



**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Nineteenth Regular Session of the Commission  
28 November to 3 December 2022**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

Issued: 29 March 2023

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#### **AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING**

1. The Nineteenth Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC19) took place from 28 November to 3 December 2022 at the Royal Lotus Hotel in Da Nang, Vietnam.
2. The following Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) attended WCPFC19: American Samoa, Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the Cook Islands, the European Union (EU), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United States of America (USA) and Vanuatu.
3. The following non-party countries attended WCPFC19 as Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs): Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam.
4. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended WCPFC19: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), The Pacific Community (SPC), Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and The World Bank.
5. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended WCPFC19: Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL), Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), Birdlife International, Conservation International (CI), Global Fishing Watch (GFW), International MCS Network, International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Organisation for the Promotion of



Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies (ORIS), Pew Charitable Trust, Seafood Legacy, The Global Tuna Alliance, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Ocean Foundation, World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation (WTPO), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

6. A full list of all participants is provided in **Attachment A**.

7. Dr. Lara Manarangi-Trott, WCPFC Compliance Manager, welcomed delegates to the opening session and introduced the speakers.

8. Dr. Tran Dinh Luan, Director General of the Directorate of Fisheries of the Government of Vietnam provided the Keynote Address. On behalf of the leaders of the Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, he warmly welcomed delegates attending WCPFC19. He observed that Vietnam is located in a part of the Pacific region with rich and diverse biological resources. Vietnam's fisheries industry, which is developed with a focus on small-scale, multi-specialty and multi-species fisheries is gradually transforming, with increased aquaculture production and reduced catches. Total fisheries production in November 2022 was estimated at 8.2 million tons, with a catch volume of about 3.5 million tons and aquaculture production of 4.6 million tons. In the first 10 months of 2022, fisheries export turnover reached \$9.4 billion USD. He stated that Vietnam's capture fisheries have developed rapidly but faced many difficulties and challenges. He noted that Vietnam's goals include maintaining the sustainable development of the fishery industry, with fishing vessels and gear appropriate to the allowable level of exploitation of aquatic resources; ensuring that safe production and high economic efficiency contribute to improving the lives of fishermen; and ensuring national defence and security and maintaining the country's independence and sovereignty over seas and islands. He stated the Government of Vietnam issued many domestic guidelines and policies to realize these goals and has ratified and participated in various international agreements, for example: the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Port State Measures Agreement. He noted that Vietnam has been a WCPFC CNM from 2009 to the present, and as such has been working with the WCPFC's 26 CCMs, 8 CNMs and 7 participating territories to implement WCPFC CMMs relating to migratory fisheries resources in the WCPO. He stated that the WCPFC's projects have created favourable conditions for Vietnam to receive fisheries-related technical support and advanced technology. He stated Vietnam greatly appreciated the opportunity to host WCPFC19, which enabled Vietnam's fishing industry in general and tuna fishing in particular to integrate deeply with the world's fisheries, thereby contributing to strengthening cooperation with other CCMs and CNMs, regional fisheries organizations, and multilateral organizations. The Director General stated that Vietnam would continue to actively participate and seek to contribute even more effectively in the WCPFC, and reiterated Vietnam's interest in becoming a full member of WCPFC. He stated Vietnam supported the region's joint commitment and efforts to strengthen the traceability of tuna products; conserve and sustainably develop migratory resources; and combat illegal, unreported and unreported fishing, in compliance with regional and international regulations towards responsible fisheries. The Director General wished all delegates productive discussions in Da Nang city and an enjoyable stay in Vietnam. His remarks are included as **Attachment B**.

9. The Commission Chair, Ms Jung-re Riley Kim welcomed Dr. Tran Dinh Luan, the Director General of the Directorate of Fisheries of Vietnam, as well as the honourable ministers, delegates, representatives and attendees at WCPFC19. She expressed her appreciation to the government of Vietnam for hosting WCPFC19 in Da Nang, and for its warm hospitality. She stated that as Dr. Luan alluded, Vietnam and the WCPFC have maintained longstanding cooperation. She stated that two rounds of tuna data management workshops took place in Vietnam in 2022 with the assistance of SPC-OFP, the Commission's scientific services provider, and stated she looked forward to even closer cooperation between the WCPFC and Vietnam. She observed that the Commission's last in-person meeting (WCPFC16) was held in Papua New Guinea, and at that meeting it was not imagined that it would be the last such in-person meeting for several

years. She noted that the work of the Commission had not been spared from the impact of the pandemic; mandates and responsibilities could not be delayed, which resulted in the need to work even harder and engage even more closely, albeit virtually in the face of the unprecedented global health crisis. She stated that the Commission successfully carried out important tasks, and made significant progress, and that through this perseverance, the Commission again demonstrated its collective strength as the custodian of the world's largest tuna fishery. She observed that the Commission had a very full agenda to address at WCPFC19, including a number of scientific presentations under Agenda Item 6, reflecting the importance of scientific information in support of the Commission's decision-making. She emphasized the importance for WCPFC19 of the adoption of a Management Procedure (MP) for skipjack tuna, and progressing various elements of Harvest Strategies for the key tuna stocks. She also noted the need to move beyond the Commission's use of a "bridging measure" to manage skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks through implementation of the Harvest Strategy Work Plan (HSWP), while acknowledging that the Commission faced some very important decisions in 2023 to either revise or develop a new tropical tuna measure (TTM) that outlines hard limits for purse seine effort or catch, and longline limits and their allocation. She stated that at WCPFC19 CCMs would have an opportunity to discuss next steps so that the Commission can fulfil its commitment envisaged in CMM 2021-01. She noted the need to address issues related to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) on the risk-based assessment framework (RBAF) and compliance audit points, as well as to review the work of various intersessional working groups (IWGs). She stated that the WCPFC boasts one of the most advanced CMSs among regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), and hoped that WCPFC19 could make further progress to make the system even stronger. She also highlighted the importance of resuming the Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR) review in 2023 so as not to leave any unmanageable gap in compliance monitoring. She also noted the opportunity to make progress in transshipment management discussions. She stated that the Commission would also consider improvement of ecosystem management, including as it relates to sharks and seabirds. She also highlighted the importance of work on labour standards, noting that the lines between the mandates of RFMOs and other organizations are blurring, and it was no longer possible to say it is not the WCPFC's responsibility to deal with issues that are not directly related to fishery resource management, because fisheries impacts are inextricably linked with issues involving people and environments. She stressed the need to push boundaries to address overarching issues, including labour standards and climate change, noting the latter was likely to impact small island developing states (SIDS) the hardest if left unmanaged. She stated that the time was mature for incorporating climate change considerations into the work of the Commission. She expressed the hope the WCPFC19 outcomes document would contain a number of agreements and achievements that all delegates could be proud of. She closed by voicing her appreciation for the excellent and professional assistance provided by the Secretariat and SPC-OFP, as well as the contributions of the ISC, and the Chairs, Vice Chairs, Convenors and Co-Convenors of the subsidiary bodies and working groups. Her remarks are included as **Attachment C**.

10. The WCPFC Executive Director, Feleti P Teo, OBE welcomed the Director-General of the Directorate of Fisheries of Vietnam and thanked him for sharing Vietnam's insights on the work of the Commission and for affirming Vietnam's commitment to remain engaged and active in the work of the Commission. He also acknowledged and welcomed the other dignitaries and delegates attending WCPFC19. He noted that WCPFC19 was unique in that it was the first hybrid meeting of the Commission to include virtual and face-to-face participation, and its first physical meeting since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; and he also remarked on the pleasure of reconnecting in person with delegates and colleagues. He congratulated and commended the Government of Vietnam for successfully hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Commission despite the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and for becoming the first CNM state to host a Commission meeting, let alone an annual meeting. He observed that this constituted a significant affirmation of Vietnam's commitment to sustainable conservation and management principles upon which the WCPFC is founded. He recalled the challenges faced by the Commission in adapting and adjusting to a new working environment as dictated by the disruptive impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on international travel and modes of transacting businesses, and expressed his admiration at

the high level of resilience, adaptability and perseverance of the Commission’s members, noting that despite the inability to meet physically and the constraints and confinements of virtual meetings, the Commission sustained its routine operations and functions as mandated by the WCPF Convention. Although, there were slippages in achievement of agreed timelines for some of the more technically challenging issues like those associated with implementation of the HSWP, the Commission continued to undertake its scheduled stock assessments; sustained and continued operations of its compliance and monitoring control and surveillance tools and programmes; sustained and improved the operations of the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS); negotiated a revised Tropical Tuna Measure (TTM); and convened on a trial basis the first virtual Science-Management Dialogue (SMD). He stated that attaining these achievements despite the challenging operational circumstances attested to the unique character of the WCPFC which is the Commission’s ability to rise to the occasion and do right for the sustainability of the health of the fish stocks under the purview of the Commission. He stated he was looking forward to that unique character to guide the Commission in Da Nang as it addressed key issues of harvest strategy development and implementation including a Management Procedure for skipjack; ongoing reforms to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the CMS; preparations for negotiations of a new or revised TTM in 2023; and progressing the important work of the various IWGs on issues such as electronic reporting and monitoring (ER and EM), crew labour standards, and the transshipment review. The Executive Director stated that his Annual Report for 2022 documents a full and active year for the Commission and the Secretariat, which included virtual meetings of all its subsidiary bodies, a number of intersessional working groups, a special session to consider the intersessional decisions to suspend certain observer placement requirements, and the first SMD. He observed that the outcomes of all these meetings would be considered by the Commission in Da Nang, and would form the basis for the WCPFC19 decisions. The Executive Director stated that as he anticipated his departure from WCPFC in early 2023 he did so with fond memories and a sense of self-satisfaction. He noted that in Apia, Samoa at WCPFC11 in December 2014 he was entrusted with the responsibility of leading the WCPFC Secretariat, which he stated he undertook with all seriousness, dignity and humility. He stated his gratitude of having been a very small part of the WCPFC’s journey over the past eight years, and noted the WCPFC’s many successes and achievements, unmatched by its counterpart tuna-RFMOs. He noted with thanks and appreciation the contributions of those who had collaborated closely with the Secretariat in the planning and preparations of the material and documentation for WCPFC19, including the staff of SPC-OFP; the CCMs, CNMs, and observers who contributed papers for the meeting; his tireless colleagues at the WCPFC Secretariat, including the Legal Adviser Dr Penny Riding; and the Commission Chair, Ms Jung-re Riley Kim, noting it had been a joy and pleasure to be led and guided by her. He closed by wishing the Commission very well in its deliberations and stated that the Secretariat stood ready to support the Commission’s deliberations. The Executive Director’s opening statement is included as **Attachment D**.

## **1.1 Adoption of Agenda**

11. The Provisional Agenda was initially issued on 5 October 2022. A revised agenda in **WCPFC19-2022-01 rev1** was issued on 29 October 2022.

12. The Agenda was adopted ( <b>Attachment E</b> ).
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13. A delegate from Niue offered the opening prayer.

## **1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories**

14. American Samoa greeted the Chair, delegates and members. It stated that the previous day many of the parties at WCPFC19 had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (the South Pacific Tuna Treaty) with the USA regarding fishing access terms for 2023, and congratulated all parties for this accomplishment; it

noted that the treaty, an ongoing agreement between the USA and 16 Pacific Island countries is just as important to American Samoa as it is to other parties. The treaty allows U.S. flagged purse seine vessels to fish in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of the Pacific Island countries that are parties to the treaty. All U.S. flagged tuna purse seiners that are based in Pago Pago and that supply tuna to canneries in American Samoa depend on the treaty for access to the fishing grounds managed by the Commission. American Samoa stated that the treaty first entered into force in 1988 when the fishery was very different; at that time the U.S. flagged purse seine fleet was the second-largest operating in what is now the WCPFC Convention Area. The fleet operated predominantly in and out of American Samoa feeding the raw material needs of American Samoa's canneries. For some time, the U.S. flagged purse seine fleet grew in numbers as some operators choose the U.S. flag to take advantage of the favourable terms of access afforded to them by the Tuna Treaty. Over time, that changed and in recent years the number of U.S. flagged purse seiners serving the needs of American Samoa's tuna dependent economy continues to decline, and has reached a critically low level. Boats have left the U.S. flag to take advantage of better terms of access, such as the exemptions from the FAD closure and limits on the high seas for vessels that are either flagged or chartered to SIDS. American Samoa stated that these same considerations are not afforded to the American Samoa-based fleet on which American Samoa's economy urgently depends, even though the Convention itself makes clear that Participating Territories are to be considered in the same light as other SIDS. It stated that if the Commission continues to fail to address this, the trend will continue, and American Samoa will lose its tuna supply. American Samoa stated that it is a small island developing territory and highly dependent on its tuna fishery, which is managed by the Commission, noting that Article 30 of the Convention clearly states that "... the Commission shall take into account the special requirements of developing States Parties, in particular small island developing States, and of territories and possessions." American Samoa asked CCMs to recognize that this is the most critical issue for its economic survival and stated the hope that CCMs would follow the guidelines provided in the Convention.

15. Australia thanked Vietnam for its hospitality and expressed gratitude to all members for their efforts to progress issues during the Covid-19 pandemic. Australia also thanked the Secretariat for its thorough preparations for the meeting, and stated it is pleased that all four major commercial tuna stocks remain above sustainable limits, and the Commission should seek to continue to manage the region's shared fish stocks in line with best practice to ensure they remain sustainable well into the future. Australia stated it remains strongly committed to the ongoing development and implementation of harvest strategies by WCPFC, noting that their adoption is essential to achieve long-term security of migratory tuna stocks. To this end, Australia strongly encouraged CCMs to support the FFA's proposal on a management procedure for skipjack tuna, noting that this is a very important step forward for the Commission. Australia stated it was very pleased to bring forward on behalf of FFA members a proposal for a new CMM for Southwest Pacific swordfish. Australia has noted its concerns regarding management of this important stock to WCPFC, and stated that the proposed measure would constitute an important step in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the stock, while protecting future opportunities for fisheries development for SIDS. Australia welcomed the progress made in 2022 to improve the CMS, and observed the critical importance of ensuring the Commission has an effective, robust and fair compliance scheme. Australia also looked forward to working with CCMs on the CMS at WCPC19 and in the months leading up to TCC19. Australia expressed its sincere thanks to the Commission Chair for her leadership, counsel and kindness over the past four years, and to the outgoing Executive Director for his professionalism and leadership. Australia closed by stating it was committed to making significant progress at WCFC19 and looked forward to a successful meeting.

16. China stated that it was sorry it could not send a delegation in person, due to China's COVID-19 prevention policy, but was very happy to see everyone online. China stated that its participation, cooperation and collaboration would not be limited by the need to participate virtually, and stated his hope that it would be possible to produce fruitful results for sustainable management.

17. The Honourable Heremoana Maamaatuaiahutapu, Minister of Culture, Environment and Marine Resources of French Polynesia submitted his opening statement, in which he thanked the Executive Director, the Chair, and Secretariat staff, for their efforts, and thanked Vietnam for hosting WCPFC19. He observed that French Polynesia promotes an alternative to the development model based on economic growth alone, noting its objectives include improving quality of life, re-appropriating traditional concepts and knowhow, and creating solidarity among generations and peoples. He stated that the oceans can help address the crucial challenges humanity faces, noting that EEZs are food reservoirs, via fishing and aquaculture, but are also full of promise for health and medical research. He stated that French Polynesia had not issued fishing licenses to foreign vessels since 1996, and the fishing sector is exclusively Polynesian. French Polynesia obtained certification issued by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) for its albacore and yellowfin tuna fisheries in 2018, and for swordfish in 2021. The MSC certification guarantees that fishery products come from sustainable and well-managed supply chains. The Minister stated it is important that certain CMMs can be strengthened and harmonized with IATTC, and that work on management strategies be completed, and on time. In 2019 French Polynesia accounted for just 0.24% of the Pacific-wide catch of the four main tuna species (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, southern albacore), equal to 7,189 metric tons out of a total of 2,997,309 metric tons. He stated that French Polynesia has 212 marine species and 51 marine areas protected by the Polynesian environmental code; 40 regulated fishing areas and 30 “educational marine areas”. In 2002, French Polynesia became the largest marine mammal sanctuary in the world, which now also protects all shark species, sea turtle species and all mobula rays species. In 2018, French Polynesia created *Tainui ātea*, an ocean space of 5 million km<sup>2</sup> protected by its environmental code. *Tainui ātea* is the heir to more than 70 years of protective measures put in place by successive Polynesian governments and which protects all Polynesian birds, organized traditional and professional fishing, and prohibits access to certain areas of the territory to preserve nature. He emphasised the importance of addressing the massive arrival of drifting FADs in many EEZs, stating that the drifting FADs found along the coasts of French Polynesia’s islands and atolls are deployed in large part by purse seine fisheries in the Eastern Pacific, and they constitute a source of pollution that should be denounced and stopped. He stated that it is important for French Polynesia’s islands, already subject to the effects of climate change, that efforts are continued, awareness raised, and that leaders understand the urgent need to limit the use of FADs and the resulting impact on the reefs, ecosystems, and fisheries. He stated that it is necessary that purse seiners become responsible for the damage they cause. He stated that Government of French Polynesia seeks to prevent FADs from drifting into its EEZ, and to prevent them from stranding on French Polynesia’s shores. He asked CCMs consider the importance of harmonizing management measures between the EPO and WCPO, which he stated was important to in order to guarantee the application and effectiveness of CMMs.

18. Indonesia thanked the Chair, the Secretariat, and the Government of Vietnam for their excellent work in facilitating WCPFC19, and expressed condolences and solidarity for those facing hardship and loss related to COVID-19. It stated that to comply with the TTMs applied in the WCPFC Convention Area, Indonesia developed an Interim Harvest Strategy Framework for tropical tuna in Indonesian Archipelagic Waters beginning in 2014. The interim framework was launched in 2018 with yearly updates provided to WCPFC meetings to inform the Commission and its subsidiary bodies regarding the harvest strategy progress. Indonesia stated that it is a challenging process, and Indonesia received much input and support from fishery stakeholders and experts in progressing the development and implementation of the framework. Indonesia noted that it is willing to collaborate with neighbouring countries to ensure the region’s sustainability of tropical tuna stocks. It noted that in CMM 2014-06 the Commission agreed to develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for each of the key fisheries or stocks under its purview. The Commission also agreed on a work plan and indicative timeframes to adopt or refine harvest strategies for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin, South Pacific albacore, pacific bluefin, and northern albacore tuna. However, some of the expected progress has yet to be achieved following the proposed timelines. Therefore, Indonesia proposed to revisit the timelines adopted in the CMM 2014-06 and encouraged other CCMs to expedite the development of harvest strategy in the WCPO, and maintain their awareness of the status of tuna stocks in their subregion. Indonesia also stated it sought to review progress on the intersessional discussion on the

proposed CMM on Labour Standards, Safety and Security for Crew on Fishing Vessels; it noted discussions had been held over the prior two years, virtually co-chaired by Indonesia and New Zealand. Although discussions remain in progress, Indonesia stressed the importance of finalizing and adopting the proposal to avoid and mitigate the risks of further abuse of crew members being perpetrated by captains and vessel owners that fly their flag in the Commission and operate in the WCPFC Convention Area. Indonesia also sought to inform delegates on progress relating to Indonesia's handline fishery, which has two main components, one that targets large yellowfin tuna and the other that generally catches small tuna (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna). Indonesia's small-scale hook-and-line fisheries are restricted to territorial seas and archipelagic waters. However, a certain component of the catch of the Indonesia "large-fish" handline fishery taken from Indonesia's EEZ may be relevant to the TTMs. An information document (**WCPFC19-2022-DP11**) relevant to the Handline Fishery was provided collaboratively by Indonesia and SPC. Indonesia also drew attention to the provision enshrined in Article 4 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the WCPO, which states that nothing in the Convention shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction, and duties of States under UNCLOS and the UNFSA, and that elaborates that the Convention shall be interpreted and applied in the context of and in a manner consistent with the UNCLOS and the UNFSA. It closed expressing the hope that the critical issues to be deliberated at WCPFC19 would provide beneficial results that contribute significantly to meeting the WCPFC's objectives, and stated Indonesia would work constructively and cooperatively with other CCMs to that end.

19. Kiribati read out a statement on behalf of the Kiribati Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources Development, and Chair of the Forum Fisheries Agency Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) the Honourable Ribanataake Tiwau who was unable to attend the meeting. The statement expressed the pleasure to meet everyone again in person, and sincere gratitude to the host, the Government and people of Vietnam, for the warm hospitality extended to the Commission. On behalf of FFA members, he thanked the Chair, and all CCMs, for their virtual work together over the prior 3 years, stating that despite the challenges, the Commission had managed to continue to transact significant work, including working towards the revised CMM for Tropical Tuna and the CMS. He stated that this was a testament to members' shared commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our tuna resources. He stated that FFA members had continuously highlighted how significant these resources are to the Pacific people, and that the importance had only increased with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Pacific economies, as the Pacific's tuna resources underpin both economic recovery and food security. At the same time, the impacts of climate change are being directly felt and cannot be considered a "future threat". He stated that it is in this context that FFA members continue to pursue their development aspirations and reiterate their special requirements in accordance with Article 30 of the Convention, CMM 2013-07, and CMM 2013-06. He stated that FFA members submitted a number of priorities for the meeting as outlined in WCPFC19-2022-DP03, including the CMM proposals for an MP for skipjack tuna in WCPFC19-2022-DP04, electronic reporting in WCPFC19-2022-DP05, Harvest Strategies in WCPFC19-2022-DP06 and swordfish in WCPFC19-2022-DP07. He stated that FFA members sought the same spirit of cooperation that has seen the Commission through its challenges for the work at WCPFC19. He recognised the hard work and leadership of the WCPFC Chair for ably steering the Commission through its virtual meetings, and expressed his appreciation to the Executive Director and his team for the excellent preparation for this meeting. He closed by stating he was very much looked forward to the upcoming discussions.

20. The Honourable John M. Silk, Minister of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (NRC), and Chairman of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) Board of Directors acknowledged the Honourable Ministers and other distinguished representatives, delegates, and attendees at WCPFC, and stated it was a pleasure to meet in person. He also conveyed his delegation's gratitude to the Government and People of Vietnam. He acknowledged the very good work and guidance of the WCPFC Chair, noting that her leadership and management of the issues and the wide-ranging views and positions of CCMs, CNMs and observers had been very fair, firm and productive, and also thanked the Government of Korea. The Minister also thanked the WCPFC Executive

Director for his many years of able stewardship and sound leadership of the WCPFC Secretariat. He drew attention to the key priority issues for RMI: the proposals in WCPFC19-2022-DP04 (CMM on an MP for WCPO skipjack tuna) and WCPFC19-2022-DP06 (proposed amendment to CMM 2014-06 on establishing a Harvest Strategy for key fisheries and stocks in the WCPO), which were tabled by FFA members. He emphasized the importance of the proposals for all CCMs and CNMs, and stated his confidence that the outcome would reflect everyone's collective and effective participation, noting that the alternative was grim, and did not bode well for future management and development goals. He suggested that the fundamental questions to ask are namely: where do we see our fishery in 5 or 10 years?; what must we do now to ensure the many interconnected issues that we see as crucial towards ensuring our livelihoods and resilience and those of generations to come are secured well into the future?; and how can we be efficient in moving these many interconnected issues into decisions that can be acceptable to all? He stated that he posed these questions in the hope that when participants leave Vietnam, they will have taken a collective decision that ensures stocks are well managed and managed for the sake of the future. He noted that other important items on the agenda such as the labour standards and the CMS measure should be considered through the same questions. He closed by stating he looked forward to progressing the meeting and stood ready to participate effectively and constructively as necessary for successful outcomes from WCPFC19.

21. New Caledonia congratulated the WCPFC Secretariat team and particularly the Executive Director for the work done to during the pandemic, stating it was pleased to be meeting in Da Nang, and expressed warm thanks to Vietnam's authorities. It stated that COVID-19 has had major impacts on WCPFC tuna fisheries: observer coverage has fallen, historical longline fisheries targeting yellowfin have switched temporarily to albacore, the tuna market has been impacted, while the cost of fuel, fishing gear and freight have increased dramatically, everything has increased except tuna prices. New Caledonia's longline fishery has been highly impacted. Although small, it provides fresh protein from the sea to New Caledonia's population. New Caledonia stated the hope than the meeting would allow progress to be made on important topics, particularly on the management of South Pacific albacore, which is crucial for Pacific Island countries and territories, including New Caledonia.

22. The Honourable Esa-Sharon Mona AINU'u, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Niue offered Niue's appreciation and thanks to Vietnam for their warm hospitality, and gratitude to the Chair for her hard work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that her presence in Da Nang was an illustration of the ongoing commitment of Niue to the WCPFC mission, stating that it was in honour of her people's ancestors and future generations to ensure fishery resources in the WCPO are sustainable. She spoke of WCPFC's collective responsibility to ensure that tuna resources are productive and sustainable, and stated that in support of this Niue had worked closely with other South Pacific CCMs to strengthen their cooperation and develop their common vision and collective capacity. She stated that the common purpose of the South Pacific Group would be become an important foundation for cooperation, and welcomed its establishment. She stated that cooperation at subregional, regional and RFMO levels was critical to Niue's future. She stated that CCMs would have their own expectations and desired outcomes regarding the agenda before WCPFC19, and that Niue looked forward to decisions on the FFA's priorities, with two particular concerns: as a South Pacific coastal state that is dependent on fisheries for food security, livelihoods, and revenue, there is a critical need to progress management of South Pacific albacore, and to rebuild the fishery's profitability, and stated she looked forward to developing management objectives and a target reference point (TRP) for South Pacific albacore in 2023. She also spoke of the need to develop a process and workplan to establish limits and allocations for high seas purse seine fisheries that specifically recognizes the rights of SIDS and allows them to develop fisheries in the high seas. She stated that all could all share and successfully manage the WCPFC's vital fishery if all CCMs cooperated and negotiated in good faith.

23. The Honourable Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment in Palau submitted his opening statement in which he thanked the people and the Socialist Government of Vietnam

for hosting WCPFC19 and for working with the Secretariat in making the excellent meeting arrangements. He acknowledged the Executive Director and congratulated him on his tenure. He stated he looked forward to working with his successor and assured the incoming Commission Executive Director of Palau's continued support. He noted that members share deep concerns for the health of the ocean, and stated that Palau acknowledges the important role of a healthy ocean in supporting biodiversity that supports sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities, and resilient food security. Palau supports the global goal of 30 x 30 for nature and people, and has demonstrated its support for such this global initiative through by implementing the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, banning deep sea mining, banning bottom trawling, and implementing a shark sanctuary. He stated that Palau has long understood the ocean-climate-nexus and the role that a healthy ocean plays in mitigating the impacts of climate change. He expressed Palau's deep concern regarding the projected impact of climate change on its fisheries that will impact livelihoods, the economy and food security. Palau acknowledged and welcomed the proposal from the United States to further embed the discussion of climate change in the agendas of the Northern Committee (NC) and TCC, and stated this was an important opportunity to support the work of the WCPFC to improve our understanding of the impacts of climate on our fisheries and particularly, the management intervention and innovation in fisheries development that can help support future economic loss and loss of food security. Palau underscores the urgency of limiting global warming to within 1.5° Celsius by the end of this century to ensure that impacts to people, fisheries, and ocean biodiversity does not continue to inflict harm and burden on the most vulnerable communities. He stated Palau supports the proposal put forward by FFA members in WCPFC19-2022-DP04, which is an important step in toward full adoption of the harvest strategy approach by the WCPFC. He stated Palau believes that sufficient data on fishing activities within the WCPO will better inform policies and strategies to effectively control and monitor our tuna stocks, and indicated the Commission should take advantage of technical advances in fisheries management and monitoring; by adopting the proposed amendment to CMM 2013-05 on Daily Catch and Effort Reporting, the Commission can improve the quality of data for conducting stock assessments. He stated that Palau is one of the smallest members of the Commission and continues to struggle with the ever-increasing level of reporting required by the Commission in the implementation of the management obligations. As proposals are considered at WCPFC19, he stated Palau wished to raise the issue of the challenges faced by small administrations in dealing with additional reporting associated with management obligations, and encouraged members to seek efficient methods that can be automated to alleviate some of the reporting burden. He suggested this might be achieved through the use of electronic reporting as a minimum requirement, which could do much to streamlining electronic systems and the reporting burden for small administrations. The Minister stated that many CCMs would have heard him observe that "Tuna is the key to unlocking many opportunities of our small island states and our developing economies." He urged CCMs to keep this in mind while WCPFC conducted its careful discussions on how to maintain and ensure sustainable management of the region's healthy tuna stocks and healthy ocean while also assuring equitable benefit to the region's people. He closed by stating he looked forward to a productive meeting at WCPFC19.

24. Papua New Guinea congratulated the Government and the People of Vietnam for hosting WCPFC19, and stated PNG would focus on important issues at hand in emphasizing the importance of reaching consensus for the sustainability of key tuna stocks and other species within the WCPO. It stated that the resource is close to the hearts of PNG's people, and sought to ensure future generations also benefit from the resources CCMs currently enjoy. PNG stressed the need for the Commission to be mindful of the obligations under CMM 2013-07 during its deliberations, noting the need to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing states, in particular SIDS and Territories, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPFC Convention Area and the development of their own fisheries for such stocks. PNG also stated the need to for the Commission to ensure a disproportionate burden of conservation action is not placed on SIDS and territories. PNG stated it considers the Harvest Strategy work for skipjack and the other tuna stocks to be a priority task, and stated the hope that WCPFC19 would have successful discussions and a good outcome on the Harvest Strategy for skipjack and the other tuna stocks. While noting more discussion would be required to progress work on the Harvest



Strategy for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, with further discussions among CCMs on the management objective and revised TRP for South Pacific albacore, PNG stated it was particularly eager to see the MP and a TRP for skipjack adopted at WCPFC19. PNG stated that this is of critical importance, especially as PNG is pursuing a new fisheries strategic plan aimed at optimizing its benefits from the sustainable management and development of its tuna fishery. It encouraged the Commission not to be selfish in its discussions but to act in the best interest of member states, particularly SIDS and territories, taking into consideration the livelihoods and development aspirations that hinge on the decision made at WCPFC19. PNG noted with deep concern that SIDS faced the possible loss of millions of dollars and many jobs in the fisheries sector depending on the decisions made at WCPFC19 in regard to the adoption of a TRP and MP for skipjack, and discussions surrounding Harvest Strategy work on other tuna species. Regarding the CMS, while acknowledging the value of the scheme in improving compliance in the purse seine fishery, PNG stated it sees an imbalance in the CMS in terms of its monitoring of the different fisheries. The 100% observer coverage obligation and better reporting in the purse seine fishery places a spotlight on the fishery in terms of alleged infringements. This is a concern to PNG as it continues to invest significantly in domestic comprehensive management and MCS tools and regimes. PNG called on the Commission to cooperate and work together to prevent any form of bias or unfairness that the implementation of the CMS scheme may impose on members. It observed that the WCPFC is well known for its efforts to maintain a balance between conservation and sustainable development of Pacific stocks. PNG urged CCMs to seriously think about future generations and their right to enjoy the benefits of WCPO tuna stocks.

25. The Honourable Maiava Fuimaono Tito Asafo, Associate Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries of the Independent State of Samoa, expressed on behalf of the Government of Samoa his appreciation to the host Government and people of Vietnam. He thanked the WCPFC Executive Director and his hard-working team for organizing the WCPFC annual meeting. He stated that at their 51<sup>st</sup> meeting in 2022 Pacific Island Forum Leaders endorsed the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*. The 2050 Strategy was deliberately designed as the overarching policy to strengthen collective action and deepen regionalism for the next three decades. At its heart is the centrality of ocean and our natural resources to our people, economies, social development, culture and livelihoods. He stated that is critical that we keep this at the forefront of our minds, and that for Samoa, a vibrant and sustainable fisheries sector continues to underpin national efforts to fully realize the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 14 ‘to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development’ as well successful implementation of Samoa’s national development plan. He stated that Samoa had come to WCPFC19 with a renewed sense of dedication and commitment to work closely with the WCPFC Secretariat and Samoa’s development partners to bring about positive and effective progress in the sustainable management and conservation of its fisheries resources. He highlighted several key areas of critical importance to Samoa and other SIDS. They include firstly, the MP for South Pacific albacore. He noted that albacore is extremely important to Samoa, noting there has been a general decline in catch rates and vulnerable levels of spawning biomass for this stock over the years. He noted with great concern that the South Pacific albacore stock was projected to continuously decline under current conditions since 2015 and had a 17% chance of falling below the limit reference point (LRP) by 2018, and stated this must not be allowed to continue. He stated that the Commission is obligated to implement management measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of this resource. He thanked the Scientific Services Provider (SPC-OFP) for their hard work on this issue, and noted that the effective management of the southern longline fishery is of high importance to all CCMs targeting South Pacific albacore, and that Samoa is supportive and committed to the works to improve the management of this key fishery through the harvest strategy approach and implementation of zone-based management. He urged Commission members, particularly fishing partners interested in South Pacific albacore, to urgently develop an agreed, robust management arrangement, for that species, including progressing agreement on various elements of a harvest strategy, such as revising the interim TRP. Secondly, the CMS in which he noted relevant recommendations put forth and highlighted by TCC18 and referenced in **WCPFC-2022-26**. And thirdly, the WCPO Shark Stocks and By-Catch Mitigation matter in which he stated that this is a priority issue for Samoa. Samoa supported the recommendations put forward by SC18 and TCC18 and stated support

for the proposal from the USA and Canada on the review of the Sharks CMM 2019-04. He closed by reminding CCMs why that they were all present because they agreed to collaboratively work towards a common goal of ensuring that through consensus, they would agree to measures that will ensure the sustainable use of migratory tuna stocks and other species within the WCPO.

26. Tuvalu presented a statement on behalf of the Honourable Kitiona Tausi, Minister of Fisheries and Trade, Government of Tuvalu who was delayed arriving in Da Nang. The Minister thanked the Government and people of Vietnam for their hospitality, congratulated the Chair for her achievements as Chair, and congratulated the Executive Director for his work at the Secretariat, and looked forward to welcoming him back home in Tuvalu. As the current chair of the PNA, the Minister joined other FFA and PNA members in urging WCPFC19 to approve their proposal and approve an interim MP for skipjack. He noted that the Commission was behind schedule in implementing harvest strategies, and stated that the proposal constituted a genuine and carefully considered effort to get things back on track. He noted that implementation of the proposal would signal a commitment to implementing harvest strategies for skipjack and other target tuna species, and that this was particularly important for securing valuable MSC certifications of WCPO fisheries. He also noted important proposals to improve management of longline fisheries, noting the proposal by the USA and Canada relating to banning of wire traces to reduce shark bycatch, and the proposal to require electronic reporting by longline vessels. He noted the requirements in place in Tuvalu's EEZ, and stated that Tuvalu was getting tired of strengthening the management of longline fisheries in its EEZ while vessels move into the high seas to take advantage of the lack of control in those waters. He stated that management of fisheries in the high seas is the job of the WCPFC, and its reason for its existence. He noted the deployment of observers, stating that Tuvalu had relaxed COVID-19 restrictions, and that its Observer Programme was open for business.

### **1.3 Meeting Arrangements**

27. The Commission reviewed the meeting arrangements and indicative meeting schedule, and confirmed decisions made at the Heads of Delegation meeting, held on 27 November. The meeting schedule was agreed as outlined in **WCPFC19-2022-01B** which would be update on a daily basis.

#### **1.3.1 Hybrid meeting protocols**

28. The Executive Director explained the key online meeting protocols as outlined in **WCPFC19-2022-02**. He noted that all registered virtual participants would be able to see and hear all sessions, but only virtual participants from countries that have no Head of Delegation in Da Nang would be able to intervene virtually.

#### **1.3.2 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, CMR, others)**

29. The Commission agreed to establish eight small working groups (SWGs) as follows:

- i) CNM (led by Australia)
- ii) CMS Audit Points (led by RMI)
- iii) Labour standards (led by New Zealand and Indonesia)
- iv) South Pacific albacore (led by Fiji)
- v) Transshipment (led by USA and Vanuatu)
- vi) Skipjack management procedures in WCPFC19-2022-DP04 (led by RMI)
- vii) Southwest Pacific swordfish proposal in WCPFC19-2022-DP07 (led by Australia, to be confirmed)
- viii) Electronic reporting (ER) proposal in WCPFC19-2022-DP05 (led by New Zealand)

## AGENDA ITEM 2 — ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

30. The Executive Director’s Annual Report (**WCPFC19-2022-04**), which is a requirement under Rule 13 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, was issued on 14 October 2022, and was taken as read. The paper was posted on the WCPFC19 Online Discussion Forum (as Topic A), and no comments were received.

31. Tuvalu, on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau, extended warm appreciation to the Executive Director for his stewardship of the organization over the past eight years, noting this was an unprecedented time in the short history of the WCPFC. Tuvalu drew attention to paragraph 57 of the report, and stated that while they welcomed the return of physical meetings, they also acknowledged that there was much work to catch up on and stated the need for a process to prioritize and schedule the work to be progressed. They stated that the priorities for the PNA and Tokelau for 2023 would be the negotiations of the tropic tuna measure, the intersessional work to improve longline MCS measures through transshipment monitoring, and the reshaping of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.

32. The Commission noted with appreciation the 2022 Annual Report of the Executive Director (**WCPFC19-2022-04**) and recognized the valuable service of the Executive Director, Feleti Penitala Teo **OBE**, during his tenure as Executive Director.

## AGENDA ITEM 3 — MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS

### 3.1 Status of the Convention

33. New Zealand’s report as the Depositary on the status of the WCPF Convention (**WCPFC19-2022-05** *Status of the Convention*) was taken as read.

34. The Commission noted with appreciation the report on the Status of the WCPFC Convention (**WCPFC19-2022-05**).

### 3.2 Update on Observer Status

35. The Chair noted with appreciation the contributions of the accredited observers to the work of the Commission. The Secretariat’s updated report on observer status (**WCPFC19-2022-06** *List of Observers*) was taken as read; it notes that no state or NGO observers were removed in 2022 under the requirements of Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure.

36. The Commission noted the updated list of observers to the Commission (**WCPFC19-2022-06 Rev 1**).

### 3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status

37. The Commission considered applications for CNM status for 2023 in accordance with CMM 2019-01, including recommendations from TCC18. As outlined in **WCPFC19-2022-07: Cooperating Non-Member Requests for 2023**, there were eight applications for CNM status received in 2022 (from Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam). All applicants are current CNMs in 2022. TCC18 considered the 8 applications and agreed to forward all applications to WCPFC19. The

TCC18 decisions and recommendations to WCPFC18 are in paragraph 8 of **WCPFC19-2022-07**. The Secretariat noted that all CNM contributions for 2021 and 2022 had been paid, as indicated in Table 2 of the paper.

38. Tuvalu on behalf of FFA members stated that in light of the recommendations from TCC18, FFA members supported CNM renewal for Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Thailand and Vietnam. They stated that for Nicaragua CNM status may be conferred for 2023, but that participatory rights for 2023 should be considered separately under Agenda Item 3.3.1, and clearly specified based on the limits contained in WCPFC CMMs. They stated that for Panama, TCC18 identified a number of issues that needed to be addressed, particularly in relation to non-compliance with WCPFC CMMs. FFA members requested that these issues be considered by the CNM SWG in the first instance, noting in particular the limits prescribed in paragraph 42 of CMM 2021-01.

39. The EU stated that TCC18 had expressed concerns regarding renewal of Panama's CNM status, and that Panama was requested to provide additional information and confirm to the satisfaction of CCMs that the serious incidents involving Panama flagged vessels that had arisen elsewhere would not take place in the WCPFC Convention Area. The EU stated that as CCMs had not been able to review this information it would be difficult to make a decision, and encouraged Panama to make the requested information available as soon as possible. Japan also encouraged Panama to make the requested information available.

40. The WCPFC Compliance Manger stated that Panama had not submitted additional information following the TCC18 meeting, and confirmed that information from Nicaragua had been posted to the Secretariat's CNM webpage for consideration by CCMs. Nicaragua stated it sought to ensure that its vessels comply with the WCPFC CMMs, and requested that the Commission indicate what additional information it required. In response the Chair stated that Nicaragua had provided some information, which would be considered by the SWG.

41. Panama expressed its appreciation to the Executive Director for his work on behalf of the Commission.

42. The Commission noted and accepted the applications for CNM status in 2022 from Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam. A SWG was established, chaired by Australia. The Chair noted that in accordance with the WCPFC's established practice, the SWG would provide advice to the Commission on the participatory rights of CNMs. The Commission agreed that applicants could attend the SWG to provide clarifications and answers to questions that might be posed. Following its deliberations, the SWG would provide advice to the Commission on the participatory rights of CNMs (under Agenda Item 3.3.1).

43. The EU stated that it welcomed political expressions of commitment towards a more effective fight against IUU fishing activities in high level conferences, or as recently during the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) plenary meeting in Rome in September 2022. The EU referenced a situation that it stated involved testing of actual willingness to fight IUU fishing. The EU stated that it was concerned to note that although Panama reported that the vessel that triggered the concern of TCC18 was being monitored, the EU's investigation suggested that the vessel was actually at sea. It stated it had no indication that Panama detected this situation before the EU's bilateral exchange with Panama, and noted that the letter reporting this situation to the NPFC Secretariat was sent after the bilateral exchange between the EU and Panama. The EU stated that it was both worrying and disappointing that Panama did not ensure proper reporting to WCPFC, especially when taking into consideration the level of attention that could be expected on this vessel. The EU confirmed, in that respect, its substantial reservations regarding Panama's ability to monitor the activities of its fleet. In the spirit of cooperation but reluctantly, the EU stated it would not block the agreement to grant Panama CNM status. However, it highlighted that all actions would be taken into account

next year as the CNM SWG proposed. In that respect, the EU specifically encouraged Panama to ensure the settlement of the sanctions imposed before any removal of the vessel from the registry, in line with Paragraph 24 of the FAO Guidelines for Flag State Performance. Moreover, the EU noted that other WCPFC CCMs had and have a relevant role to play. The EU stated with deep regret that China, as port State, seemed to have been unable to effectively act against an IUU third-country flagged vessel in its port despite a prohibition for sailing and a request of support by the flag State. The EU also called on Chinese Taipei, which is a member of WCPFC and NPFC, to actively monitor the vessel as the last known position (dated 23 November) would be only 10 nautical miles from Kaohsiung port.

44. Chinese Taipei stated that as a responsible member of both WCPFC and NPFC it had already taken actions to monitor the vessels. It noted that its policy was to not allow vessels on an IUU list to use its ports. It stated that because the vessels were located near Chinese Taipei's waters, it would continue to monitor their activities and share that information with relevant CCMs.

45. China referenced the EU's statement that mentioned that China should play its due role as a port state. China stated that it believes that the mention of China in this statement has nothing to do with this item and is not constructive, and that it was incomprehensible and unacceptable for the EU statement to mention China. China stated that the WCPFC should not waste time talking about the issues of other organizations. China stated it attaches great importance to and has taken active measures on combating IUU fishing activities in close cooperation with the international community. It noted that the Chinese fisheries authority actively carried out domestic coordination among agencies and had been in close communication with Panama regarding this particular vessel. In accordance with Panama's requirements, the port authority was urged to postpone approval of the vessel's entry into port and make preparations for port inspection. The carrier then left the outer anchorage of the port on its own. Later, China approved the entry and inspection of another Panamanian carrier that applied to call at a Chinese port. China stated it would continue to maintain communication regarding the two carriers with Panama and the EU through bilateral channels and continue to work closely with all parties to jointly combat IUU fishing activities.

46. The Commission approved the applications for CNM status for 2023 from Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam.

47. WCPFC19 noted the significant concerns expressed by TCC18 regarding recent serious incidents involving Panama's flagged vessels in the NPFC Convention area. The Commission noted that Panama provided further information to the Commission requested by TCC18, including evidence of Panama's submission of relevant information to NPFC to include the flagged vessel on the NPFC IUU vessel list.

48. WCPFC19 reiterated TCC18's reminder to encourage Panama to make efforts to make improvements to the management of its vessels. WCPFC tasks TCC19 to consider the outcome of NPFC IUU listing process and further efforts on Panama's improvements to manage and monitor its vessels when considering Panama's CNM application in 2023. The Commission noted the NPFC IUU listing process was ongoing and as such, recommends the approval of the renewal of Panama's CNM status for 2023.

### **3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs**

49. The Commission reviewed the limits of participatory rights of CNMs under various CMMs in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 13 of CMM 2019-01. The Commission considered the findings of the CNM SWG, which recommended that Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama,

Thailand and Vietnam retain the same participatory rights in 2022 as they had in 2021. The CNM SWG also noted that in both 2020 and 2021, Nicaragua requested that the CNM SWG and the Commission consider revising their participatory rights to increase purse seine fishing from one to two vessels. Nicaragua indicated that the addition of one vessel would greatly assist in allowing the timely submission of financial contributions and further enhance their ability to implement WCPFC CMMs in the WCPFC Convention Area. CNM SWG participants were again unable to support the requested addition to Nicaragua's participatory rights for 2023 due to the existing purse seine capacity limits as stipulated in paragraph 42 of the current TTM (CMM 2021-01). However, to assist the Commission with considering any increased participatory rights in the future, the CNM SWG invited Nicaragua to put forward any proposed changes to participatory rights when submitting their CNM application in future years, to allow TCC to properly consider the implications of such a request prior to the Commission's annual meeting.

50. WCPFC19 considered the request for participatory rights of CNM for 2023. The SWG considered an application from Nicaragua to increase its purse seine capacity from one vessel to two vessels. The Commission noted that the request has implications for capacity limits under paragraph 42 of CMM 2021-01 and recommended that any further capacity increase is considered when the relevant CMM is reviewed.

51. WCPFC19 approved the following participatory rights for 2023:

- i. **Curaçao:** The participatory rights of Curacao are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
- ii. **Ecuador:** The participatory rights of Ecuador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2021-01 or its replacement measure.
- iii. **El Salvador:** The participatory rights of El Salvador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing only. The total level of effort by purse seine vessels of El Salvador on the high seas shall not exceed 29 days in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2021-01 or its replacement measure.
- iv. **Liberia:** The participatory rights of Liberia are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
- v. **Nicaragua:** The participatory rights of Nicaragua are limited to purse seine fishing for one vessel, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2021-01 or its replacement measure.
- vi. **Panama:** The participatory rights of Panama in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels. Panama's participatory rights also apply to vessels that supply food, water and spare parts to carrier vessels that engage in transshipment activities, provided that these vessels do not engage in activities supporting fishing vessels, including providing and/or servicing FADs.

- vii. **Thailand:** The participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.
- viii. **Vietnam:** The participatory rights of Vietnam in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

#### **WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area**

52. In accordance with the decision of WCPFC9 regarding the management of the overlap area of 4°S and 50°S between 130°W and 150°W, vessels flagged to Ecuador, El Salvador and Nicaragua and Panama will be governed by the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.

53. In accordance with the Data Exchange MOU agreed by both Commissions, fishing vessels flying the flag of a member of either the IATTC or WCPFC shall cooperate with the RFMO to which they are not a member by voluntarily providing operational catch and effort data for its fishing activities for highly migratory species in the overlap area.

54. For the purpose of investigation of possible IUU fishing activities and consistent with international and domestic laws, vessels flying the flag of a CNM that is a Contracting Party to the IATTC will cooperate with those coastal State members of the WCPFC whose EEZs occur in the overlap area by voluntarily providing VMS reports (date, time and position) to those coastal States when operating in the overlap area.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 — NEW PROPOSALS**

55. In introducing this agenda item, the Chair noted that proponents of new proposals would provide brief outlines, and requested that CCMs limit comments to general statements and questions intended to clarify the proposals. She stated that **WCPFC19-2022-DP12** *Information Paper on the Bycatch of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in Set Net Fisheries in its Territorial Waters* and **WCPFC19-2022-DP15** *Keeping track of Albatrosses* were for information purposes and would be considered under the relevant agenda items, while **WCPFC19-2022-DP11** *Options for a Baseline of the “Large-Fish” Handline Fishery Fishing in Indonesia’s EEZ With Vessels >30GT for the WCPFC Tropical Tuna Measure* would be introduced and considered under Agenda Item 6.3.1.2.

#### **Proposed Revisions to the CMM for Sharks (WCPFC19-2022-DP01)**

56. The USA introduced proposed revisions to the CMM for Sharks (CMM 2019-04) as detailed in **WCPFC19-2022-DP01** *Proposed Revisions to the Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks*. The USA stated it was pleased to present the proposal to the Commission, noting that oceanic whitetips are experiencing overfishing and are overfished, and silky sharks are overfished. It stated it had revised the measure as recommended by SC17, SC18, and TCC18. It detailed the changes to the proposal, and stated that if adopted the new provisions would go into effect in January 2024. The USA stated it had examined WCPFC regional observer data, which showed extra-tropical interactions with these species, and that the proposal consequently would apply the proposed mitigation measures across the entire WCPFC Convention Area.

57. Cook Islands on behalf of FFA members, thanked the USA and Canada for this proposal and the completed CMM 2013-06 assessment, which they stated was thorough, and provided ample consideration

of the potential impacts on SIDS. They stated that this is an important issue for FFA members, and noted that the use of wire traces and shark lines by longline vessels operating within FFA members' waters is already prohibited through the Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions, and that all sharks landed by vessels licensed to fish in FFA waters and those flagged to FFA require all fins to be naturally attached, or that finning is managed under alternative measures. However, they queried how the Commission would monitor the clause on trailing gear as prescribed in the proposed CMM, and stated they looked forward to further discussions on the proposal.

58. The EU acknowledged the efforts of the USA and Canada to reduce mortality for these species. It noted that a retention ban is in place, but stated that identifying additional mitigation measures can provide additional conservation benefits. The EU stated that its previous comments seem to not have been taken into account and expressed the hope that it would be possible to better capture the scientific advice and concerns that had been expressed.

59. Canada reiterated its support for the measure, which it stated is based on the best available science. To ensure the safety of crew and have the best survival rate for sharks, it noted that it is very important to have the information for safe handling practices. It stated that there is a need to demonstrate that WCPFC takes its responsibility for conservation of shark species very seriously, noting recent decisions by other international fora regarding shark conservation.

60. Chinese Taipei thanked the USA and Canada for their proposal, and sought clarification regarding paragraph 16, which indicates CCMs shall ensure their vessels do not carry or use wire traces, inquiring what constituted a vessel in the definition. The USA stated that vessels constituted those engaged in longline fisheries targeting tuna and billfish, noting this is referenced in paragraph 14 of the proposal.

61. RMI stated it supports the proposal. Regarding the Cook Islands' comment, RMI stated FFA members had minimum terms and conditions for their in-zone fisheries and that there was a need for WCPFC to develop compatible measures.

62. Indonesia stated that this was a challenge for it to implement, noting it still faced problems caused by COVID-19.

63. The Chair encouraged CCMs to engage with each other to resolve the outstanding issues.

64. This issue was further considered under Agenda Item 8.1.2.

#### **Strengthening and Revising CMM 2009-06 in 2023 (WCPFC19-2022-DP02)**

65. The USA introduced its proposal to strengthen and revise CMM 2009-06 on Transshipment in 2023 (WCPFC19-2022-DP02 *Strengthening and Revising WCPFC CMM 2009-06 on Transshipment in 2023*). The United States stated it remains concerned about the risks that transshipment represents in relation to supporting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing operations and other criminal activities. To address this concern, the USA stated it supports to strengthening CMM 2009-06 to help address such concerns. It stated that at WCPFC15 the Commission agreed to conduct a review of CMM 2009-06, forming the TS-IWG to take on this task. Members agreed in the Scope of Work that the TS-IWG would seek to improve the regulation and monitoring of transshipment activities by "recommending amendments or other actions, if any, related to CMM 2009-06." In September 2022, the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) adopted voluntary guidelines on transshipment. These guidelines were developed over the course of several years through expert, technical, and member consultations. The *COFI Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment* seek to decrease the risk of IUU caught fish entering the global seafood supply chain, and would strengthen sustainable and socially responsible fisheries. Most WCPFC members, including the United States, worked to develop the FAO



Guidelines on Transshipment with the objective that the Voluntary Guidelines would “assist States, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and other intergovernmental organizations, with respect to their development of new transshipment regulations or the review of existing regulations, with a view to integrating these within the broader regulatory framework for fisheries management.” The USA proposed that the TS-IWG be tasked with (a) reviewing CMM 2009-06 prior to TCC19; (b) considering the COFI guidelines, ensuring any proposed revisions align with or are more stringent than the guidelines, and taking into account the unique circumstances of small island developing states and territories; (c) meeting prior to TCC19 to prepare a draft proposed revisions to CMM 2009-06; and (d) presenting proposed revisions for consideration by WCPFC20.

66. RMI, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the USA for WCPFC19-2022-DP02, and stated that while recognising that the recommendations seek to progress the review of the Transshipment CMM, they also noted that there are terms of reference already in place that contain a clear process of activities, methodology and scheduling to guide the work of the Transshipment-IWG. While they supported the recommendations in principle, they stated they had clarifying questions and comments and looked forward to working with the USA to address those, including clarification from the TS-IWG Chairs on whether the transshipment analysis will be available by the first quarter of 2023, and regarding recommendation (b), emphasised that the revised Transshipment CMM would need to take into account the areas of assistance under ‘Recognition of the special requirements of small island developing states’ of Article 30 of the WCPFC Convention and in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines, as well as the need for a CMM 2013-06 assessment.

67. The EU supported the proposal, and expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts on transshipment. It stated it looked forward to finally addressing the issue, in combination with the recently adopted FAO guidelines.

68. The Chair inquired of the TS-IWG Chair if the analysis would be available in the first quarter 2023? The Co-Chair stated that timeline is early 2023, but that a specific date had not been set, but would be discussed by the IWG.

69. China suggested the meeting prior to TCC19 referenced in the proposed recommendation should not be restricted to being “in person”.

70. Indonesia stated it was very important to have an in-person meeting, and thanked the USA delegation for the proposal, and stated it would participate in the discussion.

71. The Chair noted that the Commission had heard positive comments and some concerns, and noted application of Article 30 and CMM 2013-06.

72. Further discussions regarding the work of the TS-IWG were held under Agenda Item 11.4.2.

### **FFA Positions on Key Issues for WCPFC19 (WCPFC19-2022-DP03)**

73. Kiribati on behalf of FFA members introduced **WCPFC19-2022-DP03** *FFA Positions on Key Issues for WCPFC19*, noting that FFA members priorities were also elaborated in **WCPFC19-2022-DP04, -DP05, -DP06, -DP07, and -DP08**. They highlighted their priorities and expected outcomes for WCPFC19 as follows:

- i) Agree to a management procedure for skipjack tuna in the WCPO, an important step in the effective management and sustainable use of the stock as detailed in WCPFC19-2022-DP04.

- ii) Amend CMM 2014-06 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean to satisfy a requirement of the Marine Stewardship Council and ensure our fisheries retain their MSC certification, as detailed in WCPFC19-2022-DP06.
- iii) Adopt a strengthened Southwest Pacific swordfish measure, as detailed in WCPFC19-2022-DP07.
- iv) Agree on a focused process for reviewing the TTM in 2023 to adopt hard limits for the purse seine fishery in the high seas.
- v) Agree on a focused process for South Pacific albacore in 2023 to improve the management of this fishery, including agreement to review the management objective and TRP.
- vi) Amend CMM 2013-05 to require CCMs to routinely report their high seas catch and effort data in recognition that electronic reporting is a timely and more accurate way to provide this critical information, as detailed in WCPFC19-2022-DP05.
- vii) Assist the Commission in adopting EM SSPs; in support of this, FFA members provided their interim EM SSPs in WCPFC19-2022-DP08.
- viii) Continue to review and enhance the CMS.
- ix) Continue to progress the development of an effective CMM for improving labour standards for crew.
- x) Safely redeploy our observers from 1 January 2023.

FFA members stated they were ready to work with the Chair and other CCMs to ensure that WCPFC19 advances the work in support of the overall conservation and management of WCPO fish stocks.

**Draft CMM on a Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna (WCPFC19-2022-DP04)**

74. FSM on behalf of FFA members introduced **WCPFC19-2022-WP04** *Draft Conservation and Management Measure on a Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna*, stating that in accordance with obligations under CMM 2014-06 (calling for the WCPFC to develop and implement harvest strategies for key stocks), FFA members were pleased to submit a draft CMM that describes an interim MP for skipjack tuna in the WCPO. They stated that the proposed interim MP is designed to improve decision-making by specifying predetermined levels of fishing on the WCPO skipjack tuna stock, based on the performance of the fishery. They indicated that this would better account for uncertainty, including uncertainties related to climate change, and would also be an important step in ensuring the effective management and sustainable use of the stock, and meeting the interests of global markets in sourcing sustainable tuna products. They noted that the draft CMM had been assessed against the requirements of CMM 2013-06.

75. Tuvalu on behalf of the PNA thanked FFA members for their introduction of the proposal, which they stated draws heavily on work by SPC and contributions from other delegations at SC and SMD01. They thanked all those who had contributed ideas on a skipjack MP. They noted that the proposal followed the approach suggested by the PNA and Tokelau at SMD01, and includes a full skipjack MP with all the elements SPC has laid out. They noted some flexibility was needed to get the skipjack MP started, and stated that **WCPFC19-2022-DP04** therefore proposes adoption of an interim skipjack MP with some flexibility about how it would be used. This would give all CCMs the opportunity to work with the skipjack MP until they are comfortable with adopting it fully. It might also allow some elements that are not yet fully detailed or agreed to be further developed over time. They stated they looked forward to working with other CCMs towards the adoption of this proposal.

76. The USA thanked the FFA members, and stated it had shared some questions directly with them and looked forward to resolving these with the objective of finalizing the MP at WCPFC19.

77. Japan stated it appreciated the proposal, and that it had some concerns it would like to discuss under the appropriate agenda item, and stated it would be pleased to work with other CCMs on this.

78. The EU thanked FFA members for tabling the proposal, noting it was the result of many years of collaborative work, which the EU had supported. It stated it was very happy that WCPFC was close to adopting an MP. It noted it had some technical questions, but hoped that WCPFC19 could adopt and fully implement the MP.

79. Indonesia thanked FFA for providing **WCPFC19-2022-DP04**, stating it would like to have more understanding and discussion of the harvest control rule (HCR), which appeared different from the procedure presented by SPC. It stated it was interested in better understanding the treatment of catch and effort in archipelagic waters.

80. RMI stated it would lead a SWG to address the issues, because this was a key priority for FFA members. It stated that the goal would be to achieve consensus support for an outcome by the end of WCPFC19.

81. The Chair stated that the proposal would be more fully discussed under Agenda Item 6.2.

#### **Proposed Amendment to CMM 2013-05 (WCPFC19-2022-DP05)**

82. New Zealand on behalf of FFA members introduced **WCPFC19-2022-DP05** *Proposed Amendment to CMM 2013-05 on Daily Catch and Effort Reporting*. They noted that a proposal was tabled at WCPFC12 which led to adoption of CMM 2013-05. That proposal required vessel operators to maintain daily catch records; daily catch logs were required in FFA members' EEZs, but the proposal at the time aimed to create an explicit requirement for such records to be kept for high seas fishing activities to improve the quality of data available for stock assessments. This led to the adoption by WCPFC12 of CMM 2013-05 on Daily Catch and Effort Reporting. New Zealand stated that FFA members were pleased to submit WCPFC19-2022-DP05, which proposes to amend CMM 2013-05 (and also contains a 2013-06 assessment). In summary, it proposes to require the master of a vessel to keep an accurate electronic log, and provide this information in accordance with the agreed WCPFC Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for Electronic Reporting for operational catch and effort data to the national authority within **15 days** of the end of the trip or upon exit from the WCPFC Convention Area, and where applicable, at the end of every transshipment event. In addition, the proposed amendment includes a requirement for flag CCMs to submit the required information to the Commission electronically in accordance with the agreed SSPs within **30 days** of the end of a trip or upon exit from the WCPFC Convention Area; and where applicable at the end of every transshipment event. The proposed new requirement would be to submit these data to the Commission on a routine basis. FFA members stated that one of the benefits of ER is the ability to access the data in a timely manner. Having these data transmitted to the Commission on a routine basis would allow timely access by the Scientific Services Provider (SPC) as well as the WCPFC Secretariat for the science and compliance-related work of the Commission. They stated that they recognise that national authorities would want to vet the data submitted by their flagged vessels, which is why the timing for the reporting from flag vessels to their national authority is within 15 days and from national authority or CCMs to the Commission is within 30 days of the end of the trip, or upon exit from the WCPFC Convention Area, and where applicable at the end of a transshipment event. They noted that the proposed amendment does not replace the requirement to submit operational data by 30 April each year for the previous year. The submission of scientific data by 30 April would then be used by the Scientific Services Provider (SPC) to reconcile with what has been submitted routinely throughout the year. FFA members together with other CCMs at TCC18 recommended that WCPFC19 agree that CCMs should submit operational catch and effort data in accordance with the agreed Standards, Specifications and Procedures for Electronic Reporting in the WCPFC from 1 January 2024. FFA members also made this proposal at TCC17 (*TCC17 Summary Report*

paragraph 136), but stated that their efforts at TCC17 and TCC18 met with some opposition. The reason given was that some CCMs need time in order to be able to implement ER, and in recognition of this concern the CMM has a delayed implementation date of **1 January 2024**. FFA members noted that they had already made a commitment to implement ER, while the PNA and Tokelau are already implementing ER for the purse seine fishery in their waters through their fishery management information system (FIMS). Vessel operators enter their data into FIMS daily and the relevant parties (authorities/vessel operator) are able to access this from the system immediately. FFA members stated that from the Annual Report on the performance of ER standards that was tabled to TCC18 (**TCC18-2022-RP10**), a number of CCMs are already implementing ER, including for their longline fleets. FFA members noted that WCPFC has talked about ER for a number of years, and stated it was time that it be put into place. They noted that FFA members had already made a commitment to adopt ER for fishing vessels fishing within its EEZs, and that this proposal is to put compatible measures in place for the high seas as called for by Article 8 of the Convention.

83. Japan supported the general approach, but stated it has some difficulties with the provisions as drafted. It stated it would raise these under the detailed discussions.

84. The USA stated it was in favour of adopting ER but had some concerns with how this could be adopted domestically, and would discuss the issues further.

85. The EU stated it was sympathetic in principle, and noted that its fleet already reports electronically, but that it had some concerns regarding the standards to be used. It stated it would welcome discussions with the proponents during WCPFC19.

86. China thanked FFA members for the proposal. It inquired why these suggested measures would apply only to the high seas, given that FFA members indicated they had already made a commitment to use ER in their EEZs. China suggested in that case the CMM should not be limited to the high seas. Regarding paragraph 3, coincidentally, China stated its fisheries would require daily ER reporting for all vessels operating in the high seas as of 1 January 2024. Thus, China would have little difficulty with that paragraph, although some domestic circumstances would need to be considered, such as instances where the ER equipment was not functioning, in which case a 30-day exemption might be allowed, similar to the situation of the WCPFC VMS system. China stated the details could be discussed with FFA directly. It stated it had issues with paragraph 4, noting that if the data were required for stock assessments, the stock assessment cycle is every 3 years, which indicates there is no urgency to acquire the data. The Chair encouraged China to work directly with New Zealand.

87. PNG, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau, stated they strongly support this proposal. They noted that the lack of effective control over longline fishing on the high seas is the single biggest weakness in the work of the Commission, and that this was a simple proposal that would contribute to addressing that weakness. They stated that the PNA and Tokelau already receive ER through the PNA FIMS, covering around 1.5 million tonnes of catch annually, or about 60% of the total catch of the major tuna stocks in the WCPO, and about 80% of the total catch excluding catches in Indonesia and Philippines waters. They stated that given that this was possible, the Commission had no excuse not to also implement ER. PNG stated that the PNA and Tokelau strongly supported the proposal.

88. Chinese Taipei stated it had implemented ER for many years in its distant water fishing fleet, with vessels required to report catch daily to the fisheries monitoring center. It stated it had some technical questions, which it would seek to discuss at WCPFC19, in the hope a mutually acceptable outcome could be found.

89. Indonesia noted the importance of operational catch and effort data, and stated that it had a plan to operate fisheries in the high seas in the future. It noted it had concerns about reporting to the Commission

within 30 days, and inquired whether the data reporting was for the purpose of stock assessments, or compliance, as this would have implications for timing.

90. Korea stated it supported ER should be in place for the entire WCPFC Convention Area as soon as practical, but stated that it was very important to ensure the compatibility between EEZs and the high seas in implementing ER. Korea noted that vessels should not have to implement two different standards in these areas. It inquired whether the existing system in FFA EEZs is consistent with the requirements for the Commission in the high seas, and stated it looked forward to addressing these issues in the SWG.

91. Following further discussions among CCMs in the ER SWG, led by New Zealand, the Chair noted the many positive comments and general support among CCMs, but observed that there were some concerns and technical details to be worked out.

#### **Proposed Amendment to CMM 2014-06 (WCPFC19-2022-DP06)**

92. PNG on behalf of FFA members introduced **WCPFC19-2022-DP06** *Proposed Amendment to CMM 2014-06 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean*, stating that FFA members proposed to amend CMM 2014-06 by including text that satisfies a specific requirement of the MSC Fishery Standard. The MSC allows for conditional certification of fisheries under its standard if there exists an agreement or framework that requires the relevant management body (WCPFC) to adopt HCRs before the stock declines below  $B_{MSY}$ . They stated that the proposed amendment to the CMM did not alter the broader and more important requirement for the WCPFC to adopt well-defined HCRs for each of the tropical tuna stocks, but ensures that over 40 certified WCPO fisheries for South Pacific albacore, bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin will retain their certification while the work required to adopt well-defined HCRs is undertaken within the timeframe and to a standard required by MSC.

93. The proposal was further addressed under Agenda Item 7.

#### **Revised Draft CMM for Southwest Pacific Swordfish (WCPFC19-2022-DP07)**

94. Australia on behalf of FFA members introduced **WCPFC19-2022-DP07** *A Revised draft Conservation and Management Measure for Southwest Pacific Swordfish in the WCPFC Area*, stating that FFA members were pleased to propose a strengthened CMM for Southwest Pacific swordfish highlighting: zone-based management, compatible management and limits for the high seas, sovereign rights of coastal states, and special requirements of SIDS and participating territories. They stated that the current CMM for Southwest Pacific swordfish does not address key elements required to ensure ongoing successful management of the swordfish fishery. Specifically, it contains no restrictions on fishing mortality on the high seas north of 20°S, lacks overall provisions to ensure sustainability of the stock, does not protect future development opportunities for SIDS, and does not distinguish between the fisheries targeting swordfish and fisheries for which swordfish is an important economic bycatch. They stated that they looked forward to working with members during WCPFC19 to progress the measure to meet the proposed objective and principles detailed in WCPFC19-2022-DP07.

95. The EU thanked Australia for the proposal. It agreed that the current CMM does not effectively cover all the fishery components that impact the stock, and stated there is scope for including all fishing north of 20°S. The EU stated it was committed to assisting Australia in doing this, but noted that the proposal included a number of elements that would make this rather challenging. The EU stated that the main objective should be to improve the current CMM.

96. China stated that during a bilateral meeting before the WCPFC19 it had expressed its concerns, including the need for a strong scientific basis for the total allowable catch (TAC). It agreed on the need to

allocate bycatch, but remarked on the need for a longer period for the average. Regarding the target fisheries for Southwest Pacific swordfish, it stated that observer coverage should be compatible between the high seas and EEZs. Regarding EM and the review rate, China hoped this could be decided after the Commission's decision on EM.

97. This proposal was further considered under Agenda Item 6.8.2.

**FFA Final Draft EM SSPs, endorsed as Interim Guidelines (WCPFC19-2022-DP08)**

98. FSM on behalf of FFA members introduced **WCPFC19-2022-DP08** *Information Paper on the FFA Final Draft EM SSPs endorsed as Interim Guidelines*, stating that FFA members were committed to strengthening the monitoring of fisheries under the jurisdiction of the Commission, particularly those that lack independent verifiable data. They noted FFA members worked hard to progress EM and acknowledged the complexities of this work. FFA members progressed the development of EM SSPs over the prior 12 months. In May 2022, FFC122 endorsed the FFA Final Draft EM SSPs as interim guidelines, noting these will continue to be reviewed and revised as members work to implement EM across FFA-member EEZs. FFA members stated that they were pleased to share this work with the WCPFC, as an information paper (**WCPFC19-2022-DP08**), to help progress the work on the development of EM SSPs by the ER&EM Working Group and with the aim of ensuring compatibility and complementarity of EM frameworks across the WCPFC Convention Area.

**Measure to be implemented by the Philippines in the high seas adjacent to its EEZ (WCPFC19-2022-DP09) and Desire to Prescribe the Use of Carrier Vessels with Freezing Capacity in HSP1-SMA (WCPFC19-2022-DP10)**

99. The Philippines introduced **WCPFC19-2022-DP09** *Informing the Commission of the Measure that the Philippines will implement in the High Seas Adjacent to the EEZ of the Philippines* and **WCPFC19-2022-DP10** *Informing the Commission of the desire to Prescribe the Use of Carrier Vessels with Freezing Capacity in High Seas Pockets 1 Special management Area (HSP1-SMA)*.

100. Palau on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau stated regarding DP09 that they needed more information to consider the proposal, noting for example, that the proposal refers to fishing activity in the high seas adjacent to the EEZ east of the Philippines. However, they stated they were unaware of any WCPFC CMM providing for access by Philippines vessels to any areas of the high seas adjacent to the EEZ east of the Philippines. They noted that they are aware of the important Special Arrangement for traditional group seine vessel operations in High Seas Pocket 1, but stated that area isn't adjacent to the Philippines EEZ. They reiterated their particular concern regarding additional fishing impacts in the area indicated by the Philippines, and requested further information before considering the proposal further.

101. Kiribati on behalf of FFA members stated that the Philippines had sought to get access for boats with freezers on the high seas on several occasions in the last few years, but stated that this was contrary to the original intent of Attachment 2 of CMM 2021-01, which was focused on the operations of traditional fishers. FFA members stated that if Philippine freezer boats are allowed in High Seas Pocket 1, they are likely to displace the majority of traditional fishers. It is also likely to result in a significant increase in fishing effort in this area, as they will be able to stay on the fishing grounds for much longer, potentially affecting the sustainability of tuna stocks. They also raised concerns that this may result in an expansion of fishing operations into High Sea Pocket 2. FFA members noted that the use of refrigerated carriers is likely to have an impact on SIDS members and participating territories in the WCPFC Convention Area, but the Philippines has not provided an assessment meeting the requirements of CMM 2013-06. FFA members stated that they do not support the proposal.

102. Following further discussions during WCPFC19 between the Philippines and other CCMs regarding **WCPFC19-2022-DP09** and **WCPFC19-2022-DP10**, Niue, on behalf of FFA members, suggested that the Philippines submit a proposal relating to the issues in **WCPFC19-2022-DP09** during the review of CMM 2021-01 in 2023.

#### **Incorporating Climate Change within WCPFC (WCPFC19-2022-DP14)**

103. The USA submitted **WCPFC19-2022-DP14**, which proposed that the Commission adopt the following: *“Recognizing the urgency of developing a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area, and any related impacts on the economies of CCMs and food security and the livelihoods of their people, in particular SIDS and participating territories, the Commission tasks TCC and NC to include Climate Change as a standing agenda item and to prioritize discussion of how best to incorporate climate change information and analyses in their work”*.

104. Korea stated that climate change affects every aspect of life, including fisheries, noting that sea level rise and temperature increase can have a significant impact on livelihoods. Korea thanked the USA and supported the proposal.

105. China supported the proposal.

106. Tokelau on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau supported the proposal, stating it marked a step forward after passing a landmark climate resolution at WCPFC16. They stated that the proposal highlights that the climate change issue has become established in the SC agenda and proposes to strengthen consideration of climate change in the work of the Commission by including climate change as standing agenda items in the NC and TCC. They suggested that the proposal could be extended so as to include climate change as a standing item on the agenda of the annual Commission meetings.

107. The EU strongly supported the proposal.

108. Chinese Taipei stated that the issue is very important for everyone, and is affecting all countries, and supported the proposal.

109. Indonesia supported the proposal.

110. In response to Tokelau, the USA stated it would be happy to modify its proposal to include climate change as a standing item for the Commission as well as all subsidiary body meetings.

111. The issue of climate change was further discussed under Agenda Item 8.4.1.

#### **Philippines letter to the Commission on VMS (WCPFC19-2022-DP16)**

112. The Philippines requested limited extension of the approval for its ARGOS ALC/MTU transponders (which expires 1 January 2023) pending a Commission decision on its proposed replacement, the VMS-100Si.

113. Japan noted that lengthy discussion on the VMS-100Si at TCC16 and TCC17, stating that its concerns were raised over these units because they are based on the AIS system, and signal transmission can be disrupted from time to time. Japan stated it was not confident at that time of their acceptability, and the Philippines did not submit additional information to TCC18. Japan noted that its technical staff were not present at WCPFC19, and requested that the Philippines provide additional information to TCC so that its proposal could be considered.

114. The issue was further discussed under Agenda Item 6.3.1.

**NC18 Proposal for Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore (WCPFC19-2022-17)**

115. The NC Chair introduced **WCPFC19-2022-17 (Attachment A)** *Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore*. He stated that the stock is not likely overfished and is not likely experiencing overfishing. The NC proposed the following:

- i)  $TRP = F_{45\%}$ , which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results in the stock producing 45% of spawning potential ratio (SPR)
- ii) a threshold reference point ( $SSB_{threshold} = 30\% SSB_{current, F=0}$ ), which is 30% of the dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass
- iii)  $LRP = 14\% SSB_{current, F=0}$ , which is 14% of the dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass.

The NC Chair recommended that the Commission review and hopefully adopt the proposal.

116. The issue was further discussed under Agenda Item 6.5.2.

**NC18 Proposal for a CMM for North Pacific Swordfish (WCPFC19-2022-17)**

117. The NC Chair introduced **WCPFC19-2022-17 (Attachment B)** *Draft Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Swordfish*, and noted that there is currently no CMM for this stock, which is in good condition (not likely overfished and not likely experiencing overfishing). The NC introduced the CMM in order to maintain effort at the current level, and recommended that the Commission review and hopefully adopt the proposal.

118. The issue was further addressed under Agenda Item 6.7.1.

<p>119. All proposals tabled for WCPFC19 consideration were introduced and proponents of proposals were encouraged to discuss them at the margins of the meeting and to report back their progress to plenary.</p>
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**AGENDA ITEM 5 — SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES**

**5.1 Implementation of Article 30 of WCPFC Convention and CMM 2013-07 (SIDS special requirements)**

120. The Chair noted that paragraph 20 of CMM 2013-07 requires an annual review of implementation of this measure, and referenced **WCPFC19-2022-IP01** *Summary from Part 2 CMM 2013-07 paragraph 19 annual reports*. The report was taken as read. The Executive Director noted there was no discussion in the ODF.

121. Tonga on behalf of FFA members thanked all CCMs that provided reports on their assistance to SIDS. They noted that the full recognition of the special requirements of SIDS is a cornerstone of fisheries governance in the region, and stated that during the negotiations of the WCPF Convention, FFA members noted that Article 30 is the “foundation” upon which the convention is built upon, which underscores the importance that FFA members attach to the full recognition of the special requirements of SIDS. They stated that to appreciate the significance of the agenda item to SIDS, it was only necessary to look at the map of



the region, which shows States with responsibility to manage fisheries over vast areas of ocean with associated development aspirations. FFA members noted they had introduced initiatives such as CMM 2013-06 (the criteria to be applied when considering proposals for measures) and CMM 2013-07 (overarching principles in support of the full recognition of our special requirements). To improve the implementation of CMM 2013-06 FFA members stated they have repeatedly called for accurate and complete assessments on the impacts of proposals that take into account the views of SIDS. They noted with appreciation the efforts that CCMs have taken to provide comprehensive 2013-06 assessments to accompany proposals to WCPFC19, while noting an assessment that is inaccurate and incomplete will not comply with the binding requirements in that measure. FFA members noted the significance of CMM 2013-07, which provides principles that also take into account provisions in the UNFSA. They invited other CCMs to take into account CMM 2013-07 when providing their reports. They stated that Article 30 of the Convention and CMM 2013-06 and 13-07 provide a robust framework for the full recognition of SIDS' special requirements. They noted that it is up to SIDS to determine what their special requirements are, and to determine their domestic development aspirations. They continued to call on developed CCMs to provide targeted assistance that is aligned with SIDS' domestic development aspirations and SIDS' special requirements.

122. The EU stated it had submitted a delegation paper (WCPFC19-2022-DP13) detailing its contributions, focussing on the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme, which it stated is the EU's flagship program in the Pacific, implemented by FFA, SPC, SPREP, and USP. The EU stated the programme was being extended until April 2025. The EU invited CCMs to visit the program [website](#) and to engage with the implementing agencies. The EU noted that CMM 2013-06 was agreed to by all CCMs, but stated that implementation had proved challenging. It suggested that there is scope for clarifying the process to enable CCMs to understand, address, and submit proposals that meet the respective requirements.

123. Japan stated that it fully recognizes the importance of the criteria in CMM 2013-06. When submitting a proposal, Japan stated it looks carefully at the checklist in CMM 2013-06, and will continue to do so. Japan stated it appreciated the opportunities to exchange views with FFA and PNA members, and noted that following several years of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a great pleasure to be at WCPFC19 in person. Japan stated it would like to maintain and enhance its close relationship with SIDS and actively engage in a dialogue for achieving the goal of conservation and sustainable use of the highly migratory species. Japan stated it has been providing SIDS with overseas development assistance for infrastructure and capacity building through the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) of Japan. During 2011–2020, Japan provided about ¥214 billion in development assistance, including fishery-related projects to Pacific Island countries. Fishery-related projects cover conservation and management of highly migratory species and assistance to small-scale fishermen. Also, at the Ninth Pacific Leaders Meeting held virtually in July 2021, Japan announced its commitment to the continuation of its robust development assistance and more than 5,500 people-to-people exchanges and human resource development for the next three years. Japan stated that in 2008 it established the Japan Trust Fund within WCPFC, which has been providing capacity building assistance to SIDS for improving fishery statistics and management. Japan stated that a call for proposals was sent to CCMs on November 18 (WCPFC Circular No 2022/88), and expressed the hope that SIDS CCMs would actively consider their applications by the deadline of 15 December. Japan stated it has also supported SIDS since 2008 through the Japan Promotion Fund (JPF) via OFCF. SIDS can use the JPF for various purposes such as enhancement of management capacity. In November 2017, in response to the strong request from SIDS, OFCF signed an agreement with FFA to renew the term of the JPF for another 10 years until 2027. Also, in 2020, OFCF increased the size of the JPF. Japan stated that it sincerely hopes that these programs and funds will contribute to fishery development of SIDS.

124. Korea stated that it takes its obligations related to the special requirements of SIDS very seriously. It stated it provided information on this in its Annual Report submitted to TCC18, and noted that its national

budget for various overseas development assistance has been increasing. Korea stated it looks forward to strengthening its cooperative relationship with SIDS.

125. The USA stated it is committed to building the capacity of SIDS and territories and takes seriously its responsibility under CMM 2013-07 to report to the Commission on these.

126. WCPFC19 reaffirmed the importance of the implementation of Article 30 and CMM 2013-07 and recognized the importance of assessing the impact of proposals on SIDS according to CMM 2013-06.

## 5.2 Updated Strategic Investment Plan

127. The Updated Strategic Investment Plan (**WCPFC19-2022-08**) was posted on the WCPFC19 ODF (as Topic B), where no comments were received. The Chair noted that the specific purpose of the plan is to match capacity needs and requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies.

128. Fiji on behalf of FFA members thanked the Secretariat for the report. They noted and supported the updated Strategic Investment Plan, and stated their understanding that there may be other needs identified by CCMs during TCC19's review of dCMRs when developing the Provisional CMR.

129. The Commission approved the updated Strategic Investment Plan for 2022 (**WCPFC19-2022-09**). (**Attachment F**).

## AGENDA ITEM 6 — WCPO TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCKS

### 6.1 General Overview of Status of WCPO stocks

130. Dr. John Hampton (SPC) made a presentation on recent fisheries information and the status of tuna and billfish stocks assessed by SPC. As references he noted **WCPFC19-2022-IP02\_rev1** *The Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fishery:2021 Overview and Status of Stocks* and the [WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2021](#). Total tuna catch for 2021 is estimated to have been 2.64 million tonnes, about average for the past decade. The purse seine catch in 2021 likewise was estimated to be at the average level of the past decade, but the provisional longline catch in 2021 is the lowest since 1991. Purse seine effort, as estimated from VMS data, has been stable with 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to end October) effort, very similar to the 2012-2021 average. Longline effort, as indicated by VMS, for 2020 and 2021 was also very similar to the 2012-2021 average, but effort in 2022 looks to be tracking at about 15% higher than in recent years. In the tropical longline fishery, bigeye and yellowfin catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) has been stable if not slightly increasing over the past decade, after earlier declines. In the South Pacific longline fishery, albacore CPUE has declined steadily and continuously since the late 1990s, with the 2021 CPUE the lowest seen in the fishery for several decades. All four key tuna stocks (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and South Pacific albacore) are currently neither overfished nor is overfishing estimated to be occurring. However, the ratio of spawning biomass to the unfished level has continued to fall in the case of skipjack and South Pacific albacore, while some stabilisation has occurred for yellowfin and bigeye. Future projections using status quo fishing conditions indicate that overfishing conditions are unlikely to occur for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye, but there is a small probability of the LRP being breached for South Pacific albacore in the short term because of a recent estimated decline in recruitment. Recent assessments of Southwest Pacific swordfish and Southwest Pacific striped marlin indicate that the former is not overfished and overfishing is unlikely to be occurring, but

Southwest Pacific striped marlin is estimated to be in an overfished state with recent fishing mortality being close to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) level. Considerable uncertainty is associated with both of these assessments.

131. Indonesia stated the presentation and associated paper were very useful in understanding the fishery in the WCPO, and inquired, with reference to **WCPFC19-2022-IP02**, page 42, which CCM was responsible for the substantial catch of yellowfin in the western edge of the WCPFC Convention Area. The presenter indicated that this catch was attributable to Vietnam.

132. Japan stated that the stock status presentation indicated all species had been in a consistent decline since the 1970s in terms of stock status, but that the future projections indicate that status will be stable or improve, and asked why. Japan also requested that SPC provide the CPUE trend for longline fisheries north of 20°N, as done for areas 20°N to 10°S, and south of 10°S, noting that Japanese fishermen have suffered from poor CPUE, especially in the northern portion of the WCPFC Convention Area. SPC stated that the CPUE trend for the area north of 20°N could be provided, and would be posted on the meeting website. Regarding the perceived decline in stock status, Dr Hampton stated the projections are initially heavily influenced by recent recruitment, and as age classes move out then recruitment is determined by sampling from the historic past. He also noted that albacore is a special case, with a severe recruitment decline that was based on the weakest part of the data series, and not necessarily reflective of actual recruitment.

133. Dr. Shui-Kai Chang, ISC Vice-Chair, provided a brief presentation on the stock status of the Pacific bluefin tuna and the NP swordfish. He stated that ISC has conducted an update assessment on Pacific bluefin tuna and two benchmark assessments on western and north Pacific Ocean (WCNPO) striped marlin and North Pacific Ocean (NPO) blue shark in 2022. For Pacific bluefin tuna, model structure used was the same as 2020 assessment, with minor changes and errors corrected and additional 2 years data inputs. No biomass-based and fishing mortality-based reference points have been adopted for Pacific bluefin tuna. Relative to potential reference points adopted for other tunas, the assessment results suggested that the stock is overfished but overfishing is not occurring. The Pacific bluefin tuna stock is recovering faster than expected, and the spawning biomass reached its initial rebuilding target in 2019, 5 years earlier than originally anticipated by the RFMOs, and it is very likely the second rebuilding target (20%SSB<sub>0</sub> with 60% probability) will be achieved (probabilities > 90%) by 2029. ISC recommended continuing monitoring of recruitment and spawning biomass as well as research on a recruitment index. The results of projections from sensitivity models with lower productivity assumptions show that this conservation information is robust to uncertainty in stock productivity. SC18 noted that the results of updated stock assessment, which suggest that the measures incorporated in CMM 2021-02 appear to be working as intended. SC18 recommended that the Commission exercise a precautionary approach when it considers any revisions to the current CMM considering that the stock is still in a depleted state, and further welcomed ISC's effort on further investigation of structural uncertainty to incorporate it in future management advice. For WCNPO striped marlin, a benchmark assessment was planned and conducted in 2022 with several improvements to address data and model uncertainties, which were endorsed by the ISC Plenary (ISC22). However, ISC considers this modelling to be a work in progress because of a significant issue with the choice of growth curve, which does not fully represent stock productivity. ISC22 therefore approved a work plan to explore the growth curve and complete a benchmark assessment for 2023. In this regard, ISC reiterated the stock status and conservation information based on 2019 assessment, which show that under current conditions the stock is likely overfished and is likely subject to overfishing relative to MSY-based reference points. If the stock continues to experience recruitment consistent with the short-term recruitment scenario (2012-2016), then catches must be reduced to 60% of the WCPFC catch quota from CMM 2010-01 (3,397 t) to 1,359 t in order to achieve a 60% probability of rebuilding to 20%SSB<sub>0</sub> by 2022. In response to a request of WCPFC18, the ISC concluded that reference points for WCNPO striped marlin will be provided with reference to MSY and with reference to 20%SSB<sub>F=0</sub> averaged over the recent 20-year time frame (2001-2020). ISC also recognized uncertainty in some assessment inputs and some conflicts in the data; when developing a conservation and

management measure to rebuild the resource, it is recommended that these issues be recognized and carefully considered. The SC18 concurred with the ISC22 that the assessment is a work in progress and looks forward to the ISC billfish working group (BILLWG) workplan to explore the growth curve and complete a benchmark assessment for approval at ISC23. SC18 agreed that the conservation and management advice for WCNPO striped marlin will be carried forward from 2019.

