest strategies according to the workplan, the workplan does not currently extend beyond 2022 and that it will require amendment to encompass future technical work and decision making, particularly on bigeye, yellowfin and the multispecies framework. Toward this end SC17 noted Australia’s intention to again take a leading role in amending the Harvest Strategy Workplan to reflect decisions made, progress to date, and to cover the work and decisions for years 2023 and beyond for the consideration of the Commission this year.

20. While SC17 noted that the technical work by the SSP has generally kept pace with the Harvest Strategy Workplan, it was also noted that capacity-building initiatives, as well as WCPFC consideration, engagement and decision-making has perhaps not kept pace. SC17 noted that greater input from WCPFC bodies in general, but particularly commissioners, managers and stakeholders, will be vital over the coming years to inform the testing of candidate management procedures for skipjack and South Pacific albacore in the WCPO, and in the iterative process of their review and refinement prior to formal adoption.

21. Finally, noting that the development of the WCPFC harvest strategy framework is reaching a mature stage, and the increasing number of issues that require the attention of, and feedback from, managers in order to progress the Harvest Strategy Workplan (as noted in several recommendations above). SC17 again reiterates its previous recommendations for a Science-Management Dialogue to be convened in 2022. In addition, SC17 calls attention to the importance of such a dialogue to ensure the input of managers and stakeholders to the MSE process and to ensure timely execution of the Commission’s harvest strategies workplan.

22. SC17 also recommended that greater priority should be given during 2022 to Harvest Strategy work within the Commission Workplan.

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**
COMMISSION
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Electronic Meeting
8 – 15 December 2020

**INDICATIVE WORK PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES
UNDER CMM 2014-06²**

- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM 2014-06. It set out a deliberately ambitious schedule of technical work and Commission decision making for the development of harvest strategies across the four key tuna stocks. The workplan was always intended to be a living document and has been updated annually to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments.
- It is acknowledged that delays in the execution of the workplan may occur, noting the complexity of developing harvest strategies for multiple species within the multilateral WCPFC environment as well as the capacity of member CCMs to understand and participate fully in the process. For this reason, all parties are cautioned against an expectation that harvest strategy elements will be completed in specific years. Completion dates have changed in the past and may change in the future.
- This workplan simply schedules decisions noting that it is the Commission’s decision as to their interim nature. It is important to understand the implications of single species management procedures within a multi-species fishery context upon application of any of the management procedures.
- There is a very important need for capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process and ultimately to have confidence that an adopted harvest strategy is an agreeable balance of their objectives. This is particularly so as the Commission starts to consider the multispecies nature of the fishery and how management procedures will interact.
- For clarity and consistency, the term “Management Procedure” is used from 2020 onward in this workplan in place of the term “Harvest Control Rule (HCR)”. A Management Procedure is a key part of a Harvest Strategy comprising a more formal specification of data collection, the associated estimation model (e.g. the estimation of stock status through an analytical or empirical method) together with a Harvest Control Rule. Together these clearly define what management actions are to be made in response to changes in the stock or fishery condition.

2020 Update

- The Science Service Provider has made substantial technical progress during 2020, notably on management strategy evaluation (MSE) for South Pacific albacore and skipjack amongst a range of other areas.

² As refined and adopted at the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission, held online 8-15 December 2020.

- However, SC16 was unable to discuss and advise on much of this material in detail because of the limited meeting format. Similarly, WCPFC17 had limited discussion of these matters.
- Further, COVID 19 has meant a delay in much of the vital capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process.
- A single change was made to the Indicative Harvest Strategy Workplan in 2020 noting it was subject to a substantial review in 2019.
 - The updated workplan tasks the scientific Committee to provide, and the Commission to consider, an update to paper WCPFC17-2020-11 to include candidate skipjack TRPs of 36, 38 and 40 %SBF=0.

