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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
ANCORS	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
APIL	Advocates for Public Interest Law
ATA	American Tunaboat Association
AW	Archipelagic waters
BET	Bigeye tuna
BRP	Billfish Research Plan
CCM	Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories
CI	Conservation International
CKMR	Close-kin mark-recapture
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure
CMR, pCMR, fCMR	Compliance Monitoring Report (p-provisional; f-final)
CMS	Compliance Monitoring Scheme
CNM	Cooperating Non-Member
DP	Delegation paper
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean
ER and EM	electronic reporting and electronic monitoring
EU	European Union
FAC	Finance and Administration Committee
FAD	Fish aggregating (or aggregation) device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GFW	Global Fishing Watch
HCR	Harvest Control Rule
HMTC	Harmonized Minimum Terms and Conditions
HS	Harvest Strategy
HSBI	High Seas Boarding and Inspection
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical 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
IWG	Intersessional Working Group
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JPF	Japan Promotion Fund
JTF	Japan Trust Fund
JWG	Joint Working Group
MFCL	MultiFAN-CL
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Management Procedure
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation

NC	Northern Committee
NGO	non-governmental organizations
NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
NTADS	Non-target and Associated or Dependent Species
O2	Ocean Outcomes
OFCF	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan
OM	Operating model
OSPESCA	Organisation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PNAO	Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RBAF	Risk-based assessment framework
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
ROP	Regional Observer Programme
SBT	Southern bluefin tuna
SC	Scientific Committee
SciData	Scientific data
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SKJ	Skipjack tuna
SMD	Science Management Dialogue
SP-ALB	South Pacific albacore
SPARM	South Pacific albacore Roadmap
SPC	Pacific Community
SPG	South Pacific Group
SPR	Spawning potential ratio
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SRP	Shark Research Plan
SSB	Spawning Stock Biomass
SSP	Scientific Services Provider
SWG	Small working group
TCC	Technical and Compliance Committee
TIS	Te Ipukarea Society
TRP	Target Reference Point
USA	United States of America
VDS	Vessel Day Scheme
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
WPEA-ITM	West Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring Project
WTPO	World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
YFT	Yellowfin tuna

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-01](#) & [WCPFC20-2023-02](#)

1. The Twentieth Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC20) took place from 4th to 8th December 2023 at the National Auditorium, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.
2. The following Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) attended WCPFC20: American Samoa, Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Cook Islands, European Union (EU), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America (USA), and Vanuatu.
3. The following non-party countries attended WCPFC20 as Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs): Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam.
4. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended WCPFC20: Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), Organisation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), The Pacific Community (SPC), Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNAO), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and The World Bank.
5. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended WCPFC20: Accountability.Fish, American Tunaboat Association (ATA), Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), Birdlife International, Conservation International (CI), Global Fishing Watch (GFW), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Ocean Outcomes (O2), Pew Charitable Trust, Sharkproject International, Te Ipukarea Society (TIS), The Ocean Foundation, World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation (WTPO), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
6. A full list of all participants is provided in **Attachment A**.
7. The Orometua, Bishop Pere delivered a blessing, before the Deputy Prime Minister of the Cook Islands presented an opening address on behalf of the Cook Islands (**Attachment B**). He welcomed all to the 20th regular session of WCPFC addressing the sustainable conservation and management of WCPO tuna resources and associated ecosystems. To the Cook Islands, the *Marae Moana* was sacred and the people's responsibility as stewards of these resources was immense. These resources were important to the people's own food security, but they also supported the world's largest tuna fishery which fed and sustained millions of other people around the world. He welcomed the fact that the Commission had maintained climate change as a standing item on the agenda and pointed out that Participants were not just representatives of nations but stewards of the ocean. Sustainable management of fisheries was linked to the well-being of Pacific communities, and this has to be achieved through cooperation between all around the table. WCPFC needed to pursue responsible practices to safeguard these resources. He described the various achievements of the Commission over the last two decades but warned that the work was not complete. The work of this Commission would need to provide a basis for a healthy and productive oceanic ecosystem into the future.

8. The Commission Chair, Dr Josie Tamate provided an opening address (**Attachment C**) noting that agreement on a new Tropical Tuna Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) was top priority. The Commission participants had done all the work necessary to design improvements to this measure and now just needed to reach agreement. The South Pacific albacore CMM was another priority. She intended to steer the WCPFC20 *vaka* to a safe landing on Friday, with a full cargo of clear and effective decisions.
9. The Executive Director and former Chair of the Commission Ms Rhea Moss-Christian provided opening remarks (**Attachment D**) and thanked the government of the Cook Islands for hosting this significant meeting, with WCPFC having achieved 20 years of progress towards securing the sustainability of tuna fisheries in this vast ocean. She warned that the status indicators of the main tuna stocks were currently in the green, but there were a number of problems still to solve, including the welfare of the fishing crews and people who harvested these resources. In reviewing the last 20 years she was reminded of the clear vision and foresight of the FFA members and their fishing partners in establishing this Commission, and the idea of binding stakeholders together in a single group focused on a single objective – of ensuring through effective management the sustainable use and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in this ocean. The documents and discussion at this meeting all had that goal in mind. She outlined the priorities of the Secretariat in developing mechanisms to address this objective and thanked all participants, both government and non-government for cooperating to safeguard the resources of the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) for current and future generations.

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

10. The Commission Chair called the meeting to order and invited the Commission to adopt the Provisional Agenda, noting that Heads of Delegation at their meeting the previous day had not indicated the need for any changes.

11. The Agenda was adopted.

- **Establishment of small working groups**

12. The Chair noted that the Heads of Delegation meeting had discussed the issue the previous day, and had indicated that the following small working groups would probably be needed, with priority given to working groups which were expected to produce outputs for adoption by WCPFC20:
 - CMR – finalization of provisional Compliance Monitoring Report for 2021-2022 fishing years
 - CNM – recommendations for participatory rights of Cooperating Non-Members in 2024
 - SPA – South Pacific Albacore
 - Harvest Strategy elements, particularly review of the interim Target Reference Point
 - Review of CMM 2015-02 particularly on the interpretation of “actively fishing for”
 - TTM – Tropical tuna measure
 - Balance of fishing opportunities between bigeye longline and large-scale purse-seine fisheries
 - FAD management (paragraphs 18-23)
 - Longline MCS: achieving acceptable minimum standards
 - HSTS – High Seas transshipment management

- FAC17 – continuation of discussions
- CMS – Finalisation of Compliance Monitoring Scheme Audit Points

13. WCPFC20 agreed to the Chair’s proposed list of small working groups (SWGs).

1.2 Request for Observer status

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-03](#) & [Circular 2023/83](#)

14. The Chair had circulated a letter to CCMs on 5 October 2023 informing of a request from an intergovernmental organization for observer status at WCPFC20. She noted that the WCPFC Rules of Procedure provided for relevant intergovernmental organizations to be invited to participate in the work of the Commission (Rule 36.1(e)) and may participate at the invitation of the Chair (Rule 36.3).

15. The EU recognised that OSPESCA had provided significant contribution to the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in Central American countries. The EU indicated that it has the opportunity to collaborate constructively with OSPESCA in other RFMOs, such as ICCAT, IATTC or WECAF and based on this experience, it believed that the participation of OSPESCA as observer in WCPFC offers a potential for sharing respective experiences and for cross fertilisation among the two organisations. The EU supported the request of OSPESCA to become an observer in WCPFC and recommended that this request for observer status be approved. FFA CCMs supported this.

16. The Commission agreed that OSPESCA should be accredited as an observer to the Commission and could begin participating immediately in the proceedings of WCPFC20.

17. The Commission invited the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) to participate in the work of the Commission and subsidiary bodies as an inter-governmental observer, with effect from WCPFC20.

1.3 Meeting arrangements

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-04](#)

18. WCPFC Finance and Administration Manager, Aaron Nighswander, explained meeting logistics, including the location of breakout rooms, breaks between sessions and lunch arrangements. Information on meeting documents, including submission of meeting papers was provided, and protocols to support participants joining WCPFC20 online through Zoom were explained. Online participation was only possible in discussions taking place in the main meeting hall.

2. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

19. The Chair invited opening statements from Delegations, either as a brief presentation or in writing for the record.

20. The Honourable Kalaveti Ravu, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry for the Republic of Fiji delivered a statement (**Attachment E**) emphasizing Fiji’s continued commitment to the WCPFC and the implementation of CMMS, including appropriate adjustment to fishing in the WCPO in response to scientific advice. Priorities included the South Pacific albacore fishery, particularly the agreement of an appropriate TRP. Fiji was part of the group proposing a revised TRP for decision at this meeting. He urged other members to support this work. Another priority was labour standards. It was important to ensure that stocks were at

sustainable levels, but it was also important to note that working on board oceangoing fishing vessels was particularly challenging. The work on ensuring adequate standards of work was important. It might be challenging for some CCMs, but it was something that directly affected lives and all WCPFC members had a part to play in this. A third priority was the need to move to biodegradable drifting FADs. He noted that Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) relied heavily on funds available through WCPFC for work related to implementation of WCPFC measures and was concerned that the WCPFC Special Requirements Fund was in need of replenishment. He sought the support of development partners to please help in the replenishment of this fund. He wished the Chair and all WCPFC members the very best throughout this week's deliberations.

21. The Honourable La'aulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa personally expressed Samoa's commitment to active engagement with all WCPFC participants over the next few days. The tuna resources of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) were important to Samoa, providing food security and economic support and it was important that all were able to receive benefits from the resources. Pacific Leaders here in Rarotonga had recently endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and this would need to be kept in mind during Forum member engagement in all sectors. The Ocean Sustainable Development Goal, SDG14, was also important. Samoa had launched a national development plan (21/22-25/26) which recognized both of these intergovernmental initiatives. The challenges facing the South Pacific albacore fishery had a major impact on the Samoan economy and Samoa was looking forward to working with others to address these challenges. According to SPC the South Pacific albacore stock was projected to continue to decline under the continuation of current conditions. This Commission was committed to the sustainability of resources and Samoa wanted to see this be addressed through the harvest strategy approach. He asked all CCMs to support the joint South Pacific Group and Australian proposal for a South Pacific albacore iTRP. Samoa also recognized that Climate Change was the biggest threat facing Pacific Island States, including its threat to marine ecosystems. Samoa sought the support of the Commission in addressing these climate-related impacts and building the resilience of Samoa communities. The WCPFC was a key partner in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the oceanic fishery resource for all of CCMs. Agenda item 10 on improving the collection and verification of data was important to Samoa, and the Samoan delegation was committed to implementing modern methods of fisheries management. Finally, he emphasized the importance of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme and the finalization of the Audit Points. A full transcript of the Minister's statement is provided in **Attachment F**.
22. After thanking the host and congratulating the incoming Chair and ED, the Honourable Reverend Dr. Kitiona Tausi, Minister of Fisheries and Trade of Tuvalu outlined the priorities of his government for WCPFC20. This meeting had to agree a new Tropical Tuna CMM. Tuvalu believed that this measure had served the region well, and all the tuna stocks it covered were in a good position. Tuvalu expected the new measure would be very similar to the old one and recalled the saying – "if it's working don't mess with it". The new measure also needed to be compatible with the Skipjack Management Procedure that had been agreed last year and it also needed to fully respect the special requirements of SIDS enshrined in Article 30 of the WCPFC Convention. He noted that most of the focus of the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme was on the Purse-seine fishery because it was the best-observed fishery, while most of the longline fishery was "out of sight, out of mind". Tuvalu fully supported to PNA proposal for redressing the balance in this regard. A full transcript of the Minister's statement is provided in **Attachment G**.
23. Honourable Emani Fakaotimanava-Lui, Associate Minister for Natural Resources, Niue expressed deep gratitude to the WCPFC Executive Director for organising this opportunity to

address some of Niue's biggest national issues. Niue believed the South Pacific Group (SPG) would provide a basis for concerted future action and looked forward to WCPFC to help assure the future of the South Pacific albacore stock and the southern longline fishery. Niue was dependent on fisheries for food security, livelihoods, and economic prosperity, and it was necessary to restore the longline-fishable components of the south Pacific albacore stock to levels of future economic profitability that would enable vessels to survive financially. Although bigeye and yellowfin tunas were not overfished, they were also important to the southern longline fishery, and it was also necessary to ensure their ongoing sustainability. With this in mind, the South Pacific albacore iTRP proposed by the South Pacific Group (SPG) and Australia should also help ensure sustainability of bigeye and yellowfin tunas. Niue wanted the high seas allocation process to recognize development aspirations of all SIDS. At the moment, exemptions were required to assure these aspirations, and removal of these exemptions would require other mechanisms to take account of the special requirements of SIDS. He wanted all at this meeting to negotiate in good faith to achieve meaningful and fruitful outcomes for the benefit of all our peoples. *Kia manuia*.