134. The EU noted that the WCNPO striped marlin stock assessment had been deferred to 2023. The EU stated that this had happened for several years, which impacts the ability to take action on this stock. The EU noted that the data conflicts and data gaps issues had been flagged for several years, and asked whether these had been indeed overcome. The presenter stated that the benchmark assessment could not be completed because of issues regarding the choice of the growth curve. He noted that the benchmark assessment could likely be completed next year. Japan stated that the BILLWG is currently holding a meeting in Japan, and the specific issue of the choice of the growth curve was being discussed at that meeting. Japan noted that ISC was well aware of the need to provide results, and fully expected that it would provide an updated assessment in 2023.

135. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the presentations by the Scientific Services Provider and the ISC on the status of WCPFC tuna and billfish stocks.

## 6.2 Skipjack, Bigeye and Yellowfin

136. The Chair introduced this agenda by highlighting three issues: harvest strategy-related issues, including the MP for skipjack; TRPs for the three species; and a review of the current TTM. She stated that the meeting would also consider a process for negotiation of a new or revised TTM in 2023. She noted the following document prepared by the Secretariat: **WCPFC19-2022-09** *Reference document for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna for the review of CMM 2021-01 and development of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06*.

### 6.2.1 Harvest Strategy Issues

#### 6.2.1.1 Update on review of target reference point for skipjack

137. Dr. Graham Pilling (SPC-OFP) gave a brief presentation to provide context to the consideration of a TRP for skipjack, with reference to **WCPFC19-2022-10** *Evaluations to support decisions on the WCPO skipjack tuna target reference point based upon the 2022 stock assessment*. This provides the results of SC18-requested analyses to update **SC18-MI-WP-09** (Table 2) to include evaluations based on the 2022 skipjack assessment using the same settings as in that paper and include the projected outcomes for a set of candidate TRP options ranging between 40% to 60% depletion ratios ( $SB/SB_{F=0}$ ). The baseline future fishing levels were namely: i) 2012 effort level for purse seine fisheries (SC18 request); ii) 2001-2004 average effort level for pole and line fisheries (SMD01 request); and iii) 2016-2018 average catch level for small scale fisheries in Region 5 of the model (Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam. Assumption consistent with **SC18-MI-WP-09**). To achieve candidate depletion levels, the future purse seine effort levels only were raised or lowered. Under ‘baseline’ fishing levels the WCPO skipjack stock is predicted, on average, to fall very slightly compared to ‘recent’ levels (being the 2018-2021 average spawning biomass depletion =  $51\%SB_{F=0}$ ), to  $50\%SB_{F=0}$ . This is 17% below 2012 depletion levels ( $61\%SB_{F=0}$ ). Examining the ten other median depletion levels requested by SC18: i) depletion levels of 40% to  $48\%SB_{F=0}$  imply increases in purse seine effort from 2012 levels by 10% to 52% and imply declines of 6 to 21% in spawning biomass depletion compared to recent assessed levels; ii) depletion levels of 52% to  $60\%SB_{F=0}$  imply decreases in purse seine effort from 2012 levels by 10% to 40% and imply increases in spawning biomass depletion compared to recent assessed levels.

138. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA members, thanked SPC for updating Table 2 in **SC18-2022-WP09** to include evaluations based on the new 2022 skipjack tuna assessment. They noted that the table was very helpful in informing the review of the TRP for skipjack tuna and should be the cornerstone for discussions on this topic. They stated that the results of the updated analysis show that the two values being used to calculate the TRP in the interim MP for skipjack tuna proposed by FFA members in **WCPFC19-2022-DP04** would result in no change in purse seine effort from 2012 levels and only a minor (-2%) change in spawning biomass depletion from recent 2018-2021 levels. They also noted that this TRP is consistent with the previous interim TRP agreed to at WCPFC12. It has zero risk of breaching the LRP, and includes an updated stock-related element, which takes into account the effects of increases in reported skipjack tuna catches in Indonesia and the Philippines, changes to the TTM in 2017, and changes in the skipjack assessment model. They stated that it will also be the most precautionary TRP for any major tropical tuna stock in the world. FFA members stated that for these reasons they are confident that the adoption of this TRP and the interim MP for skipjack tuna proposed in **WCPFC19-2022-DP04** would go a long way to ensuring that the biological, economic and social objectives of this critically important stock are achieved.

139. The EU inquired regarding the implications of the fact that the average baseline 2001-2004 pole and line effort levels are 159% greater than in 2021. SPC stated if the projection assumes that effort will be equal to the 2001-2004 level, while actual effort is less, this suggests the stock will be less depleted than the projections indicate. The EU inquired how precautionary this is, is it significant? SPC stated that if 2021 levels were run into future it would get to about 55% of unfished levels.

140. Japan stated that in the 2019 stock assessment the depletion level in 2012 was 42%, and the 2016–2018 depletion level was also around 42%, suggesting it could be used as a baseline. The current stock assessment indicates a depletion level in 2012 of around 61%, with 2018-2021 depletion of about 50%. Japan noted that this suggests a different situation and trend, and inquired why these changes occurred between the 2019 and 2022 stock assessments, and which stock assessment SPC considered more trustworthy? Japan noted that references were now made to both, and stated that the proposed harvest strategy or MP all are based on the 2019 stock assessment.

141. SPC stated that significant changes were made between the 2019 and 2022 stock assessments, and that SPC considers the 2022 stock assessment to be an improvement over the 2019 stock assessment; the 2022 assessment shows a pattern of decline that was not apparent in the 2019 assessment. SPC stated that the 2022 stock assessment includes a purse seine index of abundance, which may have contributed to the depletion trend in that stock assessment. SPC stated that it was necessary to separate the full stock assessment from the work that underpins harvest strategy, which are different. The stock assessment used in the harvest strategy looks at the past, while the stock assessment models seek to capture future uncertainties, with other models on effort creep and recruitment uncertainty included in the projections. Therefore the 2022 stock assessment is considered the best available science in terms of assessing overall stock status, while the 2019 models are used for a different purpose in the harvest strategy work.

142. Tuvalu on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau thanked SPC for the table of recalibrated candidate TRPs and related explanation based on the 2022 assessment, and stated it was what they requested at WCPFC18, SC18 and SMD01. They noted the significant changes in the table, and stated their understanding that these results from changes in the skipjack fisheries and the science, and stated that these were broadly in the direction that PNA expected when they requested the table; in particular they were concerned about the effects on the potential TRP of increases in skipjack catches since the previous assessment. These changes include the increased catches in archipelagic waters of some developing coastal states, the effects of the changes to the TTM in 2017, and the effect of overfishing of high seas purse seine effort limits in recent years. They noted that the changes would require a large reduction in purse seine effort with associated economic costs. The overall result indicates that it is no longer reasonable to base the TRP, wholly or partially, on maintaining 2012 stock conditions. They stated that the fishery has moved on and consideration

of a TRP has to take into account the changes that have occurred. Given that the stock is assessed as one of the healthiest tropical tuna stocks, they stated that in their view it makes no sense to be considering large cuts in purse seine effort in response to the changes that have occurred, stating that would be unfair to the SIDS in whose waters purse seining largely takes place, and those involved in the operations of the purse seine fishery. On that basis, PNA and Tokelau, with their FFA colleagues, stated they had proposed an updated TRP in the draft skipjack management procedure. It is based on maintaining 2012 purse seine effort and recent stock conditions in 2018-2021. This would maintain a TRP of 50% spawning biomass depletion ratio using the 2022 assessment results. This approach would preserve the existing fishing opportunities for the purse seine fishery, and recent stock conditions for all involved in the skipjack fisheries, while taking account of the changes in the fishery that have already occurred. They stated it is consistent with the approach previously used to determine the interim skipjack TRP; avoids potential additional impacts on other fisheries for skipjack, including artisanal fisheries; and should generally avoid potential additional impacts on other target stocks and non-target species. In addition, it will be the most precautionary TRP of any major tropical tuna stock globally. They stated that they looked forward to positive discussions on this proposed TRP.

143. Japan, in response to the preceding interventions by other CCMs, stated its understanding that the current operating procedures and estimation models are based on 2019 stock assessment, which estimated 42% depletion level in 2012 which was a candidate TRP proposed by PNA, and observed that if the Commission continues to use this model, then recent depletion may be roughly equal to 2012 levels, meaning fishing effort may need not to be reduced. However, Japan stated that according to the results of the 2022 stock assessment, recent depletion is far lower than 2012 level and there may be a need to reduce effort in some fisheries. Japan stated that SC agreed on use of the 2019 stock assessment, and asked if that means the estimation model would continue to be based on 2019 model for 3 years?

144. SPC stated that the role of the TRP in the harvest strategy is to provide an indicator of performance to indicate whether the harvest strategy will keep the stock around a given level into the future. The approach suggested by FFA would recalculate values in the harvest strategy, but this would not change the HCR or the estimation method.

145. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the presentation by the Scientific Services Provider on the target reference point for skipjack tuna.

#### **6.2.1.2 Review of additional work tasked by the SMD01 and adoption of management procedures for skipjack tuna.**

146. Dr. Rob Scott (SPC-OFP) presented **WCPFC19-2022-11A\_rev 1** (*Updates to management procedure evaluations for WCPO skipjack and PIMPLE since SMD01*), which briefly summarises the discussions of the SMD01 and presented the results of additional analyses requested at both SC18 and SMD01 to progress the development of a harvest strategy for WCPO skipjack. The requested work included the evaluation of HCRs 6 and 9, including a 10% constraint on changes in catch and effort levels similar to that previously applied to HCRs 1, 2 and 5; the revision of baseline catch and effort levels assumed for the evaluations (purse seine 2012 effort, pole and line 2001-04 effort, and the domestic fisheries in assessment region 5 on 2016-18 catch); and the evaluation of additional ‘robustness’ scenarios to investigate the performance of candidate MPs under persistent low recruitment in the future. In addition, the SMD01 requested further information on which fisheries would be exempt from the control of the management procedure and requested that a number of revisions be made to the PIMPLE software that was developed to allow members to interrogate the results of the evaluations and to assist in the process of selecting a preferred MP. The results of all of the requested analyses are presented in **WCPFC19-2022-11A\_rev 1** and specific information on the performance of the five candidate management procedures is available on the interactive

online app [https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/PIMPLE\\_WCPFC19/](https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/PIMPLE_WCPFC19/). The presentation also noted that a ‘dry run’ analysis had been conducted (**WCPFC19-2022-11B**) to illustrate the hypothetical implementation of a skipjack management procedure in 2022 using data up to 2021. It was noted that, if an MP was adopted at WCPFC19, this process would be repeated, using updated data, in 2023.

147. PNG on behalf of FFA members thanked SPC for undertaking the additional work tasked by the SMD01 to help the Commission make informed decisions on adoption of an MP for skipjack, noting it had informed development of the interim MP for skipjack proposed by FFA members in **WCPFC19-2022-DP04**. They noted with interest that all five MPs retained by the SMD01 result in the spawning depletion ratio being slightly above the target in the short to medium-term and at, or very close to, the target in the long-term. They stated that all five MPs also perform well in terms of stock sustainability and maintaining the fishery’s overall stability, but HCR 9 which drives FFA’s proposed interim MP is the most effective at maintaining effort around the baseline in the short term. They stated they consider this a desirable characteristic because it preserves the existing fishing opportunities for the purse seine fishery, and is one reason FFA members chose HCR 9. They stated there are other reasons for their choice of HCR 9, but invited initial responses from CCMs on the proposed interim MP, noting their intent to have it implemented from 2023.

148. Indonesia inquired, regarding Table 5, whether the handline catch in 2021 was 0 (no catch), and if so why it was included. Regarding the HCR, Indonesia stated that No. 2 and No. 9 appeared quite similar in terms of outcome. It inquired if there were factors restricting the choice of HCR. SPC stated it would be problematic to adopt more than one HCR, and that SPC proposed to have a single HCR. SPC noted the performance of the HCRs (2 and 9) is quite similar, with differences in the performance indicators.

149. Tuvalu on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau thanked FFA members for introducing the proposal, and thanked those who contributed to the discussions on harvest strategies and on a skipjack MP in particular. They noted that the proposal draws heavily on the discussion and outcomes from SC and the recent SMD01, and that it had been greatly helped by the various capacity building exercises supported by the Commission, offering their thanks in particular the staff involved at SPC, led by Dr Graham Pilling, and Dr Rob Campbell, convenor of the Management Issues theme at SC. The PNA and Tokelau also thanked the Chair, for her support of the Commission’s Harvest Strategy work, including as co-Chair of SMD01 along with the SC Chair. They stated that the proposal was prepared in the spirit of what PNA and Tokelau understand is the essence of the Harvest Strategy approach, the aim of which is to improve decision-making by having pre-agreed rules for how fishing will be adjusted as the status of stocks changes, and taking better account of uncertainty. In that direction, they specifically tried to develop an interim MP based on the status quo, that does not advantage or disadvantage any CCMs or sector. They stated their hope other CCMs would find this proposal useful and looked forward to their consideration of it.

150. CCMs undertook further discussions of the skipjack MP in the SWG.

151. The Chair of the SWG, Ms Berry Muller (RMI), subsequently advised on 3 December that consensus had been reached on the draft CMM on a Management Procedure for Skipjack Tuna.

152. WCPFC19 adopted CMM 2022-01 <i>Conservation and Management Measure on a Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna. (Attachment G)</i>
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### 6.2.1.3 Agree on the target reference point for bigeye and yellowfin

153. Dr. Steven Hare (SPC-OFP) presented **WCPFC19-2022-12 WCPO bigeye and yellowfin TRP evaluations (with updated 2022 skipjack assessment results)**, which provides the results of SC18-requested



analyses to update **SC17-MI-WP-01** to include multispecies implications, and updates results based on the 2022 skipjack assessment. The report presents the consequences for each stock and fishery of SC16-defined stock depletion levels ( $SB/SB_{F=0}$ ) consistent with specified historical conditions and stock risk levels (paragraphs 76-78 of the **SC16 Outcomes Document**). Projections were conducted under two recruitment alternatives for bigeye; one based on the “recent” stock-recruitment relationship (last 10 years) and one on long-term recruitment (over entire assessment). Yellowfin projections were all based on long-term recruitment. Under baseline (2016-2018 average) fishing conditions, both bigeye (both recruitment alternatives) and yellowfin stocks were projected to increase relative to 2012-2015 average levels, and either remain at recent (2015-2018 average) levels (yellowfin) or increase (bigeye). Six SC-requested scenarios were considered for all three sets of projections; three were based on achieving a depletion level in 2048 equal to the 2012-2015 average (equal to and +/- 10% depletion). One scenario was to achieve 2048 depletion equal to the 2000-2004 average. Final SC16-specified depletion levels related to those equivalent to a 10% and 20% risk of falling below the LRP. Results for all three sets of projections are provided in tables in the report. Results provided included namely i) Change in  $SB/SB_{F=0}$  from 2012-2015 and recent (2015-2018) averages; ii) Risk = percentage of projections where  $SB/SB_{F=0} < LRP$ ; iii) Multispecies impact (Equivalent depletion for other species, i.e., skipjack + bigeye/yellowfin + albacore); iv) Median equilibrium yield (% of MSY); and v) Relative YPR and SPR (to base fishing level). Equivalent depletion levels for South Pacific albacore were 5-10 percentage points below 2012-2015 average across all scenarios; equivalent skipjack depletion could be higher, lower, or equal to 2012-2015 depletion depending on scenario.

154. Australia on behalf of FFA members noted that the depletion levels for skipjack tuna have recently been updated at each of the specified TRPs for yellowfin and bigeye tuna following the adoption of the new 2022 skipjack assessment, yet SC18 was unable to provide further advice or recommendations to the Commission on TRPs for these two important tuna stocks. The decision on TRPs for these stocks is critical and has major implications for the management of our fisheries. They stated that yellowfin and bigeye tuna are central stocks for FFA members, important in both purse seine and longline fisheries, and having a clear understanding of the trade-offs associated with potential TRPs is essential. Given that more time will be needed for the Commission to come to an agreement on TRPs for both yellowfin and bigeye tuna, FFA members recommended rescheduling the selection of TRPs for these two stocks, perhaps to 2024, while the Commission continues to develop the multi-species modelling framework and other work such as the consideration of candidate MPs for the tropical longline fisheries. FFA members reiterated their commitment to progressing harvest strategy work and stated they look forward to progressing the discussions on developing suitable TRPs for yellowfin and bigeye.

155. The Chair noted the lack of agreement on the setting of TRP, asked stated that this should be taken into account when updating the workplan (addressed under Agenda Item 7.1).

156. WCPFC19 noted the report from the Scientific Services Provider on a target reference point for bigeye and yellowfin tuna (**WCPFC19-2022-12**). WCPFC19 agreed on the need for further work prior to considering target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin tuna and noted that the Commission will continue to work on these issues in the coming years.

## 6.3 Review of CMM 2021-01

### 6.3.1 Evaluation and review of CMM 2021-01

157. The Chair noted that the relevant reference papers for this agenda item are working papers **WCPFC19-2022-09 Reference Document for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna for the Review of CMM**



158. Dr. Paul Hamer (SPC-OFP) presented on the evaluation of CMM 2021-01 with reference to **WCPFC19-2022-13\_rev1**. The presentation provided a brief background on the purpose and scope of the CMM 2021-01, the evaluation of which is required each year while it is in operation. This was followed by a description of the approach to conducting the evaluation, the main results and summary of the implications. The main updates to the evaluation were that results from new stock projections for skipjack using the 2022 assessment were included, and the latest data for year 2021 were added to Table 9 on the observed FAD set and longline catch scalars and the various tables in the appendices. The recent observed scalars for FAD sets and longline catches were less than the scalars predicted under the CMM based on the 2016-18 baseline period. The evaluation indicated that the CMM provisions, notably the FAD closures and longline catch limits, were consistent with meeting the interim stock status objectives noted in paras 11-13. It was noted that new stock assessments for yellowfin and bigeye will be conducted in 2023, and that CMM 2021-01 will expire in February 2024.

159. The EU posed four questions: (i) Purse seine effort and longline catch are expressed as scalars of the levels reported in 2016–2018. What is the rationale for not using real 2019–2021 information for this simulation instead of trying to predict what the fleet would have done relative to 2016-2018 conditions? The EU stated that it made sense when evaluating the measure some years ago, but now it is not clear. SPC stated that the provisions of the CMM came into effect in 2019; the scalars are relative to conditions that were in place prior to that. (ii) The EU stated that it did not understand the following comment in the last paragraph in section 5, and asked SPC to explain: “*We also assume that the potential increase in purse seine fishing effort permissible under recently nominated EEZ effort levels will not occur, under the logic that we do not expect EEZs where purse seine effort has been less than 1500 days annually over recent years to attract additional effort*”. SPC stated that as the EU implied, there is scope for effort to increase, and that one scenario that could be run would be with effort at maximum level for all limits. (iii) The EU stated that in Attachment 2 of CMM 2021-01, there is a limit of 2,282 days in the high seas (for CCMs with limits, excluding the Philippines), and the sum of days that actually took place in 2021 for limited CCMs shown in Table 13 is of 1,147 days. However, according to Table 14, row 10, it seems the number of sets reported in 2021 is higher than in both the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios. The EU inquired whether that interpretation was correct? If so, how is that? The number of fishing days was half that predicted in the pessimistic scenario but the number of sets was significantly higher; is there an issue in reporting or has setting frequency increased? In reply SPC stated that the scalar of 1.06 is for the entire fishery. The high sea component is a very small component of the FAD sets, and changes in the days in the HS has very little effect. (iv) Regarding the bottom row in Table 14 (the impact of removing the FAD sets from non-limited CCMs in the high seas), the EU stated its understanding that this estimation is based on 2016-2018 conditions, and inquired if this was correct, noting that if so, it would like to know how it compares with the real 2019-2021 data. SPC stated that recent rates (2019-2021) are used for the calculations.

160. Japan observed that WCPFC adopted the first tropical tuna CMM in 2008, with a series of subsequent renewals and modifications, and that SPC has provided multiple projections over this period, all of which show a declining stock status trend for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack, despite the series of TTMs that have been in place. Japan suggested one reason may be because the evaluations do not take effort creep of purse seine or other fisheries into account, and stated that its delegation had urged many times that effort creep be included. Japan stated its understanding that effort creep is not included in the projections discussed at WCPFC19. Japan stated that it is known that effort creep has occurred over time, and suggested that it could possibly be estimated based on past effort creep. Japan also suggested that possible factors other than effort creep could also be considered. SPC agreed that effort creep is a topic of interest, and stated it was addressed in the recent skipjack stock assessment. SPC stated that it lacks good estimates of effort creep to project into the future, and prefers to run effort creep scenarios on a strong information base. SPC stated it

has some measures planned to estimate effort creep, which would be discussed in SC. SPC stated that more work on this is needed, and emphasized it is reluctant to suggest that reliable estimates of effort creep could be made based on existing data.

161. Cook Islands on behalf of FFA members thanked SPC for the ongoing and very useful analysis, stating it provides a clear update on the performance of the management actions in achieving the objectives set out for the current TTM in paragraphs 11-13, which are adequately achieving the management objective. They stated this would be very useful in preparations for the review of the TTM in 2023. They stated that while the CMM is adequately achieving its management objectives from a technical perspective, FFA members find that the distribution of benefits accrued from these fisheries are still very uneven. They stated that the coastal states who are stewards to most of the resources remain very dependent on these fisheries for economic growth and food security, but see the benefits skewed towards those outside the region, and seek a more equitable distribution the benefits, economically and socially in the near future.

162. New Zealand stated it supported the work by SPC to further examine the effort creep dynamics, and referenced its comments at SC18 that focussed on some concerns on model data conflicts, which included the concern that effort creep had not been taken into account adequately. New Zealand encouraged further work on this.

163. RMI stated that in looking at a new TTM it was important to recognize the objectives of the current TTM are largely working. RMI supported the comments by Cook Islands. RMI also noted the need to support CCMs' development aspirations.

164. Indonesia thanked SPC for the work and presentation, and stated that while the indication is that CMM 2021-01 would likely achieve its objectives as applied to the entire WCPFC Convention Area the situation in Region 5 situation was quite different, and asked whether there was any specific information regarding the likelihood of achieving the interim objectives in Region 5. SPC stated that the evaluations are structured around the objective of the CMM, which addresses the entire stock. An evaluation at a subregional scale requires determining how to structure the analysis. SPC noted that there are no objectives at the subregional scale, and stated if subregional evaluations were desired, it would have to consider how to do this.

165. Kiribati directed the Commission's attention to **SC18-MI-IP-02**, which examined effort creep in the purse seine fishery and found very little evidence of it based on the currently available data.

166. Nauru, on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau, noted that the update on the performance of the TTM shows that the measure is projected to continue to achieve its objectives, and stated that thanks to the TTM, tropical tuna stocks are healthy, and the major tropical fisheries are stable. They noted that the next step, as CCMs had agreed, is to put in place longer-term arrangements in the form of harvest strategies. They stated they look forward to the Commission taking a major step forward at this session by adopting a skipjack MP. However, they noted gaps and weaknesses in the current management framework, especially for management of fishing in the high seas, which is less well controlled and far less effectively monitored than fishing in national waters, and stated it would be difficult to fully apply longer-term management arrangements until the weakness in high seas management is addressed.

167. China stated its understanding that skipjack is more productive than other tuna and more sensitive to environmental impacts, as reflected in the stock assessments. China inquired whether the evaluation considers climate change, especially as relates to recruitment? SPC stated that the evaluations do not consider climate change or recruitment relationships; they reflect the status quo or long-term recruitment.

168. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the report from the Scientific Services Provider on the evaluation and review of CMM 2021-01 (**WCPFC19-2022-13\_rev1**).

#### **Philippines letter to the Commission on VMS (WCPFC19-2022-DP16)**

169. The Philippines reviewed the issues raised in its delegation paper **WCPFC19-2022-DP16** as introduced under Agenda Item 4.

170. During the ensuing discussion CCMs supported a 1-year extension of the replacement period for the ARGOS units, but stressed to the Philippines that it should ensure it either obtained Commission approval for the VMS 100Si or another unit prior to the expiration of the 1-year extension, as it would not be renewed.

171. WCPFC19 agreed to the request from the Philippines for a limited extension of no longer than 12 months for the replacement of ARGOS units covering only the support vessels that are operating in High Seas Pocket 1. WCPFC19 indicated that no further extension would be agreed, and that Philippines needed to address the type approval of VMS 100Si.

#### **6.3.1.1 Review of results from the FAD Management Options IWG**

172. The Chair stated that the Commission would consider the aspects of the report of the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group (FADMO-IWG) that relate to the FAD provisions of CMM 2021-01.

173. The FADMO-IWG Chair, Jamel James (FSM) summarised the work of the IWG, referencing **WCPFC19-2022-FADMgmtOptions** *Progress report of the FADMO-IWG on the preliminary review of available information on biodegradable FADS*.

174. French Polynesia acknowledged and supported the important and necessary work on biodegradable FADs, but emphasised the need for effort by WCPFC and IATTC to strengthen effective management of FADs, including by addressing FAD monitoring, identification, and tracking, and appropriate limits on the number of FADs. French Polynesia also asked that WCPFC and IATTC work together to stop the stranding of FADs on French Polynesia's shores, stating it was time to address these issues.

175. Tuvalu on behalf of FFA members acknowledged and thanked the FADMO-IWG Chair and participants for their work to date on addressing the issues of improving FAD development and management in the WCPO. FFA members reiterated their commitment to the work of the IWG and supported SC18's recommendation that FADMO-IWG continue its work on assessing the best options for the use of "biodegradable FADs". They noted that it is important to have a clear definition of "biodegradable FADs", and a timeline and steps for their introduction FADs. They encouraged constructive engagements by CCMs in the IWG. FFA members also supported TCC18's recommendation on revising the specifications in paragraph 17 of CMM 2021-01 to prohibit deploying FADs with mesh net after 1 January 2024. They noted the need to revisit the ROP minimum data fields related to the monitoring of non-entangling and biodegradable FAD implementation in the future, to improve related data quality, and stated their understanding that these would also be included in the work of the FADMO-IWG in 2023.

176. New Caledonia stated that FADs are tools used by purse seine fisheries, but that they should not become waste. New Caledonia stated that its EEZ contains remote reefs and islands that are highly protected, with thousands of seabirds, some of which are also protected. Abandoned FADs are found on these fully protected beaches, along with numerous buoys with batteries and electrical components. New Caledonia stated that this constitutes a type of pollution, and encouraged work to address both abandoned FADs and the issue of buoys.

177. Korea thanked the FADMO IWG for its work. It noted that IATTC and WCPFC are neighbouring RFMOs, and stated that it is important to ensure that CMMs adopted in those RFMOs are consistent and harmonised for vessels fishing in both convention areas. It supported the proposed use of the IATTC definition of biodegradable FADs, and supported the IWG recommendation.

178. The EU stated its understanding that COVID-19 did not allow the work of the FADMO-IWG to take place as expected, and expressed the hope that the pace of work could be accelerated. The EU noted that much scientific work was ongoing, and wanted to ensure that it was more thoroughly discussed at TCC and SC, and that the FADMO-IWG resume work in a more active manner in 2023. The EU stated it supported the proposed recommendation, but questioned whether this would take place at WCPFC19, or be delayed another year by being referred to the IWG. The Chair stated that this depended on how CCMs wished to proceed.

179. The USA thanked participants for continuing to progress work on FADs through the IWG, supported the recommendations made by SC and TCC, and Korea's statement concerning the need for compatible FAD definitions between IATTC and WCPFC.

180. French Polynesia supported the comment by the EU.

181. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the report of the Chair of the FAD Management Options IWG (**WCPFC19-2022-FADMgmtOptions**).

182. The Commission supported the SC18 and TCC18 recommendations for the IATTC definition of biodegradable and categories of biodegradable FADs. The Commission further noted that the FADMO-IWG will further examine the categories of biodegradable FADs, timeline for the stepwise introduction of biodegradable FADs, potential gaps and other relevant information.

183. The Commission tasked the FADMO-IWG with assistance from the Secretariat and the Scientific Services Provider to review the effectiveness of paragraph 22 of CMM 2021-01 and other FAD related issues and incorporate into its 2023 work plan.

### **6.3.1.2 Baseline period or limit of the Indonesian Large Fish Handline Fishery**

184. The Chair noted that WCPFC19 would consider the advice of SC18 and TCC18, and the information submitted by Indonesia, on the baseline period or limit for the Indonesian large fish handline fishery.

185. Indonesia introduced **WCPFC19-2022-DP11** *Options for a baseline of the "Large-fish" Handline Fishery fishing in Indonesia's EEZ (IEEZ) with vessels >30GT for the WCPFC Tropical Tuna Measure*. It noted that the issue was previously considered by SC17 and SC18, and TCC17 and TCC18. SC18 noted the information provided by Indonesia related to options for a baseline of the "large- fish" handline fishery

fishing in Indonesia's EEZ, and observed that the decision on the fishery's baseline is a policy decision, and that it did not believe it appropriate to provide any recommendations on a baseline, but recommended the Commission consider the information provided in the relevant SC18 papers and the comments in the SC18 ODF on the topic in its decision making. TCC18 observed that the decision on the baseline period should be made by the Commission, and invited Indonesia to provide additional information to WCPFC19, which Indonesia stated it had sought to do in **WCPFC19-2022-DP11**.

186. The USA stated it appreciated submission of **WCPFC19-2022-DP11** by Indonesia and that it understood the data challenges Indonesia faces. It noted that catch estimates were provided during 2013-2016, but that a transition to a new data collection system had subsequently prevented data submissions. The USA inquired whether Indonesia would provide additional data in the future?

187. Fiji on behalf of FFA members noted that this was not the first time the Commission had discussed this proposal and stated FFA members had raised concerns before. They inquired: i) Why is the proposal limit based on the 'highest catch' (2015 catches) within the proposed period of 2013-2016 which does not take into consideration that there is a need to limit the expansion of effort and catches from this fishery, given the lack of proper monitoring and reporting?; and ii) What is the status of recent catches, from 2017 to 2021, for this fishery?. FFA members noted their concern with the large limit proposed and the inference that a CCM can simply pick the highest catch estimated as a limit without making efforts to constrain the fishery in the way other CCMs must do.

188. Japan stated that during discussion at TCC meetings on this issue many information gaps had been noted, and sought clarification regarding data availability. Japan also stated it had concerns because Indonesia was seeking to set its catch limit based on a single year, while other members are managed based on an average of 2001-2004. Japan stated it was unfair to other CCMs if Indonesia choose one good year as a reference year. Japan also addressed the lack of catch data for years other than 2013-2016, and stated its interest in seeing recent catch data for the handline fishery, noting the importance of having accurate data on which to make a decision on a baseline. It noted that paragraph 11 of **WCPFC19-2022-DP11** states that prior to 2004 several companies conducted large fish handlining, and suggested that if it was correct, perhaps some accurate data should be obtainable from those several companies.

189. China inquired if Indonesia could provide catch by species, rather than grouped.

190. Tokelau on behalf of PNA and Tokelau noted that apart from the discussion on the level of this limit, there is the issue of how a skipjack MP will be applied to this fishery. The current limit is an aggregate limit of bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin catches. The limits on other commercial fisheries are similar. They noted that some work will clearly be needed on how the skipjack MP outputs will be applied to these fisheries.

191. The Chair encouraged Indonesia to consider CCMs' comments when providing additional data.

192. WCPFC19 noted the delegation paper submitted by Indonesia and the Scientific Services Provider on the Indonesian large fish handline fishery (**WCPFC19-2022-DP11**). There was no agreement to adopt the recommendation in the paper and WCPFC19 noted that it would appreciate receiving further information from Indonesia in response to questions raised at WCPFC19.

### 6.3.1.3 Process to negotiate a new or revised Tropical Tuna Measure

193. The Chair stated that there was a need for the Commission to determine a process to negotiate a new or revised TTM, as the current CMM expires on 15 February 2024. She stated that previous TTM negotiations had involved special several meetings: in 2021, there were two workshops chaired by the Commission Chair to discuss the revised measure (the current CMM 2021-01); in 2017, there were two intersessional sessions of the WCPFC to progress negotiations on a new TTM.

194. Niue on behalf of FFA members stated that in **WCPFC19-2022-DP03** (introduced under Agenda Item 4), FFA members sought WCPFC's commitment to a more focused process to work on the TTM in 2023 that prioritizes the issue of an overarching hard limit for purse seine effort on the high seas and a framework for the allocation of that limit. FFA members stressed that the TTM provides the critical implementing framework for the skipjack MP. Establishing an overall limit for high seas purse seine effort is critical to ensure the effective implementation of the MP and FFA members stated they see this as the most critical issue for resolution in 2023. Agreement of an allocation framework would also eliminate the need to rely on an exemption to protect the rights and interests of SIDS and territories to participate in the high seas purse seine fishery.

195. The USA stated it was open to a discussion on the best approach to developing the TTM, and that it would prefer a complete discussion that covers all components, including purse seine and longline, and suggested the need for a workplan.

196. RMI stated that the TTM largely achieved the desired objectives and outcome; while some adjustments might be needed, it suggested using the current TTM as a basis, as it largely works for all CCMs. Issues to address could then be identified. RMI stressed the need for early communication, and noted without it the discussion in 2023 would be very difficult. RMI also stressed the importance of CMM 2013-06 in that respect. It stated it looked forward to a new CMM that largely captures the elements of the current TTM and adjusts as needed in a way that is acceptable to all.

197. Chinese Taipei stated that there are many elements to be addressed, and supported a focus on all elements. It supported the comment made by the USA, as well as that by RMI, and noted the need to rebalance the components in the CMM.

198. The EU stated that the CMM will expire, so all elements of it needed to be discussed. It referenced linkages between the approach to the WCPFC19 discussions on an MP for skipjack and the approach to drafting and adopting a TTM. It suggested that it might be necessary to wait until the discussion of the skipjack MP had progressed before discussing how to address the TTM in 2023.

199. The Chair stated that the mandates in CMM 2021-01 are clear. She agreed that there are links between a skipjack MP (which she stated she hoped would be agreed to at WCPFC19) and the TTM to be agreed to in 2023, and stated she wanted to focus on the process for adopting a TTM, not the details of the content.

200. Japan noted the opinions expressed by the USA and Chinese Taipei, and reflected that in the past discussions on the issue had carefully considered the balance between regions and fisheries (longline and purse seine), and suggested this would be a good approach to use.

201. Korea stated that the Commission previously used workshops dedicated to discussion of the TTM, and suggested a similar approach be used in 2023. It noted that there would be a need for updated information from SC, and suggested holding two workshops, one before SC19 and one after.

202. RMI expressed concern that there would many meetings in 2023, and advocated minimizing the number of meetings while still being effective.

203. The Chair noted that there was agreement on using the current CMM as a basis. She proposed a draft workplan on the basis of holding two workshops.

204. In the ensuing discussion CCMs raised a number of issues, including timing and potential conflicts with other meetings, the advantages and disadvantages of electronic and in-person meetings, the potential for CCMs to engage outside the Commission process (e.g., through workshops such as that as referenced in **WCPFC19-2022-DP17**, as well as bilaterally), the importance of addressing South Pacific albacore as well as bigeye and yellowfin, and the mechanisms for requesting additional scientific analysis by the Scientific Services Provider (SPC). Several CCMs voiced support for holding an initial virtual meeting in the first quarter of the year.

205. In summary the Chair noted the statement by FFA members that the TTM work focus on hard limits for purse seine fisheries, and the indication by CCMs for the need to also address longline limits and allocation issues. She noted the Commission Chair and Secretariat would take due consideration of timing issues in finalizing the arrangements, and stated that minor revisions in the approach might be made in 2023 at the discretion of the new Commission Chair.

206. WCPFC19 agreed on a Process to Negotiate a Revised Tropical Tuna Measure in 2023, with revisions to the time frames in the work plan to be made at the discretion of the new Chair of the Commission in consultation with CCMs and taking into account other RFMO meetings attended by CCMs. (**Attachment H**)

## 6.4 South Pacific Albacore

207. The Chair noted **WCPFC19-2022-14** *Reference document for South Pacific albacore for the review of CMM 2015-02 and development of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06*, which contains the various relevant recommendations and decisions of SC18, TCC18 and the South Pacific albacore Roadmap IWG (SPALB\_RM-IWG) to the issues to be discussed under Agenda Item 6.4.

### 6.4.1 Harvest strategy issues

#### 6.4.1.1 Review of any additional performance indicators, if available, and alternative target reference points

208. Dr. Graham Pilling (SPC-OFP) presented **WCPFC19-2022-15**. *Further analyses to inform discussions on South Pacific albacore objectives and the TRP*. Discussions at WCPFC18 on the recalibrated TRP for this stock made it clear that the necessary catch reductions were not acceptable to managers. The Chair of the SPALB\_RM-IWG requested further analyses to help inform discussion and clarify manager's objectives for the fishery, and this paper presents the stock and fishery outcomes of different potential future changes in longline and troll catches (WCPFC Convention Area or South Pacific-wide) to highlight trade-offs between objectives involved in alternative 'candidate TRP' levels. If longline and troll fisheries catch is maintained at 2017-2019 average levels (~72,200 mt in the WCPFC Convention Area and 15,600 mt in the remaining EPO), longline vulnerable biomass the catch rate proxy will decline relative to all benchmarks examined: the current management objective of 2013 vulnerable biomass levels + 8%, 2013 levels, and the 2017-2019 average level. Risk of falling below the LRP increased to 22%, and stock depletion would be around 43% of  $SB_{F=0}$  in the WPCFC CA. To maintain vulnerable biomass at recent levels, or to achieve

increases, catch reductions would be required. The level of those reductions depended on the level of CPUE increase desired. The level of catch reduction also depended upon whether they were taken in the WCPFC Convention Area alone, or across the South Pacific. The degree of impact of catch reductions by 10% to 50% relative to recent (2017-2019 average levels) on stock depletion, risk and CPUE are presented in the paper.

209. Cook Islands on behalf of FFA members thanked SPC for their work on this issue and noted that the effective management of the southern longline fishery is of high importance to all CCMs targeting South Pacific albacore, and therefore must apply over the whole range of the stock (WCPFC Convention Area and EPO). FFA members stated they are committed to progressing the improved management of this key fishery through the harvest strategy approach and the implementation of zone-based management. FFA members reiterated the need to review the management objectives for this important stock, given that the recalibrated interim TRP required to achieve the current objective is untenable, and stated they would work with all CCMs through the SPALB\_RM-IWG in order to bring a revised management objective and TRP to the Commission in 2023.

210. New Caledonia stated that for over 5 years it and other members have noted the South Pacific albacore fishery is economically unsustainable. It noted that the lack of progress to address this, and the need to develop an allocation that benefits SIDS and dependent territories. It noted the impacts of COVID-19 on the ability of the Commission to progress the issue, and on communities and fisheries. New Caledonia stressed that the tuna market had been impacted, while all fishery costs increased, but not tuna prices. New Caledonia stated that although their fishery was small fishery “it is our fishery”. It supported a review of the management objectives, including the interim TRP.

211. French Polynesia strongly supported the statement by New Caledonia, noting it is very important to consider the entire Pacific stock (including the WCPO and EPO) when considering impacts, and stressed the importance of the fishery.

212. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the analyses undertaken by the Scientific Services Provider to inform discussions on South Pacific albacore objectives and the target reference point (**WCPFC19-2022-15**).

#### **6.4.1.2 Review of additional work tasked by the SMD01 to support decision-making on management procedures.**

213. Dr Rob Scott (SPC) provided a presentation on **WCPFC19-2022-16** *Updates on management procedure evaluations for SP albacore since SMD01* to summarise the discussions of SC18 and SMD01 on the development of management procedures for South Pacific albacore. To support discussions on management objectives for South Pacific albacore, a range of catch reduction scenarios were presented to SC18. From these options several CCMs identified catch reductions of 10% and 20% from recent (2017-2019) levels for further consideration. SC18 requested additional analyses to determine the impact of including or excluding the EPO fisheries from control by the management procedure. SMD01 further discussed the issue with respect to the troll fishery and requested a similar analysis to determine the impact of including or excluding the troll fishery from the control of the management procedure. The results of these analyses indicated that: i) **if measures do not apply to the EPO** an additional 2%-3% catch reduction is required in WCPFC Convention Area longline and troll fisheries to achieve the same stock depletion outcome (approximately 1500-2000 mt less WCPFC Convention Area catch in these two scenarios); ii) **if measures do not apply to the WCPFC Convention Area troll fishery** an additional 0-1% catch reduction in WCPFC Convention Area longline and EPO fisheries to achieve the same stock depletion outcome approx. 0 –750 mt less catch); and iii) **if measures do not apply to either EPO fisheries or the WCPFC**



**Convention Area troll fishery** an additional 3-4% catch reduction is required in WCPFC Convention Area longline fishery (approximately 2000 to 3000 mt less). It was noted that more recent catch estimates for the EPO (presented in **WCPFC19-2022-IP06**, Figure 1) indicate higher catches for 2021 than have been assumed in the analysis (approximately 45% higher than the 2017-2019 average EPO catch). In addition, the analysis assumed that catch reductions in the WCPFC Convention Area can be achieved without vessels moving across into the EPO and continuing to fish for South Pacific albacore, resulting in a spatial redistribution of albacore catches rather than a net reduction in overall catch.

214. Samoa on behalf of FFA members emphasised the need for agreement on a revised management objective and an associated TRP for the fishery to support the continued development of the South Pacific albacore MP and to take into account SPC-OFP's updated analysis based on the additional work tasked by SMD01. They noted that in its update SPC-OFP recommended securing compatible management in the EPO, and consider this an important element in managing the stock throughout its range, but queried how the Commission might achieve this. As such, FFA members proposed that the SPALB\_RM-IWG be tasked to explore this matter and report back to WCPFC20. FFA members proposed that SPC-OFP continues to progress the development of the South Pacific albacore MP that makes provision for EPO catch, but suggested that the South Pacific albacore HCR would be applicable to the management of South Pacific albacore within the WCPFC Convention Area only.

215. The USA stated that it supported distinct MPs for longline and troll fisheries, and commented that because WCPFC can only affect management in the WCPFC Convention Area, it should do its analysis without attempting to estimate or anticipate impacts in the IATTC convention area.

216. New Zealand noted the relatively stable catch of South Pacific albacore through the troll fishery, and the relatively minor impact on the stock. It stated that the troll fishery and longline fisheries for South Pacific albacore have different characteristics. In order to explore the implications of treating troll differently, at SMD01 New Zealand requested that SPC-OFP analyse the impact on the status of South Pacific albacore of either including or excluding troll fishing in the proposed MP. New Zealand stated its understanding that excluding the troll fishery would require a minor (1% at most) reduction in catch by the South Pacific albacore longline fishery in both the WCPFC and IATTC CAs. New Zealand stated that the bigger question relates to the inclusion or exclusion of the EPO, which is of far greater magnitude to the core question of improving the management of South Pacific albacore than the question of whether troll should be included or excluded. New Zealand stated the need to consider whether a common management approach should be applied across the entire South Pacific Ocean (for example both WCPFC and IATTC areas). It advocated that this would make sense for effective management of the South Pacific albacore stock as a whole, and to ensure that effort does not move to an uncontrolled EPO, stating it is notable that catches in EPO were 45% higher in 2021 compared to the 2017-2019 average levels. New Zealand stated that there are practical issues as to how to implement common management, and these would need to be worked through in the SPALB\_RM-IWG during 2023. New Zealand stated that its position on these matters was still being worked through, and that it looked forward to focusing on these issues in the SPALB\_RM-IWG in 2023.

217. China stated that regarding whether necessary to include the troll fishery, it would be difficult for China to suggest to its longline fishery that a reduction was needed if all fisheries were not included. China suggested the need to work intersessionally with other CCMs to find a solution. Regarding the EPO, China stated that it tabled a proposal at IATTC to freeze the number of vessels fishing for South Pacific albacore, but stated that IATTC has different types of measures, and indicated that there is no current basis for IATTC to take concrete action of this type. China stated that WCPFC should not wait for another RFMO before taking action.

218. New Caledonia thanked New Zealand for highlighting a number of issues that needed to be addressed in adopting MPs for South Pacific albacore.

219. Chinese Taipei noted the importance of the fishery. Regarding the management procedures, it noted that there may be difficulties if the focus is solely on the WCPO in the form of significant impacts on the conservation of the stock in future. It urged the Commission to work with IATTC. It stated that all fisheries taking South Pacific albacore should be included to ensure fairness, as otherwise some fisheries would effectively be punished. Chinese Taipei committed to working with the Chair of the SPALB\_RM-IWG and all CCMs to get results.

220. French Polynesia strongly supported New Zealand's comments.

221. The Chair noted the differing views on a joint approach with IATTC, and the broad agreement that it was important to cover all fisheries.

222. WCPFC19 noted the additional work tasked by SMD01 to support decision-making on management procedures for South Pacific albacore (**WCPFC19-2022-16**).

## **6.4.2 Review of CMM 2015-02**

### **6.4.2.1 Review of the SPA Roadmap-IWG activities**

223. Ms Neomai Ravitu (Fiji), Chair of the SPALB\_RM-IWG, presented a summary of the work of the IWG, with reference to **WCPFC-SPALB\_RM-2022-00** *Chair's Report of the SPALB Roadmap IWG Progress*, dated 19 August 2022.

224. New Caledonia stated that regarding South Pacific Albacore additional issues had been raised and should be addressed, and suggest the frequency of the roadmap meetings be increased in 2023.

225. The USA stated it appreciated the robust discussion at the meeting held at WPCFC19, and noted it looked forward to additional questions. It stated it was happy to see efforts to strengthen the focus on climate change by including climate change in the latest draft TOR.

226. China thanked the IWG chair for her excellent leadership, and stated that a change of direction was sought which might require the involvement of the Scientific Services Provider. China suggested developing a workplan to guide work of the IWG.

227. WCPFC noted with appreciation the Report of the Chair of the SPA Roadmap-IWG (**WCPFC19-2022-SPALB\_RM**).

228. WCPFC19 adopted the terms of reference and work plan for the SPA Roadmap-IWG (**Attachment I**).

## **6.5 North Pacific Albacore**

### **6.5.1 Review of CMM 2019-03**

229. No issues were considered under this agenda item.

## 6.5.2 Harvest Strategy proposal from NC18

230. The Chair noted that the *Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore*, contained in **WCPFC19-2022-17, Attachment A**, was introduced under Agenda Item 4, and welcomed comments on the proposal.

231. Kiribati on behalf of FFA members thanked the NC for the proposal and stated they were generally supportive of having a harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore in the WCPO, but sought clarification on several questions, noting that the answers would help FFA members better understand the merits of the proposed harvest strategy. The questions were as follow: (i) What justification is there for selecting the time period 2006-2015 in management objective 1(b)? The NC Chair stated the time period was selected because the CMM for North Pacific albacore had proven effective at maintaining fishing effort, and was slated to remain at that level for 10 years. (ii) Why is an LRP of 14% proposed when the WCPFC has adopted a biomass-based LRP of 20% for its four key tuna species, and this was also used in the North Pacific albacore tuna stock assessment done in 2020. The NC Chair stated that 20% is used as a proxy when there is no estimate of MSY, while 14% is the best estimate for this stock. (iii) Why is a conceptual diagram of an HCR provided in the proposed harvest strategy rather than an HCR equation? The NC Chair stated that NC hoped to provide an HCR equation to the Commission in 2023. (iv) What is the area of application for the proposed Harvest Strategy? The NC Chair did not provide an answer. (v) Has an MSE been undertaken to help evaluate the performance of the proposed HCR specifically for the WCPO? If so, can the Commission be provided with the results of this evaluation to help in assessing the performance of the HCR and proposed harvest strategy against the management objectives? The NC Chair stated that an MSE was undertaken in 2018 or 2019 and was reported to SC and the Commission at that time.

232. WCPFC19 adopted the HS-2022-01 *Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore presented by the Northern Committee (Attachment J)*.

## 6.6 Pacific Bluefin Tuna

### 6.6.1 Review of CMM 2021-02

233. Korea stated that it appreciated the comments provided at the NC17 meeting regarding Korea's views on bluefin tuna, and looked forward to further discussions with CCMs in 2023. Korea also gave a brief introduction to its delegation paper regarding purse seine bluefin tuna bycatch in set net fisheries in Korean territorial waters (**WCPFC19-2022-DP12 Information Paper on the Bycatch of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in Set Net Fisheries in its Territorial Waters**).

234. WCPFC19 noted WCPFC19-2022-DP12 presented by Korea and that Korea would bring a proposal on Pacific bluefin CMM to the Joint NC/IATTC Working Group, NC19 and WCPFC20 in 2023.

## 6.7 North Pacific Swordfish

### 6.7.1 Proposal from NC18

235. The Chair noted that the NC's proposed *CMM for North Pacific Swordfish*, contained in **WCPFC19-2022-17, Attachment B**, was introduced under Agenda Item 4, and welcomed comments on the proposal.

236. The USA stated it supported adoption of the proposal. It further stated that the Commission should consider how to manage swordfish across the entire range of the stock, and suggested considering how to revise the proposal at NC19 with that in mind.

237. RMI, on behalf of FFA members, stated that FFA members supported the need for a CMM to restrict fishing effort on North Pacific swordfish stocks, and noted that the EPO swordfish stock has recently experienced overfishing relative to MSY-based reference points. FFA members referenced their proposed revised CMM to strengthen the existing measure for Southwest Pacific swordfish (CMM 2009-03) in **WCPFC19-2022-DP07**, stating that the current CMM contains no restrictions on fishing mortality in the high seas area north of 20°S. The CMM's flag-based limits south of 20°S in combination with unconstrained catches north of 20°S may be too high to prevent future overfishing. Adding to these concerns is the uncertainty in the stock boundary between WCNPO stock and EPO stock. FFA members noted that the ability of the proposed CMM to achieve its objectives would be highly dependent on the effectiveness of using 2008-2010 average annual levels to restrict both the overall fishing effort and that of each fishery that takes swordfish in the high seas and EEZs, within the WCPFC Convention Area north of 20° N. To that end, FFA members asked the NC to clarify the term "fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish" used in the NC's proposed CMM, and asked if this refers to all fisheries that record over 200 tonnes of North Pacific swordfish catch per year? In addition, they inquired how fishing effort is defined in these fisheries and what independent verification is available for those effort limits? They noted the absence of supporting data regarding how effective the 2008-2010 average annual levels would be in restricting fishing effort, and stated they looked forward to engaging with other CCMs to determine this, and suggested it be based on the best available science. Finally, FFA members stated their full support for the provision that exempts SIDS from the measure and thanked the NC for including that in the draft CMM.

238. The NC Chair stated the CMM would apply only north of 20°N, but that the Commission was concerned about the entire migration area of the stock; he stated he hoped that supplementary measures to cover whole range could be adopted in the near future, and that a complementary CMM for the stock in the southern area could be adopted. He stated that the CMM would apply to both EEZs and the high seas, and would exclude SIDS.

239. The EU stated it agreed with concerns expressed by RMI in terms of the east and west portions of the northern stock, and stated it was unclear what metric was used for various fisheries. The EU noted RMI's comment that there is merit in clarifying the fisheries to which these restrictions would apply, and stated the need to distinguish between target and bycatch fisheries. The EU stated that there would be value in amending the proposal to include catch limits for target fisheries as is done for Southwest Pacific swordfish.

240. The NC Chair stated that their proposal would constitute the first CMM for this stock, noting that such a CMM had been discussed repeatedly but never enacted. The NC Chair stated that the CMM would simply serve to freeze fishing effort, and could be revised over time. He stated that NC was looking at all fishing activities that catch swordfish, including small-scale fishing activities, and would report back to WCPFC20 regarding the CMM's effectiveness.

241. Following further consultations with the EU, the NC Chair stated that the EU had concerns with the preamble, and an issue to clarify the main body, but that the substance of the CMM would not be affected by the EU's suggested changes. In view of the serious time constraints faced at WCPFC19, and resulting challenges in convening an NC meeting, the NC Chair suggest that these changes would be made at NC19 (in July 2023). With that understanding he asked the EU's indulgence to approve the CMM as proposed, with the modifications to be made at NC19. The EU agreed with the NC Chair's proposal, in light of the time constraints.

242. The Chair congratulated the NC and the Commission for approving the WCPFC's first CMM for North Pacific swordfish.

243. WCPFC19 adopted CMM 2022-02 *Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Swordfish* presented by the Northern Committee. (**Attachment K**)

## **6.8 Southwest Pacific Swordfish**

### **6.8.1 Review of Southwest Pacific swordfish fishery**

244. There was no discussion under this agenda item.

### **6.8.2 Review of CMM 2009-03**

245. The Chair stated that Australia, on behalf of FFA members, introduced **WCPFC19-2022-DP07 Proposal for a CMM for Southwest Pacific swordfish** under Agenda Item 4.

246. New Zealand on behalf of FFA members stated they are committed to developing a strengthened CMM for Southwest Pacific swordfish; noting the latest fisheries information, data, and science, they proposed a strengthened CMM, highlighting: zone-based management, compatible management and limits for the high seas, the sovereign rights of coastal states, and special requirements of SIDS and participating territories. They stated that the current CMM for Southwest Pacific swordfish contains no restrictions on fishing mortality in the high seas area north of 20°S and contains flag-based limits south of 20°S; the flag-based limits combined with unconstrained catches north of 20°S may be too high to prevent future overfishing. FFA members noted the healthy stock status of Southwest Pacific swordfish, and stated that the proposed measure does not seek to reduce recent catch levels. FFA members stated that they are seeking to implement a CMM that maintains biomass depletion at recent levels to maintain the health of the stock and provide development opportunities for SIDS. FFA members stated that they look forward to a constructive dialogue with other CCMs on this strengthened CMM for Southwest Pacific swordfish, and reiterated that uncertainty should not be a reason to avoid protective action and management of the stock. FFA members, led by Australia, offered to engage bilaterally or engage in a small working group to progress the measure for adoption at WCPFC19.

247. Korea supported the idea of expanding the geographic scope of application, noting that considerable catch takes place from 0° to 20°S. They stated that the most recent stock assessment indicates that Southwest Pacific swordfish is not overfished or subject to overfishing. It noted that catch over the prior 3 years had been low (as referenced in **WCPFC19-2022-IP08**), and that in light of this some parts of the proposal are excessively restrictive; they highlighted in particular zone-based management, stating it may constrain fishing operations in the high seas more than needed, if the purpose is to enable development of CCM fisheries. They noted that the CMM proposes a ban on light stocks and squid bait for longline fisheries taking Southwest Pacific swordfish as bycatch, and inquired regarding the impact on the catch rate of target species such as bigeye and yellowfin. Korea also inquired whether there had been any analysis of these issues, and whether SPC had any insights.

248. The EU concurred regarding the healthy status of the stock, and the need to expand the scope of the current CMM to include all catch south of the equator. It stated that a range of other elements in the CMM go beyond this, which makes the conversation more difficult. The EU stated that it would be happy to discuss how to achieve the common objective to ensure that all components of fishing mortality are covered by the CMM.

249. Solomon Islands on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau recognized the substantial time and effort that had been put in by Australia to develop the proposal to the stage where it could be considered at WCPFC19. They noted that the approach taken by Australia was exemplary for engaging SIDS in the development of a CMM that encompasses the special requirements of SIDS and participating territories, recognizes zone-based management, and looks to develop compatible management and limits for the high seas. The PNA and Tokelau stated their support for the FFA proposal to revise and strengthen CMM 2009-03.

250. Chinese Taipei noted the stock status had improved, and stated it saw no provision in the current CMM that would prevent SIDS from developing their fisheries. It stated it did not see the need to take stronger measures and had raised these issues bilaterally.

251. China stated it had already expressed its concerns to the proponents. It also proposed using different years for setting the TAC, as the catch in period proposed was very low. China encouraged the delegations attending WCPFC19 in person to reach an agreement.

252. Tonga on behalf of FFA members stated that managing fisheries is not just about avoiding overfished stocks, it is also about achieving other objectives including in this case, economic viability, and maintaining development opportunities for SIDS. They stated that this approach had been pursued in other CMMs and associated processes including for tropical tunas and albacore. They stated that while the measure is not a harvest strategy, there is no reason it can't seek to achieve similar outcomes and emphasised that stock sustainability is only one (albeit a very important) consideration.

253. French Polynesia stated that this was a very important step that is needed, and constituted an improvement, and stated it would work with other CCMs on it.

254. Australia supported the comments of its FFA colleagues, and stated it was encouraged by the healthy status of the stock. It stated it was important to act when a stock is healthy and not in trouble. Regarding the TAC, it stated it was based on projection work undertaken by SPC that looks at biomass depletion at recent catch levels. Australia acknowledged the issue raised by China. It stated the desire to develop a new CMM that has appropriate elements and includes development opportunities.

255. China indicated the issue should be considered by SC, noting that a projection from SPC was not equivalent to a recommendation from SC. Australia stated that determination of TRPs and management objectives was within the purview of the Commission, supported by scientific advice, and stated its view that the issue of consideration by SC had been fulfilled.

256. Following further negotiations in the SWG, and regarding the proposed recommendations, the EU stated that it could support the conclusion to extend management to the entire area south of the equator, and thanked CCMs for their hard work on the issue. It stated that CCMs had identified an area of common interest and committed to working on it further intersessionally.

257. Australia thanked CCMs for their engagement at WCPFC19, both bilaterally and in the SWG, on FFA's proposal to strengthen the management of Southwest Pacific swordfish. It stated that while it is clear that all CCMs share the view that some form of management needs to cover the full range of the stock, to the equator in the WCPFC Convention Area, there was no consensus on how to achieve this. Australia stated its disappointment that the Commission would be unable to adopt a revised CMM at WCPFC19, while acknowledging the constructive engagement from a number of CCMs, in particular Japan, China and the USA, in putting forward views on limits and other aspects of the CMM that would contribute to an effective management measure for this stock. Australia noted that it had stated for some years that the existing CMM is not effective in that it does not prevent increases in mortality that would result in depletion of this stock in a manner that would impact sustainability, the viability of fisheries that fish for swordfish, and the rights and interests of coastal States, especially SIDS, to develop their aspirations for this fishery. It stated that

simply extending existing management arrangements to the full range of the stock would not address these fundamental flaws. It stated it recognises that the stock is in good shape and stated its desire to keep it that way – the idea that action should only be taken when a stock is in trouble is contrary to good fisheries management. Similarly, Australia noted that the current CMM, which could facilitate unconstrained fishing for swordfish, does not protect SIDS interests. Australia stated it worked closely with SIDS and territories over several years to develop a proposal that would genuinely protect SIDS interests, as articulated in a thorough and meaningful CMM 2013-06 assessment. It noted that as an FFA proposal, the proposal represented the collective views of 15 of the Commission’s SIDS and Territories, and Australia also welcomed the strong support of French Polynesia and New Caledonia for this work. Australia called on CCMs to carefully consider how CCMs could achieve the shared goal of extending management to encompass catches across the full range of the stock in the WCPFC Convention Area, while achieving the critical goals of achieving biological and economic objectives and protecting the interests and aspirations of SIDS and territories.

258. New Zealand and Cook Islands voiced disappointment that no further progress would be made at WCPFC19, and expressed the hope that the issues could be addressed and resolved in 2023.

259. The EU stated it engaged in the process and offered a range of comments and suggestions that it hoped were constructive. It noted that Southwest Pacific swordfish stocks were healthy and stated that the existing CMM had helped in that regard. It stated that there was insufficient time to negotiate the many elements that were proposed (allocating a TAC, and zone vs. flag-based limits).

260. Niue supported the work and shared the concerns of other CCMs, and their disappointment that the proposal did not pass, noting that the fishery is not adequately managed to ensure sustainability.

261. The EU reiterated its view that the current measure does not prevent any CCMs from developing a fishery for these stocks. In response the Cook Islands rejected the position held by the EU, and stated that unrestricted fishing did not provide opportunities for SIDS, as an unrestricted fishery was not sustainable.

262. WCPFC agreed that progress should be made in 2023 on ensuring Southwest Pacific swordfish management extends beyond South of 20° S, to the entire Southwest Pacific swordfish stock in the WCPFC convention area, south of the equator.

263. WCPFC noted that the SWG could not reach consensus on any other substantive matter regarding the proposed measure.

## **6.9 North Pacific Striped Marlin**

### **6.9.1 Review of CMM 2010-01**

264. The Chair noted that the stock was addressed by the ISC in its presentation under Agenda Item 6.1.

265. The EU stated it wished to record its concern that the review of CMM 2010-01 could not be addressed given the lack of scientific advice, and stated it hoped that ISC could provide the information needed to develop a rebuilding plan for the stock in 2023.

266. FSM on behalf of FFA members noted with disappointment the delays in achieving conservation and management advice for North Pacific striped marlin, and that they had repeated this concern for many years. They stated they looked forward to the complete benchmark assessment to progress a CMM, and looked forward to contributing to discussions on appropriate and mutually agreed measures that will achieve

the rebuilding target of the stock. They stated that in the meantime, given the urgent need for stronger measures to reduce fishing mortality, alternative measures, such as non-retention, were urgently needed to reduce targeting of striped marlin in the North Pacific, and observed that this would be consistent with the Commission's approach towards similarly depleted stocks such as oceanic whitetip and silky sharks.

267. WCPFC19 noted that a proposed CMM on North Pacific striped marlin was deferred until 2023 and expressed concern regarding the continued delay in the rebuilding plans for the stock.

## AGENDA ITEM 7 — HARVEST STRATEGY WORKPLAN

268. The Chair referenced **WCPFC19-2022-DP06** *Proposed Amendment to CMM 2014-06 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean*, which was introduced under Agenda Item 4.

269. Cook Islands stated on behalf of FFA members that no proposals for amendments to the proposed amendment to CMM 2014-06 had been received during WCPFC19.

270. WCPFC19 adopted CMM 2022-03 *Conservation and Management Measure on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for key fisheries and stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Attachment L)*

### 7.1 Review of Indicative Work Plan

271. The Chair introduced the agenda item, noting the need to review and update the Harvest Strategy Work Plan (HSWP) to reflect the progress achieved to date and to agree on timelines for future milestones. The Chair stated that Australia had previously taken the lead to coordinate updates to the work plan and stated that CCMs in the Heads of Delegations meeting prior to WCPFC19 had requested that Australia continue in that role.

272. Dr. James Larcombe (Australia) referenced **WCPFC19-2022-19** *Reference Document on the progress of the Harvest Strategy Workplan under CMM 2014-06*. He reviewed the purpose of the HSWP, noting it is a high-level plan and focussed on the six elements of the harvest strategy as contained within the CMM. He stated it is ambitious, and updated annually. He noted the extensive work done by the Commission, SC and SPC toward the harvest strategy, and stated that a good summary of the progress to date was contained in the papers prepared for SMD01 (<https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/smd01>). Updates to the HSWP since 2021 have been based on interventions from CCMs and discussions with SPC. He stated that the plan had been extended for 2 years to 2026, noting that this is important for several reasons, including to make clear to possible future funders that much work remains. He noted that SPC's work on the harvest strategy had been funded in large part by New Zealand, as well as other funders, including the EU, and that further funding would be required. Regarding pending decisions, he observed that a CMM for skipjack was under discussion at WCPFC19, and the HSWP would reflect the outcomes. Regarding South Pacific albacore, a candidate MP was not ready in 2022, and this was discussed at SMD01. He stated that the discussions from the SPALB\_RM-IWG at WCPFC19 would be reflected in the plan. For bigeye and yellowfin, he stated it was likely the operating models would require redevelopment following the stock assessment peer review process (ongoing during WCPFC19), which would affect the 2023 stock assessments and likely the design of the operating models. He noted that the multi-species development



work is also ongoing. He observed he had rescheduled agreement on bigeye and yellowfin TRPs to 2024, and tentatively scheduled bigeye and yellowfin MPs for 2026. He highlighted the staggered nature of the activities, first skipjack, then albacore, then bigeye and yellowfin which he noted is important for SPC to be able to service the activities, and for the CCMs to be able to address issues one at a time, and that this approach was the intent from the outset. He stated that the HSWP would be updated following discussions at WCPFC19.

273. Japan thanked Australia for its work, and observed that the discussion on the bigeye and yellowfin TRP was originally scheduled for 2022, and the discussion on the MP(s) for 2023; the proposed workplan delays the TRP discussion for these species to 2024, and the MP discussions to 2026. Japan observed that this was a significant delay, and proposed scheduling the yellowfin and bigeye MP discussions for 2025. Dr Larcombe responded that these dates were tentative, but that experience suggested the process takes longer than it would first appear. He noted that there was some technical work that has to happen over the next 2 years, but stated that it was potentially feasible to schedule MP adoption for yellowfin and bigeye in 2025.

274. Samoa, on behalf of FFA members, noted the skipjack management procedure may be adopted at WCPFC19 in alignment with the HSWP, but stated that the South Pacific albacore MP and TRPs for both yellowfin and bigeye tuna would not be ready for adoption until 2024. They stated that as suggested in their intervention under Agenda Item 6.2.1.3, FFA members supported rescheduling the selection of TRPs for the bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks to 2024, while the Commission continues to develop the multi-species modelling framework and other work such as the consideration of candidate management procedures for the tropical longline fisheries. They stated that the same applied to the South Pacific albacore MP; the timeframe to adopt that MP needs to be extended until more work can be done to develop the axes of uncertainty in the operating models and to give the necessary time for SC and the Commission to properly evaluate the candidate, model-based HCRs currently under development. Further, there are important considerations around the inclusion of the EPO on the performance of the MP. They stated that FFA members remain very committed to the successful implementation of the HSWP, but recognise that the plan is ambitious and will need to be updated based on the decisions made at WCPFC19; they noted that SMD01 agreed that the HSWP would be updated at WCPFC19. FFA members also encouraged further capacity-building initiatives and expressed their appreciation for the two Harvest Strategy Capacity Building workshops organised by the WCPFC Secretariat in 2022 to support CCMs understanding of harvest strategy components and implications. They noted that such initiatives greatly assist CCMs, and particularly SIDS, in participating fully and having confidence in the harvest strategy development process and its outcomes when implemented.

275. RMI agreed that adoption of a bigeye and yellowfin MP could be scheduled for 2025, but stated that it would be contingent on what is decided at WCPFC19 in terms of the skipjack MP, as the various components are all related. RMI inquired regarding the implications for the HSWP and various other work streams should the Commission fail to reach a decision on a skipjack MP at WCPFC19. Dr Larcombe stated that for the skipjack MP additional technical work was not needed, and the Commission was well placed to make a decision; thus the issue was reaching a decision through negotiation. If no decision was reached SPC would have to do additional work on skipjack for an extra year or so, which would increase its workload to some degree, and this could create a backlog and delay other elements of the harvest strategy work.

276. Following relevant outcomes at WCPFC19, Australia presented an updated Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies.

277. WCPFC19 adopted the updated Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 (**Attachment M**).

## 7.2 Science-Management Dialogue

278. The Executive Director introduced **WCPFC19-2022-20 Reference Document on the Science-Management Dialogue**, which highlighted the key issues that the Commission needs to consider for determining the future arrangements of the Science-Management Dialogue (SMD). He noted that the substantive outcomes of the SMD01 were addressed under Agenda Item 6. He further noted that the SMD01 was held on a trial basis on 19 and 21 of August 2022. The agenda for the SMD01 was based on a set of ‘focus areas’ provided by the Commission and views and comments of CCMs. One of the agenda items sought guidance from the SMD01 on the focus and timing of future meetings of the SMD, which the SMD01 deferred to the Commission. The Executive Director stated that the reference paper **WCPFC19-2022-20**, outlines in paragraph 7, some issues that may guide the Commission deliberations on future arrangements for the SMD including whether it should be constituted formally such as other subsidiary bodies, so it can render recommendations to the Commission; what the schedule of meetings and focus areas should be; whether it should held in a similar fashion to SMD01, with focus areas provided; what additional training and capacity building needs CCMs have; and whether the short term focus should align with the HSWP. He further stated that paragraph 8 of the paper highlights some longer-term issues which are provided for information but not for immediate resolution.

279. Palau on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau stated the SMD was useful for building understanding among managers and science personnel in the initial stage of development and operation of harvest strategies, but that it was not very useful considering the time involved in advancing work on the skipjack MP. They stated they could support holding another SMD in 2024 to support the further development and initial operation on harvest strategies with the purpose of that SMD to be defined by the Commission in 2023 when there is a better idea of what the priorities are in the HSWP for 2024. They did not support having an SMD in 2023, while noting some FFA members requested consideration of an SMD in 2023 for South Pacific albacore. They stated that their priorities for 2023 are work on the TTM and the CMS, which would not leave room for an SMD as well.

280. Kiribati, on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau, supported the statement delivered by Palau, noting the SMD was useful to build understanding on the development and early stage of implementation of harvest strategy work. However, it did not support holding the SMD as a separate ongoing meeting. It stated that in considering any future SMDs that the harvest strategy process could be simply added to the existing Commission programme, and that harvest strategy work should be undertaken without establishing any new Commission meetings or bodies. They stated they were open to discussions around options for streamlining some of the other elements of the Commission’s work, but did not support a permanent SMD.

281. The EU noted the need for a flexible, collective process, and observed that at WCPFFC19 some discussions had involved science and management issues, such as the discussion on a harvest strategy for skipjack and stated that these issues could have been progressed through a dedicated SMD. The EU stated it would prefer that the SMD process be more institutionalised, and possibly be aligned with the HSWP. The EU also voiced support for continued capacity building. The EU suggested that an annual paper be prepared for the Commission on what harvest strategy activities occurred throughout year. The EU also stated it would welcome an opportunity for CCM scientists to engage with SPC on harvest strategy issues during the year, stating that this would allow more feedback to CCMs, and would be helpful in progressing the work. In terms of scheduling SMD meetings, the EU stated that holding it directly after SC was not ideal but stated it was flexible on that issue.

282. Australia stated that SMD01 was helpful in terms of progressing the skipjack MP. It stated that it could agree to not hold an SMD in 2023. It stated that the discussions in the South Pacific albacore SWG and the presentation on the HSWP suggested an SMD could be useful in 2024, focussed on adoption of the

South Pacific albacore MP. It suggested looking at the tasks in the HSWP which would benefit from such a forum.

283. RMI stated that it participated in SMD01 with keen interest and found it very useful in focussing on the skipjack MP. RMI stated that building understanding of the science is important and useful for management decisions, and supported continuation of such dialogues on a case-by-case basis, in line with the work scheduled through the HSWP. RMI looked forward to seeing the skipjack MP as an outcome at WCPFC19, noting that if agreement could not be reached it called into question the value of the SMD process. RMI stated that the priorities for 2023 should be the TTM, modifying the CMS, and running the skipjack MP.

284. New Zealand acknowledged the value of SMD01, which prepared for the discussions on the skipjack MP. It agreed that an SMD would not be needed in 2023, given that the SPALB\_RM-IWG would be focussing on the harvest strategy issues for that species and suggested it would be useful when the focus turned to a South Pacific albacore MP. In terms of timing New Zealand stated it would prefer a gap after SC so that SC outcomes could be considered, and stated that there is scope for the SMD to be virtual.

285. Cook Islands agreed that this is an important discussion, and noted the need for interface between scientists and managers. It stated that as noted by RMI, SMD01 was valuable in advancing the skipjack MP, while a future SMD could help progress work on South Pacific albacore. It agreed that the timing of SMDs is important, and suggested that the SPALB\_RM-IWG could consider its progress and the need for an SMD in 2023 versus 2024.

286. Palau supported RMI's comment noting the need of its delegation for scientific advice for management, and stated that if scientists had reached agreement, the Commission should move forward with MPs.

287. PNG support the prior statement by Palau on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau, and the statement by RMI. PNG stated its 2023 priorities are the TTM renewal and work on the CMS. It agreed on the importance of the SMD for harvest strategy work, and stated that an SMD could be useful if it did not interfere with work on the TTM and the CMS, and suggested that SPC could possibly advise on this.

288. Indonesia stated it is important to have SMDs to ensure CCMs have a shared understanding of the underlying science. It stated its support for holding an SMD in 2023, while noting the substantial work to be done on the TTM. It suggested holding an SMD after SC, but preferred for it to be virtual.

289. The Ocean Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts stated that it was encouraging to hear widespread support for the SMD process, and urged the Commission to adopt a permanent process to hold SMD. They stated it would be useful to set expectations that this discussion is important to the Commission and will continue in future years, as no other body brings together scientists, managers and stakeholders to have these discussions. They stated that a meeting in 2023 would be needed given the large amount of work to progress MPs for South Pacific albacore and remaining work on skipjack, depending on the output of WCPFC19. They also stated that it is important to build on the momentum from SMD01, and suggested that the Commission should feel good about the process. Members were well prepared, sought useful clarifications, exchanged views, and identified areas of further work. They stated that the dialogue process will be critical to enable the Commission to meet the goals in its HSWP.

290. The Chair noted that CCMs recognized the merit of the SMD process, but expressed the view that the main focus for 2023 should be on revision of TTM, which would make it hard to hold an SMD; the need for an SMD in 2024 could be assessed depending on HSWP implementation. The Chair also noted that scientists and managers were interacting to progress specific harvest strategy-related issues, but that this was taking place outside an organized SMD process.

291. WCPFC19 noted the value of the SMD01 in assisting to progress a Management Procedure for skipjack tuna. Given the heavy workload in 2023, particularly with the review of the Tropical Tuna CMM, WCPFC19 agreed not to hold an SMD in 2023 and agreed to assess the need to hold an SMD in 2024 depending on progress in the Commission's harvest strategy work.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 — WCPO SHARK STOCKS AND BYCATCH MITIGATION**

292. The Chair stated that under Agenda Item 8 the meeting would consider issues concerning the conservation and management of shark stocks within the purview of the WCPFC, and also discuss other bycatch mitigation issues such as seabird mitigation, best practices for safe handling and release of cetaceans, and ecosystem and climate indicators.

### **8.1 Sharks**

#### **8.1.1 Review of the status of WCPO shark stocks**

293. Dr. Paul Hammer (SPC-OFP) presented a summary of the status of key WCPFC key shark species, with a focus on the two most recent shark assessments in the WCPFC Convention Area: Southwest Pacific blue shark (conducted over 2021 and 2022) and Southwest Pacific mako shark (conducted in 2022). The presentation noted the current WCPFC key sharks that include: mako shark (2 species), blue shark, thresher sharks (3 species), silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, whale shark, hammerhead sharks (4 species), and porbeagle shark (south of 20°S). The presentation noted the key documents that provide provisions for general shark management (CMM 2019-04), listing of sharks as WCPFC key sharks ([WCPFC Key Document SC-08, 2012](#)), and guiding research and assessment scheduling (2021-2025 Shark Research Plan; SC16-EB-IP-01). The Southwest Pacific blue shark assessment began in 2021. The assessment presented in that year was a thorough integrated assessments using Stock Synthesis, and included a large range of uncertainties. The assessment presented an ensemble of 3,888 models as a basis for management advice. However, the SC was concerned that the model ensemble required refinements to reduce the number of models, as it was difficult for the SC to consider the merits and relative reliability of so many models. In 2022, the assessment team conducted further work to refine the model ensemble down to 288 models that better reflected uncertainty and this model ensemble was accepted by SC18 to be the basis for management advice. Based on the revised set of 288 models, the assessment indicated that according to MSY based reference points (noting there are not alternative reference points adopted for WCPFC sharks) the blue shark stock in the Southwest Pacific was not overfished ( $SB > SB_{MSY}$ ) and overfishing was not occurring ( $F < F_{MSY}$ ). A summary of the attempted assessment of shortfin mako shark in the Southwest Pacific Ocean was then provided. The assessment attempted an integrated assessment using Stock Synthesis. The assessment confronted many issues with data quantity and data coverage, and also noted conflicting trends in CPUE that were problematic to understand and model. The model outputs were highly sensitive to data and other assumptions and were not considered reliable enough to be a basis for management advice. The SC18 did not accept the assessment as a basis for management advice. The status of the shortfin mako shark stock in the Southwest Pacific Ocean remains uncertain. Some problematic areas for future assessment attempts were raised, in particular, the fact that there are very few data of other information on reproductive sized females. This makes any assessment or risk-based approach that aims to provide indication of the status/risks for the reproductive component of the stock difficult. Further, catch reconstruction continues to provide a major uncertainty in shark assessments, and it was recommended that shark catch estimates are also provided for north and south of the equator. The presentation finished with a summary table of the current knowledge of stock status for the WCPFC key sharks, and their listings under the IUCN Red List and CITES

appendices, noting all key sharks except blue shark are CITES Appendix II listed. The 2021-2025 shark research plan indicated that the next assessment for key sharks in the WCPO is silky shark, with the recommendation that this (and future shark assessments) occur across two years, with work on the assessment inputs occurring in 2023 and the assessment conducted in 2024. The recommendation to run shark assessments across two years acknowledges the challenges with these assessments, including the additional work required to do catch reconstructions and better incorporate patchy and uncertain data, but also that shark assessments are funded as WCPFC projects for which contracts are typically only agreed by February. This leaves only 4-5 months to complete the assessment by the SC meeting. Experience has shown that this is not enough time.

294. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the presentations by the Scientific Services Provider and the ISC on the status of WCPO shark stocks.

#### **8.1.1.1 Southwest Pacific blue shark**

295. The Chair noted **WCPFC19-2022-21 Reference Document for Southwest Pacific blue shark**, and stated that the key recommendation from SC for the Commission’s consideration is to note the SC18 advice “that Southwest Pacific blue shark is unlikely to be overfished and it is unlikely that overfishing is occurring when considered against MSY and depletion-based reference points”.

296. The EU noted that much work had been done on Southwest Pacific blue shark, and reminded that it had supported the scientific work through voluntary financial contributions. It stated it was pleased SPC and SC were able to provide relevant scientific advice, and that the stock is in a healthy state. The EU stated it supported the proposed recommendation regarding conducting shark stock assessments over 2 years, stating its understanding that it concerns the key shark species.

297. Tokelau on behalf of FFA members thanked SPC for the work done on assessing Southwest Pacific blue shark, and noted its current status as “not overfished and not subject to overfishing”, and fully supported the recommendations from SC18, particularly with regard to providing more time for analysis and supporting research recommendations to improve future shark assessments.

298. WCPFC19 noted the advice from SC 18 “*that the Southwest Pacific blue shark is unlikely to be overfished and it is unlikely that overfishing is occurring when considered against MSY and depletion-based reference points*”.

299. WCPFC19 endorsed the proposal to allow shark assessments to occur over two years.

#### **8.1.1.2 Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark**

300. The Chair noted **WCPFC19-2022-22 Reference Document for Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark** which includes related decisions and recommendations from SC18 and TCC18 concerning the Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark. She stated that the key advice from SC18 and TCC18 to WCPFC19 includes: i) SC18 found it unable to provide stock status or trend information on Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark to the Commission, as the status remains unknown; and ii) Both SC18 and TCC18 recommended that paragraph 1 bullet point 3 of the ‘*Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission*’ should include the following sentence: “The estimates of annual catch for key shark species should be separated into catch north and south of the equator and the WCPFC Secretariat should work with CCMs to get these data retrospectively corrected where possible.”

301. The EU stated that it could understand the challenges involved in the Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark assessment, and the need to spend a year on data analysis and reconstruction so as to avoid the need to do all the work in one year. It inquired regarding the next steps for this species, as the stock assessment has been inconclusive, and noted there was nothing scheduled for this species in the stock assessment schedule. The EU stated it would like to see this work advancing and being concluded as soon as possible. SPC acknowledged that the Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark stock assessment was inconclusive, and stated that they had considered simpler approaches, such as production models. SPC noted the large uncertainty in the CPUE, which is not indexing the productive part of the stock. Time constraints meant the researchers could not talk to countries to better understand the data conflicts. SPC stated this issue could be addressed during the mid-term review of the shark research plan.

302. New Zealand noted that the word “mako” is often mispronounced – it comes from Te Reo Māori. On behalf of FFA members, New Zealand stated that they appreciated the work undertaken to attempt a stock assessment for Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark and supported the recommendations from SPC and SC18 that the stock assessment should be considered preliminary and should not be used as the basis for management advice. They also supported the recommendations from SC18 to encourage the practice of releasing shortfin mako sharks and the recommendations regarding further research, particularly with regards to providing more time for analysis and supporting research recommendations to improve future shark assessments. They also supported the recommendation from SC18 and TCC18 to separate estimates of annual catch of key shark species into catch north and south of the equator and to retrospectively correct data where possible.

303. PNG on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau supported the FFA statement. They noted the challenge faced by scientists when trying to assess sharks, and the proposal for carrying shark assessment over two years to assist with the data preparation time and allow more input from the pre-assessment working group, and supported that approach. They expressed the hope that in the future, with expanded observer coverage and extended time allowed for the assessment, that an assessment of Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark could be successfully concluded.

304. The USA noted that the stock assessments for some key shark species are done Pacific-wide, and suggested appropriate language be inserted in the proposed recommendation to reflect this.

305. WCPFC19 noted the advice of SC18 that the stock assessment results of Southwest Pacific shortfin mako sharks were preliminary and not robust enough to provide management advice.

306. WCPFC19 agreed to amend paragraph 1 of the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (**Attachment N**) relating to annual catch data for key shark species to read as follows:

**Estimates of annual catches**

The following estimates of catches during each calendar year shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type:

- catches of bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*) and black marlin (*Makaira indica*) in: 1) the WCPFC Statistical Area (see paragraph #8), and 2) the portion of the WCPFC Statistical Area east of the 150° meridian of west longitude;

- catches of albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*), thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and mako sharks (*Isurus* spp.) in: 1) the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, 2) the Pacific Ocean north of the Equator, 3) the WCPFC Statistical Area north of the Equator, 4) the WCPFC Statistical Area south of the Equator, and 5) the portion of the WCPFC Statistical Area east of the 150° meridian of west longitude; and
- silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, thresher sharks, blue shark, mako sharks, porbeagle shark (south of 20°S, until biological data show this or another geographic limit to be appropriate), hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth), and whale shark in the WCPFC Statistical Area (see paragraph #8).

### 8.1.1.3 North Pacific blue shark

307. ISC Vice-Chair Dr Shui-Kai Chang, on behalf of the ISC Chair, presented summaries of stock status of North Pacific blue shark (BSH) in 2022. The information was based on a benchmark assessment in 2022 which used same model structure as 2017 assessment but with additional data up to 2020, applying Beverton-Holt stock recruit relationship (SR) rather than low fecundity SR, and adopting the model ensemble approach. The results show that the SSB declined from the mid-1970s to 1990 and has since increased and stabilized around 100,000 t through the 2000s. The median estimates of current SSB are about  $SSB_{MSY}$ . Stock status reported in relation to MSY-based reference points that: median female SSB in 2020 was estimated to be 1.170 of  $SSB_{MSY}$  (80<sup>th</sup> percentile, 0.570 - 1.776) and is likely (63.5% probability) not in an overfished condition; recent annual F ( $F_{2017-2019}$ ) is estimated to be below  $F_{MSY}$  and overfishing of the stock is very likely (91.9% probability) not occurring; and the base case model results show that there is a 61.9% joint probability that stock is not in an overfished condition and that overfishing is not occurring. Future projections in three of the four harvest scenarios:  $F_{current}$  (2017-2019),  $F_{current+20\%}$ , and  $F_{current-20\%}$  showed that median BSH SSB will likely increase and remain above  $SSB_{MSY}$  in the next ten years; the  $F_{MSY}$  harvest scenario led to a decrease in median SSB to below  $SSB_{MSY}$ . There remain some uncertainties in the assessment, and therefore continued improvements in the monitoring of BSH catches and continued research into the biology, ecology, and spatial structure of BSH are recommended. SC18 noted that the current assessment is an improvement over the previous assessment and supports the model ensemble approach taken in the 2022 stock assessment as a more comprehensive way of characterizing structural uncertainty in stock status. However, SC18 noted that the model ensemble approach did not consider some key uncertainties and so recommended a more thorough use of the approach to better represent uncertainty for future assessments. SC18 also noted that recent estimated recruitment was below the average level, and that if these low recruitments persist into the future, then the projection results could be overly optimistic.

308. Palau stated on behalf of FFA members that they were pleased to note the improved status of blue shark in the North Pacific as not being overfished and not subject to overfishing. They supported the recommendations from SC18 for a more thorough use of the model ensemble approach to better represent uncertainty for future assessments, and with regard to providing more time for analysis and supporting research recommendations to improve future shark assessments.

309. WCPFC19 endorsed the advice of SC18 that North Pacific blue shark is not in an overfished condition and that overfishing is not occurring relative to MSY based reference points (**WCPFC19-2022-23, paragraph 2**).

### 8.1.2 Review of CMM for Sharks (CMM 2019-04)

310. The Chair noted that **WCPFC19-2022-24 Reference Document for the review of CMM for Sharks (CMM 2019-04)** includes recommendations from SC18 and TCC18 of relevance to the discussion in support of the review of CMM 2019-04 on sharks. The Chair also noted that the USA and Canada introduced a proposal under Agenda Item 4: **WCPFC19-2022-DP01 Proposed Revisions to the CMM for Sharks**.