Note: Within the tables below, progress in earlier years is in grey. Bold items are the six elements that are referred to in CMM 2014-06 (Objectives, Reference Points, Acceptable Levels of Risk, Monitoring, Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure and MSE). Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development and so are part of the plan but are not one of these six elements.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2015	SC provided advice on implications of a range of Target Reference Points for South Pacific albacore.	Commission agreed an interim Target Reference Point (b).	Commission tasked SC to determine a biologically reasonable timeframe for rebuilding bigeye tuna to [or above] its limit reference point.	
	Commission agreed to workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC12 Summary Report, Attachment Y]			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2016	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission tasked SPC/SC to develop interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. • <i>[Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.]</i> 	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission agreed interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. [see WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment M] • <i>[Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.]</i> 	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Commission agreed timeframes to rebuild stock to limit reference point. [see page 8 of HSW]</p>	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p>
<p>Commission agreed on interim maximum acceptable risk level for breaching the LRP (c). [see page 8 of HSW]</p>				
<p>Commission agreed to a refined workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment N]</p>				
<p>Progress Summary: Recognised the need for some harvest strategy elements to be adopted as ‘interim’ noting that they be reconsidered as the harvest strategy process develops. Considered management objectives for the fisheries or stocks and made progress on identifying performance measures for tropical purse seine fisheries. For South Pacific albacore acknowledged the benefit of SPC adapting the same list of indicators to further similar work for south Pacific albacore. Commenced some early discussions on the relationship between harvest strategies for the different species and multispecies issues.</p>				

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2017	<p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission noted performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules. 	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on candidate harvest control rules based on agreed reference points (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules (ongoing). 	<p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators for <p>to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission noted performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules <p>[SC report on BET status following updated assessment.]</p> <p>[SC and SPC provide advice to the Commission on the likely outcomes of revised tropical tuna measure.]</p>	<p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators <p>Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission noted performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules
<p>Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).</p>				
<p>Progress Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted candidate performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery and the Tropical Longline fishery to evaluate harvest control rules. • Agreed on actions to prioritise the development and adoption of a Target Reference Point for south Pacific albacore at WCPFC15. • Recognized the importance of developing harvest strategies for key stocks in the WCPO. The Commission recognized that this work requires the consideration of fisheries managers and scientists at different stages. The Commission notes that the time required for harvest strategy discussions is substantial but will also vary from year to year and the Commission recognized the need for this to be accommodated. • Agreed to reprioritise as needed the annual agenda of the Commission and Scientific Committee to allow sufficient additional time for consideration of harvest strategy issues. In addition WCPFC recognised that there may also be a need for a dedicated science/management dialogue. 				

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2018	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <p>south pacific albacore.</p> <p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). <p>[SC updated advice on SP albacore status.]</p>	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e)</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). 	<p>[SC updated advice on BET status.]</p> <p>[SC and SPC provide advice to the Commission on the likely outcomes of revised tropical tuna measure.]</p> <p>[SC and Commission discussion of management objectives for fisheries and/or stocks, and subsequent development of candidate TRPs for BET and YFT.]</p>	<p>[SC and Commission discussion of management objectives for fisheries and/or stocks, and subsequent development of candidate TRPs for BET and YFT.]</p>
Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).				
<p>Progress Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interim target reference point (TRP) for south Pacific albacore (0.56 SBF=0) was agreed. • The Commission agreed to hold a 6-day annual meeting in 2019 with additional time devoted for the Commission to discuss harvest strategies. 				

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2019	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provided advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC considered the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission considered advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). <p>[Science Service Provider identified a range of alternative catch pathways to the interim this]</p>	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provided advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC considered the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission considered advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). <p>["TRP shall be reviewed by the Commission no later than 2019" – CMM 2015-06]</p> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC15]</p> <p>[SC advised on required analyses to support TRP review]</p>	<p>Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provided advice on potential Target Reference Points for bigeye. • Commission considered potential Target Reference Points for bigeye. 	<p>Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provided advice on potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin. • Commission considered potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin.
<p>Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).</p>				
<p>Progress Summary: A range of harvest strategy related research was presented and discussed by WCPFC16. Research and technical documents in areas requested for 2019 are available on the SC15 and WCPFC16 websites. The harvest strategy workplan was subject to a substantial review and update at WCPFC16 to reflect decisions taken (or deferred) at WCPFC16. A schedule of research and technical work was identified to support the consideration of TRPs for skipjack (a revision), bigeye and yellowfin. Science Service Provider to review potential options to capture multi species issues under the HS process.</p>				

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2020	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p>	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p>[Scientific Committee provide, and Commission consider, advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a revised TRP for skipjack]</p>	<p>Consider Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Committee provide advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for bigeye. • Commission consider SC advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for bigeye. <p>[Initiate development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development]</p> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC16]</p>	<p>Consider Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Committee provide advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for yellowfin. • Commission consider SC advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for yellowfin. <p>[Initiate development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development]</p> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC16]</p>
Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).				