24. His Excellency Phung Duc Tien, Vice-Minister, Vietnam expressed sincere thanks to the WCPFC Secretariat and all the CCMs who had contributed to success of 19th WCPFC in Vietnam in 2022. Vietnam had been a Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) for several years and had been following WCPFC regulations and measures. Vietnam had become a full party to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) since the beginning of 2019 and had followed WCPFC stock assessment and management, and sustainable fishing gear. Vietnam had also been involved in monitoring activities and received support for the development of human resources under WCPFC, including the Western Pacific East Asia (WPEA) project. Vietnam had submitted a letter on the status of resources to the WCPFC Annual Session in 2023. He provided sincere thanks to Madame Chair for consideration of Vietnam's CNM status for 2024 and made it clear that Vietnam also wishes to become a full member. Vietnam was committed to following the rules and regulations of WCPFC.
25. The Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC), Glen Joseph (Marshall Islands), acknowledged the Ministerial participants and thanked the Bishop for setting the scene for the meeting so appropriately. He said that FFA members had been here for a week already to decide how to articulate the collective views of all 17 members, and also to meet with individual non-FFA CCMs. He emphasized the need to take account of Article 30 of the Convention which explained the special requirements of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Participating Territories. FFA members needed to explain this at every meeting, but the Special Requirements Fund (SRF) remained depleted. He noted that the rules did not require the SRF to be replenished only through voluntary donations and called upon the Commission to look at additional mechanisms for replenishing this fund. He also noted that the WCPFC continued to receive proposals that were not accompanied by a CMM 2013-06 assessment, which would help ensure that due consideration was given to SIDS special requirements. He noted the importance of WCPFC taking account of Climate Change. One of the main priorities this week was to limit purse-seine fishing on the high seas, and FFA had proposed a hard limit of 3,200 days. South Pacific albacore was also a high priority for FFA members as explained by several Ministers, as was the different availability of observer data from the longline and purse-seine fisheries, which led to major problems of balance and fairness in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS). Labour standards were of critical importance and FFA members would be looking to adopt a binding measure in 2024. The full transcript of the FFC Chair's statement is in **Attachment H**.
26. Heo Manwook, Director General of the International Cooperation Policy Bureau, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea, drew attention to the importance of the Tropical Tuna

- Conservation and Management Measure, noting it had been successful in conserving the tropical tuna stocks in the WCPFC. The Director General's full statement is in **Attachment I**.
27. Noan Pakop, Special Adviser to the Managing Director, National Fisheries Authority, Papua New Guinea, expressed gratitude to the Cook Islands for their hospitality and providing the venue. He assured the Chair of PNG's full support and thanked outgoing Chair, Jung-re Riley Kim (Korea), for her effective leadership. And the Commission was in excellent hands with Rhea Moss-Christian as Executive Director – a trailblazer for women and girls in the Pacific as the first female WCPFC ED. He commended the effort by all WCPFC stakeholders for ensuring that the main tuna stocks had been maintained at sustainable levels over the years. All wanted to continue achieving this common goal, but at the same time must not lose sight of the special requirements of SIDS regarding these resources. He asked all to bear in mind Article 30 and the Conservation and Management Measures helping to operationalise this Article. PNG also recognized the role of NGOs and other interest groups in drawing attention to important issues. WCPFC decisions needed to be made with full regard to the long-term consequences. Climate change was the next priority. The Pacific Islands Leaders Forum meeting had emphasised the negative impacts of climate change. He called upon the Commission to integrate climate change in all of the Commission's programmes, including climate change impacts in stock assessments, models and harvest strategies. He acknowledged the amount of work that had gone into developing a new tropical tuna measure, including taking into account Article 30. CMMs needed to be effectively implemented and enforced and it was good to see the progress of SIDS CCMs in this regard. Finally, he emphasized that the balance of compliance monitoring between the longline and purse-seine fisheries needed to be addressed.
 28. Demosthenes R. Escoto, Director, Department of Agriculture of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippines was confident that a new tropical tuna measure would be agreed by the end of the meeting. Philippines had provided information on the 12 IUU provisionally-listed Philippines vessels. Philippines had enhanced its Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and believed Philippines would be able to fulfil its commitments as a responsible member of the Commission.
 29. Archie Soliai, Director of the American Samoa Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources forwarded a warm "Talofa Lava" from the Governor and peoples of American Samoa. This gathering held immense significance for Small Island Developing States and Participating Territories. These waters were the lifeblood of communities and economies. This Commission needed to avoid transferring disproportionate burdens of conservation onto SIDS and Participating Territories. Clearly those views were shared, and American Samoa was part of that shared view. Sadly, American Samoa had been disadvantaged and carried a disproportionate burden of conservation from the action or inaction of this Commission. They too relied on tuna for economic livelihoods and thanked the Chair of FFA for drawing attention to Article 30. American Samoa was tired of being the flag-bearer for the disproportionate burden of conservation action at this Commission and called upon WCPFC to recognize that this burden existed, and for this Commission to act upon it. American Samoa had provided a proposal which could relieve some of that burden and commended it to participants. The Director's full statement is in **Attachment J**.
 30. Sylvan Igisomar, Secretary of the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources said that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands noted that Article 30 provides privileges to Participating Territories as well as SIDS and shared the same concerns about climate change. The Secretary's full statement is in **Attachment K**.
 31. Australia provided a written statement, contained at **Attachment L**.
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3. 2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-05](#)

32. The Chair noted that Rule 13 of the WCPFC Rules of Procedure states that “the Executive Director shall make an annual report, and such supplementary reports as are necessary, to the Commission at its regular session on the work of the Commission” and invited the Executive Director and former Commission Chair, Rhea Moss-Christian, to address the meeting.
33. The report outlined the work of the Commission in 2023, including Secretariat activities in support of this work. These included the subsidiary body meetings (NC19, SC19, TCC19), several intersessional working groups and other workshops including the Tropical Tuna CMM and the WPEA workshops. A lot of work had been done to manage and promote strengthening of harvest strategies, the scientific foundation for decision making, monitoring and evaluation and verification, Commission processes and systems, and the Commission budget and trust funds.
34. She noted the considerable number of intersessional working groups that were active in 2023, and invited the meeting to consider this increasing workload and ways in which it might be addressed or rationalized. There was a burden not only on members but on service providers, including the Commission’s Scientific Services Provider (SSP), the Pacific Community (SPC). In 2023 the following Intersessional Working Groups (IWG) had met either in-person or virtually:
 - a. Regional Observer Programme (ROP)
 - b. Transshipment
 - c. Crew Labour Standards
 - d. FAD Management Options
 - e. Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring
 - f. Compliance Monitoring Scheme improvement
 - g. South Pacific Albacore Roadmap
 - h. Tropical Tuna Measure
 - i. Secretariat Professional Staff Remuneration
35. The proposed WCPFC20 agenda had been framed to assist members in considering this workload by integrating intersessional work with the relevant issues or themes. Narrowing some of the most important information gaps would go a long way to assisting the service providers in carrying out their work, and in helping members to evaluate the performance of CMMs. There was also a need to respond to emerging new technologies that promised to streamline information collection and compilation.
36. Looking ahead, the Executive Director noted the potential for CCMs to experience added value from Commission databases and to have the necessary tools to support their efforts to manage fisheries in an increasingly virtual environment, and the Commission’s efforts toward addressing data and information gaps that underpinned conservation and management decisions. This would require the Secretariat to focus more strongly on enhancing service delivery through streamlined data collection and management processes.
37. The Commission was invited to consider the Executive Director’s presentation of the Annual Report and note the Secretariat’s updated Corporate Plan (see *Agenda Item 17.1*) and anticipate the support that the Commission would require into the future.

38. Korea expressed appreciation for the Executive Director’s annual report which provided a clear view of the Commission’s activities. Korea noted the improved quality of information provided by the Secretariat and felt that the Commission should commend the outstanding work of the Secretariat in addressing the Commission’s objectives.
39. FFA CCMs through Fiji acknowledged the significant efforts of the Executive Director and her team and noted the activities outlined in the report. They affirmed the need to stay focussed and continue working on the key issues, including progressing the work on Harvest Strategies, and monitoring and evaluation. The ongoing work on Harvest strategies was one of the FFA CCMs’ priorities and they looked forward to a fruitful outcome on the South Pacific Albacore interim target reference point (iTRP) at this meeting. They were also grateful for the work to enhance the administrative system of the Secretariat, including the work on the ICT system that would help address the data gaps of the Commission.
40. The European Union acknowledged the opening statements by Ministers and expressed its wish that there would be good outcomes from this meeting that would take into account the interests of all CCMs. They commended the Executive Director for the report which presented information in a user-friendly manner. In future reports they hoped that collaboration with other RFMOs and other global instruments could also be covered. The European Union also indicated that it would like to see voluntary contributions from members described in further detail, particularly how these voluntary funds were implemented throughout the year.
41. The Commission noted the 2023 Annual Report of the Executive Director (**WCPFC20-2023-05**) and acknowledged with appreciation the work of the Executive Director and Secretariat over 2023.

4. MEMBERSHIP, OBSERVERS, AND COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS

4.1 Status of the Convention

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-06](#)

42. New Zealand as depositary noted there were no changes to the status of the Convention.
43. After the Chair opened the floor for comment, Ecuador made a statement expressing their continued desire to become a member of WCPFC. Ecuador’s statement is contained at **Attachment M**.
44. The Marshall Islands explained that FFA CCMs' position on this issue remained the same. As they had made clear in the past, the application for CNM status was not a stepping-stone to becoming a full member of the WCPFC. Article 35.2 of the Convention set out the procedural requirements for membership. The WCPFC Convention had a different and less open process for considering new members compared to other Fisheries Commissions. In the WCPFC, new members could only join by invitation, and that invitation had to be agreed by consensus. This process reflected the nature of a Commission where the majority of the catch is taken in the waters of developing countries, especially SIDS, who were highly dependent on those resources.
45. The Chair noted that Vietnam had also asked about membership and opened the floor for further discussion.
46. The European Union reminded that UNCLOS and UNFSA call for the cooperation between Coastal States and States fishing on the high seas through appropriate regional fisheries

management organisations. Article 8(3) of the UNFSA provides that the terms of participation in a regional fishery management organisation must not preclude States having a real interest in the fishery from membership or participation and must not be applied in a manner that discriminates against any State. The EU reiterated the view that the lack of a procedure for accession of new Contracting Parties is an outstanding item that requires to be urgently addressed and called upon the Commission to establish a process and criteria for discussing applications from new Contracting Parties.

47. The USA also supported accession by Vietnam and others to full membership and proposed that WCPFC should develop criteria for membership.
48. Canada supported the view expressed by the USA and noted that the USA had developed a good paper on criteria for membership a few years ago.
49. Nauru, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs supported the statement by Marshall Islands on behalf of the FFA CCMs. They appreciated the participation of Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) in the work of the Commission and, as the FFA had pointed out, the WCPFC had a process for participation by CNMs that reflected the composition and geographical status of this Commission. That process reflected the nature of this Commission, where over 85% of the catch is made in the waters of developing countries, especially SIDS, who are highly dependent on those resources. New members could join by invitation, and that invitation had to be decided by consensus. PNA and Tokelau considered that the CNM process provided adequate opportunities for participation in WCPO fisheries by non-member countries. PNA and Tokelau did not support inviting additional states to become Commission Members.
50. The Chair noted that there was no consensus on the subject of new membership. There had also been interventions suggesting that a pathway be established for consideration of new members, but there was unlikely to be consensus on that suggestion either.
51. Korea agreed with the summary of the Chair, but in terms of the comment by Canada and USA they felt that the Commission might still consider a process whereby requests for new members might be considered.
52. Japan supported initiation of such process and said that the provisions of UNCLOS clearly requests cooperation among states concerned.
53. Indonesia supported the interventions by other members.
54. The Chair suggested that interested members draft a proposal whereby criteria for new membership might be allowed and asked that FFA CCMs be included in that drafting group.
55. Nauru stated that the Commission already has a mechanism for this process and that it was called consensus.
56. The Marshall Islands felt that the Commission was already overburdened by intersessional working groups and that there was no consensus on this proposal by the Chair.
57. The Commission noted the report on the Status of the WCPF Convention (**WCPFC20-2023-06**). The Commission noted that the requests for membership of the Commission from Vietnam and Ecuador are not accepted at this point in time.