311. Tokelau on behalf of FFA members thanked the USA and Canada for the proposal and the completion of the CMM 2013-06 assessment, which FFA members stated they considered to be thorough, providing ample consideration of the potential impacts on SIDS, including that implementation of the new provisions outlined would not come into effect until 1 January 2024, allowing time for CCMs to implement them. They stated that this is an important issue for FFA members, and that the use of wire traces and shark lines by longline vessels operating within FFA members' waters is already prohibited through FFA's Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions, and all sharks landed by all vessels licensed to fish within FFA members' waters and those flagged to FFA require all fins to be naturally attached, or finning is managed through alternative measures. However, they queried how the Commission will monitor the clause on trailing gear as proposed, and suggested other wording changes. They supported the recommendations from SC18 and TCC18, stating that the proposed amendments as necessary, particularly given concerns with regards to the depleted stock status for oceanic whitetip and silky sharks and the lack of any apparent alternative effective management options. They stated that they consider the ban on wire trace and shark lines as a critical step to reduce mortality of oceanic whitetip sharks, and supported the proposal of the USA and Canada. FFA members noted that the measure had yet to be assessed in the CMR process. They noted it is listed in Attachment S "List of Obligations to be Reviewed in the 2022 Draft Compliance Monitoring Report (Covering 2021 Activities)" of the WCPFC18 Report, and while noting TCC18's recommendation that the Commission consider adopting the same or a very similar list of obligations for review in both the 2022 and 2023 draft CMRs (dCMR), they suggested prioritising this measure for CMR assessment in 2023.

312. New Caledonia thanked the USA for its proposal, and thanked FFA members for their support. New Caledonia stated it banned all shark fishing in 2013, and that its waters formed one of the biggest marine sanctuaries in the world. New Caledonia noted that sharks have a crucial role in offshore ecosystems, and are also important both socially and culturally. For all these reasons New Caledonia has decided to fully protect sharks, and stated it supports the USA's proposal.

313. French Polynesia stated that it agreed with New Caledonia regarding the important cultural and biological roles of sharks and strongly supported the proposal, including the language regarding cutting the branch line as close as possible to the shark.

314. The EU referenced the finning prohibition, and noted that in the previous CMM there were three options for implementation of a finning ban, with information to be provided to TCC to allow for evaluation of the CMM's effectiveness. The EU stated it was time to look into this and ensure that information is made available to TCC19 to assist on deliberations on this important matter. The EU also stated that the existing CMM is good and supported the intent of improving and strengthening it, while suggesting the need for some fine tuning.

315. RMI fully supported adoption of the measure.

316. In the ensuing discussion some CCMs raised concerns regarding the deadlines contained in the proposal; the inclusion of a prohibition on "carrying" wire traces, in addition to their use, suggesting this could restrict vessel movements; and inclusion of "billfish" in the CMM along with sharks. Other CCMs noted the need to strengthen and not roll back any elements of the existing CMM; noted the need for compatibility with FFA measures, and supported the inclusion of "billfish"; and supported a prohibition on



carrying wire traces, noting that low observer coverage made it difficult to monitor compliance with a prohibition on their use.

317. Following further consideration CCMs agreed to the revised CMM. The EU noted that in supporting the proposal it did so with the understanding that this set no precedent for extending the scope of the measure beyond what was agreed without specific and robust scientific advice.

318. WCPFC19 adopted CMM 2022-04 *Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks (Attachment O)*.

## 8.2 Seabird Mitigation

### 8.2.1 Review of CMM 2018-03

319. The Chair noted that recommendations from SC18 and TCC18 are contained in reference paper **WCPFC19-2022-25** *Reference document for Agenda 8.2 – 8.4 on ecosystem and bycatch mitigation*

320. Tonga, on behalf of FFA members noted the decline in albatross and petrel populations globally, as well as within the WCPFC area which; they stated that this, coupled with the lack of monitoring in the longline fishery, gave them significant cause for concern. FFA members noted the recommendations from SC18 to conduct a review of the current seabird mitigation measure (CMM 2018-03) against ACAP Best Practices within the next two years, with particular attention to bycatch mitigation and improved monitoring.

321. New Zealand expressed its deep concern about the threat to many seabird species, particularly albatrosses and petrels, from bycatch in longline fisheries in the WCPFC area, noting that recent science shows that one of the most threatened species the Antipodean albatross continues to decline at a rate of 5% per annum, and faces imminent extinction unless bycatch is addressed in those high-risk areas where there is overlap between tuna longline fishing and the foraging of these birds. SC18 recommended that the Commission conduct a review of the current seabird mitigation measure (CMM 2018-03) during 2023-2024 in order to evaluate effective bycatch mitigations. New Zealand stated that this was a high priority and that there is scope to strengthen the CMM to ensure that effective seabird mitigation methods are required and used in the Convention Area. New Zealand proposed, for example: i) ensuring there are appropriately strong seabird mitigations in the areas in both the southern and northern hemispheres within the core range of the antipodean albatross; ii) strengthening and improving the requirements for line weighting and tori line specifications; iii) eliminating ineffective mitigation options from the measure, e.g., blue-dyed bait, streamer less tori lines, and offal discharge; and iv) improving monitoring of the longline fishery in order to improve implementation of seabird mitigations. New Zealand stated it is prepared to lead this work in close collaboration with others. It also drew attention to a one page “flyer” for fishing vessels that New Zealand has posted on the WCPFC website for this meeting, which has been translated into multiple languages. New Zealand stated it is tracking albatrosses so that there is an alert when a seabird is captured. Vessels are required to keep the tracker and notify the vessel owner.

322. EU stated that it supported these recommendations, and thanked New Zealand for its suggestions, noting its support for evaluating the effectiveness of CMMs that are being implemented. It supported the suggestions from New Zealand and commended its efforts to strengthen conservation of these species.

323. Australia welcomed New Zealand’s intervention and shared the concerns expressed, and stated it looked forward to working together.

324. The USA stated it supported a commitment from WCPFC19 to review the CMM in 2023-2024. The USA noted that it is conducting ongoing research and expressed the hope that the work would prove useful when complete.

325. New Caledonia supported New Zealand’s intervention, and stated that it is working with its longline fisheries to begin deployment of tori lines on its first boats in 2023, and seeking to deploy them across its entire fleet in 2024.

326. ACAP stated that it fully supported the recommendation for the review and updating of the CMM on seabirds. ACAP was pleased to hear the support expressed by New Zealand and other delegations. It noted that at SC18 ACAP had presented a paper providing a thorough update on ACAP’s most recent best practice advice on seabird bycatch mitigation, and new ACAP guidelines. . ACAP stated it would be happy to take part in the work to update and revise CMM 2018-03 based on this most recent advice.

327. Birdlife International stated its thanks to New Zealand for taking the lead to ensure seabird bycatch mitigation measures are implemented. It acknowledged there are many issues to work through, and stated it did not wish to detract attention from those. It welcomed the review of seabird bycatch mitigation, and noted it has extensive experience in working with vessels on practical measures to help address seabird bycatch.

328. WCPFC19 noted a global decline in specific Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) seabird population trends, which are vulnerable to threats posed by longline fisheries in the WCPO and the importance of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

329. WCPFC19 agreed to conduct review of the current seabird mitigation measure (CMM 2018-03 *Conservation and Management Measure to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds*) in 2023 or 2024 whereby new bycatch mitigation studies would be evaluated with respect to bycatch mitigation effectiveness and compared against current ACAP Best Practices.

### 8.3 Graphics for Best Practices for Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans

330. The Chair stated that the graphics for best practices for safe handling and release of cetaceans are contained in Attachment 1 of **WCPFC19-2022-25 Reference document for Agenda 8.2 – 8.4 on ecosystem and bycatch mitigation**, and that SC18 and TCC18 recommended they be adopted.

331. WCPFC19 adopted the Graphics for Best Practices for the Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans. (**Attachment P**)

### 8.4 Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation

#### 8.4.1 Ecosystem and climate indicators

332. Dr Steven Hare (SPC-OFP) presented **WCPFC19-2022-IP02 2021 Fishery overview and status of stocks**, restricted to the Ecosystem and Climate Indicators section. At SC18, a set of candidate ecosystem and climate indicators was presented for consideration for adoption (**WCPFC-SC18-2022-EB-WP-01**). In particular, “SC18 recommended that available information and updates on the impacts of climate change be included or combined with status of stocks reporting.” Further, SC18 recommended that ecosystem and bycatch indicators be presented annually to the SC as a standing agenda item, and the identification of their implications and subsequent triggers be developed. Examples of various types of indicators developed by

the Scientific Services Provider were provided. Several climate indices, characterizing environmental variability in the central and western Pacific over the past 20 years were illustrated. Observer data were used as the basis to estimate trends in gear-specific shark and billfish catch. Both shark and billfish catch are two orders of magnitude higher in the longline fishery than the purse seine fishery. The El Niño Southern Oscillation is a major driver of oceanic conditions in the tropical Pacific and its impact on the purse seine fishery has long been recognized. The spatial extent, and centre of activity, can vary by thousands of kilometres between years, particularly when comparing El Niño and La Niña events. The WCPO has experienced two consecutive years of La Niña conditions and the current forecast is for a third consecutive year. Recent work by the Scientific Services Provider has considered the likely impact on target tuna stocks of the WCPO. The three tropical tunas are projected to decrease in biomass by 15%-38%, with the greatest decline estimated for skipjack. Further, it is predicted that distribution of the three tropical tunas will shift to the east, with large biomass declines, especially for skipjack, in the western part of their distribution and a net increase in biomass in the EPO.

333. Niue on behalf of FFA members noted the suite of ecosystem and climate indicators proposed by the Scientific Services Provider and supported the development of a project to evaluate and potentially adopt these indicators. They stated that Pacific leaders have repeatedly highlighted the particular importance of addressing climate change impacts to the region, and stated that FFA members support the recommendations of SC18 to mainstream this important work into the SC processes and reporting as a standing agenda item. In further strengthening climate change work and discussions at WCPFC, FFA members supported the proposal by the USA (in **WCPFC19-2022-DP14**) to add climate change as a standing item at NC and TCC. In addition, FFA members encouraged WCPFC to continue to actively consider how climate change can be incorporated into its work, and along that line, recommended that climate change be a standing agenda item at the annual Commission meeting. FFA members stated they were pleased to co-sponsor the USA's discussion paper on climate change, especially as it has added the FFA suggestion that climate change be added as a standing agenda item for the annual Commission meeting.

334. Japan thanked SPC for the informative presentation, and stated it is very important to take into account climate change factors when considering harvest strategies and other management measures for tuna stocks. It stated that in 2022 the catch of skipjack in coastal and offshore areas of Japan had been very poor (a decrease of 20% from the 2021 level, which was already low). Japan stated that some fishers had encountered financial difficulties in continuing this fishery, particularly in coastal areas. It noted the need to maintain a stable level of tropical tuna stocks to ensure a stable catch. Japan stated it was not alone in facing this problem, and referenced some tropical purse seine fisheries that have had trouble finding good fish schools. Japan stated that it has good technology to find and catch fish, but fishing efficiency has declined. Japan stated that coastal states such as itself have very significant coastal and offshore fisheries, and noted the need to maintain fisheries in a stable condition, as they would otherwise lose important fishing industries. For this reason, it stated it is important to promote study of climate change, and having this as a standing agenda item is important. Japan stated that it was eager to address these issues in the context of a discussion of the skipjack harvest strategies. Japan stated it would support continuing the work.

335. Tuvalu inquired if it was correct that the longline shark catch is some 1.5 to 2 million individuals per year. SPC affirmed that is correct, compared to the purse seine bycatch of 50,000-100,000 individuals (as addressed in **WCPFC19-2022-IP02**, p. 11). Tuvalu stated that this makes a strong case for the need for bycatch mitigation in the longline fishery.

336. New Caledonia observed that climate change is affecting the region's fishery, and that as islands cannot be moved, coastal fisheries in the western Pacific will be most impacted. It supported both the work and the FFA statement.

337. New Zealand voiced support for SPC to conduct this analysis, and stated that it has experienced declines in catch of skipjack in its waters, and welcomed the analysis of the change in stock distribution.

338. The EU thanked SPC for the work and supported its continuation. It also supported the inclusion of a standing agenda item on ecosystem and climate in all Commission meetings, noting it is a planetary issue of concern to everyone. It voiced the need to take this duly into consideration. Regarding Tuvalu's comment, it stated that it would help in future presentations to discriminate between protected and commercial sharks, as this would be more informative. SPC stated the data was for sharks taken by the commercial longline fishery, and not artisanal fishing. The EU clarified it was referring to species that are considered commercial species, as against some with retention bans. SPC stated that the data could likely be separated.

339. Indonesia agreed on the growing concern regarding climate change impacts. It stated that under the WPEA-SM project, the three participating countries (Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam) had studied climate change impacts. Indonesia stated that at the national level it is very hard to find experts to help assess climate change impacts related to tuna fisheries, and remarked on the need for more capacity building to understand future climate change impacts on fisheries. Indonesia also remarked on recent increased archipelagic waters catch of South Pacific albacore, caused by more fish entering the archipelagic waters, possibly as a result of climate change.

340. RMI thanked SPC and stated that consideration of climate change was critical to ensure CCMs keep abreast of climate change developments, and how they may impact the objectives and mission of the Commission. RMI supported the comments by Niue and looked forward to SPC's continuing work on this.

341. French Polynesia thanked SPC, and joined other CCMs in stating that such studies are very important.

342. WCPFC19 endorsed the following recommendations of SC18 relating to climate change:

- i SC18 recommended making "Ecosystem and Climate Indicators" a standing agenda item of the Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation Theme session. This would provide a mechanism for the Scientific Committee to annually consider adopting candidate indicators presented to the Committee but also review and respond to existing trends/triggers identified in adopted indicators.
- ii SC18 recommended the development and testing of "Ecosystem and Climate Indicators" as a project of the Scientific Committee. This would provide a mechanism for the Scientific Committee to easily track its progress towards evaluating and adopting candidate indicators.
- iii SC18 recommended that available information and updates on the impacts of climate change be included or combined with status of stocks reporting.

343. Recognizing the urgency of developing a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area, and any related impacts on the economies of CCMs and food security and the livelihoods of their people, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Participating Territories, the Commission agrees to include Climate Change as a standing agenda item and to prioritize discussion of how best to incorporate climate change information and analyses in its work, as well as the work of TCC and the NC.

## AGENDA ITEM 9 — COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME

344. The Chair stated that the Commission would consider the outcomes of the work of the CMS-IWG that was tasked to progress the various work streams under the “Future Work” component of CMM 2021-03 on the WCPFC CMS. She stated that the working group was chaired by the TCC-Vice Chair, Ms Emily Crigler (USA). As agreed by the Commission at WCPFC18, a 2022 CMR (covering activities for 2021) was not considered by TCC18, and thus would not be considered at WCPFC19; she noted it was scheduled for consideration (together with the 2023 CMR covering 2022 activities) by TCC19 and WCPFC20.

### **9.1 CMS-IWG Workplan to Progress the CMS Future Work Included in Section IX of CMM 2021-03 Compliance Monitoring Scheme**

345. The Chair stated that the reference papers included **WCPFC19-2022-26** *Reference document on TCC18 recommendations for Agenda Item 9 CMS*; **WCPFC19-2022-27** – *a side by side comparison by the Secretariat of draft audit points and the Secretariat’s dCMR criteria*; and **WCPFC19-2022-IP18** *Secretariat’s preliminary assessment of its anticipated work commitments to support work of TCC in 2023 and 2024*.

346. The TCC Vice-Chair provided an update on the work of the CMS-IWG. She expressed gratitude to the leads of the CMS workstreams for their time and dedication, and to the Secretariat (in particular the Compliance Manager) for support. She noted the CMS-IWG workplan contained the items that the Commission had tasked itself to undertake. She stated that the RBAF work stream was led by Heather Ward, and the proposed framework was used when considering the elements to be evaluated at WCPFC18. She noted that CCMs held additional useful conversations at TCC18, and stated that separate presentations would be made by the leads for the RBAF (under Agenda Item 9.1.1) and audit points (under Agenda Item 9.1.2). She noted that the Secretariat had worked on improvements to the CCFS, and that this would be further addressed in 2023. She noted that the issue of observer participation in the CMR process was discussed at TCC18, and that this would be discussed under Agenda Item 9.1.3. She noted that the goal in 2022 for development of corrective actions was to secure a lead for that work (discussed under Agenda Item 9.1.4). The process to review the aggregate summary tables was discussed under Agenda Item 9.1.5.

347. Cook Islands on behalf of FFA members thanked the Chair of the CMS-IWG for her work in coordinating the various CMS work streams and noted that there might be a need to review the CMS workplan based on the discussions at WCPFC19.

348. Tuvalu on behalf of PNA and Tokelau stated that FFA members had previously said they would consider the issue of observer participation once the revised CMS measure was working as intended. They noted that while there had been substantial progress in improving the CMS, the CMS measure was still far from working as intended. They stated that in particular the imbalance in observer coverage between the purse seine and longline fisheries results in a deeply flawed base of information for the CMR, which completely undermines the fairness of those elements of the CMS that rely on observer data. For this reason, great caution is needed to ensure that this basic unfairness is not compounded by opening up the prospect of this flawed information being misused or misinterpreted outside the CMR. In addition, much of the information used in the CMR is confidential. For these reasons, PNA and Tokelau suggested deleting the work on observer participation from the workplan and replacing it with “work on fixing the effect of the current imbalance and bias in the CMS”.

349. RMI supported the statement by Tuvalu, and on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau noted that the revised workplan, which they stated is a very thorough and useful document, which is important because of

the large volume of work in the workplan. PNA and Tokelau requested two changes: delete Priority 5 on page 5 on opening the CMS process to observers. PNA and Tokelau stated they did not support that step at this point, and in the light of other priorities requested that it be deleted and the following priority included: “Address the impact of the imbalance in observer information on the CMS.” They stated their view that this is important for two reasons: the imbalance substantially reduces the value of the CMS and therefore the priority that can be attached to it, and it constrains the progress that can be made in strengthening the CMS in areas such as consideration of the aggregate tables and corrective actions. They suggested scheduling work on that task in 2023 so that the outcomes can be used in the process of revising the CMS CMM.

350. The Chair noted that there appeared to be no concerns with the seven TCC recommendation in paragraph 2 of WCPFC19-2022-16. The matter of observer participation in the CMS was further considered under *Agenda 9.1.3*.

351. WCPFC19 endorsed the following recommendations of TCC18 on the Compliance Monitoring Scheme Future Work Components (**WCPFC19-2022-16, paragraph 2**).

- i TCC18 noted the imbalance between the information available for monitoring compliance between the longline and purse seine fisheries and recommended that the Commission recognise the need to address this imbalance.
- ii TCC18 noted that compliance with some obligations cannot be independently verified from available data sources. TCC18 recommended that WCPFC19 task the Secretariat to develop a paper, which identifies those obligations for which there is a lack of independently verifiable data, as well as potential sources of data that could provide independent verification of those obligations, for review by TCC19.
- iii TCC18 recommended that the Commission prioritize the development of additional data collection mechanisms for some obligations to allow for more timely and verifiable data to feed into the CMR process. TCC18 noted in particular there is ongoing work related to ER&EM and transshipment reporting that will allow for more verifiable data to feed into the CMR process.
- iv TCC18 noted that some quantitative limits and baselines for some CMMs are not easily accessible to CCMs. TCC18 recommended that WCPFC19 task the Secretariat to publish tables of CCM’s limits and baselines for all relevant CMMs, and notes on their sources.
- v TCC18 noted that greater clarity about the basis for determining applicability of obligations may assist CCMs with their annual reporting. TCC18 recommended that WCPFC19 task the Secretariat to update and develop additional guidelines to support determining the applicability of obligations for review by TCC19. TCC18 recommended that once the applicability has been reviewed by TCC, it is integrated and held on file in the Annual Report Part 2 reporting system.
- vi TCC18 noted that additional guidance on reporting statements of implementation may assist CCMs with their annual reporting. TCC18 recommended that

WCPFC19 task the Secretariat to update and develop additional guidelines to support CCMs reporting of statements of implementation for review by TCC19.

- vii TCC18 recommended to WCPFC19 that it task the Secretariat to maintain the information relevant to the Risk Based Assessment Framework, a list of all binding obligations, audit points, data sources, compliance history and other information which supports the dCMR in one place associated with information related to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme and Conservation and Management Measures.

### 9.1.1 Develop Audit points

352. The CMS-IWG Audit Point Lead Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian (RMI) reviewed progress in developing audit points for the CMS. She stated that TCC considered 60 draft audit points and agreed to 59 of these and forwarded them to the Commission for adoption, as addressed in **WCPFC19-2022-26 Reference Paper for TCC18 Recommendations for Agenda 9 Compliance Monitoring Scheme**. TCC18 tasked the CMS-IWG to work on another 100 or so audit points in the runup to WCPFC19. Feedback was received from the IWG participants through November. She noted the progress made at WCPFC19, as outlined in **WCPFC19-2022-CMS\_AP\_rev1 Recommended Audit points for the WCPFC CMS**, and described the issues that required further work.

353. The USA acknowledged the work undertaken by CMS-IWG lead on audit points, and stated the hope that the work could be completed in 2023 as it would be very helpful in the CMR process.

354. The EU supported the proposed way forward, and echoed the thanks for the audit point work. The EU also inquired if the agreed audit points would apply to the 2023 dCMR, and suggested for consistency and in line with common practice for all Commission's decisions to avoid retroactive application and that they be applied starting in the 2023 fishing season (and thus with the 2024 dCMR).

355. The Compliance Manager stated that **WCPFC19-2022-33 Information note on the status of the dCMR prepared by the Secretariat in 2022 for review at TCC19 in 2023** outlines a number of potential issues in the current dCMR, and recommended that it be considered by CCMs. Referring to **WCPFC19-2022-27 Side by side comparison of draft Audit Points and Secretariat dCMR criteria**, she stated that it appeared feasible to apply the audit points to the 2022 dCMR (for 2021 activities).

356. Tokelau, also on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau, stated that this was part of the work to reform the CMS measure. They thanked the CMS-IWG lead on audit points for the work and supported applying the adopted audit points to the 2022 dCMR and the 2023 compliance assessment review for 2022 fishing activities. They noted that the FAC was looking at a process to build in additional support to the Secretariat to assist with some work in 2023.

357. Australia supported applying the audit points for both the 2022 and 2023 dCMRs.

358. The EU stated that CCMs' reports for the year 2021 fishing activities had already been submitted, but that these necessarily did not use the criteria adopted at WCPFC19. The EU suggested applying the audit points retroactively to the 2021 activities would be inconsistent with the WCPFC's normal practices.

359. Chinese Taipei supported the concept that these be used, but stated that its intent was not to use them for 2021 activities. As the Secretariat has already reviewed the 2021 activities, Chinese Taipei

proposed that they be used beginning with 2022 activities to reduce the workload for both the Secretariat and CCMs.

360. New Zealand stated it was confused by the conversation, noting audit points do not change the obligations that exist, just clarify what is required, and stated it was unclear why the agreed audit points could not be used for the 2022 CMR process.. New Zealand noted that the Secretariat had confirmed that the agreed audit points could be applied to both 2022 and 2023 CMRs.

361. The EU stated it had a different understanding to New Zealand, and indicated that the Secretariat had already done the assessment and would be obliged to repeat the exercise, resulting in additional workload; alternatively, CCMs would possibly have to revisit what they reported to ensure their reporting is consistent with the new audit points.

362. Cook Islands referenced CMM 2021-03 paragraph (e) which states “In 2023, TCC19 shall consider a CMR that assesses CCMs’ compliance over the previous 2-year reporting period (RY2021 and RY2022) using the agreed audit point and risk-based assessment framework adopted by WCPFC19”.

363. The Compliance Manager again referenced **WCPFC19-2022-33**, which provides information on the current status of the dCMR just before WCPFC19. She stated a decision on the process that TCC will be using for the 2021 and 2022 reporting years should consider the number of issues, the fact that a number of CCMs had not previously engaged in the CMR process for 2021 data, and that some may want the opportunity to supplement their responses. She noted the need for due process that would allow for TCC’s consideration of the potential issues that may arise. She noted the need to clarify how this process will be managed through 2023 in the leadup to TCC19.

364. Chinese Taipei stated it was OK with using the audit points to cover 2021 activities, but that there was a need to ensure all CCMs had adequate time to provide any supplement information based on new audit points.

365. WCPFC19 expressed its sincere appreciation to the Lead of the CMS-IWG work on Audit Points, Rhea Moss-Christian, for her hard work in developing Audit Points.

366. WCPFC adopted the audit points for the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS)(**Attachment Q**) and the audit point checklist for proposed new or amended obligations (**Attachment R**). WCPFC19 agreed to prioritize work on the remaining audit points in 2023.

367. WCPFC19 noted that the Commission at WCPFC18 had agreed in adopting CMM 2021-03 that TCC19, in 2023, shall consider a CMR that assesses CCMs’ compliance over the previous 2-year reporting period (RY2021 and RY2022). WCPFC19 agreed that the adopted Audit Points will apply to the 2022 dCMR (covering 2021 reporting) and the 2023 dCMR (covering 2022 reporting).

### 9.1.2 Develop Risk-based Assessment Framework

368. The CMS-IWG RBAF Lead Ms. Heather Ward (New Zealand) reiterated her appreciation to CCMs for their contributions and thanked the WCPFC Secretariat and CMS IWG Chair. She noted the very useful discussion at TCC18 that resulted in the RBAF being recommended to the Commission as to tool to help guide the selection of future lists of obligations for the CMR Review. The RBAF Lead reviewed the purpose of the work, emphasising that the RBAF would not automatically produce an annual list of obligations or



determine a multi-year schedule of obligations for assessment – that is a separate process. The RBAF provides a common language to collectively discuss which obligations pose the highest risk, either because of the *likelihood* of non-compliance or because of the *consequence* of non-compliance or the combination of both. Based on that analysis, we can determine which high-risk obligations deserve greater or more regular scrutiny in the CMS process and, conversely, which low-risk obligations can be treated differently. In addition, CCMs could also consider whether certain obligations (such as quantitative limits) should be “baked in” to the annual list and whether certain implementation obligations which are “kept on file” should still be regularly assessed. As a tool to help CCMs collectively prioritise obligations for assessment, the RBAF would complement audit points in providing clarity and transparency to the compliance monitoring process.

369. Tuvalu on behalf of FFA thanked the RBAF lead for her hard work over the 2-year period to progress the RBAF to this point. They stated that the RBAF should help streamline the CMS and it should help CCMs to select obligations, where non-compliance poses the greatest risk. FFA members supported adopting the RBAF recommended by TCC18 in order to help prioritize the list of obligations to be assessed under the CMS in the coming years. They encouraged CCMs to use the framework in their consideration of the list of obligations to be assessed in advance of the discussion of a list of obligations at TCC19 and stated FFA members would do the same.

370. The EU thanked the RBAF lead for her hard work. The EU noted that FFA had considered this a major element of the CMS, and observed that the CMR had been discontinued in part because of the absence of the RBAF, and stated that the initial intent was to avoid extensive negotiation on the list of obligations each year. Prior to this all CCMs had their own assessment framework. The EU stated that unfortunately the RBAF process had not achieved what was initially intended. The EU stated its hope that the results did not lead to a lot of additional work.

371. Australia thanked New Zealand for the work, which would provide a platform to better assess what obligations pose a risk, and the annual review process allows for streamlining the CMS process. It stated that the Secretariat had indicated there are ways to make the RBAF framework available, and stated its hope it could be used to expedite and streamline the CMS work in the future.

372. Tokelau, also on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau thanked both the RBAF and Audit Point Leads for their work. They stated that progress in these two important areas as an important contribution to reforming the CMS. They supported the TCC recommendation and the FFA statement on the RBAF that view it as a useful tool for considering future lists of obligations to review during the CMR process. They also noted that because of the imbalance and bias in the monitoring coverage there may be some obligations that cannot be fairly assessed in the CMR process; in that case, these obligations would need to be excluded from the CMR.

373. WCPFC19 expressed its sincere appreciation to the Lead of the CMS-IWG work on the Risk Based Assessment Framework (RBAF), Heather Ward, for her hard work developing a RBAF. The Commission endorsed the RBAF as a useful tool that CCMs may use to guide their consideration of future lists of obligations to review during the Compliance Monitoring Report Review.

### 9.1.3 Develop Guidelines for Observer participation

374. The TCC Vice-Chair stated that she developed a paper with the Secretariat (TCC18-2022-12) on observer participation, based on a TCC17 recommendation. That paper was reviewed at TCC18 (TCC18 Summary Report, paras. 64-84), but there was no agreement at TCC on the paper’s recommendations. She

noted that based on the comments received at TCC18 it appeared some members did not want to hold further discussions on observer participation until data are improved, and there is more balance in the number of obligations in longline and purse seine measures. She noted comments made by CCMs at WPCFC19 regarding this issue under Agenda Item 9.1, and stated she had no recommendations on how to progress the discussion.

375. The USA thanked the TCC Vice-Chair and the Secretariat for their work on this issue, and observed that the difference of opinion was not a new one. The USA noted that questions had been raised related to the measures the Commission had adopted for various fleets, and stated that differences in the required level of monitoring were being incorrectly assigned to the CMS. It stated that a failure by the Commission to adopt a balanced range of measures was not a flaw of the CMS. The USA stated it would work with other CCMs to provide that greater balance, but that characterizing the situation as a flaw of the CMS and using that as a reason for not increasing transparency, in the form of increased observer participation was misplaced. The USA also commented that CCMs had implied there were improprieties with respect to confidentiality or sharing of information. The USA stated it was unaware of any such issues in recent years, and stated that discussions had been held at TCC regarding measures that could be adopted to reduce the potential for such problems. It also noted that many CCM delegations already include outside stakeholders who can participate in the CMR process. The USA emphasised that the obligation to include observers had been agreed to by the Commission, and is included in the CMM. The USA observed that the Commission was overdue in taking action, noting that good progress had been made on the other elements, and expressed the hope that the Commission could make progress on this in 2023.

376. The EU stated that as indicated by the USA, participation of observers in all session of the Commission and subsidiary bodies is necessary to ensure transparency, and stated it was a requirement under the Convention. The EU stated that lengthy discussions on the issue in the past had suggested the that data confidentiality was the key problem, and at TCC18 it seemed some progress had been made on that issue. It noted the Secretariat prepared a very informative paper (**TCC18-2022-12**) showing that most of the data are already available in the public domain, meaning the risk from public disclosure is very low. The EU stated that CCMs had subsequently identified another area that seemed to be problematic, relating to the imbalance in observer reporting rates that result in a huge amount of data for purse seine fisheries, and less for the longline fleet. The EU stated that that there was scope to address that, and that the Commission could undertake to do so, but instead was simply not following up on the issue. The EU stated that when FFA members initially discussed the CMR review, three strands of work were to be undertaken, but one of these related to observer participation had been abandoned. The EU urged FFA members to reconsider, and follow-up on their commitment in this important issue.

377. Solomon Islands, on behalf of FFA members, stated that their views on this issue were captured in the TCC18 recommendations. They stated they would be prepared to consider the issue of observer participation in the CMS again when the current unfairness in the CMS is addressed. CMM 2021-03 on CMS paragraph 3 states that the implementation of the CMS and its associated processes shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of: effectiveness, efficiency, fairness and cooperation towards compliance. They stated that, as they had consistently stated, the CMS is flawed because of the imbalance between the information available for monitoring compliance between the longline and purse seine fisheries, which calls to question the principle of fairness required by the CMS measure. They stated that this was a consistent issue for FFA members for several years and one that the Commission needed to fix before considering the issue of observer participation. FFA members stated that a related issue is the fact that the dCMR raises potential compliance issues against CCMs, and that the classification of the dCMR as non-public domain data is aligned with the notion of “due process”, which needs to ensure that the interests of those identified in the dCMR are protected through to the Commission process that determines whether there has been compliance (or non-compliance) with specific obligations. FFA members stated they supported transparency and inclusivity but that the scheme and the process must be fair to all. They closed by

reiterating that they would be prepared to consider the issue of observer participation when the current unfairness in the CMS is addressed.

378. Korea stated it attaches much importance to transparency, and had seen a number of examples of meaningful contributions from observers, and anticipated further contributions. It supported participation by observers in principle provided no vessel-level information is discussed. Korea stated it looked forward to further discussions in 2023.

379. Tuvalu on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau stated they do not support opening the CMR process to observers because the CMS process remains deeply unfair and because of the confidentiality of much of the information used in the CMR. They stated that they understand that the cause of these flaws is outside the CMS, but stated it deeply affects the fairness of the CMS outcomes, which means that great caution is needed to ensure that this basic unfairness is not compounded by opening up the prospect of this flawed information to being misused or misinterpreted outside the CMR. For these reasons, PNA and Tokelau stated they do not support opening the CMS process to observers. They stated they would be prepared to look at the issue again when the imbalance is fixed. They welcomed CCMs working towards balancing the measures, such as adoption of the FFA's ER proposal, to address the imbalance, rather than the circular argument they continue to have regarding the CMS.

380. PNG also on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau, stated that, as indicated at TCC18, they consider that much of the information used in the CMR is non-public domain data and should be kept confidential. They referenced paragraph 14 of the Data Rules, which stated that all types of data not described in paragraph 11 shall be referred to as non-public domain data. They stated that if paragraph 14 was meant to be limited to individual vessel and personal data, it would have said "all types of data relating to individual persons and vessels not described in paragraph 11 shall be referred to as non-public domain data", but it makes no reference to data relating to individual persons and vessels. They stated that they fully understand that the Commission would have had in mind information beyond that relating to individual vessels and personal data when it decided that information such as that in the dCMR would be confidential. The dCMR includes comments by the Secretariat about the compliance of CCMs with particular obligations. It also includes the comments by CCMs in response. This information is part of a working discussion on compliance by CCMs and they stated that they expect that other CCMs would share their view that this information is confidential. They also considered that the discussion on this information as part of a working process should be confidential. For this reason, PNA and Tokelau stated that they consider that the dCMR should continue to be discussed in closed session to protect the confidentiality of the substantial volume of non-public domain data used in the CMR.

381. The Chair observed that the same positions were expressed at TCC18, and looked forward to constructive discussions to resolve the issue in the future.

382. WCPFC19 was not able to reach agreement on the development of guidelines for observer participation.

#### **9.1.4 Develop Corrective Actions**

383. The Chair noted the advice of TCC18 (in **WCPFC19-2022-26**) related to the nomination of a Lead to develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivise CCMs' compliance with the Commission's obligations, where non-compliance is identified.

384. The USA stated it nominated Ms Elizabeth O'Sullivan.

385. Samoa on behalf of FFA Members stated that they wanted to ensure that the scope of work on the issue was clear, and recommended that the first task for CCMs was to develop a clear TOR to guide the work. FFA members advocated looking first at the use of cooperative and supportive actions as opposed to corrective actions, and stated they would be prepared to consider corrective actions once the current imbalance and bias in the CMS was addressed. They stated that this was in line with the principle of cooperation towards compliance, as stated in paragraph 3 of the CMS measure, to promote a supportive, collaborative, and non-adversarial approach where possible, with the aim of ensuring long-term compliance, including considering capacity assistance needs or other quality improvement and corrective actions.

386. WCPFC19 welcomed the nomination by the United States for Ms. Elizabeth O'Sullivan to lead work through the CMS IWG to develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivize CCM's compliance with the Commission's obligations, where non-compliance is identified, and encourages CCMs to participate in this work.

### 9.1.5 Review of Aggregate Tables

387. The TCC Chair discussed **WCPFC19-2022-CMS\_Agg tables** *Proposed approach for the aggregate tables review process in 2023*. He noted that a process was piloted at TCC17. He stated that although the aggregate tables were not considered at TCC18, he provided a paper (**WCPFC-TCC18-2022-13**) to TCC18 that described the review of the process in 2021 and sought guidance from CCM regarding what the review process could look like in the future. He stated that some constructive feedback was provided. He noted that most CCMs that provided feedback are of the view that the identification of anomalies should be a member-led and collective process. Concerns raised regarding neutrality can be addressed by defining a clear role for the Secretariat in presenting information and the Chair in presiding over the collective review of the aggregated tables in a fair and unbiased manner. He stated that the reframing of the purpose of the aggregated tables to focus initially on identification of anomalies and the suggestion of a phased approach was useful, and highlighted that the aggregate tables could be used to identify issues that warrant consideration without presupposing the cause of the issue, and that TCC has a clear role in discussing what the causes might be and how these can be addressed. He observed that differing views expressed regarding the application of a compliance status associated with the review of aggregated tables were not necessarily inconsistent, and noted the following points: i) Where TCC's review of the aggregate tables clearly identifies a systemic failure on the part of a flag state to take action in response to infringements, CCMs may be supportive of having this recorded via a compliance status, but it is not clear how the application of a compliance status associated with a specific obligation in a specific reporting year would be applied or linked to a systemic issue across multiple years and/or multiple obligations; ii) There is no precedent for how TCC would make a determination of where an anomaly is associated with flag state failure and any corresponding threshold; iii) The opportunity to test the identification of anomalies and determination of causes by TCC19 will be an important part of aggregate tables review process. He stated that the implementation of a tracking tool for observer report requests is widely expected to lead to significant improvements in this issue which will help streamline the resolution of outstanding case file cases. Based on the feedback provided, the TCC Chair proposed a high-level approach for review of the aggregate tables at TCC19, provided an overview of key work to be undertaken up to and through TCC19 to WCPFC20, and proposed specific recommendations drawn from CCM feedback for WCPFC19 consideration and endorsement.

388. Palau on behalf of FFA members generally supported the proposed approach regarding recommendations relating to the high-level approach for aggregate tables review at TCC19, and suggested being cautious about putting a hard deadline against finalization of cases in the online CCFS, as this will be dependent on a number of factors, with no specific date set in the CMM. However, they noted CCMs should be encouraged to try and resolve the cases as soon as possible and that the Secretariat can set

a deadline for drawing out the information for the aggregate tables. On the recommendations relating to the key work for 2023, they welcomed tasking the TCC Chair and the Secretariat to develop guidelines rather than a format for reporting against paragraphs 34(a) and 34(b) for outstanding cases. They reiterated their position to not focus on vessel-level cases but rather on review of aggregated information. In addition, they reiterated that compliance status be de-linked from the review of the aggregate tables, but stated their willingness to consider how the result of the review of the aggregate tables be reflected in the provisional and final CMR. Regarding the invitation to the Commission to provide advice related to the level of detail needed in observer reports to support investigations, FFA members noted that this would be case-dependent and any detail needed from the observer report would have to be in line with the ROP Minimum data fields.

389. FSM on behalf of PNA and Tokelau supported the statement by FFA, while noting they lacked the time to consider the paper as thoroughly as they would have liked. They attached high priority to making effective use of the aggregate tables in the manner anticipated in CMM 2021-03, while stating their deep concern regarding the highly biased results in most of the aggregate tables against the purse seine fishery and purse seine CCMs including PNA flag-state CCMs. They stated that until that flaw was fixed, the aggregate tables affected by that imbalance should not be used to determine a compliance assessment outcome. They stated that fixing the effect of that imbalance was a key issue for TCC19 both in respect of the aggregate tables and more generally, and needed to be a specific element in any schedule of key work for 2023.

390. The EU broadly supported the workplan outlined and stated that the three key areas of work reflect quite accurately what needs to be done. Regarding the extension of observer reports tracking functionalities, the EU stated that it should be possible to identify open cases for which a report is required but not yet provided, so open cases, closed cases, and those for which no report had yet been received could be differentiated. Regarding the comment by FSM on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau, the EU stated that the TCC Chair mentioned some strands of work that could start to address this. One is related to the revision of the ROP observer forms, which were designed to serve scientific purposes but are also used for CMS purposes, and should be revised to reduce the risk of false positives, of which there are many. The EU stated that this could reduce the burden and hopefully address part of the imbalance issue that had been raised by many members.

391. RMI supported FSM's comments, and stated the need to look at longline obligations on the high seas, stating that this is fundamental in the unfairness of the CMS process. RMI stated that the process was paused not because CCMs did not want a CMS, but because it needed to be fair. It stated that a number of proposals to address unfairness and data gaps had been forwarded, including increasing longline observer coverage, and ER. RMI stated it looked forward to developing robust CMS measure that looked at all obligations and what must be done collectively in the high seas.

392. The USA stated that the paper prepared by the TCC Chair was useful and outlined the issues that need to be considered. Regarding the issue of fairness and imbalance between purse seine and longline observer coverage, the USA stated that this has to be addressed not simply by TCC through a focus on the CMS, but more broadly by the Commission.

393. Tuvalu on behalf of PNA and Tokelau stated that at various points under Agenda Item 9, they had referred to the imbalance and bias in the CMS. They stated that for the benefit of CCMs who were not at TCC18 they would explain what they mean by those features, and how they affect the CMS. PNA and Tokelau stated they see the CMS as deeply flawed because of the difference in observer coverage, which provides much of the information for the CMS between the purse seine fishery (100%) and the longline fishery (5%). The effect of the difference in coverage is that almost all potential infringements in the purse seine fishery will be reported for issues monitored by observers, while almost none of the potential infringements in the longline fishery will be reported for those issues. They stated that this means, for

example, that the tables of reported shark-related potential infractions include virtually all of those incidents on purse seine vessels and almost none of those incidents on longline vessels. PNA and Tokelau stated that as a result, many of the conclusions of the CMS are deeply biased against the purse seine flag state CCMs and the purse seine fishery overall. Because over 90% of the industrial purse seine fishery occurs in PNA waters and much of it is conducted by PNA flag state CCMs, this means that the CMS is deeply biased also against fishing in PNA waters and PNA members as flag states; the bias favours longline flag state CCMs and fishing in international waters overall. This imbalance and bias deeply affect the CMS and the way in which results from the CMR and aggregate tables can be used. Within the limits of this bias, the Commission's compliance processes can be used to identify compliance issues and encourage compliance in a positive and collaborative way. But the compliance process cannot be used for follow-up in terms of compliance scoring or actions that have any punitive implication. They stated that given the "one-eyed" compliance process, this would be completely unfair and PNA and Tokelau would not agree to the use of the compliance review processes in that way, and that is why TCC18 recommended that the Commission recognise the need to address this imbalance.

394. FSM on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau stated they also supported the proposed high-level approach for reviewing the aggregate tables at TCC19, as mentioned by FFA members. In particular, they supported the approach of CCMs notifying the Chair ahead of time of potential anomalies for discussion. On the scope of the tables, they stated that most of the tables are of relatively limited value at this present because of the effect of the observer coverage imbalance. They stated that one way to strengthen the aggregate tables would be to include tables of limits and the reported levels of catch or effort against the limits, as these are Commission core business and don't generally depend in observer data. They advocated that this be included in the revision of the CMS CMM in 2023. On key work for 2023, they generally agreed with including a focus on the use of the Article 25 (2) tables because they are not affected by the observer coverage imbalance. They considered that both the static and the dynamic tables are needed for the reasons explained in the paper, while key work for 2023 must include fixing the effect of the observation imbalance both in respect of the aggregate tables and the CMS more generally, and requested that this be included. PNA and Tokelau stated they were not able to support a decision for the information on tracking of observer reports to be used in association with the aggregate tables. They stated that they were unsure that there is any documentation available yet on how the tracking of observer reports works, including how requests are made for observer reports and how information on the sending of observer reports is generated. They stated their understanding that in the current system, this information is provided by observer providers and with the CCFS enhancements this information will be provided by the flag state. They noted that improving the functionality of the CCFS on observer report tracking is included on the Secretariat's programme for 2023, and suggested that the Secretariat be asked to provide a paper for TCC19 describing the process of tracking of observer reports requested and received, with any appropriate data, for review by TCC19. TCC could then review whether the way the data has been generated and collated is appropriate for consideration in conjunction with the aggregate tables. PNA and Tokelau stated that a key consideration would be whether the additional information on observer report tracking adds to or reduces the imbalance and bias in the CMS. PNA and Tokelau agreed that work is needed on the level of detail in observer reports required to support investigations, but suggested this work be undertaken by the ROP-IWG as an extension of previous discussions on this issue in the ROP-IWG.

395. The EU thanked CCMs for clarifying their concerns relating to imbalance, and stated this is necessary to be addressed. The EU noted that 100% coverage in the purse seine fleet means there are about 300 vessels fully observed, as against about 150 in the longline fleet given 5% observer coverage. It stated that perhaps doubling coverage in the longline fleet to 10% would result in a roughly equal number of observed vessels, and could address the issue as a first step. It noted that 100% coverage of the longline fleet would require 3000 observers, which could prove very difficult to achieve, especially in the short term. The EU suggested looking at specific steps to address the concerns expressed by PNA and FFA members, and

stated that for purposes of the CMS the Commission could choose not to consider all the information from the ROP.

396. Kiribati stated that it appreciated the work by the Secretariat to enhance the CCFS in relation to the observer tracking tool. Kiribati noted discomfort with regard to the observer tracking tool process, noting that in the CMS the responsibility is for flag States to meet their responsibilities under Article 25. Kiribati raised the issue of observer safety related to transmission of observer reports via the CCFS. Kiribati suggested the flag state investigation process should be initiated through a flag state request for information approach. Kiribati advocated delaying submission of observer reports via the CCFS.

397. New Caledonia stated that it was highly involved in the ROP, and met the requirement for 5% observer coverage and sought to reach 10%, but experienced challenges in terms of the required human resources. It encouraged each CCM to make progress in the area of human observer coverage in the WCPFC Convention Area.

398. RMI noted the EU's comment, which illustrated the sheer extent of what needs to be done between purse seine and longline fleets to reach fairness in terms of the existing obligations. RMI stated that FFA members had a full suite of national and regional obligations. It stated that one approach to fairness would be to reduce the purse seine observer obligation. RMI stated that this was not its preferred approach, and expressed the hope the Commission would equalize the obligations for CCMs, particularly in the high seas.

399. FSM stated that the agreed future work should include efforts to address the imbalance.

400. WCPFC19 endorsed the proposed approach from the TCC Chair for the process to review aggregate tables in 2023 and the key work to be undertaken up to and through TCC19 and WCPFC20 ( <b>Attachment S</b> ).
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#### **9.1.6 Other future works**

401. The Chair stated that the Commission would consider other related reforms to enhance the CMS. The TCC Vice Chair confirmed that there were no specific TCC18 recommendations for consideration under this agenda item.

402. Tonga on behalf of FFA members supported the TCC recommendations, in particular, the need for the Commission to address the imbalance between the information available for monitoring compliance between the longline and purse seine fisheries, noting this issue had been raised repeatedly, and called on the Commission to take action to address this imbalance.

403. Tuvalu on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau stated they would be bringing proposals to TCC for reforms to the CMS to address the impacts of the imbalance on the CMS and looked forward to discussions on this important issue at TCC19.

404. RMI on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau stated they attach the highest priority to the TCC recommendation that the Commission recognises the need to address the imbalance between the information available for monitoring compliance between the longline and purse seine fisheries. They stated that the next step is for the Commission to take action to address the imbalance. They stated that in their view this would involve: (i) fixing the imbalance, in particular by strengthening monitoring of longline fishing, especially in the high seas, noting that the weakness in monitoring of longlining, especially in the high seas, continues to be the major weakness in the Commission's management programmes; and (ii) noting that

fixing the imbalance would take time, they stated that actions should be taken to address the impacts of the imbalance on the fairness and scope of the CMS.

405. The Chair noted the points expressed by CCMs related to future work on the CMS.

406. The Compliance Manager, in reflecting on the outcomes related to the CMS, noted the Secretariat's workload for 2023, and observed 2023 would be a very busy year in terms of the work tasked to the Secretariat. She drew attention to **WCPFC19-2022-IP18**, which is the forecast of Secretariat's work in support of the TCC workplan. She also noted **WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-11**, which addresses a proposal from the Secretariat to supplement the Secretariat's Compliance team.

## **9.2 Consideration of Compliance Monitoring Report RY2021 and RY2022 in 2023**

407. The Chair noted the advice of TCC18 concerning the consideration of the compliance monitoring reports for 2022 (covering 2021 activities) and 2023 (covering 2022 activities) in 2023 as contained in **WCPFC19-2022-26**; the Secretariat's preliminary assessment of its anticipated work commitments to support work of TCC in 2023 and 2024 in **WCPFC19-2022-IP18**; the *Side by Side Comparison of draft Audit Points and Secretariat dCMR Criteria* in **WCPFC19-2022-27**; and the Information note on the status of the dCMR prepared by the Secretariat in 2022 for review by TCC19 in 2023 in **WCPFC19-2022-33**.

408. WCPFC19 noted the Secretariat's information note on the status of the dCMR prepared by the Secretariat in 2022 for review at TCC19 in 2023 (**WCPFC19-2022-33**).

409. WCPFC19 agreed to continue in 2023 to require CCMs to submit their Annual Report Part 2 at least 100 days prior to TCC19 (which is a date in mid-June instead of 1 July).

### **9.2.1 List of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2023**

410. The Chair noted the advice of TCC18 on the list of obligations to be reviewed by the CMS in 2023 as contained in **WCPFC19-2022-26**, noting that this was also linked to the outcomes of the discussion on audit points under (Agenda Item 9.1.1).

411. The EU advocated adopting a similar list of obligations for 2023 as was adopted for 2022, and advocated for introducing audit points for use in the 2024 CMR process (for the 2023 fishing season).

412. Tokelau on behalf of FFA members supported the TCC18 recommendation to adopt the same list of obligations for review in both the 2022 and 2023 dCMR, recognising the increased workload which may be associated with reviewing two years of dCMR next year. They stated that using the same list should assist in a smooth and efficient review of both CMRs at TCC19 noting that a new list could make the review process at TCC19 more challenging and time consuming.

413. Australia, on behalf of FFA members thanked the Secretariat for **WCPFC19-2022-27 Side by Side Comparison of draft Audit Points and Secretariat dCMR Criteria**, noting that the paper shows that in comparing the audit points to criteria used by the Secretariat for the 60 obligations adopted by WCPFC18, 31 obligations are the same, 23 are mostly the same, 5 are different and 1 is new. They stated that this was a useful analysis, and inquired how much work would be needed if the Secretariat was to look again at the assessment made in the 2022 dCMR for the 23 obligations that are mostly the same and the 5 obligations that are different, and whether this would be achievable in 2023.



414. The Compliance Manager noted there was a need to allow CCMs additional time to respond to issues, and stated that some CCMs had engaged actively, others less so. She stated that some issues would be forwarded to TCC irrespective of what happens with the audit points, and that much work would be required. Decisions would have to be made on whether the work this be done by CCMs and the Secretariat or TCC.

415. WCPFC19 endorsed the list of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2023 and noted it is the same list as adopted in 2022. (**Attachment T**)

## **AGENDA ITEM 10 — LIFTING OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS OF OBSERVER COVERAGE OBLIGATIONS DUE TO COVID 19**

416. The Compliance Manager introduced **WCPFC19-2022-28** *Updated Information related to the Resumption of Observer Placements*. She noted with respect to recommencement of observer placements on purse seine vessels that the observer programmes had not reported significant issues in relation to their preparedness to support the resumption of 100% coverage of purse seine vessels from 1 January 2023. She noted that despite the loss of observers to other professions, feedback from observer programmes indicates the investment national observer programmes have continued to make in training and through some onshore work for observers has provided a good base level of preparedness for the progressive removal of the suspension of observer coverage for longline and purse seine fisheries and for transshipment. Efforts to re-deploy observers, and to recruit and train new observers in preparation for the resumption of deployments, have also served to offset the loss of observers to some extent. Some CCMs have retained some coverage through the use of their own observers, particularly for deployments between their own ports.

417. Japan noted the Secretariat's presentation, but stated its concerns regarding the limited availability of flights which could constrain observers' travel and achievement of 100% observer coverage on purse seine vessels as of 1 January 2023. Japan proposed a transitional period during which the coverage requirement would be ramped up.

418. FSM on behalf of FFA members reiterated that the intersessional decisions to extend the temporary suspension of observer coverage requirement since March 2020 had impacted the livelihood of Pacific Island observers and their families and led to a lack of vital scientific and MCS information during this period. They supported the decision made by the Special Session of the Commission to lift the temporary suspension related to placement of observers on carrier vessels during transshipment and the requirement for observer coverage on purse seine vessels by 1 January 2023. They noted the positive and steady improvement to the rate of observer coverage on receiving vessels during transshipment since July 2022 and stated this established a good basis for the recommencement of observer placement when this obligation becomes effective on 1 January 2023. FFA members stated they had prepared for the recommencement of observer coverage on fishing vessels, including by conducting refresher training for observers and developing COVID-19 safety protocols and an observer redeployment plan that provides the basis for safe redeployment and repatriation of observers on fishing vessels. They stated their readiness to recommence observer placements on fishing vessels by 1 January 2023 and noted they looked forward to working collaboratively with other CCMs to ensure the redeployment of observers takes places smoothly and safely.

419. New Zealand supported the comment made by FSM on behalf of FFA members, noting a Special Session of the Commission had already decided to resume observer coverage - the suspension was only ever intended to be a temporary situation. New Zealand noted the Secretariat's estimates of observer availability for transshipment, and stated that there had been plenty of time to prepare for resumption of these obligations.

420. Chinese Taipei stated it had already contacted observer providers, and was pleased that observer providers were ready to deploy observers. It stated, however, that circumstances of CCMs differed, noting for example that one CCM could not attend WCPFC19 in person, and stated it was willing to consider Japan's proposal to allow exceptional cases.

421. The USA stated it had used the time since the Special Session to begin resuming observer coverage, noting that currently over half of the US fleet is using observers, and that the American Samoa fleet would have 100% observer coverage by Jan 1, 2023.

422. The Compliance Manager stated that she had observed a real spirit of cooperation between flag states, agents and observer programs, and offered to assist flag states with concerns regarding resumption of observer coverage by potentially facilitating their making contact with observer programs.

423. Japan stated it had held further discussions during WCPFC19 regarding the resumption of coverage and could support resumption of the purse seine coverage requirement in January 2023.

<p>424. WCPFC19 noted the positive progress that has been made in resuming the placement of observers on purse seine vessels during the transitional period of 15 June – 1 January 2023 (<b>WCPFC19-2022-28</b>).</p>
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## **AGENDA ITEM 11 — REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS**

### **11.1 SC18**

425. The SC Chair, Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi (Tonga) reported on key issues not covered under other agenda items for the Commission's consideration, as referenced in **WCPFC19-2022-29\_rev1** *Reference Document on other SC18 recommendations for Agenda Item 11.1*. He highlighted two recommendations requiring the Commission's attention, regarding data gaps and how a lack of consensus should be reflected in SC reports (paragraphs 2 and 136, SC18 Outcomes Document).

426. The EU commented that regarding data gaps it supported the recommendations of SC18. In relation to the absence of consensus raised in paragraph 136 of the SC18 Outcomes Document, it stated that the issue was not really a disagreement on the stock assessment and its outputs, but centred on a disagreement over how to reflect them in the SC reports. It stated that some CCMs did not want to allow the others to express their views and resulted in being unable to provide management recommendations for skipjack at WCPFC19. The EU stated that it is essential to avoid politicization of the Commission's scientific recommendations and noted that Article 11 of the Convention allowed for the expression of majority and minority views if consensus could not be reached. The EU strongly suggested that this approach be used, so that the situation that occurred at SC18 is not repeated.

427. Samoa on behalf of FFA members stated that, regarding the issue of absence of consensus, it is important to present information correctly under the appropriate heading. This is necessary in order to clearly distinguish scientific advice from management options and recommendations, and thereby bring clarity to discussions and negotiations.

428. Tokelau on behalf of the PNA welcomed discussion on the presentation of management advice on stocks by the SC, and stated that from its perspective the issue was about the clarity and integrity of the scientific advice. They stated that SC participants sometimes seek to include information about stock status

and trends in the management advice as if it implies certain management advice, and stated that in their view, this tends to cloud the nature of the scientific advice. They stated that if SC is providing advice to managers, that advice should be clearly stated and not implied.

429. The USA stated that a basic tenet of science is scientific integrity, and that it is important for SC to provide advice to the Commission. It stated that Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention allowed for majority and minority opinions to be expressed in the advice provided.

430. PNG on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau stated that in their view there was never an issue about whether differing views should be recorded or not, but that the difference was around where certain text should be placed in the report. They stated the same situation applied to the recording of differing views; these weren't included simply because there was no agreement on where to place the record of those differing views, and participants were not prevented from recording their view.

431. RMI on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau stated they welcomed discussion on the presentation of management advice on stocks by the SC, and wanted to ensure that management advice from the SC is clearly stated and clearly understood. They stated that in their experience, the way in which some of the management advice is formulated has led to information on stock status and trends within the management advice being wrongly taken as advice or a recommendation. They stated their intent to continue to work towards ensuring the clarity and integrity of the management advice provided by the SC.

432. The EU noted that, in paragraph 136 of the SC18 Outcomes Document, SC was seeking guidance from the Commission. The EU stated that while CCMs may have differing views of what should be in one section or another section of the report, this should not prevent the SC from making its management advice. The EU stated that the views of CCMs cannot trump the text of the Convention, and stressed that Article 11 indicated how to deal with disagreements over what should be contained in reports.

433. Tokelau reiterated that there was agreement that the differing views should be recorded at SC, but there was not agreement regarding what part of the report these views should be in.

434. WCPFC19 endorsed the SC18 recommendation that 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."* (**Attachment N**)

435. WCPFC noted paragraph 136 of the SC Outcomes Document, the guidance provided to subsidiary bodies is set out in Article 11(4) of the Convention, and how the views of CCMs are reflected in SC reports is a matter for the SC to determine.

436. WCPFC19 adopted the Summary Report of SC18 (**WCPFC19-2022-SC18**) and endorsed the recommendations not covered under other agenda items (**WCPFC19-2022-29 rev 1.**)

## 11.2 TCC18

437. The TCC Vice-Chair referenced **WCPFC19-2022-30**. *Reference document for TCC18 recommendations for Agenda 11.2* and provided a brief overview of the TCC18 outcomes.

438. The Chair sought views on the TCC18 recommendations set out in **WCPFC19-2022-30** related to IWG-ROP reactivation, RFV SSPs amendment, IT/VMS Security Audit and Scientific Data provision. The Chair confirmed that the TS-IWG-related recommendations would be considered under *Agenda 11.4*. Noting that there were no comments on these recommendations, the Chair requested views on other TCC18 recommendations not considered elsewhere in the agenda.

439. Vanuatu on behalf of FFA members thanked the TCC Vice-Chair for the report and supported the TCC18 recommendations not considered under other agenda items, but reiterated its position stated under Agenda 9.2 that FFA members are not supportive of an extra day for TCC19.

440. Tuvalu on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau supported the FFA statement, noting that as expressed at TCC18, they did not support an additional day for TCC19 for work on the CMS, noting their position is that the CMS is deeply flawed and of relatively little value, so it isn't worth a lot of time. They stated that an additional day had already been added to TCC and that should be enough, especially with the audit points developed. They stated that in their view, the CMS for the two years can be completed in the time available at TCC19 if all CCMs participate efficiently.

441. The Chair confirmed that no change would be made to the scheduled dates of the TCC19 meeting.

442. At the request of the Chair, the TCC Vice-Chair briefly introduced a paper recommending updates to the TCC Workplan 2022-2024 (**WCPFC19-2022-34**).

443. New Zealand thanked the TCC Vice Chair for updating the workplan, and asked whether the review of the seabird mitigation measure should be in the workplan for 2023-2024, and noted that no further action in 2023 was proposed for the RBAF. The TCC Vice-Chair stated that with respect to seabirds the workplan could be updated intersessionally based on the outcome of WCPFC19, noting that no additional work was expected for RBAF in 2023, it did not need to be included.

444. Tokelau on behalf of the PNA and Tokelau requested that Priority 5 relating to participation of observers in the CMS be deleted because there was no agreement on this work and be replaced with a new priority "Address the impact of the imbalance in observer information on the CMS."

445. In response to a request from the Chair, the TCC Vice-Chair clarified that Agenda 9 CMS-IWG workplan discussions, were not reflected in the revised TCC workplan thus far.

446. In response to the PNA and Tokelau suggestion, the EU and USA requested that the work related to participation of observers be square bracketed, to reflect it had been paused, but be kept in the workplan, as it had been agreed to by the Commission in the CMM so should be retained in the workplan as a priority that should be addressed.

447. Tokelau indicated that although it was not their preference, they could accept the work related to participation of observers being square bracketed. They explained that the issue is the sequencing. If work to address the imbalance in observer information is completed, then the TCC could revisit the participation of observers in the CMS.

448. The Chair, noting there were no further views, confirmed that the work related to participation of observers would be square bracketed in the updated TCC workplan.

449. WCPFC19 endorsed the following recommendations of TCC18:

*Tasking the Intersessional Working Group on the Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP)*

- i TCC18 supported the Commission’s intention to reactivate the IWG-ROP.
- ii TCC18 recommended that the Commission task the IWG-ROP, once it is reactivated, to develop draft recommended modifications to ROP data fields with the intention of allowing for more useful consideration of ROP data in the CCFS and in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme processes, and while taking into account their implications, including the impact on observer workloads and observer safety, as well as any related training needs.
- iii TCC18 recommended that the IWG-ROP, once it is reactivated, prioritize work on issues such as a solution to identifying interactions with whale sharks and cetaceans, and on the inclusion of ROP data fields that were identified in the TCC Workplan 2022-2024 project specific task (j), and to identify any CMM that should also be prioritized in this work.

*RFV Standards, Specifications and Procedures*

- iv TCC18 recommended to WCPFC19 that the recommended edits in Box 1 in paragraph 6 of TCC18-2022-21 (Attachment 2) are adopted by the Commission. (draft TCC18 Summary Report paragraph 180 and Attachment E) (**Attachment U, CMM 2022-05 Standards, specifications and procedures for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Record of Fishing Vessels**).

*WCPFC IT/VMS Security Audit*

- v TCC18 supported the Secretariat’s recommendation to expand the annual VMS Security Audit budget, to include a more dynamic and continual assessment of the WCPFC information systems, with an estimated budget of \$11,900 USD (draft TCC18 Summary Report paragraph 236).
- vi TCC18 recommended to the Commission that an additional budget allocation of \$15,000 USD be set aside for annual penetration testing of the WCPFC information systems (draft TCC18 Summary Report paragraph 237).

450. WCPFC19 adopted the TCC work plan for 2022-2024, as revised by the TCC Vice-Chair. (**Attachment V**)

451. WCPFC19 adopted the Summary Report of TCC18 (**WCPFC19-2022-TCC18**).

### 11.3 NC18

452. WCPFC19 adopted the report of NC18 (**WCPFC19-2022-NC18**).

## 11.4 Other Intersessional Work and Working Groups

### 11.4.1 E-reporting and E-monitoring (ER&EMWG)

453. Australia provided an overview of the status of ER&EMWG work in 2022, in response to the TCC workplan agreed at WCPFC18 (**WCPFC19-2022-ERandEMWG-01** *Summary of the work undertaken by the Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring Working Group (ERandEM WG) in 2022*). The workplan for 2022 was for TCC was to: i) Consider and provide advice on outputs from the ER&EMWG, including those related to existing obligations, data gaps and the prioritisation of ER and EM, and ii) Draft minimum standards for EM. TCC was also tasked to consider and provide advice on outputs from the ER&EMWG, including a draft EM CMM. In response to this workplan, the ER&EMWG achieved 3 main outcomes in 2022. Circulation of the current version of the SSPs in March with comments received from 11 participants. CCMs' comments linked to how best to progress the drafting of EM SSPs and any associated CMM. In particular, some CCMs noted a difficulty in progressing the detailed drafting of the SSPs without broader understanding of the scope and application of any EM program in WCPFC. The EM Framework discussion paper sought to ensure that any EM framework recognised the precedents and decisions of Commission. It considered how members could implement EM and the potential interaction with the ROP. The discussion paper sought to find a way of balancing the needs of different members by providing a flexible way of implementing CMMs to give effect to the Commission's requirements for at-sea monitoring for scientific and compliance purposes. In July, the EREM WG conducted a two-day virtual meeting. The key outcome was the working group's agreement to concurrently develop in 2022 and 2023: (a) an At-Sea Monitoring CMM, (b) an EM program CMM, and (c) the associated SSPs in 2022 and 2023. These workstreams will form the basis of the ER&EMWG's work in 2023. Australia noted that the various elements of work and progress on ER and EM among CCMs is extremely promising, and the need to improve reporting and monitoring of fishing activity within the WCPO remains a consistent theme in the Commission's discussions. In particular, the Commission has collectively recognised the need to prioritise increased levels of reporting and monitoring in the high seas. This has also been addressed in parallel workstreams in the Commission, including the Transshipment IWG, the MCS provisions of various CMM proposals (including discussions regarding the tropical tuna measure), and ER initiatives. Australia also noted that the nominated Chair, Claire van der Geest, had left her role at the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, and that unfortunately, Australia was not in a position to continue chairing the ER&EMWG. It suggested that WCPFC19 provided an opportunity to transition the chair's role to another CCM. Noting this, Australia stated it was in discussions with other CCMs regarding a potential nomination for a new chair. Australia stated it led the ER&EMWG beginning in 2015 and was proud of the significant achievements on both ER and EM development and implementation. Australia stated it continues to support and prioritise the development and implementation of robust monitoring within WCPFC and remains committed to continued engagement and progress in the ER&EMWG. Australia stated it looks forward to supporting a new chair to continue the successful work of the ER&EMWG.

454. FSM on behalf of FFA members thanked the Chair of the ER&EM WG for her effort to progress this work this year. They supported the proposed amendment from the fifth ER&EM WG meeting to the existing TCC workplan to support the timely progression of the Regional EM Programme. As stated under Agenda Item 4, FFA members shared with the Commission their EM SSPs through **WCPFC19-2022-DP08** to be used as a basis to help progress the work on the development of EM SSPs by the ER&EM WG and with the aim of ensuring compatibility and complementarity of EM frameworks across the WCPFC Convention Area.

455. New Zealand stated that regarding ER, FFA members supported the recommendation from a majority of CCMs at TCC18 that the Commission agree that CCMs shall submit operational catch and effort

data in accordance with the agreed SSPs for ER in the WCPFC operational catch and effort data and observer data from 1st of January 2024. They noted that FFA members also tabled **WCPFC19-2022-DP05**, which was discussed at WCPFC19 through the ER SWG.

456. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the report of the Chair of the ER&EMWG.
457. WCPFC19 adopted **CMM 2022-06** *Conservation and Management Measure on Daily Catch and Effort Reporting (Attachment W)*.
458. WCPFC19 agreed that after 1 January 2024 those CCMs with vessels not yet implementing electronic reporting of catch and effort data on the high seas provide an update to TCC each year until full implementation is achieved.
459. WCPFC19 agreed that those CCMs that cannot electronically report its catch and effort data in accordance with the agreed ‘Standards, Specifications and Procedures for Electronic Reporting in the WCPFC operational catch and effort data’ should report to TCC each year on any implementation issues.
460. WCPFC19 tasked SC19 and TCC19 to provide guidance to the Commission on how CCMs can provide operational catch and effort data to the Commission more frequently during the year. In particular, this guidance will consider CCMs’ implementation of data provision:
- a. within 30 days of the end of a trip and, where applicable, at the end of every transshipment at sea; and/or
  - b. by 1 July and 31 December with available information for that calendar year.

#### **11.4.2 Transshipment review (TS-IWG)**

461. WCPFC19 received a brief progress report from the Co-Chairs Alex Kahl (USA) and Felix Toa Ngwango (Vanuatu) of the Transshipment review IWG (TS-IWG) on the progress of the working group, as outlined in **WCPFC19-2022-TS** *TS-IWG Co-Chairs’ report to WCPFC19* (28 November 2022). The Co-Chairs noted that WCPFC19 also received a proposal from the USA with (**WCPFC19-2022-DP02** *Strengthening and Revising CMM 2009-06 in 2023*), which was introduced under Agenda Item 4.

462. The Chair noted the need to also consider the TCC18 recommendation related to the transshipment observer data field in working paper **WCPFC19-2022-30** *Reference Document on TCC18 Recommendations for Agenda 11.2* paragraph 2 (vi) to (viii), and the analysis submitted by the Secretariat and SPC to the Commission of how TCC18’s transshipment recommendations could be implemented to achieve CCMs’ desired outcomes in respect of observer monitoring of transshipments (**WCPFC19-2022-32**).

463. The Co-Chairs outline the recommendations as contained in **WCPFC19-2022-TS**.

464. RMI on behalf of PNA and Tokelau stated they had some concerns over Recommendation 4 regarding the IWG-ROP considering the FC-3 form and its data fields for inclusion on the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields or as minimum data fields for observer transshipment monitoring, noting that this was due to the operational nature of placing observers, and their ability to follow-carrier through to port of unloading, once placed to observe a high-seas transshipment event. They asked the Secretariat whether their

understanding of the operational nature of observer placement is accurate? The Secretariat indicated it was. In response, RMI stated that in order to close out an important gap in the monitoring of high seas product movement, PNA and Tokelau reiterated their call at TCC18 to make FC-3 a carrier form to close out this gap and link the information to the data fields in Attachment 2 of **WCPFC19-2022-32**.

465. The Ocean Foundation, also on behalf of the Pew Charitable Trusts, stated their strong support for the workplan for the transshipment IWG. They noted that to draft a set of revisions of CMM 2009-06 for presentation at TCC19 would take a series of focused conversations and discussions as envisioned in the workplan. They noted their disappointment that in-person meetings could not be planned to progress that work prior to TCC, and called on all members to actively engage in the IWG's work during 2023 to meet the workplan's objectives. They stated that that they stand ready to support that work.

466. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the report of the Co-Chairs of the TS-IWG and endorsed the following recommendations of the Co-Chairs (WCPFC19-2022-IWG-TS\_rev2):

- i WCPFC19 adopted the Minimum data fields for Observer transshipment monitoring as listed in **Attachment X** as data fields to be collected by transshipment observers during transshipment events, as of 1 April 2023.
- ii WCPFC19 agreed to amend the 'Data fields' item of the Agreed Minimum Standards and Guidelines of the Regional Observer Programme to read as follows:  
*"For transshipment on the high seas, transshipment ROP providers shall send the agreed ROP minimum standards data in forms FC-1 and FC-2 (**Attachment X** of WCPFC19 Summary Report) to the Commission Secretariat within 90 days of the disembarkation of the observer from the carrier."*
- iii WCPFC19 requested the Secretariat and Scientific Services Provider to provide a report to TCC19 and WCPFC20 on the outcomes of implementation of the short-term implementation phase (WCPFC19-2022-32, paragraphs 11-22).
- iv WCPFC19 requested TCC20 (after more than one year of implementation), and the IWG-ROP, consider the ROP data fields in FC-1 and FC-2 data fields and whether any revisions are necessary to the minimum data fields for Observer transshipment monitoring.
- v WCPFC19 recommended FC-3 form be referred to the TS-IWG and the IWG-ROP if it is reinitiated, to consider the data fields required to be collected by carrier vessels to complement the data to be collected by observers as referenced in **Attachment X**.

467. WCPFC19 also endorsed the following recommendation of TCC18 related to ROP Minimum Transshipment Observer Data:

- i TCC18 noted the Commission has already adopted ER standards for observer data and that the development of standards for ER by transshipment observers or providers in 2023 could significantly shorten the required timeline for ER of transshipment observer data to the Secretariat.



468. WCPFC19 adopted the TS IWG 2023 Work Plan (**Attachment Y**).

### 11.4.3 Crew Labour Standards

469. The Co-Leads of the intersessional work on crew labour standards, Putuh Suadela (Indonesia) and Sarah McAvinchey (New Zealand) provided an update on the workshop held in July (referenced as **WCPFC19-2022- Labour**), and noted that a meeting would be held at WCPFC19 to discuss the proposed CMM, which the co-chairs noted needed to be refocused during the IWGs work in 2023. The co-chairs highlighted the moral imperative of this work and their commitment to making progress along with CCMs in 2023..

470. Niue on behalf of FFA members thanked the Co-Leads for their leadership during the intersessional period and at WCPFC19 to re-strategize the Commission's approach to the draft CMM. They noted that improving crew labour standards and the passage of a binding CMM focussing on crew labour standards was a key priority for FFA members and had been identified by Pacific leaders as a focus area. They stated that a core principle for FFA members is the importance of their people. Niue stated that FFA members have adopted crew labour aspects into their harmonised minimum terms and conditions for access by fishing vessels to act on the need to protect crew. They stated that FFA members are encouraged by the engagement of CCMs through the intersessional period and look forward to continued commitment by all CCMs. However, FFA members expressed disappointment in the slow advancement of the draft CMM. They stated that the improvement of crew labour standards and elimination of human rights violations is a moral imperative, and that the Commission should continue the work on the draft CMM in 2023, including ensuring crew have their rights protected under law through contracts or other legal mechanisms. FFA members stated that further work would also be needed to address the most severe crimes such as forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery, and stated they remained committed to continuing work through the IWG to progress this important task, with a view to having a binding CMM.

471. The USA joined with FFA members in thanking the Co-Leads. It commented that it also views the issue as an imperative that be addressed by the Commission, and expressed disappointment that more progress had not been made. The USA stated it would like to see a commitment that this be completed in 2023, with a binding CMM.

472. The EU reiterated its commitment to support the work and stated its hope that it could be finalized soon.

473. WCPFC noted with appreciation the Report of the Co-Leads of the Crew Labour Standards IWG and the importance that CCMs attach to progressing expeditiously a CMM on crew labour standards.

## AGENDA ITEM 12 — ADOPTION OF THE 2023 IUU VESSEL LIST

474. The Chair noted reference paper **WCPFC19-2022-31**, which includes the recommendations of TCC18 on this issue. She stated that the proposed 2023 IUU Vessel List is the same IUU Vessel List for 2022.

475. Nauru on behalf of FFA members supported the retention of NEPTUNE, FU LIEN No.1 and YU FONG 168 on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2023. They thanked Chinese Taipei for responding to the

questions they had raised concerning beneficial ownership during TCC18 and stated they would respond to those comments at TCC19. As was agreed at WCPFC17, FFA members recommended that the Executive Director be tasked accordingly to continue to follow up with the former flag States, CCMs, and RFMOs (**WCPFC17 Summary Report**, paragraph 388).

476. Vanuatu provided an update on information presented by Vanuatu at TCC18 regarding two foreign fishing vessels conducting fishing activities in Vanuatu waters without licences, which was ongoing at that time. Vanuatu thanked FFA, SPC, WCPFC and the French government for their support in ensuring that the matter be heard in court. The fishing vessels entered Vanuatu waters without notice or valid licences between December 2020 and January 2021 and carried out fishing activities until they were apprehended with the help of PMW Patrol Boat RVS Tukoro and brought to port. All crew were apprehended and underwent COVID-19 protocols before being held in custody. Court proceedings commenced in July 2022. Evidence provided included video footage, expert witness statements, photographs, defendants' inconsistent statements, and an absence of fishing vessel devices and licences. The Supreme Court issued a verdict of not guilty on all charges on 29 July. The Supreme Court ruled that fishing activities were recreational in nature and that fishing gear was stored in a manner not ready to be used. The Office of the Public Prosecution filed an appeal application, which was accepted. The Court of Appeal convened in November and ruled that the Defence Counsel and Supreme Court judge had erred in their judgement and interpretation of the law regarding fishing. The Court of Appeal ruled for a retrial and that the matter be brought before the Supreme Court again. Vanuatu stated that the outcome to date was positive, but stated it wished to draw the attention of WCPFC19 to the issue of how well-versed CCMs' respective judiciaries are with respect to fisheries or maritime related matters. It noted that significant work was needed to educate the public and agencies (e.g., the police, judiciary, education system, industry and the general population) regarding fisheries-related matters and the need to protect and sustainably use these resources. It stated that such undertakings may be the sole responsibility of each CCM's national government based on advice and guidance from national fisheries agencies, and regional and international fisheries organisations. It commended FFA's efforts to organize regional judicial meetings, whereby judges and lawyers meet for a week to discuss fisheries-related matters, and develop familiarization with regional fisheries work, data, surveillance and enforcement, and evidence. It stated that this was a good initiative for all CCMs to adopt and implement nationally with some guidance from their regional and international partners. With respect to the case in question, Vanuatu stated it is fortunate and grateful that the Court of Appeal ruled in the State's favour, and called for a retrial. However, it stated its concern that the case proved difficult due to a lack of understanding regarding fisheries, legislation and policies, and evidence. As a consequence, Vanuatu put forward the following recommendations, which it stated could help CCM's judiciaries and people to better understand fisheries resource management and sovereignty, sovereign rights, and associated concepts: i) Awareness on fisheries and related matters should be developed at national level with other relevant government agencies, members of the judiciary, border and enforcement, security, finance, health, labour, communications, education, NGOs and donor partners; ii) The Commission and CCMs should discuss and deliberate on the issues surrounding entry and exit of EEZs and most importantly, expand on certain language such as "Loitering"; and consider what measures should be imposed at the national level where foreign fishing vessels loiter in an EEZ without a valid license or good reason; and iii) Fisheries-related material should be introduced into the government education system, with media encouraged to ensure people are familiar with fisheries management matters; awareness programs should explain what fisheries management constitutes, and address the importance of fisheries resource management activities and the fight against IUU fishing activities in CCMs' waters.

477. WCPFC19 agreed to maintain the three vessels currently on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List and adopted the 2023 IUU Vessel List. ( <b>Attachment Z</b> )
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## AGENDA ITEM 13 — REPORT OF FAC16

### 13.1 Report of the Sixteenth Finance and Administration Committee

478. The FAC Co-chairs Mr. Michael Brakke (USA) and Mr. David Power (Australia) reported the key outcomes and recommendations of FAC16 and referenced the Summary Report (**WCPFC19-2022-FAC16**).

479. WCPFC19 accepted the audited financial statements for 2021 as set out in paper WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-06.

480. WCPFC19 supported the appointment of Ernst & Young as auditor for the next 2-years to undertake the audits of the Commission's 2022 and 2023 financial statements and accounts.

481. WCPFC19 adopted an amendment to financial regulation 7.8 to read:

“7.8. Financial Regulation 7.5 and 7.7 on the application process and reporting requirements, respectively, shall be waived for:

- a) one traveller from each small island developing States and Participating Territories delegation to meetings of the Annual Session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; and
- b) the travel for the Chairs of SC, TCC, FAC Co-Chair and the WCPFC Vice Chair from SIDS to the Annual Session.”

482. WCPFC19 approved a 5% increase in professional staff salary from 2023, excluding the Executive Director, to align with the recent increase in other WCPFC staff salaries and account for cost of living increases due to inflation.

483. With respect to broader issues related to the tri-annual market review and professional staff remuneration, WCPFC noted WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-10 but determined that additional information on relevant salary benchmarks and further discussion among CCMs is needed to reach consensus in future changes on professional staff salaries. WCPFC tasked the FAC Co-Chairs to work intersessionally with Secretariat and interested CCMs to identify potential recommendations for consideration of FAC17 on the following issues, without prejudice to future decision-making process:

- i Options to align staff salary including the Executive Director, on a single simplified salary scale and/or other improvements related to the salary scale structure;
- ii The advantages and disadvantages of changing the denomination of professional staff salaries from IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to U.S. Dollars for greater clarity and to align with the currency of the Commission's budget and financial accounts;
- iii Options to establish automatic cost-of-living increases for staff salaries which could minimize the need for future salary reviews;

- iv Changes to the content and frequency of salary market reviews including ensuring clearer comparison to the actual salary ranges comparable position in CROP agencies as well as remuneration of other relevant RFMO secretariats;
- v Methods to ensure any changes to staff salaries do not result in lower remuneration for existing professional staff;
- vi Any necessary changes to the Commission’s Staff Regulations or Financial Regulations to accomplish any resulting recommendations.

484. WCPFC19 approved \$80,000 for a short-term consultancy to support the increase in the Secretariat’s workload in the coming year. FAC16 included this cost in the budget recommended to the Commission. WCPFC19 tasked the Secretariat to report to TCC19 and FAC17 with its views on the necessity of continuing this consultancy or seeking other arrangements for future years, in order to inform further consideration as appropriate at FAC17.

485. WCPFC19 adopted the report of FAC16, with a 2023 budget of USD8,819,999. (Attachment AA).

### **13.2 Budget for 2023 and Indicative Budgets for 2024 and 2025**

486. WCPFC adopted a 2023 budget of USD8,819,999. The Commission agreed that any additional costs related to Commission decisions that are not already included in the budget, such as relating to costs for hosting potential meetings in 2023, will be added to the draw down from the Working Capital Fund. The Commission adopted the final adopted 2023 budget and Annexes (**Attachment BB**), with a 2023 budget of USD8,884,999.

## **AGENDA ITEM 14 — ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **14.1 Secretariat’s Corporate Plan**

487. WCPFC19 noted with appreciation the Updated Secretariat Corporate Plan (**WCPFC19-2022-IP17**).

### **14.2 Appointment of the New Executive Director**

488. The Chair formally announced the appointment of Ms Rhea Moss-Christian as Executive Director of WCPFC.

### 14.3 Election of Officers

489. The Commission endorsed the appointment of Dr Josie Tamate (Niue) as Chair of the Commission and Mr Takumi Fukuda (Japan) as Vice-Chair of the Commission.

490. The Commission made a number of other appointments to Commission positions commencing after the end of WCPFC19 (4 December 2022):

- i Ms Emily Crigler (United States) was appointed SC Vice-Chair;
- ii Mr Mat Kertesz (Australia) was appointed TCC Chair;
- iii Mr Ilkang Na (Korea) was appointed TCC Vice-Chair;
- iv Mr Masanori Miyahara (Japan) was appointed NC Chair; and
- v Mr Michael Tosatto (United States) was appointed NC Vice-Chair.

491. In support of 2022 Intersessional activities, to be progressed electronically, the Commission confirmed the following:

- i Ms Neomai Ravitu (Fiji) would continue to chair the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG;
- ii Dr Alex Kahl (United States) Mr. Felix Toa Ngwango (Vanuatu) would continue to co-chair the Transshipment Review IWG;
- iii Mr Jamel James (Federated States of Micronesia) would continue to chair the FAD Management Options IWG;
- iv Mr Harold Vilia (Solomon Islands) was appointed IWG-ROP Chair;
- v Ms Putuh Suadela (Indonesia) and Ms Sarah McAvinchey (New Zealand) would co-lead the intersessional work on improving labour standards for crews fishing boats; and
- vi Ms. Elizabeth O'Sullivan would lead work through the CMS IWG to develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivize CCM's compliance with the Commission's obligations.

492. The Chair noted that the positions of ERandEMWG Chair, and CDS-IWG Chair remain vacant and that nominations for these positions would be invited intersessionally in 2023.

### 14.4 Future Meetings

493. The Cook Islands offered to host WCPFC20 in Rarotonga from 4 to 8 December 2023, and stated it would provide a unique Polynesian experience.

494. The Secretariat noted the higher costs for hosting an annual meeting in the Cooks Islands and would add an additional \$65,000 to the annual meeting costs to the budget. The Secretariat also noted those additional costs would be offset by increasing the drawdown on the Working Capital Fund by \$65,000 so

that member contributions would not increase from the recommendations of FAC16 (**WCPFC19-2022-FAC16**).

495. The Commission agreed on the following meeting venues and dates:
- i WCPFC20 would be held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 4 to 8 December 2023;
  - ii SC19 would be held in Palau from 16 to 24 August, 2023;
  - iii TCC19 would be held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia from Wednesday 20 September to Tuesday 26 September 2023; and
  - vii NC19 would be held in Japan (venue and date to be advised)

### **AGENDA ITEM 15 — OTHER MATTERS**

496. Dr. Graham Pilling (SPC) offered a tribute to the late Dr. Tony Lewis, who spent over four decades working in fisheries in the Pacific, and was head of SPC-OFP for fourteen years.

497. WCPFC19 expressed its sincere condolences at the passing of Dr Tony Lewis, former head of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community and a significant contributor to WCPFC and the science of fisheries in the Pacific region.

498. WCPFC19 expressed its sincere appreciation to the Chair of the Commission for her tireless work in guiding the work of the Commission over the last four years during the challenging period of the pandemic and two years of virtual meetings.

499. WCPFC19 expressed its sincere appreciation to the outgoing Executive Director for his leadership of the WCPFC Secretariat over the last eight years and its best wishes for the future.

### **AGENDA ITEM 16 — SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WCPFC19**

500. The Chair outlined the process for adoption of the Summary Report for WCPFC19, with an Outcomes Document containing agreed decision points to be circulated to the Commission within seven working days following the close of the annual session, and the draft Summary Report to be provided as soon as possible. CCMs would be given thirty working days after circulation of the draft Summary Report to provide any changes. The complete Summary Report would be finalised intersessionally and posted on the Commission website and meeting participants would be advised accordingly.

### **AGENDA ITEM 17 — CLOSE OF MEETING**

501. The Executive Director expressed his congratulations to the Commission for completing the tasks it set for itself in Vietnam. He stated that the Commission demonstrated once again that despite diversity and varied interests of its members it was able to rise to the occasion and delivered on key priorities. In particular, he noted the adoption of a management procedure for skipjack as a major milestone in progressing the implementation of the WCPFC harvest strategy workplan. He praised the skilful and strategic leadership

of the Chair in managing efficiently and effectively the deliberations at WCPFC19. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to those who supported him in his tenure of eight years as Executive Director of the Commission, which would come to an end in March 2023. He explained his initial engagement with the Commission when he headed the Tuvalu Delegation to the multilateral high-level conference that negotiated the WCPFC Convention from 1997 to 2020. He thanked the Commission and its membership for entrusting him with the responsibility of heading the WCPFC Secretariat since March 2015, and reflected on the many achievements of the WCPFC over his tenure. He also thanked and acknowledged the Government of Tuvalu for its support for him, and the sterling leadership and guidance of the two Commission Chairs (Ms Rhea Moss-Christian and Ms Jung-re Riley Kim) that he worked with. He noted with gratitude the support and work of the Scientific Services Provider Team SPC-OFP, and the other services providers of the Commission FFA in terms of VMS services and ISC for scientific services for the NC. He acknowledged with great admiration the dedication and commitment and support of his colleagues at the Secretariat including the Legal Adviser Dr Penny Riding and the Rapporteur Mr Mark Smaalders.