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2021	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC17]</p> <p>[Potential update of TRP following assessment and in accordance with WCPFC15 adopted approach]</p>	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Develop and implement relevant elements of the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>[Scientific Committee provide, and Commission consider, an update to paper WCPFC17-2020-11 to include additional candidate skipjack TRPs of 36, 38 and 40 %SB_{F=0}]</p>	<p>[Development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development]</p> <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for bigeye. <p>[Economic and other analysis to support TRP decision making]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for bigeye. 	<p>[Development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development]</p> <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin. <p>[Economic and other analysis to support TRP decision making]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin.
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			
	Progress Summary:			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2022	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Adopt a management procedure</p>	<p>Adopt a management procedure</p> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC18]</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. 	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of potential management. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures.
<p>Progress Summary:</p>				



COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December 2018

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SCIENCE-MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE

WCPFC15-2018-21
WCPFC-SC15-2019/MI-IP-08

WCPFC Secretariat

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to present for the consideration and decision of WCPFC15 draft Terms of Reference for a proposed Science-Management Dialogue as recognised by WCPFC14.

Background

2. The Commission at WCPFC14 reviewed the Harvest Strategy Work Plan and extended its timeline out to 2021 to allow for ongoing work towards adoption of harvest strategies for the four key stocks. In doing so the Commission recognized that this work requires the consideration of fisheries managers and scientists at different stages. Accordingly, the Commission agreed to reprioritize as needed the annual agendas of the Commission and the Scientific Committee to allow sufficient time for consideration of harvest strategy issues. It also recognized that there may also be a need for a dedicated science-management dialogue.

Discussions at SC14

3. Pursuant to the above WCPFC14 direction, the schedule for the 14th Regular Season of the Scientific Committee (SC14) incorporated additional sessions for the Management Issues Theme for discussion on harvest strategy issues. The outcomes of progress of those harvest strategy discussions at SC14 are reported separately to the Commission.

4. SC14 considered the need for a dedicated science-management dialogue as recognized by WCPFC14 in terms of a proposed draft consultative Terms of Reference (TOR) for such a dialogue as presented in SC14 working paper: SC14-MI-WP-06. The discussion at SC14 occurred both in plenary and during an Informal Small Group that refined the consultative draft TOR, which is annexed to this document.

5. The SC14 recommendations on this subject matter were as follows (Paragraphs 473-478, SC14 Summary Report):

473. *SC14 expressed strong support for such a Science-Management Dialogue to begin in 2019 in order to make expedited progress consistent with the agreed Harvest Strategy Work Plan and taking full advantage of the WCPFC14 recommendation to give sufficient time during SC to the work on harvest strategies.*

474. *SC14 therefore recommends that WCPFC15 take the necessary steps to establish such a Dialogue in 2019 and consider the draft Terms of Reference provided in **Attachment F** (see below).*

475. *SC14 noted that it is important for this group to possess authority to enable them to make the appropriate recommendations to the Commission. SC14 therefore recommends the Commission define the appropriate format for this group.*

476. *SC14 also discussed the timing of the meeting and various options were expressed. SC14 recognised that this is a decision for WCPFC15.*

477. *SC14 recommends that WCPFC15 take the following elements into consideration when establishing this group:*

1) *While the size of the meeting should remain manageable, at least 1 senior fishery manager per CCM and 1 scientist per CCM should be encouraged to attend. Additional scientific advisors to these managers may also attend. Also, the participation of stakeholders is important and encouraged.*

2) *Given the need to have informal (capacity building) and formal (decision-making) elements to the meeting, particularly in the initial stages, a 2-day meeting was the*

minimum meeting length believed appropriate⁵. However, the duration of the meeting would need to be flexible based upon the agenda, which should be linked closely to the harvest strategy workplan.

- 3) *Capacity building elements of the meeting should focus on a 'learning by doing' approach, whereby key tuna stock and fishery results are used within the process.*
 - 4) *The potential for input and facilitation by external experts was noted, and the cost implications of this should be considered.*
 - 5) *This group should specifically rely on information derived from SC or through SC requests, and should not change the scientific advice but may add to it from a management perspective.*
478. *SC14 also recommends that WCPFC15 adopt an appropriate name for this dialogue, such as the Harvest Strategy Development Working Group.*