4.2 Update on Observer status

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-07](#)

58. Tokelau spoke on behalf of FFA CCMs and thanked the Secretariat for the report, and recommended that the Secretariat be tasked with:
- a. Maintaining a list of observers on the Commission website;
 - b. Reviewing observer attendance, including each observer's presence at Commission meetings and any costs incurred by the Commission in hosting observers;
 - c. As part of the proposed review, exploring and identifying an appropriate annual subscription fee for observers, apart from the observer meeting participation fee;
 - d. Providing a report on these to the next FAC and Commission meeting.
59. Noting that there were no more comments from the floor, the Chair asked for these recommendations to be recorded as a decision of the Commission.

60. The Commission noted the updated list of observers to the Commission (**WCPFC20-2023-07**).
61. The Commission tasked the Secretariat with keeping a list of observers on the WCPFC website, undertake a review of the attendance of observers at meeting of the Commission and subsidiary bodies and the costs incurred in relation to observers, and to report to FAC18 regarding options for an annual observer fee.

4.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-08 Rev01](#)

62. The Commission considered applications for CNM status for 2024 in accordance with CMM 2009-11, including recommendations from TCC19. As outlined in working paper 08_Rev01 (Cooperating Non-member Requests for 2024), eight applications for CNM status were received in 2023 from Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam.
63. WCPFC Assistant Compliance Manager, Eidre Sharp, presented the recommendations emerging from TCC19. Korea noted the mandatory contribution obligations of WCPFC and looked forward to discussing this in the Small Working Group (SWG).
64. Australia on behalf of FFA CCMs supported the TCC19 recommendations to renew CNM status for **Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam**. They reminded CNMs of the requirement under CMM 2019-01, particularly paragraph 3 and paragraph 11(a), which states that CNMs shall "comply with all conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission," and urged CNMs to exercise effective flag State control over their vessels in the Convention Area. They reiterated TCC19's reminder to CNM applicants of the TCC15 recommendation that CNM contributions be treated with the same expectations applied to full members and that contributions from members would be "due and payable in full within 60 days of the receipt of the communication of the Executive Director or as of the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is the later." FFA CCMs did not support granting CNM status to any applicant who had not paid their financial contribution. They also supported TCC19's recommendation noting the importance of the mandatory reporting obligations of the WCPFC and strongly reminded CNMs of the obligation for all CCMs to provide the required information prior to TCC meetings in order to ensure that the TCC can fully consider compliance with the WCPFC's Conservation and Management Measures.

65. The Commission approved the applications for CNM status for 2024 from Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam. In the case of Liberia, the Commission approved the application on the condition that any outstanding payments of the financial contribution for 2023 be paid and received into the Commission account by 31 December 2023.

- **Participatory rights of CNMs**

66. In view of the discussion on the applications for CNM status for 2024, the Chair tasked the CNM Small Working Group with finalizing recommendations on CNM participatory rights to WCPFC20.

67. TCC Vice-Chair Ilkang Na chaired the CNM Small Working Group. After meeting, the SWG reported back to plenary with recommendations for the CNM participatory rights to be approved but noted that the financial contribution from Liberia remained outstanding. The SWG did not have time to reach agreement on any changes to any applicant's participatory rights so recommended that the current rights should remain in place for 2024.

68. The EU noted that there had been some lack of clarity on participatory rights, such as on the kinds of activities that carrier and bunker vessels should or should not be authorized to undertake in relation to the deployment and servicing of FADs, but there had been no agreement on this. They suggested tasking TCC20 to advise what type of vessels should be authorized to deploy or service FADs in the WCPFC convention area.

69. WCPFC20 considered the request for participatory rights of eight CNMs for 2024. The CNM SWG considered changing certain CNMs' participatory rights but was not able to reach an agreement due to limited time.

70. WCPFC20 approved the following participatory rights for 2024:

- i. **Curaçao:** The participatory rights of Curaçao 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

- 71. 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, Nicaragua, and Panama will be governed by the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.
- 72. 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.
- 73. 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.
- 74. The Commission tasked TCC20 to provide recommendations regarding the type of vessels that should be allowed to deploy and service FADs in the WCPFC Convention Area.

- 75. After these decisions were finalised, El Salvador thanked the Commission for agreeing CNM participatory rights for another year and asked for the following statement to be entered into the record.

El Salvador statement

- 76. Chair: This delegation thanks the Commission and its members for granting the CNM status renewal for El Salvador; and we would like to point out that as stated by Ecuador and Vietnam earlier at this meeting, El Salvador is interested in becoming full member of the Commission, an intention that has been expressed on a yearly basis through the application of the status renewal since El Salvador started activity in the WCPO. We take note of the decision of the Commission this year in not accepting new members, and we hope that the Commission can consider the suggestions for the development of a clear path in this regard. In that sense El Salvador thanks the statements made by several members of this Commission that can associate with the establishment of a process to draw a clear line on the requirements that needs to be fulfilled to obtain an invitation and become a member. El Salvador would like to state that we are at the disposal of the Commission and its members to assist in the development of this framework. El Salvador understands that new membership that could be granted does not undermine the rights and privileges ensured by the WCPFC to coastal states whose fishing rights in their EEZs are preserved by International Law, and trust in the spirit of cooperation that all CCM should have to guarantee the equality of the fishing opportunities in international waters.

5. ADOPTION OF THE 2024 IUU VESSEL LIST

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-09](#)

77. In accordance with CMM 2019-07, the Commission considered recommendations from TCC19 on the Provisional IUU Vessel List and 2023 WCPFC IUU Vessel List, with a view to adopting a 2024 WCPFC IUU Vessel List.
78. WCPFC's Assistant Compliance Manager explained the recommendations of TCC19 on the Provisional IUU Vessel List where:
 - i. TCC19 had agreed that fishing vessels Makmur-10, FB Tri Rezeki 808, FB Makmur-11, Mutiara Indah 07, Tri Rezeki 06, Kuda Laut 03, Yanreyd 294, FB Janice 01, FB Atlantis II, FBLB Janice 02, FBLB Twinj 106, and FB Sumber Lautan 08 will be included on the Provisional IUU Vessel List.
 - ii. TCC19 had noted that the Commission may decide to not place these vessels on the Final IUU Vessel List pending the receipt of further information from the Philippines and noted that the Philippines has committed to addressing the issues raised through the IUU listing process.
79. The Philippines said that they accepted the recommendations of TCC19 and explained that they would not stand in the way of the 12th vessel being IUU listed at this point in time.
80. New Zealand appreciated the response and cooperation of the Philippines. They accepted that the level of the penalties applied to the 11 vessels were adequate. And they were not repeat offenders. They understood that the remaining vessel (FB Kuda Laut 03) was a repeat offender and was proceeding to trial. They proposed that this vessel be included on the IUU list. Depending on the outcome of this prosecution there could be further consideration of whether effective action had been taken by the Philippines to warrant subsequent removal of the vessel from the final IUU list. They asked the Philippines to provide further information identifying the owner and master of this vessel, as part of the WCPFC requirements (paragraph 19 of CMM 2019-07). New Zealand underlined the value of the FFA's regional MCS operations, noting that the activities of the Philippines vessels had been identified as part of two FFA MCS operations.
81. Tuvalu wished to extend the sincere appreciation of FFA CCMs for the additional information provided by the Philippines post-TCC19, including the insights shared during this meeting. They expressed their heartfelt thanks for the time taken to provide this additional information. With the additional information provided by the Philippines – that they have “filed the appropriate complaints against these vessels and have imposed sanctions in accordance with their domestic legislation and that the penalty imposed depended on the size of the fishing vessels and the corresponding economic benefit that can be derived for the unauthorized operation” – FFA CCMs were satisfied and agreed to remove 11 of the 12 Philippines flag vessels from the Provisional IUU List. However, for the vessel **FB Kuda Laut-03**, given the advice from the Philippines that there were cases still pending against this vessel, FFA CCMs proposed that the fishing vessel **FB Kuda Laut-03** be listed on the 2024 WCPFC IUU List.
82. FFA CCMs were committed to the objective of the Commission to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks. This included undertaking effective MCS operations to ensure that fishing in FFA waters and the high seas was done in accordance with the rules that were in place. The FFA Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC) had hosted a number of multilateral MCS operations

- during the year and it was during these operations when these Philippines-flagged vessels had been detected undertaking activities in the high seas in contravention of Commission measures. These operations were quite costly and drew upon very limited resources and they thanked France, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand (the “Quad”) for their generous assistance in this. Though costly, FFA members undertook these operations because of the importance of the fisheries resources to the people. They urged the Philippines and all CCMs to effectively exercise their flag State duties in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention and comply with the measures adopted by the Commission.
83. Japan appreciated the information from the Philippines on these vessels and their prompt sanctions but expressed surprise that so many infringements had occurred in a single year.
 84. Korea appreciated the Philippines investigation of each vessel’s history in High Seas Pocket #1. Korea asked if the fines had been already paid, or a binding schedule for payment established. If not, these vessels would need to remain on the provisional IUU list.
 85. The European Union thanked the Philippines for their prompt response and FFA members for the surveillance operations that discovered the violations. The EU indicated that the full information regarding any alleged violations identified on the high seas through the MCS capabilities of the Commission and/or its Members should be timely shared with all WCPFC members, since it is a shared responsibility to discuss and resolve such issues through an inclusive process.
 86. China supported the removal of the 11 vessels from the provisional IUU list. For the vessel pending prosecution they proposed that the vessel remain on the provisional IUU list rather than the final list, pending the outcome of the prosecution.
 87. Australia understood that there was no mechanism for maintaining a vessel on the provisional IUU list beyond the Commission meeting but asked for the advice of the WCPFC Legal Advisor on the matter.
 88. The WCPFC Legal Advisor advised that the provisional IUU list was adopted by TCC19 and referred to the Commission for its decision on the final IUU list. There was no mechanism in the CMM for maintaining the provisional IUU list, but that there were mechanisms for removing vessels from the final IUU list intersessionally.
 89. China asked what would happen if the Commission could not adopt the provisional IUU list into the final IUU list by consensus.
 90. The Chair suggested that this agenda item be held open and for concerned CCMs, including Philippines, to talk further in the margins.
 91. Later in the plenary meeting, the agenda item was resumed and the Philippines asked the Commission to maintain the remaining vessel on the provisional IUU list until the prosecution was complete and to not include it on the final IUU list because the prosecution would take some time. They noted that CMM 2019-07 states that a vessel should not be IUU-listed if the flag State demonstrated responsible action.
 92. Korea was concerned about the ongoing process and was open to having an intersessional process to make a decision on the FB Kuda Laut 03.
 93. New Zealand was satisfied that 11 vessels had been adequately penalized and could be removed from the provisional IUU list. But, as indicated earlier, the FB Kuda Laut 03 had multiple unauthorized trips into the high seas pocket and should be placed on the final IUU

list. Once the Philippines' internal legal processes had been concluded, they should circulate relevant information to CCMs so that an intersessional decision can be made within 40 days as to whether the Philippines have taken effective action, including sanctions of adequate severity to warrant the FB Kuda Laut 03 being removed from the final IUU list. The inclusion of this vessel on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, pending the completion of criminal proceedings, is an effective means to deter future violations.

94. The Chair noted that the Commission also needed to make a decision on TCC19's recommendation to keep three existing vessels on the 2024 IUU vessel list, and a further decision was needed on removing 11 of the Philippines vessels that had been provisionally listed, and on placing the Kuda Laut 03 onto the 2024 IUU vessel list.
95. The European Union indicated it had no objections and, there being no other interventions on this matter, the following decision was adopted:

96. The Commission agreed to maintain the three fishing vessels **NEPTUNE, FU LIEN No.1 and YU FONG 168** on the WCPFC 2024 IUU Vessel List and to include the vessel **FB KUDA LAUT 03** on the 2024 IUU Vessel List (**Attachment 1**)
97. The Commission noted the intersessional process for the removal of a vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List and that the FB KUDA LAUT 03 may be removed from the Final IUU Vessel List in accordance with the intersessional process set out in CMM 2019-07.

