



**SCIENCE-MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE
FIRST SESSION**

Online

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Pathways to Improving the Commission Decision-making

WCPFC-SMD01-2022/BP-05

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WCPFC Secretariat

Introduction

1. The first Science-Management Dialogue Meeting (SMD01) Agenda Item 5 is to consider how the Commission's decision-making can best be supported by WCPFC subsidiary bodies and the Scientific Services Provider (SSP). This may include developing a 'pathway' that fulfills the information and training needs necessary for making informed decisions on management procedures that balance different management objectives. It is also to discuss an appropriate schedule for future SMD meetings to facilitate the progress of the harvest strategy development and implementation, and how the outcome of these discussions will be taken into consideration for future revision of the WCPFC harvest strategy (HS) workplan by the Commission.

Toward the adoption of the harvest strategy

2. This paper addresses the envisaged role of the SMD in progressing and expediting the implementation of the HS workplan.

3. The WCPFC Convention sets out the respective roles of the SSP, the Scientific Committee (SC), the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC), and the Commission. In relation to the development of harvest strategies, these roles would envisage the following activities:

- a) SSP – provides advice on the technical development of the HS and assists with capacity building and training (through for example training videos, online seminars, guidelines for comparing and selection of performance indicators (PIs), Management Procedures (MPs) including Harvest Control Rules (HCRs).
- b) SC – provides advice and recommendations on technical and scientific aspects of the HS components and scientific questions arising from the SSP work.
- c) TCC – considers and provides advice on how compliance with the HS is to be addressed.
- d) Commission –decides on the WCPFC harvest strategy components.

4. The SMD was established by the Commission in acknowledgement that the development of harvest strategies requires a close dialogue between scientists and managers in order to reach agreement on the necessary components of harvest strategies. The WCPFC harvest strategy approach requires not only a good understanding of the frameworks of management strategy evaluation (MSE) but also of the use of performance indicators (PIs) to help select preferred management procedures (MPs). A joined-up approach between scientists and managers through the SMD has the added advantage of being able to better inform the Commission of these key components so that it can progress more quickly the implementation of the harvest strategy workplan. Key decision areas that fishery scientists and managers/ should consider are detailed in [SC18-MI-IP-03](#).

5. The SMD has a role in progressing the implementation of the HS workplan and in contributing to the decision-making of the Commission on harvest strategies. The SMD draws on the inputs of the SSP and SC in order to convey consolidated views of scientists and managers on different elements of the HS to the Commission. Then the Commission takes decisions on harvest strategy elements, such as on limit reference points (LRPs), target reference points (TRPs), MPs, HCRs, etc. The Commission also needs to consider mechanisms

for the implementation of the HS, either through a CCM, resolution or other mechanism, subject to how the Commission wishes those decisions to be implemented.

6. WCPFC18 decided that the first SMD would be held on a trial basis back-to-back with the SC meeting (WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 271). However, the Commission will need to take a decision on the future operation and schedule of the SMD. The SMD should therefore consider the following:

- a) Whether there is value in the SMD process being instituted on a more formal basis so that it can make recommendations to the Commission to progress the Harvest Strategy Workplan.
- b) Whether the future schedule for SMD should be on a similar or different basis to SMD01.
- c) Whether there are additional information and training needs so that CCMs understand better the process and inputs for the development of HS, and informed decisions can be made by the Commission.
- d) Whether the short-term focus for the SMD should be to continue in line with the priorities and timeframes set out in the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan.

Future of the harvest strategy

7. There are a number of issues that will need to be resolved in order to progress the long-term development and maintenance of harvest strategies. These include any necessary adjustments to account for the HS approach such as: monitoring and collation of information; review, maintenance and revision of the HS framework; training and implementation; and any necessary adjustment to the future work of the SC. However, while these issues are important ones for the long-term, they do not require consideration at this stage in the development of HS.

Key areas for SMD consideration

8. It is suggested that the following matters could be considered by the SMD01:

- a) Whether the SMD should be formally established and if so, on what basis;
- b) The schedule and timings of future SMD meetings;
- c) The identification of information and training needs to assist scientists and managers in the development of harvest strategies; and
- d) The short-term focus of the SMD.