502. The Commission Chair reflected on her involvement with the Commission and tenure as Chair. She reviewed the Commission's achievements at WCPFC19, and acknowledged the hard work of all CCMs in making these possible, noting in particular the MP for skipjack. She noted the work of the leads for the small working groups during WCPFC19, and acknowledged the hard work of the outgoing Executive Director, the Secretariat staff, and the staff of the SPC-OFP. She welcomed the incoming Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, the Chair and Vice Chair of TCC, and the newly appointed Vice-Chair of SC. She also welcomed the newly appointed Executive Director. She closed by offering her thanks to the Government of Vietnam for hosting the meeting in Da Nang.

503. CCMs thanked the government of Vietnam for hosting WCPFC19 and acknowledged the Chair for her excellent work, and her service for management of fisheries. They also congratulated the incoming Chair, Dr. Josie Tamate. CCMs thanked the Executive Director for his years of service to the Commission, and congratulated the newly appointed Executive Director, Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian. They noted the Commission's accomplishments at WCPFC19 and looked forward to WCPFC20 in the Cook Islands.

504. The meeting closed at 7:18 pm on Tuesday, 03 December 2022 (Vietnam time).

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## Meetings

# Attendees - 19th Regular Session of the Commission

### Chair

Jung-re Riley Kim riley1126@korea.kr	Commission Chair, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
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### MEMBER - Australia

Emma Campbell Head of Delegation	First Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Alexandrea Franks	Policy Officer, Australian Fisheries Management Authority
David Ellis ceo@tunaaustralia.org.au	Chief Executive Officer, Tuna Australia
David Power david.power2@dfat.gov.au	Fisheries Specialist, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Don Bromhead don.bromhead@awe.gov.au	Senior Fisheries Scientist, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
James Larcombe james.larcombe@agriculture.gov.au	Principal Scientist, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
James van Meurs James.vanmeurs@agriculture.gov.au	Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Kate Martin kate.martin@afma.gov.au	Tropical Tuna Manager, Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Lachlan Farquhar	Senior Management Officer, Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Mat Kertesz mat.kertesz@agriculture.gov.au	Assistant Director, Regional Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Maxwell Bayly max.bayly@agriculture.gov.au	Senior Policy Officer, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Sara Murphy	Senior Management Officer, Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Selina Stoute	Senior Manager, Tuna and International Fisheries, Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Viv Fernandes viv.fernandes@afma.gov.au	Senior Manager, International Compliance Policy, Australia Fisheries Management Authority
Wez Norris wez.norris@afma.gov.au	Chief Executive Officer , Australian Fisheries Management Authority

MEMBER - Canada

Amber Lindstedt Head of Delegation amber.lindstedt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Deputy Director, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dustin De Gagne dustin.degagne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Senior Compliance Program Officer, Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Robynn Smith Laplante Robynn-Bella.Smith-Laplante@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

MEMBER - China

Liu Xiaobing Head of Delegation xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com	Distinguished Professor, Shanghai Ocean University
Sun Haiwen Head of Delegation bofdwf@126.com	Director, Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Alex Liu aging256@126.com	Operational Assistant , China National Fisheries Corp.
Chen Xue Jian 1528957706@qq.com	Deputy Secretary General, China Overseas Fisheries Association
Dr. Xiaojie Dai xjdai@shou.edu.cn	Professor, Shanghai Ocean University
Feng Wu fwu@shou.edu.cn	Lecturer, Shanghai Ocean University
Hong Zhang zhanghong@cnfc.com.cn	Staff , Zhangyu Global Seafood Corporation
Huang Xiangjun huangxiangjun@cnfc.com.cn	Deputy Business Manager, Zhongyu Global Seafood Corporation
Li Xingran	Delegation Member, Qingdao Haoyang Ocean Fishery Company, Ltd.
Li Yan liyancnfj@outlook.com	Deputy Director of High Seas Fisheries, China Overseas Fisheries Association
Sun Chong suncongbeiwai@aliyun.com	Deputy Director of Highsea Fisheries, China Overseas Fisheries Association
Wang Shi Gang matthewwang@ptrcn.com	Delegation Member, China Overseas Fisheries Association
Wang Zian wangzian@cnfc.com.cn	Delegation Member, China National Fisheries Corporation

Xiao Mengjie xiaomengjie@cofa.net.cn	Advisor, China Overseas Fisheries Association
Xiaojun Chen luckych@126.com	Deputy Director of Performance Center, Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Company, Ltd.
Xie Chenglan xiechenglan@cnfc.com.cn	Deputy General Manager, Purse Seiners Department, CNFC, Overseas Fisheries Company, Ltd.
Yan Luxin	Delegation Member, Qingdao Haoyang Ocean Fishery Company, Ltd.
Yuchen Huang yuchenhuang0111@163.com	Research Associate, Shanghai Ocean University
Zhao Gang zhaogang@cofa.net.cn	Secretary General, China Overseas Fisheries Association
Zhe Geng zhegeng1993@foxmail.com	Delegation Member, Shanghai Ocean University
Zhu Jiangfeng jfzhu@shou.edu.cn	Professor, Shanghai Ocean University

#### MEMBER - Cook Islands

Pamela Maru Head of Delegation P.Maru@mmr.gov.ck	Secretary, Ministry of Marine Resources
Kerrie Robertson K.Robertson@mmr.gov.ck	Director, Offshore Fisheries Division, Ministry of Marine Resources
Tepaeru Herrmann tepaeru.herrmann@cookislands.gov.ck	Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Cook Islands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
Tiare Nicholas t.nicholas@mmr.gov.ck	Data Manager , Ministry of Marine Resources Cook Islands

#### MEMBER - European Union

Stamatis Varsamos Head of Delegation Stamatios.VARSAMOS@ec.europa.eu	Head of the European Union Delegation, European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit B2: RFMOs
Alfonso Beitia Lachaga ab.lachaga@albacora.es	Member of the Board, Albacora SA
Ángela Cortina Burgueño angela@arvi.org	Secretaria técnica, Organización de Productores Nacional de Palangre de Altura (OPNAPA-88)
Borja Alonso	Chief Legal Officer, Albacora, S.A
Daniel Calvo Buron dclvo@boltonfood.com	Fleet Director European Union, Trimarine
Edelmiro Ulloa Alonso edelmiro@arvi.org	Director gerente, Organización de Productores Nacional de Palangre de Altura (OPNAPA-88)

Francisco J. Abascal francisco.abascal@ieo.csic.es	Fisheries Scientist, Spanish Institute of Oceanography
Ignacio De Leiva Moreno ignacio.de-leiva@eeas.europa.eu	Fisheries Attache, European Union
Javier de la Cal jdc@satlink.es	Chief Electronic Monitoring, Satlink S.L.
João Alberto Ramos Nunes jnunes@dgrm.mm.gov.pt	Adviser, Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos
Julio Moron julio.moron@opagac.org	Managing Director, OPAGAC
Laura Marot laura.marot@ec.europa.eu	International Relations Officer, European Union, DG Mare
Lucía Sarricolea Balufo lsarricolea@mapa.es	Delegate, Spain, European Union

MEMBER - Federated States of Micronesia

Limanman Helgenberger Head of Delegation liman.h@norma.fm	Assistant Director, FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
Angelina T. Tretnoff angelina.tretnoff@norma.fm	Senior Fisheries Economist, FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
Camille Inatio cinatio86@rd.gov.fm	Fisheries Adviser, FSM Department of Resources and Development
Charles Falmeyog charlesfalmeyog@gmail.com	President, DSI Board of Directors, Diving Seagull, Inc.
Chih Wang chih@dayangseafoods.com	Chief Executive Officer, Da Yang Seafoods, Ltd.
Elizabeth M. Phal ysgpersonnel@gmail.com	Member, DSI Board of Directors, Diving Seagull, Inc.
Falownug Kenmed falownugkenmed@gmail.com	Secretary/Treasurer, DSI Board of Directors, Diving Seagull, Inc.
Hilo Hsueh hilohsueh@aol.com	Regional Manager, Liancheng Overseas Fishery (FSM) Co., Ltd.
Jamel James	Assistant Fisheries Biologist , FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
Jay Liu jayliu@dayangseafoods.com	Assistant, Da Yang Seafoods, Ltd.
John Waayan landresources@mail.fm	Chairman, DSI Board of Director, Diving Seagull, Inc.
Joy Wu joy@dayangseafoods.com	Assistant, Da Yang Seafoods Ltd

Julian Tharngan julian.divingseagull@gmail.com	Office Operations Manager, Diving Seagull, Inc.
Lary Argel Mejia Acevedo la106ma@gmail.com	Assistant , Da Yang Seafoods Ltd
Lily Tan lily_tan@luenthai.com	Executive Assistant, Liancheng Overseas Fishery (FSM) Co., Ltd.,
Moses L. Fathal mfathal@gmail.com	Member, DSI Board of Directors, Diving Seagull, Inc.
Pete Lipanovich plipanovich@yahoo.com	Vessel Manager, Diving Seagull, Inc.
Samuel Chou samchou1@aol.com	President, Liancheng Overseas Fishery (FSM) Co., Ltd.,
Youky Susaia Jr. youky.susaia@norma.fm	Assistant Director, Fisheries Compliance Division , FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
Zexiang Zhou Beatrice_Zhou@lftv.com	Business Development Manager, Liancheng Overseas Fishery (FSM) Co., Ltd.,

#### MEMBER - Fiji

Neomai Ravitu Head of Delegation neomai.ravitu@govnet.gov.fj	Director for Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries
Jone Amoe amoe.jone@gmail.com	Principal Fisheries Officer - Offshore Fisheries Division, Ministry of Fisheries
Kuini Donu Verebasaga kwaqasavou80@gmail.com	Senior Media Officer, Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji
Moses Nainoka Mataika mataika.moses@gmail.com	Fisheries Assistant Offshore Fisheries Management Division , Ministry of Fisheries Fiji
Unaisi Bidy Rabici rabici.unaisi1@gmail.com	Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Fisheries Fiji

#### MEMBER - France

Rémi Quilliot Head of Delegation remi.quilliot@affaires-maritimes.pf	Deputy Head, Maritime Affairs Office of French Polynesia
Orozco Lucie lucie.orozco@mer.gouv.fr	Marine fisheries and aquaculture Directorate, adviser, FR-Territoires, DGAMPA

#### MEMBER - Indonesia

Putuh Suadela Head of Delegation putuhsuadela@gmail.com	Capture Fisheries Production Management Senior Officer, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Ade Setia Januar januar.ade@gmail.com	Capture Fisheries Production Management Officer, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

Alza Rendian alzarendian@gmail.com	Regional Cooperation Analyst, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Ari Prasetyo ari.prasetyo@kkp.go.id	Legal Drafter, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Aris Prasetyo bho.kkp@gmail.com	Legislation Drafter, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Diky Suganda superdiky.fisheries@gmail.com	Cooperation Analyst, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Dzulfiqar Bonict Prasetyo dzulfiqarbp@gmail.com	Cooperation Analyst, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Fayakun Satria fsatria70@gmail.com	Senior Researcher, National Research and Innovation Agency
Hary Christijanto hchristijanto@yahoo.com	Capture Fisheries Production Management Senior Officer, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Lilis Sadiyah sadiyah.lilis2@gmail.com	Senior Researcher, National Research and Innovation Agency
Mumpuni Cyntia Pratiwi mumpuni.cpratiwi@gmail.com	Capture Fisheries Production Management Officer, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Rista Devi Juniar devikp17@gmail.com	Capture Fisheries Production Management Junior Officer, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Saraswati cacasaras@gmail.com	Capture Fisheries Production Management Junior Officer, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Zaki Mubarok zaki.mubarok@kkp.go.id	Senior Legislation Officer, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

#### MEMBER - Japan

Miwako Takase Head of Delegation miwako_takase170@maff.go.jp	Councillor, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Akihito Fukuyama fukuyama@kaimaki.or.jp	Managing Director, Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association
Akira Nakamae kaigaimaki-71@kaimaki.or.jp	President, Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association
Aya Matsushima aya_matsushima190@maff.go.jp	Staff, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Daisuke Nakajima da-nakajima@fukuichi.gr.jp	Chief, Fukuichi Cooperation
Daisuke Nakamura k-nakamura@kogyoren.jf-net.ne.jp	Advisor, Kochi Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association
Fumihiko Ichikawa machi@town.nakatosa.lg.jp	Committee, Kochi Sustainable Skipjack Association

Fuyuki Hayashi fhayashi@japantuna.or.jp	Assistant Director, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
Hidehisa Miyamoto miyamoto-h@itochu.co.jp	Staff, ITOCHU Corporation
Hidetada Kiyofuji hidetada_kiyofuji310@maff.go.jp	Senior Research Coordinator, Research and Technological Guidance Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Hidetada Kiyofuji kiyofuji_hidetada20@fra.go.jp	Highly Migratory Resource Division, Fisheries Stock Assessment Center, Fisheries Resources Institute
Hidetoshi Ito hid-itou@maruha-nichiro.co.jp	Director, Taiyo A & F Co., Ltd.
Hiroaki Onda	Staff, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Hiromu Yoshida	Staff, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Hiroyuki Yoshida yoshida@japantuna.or.jp	Director, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
Iwao Fujii fujii-iwo@janus.co.jp	Staff, Japan NUS Company Ltd.
Junpei Hinata	., Fisheries Agency of Japan
Kanjiro Higuchi k-higuchi@maruha-nichiro.co.jp	General Manager, Fisheries Administration Department
Kaoru Kawamoto dvorjakkawamoto@ybb.ne.jp	Interpreter, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Katsuki Takita katsuki_takita760@maff.go.jp	International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Katsuma Hanafusa hanafusa@ofcf.or.jp	Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture
Kazushige Hazama hazama@kinkatsukyo.or.jp	Chief, National Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association of Japan
Kei Hirose k-hirose@maruha-nichiro.co.jp	Director, Ishinomaki Fishery Co.,Ltd.
Keiko Ikeda ikeda-keiko@meti.go.jp	Agricultural and Marine Products Office, Trade control Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
Kensaku Maeda maeda-ke@itochu.co.jp	Staff, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Kiyoshi Katsuyama katsuyama@japantuna.or.jp	Special Adviser to the president, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
Masakatsu Irei zenkinjp@kinkatsukyo.or.jp	President, National Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association of Japan



Masanori Miyahara masamiyaj1@gmail.com	Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries , Fisheries Agency of Japan
Masatake Kato moka.kltamaki210@gmail.com	Executive Managing Director, Federation Of North Pacific District Purse Seine Fisheries Cooperative associations of Japan
Masayuki Yanagida ma-yanagida@fukuichi.gr.jp	Fishery Operations Department Manager, Taijin Fisheries Company, Ltd.
Meiko Kawahara m-kawahara@maruha-nichiro.co.jp	Manager, Taiyo A & F Co., Ltd.
Minoru Honda honda@kaimaki.or.jp	Adviser, Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association
Muneharu Tokimura tokimura@ofcf.or.jp	Adviser, JOP (The Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan)
Reiko Ohashi ohashi@japantuna.or.jp	Assistant Director, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
Saori Kenmochi kenmochi-saori@meti.go.jp	Deputy Director, Agricultural and Marine Products Office, Trade control Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Shinji Hiruma shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp	International Affairs Division , Fisheries Agency of Japan
Shuya Nakatsuka nakatsuka_shuya49@fra.go.jp	Deputy Director, Highly Migratory Resources Division, Fisheries Resources Institute
Suzune Umeda	Staff, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Taichi Arakawa eiseimaru-yaizu@yr.tnc.ne.jp	Adviser , Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
Takumi Fukuda takumi_fukuda720@maff.go.jp	Resource Management Department , Fisheries Agency of Japan
Tokimasa Kobayashi tokimasa0610@yahoo.co.jp	Adviser, JOP (The Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan)
Tomohide Yamada yamada@ofcf.or.jp	Director, Business Support Division, JOP (The Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan)
Toshihisa Fujiwara toshihisa.fujiwara@mofa.go.jp	Assistant Director, Fishery Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Yasunori Ono y_ono@kaimaki.or.jp	Adviser, "Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association"
Yoko Yamakage yamakageyoyo@gmail.com	Interpreter, Fisheries Agency of Japan
Yoshihiro Notomi notomi@kinkatsukyo.or.jp	Managing Director, National Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association of Japan
Yuichi Tsuda tsuda_yuichi58@fra.go.jp	Head, Skipjack and Albacore Group, Highly Migratory Resources Division, Fisheries Resources Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency



Yuji Uozumi uozumi@japantuna.or.jp	Scientific adviser, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
Yumi Okochi okochi-y@janus.co.jp	Staff, Japan NUS Company, Ltd.
Yuya Hirano hirano-y@itochu.co.jp	Manager, Marine Products business Section, ITOCHU

MEMBER - Kiribati

Dr. Agnes Yeeting Head of Delegation agnesy@mfmrd.gov.ki	Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development
Du Xuejun duxuejun@goldenoceantuna.com	Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
Kaon Tiamere kaont@mfmrd.gov.ki	Acting Director, Offshore Fisheries Division, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
Li Changhong lichanghong@goldenoceantuna.com	Chief Executive Officer, JV - Kiribati Fish Limited
Tim Adams tim.adams@gonedau.com	Offshore Fisheries Management Adviser, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
Titeem Auatabu titeema@mfmrd.gov.ki	Media Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
Tiura Jacob tiuraj@mfmrd.gov.ki	Compliance Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
Uati Tirikai uatit@mfmrd.gov.ki	Senior Compliance Officer, Licensing Compliance Division, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development

MEMBER - Nauru

Hon Wawani Dowiyogo Head of Delegation	Minister for Fisheries , Nauru Fisheries Marine Resources Authority
Camalus Reiyetsi camalus.reiyetsi@gmail.com	Senior Oceanic Fisheries Officer, Nauru Fisheries Marine Authority
Charleston Deiye cdeiye@gmail.com	Chief Executive Officer, Nauru Fisheries Marine Authority
Howard Tsai a7220363@yahoo.com.tw	Operations Manager, Ocean Pride Company, Ltd. and Ocean Ranger Company, Ltd.
Jamien Scotty jamienscotty47@gmail.com	Board member, Nauru Fisheries Marine Resources Authority
Jasmina Jones	Policy and Legal Manager, Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority
Julian Itsimaera julian.itsimaera2016@gmail.com	Enforcement Officer , Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority

Kaleki Deraoadi Deiye kddeiye@gmail.com	Flag State Officer, Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority
Malcolm Aroi malcolmaroi@gmail.com	Board of Director , Nauru Fisheries Marine Resources Authority
Peter Diema peterdiema@gmail.com	Chairman , Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority
Sharina Deiye	Oceanic assistant, Nauru Fisheries Marine Resources Authority

MEMBER - New Zealand

Heather Ward Head of Delegation	Principal Advisor, Ministry for Primary Industries
Andy Smith andy@latsouth.co.nz	Consultant, Talley's Group Ltd
Arthur Hore	Chief Fisheries Adviser, Ministry for Primary Industries
Denham Cook denham@faberscience.com	Scientist, Faber R&D / Pelco NZ Ltd
Hilary Ayrton hilary.ayrton@mpi.govt.nz	Senior Policy Analyst , Ministry for Primary Industries
Leyla Knittweis	Principal Scientist, Fisheries New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries
Mandy Leathers mleathers@doc.govt.nz	Senior Advisor, Department of Conservation, New Zealand
Rio Yoon Rio.Yoon@mfat.govt.nz	Senior Advisor Pacific Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Sarah McAvinchey	Lead Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MEMBER - Niue

Hon Esa-Sharon Mona AINU'U Head of Delegation mona.ainuu@mail.gov.nu	Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of Niue
Josie M M M Tamate josie.tamate@mail.gov.nu	Director-General , Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of Niue
Launoa Gataua Launoa.Gataua@mail.gov.nu	MCS Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Poi Okesene poi.okesene@mail.gov.nu	Director, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of Niue
Quentin Hanich hanich@uow.edu.au	Advisor, ANCORS - University of Wollongong

## MEMBER - Palau

Hon Steven Victor Head of Delegation stevenvictor02@gmail.com	Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment (MAFE)
Adelle Lukes Isechal adelle.isechal@gmail.com	Project Manager, Government of Palau
F. Umiich Sengebau fusengebau@gmail.com	Senator Chairman Senate Committee on Tourism, Environment & Maritime , The Senate, Palau National Congress
Frutoso Tellei frutosotellei20@gmail.com	Delegate, House of Delegates, House of Delegates, Palau National Congress
Gibson Kanai redtorchkanai1@gmail.com	Delegate, House of Delegates, House of Delegates, Palau National Congress
Josepha Joyce Rdialul gotnojoyce@gmail.com	Special Assistance to the Speaker, House of Delegates, House of Delegates, Palau National Congress
Kathleen Sisor utau.sisor@gmail.com	Acting Chief / Fisheries Policy Advisor, Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment
Kazuki L. Sungino pbfpalau@yahoo.com	Senator, Senate 11th OEK
Keith Mesebeluu keithmesebeluu@gmail.com	Fisheries Policy Specialist/Acting Chief, Palau Oceanic Fisheries, Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment
Leilani Senior seniorlei@gmail.com	Administrative Clerk, House of Delegates, House of Delegates, Palau National Congress
Mengkur Rechelulk hodkororstate@gmail.com	Congressman, House of Delegates, 11th Palau National Congress
Persis Omelau omelaupersis@gmail.com	Fisheries Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment
Sabino Anastacio oekhodspeaker@gmail.com	Speaker, House of Delegates, Palau Congress
Sebastian Marino meiho42@gmail.com	Congressman, House of Delegates, 11th Palau National Congress
Zilah Dirremeang Oiterong dirremeang@gmail.com	Fisheries Licensing and Revenue Officer, Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment

## MEMBER - Papua New Guinea

Adrian Jeffrey Nanguromo ajnanguromo@gmail.com	Acting Observer Program Manager, National Fisheries Authority
Alois Kinol Kapinaloiskinol02@gmail.com	Manager Catch Documentation and Certification Unit, National Fisheries Authority
Angela Kwapena akwapena@fisheries.gov.pg	Tuna Fisheries Management Officer, National Fisheries Authority of Papua New Guinea

Anne Samm asamm@fisheries.gov.pg	Executive Assistant to the Managing Director, National Fisheries Authority
Api Kassman	First Secretary to the Minister, Ministry for Fisheries and Marine Resources
Benthly Sabub bensabub@gmail.com	Fisheries Management Officer, Tuna Fishery, Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority
Bob Simson	Board Member - National Fisheries Board, PNG National Fisheries Authority
Buri Gari burigari80@gmail.com	Director - Regional Economic Affairs Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs
Glenda Barry gbarry@fisheries.gov.pg	Senior Fishery Compliance Officer , PNG National Fisheries Authority
Jerome Tioti jerome.tioti@gmail.com	Acting Manager - International Fisheries Liaison , National Fisheries Authority
Justin Ilakini jilakini@fisheries.gov.pg	Managing Director, National Fisheries Authority
Justin Tan	Ministerial Staff, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Laurie William	Deputy Chairman - National Fisheries Board, PNG National Fisheries Authority
Leban Gisawa lebangisawa@gmail.com	Executive Manager - Licensing and Data Management Unit, National Fisheries Authority
Leka Pitoi lpitoi@fisheries.gov.pg	Executive Manager, Strategic Planning, Economic & International Fisheries, National Fisheries Authority
Maino Viroro	Board Member - National Fisheries Board, PNG National Fisheries Authority
Nancy Pogla exile.pogla@gmail.com	Principal Legal Officer, Department of Justice and Attorney General
Nancy Taka-Puri nancytaka11@gmail.com	Lawyer, National Fisheries Authority
Nialangis Posanau alice.posanau@gmail.com	Sustainability Coordinator, Fishing Industry Association Inc. PNG
Patrick Dale Sacay dale.sacay@frabelle.net	Associate Vice President, Frabelle PNG Limited
Paul Kandu kandupaul642@gmail.com	Fisheries Policy Officer, National Fisheries Authority
Roy Gabinete roy.gabinete@frabelle.net	Executive Assistant, Frabelle PNG Limited
Simon Kaumi simon.kaumi3@gmail.com	Foreign Service Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Sione loa	Board Member - National Fisheries Board, PNG National Fisheries Authority
Sisenio Jhun Pagalan Jr slp@tuna.ph	Executive Assistant for International Affairs, Trans-Pacific Journey Fishing Corp
Sylvester B Pokajam spokajam2@gmail.com	Board Member - National Fisheries Board, PNG National Fisheries Authority
Thomas Usu tusu@fisheries.gov.pg	Acting Executive Manager - Fisheries Mangement Business Unit, PNG National Fisheries Authority

MEMBER - Philippines

Isidro M Velayo Jr Head of Delegation sidvelayo@gmail.com	Assistant Director for Technical Services, DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Lilian Cruz Garcia Head of Delegation liliangarcia60@yahoo.com.ph	Executive Director, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
Alma C.Dickson alma_dickson@yahoo.com	Fisheries Technology and Management Consultant, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Asis Perez perezasis@yahoo.com	Legal Adviser, SACOPA
Benjamin Felipe S. Tabios Jr. btabios@bfar.da.gov.ph	Adviser, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Dale Sacay dalesacay@gmail.com	Associate Vice President, Frabelle Fishing Corporation
Eduardo G. Esteban ege@tuna.ph	Vice President For Admin And International Business Development, Trans Pacific Journey Fishing Corporation
Glenn Padro glennpadro@gmail.com	Senior Fishing Regulations Officer, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Isidro Tanangonan itanangonan@bfar.da.gov.ph	Aquaculturist I, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Joann P. Binondo jbinondo031277@gmail.com	Board of Trustee, Philippine Tuna Handline Partnership (PTHP)
John Lawrence Ong lorenzo8000@gmail.com	Manager, Itochu Corporation - Manila Branch
Maria Joy Mabanglo mj.mabanglo@gmail.com	VMS Staff, Bureua of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Marlo Demo-os mbdemoos@gmail.com	Aquaculturist II, DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Rafael Ramiscal rv_ram55@yahoo.com	Chief Capture Fisheries Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Rosanna Bernadette B. Contreras fishing.federation@gmail.com	Executive Director, Socskargen Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries, Inc.

Severino Escobar Jr. jojo_escobar@yahoo.com	Chief, Capture Fisheries Licensing Section-Fisheries Regulatory and Licensing Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Suzette Barcoma suzette_barcoma@yahoo.com	Science Research Specialist II, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute

MEMBER - Republic of Korea

Hyuntae Kim Head of Delegation	Director General, International Cooperation Policy Bureau, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Bo Bae, Tak bbtak@sla.co.kr	Staff, SILLA CO.,LTD.
Bongjun Choi	Manager, Korea Overseas Fisheries Association
Chi Gon Kim sajops@sajo.co.kr	President, Sajo Industries Co., Ltd.
Choi Jonghyun cjh@sajo.co.kr	Assistant Manager, Sajo Industries Co., Ltd.
Eui Sup Shin eui@sajo.co.kr	Assistant Manager, Sajo Industries Company, Ltd.
Eunhee Kim ekim@kfem.or.kr	Vice Director, Citizens' Institute for Environmental Studies (CIES)
GeunRyeong Kim geunryeongkim@korea.kr	Deputy Director, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Ilkang Na ikna@korea.kr	Policy Officer / Multilateral Fisheries Negotiator, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Jinseok Park goodtime9@nate.com	Deputy General Manager, Sajo Industries Company, Ltd.
Ju Kwang Ryu jkryu@sla.co.kr	Manager, Silla Co., Ltd.
Klim Min Woong melzzz@naver.com	Inspector, Fisheries Monitoring Center
Kwangho Tae pure3130@gmail.com	Manager, Sajo Industries Company, Ltd.
Kyung Yung Lee dada1000@sajo.co.kr	General Manager, Sajo Industries Co., Ltd.
Lee Chungyeon cy819@sajo.co.kr	STAFF, Sajo Industries Company, Ltd.
Mi Kyung Lee ccmkleee@korea.kr	Scientist, National Institute of Fisheries Science
Minsung Lee ted@sajo.co.kr	Manager, Sajo Industries Company, Ltd.
Sang Bum Lee (Lesan) gabbalee@dongwon.com	General Manager, Dongwon Industries

Seung-Hyun Choo bekhox@naver.com	Manager, Sajo Industries co.,ltd
Seunghyun Kim whizksh@korea.kr	Chief Inspector, Fisheries Monitoring Center
Sung Chul Kim sancho@sla.co.kr	Manager, Silla Company, Ltd.
Sung Jun Kang dwsjk@dwsusan.com	Assistant Manager, Dongwon Fisheries Company, Ltd.
Taeho Kim kth@sajo.co.kr	Staff, Sajo Industries Co., Ltd.
Taerin Kim shararak@korea.kr	Advisor, Fisheries Monitoring Center
Ung Gyu Han dantunaman@gmail.com	Senior Staff, Sajo Industries Co., Ltd.
Won Tae-hoon 4indamorning@kofci.org	Policy Analyst, Korea Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center

MEMBER - Republic of Marshall Islands

Hon. John M. Silk Head of Delegation johnsilk302@gmail.com	Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce/Chairman - MIMRA Board, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Asia Chong Gum asiachonggum@gmail.com	Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Barbara Hanchard barbara@hanchard.net	Consultant, RMI
Beau Bigler bbigler@mimra.com	Chief Fisheries Officer , Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Berry Muller bmuller@mimra.com	Deputy Director - Oceanic and Industrial Affairs Division, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Bobby Muller bobbysmuller@gmail.com	Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Caleb Joseph cjoseph@mimra.com	IT Officer, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Danny Wase danny.wase@gmail.com	Board of Directors, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Davey Yu yuyirong@skmic.sh.cn	Fleet Manager, c/o Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Edward Bigler bbigler@tcmi-inc.com	Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs , Republic of the Marshall Islands, Office of the Maritime Administrator
Francisco Blaha fblaha@mimra.com	Ofshore Fisheries Advisor, MIMRA



Glen Joseph gjoseph@mimra.com	Director, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Junjie Pan panjunjie@skmic.sh.cn	General Manager Assistant, Pan Pacific Food(RMI) Inc.
Laurence Edwards ledwards@mimra.com	Legal Counsel, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Liang Jin jliang@ltfv.com	general manager , Marshall Islands Fishing Venture Inc
Rhea Moss-Christian rhea.moss@gmail.com	Adviser, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Wanjun Yang ywj_tuna@163.com	General Manager, Pan Pacific Fishing (RMI) Inc.

MEMBER - Samoa

Grace Pativaine Elaine Faaiuga grace.faaiuga@mfat.gov.ws	Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Maiava Fuimaono Tito Asafo fuimaono.tito@maf.gov.ws	Associate Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Moli Amosa Iakopo moli.iakopo@maf.gov.ws	Samo Fisheries Principal Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Nua Vaai nuav@tuipacific.com	Director/Secretary , Tui Pacific
Victor Vaai victorvaai@tuipacific.com	General Manager/Director , Tui Pacific Company Ltd

MEMBER - Solomon Islands

Rosalie Masu Head of Delegation RMasu@fisheries.gov.sb	Deputy Secretary Technical , Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources - Solomon Islands
Amanda Hamilton ahamilton@trimarinegroup.com	Fleet Operations & Sustainability Manager, Tri Marine International
Angelina Tan angelinatan@trimarinegroup.com	Manager - Fisheries Policy & Sustainability, Tri Marine International Pte Ltd
David Fatai DFatai@fisheries.gov.sb	CFO-International Policy, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources - Solomon Islands
Edward Honiwala EHoniwala@fisheries.gov.sb	Director of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources - Solomon Islands
Francis Pituvaka	Communication Officer , Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.
Francis Tofuakalo ftofuakalo@fisheries.gov.sb	Deputy Director Offshore Fisheries, Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources



Harold Vilia hvilia@fisheries.gov.sb	Chief Fisheries Officer (Observer Coordinator)/Chair IWG-ROP, MFMR (Solomon Islands)
Philip Roberts philroberts@trimarinegroup.com	Managing Director, Tri Marine International Pte Ltd
Reuben John Sulu rsulu@fisheries.gov.sb	MSSIF Programme Manager, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources, Solomon Islands Government
Russell Dunham rdunham@trimarinegroup.com	General Manager, National Fisheries Developments/Tri Marine

MEMBER - Chinese Taipei

Kuo-Ping Lin Head of Delegation kuoping@ms1.fa.gov.tw	Deputy Director-General, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture Executive Yuan
Betty Ho fw.vds.team@fairwell.com.tw	Project Manager, Fair Well Fishery Group Co., Ltd.
Chen Ho Tsung harry@fcf.com.tw	Vice President, FCF Company Limited
Chi Tien I jackchi5758@gmail.com	Executive Officer , San Sheng Ocean Limited
Chi-Chao Liu chichao@ms1.fa.gov.tw	Senior Specialist, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture
Ching Chin Wu jeffwu@fongkuo.com.tw	coordinator, Taiwan Tuna Purse Seiners Association
Ding-Rong Lin dingrong@ms1.fa.gov.tw	Director, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture
Jennifer Lai jennylai@fairwell.com.tw	Project Manager, Fair Well Fishery Group Co., Ltd.
Jerhyn Chu jerhyn@ttpsa.org.tw	General Secretary, Taiwan Tuna Purse Seiners Association
Joseph Chia-Chi Fu joseph@ofdc.org.tw	Director, Overseas Fisheries Development Council
Joy Hsiangyi Yu hsiangyi@ms1.fa.gov.tw	Secretary, International Fisheries Affair Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture
Ko Chung Ming operator@jihyu.net.tw	Chairman, Taiwan Tuna Purse Seiners Association
Lin Han Yu tony@tuna.org.tw	Director, Taiwan Tuna Association
Lin Ya Lun ellenlin5758@gmail.com	Executive Officer , San Sheng Ocean Limited
Ming-Fu Liou chris_liu1969@yahoo.com.tw	Manager, Taiwan Tuna Purse Seiners Association

Pei-Qi Wu pqwu@mofa.gov.tw	Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ryan Xu ryanxu@fcf.com.tw	Account Representative, FCF Co., Ltd.
Scott Tai-Yun Wen wty@ofdc.org.tw	Secretary, Overseas Fisheries Development Council
Shirley Shih-Ning Liu shirley@ofdc.org.tw	Secretary, Overseas Fisheries Development Council
Shui-Kai Chang skchang@faculty.nsysu.edu.tw	Professor, National Sun Yat-sen University
Tsai Chen Hao howard@fcf.com.tw	Account Manager, FCF Company Limited
Wei-tang Hsu twthsu@fongkuo.com.tw	manager, Taiwan Tuna Purse Seiners Association
Wenyng Wang wenying@ms1.fa.gov.tw	Section Chief, International Fisheries Affair Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture
Yee-Chun Chiang yeechun@ms1.fa.gov.tw	Assistant Trainer, International Fisheries Affair Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture
Yun-Hu Yeh una108@mail.cpu.edu.tw	Dean, Department of Maritime Police, Central Police University

#### MEMBER - Tonga

Tuikolongahau Halafihi Head of Delegation supi64t@gmail.com	.Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Fisheries
George Vete siaosi.vete@gmail.com	Project Manager , Tongafish
Kilisitina Akimeta kilisitina.akimeta@tongafish.gov.to	Fisheries Assistant / Media officer , Ministry of Fisheries - Tonga
Lavinia Vaipuna nia.vaipuna@gmail.com	Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Fisheries
Mele Fehoko Atuekaho meletoaatuekaho@gmail.com	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Fisheries

#### MEMBER - Tuvalu

Kitiona Tausi Head of Delegation kitionatausi44@gmail.com	Honorable Minister of Fisheries and Trade, Government of Tuvalu
Isala Tito Isala	Legal Officer, Tuvalu Fisheries Department
Maike Tausi kitionatausi@gmail.com	Observer, Government of Tuvalu

Manuao Taufilo mtaufilo@gmail.com	SFO Compliance/Enforcement, Tuvalu Fisheries Department
Michael Batty	Adviser, Tuvalu Fisheries Department
Nikolasi Apinelu napinelu@gov.tv	Secretary, Government of Tuvalu
Samasoni A Finikaso samfinikaso70@gmail.com	Director of Fisheries , Government of Tuvalu
Siava Tekafa tekafasiava@gmail.com	NAFICOT Board Member, Government of Tuvalu
Siemai P Apinelu pvakalasi@gmail.com	Chief Executive Officer, NAFICOT, Government of Tuvalu

MEMBER - United States of America

Kelly Kryc Head of Delegation kelly.kryc@noaa.gov	Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, NOAA
Alex Kahl alex.kahl@noaa.gov	International Fisheries Division, NOAA Fisheries - Pacific Islands Regional Office
Alexa Cole Alexa.Cole@noaa.gov	Director, NOAA Office of International Affairs & Seafood Inspection
Christa Marie Svensson	Alternate Commissioner, Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Christopher Dahl kit.dahl@noaa.gov	Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management C
Craig Heberer craig.heberer@tnc.org	Associate Director, Science and Conservation, Large Scale Fisheries Program, The Nature Conservancy
David George Itano daveitano@gmail.com	Contractor, The Nature Conservancy
Elena Onaga elena.onaga@noaa.gov	attorney, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Elizabeth O'Sullivan elizabeth.osullivan@noaa.gov	Enforcement Attorney, NOAA General Counsel Office
Emily Crigler emily.crigler@noaa.gov	Fisheries Management Specialist, NOAA Fisheries
Emily Reynolds emily.reynolds@noaa.gov	Fishery Policy Analyst, NOAA Fisheries
Eric Kingma eric.kingma@gmail.com	Executive Director , Hawaii Longline Association
Gerald Leape gleape@pewtrusts.org	Principal Officer, Pew Charitable Trusts

Jason Philibotte jason.philibotte@noaa.gov	International Fisheries, Division Chief, NOAA Fisheries
Jessica Conway McCollum Jessica.C.McCollum@uscg.mil	Current Operations and Domestic Fisheries Officer, US Coast Guard
Josh Madeira jmadeira@mbayaq.org	Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Katheryn Patterson katheryn.patterson@noaa.gov	Policy Advisor, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Kayla Ishida kayla.ishida@gmail.com	LMR Analyst/ IUU Operations planner, United States Coast Guard
Keith Bigelow keith.bigelow@noaa.gov	Supervisory Fisheries Research Scientist, NOAA Fisheries
Kitty Simonds kitty.simonds@wpcouncil.org	Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
Maile Norman maile.c.norman@uscg.mil	D14 Enforcement/Living Marine Resources, U.S. Coast Guard
Mark Fitchett mark.fitchett@wpcouncil.org	Pelagic Ecosystem Fisheries Scientist, Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WPRFMC)
Martina M. Sagapolu martina.sagapolu@noaa.gov	Assistant Director, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, Pacific Islands Division
Megan Willmann Megan.L.Willmann@uscg.mil	IUUF Operational Planner, United States Coast Guard
Michael Brakke michael.brakke@noaa.gov	Deputy Director, NOAA Fisheries, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce
Michael Goto	US Commissioner, United Fishing Agency, Ltd.
Raymond Clarke ray.clarke@bumblebee.com	SVP, BumbleBee SeaFoods
Rebecca Wintering WinteringRJ@state.gov	Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State
Rob McAdam rob@mcadamfish.com	Manager, McAdam's Fish LLC
Roger Dang roger@freshislandfish.com	Chief Executive Officer, Fresh Island Fish
Sarah Malloy sarah.malloy@noaa.gov	Acting Regional Administrator, Pacific Islands Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service
Stuart Chikami	Manager, Western Pacific Fisheries, Inc.
Terry Boone terry.boone@noaa.gov	VMS Manager, NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, Pacific Islands Division (NOAA OLE/PID)

Timothy E. Johns tejohns808@gmail.com	U.S. Commissioner, United States of America
Tyler Loughran tyler.loughran@noaa.gov	International Fisheries Policy Fellow, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Valerie Post valerie.post@noaa.gov	Fishery Policy Analyst, NOAA Fisheries
William Gibbons-Fly wgibbons-fly@atatuna.com	Executive Director, American Tunaboat Association
William Sardinha bill@tunavslmgt.com	Purse Seine Vessel Manager , US Delegation

#### MEMBER - Vanuatu

Chu-Lung Chen meichin0425@gmail.com	President, Ming Dar Fishery (Vanuatu) Co., Ltd.
Felix Toa Ngwango ftngwango@fisheries.gov.vu	Acting Compliance Manager, Vanuatu Fisheries Department
Kevin Lin kevin.mdfc@msa.hinet.net	Adviser to the International Fisheries, Vanuatu Fisheries Department
May Mei-chin Juan meichin.mdfc@gmail.com	Executive Assistant to the President, Ming Dar Fishery (Vanuatu) Co. Ltd.
Tony Taleo ttaleo@fisheries.gov.vu	Deputy Director Offshore, Vanuatu Fisheries Department

#### PARTICIPATING TERRITORY - American Samoa

Archie Soliai Head of Delegation archie.soliai@gmail.com	Director, American Samoa Government, Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources
Domingo Ochavillo ochavill@gmail.com	Chief Fisheries Biologist, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Joe Hamby joe@jmhservices.us	President, Samoa Tuna Processors

#### PARTICIPATING TERRITORY - French Polynesia

Christophe Misselis Head of Delegation christophe.misselis@gmail.com	Adviser, Ministry of Culture, Environment and Marine Resources
Marie Soehnlén marie.soehnlén@drm.gov.pf	Fisheries Officer, Marine Resources Department
Thibaut Thellier thibaut.thellier@administration.gov.pf	Fisheries Officer, Marine Resources Department

#### PARTICIPATING TERRITORY - Guam

Michael P. Duenas Head of Delegation michael.duenas@doag.guam.gov	Administrative Officer, Government of Guam / Guam Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
---	--

PARTICIPATING TERRITORY - New Caledonia

Manuel Ducrocq Head of Delegation manuel.ducrocq@gouv.nc	Head of department, New Caledonia Government - fisheries and natural park of the coral sea department
--	--

PARTICIPATING TERRITORY - Tokelau

Feleti Tulafono Head of Delegation ftulafono@gmail.com	Director, Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency (FMA)
Lesley Gould LesleyKGould@gmail.com	Fisheries Advisor, Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency
Stan Crothers stan.crothers@gmail.com	Fisheries Advisor, Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency

COOPERATING NON-MEMBER - Curacao

Ramon Chong Head of Delegation ramon_chong@hotmail.com	Chairman of International Fisheries Commission, Ministry of Economic Development
Carl Michael Suarez michael.suarez@gobiernu.cw	Operator, Ministry of Economic Development
Stephen Mambi stephenmambi@yahoo.com	Secretary of the International Fishery Commission, Ministry of Economic Development of Curacao

COOPERATING NON-MEMBER - Ecuador

José Isidro Andrade Vera jandrade@produccion.gob.ec	Director de Políticas Pesquera y Acuicola, Viceministerio de Acuicultura y Pesca
Rebeca Espinoza Bernal respinoza@produccion.gob.ec	Analyst on International Fishing Policies, Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca

COOPERATING NON-MEMBER - El Salvador

Ana Galdamez Head of Delegation ana.galdamez@mag.gob.sv	Head of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Division , Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock - CENDEPESCA
Antonio Vasquez antonio.vasquez@mag.gob.sv	WCPFC Primary contact, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock - General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture

COOPERATING NON-MEMBER - Liberia

Francis Bigboy Boimah fboimah@nafaa.gov.lr	MCS Director & Transshipment Coordinator , National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority
---	--

Ruphene Sidifall rsidifall@liscr.com	Director of Sanctions Compliance, Maritime Labor & Transshipment, Liberian Registry
---	--

COOPERATING NON-MEMBER - Nicaragua

Julio Guevara Head of Delegation juliocgq@hotmail.com	Head of Delegation , Nicaragua
Debrack Nastha Velasco Farfán dvelasco@v-a.com.ec	Advisor., Villavicencio & Asociados Law Firm.
Jimmy Villavicencio jvillavicencio@v-a.com.ec	Legal Advisor, Nicaragua

COOPERATING NON-MEMBER - Panama

Alcibiades Guerra Campos aguerra@arap.gob.pa	Asistente Técnico, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá
Francisco Tajú ftaju@arap.gob.pa	General Director of Inspection, Surveillance & Control, Autoridad De Los Recursos Acuaticos de Panama
Maria Sierra msierra@arap.gob.pa	Chief of Fisheries Monitoring Center, Aquatics Resources Authority of Panama
Mario Enrique Aguilar Sánchez meaguilar@arap.gob.pa	Asistente Técnico de la Dirección de Cooperación Internacional, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá
Vivian Quiros S. vquiros@arap.gob.pa	Technical Assistant-International Fisheries Affairs, Autoridad De Los Recursos Acuaticos de Panama

COOPERATING NON-MEMBER - Thailand

Sarayoot Boonkumjad Head of Delegation sboonkumjad@yahoo.com	Fisheries Biologist, Senior Professional Level, Department of fisheries Thailand
Orawan Prasertsook fukowindy.sp@gmail.com	Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level, Department of fisheries Thailand
Sakda Arbsuwan sakdaarbsuwan@gmail.com	Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level, Department of fisheries Thailand
Sawitre Yawanopas sawitre_yawa@hotmail.com	Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level, Department of fisheries Thailand
Thanyalak Ratanadilok Na Phuket trthanya@gmail.com	Fisheries Biologist, Professional Level, Department of fisheries Thailand
Thitirat Rattanawiwan milky_gm@hotmail.com	Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level, Department of fisheries Thailand
Tirabhorn Yothakong tirabhorn@gmail.com	Fisheries Biologist, Professional Level, Department of fisheries Thailand

COOPERATING NON-MEMBER - Vietnam



Tran Dinh Luan Head of Delegation tdluan.dah@gmail.com	Director General, Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Chau Hoan Vo voch@kctcvn.com.vn	Officer, Vietnam Tuna Association
Dao Kim Long sales@bahaiseafood.com	Sale Exclusive of Ba Hai Co.,Ltd, Vietnam Tuna Association
Ha Le haflee@gmail.com	Deputy Director of Fisheries Information Centre, Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Hiroaki Iwasawa iwasawa@etf-vn.com	Production Manager of Mai Tin (Evertrust Food) Co.,Ltd, Vietnam Tuna Association
Huynh Thanh Lin bod.lin@dragonwaves.com	Member of the Executive Committee, Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers
Le Minh Tien tien.le@halongdanang.com	Officer , Vietnam Tuna Association
Le Tran Nguyen Hung hungmard@yahoo.com.vn	Director of Department of Aquatic Resources Conservation and Development, Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Ngo Thi Thanh Huong thanhhuong383@gmail.com	Officer, Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Nguyen Hoai Nam namnh@vasep.com.vn	Deputy Secretary General, Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers
Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung dzungnguyen74@gmail.com	Director of Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Nguyen Van Binh nvbinh113@gmail.com	Chairman of the Board, Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers
Nguyen Viet Nghia nghia.rimf@gmail.com	Vice President, Reseach Institute for Marine Fisheries
Pham Tuan Minh td.shin@haivuong.com	Member, Vietnam Tuna Association
Shinji Koyama koyama-s@itochu.com.vn	General Manager, ITOCHU Vietnam Co., Ltd.
Tao Quang Vinh vinh.tao@itochu.com.vn	Assistant Manager, ITOCHU Corporation
Tran Diem Lan lantd.htqt@mard.gov.vn	Deputy Head of Bilateral Cooperation Division, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Tran Thanh Duong duong.mofi@gmail.com	Officer, Capture Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Tran Trung Thao ngocntb281@gmail.com	Deputy Business Director of Hai Vuong Group, Vietnam Tuna Association
Tran Van Hao haovinatuna@gmail.com	Assistant to the President, Vietnam Tuna Association



Truong Cai Huu Hao bahaiseafood@gmail.com	Sale Exclusive of Ba Hai Co.,Ltd, Vietnam Tuna Association
Vu Duyen Hai vuduyenhai10@gmail.com	Deputy Director of Capture Fisheries Department, Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Vu Ngoc Hai hai.vn@hainam.vn	Officer, Vietnam Tuna Association

OBSERVER - Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL)

Chanyeong Moon cy.evan.moon@gmail.com	Intern, Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL)
Jinsuh Cho jinsuh.cho@apil.or.kr	Campaigner, Advocates of Public Interest Law
Shin Young Chung sychung@apil.or.kr	Attorney-at-Law, Advocates for Public Interest Law

OBSERVER - African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)

Justin Tan justin@jmartpng.com	Advisor to Minister, National Fisheries Authority
-----------------------------------	--

OBSERVER - Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP)

Christine Bogle christine.bogle@acap.aq	Executive Secretary, Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
--	---

OBSERVER - Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS)

Angela Abolhassani aangela1@uw.edu	Research Fellow , Ocean Nexus Center, University of Washington
Bianca Haas bhaas@uow.edu.au	Research Fellow, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
Hussain Sinan hussain.sinan@dal.ca	Postdoctoral Fellow, Dalhousie University
Joe Enlet joe_enlet@uri.edu	Doctoral Fellow, University of Rhode Island - Department of Marine Affairs
Kamal Azmi kamala@uow.edu.au	Senior Research Fellow, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS)

OBSERVER - Birdlife International

Stephanie Borrelle Stephanie.Borrelle@Birdlife.org	Marine & Pacific Regional Coordinator, BirdLife International
---	--

OBSERVER - Conservation International (CI)

Johann Bell jbell@conservation.org	Senior Director - Tuna Fisheries, Conservation International
---------------------------------------	---

Kara Miller kamiller@conservation.org	Technical Advisor, Pacific Tuna , Conservation International, Center for Oceans
--	--

OBSERVER - Global Fishing Watch (GFW)

Sarah Lenel sarah.lenel@globalfishingwatch.org	Program Manager - Oceania, Global Fishing Watch
Tim White timwhite@globalfishingwatch.org	Senior Fisheries Scientist, Global Fishing Watch

OBSERVER - Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Brad Wiley bwiley@iattc.org	Policy Officer & Field Offices Coordinator, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
--------------------------------	--

OBSERVER - International MCS Network

Damian Johnson djohnson@imcsnet.org	Senior MCS Specialist, International MCS Network
--	---

OBSERVER - International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF)

Roy Bealey roy.bealey@ipnlf.org	Fisheries Director, IPNLF
------------------------------------	------------------------------

OBSERVER - International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

Holly Koehler hkoehler@iss-foundation.org	Vice President for Policy and Outreach, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
Victor Restrepo vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org	Vice-President, Science, ISSF

OBSERVER - Marine Stewardship Council

Bill Holden bill.holden@msc.org	Senior Tuna Fisheries Outreach Manager, Marine Stewardship Council
Dr Rohan Currey rohan.currey@msc.org	Chief Science and Standards Officer, Marine Stewardship Council

OBSERVER - North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

Judy Dwyer jdwyer@npfc.int	Compliance Manager, North Pacific Fisheries Commission
Natsuki Hosokawa	Compliance Assistant , North Pacific Fisheries Commission
Robert Day rday@npfc.int	Executive Secretary, North Pacific Fisheries Commission

OBSERVER - Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRTF)

Shingo Ota ota@opr.t.or.jp	Managing Director, Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries(OPRT)
-------------------------------	--

OBSERVER - Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies (ORIS)

Yasuhiro Sanada	Researcher, Waseda Institute for Global Governance
-----------------	---

OBSERVER - Pacific Community (SPC)

Finlay Scott finlays@spc.int	Fisheries scientist, Pacific Community Headquarters
Graham Pilling grahamp@spc.int	Deputy Director FAME (OFP), Pacific Community (SPC)
Nan Yao nany@spc.int	Fisheries Scientist , The Pacific Community
Paul Hamer paulh@spc.int	Principal Scientist , Secretariat of Pacific Community
Peter Williams peterw@spc.int	Principal Fisheries Scientist (Data Mgmt.), Pacific Community
Raijeli Natadra raijelin@spc.int	Pacific Island Fisheries Professional - Harvest Strategies, Pacific Community (SPC)
Robert Scott robertsc@spc.int	Senior Fisheries Scientist, SPC
Sam McKechnie samm@spc.int	Fisheries Scientist, SPC
Steven Hare stevenh@spc.int	Senior Scientist, Pacific Community (SPC)
William John Hampton johnh@spc.int	Chief Scientist, Pacific Community (SPC)

OBSERVER - Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

'Ana F. Taholo ana.taholo@ffa.int	Compliance Policy Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
Adele Dutilloy adele.dutilloy@ffa.int	Fisheries Management Advisor, FFA
Allan Rahari allan.rahari@ffa.int	Director of Fisheries Operations, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
Christopher Reid chris.reid@ffa.int	Director, Fisheries Development Division, Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosn manu.tupous-roosen@ffa.int	Director General , Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
Hugh Walton hugh.walton@ffa.int	Oceanic Fisheries Management Project Adviser, Forum Fisheries Agency

Jason Raubani jason.raubani@ffa.int	FFA MCS Policy Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
Joyce Samuelu-Ah Leong joyce.samuelu-ahleong@ffa.int	Fisheries Management Adviser, FFA
Kasipo Teo kasipo.teo@ffa.int	Legal Officer, FFA
Lianos Triantafillos lianos.triantafillos@ffa.int	Fisheries Management Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
Matthew Hooper matt.hooper@ffa.int	Deputy Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
Michael Honeth michael.honeth@ffa.int	Fisheries Management Adviser, FFA
Perry Smith perry-james.smith@ffa.int	Labour Standards Adviser , Forum Fisheries Agency
Samantha Mattila samantha.mattila@ffa.int	Strategic Communications Manager, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
Taro Kawamoto taro.kawamoto@ffa.int	Tuna Industry Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
Thomas Ruaia	Fisheries Economist , Pacific Islands Forum Agency (FFA)
Wetjens Dimmlich wetjens@ffa.int	Director Fisheries Management, FFA
Yaniba Alfred yaniba.alfred@ffa.int	Catch Documentation Technical Advisor, Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency

#### OBSERVER - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

Rodney Kirarock rodneyk@forumsec.org	Programme Officer - Marine Resources, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Salome Taufa salomet@forumsec.org	Programme Adviser - Economics/Fisheries Team Leader , Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

#### OBSERVER - Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)

Brian Kumasi Brian@pnatuna.com	Policy Manager, Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement
Joseph Kendou joseph@pnatuna.com	Compliance Officer, PNA Office
Kaili Mae Kramer Andrike kaili@pnatuna.com	CFO, PNA Office
Les Clark les@pnatuna.com	Advisor, PNA Office
Melino Bain-Vete melino@pnatuna.com	MSC & Policy Research Support, PNAO

Sangaalofa Clark sangaa@pnatuna.com	Chief Executive Officer, PNAO
Stephen Brouwer steve@saggitus.co.nz	Scientific Advisor, Saggitus

OBSERVER - Pew Charitable Trust

Glen Holmes gholmes@pewtrusts.org	Officer, International Fisheries, The Pew Charitable Trusts
Laura Eeles leeles@pewtrusts.org	Associate , The Pew Charitable Trusts

OBSERVER - Seafood Legacy

Aiko Yamauchi aiko.yamauchi@seafoodlegacy.com	COO/Vice President, Seafood Legacy
--	---------------------------------------

OBSERVER - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Karen A Baird karenb@sprep.org	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser, Secretariat for the Pacific Environment Programme
-----------------------------------	--

OBSERVER - The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)

Ruth Hoban ruth@neseafood.com	Member, Global Tuna Alliance
Steven Adolf stevenadolf@gmail.com	Member, Global Tuna Alliance
Tom Pickerell tom@globaltunaalliance.com	Executive Director, Global Tuna Alliance

OBSERVER - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Mark Zimring mzimring@tnc.org	Director, Large Scale Fisheries Program, The Nature Conservancy
----------------------------------	--

OBSERVER - The Ocean Foundation

Dave Gershman dgershman@oceanfdn.org	Officer, International Fisheries Conservation, The Ocean Foundation
Shana Miller smiller@oceanfdn.org	Project Director, International Fisheries Conservation, The Ocean Foundation

OBSERVER - The World Bank

Xavier Vincent xvincent@worldbank.org	Lead Fisheries Specialist, The World Bank
--	--

OBSERVER - World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation (WTPO)

Marcel Roderick C. Chiu wtpo.secretariat.manila@gmail.com	Secretariat, World Tuna Purse seine Organization
--	---

OBSERVER - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Astrid Natasha O. Ocampo aocampo@wwf.org.ph	Policy, Governance, and Partnerships Specialist, WWF
Bubba Cook acook@wwf.org.nz	Western and Central Pacific Tuna Programme Manager, World Wide Fund for Nature
Cherie Whippy Morris cherie.morris@gmail.com	Chairperson (Voluntary), Women in Fisheries Network - Fiji
Duncan Williams dwilliams@wwfpacific.org	Sustainable Fisheries and Seafood Programme Manager, WWF-Pacific
Netani Vakacegu Rika netanir@pcc.org.fj	Communications Manager and Publisher, Pacific Conference of Churches and Islands Business Magazine
Nilmawati nilmawati@wwf.id	Sustainable Tuna Regional Policy Coordinator for CTP (Coral Triangle Program), WWF - Indonesia
Patricia Joan Kailola pkailola@gmail.com	Executive officer, Human Dignity Group
Pita Ligaiula kaisawaieke@gmail.com	Senior Journalist, Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)
Raisa Pandan rpandan@wwf.org.ph	Technical Operation Manager, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Shuhei Uematsu uematsu@wwf.or.jp	Manager of Anti-IUU Fishery Project & Manager of Fisheries Resources Management, Oceans and Seafood Group, WWF Japan
Vilisoni Kotobalavu Tarabe vtarabe@wwfpacific.org	Fisheries Policy Officer, WWF-Pacific
Vuong Trong Binh binh.vuongtrong@wwf.org.vn	Oceans Practice Focal Point / Tuna FIP manager, WWF-Viet Nam
William N Kostka director@ourmicronesia.org	Executive Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)
Zheng Guang Zhu zhgzhu@wwfchina.org	Ocean Policy Manager, WWF

Secretariat

Aaron Nighswander aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int	Finance and Administration Manager, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Albert Carlot albert.carlot@wcpfc.int	VMS Manager, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Arlene Takesy arlene.takesy@wcpfc.int	Executive Assistant, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Donald David donald.david@wcpfc.int	Data Quality Officer, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Eidre Sharp Eidre.Sharp@wcpfc.int	Assistant Compliance Manager, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Elaine G. Garvilles Elaine.Garvilles@wcpfc.int	Assistant Science Manager , Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Feleti Teo feleti.teo@wcpfc.int	Executive Director, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Jeannie Marie Nanpei jeannie.nanpei@wcpfc.int	RFV Officer, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Joseph Jack Joseph.Jack@wcpfc.int	Compliance Officer, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Karl Staisch karl.staisch@wcpfc.int	ROP Coordinator, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Kilafwasru Albert Kilafwasru.Albert@wcpfc.int	ROP Data Entry Technician, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Lara Manarangi-Trott Lara.Manarangi-Trott@wcpfc.int	Compliance Manager, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Lars Olsen olsenpacific@gmail.com	Project Manager, WPEA-ITM
Lucille Martinez lucille.martinez@wcpfc.int	Administrative Officer, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
Mark Smaalders marksmaalders@gmail.com	Meeting Rapporteur, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Merisa Delcampo Merisa.Delcampo@wcpfc.int	Finance Officer, WCPFC
Penelope Ridings	Legal Advisor, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Samuel T. Rikin samuel.rikin@wcpfc.int	IT Officer, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
SungKwon Soh sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int	Science Manager, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Tim Jones tim.jones@wcpfc.int	IT Manager, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

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**WCPFC 19 Opening Statements**  
Viet Nam

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Mr. Feleti Teo, Executive Director of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Madam Riley Kim, Chair of WCPFC

First of all, on behalf of the leaders of the Directorate of Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, I warmly welcome the delegates who attended the 19th Annual Meeting of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC 19) hosted by Vietnam in Da Nang city, one of the leading dynamic coastal cities in Vietnam, and the largest cultural and economic center in the South Central region of Vietnam.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Vietnam located in the Pacific Ocean region with rich and diverse biological resources. For a long time, Vietnam's Fisheries industry has developed with the characteristics of small-scale fisheries, multi-specialty and multi-species fishing to ensure livelihoods and participate in economic development. Up to now, Vietnam's Fishery industry is gradually transforming from small-scale fisheries to fisheries towards sustainable development with the orientation of increasing aquaculture production and reducing catches. Total fisheries production by November 2022 is estimated at 8.2 million tons; in which, catches volume is estimated at 3.5 million tons, aquaculture production is estimated at 4.6 million tons. In the first 10 months of 2022, Fisheries export turnover reached 9.4 billion USD.

Vietnam's capture fishery industry has had a period of rapid development. However, it has been facing many difficulties and great challenges. With the goal of maintaining the sustainable development of the fishery industry with the structure of Fishing vessel and fishing gears suitable to the allowable exploitation of aquatic resources; safe production, high economic efficiency, contributing to improving the lives of fishermen, contributing to ensuring national defense and security, maintaining the country's independence and sovereignty over seas and islands, and at the same time complying with the provisions of regionally and internationally, the Government of Vietnam has issued many guidelines and policies to realize the above-mentioned goals such as the Strategy for the development of the fisheries sector to 2030, with a vision to 2045; National program to develop effective and sustainable fishery; Scheme on environmental protection in fisheries activities in the period of 2021 - 2030; Scheme on preventing and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by 2025, etc.

Along with ratifying and participating in effective implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, Vietnam has become an official member of the "United Nations Fish Stock Agreement - UNFSA" and FAO's "Port State Measures Agreement - PSMA" since 2019.

As you know, Vietnam as a cooperating non-member (CNM) of the WCPFC from 2009 to present. Vietnam, we have been accompanying with 26 members, 07 cooperating non-members and 07 territories to implement the provisions of WCPFC on management and conservation of migratory fisheries resources in the Western and Central Pacific region.

Through the WCPFC's projects, it has created favorable conditions for Vietnam to receive technical support and advanced technology in the exploitation and preservation of tuna and swordfish, receive more complete information on resources, capacity building for management and research staff through training programs



and seminars and workshop, and at the same time accessing and applying tools to assess and determine maximum allowable catches annually or in a certain period, on the basis of providing solutions for resource management and fishing methods to conserve and sustainably exploit migratory stock resources, of which mainly tuna in the waters of Vietnam.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The annual meeting is the most important event of the year for the Commission to set out policies and measures to manage the region's tuna fishery in the following year. Every year, Vietnam sends representative to the WCPFC's Commission Meeting to present compliance responsibilities and protect the CNM Mechanism Application.

We greatly appreciate the support of the WCPFC's Commission, who have chosen Vietnam to host this 19th WCPFC Annual Meeting. This is a great opportunity for Vietnam's fishing industry in general and tuna fishing in particular to integrate deeply with the world's fisheries, contributing to strengthening cooperation with countries participating in WCPFC and regional fisheries organizations, multilateral organizations.

On this occasion, once again, on behalf of the Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, would like to thank the attendance of more than 600 delegates from member countries, countries/territories, cooperating non-member, regional Fisheries Organizations, multilateral organizations, observers. At the same time, in the coming time, Vietnam will continue to actively participate and contribute more effectively in the regional fisheries management mechanism of WCPFC, and reiterate our interest in becoming a full member of WCPFC; implement the region's joint commitment and efforts to strengthen the traceability of tuna products, conserve and sustainably develop migratory resources, combat illegal, unreported and unreported fishing, in compliance with regional and international regulations towards responsible fisheries.

Wishing all delegates a productive working day in Da Nang city and don't forget to take the time to visit the scenic spots (Hoi An ancient town, Ngu Hanh Son, Son Tra peninsula, Cu Lao Cham marine protected area, My Khe beach); Enjoy the local traditional dishes and feel the friendly and hospitable tradition of the Vietnamese people.

We wish our Meeting a great success!

Thank you very much!

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**WCPFC 19 Opening Statements**  
Chair of the Commission

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Dr. Tran Dinh Luan, the Director General of the Directorate of Fisheries of Vietnam,  
The Honorable Minister Wawani Dowiyogo of Nauru,  
The Honorable Minister Esa-Sharon Mona AINU'u from of Niue,  
The Honorable Minister John. M. Silk of the Marshall Islands,  
The Honorable Minister Maiava Fuimaono of Samoa,

Madame Vice Chair Josie Tamate,

Mr. Feleti Teo, the Executive Director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission,  
Distinguished CCM delegations and observers,

I would like to start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the host government, Vietnam, for hosting this important meeting here in this vibrant city of Da Nang and for your warm hospitality.

As Dr. Luan alluded, Vietnam and the WCPFC have maintained long standing cooperation. I understand that two rounds of tuna data management workshops took place with the assistance of the Commission's Scientific Services Provider here in Vietnam this year. I look forward to even closer cooperation between the WCPFC and Vietnam going forward.

Delegates,

The last in-person meeting in Papua New Guinea celebrated the sweet 16 of the Commission, and nobody had ever imagined that it would be the last in person meeting in many years to come. And fast forward three years, the WCPFC has now become an adult with ever-growing responsibilities. Over the last three years in between, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the life as we know it. The work of the Commission has not been spared from the impact of the pandemic. We had mandates and responsibilities that could not wait, and that meant that we had to work even harder and engage with one another even more closely albeit virtually in the face of the unprecedented global health crisis. Looking back, I'm proud to say that the Commission has successfully carried out important tasks, and made some significant progress. With this perseverance, the Commission has once again demonstrated its collective strength as the custodian of the world's largest tuna fishery.

This year, we have a very long list of agenda items to address over the five days. We have a number of scientific presentations under agenda 6, which will take a large part of our meeting time. This indicates that the Commission has a wealth of information that is richer than ever that will support the Commission's decisions based on the best scientific information available, thanks to the hard work of the Scientific Committee, SPC-OFP and the ISC.

One of the most important issues for WCPFC 19 will be the adoption of a Management Procedure for skipjack tuna, and progressing various elements of Harvest Strategies for the key tuna stocks. The Commission has been successful in managing the tropical tuna through its core conservation and management measure, which we call the "bridging measure" over the last several years. With the skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks being in healthy statuses according to the most recent stock assessments, the bridge seems to be robust and strong. However, we can't keep staying on the bridge and will eventually need to cross it to get to the point we actually intend to reach. We do have a map, which is the Harvest Strategy Workplan, and we will need to work together to live up to this Plan. While the Plan being implemented, the Commission has very important decisions to make next year to revise or come up with a new tropical tuna measure that outlines the hard limits for purse seine effort or catch and longline

limits and their allocation. WCPFC 19 will have an opportunity to discuss next steps so that the Commission can fulfil its commitment envisaged in CMM 2021-01.

We also have a number of issues to address regarding the Compliance Monitoring Scheme and review the work of various intersessional working groups including the Risk Based Management Framework and Compliance Audit Points. The WCPFC boasts one of the most advanced compliance monitoring schemes in RFMOs, and I hope that WCPFC 19 will make further progress to make the system even stronger. I would also like to highlight the importance of resuming the review of compliance monitoring report in 2023 not to leave any unmanageable gap in compliance monitoring. On the MCS front, we will also have an opportunity to drive the progress in transshipment management discussions.

The Commission will also consider the improvement of ecosystem management, including sharks and seabirds.

Another important point I'd like to touch on is the work on labor standards. The lines between the mandates of RFMOs and other organizations are blurring, and we no longer afford to say it is not our responsibility to deal with issues that are not directly related to fishery resource management, because indeed, fisheries impacts are inextricably linked with issues involving the people and environments. We will need to push our boundaries to address over-arching issues such as labor standards. These issues will also include climate change as well, which is likely to hit small island developing states the hardest if left unmanaged. Time is mature for incorporating climate change considerations into the work of the Commission.

Delegates, the workload in front of us is quite overwhelming. This year, we are fortunate enough to have an in-person meeting, which means we can have off-line discussions to progress with important considerations.

I hope that our outcomes document will contain a number of agreements and achievements that we can all be proud of.

I note the number of observers is growing every year, and it shows the world's keen interest in and high expectations on the Commission getting things done. I appreciate the contribution of observers to the work of the Commission and look forward to our close cooperation going forward.

Colleagues,

I'd like to close by expressing my deepest gratitude to the Secretariat for their excellent and professional assistance, which I even more appreciate having experienced two rounds of annual meetings and numerous other meetings in a virtual format. The Commission is blessed with such a competent team of the Secretariat and I'm so grateful to have had their full support over the last four years.

I would also like to give my special thanks to our Scientific Services Provider the SPC-OFP, without whose help I can't imagine how we could progress with our important work on Harvest Strategy. I also thank the ISC, the Chairs, Vice Chair, Convenors and Co-Convenors of the subsidiary bodies and working groups for your significant contribution and dedication. Thank you.

**OPENING STATEMENT BY MR FELETI P TEO  
THE WCPFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE WCPFC19**

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(Delivered on 28 November 2022 at Da Nang, Vietnam)

Your Excellencies,

Our Gracious Host – the Government of the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, represented here this morning by the Director-General of the Directorate of Fisheries of Vietnam, Dr Tran Dinh Luan.

Thank you, Director General, for gracing us with your presence.

And thank you for sharing with us Vietnam's insight on the work of the Commission and for affirming Vietnam's commitment to remain engaged and active in the work of the Commission.

Let me acknowledge the presence of other dignitaries and delegates.

Madam Chair of the WCPFC; Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Korea).  
Distinguished Honorable Government Ministers of Member governments.  
Senior Officials of Member states and participating territories.  
Representatives of cooperating non-member states.  
Heads and representatives of regional and international organisations.  
Representatives of observer organisations.  
Representatives of civil society and the private sector and industries.  
Staff of the Scientific Service Provider – SPC – Oceanic Fisheries Programme  
My colleagues at the WCPFC Secretariat.  
Ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed my personal privilege and my honored responsibility as the Commission Executive Director to offer some remarks at this opening session.

A privilege and responsibility that I will bear for the last time here in Da Nang, as my tenure comes to an end in March of the new year.

Let me join the earlier speakers in extending a warm welcome and greetings to all delegates to this annual regular session of the Commission.

This meeting is rather unique in the short life of the Commission, in that for the first time we have two categories of delegates. Those that are here in Da Nang attending the meeting in person and those that are participating virtually.

For those that are here in Da Nang welcome to beautiful Da Nang. A meeting venue that has already proven very popular with delegates, especially those that have been here for several days ahead of this meeting.

For those that are participating virtually, welcome to the meeting. I hope the virtual meeting arrangements that the Secretariat has in place are sufficient to ensure your effective participation, as if you are also here in Da Nang.

Like it or not, this is the new normal of transacting business in the post COVID-19 pandemic era.

This meeting is the first physical (face to face) meeting of the Commission for the last three years since the dawn of the global pandemic.

The last physical meeting was the annual meeting of the Commission in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in December 2019.

So, what an excitement and thrill to reconnect in person with most delegates and to meet up in person for the first time with colleagues that we only viewed on computer screens and spoken to virtually.

But the road to Da Nang was not without its challenges.

Even by the middle of the year, arrangements for a physical meeting here in Da Nang were very sketchy at the least. But officials of the Government of Vietnam were persistent and adamant of their ability to host a physical meeting. And it was not until the start of October that we were able to confirm the rest of the meeting arrangements.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate and commend the Government of Vietnam for convening this annual meeting of the Commission, and for becoming the first cooperating non-member state to host a Commission meeting let alone an annual meeting.

And what a statement affirming Vietnam's commitment to sustainable conservation and management principles upon which the WCPFC is founded.

So, Director General please convey to the Government and to the people of Vietnam the collective vote of appreciation and gratitude of the Commission membership and the Secretariat, for hosting us here in beautiful Da Nang.

Director General, Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates.

As we gather here in Da Nang and plot the way forward for the Commission, it would serve our purpose well, if we take stock of the lessons learnt of the last three years when the Commission was severely challenged to adapt and to adjust to a new working environment as dictated by the disruptive impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on international travels and modes of transacting businesses.

As your Executive Director, I was full of admiration and marveled at the high level of resilience, adaptability and perseverance of the Commission membership.

Despite the Commission's inability to meet physically and the constraints and confinements of virtual meetings, the Commission was able to sustain over the period of three years its routine operations and functionalities as mandated by its founding document, the WCPF Convention.

Although, there were slippages in the achievement of agreed timelines for some of the more technically challenged issues like those associated with the implementation of the Harvest Strategy workplan, the Commission was able to avoid avoidable gaps in its conservation and management regime.

In particular, the Commission continued to undertake its scheduled stock assessments; the Commission was able to sustain and continued the operations of its compliance and monitoring control and surveillance tools and programmes; the Commission was able to sustain the operations of the WCPFC compliance and monitoring scheme and even undertook improvements to it; the Commission was able to negotiate virtually a revised tropical tuna measure in 2021; and the Commission was also able to convene on a trial basis the first virtual science-management dialogue this year to name a few.

The achievements I just cited, despite the most challenging operational circumstances encountered in the short history of the Commission attest to the unique character of the WCPFC, that I have come to acknowledge and appreciate over my tenure as Executive Director – and that is the Commission’s ability to rise to the occasion and do right for the sustainability of the health of the fish stocks under the purview of the Commission.

And I look forward to that unique characteristic, as the Commission seek to address at its first physical meeting after three years this week key issues of harvest strategy development and implementation including a Management Procedure for skipjack; ongoing reforms to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the compliance and monitoring scheme; preparations for negotiations of a new or revised tropical tuna measure in 2023; and progressing the important work of the various intersessional working groups on issues like electronic reporting and monitoring, crew labour standards, and transshipment review to name a few.

The Annual Report of the Executive Director for this year documents a full and active year for the Commission and the Secretariat. Despite the continuing disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission had a reasonably successful year, in that it was able to convene successfully the virtual meetings of all its subsidiary bodies and those of a number of intersessional working groups. In addition, the Commission also convened an additional meeting of a special session of the Commission to consider the intersessional decisions to suspend certain observer placement requirements and the first science-management dialogue. The outcomes of all these meetings would be considered by the Commission at this meeting and would be the basis of the Commission outcomes and decisions of this week. And I commend to you all, the Executive Director’s report for 2022 for a full account and documentation of the key activities and achievements of the Commission, its membership and the Secretariat in 2022.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

As I would take my discharge from the WCPFC early in the new year, I will do so with fond memories and a sense of self-satisfaction.

It was eight years ago in Apia, Samoa at WCPFC11 in December 2014 that I was entrusted with the insurmountable responsibility of the Executive Director of the WCPFC. A responsibility I would like to think I carried with all seriousness, and with dignity and humility.

Now, as I look back, I am very grateful and respectful to having been a very small part of the journey of the WCPFC for the last eight years, as the WCPFC scaled new heights and stood tall amongst other tuna RFMOs with many success stories and achievements unmatched by its counterparts in other regional oceans. A moment certainly to treasure and revel in it.

And I have many, many people to thank for their support to me on that journey.

But I would resist the urge to do that at this juncture as I still have a huge task to carry out this week which is to support Madam Chair in managing this meeting to its successful conclusion on Saturday. And hopefully, I would have the opportunity at the end of the week to express those thanks and gratitude.

However, in the context of this meeting, I wish to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the contribution of the staff of the Scientific Service Provider Dr Graham Pilling and team at SPC-OFP who collaborated closely with the Secretariat in the planning and preparations of the material and documentation for this meeting.

I also thank all the members, cooperating non-members and participating territories and observers who contributed papers for the meeting.

I also thank my tireless colleagues at the Secretariat who had to endure the pandemic which was followed by a severe influenza in Pohnpei in the second half of this year as we revved up our preparations leading to this meeting. In referring to the Secretariat I include the Legal Adviser Dr Penny Riding who is always central to our meeting preparations.

Last and definitely not the least, I thank Madam Chair Ms Jung-re Riley Kim for her leadership and guidance to me and the Secretariat. It has been a wonderful joy and pleasure to be led and guided by you. And as a token of the Secretariat's appreciation to your services, we carried with us all the way from Pohnpei a piece of premium Pohnpei mahogany wood to present to you, and one that you can carry back home with you to Korea.

Director General, Madam Chair and distinguished delegates and ladies and gentlemen I wish the Commission very well in its deliberations this week and I and my colleagues at the Secretariat remain ready to support your deliberations.

Kalanghan and thank you so much.

END



**COMMISSION  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Da Nang City, Vietnam  
28 November to 3 December 2022

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**AGENDA - adopted**

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**WCPFC19-2022-01\_adopted  
28 November 2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING**

- 1.1 Adoption of agenda
- 1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements
  - 1.3.1 Hybrid meeting protocols
  - 1.3.2 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, others)

**AGENDA ITEM 2. 2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**AGENDA ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Status of the Convention
- 3.2 Update on observer status
- 3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status
  - 3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

**AGENDA ITEM 4. NEW PROPOSALS**

**AGENDA ITEM 5. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES**

- 5.1 Implementation of Article 30 of WCPFC Convention and CMM 2013-07 (SIDS special requirements)
- 5.2 Updated Strategic Investment Plan

**AGENDA ITEM 6. WCPO TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCK**

- 6.1 Review of the status of WCPO tuna and billfish stocks
- 6.2 Skipjack, Bigeye and Yellowfin
  - 6.2.1 Harvest Strategy issues
    - 6.2.1.1 Update on review of target reference point for skipjack
    - 6.2.1.2 Review of additional work tasked by the SMD01 and adoption of management procedures for skipjack tuna.
    - 6.2.1.3 Agreement on the target reference point for bigeye and yellowfin tuna.
- 6.3 Review of CMM 2021-01
  - 6.3.1 Evaluation and review of CMM 2021-01
    - 6.3.1.1 Review of results from FAD Management Options IWG
    - 6.3.1.2 Baseline period or limit for the Indonesia Large Fish Handline Fishery



6.3.1.3 Process to renegotiate a new or revised tropical tuna CMM

- 6.4 South Pacific Albacore
  - 6.4.1 Harvest strategy issues
    - 6.4.1.1 Review of any additional performance indicators, if available, and alternative target reference points
    - 6.4.1.2 Review of additional work tasked by the SMD01 to support decision-making on management procedures
  - 6.4.2 Review of CMM 2015-02
    - 6.4.2.1 Review of the SPA Roadmap-IWG activities
- 6.5 North Pacific albacore
  - 6.5.1 Review of CMM 2019-03
  - 6.5.2 Harvest Strategy Proposal from NC18
- 6.6 Pacific bluefin tuna
  - 6.6.1 Review of CMM 2021-02
- 6.7 North Pacific swordfish
  - 6.7.1 Proposal from NC18
- 6.8 South Pacific swordfish
  - 6.8.1 Review of SP swordfish fishery
  - 6.8.2 Review of CMM 2009-03
- 6.9 North Pacific striped marlin
  - 6.9.1 Review of CMM 2010-01

**AGENDA ITEM 7: HARVEST STRATEGY WORK PLAN**

- 7.1 Review of Indicative Work Plan
- 7.2 Science-Management Dialogue

**AGENDA ITEM 8: WCPO SHARK STOCKS AND BYCATCH MITIGATION**

- 8.1 Sharks
  - 8.1.1 Review of the status of WCPO shark stocks
    - 8.1.1.1 Southwest Pacific blue shark
    - 8.1.1.2 Southwest Pacific shortfin mako shark
    - 8.1.1.3 North Pacific blue shark
  - 8.1.2 Review of CMM 2019-04
- 8.2 Seabird mitigation
  - 8.2.1 Review of CMM 2018-03
- 8.3 Graphics for Best Practice for Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans
- 8.4 Ecosystem and bycatch mitigation
  - 8.4.1 Ecosystem and climate indicators

**AGENDA ITEM 9: COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME**

- 9.1 CMS-IWG Workplan to progress the CMS future work included in Section IX of CMM 2021-03 Compliance Monitoring Scheme
  - 9.1.1 Develop Audit points
  - 9.1.2 Develop Risk-based assessment framework
  - 9.1.3 Develop Guidelines for Observer participation
  - 9.1.4 Develop Corrective Actions
  - 9.1.5 Review of Aggregate Tables
  - 9.1.6 Other future works
- 9.2 Consideration of Compliance Monitoring Report RY2021 and RY2022 in 2023

- 9.2.1 List of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 10: LIFTING OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS OF OBSERVER COVERAGE OBLIGATIONS DUE TO COVID 19**

**AGENDA ITEM 11: REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS**

The reports under this agenda will be taken as read. Only recommendations of the reports not addressed under other agenda items will be considered under this agenda item.

- 11.1 SC18
- 11.2 TCC18
- 11.3 NC18
- 11.4 Other Intersessional work and working groups
  - 11.4.1 E-reporting and E-monitoring (ERandEMWG)
  - 11.4.2 Transhipment review (TS IWG)
  - 11.4.3 Crew labour standards

**AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE 2023 IUU VESSEL LIST**

**AGENDA ITEM 13: REPORT OF THE FAC16**

- 13.1 Report of the Sixteenth Finance and Administration Committee
- 13.2 Budget for 2023 and Indicative Budgets for 2024 and 2025

**AGENDA ITEM 14: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- 14.1 Secretariat's Corporate Plan
- 14.2 Appointment of new Executive Director
- 14.3 Election of officers
  - WCPFC Chair and Vice-Chair
  - SC Vice-Chair
  - TCC Chair and Vice-Chair
  - NC Chair and NC Vice-Chair
  - IWG-ROP Chair
- 14.4 Future meetings

**AGENDA ITEM 15: OTHER MATTERS**

**AGENDA ITEM 16: SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WCPFC19**

**AGENDA ITEM 17: CLOSE OF MEETING**

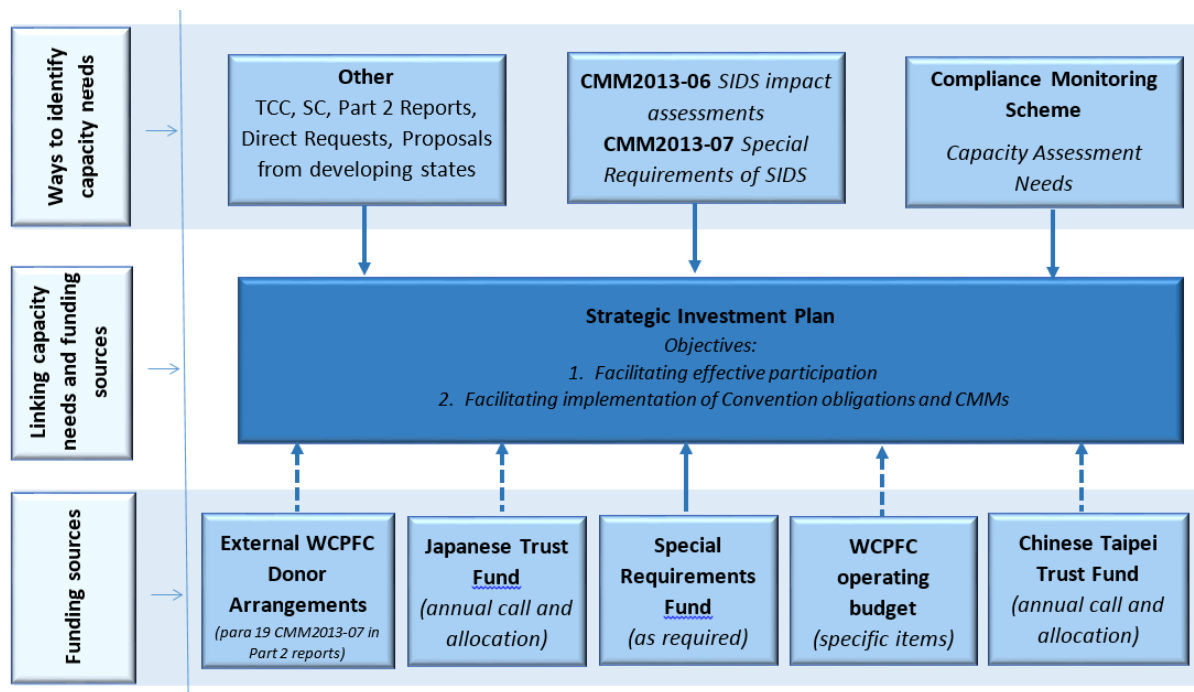


**COMMISSION  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
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## 2022 Strategic Investment Plan

### Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.
2. The purpose of the Strategic Investment Plan is to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies as outlined in the following diagram:



## Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:
- effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
  - development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

## Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above and the WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to members when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission as a whole meet the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention<sup>1</sup>.

## Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas are from the 2021 Final Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2020 activities:

<p><b>Indonesia for Scientific data provision (SciData03)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported that there were some continuing delays in 2020 in the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out in the Capacity Development Plan due to COVID-19 circumstances. TCC17 noted that implementation of the capacity needs in the Capacity Development Plan is still open and requested Indonesia to report back following TCC with more specificity on the dates when the necessary technical assistance can take place. TCC noted that for RY 2020 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.</p>
<p><b>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported that assistance and funding was being sought from SPC to hold dedicated workshops on sharks. However, this has been delayed due to COVID-19. TCC17 noted the continuing delays due to COVID-19 circumstances in implementation of the capacity</p>

<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

<p><b>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY 2020)</p>	<p>needs in the Capacity Development Plan and requested Indonesia to report back following TCC with more specificity on the dates when the necessary technical assistance can take place. TCC noted that for RY 2020 Indonesia’s capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.</p>
<p><b>Philippines for 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020)</p>	<p>TCC noted that a written report was received from the Philippines on progress on its Capacity Development Plan which provided a schedule for implementation to progressively increase observer coverage in Philippine waters over 2020 to 2023. TCC noted that for RY 2020 Philippine’s capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.</p>
<p><b>Indonesia for 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020)</p>	<p>TCC noted that Indonesia’s capacity assistance needed for the implementation of the obligation in CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35 is incorporated into a Capacity Development Plan for RY 2020. TCC17 expects Indonesia to be meet this obligation in 2022.</p>
<p><b>French Polynesia for CCMs to require longline vessels to carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to handle and promptly release sea turtles, as well as dip-nets where appropriate (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 06)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020)</p>	<p>TCC noted that French Polynesia’s capacity assistance needed for the implementation of the obligation in CMM 2018-04 paragraph 6 is incorporated into a Capacity Development Plan for RY 2020. TCC17 expects French Polynesia to be meet this obligation in 2022.</p>
<p><b>French Polynesia for Sea Turtle mitigation requirements for shallow-set longline vessels, including incident reporting requirements (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 7a)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020)</p>	<p>TCC noted that French Polynesia’s capacity assistance needed for the implementation of the obligation in CMM 2018-04 paragraph 7a is incorporated into a Capacity Development Plan for RY 2020. TCC17 expects French Polynesia to be meet this obligation in 2022.</p>

6. It should be noted that other needs may be identified by CCMs during TCC19’s review of draft CMRs when developing the Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report in 2023.

## Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

7. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2021 and that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2022. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY 2018 and are continuing in RY 2021 (#). These are identified in paragraph 41 of the 2021 Final Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2020 activities:

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 reporting year
<p><b>CMM 2017-03</b> <b>03-06, 11, 12</b> Observer Safety CMM</p>	<p><b>Cook Islands:</b> Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require legislation changes #</p>
<p><b>CMM 2013-07</b> <b>Paras 01-03</b> General Provisions</p>	<p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> is included in the SIDS partnership as announced at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) was held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. Several multi-stakeholders partnerships initiatives for SIDS where Indonesia as one of the partners have been operating in several SIDS such as Papua New Guinea and Solomon Island for Coral Triangle Initiative.  <a href="http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219">http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219</a>  <a href="http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238">http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238</a>"</p> <p>Recently, in mid 2020, Indonesia called for mobilization of adequate resources and support for Small Island Developing States during a discussion with the premise on mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on new pathways to realize the 2030 agenda and the Samoa Pathway: Small Island Developing States</p> <p><b>Kiribati</b> is one of the SIDS countries that depend much on assistance from regional and sub-regional agencies such as WCPFC, FFA and PNA including donor partners.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p><b>Tonga</b> cooperate at regional and sub regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS Fisheries.</p> <p><b>Vanuatu:</b> Request to assist with MCS and observer related work to which funds were disseminated to assist as is the case with other SIDS CCMs</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 reporting year
<p><b>CMM 2013-07 Paras 04-05</b> Capacity development for personnel</p>	<p><b>Fiji</b> still needs trainings and attachments in the following areas: 1) prosecution 2) data analysis 3) MCS #</p> <p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.<b>Indonesia</b> (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p><b>Kiribati</b> is a small island country with limited resources to manage its vast EEZ.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p><b>Tonga:</b> Our current national capacity does not provide Tonga ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is recipient of capacity development assistance</p> <p><b>Vanuatu:</b> As mentioned earlier, requests have been submitted for assistance on observer EM related training and support..</p>
<p><b>CMM 2013-07 Paras 06-07</b> Assistance with technology transfers</p>	<p><b>FSM:</b> National IMS Development/FIMS Development/TUFMAN2 development/EM/ER initiatives</p> <p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p><b>Kiribati</b> as small island developing states depend much on technology assistance from regional agencies and development partners.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p><b>Tonga:</b> Our current national capacity does not provide Tonga ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is recipient of capacity development assistance</p> <p><b>Vanuatu:</b> CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 reporting year
<p><b>CMM 2013-07</b>  <b>Paras 08-09</b>                      Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</p>	<p><b>FSM:</b> Participation in Implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring and sharing of MCS data when necessary.</p> <p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Kiribati is small island with limited resources, hence unable to provides further assistance while concentrating effort within national jurisdiction only.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p><b>PNG:</b> Adopted CMMs that are applicable and consistent to the national obligations and existing fishery.</p> <p><b>Tonga</b> cooperate at regional and sub-regional initiatives to support the development of SIDs Fisheries</p> <p><b>Vanuatu:</b> CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</p>
<p><b>CMM 2013-07</b>  <b>Paras 10-11</b>                      Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance</p>	<p><b>FSM:</b> - Bilateral or multi lateral Surveillance Opertaion arrangements                      - PNA observer program,                      - subregional surveilllance operations                      - FSM,RMI and Palau tri lateral operations                      - NTSA bilateral activities                      - U.S and FSM ships rider agreement</p> <p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> As small island state with only one patrol boat to monitor three separated EEZ. Kiribati greatly need assistance from developed partners to assist in both aerial and surface surveillance coverage. #</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> received no assistance in this category since 2017</p>
<p><b>CMM 2013-07</b>  <b>Paras 12-18</b>                      support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access</p>	<p><b>FSM:</b> PNA market related initiatives - MSC, VDS,CDS,EM/ER,PSM</p> <p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> received no assistance in this category since 2017</p>



**Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process**

8. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.
9. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at **Attachment 1**. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.
10. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

<b>Title:</b> Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
<b>Obligation:</b> Article 30
<p><b>Capacity Building Assistance Needed:</b></p> <p>Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and</li> <li>• in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget).</li> </ul> <p>It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member, including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests.</p> <p>Parameters around accessing the program will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget</li> </ul>
<b>Timeframe:</b> Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program
<b>Cost:</b> up to USD300,000 annually

**Capacity assistance delivered by FFA/SPC that were funded through the Regional Capacity Building Workshop budget item in the WCPFC core budget**

11. Each year since 2015, the Commission has included under Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme an annual budget line for Regional Capacity Building Workshops which FFA/SPC are to advise on the activities to be supported. The following are the activities that have been funded annually:

<b>2016:</b> WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers	To build competencies for Members’ MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: \$126,268
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<b>2017:</b> WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers	To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: \$55,000
<b>2017:</b> WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$75,000
<b>2018:</b> WCPFC support towards FFA capacity building workshops	Two regional workshops were held (April and November) on allocation processes. Several opportunities were taken during the year to engage members on the development of a regional longline strategy with a dedicated workshop held in November. A dedicated workshop to discuss the south Pacific albacore target reference point, and development of the roadmap was held in November.	Cost: \$72,558
<b>2018:</b> WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$57,442
<b>2019:</b> WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$71,625
<b>2021:</b> WCPFC support to sea safety training for selected observers from several FFA member's national observer programmes (NOPs).	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for the FFA Members' national observer programmes to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: \$223,374
<b>2022:</b> Observer sea safety training project proposal for WCPFC Regional Capacity Building Workshops Funding	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for Nauru's national fisheries observer programme to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: USD124,887

**ATTACHMENT 1**

<b>Thematic capacity needs</b>	<b>Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority</b>	<b>Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)</b>
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US, the SRF and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transshipment	11	All donors
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

**ATTACHMENT 2**

<b>Donor/program</b>	<b>Eligible Recipients</b>
Australia: various programs	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	PACP countries and Pacific regional
FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ project)	WCPFC, PNA, FFA
FFA: various programs	Pacific island FFA members
GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
New Zealand: various programs	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
US: various programs	All WCPFC members



**COMMISSION**  
**NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Da Nang City, Vietnam  
28 November to 3 December 2022

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON A MANAGEMENT  
PROCEDURE FOR WCPO SKIPJACK TUNA**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2022-01**

**Interim Skipjack Tuna Management Procedure**

**Objective**

1. The objective of the interim Management Procedure (MP) for skipjack tuna, is to ensure that:
  - a) the spawning potential depletion<sup>1</sup> ratio of skipjack tuna is maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point; and
  - b) the spawning potential depletion ratio of skipjack tuna is maintained above the limit reference point with a risk of the limit reference point being breached no greater than 20 percent;

in a manner that achieves the objective of relative stability in fishing levels between management periods and in the longer term.

**Reference Points**

2. The reference points are:
  - a) Target reference point: Calculated on the basis of two spawning potential depletion values:
    - The first value represents the estimated average depletion of the skipjack tuna stock over the period 2018-2021 ( $SB_{2018-2021}/SB_{F=0}$ ).
    - The second value represents the long-term median equilibrium stock depletion that would be reached under the agreed baseline fishing conditions for skipjack tuna (purse seine effort at 2012 levels, pole and line effort at average 2001-04 levels, and the domestic fisheries in assessment region 5 at average 2016-18 levels).

Both values are expressed as a percentage of the estimated average spawning potential in the absence of fishing ( $SB_{F=0}$ ), calculated as described in paragraph 3. Values are calculated as medians based upon the grid of assessment models as agreed by the WCPFC Scientific Committee.

The target reference point is the average of these two values (weighting of 50/50). -

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<sup>1</sup> Spawning potential depletion refers to the estimated spawning potential as a percentage of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing (i.e. the unfished spawning potential). The metric is dynamic and is estimated for each model time step.

- b) Limit reference point: 20 percent of the estimated recent average spawning potential in the absence of fishing, calculated as described in paragraph 3.
3. The method to be used in calculating spawning potential in the absence of fishing ( $SB_{F=0}$ ) shall be:
- a)  $SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$  is the average of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing for a time window of ten years based on the most recent skipjack tuna stock assessment, where  $t1=y-10$  to  $t2=y-1$  where  $y$  is the year under consideration; and
- b) The estimation shall be based on the relevant estimates of recruitment that have been adjusted to reflect conditions without fishing according to the stock recruitment relationship.

**Scope of the MP**

4. The MP applies to the catch and effort of purse seine and pole and line fisheries, and other commercial fisheries referred to in paragraph 47 of CMM 2021-01 taking more than 2,000 tonnes of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack) in the Exclusive Economic Zones and high seas.

**Elements of the MP**

5. The MP includes:
- a) The Harvest Control Rule set out in Annex I;
- b) The Estimation Model using the settings set out in Annex II;
- c) Data Requirements and the Monitoring Strategy set out in Annex III;
- d) The procedure for Exceptional Circumstances set out in Annex IV; and
- e) The provision for Special Circumstances set out in Annex V.

**Roles of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Services Provider**

6. The Scientific Committee shall regularly review the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Annex III, and provide advice to the Commission on:
- a) the performance of the MP as a basis for pre-defined rules that manage skipjack tuna in order to achieve biological, ecological, economic and social objectives, including the robustness of the MP to changes in the fishery and any exceptional circumstances consistent with Annex IV; and
- b) the application of the MP outputs to CMM 2021-01: CMM for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean or any successor Measure (Tropical tuna CMM).
7. The Scientific Services Provider shall run the MP, perform the full assessment, and support Scientific Committee and Commission consideration of the MP.
8. The Commission shall review the Tropical Tuna CMM in a repeating 3-year schedule as follows:

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2023	-Run the MP (using data to 2022). -Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	-Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the period 2024-2026.	-Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. -Revise catch and effort related limits for 2024-2026.
2024		-Data to monitor performance of the MP not available in first year of implementation.	-Apply Tropical Tuna CMM.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Scientific Services Provider</b>	<b>Scientific Committee</b>	<b>Commission</b>
2025	-Perform full stock assessment (y <sub>last</sub> = 2024).	-Review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	-Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM. -Review the performance and use of the MP.
2026	-Run the MP (using data to 2025). -Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2025. -Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2027-2029).	-Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. -Revise catch and effort related provisions for 2027-2029.
2027		-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2026.	Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM.
2028	-Perform full stock assessment (y <sub>last</sub> = 2027).	-Review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	-Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM. -Review the performance and use of the MP.
2029	-Run the MP (using data to 2028). -Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2028. -Provide advice to the Commission on catch and effort related provisions for the next management period (2030-2033).	-Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. -Review catch and effort related provisions for 2027-2029.

### **Management Strategy Evaluation**

9. The MP has been simulation tested to determine its likely performance against a range of plausible scenarios. These scenarios and the details of the testing procedure are provided in WCPFC-2022-SC18/-MI-WP-03. The results of the evaluations are outlined in WCPFC-SC18-2022/-MI-WP-02 and are available online at: [https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/PIMPLE\\_WCPFC19/](https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/PIMPLE_WCPFC19/).

### **Allocation**

10. Allocation is not included in, or affected by, the MP.

### **Review and Final Provisions**

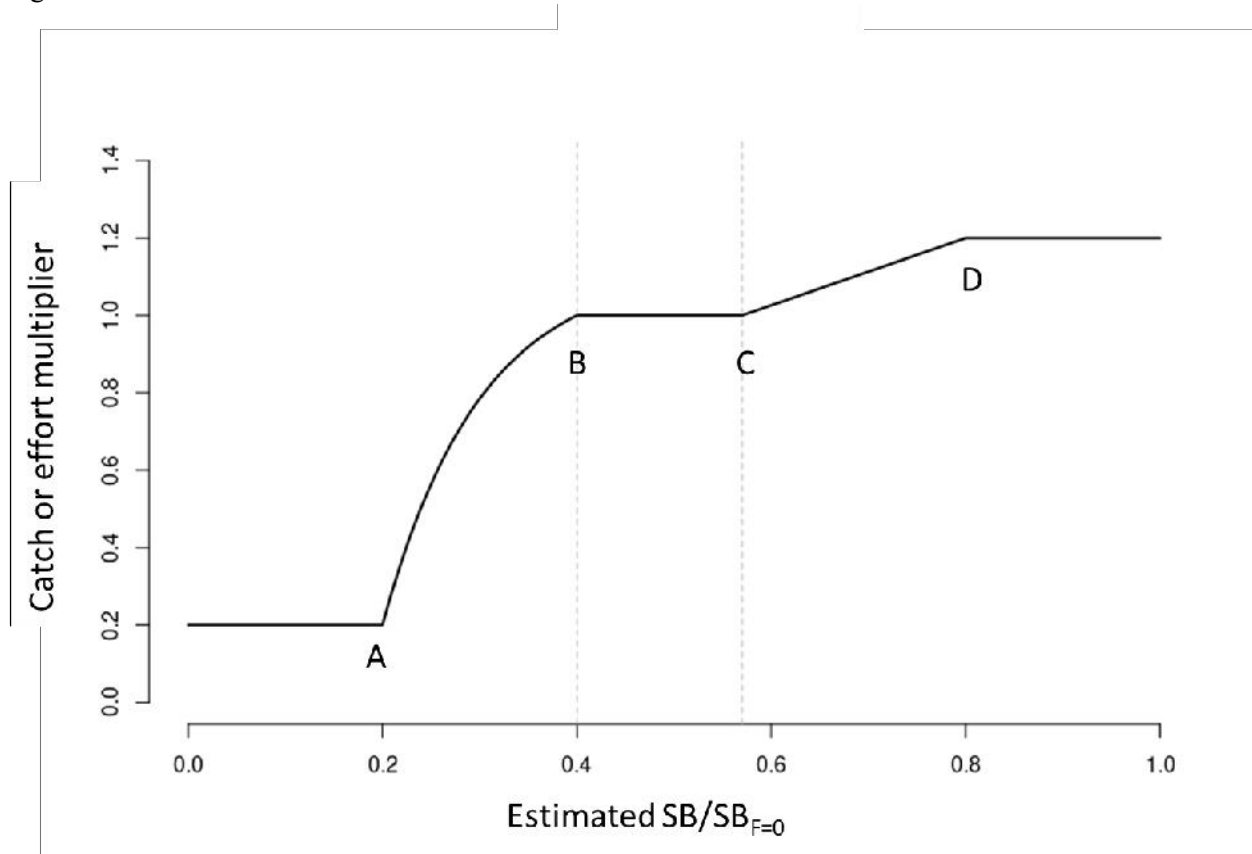
11. The Commission shall review this CMM in 2025 and 2028 to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect. The Commission may amend the CMM at any point to fully apply the MP.

12. This measure shall come into effect on 16 February 2023 and shall replace CMM 2015-06 at that time. It shall remain in effect until 15 February 2030 unless replaced or amended by the Commission.

## ANNEX I: HARVEST CONTROL RULE

1. The harvest control rule is outlined in Figure 1. Features include:
  - a) The input to the harvest control rule is the estimated spawning potential depletion ratio for the latest estimation year ( $SB_{\text{latest}}/SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$ ), where  $SB_{\text{latest}}$  is the estimated spawning potential in the last year of data within the estimation model and  $SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$  is the same time period as described in 3 a) above;
  - b) The output from the harvest control rule is a scalar (multiplier) that adjusts future catch or effort relative to baseline fishing conditions (purse seine effort at 2012 levels, pole and line effort at average 2001-04 levels, and the domestic fisheries in assessment region 5 at average 2016-18 levels);
  - c) All fisheries are scaled equally. Scalars apply to effort for purse seine and pole and line fisheries, and to catch for all other fisheries; and
  - d) For each 3-year management period, the harvest control rule uses the estimate of stock status ( $SB_{\text{latest}}/SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$ ), as determined by the Estimation Model, to calculate a scalar that adjusts catches or effort up or down relative to the baseline fishing conditions.

Figure 1. Harvest control rule





2. The harvest control rule formulation is provided in WCPFC-SC18-2022/MI-WP-03. The parameters are as follows:

Type = 'asymptotic\_Hillary\_step\_constrained'

	Label	SB/SB <sub>F=0</sub>	Output multiplier	Value
SB/SB <sub>F=0</sub> min	A	0.2	0.2	
SB/SB <sub>F=0</sub> max	D	0.8	1.2	
Step min	B	0.40	1	
Step max	C	0.57	1	
Curve				10
Max change up				1.1
Max change down				0.9

3. The maximum increase or decrease in effort indicated by the HCR between any 3-year management period shall be 10% relative to the catch and effort levels specified by the MP for the previous three years period.

## ANNEX II: ESTIMATION MODEL

1. Stock status ( $SB/SB_{F=0}$ ) is estimated within the MP from a MULTIFAN-CL Estimation Model (Annex II) detailed in WCPFC-SC18-2022-MI-WP02 Attachment A. The parameters of the Estimation Model are as follows:

Model Setting		Value
Regional Structure		8 regions
Steepness		0.8
Length comp. wtg.		100
Tag mixing period		1 qtr
VonB growth params	Lmin	25.7051
	Lmax	78.0308
	K	0.212
Hyperstability in CPUE		0

### ANNEX III: DATA REQUIREMENTS AND MONITORING STRATEGY

Table 1. Data requirements under the WCPO MP and considerations for the monitoring strategy with respect to the collection, provision, coverage, and quality of data necessary to run the MP. Data prioritisation is considered here with specific regard to the monitoring strategy.

<b>Data requirement</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Monitoring Considerations</b>
<b>MP: estimation model</b>		
Annual catch estimates.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Aggregate catch/effort data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Operational catch/effort data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Standardised CPUE indices for important index fisheries (e.g. pole and line fisheries).	High	Continuation of ongoing arrangements.
Species composition data for purse seine catches.	High	Dependent on observer coverage.
Size composition data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Tagging data	High	Dependent on ongoing WCPFC funding.
<b>Monitoring Strategy: stock assessment</b>		
As above for MP.	High	As a minimum, the data listed above will be required to run the stock assessment.
Additional data to inform the stock assessment.	Low	Where available, additional data will be used to improve the stock assessment e.g. growth, maturity, effort creep, population structure and movement.
<b>Monitoring Strategy: performance indicators</b>		
Other data as available to calculate performance indicators – this may include:	The frequency and scope of these data may vary depending on data availability and collection procedures. Performance indicators calculated from them may represent only a subset of the fishery.	
Economic data.	Medium	e.g. voluntarily submitted economic information
Ecosystem data.	Medium	e.g. bycatch and discards (mandatory) information
Social information.	Medium	e.g. industry/employment, household surveys

Table 2. Aspects of the Management Procedure that may be considered for inclusion in the monitoring strategy and the Commission body at which those considerations can be made.

<b>MP Element</b>	<b>Commission Body</b>	<b>Monitoring Considerations</b>
<b>Review the MSE framework</b>		
OM grid.	SC	Ensure that the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM grid.
Calculation of performance indicators.	SC	Appropriate representation of objectives by performance indicators.
Modelling assumptions.	SC	Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework.
Data availability to support the MSE framework.	SC/TCC	Improvements to data collection to either enhance the OM framework and/or reduce the uncertainty included in the OM grid.
<b>Review performance of the MP</b>		
Comparison of MP performance against latest stock assessment.	SC	Check that the MP is performing as expected.
Data availability to run the MP.	SC/TCC	Check availability, quantity, quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation model).
Other sources of data to monitor performance not included in the MSE framework.	SC/TCC	Identify other data as available to inform calculation of performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc).
<b>Review of the MP</b>		
Management objectives.	Commission	Check that the overall objectives of the MP are still appropriate.
Exceptional circumstances.	SC/TCC/ Commission	Drawing on all of the above, have events (unexpected, extra-ordinary) occurred such that remedial action is required to either review, modify or replace the MP

Table 3. Performance Indicators Examined

Indicator 1	Maintain SKJ, YFT, BET biomass at or above levels that provide fishery sustainability throughout their range.
Indicator 3	Maximise economic yield from the fishery (average expected catch).
Indicator 4	Maintain acceptable CPUE.
Indicator 6	Catch stability.
Indicator 7	Effort stability: effort variation relative to a reference period.
Indicator 8	Proximity of SB/SB <sub>F=0</sub> to the average SB/SB <sub>F=0</sub> in 2018-21.

## ANNEX IV: EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Exceptional circumstances are defined as the occurrence of events that are outside the range of scenarios considered for testing the MP. In the case of such events, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the MP or, in severe cases where there is considered to be a risk to the stock, take remedial action. Exceptional circumstances are not a mechanism for making regular, small adjustments to the MP, but rather should be invoked where, through an agreed process, the operation of the MP has been demonstrated to be highly risky or inappropriate. This Annex provides guidance on the process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and the necessary actions but does not provide firm definitions of all possible exceptional circumstances.

### *Process to determine if exceptional circumstances exist*

2. SC to implement and conduct a monitoring strategy and to advise the Commission on the occurrence of exceptional circumstances based on the results of:
  - Routine annual evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances based on information presented to and reviewed by SC; and
  - Detailed evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances every 3 years coincident with the stock assessment.
3. Examples of what might constitute exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:
  - Persistent low recruitment outside the range for which the MP was tested;
  - Substantial improvements in knowledge, or new knowledge, concerning the dynamics of the population which would have an appreciable effect on the operating models used to test the MP;
  - Non-availability of important input data resulting in an inability to run the MP;
  - Stock assessment biomass estimates that are substantially outside the range of simulated stock trajectories considered in the MP evaluations, calculated under the reference set of operating models;
  - significant increases in the contribution of fisheries not affected by the MP impacting stock depletion;
  - Failure of reported catches and effort to be within an acceptable range around the levels indicated by the MP; and
  - Persistent or strong negative outcome in indicators in Annex III.

### *Process for action in the event of exceptional circumstances*

4. Having determined that there is evidence for exceptional circumstances, the SC will, in the same year, provide advice to the Commission including, but not limited to:
  - the nature and considered severity of the exceptional circumstances;
  - the necessary action required:
    - where the severity is considered to be high, the recommendation may be for a change to the catch/effort limits; and
    - where the severity is considered to be low, the recommendation may be that the Scientific Committee review the MP earlier than scheduled.

## **ANNEX V: SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES**

1. The application of the MP shall not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions.

## Process to Negotiate a Revised Tropical Tuna Measure in 2023

### Background

CMM2021-01 (Tropical Tuna Measure, TTM) remains in effect until February 15, 2024, and outlines timeframes for the Commission's agreement on (1) purse seine hard effort or catch limits in the high seas of the Convention Area and an allocation framework (para 27) and (2) longline hard limits for bigeye and an allocation framework (para 41) amongst all Members and Participating Territories by 2023.

The Measure requires that an allocation framework take into account Articles 8, 10 (3), and 30 of the Convention.

WCPFC 19 agreed that the process to revise the TTM will be based on 2021-01 without a complete overhaul, and at least two workshops will be needed to make progress towards the adoption of a revised TTM in 2023.

### Work Plan

The process will be led by the Chair of the Commission, with the assistance of the Vice Chair of the Commission. The Secretariat and the Scientific Services Provider will assist the Chair, Vice Chair and CCMs throughout the process.

- **End of February, 2023** : The Chair will produce a document highlighting the areas of the TTM that need revisions (reference to scientific information, limits, allocation, etc).
- **End of March, 2023** : CCMs will provide feedback on the areas of the TTM that need revisions, and provide their views on relevant limits and allocation frameworks. CCMs will hold a virtual pre-workshop to have an initial exchange of views.
- **End of April, 2023** : The Chair will circulate the compilation of the feedback from CCMs, providing a side-by-side comparison of different views on relevant limits and allocation frameworks. The objectives and agenda for the first workshop will be circulated by the Chair and agreed intersessionally by the end of May 2023.
- **End of June, 2023** : The first workshop will be held virtually. This workshop will focus on narrowing down options hard limits and their allocation and identify any additional information needs and issues to be considered at SC19.
- **August 2023** : SC19 will consider any issues related to the limits.
- **Beginning of October 2023** : The second workshop will be held (virtually / in person) to address remaining issues. This workshop will also determine the necessity of another workshop, and a contingency plan that could be adopted if no agreement can be reached at WCPFC 20 on the revision of the TTM.

## SPA Roadmap IWG Workplan 2023 – 2026

### Purpose

1. To define the responsibilities of the SPA Roadmap Inter Sessional Working Group (IWG) in progressing key issues on the management of the South Pacific albacore.

### Terms of Reference

1. The terms of reference for the Working Group shall include consideration of the management issues:
  - a. Elements necessary for a pathway to support the development of the SPA management procedure, including the revision of the management objective and the iTRP.
  - b. Elements necessary for establishing an allocation framework.
  - c. Elements for developing a new conservation and management measure.
2. The roadmap will also contain(s) three main components:
  - a. Development of the SPA Management Procedure.
  - b. Allocation Framework: Develop recommendations for a framework on how the Commission allocates the overall limit for South Pacific Albacore, taking into consideration all fisheries, the interests and aspirations of SIDs and Participating Territories and the impacts of Climate Change and the actions required to achieve the biological and economic objectives of the fishery.
  - c. Development of a new CMM.



**Work Plan:**

1. This work plan addresses the main components identified through the TOR above. It is intended to be a working document that will be revised by the IWG as work progresses. \*Considering the margins of the SC and/or TCC meetings for the IWG to meet; and the SMD type meeting to be a virtual meeting.

	<b>Support the development and adoption of the Management Procedure</b>	<b>Establishing a framework for the allocation of the SPA TAC</b>	<b>Development of a new CMM</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The IWG will progress the discussions on a management objective and the revision of the iTRP to recommend to WCPFC20.</li> <li>- Progress the discussions and make recommendations on a management procedure for the SPA for the Commission to consider</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The IWG to identify and develop recommendations on key components and a process for establishing an allocation framework for the Commission to consider.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To develop a new measure that incorporates the allocation framework, as well as any other issues identified by the IWG, that will function as an implementing mechanism for the management procedure.</li> </ul>
<b>2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consider the South Pacific albacore (SPA) objectives and a revised interim TRP and recommendations for WCFPC20 to consider.</li> <li>- Ongoing development of the SPA management procedure and testing for the IWG to progress the discussions on the SPA MP development and provide guidance in the margins of the SC19 and/or TCC19.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consider key issues principles and developments, required to be considered in the development of the allocation framework for the Commission to consider, in particular Article 10.3 of the Convention.</li> <li>- Report to the Commission on the progress of the work by the IWG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take note of discussions/progress from the MP and the SPA Allocation framework developments, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to identify management measure implications to be addressed.</li> </ul>
<b>2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing SPA Management Procedure development and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Depending on outcomes from 2023, the IWG to consider</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take note of discussions/progress from the MP and the SPA</li> </ul>

	<b>Support the development and adoption of the Management Procedure</b>	<b>Establishing a framework for the allocation of the SPA TAC</b>	<b>Development of a new CMM</b>
	<p>testing and ‘dry run’ of MP application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Science management dialogue dedicated to SPA (focused on selecting candidate MPs for potential adoption).</li> <li>- Recommend to the Commission to adopt a SPA management procedure.</li> <li>- Development of a CMM for a Management Procedure for SPA for adoption by WCPFC21</li> </ul>	<p>recommending the start of the allocation process discussion. Potential physical workshop for allocation to be considered.</p>	<p>allocation framework development, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to identify key elements for a revised CMM for the SPA</p>
<b>2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The adopted management procedure is run for the first time in 2025 (the year after the stock assessment which is desirable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress with guidance from the Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue development of the implementation of CMM.</li> <li>- Consideration of a draft CMM by SC21 and TCC21.</li> <li>- Adoption of a revised CMM for the management of SPA by WCPFC22.</li> </ul>
<b>2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Management Procedure would commence in 2026 and run in a three year cycle (2026-2028).</li> </ul>		



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**HARVEST STRATEGY FOR NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHERY**

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**Harvest Strategy 2022-01**

## **Introduction and scope**

This Harvest Strategy, applicable to all fisheries that harvest North Pacific albacore, was developed based on the results of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) completed by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) in 2021.

### **1. Management objectives**

Considering the overarching objective of ensuring the sustainability of North Pacific albacore tuna and current fisheries supported by the stock in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, the following management objectives are established:

- (a) Maintain Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) above the Limit Reference Point (LRP), with a probability of at least 80% over the next 10 years.
- (b) Maintain depletion of total biomass around historical (2006-2015) average depletion over the next 10 years.
- (c) Maintain fishing intensity (F) at or below the target reference point with a probability of at least 50% over the next 10 years.
- (d) To the extent practicable, management changes (e.g., catch and/or effort) should be relatively gradual between years.

### **2. Reference points**

For the purpose of the North Pacific albacore tuna harvest strategy, the following reference points are established.:

- (a) Target reference point (TRP) =  $F_{45\%}$ , which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results in the stock producing 45% of spawning potential ratio (SPR)
- (b) Threshold reference point ( $SSB_{\text{threshold}}$ ) =  $30\%SSB_{\text{current},F=0}$ , which is 30% of the dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass
- (c) Limit reference point (LRP) =  $14\%SSB_{\text{current},F=0}$ , which is 14% of the dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass.

### **3. Acceptable levels of risk**

The risk of breaching the Limit Reference Point based on the most current estimate of SSB shall be no

greater than 20%.

#### 4. Monitoring strategy

The ISC will conduct a stock assessment every three years, at which time the status relative to the reference points established under paragraph 2 will be evaluated.

When performing a stock assessment, the ISC will consider if the biology, environmental conditions, data sources, status of the stock, and/or other underlying assumptions have changed substantially enough to warrant revisiting the components in this harvest strategy.

#### 5. Harvest Control Rules (HCR)

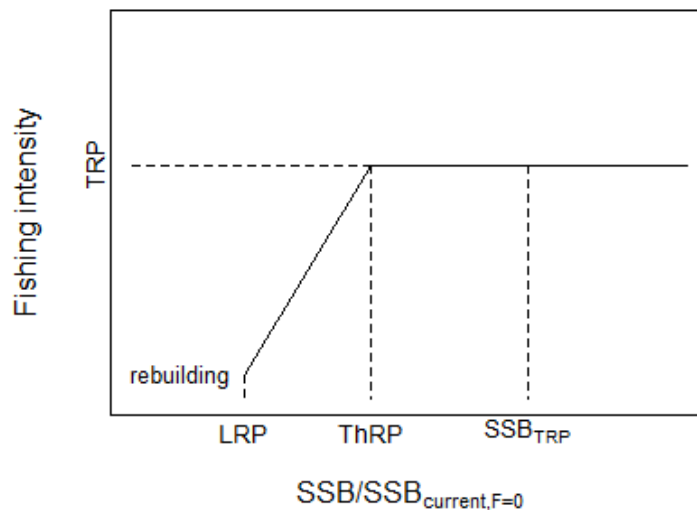
- (a) By 2023, the Commission shall adopt harvest control rules as part of the harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore, consistent with Figure 1.
- (b) The harvest control rules adopted pursuant to paragraph 5(a) shall outline inter alia the actions the Commission will take to manage North Pacific albacore tuna.
- (c) The actions referenced under paragraph 5(b) shall be determined by the position of the most recent fishing intensity and biomass estimates relative to the reference points established pursuant to this CMM.

#### Other Provisions

The Commission shall promote compatibility between the harvest strategy adopted herein and the harvest strategy adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission with respect to North Pacific albacore tuna.

The ISC is requested to develop criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances in 2023.

This Harvest Strategy replaces the “Interim Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery” adopted as Harvest Strategy 2017-01.



**Figure 1.** Illustration of the harvest control rules with target reference point (TRP), threshold reference point (ThRP), limit reference point (LRP), and the expected SSB when fishing at the TRP ( $SSB_{TRP}$ ). The harvest control rules to be adopted pursuant to paragraph 5(a) are intended to include the triggering of a rebuilding plan if the  $SSB/SSB_{current,F=0}$  falls below the LRP.



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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR NORTH PACIFIC  
SWORDFISH**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2022-02**

*The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),*

*Noting that* Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Swordfish Fisheries was adopted at WCPFC16, which established the Limit Reference Point for the exploitation rate (F-limit) of  $F_{MSY}$ ;

*Observing that* the best scientific evidence on Western and Central North Pacific Swordfish from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that the species is not likely overfished and is not likely experiencing overfishing relative to MSY-based or 20% of unfished spawning biomass-based reference points;

*Also observing that* the best scientific evidence on Eastern Pacific Swordfish from the ISC indicates that the species is not likely overfished but is likely experiencing overfishing some of the recent years relative to MSY-based reference points, and there is an uncertainty in stock boundary between Western Central North Pacific stock and Eastern Pacific stock that are being reviewed by the ISC toward the stock assessment scheduled in 2023;

*Noting that* draft Conservation and Management Measures for South Pacific Swordfish to strengthen the existing measure has been under consideration at the Commission, given that its fishing mortality has been at high levels in the last decades; and

*Recalling* Article 5(c) of the WCPFC Convention that requires application of the precautionary approach for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPF Convention Area;

*Adopts*, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

1. This measure shall apply in the high seas and EEZs within the Convention Area north of 20° N (hereinafter referred to as “the Area”).
2. The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort of their fisheries taking North

Pacific swordfish in the Area is not increased beyond 2008-2010 average annual levels<sup>12</sup>;

3. Paragraphs 2 and 4 shall not be applied to those fisheries taking less than 200 metric tons of North Pacific swordfish in the Area per year. However, if the catches of such fisheries exceed 200 metric tons in any given year, the Commission shall adopt appropriate management measure for such fisheries.

4. All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of North Pacific swordfish in the Area and all fishing effort in those fisheries subject to the measures in paragraph 2, by gear type using the template provided in Annex 1.

5. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for North Pacific swordfish is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for North Pacific swordfish in the future.

6. The provisions of paragraph 5 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such small island developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.

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<sup>1</sup> For the US swordfish longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the maximum number of limited entry permits available during 2008-2010.

<sup>2</sup> For the Chinese Taipei's coastal artisanal longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the number of vessels licensed during 2008-2010.

**Annex 1. Average annual fishing effort for 2008-2010 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish**

CCM	Area <sup>3</sup>	Fishery (gear type)	2008-2010 Average			Year			Year			Year		
			Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days <sup>4</sup>	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days

<sup>3</sup> If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report the Area and North Pacific Ocean separately

<sup>4</sup> Fishing days shall be the total days of fishing (both targeting and bycatch). CCMs can consider the plural effort metrics in Annex 1 to this CMM in their entirety and in the case of fisheries that take NPS as bycatch, the metric of “fishing days” may not be appropriate for assessing the compliance with the effort control provision.



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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON ESTABLISHING A  
HARVEST STRATEGY FOR KEY FISHERIES AND STOCKS IN THE  
WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2022-03<sup>1</sup>**

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

**Noting** that the objective of the *Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean* (the Convention) is to ensure through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (the 1982 Convention) and the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* (the UN Fish Stocks Agreement);

**Recalling** Article 6 (3) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and Article 6 of the Convention, which call for the establishment of precautionary stock-specific reference points to implement the precautionary approach, as well as action to be taken if such points are exceeded;

**Further recalling** that Article 6(1)(a) of the Convention provides that the guidelines set out in Annex II of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement form an integral part of the Convention and shall be applied by the Commission. These guidelines provide guidance on the application of precautionary reference points in the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, including the adoption of provisional reference points when information for establishing reference points is absent or poor;

**Further recalling** Article 5b of the Convention establishing MSY among the principles for guiding science-based conservation and management of fish stocks under the purview of the Commission;

**Noting** that Article 7.5.3 of the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* also recommends the implementation of stock specific target and limit reference points, inter alia, on the basis of the precautionary approach;

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<sup>1</sup> Replaces CMM 2014-06



**Recalling** the recommendations from the Performance Review of the WCPFC on the Precautionary Approach and Limit Reference Points, which the Commission considers to be a high priority;

**Mindful** of the work underway on the development of reference points and harvest control rules for a number of highly migratory fish stocks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

**Adopts**, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following conservation and management measure with respect to establishing harvest strategies for key fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

### **Objective of this measure**

1. To agree that the Commission shall develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for each of the key fisheries or stocks under the purview of the Commission according to the process set out in this conservation and management measure (CMM).

### **General provisions**

2. A harvest strategy is a framework that specifies the pre-determined management actions in a fishery for defined species (at the stock or management unit level) necessary to achieve agreed biological, ecological, economic and/or social management objectives.

3. The Commission agrees that harvest strategies established pursuant to this CMM may be developed for a fishery that targets or catches either a single, or a number of, species (at the stock or management unit level) including as incidental catch, or stocks that are harvested by several fisheries.

### **Harvest Strategy Principles**

4. Harvest strategies are considered to represent a best-practice approach to fisheries management decision making. Harvest strategies are proactive, adaptive and provide a framework for taking the best available information about a stock or fishery and applying an evidence and risk-based approach to setting harvest levels. They provide a more certain operating environment where management decisions relating to the fishery or stocks are more consistent, predictable and transparent.

5. Harvest strategies developed in accordance with this CMM shall set out the management actions necessary to achieve defined and agreed biological, ecological, economic and/or social objectives in the fisheries. Each harvest strategy shall contain a tailored process for conducting assessments of the biological, economic and social conditions of the fisheries and pre-defined rules that manage the fishery or stock in order to attain the objectives.

6. In developing individual harvest strategies for fisheries or stocks within the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, the Commission shall have regard to the principles set out in the Convention, in particular Articles 5 and 6.

## **Elements of a harvest strategy**

7. Each harvest strategy developed in accordance with this CMM shall, wherever possible and where appropriate, contain the following elements:

- a. Defined operational objectives, including timeframes, for the fishery or stock ('management objectives')
  - b. Target and limit reference points for each stock ('reference points')
  - c. Acceptable levels of risk of not breaching limit reference points ('acceptable levels of risk')
  - d. A monitoring strategy using best available information to assess performance against reference points ('monitoring strategy')
  - e. Decision rules that aim to achieve the target reference point and aim to avoid the limit reference point ('harvest control rules'), and
  - f. An evaluation of the performance of the proposed harvest control rules against management objectives, including risk assessment ('management strategy evaluation').
8. Further detail on each of these elements is set out in Annex 1 of this CMM.

9. Notwithstanding paragraphs 7 and 8 of this CMM, in developing individual harvest strategies, the Commission may tailor elements on a case by case basis to suit the specific requirements of a particular fishery or stock. This may include agreeing to interim or provisional elements of a harvest strategy. The absence of appropriate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to adopt harvest strategies.

10. In developing individual harvest strategies, the Commission shall take into account and apply Article 8 of the Convention, on compatibility of conservation and management measures on harvest strategies and elements thereof that have already been implemented in the region.

## **Special requirements of Developing States**

11. In recognition of the special requirements of Developing States Parties to this Convention, in particular Small Island Developing States and of Territories and Possessions, in relation to conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, the Commission will facilitate the effective participation of these States, Territories and Possessions in Commission meetings and those of its subsidiary bodies undertaking work on harvest strategies, and will apply the provisions of Article 30(2) of the Convention in the development of CMMs resulting from that work.

12. Harvest strategies shall not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions.

### **Timelines for the adoption of harvest strategies**

13. The Commission shall agree a workplan and indicative timeframes to adopt or refine harvest strategies for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin, South Pacific albacore, Pacific bluefin and northern albacore<sup>2</sup> tuna by no later than the twelfth meeting of the Commission in 2015. This workplan will be subject to review in 2017. The Commission may agree timeframes to adopt harvest strategies for other fisheries or stocks.

14. Notwithstanding the workplan and indicative timeframes adopted under paragraph 13 of this CMM, the Commission shall adopt harvest control rules for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore tunas before the stocks decline below the levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield in accordance with the WCPFC Convention Article 5b.

### **Resources**

15. In formulating their budget and work programme, the Commission, Scientific Committee and any relevant WCPFC sub-committees are expected to ensure that the tasks listed in this measure are sufficiently resourced in terms of time and budget to achieve the agreed timeframes.

16. The Commission may draw on funds earmarked for this purpose from the Voluntary Contributions Fund to achieve the tasks listed in this measure.

17. In the interests of efficiency and ensuring full participation by all CCMs, the Commission may decide to use existing WCPFC meetings to undertake the work set out in this CMM or convene additional workshops or meetings to consider the tasks set out in this CMM.

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<sup>2</sup> Draft timeframes and harvest strategies for stocks which occur mostly in the area north of 20°N to be developed and recommended by the Northern Committee.

**Additional detail on the elements of a harvest strategy and roles and responsibilities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies**

1. This Annex sets out further details on each of the elements to be developed for individual harvest strategies, wherever possible, and sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.<sup>3</sup>

Management objectives

2. For each harvest strategy, the Commission shall determine agreed conceptual management objectives for that fishery or stock. In determining these objectives, the trade-offs between each objective, as well as trade-offs between objectives for different fisheries or stocks and harvest strategies shall be considered and any contradictions and tensions between competing objectives should be reconciled to the extent possible.

3. The Scientific Committee, and, where appropriate, other relevant subsidiary bodies shall translate these conceptual management objectives into operational objectives that have a direct and practical interpretation in the context of the fishery or stock and against which performance can be evaluated ('operational management objectives'), if needed.

Reference points

4. To achieve the agreed operational management objectives, the Commission shall, taking into account relevant advice from the Scientific Committee and other relevant subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, establish stock-specific reference points that identify:

- i. targets intended to meet management objectives ('target reference points'), and
- ii. limits intended to constrain harvesting within safe biological limits ('limit reference points').

5. Where the Commission has already adopted target or limit reference points for particular stocks, those agreed reference points shall be incorporated into the harvest strategy for that fishery, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Acceptable levels of risk

6. The Commission shall define acceptable levels of risk associated with breaching limit reference points, and if appropriate, with deviating from target reference points, taking into account advice from the Scientific Committee and, where appropriate, other subsidiary bodies. In accordance with Article 6(1)(a) of the Convention, the Commission shall ensure that the risk of exceeding limit reference points is very low.

7. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, target reference points shall be conservative and separated from limit reference points with an appropriate buffer, with a view to ensuring that the target reference points are not so close to the limit reference points that the chance that the limits are exceeded is greater than the agreed level of risk.

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<sup>3</sup> For fisheries based on stocks which occur mostly north of 20°N, the roles and responsibilities are to be separately agreed by the Commission.

### Monitoring strategy

8. As part of an individual harvest strategy, the Commission may adopt a monitoring strategy for a fishery or stock relying on data provided to the Commission.

9. For each fishery or stock with an established harvest strategy, the Scientific Committee and other relevant subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, shall periodically evaluate the performance of the fishery or stock against the agreed operational management objectives (as specified through the reference points and harvest control rules). The Scientific Committee shall report its findings and advice to the Commission.

### Harvest control rules

10. The Commission shall decide, based on the advice of the SC, on a set of clear, pre-agreed rules or actions used for determining a management action response to changes in indicators of stock status or other indicators, as appropriate, with respect to reference points ('harvest control rules').

11. Notwithstanding paragraph 12 of this Annex, the Commission may decide to implement interim harvest control rules prior to a full management strategy evaluation being completed by the Scientific Committee.

### Management strategy evaluation

12. Prior to implementation of formal harvest control rules, an evaluation of the likely performance of any proposed harvest control rules in achieving the operational objectives should be undertaken by the Scientific Committee and other relevant subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. These evaluations may be performed through simulation modelling.

13. As part of this process, the Scientific Committee and other relevant subsidiary bodies, as appropriate shall estimate or describe key uncertainties including with respect to stock assessments and available data



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**INDICATIVE WORK PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES UNDER  
CMM 2022-03**

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- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM2014-06. 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.

### **2022 Update**

- The technical progress of the Scientific Services Provider included the refinement of the MSE frameworks for skipjack and South Pacific albacore in accordance with the recommendations of the SMD01, and the continued development of the mixed fishery harvest strategy framework for

WCPO tuna stocks. Harvest strategy capacity building workshops were also conducted, and additional online capacity building material has been developed to try to limit the impacts of the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

- The indicative plan has been extended for an additional two years to 2026.
- A skipjack management procedure CMM was adopted in 2022 in accordance with the indicative work plan. The CMM contains a detailed, year-by-year, schedule for the operation of the MP and that schedule is not repeated here in the HSWP. However, there are a couple of items remaining in the HSWP forward years pertaining to multispecies considerations and finalising the monitoring strategy.
- A candidate South Pacific albacore management procedure was not ready for adoption in 2022 because further technical work is required. Consequently, adoption of a South Pacific albacore management procedure has been rescheduled to 2024. Further, a revised set of South Pacific albacore management objectives and revised TRP are now scheduled for adoption in 2023.
- It is likely that the operating models for yellowfin and bigeye will require re-development following the 2022 yellowfin tuna stock assessment peer review and the incorporation of review findings into the 2023 assessments of these species. Development of the multispecies framework for evaluating these species is also ongoing. Adoption of TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin have been rescheduled to 2024. Further, the adoption of management procedures for these species has been tentatively scheduled for 2025.

**Note:** Within the tables below, progress in earlier years is in grey. Bold items are the six elements that are referred to in CMM 14-06/22-03 (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.	<b>Commission agreed an interim Target Reference Point (b).</b>	Commission tasked SC to determine a biologically reasonable timeframe for rebuilding bigeye tuna to [or above] its limit reference point.	
	<b>Commission agreed to workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC12 Summary Report, Attachment Y]</b>			



	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2016	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p><b>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.</li> <li>• SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</li> <li>• Commission tasked SPC/SC to develop interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules.</li> <li>• <i>[Commission agree to a <b>monitoring strategy</b> to assess performance against reference points.]</i></li> </ul>	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p><b>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</li> <li>• Commission agreed interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. <b>[see WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment M]</b></li> <li>• <i>[Commission agree to a <b>monitoring strategy</b> to assess performance against reference points.]</i></li> </ul>	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Commission agreed timeframes to rebuild stock to limit reference point. <b>[see page 8 of HSW]</b></p>	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p>
	<b>Commission agreed on interim maximum acceptable risk level for breaching the LRP (c). [see page 8 of HSW]</b>			
	<b>Commission agreed to a refined workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment N]</b>			
	<p><b>Progress Summary:</b></p> <p>Recognised the need for some harvest strategy elements to be adopted as ‘interim’ noting that they be reconsidered as the harvest strategy process develops.</p> <p>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><b>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</li> <li>• Commission noted performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on candidate harvest control rules based on agreed reference points (ongoing).</li> <li>• Commission consider advice on progress towards <b>harvest control rules</b> (ongoing).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</li> <li>• Commission noted performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules</li> </ul> <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><b>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</li> <li>• Commission noted performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules</li> </ul>
<b>Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).</b>				
<p><b>Progress Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted candidate performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery and the Tropical Longline fishery to evaluate harvest control rules.</li> <li>• Agreed on actions to prioritise the development and adoption of a Target Reference Point for south Pacific albacore at WCPFC15.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>				

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

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2019	<p><b>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provided advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing).</li> <li>• TCC considered the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing).</li> <li>• Commission considered advice on progress towards <b>harvest control rules</b>. (ongoing).</li> </ul> <p>[Science Service Provider identified a range of alternative catch pathways to the interim TRP and timeframes that achieve this]</p>	<p><b>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provided advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing).</li> <li>• TCC considered the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing).</li> <li>• Commission considered advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing).</li> </ul> <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><b>Target Reference Point (b).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provided advice on potential Target Reference Points for bigeye.</li> <li>• Commission considered potential Target Reference Points for bigeye.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Target Reference Point (b).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provided advice on potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin.</li> <li>• Commission considered potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin.</li> </ul>
	<b>Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).</b>			
	<p><b>Progress Summary:</b>  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>			

	<b>South Pacific Albacore</b>	<b>Skipjack</b>	<b>Bigeye</b>	<b>Yellowfin</b>
<b>2020</b>	<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"> <li>•</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• Scientific Committee provide advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for bigeye.</li> <li>• Commission consider SC advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for bigeye.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• Scientific Committee provide advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for yellowfin.</li> <li>• Commission consider SC advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for yellowfin.</li> </ul> <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><b>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.</li> </ul> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC17]</p> <p>[Potential update of TRP following assessment and in accordance with WCPFC15 adopted approach]</p>	<p><b>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.</li> </ul> <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<sub>F=0</sub>]</p>	<p>[Development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development]</p> <p><b>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for bigeye.</li> </ul> <p>[Economic and other analysis to support TRP decision making]</p>	<p>[Development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development]</p> <p><b>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin.</li> </ul> <p>[Economic and other analysis to support TRP decision making]</p>
	<b>Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).</b>			
	<b>Progress Summary:</b> See <a href="#">WCPFC18-2021-23-rev1</a> <i>Reference Document on the Progress of the Harvest Strategy Workplan Under CMM 2014-06</i> (Secretariat)			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2022	<p><b>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC agree the operating models for MSE.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Complete review of the Target Reference Point.</p> <p><b>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC agree the operating models for MSE.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy.</li> <li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commission review and adopt a management procedure.</b></p> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC18]</p>	<p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <p><b>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on potential management procedures.</li> </ul> <p>[YFT peer review. Relevant to BET operating models.]</p>	<p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <p><b>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on potential management procedures.</li> </ul> <p>[YFT peer review. Relevant to operating models.]</p>
<p><b>Progress Summary:</b> The first Science Management Dialogue was held in August 2022 and the meeting page (<a href="https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/smd01">https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/smd01</a>) provides a set summary papers and analyses that summarize progress.</p>				

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2023	<p><b>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</b> Commission agree a TRP for South Pacific albacore</p> <p><b>Develop management procedures (e)</b> and <b>Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC agree the operating models for MSE.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d).</li> </ul>	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p><b>SC provide advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy (d).</b></p>	<p><b>Develop management procedures(e)</b> and <b>Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures.</li> <li>• Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures.</li> </ul> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>	<p><b>Develop management procedures(e)</b> and <b>Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures.</li> <li>• Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures.</li> </ul> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>



	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2024	<p><b>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d).</li> <li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures.</li> </ul> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC20]</p> <p><b>Commission review and adopt a management procedure.</b></p>	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p><b>SC provides advice for the Commission’s agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)</b></p>	<p><b>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC agree the operating models for MSE.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy.</li> <li>• Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission agree a TRP for bigeye</li> </ul>	<p><b>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC agree the operating models for MSE.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy.</li> <li>• Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin.</li> </ul>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2025	<p><b>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</b></p> <p>[Adopted management procedure is <u>run</u> for the first time.]</p> <p><b>SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)</b></p>		<p><b>Develop management procedures(e)</b> and <b>Management strategy evaluation(f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy.</li> <li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>[Commission ADOPT a management procedure.]</b></p>	<p><b>Develop management procedures(e)</b> and <b>Management strategy evaluation(f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy.</li> <li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures.</li> <li>• Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>[Commission ADOPT a management procedure.]</b></p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2026	[Adopted management procedure <u>implemented</u> for the first time.]		SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)	SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)




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**SCIENTIFIC DATA TO BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION<sup>1</sup>**

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***1. Estimates of annual catches***

The following estimates of catches during each calendar year shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type:

- catches of bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*) and black marlin (*Makaira indica*) in: 1) the WCPFC Statistical Area (see paragraph #8), and 2) the portion of the WCPFC Statistical Area east of the 150° meridian of west longitude;
- catches of albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*), thresher sharks (*Alopias spp.*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and mako sharks (*Isurus spp.*) in: 1) the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, 2) the Pacific Ocean north of the Equator, 3) the WCPFC Statistical Area north of the Equator, 4) the WCPFC Statistical Area south of the Equator, and 5) the portion of the WCPFC Statistical Area east of the 150° meridian of west longitude; and
- blue shark, silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, thresher sharks, mako sharks, porbeagle shark (south of 20°S, until biological data shows this or another geographic limit to be appropriate), hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth), and whale shark in the WCPFC Statistical Area (see paragraph number 8).

For trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, the following catch estimates during the fishing season (July to June) shall also be provided:

- catches of albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator

Estimates of discards/releases shall also be provided for each species listed above.<sup>2</sup>

Catch estimates shall also be provided for other species as determined by the Commission.

Longline catch estimates shall be for whole weight, rather than processed weight.  
All catch estimates shall be reported in metric tonnes.

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<sup>1</sup> As refined and first adopted at WCPFC13 (2016) and incorporating the latest revision made at WCPFC19 (2022).

<sup>2</sup> It is also recognized that certain members and cooperating non-members of the Commission may have practical difficulties in compiling discards/releases data for fleets comprised of small vessels, such as certain sectors of the fisheries of Indonesia, the Philippines and small island developing states.

The statistical methods used to estimate the annual and seasonal catches shall be reported to the Commission, with reference to the coverage rates for each type of data (e.g. operational catch and effort data, records of unloadings, species composition sampling data) that is used to estimate the catches and to the conversion factors that are used to convert the processed weight of longline-caught fish to whole weight.

The statistical and sampling methods that are used to derive the size composition data shall be reported to the Commission, including reference to whether sampling was at the level of fishing operation or during unloading, details of the protocol used, and the methods and reasons for any adjustments to the size data. Where feasible, this shall also be applied to all historical data.

## **2. *Number of vessels active***

The number of vessels active<sup>3</sup> in the WCPFC Statistical Area during each calendar year shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type.

For longliners, pole-and-line vessels, and purse seiners, the number of vessels active shall be provided by gross registered tonnage (GRT) class. The GRT classes are defined as follows:

- Longline: 0–50, 51–200, 201–500, 500+
- Pole-and-line: 0–50, 51–150, 150+
- Purse seine: 0–500, 501–1000, 1001–1500, 1500+

For trollers targeting albacore, the number of vessels active during each calendar year shall be provided for 1) the WCPFC Statistical Area south of the Equator and 2) the WCPFC Statistical Area north of the Equator. For trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, the number of vessels active during the fishing season (July to June) shall be provided for 1) the WCPFC Statistical Area south of the Equator and 2) the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator.

## **3. *Operational level catch and effort data***

Operational level catch and effort data (e.g. individual sets by longliners and purse seiners, and individual days fished by pole-and-line vessels and trollers) shall be provided to the Commission, in accordance with the standards adopted by Commission at its Second Regular Session. These are listed in Annex 1.

It is recognized that certain members and cooperating non-members of the Commission may be subject to domestic legal constraints, such that they may not be able to provide operational data to the Commission until such constraints are overcome. Until such constraints are overcome, aggregated catch and effort data and size composition data, as described in (4) and (5) below, shall be provided.

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<sup>3</sup> A vessel is considered to be “active” if it fished (targeting highly migratory fish stocks) at least one day during the year.

It is also recognized that certain members and cooperating non-members of the Commission may have practical difficulties in compiling operational data for fleets comprised of small vessels, such as certain sectors of the fisheries of Indonesia, the Philippines and small island developing states.

Information on operational changes in the fishery that are not an attribute in the data provided is to be listed and reported with the data provision.

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.

#### **4. *Catch and effort data aggregated by time period and geographic area***

If the coverage rate of the operational catch and effort data that are provided to the Commission is less than 100%, then catch and effort data aggregated by time period and geographic area that have been raised to represent the total catch and effort shall be provided. Longline catch and effort data shall be aggregated by periods of month and areas of 5° longitude and 5° latitude. Purse-seine and ringnet catch and effort data shall be aggregated by periods of month, areas of 1° longitude and 1° latitude, and type of school association. Catch and effort data for other surface fisheries targeting tuna shall be aggregated by periods of month and areas of 1° longitude and 1° latitude.

If the coverage rate of the operational catch and effort data that are provided to the Commission is less than 100%, then unraised longline catch and effort data stratified by the number of hooks between floats and the finest possible resolution of time period and geographic area shall also be provided.

If the coverage rate of the operational catch and effort data that are provided to the Commission is less than 100%, then catch and effort data that have been raised to represent the total catch and effort shall also be aggregated by periods of year and areas of national jurisdiction and high seas within the WCPFC Statistical Area.

Catch and effort data aggregated by periods of month and areas of 5° longitude and 5° latitude that have been raised to represent the total catch and effort, and unraised longline catch and effort data stratified by the number of hooks between floats and the finest possible resolution of time period and geographic area, covering distant-water longliners may also be provided for the Pacific Ocean east of the eastern boundary of the WCPFC Statistical Area.

The statistical methods that are used to derive the aggregated catch and effort data shall be reported to the Commission, with reference to the coverage rates of the operational catch and effort data, and the types of data and method used to raise the catch and effort data.

CCMs are to provide, to the extent possible, the number of individual vessels per stratum and area covered by their operational data with the aggregated catch and effort data they submit to the Commission

Information on operational changes in the fishery that are not an attribute in the data provided is to be listed and reported with the data provision.

## 5. *Size composition data*

Length and/or weight composition data that are representative of catches by the fisheries shall be provided to the Commission at the finest possible resolution of time period and geographic area and at least as fine as periods of quarter and areas of 20° longitude and 10° latitude.

The length size class intervals are defined as follows:

- Skipjack tuna – 1cm
- Albacore tuna – 1cm
- Yellowfin tuna – ideally 1cm, but not more than 2 cm
- Bigeye tuna – ideally 1cm, but not more than 2 cm
- Billfish – ideally 1cm, but not more than 5 cm

The weight size class intervals are defined as follows:

- Tuna and Billfish species - 1kg

CCMs shall indicate whether lengths and/or weights are rounded up or rounded down to the unit specified.

The statistical and sampling methods that are used to derive the size composition data shall be reported to the Commission, including reference to whether sampling was at the level of fishing operation or during unloading, details of the protocol used, and the methods and reasons for any adjustments to the size data. Where feasible, this shall also be applied to all historical data.

Information on operational changes in the fishery that are not an attribute in the data provided is to be listed and reported with the data provision.

## 6. *The roles of flag states and coastal states*

Flag CCMs shall be responsible for providing to the Commission scientific data covering vessels they have flagged, except for vessels operating under joint-venture or charter arrangements with another state such that the vessels operate, for all intents and purposes, as local vessels of the other state, in which case the other state shall be responsible for the provision of data to the Commission.

It is recognized that the ability of flag States or entities to provide scientific data to the Commission may be constrained by the terms of bilateral or regional arrangements, such as the Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America.

Scientific data compiled by coastal states shall also be provided to the Commission.

**7. *Time periods covered and schedule for the provision of data***

Estimates of annual or seasonal catches should be provided to the Commission from 1950 onwards or, if the fleet began operating after 1950, from the year in which the fleet began operating.

Operational catch and effort data, and size composition data, should be provided for all years, starting with the first year for which the data are available.

For all gear types, except trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data, covering a calendar year shall be provided by April 30 of the year following the calendar year (e.g. data covering calendar year “x” shall be provided by 30 April of year “x+1”).

For trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data, covering a fishing season (July to June) shall be provided by April 30 of the year following the year in which the season ends (e.g. data covering the season from July of year “x” to June of year “x+1” shall be provided by 30 April of year “x+2”).

Estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data should be revised, and the revisions provided to the Commission, as additional data become available.

**8. *Definition of the WCPFC Statistical Area***

The WCPFC Statistical Area is defined as follows: from the south coast of Australia due south along the 141° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 55° parallel of south latitude; thence, due east along the 55° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of east longitude; thence, due south along the 150° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 60° parallel of south latitude; thence, due east along the 60° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 130° meridian of west longitude; thence, due north along the 130° meridian of west longitude to its intersection with the 4° parallel of south latitude; thence, due west along the 4° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of west longitude; thence, due north along the 150° meridian of west longitude; and from the north coast of Australia due north along the 129° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 8° parallel of south latitude, thence due west along the 8° parallel of south latitude to the Indonesian archipelago; and from the Indonesian peninsula due east along the 2°30' parallel of north latitude to the Malaysian peninsula.

**9. *Periodic reviews of the requirements for scientific data***

The Commission, through its Scientific Committee, shall periodically review the requirements for scientific data and shall provide the Commission with revised versions of this recommendation, as appropriate.



## **Annex 1. Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data**

### ***1. Data items that shall be reported to the Commission***

#### **1.1 Vessel identifiers, for all gear types**

Name of the vessel, country of registration, registration number, and international radio call sign: The registration number is the number assigned to the vessel by the state that has flagged the vessel. A code may be used as a vessel identifier instead of the name of the vessel, registration number and call sign for vessels that have fished and that intend to fish only in the waters of national jurisdiction of the State that has flagged the vessel.

#### **1.2 Trip information, for all gear types**

The start of a trip is defined to occur when a vessel (a) leaves port after unloading part or all of the catch to transit to a fishing area or (b) recommences fishing operations or transits to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea (when this occurs in accordance with the terms and conditions of article 4 of Annex III of the Convention, subject to specific exemptions as per article 29 of the Convention).

Port or place of departure, date of departure, port or place of unloading, date of arrival in port: If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of departure, and if the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of unloading.

#### **1.3 Information on operations by longliners**

Activity: This item shall be reported for each set and should be reported for days on which no sets were made, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a set”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date of start of set and time of start of set: The date and start of set time should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported. CCMs shall provide information on how their vessels report time zone/format.

Position of start of set: The position of start of set should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude. If no sets are made for the day, the noon position should be reported.

Number of hooks per set

Number of branch lines between floats. The number of branch lines between floats shall be reported for each set.

Number of fish caught per set, for the following species: albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*), black marlin (*Makaira indica*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), blue shark, silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, mako sharks, thresher sharks, porbeagle shark (south of 20°S, until biological data shows this or another geographic limit to be

appropriate), hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth), whale shark, and other species as determined by the Commission.

If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set has been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set, by species, shall also be reported. If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set has not been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set, by species, should be estimated and the estimates reported. The total weight or average weight shall refer to whole weights, rather than processed weights.

#### 1.4 Information on operations by pole-and-line vessels and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each day, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a day fishing or searching with bait onboard”; “no fishing — collecting bait”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date: The date should be GMT/UTC.

Noon position: The noon position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

Weight of fish caught per day, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, blue shark, silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, mako sharks, thresher sharks, porbeagle shark (south of 20°S, until biological data shows this or another geographic limit to be appropriate), hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth), whale shark, and other species as determined by the Commission.

#### 1.5 Information on operations by purse seiners and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each set and for days on which no sets were made, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a set”; “a day searched, but no sets made”; “no fishing — in transit<sup>4</sup>”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date of start of set, time of start of set and time of end of set: The date and time of the start of set and the time of end of set should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported.

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<sup>4</sup> The current definition for a purse seine day in transit (‘a day in transit’) should only cover the following cases:

- Transiting from port to the tropical WCPFC area (10°N - 10°S); or
- Transiting back to port; or
- Transiting from one fishing zone to another in the Convention Area.

Where vessels are transiting as described above, the conditions of transit are that the gear is stowed, with the boom lowered and tied down, and the net covered.”\*\*

Footnote: \*\*Subject to any further clarification.

Position of set or noon position: If a set is made, then the position of the set shall be reported. If searching occurs, but no sets are made, then the noon position shall be reported. The position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

School association: All common types of school association shall be reported, while uncommon types of associations shall be reported as “other”, including other explanation as appropriate. Common types of school association are “free-swimming” or “unassociated”; “feeding on baitfish”; “drifting log, debris or dead animal”; “drifting raft, FAD or payao”; “anchored raft, FAD or payao”; “live whale”; and “live whale shark”.

Weight of fish caught per set, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, blue shark, silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, mako sharks, thresher sharks, porbeagle shark (south of 20°S, until biological data shows this or another geographic limit to be appropriate), hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth), whale shark, and other species as determined by the Commission.

#### 1.6 Information on operations by trollers and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each day, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a day fished”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date: The date should be GMT/UTC.

Noon position: The noon position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

Number of fish caught per day, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, blue shark, silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, mako sharks, thresher sharks, porbeagle shark (south of 20°S, until biological data shows this or another geographic limit to be appropriate), hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth), whale shark, and other species as determined by the Commission.

If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day has been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day, by species, shall also be reported. If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day has not been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day, by species, should be estimated and the estimates reported. The total weight or average weight shall refer to whole weights, rather than processed weights.

## 2. *Geographic area to be covered by operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission*

The geographic area to be covered by operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission shall be the WCPFC Statistical Area, except for fisheries targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, for which the geographic area should be the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator.

**3. *Target coverage rate for operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission***

The target coverage rate for operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission is 100%.

**4. *Procedures for the verification of operational catch and effort data***

Operational catch and effort data should be verified as follows:

- a) The amount of the retained catch should be verified with records of unloading obtained from a source other than the crew or owner or operator of the fishing vessel, such as an agent of the company responsible for unloading or onward shipping or purchasing of the catch.
- b) Positions of latitude and longitude should be verified with information obtained from vessel monitoring systems.
- c) The species composition of the catch should be verified with sampling conducted by observers during fishing operations or by port samplers during unloading.

## Annex 2. Guidelines of operational level catch and effort data fields for longline, purse seine and pole-and-line gears

### A2.1.1 Longline operational data – TRIP INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements
TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>NO</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE
VESSEL IDENTIFIER	<p>Name of the <u>vessel</u>, <u>country of registration</u>, <u>registration number</u>, and <u>international radio call sign</u>.</p> <p>The registration number is the number assigned to the vessel by the state that has flagged the vessel. A code may be used as a vessel identifier instead of the name of the vessel, registration number and call sign for vessels that have fished and that intend to fish only in the waters of national jurisdiction of the State that has flagged the vessel.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Using a vessel identifier field (ideally the WCPFC VID) removes the redundancy of including all vessel attributes with each trip record and ensures standardisation and consistency through referencing the WCPFC Vessel Registry database.</p> <p>Please provide a separate list of Vessel attributes linked to the Vessel identifier field.</p>
PORT/PLACE OF DEPARTURE	<p>The start of a trip is defined to occur when a vessel (a) leaves port after unloading part or all of the catch to transit to a fishing area or (b) recommences fishing operations or transits to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea (when this occurs in accordance with the terms and conditions of article 4 of Annex III of the Convention, subject to specific exemptions as per article 29 of the Convention).</p> <p>If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of departure.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Where possible, please provide a standardised Port location code through the following facility  <a href="https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory">https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory</a></p> <p>The WCPFC will consider the establishment of WCPFC LOCATION CODEs in the future.</p>
PORT/PLACE OF UNLOADING	<p>If the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “ATSEA” code shall be reported in lieu of the port of unloading.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Where possible, please provide a standardised Port location code through the following facility  <a href="https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory">https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory</a></p> <p>The WCPFC will consider the establishment of WCPFC LOCATION CODEs in the future.</p>
DATE OF DEPARTURE	<p><u>Date of departure from Port</u>. If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then date for the transshipment at sea shall be indicated.</p>	<b>YES</b>	Recommend using ISO 8601 – Date only format
DATE OF UNLOADING /TRANSHIPMENT	<p><u>Date of return to Port</u> If the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then date for the transshipment at sea shall be indicated.</p>	<b>YES</b>	Recommend using ISO 8601 – Date only format

### A2.1.2 Longline operational data – ACTIVITY INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements
TRIP IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE
ACTIVITY IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be DATE + START TIME OF ACTIVITY
ACTIVITY	<u>Activity:</u> This item shall be reported for each set. Activities should include “a set”.	YES	Suggest using a standardised numeric code for each activity consistent with the WCFPC E-Reporting data field standards.  1 – “a set”; [2 – “a day searched, but no set made”]; 3 – “no fishing — in transit”; 4 – “no fishing — gear breakdown”; 5 – “no fishing — bad weather”; 6 – “no fishing — in port”.
	<u>Activity:</u> This item ... should be reported for days on which no sets were made, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.	NO	
DATE/TIME ACTIVITY	<u>Date of start of set and time of start of set.</u> CCMs shall provide information on how their vessels report time zone/format.	YES	
	The date and start of set time should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported.	NO	Please provide the NOON DATE/TIME for each day that the vessel is at sea when a set was not made on that day.
POSITION OF START OF SET	<u>Position of start of set:</u>	YES	Please provide position according to ISO 6709 – Positions in degrees and minutes (to 3 decimal places where relevant).
	The position of start of set should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude. If no sets are made for the day, the noon position should be reported.	NO	
NUMBER OF HOOKS PER SET	Number of hooks per set	YES	
NUMBER OF BRANCHLINES	Number of branch lines between floats. The number of branch lines between floats shall be reported for each set.	YES	The “Number of Branchlines” are also commonly referred to as “Hooks between floats” or “Branchlines between FLOATS” for some fleets.

### A2.1.3 Longline operational data – CATCH INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements																																	
TRIP IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE																																	
ACTIVITY IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be DATE + START TIME OF ACTIVITY																																	
SPECIES CODE	The following species:	YES	Key WCPFC Species. For each species taken in the set, PROVIDE the SPECIES CODE according to the FAO standard species code list.																																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species name</th> <th>FAO Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>),</td> <td>ALB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>bigeye (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>),</td> <td>BET</td> </tr> <tr> <td>skipjack (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>),</td> <td>SKJ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>yellowfin (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>),</td> <td>YFT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>),</td> <td>MLS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>blue marlin (<i>Makaira mazara</i>),</td> <td>BUM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>black marlin (<i>Makaira indica</i>)</td> <td>BLM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>),</td> <td>SWO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>blue shark,</td> <td>BSH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>silky shark,</td> <td>FAL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>oceanic whitetip shark,</td> <td>OCS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>mako sharks,</td> <td>MAK, SMA, LMA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>thresher sharks,</td> <td>THR, ALV, PTH, BTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>porbeagle shark,</td> <td>POR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth)</td> <td>SPN, SPK, SPL, SPZ, SPQ, EUB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>whale shark,</td> <td>RHN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>other species as determined by the Commission.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Species name	FAO Code	albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> ),	ALB	bigeye ( <i>Thunnus obesus</i> ),	BET	skipjack ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> ),	SKJ	yellowfin ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ),	YFT	striped marlin ( <i>Tetrapturus audax</i> ),	MLS	blue marlin ( <i>Makaira mazara</i> ),	BUM	black marlin ( <i>Makaira indica</i> )	BLM	swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> ),	SWO	blue shark,	BSH	silky shark,	FAL	oceanic whitetip shark,	OCS	mako sharks,	MAK, SMA, LMA	thresher sharks,	THR, ALV, PTH, BTH	porbeagle shark,	POR	hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth)	SPN, SPK, SPL, SPZ, SPQ, EUB	whale shark,
Species name	FAO Code																																			
albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> ),	ALB																																			
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skipjack ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> ),	SKJ																																			
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silky shark,	FAL																																			
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mako sharks,	MAK, SMA, LMA																																			
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porbeagle shark,	POR																																			
hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth)	SPN, SPK, SPL, SPZ, SPQ, EUB																																			
whale shark,	RHN																																			
other species as determined by the Commission.																																				
	Species that are not WCPFC key species.	NO	Other species not included in list of Key WCPFC species.																																	
CATCH NUMBER	<u>Number of fish caught per set</u> for each of the key WCPFC species.	YES	For each of the key WCPFC species. Also for other non-key WCPFC species if provided.																																	
CATCH WEIGHT	If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set has been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set, by species, shall also be reported. If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set has not been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set, by species, should be estimated and the estimates reported. The total weight or average weight shall refer to whole weights, rather than processed weights.	NO	For each of the key WCPFC species.																																	
DISCARDED / RELEASED NUMBER	<u>Number of fish discarded or released per set</u> for each of the key WCPFC species.	NO	Required through other CMMs for certain key WCPFC species, including information on fate and life status. For each of the key WCPFC species.																																	

### A2.2.1 Purse seine operational data – TRIP INFORMATION

<b>FIELD</b>	<b>Reference text in Annex 1.</b>	<b>Binding</b>	<b>Notes on recommended submission requirements</b>
TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>NO</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE
VESSEL IDENTIFIER	<p>Name of the <a href="#">vessel</a>, <a href="#">country of registration</a>, <a href="#">registration number</a>, and <a href="#">international radio call sign</a>:</p> <p>The registration number is the number assigned to the vessel by the state that has flagged the vessel. A code may be used as a vessel identifier instead of the name of the vessel, registration number and call sign for vessels that have fished and that intend to fish only in the waters of national jurisdiction of the State that has flagged the vessel.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Using a vessel identifier field (ideally the WCPFC VID) removes the redundancy of including all vessel attributes with each trip record and ensures standardisation and consistency through referencing the WCPFC Vessel Registry database.</p> <p>Please provide a separate list of Vessel attributes linked to the Vessel identifier field.</p>
PORT/PLACE OF DEPARTURE	<p>The start of a trip is defined to occur when a vessel (a) leaves port after unloading part or all of the catch to transit to a fishing area or (b) recommences fishing operations or transits to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea (when this occurs in accordance with the terms and conditions of article 4 of Annex III of the Convention, subject to specific exemptions as per article 29 of the Convention).</p> <p>If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of departure.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Where possible, please provide a standardised Port location code through the following facility  <a href="https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory">https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory</a></p> <p>The WCPFC will consider the establishment of WCPFC LOCATION CODEs in the future.</p>
PORT/PLACE OF UNLOADING	<p>If the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “ATSEA” code shall be reported in lieu of the port of unloading.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Where possible, please provide a standardised Port location code through the following facility  <a href="https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory">https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory</a></p> <p>The WCPFC will consider the establishment of WCPFC LOCATION CODEs in the future.</p>
DATE OF DEPARTURE	<p><b><a href="#">Date of departure from Port</a></b>. If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then date for the transshipment at sea shall be indicated.</p>	<b>YES</b>	Recommend using ISO 8601 – Date only format
DATE OF UNLOADING / TRANSHIPMENT	<p><b><a href="#">Date of return to Port</a></b> If the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then date for the transshipment at sea shall be indicated.</p>	<b>YES</b>	Recommend using ISO 8601 – Date only format



### A2.2.2 Purse seine operational data – ACTIVITY INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements
TRIP IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE
ACTIVITY IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be DATE + START TIME OF ACTIVITY
ACTIVITY	<p><b>Activity:</b> This item shall be reported for each set and for days on which no sets were made, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a set”; “a day searched, but no sets made”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.</p>	YES	<p>Suggest using a standardised numeric code for each activity consistent with the WCPFC E-Reporting data field standards.</p> <p>1 – “a set”;            2 – “a day searched, but no sets made”;            3 – “no fishing — in transit”;            4 – “no fishing — gear breakdown”;            5 – “no fishing — bad weather”;            6 – “no fishing — in port”.</p>
	<p><b>Activity:</b></p> <p>The current definition for a purse seine day in transit (‘a day in transit’) should only cover the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transiting from port to the tropical WCPFC area (10°N - 10°S); or</li> <li>• Transiting back to port; or</li> <li>• Transiting from one fishing zone to another in the Convention Area.</li> </ul> <p>Where vessels are transiting as described above, the conditions of transit are that the gear is stowed, with the boom lowered and tied down, and the net covered (subject to any further clarification).</p>	NO	<p>The purse seine SET INFORMATION and CATCH INFORMATION should be used for every SET event.</p>
DATE/TIME ACTIVITY	<p><b>Date/Time of Activity.</b> DATE/TIME shall be reported for each set and for days on which no sets were made. CCMs shall provide information on how their vessels report time zone/format. If searching occurs, but no sets are made, then NOON shall be reported as the TIME.</p>	YES	<p>If the activity is ‘a set’ record DATE/TIME when the set started.</p> <p>Please provide the NOON DATE/TIME for each day that the vessel is at sea when a set was not made on that day.</p>
	<p>The date and start of set time should be GMT/UTC.</p>	NO	
POSITION OF ACTIVITY	<p><b>Position of set or noon position:</b></p>	YES	<p>Please provide position according to ISO 6709 – Positions in degrees and minutes (to 3 decimal places where relevant).</p>
	<p>If a set is made, then the position of the set shall be reported. If searching occurs, but no sets are made, then the noon position shall be reported. The position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.</p>	NO	

### A2.2.3 Purse seine operational data – SET INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements														
TRIP IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE														
ACTIVITY IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be DATE + START TIME OF ACTIVITY														
SET IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be DATE + START TIME OF SET.														
DATE/TIME OF SET START	<b>Date of start of set and time of start of set.</b> CCMs shall provide information on how their vessels report time zone/format.	YES															
	The date and start of set time should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported.	NO															
DATE/TIME OF END SET	<b>Date of end of set and time of end of set.</b> CCMs shall provide information on how their vessels report time zone/format.	YES															
	The date and end of set time should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported.	NO															
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION	<p>All common types of school association shall be reported, while uncommon types of associations shall be reported as “other”, including other explanation as appropriate.</p> <p>Common types of school association are “free-swimming” or “unassociated”; “feeding on baitfish”; “drifting log, debris or dead animal”; “drifting raft, FAD or payao”; “anchored raft,FAD or payao”; “live whale”; and “live whale shark”.</p>	YES	<p>Suggest using a standardised numeric code for each school type consistent with the WCFPC E-Reporting data field standards.</p> <table> <tr><td>1</td><td>Unassociated (free school)</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>Feeding on Baitfish (free school)</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>Drifting log, debris or dead animal</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>Drifting raft, FAD or payao</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>Anchored raft, FAD or payao</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>Live whale</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>Live whale shark</td></tr> </table>	1	Unassociated (free school)	2	Feeding on Baitfish (free school)	3	Drifting log, debris or dead animal	4	Drifting raft, FAD or payao	5	Anchored raft, FAD or payao	6	Live whale	7	Live whale shark
1	Unassociated (free school)																
2	Feeding on Baitfish (free school)																
3	Drifting log, debris or dead animal																
4	Drifting raft, FAD or payao																
5	Anchored raft, FAD or payao																
6	Live whale																
7	Live whale shark																

#### A2.2.4 Purse seine operational data – CATCH INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements																																				
TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>NO</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE																																				
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### A2.3.1 Pole-and-line operational data – TRIP INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements
TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>NO</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE
VESSEL IDENTIFIER	<p>Name of the <a href="#">vessel</a>, <a href="#">country of registration</a>, <a href="#">registration number</a>, and <a href="#">international radio call sign</a>:</p> <p>The registration number is the number assigned to the vessel by the state that has flagged the vessel. A code may be used as a vessel identifier instead of the name of the vessel, registration number and call sign for vessels that have fished and that intend to fish only in the waters of national jurisdiction of the State that has flagged the vessel.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Using a vessel identifier field (ideally the WCPFC VID) removes the redundancy of including all vessel attributes with each trip record and ensures standardisation and consistency through referencing the WCPFC Vessel Registry database.</p> <p>Please provide a separate list of Vessel attributes linked to the Vessel identifier field.</p>
PORT/PLACE OF DEPARTURE	<p>The start of a trip is defined to occur when a vessel (a) leaves port after unloading part or all of the catch to transit to a fishing area or (b) recommences fishing operations or transits to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea (when this occurs in accordance with the terms and conditions of article 4 of Annex III of the Convention, subject to specific exemptions as per article 29 of the Convention).</p> <p>If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of departure.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Where possible, please provide a standardised Port location code through the following facility  <a href="https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory">https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory</a></p> <p>The WCPFC will consider the establishment of WCPFC LOCATION CODEs in the future.</p>
PORT/PLACE OF UNLOADING	<p>If the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “ATSEA” code shall be reported in lieu of the port of unloading.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Where possible, please provide a standardised Port location code through the following facility  <a href="https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory">https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory</a></p> <p>The WCPFC will consider the establishment of WCPFC LOCATION CODEs in the future.</p>
DATE OF DEPARTURE	<p><b><a href="#">Date of departure from Port</a></b>. If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then date for the transshipment at sea shall be indicated.</p>	<b>YES</b>	Recommend using ISO 8601 – Date only format
DATE OF UNLOADING / TRANSHIPMENT	<p><b><a href="#">Date of return to Port</a></b> If the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then date for the transshipment at sea shall be indicated.</p>	<b>YES</b>	Recommend using ISO 8601 – Date only format

### A2.3.2 Pole-and-line operational data – DAILY INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements
TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>NO</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE
ACTIVITY IDENTIFIER		<b>NO</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be DATE + START TIME OF ACTIVITY
ACTIVITY	<p><b>Activity:</b> This item shall be reported for each day, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip.</p> <p>Activities should include “a day fishing or searching with bait onboard”; “no fishing — collecting bait”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Suggest using a standardised numeric code for each activity.</p> <p>1 – “a day fishing or searching with bait onboard”;            2 – “no fishing — collecting bait”;            3 – “no fishing — in transit”;            4 – “no fishing — gear breakdown”;            5 – “no fishing — bad weather”;            6 – “no fishing — in port”.</p>
DATE	<b>Date (at sea).</b>	<b>YES</b>	
	The date should be GMT/UTC.	<b>NO</b>	Please provide the NOON DATE/TIME for each day that the vessel is at sea when a set was not made on that day.
NOON POSITION	<b>Noon position:</b>	<b>YES</b>	Please provide position according to ISO 6709 – Positions in degrees and minutes (to 3 decimal places where relevant).
	The noon position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.	<b>NO</b>	

### A2.3.3 Pole-and-line operational data – CATCH INFORMATION

FIELD	Reference text in Annex 1.	Binding	Notes on recommended submission requirements																																				
TRIP IDENTIFIER		NO	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be VESSEL + DEPARTURE DATE																																				
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**COMMISSION  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Da Nang City, Vietnam  
28 November to 3 December 2022

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2022-04**

*The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC), in accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention);*

**Recognizing** the economic and cultural importance of sharks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, the vulnerability of certain shark species to fishing pressure, and the need for measures to promote the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark populations and fisheries;

**Recognizing** the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, to enable effective shark conservation and management;

**Recognizing further** that certain species of sharks and rays, such as basking shark and great white shark, have been listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**Adopts**, in accordance with Article 5, 6 and 10 of the Convention, that:

**I. Definitions**

1. (1) Sharks: All species of sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras (Class Chondrichthyes)
- (2) Full utilization: Retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, vertebrae and skins, to the point of first landing or transshipment
- (3) Finning: Removing and retaining all or some of a shark's fins and discarding its carcass at sea

## **II. Objective and Scope**

2. The objective of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of sharks.
3. This CMM shall apply to: (i) sharks listed in Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention and (ii) any other sharks caught in association with fisheries managed under the WCPF Convention.
4. This measure shall apply to the high seas and exclusive economic zones of the Convention Area.
5. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the sovereignty and sovereign rights of coastal States, including for traditional fishing activities and the rights of traditional fishers, to apply alternative measures for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing sharks, including any national plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks, within areas under their national jurisdiction. When Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) apply alternative measures, the CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in their Part 2 Annual Report, a description of the measures.

## **III. FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of sharks**

6. CCMs should implement, as appropriate, the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA). For implementation of the IPOA, each CCM should, as appropriate, include its National Plan of Action for sharks in Part 2 Annual Report.

## **IV. Full utilization of shark and prohibition of finning**

7. CCMs shall take measures necessary to require that all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized. CCMs shall ensure that the practice of finning is prohibited.
8. In order to implement the obligation in paragraph 7, in 2022, 2023 and 2024, CCMs shall require their vessels to land sharks with fins naturally attached to the carcass.
9. Notwithstanding paragraph 8, in 2022, 2023 and 2024, CCMs may take alternative measures as listed below to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time:
  - (1) Each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably biodegradable one;
  - (2) Each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding fins using rope or wire;
  - (3) Identical and uniquely numbered tags are attached to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins in a manner that inspectors can easily identify the matching of the carcass and fins at any time. Both the carcasses and fins shall be stored on board in the same hold. Notwithstanding this requirement, a CCM may allow its fishing vessels to store the carcasses and corresponding fins in different holds if the fishing vessel maintains a record or logbook that shows where the tagged fins and correspondingly tagged carcasses are stored, in a manner that they are easily identified by inspectors.



10. In case that a CCM wishes to allow its fishing vessels operating on the high seas to use any measure other than the three alternatives in paragraph 9 (1) – (3), it shall present it to TCC. If TCC endorses it, it shall be submitted to the subsequent annual meeting for endorsement.

11. All CCMs shall include in their Part 2 Annual Report information on the implementation of the measures in paragraph 8 or paragraph 9 as applicable for review by TCC. The report by CCMs shall contain a detailed explanation of implementation of paragraph 8 or paragraph 9 as applicable including how compliance has been monitored. CCMs are encouraged to report to TCC any enforcement difficulties that they encountered in the case of the alternative measures and how they have addressed risks such as monitoring at sea, species substitution, etc. The TCC in 2023 shall, taking into account these reports, advise the Commission on the effectiveness of the measures set out in paragraph 9 as alternatives to the obligation contained in paragraph 7, and recommend measures for consideration and possible adoption at the 2023 annual meeting of the Commission.

12. CCMs shall take measures necessary to prevent their fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping, and landing any fins harvested in contravention of this CMM.

13. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that both carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify the correspondence between an individual carcass and its fins when they are landed or transshipped.