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROPOSALS

98. The Chair invited CCMs or IWG Chairs with new proposals to present them to the Commission. CCMs were to note that any intervention after each proposal should be limited to questions of clarification. The meeting needed to determine a way forward for each proposal, including possibly establishing additional small working groups for discussion in more depth. She reminded CCMs with new proposals or amendments to existing proposals that there was a requirement to complete an [Audit Points Checklist](#) and a [CMM 2013-06 Evaluation](#).

- **Tropical Tuna Measure**

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-WP33](#) (Rev01-07 (Commission Chair)), [WCPFC20-2023-DP02](#) (FFA), [WCPFC20-2023-DP15](#) (FFA), [WCPFC20-2023-DP04](#) (PNA and Tokelau), [WCPFC20-2023-DP06](#) (Korea), [WCPFC20-2023-DP09](#) (American Samoa), [WCPFC20-2023-DP10](#) (USA), [WCPFC20-2023-DP13](#) (USA and American Samoa).

99. The Chair explained the considerable amount of work that had already gone into the preparation of the consultative draft, including taking into account the outcomes of four intersessional tropical tuna management workshops. She presented [working paper 33 Rev01](#) and drew the attention of the meeting to each proposed amendment to the text of the current Tropical Tuna Measure ([CMM 2021-01](#)) and identity of the CCMs making the proposals, emphasising that each of these proposed amendments was not a proposal by the Chair but was the Chair's summary of the proposals made by CCMs.
100. The Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA CCMs, noted that their comments on the Chair's Consultative Draft were contained in **DP02** ("*FFA Members' comments on Chairs Consultative Draft CMM 2023-01*"). FFA CCMs had also submitted additional amendments to CMM 2023-01 in **DP15**.

101. In FFA's **DP02**, it was proposed that the total amount of purse seine effort on the high seas between 20°S and 20°N would be limited to a maximum of 2,300 days per year. There were several reasons why this hard limit was being proposed. These included:
- i. ensuring integrity in the implementation of the Skipjack Management Procedure adopted by the Commission at WCPFC19;
 - ii. reducing the risk of not achieving the objectives for bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin provided in the Tropical Tuna Measure;
 - iii. consistency with the purse seine effort levels on the high seas in 2012 and the total limits provided in paragraph 25 of the TTM; and
 - iv. minimising the disconnect between the TTM and SKJ MP because existing purse seine effort limits in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the TTM already greatly exceed the 2012 effort levels used as a scalar in the SKJ MP.
102. FFA CCMs had taken the advice of the Scientific Committee (SC) very seriously and were concerned that the indications from recently released projections were that the yellowfin tuna objective would not be achieved over the long term under all scenarios. This was largely due to a large and growing impact of other commercial fisheries in Region 2 of the 2023 YFT stock assessment, particularly in Indonesia. This growing impact was a major concern for FFA CCMs because it risked undermining the Commission's work to ensure the sustainable management of tropical tuna stocks.
103. The proposal by FFA CCMs for entry and exit reporting between the high seas and waters under the jurisdiction of coastal states had been made and explained in 2021.
104. Electronic recording of catch and effort data would come into effect in 2024 as a result of CMM 2022-06 so FFA CCMs were proposing to reiterate it in the TTM.
105. Increased observer coverage for ROP trips, sourced from ROP observers or through electronic monitoring (EM), to address the issue of low observer coverage in the longline (LL) fishery would address the long-held concern to enhance monitoring of tropical tuna LL fisheries on the high seas. The increased observer coverage was supported by CCMs at SC19 and TCC19.
106. In **DP15**, the FFA CCMs noted the disconnect between the outputs of the skipjack management procedure (MP) and the catch and effort levels specified in the tropical tuna measure. To ensure that the tropical tuna measure could be used to implement the outputs of the skipjack management procedure for the period 2024-26, FFA CCMs were proposing the addition of a new paragraph to the tropical tuna measure. This paragraph also outlined the action to be taken should these levels be exceeded.
107. The Solomon Islands on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs briefly presented **DP04** ("*PNA and Tokelau Submission on proposed language to amend the CMM 2021-01*") and explained that this paper supported previous proposals by PNA and Tokelau to revise the tropical tuna measure on four tracks.
- i. The first was to propose language to implement the skipjack management procedure.
 - ii. The second was to provide some general comments on relating the output of the skipjack management procedure to existing limits in the CMM.
 - iii. The third was in relation to the FAD management provisions of the measure.

- iv. The fourth was the set of specific proposals to increase the longline monitoring and control elements of the measure. Strengthening the longline monitoring and control elements is a condition for any agreement to increasing longline bigeye catch limits for PNA and Tokelau. PNA and Tokelau looked forward to working with other CCMs on the proposals.
108. Korea presented **DP06** (*“Proposed changes to CMM 2021-01”*) noting their belief that the current high seas purse-seine limit was unfair because it did not reflect the level of historical effort by certain CCMs, it was not commensurate with the fishing capacity of each CCM, and it allowed certain CCMs to fish without limit. Three changes were proposed:
 - i. an interim allocation arrangement for a revised high seas purse seine effort limit, for immediate but temporary application until such a time the Commission adopted an allocation framework. An example was provided based on a potential new high seas purse-seine effort limit of 10,000 days, but Korea emphasized that they were flexible about this number;
 - ii. a new paragraph 28 in the measure to explicitly allow for the transfer of catch and/or effort limits between EEZs and within high seas among CCMs, respectively; and
 - iii. a new footnote to paragraph 23, for CCMs who notify the Secretariat that they have no known or established purse seine fisheries taking skipjack, yellowfin, or bigeye tuna within their EEZs to be exempt from the requirements of that paragraph.
109. American Samoa presented the main elements of **DP09** (*“The Tropical Tuna Measure and Supporting American Samoa’s Economic Development”*) which called for the granting of a high seas exemption for the locally-based USA-flagged purse seine vessels that are critical to the economy of a Pacific Island territory like American Samoa. This exemption would restore balance to the system, ensuring that the benefits of fisheries management by this Commission were shared more equitably among all stakeholders in a region where SIDS-flagged purse-seiners already have such an exemption.
110. The United States presented **DP13** (*“Implementing the Proposed Footnote by American Samoa and the United States: Attachment 1, Table 2 of Tropical Tuna Measure”*), which was linked to the American Samoa presentation. Supporting American Samoa at this Commission was a priority for the USA. This paper had been submitted to respond to questions received at the last Tropical Tuna Workshop and explained how it was planned to implement the amendments to footnote 1 at the Commission level and under the USA domestic process. The footnote, which would read “except for US flag vessels notified as operating as an integral part of the American Samoan economy” was intended to help alleviate the disproportionate burden on American Samoa, to which they had so eloquently referred. The United States and American Samoa would notify the Secretariat which US-flagged vessels would be subject to the footnote prior to operating under the exemption, and for the domestic implementation process the United States would establish criteria for determining which vessels would qualify for that exemption. These criteria would be developed and implemented through the United States normal rule-making process, which was both public and transparent. American Samoa would be heavily involved in developing these criteria. The USA said that this mechanism was supported by Article 30 of the Convention and paragraph 25 of CMM 2021-01.
111. USA also briefly presented **DP10** (*“CMM 2013-06 analysis of United States’ proposed revisions to the Tropical Tuna Measure in the Chairs Consultative Draft”*) noting that they had provided a CMM 2013-06 analysis on proposed revisions to the tropical tuna measure that would limit the use of drifting FADs of biodegradable categories 1, 2, 3a and 3b, beginning in 2026, and would further limit the use to biodegradable categories 1 or 2 beginning in 2029. The USA proposals would also require submitting satellite buoy data from FADs to support the work of

the Scientific Services Provider (SSP) in analysing the impacts of FAD fisheries. They did not expect these proposed revisions to affect development opportunities for SIDS or to affect SIDS domestic resources or development aspirations. They thought it important for WCPFC to be forward in FAD management and thought that their revisions, particularly for the use of biodegradable materials in FADs, were very attainable in the near future. They recognised that the WCPFC project on biodegradable FADs remained ongoing and looked forward to receiving results from that project in 2025. They also recognised that many CCMs would need time to implement these requirements if adopted, and that fleets would also need time to prepare for these changes. They continued to believe that adopting biodegradable requirements now would give sufficient time both for CCMs to implement any needed changes, and for fleets to prepare to shift to using FADs with greater biodegradable components.

112. Discussion on all these issues and proposals was deferred from plenary to the Tropical Tuna CMM Small Working Group process under Agenda Item 10.2(d).

- **South Pacific Albacore**

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-DP03](#) & [WCPFC20-2023-DP07](#).

113. The Cook Islands introduced the FFA CCMs' proposal in **DP03** ("*FFA Members' proposal to address the definition of the term "actively fishing for" in CMM 2015-02 paragraph 4*") to clarify the longstanding problem of interpreting the definition of the term '*actively fishing for*' contained in the South Pacific albacore measure, CMM 2015-02.
114. Their aim was for WCPFC to agree an interpretation, and to resume the assessment of this obligation under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS). They were concerned that the non-assessment of the only active management control in the current South Pacific albacore measure rendered this measure ineffective.
115. The FFA proposal was that the term '*actively fishing for*' in CMM 2015-02 be interpreted to mean '*vessels fishing south of 20° South with annual catch of albacore greater than 50% of the catch of potential target tuna, namely albacore, yellowfin and bigeye and swordfish*'. This understanding was based on the advice of the SSP and was the generally accepted definition as used in the WCPFC CMS process in the past. It only changed when it was to allow for CCMs going over their agreed limit. The bottom line was that they wanted the resumption of the assessment of this obligation in the CMS, and they urged other CCMs to work with them in this meeting to find a solution for all on this matter.
116. Samoa on behalf of South Pacific Group (SPG) CCMs and Australia then presented the proposal for a Revised Target Reference Point (TRP) for South Pacific Albacore in **DP07**. They noted that it had been first presented at the WCPFC South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Intersessional Working Group (SPA-IWG) on 5 May 2023 (as [SPA-RM-IWG04/WP-03](#)) and that SPG and Australia had consulted widely with interested CCMs since that time.
117. The SPG, along with other members of the FFA, regarded the current interim TRP (iTRP) – that seeks to achieve longline catch rates 8% higher than those in 2013 (most recently estimated at 0.68 SB/SB_{F=0}) – as unrealistic. Their understanding of the status of the stock of South Pacific albacore had changed in the five years since the current iTRP revision was adopted and they considered that the catch cuts required to achieve the iTRP were not acceptable to SPG members nor to the wider Commission membership. They noted that the Commission was scheduled to adopt a management objective and revised TRP for South Pacific albacore at WCPFC20. The SPG and Australia were proposing a revised iTRP that would be more realistic

and achievable, and which did not require excessive and economically counterproductive catch reductions.

118. As such, the proposed iTRP was the estimated average depletion of the South Pacific albacore tuna stock over the period 2017-2019 ($SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$). They felt that this proposal represented a reasonable balance between, on the one hand, catch rates and the viability of fisheries and on the other hand reasonable total catch levels to support continued fishing activity by all.
119. In recognition of some outstanding scientific issues discussed at SC19, they proposed that the iTRP should be subject to review by the Commission following the 2024 stock assessment and further development of candidate management procedures. Subsequent to this review, the confirmed or amended iTRP could then be adopted by the Commission within a Conservation and Management Measure that specified a management procedure for South Pacific albacore tuna. They welcomed any comments and discussion on the proposal.
120. Australia was pleased to co-sponsor this proposal for an iTRP for South Pacific albacore. It had been developed primarily through the hard work and commitment of the SPG. They supported the objective, which was considered to achieve a reasonable balance, as had just been described by Samoa. They appreciated and supported a variety of technical aspects in the design of this iTRP and, crucially, noted that the risk of breaching the limit reference point was estimated to be within the maximum level the Commission considers to be consistent with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. They also supported the TRP being framed as interim with a clearly defined process to review and again adopt a TRP within the management procedure. This iTRP would set WCPFC on the pathway to adopting a management procedure next year and then developing the implementing arrangements to secure sustainability of South Pacific albacore for our collective future. Australia commended it to the Commission.
121. Further discussion was deferred from plenary to a South Pacific albacore Small Working Group.

