

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

**Scientific Committee
Fourth Regular Session**

**Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
11-22 August 2008**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
METHODS SPECIALIST WORKING GROUP**

SC4-2008-ME-SWG-01

1. Preliminaries

- 1.1. Adoption of agenda
- 1.2. Finalization of documents

2. Issues Arising from WCPFC-4

- 2.1. Review of information
- 2.2. Advice to the Scientific Committee

3. Progress on SC3 Work Programme for 2008

- 3.1. Review of information
- 3.2. Advice to the Scientific Committee

4. Progress on additional ME-SWG Research Issues identified at SC3 (not covered by Agenda Items 2 and 3):

- 4.1. Review of information
 - a) *Continued refinement of stock assessment models (incl. designing a more efficient recruitment parameterisation with MFCL).*
 - b) *Continued development of models used to standardise CPUE and the abundance indices used within the stock assessments. (incl. the continued identification of factors which influence CPUE, understanding and quantification of the changes in catchability over time not included in the CPUE standardisation models, and identification of alternative catchability trends for inclusion in stock assessment models.).*
 - c) *Continued exploration of sensitivity of stock assessment models to model assumptions and data issues (incl. a comparison of MFCL, SS-2 and other stock assessments for yellowfin or bigeye tuna).*

- d) Development of recruitment indices for incorporation into stock assessment models (especially for yellowfin tuna based on further investigation of the relationship between oceanography and recruitment estimates from MFCL).*
- e) Further development of the methods used to evaluate potential management strategies (incl. exploration of uncertainty)*
- f) Further consideration of how to reflect uncertainty in projections*
- g) Development / review of models for evaluation of impacts on ecosystem, and the development of reference points for ecosystem-based management*
- h) Development of new stock assessment models and associated software.*

4.2. Advice to the Scientific Committee

5. Research Planning

5.1. Medium Term Research Plan

5.2. Operational Research Plan for 2008/09

6. Administrative Matters

6.1. Other matters

7. Adoption of Report