#### **V. Minimizing bycatch and practicing safe release**

14. For longline fisheries targeting tuna and billfish, CCMs shall ensure that their vessels comply with at least one of the following options:

- (1) do not use or carry wire trace as branch lines or leaders; or
- (2) do not use branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines. See **Annex 1** for a schematic diagram of a shark line.

15. The implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 14 above shall be on a vessel or CCM basis. Each CCM shall notify the Commission of its implementation of paragraph 14 by March 31, 2021 and thereafter whenever the selected option is changed.

16. Starting on January 1, 2024, between 20 N and 20 S, CCMs shall ensure that their longline vessels, targeting tuna and billfish do not use, or if carrying, must stow wire trace as branch lines or leaders and do not use shark lines or branch lines running directly off of the longline floats or drop lines (see **Annex 1** for schematic diagram of a shark line).

17. For longline fisheries targeting sharks, CCMs shall develop and report their management plans in their Part 2 Annual Report.

18. The Commission shall adopt and enhance bycatch mitigation measures and develop new or amend, if necessary, existing Shark Safe Release Guidelines<sup>1</sup> to maximize the survival of sharks that are caught and are not to be retained. Where sharks are unwanted bycatch they should be released alive using techniques that result in minimal harm, taking into account the safety of the crew. CCMs should encourage their fishing vessels to use any Commission adopted guidelines for the safe release and handling of sharks.

19. CCMs shall ensure that sharks that are caught and are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel before being cut free in order to facilitate a species identification. This requirement shall only apply when an observer or electronic monitoring camera is present, and should only be implemented taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer.

20. Beginning on January 1, 2024, for sharks that are caught by longline vessels and are not retained, CCMs shall require their fishing vessels to release these sharks as soon as possible, taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer, using the following guidelines:

- (1) Leave the shark in the water, where possible; and
- (2) Use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible.

21. Development of new WCPFC guidelines or amendment to existing guidelines for safe release of sharks should take into account the health and safety of the crew.

## **VI. Species specific requirements**

22. Oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark

- (1) CCMs shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel or landing any oceanic whitetip shark, or silky shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.
- (2) CCMs shall require all vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM to release any oceanic whitetip shark or silky shark that is caught as soon as possible after the shark is brought alongside the vessel, and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible, following any applicable safe release guidelines for these species.
- (3) Subject to national laws and regulations, and notwithstanding (1) and (2), in the case of oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark that are unintentionally caught and frozen as part of a purse seine vessels' operation, the vessel must surrender the whole oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark to the responsible governmental authorities or discard them at the point of landing or transshipment. Oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark surrendered in this manner may not be sold or bartered but may be donated for purpose of domestic human consumption.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission adopted at WCPFC15 Best Handling Practices for the Safe Release of Sharks (other than Whale Sharks and Mantas/Mobulids)

- (4) Observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples from oceanic whitetip sharks and silky shark caught in the Convention Area that are dead on haulback in the WCPO, provided that the samples are part of a research project of that CCM or the SC. In the case that sampling is conducted as a CCM project, that CCM shall report it in their Part 2 Annual Report.

23. Whale shark

- (1) CCMs shall prohibit their flagged vessels from setting a purse seine on a school of tuna associated with a whale shark if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
- (2) CCMs shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any whale shark caught in the Convention Area, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.
- (3) For fishing activities in Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) exclusive economic zones, the prohibition in paragraph (1) shall be implemented in accordance with the Third Arrangement implementing the Nauru Agreement as amended on 11 September 2010.
- (4) Notwithstanding sub-paragraph (1) above, for fishing activities in exclusive economic zones of CCMs north of 30 N, CCMs shall implement either this measure or compatible measures consistent with the obligations under this measure. When CCMs apply compatible measures, the CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in their Part 2 Annual Report, a description of the measure.
- (5) CCMs shall require that, in the event that a whale shark is incidentally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall:
  - (a) ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release.; and
  - (b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, including the number of individuals, details of how and why the encirclement happened, where it occurred, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the whale shark on release.
- (6) In taking steps to ensure the safe release of the whale shark as required under sub-paragraph (5)(a) above, CCMs shall encourage the master of the vessel to follow the WCPFC Guidelines for the Safe Release of Encircled Whale Sharks (WCPFC Key Document SC-10)<sup>2</sup>.
- (7) In applying steps under sub-paragraphs (1), (5)(a) and (6), the safety of the crew shall remain paramount.
- (8) The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of this paragraph on the basis of observer reports, as part of the Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme.

## VII. Reporting requirements

24. Each CCM shall submit data on the WCPFC Key Shark Species<sup>3</sup> for Data Provision in

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<sup>2</sup> Originally adopted on 8 December 2015. The title of this decision was amended through the Commission decision at WCPFC13, through adopting the SC12 Summary Report which contains in paragraph 742: “SC12 agreed to change the title of ‘Guidelines for the safe release of encircled animals, including whale sharks’ to ‘Guidelines for the safe release of encircled whale sharks’.”

<sup>3</sup> The WCPFC Key Shark Species for Data Provision are designated per the Process for Designating WCPFC

accordance with Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (WCPFC Key Document Data-01).

25. CCMs shall advise the Commission (in their Part 2 Annual Report) on implementation of this CMM in accordance with Annex 2.

### **VIII. Research**

26. CCMs shall as appropriate, support research and development of strategies for the avoidance of unwanted shark captures (e.g. chemical, magnetic and other shark deterrents), safe release guidelines, biology and ecology of sharks, identification of nursery grounds, gear selectivity, assessment methods and other priorities listed under the WCPFC Shark Research Plan.

27. The SC shall periodically provide advice on the stock status of key shark species for assessment and maintain a WCPFC Shark Research Plan for the assessment of the status of these stocks. If possible, this should be done in conjunction with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

28. In 2024, and commencing periodically thereafter, the SC shall review the impact of fishing gear on sharks that are not retained, including oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark, inside and outside of the area between 20 N and 20 S, and provide advice on potential mitigation measures that would benefit such shark species.

### **IX. Capacity building**

29. The Commission should consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of the IPOA and collection of data on retained and discarded shark catches.

30. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of this measure, including supplying species identification guides for their fleets and guidelines and training for the safe release of sharks, and including, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, in areas under national jurisdiction.

### **X. Review**

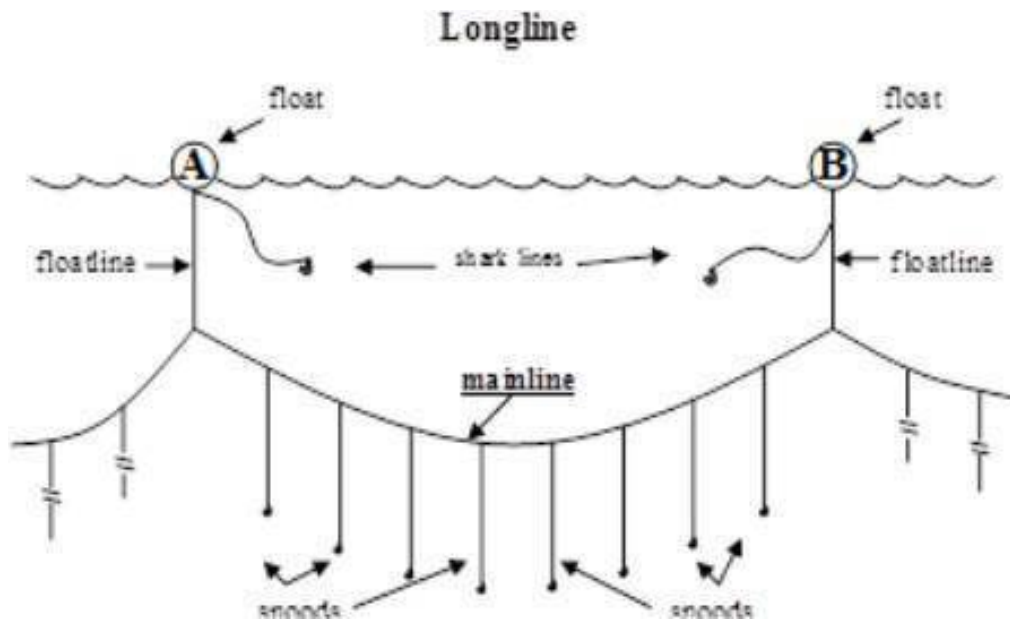
31. On the basis of advice from the SC and/or the TCC, the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this CMM, including species specific measures, taking into account, *inter alia*, any recommendation from the SC or TCC, in 2024, and amend it as appropriate.

32. This CMM replaces CMM 2019-04 .

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Key Shark Species for Data Provision and Assessment (WCPFC Key Document SC-08) and are listed in Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (WCPFC Key Document Data-01).

**Annex 1:** Schematic diagram of a shark line



**Annex 2:** Template for reporting implementation of this CMM

Each CCM shall include the following information in Part 2 of its annual report:

1. Description of alternative measures in para 5, if applicable
2. Results of their assessment of the need for a National Plan of Action and/or the status of their National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, as appropriate
3. Details of National Plan of Action, as appropriate, for implementation of IPOA Sharks in para 6 that includes:
  - (1) details of NPOA objectives; and
  - (2) species and fleet covered by NPOA as well as catches thereby
  - (3) measures to minimize waste and discards from shark catches and encourage the live release of incidental catches of sharks;
  - (4) work plan and a review process for NPOA implementation
4. With respect to para 9:
  - (1) Whether sharks or shark parts are retained on board their flag vessels, and if so, how they are handled and stored
  - (2) In case that CCMs retain sharks and choose to apply a requirement for fins to be naturally attached to carcasses
    - Their monitoring and enforcement systems relating to this requirement
  - (3) In case that CCMs retain sharks and choose to apply measures other than a requirement for fins to be naturally attached to carcasses
    - Their monitoring and enforcement systems relating to this requirement
    - A detailed explanation of why the fleet has adopted its fin-handling practice;
5. The management plan in para 17 that includes:
  - (1) specific authorizations to fish such as a license and a TAC or other measure to limit the catch of shark to acceptable levels;
  - (2) measures to avoid or reduce catch and maximize live release of species whose retention is prohibited by the Commission;
6. A report on sampling programs for oceanic whitetip sharks and silky shark as a CCM project as referred to in para 22 (4)
7. Estimated number of releases of oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark caught in the Convention Area, including the status upon release (dead or alive), through data collected from observer programs and other means.
8. Description of compatible measures as referred to in para 23 (4)
9. Any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, including the details required under para 23 (5)(b).

## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

### ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

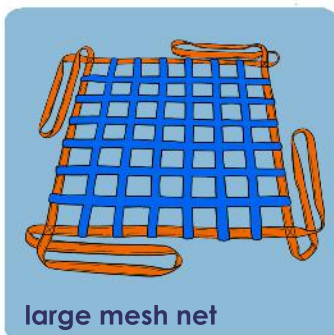
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The following are guidelines for best handling practices of marine mammals, specifically cetaceans, for purse seine and longline vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the western and central Pacific Ocean:

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS:

**Safety First:** These guidelines should be considered in light of safety and practicability for crew. Crew safety should always come first. Cetaceans can be very powerful and hooked or entangled cetaceans can be unpredictable, therefore it is not safe to enter the water in order to release an animal.

**Suggested Equipment:** Vessels should have equipment on board to facilitate the release of cetaceans. For purse seine vessels, suggested equipment includes: canvas or net slings or stretchers for carrying or lifting, large mesh net or grid to cover hatches/hoppers, and tools for cutting/removing net. For longline vessels, suggested equipment includes long handled cutters and de-hookers. Long handled cutters should be safety cutters or have a safety blade to avoid injuring the animal.



## **BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS**

### **ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:**

---

The following are guidelines for best handling practices of marine mammals, specifically cetaceans, for purse seine and longline vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the western and central Pacific Ocean:

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

**Training:** Crew should be provided with training on best practices for the safe handling and release of cetaceans, including the use of appropriate equipment carried on board for such purposes.

**Notifications:** Once a cetacean is observed inside a purse seine net or hooked or entangled on longline gear, immediately notify the captain or fishing master and ensure the crew knows what to do.

**General Guidelines:** For all gear types, keep animals in the water whenever possible. Removing a cetacean from the water is extremely stressful for the animal and can cause injury, so they should be released while in the water, wherever possible. However, cetaceans can be very powerful and hooked or entangled cetaceans can be unpredictable, therefore it is not safe to enter the water in order to release an animal. If it is necessary to land small cetaceans on deck in purse seine fisheries, always minimize time on deck and release cetaceans back to the water as soon as possible. When handling cetaceans, it is always best to handle with two or more people.



# BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

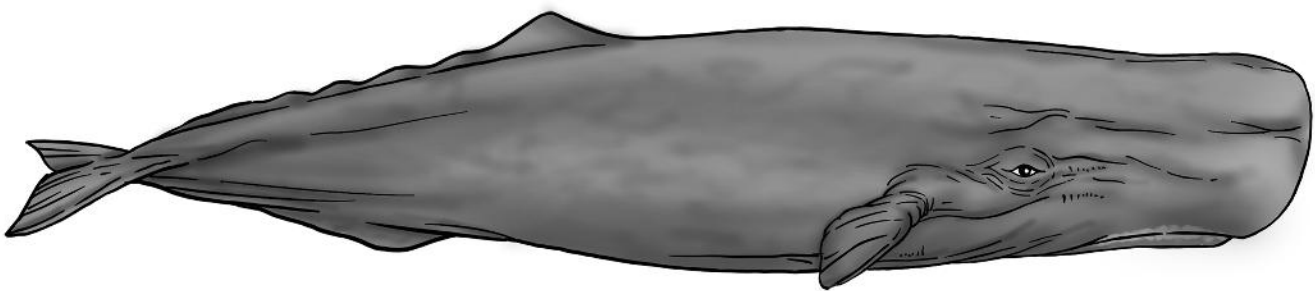
## ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

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**FOR LARGE CETACEANS (baleen whales and sperm whales) :**  
(examples)



**Sei Whale**  
(*Balaenoptera borealis*)



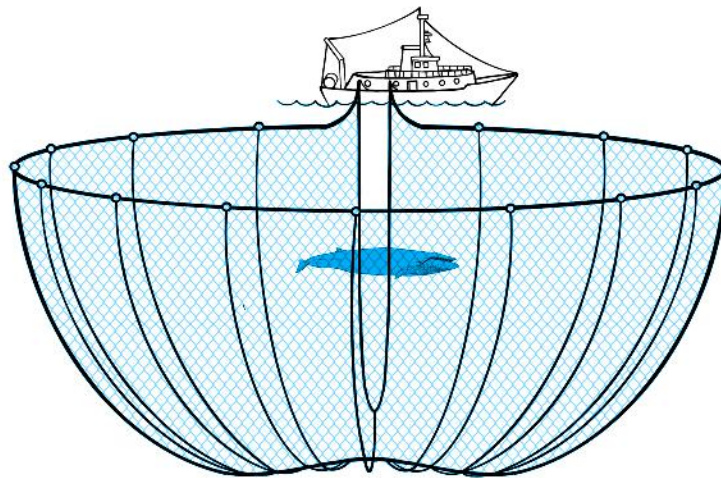
**Sperm Whale**  
(*Physeter macrocephalus*)

# BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

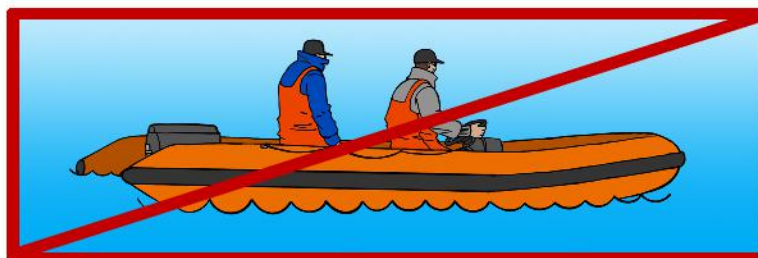
## ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

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1. Large cetaceans should remain in the water



2. Do not attempt to release large cetaceans by having crew in the water, to the extent possible



3. Release the animal as quickly as possible, without jeopardizing the safety of the crew



# BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

## ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

**FOR SMALL CETACEANS**  
(all toothed whales other than sperm whales):  
(example)

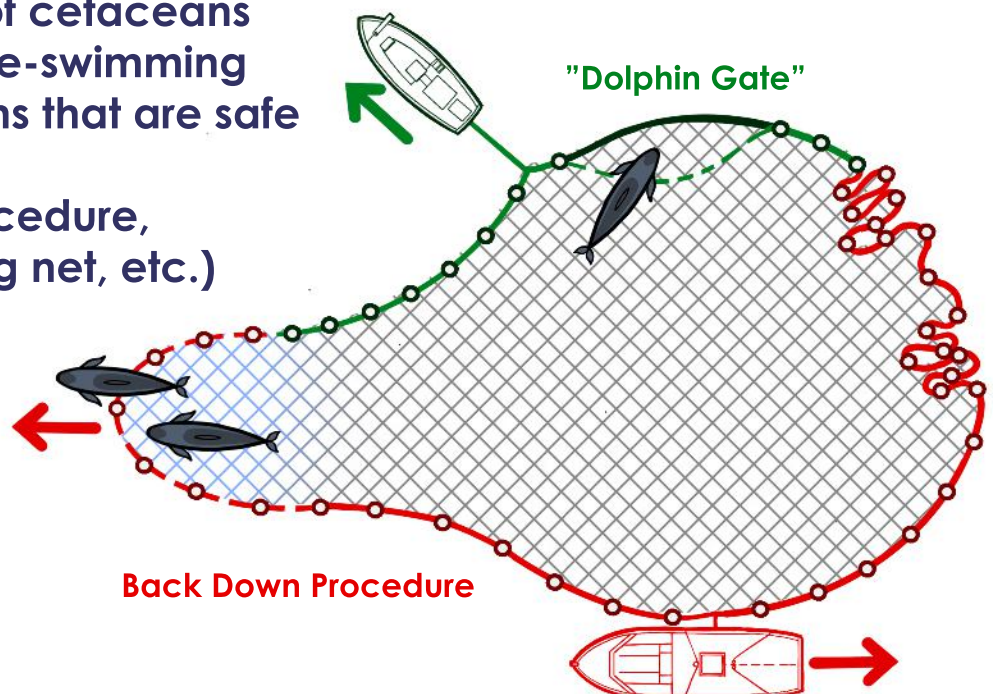


**False Killer Whale**  
(*Pseudorca crassidens*)

### DO'S:

If in purse seine net:

1. Facilitate release of cetaceans while they are still free-swimming using whatever means that are safe and practical (e.g. back down procedure, 'dolphin gate', cutting net, etc.)



## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

### ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

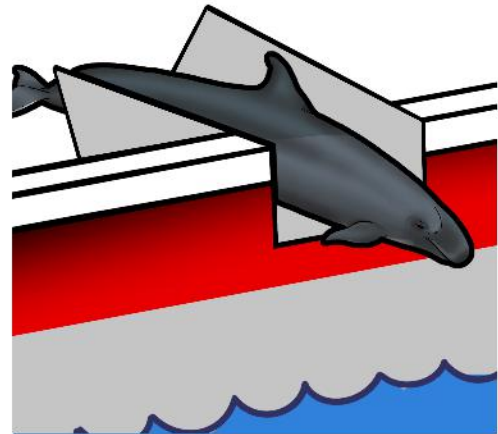
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#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

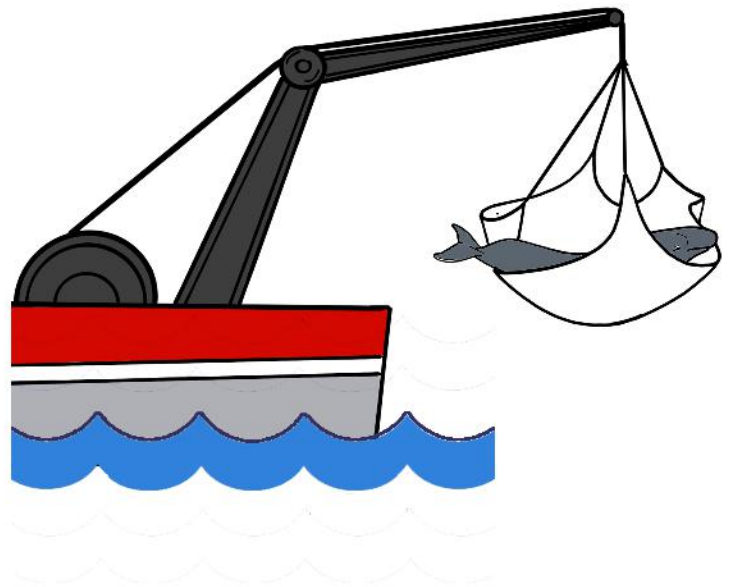
##### DO'S:

*If in brail or on deck:*

1. Cetaceans that cannot be released in the water without compromising the safety of the crew or the cetacean itself should be returned to the water as soon as possible, either utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to an opening on the side of the vessel, or through escape hatches.



If ramps or escape hatches are not available, cetaceans should be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, if available.





## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

### ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

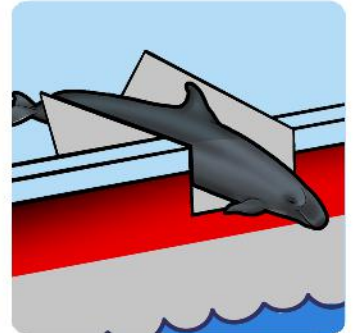
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#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

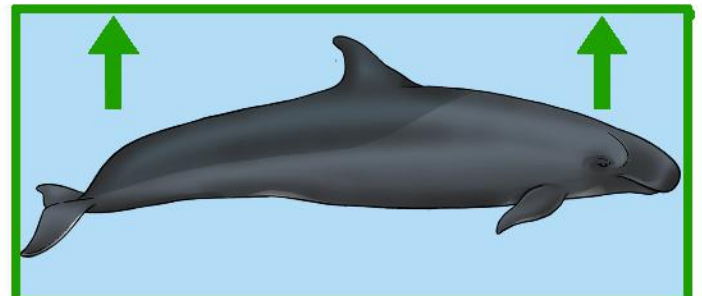
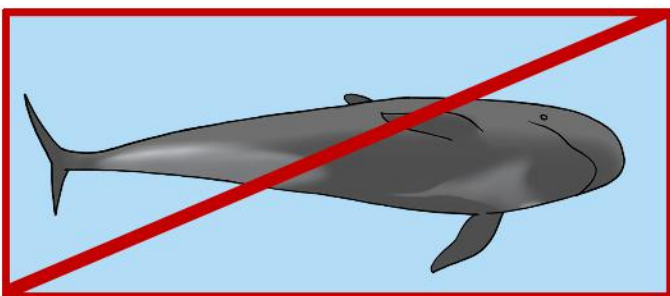
##### DO'S:

*If in brail or on deck:*

2. If entangled in netting, carefully cut the net away from the animal and release it to sea as quickly as possible with minimal or no netting attached to the animal.



3. If on deck, keep the animal in an upright position, with dorsal side up.



## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

### ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

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#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

##### DO'S:

*If in brail or on deck:*

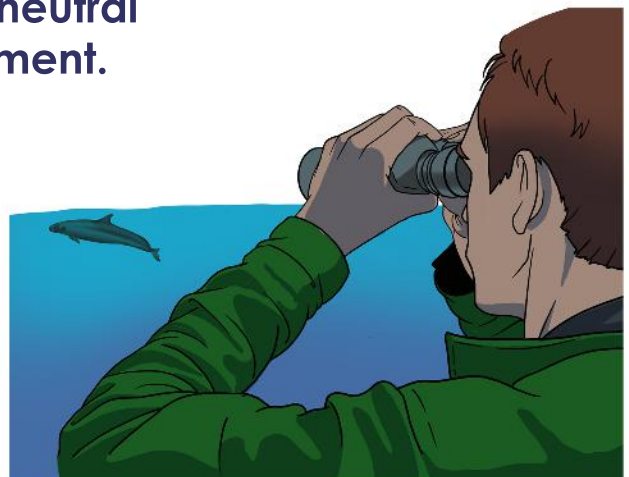
4. Be cautious of the tail, which is powerful and can cause injury. Lift from the mid-section of the cetacean when possible, and never from the tail.



5. Cease hauling until cetacean is released, release cetacean as soon as possible.



6. Release cetaceans away from fishing operations, when main engines are in neutral to minimize the risk of further entanglement. Maintain observation of released animals until they have disappeared from sight or are sufficiently distant from the vessel to ensure no further interaction before resuming fishing operations.



# BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

## ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

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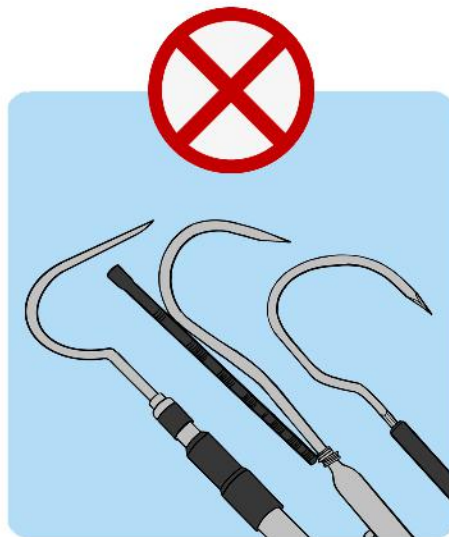
### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

#### DON'TS:

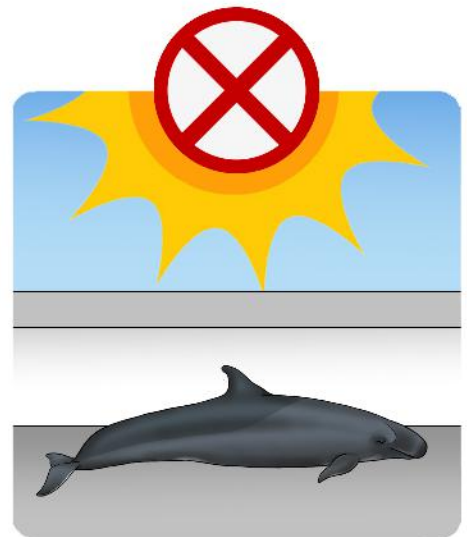
1. Do not handle the animal in any way that could cause harm, including:



a. Do not cut or punch holes through the animal's body



b. Do not use gaffs or sharp objects to grab, move, or hold the animal



c. Do not leave the animal exposed to sunlight for extended periods on deck

## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

### ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

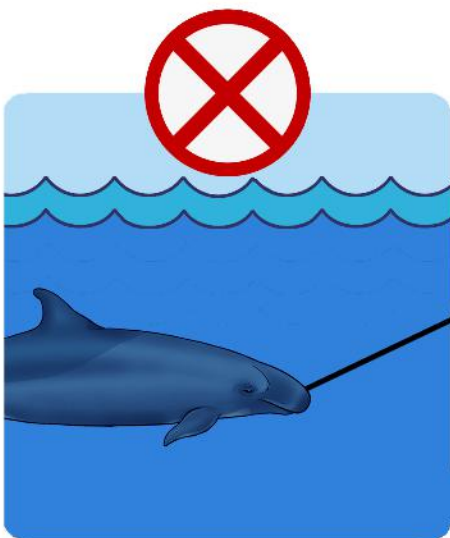
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#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

#### DON'TS:

1. Do not handle the animal in any way that could cause harm, including:

d. Cetaceans breathe through their blowhole.



Do not drag or pull the cetacean underwater in a manner that prevents it from surfacing to breathe.

Do not cover or block the blowhole, or spray water in or near it, or allow water or other material to flow into the blowhole.



## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

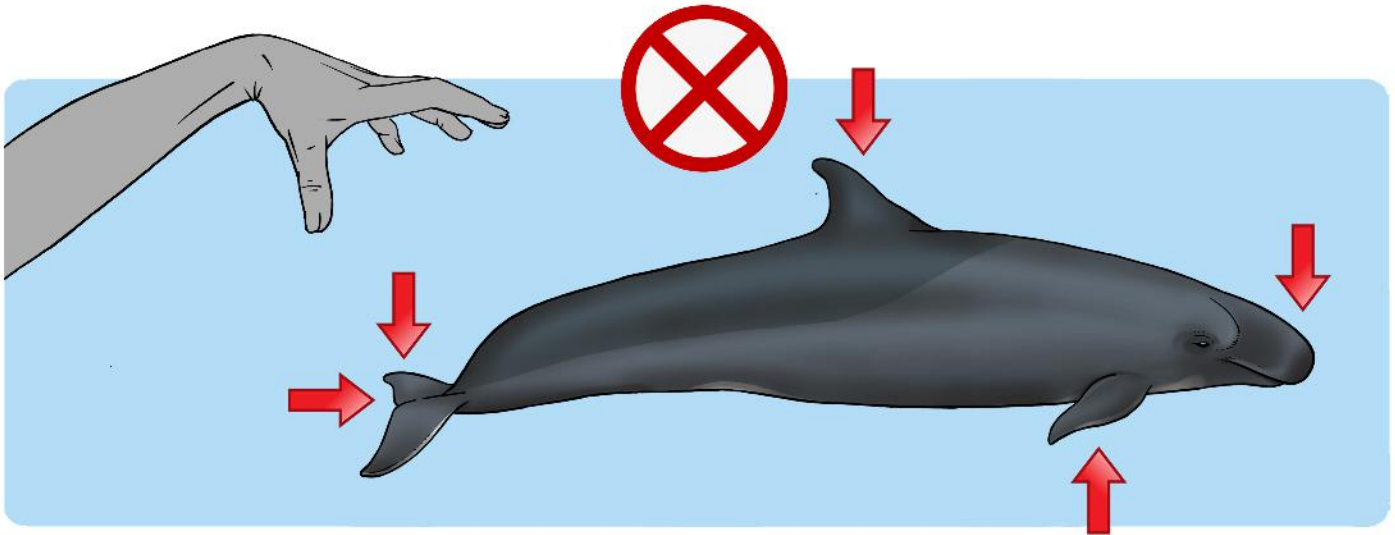
### ANNEX I: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS PURSE SEINE GEAR:

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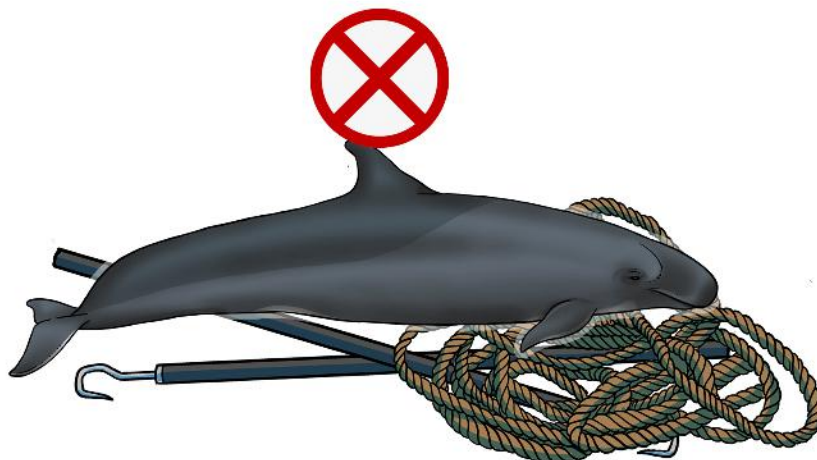
#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

##### DON'TS:

e. Do not push, pull, bend, or lift by tail, flippers, fins, flukes or beaks



f. Do not rest the cetacean on sharp or rough surfaces.

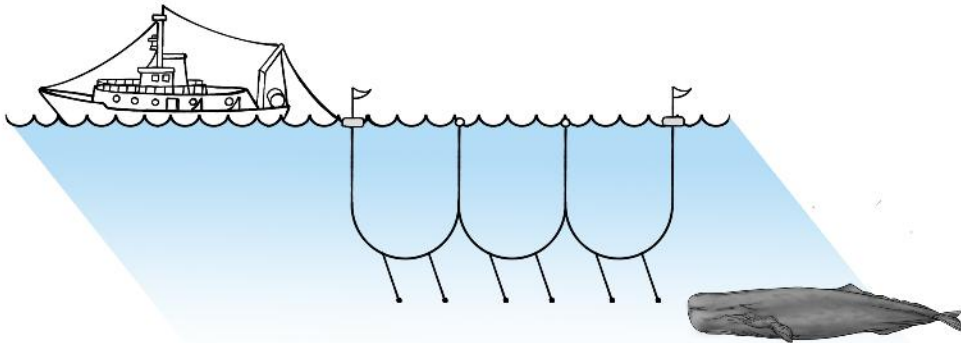


# BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

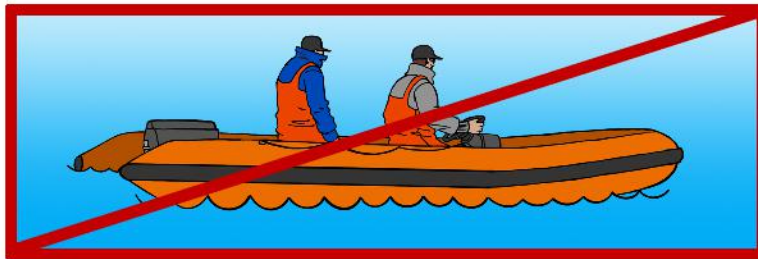
## ANNEX II: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS IN LONGLINE GEAR:

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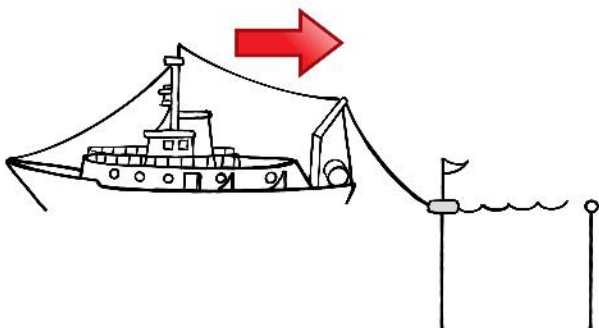
1. Large cetaceans should remain in the water



2. Do not attempt to release large cetaceans by having crew in the water, to the extent possible



3. Maneuver vessel to minimize tension on the fishing gear, to the extent possible



4. Release the animal as quickly as possible, without jeopardizing the safety of the crew



## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

### ANNEX II: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS IN LONGLINE GEAR:

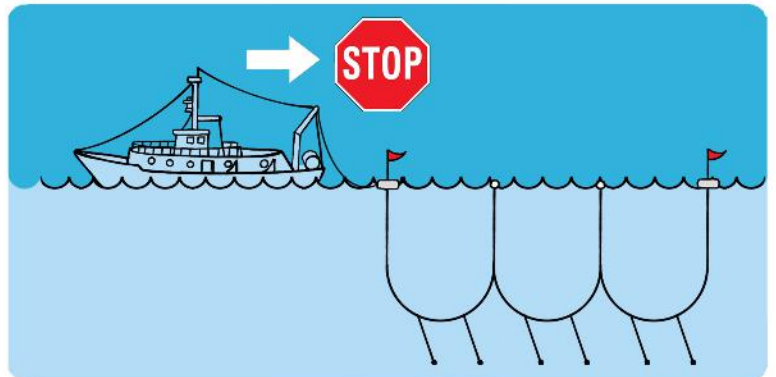
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#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

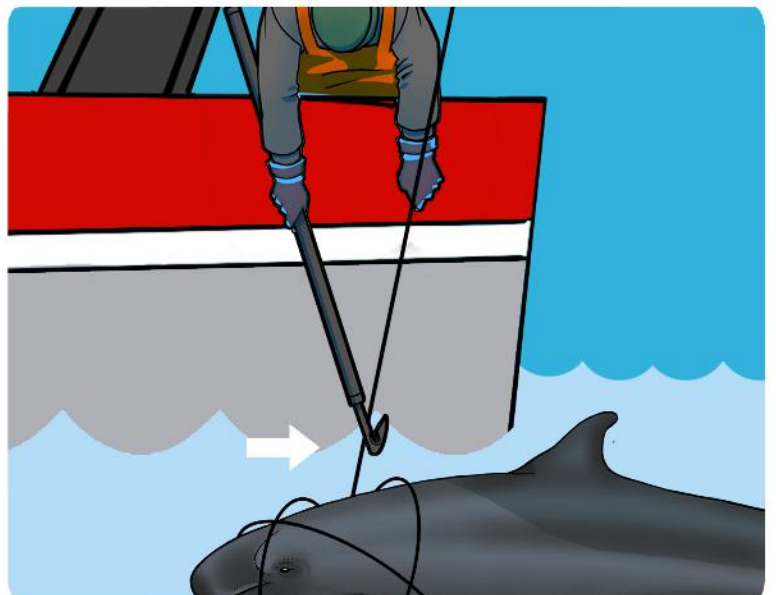
##### DO'S:

1. Determine if the animal is hooked or entangled and prepare to remove the line.

a. If entangled: To the extent possible, maneuver the vessel in a way that will reduce tension on the line.



Use a long-handled line cutter to cut as much line off of or as close to the animal as you can.



## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

### ANNEX II: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS IN LONGLINE GEAR:

---

#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

##### DO'S:

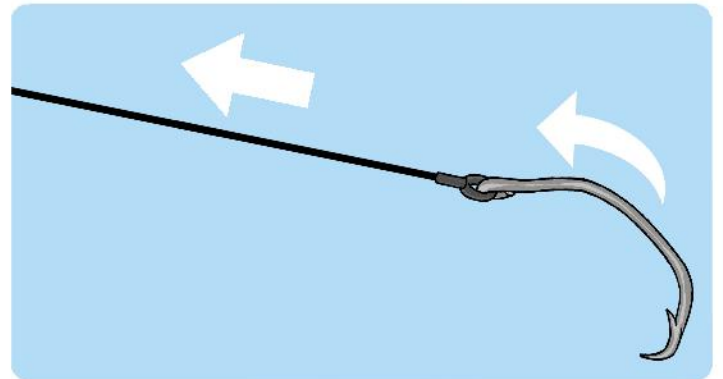
ii. *If the hook is not ingested:*

1. *If using "weak\*" circle hooks:*

a. To the extent possible, maintain tension on the line, giving the hook a chance to straighten and release the animal without the hook or trailing line attached.

b. If the hook does not straighten, use a de-hooker to remove the hook and trailing line

c. If the hook is not straightened or removed, use a long-handled line cutter to cut the line as close as you can to the hook, removing as much gear as possible.



\*Circle hooks with a wire diameter of 4.5 mm or less with an offset not to exceed 10 degrees

## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

### ANNEX II: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS IN LONGLINE GEAR:

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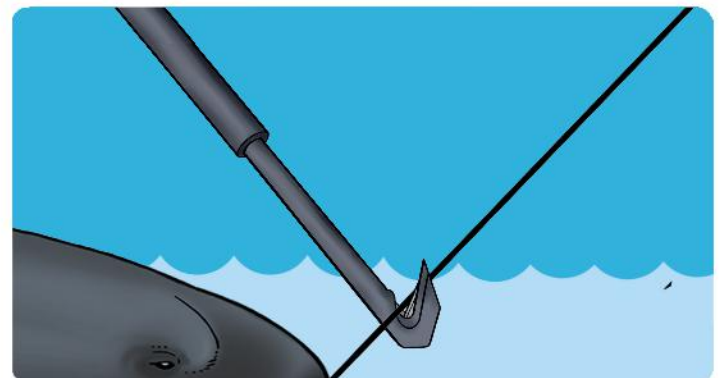
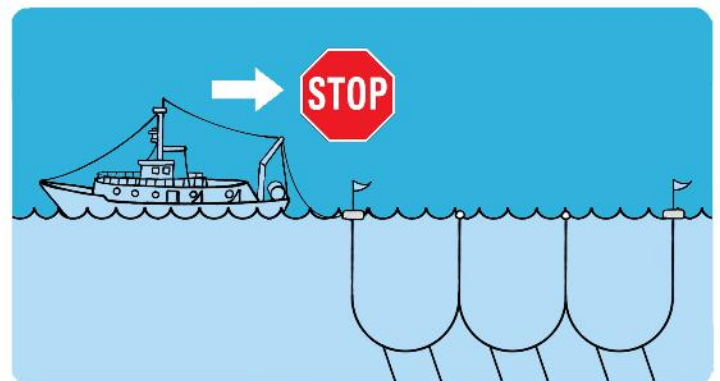
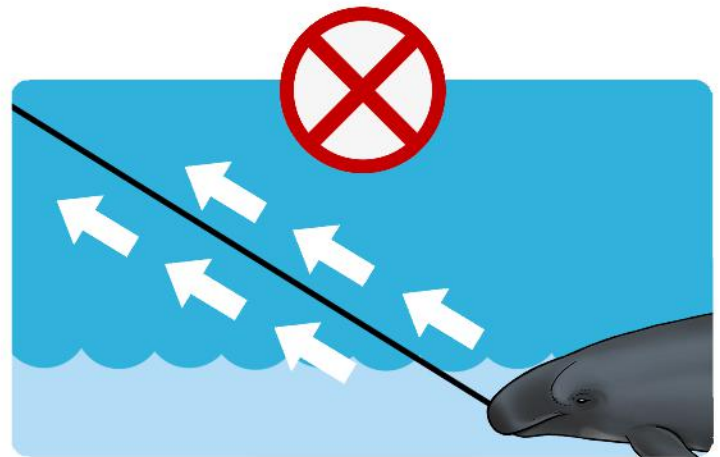
##### DO'S:

2. If not using weak circle hooks:

Avoid pulling sharply on the branchline.

To the extent possible,  
maneuver vessel in a way that  
will reduce tension on the line.

Use a long-handled line cutter  
to cut the line as close to the  
hook as possible, removing as  
much gear as possible





## BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS

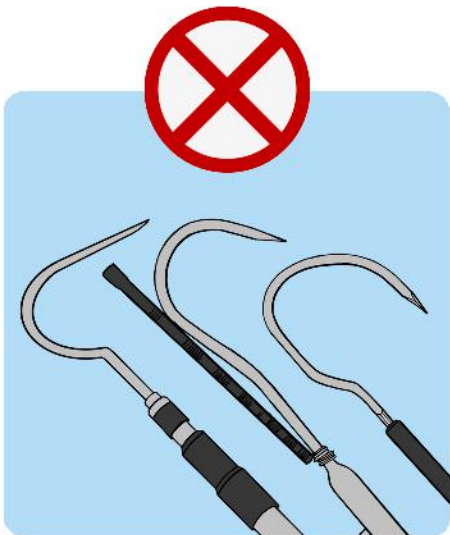
### ANNEX II: GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CETACEANS IN LONGLINE GEAR:

---

#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

#### DON'TS:

1. Do not handle the animal in any way that could cause harm
  - a. Do not use gaffs or sharp objects to grab, move, or hold an animal
  - b. Do not cover or block the blowhole, or spray water in or near it, to allow uninterrupted breathing



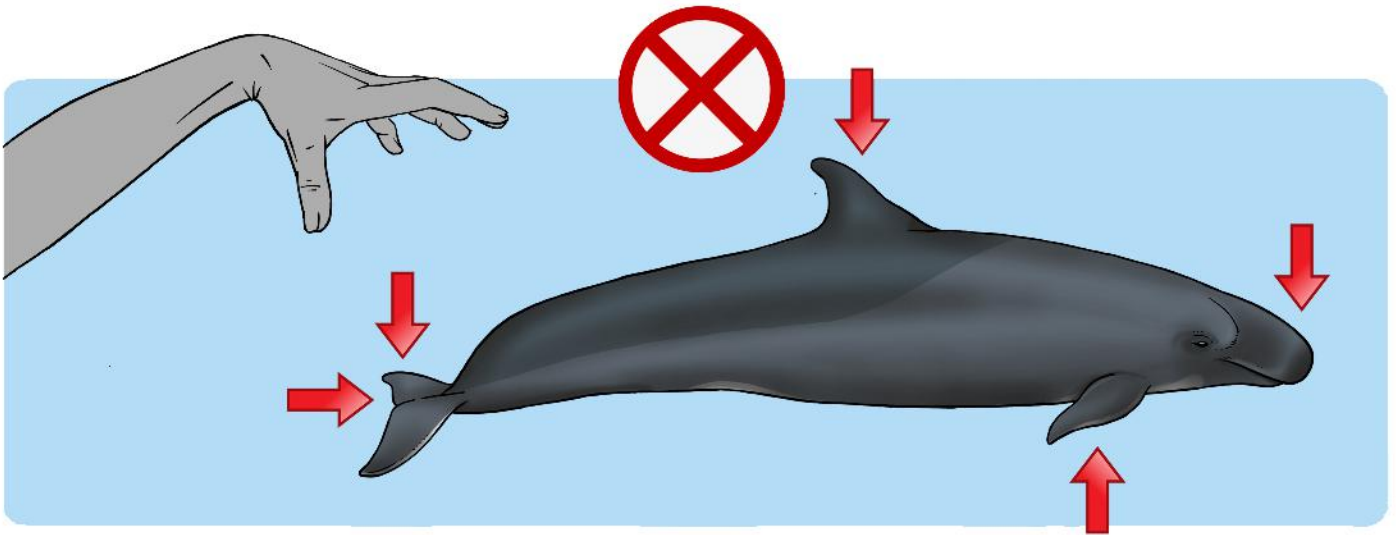
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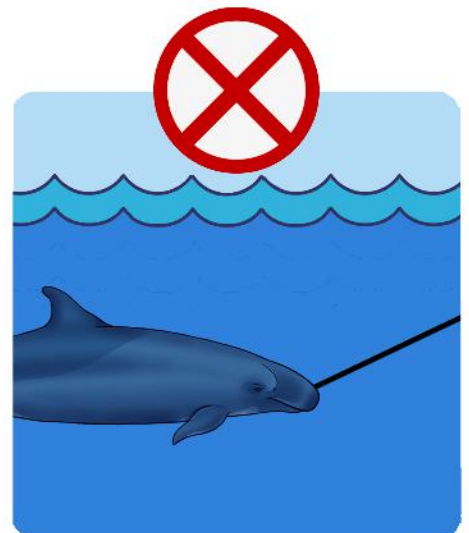
#### FOR SMALL CETACEANS (all toothed whales other than sperm whales):

##### DON'TS:

c. Do not push, pull or lift by tail, flippers, fins, flukes or beaks



d. Do not drag or pull the cetacean  
underwater in a manner that prevents it  
from surfacing to breathe.





**COMMISSION  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Da Nang City, Vietnam  
28 November to 3 December 2022

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**Adopted Audit Points for the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS)**

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**4 December 2022**



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#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
<b>Part A: Overarching Reporting Requirements</b>			
1	<b>MCS Data Rules 44</b> (2009 Document)	R	<p>Where a CCM has requested data, the following information has been reported in respect of the information:</p> <p>Secretariat confirms that the CCM has reported information in its ARPt2 on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. CCM’s domestic measures taken to ensure the confidentiality of any data and information received pursuant to the MCS Data Rules and Procedures</li> <li>b. a statement affirming that they have complied with the data retention and destruction requirements of Section V of these Rules and Procedures</li> <li>c. a summary report of the status of any investigation, judicial or administrative proceedings</li> </ul> <p>Where applicable, the Secretariat confirms that the CCM has checked and liaised with the Secretariat on any CCM issues in the Secretariat-published Administration of Data Rules and Procedures website summary at <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/administration-wcpfc-data-access-rules-and-procedures">https://www.wcpfc.int/administration-wcpfc-data-access-rules-and-procedures</a>.</p>
2	<b>Convention Art 23(2c)</b>	R	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM has provided any relevant updates in its Annual Report Part 2 for prior year obligations or where there are no updates, has indicated such in its responses to Implementation (I) obligations.
3	<b>Special Requirements</b> 2013-07 19	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted information in AR Pt 2 on any assistance it provided to SIDS/T in accordance with CMM 2013-07, or CCM submitted information on any assistance required.
4	<b>Record of Fishing Vessels</b> 2018-06 16	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report on the results of their review of their internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 1 of CMM 2018-06, including sanctions and punitive actions, and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure.
5	<b>Compliance Monitoring Scheme</b> 2021-03 17	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of its progress under an approved Capacity Development Plan

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
6	Compliance Monitoring Scheme 2021-03 45	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of any actions it has taken to address its non-compliance in the previous years' CMR.
<b>Part B: Quantitative Limits in CMMs for Tuna and Billfish</b>			
7	SWP Str Marlin 2006-04 01	L	The CCM reported in AR Pt2 the number of its flagged vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported number of vessels and confirm that the CCM's allowable limit has not been exceeded.
8	SWP Str Marlin 2006-04 04	R	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted in its ARPt1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of its flagged vessels that fished for MLS south of 15S between 2001-2004 and has nominated the maximum number of its flagged vessels that are permitted to continue to fish for MLS south of 15S</li> <li>b. the catch levels of CCM flagged vessels that have taken MLS as a bycatch</li> </ul> the number and catch levels of its vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S.
9	Swordfish 2009-03 01	L	The CCM reported in AR Pt2 its total number of flagged vessels fishing for SWO south of 20S and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported catch level and confirm that the CCM's allowable limit has not been exceeded.
10	Swordfish 2009-03 02	L	The CCM reported in AR Pt2 its total catch of SWO by its flagged vessels in the area south of 20S and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported catch level and confirm that the CCM's allowable limit has not been exceeded.
11	Swordfish 2009-03 03	I	1. CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that ensures that CCM flagged vessels do not shift effort (for swordfish) to the area north of 20S</li> </ul>

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
			<p>b. describes how it is monitoring its flagged vessels to ensure they do not shift effort for SWO to the area north of 20S and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p> <p>2. The Secretariat can verify that the CCM's flagged vessels have not shifted effort to the area north of 20S.</p>
12	<b>Swordfish</b> 2009-03 08	R	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted the required information contained in the template in Annex 2 of CMM in its AR Pt 1.
13	<b>NP Striped Marlin</b> 2010-01 05	L	The CCM reported its catch level in AR Pt2 and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported catch limit and confirm that its allowable limit was not exceeded.
14	<b>NP Striped Marlin</b> 2010-01 08	R	Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of national binding measures CCM applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce CCM vessels' catch and total catch.
15	<b>SP Albacore</b> 2015-02 01	L	CCM reported its number of flagged vessels actively fishing for South Pacific Albacore south of 20S and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported information and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded.
16	<b>SP Albacore</b> 2015-02 04	R	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted information on annual catch levels by its flagged vessels taking SP Albacore, as well as the number of CCM flagged vessels actively fishing for SP Albacore south of 20S, with catch levels reported by species groups.
17	<b>NP Albacore</b> 2019-03 02	L	CCM reported its level of fishing effort by its flagged vessels fishing for NP albacore and the Secretariat can verify that the allowable limit was not exceeded.
18	<b>NP Albacore</b> 2019-03 03	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of information on catch and effort by CCM flagged vessels engaged in directed fishing for NP albacore north of the equator, by gear type and days fished (effort) and by weight (catch), using the template at Annex 1 of CMM 2019-03.
19	<b>Tropical Tuna</b> 2021-01 24	L	<p>1. Coastal CCM or PNA Office on behalf of PNA Parties+Tokelau notified their EEZ PS effort or catch limit or collective PNA+Tokelau EEZ effort or catch limit to the Secretariat.</p>

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
			2. Coastal CCM confirms in AR Pt2 that its notified EEZ limit or the PNAO confirms on behalf of PNA+Tokelau that the notified collective EEZ limit has not been exceeded and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported information and confirm that the notified EEZ or collective EEZ limit has not been exceeded.
20	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 25	L	CCM submitted its high seas PS effort level in the area between 20N and 20S in AR Pt 2 and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported information and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded.
21	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 Att 2 03	R	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CCM submitted reports to the Secretariat at least 24 hours prior to entry and no more than 6 hours prior to exiting HSP1-SMA in the required format: <b>VID/Entry or Exit: Date/Time; Lat/Long</b></li> <li>2. Secretariat review of VMS alerts for CCM vessels operating in HSP1-SMA against received entry/exit reports does not show any discrepancies and Secretariat confirms CCM has no vessels with VTAF data gaps or other VMS reporting anomalies.</li> </ol>
22	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 37	L	The CCM reported its total bigeye longline catch in its AR Pt2 and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported catch level and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded.
23	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 38	R	The Secretariat confirms that it received 12 bigeye longline catch reports for each month of the reporting year.
24	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 40	L	CCM reported its total bigeye longline catch in its AR Pt 2 and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported catch level and confirm that it does not exceed 2,000mt.
25	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 42	L	The CCM reported its number of CCM flagged PS vessels >24m with freezing capacity and operating between 20N and 20S and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported information and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded.
26	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 43	L	CCM reported whether it replaced any of its flagged large scale purse seine vessels in the previous year and if so, that the replacement vessel did not result in an increase in carrying capacity or an increase in

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
			catch or effort from the level that was replaced, and the Secretariat can verify that the allowable limit was not exceeded.
27	<b>Tropical Tuna</b> 2021-01 44	L	The CCM reported in AR Pt2 its number of flagged LL vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported information and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded.
28	<b>Tropical Tuna</b> 2021-01 45	L	The CCM reported in AR Pt2 its number of flagged ice-chilled LL vessels targeting bigeye and landing exclusively fresh fish and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported information and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded.
29	<b>Pacific Bluefin</b> 2021-02 08 (2020-02 05)	R	The Secretariat confirms CCM submitted a complete report to the Secretariat on total fishing effort and catch levels of PBT by fishery for the previous three years and catch information includes discards.
30	<b>Pacific Bluefin</b> 2021-02 02 (2020-02 02(1))	L	CCM reported its total level of fishing effort by CCM's flagged vessels fishing for PBF north of 20N in its report to the Secretariat as required by paragraph 8 of the CMM, and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total fishing effort and confirm that the CCM's allowable limit was not exceeded.
31	<b>Pacific Bluefin</b> 2021-02 03 (2020-02 02(2))	L	CCM reported its total catches of PBF less than 30kg and 30kg or larger and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total catches and confirm that the total catch level does not exceed the CCM's allowable annual limit.
32	<b>Pacific Bluefin</b> 2021-02 04	L	CCM reported its total catches of PBF 30kg or larger and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total catches and confirm that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not increased by more than 15% above its allowable limit, or that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not exceeded 10mt beyond the CCM's applicable baseline catch limit.
33	<b>Pacific Bluefin</b> 2021-02 14	R	The Secretariat confirms receipt of a complete report by the CCM on national binding measures adopted to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 16 of the CMM, and that the report includes results of the CCM's monitoring of international trade of products derived from PBF.

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
<b>Part C: Additional Measures for Tropical Tunas</b>			
34	High Seas Catch Retention 2009-02 08-12	R	If a discard report was submitted, the Secretariat confirms that the report contained all the information at CMM 2009-02 para 12(a-k).
35	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 14	I	<p>CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from fishing on FADs between 1 July and 30 September in EEZs and high seas between 20N and 20S.</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not fish on FADs in EEZs and on high seas between 20N and 20S and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul> <p>*FOR PNA MEMBERS THAT NOTIFY EXEMPTIONS AS PER FOOTNOTE 1: In addition to the statements required in a and b for its flagged vessels operating in other EEZs and on the high seas between 20N and 20S, the PNA member submitted a notification to the WCPFC ED within 15 days of its approval of an arrangement to which domestic vessels that the 3-month FAD closure will not apply in PNA member EEZ.</p>
36	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 15	I	<p>Based on the CCM's notification by the required deadline of its choice of implementation of which two consecutive additional months of FAD closure on the high seas, the CCM has submitted a statement that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from fishing on FADs on the high seas between 20N and 20S during the chosen additional two months closure period</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not fish on FADs on the high seas between 20N and 20S during the chosen additional two months closure period, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>



#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
<b>Part E: Mitigating Impacts of Fishing, Including on Species of Special Interest</b>			
37	<b>High Seas Driftnets</b> 2008-04 05	R	Secretariat confirms that for any CCM that conducted MCS activities relating to high seas driftnet fishing on the high seas in the Convention Area, a report was submitted by the CCM.
38	<b>Cetaceans</b> 2011-03 01	I	CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean (if sighted prior to commencement of the set)</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not set a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean where a sighting occurs prior to commencement of the set, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>
39	<b>Cetaceans</b> 2011-03 02	I	CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires the vessel master of CCM flagged PS vessels to follow safe release guidelines in the event a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the PS net</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure safe release guidelines are followed and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>
40	<b>Cetaceans</b> 2011-03 05	R	Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report on instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of flagged vessels and as reported in ARPt1 under para 2(b) of CMM.
41	<b>Seabirds</b> 2018-03 02 <i>(under the “Resolves” section of CMM)</i>	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report on its implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of its National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
42	Seabirds 2018-03 08	R	The Secretariat confirms that applicable CCMs with LL vessels fishing in the Convention Area south of 25°S or north of 23°N submitted information describing which of the mitigation measures the CCM requires its vessels to use, as well as the technical specifications for each of those mitigation measures, and any relevant changes to prior year reporting.
43	Seabirds 2018-03 13	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report using the reporting template in Annex 2 of CMM 2018-03 on seabird interactions reported or collected by observers.
44	Sea Turtles 2018-04 02 and 03	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report on its implementation of the CMM and any sea turtle interactions by CCM flagged vessels, and that data collected through the ROP was reported through other required Commission data collection provisions.
45	Sea Turtles 2018-04 05 a-d	R	The Secretariat confirms that reporting by CCM fishing vessels on interactions with sea turtles is also reported by CCM in its Scientific Data Provision requirements.  Where a CCM is undertaking research on FAD designs that reduce sea turtle entanglement, the Secretariat confirms receipt of CCM's research results.
46	Sea Turtles 2018-04 06	I	CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires operators of CCM flagged LL vessels to carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to handle and promptly release sea turtles caught or entangled and where appropriate, carry and use dip-nets in accordance with WCPFC guidelines</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged LL vessels to ensure this requirement is followed and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>
47	Sea Turtles 2018-04 07a	I	CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires operators of CCM flagged LL vessels to employ at least one of the three mitigation methods listed in paragraph 7a of the CMM</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged LL vessels to ensure that at least one of the mitigation measures in paragraph 7a of the CMM is being employed, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
			and the Secretariat confirms that CCM provided information in AR Pt 2 of any CCM vessel interactions with sea turtles in fisheries managed under the Convention and confirmation that CCM vessels are required to record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations.
48	Sharks 2019-04 05	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM reported in AR Pt 2 information on alternative measures not contained in the CMM that the CCM is applying in areas under CCM's national jurisdiction.
49	Sharks 2019-04 07-10	I	CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged vessels to fully utilize any sharks that are retained on board and to prohibit any finning from taking place, or required alternative measures to ensure individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels to ensure that sharks are being fully utilized and fins are naturally attached to the carcass or alternative measures are applied as per the CMM, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>
50	Sharks 2019-04 11	R	The Secretariat confirms receipt of a report from CCM in AR Pt 2 with information on CCM implementation of measures taken to require CCM vessels to land sharks with fins naturally attached to the carcass, including a detailed explanation of implementation of paragraphs 8 and 9 of CMM 2019-04 and CCM's compliance monitoring activities.
51	Sharks 2019-04 12	I	CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged fishing vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or trading any fins harvested in contravention of CMM 2019-04</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged fishing vessels to ensure that no fins are retained on board, transshipped, landed or traded, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>
52	Sharks 2019-04 13	I	CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that:

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged fishing vessels to land or tranship all shark carcasses with their corresponding fins and in a manner that enables inspectors to verify</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged fishing vessels to ensure that all shark fins that are landed or transhipped with their corresponding carcasses can be verified, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>
53	Sharks 2019-04 14-15	I/R	<p>Based on the CCM's notification to the Secretariat of which option will apply to the CCM or its individual vessels, the CCM has submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged LL vessel or vessels to apply the CCM's selected option</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged LL vessels to ensure that the selection option is being applied and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>
54	Sharks 2019-04 16	R	The Secretariat confirms CCM submitted a report in its AR Pt 2 of its management plan for CCM's flagged LL vessels targeting sharks (note report guidance in CMM Annex 2 para 5).
55	Sharks 2019-04 18	I	<p>CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged vessels with observers or electronic monitoring cameras on board to haul any sharks that are caught alongside the vessel before being cut free to facilitate species ID</li> <li>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels with observers or electronic monitoring cameras on board to ensure that any sharks caught are hauled alongside to facilitate species ID, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ul>
56 57 58	Sharks (OWT, SS) 2019-04 20 (01-03)	I	<p>CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged vessels or vessels under CCM charter to retain on board, tranship, store, or land any oceanic whitetip or silky shark, in whole or in part; requires release of any oceanic whitetip or silky shark that is caught, in accordance with applicable safe release guidelines; surrender in whole any</li> </ul>

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
			<p>unintentionally caught oceanic whitetip or silky shark that are frozen as part of CCM flagged PS vessels' operation to the responsible government authorities or discard them at the point of landing or transshipment, upon which any surrendered OWT or SS may be donated for human consumption</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels or vessels it charters to ensure the requirements are met, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</p>
59 60	<p><b>Sharks (Whale)</b></p> <p>2019-04 21 (01-07) 2019-04 21(04)</p>	I/R	<p>CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that: prohibits its flagged and chartered vessels from setting a purse seine on a school of tuna associated with a whale shark if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of a set, or retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any whale shark caught in the Convention Area, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention; ensures that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure safe release of incidentally encircled whale sharks and that the incident is reported to the CCM's relevant authority</p> <p>b. describes how the CCM is monitoring its flagged and chartered vessels to ensure the requirements are met and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</p> <p>*CCMs with vessels authorized to fish in the EEZ of any member of the PNA shall include in their statement in AR Pt 2 the requirement for this prohibition to be in accordance with the PNA 3IA. (para 21.3)</p> <p>*CCMs with vessels authorized to fish in EEZs of CCMs north of 30N, the CCM shall implement the CMM or compatible measures consistent with obligations in the CMM and provide a description of those measures in AR Pt 2. (para 21.4)</p>
61	<p><b>Sharks</b></p> <p>2019-04 23</p>	R	The Secretariat confirms CCM submitted a report in AR Pt2 that addresses each of the elements contained in the template at Annex 2 of the CMM.
62	<p><b>Mobulids</b></p> <p>2019-05 04-06, 08, 10</p>	I	<p>CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt 2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that: prohibits its flagged vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of a</p>

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
			<p>mobulid ray, and require prompt release alive and unharmed any mobulid ray that is caught, in accordance with safe handling practices in the CMM; requires CCM PS vessel operators to surrender any unintentionally caught and landed mobulid rays to the relevant government authorities at the point of landing or transshipment, or discard them where possible, and allows observers to collect biological samples of mobulid rays that are caught and dead at haul back</p> <p>b. describes how the CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels to ensure the requirements are met and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</p>
<b>Part F: Operational Requirements for Fishing Vessels</b>			
63	VMS SSPs 2.8	R	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Secretariat confirms that CCM's flagged vessels are on the FFA Good Standing List.</li> </ol> <p>or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The Secretariat confirms that the CCM has provided complete VTAF details.</li> </ol>
64	RFV 2018-06 03	I	<p>CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt 2 that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits fishing by CCM flagged vessels beyond areas of CCM's national jurisdiction without the appropriate CCM authorization</li> <li>b. describes how the CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged vessels are not operating beyond the CCM's areas of national jurisdiction without the appropriate CCM authorization, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</li> </ol>
65	RFV 2018-06 09	R	The Secretariat confirms that a fished/did not fish report has been received from the CCM using the required template.
66	VMS VMS SSPs 2.13 and 7.2.2	R	For each inspection that has been conducted in the previous year, The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a complete report of each of its MTU AUDIT INSPECTIONS.
67	Vessel Markings and Specs 2004-03 03	R	The Secretariat confirms that each CCM flagged vessel entry on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels contains a WIN, in line with the requirements in paragraph 2.1.1 (a) or (b) of CMM 2004-03.

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
<b>Part G: Activity Related Requirements</b>			
68	<b>SciData 01</b> (annual catch estimates)		Assessment is in accordance with Tier-Scoring Evaluation Level:
69	<b>SciData 02</b> (number of active vessels)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Tier Score of III = COMPLIANT</li> <li>• A Tier Score of I or II = NON-COMPLIANT/PRIORITY</li> </ul>
70	<b>SciData 03</b> (operational level C/E data)		<b>I</b> No data are provided, or data have been provided but they have been evaluated as 'unusable' (instances where none of the data provided can be used in assessments). This level of data gap is the most severe and has by far the greatest impacts on the scientific work of the Commission.
71	<b>SciData 05</b> (size composition data)		<b>II</b> Data have been provided, most of which can be used for the scientific work of the Commission, but (i) there are one or several (minimum-standard) data fields not provided an/or (ii) the coverage of the data is not according to the requirements. In these cases, some of the scientific work of the Commission cannot be undertaken. The % value assigned in this category represents the estimated proportion of the key attribute data provided compared to the full set of key attribute data required as stipulated in the WCPFC data submission guidelines.
			<b>III</b> Data have been provided, there are no gaps in the data provided and the coverage of data is according to the requirements.
72	<b>High Seas Boarding and Inspection</b> 2006-08 41	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM provided information on actions CCM has taken in response to HSBI of CCM fishing vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations, and that information on CCM proceedings and sanctions is included, as applicable.
73	<b>Vessels without Nationality</b> 2009-09 05	R	Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of whether any sightings took place by CCM of fishing vessels without nationality operating in the high seas of the Convention Area.

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
74	<b>Transshipment</b> 2009-06 11	R	The Secretariat confirms receipt by the CCM in AR Pt 1 of the required information in the prescribed format contained at Annex II of CMM 2009-06, and confirms that the report includes the required information for all CCM transshipment events in the Convention Area of all HMFS covered by the Convention, as well as HMFS taken in the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area, in accordance with paras 10, 11, and 12 of CMM 2009-06.
75	<b>Transshipment</b> 2009-06 29	L	The Secretariat verifies the information reported by the CCM in AR Pt 2 and confirms that the CCM's allowable limit of PS vessels transhipping outside of port has not been exceeded.  *Note additional reporting obligations for COVID19-related requirements:  The Secretariat has received information in AR Pt 2 of the CCM's approach to implementation of the suspension from 20 April 2020 to 15 March 2022.
76	<b>Transshipment</b> 2009-06 34	L	The Secretariat confirms that none of the vessels for which the CCM is responsible has engaged in high seas transshipment, unless the CCM indicated in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels or by other means of communication that the vessel or vessels are authorized pursuant to paragraph 37 of CMM 2009-06 to engage in high seas transshipment activities.
77	<b>Transshipment</b> 2009-06 35(a)(ii)	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM indicated its flagged vessels authorized to tranship on the high seas, including by completing the relevant data field in the RFV data.
78	<b>Transshipment</b> 2009-06 35(a)(iii)	R	Where a CCM (or chartering CCM) has indicated that it has authorized its flagged vessels to engage in high seas transshipment and indicated such authorization in its RFV, the Secretariat confirms that it has received the corresponding WCPFC high seas transshipment notification in respect of each CCM-authorized vessel in accordance with Annex III of CMM 2009-06 or WCPFC ER Standards for high seas transshipment.
79	<b>Transshipment</b> 2009-06 35(a)(iv)	R	Where a CCM (or chartering CCM) has indicated that it has authorized its flagged vessels to engage in high seas transshipment and indicated such authorization in its RFV, the Secretariat confirms that it has received the corresponding WCPFC high seas transshipment declaration in respect of each CCM-authorized vessel in accordance with Annex I of CMM 2009-06 or WCPFC ER Standards for high seas transshipment.



#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
80	<b>Transshipment</b> 2009-06 35 (a)(v)	R	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted a plan that details the steps CCM is taking to encourage its vessels to transship in ports in the future.
81	<b>Eastern High Seas Pocket</b> 2016-02 06	L	The Secretariat confirms that none of the vessels for which the CCM is responsible has engaged in transshipment activities in the EHSP.
82	<b>Charters</b> 2019-08 02	R	The Secretariat confirms that notification from a CCM of which vessels are to be identified as operating pursuant to a chartering arrangement with the CCM was received within the required timeframe.
83	<b>Charter Notifications</b> 2019-08 03	R	The Secretariat confirms one of the following for the applicable CCM: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chartering CCM provided complete information of any additional vessel(s) to be identified as operating pursuant to charter arrangement</li> </ol> AND <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Chartering CCM provided complete information in respect of any changes made for a chartered vessel previously notified to the WCPFC ED</li> </ol> AND <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Chartering CCM provided notice of termination of any chartered vessel previously notified to the WCPFC</li> </ol>
84	<b>Charters</b> 2019-08 07	R	The Secretariat confirms that it received a report from the chartering CCM on the catch and effort of vessels notified as operating under charter to the CCM.
85	<b>Tropical Tuna</b> 2021-01 48	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted operational level catch and effort data for all its flagged vessels' fishing activities in EEZs and high seas S20N, for the CMR year, in accordance with the Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data and this measure.
86	<b>Tropical Tuna</b> 2021-01 50	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM provided 1x1 aggregated catch and effort data for its flagged vessels that operate in EEZs and on the high seas N20N AND IF THE CCM WAS REQUESTED,

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
			The Secretariat confirms that CCM cooperated with Scientific Service Provider in concluding a data handling agreement that enabled the CCM to provide its operational level data to the Commission.
<b>Part H: Inspection Activity Related Requirements</b>			
87	<b>Convention Articles 23(5) and 25(2)</b>	R	The Secretariat confirms that CCM provided updates to their case information contained in the Online Compliance Case File System.
88	<b>High Seas Boarding and Inspection</b> 2006-08 30 and 32	R	The Secretariat confirms receipt from the CP, and the CCM of the relevant fishing vessel, that a full report of a high seas boarding and inspection event was submitted in the applicable timeframe. Where a serious violation was observed by the CP, the Secretariat confirms receipt of notification from the CP.
89	<b>High Seas Boarding and Inspection</b> 2006-08 40	R	Secretariat confirms receipt of a report from a Contracting Party on its high seas boarding and inspection activities and where possible violations were observed, the information is clear and accurate and has been shared with the relevant parties.
90	<b>High Seas Boarding and Inspection</b> 2006-08 41	R	Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted updated HSBI-related information on any relevant cases in the Online Compliance Case File System and that the CCM also submitted information in its ARPt2 on any actions taken in response to alleged violations observed during HSBI events, including information on proceedings and sanctions, where applicable.
91	<b>Port State Measures</b> 2017-02 13 and 14	R	The Secretariat confirms through the relevant requesting CCM and the port CCM that a port inspection report was provided, where requested.
92	<b>Port State Measures</b> 2017-02 19 and 21	R	Secretariat confirms that port CCM has submitted details on its point of contact for purposes of CMM 2017-02 and that the port CCM has notified the Secretariat of its relevant measures adopted pursuant to CMM 2017-02 within 30 days of such measures entering into force.

#	CMM/para	Category	AUDIT POINT
<b>Part I: Observer Activity Related Requirements</b>			
93	<b>Tropical Tuna</b> 2021-01 32	R	The Secretariat confirms receipt of a report from the CCM that its flagged purse seine vessels carried an ROP observer where that flagged purse seine vessel was fishing exclusively on the high seas, on the high seas and in waters under national jurisdiction of one or more coastal States, or in waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States.
94	<b>Tropical Tuna</b> 2021-01 Att2 05-06	I	CCM submitted a <i>statement</i> in AR Pt 2 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged vessels to employ a WCPFC Regional Observer while operating in HSP-1 SMA</li> </ul> describes how the CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged vessels are not operating in HSP-1 SMA without a WCPFC Regional Observer, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled

## Audit Points Checklist for Proposed New or Amended Obligations

(“Audit Points Checklist”)

*(To be completed by proponents of new and amended measures. This checklist should not be confused with the “2013-06 Checklist”, which is specific to impacts of new or amended proposals on SIDS.)*

1. To whom does the obligation apply? Set out any proposed exceptions or exclusions.

All CCMs       Flag CCMs       Some CCMs - if so, which CCMs?

2. What is the scope of the new obligations (i.e., does it apply to a particular geographical area, fishery, stock, species of special interest?)

3. Are there existing obligations that should be assessed in combination with any of the proposed new obligations? If so, name the CMM and paragraph(s), or other Commission obligation.

4. Which proposed new obligations will require submission of Reports (R) or Implementation Statements (I), impose Limits (L), or have Deadlines (D)? Please fill out the relevant section(s) for each of the proposed new obligations.

I. **Deadline**

Specify what is required and by what deadline.

II. **Report**

Specify the type of information that is required, including any specific formats or templates to be used, and whether the information must be complete (100%) or a sub-set of information is sufficient to meet the proposed objective.

Is this information already provided wholly or in part through any other data submission requirement, i.e. operational level catch and effort data?

If no, specify the proposed reporting mechanism to be used for submission of new required information (i.e., Annual Report Part 1, Annual Report Part 2, direct to WCPFC Secretariat, other)

Can the information provided be verified through another source? If yes, specify what other data or information source should be used.

### III. Implementation

In addition to the required Implementation Statements, list any additional information required to demonstrate CCM's implementation with the proposed new requirement.

Describe any data or other information that can be reviewed by the WCPFC Secretariat to confirm or verify implementation.

### IV. Quantitative Limit

Specify the proposed CCM-level or Collective limit.

Specify what verifiable data shall be provided by CCM to confirm its adherence to the limit.

Specify what data sources are available to the WCPFC Secretariat to review and confirm CCM's reported limit.

### V. Other

If none of the other categories are appropriate:

Specify the nature of the obligation.

Specify how compliance is to be assessed.

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## Process for considering proposed audit points alongside new proposals

The purpose of the checklist is for proponents of new obligations to identify what they see as being the appropriate criteria or performance standard by which compliance should be assessed against new or amended obligations. This process will assist in identifying data gaps, potential duplication of reporting, and existing measures that might be linked to new or amended obligations.

The process for considering proposed audit points for proposed new obligations is as follows:

**Step 1:** Proponent of the proposed new or amended obligation(s) submits a completed AP Checklist at the same time as the proposed new or amended obligation(s) is submitted.

**Step 2:** Where proposed new or amended obligation(s) undergoes further discussion and negotiation, the AP Checklist remains attached to the proposal and is also considered throughout the iterative process.

**Step 3:** If proposed new or amended obligation(s) reaches the stage of finalization for adoption, the lead CCM on finalizing the proposed new or amended obligation(s) also updates the AP Checklist to reflect the final proposed new or amended obligation(s).

**Step 4:** The proposed audit points for the proposed new or amended obligation(s) are adopted as part of the final proposed new or amended obligation(s) and attached to the final CMM, or in the case of a Commission decision that is not reflected in a CMM, the proposed audit points are posted on the appropriate section of the WCPFC website associated with the decision or outcome.

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**WCPFC19 Endorsed Approach for the process to review aggregate tables in 2023**


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*i. High-level approach for Aggregate Tables Review at TCC19*

May 2023	Reminder to CCMs to complete Annual Report Part 2 and finalise outstanding cases in the OCCFS by the deadline of 12 June [Secretariat]
12 June 2023 (100 days prior to TCC)	Submission of Annual Report Part 2 [All CCMs]
TBC June/July (deadline to be advised by Secretariat based on internal processes)	Finalisation of cases in the OCCFS [Relevant CCMs]
27 July 2023 (55 days prior to TCC)	Provision of dCMR [Secretariat] Provision of aggregate tables (static and dynamic versions) [Secretariat] Notification to relevant CCMs of outstanding (>2yr) cases in the OCCFS and request for provision of para 34(a) and 34(b) reports. [Secretariat]
6 Sept 2023 (two weeks prior to TCC)	Notify Chair of potential anomalies for discussion [All CCMs] Provision of Para 34(a) and 34(b) reports [relevant CCMs]
TCC19	<u>Review of Aggregate Tables (as part of CMR process)</u> <i>Para 34 (outstanding cases &gt;2yr)</i> - Review of provided para 34(a) and para 34(b) reports <i>Para 33 (identification of anomalies)</i> - Review of CCM-nominated anomalies and TCC discussion - Review of static tables <i>Development of recommendations</i> - Outstanding cases – direction to resolve prior to the Commission Regular Session - Anomalies – development of plan to address (CCM) or recommendation to the Commission (Chair)

(note this is predicated on WCPFC19 agreement to the Secretariat's recommendation in WP26 that the submission date for the Annual Report Part 2 continues to be 100 days prior to TCC – if this is not agreed the proposed timing will need to be revised)

*ii. Key work for 2023 to further develop the aggregate tables review process.*

- TCC Chair and Secretariat to lead work on enhanced presentation of aggregate tables, including:
  - Presentation of information on the number of observer reports requested versus number received by CCM drawn from the Online Compliance Case File System request tracking tool alongside the aggregate tables.
  - Enhancements to the dynamic and static versions of the aggregate tables for presentation with the dCMR.
  - Format for reporting against para 34(a) and 34(b) for outstanding (>2yr) cases
- TCC Chair to develop “rules of the road” for the aggregate tables review process (prior to TCC19) to ensure the process is fair and robust.
  - Including specific guidance on addressing single-case situations to avoid assessing vessel-level compliance.
- TCC Chair to work with interested CCMs to further consider the application of compliance statuses in relation to review of the aggregate tables, including:
  - Developing guidance on the review by TCC19 of Article 25(2) cases for inclusion in the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report (prior to TCC19).
  - Review of CMS CMM, for consideration by WCPFC20 (up to and through TCC19 to WCPFC20)

**LIST OF OBLIGATIONS TO BE REVIEWED IN 2023 DRAFT COMPLIANCE  
MONITORING REPORT (COVERING 2022 ACTIVITIES)**

Key: To indicative Risk Rating

Low	Moderate	High	Severe
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Category: RP = Report, IM = Implementation, QL = Limit, DL = Report Deadline

	CMM	Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP
1	Sci Data	SciData 01	Annual Catch Estimates - Flag CCM responsibility	RP	Y
2		SciData 02	Number of Vessels Active - Flag CCM responsibility	RP	Y
3		SciData 03	Operational Level Catch and Effort Data - Flag CCM responsibility	RP	Y
4		SciData 05	Size Composition Data - Flag CCM responsibility	RP	Y
5	Tropical Tuna Measure	2021-01 14	Purse seine 3 month FAD closure (1 July - 30 September).	IM	Y
6		2021-01 15	Annual advice on choice and implementation of two additional month high seas purse seine FAD closure (April-May or Nov-Dec)	IM RP	Y []
7		2021-01 24	Purse seine EEZ limits (for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna) and advice from other coastal CCMs of EEZ limits to be applied	QL	Y
8		2021-01 25	High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S	QL	Y
9		2021-01 37	Bigeye longline annual catch limits for 2021-2023, with adjustment to be made for any overage	QL	Y
10		2021-01 38	Monthly reporting of bigeye longline catches	RP	Y
11		2021-01 40	Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004	QL	Y
12		2021-01 42	Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S	QL	Y
13		2021-01: 44	Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targetting bigeye above the current level (applying domestic quotas are exempt)	QL	Y
14		2021-01: 45	Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targetting bigeye and landing exclusively fresh fish above the current level or above the number of current licenses under established limited entry programmes (applying domestic quotas are exempt)	QL	Y
15		2021-01: Att2 03	Philippines vessels Entry/Exit reports for HSP1-SMA	RP	Y
16		2021-01: Att2 05-06	Specific requirements for deploying observers on Philippines vessels fishing in HSP-1	IM	Y
17	Pacific Bluefin Tuna	2021-02:02	Total effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N	QL	Y
18		2021-02: 03	Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei applying from 2022	QL	Y
19		2021-02: 04	Pacific Bluefin 30kg or larger catch limits, by flag for certain other members	QL	Y
20		2021-02: 08	Reporting of recent fishing effort and catch for Pacific Bluefin and where applicable also report on implementation of paragraph 5 and 6	RP	Y
21		2021-02: 14	Annual report on measures for Pacific Bluefin, including monitoring of international trade	RP	Y
22	SP Albacore	2015-02: 04	Annual report of SP ALB by vessel by species	RP	Y
23	NP Marlin	2010-01: 05	NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011	QL	Y



	CMM	Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP
24	SWP. Marlin	2006-04: 01	Limit number of fishing vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S to 2000 – 2004 levels	QL	Y
25		2006-04: 04	Annual catches of MLS (bycatch), and annual numbers of vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S and their catch levels	RP	Y
26	Swordfish	2009-03: 01	Limit number of vessels fishing for SWO south of 20S to the number in any one year between 2000-2005	QL	Y
27		2009-03: 02	Limit the catch of SWO by its vessels in area south of 20S to the amount in any one year during 2000-2006	QL	Y
28		2009-03: 03	CCMs shall not shift their fishing effort for SWO to the area north of 20°S	IM	Y
29		2009-03: 08	Report annually on total catch and effort for SWO S 20°S	RP	Y
30	RFV	2018-06: 03	CCMs should only allow its fishing vessels to be used for fishing, if properly authorised	IM	Y
31		2018-06: 09	Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting "fished" or "did not fish" for each vessel	RP	Y
32	VMS	2014-02: 09a	Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements	IM	[]
33		2014-02: 09a VMS SSPs 2.8	Provision of ALC/MTU 'VTAF' data	RP	Y
34	Transshipment	2009-06: 11	Annual report on all transshipment activities covered by this Measure (including transshipment activities that occur in ports or EEZs) in accordance with the specified guidelines (Annex II)	RP	Y
35		2009-06: 29	Limit on purse seine vessels transshipment outside of port to vessels that have received an exemption from the Commission. Where applicable, flag CCM authorisation should be vessel-specific and address any specific conditions identified by the Commission.	QL	Y
36		2009-06: 34	Ban on high seas transshipment, unless a CCM has determined impracticability in accordance with para 37 guidelines, and has advised the Commission of such.	QL	Y
37		2009-06:35 (a) (ii)	Flag State's notification to the Secretariat on its flag vessels that are authorised to transship on the high seas	RP	Y
38		2009-06: 35 (a) (iii)	WCPFC Transshipment Advance Notification (including fields in Annex III)	RP	Y
39		2009-06: 35 (a) (iv)	WCPFC Transshipment Declaration (including information in Annex I)	RP	Y
40	Charter Notifications	2019-08: 02	Notification of charter arrangements made to the ED	RP	Y
41		2019-08: 07	Report annually to ED the catch and effort of chartered vessels in the previous year (unless specifically provided in other CMMs)	RP	Y
42	Sea turtles	2018-04: 06	CCMs to require longline vessels to carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to handle and promptly release sea turtles, as well as dip-nets where appropriate	IM	Y
43		2018-04: 07 (a)	Sea Turtle mitigation requirements for shallow-set longline vessels	IM	Y

	CMM	Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP
44		2019-04: 05	Report to describe, where applicable, any alternative measures from those in CMM 2019-04 SHARKS which are applied by CCMs in areas under national jurisdiction (provide in Part 2 Annual Report)	RP	Y
45		2019-04: 07-10	Take measures necessary to require all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized and ensure the prohibition of finning (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) - includes consideration of para 10 request from CCM	IM	Y
46		2019-04: 11	Report annually on shark fins attached/alternative measures	RP DL	Y []
47		2019-04: 12	Take measures necessary to prevent fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping and landing any fins harvested in contravention of CMM 2019-04	IM	Y
48		2019-04: 13	Take measures necessary to ensure carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify	IM	Y
49		2019-04: 14-15	Implement at least one option to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries, and notify choice and whenever the selected option is changed	IM	Y
50	Sharks	2019-04: 16	Develop and report annually on management plans for longline fisheries targeting sharks in Pt 2 Annual Report	IM	Y
51		2019-04: 18	Ensure that sharks that are caught but are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel in order to facilitate species identification (only applicable where observer or EM camera is present, and where safe for crew and observers)	IM	Y
52		2019-04: 20 (01)	Prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing oceanic whitetip & silky sharks	IM	Y
53		2019-04: 20 (02)	Requirement to release oceanic whitetip & silky sharks asap	IM	Y
54		2019-04: 20 (03)	If oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to govt or discarded	IM	Y
55		2019-04: 21 (01-07)	Prohibit purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks	IM	Y
56		2019-04: 21 (04)	Where applicable, describe any alternative measures for whale sharks from CMM 2019-04 21 that are applied by CCMs specifically in EEZs located N30N (provide in Part 2 Annual Report)	RP	Y
57		2019-04: 23	Report annually on implementation of shark CMM (Annex 2 template)	RP DL	Y []
58	Cetaceans	2011-03: 01	Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set	IM	Y
59		2011-03: 02	Requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including incident reporting requirements	IM	Y
60	Mobulids	2019-05: (04-06, 08, 10)	Mobulids: Prohibit retaining/transshipping/landing of mobulid rays	IM	Y



**COMMISSION  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Da Nang City, Vietnam  
28 November to 3 December 2022

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**STANDARDS, SPECIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE WESTERN AND  
CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2022-05<sup>1</sup>**

### **Application**

These SSPs shall apply to the record of fishing vessels established under Article 24(7) of the Convention and further specified in any conservation and management measures adopted in relation to such record.

These SSPs, including any agreed amendments, shall take effect six months after adoption by the WCPFC.

### **The WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels**

1. The WCPFC RFV shall consist of an electronic database that, at a minimum:
  - a. Is capable of depicting the current version of the RFV as a single table, in the structure and format shown in Attachment 1;
  - b. Is fully and readily searchable by public users, with the exception of any data deemed by the WCPFC to be non-public domain data and/or to be maintained only on the secure portion of the WCPFC web site;
  - c. Stores all historical data provided by CCMs and is capable of depicting the RFV as it was at any point in time in the past; and
  - d. Includes electronic photographs of the vessels on the RFV.

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<sup>1</sup> By adoption of this CMM (CMM-2022-05 the Commission rescinds CMM 2014-03 which has been revised and replaced.