- **Compliance Monitoring Scheme**

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-DP05 \(Rev01-05\)](#)

122. The Solomon Islands presented **DP05** (“*PNA and Tokelau Proposal to Revise the CMS CMM*”) on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, noting that this paper was proposing revisions to the CMS CMM which expires in 2023. The key element was the proposal to strengthen the measure by addressing the imbalance between the longline and purse seine fisheries of information available for monitoring compliance. There were also some revisions proposed to update the measure.
123. They explained that the measure would not affect observer coverage in the purse seine fishery. That would remain at 100%. Observer reported infractions would continue to be entered into the Compliance Case File System (CCFS). Flag States would continue to be required to investigate and report on potential infractions. The flag State action would continue to be reinforced by increasingly strong coastal State compliance action. And the WCPO purse seine fishery would continue to be the most closely monitored and most compliant industrial tuna fishery globally. The CMS would thereby be strengthened because it was currently so deeply flawed that it could not be used to provide a comparative evaluation of CCM compliance. That flaw had reduced the value of the CMS to a point where, in the view of these CCMs, it was not worth the time spent on it.

124. The change proposed would enable the CMS to be used for consideration of remedial actions in a way that it could not be used now. It was intended also that it would allow greater scope for the aggregate tables to be used for compliance assessment and evaluation.
125. They hoped that the proposal in DP05 could be agreed at this session so the work on the CMS could proceed smoothly. They appreciated receiving any constructive comments and suggestions or new proposals that dealt directly with the imbalance.
126. Korea expressed concern in eliminating the Future Work section as there were still some unfinished tasks and wondered if there were plans to include issues such as audit points and risk-based assessments in the proposal.
127. Further consideration and discussion was referred to a CMS Small Working Group.

- **An Option for Addressing Climate Change at TCC**

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-DP08](#) & [WCPFC20-2023-DP16](#)

128. The USA presented **DP08** on addressing climate change issues within the TCC Agenda. The United States and Chinese Taipei were pleased to jointly provide support for the Commission's efforts towards addressing climate change, including through the Technical and Compliance Committee.
129. Under Article 14.1(a), one of TCC's three functions was to provide the Commission with information, technical advice, and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures. In addition, WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 resolved that the Commission consider the uncertainties associated with climate change as well as the effects of a changing climate on conservation and management measures.
130. Many provisions of WCPFC CMMs were agreed and implemented based on 1) certain target or bycatch species, 2) specific geographic areas, or 3) different gear types. Further, many of the data collection obligations that supported both the compliance and science work of the Commission were found in specific provisions of CMMs. Recommendations to revise or change such provisions would be provided to the Commission by TCC.
131. The effects of climate change on fisheries would be highly variable but how Commission members' CMMs and obligations were affected by climate change was not unknowable. Rather, there was an opportunity to collectively assess CCM obligations and assess how such obligations may become inapplicable, obsolete, or otherwise affected by a changing climate. Such a collective assessment by TCC would help protect the integrity of CMMs despite the risks presented by a changing climate.
132. The USA and Chinese Taipei believed this proposal to be complementary to the work of SC's development of climate change indicators. Undertaking both workstreams in parallel would facilitate timely and informed deliberation by the Commission amidst a changing climate. Furthermore, they saw it as being responsive to TCC's request for more direction from the Commission on how they might further undertake considerations regarding climate change under its mandate.
133. Bearing in mind the need not to burden Commission members with too many intersessional processes, the USA offered to draft a workplan for mainstreaming climate change across the Commission in 2024 and had just posted a paper (**DP16**) describing this. The goal would be to bring a draft workplan to SC20 and TCC20, with a view to submitting a finalized workplan to WCPFC21.

134. Chinese Taipei believed that one issue that all shared was concern for the impact of climate change across the region. These were complex issues and none of these challenges could be resolved by any single CCM. Solutions required open, multilateral effort. They urged all CCMs to give serious consideration to this issue. Chinese Taipei was a responsible stakeholder and was willing to play a constructive role and strongly supported the proposals in DP08 presented by the USA. Chinese Taipei announced it would provide a voluntary contribution of USD \$20,000, and they welcomed all windows of opportunity for cooperation with like-minded Parties.
135. Tokelau, on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the USA for providing a proposal for operationalising climate change into TCC's work and acknowledged the intention to progress this issue across all aspects of WCPFC's work. FFA had reviewed and discussed this proposal, and noted the revised proposal uploaded several hours earlier. They had some questions that the FFA has already asked one of the proponents directly. For transparency with the rest of the WCPFC membership, those questions were:
- How did the proponents see climate change forthcoming TCC tasks and what risks (if any) did they have in mind?
 - What other factors contributing to vulnerability of compliance in CMMs did the proponents recognise and how would those vulnerabilities be assessed in the proposed analysis?
 - What kind of advice was expected to be received from the TCC on climate change?
 - What kind of decision would the Commission be expected to take as a result of TCC's advice if a CMM gets identified as "vulnerable" to climate change?
 - Where did proponents see the SC's role in this analysis?
136. FFA CCM's concerns lay in the practicality of the proposal, and on the potential risks this might trigger in terms of having climate change as an argument when compliance with binding provisions becomes more complex. With regard to the terms of revision of CMMs, they considered that would be more of an SC task. They appreciated the contribution the USA and Chinese Taipei were putting forward, and the WCPFC could take good advantage of it through an SC process for example. So, when the SC was assessing CMMs and providing management advice to TCC when appropriate, and to the Commission, the SC might also be analysing what the climate change implications of that management advice could be. They welcomed views on this.
137. The Chair asked the Commission to continue discussion of this proposal under **Agenda Item 9** (*Incorporating climate change considerations into management and conservation of WCPO fisheries and ecosystems*).
- **Draft CMM on Crew Labour Standards**

Paper: [Labour Standards IWG report](#).

138. Co-Chair Sarah McAvinchey (New Zealand), on behalf of the Crew Labour Standards Intersessional Working Group Co-Chairs, presented the Labour Standards IWG report and said that due to the breadth of national consultation needed, a 2024 target date would be more realistic in view of the institutional complexity of the issue at the national level, and this would provide the opportunity for countries to undertake these consultations. This was a reflection of the complexity of implementation at the national level, and the commitment of CCMs to getting this right.
139. Co-Chair McAvinchey thanked the members of the IWG for their excellent feedback and engagement to date. There had been several meetings of the IWG, the latest being in

September 2023. Important progress had been made on this subject, and the IWG Co-Chairs were looking forward to working further with CCMs at this meeting. The work of this Commission was often world-leading and labour standards should be another area where this Commission could show leadership. However, there were still differing positions on the area of application and the Co-Chairs noted the importance of this issue to the implementation of labour standards. They recognized that this critical issue had yet to be resolved and looked forward to working closely with CCMs in 2024 to progress agreement.

140. Following consultations with CCMs, the Co-Chairs considered that a 2024 adoption date (with a possible delayed implementation date) to be an approach that would ensure that requirements for adoption were clear and would provide members with enough time to address national level requirements for implementation. They looked forward to discussing this work further under **Agenda Item 14** (*Progress toward development of a CMM on crew labour standards*).

141. The Commission noted the proposals that were tabled and introduced for consideration at WCPFC20, including the Chair's Consultative Draft of the Tropical Tuna Measure. Proponents of proposals were encouraged to discuss them in the established SWGs and in the margins of the meeting, noting that there would be opportunities to report back to plenary on progress.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 30 OF WCPFC CONVENTION AND CMM 2013-07 (SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES)

7.1 Updated Strategic Investment Plan

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-10](#), [WCPFC20-2023-IP01](#), [WCPFC20-2023-DP14](#)

142. WCPFC Compliance Manager, Lara Manarangi-Trott, presented working paper 10 on the implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) in 2023 and the updated SIP for consideration by the Commission. The purpose and operation of the Special Requirements Fund were explained, and the Commission's decision to maintain a US\$150,000 base level was highlighted. This fund was now almost depleted, as discussed at the FAC17. Donors had been consulted about how additional funds might be sourced and FAC17 was also considering it. TCC19 had also highlighted this for consideration by the Commission. It was expected that the FAC17 Co-Chairs would bring something back to the meeting later in the week, but at this point it could be useful to consider and potentially endorse the updated SIP.
143. The Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the Secretariat for the paper. FFA CCMs were happy to endorse the updated SIP. They also noted that FFA CCMs had made specific proposals to FAC17. There had already been some recommendations on sources to replenish the SRF and CCMs were referred to the report of the SRF-IWG in 2018.
144. Korea shared the concern that the SRF was fully depleted, and also had some comments on the SIP. Regarding capacity needs, they noted that work with Indonesia had continued for several years, with delays in anticipated implementation timeframes. Korea hoped that these issues could be addressed in a timely manner. Second, paragraph 9 of working paper 10 said that the main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. To Korea it was not quite clear what the term "explicit mechanism" meant, as the Commission had a SRF, and the operational budget was usually administered to facilitate the effective participation of SIDS. With these comments Korea supported the approval of the SIP.

145. The Secretariat responded to Korea's question on the SIP and paragraph 9. This was about the number at the bottom of the table in paragraph 9 and came about as a result of the intersessional process led by Australia in 2018 to document the main SIDS assistance needs. This reflected one of the main gaps at the time – which was travel by SIDS to meetings of the Commission, which was required for SIDS to understand and fully engage in WCPFC meetings. This funding allowed for an additional participant from each SIDS, and this was the basis for the difference asked about by Korea.
146. The European Union reminded the Commission of its Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP). The Programme is jointly funded by the European Union and Sweden for a total amount of 45 million euros. PEUMP officially started its implementation on 5 September 2018 and it will be implemented over seven years through SPC, FFA, Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the University of the South Pacific (USP). The Programme includes dedicated fisheries capacity-building activities, for example in the form of short- and long-term technical and vocational education and training courses, and secondment opportunities for national scientists to the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of SPC.
147. Chinese Taipei drew the attention of the Commission to its contribution to the establishment of a WCPFC Trust Fund (the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund) in 2016 and its commitment to continuous contribution to that Fund of two million US Dollars over the next five years commencing in 2024. The Chinese Taipei Trust Fund has provided financial assistance to WCPFC developing State members, particularly geared toward small island developing States (SIDS) members with special requirements in implementing conservation and management measures under Article 30 of the WCPFC Convention, and to those capacity-building programmes in member countries and regional organizations such as FFA and the Pacific Community. Projects funded include priority WCPFC issues, such as the safety of fishery observers and monitoring, control, and surveillance capacity-building.
148. The Cook Islands, on behalf of SPG CCMs, stated that the SRF is a fundamental resource for SIDS development and participation in the WCPFC. They were very grateful for its support this year, along with the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund, for providing the opportunity for SPG members to undertake negotiation training in collaboration with French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and American Samoa. In addition to the valuable capacity building provided, it also helped them build relationships and cooperation with the Territories that shared the same goals as SPG in the southern fisheries. These meaningful capacity building activities were essential to SIDS, and they urged the Commission to ensure that a replenishment mechanism for the SRF was adopted at this Commission meeting.
149. China noted that since they had become a member of this Commission, for 15 years they had made a voluntary contribution of \$25,000 every year. This year they wanted \$20,000 of that funding to be used for the SRF.
150. Japan fully recognised the criteria in CMM 2013-06 and felt these were best addressed through dialogue with SIDS and hoped to resume that process. They explained the total amount of assistance to SIDS, including a “decent amount” of fisheries related projects. At the Ninth PALM Leaders Meeting held virtually in July 2021, Japan had announced its commitment to the continuation of robust development assistance and more than 5,500 person-to-person exchanges for human resource development over the following three years. The call for proposals for the WCPFC Japan Trust Fund (JTF) had been advertised through WCPFC Circular 2023/97 with a deadline of 22 December 2023 for proposals. Funding from the Japan Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) was also available through FFA via the Japan Promotion Fund (JPF).