Issues for Consideration by WCPFC15

6. The SC14 expressed strong support for such a science-management dialogue and recommended its establishment in 2019. However, from the SC14 recommendations it appears that most of the core issues the TOR sought clearer guidance from SC14 were referred to WCPFC15 for further consideration and decision with limited guidance. So WCPFC15 will still need to decide on these core elements of a science-management dialogue as follows:
 - a) the status of the dialogue - is it a working group or a formal standing subsidiary body of the Commission;
 - b) the size and duration of the dialogue meeting and the preferred participants;
 - c) the structure of the dialogue considering the need for an informal (capacity building) and formal (decision making) segments;
 - d) the involvement of external experts and their role in the dialogue;
 - e) the need to maintain the integrity of the SC, and the science advice and information provided by it; and
 - f) what is an appropriate name for the dialogue, SC14's preference is to label it the "Harvest Strategy Development Working Group" making the clear link with the Harvest Strategy Work Plan.

Recommendation

7. WCPFC15 is invited to consider the paper and decide for adoption the Terms of Reference for a Science-Management Dialogue.

⁵ To inform WCPFC15 discussions on the potential length of the meeting, a very rough outline indicative schedule for the meeting has been developed by SPC (see Appendix 1). Note this should not be viewed as definitive.

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
Scientific Committee
Fourteenth Regular Session
Busan, Republic of Korea
8–16 August 2018**

Terms of Reference for a WCPFC Science- Management Dialogue Meeting

Consultative Draft Terms of Reference for a WCPFC Science-Management Dialogue meeting

CONSIDERATION ELEMENTS

The proposed science-management dialogue would be distinct from, but combine features of, Scientific Committee and Commission meetings. To facilitate further discussion on the ‘science-management dialogue’ meeting, a non-exhaustive list of key elements and issues is provided below, which would benefit from SC14 consideration. It is noted that SC14 did not reach consensus on some of these issues:

1. The science-management dialogue needs to make formal recommendations to the Commission (and also requests of other Commission bodies and groups). Should the dialogue be established as a formal subsidiary body of the Commission, established by Paragraph 6, Article 11?
2. If the science-management dialogue holds formal meetings, does the SC see benefit in including an informal discussion element to the meeting, to ensure all stakeholders (science, management, industry, NGOs) are able to engage in the process?
3. Should the structure of the science-management dialogue meeting therefore include both formal and informal sessions?
 - The informal session could provide opportunity for capacity building for all attendees with (minimal) presentation, and interactive discussion of available analytical results. The informal nature of this session would facilitate involvement by the wider stakeholder group. This may have implications for meeting length but this element is expected to decrease over time.
 - The formal session can cover substantial issues, which may include developing and reviewing relevant CMMs and clearing meeting recommendations (assuming the remainder of the report could be cleared electronically).
4. What elements should be considered to structure and organise a science-management dialogue, noting that a large, formal Commission-style meeting has become the norm? Should as a minimum a scientist and manager from each CCM, where possible, be recommended to attend?
5. Under the assumption that a Harvest Control Rule will be implemented through fishery/stock-specific CMMs, will the science-management dialogue meeting have any direct role in the development or review of those CMMs and provide recommendations to the Commission?
6. Should it be required that all technical/analytical information be first reviewed by the Scientific Committee before it is made available to the science-management dialogue and to the Commission? If so, should there be an exception made for new information that the Scientific Committee has specifically recommended to be made available?
7. How should a Science-Management Dialogue be chaired? One option that reflects the management/science balance of the meeting could be for it to be co-chaired by the Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Scientific Committee.
8. Should the use of external experts to provide input to and potentially facilitate the meeting be considered?

9. Should the [inaugural?] science-management dialogue be proposed as a [one/two]-day meeting that incorporates both capacity building and the progression of substantial issues, including adoption of recommendations?
10. Are there ways that the SC agenda could be reprioritised to allow sufficient time for consideration of harvest strategy issues?

CONSULTATIVE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON HARVEST STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT (WGHS)

To facilitate further discussion on the ‘Working Group on Harvest Strategy Development’, a consultative draft Terms of Reference is presented here, encompassing the input and advice of SC14. The harvest strategy work of this Working Group would focus specifically on those tuna fisheries and stocks detailed within the harvest strategy workplan⁶ and any other stocks the Commission might decide while noting that this does not apply to Northern stocks.