## **Responsibilities of CCMs**

It shall be the responsibility of CCMs to:

2. Submit complete vessel record data to the WCPFC Secretariat that meet the structure and format specifications of Attachment 1, and submit vessel photographs that meet the specifications of Attachment 2; and
3. Submit vessel record data to the WCPFC Secretariat via one of the following modes:<sup>2</sup>
  - a. Electronic transmission: Submittal via email or other electronic means of electronic data files that meet the electronic formatting specifications of Attachment 3; or
  - b. Manual transmission: Direct RFV data entry via the web portal maintained by the WCPFC Secretariat for this purpose (Attachment 4).

## **Responsibilities of the WCPFC Secretariat**

It shall be the responsibility of the WCPFC Secretariat to:

4. Maintain and utilize the RFV in a manner consistent with the Convention, the WCPFC's conservation and management measures, and the adopted standards, specifications and procedures relating to the RFV;
5. Provide a stable, reliable, fully maintained and supported RFV, including ensuring adequate redundancy and back-up systems to avoid data loss and provide timely data recovery;
6. Ensure that vessel data, once received from CCMs, are not altered, manipulated, or interfered with in any way, except as necessary to incorporate such data into the RFV in accordance with these SSPs;
7. Design and maintain the RFV so that it is capable of depicting the current RFV in the structure and format specified in Attachment 1;
8. Design and maintain the RFV so that numerical data can be displayed and downloaded using common units of measurement;
9. Ensure that the RFV is continuously publicly available via the WCPFC web site, with the exception of any pieces of information deemed by the WCPFC to be non-public domain data and/or to be maintained only on the secure portion of the WCPFC web site;

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission may consider additional modes of transmission, such as modes involving direct links between the Commission's and CCMs' databases.

10. Develop and maintain the technical and administrative systems needed to receive vessel data from CCMs via any of the following modes:
  - a. Electronic transmission: Submittal via email or other electronic means of electronic data files that meet the electronic format specifications of Attachment 3;
  - b. Manual transmission: Direct manual data entry by a CCM via a web portal that meets the specifications of Attachment 4;
11. Within 24 hours of the next WCPFC official business day following receipt of vessel record data from a CCM, acknowledge receipt of the data and indicate to the CCM whether the data meet the minimum data requirements (i.e., they include data for all the fields with “√” in the “Min.” column in Attachment 1) and structure and format specifications of Attachments 1 and 2 and, if applicable, whether they meet the electronic formatting specifications of Attachment 3;
12. Within 48 hours (for electronic data transmissions) or 24 hours (for manual data transmissions) of the next WCPFC official business day following receipt from a CCM of vessel record data that meet the minimum data requirements (i.e., they include data for all the fields with “√” in the “Min.” column in Attachment 1) and structure and format specifications of Attachments 1 and 2, and, if applicable, the electronic formatting specifications of Attachment 3, incorporate such data into the RFV;<sup>3</sup>
13. Provide for information on vessels’ “fished / did not fish” status for each year, as submitted by CCMs, to be integrated with the RFV insofar as being able to display, search, and analyze the information; and
14. Monitor and report annually to the TCC the performance of the RFV and its application and, as necessary, make recommendations for improvements or modifications to the system, standards, specifications or procedures established to support it, in order to ensure the RFV continues to function as a stable, secure, reliable, cost-effective, efficient, fully maintained and supported system.
15. Periodically recommend improvements to these SSPs, including, where appropriate, standards and codes that are consistent with those used in other international fora, such as the FAO and UN/CEFACT.

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<sup>3</sup> Although vessels with only the minimum required data will be added to and maintained on the RFV, this does not relieve the responsible CCM of its obligations to provide all the data required under the WCPFC’s applicable conservation and management measures. The consequences of failing to provide such data will be specified outside of these SSPs, such as in the WCPFC’s compliance monitoring scheme.

16. Maintains a list of RFV Port Codes for the city (port) of vessel registration, which accommodates vessel record data submitted by CCMs in accordance with these SSPs. RFV Port Codes will be in the format of a two letter ISO3166 country code and four characters, and the list will be determined by the Secretariat based on International standard codes, where available. CCMs can submit request for the Secretariat to issue a new RFV Port Code for a Port of Registry not currently included in the RFV Port Code List maintained by the Secretariat. In response to a CCMs request, the Secretariat will acknowledge receipt and will issue a new RFV Port Code in accordance with the timeframes in paragraph 11 and paragraph 12 of these SSPs. The Secretariat will also ensure that the updated RFV Port Code list is accessible to CCMs through the web portal described in Attachment 4, and from the Secretariat.
17. Review vessel record data received from CCMs and other relevant sources, and as appropriate, advise the submitting CCM of possible errors, possible omissions or possible duplicate records related to the vessel record data submitted by that CCM to the RFV.

**Attachment 1. List of Fields in the WCPFC RFV and their Format and Content**

<b>Min.<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Field name</b>	<b>Field format</b>	<b>Field description/instructions</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Ref. in CMMs</b>
√	Submitted by CCM	Text	Country name – in two-letter ISO code format (ISO 3166; Attachment 7)	HR ( <i>for Croatia</i> )	Implied in CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 5/6
√	Data action code	Text	This field is not for inclusion in the RFV itself, but must be used by CCMs in their data submissions  Enter “ADDITION” for vessels have not been on the RFV that are to be added to the RFV; enter “MODIFICATION” for vessels currently on the RFV the information for which is being modified, including vessels that were previously on the RFV but was deleted (delisted) at some stage by the same CCM (relisted) or different submitting CCM (reflagged); or enter “DELETION” for vessels currently on the RFV that are to be removed from the RFV by the same “Submitted by CCM”	MODIFICATION	(Needed to instruct Secretariat/RFV of the changes to be made)
√	VID	Number (integer)	This number, generated automatically by the RFV upon inclusion of a vessel, must be provided for vessels being deleted or modified. Leave blank if it is an ADDITION; if the vessel is being added to the RFV (i.e., it is not currently on the RFV nor has	10503	(Needed to match vessels)

<sup>4</sup> Fields marked “√” in this column together comprise the “minimum data requirements” for inclusion on the RFV, as described in paragraphs 11 and 12.

Min. <sup>4</sup>	Field name	Field format	Field description/instructions	Example	Ref. in CMMs
			the vessel previously been listed on the RFV).		
√	Name of the fishing vessel	Text	Name of the fishing vessel as indicated on flag State registration, in UPPER CASE	SEA MAPLE II	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(a)
√	Flag of the fishing vessel	Text Enter the country name in two-letter ISO code format (ISO 3166; Attachment 7)	Country name – in two-letter ISO code format (ISO 3166; Attachment 7)	HR ( <i>for Croatia</i> )	Implied in CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 5/6
√	Registration number	Text	Alphanumeric registration identifier assigned by the flag State, as indicated on flag State registration, in UPPER CASE	XX123	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(a)
√	WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	Text	Vessel identifier assigned by flag State in accordance with CMM 2004-03, in UPPER CASE	ABC1234	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(a)
√	Previous names (if known)	Text If multiple previous vessel names, separate entries with “;”	List of previous names of the vessel, in UPPER CASE, if known by the CCM  - If the CCM knows that the vessel has no previous names, enter “NONE”  - If the CCM does not know if the vessel has any previous names, enter “NONE KNOWN”	ALPHA DRAGON  ALPHA DRAGON;SEA MAPLE I	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(a)
√	Port of registry	Text	Enter six-character RFV Port Code for the city (port) of vessel registration, as listed in WCPFC RFV Port Code list maintained by	FJ-SUV JP-004	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(a)



Min. <sup>4</sup>	Field name	Field format	Field description/instructions	Example	Ref. in CMMs
			the WCPFC Secretariat. <sup>5</sup> The format for the RFV Port Code will be: two-letter ISO code format (ISO 3166; Attachment 7), a dash (-) and a three character alphanumeric code as assigned by the Secretariat.		
√	Name of the owner or owners	Text  If multiple owners, separate entries with “;”  If company, enter full name of the company  If personal name, enter last/family name, first/given name(s) (separated by a comma)		Sea Maple LLC  Doe, John;Gomez, Steven	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(b)
√	Address of the owner or owners	Text  Separate components of each address with “;”  If more than one address, separate addresses with “;”		1234 Ebony Ln, Honolulu, HI 12345, USA  1234 Ebony Ln, Honolulu, HI 12345, USA;4321 Ynobe Rd, Honolulu, HI 54321, USA	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(b)
√	Name of the master	Text  Enter last/family name, first/given name(s) (separated by a comma)		Doe, John  Doe, John;Doe, Jill	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(c)

<sup>5</sup> RFV Port Code list will be maintained and published by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 16.

Min. <sup>4</sup>	Field name	Field format	Field description/instructions	Example	Ref. in CMMs
		If multiple masters, separate entries with “;”			
	Nationality of the master	Text  Enter the country name in two-letter ISO code format (ISO 3166; Attachment 7)  If multiple masters, separate entries with “;”	List the nationality of the master of the vessel	HR ( <i>for Croatia</i> )  HR;HR	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(c)
√	Previous flag (if any)	Text  Enter the country name in two-letter ISO code format (ISO 3166; Attachment 7)  If multiple previous flags, separate entries with “;”	List previous flag(s) of the vessel, if any  -If vessel has no previous flags, enter “NONE”  - If the CCM does not know if the vessel has any previous flags, enter “NONE KNOWN”	NONE	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(d)
√	International Radio Call Sign	Text  Enter without any spaces or punctuation	International radio call sign assigned to the vessel, in UPPER CASE without spaces  - If the vessel has not been assigned an IRCS, enter “NONE”	ABC1234	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(e)
√	Vessel communication types and numbers (Inmarsat A, B and C numbers and satellite telephone number)	Text  Enter: communication type: x: number/address: x: service type: x.  If multiple communication devices, separate entries with “;”	- Enter descriptions of each of any communication devices on board the vessel that use Inmarsat A, B or C or that have a satellite telephone number  - If no such communication devices are on board, enter “NONE”	Voice Inmarsat mobile: 123456789: Inmarsat C: satellite telephone number: 123456789	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(f)

Min. <sup>4</sup>	Field name	Field format	Field description/instructions	Example	Ref. in CMMs
√	Colour photograph of the vessel	Text  Enter the name of the electronic data file, using the following format:  [WIN]_[Vessel name]_[date of photograph: dd.mmm.yyyy].[extension] (jpg or tif)	File name of vessel photograph	XXX123_SEA MAPLE_01.Jul.2010.jp g	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(g)
√	Where the vessel was built	Text  Enter the country name in two-letter ISO code format (ISO 3166; Attachment 7)	Country where the vessel was built, as indicated on flag State registration or other appropriate documentation	LT ( <i>for Lithuania</i> )	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(h)
	When the vessel was built	Number (four-digit integer)	Year in which the vessel was built, as indicated on flag State registration or other appropriate documentation	1994	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(h)
√	Type of vessel	Text	- Enter the single most appropriate vessel type listed in the WCPFC List of Vessel Types (Attachment 5), use the abbreviation exactly as written	LLT ( <i>for Tuna longliners</i> )	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(i)
	Normal crew complement	Number (integer)	The number of crew members normally on board the vessel, including officers	6	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(j)
	Type of fishing method or methods	Text  If multiple fishing methods, separate entries with “;”	The type(s) of fishing gear used by the vessel  Enter all the fishing gears listed in the WCPFC List of Fishing Gears that are used, or intended to be used, to harvest HMS (Attachment 6), use the abbreviation exactly as written, or	LLD ( <i>for Drifting longlines</i> )	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(k)

Min. <sup>4</sup>	Field name	Field format	Field description/instructions	Example	Ref. in CMMs
			leave blank if the vessel is not used to harvest fish		
√	Length	Number (decimal)		50	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(l)
√	Type of length	Text	Description of type of length. - If overall length or length overall, enter “OVERALL”; - If registered length , enter “REGISTERED”; - If between perpendiculars, enter “BETWEENPP”; - If waterline length, enter “WATERLINE”	OVERALL WATERLINE REGISTERED BETWEENPP	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(1)
√	Unit of length	Text	Enter “m” for meters or “ft” for feet	m	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(1)
	Moulded depth	Number (decimal)		7	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(m)
	Unit of depth	Text	Enter “m” for meters or “ft” for feet	m	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(m)
√	Beam	Number (decimal)		7	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(n)
√	Unit of beam	Text	Enter “m” for meters or “ft” for feet	m	
√	Gross registered tonnage (GRT) or gross tonnage (GT)	Number (decimal)		138	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(o)
√	Type of tonnage	Text	Enter “GRT” for gross registered tonnage or “GT” for gross tonnage	GT	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(o)
	Power of main engine or engines	Number (decimal)		350	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(p)

<b>Min.<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Field name</b>	<b>Field format</b>	<b>Field description/instructions</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Ref. in CMMs</b>
	Unit of power of main engine or engines	Text	Enter “HP” for horsepower, “KW” for kilowatts, or “PS” for continental horsepower, also known as Pferdestärke	HP	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(p)
	Freezer type(s)	Text  If multiple freezer types, separate entries with “;”	The type(s) of devices used to freeze the catch on board the vessel  Enter one or more of the following: Brine, Blast, Plate, Tunnel, RSW, Ice, Other: [specify type]	Brine  Ice;Blast	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(q)
	Freezing capacity	Text  If multiple freezer types entered in Freezer type(s) field, separate corresponding multiple entries here with “;” and ensure that the entries are in the same sequence as in the Freezer type(s) field	A measure of the capacity to freeze the catch, expressed in terms of the amount of fish frozen per unit time or the nominal freezing capacity of the freezer units  If no freezing capacity, enter “0”	100  2;5  0	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(q)
	Units of freezing capacity	Text  If multiple freezer types entered in Freezer type(s) field, separate corresponding multiple entries here with “;” and ensure that the entries are in the same sequence as in the Freezer type(s) field	If no freezing capacity, enter “NA”	nominal mt  mt/day;mt/day  NA	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(q)

<b>Min.<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Field name</b>	<b>Field format</b>	<b>Field description/instructions</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Ref. in CMMs</b>
	Number of freezer units	Text  If multiple freezer types entered in Freezer type(s) field, separate corresponding multiple entries here with “;” and ensure that the entries are in the same sequence as in the Freezer type(s) field	The number of freezing units on board the vessel (e.g., the number of ice-making machines, brine chillers, or blast freezers)	2  1;2  0	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(q)
	Fish hold capacity	Number (decimal)	The total amount of fish capable of being stored on the vessel, excluding bait and fish kept for crew consumption, measured by either volume or weight	100	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(q)
	Units of fish hold capacity	Text	Enter “CM” for cubic meters or “MT” for metric tonnes	CM	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(q)
	Form of the authorization granted by the flag State	Text	Enter the name or description of the license, permit or authorization, such as the name of the issuing authority  Enter “not applicable” if the vessel is not authorized by its flag State to be used for fishing for HMS beyond areas of national jurisdiction (i.e., not authorized to fish on the high seas)	High seas fishing permit	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(r)
	Authorization number granted by the flag State	Text	Enter the unique identifier assigned to the authorization, if any, and enter “NONE” if the authorization does not have a unique identifier  Enter “not applicable” if the vessel is not authorized by its flag	XX123	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(r)

<b>Min.<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Field name</b>	<b>Field format</b>	<b>Field description/instructions</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Ref. in CMMs</b>
			State to be used for fishing for HMS beyond areas of national jurisdiction		
	Any specific areas in which authorized to fish	Text	<p>Enter a description of any specific areas in the WCPFC Area in which the authorization is limited</p> <p>Enter “No specific areas” if the authorization is not limited to any specific areas within the WCPFC Area</p> <p>Enter “not applicable” if the vessel is not authorized by its flag State to be used for fishing for HMS beyond areas of national jurisdiction</p>	No specific areas	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(r)
	Any specific species for which authorized to fish	Text	<p>Enter a description of any specific HMS for which the authorization is limited</p> <p>Enter “No specific species” if the authorization is not limited to any specific HMS</p> <p>Enter “not applicable” if the vessel is not authorized by its flag State to be used for fishing for HMS beyond areas of national jurisdiction</p>	<p>No specific species</p> <p>All HMS except Pacific bluefin tuna</p>	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(r)
√	Start of period of validity of authorization	Date (dd-mmm-yyyy)	Leave blank if the vessel is not authorized by its flag State to be used for fishing for HMS beyond areas of national jurisdiction	01-Jul-2010	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(r)

<b>Min.<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Field name</b>	<b>Field format</b>	<b>Field description/instructions</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Ref. in CMMs</b>
√	End of period of validity of authorization	Date (dd-mmm-yyyy)	Leave blank if the vessel is not authorized by its flag State to be used for fishing for HMS beyond areas of national jurisdiction	30-Jun-2011	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(r)
	Authorized to tranship on the high seas	Text	Enter “yes” if the responsible CCM has made an affirmative determination under para 37 of CMM 2009-06 and has authorized the vessel to be used for transshipping HMS on the high seas in the Convention Area, and the authorization is currently valid; otherwise, enter “no”	Yes	2009-06: 34
	Purse seine vessel authorized to tranship at sea	Text	Enter “yes” if the vessel is a purse seine vessel that has been granted an exemption by the WCPFC to engage in transshipping at sea in the WCPFC Area and has been authorized to do so by the responsible CCM, and the exemption and authorization are currently valid; enter “no” if the vessel is a purse seine vessel that has not been granted such exemption and authorization; or enter “not applicable” if the vessel is not a purse seine vessel	No	2009-06: 29-30
√	Charter – CCM-flagged vessel	Text	Enter “charter”, “lease” or a descriptor of similar mechanism if paragraph 2 of CMM 2021-04 or its replacement applies to the vessel; otherwise, enter “not applicable”  Note: In the case of vessels to which paragraph 2 of CMM 2021-04 or its replacement applies, the flag CCM is	Charter	CMM 2021-04 or its replacement: 2



Min. <sup>4</sup>	Field name	Field format	Field description/instructions	Example	Ref. in CMMs
			responsible for including the vessel on its record of fishing vessels and submitting the required information to the ED		
√	Charter – non-CCM-flagged carrier or bunker	Text	<p>Enter “charter”, “lease” or a descriptor of similar mechanism if paragraph 41 of CMM 2018-06 or its replacement (carrier or bunker flagged to non-CCM) applies to the vessel; otherwise, enter “not applicable”</p> <p>Note: In the case of vessels to which paragraph 41 of CMM 2018-06 or its replacement applies (carriers and bunkers flagged to non-CCMs), the host CCM is responsible for including the vessel on its record of fishing vessels and submitting the required information to the ED</p>	Charter	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 41
√	Host CCM	Text	If the vessel is under charter, lease or a similar mechanism and paragraph 41 of CMM 2018-06 or its replacement or paragraph 2 of CMM 2021-04 or its replacement applies to it, enter the name of the chartering/host CCM in two-letter ISO code format (ISO 3166; Attachment 7); otherwise, leave blank	AT ( <i>for Austria</i> )	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 41 CMM 2021-04 or its replacement: 2
√	Name of charterer	Text  If multiple charterers, separate entries with “;”	If vessel is under charter, lease or similar mechanism and paragraph 41 of CMM 2018-06 or its replacement or paragraph 2 of CMM 2021-04 or its replacement	Sea Maple LLC  Doe, John;Gomez, Steven	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 41 CMM 2021-04 or its replacement: 2

<b>Min.<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Field name</b>	<b>Field format</b>	<b>Field description/instructions</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Ref. in CMMs</b>
		<p>If company, enter full name of the company</p> <p>If personal name, enter last/family name, first/given name(s) (separated by a comma)</p>	applies to it, enter the name of the charterer; otherwise, leave blank		
√	Address of charterer	<p>Text</p> <p>Separate components of each address with “;”</p> <p>If more than one address, separate addresses with “;”</p>	<p>If vessel is under charter, lease or similar mechanism and paragraph 41 of CMM 2018-06 or its replacement or paragraph 2 of CMM 2021-04 or its replacement applies to it, enter the address of the charterer; otherwise leave blank</p>	<p>1234 Ebony Ln, Honolulu, HI 12345, USA</p> <p>1234 Ebony Ln, Honolulu, HI 12345, USA;4321 Ynobe Rd, Honolulu, HI 54321, USA</p>	<p>CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 41</p> <p>CMM 2021-04 or its replacement: 2</p>
	Start date of charter	Date (dd-mmm-yyyy)	<p>If vessel is under charter, lease or similar mechanism and paragraph 41 of CMM 2018-06 or its replacement or paragraph 2 of CMM 2021-04 or its replacement applies to it, insert the start date of the charter, lease or other mechanism; otherwise, leave blank</p>	30-Jun-2011	<p>CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 41</p> <p>CMM 2021-04 or its replacement: 2</p>
	Expiration date of charter	Date (dd-mmm-yyyy)	<p>If vessel is under charter, lease or similar mechanism and paragraph 41 of CMM 2018-06 or its replacement or paragraph 2 of CMM 2021-04 or its replacement applies to it, insert the date of expiration of the charter, lease or other mechanism; otherwise, leave blank</p>	30-Jun-2016	<p>CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 41</p> <p>CMM 2021-04 or its replacement: 2</p>

Min. <sup>4</sup>	Field name	Field format	Field description/instructions	Example	Ref. in CMMs
	Reason for deletion	Text	<p>This field need not be included in the single-table depiction of the RFV, but must be used by CCMs in their data submissions</p> <p>Enter one of the following:  “Voluntary relinquishment or non-renewal”,  “Withdrawal”,  “No longer entitled to fly flag”,  “Scrapping, decommissioning or loss”,  “Other: [specify reason]”, or  “Not applicable” (if the vessel is not being deleted)</p>	Voluntary relinquishment or non-renewal	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 7(c)
	IMO or LR number	Number (integer)	<p>The IMO ship identification number is made of the three letters “IMO” followed by the seven-digit number assigned to all ships by IHS Fairplay (formerly known as Lloyds Register-Fairplay). Enter the seven-digit number, otherwise should be left blank.</p> <p>From 1 January 2016, this becomes a required field for fishing vessels authorized to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM’s area of national jurisdiction and that are at least 100 GT or 100 GRT in size (CMM 2018-06 or its replacement footnote 4)</p>	1234567	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement 6(s)

## **Attachment 2. Vessel Photograph Specifications**

The photographs submitted to the WCPFC Secretariat for vessels on the RFV must meet all the specifications listed below. If the appearance of the vessel materially changes after a submission of a photograph (including, but not limited to, the vessel is painted another color, the vessel is renamed, or the vessel undergoes a structural modification) or if the photograph becomes more than five years old, a new photograph must be submitted.

The photograph must:<sup>6</sup>

1. be in full color
2. show the vessel in its current form and appearance
3. show a stem-to-stern side view of the vessel
4. clearly and legibly display the vessel name and WIN
5. be no older than five years
6. be in the form of a single electronic file with the following attributes:
  - a. in jpg or tiff file format;
  - b. a resolution of at least 150 pixels per inch at a size of 6 by 8 inches;
  - c. a size no greater than 500 kilobytes (kB); and
  - d. named using the following naming convention: [WIN]\_[vessel name]\_[date of photograph (dd.mmm.yyyy)].jpg/tif (e.g., XXX123\_SEA MAPLE\_01.Jul.2010.jpg).

## **Attachment 3. Electronic Formatting Specifications**

These specifications describe the electronic files that CCMs must provide if they choose to submit information via the electronic transmission mode (paragraph 3.a).

### **A) File type**

The information must be provided in Microsoft Excel format.

### **B) File content**

The RFV update file must contain only the vessels to be added to or deleted from the RFV, or whose details are being updated (i.e., the file must not include vessels for which no changes are being made). The type of change required for a particular vessel must be indicated by the “Data Action Code” (text) field, which must consist of one of the following values:

“ADDITION” (for a vessel that has not been on the RFV (active or previously delisted), to be added to the RFV),

“MODIFICATION” (for a vessel that: i) is currently on the RFV and which is to be modified by the current submitted by CCM, and to remain on the RFV; or ii) has previously been on the RFV but was deleted (delisted) at some stage, and which is to be modified by the current submitted by CCM (relisted) or a different submitted by CCM (reflagged),), or

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<sup>6</sup> These photograph specifications, with the exception of items 1 and 6.d, do not have to be met until 1 January 2017.

“DELETION” (for a vessel to be removed from the RFV by the same submitted by CCM). For a MODIFICATION, all the minimum data requirement fields for the vessel must be completed in the record so that the fields to be updated can be clearly identified. For an ADDITION, all minimum data requirement fields with the exception of the VID must be completed. For a DELETION, at a minimum, the following fields must be completed in the record: VID, name of the fishing vessel, flag of the fishing vessel, registration number, WCPFC Identification Number, and reason for deletion.

### **C) File structure**

Each record in the electronic file represents a single vessel. Each record must have the structure specified in Attachment 1, including the same sequence of fields.

Sample MS Excel files with the proper formats are available to download from the WCPFC RFV Web Portal.

### **Attachment 4. Web Portal Specifications**

These specifications provide details on the web portal interface that the WCPFC Secretariat will maintain to support CCMs’ submission of information via the manual transmission mode (paragraph 3.b).

The WCPFC Secretariat will provide a web portal interface for authorised RFV personnel of CCMs to directly enter and provide updates to RFV data for their vessels, and where applicable chartered vessels. Access to the web portal will be secure, and will require authorised RFV personnel to log in using their WCPFC website user name and password.

The web portal will be accessed from a link prominently displayed on the public WCPFC website.

This web portal will be designed to meet the standards and specifications of Attachment 1 and the SSPs, and where data relate to a specific list of alternative categories that is determined by the WCPFC Secretariat, this will be provided where possible as a drop-down menu option. In other instances, the option of numerical entries or text entries will be possible. There will be a capability for photos to be uploaded and updated.

After submission of a change or entry to the RFV via the web portal, each change or entry will be checked for consistency with the SSPs before being incorporated into the RFV. The CCM user will be notified as to whether a given entry or change was incorporated into the RFV, and if not, the nature of the problem.

**Attachment 5. WCPFC List of Vessel Types (based on the FAO ISSCFV)**

<b>Vessel Types</b>	<b>Abbreviation to be used</b>
Trawlers	TO
Side trawlers	TS
Side trawlers wet-fish	TSW
Side trawlers freezer	TSF
Stern trawlers	TT
Stern trawlers wet-fish	TTW
Stern trawlers factory	TTP
Outrigger trawlers	TU
Trawler nei	TOX
Seiners	SO
Purse seiners	SP
North American type	SPA
European type	SPE
Tuna purse seiners	SPT
Seiner netters	SN
Seiner nei	SOX
Dredgers	DO
Using boat dredge	DB
Using mechanical dredge	DM
Dredgers nei	DOX
Lift netters	NO
Using boat operated net	NB
Lift netters net	BOX
Gillnetters	GO
Trap setters	WO
Pot vessels	WOP
Trap setters nei	WOX
Liners	LO
Handliners	LH
Longliners	LL
Tuna longliners	LLT
Factory longliner	LLF
Freezer longliner	LLZ
Pole and line vessels	LP
Japanese type	LPJ
American type	LPA
Trollers	LT
Liners nei	LOX
Squid jigging line vessel	JIG
Vessels using pumps for fishing	PO
Multipurpose vessels	MO

Seiner-handliners	MSN
Trawler-purse seiners	MTS
Trawler-drifters	MTG
Multipurpose vessels nei	MOX
Recreational fishing vessels	RO
Fishing vessels not specified	FX
Motherships	HO
Salted-fish Motherships	HSS
Factory Motherships	HSF
Tuna Motherships	HST
Motherships for two-boat purse seining	HSP
Motherships nei	HOX
Fish carriers	FO
Hospital ships	KO
Protection and survey vessels	BO
Fishery research vessels	ZO
Fishery training vessels	CO
Non-fishing vessels nei	VOX
Bunker vessels	VOB
Harpoon	HA

**Attachment 6. WCPFC List of Fishing Gears (based on the FAO ISSCFG)**

<b>Fishing Gears</b>	<b>Abbreviation to be used</b>
With purse lines (purse seine)	PS
- one boat operated purse seines	PS1
- two boat operated purse seines	PS2
Without purse lines (lampara)	LA
Beach seines	SB
Boat or vessel seines	SV
- Danish seines	SDN
- Scottish seines	SSC
- Pair seines	SPR
Seine nets (not specified)	SX
Portable lift nets	LNP
Boat-operated lift nets	LNB
Shore-operated stationary lift nets	LNS
Lift nets (not specified)	LN
Set gillnets (anchored)	GNS
Driftnets	GND
Encircling gillnets	GNC
Fixed gillnets (on stakes)	GNF
Trammel nets	GTR
Combined gillnets-trammel nets	GTN
Gillnets and entangling nets (not specified)	GEN
Gillnets (not specified)	GN
Handlines and pole-lines (hand operated)	LHP
Handlines and pole-lines (mechanized)	LHM
Set longlines	LLS
Drifting longlines	LLD
Longlines (not specified)	LL
Trolling lines	LTL
Hooks and lines (not specified)	LX
Harpoons	HAR
Miscellaneous gear	MIS
Recreational fishing gear	RG



**Attachment 7. Country Codes (ISO 3166)**

Country Name	Code
Afghanistan	AF
Albania	AL
Algeria	DZ
American Samoa	AS
Andorra	AD
Angola	AO
Anguilla	AI
Antarctica	AQ
Antigua and Barbuda	AG
Argentina	AR
Armenia	AM
Aruba	AW
Australia	AU
Austria	AT
Azerbaijan	AZ
Bahamas	BS
Bahrain	BH
Bangladesh	BD
Barbados	BB
Belarus	BY
Belgium	BE
Belize	BZ
Benin	BJ
Bermuda	BM
Bhutan	BT
Bolivia	BO
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA
Botswana	BW
Bouvet Island	BV
Brazil	BR
British Indian Ocean Territory	IO
Brunei Darussalam	BN
Bulgaria	BG
Burkina Faso	BF
Burundi	BI
Cambodia	KH
Cameroon	CM
Canada	CA

Country Name	Code
Cape Verde	CV
Cayman Islands	KY
Central African Republic	CF
Chad	TD
Chile	CL
China	CN
Christmas Island	CX
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	CC
Colombia	CO
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	MP
Comoros	KM
Congo	CG
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	CD
Cook Islands	CK
Costa Rica	CR
Cote D'ivoire	CI
Croatia	HR
Cuba	CU
Cyprus	CY
Czech Republic	CZ
Denmark	DK
Djibouti	DJ
Dominica	DM
Dominican Republic	DO
East Timor	TP
Ecuador	EC
Egypt	EG
El Salvador	SV
Equatorial Guinea	GQ
Eritrea	ER
Estonia	EE
Ethiopia	ET
European Union	EU
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	FK
Faroe Islands	FO
Federated States of Micronesia	FM
Fiji	FJ
Finland	FI

Country Name	Code
France	FR
French Guiana	GF
French Polynesia	PF
French Southern Territories	TF
Gabon	GA
Gambia	GM
Georgia	GE
Germany	DE
Ghana	GH
Gibraltar	GI
Greece	GR
Greenland	GL
Grenada	GD
Guadeloupe	GP
Guam	GU
Guatemala	GT
Guinea	GN
Guinea-Bissau	GW
Guyana	GY
Haiti	HT
Heard and Mc Donald Islands	HM
Honduras	HN
Hong Kong	HK
Hungary	HU
Iceland	IS
India	IN
Indonesia	ID
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	IR
Iraq	IQ
Ireland	IE
Israel	IL
Italy	IT
Jamaica	JM
Japan	JP
Jordan	JO
Kazakhstan	KZ
Kenya	KE
Kiribati	KI
Korea (Democratic Republic of)	KP
Korea (Republic of)	KR

Country Name	Code
Kuwait	KW
Kyrgyzstan	KG
Lao People's Democratic Republic	LA
Latvia	LV
Lebanon	LB
Lesotho	LS
Liberia	LR
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	LY
Liechtenstein	LI
Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	LU
Macau	MO
Macedonia (the Former Yugoslav Republic of)	MK
Madagascar	MG
Malawi	MW
Malaysia	MY
Maldives	MV
Mali	ML
Malta	MT
Marshall Islands	MH
Martinique	MQ
Mauritania	MR
Mauritius	MU
Mayotte	YT
Mexico	MX
Moldova (Republic of)	MD
Monaco	MC
Mongolia	MN
Montserrat	MS
Morocco	MA
Mozambique	MZ
Myanmar	MM
Namibia	NA
Nauru	NR
Nepal	NP
Netherlands	NL
Netherlands Antilles	AN
New Caledonia	NC
New Zealand	NZ
Nicaragua	NI

Country Name	Code
Niger	NE
Nigeria	NG
Niue	NU
Norfolk Island	NF
Norway	NO
Oman	OM
Pakistan	PK
Palau	PW
Panama	PA
Papua New Guinea	PG
Paraguay	PY
Peru	PE
Philippines	PH
Pitcairn	PN
Poland	PL
Portugal	PT
Puerto Rico	PR
Qatar	QA
Reunion	RE
Romania	RO
Russian Federation	RU
Rwanda	RW
Saint Kitts And Nevis	KN
Saint Lucia	LC
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VC
Samoa	WS
San Marino	SM
Sao Tome and Principe	ST
Saudi Arabia	SA
Senegal	SN
Serbia	RS
Seychelles	SC
Sierra Leone	SL
Singapore	SG
Slovakia (Slovak Republic)	SK
Slovenia	SI
Solomon Islands	SB
Somalia	SO
South Africa	ZA
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	GS

Country Name	Code
Spain	ES
Sri Lanka	LK
St. Helena	SH
St. Pierre and Miquelon	PM
Sudan	SD
Suriname	SR
Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	SJ
Swaziland	SZ
Sweden	SE
Switzerland	CH
Syrian Arab Republic	SY
Chinese Taipei	TW
Tajikistan	TJ
Tanzania (United Republic of)	TZ
Thailand	TH
Timor-Leste	TL
Togo	TG
Tokelau	TK
Tonga	TO
Trinidad and Tobago	TT
Tunisia	TN
Turkey	TR
Turkmenistan	TM
Turks and Caicos Islands	TC
Tuvalu	TV
Uganda	UG
Ukraine	UA
United Arab Emirates	AE
United Kingdom	GB
United States Minor Outlying Islands	UM
United States of America	US
Uruguay	UY
Uzbekistan	UZ
Vanuatu	VU
Vatican City State (Holy See)	VA
Venezuela	VE
Vietnam	VN
Virgin Islands (British)	VG
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	VI
Wallis and Futuna	WF

Country Name	Code
Western Sahara	EH
Yemen	YE
Zaire	ZR

Country Name	Code
Zambia	ZM
Zimbabwe	ZW



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**TCC WORK PLAN 2022 - 2024<sup>1</sup>**

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**1. TCC Priority core business tasks (standing Agenda Items)**

- a. Monitor and review compliance with conservation and management measures and other obligations stemming from the Convention.
- b. Assessment of IUU fishing vessel nominations and review of fishing vessels currently on the IUU list
- c. Review of Cooperating Non-Member applications.
- d. Monitor obligations relating to Small Island Developing States and territories.
- e. Review the implementation of cooperative measures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary.
- f. Review Annual report(s) of the WCPFC Secretariat, which should address relevant technical and compliance issues, which may include HSBI, ROP, VMS, RFV, Data Rules, transshipment, port State measures, and note the Executive Director's report on these matters, the Secretariats anticipated forecast of work commitments for TCC, and other issues as appropriate.
- g. Provide technical and compliance-related advice to support the development of harvest strategies, including consideration of the implications of harvest control rules.
- h. Review the ongoing work of the Intersessional Working Groups (IWG) noted in Section 3.
- i. Review information about technical and compliance matters arising under existing CMMs.
- j. Make technical and compliance related comments on proposed CMMs.

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<sup>1</sup> As updated at WCPFC19 (December 2022)

## 2. TCC Priority project specific tasks

Priority	2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
<b>Article 14(1)(a) Priority tasks with respect to the provision of information, technical advice and recommendations</b>				
<b>a) Support building the capacity of SIDS, which may include:</b> <i>i. implement observer programs, including training and data management</i> <i>ii. develop and implement MCS information management system (IMS) at a national level</i> <i>iii. improve bycatch reporting</i> <i>iv. set up a system or process for reports on transshipment activities and MTU inspections</i> <i>v. implement minimum standards for Port State measures</i>				Annual TCC Task.  Website to track Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention is available at: <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/implementation-article-30-convention">https://www.wcpfc.int/implementation-article-30-convention</a>
<b>b) Review information about scientific data provision [TCC task]</b>				Annual TCC task. Report reviewed annually.
<b>c) Analyze framework for the management and control of chartered vessels to promote compliance with CMMs, clarify flag and chartering CCM's control of chartered vessels, and clarify attribution of catch and effort [TCC task]</b>			Provide advice on any necessary modifications to CMM 2021-04	CMM 2021-04, Conservation and Management Measure for Charter Notification Scheme, shall expire on 28 February 2025 unless renewed by the Commission (CMM 2021-04, para. 8)
<b>d) Develop information and advice to promote compliance with the south Pacific albacore CMM (2015-02 and successor measures) and improve its effectiveness, including providing technical and compliance advice for the development and implementation of the south Pacific albacore roadmap [TCC task]</b>	Provide advice on relevant analyses to inform the work of the SPA IWG	Provide advice on key components of a new south Pacific albacore CMM		The most recent meeting of the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Working Group was held in June 2021. All papers are available on the meeting page <a href="#">here</a> .

Priority	2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
<i>e) Development and implementation of Commission measures for crew safety [TCC task]</i>	Provide advice on intersessional work to improve crew safety, including advice on the development of a draft conservation and management measure	Provide advice on draft conservation and management measure		<p>At WCPFC17, “The Commission agreed to intersessional work to be led by Co-Leads Indonesia and an FFA Member through various means to promote discussion among members and enable the sharing of information, with initial discussion points to be developed in consultation with the Commission Chair and the Secretariat.” (WCPFC17 Summary Report, para. 322).</p> <p>The Co-Leads submitted a draft CMM, which is being developed intersessionally, for initial review by TCC17 – <a href="#">TCC17-2021-DP05</a>.</p>
<b>Article 14(1)(b) Priority tasks with respect to the monitoring and review of compliance</b>				
<i>f) Review progress of the work included in the multi-year workplan of tasks to enhance the Compliance Monitoring Scheme</i>				Work is being undertaken by the CMS IWG. All documents relevant to the progress of the CMS IWG are available at: <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/cms-iwg_2020">https://www.wcpfc.int/cms-iwg_2020</a>
<i>i. Develop audit points to clarify the assessment of existing Commission obligations under the CMS [TCC task]</i>	Consider work undertaken by the CMS IWG in the development of audit points	Incorporate audit points into review of the dCMR (trial). Provide advice on adoption of audit points		Work is being led by Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian (RMI). Considering how to progress this work in 2021 and beyond. All associated documents are available on the CMS IWG webpage at: <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/cms-iwg_2020">https://www.wcpfc.int/cms-iwg_2020</a>

Priority		2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
ii.	<p><i>Explore investment and technology solutions to facilitate improvements to the compliance case file system [CCMs, Secretariat task] \$</i></p>	<p>Secretariat to complete delivery of WCPFC17 tasks enhance CCFS to make it easier to use.</p> <p>CCMs to trial CCFS messaging tool to track observer requests</p> <p>Implement further refinements to CCFS (for CMM 17-04 Marine Pollution, enhance Article 25(2) and bycatch interactions</p> <p>Implement refinements to aggregate summary tables (based on TCC17 recommendations)</p> <p>(Budget: \$??)</p>	<p>Secretariat to complete delivery on feasible CCM proposals for refinements to the CCFS</p>		<p><a href="#">TCC17-2021-12</a> - Secretariat paper on Update on enhancements to the WCPFC online CCFS provides additional details on proposed activities for 2022</p>



Priority		2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
iii.	<i>Develop a risk-based assessment framework to inform compliance assessments and ensure obligations are meeting the objectives of the Commission [TCC task]</i>	Consider the effectiveness of the 2022 list of obligations (covering 2021 activities) developed through a trial of RBAF, any improvements on the RBAF and the approach for 2023	Provide recommendations regarding the adoption of a risk-based assessment approach, taking into account the development of audit points		Work is being led by Ms. Heather Ward (New Zealand). Draft outline of a possible approach to a risk-based assessment framework was circulated for comment in July 2021. Comments were incorporated and a further Discussion Document and Risk Rating Template were circulated for discussion at TCC17 in September 2021 ( <a href="#">TCC17-2021-13B</a> ). All associated documents are available on the CMS IWG webpage at: <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/cms-iwg_2020">https://www.wcpfc.int/cms-iwg_2020</a>
iv.	<i>Develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivize CCM's compliance with the Commission's obligations, where non-compliance is identified [TCC task]</i>	Nominate lead; begin work through the CMS IWG on the development of corrective actions	Provide advice on corrective actions developed by the CMS IWG	Incorporate corrective actions into review of the dCMR (trial). Provide advice on adoption of corrective actions	
v.	<i>Develop guidelines for participation of observers in closed meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies which consider the Compliance Monitoring Report [TCC task]</i>	[Nominate lead; begin work on the development of an approach to allow participation of observers in review of the dCMR	Admission of observers to dCMR (trial). Provide advice on approach to allow participation of observers	Further review and modify approach as necessary.]	Square bracketed until Members are prepared to consider the issue of observer participation
<i>g) Provide advice on CMMs that need revision to improve compliance and monitoring, including those for which interpretation issues have been identified through the CMS process [TCC task]</i>					Annual task. Recommendations to be included in the Provisional and Final CMR adopted by the Commission each year.

Priority	2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
<p><i>h) Respond to capacity assistance needs identified through the CMS process, including through annual consideration of implementation plans[TCC task, Secretariat task]</i></p>				<p>Annual task. Secretariat report reviewed annually by TCC.</p>
<p><i>i) Continued development of the Commission’s Information Management System (IMS) to support implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme with the aim of making it more efficient and effective by streamlining processes. [TCC task, Secretariat task] \$</i></p>	<p>Delivery of a new CCFS system that meets minimum requirements of the current CCFS in Jan 2022</p> <p>Implement any changes to CMR online system considering new CMM on CMS (as adopted at WCPFC18)</p> <p>Support to the risk-based assessment framework trial</p> <p>Enhance Secretariat analytical capability and associated integrated-IMS tools to support the CMS (Budget: \$??)</p>	<p>AR Pt 2 and CMR upgrade (IT-related system consolidation)</p> <p>Enhance Secretariat analytical capability and associated integrated-IMS tools to support the CMS</p> <p>(Budget: \$??)</p>		<p><a href="#">TCC17-2021-17</a> - Secretariat paper on anticipated forecast of Secretariat work commitments for TCC (in progress) provides additional details on priority activities for 2022/23</p>

Priority	2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
<p><i>j) Review and provide advice improvements to the ROP data fields, including those in ROP pre-notifications, to allow for more useful consideration in the compliance case file system and compliance review process [TCC task with assistance from Secretariat]</i></p>	<p>Review and provide advice on improvements to the ROP minimum standard data fields for whale sharks and cetaceans – to allow for a distinction between an interaction and a possible infraction in the compliance case file system</p>	<p>Consider improvements to the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary data fields, which trigger pre-notifications, to better align with the Commission’s priorities in terms of compliance</p> <p>Review and provide advice on improvements to the ROP minimum standard data fields for sea turtles and seabirds to allow for use of ROP data in the compliance case file system, taking into account overall workloads of observers</p>		

Priority	2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
<b>Article 14(1)(c) Priority tasks with respects to implementation of cooperative MCS &amp; E</b>				
<i>k) Further develop port-based initiatives as part of the suite of MCS tools and a summary of port state measures undertaken by members [TCC task]</i>		Provide advice on any necessary modifications to CMM 2017-02		CMM 2017-02, Conservation and Management Measure on minimum standards for Port State Measures, requires that, “ <i>The Commission shall review this measure within 2years of its entry in to force, which shall include but not be limited to an evaluation of its effectiveness, and any financial and administrative burdens associated with its implementation.</i> ” (CMM 2017-02, para. 28)
<i>l) Development, improvement and implementation of the Commission’s measures for observer safety and related issues [TCC task]</i>				
<i>m) Enhance how CCM’s and Secretariat’s practices integrate to facilitate ongoing monitoring and compliance with CMM 2014-02 (VMS) [TCC task with assistance from Secretariat] \$</i>	Provide advice on future work to enable direct/simultaneous VMS reporting by vessels/ALCs reporting to the WCPFC VMS.	Provide recommendations on ‘VMS best practices’ to minimise data gaps from VMS failures		Future work tasks were recommended by the VMS SWG in their report to TCC17 – <a href="#">TCC17-2021-15A</a> . All documents relevant to the progress of the VMS SWG are available at: <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/2020_vms-swg">https://www.wcpfc.int/2020_vms-swg</a>
<i>n) Develop improved mechanisms for the flow of observer information from ROP Providers to CCMs needing such information for their investigations [TCC task]</i>	Review and provide advice on CCFS improvements to track observer report requests and responses			Work is being undertaken by the TCC Observer IWG led by the USA). Most recent recommendations of the IWG are available in the <a href="#">WCPFC17 Summary Report</a> (paragraphs 314-318)

Priority	2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
<p><i>o) Continued development of the Commission's Information Management System (IMS) to support MCS activities, including exploration of IMS data submission and extraction tools. [TCC task, Secretariat task] \$</i></p>	<p>RFV upgrade (IT-related system consolidation) – including consideration of the integration of a FLUX protocol to support that work</p> <p>Develop automated extraction and provision IT tools to support the parameters of common data requests to support MCS activities.</p> <p>Enhance Secretariat analytical capability and associated integrated-IMS tools to support MCS activities</p> <p>(Budget: \$??)</p>	<p>Enhance Secretariat analytical capability and associated integrated-IMS tools to support MCS activities</p>		<p><a href="#">TCC17-2021-17</a> - Secretariat paper on anticipated forecast of Secretariat work commitments for TCC (in progress) will provide additional details on priority activities for 2022</p>

Priority	2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:	
<i>p) Continued development of training resources and learning aids for the IMS [Secretariat task] \$?</i>		Secretariat to explore online training videos as a cost effective way to provide training to CCMs on IMS		The ' <a href="#">WCPFC Helpdesk</a> ', created late 2020, provides brief reference information for members. These are very short guides with new topics progressively being added as resources permit.	
<i>q) Review and consider updates to improve the effectiveness of CMMs related to transshipment at sea and compliance with their provisions</i>					
<i>i.</i>	<i>Review transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06) [TCC task]</i>	Consider and provide advice on TS-IWG draft recommendations to the Commission stemming from the Completed Transshipment Information Analysis and on progress related to other priorities in the Terms of Reference.	Consider and provide advice on TS-IWG draft recommendations to the Commission related to strengthening the transshipment measure.		Work is being undertaken by the TS IWG (led by USA & Vanuatu). Scope of Work for the Transshipment Information Analysis in Support of the Review of CMM 2009-06 agreed in March 2021. All documents relevant to the progress of the TS IWG are available at: <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/iwg-transshipment">https://www.wcpfc.int/iwg-transshipment</a>
<i>ii.</i>	<i>Further development of protocols, observer data fields/forms including electronic data fields and databases, as needed, to better monitor transshipments at sea, [TCC task, Secretariat task] \$</i>				

Priority	2022	2023	2024	Updates/Progress:
<p><i>r) Development and implementation of Commission measures for Electronic Reporting &amp; Electronic Monitoring [TCC task]</i></p>	<p>Consider and provide advice on outputs from the ER and EM Working Group, including those related to existing obligations, data gaps and the prioritization of ER and EM and draft minimum standards for electronic monitoring</p>	<p>Consider and provide advice on outputs from the ER and EM Working Group, including a draft E-Monitoring CMM</p>		<p>Work is being undertaken by the ER &amp; EM IWG (led by Australia). All documents relevant to the progress of the ER&amp;EM IWG are available at:  <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/ERandEM-IWG">https://www.wcpfc.int/ERandEM-IWG</a></p>

## Commission & TCC Intersessional working groups

**IWG-ROP:** Review ROP (Current Chair: Harold Villia – Solomon Islands; work ongoing)

**FAD Management Options IWG:** Review and develop FAD measures (Current Chair: Jamel James – FSM; work ongoing)

**CDS IWG:** Develop and implement a Catch Documentation Scheme for WCPFC species (Current Chair: vacant; no current tasking).

**EM and ER IWG:** Continue the development of standards, specifications and procedures for e-technologies (Current Chair: vacant; work ongoing).

**CMS IWG:** Work to progress the CMS future work included in Section IX of CMM 2019-06 (work ongoing)

**TCC Observer WG:** Develop improved process for CCMs to obtain copies of observer reports for their vessels in a timely manner, explore ways to facilitate access to observer reports from both ROP Providers and the Secretariat, and recommend possible improvements to the ROP CMM, Agreed Minimum Standards and Guidelines of the ROP, and other Commission decisions (Current Chair: vacant; work ongoing).

**TS IWG:** Review CMM 2009-06 through analysis of transshipment data, and identify provisions that should be updated to address current practices (Current Co-Chairs: Felix Ngwango – Vanuatu & Alex Kahl – USA; work ongoing).

**VMS SWG:** to address the VMS Gap and improve the number of vessels reporting to the Commission VMS (Current Co-Chairs: Terry Boone – USA & Viv Fernandes – Australia; no current tasking).

**SPA Roadmap IWG:** work to develop the Roadmap for Effective Conservation and Management of South Pacific Albacore (Current Chair: Neomai Ravitu – Fiji; work ongoing)





**COMMISSION  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Da Nang City, Vietnam  
28 November to 3 December 2022

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON  
DAILY CATCH AND EFFORT REPORTING**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2022-06<sup>1</sup>**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stock in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

*Concerned* that full and accurate data from fishing vessels is required to inform stock assessment and other scientific evaluation;

*Noting* that operational level catch and effort data provides significant value to scientific assessment;

*Noting* that members of the Pacific Community cooperate to ensure consistent reporting frameworks for vessels licensed to fishing in their EEZs through a regional log sheet (“SPC/FFA/PNAO Regional logsheet”) that is amended from time to time to ensure consistency with all current requirements of the WCPFC “Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission”;

*Further noting* the requirements in Article 8 of the Convention for the Commission to take measures for high seas fisheries that are compatible with those that apply in EEZs;

*Desiring to ensure consistent levels of reporting and usefulness of data for all vessels fishing in the Convention Area;*

Adopts in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention:

1. Each CCM shall ensure that the master of each vessel flying its flag in the Convention Area shall complete an accurate electronic log of every day that it spends on the high seas of the Convention Area,

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<sup>1</sup> This measure replaces CMM 2013-05 and will come into effect on 1 January 2024

- including trips that include fishing in an EEZ under bilateral arrangements as well as high seas in one trip, as follows<sup>2 3</sup>:
- i. for days with fishing operations, the log must be completed by recording the effort and catch at the end of each fishing operation (i.e. end of a purse-seine set, end of a longline -haul, or at the end of the day in the case of all other fishing methods); or
  - ii. for days with no fishing operations but where any other “fishing effort<sup>4</sup>” occurred, then the relevant activities (e.g. “SEARCHING”, “DEPLOY/RETRIEVE FAD”) must be entered in the log at the end of the day; or
  - iii. for days with no fishing operations and no other ‘fishing effort<sup>4</sup>’, the main activity of the day must be entered in the log at the end of the day.
2. Information recorded for each day with fishing operations shall, at a minimum, include the following:
    - i. The information specified in sections 1.3 to 1.6 of ANNEX 1 of the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission;
    - ii. Catch information about other species not listed in those sections, but required to be reported by CCMs under other Commission decisions such as, inter alia, key shark species according to FAO species codes.
    - iii. Interaction information about other species not listed in those sections, but required to be reported by CCMs under other Commission decisions such as, inter alia, cetaceans, seabirds and sea turtles.
  3. Each CCM shall require the master of each vessel referred to in paragraph 1 to provide the required information (as set out in paragraph 2) electronically to its national authority or its designated institution within 15 days:
    - i. of the end of a trip; and
    - ii. where applicable, of the end of every transshipment event at sea
  4. Each CCM shall submit to the Commission the required information electronically (as set out in paragraph 2) by April 30 of the following year as required by Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission, and where possible in accordance with the agreed *Standards, Specifications and Procedures for Electronic Reporting in the WCPFC – operational catch and effort data*
  5. Each CCM shall require the master of each vessel flying its flag in the Convention Area to keep an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip.
  6. Non-compliance with this measure shall be considered in accordance with CMM 2019-07 or its successor.
  7. This CMM is without prejudice to existing or additional reporting requirements.

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<sup>2</sup> Fishing vessels less than 24 meters in length may keep a daily written log until 1 January 2026, by which time they shall keep a daily electronic log. Troll vessels targeting albacore may keep a daily written log until 1 January 2025, by which time they shall keep a daily electronic log.

<sup>3</sup> Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 3, a fishing vessel shall keep a daily written log if its electronic log is malfunctioning.

<sup>4</sup> According to Article 1(d) of the Convention



**COMMISSION  
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28 November to 3 December 2022

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**MINIMUM DATA FIELDS FOR OBSERVER TRANSHIPMENT MONITORING**

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Minimum data fields for Observer transshipment monitoring, based on the data fields in forms FC-1 and FC-2

<b>TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVER TRIP</b>			
Represents period when an observer embarks on a carrier vessel to the point of disembarkation. Equivalent to the Form FC-1 (Fish Carrier General Vessel Description). There will be one or many transshipment observations during a transshipment observer trip.			
FIELD	Description	Mandatory ?	Notes on relevant ROP and other WCPFC data linkages
OBSERVER TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be OBSERVER NAME + CARRIER VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE
OBS_NAME	Observer NAME.	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
OBSPRG_CODE	OBSERVER SERVICE PROVIDERS identification- National or sub-regional observer programmes	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
OBS_CODE	An observer CODE will be provided in this field. In these cases, the code will be unique and link to a reference table which will include Observer Name, Nationality of observer, Observer provider, etc.	<b>YES</b>	Will provide link to Observer Nationality which is a WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field
OBSERVER TRIPNO	Unique TRIPNO for each observer in a given year.	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
OBSERVER DATE and TIME OF EMBARKATION	DATE/TIME the observer leaves the port (departs or embarks) to start their observer trip. If embarking at sea, this will be different from the DATE/TIME of Vessel departure from port.	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
OBSERVER DATE AND TIME OF DISEMBARKATION	DATE/TIME the observer disembarks from the vessel to end the observer trip. If disembarking at sea, this will be different from the DATE/TIME of Vessel return to port.	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
CARRIER VESSEL IDENTIFIER	Name of the <u>carrier vessel, country of registration, registration number, WIN NUMBER, and international radio call sign:</u>  The registration number is the number assigned to the carrier vessel by the state that has flagged the carrier vessel. A code may be used as a carrier vessel identifier instead of the name of the carrier vessel, registration number and call sign for carrier vessels.	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP  Using a carrier vessel identifier field (ideally the WCPFC VID) removes the redundancy of including all carrier vessel attributes with each trip record and ensures standardisation and consistency through referencing the WCPFC Vessel Registry database.  Vessel attributes in the WCPFC Vessel Registry database will include the following required on this form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CARRIER VESSEL TONNAGE</li> <li>- CARRIER VESSEL LOA</li> <li>- CARRIER TOTAL HOLD CAPACITY</li> </ul>

## TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVER TRIP

Represents period when an observer embarks on a carrier vessel to the point of disembarkation. Equivalent to the Form FC-1 (Fish Carrier General Vessel Description). There will be one or many transshipment observations during a transshipment observer trip.

FIELD	Description	Mandatory ?	Notes on relevant ROP and other WCPFC data linkages
CARRIER DATE and TIME OF DEPARTURE from PORT	Depart DATE/TIME the vessel leaves a port to start the next set of transshipment operations.	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
CARRIER DATE AND TIME OF RETURN IN PORT	DATE/TIME for the vessel to return to port	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
CARRIER PORT OF DEPARTURE	The start of a trip is defined to occur when a carrier vessel leaves port after unloading part or all of the catch to transit to the next set of transshipments.	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
CARRIER PORT OF RETURN	The first port of return for the carrier to unload transshipped catch to processing plants/markets.	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
VESOWNER	NAME of the vessel owner	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
FISH HOLD CAPACITY	The total maximum amounts in metric Tons (MT) that the vessel freezers, wells and other fish storage areas on a vessel can hold.	<b>YES</b>	Note that observer data providers may use a separate vessel attributes table, linked via a vessel identifier field ("VID") which removes the redundancy of including this vessel attribute at the observer trip level and ensures standardisation and consistency.
VESCAPT_NAME	NAME of the captain of the vessel	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
VESCAPT_NATION	NATIONALITY of the captain of the vessel	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
CREW_TOTAL	Total number of CREW on-board, including captain and officers, during the trip (does not include observer).	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP
IATTC_AREA	Operate in the IATTC Area	<b>NO</b>	
IATTC_PERIOD	What periods did operations occur in IATTC area	<b>NO</b>	
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	A range of communication services (Phones, etc.)	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - MARINE DEVICES
VMS_TYPE	TYPE OF VMS	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - MARINE DEVICES
VMS_OPN	Question on whether VMS is operational or not	<b>NO</b>	
COMMENTS_FISH_WEIGHT	Comments on how fish are weighed or weight is estimated	<b>NO</b>	
COMMENTS_OTHER	Other comments	<b>NO</b>	

### Transshipment Observation – HEADER INFORMATION

The observer must provide the information in this table for EACH TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION EVENT (Vessel offloading). There will be one or many Transshipment Observations for each TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVER TRIP (see above). This information corresponds to the Form FC-2 header information (Observer trip, Offloading Fishing Vessel Details, Carrier/Receiving vessel details and transshipment details).

FIELD	Description	Mandatory ?	Notes on relevant ROP and other WCPFC data linkages
OBSERVER TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be OBSERVER NAME + CARRIER VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE
TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION IDENTIFIER	<p>The following data fields are included in the "Transshipment Observer Trip" table above, so are not included here to avoid redundancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OBS_NAME</li> <li>- OBSPRG_CODE</li> <li>- OBS_CODE</li> <li>- OBSERVER TRIPNO</li> <li>- OBSERVER DATE and TIME OF EMBARKATION</li> <li>- OBSERVER DATE AND TIME OF DISEMBARKATION</li> <li>- CARRIER (RECEIVING) VESSEL IDENTIFIER</li> <li>- CARRIER DATE and TIME OF DEPARTURE from PORT</li> <li>- CARRIER DATE AND TIME OF RETURN IN PORT</li> <li>- CARRIER PORT OF DEPARTURE</li> <li>- CARRIER PORT OF RETURN</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be CARRIER VESSEL + OFFLOAD VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE + TRANSHIPMENT EVENT DATE
OFFLOADING VESSEL IDENTIFIER	<p>Name of the <u>offloading vessel</u>, <u>country of registration</u>, <u>registration number</u>, <u>WIN NUMBER</u>, and <u>international radio call sign</u>:</p> <p>The registration number is the number assigned to the offloading vessel by the state that has flagged the offloading vessel. A code may be used as a offloading vessel identifier instead of the name of the offloading vessel, registration number and call sign for offloading vessels.</p>	<b>YES</b>	<p>WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - General Vessel and trip Information</p> <p>Also there are linkages with the requirement to report fishing vessel information in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a>)</p> <p>Using a offloading vessel identifier field (ideally the WCPFC VID) removes the redundancy of including all offloading vessel attributes with each trip record and ensures standardisation and consistency through referencing the WCPFC Vessel Registry database.</p>
START DATE/TIME OF TRANSSHIPMENT	The start date and time when catch is first transshipped from the fishing vessel to the carrier vessel (constituting a transshipment event).	<b>YES</b>	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - Date and time of return to port
END DATE/TIME OF TRANSSHIPMENT	The end date and time when the last of the catch is transshipped from the fishing vessel to the carrier vessel (constituting a transshipment event).	<b>YES</b>	Linkages to the requirement for the offloading/fishing vessel to report the date when a trip finishes due to a transshipment at sea in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a> )

### Transshipment Observation – HEADER INFORMATION

The observer must provide the information in this table for EACH TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION EVENT (Vessel offloading). There will be one or many Transshipment Observations for each TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVER TRIP (see above). This information corresponds to the Form FC-2 header information (Observer trip, Offloading Fishing Vessel Details, Carrier/Receiving vessel details and transshipment details).

FIELD	Description	Mandatory ?	Notes on relevant ROP and other WCPFC data linkages
LAT	Latitude where transshipment event took place	YES	Linkages to the data requirements for Carrier transshipment declaration (CMM 2009-06 - ANNEXZ 1).  Potential linkages to the requirement for the offloading/fishing vessel to report the position when a trip finishes due to a transshipment at sea in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a> )
LON	Longitude where transshipment event took place	YES	Relevant to comparing with the logsheet reported catch provided in the in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a> ).  Instructions for the protocol for estimating this value needs to be determined.
TOTAL WEIGHT TRANSFERRED	The total weight of the transferred catch in kilograms.	NO	Relevant for estimating the TOTAL WEIGHT TRANSFERRED.  Instructions for the protocol for estimating this value needs to be determined.
AVG_TS_HOUR_NUMBER	The average number of fish transferred per hour.	NO	Relevant for estimating the TOTAL WEIGHT TRANSFERRED.  Instructions for the protocol for estimating this value needs to be determined.
AVG_TS_HOUR_WEIGHT	The average weight (kilograms) of fish transferred per hour.	NO	Relevant for estimating the TOTAL WEIGHT TRANSFERRED.  Instructions for the protocol for estimating this value needs to be determined.
FISHVESS_OBSV_YN	Is there an observer on the fishing (offloading) vessel ?	YES	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP  Linkages to Observer ROP fishing vessel trip.
FISHVESS_OBSV_NAME	Observer NAME.	YES	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP  Linkages to Observer ROP fishing vessel trip.
FISHVESS_OBSPRG_CODE	OBSERVER SERVICE PROVIDERS identification- National or sub-regional observer programmes	YES	WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - OBSERVER TRIP  Linkages to Observer ROP fishing vessel trip.

### Transshipment Observation – SPECIES CATCH INFORMATION

The observer must provide the information on the CATCH BY SPECIES from EACH TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION EVENT (Vessel offloading). There will be one or many SPECIES CATCH records for each TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION EVENT (see above). This information corresponds to the Form FC-2 Catch and Weight of Product (kg) information.

FIELD	Description	Mandatory ?	Notes on relevant ROP and other WCPFC data linkages
OBSERVER TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be OBSERVER NAME + CARRIER VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE
TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION IDENTIFIER		<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be CARRIER VESSEL + OFFLOAD VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE + TRANSSHIPMENT EVENT DATE
TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION CATCH IDENTIFIER		<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be CARRIER VESSEL + OFFLOAD VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE + TRANSSHIPMENT EVENT DATE + SPECIES CODE + CATCH_AREA
SP_CODE	Species code. (Refer to the FAO Standard species codes)	<b>YES</b>	<p>Linkages to the data requirements for Carrier transshipment declaration (CMM 2009-06 - ANNEXZ 1).</p> <p>WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - SET CATCH</p> <p>Also there are linkages with the requirement to report fishing vessel information in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a>).</p>
CATCH_AREA	Indicate the broad RFMO Catch area : WCPFC, IATTC, IOTC or ICCAT	<b>YES</b>	<p>Linkages to the data requirements for Carrier transshipment declaration (CMM 2009-06 - ANNEXZ 1).</p> <p>WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - SET CATCH</p> <p>Also there are linkages with the requirement to report fishing vessel information in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a>).</p>
FISH_STATE_CODE	The state of this species catch Fresh (FR) or Frozen (FZ)	<b>NO</b>	



### Transshipment Observation – SPECIES CATCH INFORMATION

The observer must provide the information on the CATCH BY SPECIES from EACH TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION EVENT (Vessel offloading). There will be one or many SPECIES CATCH records for each TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION EVENT (see above). This information corresponds to the Form FC-2 Catch and Weight of Product (kg) information.

FIELD	Description	Mandatory ?	Notes on relevant ROP and other WCPFC data linkages
PROCESSING_CODE	Type of processing of the offloaded species catch (Use WCPFC standard weight code reference table).  WW - Whole weight GG - Gilled and gutted GH - Gilled, gutted and headed GT - Gilled gutted and tailed TR - Gutted, headed and tailed (trunk weight) OT - Other, please specify	<b>NO</b>	Equivalent to WCPFC ROP Weight Measurement codes
SP_WEIGHT	Weight (kilograms) of this species transshipped (within area, with corresponding fish state and processed type).	<b>YES</b>	Linkages to the data requirements for Carrier transshipment declaration (CMM 2009-06 - ANNEXZ 1).  Potential linkages to the requirement for the offloading/fishing vessel to report the position when a trip finishes due to a transshipment at sea in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a> )
SP_NUMBER	(Estimated) Number of this species transshipped (within area, with corresponding fish state and processed type).	<b>NO</b>	Linkages to the data requirements for Carrier transshipment declaration (CMM 2009-06 - ANNEXZ 1), if "Quantity" refers to catch in NUMBER.  Potential linkages to the requirement for the offloading/fishing vessel to report the position when a trip finishes due to a transshipment at sea in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a> )

### Transshipment Observation – SPECIES CATCH OBOARD INFORMATION

The observer must provide the information on the CATCH BY SPECIES already onboard the receiving vessel prior to EACH TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION EVENT (Vessel offloading). There will be one or many SPECIES CATCH ONBOARD records for each TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION EVENT (see above). This information corresponds to the Form FC-2 weight of Catch Onboard information.

FIELD	Description	Mandatory ?	Notes on relevant ROP and other WCPFC data linkages
OBSERVER TRIP IDENTIFIER		<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be OBSERVER NAME + CARRIER VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE
TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION IDENTIFIER		<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be CARRIER VESSEL + OFFLOAD VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE + TRANSSHIPMENT EVENT DATE
TRANSSHIPMENT OBSERVATION CATCH ONBOARD IDENTIFIER		<b>YES</b>	Internally generated. Can be NATURAL KEY or unique integer. NATURAL KEY would be CARRIER VESSEL + OFFLOAD VESSEL + OBSERVER EMBARKATION/START DATE + TRANSSHIPMENT EVENT DATE + SPECIES CODE + CATCH_AREA
SP_CODE	Species code. (Refer to the FAO Standard species codes)	<b>NO</b>	<p>Linkages to the data requirements for Carrier transshipment declaration (CMM 2009-06 - ANNEXZ 1).</p> <p>WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - SET CATCH</p> <p>Also there are linkages with the requirement to report fishing vessel information in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a>).</p>
CATCH_AREA	Indicate the broad RFMO Catch area: WCPFC, IATTC, IOTC or ICCAT	<b>NO</b>	<p>Linkages to the data requirements for Carrier transshipment declaration (CMM 2009-06 - ANNEXZ 1).</p> <p>WCPFC ROP minimum standard data field - SET CATCH</p> <p>Also there are linkages with the requirement to report fishing vessel information in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a>).</p>
SP_WEIGHT	Weight (kilograms) of this species catch onboard the carrier vessels prior to the transshipment commencing.	<b>NO</b>	<p>Linkages to the data requirements for Carrier transshipment declaration (CMM 2009-06 - ANNEXZ 1).</p> <p>Potential linkages to the requirement for the offloading/fishing vessel to report the position when a trip finishes due to a transshipment at sea in operational catch/effort data submissions (see Scientific data to be provided to the Commission - <a href="#">SciData</a>)</p>

**TS-IWG 2023 Work Plan**

This 2023 work plan succeeds the work plan in the [TS-IWG Terms of Reference](#) (TOR). Congruent to the agreed objectives in the TS-IWG TOR, in 2023 the TS-IWG will also consider the following factors:

- existing processes and systems for the collection and management of ROP data to the Commission and whether these could be used for observer transshipment data;
- the philosophy of the [WCPFC SC Project 93](#);
- the progress made through recent field work aimed at enhancing the data collection] during at sea longline transshipment;
- considerations around cooperation between WCPFC and other Pacific-basin based RFMOs in respect of transshipment monitoring e.g. possible expansion of cross endorsement arrangement for purse seine and transshipment observers with IATTC and operationalizing the existing transshipment observer MOC with CCSBT;
- and consideration of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, especially as they relate to the application of [WCPFC ER reporting standards](#).

<b>2023</b>	<b>TS-IWG Objective</b>	<b>TS-IWG Outcome</b>	<b>Format of Work</b>
<b>February</b>	Information Analysis shared with Members (Phases 1 & 2)	Members begin review of Information Analysis	Email Correspondence
<b>April</b>	Review the SPC & Secretariat information analysis.	Questions for SPC & Secretariat for follow-up. Member decision on Phase 3. Identify data for further analysis.	Online (Zoom) <i>6 hours</i>
<b>June</b>	Assess & analyze SPC & Secretariat responses, and data (identified by TS-IWG in April) against CMM 2009-06	Draft revisions to CMM 2009-06 for further discussion.	Zoom <i>16 hours</i>
<b>July/August</b>	Merge draft revisions (from February & June) into a single revised and coherent draft CMM.	Draft revised CMM 2009-06 for discussion on margins of TCC19	Email correspondence
<b>September</b>	Reconcile CCMs' concerns and interests towards a final draft revised CMM 2009-06	TCC19 and TS-IWG recommend draft revised CMM 2009-06 to WCPFC20	TCC18 (in-person) <i>4-8 hours</i>
<b>December</b>	Finalize draft revisions to CMM 2009-06	Adopt a revised CMM 2009-06 (CMM 2023-XX)	WCPFC20 (in-person) <i>TBD</i>



### WCPFC IUU VESSEL LIST FOR 2023

*(Effective from 2 February 2023: WCPFC19 agreed to maintain the WCPFC IUU list for 2022 as the WCPFC IUU list for 2023)*

**Note:** Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2019-07 para 19 and WCPFC13 decisions

Current name of vessel (previous names)	Current flag (previous flags)	Date first included on WCPFC IUU Vessel List <sup>1</sup>	Flag State Registration Number/ IMO Number	Call Sign (previous call signs)	Vessel Master (nationality)	Owner/beneficial owners (previous owners)	Notifying CCM	IUU activities
Neptune	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-00545	<i>unknown</i> (4LOG)		Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.	France	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPF Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)
Fu Lien No 1	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-01432 IMO No 7355662	<i>unknown</i> (4LIN2)		Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia	United States	Is without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPF Convention in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)
Yu Fong 168	<i>unknown</i> (Chinese Taipei)	11 Dec. 2009		BJ4786	Mr Jang Faa Sheng (Chinese Taipei)	Chang Lin Pao-Chun, 161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands	Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands without permission and in contravention of Republic of the Marshall Islands's laws and regulations. (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)

<sup>1</sup> **Supplementary note:** In October 2015, the Executive Director wrote to: Chinese Taipei and Georgia requesting information on their vessel/s on the WCPFC IUU list, and to other RFMOs (CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, NPAFC & SPRFMO) to seek their cooperation with locating the vessels on the list. Georgia confirmed that the vessels **Neptune** and **Fu Lien No 1** were no longer flying the Georgia flag. Chinese Taipei confirmed the **Yu Fong 168** license was revoked in 2009 and the vessel owner financially penalized for violating the rules of not returning to port. Chinese Taipei further advised information was received from Thailand's notification to IOTC that the vessel landed their catches in the port of Phuket in the year 2013. On 17 November 2017, Chinese Taipei informed WCPFC that the **Yu Fong 168** had been deregistered by Chinese Taipei. On 29 April 2020, WCPFC received further information from Chinese Taipei identifying the master of the **Yu Fong 168** at the time of the IUU fishing activity who had been sanctioned.



**COMMISSION**  
**NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Danang, Vietnam  
27 November - 3 December 2022

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**SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC16)**

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**WCPFC19-2022-FAC16**  
**3 December 2022**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Sixteenth Finance and Administration Committee (FAC16) was convened by the FAC Co-Chairs Mr. Michael Brakke (USA) and Mr David Power (AU) on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Subsequent sessions of FAC were held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. Representatives of American Samoa, Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, French Polynesia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United States of America, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, FFA, PEW, PNA, Conservation International, MSC, The Ocean Foundation, SPC, and WWF were in attendance. Meeting support was provided by the Secretariat. The list of participants is attached as Annex A. The Committee agreed by consensus to present to the Commission the decisions and recommendations set out below.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING**

2. FAC Co-Chairs Mr. Michael Brakke (US) and Mr David Power (AU) called the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC16) to order at 10:00 AM on 27 November. The Co-Chairs welcomed all participants, thanked Vietnam for hosting and making this in-person meeting possible, and also thanked the Secretariat for organizing and leading preparations this meeting, and acknowledge the significance of the first in-person meeting of the Committee since 2019.

3. Dr Tuikolongahau Halafihi (Tonga) led the opening prayer.

4. The Executive Director (ED), Feleti Teo, gave a brief opening message, welcoming all participants to FAC16 and also recognizing that some delegates are participating virtually. The ED further explained the protocols for participants participating virtually, noting that they could only be allowed to make an intervention if their head of delegation is not physically present at this meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam. The ED also highlighted two items in

the agenda, namely, Agenda 4.2 (Triannual Salary Report) and Agenda 4.3 (Establishment of Professional Staff) that merit considerable discussion at FAC16. He wished the Committee well in its deliberations.

### **1.1 Adoption of agenda**

5. The FAC16 agenda set out in WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-01\_rev1 was adopted without revision.

### **1.2 Meeting arrangements**

6. The Secretariat Finance and Administration Manager (FAM) Aaron Nighswander gave an overview of the meeting arrangements.

7. The Co-Chairs noted they would trade responsibilities for leading each agenda item, while supporting each other as well as the Committee on each item. As suggested by the Co-Chairs, the report format will be consistent with the previous approach wherein it summarizes the outcomes of the meeting discussions and minimizes characterization of interventions unless specifically requested. The Co-Chairs encouraged CCMs to inform the Committee if they wanted their interventions specifically reflected in the report.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2. AUDIT**

### **2.1 Auditor Report for 2021 and General Account Financial Statements for 2021**

8. The FAM summarized the information in WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-06, noting the 2021 audit report was circulated to the Commission members on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, with delays in the audit report due to COVID-19 situation. The FAM noted that based on the auditor's report, all financial statements were fair and that there were no instances of non-compliance with the Commission's Financial Regulation 12.4 (c) regarding income, expenditure, investment and asset management nor with Financial Regulation 12.4 (d) pertaining to financial procedures, accounting, internal controls and administration.

9. The FAM reported that for the General Account Fund, the financial statements showed that there was deficit of income over expenditure of USD432,184. In addition, prior years' contributions of USD474,085 were paid by some Members in 2021. In accordance with Financial Regulation 4.4, the balance was transferred to the Working Capital Fund.

**10. FAC16 recommended that the Commission accepts the audited financial statements for 2021 as set out in paper WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-06.**

### **2.2 Appointment of Auditor**

11. The FAM introduced WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-05. The FAM reported that the tender for audit services to audit the 2022 and 2023 financial statements and accounts of the Commission was posted on the WCPFC website 12 October 2022. The Secretariat received one quote from Ernst & Young, a well-known auditing firm that will be establishing an office in Pohnpei, FSM in early January 2023. The proposed audit cost is USD7,000 per year.

12. It was also clarified that the current auditor Deloitte no longer provide audit services in the Pacific.

**13. FAC16 recommended that the Commission support the appointment of Ernst & Young as auditor for the next 2-years to undertake the audits of the Commission's 2022 and 2023 financial statements and accounts.**

### **AGENDA ITEM 3. STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S FUNDS**

#### **3.1 Report on General Account Fund for 2022 – Contributions and Other Incomes**

14. The FAM introduced paper WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-04\_rev1 issued on 25 Nov 2022. The assessed contributions for 2022 were USD6,967,452 and the outstanding 2022 unpaid contributions stand at USD650,308 from nine members as of 25 November 2022. The FAM stated there is no member that has 2 full years in arrears noting Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention.

15. Some members raised concerns on the continued increase in members contributions as a result of continued increases in budget and this will be further considered under Agenda 5.

16. **FAC16 noted the report in WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-04 Rev1.**

#### **3.2 Report on the Status of Other Funds for 2022**

17. The FAM introduced paper WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-08\_rev1, noting the balances in i) the Special Requirements Fund (SRF); ii) the Japan Trust Fund; iii) the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund; iv) the CNM Contributions Fund; v) the Voluntary Contributions Fund; vi) the West Pacific East Asia Project Fund; and vii) the Working Capital Fund.

18. Some CCMs thanked Australia and China for their contribution to the SRF, Japan and Chinese Taipei for their respective trust funds, and USA for their voluntary contributions. With respect to one of the originally intended purposes of a U.S. voluntary contribution, some CCMs do not support extending the number of days for TCC19. These CCMs also acknowledged that SIDS have benefited from the use of SRF to fund their meeting participation and suggested streamlining the process on the use of the SRF funds to support SIDS travel to meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, by waiving reporting requirements for such purposes.

19. The FAM clarified that in the current financial regulation 7.8, the Commission has made such exemption on the reporting requirement if the fund was used to finance participation of WCPFC subsidiary bodies Chairpersons and the Commission Vice Chair to attend the annual meeting. The FAM noted that one option was to extend this exemption for individual delegates from all SIDS and Participating Territories.

20. USA noted it gave a voluntary contribution to WCPFC ahead of the TCC meeting, anticipating the additional day/s needed to progress the CMS process in 2023. Since this funding is no longer needed based on TCC18 outcomes, the USA welcomes suggestions from other CCMs on how best to utilize these funds, and the USA will communicate separately with the Secretariat to repurpose them. A second part of the USA voluntary contribution was to support migration of the new Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) and training for WCPFC-IATTC cross-endorsed observers.

21. Noting the discussions, there was a suggestion to amend the financial regulation 7.8 to also waive the SRF application and reporting requirements to fund one traveler from SIDS and participating territories to participate in meetings of the WCPFC and its Subsidiary bodies. SIDS and participating territories may still submit an application for SRF funding to support participation by more than one traveler and this will be considered by the Secretariat on a case-by-case basis in accordance with established SRF terms of reference.

22. **FAC16 noted the report in WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-08 Rev1.**

**23. FAC16 recommends to the Commission that financial regulation 7.8 be amended to read:**

**7.8 Financial Regulation 7.5 and 7.7 on the application process and reporting requirements, respectively, shall be waived for:**

- a) one traveler from each small island developing States and Participating Territories delegation to meetings of the Annual Session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; and**
- b) the travel for the Chairs of SC, TCC, FAC Co-Chair and the WCPFC Vice Chair from SIDS to the Annual Session.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4. HEADQUARTERS ISSUES**

##### **4.1 Headquarters Matters**

24. The FAM presented paper WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-09 highlighting the issues at headquarters arising in 2022. The FAM highlighted with concern the following: i) medical care, ii) telecommunication and internet, iii) travel, iv) security and v) housing in Pohnpei.

**25. FAC16 noted the report in WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-09.**

##### **4.2. Triannual Salary Review**

26. The ED presented WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-10, wherein under the Staff Regulation 19, professional staff salaries are to be reviewed every three years. The ED explained that there are three applicable salary scales used at the Secretariat: the ED using the UN-D1 scale; professional staff aligned with Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP); and support staff, based on local salary market in Pohnpei (PNI). Focusing only on the Professional Staff salary, in 2019, the consultant that prepared the current survey recommended consideration of a relatively large increase of over 20% for Bands M-J, noting this level of increase may not be financially feasible. The report further noted that if the band increase was not approved a 5% increase was recommended for professional staff to align with the 6.7% increase to the UN-D1 salary scale provided to the Director for 2020-2023 minus the 1.7% increase that was provided to professional staff in 2020.

27. The report also suggested that the Commission may consider pegging the professional staff salary scales to the annual adjustments in the UN-D1 salary scale which averages to 1.7% a year. This would allow the professional staff to keep the salary scales in relative alignment with the ED's salary, adjust for inflation, and avoid larger increases that may put more pressure on the budget once every three years. If this was to be implemented, the need for tri-annual reviews currently required as per the Staff Regulations may no longer be needed or could be conducted less frequently. The cost of providing a 5% increase for professional staff would be USD78,003 in 2023.

28. Some CCMs stated the Tri-annual Salary Review report is hard to interpret and acknowledged the need to balance Secretariat professional staff salaries with actual salaries in the current market, indicating the salary review provided comparison to potential salaries in CROP agencies rather than salaries as actually paid. CCMs noted that WCPFC is not a CROP agency and there was a suggestion to also consider reviewing WCPFC professional staff salaries relative to other RFMO salaries in the future. Some CCMs also recommended that the impact of inflation be considered.

29. Cook Islands thanked the ED for the background information and the suggested recommendations but noted there is a need for further consideration on the elements and fundamentals of the tri-annual salary review report. After meeting with the informal small working group and interested CCMs on the margins, the Cook



Islands gave further updates on the intersessional work on the tri-annual salary review. Some CCMs suggested a salary system be developed that is appropriate for WCPFC, simple to understand and implement, and allows automatic adjustments due to inflation. The intersessional work might also consider moving from a SDR to a USD salary scale and adjusting the salary review period or need for a review.

**30. FAC16 recommends the Commission approve a 5% increase in professional staff salary from 2023, excluding the Executive Director, to align with the recent increase in other WCPFC staff salaries and account for cost of living increases due to inflation.**

**31. With respect to broader issues related to the tri-annual market review and professional staff remuneration, FAC16 notes WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-10 but determined that additional information on relevant salary benchmarks and further discussion among CCMs is needed to reach consensus on future changes to professional staff salaries. FAC16 recommends that FAC Co-Chairs work intersessionally with the Secretariat and interested CCMs to identify potential recommendations for consideration of FAC17 on the following issues, without prejudice to future decision-making process:**

- a) Options to align staff salary including the Executive Director, on a single simplified salary scale and/or other improvements related to the salary scale structure;**
- b) The advantages and disadvantages of changing the denomination of professional staff salaries from IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to U.S. Dollars for greater clarity and to align with the currency of the Commission's budget and financial accounts;**
- c) Options to establish automatic cost-of-living increases for staff salaries which could minimize the need for future salary reviews;**
- d) Changes to the content and frequency of salary market reviews including ensuring clearer comparison to the actual salary ranges of comparable positions in CROP agencies as well as remuneration of other relevant RFMO secretariats;**
- e) Methods to ensure any changes to staff salaries do not result in lower remuneration for existing professional staff;**
- f) Any necessary changes to the Commission's Staff Regulations or Financial Regulations to accomplish any resulting recommendations.**

#### **4.3. Staff Establishment**

32. The ED presented WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-11, which seeks endorsement on the establishment of new professional staff (Compliance and Monitoring Analyst), noting the substantial increase in the commitment of the Secretariat in support of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC).

33. CCMs acknowledge the Secretariat's workload but requested additional information from the Secretariat for this new position. They also acknowledged that this new position could support capacity building of SIDS in terms of WCPFC related work. Some CCMs suggested that the Secretariat consider internships as an approach to increase staff capacity while also providing development opportunities, particularly for SIDS. Noting the streamlined reporting process, it was viewed that this increase in workload might not continue in the coming years. Some CCMs expressed reservations about adding the permanent professional staff position as proposed, without more time to consider the need as well as the budgetary implications.

34. The FAM provided an update on the increased workload in 2023 and proposed that a short-term consultancy be supported at a minimum for 2023 to ensure that secretariat has the necessary capacity to support the Commission and TCC over the coming year. The estimated cost of the short-term consultancy is \$80,000 and it was proposed that this be included as a new budget line under 2.3 in the budget. There was a suggestion that this

be considered on a one-year trial basis with an evaluation review to be provided at the next session of the FAC and the Commission.

**35. FAC16 recommends the Commission approve \$80,000 for a short-term consultancy to support the increase in the Secretariat's workload in the coming year. FAC16 included this cost in the budget recommended to the Commission. FAC16 recommends the Secretariat report to TCC19 and FAC17 with its views on the necessity of continuing this consultancy or seeking other arrangements for future years, in order to inform further consideration as appropriate at FAC17.**

**AGENDA ITEM 5. WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2023 AND INDICATIVE  
WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024 AND 2025**

36. The FAM presented paper WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-07 Rev1, detailing the proposed 2023 budget based on recommendations from SC, TCC, Intersessional Working Groups, and the operations of the WCPFC Secretariat. The FAM highlighted items that have not yet been included in the draft budget pending FAC deliberations and Commission decisions. The FAM noted that the proposed rev1 budget represents a 4.3% increase from the indicative 2023 budget and a 4.7% increase from the 2022 budget. The FAM noted that there were significant savings in the 2022 expenditures due to continued travel restrictions and the inability to undertake certain activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

37. The Co-Chair requested CCMs first focus their questions and comments on general issues and budget figures related to the paper, followed by a more detailed line-item discussion on Annex 3 that was organized according to major parts of the budget.

38. Some CCMs raised concerns on maintaining hybrid meetings, mindful of the additional costs as described by the Secretariat and that some SIDS could encounter challenges hosting hybrid meetings due to bandwidth concerns. Some CCMs expressed a preference to retain hybrid meetings noting it may be too soon to revert back to meeting in person only.

39. Some CCMs sought clarifications related to parts 1 and 2 of the budget, including on ED discretion, increase in rapporteur services, official hospitality, increase in information and communication technology, cross-endorsement training, ER-EM, and VMS Capital cost items, which were addressed by the FAM.

40. The Secretariat introduced a revised draft budget on November 29 to reflect preliminary deliberations from the first session of the FAC, including a proposed 5% increase in professional staff salary, reduced audit cost, reduced VMS costs, and a 1.8% increase in salaries for local staff to account for inflation.

41. In response to the Staff Establishment paper (WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-11) and based on feedback from CCMs under agenda item 4.3, a short-term consultancy was included in the revised budget with \$80,000 allocated.