151. Japan reported on their implementation of CMM 2013-06. Japan fully recognized the importance of the criteria in CMM 2013-06 and when submitting proposals, they carefully looked at the checklist contained in this CMM and would continue to do so. For the future, they believed that some of the objectives of this CMM could be better addressed through direct consultation. In this regard, it was a great pleasure to have been able to resume in-person consultations with the FFA and PNA groups this year, after the long period of interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan wanted to maintain and enhance these dialogues aimed at achieving the same goal of conservation and the sustainable use of the highly migratory species.
152. Secondly, Japan had been providing funds for infrastructure and capacity building through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and OFCF. Between 2012 and 2021 Japan had provided about ¥264 billion in development assistance to Pacific Island countries including a number of officially related projects. Most of the officially related projects also contained aspects of conservation and management of highly migratory species and assistance to small scale fishers. At the Ninth PALM Leaders meeting in July 2021, Japan had announced its commitment to the continuation of its robust development assistance for the next 3 years.
153. Thirdly, Japan had been providing capacity-building assistance to SIDS in fishery statistics and fishery management through the WCPFC JTF. Japan hoped to see members actively consider their applications to the JTF by the deadline of 22 December 2023. In addition, Japan had been supporting FFA members since 2008 through the JPF via OFCF. FFA members could utilize this fund for various purposes, such as enhancement of capacity. In November 2017, in response to the strong request from FFA members, OFCF committed to renew the term of the JPF until 2027, and in 2020 OFCF increased the size of the JPF. Japan sincerely hoped that these programs and funds would contribute to official development of SIDS.
154. The Marshall Islands, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, reminded the Commission that Article 30 of the Convention was a fundamental provision and was the cornerstone upon which the Commission was built. FFA CCMs reiterated the clear obligation in Article 30 to ensure that the special requirements of SIDS and Participating Territories were fully recognised and addressed in all Commission decisions and processes. Article 30, paragraph 3 provided for the establishment of the SRF to facilitate the effective participation of SIDS in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
155. As the paper showed, the SRF had been depleted. This showed that SIDS were actively utilising this fund for capacity building and not just for participation in the various Commission and related meetings but also for projects to build capacity at the national level. However, as the SRF-IWG recognised in 2018 when they developed the SIP, there needed to be a sustainable funding mechanism to finance the SIP, in particular through the SRF, but not to be totally dependent on voluntary contributions. They suggested that the Commission identify additional sources to replenish the SRF on a continual basis.
156. WCPFC Financial Regulation 7 established the SRF for the purposes identified in Article 30 of the Convention. It also stated that the SRF “shall be financed from voluntary contributions and such other sources as the Commission may identify...” (WCPFC Financial Regulation 7.2).
157. There had already been some recommendations on sources to replenish the SRF, and the report of the SRF-IWG in 2018 was useful in this regard. Drawing from this report, FFA CCMs recommended that the Commission transfer unused funds from the CNM contribution funds to the SRF, but also ensure that this would not affect the offset that CNM contributions currently provide to SIDS assessed contributions.

158. In addition, FFA CCMs recommended that the Commission task FAC17 to look at the other recommendations from the SRF-IWG report and provide recommendations to the Commission at this session on ways to automatically replenish the SRF either when the balance of funds in the SRF gets to a certain amount, or on an annual basis.

159. The Commission approved the updated Strategic Investment Plan for 2023 (**Attachment2**).

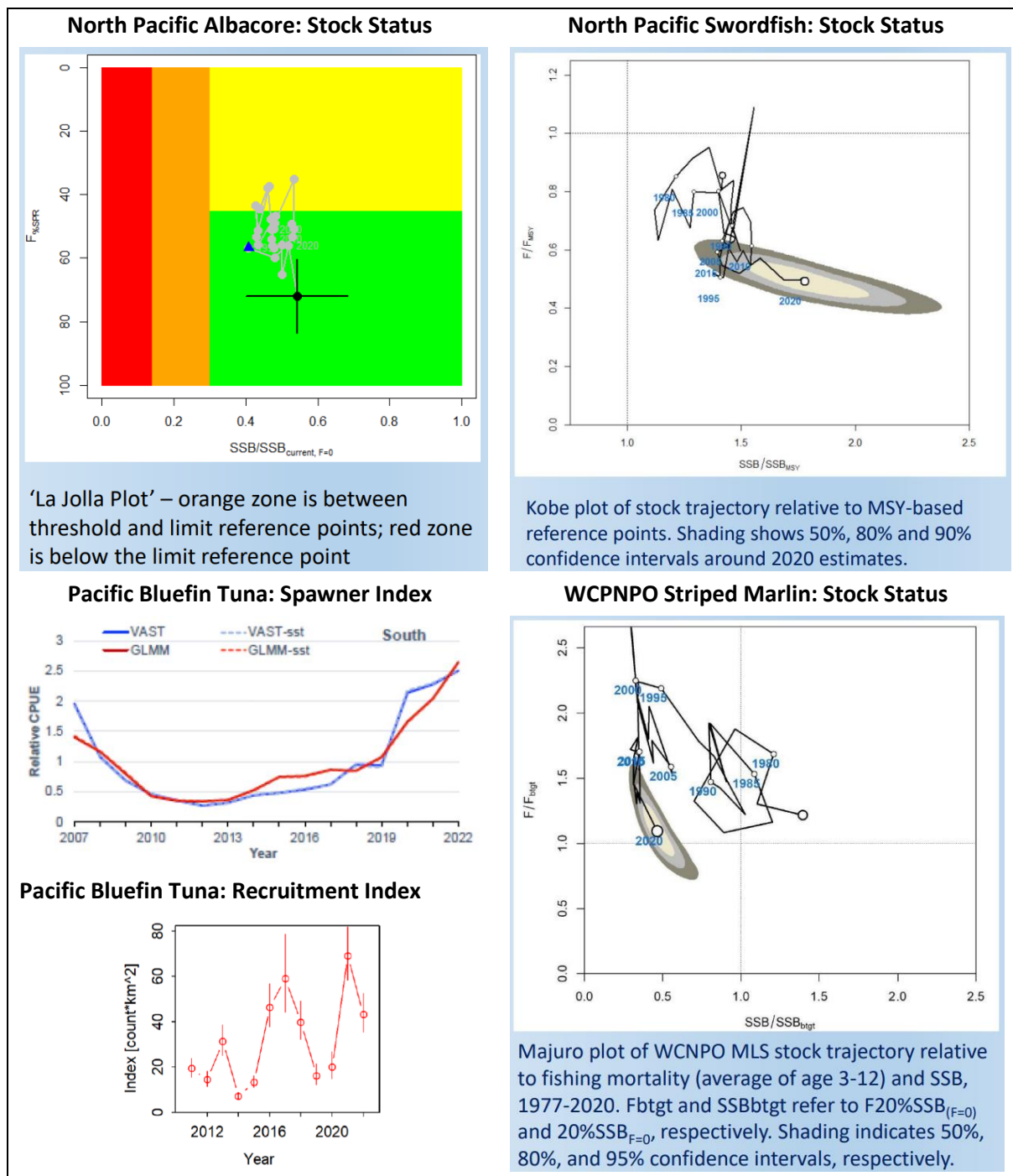
7.2 Western Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring (WPEA- ITM) Project

160. This agenda item was amalgamated and considered together with Agenda Item 10.5(c) on the WPEA-ITM Project monitoring report.

8. STATUS OF STOCKS

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-IP02](#), [WCPFC20-2023-IP03](#), [WCPFC20-2023-IP04](#)

161. The Commission's Scientific Services Provider (SSP) the Pacific Community (SPC), and the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) made presentations on the status of tropical and northern fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). These annual presentations to the Commission cover the state of the WCPFC region's tuna and billfish stocks based on the best available information and data.
162. John Holmes, Chair of ISC, made a [presentation](#) briefly explaining the status of the three North Pacific stocks and other assessments carried out in 2023. North Pacific albacore tuna was assessed to be in the green quadrant of the La Jolla status summary plot (a modification of the Kobe and Majuro plots). North Pacific swordfish was also assessed to be in the safest quadrant of the status plot, and Pacific Bluefin – although a full assessment had not been carried out in 2023 – was estimated by ISC23, based on a review of CPUE (abundance) and recruitment indices, to continue to be recovering. The status of striped marlin in the western and central North Pacific Ocean was less positive, but the results of deterministic projections suggested that if annual catches were kept below 2,400t, the stock would be expected to recover above SSB_{MSY} and near the 20% $SSB_{F=0}$ reference levels by 2040.

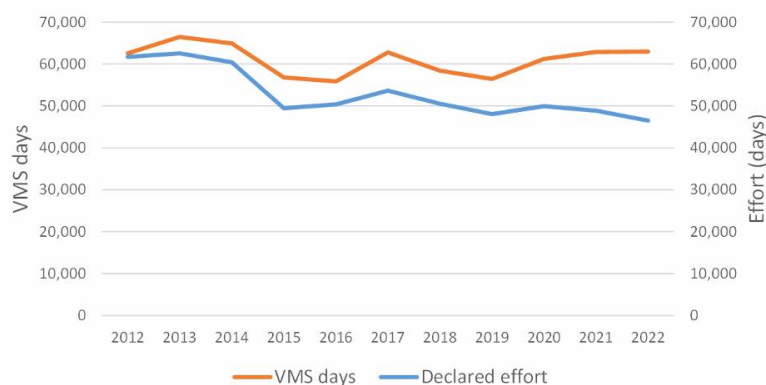


163. The USA thanked the ISC Chair for the presentation and proposed that a peer review, providing funding was available, be carried out for the North Pacific striped marlin stock assessment, and that the USA would provide some seed funding towards this. They understood that this peer review would require WCPFC approval to go ahead.
164. Japan fully supported this peer review. Japan expressed serious concern that the North Pacific striped marlin stock assessment contained a lot of uncertainty, and a peer review would be likely to improve the next assessment. Canada, Korea, and Taiwan also supported the USA proposal.
165. The EU understood the value of peer reviews as a matter of general principle but noted that scientific projects were usually proposed by the Scientific Committee and later endorsed by

the Commission. They wondered if this direct proposal was because this was an ISC assessment rather than a WCPFC SSP assessment.

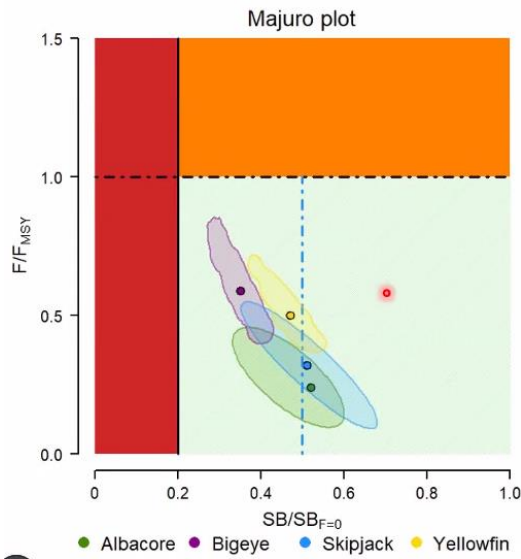
166. The EU also noted their concern about whether after so many years of postponements and delays there would finally be a clear path for moving towards a more ambitious and effective rebuilding plan for the North Pacific striped marlin stock. The ISC Chair had suggested that the latest North Pacific striped marlin stock assessment was conclusive, but instead of moving towards an effective rebuilding plan, the Commission now appeared to be moving towards reviewing the assessment.
167. The Chair asked if there were any objections to carrying out this peer review. There were no objections.
168. John Hampton (SSP) made a [presentation](#) briefly explaining the status of Tropical and South Pacific tuna and billfish stocks and other assessments carried out in 2023. He drew attention to the time-series plot of purse-seine VMS days compared to fishing days declared on logsheets (see below). This would require some attention by the Commission when it came to deciding which metric should be used in the implementation of the Interim Skipjack Management Procedure (iSKJ-MP), because it appeared that many purse-seiners had been changing the way they reported fishing days since the baseline year of the iSKJ-MP.

VMS PS “Fishing” Days vs Declared Effort



169. The overall status of the four main equatorial and southern tuna stocks, as described by the Majuro Plot, was that they were not overfished in terms of biomass, and that overfishing was not occurring in terms of fishing mortality/intensity.

