



**COMMISSION
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Da Nang, Viet Nam
27 November – 3 December 2022

Reference Document on Other SC18 Recommendations for Agenda Item 11.1

WCPFC19-2022-29 (Rev.01)

18 November 2022

Secretariat

The purpose of this paper is to provide a quick reference guide to recommendations from SC18 not covered under other agenda items. The structure of this document follows the format of SC18 Outcomes Document for its agenda and paragraph numbers. Recommendations in the following matrix require the Commission’s attention and specific action:

Agenda	Recommendations (Paragraph numbers are from SC18 Outcomes Document)	Commission’s Action
Data gaps of the Commission	2. <u>SC18 recommended</u> the inclusion of tables of the operational level catch and effort data fields for longline, purse seine and pole-and-line gears, as a guideline and without the column of “binding” and adding the title of “Annex 2, guidelines for data submission of operational level catch and effort data fields for fisheries”, as an additional ANNEX of the “ <i>Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission</i> ”, with an additional paragraph under Section 3. Operational level catch and effort data as follows: <i>“Annex 2 provides tables of the guidelines of operational level catch and effort data fields for longline, purse seine and pole-and-line gears in order to clarify and assist members in understanding the requirements of each data field and thereby facilitate the submission of data to the WCPFC.”</i>	Review and endorsement
Other Matters – Absence of consensus	136. SC18 noted that it could not reach consensus on the management advice for skipjack tuna. While there was general agreement on the stock assessment outputs, several CCMs wanted to note their view that depletion in the equatorial region was greater than in other areas. However, several other CCMs considered this pertained to the stock status section and did not agree on its inclusion under management advice. Despite the advice of the Commission’s legal advisor that the WCPFC convention states that differences in views can be expressed in the report of the Scientific Committee, the recommendation from the legal advisor did not ultimately solve this issue. <u>SC18 sought guidance</u> from the Commission on how to proceed in the future when consensus cannot be reached and how lack of consensus should be reflected in the SC’s report.	

AGENDA ITEM 2 — DATA AND STATISTICS THEME

2.1 Data gaps of the Commission

1. SC18 recommended WCPFC support a project¹ to improve the coverage and quality of purse seine processor data.

2. SC18 recommended the inclusion of tables of the operational level catch and effort data fields for longline, purse seine and pole-and-line gears, as a guideline and without the column of “binding” and adding the title of “Annex 2, guidelines for data submission of operational level catch and effort data fields for fisheries”, as an additional ANNEX of the “*Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission*”, with an additional paragraph under Section 3. Operational level catch and effort data as follows:

“Annex 2 provides tables of the guidelines of operational level catch and effort data fields for longline, purse seine and pole-and-line gears in order to clarify and assist members in understanding the requirements of each data field and thereby facilitate the submission of data to the WCPFC.”

3. Noting the inconsistency in the data reporting requirements between the *Scientific Data to be Provided by the Commission* (SciData), and other WCPFC reporting obligations (e.g., in CMMs), and the need to improve the data available for stock assessments, SC18 recommended that the Scientific Services Provider undertake a review of the minimum data reporting requirements and report to SC19 in 2023. SC18 requested CCMs to submit proposals for additional or amended data field, with associated justification, before 30th March 2023. For example, the proposal for including FAD minimum data fields recorded by vessel operators in the SciData which was presented to SC18 should be forwarded to SC19 for consideration.

AGENDA ITEM 4 — MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME

4.3 Limit reference points for species other than tuna

4.3.1 Limit reference points for elasmobranchs

108. Noting the need to appraise a broader range of reference points to assess their applicability to WCPO elasmobranchs, and to avoid undesirable consequences on allowable catch levels of target species, SC18 recommended that SC19 consider reviewing and including the further research identified at SC17 in the *WCPFC’s Shark Research Plan 2021-2025* ([Project 97](#)).

AGENDA ITEM 6 — OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS

6.3 WPEA Project Update

130. SC18 noted the Western Pacific East Asia – Improving Tuna Monitoring (WPEA-ITM) Project Update ([SC18-RP-WPEA-01](#)) and:

- a) recommended extending the initiative into 2024 at “no cost” due to current allocated budget underspend, which will mean most, if not all, of the WPEA-ITM activities will be completed; and

¹ Refer to P18X3 (*Improved coverage of cannery receipt data for WCPFC scientific work*) in Table WB-01 under Paragraph 132.

- b) recommended development of a new project proposal for the next phase of WPEA work that is relevant to the WCPFC, to begin immediately after the current WPEA-ITM project expires.