42. After considerable discussion, FAC16 revised the draft budget to delay the implementation of the three lowest-ranked SC projects (P68-estimate of seabird mortality; P18X7-Pacific whale shark assessment; and P18X6-Pacific silky shark assessment) for another year. In this regard, P18X7-whale shark (\$85,000) would be included in the indicative budget for 2024. P68-Seabirds would be pushed back by one year, with \$25,000 included in the indicative budget for 2024 and \$40,000 included in the indicative budget for 2025. P18X6-silky shark had no proposed budget for 2023 and \$30,000 was retained for inclusion in the indicative budget for 2024. This has the combined effect of reducing the proposed 2023 budget by \$110,000. FAC16 discussed that these projects should be considered by SC19 in its ranking of projects, with the understanding that SC may re-consider their prioritization of projects again in 2023.

43. The Co-Chairs presented options for accommodating potential changes to the budget based on Commission decisions that may be taken between the adoption of the FAC report and the close of the Commission meeting. The FAM noted that it may be advisable to reduce the amount that is offset by the Working Capital Fund under Annex 4 of WCPFC19-2022-FAC16-07 Rev1, which would allow the FAC to finalize the budget and use the Working Capital Fund to fund any outstanding items that may need to be funded based on Commission decisions.

**44. FAC16 recommended to the Commission a 2023 budget of USD8,819,999 (Annexes 1-3). FAC16 recommended that any additional costs related to Commission decisions that are not already included in the budget recommend by the FAC, such as relating to costs for hosting potential meetings in 2023, will be added to the draw down from the Working Capital Fund.**

**AGENDA ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS**

45. No items were raised under other matters.

**AGENDA ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

46. FAC16 adopted this summary report which was tabled as WCPFC19-2022-FAC16.

**47. FAC16 invites WCPFC19 to consider this report and to endorse its recommendations.**

**AGENDA ITEM 8. CLOSE OF MEETING**

48. FAC Co-Chairs Mr. Michael Brakke (USA) and Mr David Power (AU) closed the final session of FAC16 at 9.25am on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022.

## 19TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

## DA NANG, VIETNAM

27 November - 3 December 2022

## FAC16 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## AUSTRALIA

**Emma Campbell**

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

First Assistant Secretary

[emma.campbell@aff.gov.au](mailto:emma.campbell@aff.gov.au)**David Ellis**

Tuna Australia

Chief Executive Officer

[ceo@tunaaustralia.org.au](mailto:ceo@tunaaustralia.org.au)**David Power**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Fisheries Specialist[david.power2@dfat.gov.au](mailto:david.power2@dfat.gov.au)**James Larcombe**

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Principal Scientist

[james.larcombe@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:james.larcombe@agriculture.gov.au)**James van Meurs**Australian Government Department of  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Assistant Director[james.vanmeurs@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:james.vanmeurs@agriculture.gov.au)**Kate Martin**Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
Tropical Tuna Manager[kate.martin@afma.gov.au](mailto:kate.martin@afma.gov.au)**Mat Kertesz**

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Assistant Director, Regional Fisheries

[mat.kertesz@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:mat.kertesz@agriculture.gov.au)**Viv Fernandes**Australia Fisheries Management Authority  
Senior Manager, International Compliance  
Policy[viv.fernandes@afma.gov.au](mailto:viv.fernandes@afma.gov.au)

## CANADA

**Amber Lindstedt**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Deputy Director, Pacific & Arctic,  
International Fisheries Policy[Amber.Lindstedt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Amber.Lindstedt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)**Robynn Smith Laplante**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Advisor

[Robynn-Bella.Smith-Laplante@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Robynn-Bella.Smith-Laplante@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

## CHINA

**Liu Xiaobing**

Shanghai Ocean University

Visiting Professor

[xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com](mailto:xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com)**Sun Haiwen**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Director, Bureau of Fisheries

[bofdwf@126.com](mailto:bofdwf@126.com)**Dr. Xiaojie Dai**

Shanghai Ocean University

Professor

[xjdai@shou.edu.cn](mailto:xjdai@shou.edu.cn)**Feng Wu**

Shanghai Ocean University

Lecturer

[fwu@shou.edu.cn](mailto:fwu@shou.edu.cn)**Hong Zhang**Zhangyu Global Seafood Corporation  
Staff[zhanghong@cnfc.com.cn](mailto:zhanghong@cnfc.com.cn)**Huang Xiangjun**

Zhongyu Global Seafood Corporation

Deputy Business Manager

[huangxiangjun@cnfc.com.cn](mailto:huangxiangjun@cnfc.com.cn)

**Li Yan**

China Overseas Fisheries Association  
Deputy Director of High Seas Fisheries  
[liyancnfj@outlook.com](mailto:liyancnfj@outlook.com)

**Wang Shi Gang**

China Overseas Fisheries Association  
Delegation Member  
[matthewwang@ptrcn.com](mailto:matthewwang@ptrcn.com)

**Xiao Mengjie**

China Overseas Fisheries Association  
Advisor  
[xiaomengjie@cofa.net.cn](mailto:xiaomengjie@cofa.net.cn)

**Yan Luxin**

Qingdao Haoyang Ocean Fishery Company,  
Ltd.  
Delegation Member

**Yuchen Huang**

Shanghai Ocean University  
Research Associate  
[yuchenhuang0111@163.com](mailto:yuchenhuang0111@163.com)

**Zhao Gang**

China Overseas Fisheries Association  
Secretary General  
[zhaogang@cofa.net.cn](mailto:zhaogang@cofa.net.cn)

**Zhe Geng**

Shanghai Ocean University  
Delegation Member  
[zhengeng1993@foxmail.com](mailto:zhengeng1993@foxmail.com)

**COOK ISLANDS****Pamela Maru**

Ministry of Marine Resources  
Secretary  
[P.Maru@mmr.gov.ck](mailto:P.Maru@mmr.gov.ck)

**Kerrie Robertson**

Ministry of Marine Resources  
Director, Offshore Fisheries Division  
[K.Robertson@mmr.gov.ck](mailto:K.Robertson@mmr.gov.ck)

**Tepaeru Herrmann**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Immigration,  
Cook Islands  
[tepaeru.herrmann@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:tepaeru.herrmann@cookislands.gov.ck)

**Tiare Nicholas**

Ministry of Marine Resources Cook Islands  
Data Manager  
[t.nicholas@mmr.gov.ck](mailto:t.nicholas@mmr.gov.ck)

**EUROPEAN UNION****Stamatis Varsamos**

European Commission, Directorate General  
for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit B2:  
RFMOs  
Head of the European Union Delegation  
[Stamatios.VARSAMOS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Stamatios.VARSAMOS@ec.europa.eu)

**Daniel Calvo Buron**

Trimarine  
Fleet Director European Union  
[dclvo@boltonfood.com](mailto:dclvo@boltonfood.com)

**Francisco J. Abascal**

Spanish Institute of Oceanography  
Fisheries Scientist  
[francisco.abascal@ieo.csic.es](mailto:francisco.abascal@ieo.csic.es)

**Ignacio De Leiva Moreno**

European Union  
Fisheries Attache  
[Ignacio.de-leiva@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Ignacio.de-leiva@eeas.europa.eu)

**FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA****Limanman Helgenberger**

FSM National Oceanic Resource Management  
Authority  
Assistant Director  
[liman.h@norma.fm](mailto:liman.h@norma.fm)

**Angelina T. Tretnoff**

FSM National Oceanic Resource Management  
Authority  
Senior Fisheries Economist  
[angelina.tretnoff@norma.fm](mailto:angelina.tretnoff@norma.fm)

**Camille Inatio**

FSM Department of Resources and  
Development  
Fisheries Adviser  
[cinatio86@rd.gov.fm](mailto:cinatio86@rd.gov.fm)

**Jamel James**

FSM National Oceanic Resource Management  
Authority  
Assistant Fisheries Biologist

**Julian Tharngan**

Diving Seagull, Inc.  
Office Operations Manager  
[julian.divingseagull@gmail.com](mailto:julian.divingseagull@gmail.com)

**Youky Susaia Jr.**

FSM National Oceanic Resource Management  
Authority  
Assistant Director, Fisheries Compliance  
Division  
[youky.susaia@norma.fm](mailto:youky.susaia@norma.fm)

**FIJI****Neomai Ravitu**

Ministry of Fisheries  
Director for Fisheries  
[neomai.ravitu@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:neomai.ravitu@govnet.gov.fj)

**Moses Nainoka Mataika**

Ministry of Fisheries Fiji  
Fisheries Assistant Offshore Fisheries  
Management Division  
[mataika.moses@gmail.com](mailto:mataika.moses@gmail.com)

**Unaisi Biddy Rabici**

Ministry of Fisheries Fiji  
Fisheries Officer  
[rabici.unaisi1@gmail.com](mailto:rabici.unaisi1@gmail.com)

**FRANCE****Rémi Quilliot**

French Maritime Affairs Office in French  
Polynesia  
Deputy head  
[remi.quilliot@affaires-maritimes.pf](mailto:remi.quilliot@affaires-maritimes.pf)

**INDONESIA****Putuh Suadela**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
Deputy Director of Fish Resources  
Management in IEEZ and High Seas,  
Directorate General of Capture Fisheries  
[putuhsuadela@gmail.com](mailto:putuhsuadela@gmail.com)

**Ade Setia Januar**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
Capture Fisheries Production Management  
Senior Officer  
[januar.ade@gmail.com](mailto:januar.ade@gmail.com)

**Alza Rendian**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the  
Republic of Indonesia  
Regional Cooperation Analyst  
[alzarendian@gmail.com](mailto:alzarendian@gmail.com)

**Diky Suganda**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the  
Republic of Indonesia  
Cooperation Analyst  
[superdiky.fisheries@gmail.com](mailto:superdiky.fisheries@gmail.com)

**Dzulfiqar Bonict Prasetyo**

Cooperation and Public Relation Bureau,  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the  
Republic of Indonesia  
Regional Cooperation Analyst  
[dzulfiqarbp@gmail.com](mailto:dzulfiqarbp@gmail.com)

**Fayakun Satria**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
Director of Research Institute of Marine  
Fisheries  
[fsatria70@gmail.com](mailto:fsatria70@gmail.com)

**Lilis Sadiyah**

Center for Fisheries Research (CFR)  
Researcher  
[sadiyah.lilis2@gmail.com](mailto:sadiyah.lilis2@gmail.com)

**Mumpuni Cyntia Pratiwi**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the  
Republic of Indonesia  
Capture Fisheries Production Management  
Officer  
[mumpuni.cpratiwi@gmail.com](mailto:mumpuni.cpratiwi@gmail.com)

**Rista Devi Juniar**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the  
Republic of Indonesia  
Capture Fisheries Production Management  
Junior Officer  
[devikkp17@gmail.com](mailto:devikkp17@gmail.com)

**Saraswati**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the  
Republic Indonesia  
Capture Fisheries Production Management  
Junior Officer  
[cacasaras@gmail.com](mailto:cacasaras@gmail.com)

## **JAPAN**

### **Miwako Takase**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Councillor, Resources Management  
Department  
[miwako\\_takase170@maff.go.jp](mailto:miwako_takase170@maff.go.jp)

### **Aya Matsushima**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Staff, International Affairs Division  
[aya\\_matsushima190@maff.go.jp](mailto:aya_matsushima190@maff.go.jp)

### **Daisuke Nakajima**

Fukuichi Cooperation  
Chief  
[da-nakajima@fukuichi.gr.jp](mailto:da-nakajima@fukuichi.gr.jp)

### **Daisuke Nakamura**

Kochi Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association  
Advisor  
[k-nakamura@kogyoren.jf-net.ne.jp](mailto:k-nakamura@kogyoren.jf-net.ne.jp)

### **Fumihiko Ichikawa**

Kochi Sustainable Skipjack Association  
Committee  
[machi@town.nakatosa.lg.jp](mailto:machi@town.nakatosa.lg.jp)

### **Hiroaki Onda**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Staff, International Affairs Division

### **Hiromu Yoshida**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Staff

### **Hiroyuki Yoshida**

Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative  
Association  
Director  
[yoshida@japantuna.or.jp](mailto:yoshida@japantuna.or.jp)

### **Iwao Fujii**

Japan NUS Company Ltd.  
Staff  
[fujii-iwo@janus.co.jp](mailto:fujii-iwo@janus.co.jp)

### **Junpei Hinata**

Fisheries Agency of Japan

### **Kaoru Kawamoto**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Interpreter  
[dvorjakkawamoto@ybb.ne.jp](mailto:dvorjakkawamoto@ybb.ne.jp)

### **Katsuma Hanafusa**

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of  
Agriculture  
Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries  
[hanafusa@ofcf.or.jp](mailto:hanafusa@ofcf.or.jp)

### **Kazushige Hazama**

National Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association  
of Japan  
Chief  
[hazama@kinkatsukyo.or.jp](mailto:hazama@kinkatsukyo.or.jp)

### **Kei Hirose**

Taiyo Micronesia Corporation  
FSM-National Fisheries Corporation/ TMC  
Director  
[k-hirose@maruha-nichiro.co.jp](mailto:k-hirose@maruha-nichiro.co.jp)

### **Keiko Ikeda**

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of  
Japan  
Agricultural and Marine Products Office,  
Trade control Department  
[ikeda-keiko@meti.go.jp](mailto:ikeda-keiko@meti.go.jp)

### **Masanori Miyahara**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries  
[masamiyafaj1@gmail.com](mailto:masamiyafaj1@gmail.com)

### **Masayuki Yanagida**

Taijin Fisheries Company, Ltd.  
Fishery Operations Department Manager  
[ma-yanagida@fukuichi.gr.jp](mailto:ma-yanagida@fukuichi.gr.jp)

### **Meiko Kawahara**

Taiyo A & F Co., Ltd.  
Manager  
[m-kawahara@maruha-nichiro.co.jp](mailto:m-kawahara@maruha-nichiro.co.jp)

### **Minoru Honda**

Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing  
Association  
Adviser  
[honda@kaimaki.or.jp](mailto:honda@kaimaki.or.jp)

### **Muneharu Tokimura**

JOP (The Overseas Fishery Cooperation  
Foundation of Japan)  
Adviser  
[tokimura@ofcf.or.jp](mailto:tokimura@ofcf.or.jp)

**Saori Kenmochi**

Agricultural and Marine Products Office,  
Trade control Department, Ministry of  
Economy, Trade and Industry  
Deputy Director  
[kenmochi-saori@meti.go.jp](mailto:kenmochi-saori@meti.go.jp)

**Shinji Hiruma**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
International Affairs Division  
[shinji\\_hiruma150@maff.go.jp](mailto:shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp)

**Suzune Umeda**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Staff, International Affairs Division

**Taichi Arakawa**

Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative  
Association  
Adviser  
[eiseimaru-yaizu@yr.tnc.ne.jp](mailto:eiseimaru-yaizu@yr.tnc.ne.jp)

**Takumi Fukuda**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Resource Management Department  
[takumi\\_fukuda720@maff.go.jp](mailto:takumi_fukuda720@maff.go.jp)

**Tokimasa Kobayashi**

JOP (The Overseas Fishery Cooperation  
Foundation of Japan)  
Adviser  
[tokimasa0610@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:tokimasa0610@yahoo.co.jp)

**Yoko Yamakage**

Fisheries Agency of Japan  
Interpreter  
[yamakageyoyo@gmail.com](mailto:yamakageyoyo@gmail.com)

**Yuji Uozumi**

Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative  
Association  
Adviser  
[uozumi@japantuna.or.jp](mailto:uozumi@japantuna.or.jp)

**Yumi Okochi**

Japan NUS Company, Ltd.  
Staff  
[okochi-y@janus.co.jp](mailto:okochi-y@janus.co.jp)

**KIRIBATI****Dr. Agnes Yeeting**

Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources  
Development  
Secretary  
[agnesy@mfmrd.gov.ki](mailto:agnesy@mfmrd.gov.ki)

**Du Xuejun**

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Development  
Chief Executive Officer  
[duxuejun@goldenoceantuna.com](mailto:duxuejun@goldenoceantuna.com)

**Kaon Tiamere**

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Development  
Acting Director, Offshore Fisheries Division  
[kaont@mfmrd.gov.ki](mailto:kaont@mfmrd.gov.ki)

**Li Changhong**

JV - Kiribati Fish Limited  
Chief Executive Officer  
[lichanghong@goldenoceantuna.com](mailto:lichanghong@goldenoceantuna.com)

**Tim Adams**

Kiribati Ministry of Fisheries & Marine  
Resources Development  
Offshore Fisheries Management Adviser  
[tim.adams@gonedau.com](mailto:tim.adams@gonedau.com)

**Uati Tirikai**

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Development  
Senior Compliance Officer, Licensing  
Compliance Division  
[uatit@mfmrd.gov.ki](mailto:uatit@mfmrd.gov.ki)

**NAURU****Camalus Reiyetsi**

Nauru Fisheries Marine and Resources  
Authority  
Senior Oceanic Fisheries Officer  
[camalus.reiyetsi@gmail.com](mailto:camalus.reiyetsi@gmail.com)

**Charleston Debye**

Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Authority (NFMRA)  
Chief Executive Officer  
[cdebye@gmail.com](mailto:cdebye@gmail.com)

**Howard Tsai**

Ocean Pride Company, Ltd. and Ocean Ranger  
Company, Ltd.  
Operations Manager  
[a7220363@yahoo.com.tw](mailto:a7220363@yahoo.com.tw)

**Jasmina Jones**

Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Authority  
Policy and Legal Manager  
[jasminajones78@gmail.com](mailto:jasminajones78@gmail.com)



**Peter Diema**

Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Authority  
Chairman  
[peterdiema@gmail.com](mailto:peterdiema@gmail.com)

**NEW ZEALAND****Heather Ward**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Principal Advisor

**Andy Smith**

Talley's Group ltd  
Consultant  
[andy@latsouth.co.nz](mailto:andy@latsouth.co.nz)

**Hilary Ayrton**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Senior Fisheries Analyst  
[hilary.ayrton@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:hilary.ayrton@mpi.govt.nz)

**Leyla Knittweis**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Principal Scientist

**Rio Yoon**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Senior Advisor Pacific Fisheries  
[Rio.Yoon@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Rio.Yoon@mfat.govt.nz)

**Sarah McAvinchey**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Lead Adviser

**NIUE****Hon Esa-Sharon Mona Ainu'u**

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries, Ministry of Natural Resources  
Minister  
[mona.ainuu@mail.gov.nu](mailto:mona.ainuu@mail.gov.nu)

**Josie M M M Tamate**

Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of  
Niue  
Director-General  
[josie.tamate@mail.gov.nu](mailto:josie.tamate@mail.gov.nu)

**Launoa Gataua**

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries  
MCS Officer  
[Launoa.Gataua@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Launoa.Gataua@mail.gov.nu)

**Poi Okesene**

Government of Niue  
Director, Department of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Fisheries; Ministry of Natural Resources  
[poi.okesene@mail.gov.nu](mailto:poi.okesene@mail.gov.nu)

**Quentin Hanich**

Australian National Centre for Ocean  
Resources and Security (ANCORS) - Uni of  
Wollongong  
Advisor  
[hanich@uow.edu.au](mailto:hanich@uow.edu.au)

**PALAU****Kathleen Sisor**

Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Environment  
Acting Chief / Fisheries Policy Advisor  
[utau.sisor@gmail.com](mailto:utau.sisor@gmail.com)

**Persis Omelau**

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the  
Environment  
Fisheries Specialist  
[omelaupersis@gmail.com](mailto:omelaupersis@gmail.com)

**Zilah Dirremeang Oiterong**

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Environment  
Licensing and Revenue Officer  
[dirremeang@gmail.com](mailto:dirremeang@gmail.com)

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA****Buri Gari**

Department of Foreign Affairs  
Director Regional Economic Affairs Branch  
[burigari80@gmail.com](mailto:burigari80@gmail.com)

**Simon Kaumi**

Department of Foreign Affairs  
Foreign Service Officer  
[simon.kaumi3@gmail.com](mailto:simon.kaumi3@gmail.com)

**Thomas Usu**

PNG National Fisheries Authority  
Acting Executive Manager - Fisheries  
Management Business Unit  
[tusu@fisheries.gov.pg](mailto:tusu@fisheries.gov.pg)

## PHILIPPINES

### **Isidro M Velayo Jr**

DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Assistant Director for Technical Services  
[sidvelayo@gmail.com](mailto:sidvelayo@gmail.com)

### **Lilian Cruz Garcia**

National Fisheries Research and Development Institute  
Executive Director  
[liliangarcia60@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:liliangarcia60@yahoo.com.ph)

### **Alma C. Dickson**

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Development Management Officer IV  
[alma\\_dickson@yahoo.com](mailto:alma_dickson@yahoo.com)

### **Asis Perez**

SACOPA  
Legal Adviser  
[perezasis@yahoo.com](mailto:perezasis@yahoo.com)

### **Isidro Tanangonan**

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Aquaculturist I  
[itanangonan@bfar.da.gov.ph](mailto:itanangonan@bfar.da.gov.ph)

### **Marlo Demo-os**

DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Aquaculturist II  
[mbdemoos@gmail.com](mailto:mbdemoos@gmail.com)

### **Rafael Ramiscal**

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)  
Chief, Capture Fisheries Division  
[rv\\_ram55@yahoo.com](mailto:rv_ram55@yahoo.com)

### **Severino Escobar Jr.**

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Chief, Capture Fisheries Licensing Section-  
Fisheries Regulatory and Licensing Division  
[jojo\\_escobar@yahoo.com](mailto:jojo_escobar@yahoo.com)

### **Suzette Barcoma**

National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI)  
Science Research Specialist II  
[suzette\\_barcoma@yahoo.com](mailto:suzette_barcoma@yahoo.com)

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### **GeunRyeong Kim**

Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries  
Deputy Director  
[geunryeongkim@korea.kr](mailto:geunryeongkim@korea.kr)

### **Mi Kyung Lee**

National Institute of Fisheries Science  
Distant Water Fisheries Resources Division  
[ccklee@korea.kr](mailto:ccklee@korea.kr)

### **Seunghyun Kim**

Fisheries Monitoring Center  
Busan, Republic of Korea  
[whizksh@korea.kr](mailto:whizksh@korea.kr)

## REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

### **Hon. John M. Silk**

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
Minister of Natural Resources and  
Commerce/Chairman - MIMRA Board  
[johnsilk302@gmail.com](mailto:johnsilk302@gmail.com)

### **Asia Chong Gum**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Foreign Service Officer  
[asiachonggum@gmail.com](mailto:asiachonggum@gmail.com)

### **Barbara Hanchard**

c/o Marshall Islands Marine Resources  
Authority  
Consultant  
[barbara@hanchard.net](mailto:barbara@hanchard.net)

### **Beau Bigler**

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
Chief Fisheries Officer  
[bbigler@mimra.com](mailto:bbigler@mimra.com)

### **Berry Muller**

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
Deputy Director - Oceanic and Industrial  
Affairs Division  
[bmuller@mimra.com](mailto:bmuller@mimra.com)

### **Bobby Muller**

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors  
[bobbysmuller@gmail.com](mailto:bobbysmuller@gmail.com)

### **Caleb Joseph**

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
IT Officer  
[cjoseph@mimra.com](mailto:cjoseph@mimra.com)

**Danny Wase**  
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
Board of Directors  
[danny.wase@gmail.com](mailto:danny.wase@gmail.com)

**Davey Yu**  
c/o Marshall Islands Marine Resources  
Authority  
Fleet Manager  
[yuyirong@skmic.sh.cn](mailto:yuyirong@skmic.sh.cn)

**Francisco Blaha**  
MIMRA  
Offshore Fisheries Advisor  
[fblaha@mimra.com](mailto:fblaha@mimra.com)

**Glen Joseph**  
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
Executive Director  
[gjoseph@mimra.com](mailto:gjoseph@mimra.com)

**Junjie Pan**  
Pan Pacific Food(RMI) Inc.  
General Manager Assistant  
[panjunjie@skmic.sh.cn](mailto:panjunjie@skmic.sh.cn)

**Rhea Moss-Christian**  
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
Adviser  
[rhea.moss@gmail.com](mailto:rhea.moss@gmail.com)

**Wanjun Yang**  
Pan Pacific Fishing (RMI) Inc.  
General Manager  
[ywj\\_tuna@163.com](mailto:ywj_tuna@163.com)

## SAMOA

**Grace Pativaine Elaine Faaiuga**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Foreign Service Officer  
[grace.faaiuga@mfat.gov.ws](mailto:grace.faaiuga@mfat.gov.ws)

**Moli Amosa Iakopo**  
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries  
Fisheries Officer  
[moli.iakopo@maf.gov.ws](mailto:moli.iakopo@maf.gov.ws)

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

**David Fatai**  
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Chief International policy officer  
[dfatai@fisheries.gov.sb](mailto:dfatai@fisheries.gov.sb)

**Edward Honiwala**  
c/o Ministry of Fisheries and Marine  
Resources  
Director of Fisheries  
[ehoniwala@fisheries.gov.sb](mailto:ehoniwala@fisheries.gov.sb)

**Francis Pituvaka**  
Solomon Islands Government Ministry of  
Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Communication Officer

**Francis Tofuakalo**  
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Deputy Director Offshore Fisheries  
[ftofuakalo@fisheries.gov.sb](mailto:ftofuakalo@fisheries.gov.sb)

## CHINESE TAIPEI

**Joy Hsiangyi Yu**  
Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture  
Secretary, International Fisheries Affair  
Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division  
[hsiangyi@msl.f.a.gov.tw](mailto:hsiangyi@msl.f.a.gov.tw)

**Scott Tai-Yun Wen**  
Overseas Fisheries Development Council  
Secretary  
[wty@ofdc.org.tw](mailto:wty@ofdc.org.tw)

**Shirley Shih-Ning Liu**  
Overseas Fisheries Development Council  
Secretary  
[shirley@ofdc.org.tw](mailto:shirley@ofdc.org.tw)

## TONGA

**Tuikolongahau Halafihi**  
Ministry of Fisheries  
.Chief Executive Officer  
[supi64t@gmail.com](mailto:supi64t@gmail.com)

**George Vete**  
Tongafish  
Project Manager  
[siaosi.vete@gmail.com](mailto:siaosi.vete@gmail.com)

**Lavinia Vaipuna**  
Ministry of Fisheries  
Fisheries Officer  
[nia.vaipuna@gmail.com](mailto:nia.vaipuna@gmail.com)

**Mele Fehoko Atuekaho**  
Ministry of Fisheries  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
[meletoaatuekaho@gmail.com](mailto:meletoaatuekaho@gmail.com)

## TUVALU

### **Isala Tito Isala**

Tuvalu Fisheries Department  
Legal Officer

### **Michael Batty**

Tuvalu Fisheries Department  
Adviser

### **Nikolasi Apinelu**

Government of Tuvalu  
Secretary  
[napinelu@gov.tv](mailto:napinelu@gov.tv)

### **Samasoni A Finikaso**

Government of Tuvalu  
Director of Fisheries  
[samfinikaso70@gmail.com](mailto:samfinikaso70@gmail.com)

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### **Kelly Kryc**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for International  
Fisheries  
[kelly.kryc@noaa.gov](mailto:kelly.kryc@noaa.gov)

### **Alex Kahl**

NOAA Fisheries - Pacific Islands Regional  
Office  
International Fisheries Division  
[alex.kahl@noaa.gov](mailto:alex.kahl@noaa.gov)

### **Alexa Cole**

NOAA Office of International Affairs &  
Seafood Inspection  
Director  
[Alexa.Cole@noaa.gov](mailto:Alexa.Cole@noaa.gov)

### **Emily Crigler**

NOAA Fisheries  
Fishery Policy Analyst  
[emily.crigler@noaa.gov](mailto:emily.crigler@noaa.gov)

### **Emily Reynolds**

NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands Regional  
Office  
Fishery Policy Analyst  
[emily.reynolds@noaa.gov](mailto:emily.reynolds@noaa.gov)

### **Jason Philibotte**

NOAA Fisheries  
International Fisheries, Division Chief

[jason.philibotte@noaa.gov](mailto:jason.philibotte@noaa.gov)

### **Kitty Simonds**

Western Pacific Regional Fishery  
Management Council  
Executive Director  
[Kitty.Simonds@wpcouncil.org](mailto:Kitty.Simonds@wpcouncil.org)

### **Mark Fitchett**

Western Pacific Regional Fisheries  
Management Council (WPRFMC)  
Pelagic Ecosystem Fisheries Scientist  
[mark.fitchett@wpcouncil.org](mailto:mark.fitchett@wpcouncil.org)

### **Michael Brakke**

NOAA Fisheries, Office of International  
Affairs and Seafood Inspection  
Deputy Director  
[michael.brakke@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.brakke@noaa.gov)

### **Rebecca Wintering**

U.S. Department of State  
Office of Marine Conservation  
[WinteringRJ@state.gov](mailto:WinteringRJ@state.gov)

### **Terry Boone**

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement,  
Pacific Islands Division (NOAA OLE/PID)  
VMS Manager  
[terry.boone@noaa.gov](mailto:terry.boone@noaa.gov)

### **Tyler Loughran**

NOAA Fisheries  
International Fisheries Policy Fellow  
[tyler.loughran@noaa.gov](mailto:tyler.loughran@noaa.gov)

### **Valerie Post**

NOAA Fisheries  
Fishery Policy Analyst  
[valerie.post@noaa.gov](mailto:valerie.post@noaa.gov)

## VANUATU

### **Felix Toa Ngwango**

Vanuatu Fisheries Department  
Acting Compliance Manager  
[ftngwango@fisheries.gov.vu](mailto:ftngwango@fisheries.gov.vu)

### **May Mei-chin Juan**

Ming Dar Fishery (Vanuatu) Co. Ltd.  
Executive Assistant to the President  
[meichin.mdfc@gmail.com](mailto:meichin.mdfc@gmail.com)

### **Tony Taleo**

Vanuatu Fisheries Department  
Deputy Director Offshore  
[ttaleo@fisheries.gov.vu](mailto:ttaleo@fisheries.gov.vu)

## ***PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES***

### **FRENCH POLYNESIA**

**Thibaut Thellier**

French Polynesia Fishery Department  
Offshore Fishery Officer  
[thibaut.thellier@drm.gov.pf](mailto:thibaut.thellier@drm.gov.pf)

### **GUAM**

**Michael P. Duenas**

Guam Department of Agriculture DAWR  
Aquatics and Wildlife AA  
[michael.duenas@doag.guam.gov](mailto:michael.duenas@doag.guam.gov)

### **NEW CALEDONIA**

**Manuel Ducrocq**

New Caledonia Government  
Head of Fisheries and Marine Environment  
Department  
[manuel.ducrocq@gouv.nc](mailto:manuel.ducrocq@gouv.nc)

### **TOKELAU**

**Feleti Tulafono**

Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency  
Director  
[ftulafono@gmail.com](mailto:ftulafono@gmail.com)

**Lesley Gould**

Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency  
Fisheries Advisor  
[lesleykgould@gmail.com](mailto:lesleykgould@gmail.com)

**Stan Crothers**

Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency  
Fisheries Advisor  
[stan.crothers@gmail.com](mailto:stan.crothers@gmail.com)

## ***COOPERATING NON MEMBERS***

### **CURACAO**

**Carlmichael Suarez**

Ministry of Economic Development  
Operator  
[michael.suarez@gobiernu.cw](mailto:michael.suarez@gobiernu.cw)

### **EL SALVADOR**

**Ana Galdamez**

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock -  
CENDEPESCA

Head of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research  
Division

[ana.galdamez@mag.gob.sv](mailto:ana.galdamez@mag.gob.sv)

**Antonio Vasquez**

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock  
El Salvador Tuna Commissioner to WCPFC  
[antonio.vasquez@mag.gob.sv](mailto:antonio.vasquez@mag.gob.sv)

### **LIBERIA**

**Francis Bigboy Boimah**

National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority  
Republic of Liberia  
Transshipment Coordinator  
[fboimah@nafaa.gov.lr](mailto:fboimah@nafaa.gov.lr)

**Ruphene Sidifall**

Liberian Registry  
Associate Counsel  
[rsidifall@liscr.com](mailto:rsidifall@liscr.com)

### **NICARAGUA**

**Julio Guevara**

Nicaragua  
Head of Delegation  
[juliocgq@hotmail.com](mailto:juliocgq@hotmail.com)

**Jimmy Villavicencio**

Nicaragua  
Legal Advisor  
[jvillavicencio@v-a.com.ec](mailto:jvillavicencio@v-a.com.ec)

### **PANAMA**

**Alcibiades Guerra Campos**

Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de  
Panamá  
Asistente Técnico  
[aguerra@arap.gob.pa](mailto:aguerra@arap.gob.pa)

**Maria Sierra**

Aquatics Resources Authority of Panama  
Chief of Fisheries Monitoring Center  
[msierra@arap.gob.pa](mailto:msierra@arap.gob.pa)

**Vivian Quiros S.**

Autoridad De Los Recursos Acuaticos de  
Panama  
Technical Assistant-International Fisheries  
Affairs  
[vquiros@arap.gob.pa](mailto:vquiros@arap.gob.pa)

### **THAILAND**

**Sarayoot Boonkumjad**

Department of fisheries Thailand  
Fisheries Biologist, Senior Professional Level  
[sboonkumjad@yahoo.com](mailto:sboonkumjad@yahoo.com)

**Sakda Arbsuwan**

Department of fisheries Thailand  
Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level  
[sakdaarbsuwan@gmail.com](mailto:sakdaarbsuwan@gmail.com)

**Sawitre Yawanopas**

Department of fisheries Thailand  
Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level  
[sawitre\\_yawa@hotmail.com](mailto:sawitre_yawa@hotmail.com)

**Thanyalak Ratanadilok Na Phuket**

Department of fisheries Thailand  
Fisheries Biologist, Professional Level  
[trthanya@gmail.com](mailto:trthanya@gmail.com)

**Thitirat Rattanawiwan**

Department of fisheries Thailand  
Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level  
[milky\\_gm@hotmail.com](mailto:milky_gm@hotmail.com)

**Tirabhorn Yothakong**

Department of fisheries Thailand  
Fisheries Biologist, Professional Level  
[tirabhorn@gmail.com](mailto:tirabhorn@gmail.com)

**VIETNAM****Tran Dinh Luan**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural  
Development  
Director General, Directorate of Fisheries  
[tdluan.dah@gmail.com](mailto:tdluan.dah@gmail.com)

**Ha Le**

Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
Deputy Director of Fisheries Information  
Centre  
[haflee@gmail.com](mailto:haflee@gmail.com)

**Le Minh Tien**

Vietnam Tuna Association  
Officer  
[tien.le@halongdanang.com](mailto:tien.le@halongdanang.com)

**Ngo Thi Thanh Huong**

Directorate of Fisheries

Official

[thanhhuong383@gmail.com](mailto:thanhhuong383@gmail.com)

**Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural  
Development  
Director of Department of Science,  
Technology and International Cooperation  
[dzungnguyen74@gmail.com](mailto:dzungnguyen74@gmail.com)

**Tran Van Hao**

Vietnam Tuna Association  
Assistant to the Chairman  
[haovinatuna@gmail.com](mailto:haovinatuna@gmail.com)

**OBSERVERS****AGREEMENT FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSS AND  
PETRELS (ACAP)****Christine Bogle**

Secretariat of the Agreement on the  
Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels  
Executive Secretary  
[christine.bogle@acap.aq](mailto:christine.bogle@acap.aq)

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CENTRE  
FOR OCEAN RESOURCES AND  
SECURITY (ANCORS)****Angela Abolhassani**

Australian National Centre for Ocean  
Resources and Security / Ocean Nexus  
Research Scientist  
[aangela1@uw.edu](mailto:aangela1@uw.edu)

**Bianca Haas**

Australian National Centre for Ocean  
Resources and Security  
Research Fellow  
[bhaas@uow.edu.au](mailto:bhaas@uow.edu.au)

**Hussain Sinan**

Dalhousie University  
PhD student  
[hussain.sinan@dal.ca](mailto:hussain.sinan@dal.ca)

**Joe Enlet**

University of Rhode Island - Department of  
Marine Affairs  
Doctoral Fellow  
[joe\\_enlet@uri.edu](mailto:joe_enlet@uri.edu)

#### **GLOBAL FISHING WATCH (GFW)**

**Sarah Lenel**  
Global Fishing Watch  
Program Manager Oceania  
[sarah.lenel@globalfishingwatch.org](mailto:sarah.lenel@globalfishingwatch.org)

#### **INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)**

**Brad Wiley**  
IATTC  
Policy Specialist  
[bwiley@iatcc.org](mailto:bwiley@iatcc.org)

#### **INTERNATIONAL MCS NETWORK**

**Damian Johnson**  
International MCS Network  
Senior MCS Specialist  
[djohnson@imcsnet.org](mailto:djohnson@imcsnet.org)

#### **INTERNATIONAL POLE AND LINE FOUNDATION (IPNLF)**

**Roy Bealey**  
IPNLF  
Fisheries Director  
[roy.bealey@ipnlf.org](mailto:roy.bealey@ipnlf.org)

#### **INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION (ISSF)**

**Holly Koehler**  
International Seafood Sustainability  
Foundation  
Vice President for Policy and Outreach  
[hkoehler@iss-foundation.org](mailto:hkoehler@iss-foundation.org)

**Victor Restrepo**  
ISSF  
Vice-President, Science  
[vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org](mailto:vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org)

#### **NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (NPFC)**

**Judy Dwyer**  
North Pacific Fisheries Commission  
Compliance Manager  
[jdwyer@npfc.int](mailto:jdwyer@npfc.int)

**Natsuki Hosokawa**  
North Pacific Fisheries Commission  
Compliance Assistant

#### **ORGANISATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE TUNA FISHERIES (OPRTF)**

**Shingo Ota**  
Organization for the Promotion of Responsible  
Tuna Fisheries(OPRT)  
Managing Director  
[ota@opr.or.jp](mailto:ota@opr.or.jp)

#### **ORGANIZATION FOR REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL STUDIES (ORIS)**

**Yasuhiro Sanada**  
Waseda Institute for Global Governance  
Researcher

#### **PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)**

**Finlay Scott**  
Pacific Community  
Fisheries Scientist  
[finlays@spc.int](mailto:finlays@spc.int)

**Graham Pilling**  
Pacific Community (SPC)  
Deputy Director FAME (OFP)  
[grahamp@spc.int](mailto:grahamp@spc.int)

**Paul Hamer**  
Pacific Community  
Principal Scientist  
[paulh@spc.int](mailto:paulh@spc.int)

**Peter Williams**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
Principal Fisheries Scientist (Data Mgmt.)  
[peterw@spc.int](mailto:peterw@spc.int)

**Robert Scott**  
Pacific Community  
Senior Fisheries Scientist  
[robertsc@spc.int](mailto:robertsc@spc.int)

**Steven Hare**  
Pacific Community  
Senior Scientist  
[stevenh@spc.int](mailto:stevenh@spc.int)

**William John Hampton**  
Pacific Community



Chief Scientist  
[johnh@spc.int](mailto:johnh@spc.int)

**PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES  
AGENCY (FFA)**

**'Ana F. Taholo**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
Compliance Policy Advisor  
[ana.taholo@ffa.int](mailto:ana.taholo@ffa.int)

**Adele Dutilloy**  
FFA  
Fisheries Management Advisor  
[adele.dutilloy@ffa.int](mailto:adele.dutilloy@ffa.int)

**Allan Rahari**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
Director of Fisheries Operations  
[allan.rahari@ffa.int](mailto:allan.rahari@ffa.int)

**Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosn**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
Director General  
[manu.tupous-roosen@ffa.int](mailto:manu.tupous-roosen@ffa.int)

**Hugh Walton**  
Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency  
OFMP project adviser  
[hugh.walton@ffa.int](mailto:hugh.walton@ffa.int)

**Jason Raubani**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
MCS Policy Advisor  
[jason.raubani@ffa.int](mailto:jason.raubani@ffa.int)

**Joyce Samuelu-Ah Leong**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
Fisheries Management Adviser  
[joyce.samuelu-ahleong@ffa.int](mailto:joyce.samuelu-ahleong@ffa.int)

**Lianos Triantafillos**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
Fisheries Management Advisor  
[lianos.triantafillos@ffa.int](mailto:lianos.triantafillos@ffa.int)

**Matthew Hooper**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
Deputy Director General  
[matt.hooper@ffa.int](mailto:matt.hooper@ffa.int)

**Taro Kawamoto**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

Tuna Industry Adviser  
[taro.kawamoto@ffa.int](mailto:taro.kawamoto@ffa.int)

**Wetjens Dimmlich**  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
Director Fisheries Management  
[wetjens@ffa.int](mailto:wetjens@ffa.int)

**PARTIES TO THE NAURU  
AGREEMENT (PNA)**

**Brian Kumasi**  
Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement  
Policy Manager  
[Brian@pnatuna.com](mailto:Brian@pnatuna.com)

**Joseph Kendou**  
PNA Office  
Compliance Officer  
[joseph@pnatuna.com](mailto:joseph@pnatuna.com)

**Kaili Mae Kramer Andrike**  
Parties to the Nauru Agreement  
Senior Accountant  
[kaili@pnatuna.com](mailto:kaili@pnatuna.com)

**Les Clark**  
PNA  
Adviser  
[les@pnatuna.com](mailto:les@pnatuna.com)

**Sangaalofa Clark**  
Parties to the Nauru Agreement  
Chief Executive Officer  
[sangaa@pnatuna.com](mailto:sangaa@pnatuna.com)

**Stephen Brouwer**  
Parties to the Nauru Agreement  
Consultant  
[steve@saggitus.co.nz](mailto:steve@saggitus.co.nz)

**PEW CHARITABLE TRUST**

**Glen Holmes**  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Officer  
[gholmes@pewtrusts.org](mailto:gholmes@pewtrusts.org)

**Laura Eeles**  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Associate  
[leeles@pewtrusts.org](mailto:leeles@pewtrusts.org)



## THE GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE (GTA)

### **Steven Adolf**

Global Tuna Alliance  
Member  
[stevenadolf@gmail.com](mailto:stevenadolf@gmail.com)

### **Tom Pickerell**

Global Tuna Alliance  
Executive Director  
[tom@globaltunaalliance.com](mailto:tom@globaltunaalliance.com)

## THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

### **Dave Gershman**

The Ocean Foundation  
Officer, International Fisheries Conservation  
[dgershman@oceanfdn.org](mailto:dgershman@oceanfdn.org)

## WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

### **Astrid Natasha O. Ocampo**

WWF-Philippines  
Policy, Governance, and Partnerships  
Specialist  
[aocampo@wwf.org.ph](mailto:aocampo@wwf.org.ph)

### **Bubba Cook**

World Wide Fund for Nature  
Western and Central Pacific Tuna Programme  
Manager  
[acook@wwf.org.nz](mailto:acook@wwf.org.nz)

### **Duncan Williams**

WWF  
Programme Manager, Sustainable Fisheries  
and Seafood Programme  
[dwilliams@wwfpacific.org](mailto:dwilliams@wwfpacific.org)

### **Patricia Joan Kailola**

Human Dignity Group Ltd  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
[pkailola@gmail.com](mailto:pkailola@gmail.com)

### **Pita Ligaiula**

Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)  
Senior Journalist  
[kaisawaieke@gmail.com](mailto:kaisawaieke@gmail.com)

### **Raisa Pandan**

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)  
Technical Operation Manager  
[rpandan@wwf.org.ph](mailto:rpandan@wwf.org.ph)

### **Vilisoni Kotobalavu Tarabe**

WWF-Pacific  
Fisheries Policy Officer  
[vtarabe@wwfpacific.org](mailto:vtarabe@wwfpacific.org)

### **William N Kostka**

Micronesia Conservation Trust  
Executive Director  
[director@ourmicronesia.org](mailto:director@ourmicronesia.org)

### **Zheng Guang Zhu**

WWF  
Ocean Policy Manager  
[zhgzhu@wwfchina.org](mailto:zhgzhu@wwfchina.org)

## WCPFC SECRETARIAT

### **Aaron Nighswander**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Finance and Administration Manager  
[aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int](mailto:aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int)

### **Albert Carlot**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
VMS Manager  
[albert.carlot@wcpfc.int](mailto:albert.carlot@wcpfc.int)

### **Arlene Takesy**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Executive Assistant  
[arlene.takesy@wcpfc.int](mailto:arlene.takesy@wcpfc.int)

### **Donald David**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Data Quality Officer  
[donald.david@wcpfc.int](mailto:donald.david@wcpfc.int)

### **Eidre Sharp**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Assistant Compliance Manager  
[Eidre.Sharp@wcpfc.int](mailto:Eidre.Sharp@wcpfc.int)

### **Elaine G. Garvilles**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Assistant Science Manager  
[Elaine.Garvilles@wcpfc.int](mailto:Elaine.Garvilles@wcpfc.int)

### **Feleti Teo**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Executive Director

[feleti.teo@wcpfc.int](mailto:feleti.teo@wcpfc.int)

**Jeannie Marie Nanpei**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
RFV Officer

[jeannie.nanpei@wcpfc.int](mailto:jeannie.nanpei@wcpfc.int)

**Joseph Jack**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Compliance Officer

[Joseph.Jack@wcpfc.int](mailto:Joseph.Jack@wcpfc.int)

**Karl Staisch**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
ROP Coordinator

[karl.staisch@wcpfc.int](mailto:karl.staisch@wcpfc.int)

**Kilafwasru Albert**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
ROP Data Entry Technician

[Kilafwasru.Albert@wcpfc.int](mailto:Kilafwasru.Albert@wcpfc.int)

**Lara Manarangi-Trott**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Compliance Manager

[Lara.Manarangi-Trott@wcpfc.int](mailto:Lara.Manarangi-Trott@wcpfc.int)

**Lars Olsen**

WCPFC WPEA-ITM Project  
Project Manager

[olsenpacific@gmail.com](mailto:olsenpacific@gmail.com)

**Lucille Martinez**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Administrative Officer

[lucille.martinez@wcpfc.int](mailto:lucille.martinez@wcpfc.int)

**Mark Smaalders**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Meeting Rapporteur

[marksmaalders@gmail.com](mailto:marksmaalders@gmail.com)

**Merisa Delcampo**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Finance Officer

[Merisa.Delcampo@wcpfc.int](mailto:Merisa.Delcampo@wcpfc.int)

**Samuel T. Rikin**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
IT Officer

[samuel.rikin@wcpfc.int](mailto:samuel.rikin@wcpfc.int)

**SungKwon Soh**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
Science Manager

[sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int](mailto:sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int)

**Tim Jones**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries  
Commission (WCPFC)  
IT Manager

[tim.jones@wcpfc.int](mailto:tim.jones@wcpfc.int)

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2023  
and indicative figures for 2024 and 2025 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2022</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2022</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2023</i>	<i>Proposed budget 2023</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>
<b>Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat</b>						
<b>Sub-Item 1.1      <i>Staff Costs</i></b>						
Professional Staff Salary	974,552	959,010	980,393	1,021,558	1,027,522	1,031,060
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	861,608	881,809	865,054	1,010,690	1,014,209	1,016,296
Professional Staff Insurance	163,638	152,800	166,005	182,106	185,173	188,824
Recruitment/Repatriation	37,565	36,583	45,130	45,130	25,565	0
Support Staff	467,792	476,347	478,056	527,023	532,611	538,358
<b>Total, sub-item 1.1</b>	<b>2,505,155</b>	<b>2,506,549</b>	<b>2,534,638</b>	<b>2,786,507</b>	<b>2,785,080</b>	<b>2,774,538</b>
<b>Sub-Item 1.2      <i>Other Personnel Costs</i></b>						
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	5,256	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses <i>see note 1</i>	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	20,000
Consultants <i>see note 2</i>	138,000	131,020	138,000	153,000	153,000	153,000
<b>Total, sub-item 1.2</b>	<b>154,500</b>	<b>136,276</b>	<b>154,500</b>	<b>189,500</b>	<b>189,500</b>	<b>189,500</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.3      <i>Official Travel</i></b>	<b>122,500</b>	<b>76,509</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.4      <i>General Operating Expenses</i></b>						
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	42,000	38,889	42,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
Communications/Courier	84,000	81,464	82,000	84,000	82,000	82,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	36,741	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
Audit	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,000	7,000	7,000
Bank Charges	10,000	8,705	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	8,207	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	7,500	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,000	7,179	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Security	100,500	98,861	100,500	105,525	105,525	105,525
Training	12,000	10,596	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
<b>Total, sub-item 1.4</b>	<b>320,500</b>	<b>305,142</b>	<b>319,000</b>	<b>325,525</b>	<b>323,525</b>	<b>323,525</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.5      <i>Capital Expenditure</i></b>						
Vehicles	0	0	22,000	22,000	0	0
Information Technology	49,373	46,235	49,373	48,400	48,400	48,400
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	28,184	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
<b>Total, sub-item 1.5</b>	<b>81,373</b>	<b>74,419</b>	<b>103,373</b>	<b>102,400</b>	<b>80,400</b>	<b>80,400</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.6      <i>Maintenance</i></b>						
Vehicles	6,000	6,515	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	156,653	153,880	156,653	167,863	167,863	167,863
Website Hosting	13,320	16,701	13,320	20,130	20,130	20,130
Buildings & Grounds	60,000	60,257	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Gardeners and Cleaners	82,500	82,837	82,500	88,110	88,110	88,110
Insurance	28,400	28,458	28,400	28,500	28,500	28,500
<b>Total, sub-item 1.6</b>	<b>346,873</b>	<b>348,648</b>	<b>346,873</b>	<b>370,603</b>	<b>370,603</b>	<b>370,603</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.7      <i>Meeting Services</i></b>						
Annual Session <i>see note 3</i>	165,000	202,500	165,000	195,000	195,000	195,000
Scientific Committee <i>see note 3</i>	212,000	5,158	192,000	232,000	192,000	192,000
Northern Committee <i>see note 4</i>	18,000	124	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee <i>see note 3</i>	159,800	2,873	159,800	174,800	174,800	174,800
Support for IWGs and Science Managers Dialog	162,500	370	0	0	0	0
<b>Total, sub-item 1.7</b>	<b>717,300</b>	<b>211,025</b>	<b>534,800</b>	<b>619,800</b>	<b>579,800</b>	<b>579,800</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.8 <i>Future Work - Commission note 4</i></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>
<b>TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1</b>	<b>4,248,202</b>	<b>3,658,568</b>	<b>4,423,184</b>	<b>4,604,335</b>	<b>4,758,908</b>	<b>4,748,366</b>

	<i>Approved budget 2022</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2022</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2023</i>	<i>Proposed budget 2023</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>
<b>ANNEX 3 (continued)</b>						
<b>Part 2 - Science &amp; Technical &amp; Compliance Programme</b>						
<b>Section 2 (Item 2)</b>						
<b>Sub-item 2.1</b>	Scientific Services (SPC)	961,875	961,875	981,112	981,112	1,000,734
<b>Sub-item 2.2</b>	<b>Scientific Research</b>					
	Additional Resourcing SPC	173,206	173,206	176,670	176,670	180,204
	P35b Maintenance of WCPFC Tissue Bank	103,204	103,204	105,268	105,268	107,373
	P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000
	P65 Peer review of Stock Modelling	50,000	37,882	0	0	0
	P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	25,000	0	25,000
	P90 Fish weights/lengths for scientific analyses	75,000	75,000	0	0	0
	P108 WCPO silky shark assessment	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000
	P111 (P17X2) SWP Mako Shark SA	105,000	105,000	0	0	0
	P100c (P17X3) WCP tuna fisheries for CKMR	40,000	40,000	0	0	0
	P107b (P17X5) Advice for SWP blue shark	40,000	40,000	0	0	0
	P18X1 (P17X1) Billfish Research Plan 2023 - 2027	0	0	55,000	55,000	0
	P18X2 (P17X4) Ensemble model SA uncertainty	0	0	20,000	30,000	0
	P18X3 Improved coverage of cannery receipt data	0	0	0	35,000	60,000
	P18X4 Evidence for increasing trend in SKJ rec.	0	0	0	20,000	0
	P18X6 Pacific silky shark assessment	0	0	0	0	30,000
	P18X7 Pacific whale shark assessment	0	0	0	0	85,000
	P18X8 Shark Research Plan midterm review	0	0	0	30,000	0
	<b>Total, sub-item 2.2</b>	<b>1,316,410</b>	<b>1,304,292</b>	<b>1,161,938</b>	<b>1,231,938</b>	<b>1,267,577</b>
<b>Sub-item 2.3</b>	<b>Technical &amp; Compliance Programme</b>					
	ROP - Audit/Remediation	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	15,000
	ROP - Training, Assistance & Development	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
	ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
	Vessel Monitoring System - Capital Costs	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Vessel Monitoring System	300,000	150,000	300,000	200,000	200,000
	Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	204,846	202,755	208,942	206,810	210,946
	Vessel Monitoring System - Security Audit	8,400	0	8,400	11,900	11,900
	CCM/Staff VMS Training	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Information Management System	100,000	118,979	120,000	120,000	120,000
	Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
	AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub.	18,000	20,800	18,000	20,000	40,000
	Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity <i>see note 6</i>	80,000	78,000	80,000	80,000	40,000
	E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	8,800	30,000	30,000	30,000
	CMS Future Work <i>see note 7</i>	30,000	36,226	0	80,000	50,000
	Compliance and Monitoring Analyst Consultant	0	0	0	80,000	0
	Regional Capacity Building Workshops <i>see note 8</i>	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
	<b>Total, item 2.3</b>	<b>1,945,150</b>	<b>1,669,464</b>	<b>1,939,246</b>	<b>2,002,614</b>	<b>1,876,750</b>
	<b>TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2</b>	<b>4,223,435</b>	<b>3,935,631</b>	<b>4,082,295</b>	<b>4,215,664</b>	<b>4,145,061</b>
	<b>Total, Parts 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>8,471,636</b>	<b>7,594,199</b>	<b>8,505,479</b>	<b>8,819,999</b>	<b>8,708,412</b>

*Note 1: Chairs Expenses*

If the Chair of the Commission is from a developing state USD20,000 will be included in the budget for the Chairs travel.

*Note 2: Consultancies proposed are:*

Legal support services	\$65,000
ED Discretion	\$25,000
Meetings' rapporteur	\$63,000
	<u>\$153,000</u>

*Note 3: Meeting Services*

Increased costs for hosting hybrid meetings for the SC, TCC and the Annual meeting. The costs for the annual meeting adjust once a final decision is reached on the hosting arrangements for WCPFC20

*Note 4: Northern Committee*

As per WCPFC9, an additional \$25,000 will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

*Note 5: Sub-item 1.8 Future Work - Commission*

Budget line added in 2020 to account for unidentified future work that may be required by the Commission. Amount reduced to \$0 for the proposed 2022 budget with the additional projects under Scientific Research.

*Note 6: Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity*

Supplementary dedicated analytical capacity for the Secretariat in 2022 and 2023 (refer TCC17-2021-17).

Intended to be in the form of additional short-term resources for the Secretariat in work to

- Support continued refinements of the CMS
- Support to develop automated extraction and IT tools to support the parameters of common data requests to support MCS activities and to further enhance public access to WCPFC scientific data and information and Summary information from MCS programmes
- Support develop and integrate new processes into Secretariat workflows, and to refresh front-facing web screens and user guidance for members and, where relevant, the public

*Note 7: CMS Future Work*

2022 – CCFS Messaging tool feasibility/design (\$10,000), CCFS improvements (\$20,000)

2023 – TBD (refer TCC18 outcomes)

*Note 8: Regional Capacity Building Workshops*

FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

ANNEX 2

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2023**

---

<b>Proposed budget expenditure total</b>	8,819,999
less	
<b>Estimated interest</b>	(3,400)
<b>Transfer from Working Capital Fund</b>	(1,050,000)
<b>CNM Contributions Fund</b>	(50,000)
<b>Total assessed contributions</b>	<u><u>7,716,599</u></u>

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2024**

---

<b>Proposed budget expenditure total</b>	8,903,970
less	
<b>Estimated interest and other income</b>	(3,500)
<b>Transfer from Working Capital Fund</b>	(900,000)
<b>CNM Contributions Fund</b>	(50,000)
<b>Total assessed contributions</b>	<u><u>7,950,470</u></u>

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2025**

---

<b>Proposed budget expenditure total</b>	8,708,412
less	
<b>Estimated interest and other income</b>	(3,500)
<b>Transfer from Working Capital Fund</b>	(500,000)
<b>CNM Contributions Fund</b>	(50,000)
<b>Total assessed contributions</b>	<u><u>8,154,912</u></u>

### Annex 3

#### Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

<b>2023 Contribution Table</b>								
<i>Member</i>	<i>Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget</i>	<i>National wealth component: 20% of budget</i>	<i>Catch component: 70% of budget</i>	<i>Addition for Northern Committee</i>	<b>Total Contributions by Members</b>	<i>Percent of Budget by member</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States*</i>	<i>Total of components: 100% of budget</i>
Australia	29,679	97,339	12,577	0	<b>139,595</b>	1.84%	0	139,595
Canada	29,679	87,759	0	0	<b>117,438</b>	1.54%	0	117,438
China	29,679	191,591	118,037	0	<b>339,307</b>	4.46%	0	339,307
Cook Islands	29,679	895	12,175	0	<b>42,749</b>	0.56%	28,642	71,392
European Union	29,679	237,934	41,781	0	<b>309,394</b>	4.07%	0	309,394
Federated States of Micronesia	29,679	5,552	453,966	0	<b>489,197</b>	6.43%	0	489,197
Fiji	29,679	7,639	23,928	0	<b>61,246</b>	0.81%	0	61,246
France	29,679	95,997	10,414	0	<b>136,091</b>	1.79%	0	136,091
Indonesia	29,679	18,449	110,578	0	<b>158,706</b>	2.09%	0	158,706
Japan	29,679	103,791	840,434	0	<b>973,904</b>	12.81%	0	973,904
Kiribati	29,679	4,559	406,865	0	<b>441,103</b>	5.80%	0	441,103
Korea	29,679	69,844	936,416	0	<b>1,035,939</b>	13.63%	0	1,035,939
Marshall Islands	29,679	2,981	272,566	0	<b>305,227</b>	4.01%	4,353	309,580
Nauru	29,679	544	221,800	0	<b>252,023</b>	3.31%	24,189	276,212
New Zealand	29,679	66,664	33,139	0	<b>129,483</b>	1.70%	0	129,483
Niue	29,679	83	1	0	<b>29,763</b>	0.39%	23,789	53,552
Palau	29,679	909	1,230	0	<b>31,818</b>	0.42%	22,764	54,581
Papua New Guinea	29,679	4,323	246,159	0	<b>280,162</b>	3.69%	0	280,162
Philippines	29,679	9,904	143,461	0	<b>183,044</b>	2.41%	0	183,044
Samoa	29,679	5,959	4,873	0	<b>40,511</b>	0.53%	0	40,511
Solomon Islands	29,679	3,285	70,882	0	<b>103,846</b>	1.37%	0	103,846
Chinese Taipei	29,679	50,987	814,939	0	<b>895,605</b>	11.78%	0	895,605
Tonga	29,679	5,338	363	0	<b>35,380</b>	0.47%	1,788	37,168
Tuvalu	29,679	597	43,353	0	<b>73,629</b>	0.97%	8,347	81,976
United States of America	29,679	352,048	417,690	0	<b>799,417</b>	10.51%	0	799,417
Vanuatu	29,679	4,477	163,992	0	<b>198,148</b>	2.61%	0	198,148
<b>Totals</b>	<b>771,660</b>	<b>1,429,448</b>	<b>5,401,619</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,602,727</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>113,872</b>	<b>7,716,599</b>

\* To be offset by the CNM Contributions Fund.

**Annex 3 Cont.**

**Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)**

<i>Member</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Maximum Payable for wealth component</i>	<i>National wealth component</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States</i>
Cook Islands	17,900	895	29,537	28,642
Federated States of Micronesia	116,250	5,813	5,552	0
Fiji	902,900	45,145	7,639	0
Kiribati	121,390	6,070	4,559	0
Marshall Islands	59,620	2,981	7,334	4,353
Nauru	10,870	544	24,732	24,189
Niue	1,651	83	23,872	23,789
Palau	18,170	909	23,672	22,764
Papua New Guinea	9,119,000	455,950	4,323	0
Samoa	200,140	10,007	5,959	0
Solomon Islands	704,000	35,200	3,285	0
Tonga	106,760	5,338	7,126	1,788
Tuvalu	11,930	597	8,944	8,347
Vanuatu	31,446	1,572	4,477	0
<b>Total</b>				<b>113,872</b>

**Additional Funding for Northern Committee as agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)**

<i>Non-developing States Members of NC</i>	<i>Percent of total budget</i>	<i>Percent of NC fund</i>	<i>Additional cost</i>
Canada	1.52%	3.5%	0
China	4.40%	10.1%	0
Japan	2.06%	4.7%	0
Korea	13.42%	31.0%	0
Chinese Taipei	11.61%	26.8%	0
United States of America	10.36%	23.9%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.37%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>0</b>



**Annex 3 Cont.**

**Schedule of contributions based on proposed 2024 budgets without the Offset for Small Island Developing States and Additional funds Assessed on Non-Developing States Members of NC**

Member	2023					2024 Indicative		2025 Indicative	
	Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components : 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member
Australia	29,679	97,339	12,577	139,595	1.81%	143,826	1.81%	147,524	1.81%
Canada	29,679	87,759	0	117,438	1.52%	120,997	1.52%	124,109	1.52%
China	29,679	191,591	118,037	339,307	4.40%	349,591	4.40%	358,580	4.40%
Cook Islands	29,679	29,537	12,175	71,392	0.93%	73,555	0.93%	75,447	0.93%
European Union	29,679	237,934	41,781	309,394	4.01%	318,771	4.01%	326,968	4.01%
Federated States of Micronesia	29,679	5,552	453,966	489,197	6.34%	504,024	6.34%	516,984	6.34%
Fiji	29,679	7,639	23,928	61,246	0.79%	63,102	0.79%	64,725	0.79%
France	29,679	95,997	10,414	136,091	1.76%	140,215	1.76%	143,821	1.76%
Indonesia	29,679	18,449	110,578	158,706	2.06%	163,516	2.06%	167,721	2.06%
Japan	29,679	103,791	840,434	973,904	12.62%	1,003,421	12.62%	1,029,223	12.62%
Kiribati	29,679	4,559	406,865	441,103	5.72%	454,472	5.72%	466,159	5.72%
Korea	29,679	69,844	936,416	1,035,939	13.42%	1,067,336	13.42%	1,094,782	13.42%
Marshall Islands	29,679	7,334	272,566	309,580	4.01%	318,963	4.01%	327,165	4.01%
Nauru	29,679	24,732	221,800	276,212	3.58%	284,583	3.58%	291,901	3.58%
New Zealand	29,679	66,664	33,139	129,483	1.68%	133,407	1.68%	136,837	1.68%
Niue	29,679	23,872	1	53,552	0.69%	55,176	0.69%	56,594	0.69%
Palau	29,679	23,672	1,230	54,581	0.71%	56,236	0.71%	57,682	0.71%
Papua New Guinea	29,679	4,323	246,159	280,162	3.63%	288,653	3.63%	296,075	3.63%
Philippines	29,679	9,904	143,461	183,044	2.37%	188,592	2.37%	193,442	2.37%
Samoa	29,679	5,959	4,873	40,511	0.52%	41,739	0.52%	42,812	0.52%
Solomon Islands	29,679	3,285	70,882	103,846	1.35%	106,994	1.35%	109,745	1.35%
Chinese Taipei	29,679	50,987	814,939	895,605	11.61%	922,748	11.61%	946,476	11.61%
Tonga	29,679	7,126	363	37,168	0.48%	38,294	0.48%	39,279	0.48%
Tuvalu	29,679	8,944	43,353	81,976	1.06%	84,461	1.06%	86,632	1.06%
United States of America	29,679	352,048	417,690	799,417	10.36%	823,646	10.36%	844,825	10.36%
Vanuatu	29,679	4,477	163,992	198,148	2.57%	204,154	2.57%	209,403	2.57%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>771,660</b>	<b>1,543,320</b>	<b>5,401,619</b>	<b>7,716,599</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>7,950,470</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>8,154,912</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2023  
and indicative figures for 2024 and 2025 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2022</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2022</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2023</i>	<i>Approved budget 2023</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>
<b>Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat</b>						
<b>Sub-Item 1.1</b>	<b><i>Staff Costs</i></b>					
Professional Staff Salary	974,552	959,010	980,393	1,021,558	1,027,522	1,031,060
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	861,608	881,809	865,054	1,010,690	1,014,209	1,016,296
Professional Staff Insurance	163,638	152,800	166,005	182,106	185,173	188,824
Recruitment/Repatriation	37,565	36,583	45,130	45,130	25,565	0
Support Staff	467,792	476,347	478,056	527,023	532,611	538,358
<b>Total, sub-item 1.1</b>	<b>2,505,155</b>	<b>2,506,549</b>	<b>2,534,638</b>	<b>2,786,507</b>	<b>2,785,080</b>	<b>2,774,538</b>
<b>Sub-Item 1.2</b>	<b><i>Other Personnel Costs</i></b>					
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	5,256	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses <i>see note 1</i>	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	20,000
Consultants <i>see note 2</i>	138,000	131,020	138,000	153,000	153,000	153,000
<b>Total, sub-item 1.2</b>	<b>154,500</b>	<b>136,276</b>	<b>154,500</b>	<b>189,500</b>	<b>189,500</b>	<b>189,500</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.3</b>	<b><i>Official Travel</i></b>					
	<b>122,500</b>	<b>76,509</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.4</b>	<b><i>General Operating Expenses</i></b>					
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	42,000	38,889	42,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
Communications/Courier	84,000	81,464	82,000	84,000	82,000	82,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	36,741	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
Audit	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,000	7,000	7,000
Bank Charges	10,000	8,705	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	8,207	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	7,500	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,000	7,179	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Security	100,500	98,861	100,500	105,525	105,525	105,525
Training	12,000	10,596	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
<b>Total, sub-item 1.4</b>	<b>320,500</b>	<b>305,142</b>	<b>319,000</b>	<b>325,525</b>	<b>323,525</b>	<b>323,525</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.5</b>	<b><i>Capital Expenditure</i></b>					
Vehicles	0	0	22,000	22,000	0	0
Information Technology	49,373	46,235	49,373	48,400	48,400	48,400
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	28,184	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
<b>Total, sub-item 1.5</b>	<b>81,373</b>	<b>74,419</b>	<b>103,373</b>	<b>102,400</b>	<b>80,400</b>	<b>80,400</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.6</b>	<b><i>Maintenance</i></b>					
Vehicles	6,000	6,515	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	156,653	153,880	156,653	167,863	167,863	167,863
Website Hosting	13,320	16,701	13,320	20,130	20,130	20,130
Buildings & Grounds	60,000	60,257	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Gardeners and Cleaners	82,500	82,837	82,500	88,110	88,110	88,110
Insurance	28,400	28,458	28,400	28,500	28,500	28,500
<b>Total, sub-item 1.6</b>	<b>346,873</b>	<b>348,648</b>	<b>346,873</b>	<b>370,603</b>	<b>370,603</b>	<b>370,603</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.7</b>	<b><i>Meeting Services</i></b>					
Annual Session <i>see note 3</i>	165,000	202,500	165,000	260,000	195,000	195,000
Scientific Committee <i>see note 3</i>	212,000	5,158	192,000	232,000	192,000	192,000
Northern Committee <i>see note 4</i>	18,000	124	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee <i>see note 3</i>	159,800	2,873	159,800	174,800	174,800	174,800
Support for IWGs and Science Managers Dialog	162,500	370	0	0	0	0
<b>Total, sub-item 1.7</b>	<b>717,300</b>	<b>211,025</b>	<b>534,800</b>	<b>684,800</b>	<b>579,800</b>	<b>579,800</b>
<b>Sub-item 1.8 Future Work - Commission note 4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>
<b>TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1</b>	<b>4,248,202</b>	<b>3,658,568</b>	<b>4,423,184</b>	<b>4,669,335</b>	<b>4,758,908</b>	<b>4,748,366</b>

	<i>Approved budget 2022</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2022</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2023</i>	<i>Approved budget 2023</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>
<b>ANNEX 3 (continued)</b>						
<b>Part 2 - Science &amp; Technical &amp; Compliance Programme</b>						
<b>Section 2 (Item 2)</b>						
<b>Sub-item 2.1</b>	Scientific Services (SPC)	961,875	961,875	981,112	981,112	1,000,734
<b>Sub-item 2.2</b>	<i>Scientific Research</i>					
Additional Resourcing SPC	173,206	173,206	176,670	176,670	180,204	183,808
P35b Maintenance of WCPFC Tissue Bank	103,204	103,204	105,268	105,268	107,373	109,520
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000
P65 Peer review of Stock Modelling	50,000	37,882	0	0	0	0
P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	25,000	0	25,000	40,000
P90 Fish weights/lengths for scientific analyses	75,000	75,000	0	0	0	0
P108 WCPO silky shark assessment	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
P111 (P17X2) SWP Mako Shark SA	105,000	105,000	0	0	0	0
P100c (P17X3) WCP tuna fisheries for CKMR	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
P107b (P17X5) Advice for SWP blue shark	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
P18X1 (P17X1) Billfish Research Plan 2023 - 2027	0	0	55,000	55,000	0	0
P18X2 (P17X4) Ensemble model SA uncertainty	0	0	20,000	30,000	0	0
P18X3 Improved coverage of cannery receipt data	0	0	0	35,000	60,000	35,000
P18X4 Evidence for increasing trend in SKJ rec.	0	0	0	20,000	0	0
P18X6 Pacific silky shark assessment	0	0	0	0	30,000	0
P18X7 Pacific whale shark assessment	0	0	0	0	85,000	0
P18X8 Shark Research Plan midterm review	0	0	0	30,000	0	0
<b>Total, sub-item 2.2</b>	<i>1,316,410</i>	<i>1,304,292</i>	<i>1,161,938</i>	<i>1,231,938</i>	<i>1,267,577</i>	<i>1,098,328</i>
<b>Sub-item 2.3</b>	<b>Technical &amp; Compliance Programme</b>					
ROP - Audit/Remediation	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
ROP - Training, Assistance & Development	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
Vessel Monitoring System - Capital Costs	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Vessel Monitoring System	300,000	150,000	300,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	204,846	202,755	208,942	206,810	210,946	215,165
Vessel Monitoring System - Security Audit	8,400	0	8,400	11,900	11,900	11,900
CCM/Staff VMS Training	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Information Management System	100,000	118,979	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub.	18,000	20,800	18,000	20,000	40,000	20,000
Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity <i>see note 6</i>	80,000	78,000	80,000	80,000	40,000	40,000
E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	8,800	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
CMS Future Work <i>see note 7</i>	30,000	36,226	0	80,000	50,000	30,000
Compliance and Monitoring Analyst Consultant	0	0	0	80,000	0	0
Regional Capacity Building Workshops <i>see note 8</i>	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
<b>Total, item 2.3</b>	<i>1,945,150</i>	<i>1,669,464</i>	<i>1,939,246</i>	<i>2,002,614</i>	<i>1,876,750</i>	<i>1,840,969</i>
<b>TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2</b>	<b>4,223,435</b>	<b>3,935,631</b>	<b>4,082,295</b>	<b>4,215,664</b>	<b>4,145,061</b>	<b>3,960,046</b>
<b>Total, Parts 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>8,471,636</b>	<b>7,594,199</b>	<b>8,505,479</b>	<b>8,884,999</b>	<b>8,903,970</b>	<b>8,708,412</b>

*Note 1: Chairs Expenses*

If the Chair of the Commission is from a developing state USD20,000 will be included in the budget for the Chairs travel.

*Note 2: Consultancies proposed are:*

Legal support services	\$65,000
ED Discretion	\$25,000
Meetings' rapporteur	\$63,000

*Note 3: Meeting Services*

Increased costs for hosting hybrid meetings for the SC, TCC and the Annual meeting. The costs for the annual meeting adjust once a final decision is reached on the hosting arrangements for WCPFC20

*Note 4: Northern Committee*

As per WCPFC9, an additional \$25,000 will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

*Note 5: Sub-item 1.8 Future Work - Commission*

Budget line added in 2020 to account for unidentified future work that may be required by the Commission. Amount reduced to \$0 for the proposed 2022 budget with the additional projects under Scientific Research.

*Note 6: Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity*

Supplementary dedicated analytical capacity for the Secretariat in 2022 and 2023 (refer TCC17-2021-17).

Intended to be in the form of additional short-term resources for the Secretariat in work to

- Support continued refinements of the CMS
- Support to develop automated extraction and IT tools to support the parameters of common data requests to support MCS activities and to further enhance public access to WCPFC scientific data and information and Summary information from MCS programmes
- Support develop and integrate new processes into Secretariat workflows, and to refresh front-facing web screens and user guidance for members and, where relevant, the public

*Note 7: CMS Future Work*

2022 – CCFS Messaging tool feasibility/design (\$10,000), CCFS improvements (\$20,000)

2023 – TBD (refer TCC18 outcomes)

*Note 8: Regional Capacity Building Workshops*

FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

ANNEX 2

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2023**

<b>Proposed budget expenditure total</b>	8,884,999
less	
<b>Estimated interest</b>	(3,400)
<b>Transfer from Working Capital Fund</b>	(1,115,000)
<b>CNM Contributions Fund</b>	(50,000)
<b>Total assessed contributions</b>	<u><u>7,716,599</u></u>

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2024**

<b>Proposed budget expenditure total</b>	8,903,970
less	
<b>Estimated interest and other income</b>	(3,500)
<b>Transfer from Working Capital Fund</b>	(900,000)
<b>CNM Contributions Fund</b>	(50,000)
<b>Total assessed contributions</b>	<u><u>7,950,470</u></u>

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2025**

<b>Proposed budget expenditure total</b>	8,708,412
less	
<b>Estimated interest and other income</b>	(3,500)
<b>Transfer from Working Capital Fund</b>	(500,000)
<b>CNM Contributions Fund</b>	(50,000)
<b>Total assessed contributions</b>	<u><u>8,154,912</u></u>

Annex 3

Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

<i>2023 Contribution Table</i>								
<i>Member</i>	<i>Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget</i>	<i>National wealth component: 20% of budget</i>	<i>Catch component: 70% of budget</i>	<i>Addition for Northern Committee</i>	<i>Total Contributions by Members</i>	<i>Percent of Budget by member</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States*</i>	<i>Total of components: 100% of budget</i>
Australia	29,679	97,339	12,577	0	<b>139,595</b>	1.84%	0	139,595
Canada	29,679	87,759	0	0	<b>117,438</b>	1.54%	0	117,438
China	29,679	191,591	118,037	0	<b>339,307</b>	4.46%	0	339,307
Cook Islands	29,679	895	12,175	0	<b>42,749</b>	0.56%	28,642	71,392
European Union	29,679	237,934	41,781	0	<b>309,394</b>	4.07%	0	309,394
Federated States of Micronesia	29,679	5,552	453,966	0	<b>489,197</b>	6.43%	0	489,197
Fiji	29,679	7,639	23,928	0	<b>61,246</b>	0.81%	0	61,246
France	29,679	95,997	10,414	0	<b>136,091</b>	1.79%	0	136,091
Indonesia	29,679	18,449	110,578	0	<b>158,706</b>	2.09%	0	158,706
Japan	29,679	103,791	840,434	0	<b>973,904</b>	12.81%	0	973,904
Kiribati	29,679	4,559	406,865	0	<b>441,103</b>	5.80%	0	441,103
Korea	29,679	69,844	936,416	0	<b>1,035,939</b>	13.63%	0	1,035,939
Marshall Islands	29,679	2,981	272,566	0	<b>305,227</b>	4.01%	4,353	309,580
Nauru	29,679	544	221,800	0	<b>252,023</b>	3.31%	24,189	276,212
New Zealand	29,679	66,664	33,139	0	<b>129,483</b>	1.70%	0	129,483
Niue	29,679	83	1	0	<b>29,763</b>	0.39%	23,789	53,552
Palau	29,679	909	1,230	0	<b>31,818</b>	0.42%	22,764	54,581
Papua New Guinea	29,679	4,323	246,159	0	<b>280,162</b>	3.69%	0	280,162
Philippines	29,679	9,904	143,461	0	<b>183,044</b>	2.41%	0	183,044
Samoa	29,679	5,959	4,873	0	<b>40,511</b>	0.53%	0	40,511
Solomon Islands	29,679	3,285	70,882	0	<b>103,846</b>	1.37%	0	103,846
Chinese Taipei	29,679	50,987	814,939	0	<b>895,605</b>	11.78%	0	895,605
Tonga	29,679	5,338	363	0	<b>35,380</b>	0.47%	1,788	37,168
Tuvalu	29,679	597	43,353	0	<b>73,629</b>	0.97%	8,347	81,976
United States of America	29,679	352,048	417,690	0	<b>799,417</b>	10.51%	0	799,417
Vanuatu	29,679	4,477	163,992	0	<b>198,148</b>	2.61%	0	198,148
<b>Totals</b>	<b>771,660</b>	<b>1,429,448</b>	<b>5,401,619</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,602,727</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>113,872</b>	<b>7,716,599</b>

\* To be offset by the CNM Contributions Fund.

**Annex 3 Cont.**

**Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)**

<i>Member</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Maximum Payable for wealth component</i>	<i>National wealth component</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States</i>
Cook Islands	17,900	895	29,537	28,642
Federated States of Micronesia	116,250	5,813	5,552	0
Fiji	902,900	45,145	7,639	0
Kiribati	121,390	6,070	4,559	0
Marshall Islands	59,620	2,981	7,334	4,353
Nauru	10,870	544	24,732	24,189
Niue	1,651	83	23,872	23,789
Palau	18,170	909	23,672	22,764
Papua New Guinea	9,119,000	455,950	4,323	0
Samoa	200,140	10,007	5,959	0
Solomon Islands	704,000	35,200	3,285	0
Tonga	106,760	5,338	7,126	1,788
Tuvalu	11,930	597	8,944	8,347
Vanuatu	31,446	1,572	4,477	0
<b>Total</b>				<b>113,872</b>

**Additional Funding for Northern Committee as agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)**

<i>Non-developing States Members of NC</i>	<i>Percent of total budget</i>	<i>Percent of NC fund</i>	<i>Additional cost</i>
Canada	1.52%	3.5%	0
China	4.40%	10.1%	0
Japan	2.06%	4.7%	0
Korea	13.42%	31.0%	0
Chinese Taipei	11.61%	26.8%	0
United States of America	10.36%	23.9%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.37%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>0</b>

Annex 3 Cont.

Schedule of contributions based without the Offset for Small Island Developing States and Additional funds Assessed on Non-Developing States Members of NC

Member	2023					2024 Indicative		2025 Indicative	
	Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member
Australia	29,679	97,339	12,577	139,595	1.81%	143,826	1.81%	147,524	1.81%
Canada	29,679	87,759	0	117,438	1.52%	120,997	1.52%	124,109	1.52%
China	29,679	191,591	118,037	339,307	4.40%	349,591	4.40%	358,580	4.40%
Cook Islands	29,679	29,537	12,175	71,392	0.93%	73,555	0.93%	75,447	0.93%
European Union	29,679	237,934	41,781	309,394	4.01%	318,771	4.01%	326,968	4.01%
Federated States of Micronesia	29,679	5,552	453,966	489,197	6.34%	504,024	6.34%	516,984	6.34%
Fiji	29,679	7,639	23,928	61,246	0.79%	63,102	0.79%	64,725	0.79%
France	29,679	95,997	10,414	136,091	1.76%	140,215	1.76%	143,821	1.76%
Indonesia	29,679	18,449	110,578	158,706	2.06%	163,516	2.06%	167,721	2.06%
Japan	29,679	103,791	840,434	973,904	12.62%	1,003,421	12.62%	1,029,223	12.62%
Kiribati	29,679	4,559	406,865	441,103	5.72%	454,472	5.72%	466,159	5.72%
Korea	29,679	69,844	936,416	1,035,939	13.42%	1,067,336	13.42%	1,094,782	13.42%
Marshall Islands	29,679	7,334	272,566	309,580	4.01%	318,963	4.01%	327,165	4.01%
Nauru	29,679	24,732	221,800	276,212	3.58%	284,583	3.58%	291,901	3.58%
New Zealand	29,679	66,664	33,139	129,483	1.68%	133,407	1.68%	136,837	1.68%
Niue	29,679	23,872	1	53,552	0.69%	55,176	0.69%	56,594	0.69%
Palau	29,679	23,672	1,230	54,581	0.71%	56,236	0.71%	57,682	0.71%
Papua New Guinea	29,679	4,323	246,159	280,162	3.63%	288,653	3.63%	296,075	3.63%
Philippines	29,679	9,904	143,461	183,044	2.37%	188,592	2.37%	193,442	2.37%
Samoa	29,679	5,959	4,873	40,511	0.52%	41,739	0.52%	42,812	0.52%
Solomon Islands	29,679	3,285	70,882	103,846	1.35%	106,994	1.35%	109,745	1.35%
Chinese Taipei	29,679	50,987	814,939	895,605	11.61%	922,748	11.61%	946,476	11.61%
Tonga	29,679	7,126	363	37,168	0.48%	38,294	0.48%	39,279	0.48%
Tuvalu	29,679	8,944	43,353	81,976	1.06%	84,461	1.06%	86,632	1.06%
United States of America	29,679	352,048	417,690	799,417	10.36%	823,646	10.36%	844,825	10.36%
Vanuatu	29,679	4,477	163,992	198,148	2.57%	204,154	2.57%	209,403	2.57%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>771,660</b>	<b>1,543,320</b>	<b>5,401,619</b>	<b>7,716,599</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>7,950,470</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>8,154,912</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**


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ALC	–	Automatic Location Communicator
ANCORS	–	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
CCM	–	Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories
CCFS	–	Compliance Case File System
CDS	–	catch documentation scheme
CMM	–	Conservation and Management Measure
CMR	–	Compliance Monitoring Report
CMS	–	Compliance Monitoring Scheme
CNM	–	Cooperating Non-Member
CNMI	–	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
(the) Convention		The Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
CPUE	–	catch per unit effort
EEZ	–	exclusive economic zone
EM	–	electronic monitoring
ER	–	electronic reporting
ERandEM	–	electronic reporting and electronic monitoring
ERA	–	ecological risk assessment
EHSP-SMA	–	Eastern High Seas Pocket-Special Management Area
EU	–	European Union
F	–	fishing mortality rate
FAC	–	Finance and Administration Committee
FAD	–	fish aggregation device
FAO	–	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	–	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
F <sub>MSY</sub>	–	fishing mortality that will support the maximum sustainable yield
FMA	–	fishery management area
FNA	–	fins naturally attached
FSI	–	Flag State Investigation
FSM	–	Federated States of Micronesia
HCR	–	Harvest Control Rule
HSBI	–	High Seas Boarding and Inspection
HSWP	–	Harvest Strategy Work Plan
IATTC	–	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	–	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IELP	–	International Environmental Law Project
IGOs	–	intergovernmental organizations
IMO	–	International Maritime Organization
IMS	–	information management system
IOTC	–	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPNLF	–	International Pole and Line Foundation
ISC	–	International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

ISSF	–	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IT	–	information technology
IUU	–	illegal, unreported and unregulated
IWG	–	intersessional working group
JTF	–	Japan Trust Fund
LRP	–	limit reference point
M	–	mortality
MCS	–	Monitoring, control and surveillance
MIMRA	–	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MOC	–	management options consultation
MOU	–	memorandum of understanding
MP	–	management procedure
MSC	–	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	–	management strategy evaluation
MSY	–	maximum sustainable yield
mt	–	metric ton
MTU	–	mobile transceiver unit
NC	–	Northern Committee
NGO	–	non-governmental Organization
NP	–	North Pacific
OM	–	operating model
PBFWG	–	Pacific bluefin tuna working group (ISC)
pCMR	–	provisional Compliance Monitoring Report
PEW	–	The Pew Charitable Trusts
PI	–	performance indicator
PITIA	–	Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association
PNA	–	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
PNG	–	Papua New Guinea
PRM	–	post-release mortality
PSMA	–	Port state Measures Agreement
RFV	–	Record of Fishing Vessels
ROP	–	Regional Observer Programme
RFMO	–	regional fisheries management organization
RMI	–	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SC	–	Scientific Committee of the WCPFC
SIDS	–	small island developing states
SIP	–	strategic investment plan
SMD	–	Science-Management Dialogue
SPC	–	The Pacific Community
SPC-OFPP	–	The Pacific Community Oceanic Fisheries Programme
SRA	–	spatial risk assessment
SRF	–	Special Requirements Fund
SRR	–	stock-recruitment relationship
SSI	–	species of special interest
SSP	–	standards, specifications and procedures
SST	–	sea surface temperature
SWG	–	small working group
T	–	metric ton
TCC	–	Technical and Compliance Committee
TNC	–	The Nature Conservancy
TRP	–	target reference point

TTM	–	Tropical Tuna Measure
UN	–	United Nations
USA	–	United States of America
USD	–	US dollars
VDS	–	vessel day scheme
VID	–	vessel identification (number)
VMS	–	vessel monitoring system
WCPFC	–	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPFC Convention Area	–	Area of competence of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention
WCPFC Statistical Area	–	The WCPFC Statistical Area is defined in <a href="#">para. 8 of “Scientific data to be provided to the Commission”</a> (as adopted at WCPFC13)
WCNPO	–	western and central North Pacific Ocean
WCPO	–	western and central Pacific Ocean
WG	–	working group
WPEA	–	West Pacific and East Asian Seas
WPO	–	Western Pacific Ocean
WPFMC	–	Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
WTPO	–	World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation
WWF	–	World Wide Fund for Nature

