

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,  
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

**Circular No.: 2023/34  
Date: 17 April 2023  
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**Meeting Notice: 4th Meeting of the Intersessional Working Group for the South Pacific  
Albacore Roadmap (SPA-RM IWG)**

Dear All,

At the request of the Chair of the SPA-RM IWG, Ms Neomai Ravitu, I wish to advise that the 4th meeting of the Intersessional Working Group for the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap (SPA-RM-IWG) will be held from **09:00 to 13:00 (Pohnpei time) on Friday, 5 May 2023**, as a virtual meeting using the Zoom platform. Meeting registration, documentation, and Zoom invitation will be available at the following webpage: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/spalb-rm-04> .

The provisional agenda for the IWG will be posted to the meeting page in due course. In the meantime, I refer interested participants to the list of activities for 2023 in the *SPA Roadmap IWG Workplan 2023 – 2026 (Attachment A)*, which was adopted at WCPFC19.

Any questions about the IWG can be directed to the IWG Chair, Neomai T. Ravitu ([spa22iwg@gmail.com](mailto:spa22iwg@gmail.com)) and the Secretariat Science Manager, Dr SungKwon Soh ([SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int](mailto:SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int)).

Yours sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## **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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consider key issues principles and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take note of discussions/progress from the</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><u>objectives and a revised interim TRP</u> and recommendations for WCFPC20 to consider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing development of the <u>SPA management procedure and testing</u> 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>	<p>developments, required to be considered in the development of the <u>allocation framework</u> for the Commission to consider, in particular Article 10.3 of the Convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report to the Commission on the progress of the work by the IWG.</li> </ul>	<p>MP and the SPA Allocation framework developments, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to <u>identify management measure implications to be addressed</u>.</p>
<b>2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing SPA Management Procedure development and testing and ‘dry run’ of MP application.</li> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Depending on outcomes from 2023, the IWG to consider recommending the start of the allocation process discussion. Potential physical workshop for allocation to be considered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take note of discussions/progress from the MP and the SPA 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</li> </ul>
<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>		