



**COMMISSION  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Da Nang, Viet Nam  
28 November to 3 December 2022

---

**SCIENCE-MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE**

---

**WCPFC19-2022-20  
25 October 2022**

**Paper by the Secretariat**

**Purpose**

1. The paper tables for the consideration and decision of the Commission the issue of the future operation and schedule for the Science-Management Dialogue (SMD).

**Background**

2. After several years of consideration, the Commission at WCPFC18 in December 2021 agreed to convene the first Science-Management Dialogue (SMD01), on a trial basis, back-to-back with SC18 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The rationale for a SMD is to provide an opportunity for fisheries scientists and fisheries managers to come together and to exchange views and to query each other on the implications of the scientific advice and information provided by the scientists, so that the fisheries managers and policy makers are better informed to take appropriate fisheries management decisions.

3. The Commission in sanctioning the first SMD also stipulated the ‘proposed focus areas’ for the SMD01 and required the SMD01 agenda to consider the views of Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs). The SMD01 was convened accordingly and was co-chaired by the Commission Chair Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Korea) and the SC Chair Dr Tuikolongahau Halafihi (Tonga). The agenda for the SMD01 (enclosed for ease of reference as *Attachment 1*) was developed in consultation with CCMs, and its focus was very specific and targeted to ensure realistic and achievable expectations and outcomes.

4. CCMs were also consulted on the objectives for the SMD01 in advance of the Dialogue, to ensure Dialogue participants were of the same understanding and expectation as to the targeted outcomes of the SMD01. The agreed objectives defined the parameters and scope of work and the desired outcomes for the SMD01, which assisted in managing expectations of what SMD01 would deliver.

5. The SMD01 was well attended and supported and was able to make progress on the substantive issues. It acknowledged the work of the Scientific Services Provider (SSP) in facilitating trainings and capacity building initiatives on harvest strategies, and prioritised

consideration of the management procedures for skipjack tuna, while consideration of South Pacific albacore was deferred pending outcomes of further analysis. The SMD01 made progress on agreeing on a reduced number of five (5) harvest control rules for skipjack tuna out of nine options presented to it. The SMD01 also identified additional work to be conducted by the SSP to support informed decision-making on management procedures for both skipjack and South Pacific albacore. The Outcomes Document and the Summary Report for the SMD01 are available at [SMD01 webpage](#).

### **Future Schedule for the Science-Management Dialogue**

6. Although, the SMD01 appreciated the value and merits of a SMD as a process to heighten focus on the development and implementation of harvest strategies for the management of WCPO tuna stocks and fisheries, the SMD01 deferred to the Commission the determination of the future of the SMD process and the timing and focus of future meetings.

7. Therefore, it falls on the Commission to determine the future operation and schedule for the SMD. To guide the Commission in considering the future operation and schedule for the SMD, the Secretariat has compiled a list of related issues and considerations as follows:

- a) Whether there are additional information, training and capacity building needs for CCMs to better understand the process and inputs for the development and implementation of harvest strategies, and for the Commission to make informed decisions.
- b) Whether there is value in the SMD process being instituted formally so that it can tender advice to the Commission in progressing the implementation of the Harvest Strategy Workplan.
- c) Should there be future SMDs, what would be the schedule for those meetings and should those meetings be on a similar or different basis to the SMD01.
- 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.

8. In addition to the more immediate considerations in paragraph 7 above, there are other issues that would require consideration to progress the longer-term development and maintenance of the harvest strategy approach to the management of WCPO tuna stocks and fisheries. They include, inter alia:

- a) monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Harvest Strategy Framework;
- b) collation of all related information;
- c) review, maintenance and revisions of the Harvest Strategy Framework;
- d) training and implementation requirements; and
- e) adjustments and implications on the future work of the Scientific Committee.

The Commission should be mindful of these issues but there is no need to address them in the meantime.

### **Recommendation**

9. WCPFC19 is invited to consider and decide the future operation and schedule for the Science-Management Dialogue, in reference to the issues in paragraph 7 of this paper.



**COMMISSION  
SCIENCE-MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE**

Electronic Meeting  
10:00am-14:00pm, 19 and 22 August 2022, Pohnpei time

---

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

---

**WCPFC-SMD01-2022/02 (Rev.01)**

**AGENDA ITEM 1    OPENING OF THE MEETING**

- 1.1    Welcome address**
- 1.2    Meeting arrangements**
- 1.3    Adoption of agenda**

**AGENDA ITEM 2    OBJECTIVES OF SMD01**

**2.1    Adoption of Objectives of SMD01**

In accordance with the updated WCPFC harvest strategy work plan, WCPFC19 is scheduled to adopt management procedures (MPs) for WCPO skipjack and South Pacific albacore. The Science Management Dialogue (SMD) process will assist the Commission in that regard.

This first SMD will focus on identifying a single preferred MP (or a sub-set of MPs) for consideration and potential adoption by WCPFC19. Where necessary, the SMD01 will identify further work required to support decisions on adoption of MPs for WCPO skipjack and South Pacific albacore. Given the short time available for discussions, it is suggested that the SMD01 has a primary focus on skipjack, for which the evaluation framework is most developed. Issues for South Pacific albacore will then be addressed. As this is the first WCPFC-SMD meeting, knowledge and understanding gained from the discussions, processes and outcomes of the meeting will need to be reflected in the WCPFC harvest strategy work plan under Agenda item 5.