Objectives

The Working Group on Harvest Strategy Development would have the following objectives:

1. To enhance mutual, consistent understanding and capacity building through focused interactions and communications among managers, scientists and other stakeholders on the objectives and outcomes relating to harvest strategies for key tuna fisheries and stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean, thereby aiding:
 - a. the ability of managers to drive the process of harvest strategy development and guide further scientific work, by promoting full and consistent technical understanding on harvest strategy concepts and the functions of its elements; and
 - b. the ability of scientists to efficiently deliver relevant technical outputs by promoting full and consistent understanding of the WCPO management and policy environment.
2. To facilitate the iterative process of decision making in relation to WCPO harvest strategies by the Commission and its Committees.
3. To refine candidate harvest strategy options through review of analyses of the performance of candidate harvest strategies against noted management objectives, then forward a reduced number of acceptable candidates to the Commission, allowing the Commission to concentrate its decision making role on a reduced number of acceptable candidate options, thereby increasing efficiency.

Tasks

The activities of this Working Group will be guided by the WCPFC harvest strategy workplan.

4. The Working Group on Harvest Strategy Development would have the following tasks, which are split into formal and informal meeting components:

Meeting components:

- a. Iterative development and refinement of the key elements of harvest strategies as described in CMM 2014-06 and other associated ingredients.
- b. Reviewing and refining the detailed Scientific Committee outputs on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE).
- c. When appropriate, recommending to the Commission appropriate candidate harvest strategies that adequately meet noted management objectives for the fishery/stock, highlighting key trade-offs and risks.

⁶ The draft workplan was outlined in WCPFC12-2015-DP09_rev1 and is reviewed and updated annually by the Commission as a permanent agenda item.

- d. Requesting through the Commission of the Scientific Services Provider, additional analyses and new/refined harvest strategy elements (e.g. candidate harvest control rules, calculation and weighting of performance indicators) for re-evaluation, which may better achieve objectives and desired trade-offs.
- e. Requesting through the Commission of the Scientific Services Provider, improved approaches to presenting results to increase clarity and enhance decision making.
- f. Considering the implications of developing harvest strategies in relation to data collection and fishery monitoring systems and implementation mechanisms to ensure the future effectiveness of strategies, and making recommendations to the Commission.
- g. Review and update the WCPFC harvest strategy work plan for recommendation to the Commission.
- h. Review the performance and implementation of any agreed harvest strategy, including through the monitoring strategy.
- i. Enhancing the understanding of managers, scientists and the wider stakeholder group through review and discussion of detailed Scientific Committee outputs.

Meeting

- 5. For the Working Group on Harvest Strategy Development to efficiently facilitate the development of harvest strategies, physical meetings will be convened consistent with Paragraph 6⁷ of the Convention Article 11, for the production of formal recommendations to the Commission. All Commission rules will be applied to CCMs and observers, including provision of funding for participation by developing CCMs.
- 6. The Chair(s) of the meeting shall be determined by the Commission and the Chair will develop the agenda for the meeting, consistent with the harvest strategy workplan.
- 7. To facilitate appropriate dialogue, CCMs are encouraged to ensure attendance by both scientific and management personnel on their delegation. The participation of stakeholders is also encouraged.
- 8. The structure and size of the meeting, including informal and formal sessions, will be agreed by the Commission.
- 9. The meeting shall adopt a summary report detailing advice and recommendations for consideration by the Commission, and requests of its relevant Committees and Scientific Services Provider, as described above.

Timeframe

- 10. The meeting will be held for [one/two] days at a time determined by the Commission, as appropriate to maximise the attendance of CCM scientists and managers and facilitate the functioning of those other meetings.
- 11. The first meeting will be held in 2019. WCPFC16 will review the effectiveness of the meeting and determine its future.

⁷ The Commission may establish such other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the exercise of its functions, including working groups for the purpose of examining technical issues relating to particular species or stocks and reporting thereon to the Commission.

APPENDIX 1. DRAFT INDICATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2019 ‘WGHS’

Day 1	Day 2
Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, aims and specific focus areas • Agree agenda • Summary of harvest strategy developments and work plan progress • Latest SC advice • Pending issues & decisions for WCPFC 	Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern longline fishery • General Approach - Overview • Analyses and Results • Draft recommendations
Coffee break	
Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropical purse seine fishery evaluations • General Approach - Overview • HCR designs • Results - Overview • Organise breakout groups 	Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropical longline objectives/Bigeye & Yellowfin TRPs • Draft recommendations
Lunch	
Session 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout groups – detailed discussions and analysis of results • Feedback to plenary • Next steps 	Session 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise recommendations
Coffee break	
Session 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft recommendations 	Session 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise recommendations