Status of Tuna Stocks – Multi-Species Summary

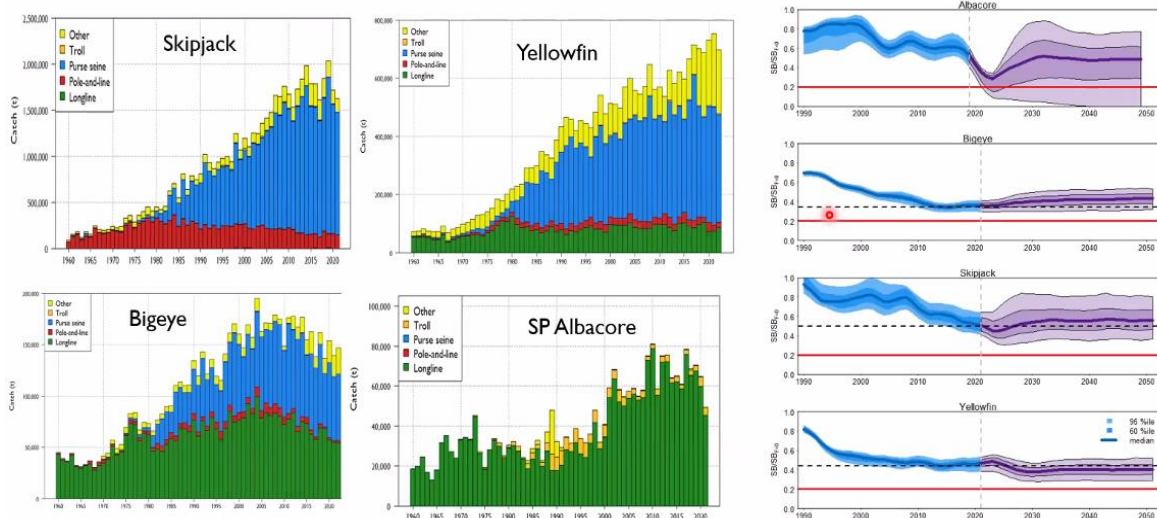


Key metrics

Species	SB _{recent} /SB _{F=0} median	10-90 %iles	F _{recent} /F _{MSY} median	10-90 %iles	Prob breaching LRP
SP albacore	0.52	0.41-0.57	0.24	0.15-0.37	0.00
Bigeye	0.35	0.31-0.40	0.60	0.46-0.74	0.00
Skipjack	0.51	0.43-0.64	0.32	0.18-0.45	0.00
Yellowfin	0.47	0.42-0.52	0.50	0.42-0.61	0.00

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Past catch trends for the 4 main tuna stocks, and 30-year model predictions of future biomass depletion ratio versus biomass expected in the absence of fishing



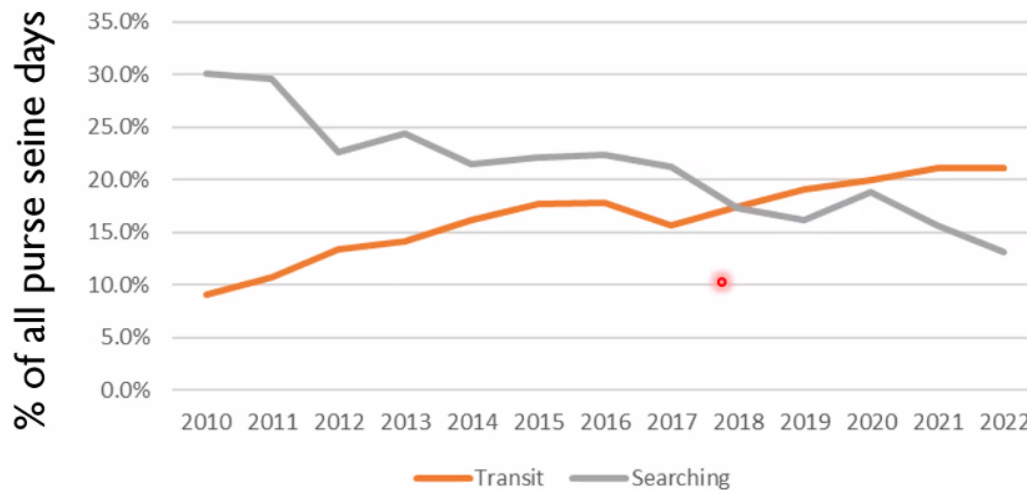
- 170. For the future, the forward projections of stock status, assuming current conditions continued, suggested that all four main tuna stocks would remain sustainable, but that there would be a risk that South Pacific albacore might fall below the Limit Reference Point.
- 171. The situation was less optimistic for some of the billfish stocks and shark species. The abundance and prospects of the oceanic whitetip shark population remain particularly concerning.
- 172. Niue thanked the SSP on behalf of FFA CCMs for the comprehensive work they had undertaken to provide an overview of the status of the key fisheries in the WCPO. Such information was critical to better understanding how these fisheries were performing and

- whether or not the Commission needed to step in to ensure that biological, economic, and social objectives were being met. FFA CCMs were pleased to note that none of the four key tuna species in the WCPO were experiencing overfishing or were in an overfished state.
173. The USA raised the issue of fishing days that had been highlighted by the SSP and asked what criteria had been used to differentiate between searching and transit days in the VMS data.
 174. The SSP said that they had removed VMS days when it was obvious that vessels were in transit back to port but had not removed travel between fishing locations.
 175. The EU thanked the SSP for the presentation. Although WCPFC had agreed that the Majuro plot would be used for WCPFC stock status summaries and the EU had not opposed this noting some merits of the approach adopted by WCPFC, it would also be useful to present the same results in Kobe plots for the purpose of comparison with other RFMOs and domestic approaches. It shared the view that the Majuro Plot might provide a less conservative picture since it is based on SB depletion ratios that for some tuna species are below SB_{MSY} levels. The EU also inquired about ongoing discussions regarding the possible phasing out of MultiFAN-CL (MFCL), what the timeframe might be for this and what alternatives might already be sought, given that most of WCPFC assessments and the harvest strategies work are mainly based on MFCL. The EU also understood that the SC was working on a template to standardize the management advice, including for northern stocks and granted its support to this work.
 176. The SSP noted that the Kobe plots were already provided in the stock assessment reports, and if this was required in the WCPFC summary, then that could easily be provided to future meetings. On the question about software, as explained at SC it was not envisaged that MFCL would be retired immediately, but SPC would be carrying out comparison assessments with other software, particularly Stock Synthesis.
 177. Kiribati, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, thanked Dr Hampton for the excellent presentation. They noted that this was a healthy report card on the current status of the target tropical tuna stocks, and that catch, effort, and catch rates in the major tropical fisheries were stable. They saw no evidence here for any need to change the core elements of the Tropical Tuna CMM for stock-related purposes. Sharks and billfish were another story, and the poor state of knowledge about several of these stocks and their poor status was a direct result of the failure of the Commission to properly monitor and manage the high seas longline fisheries.
 178. Indonesia congratulated the SSP for the presentation and noted that the scientific work was being conducted at a very professional level. They were concerned about the status of silky and oceanic whitetip sharks and had a question about the assessment for tuna. The stock status was normally presented for the whole WCPO, but there were also some differences in status between model subregions. Should we be managing tuna as highly migratory, rapidly mixing stocks, or managing them by model subregion? Another question was: why was there a different level of uncertainty in the bigeye and yellowfin projections compared to the skipjack and South Pacific albacore stocks?
 179. Dr Hampton explained that assessments were for the WCPO only, but skipjack and bigeye stocks probably extended across the entire Pacific. SPC's assessments were confined to the WCPFC mandate area, but Pacific-wide assessments had been carried out in the past and showed that the resultant status was compatible with WCPO-only assessments. On local or subregional depletion of highly migratory stocks, there wasn't much understanding about this yet. Depletion ratios could only be presented at the model region level at the moment. It was not possible to do this at a finer scale using the current model and this had not yet been done

for any stock yet. On the different uncertainties in future projections, this was a function of variability in recruitment and also uncertainty in the models themselves. Albacore had much more limited data, both in biology and because South Pacific albacore was overwhelmingly a longline fishery and the signals in response to changes in fishing mortality were much harder to discern.

180. PNG thanked the SSP and Dr Hampton on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs for the excellent presentation – in particular for addressing the issue of the measurement of purse seine effort. Dr Hampton had indicated that the annual level of purse seine effort reported in logsheets was increasingly lower than the level measured by VMS. It was also increasingly lower than the level measured by the PNA VDS. In fact, for the waters of PNA and Tokelau the VDS data indicated recent effort at around 39,000-40,000 days, not the 34,000 days reported in logsheets. What this meant was that most of the “unused” purse-seine days that Korea wanted to take from PNA and Tokelau to top up the distant water fleet high seas limits were not real. Most of them are actually used. PNA and Tokelau would be happy to talk to Korea about that, in response to a question they had previously raised about the future level of VDS effort.
181. Korea had a similar question to the USA and appreciated the answer given by the SSP to the USA.
182. Dr Hampton noted that changes in the reporting of purse-seine effort did not affect stock assessments because purse-seine days effort was not used in stock assessments, which were based on catch data. The only time effort data was used was in longline fisheries to develop indices of abundance.
183. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, noted that the issue of under-reporting of purse seine effort in logsheets was not a new one. It had been reported to the SC last year and again this year, and it had previously been discussed there. They also noted that this did not affect the effort level measured and applied in the Palau Arrangement VDS. The VDS implementation procedures required that non-fishing days had to be claimed by vessel operators and be validated by VDS Managers. So, the effort levels used by PNA and Tokelau were more conservative, more precise, and independently verifiable as the SSP has shown by comparison with VMS and observer reports. This was confirmed in the figure presented by Dr. Hampton. It was not clear whether the under-reporting in logsheet data provided to the Commission was a matter of changes in reporting practice or not. They thought some updating of logsheets might be needed to reflect changes in fishing practices.
184. The SSP illustrated this change in reporting or fishing practice with a plot showing the trend in logsheet-reported transit days versus logsheet-reported searching days.
185. Dr Hampton said it was up to vessels to declare on logsheets what the major activity on a non-fishing day was, and the interpretation of this had changed significantly. This would need to be rationalised in view of the fact that this is becoming significant in the implementation of the iSKJ-MP.
186. New Caledonia also referred to the comment by the USA on the classification of logsheet non-fishing days but was interested in longline fishing days. Longliner “days at sea” had been used in New Caledonia, and the VMS was reporting at all times when the vessel was out of port, but there were some differences between logsheet reports and VMS days. 3,888 VMS days were reported as 2,896 logsheet fishing days from New Caledonia longliners and the difference was growing year by year.

187. With regards to the comments by PNG and FSM on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, Korea was not sure what PNA and Tokelau CCMs had been trying to imply but emphasized that the background and rationale for its proposal were based on the information and data in the paper “Catch and effort data summaries to support discussions on the Tropical tuna CMMs” prepared by SPC and that it was not Korea’s intention to take any vessel days from PNA and Tokelau CCMs. Korea added that it would like to engage with interested CCMs to clarify the numbers.



188. The Marshall Islands, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, noted that they had questions about these numbers. They understood that it was Korea’s intention to find 10,000 purse-seine days and transfer them to the high seas. The question was where those days would be coming from. Korea’s apparent proposal that this would come from the VDS was actually a significant portion of the VDS value to SIDS, despite their CMM 2013-06 assessment saying that there would be no impact on SIDS.
189. The SSP responded to Korea to point out that purse-seine operators who do not make a set are required to say what was done on that day. Previously operators used to declare these days mainly as searching days and nowadays they were declaring them as transit days. It was notable that searching days were counted as fishing days and transit days were counted as non-fishing days.
190. The EU considered this as an important issue since it had implications for the iSKJ-MP and asked whether the SSP was already working to reconcile the declared effort and actual fishing days, and could the observer reports assist in distinguishing these?
191. The SSP responded that there was some work planned to use observer data to establish what vessels were actually doing when they declared on the logsheet that fishing or searching was not occurring. This was indeed a critical issue, and it had been raised several years ago and followed up on several occasions (e.g. SC19-MI-IP07) without much traction being gained on improving the logsheet information. The VDS non-fishing days determination process also had its own challenges. SPC would need to work through this carefully, given the consequences of any numbers developed.
192. Chinese Taipei wondered if yellowfin was more productive than bigeye tuna – did the productivity need to be considered in setting the TRP for each? And from the assessment report they saw that the BET stock in regions 3, 4, 7, and 8 was reported to have declined by up to 70% but the stock as a whole was still stated to be in good condition.