AGENDA ITEM 7 — FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

7.1 Development of the 2023 work programme and budget, and projection of 2024-2025 provisional work programme and indicative budget

b. Review of proposed projects for 2023 – 2025

132. SC18 recommended the proposed work program and budget for 2023 and indicative budget for 2024 – 2025 together with CCM’s priority scores to the budgeted projects in Table WP-01 to the Commission.

Table WP-01. Recommended Future Work Program and Budget for 2023 – 2025. Average score is based on Table WP-01 (SC project scoring table) of the SC17 Summary Report, with priority rankings: 6&9 = High; 3&4 = Medium; 1&2 = Low. ‘No. CCMs’ represent the number of CCMs which provided scores on that project.

Project Title	2023	2024	2025	Notes	Avg. Score	No. CCMs
Sub-item 1. Scientific services						
SPC-OFP scientific services	981,112	1,000,734	1,020,749	Budget: 2% ann. increase	essential	
Sub-item 2. Scientific research						
SPC Additional resourcing	176,670	180,204	183,808	Budget: 2% ann. increase TOR: MFCL work	essential	
P35b. WCPFC Pacific Marine Specimen Bank	105,268	107,373	109,520	Budget: 2% ann. increase	essential	
P42. Pacific Tuna Tagging Program	730,000	730,000	730,000	Responsibility: SPC	essential	
P60. Purse seine species composition				Responsibility: SPC Carry over 2021 budget of \$40K to 2023		
P65. Peer review of yellowfin modeling				Responsibility: SPC (On-going)		
P68. Seabird mortality	25,000	40,000		Responsibility: SPC Indicative budget approved at WCPFC18	4.5	22
P90. Length weight conversion (WCPFC17 endorsed the extension of P90 to 57 months until Sep. 2023)				Responsibility: SPC (On-going)		
P100c (=P17X3). Preparing WCP tuna fisheries for application of CKMR methods to resolve key SA uncertainties. (Duration: 2023 - 2025)				Responsibility: SPC Funding: WCPFC, SPC, EU, IATTC and CSIRO Budget (matching fund) approved at WCPFC18		
P108. WCPO silky shark assessment	50,000	50,000		Indicative budget approved at WCPFC18	6.2	23
P109 - Training observers for elasmobranch sampling				Responsibility: SPC (On-going)		
P18X1 (=P17X1). Billfish Research Plan 2023 - 2027	55000			Responsibility: SPC Indicative budget approved at WCPFC18	7.0	22
P18X2 (=P17X4). Further development of ensemble model approaches for presenting SA uncertainty	30,000			Responsibility: SPC Indicative budget of \$20K approved at WCPFC18	7.9	21
P18X3. Improved coverage of cannery receipt data for WCPFC scientific work	35,000	60,000	35,000	Responsibility: SPC	7.4	22

P18X4. Exploring evidence and mechanisms for a long-term increasing trend in recruitment of skipjack tuna in the equatorial Pacific and the development and modelling of defensible effort creep scenarios	20,000			Responsibility: SPC	7.6	21
P18X5. Ecosystem and Climate Indicators	0			Budget to be requested for 2024 and beyond	7.2	19
P18X6. Pacific silky shark assessment (inclusion in the Project 108)	0	30,000		Project 108: WCPO Project 18X6: Pacific-wide	4.5	22
P18X7. Pacific whale shark assessment	85,000				3.0	22
P18X8. Shark Research Plan midterm review	30,000				6.2	22

AGENDA ITEM 8 — ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

8.2 Next meeting

134. SC18 recommended to the Commission that SC19 would be held from August 16 – 24 August 2023, and that Palau would confirm to the Commission at WCPFC19 whether it was able to host SC19.

AGENDA ITEM 9 — OTHER MATTERS

9.3 Absence of consensus

136. SC18 noted that it could not reach consensus on the management advice for skipjack tuna. While there was general agreement on the stock assessment outputs, several CCMs wanted to note their view that depletion in the equatorial region was greater than in other areas. However, several other CCMs considered this pertained to the stock status section and did not agree on its inclusion under management advice. Despite the advice of the Commission’s legal advisor that the WCPFC convention states that differences in views can be expressed in the report of the Scientific Committee, the recommendation from the legal advisor did not ultimately solve this issue. SC18 sought guidance from the Commission on how to proceed in the future when consensus cannot be reached and how lack of consensus should be reflected in the SC’s report.