**Background Paper X1** contains DRAFT Objectives for the SMD01 for CCM's review. A revised Objectives will be considered for adoption at SMD01.

**AGENDA ITEM 3    BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1    Progress in developing harvest strategies for WCPFC stocks and fisheries**

The Scientific Services Provider (SSP) will present a general overview on the progress of developing harvest strategies for WCPFC stocks, including

- WCPFC's noted management objectives
- Overview of existing performance indicators and their implications
- Explanation of the management procedures focusing on the HCRs
- Outline of mixed-fishery evaluations and mixed-fishery performance indicators

**Background Paper X2** may provide background information to support the discussions on this agenda item.

### **3.2 Outputs from the SC18 Management Issues Theme Session**

The SC18 MI Theme Convener will present key outputs from the harvest strategy discussions at SC18.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 PRIORITISE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

### **4.1 Management procedures for skipjack**

SSP will provide a brief presentation on the progress of the skipjack management procedure and issues to be addressed at the SMD01 for the comparison and selection of preferred MPs. Capacity building workshops may be prepared prior to SC18 to inform members of the harvest strategy approach and discuss methods for identifying and selecting preferred management procedures.

**Background Paper X3** may provide background information to support the discussions on this agenda item.

#### **4.1.1 Interrogation of performance indicators (e.g., using PIMPLE) and identification of preferred outcomes**

Using the performance indicators calculated for the range of candidate MPs that have been evaluated to date, the SMD01 will consider identifying a single MP, or a subset of candidate MPs, that have desirable, or acceptable outcomes. The online training material and the outcomes of SC18 will inform this process.

In the event that none of the MPs are considered to have acceptable outcomes, revised settings and alternative MPs for further evaluation, may be discussed under Agenda 4.1.2.

#### **4.1.2 Settings and assumptions of the MPs**

Where necessary, SMD01 will discuss and may amend settings and assumptions of the MPs by considering for example:

- Definition of fisheries and fishery controls within the harvest strategy;
- 3-year management cycle;
- Reference year of 2012 for catch and effort scaling (noting this has implications for the assumed future distribution of catch and effort amongst fisheries and for the relative levels of FAD and free school fishing);
- Fishing in archipelagic waters is assumed to continue at fixed pre-determined levels; and
- Any other settings for alternative MPs.

#### 4.1.3 Additional work to be conducted by the SSP to support decision-making on MPs

SMD01 will raise and discuss any additional work to be conducted by the SSP to finalize the development of the skipjack MPs and to adopt MPs at WCPFC19.

### 4.2 Management procedures for South Pacific albacore

The SSP will provide a brief presentation on the progress of the SP albacore management procedure and issues to be addressed at the SMD01 for further development of candidate MPs.

**Background Paper X4** may provide background information to support the discussions on this agenda item.

#### 4.2.1 Discuss and agree on the settings and assumptions of the MPs

Where necessary, SMD01 will discuss and may amend settings and assumptions of the MPs by considering for example:

- Definition of fisheries and fishery controls within the harvest strategy, including whether the eastern Pacific Ocean should be considered;
- 3-year management cycle;
- Reference year for catch and effort scaling; and
- Any other settings for alternative MPs

#### 4.2.2 Additional work to be conducted by the SSP to support decision-making on MPs

SMD01 will raise and discuss any additional work to be conducted by the SSP to finalize the development of the SP albacore MPs. Based upon the feedback, the SSP will continue to develop operating model grids, HCR designs, and candidate MP evaluations for consideration.

## AGENDA ITEM 5 PATHWAYS TO COMMISSION DECISION-MAKING

SMD01 will consider the following issues, and **Background Paper X5** may provide background information to support the discussions on this agenda item.

### 5.1 Pathways to Commission decision-making

SMD01 will consider how the Commission's decision-making can best be supported by WCPFC subsidiary bodies and the 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.

### 5.2 Longer term planning

#### 5.2.1 Schedule and focus of future dialogue meetings

SMD01 will discuss an appropriate schedule for future SMD meetings to facilitate the progress of the harvest strategy development. The SMD schedule and topics can be proposed along with the current/updated Harvest Strategy Workplan.

## 5.2.2 Updates to the harvest strategy workplan

SMD01 will discuss the current status of the WCPFC harvest strategy workplan. The outcome of these discussions will be taken into consideration for future revision of the workplan by the Commission.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **6.1 Next SMD meeting**

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 OTHER MATTERS**

### **7.1 Alignment of parallel processes (e.g., allocation) required to support implementation of harvest strategies**

Under the WCPFC harvest strategy approach, the management procedure would set the overall level of fishing (e.g., catch or effort) for the WCPFC-CA region as a whole. A separate process would be required to allocate that total catch (or effort) amongst members and gear types. The ultimate implementation of a harvest strategy will require some agreement on allocation. Although it should be possible to develop these two issues in parallel (i.e., it is not necessary to fully resolve one issue in order to make progress on the other), alignment of those parallel processes will be necessary to ensure they are developed accordingly.

SMD01 will consider this issue and may provide appropriate recommendation text as needed for the Commission's consideration on the parallel process.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 REVIEW OF SMD01 AGREED POINTS**

## **AGENDA ITEM 9 CLOSE OF MEETING**