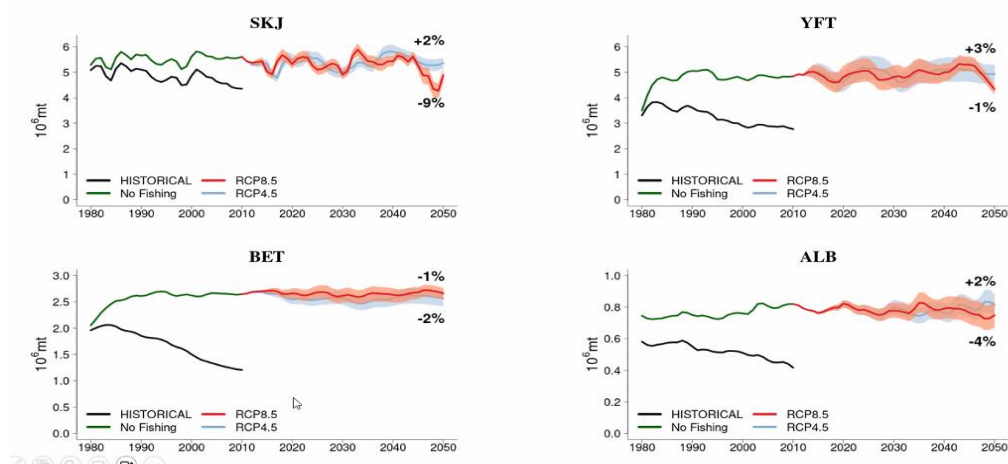
- 193. The SSP responded that the greater productivity of yellowfin was cancelled out by other differences between BET and YFT, and there were a lot of other factors that needed to be taken into account when designing a TRP to address a management objective. And when assessing the overall status of the stock, the degree of mixing between regions had to be taken into account.
 - 194. China had only one question: WCPFC was the only RFMO to require one-hourly VMS position reporting. What benefit was this to stock assessment?
 - 195. The SSP noted that this was not so much a scientific issue as an MCS issue. Regarding the scientific benefits though, high resolution VMS reporting made it possible to determine what type of set was occurring – whether free school or floating object – and they pointed out that the polling rate was even higher in the FAD closure period. Higher-resolution VMS data will also become more valuable in future for determining if vessels are transiting or searching.
- 196. The Commission noted with appreciation the presentations by the Scientific Services Provider and the ISC on the status of WCPFC tuna and billfish stocks.
 - 197. The Commission endorsed the proposal from ISC23 to have an independent peer review of the North Pacific striped marlin stock assessment in 2024 and expressed appreciation to the United States for its voluntary contribution to support the peer review.

9. INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS INTO MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF WCPO FISHERIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-12](#), [WCPFC20-2023-DP01](#), & [WCPFC20-2023-DP08](#)

- 198. WCPFC19 took a decision 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.” (para 343 of [WCPFC19 Summary Report](#)).
- 199. After the SSP provided the scientific context for this agenda item, summarising the best available scientific data about potential impacts from climate change on WCPFC fisheries and related ecosystems, the Commission reviewed the activities of its subsidiary bodies in 2023 to incorporate climate change into their discussions, and provided advice to its subsidiary

Initial projected impacts on WCPO tuna



bodies for continuing their work in 2024 to ensure climate change considerations are adequately reflected in the Commission's work.

200. Dr Hampton (SSP) summarised the projected impacts of climate change on the four main WCPO tuna stocks as follows, noting that the projections illustrated the biomass that should be present in the absence of any fishing rather than the actual biomass in the presence of, say, the current level of fishing mortality.
201. WCPFC Assistant Science Manager, Elaine Garvilles, presented working paper 12, explaining the work being done by SC and the Secretariat on the issue; outlining proposals for operationalising the WCPFC Climate Change Resolution 2019-01; noting the work being done to develop climate change indicators, report cards and early warning systems; and providing the following recommendations for consideration by WCPFC20:
- a. note with appreciation the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card (Attachment 1, WCPFC20-2023-12) prepared by the SSP to improve understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries globally, and the support to this work from the second phase of the Common Oceans Tuna Project.
 - b. request that the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card be updated and presented annually to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in support of furthering the consideration of climate change impacts in WCPFC's work.
 - c. recognise that there is increased importance for the Commission to ensure information and data collection is adequate to support improved and updated understanding by the Commission on the impacts of climate change and implications for management of WCPFC fisheries.
 - d. task SC and TCC to include as part of the standing agenda item on climate change a review of available data to inform the Commission on climate change impacts to stocks and ecosystems in the WCPO, and the potential effects of climate change on related fishing activities. The annual review of available data should also provide advice and recommendations to the Commission which identifies information gaps, necessary analyses, and any additional tasks that may further enhance the Commission's ability to account for climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries.
 - e. task the Secretariat with continuing to provide a brief that summarises updates on international and RFB developments.
202. The USA expressed its appreciation for the work that the Secretariat had put into these considerations and had some granular questions. Was the Spatial Ecosystem and Populations Dynamics Model (SEAPODYM) able to take into account impacts such as the dissolved oxygen depletion trend and changes in circulation on fisheries? And was SPC going to continue producing inputs for report cards for managers?
203. Dr Hampton responded affirmatively that SEAPODYM does take these into account. The dissolved oxygen content was important for albacore, and the equatorial upwelling impact on the warm pool was important for skipjack. These impacts were behind many of the predictions. On reporting for the benefit of managers, SPC was in the process of ramping up the analytical capacity behind this.
204. Tonga, on behalf of FFA CCMs, said that they had repeatedly highlighted the particular importance of addressing climate change impacts to the region. FFA CCMs were taking concrete steps to address climate change impacts in their fisheries and were pleased to announce the adoption of the FFA Climate Change Strategy by Fisheries Ministers, which would guide FFA members in their collective effort to increase resilience to climate change.

This would also serve as a platform to address their climate change and fisheries priorities, including those relevant to this Commission. 2023 was the first year where climate change had been a standing agenda item for WCPFC and all its subsidiary bodies. They recognised the significance of this and continued to support having climate change as a standing agenda item as a fundamental step to implement the climate change Resolution and saw this as a proper space for discussing thoroughly how best to incorporate climate change into each subsidiary body's agenda, in a way consistent with the objectives as stated in the Convention Text.

205. FFA CCMs acknowledged the work of the Scientific Committee with the assistance of the Scientific Service Provider in supporting the WCPFC to implement the climate change Resolution. This involved providing the best available information in compliance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Resolution. They continued to support efforts to enhance the scientific robustness concerning the implications of climate change for the region's tuna stocks. In this regard, they supported the SC19 recommendation to adopt the proposed work plan for the development and testing of Ecosystem and Climate indicators for the period 2024-2027. They also suggested that the proposed WCPFC member and expert workshop under that workplan should consider discussing how best to incorporate these indicators into management advice and how TCC could fit in for testing purposes.
206. They also thanked the WCPFC Secretariat for providing updates on climate change on international and regional fisheries bodies and asked the Secretariat to continue providing this kind of brief. Pacific Island States and Territories were the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. They expected this Commission to work towards effective and equitable solutions to address these impacts, ensuring SIDS rights in these fisheries were protected. They would continue to encourage this Commission to raise its ambition and effort towards overall reductions in fishery-related carbon footprints in the Convention Area, and to keep fostering engagement and international collaborations.
207. China also thanked the SSP for their hard work on the effects of climate change on tuna and other fisheries. All CCMs considered this important, but there was a difference in integrating this into high level policy and practically integrating it into actions. The Commission had just heard that South Pacific albacore would decline in the WCPO and increase in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and wondered how changes like that would be factored into assessments and management procedures. Climate change would affect biomass depletion ratios in future.
208. The SSP responded that they expected that the shift in abundance of South Pacific albacore would occur gradually and would hopefully be captured by each incremental assessment. These assessments tended to have inherent delays resulting from data provision constraints but the work now being done on close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR) analysis should improve this, and CKMR data was being considered for inclusion in SEAPODYM-based analyses. Regarding changes in depletion ratios, both the numerator and the denominator of the ratio would be reducing so any ratio-based reference points should be fairly robust. However, the absolute stock abundances would still be declining, and this would translate into reduced catch limits.
209. The European Union thanked the SSP and WCPFC Secretariat for their presentations. Like most if not all its partners around the world, the EU and its Member States are severely affected by climate change and increasingly experience more numerous and more severe phenomena that result in unprecedented natural disasters, coastline erosion, floods and casualties, including human. In response to this climate related challenges, the EU has committed to lead by the example by becoming carbon-neutral by 2050. This transition was an urgent challenge but also an opportunity to build a better future for all. Incorporating climate change into fisheries had many complexities because of uncertainty, so supporting

the SC to provide information to enable WCPFC to develop climate resilient fisheries would be a priority for the EU. This was reflected in the resources the EU is already providing and will continue to provide, through the Pacific - EU Marine Partnership Programme, supporting SPC to develop scientific advice for the WCPFC notably through the development of ecosystem modelling, climate indicators and climate change projections. The EU fully endorsed the plans of SC on Ecosystem and Climate indicators and Report cards, as a first step to shortlist candidate indicators to track the extent and impact of climate change and inquired about the appropriate frequency for updating the indicators reports. Another way of addressing climate change was through Harvest Strategies and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and in that regard the EU recommended that robustness tests be developed for testing future Management Procedures developed by WCPFC. Finally, the EU stressed that while it might be appealing in terms of visibility to mainstream Climate Change throughout all Commission's bodies, by establishing CC work programmes, WGs etc, it would be more meaningful to concentrate efforts and limited resources available on creating the scientific foundation that will allow predicting and anticipating the effects of climate change in the WCPO and developing fisheries management frameworks that are robust to climate related stressors and effects of climate change.

210. The SSP agreed with incorporating climate change scenarios into Harvest Strategy work, to take changing productivity into account. Incorporating that in the MSE work would help answer some of the questions that were asked by China. On the frequency of the report card, this was probably something for consideration by the Scientific Committee. However, some of these indicators were meant to be early warning indicators and might be more frequently updated than others.
211. Tokelau said that climate change was a very high priority for Tokelau within this work because Tokelau consisted of low-lying atolls with a very high economic dependence on fishing in their EEZ. Addressing climate change vulnerability was a major task and Tokelau wondered if the work being proposed would be achievable within the timeframes suggested. Tokelau also had comments on the development of the workplan proposed by the USA but would provide these directly to the USA.
212. French Polynesia thanked the SSP for this excellent work and thanked those funding the activities around this very important matter. They shared other island States' and territories' concerns regarding climate change and echoed the previous speakers in supporting the recommendations made to this meeting and to the SC for work on this very important topic.
213. Indonesia agreed with the tasking of the SC and Commission on climate change, but wondered what the task for TCC would be. It would require some work by SC before issues were passed to TCC.
214. PNG noted that the 50-year timeframes used in the presentation were very long periods in relation to national planning processes. Some of these climate change impacts needed to be tracked more frequently in order to make plans and decisions. There would be considerable ripples generated at the national level by this regional work.
215. After questions by the EU and Japan about next steps, the USA said that they would take this discussion and the Secretariat recommendations into account and work with other interested parties to develop a harmonised set of recommendations for consideration by the Commission at a later stage of the meeting.
216. Following additional consultations and discussions among CCMs in the margins of the meeting, WCPFC20 adopted the following recommendations:

217. The Commission noted with appreciation the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card (Attachment 1 of WCPFC20-2023-12).
218. The Commission requested that the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card be updated and presented annually to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
219. The Commission recognised that there is increased importance for the Commission to ensure relevant information and data collection is adequate to support improved and updated understanding by the Commission on the impacts of climate change and implications for management of WCPFC fisheries.
220. The Commission tasked SC and TCC to include as part of the standing agenda item on climate change a review of available data to inform the Commission on climate change impacts to stocks and ecosystems in the WCPO, and the potential effects of climate change on related fishing activities.
221. The Commission tasked the Secretariat with continuing to provide a brief that summarises updates on international and regional fishery bodies (RFB) developments.
222. The Commission requested the Secretariat with the SSP explore the scope and feasibility of undertaking an assessment of active CMMs and to determine specific CMM provisions that may be susceptible to be impacted by climate change, and present the findings to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and the Commission.
223. The Commission recommended co-leads are identified to develop a Commission workplan for addressing climate change on WCPFC fisheries in the Convention Area. The co-leads would use the WCPFC Convention and Resolution 2019-01 as guides for that work. The draft workplan would be discussed and considered by each subsidiary body in 2024, with a view to taking this to WCPFC21 for consideration. The work plan will include, but not be limited to:
 - a. the scoping and feasibility study of an assessment of CMMs and their susceptibility to be affected by climate change
 - b. tasking for the SC to explore:
 - i. how to capture potential effects of climate change on WCPFC fisheries and fish stocks.
 - ii. mechanisms to test the robustness of existing and candidate management procedures under plausible climate change scenarios within the MSE framework.
 - c. Engagement with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and the Food and Agriculture Organization and their members to discuss shared challenges, leverage available resources, and identify potential pathways for cooperation on addressing climate change effect on fisheries.
224. The co-leads on Climate Change will initially be one representative from the SIDS and one from the USA. The co-leads (RMI and the USA) seek to ensure the workplan addresses the risks of climate change to CMMs and other obligations, taking into account relevant Scientific Committee recommendations and the results of the scoping exercise regarding the assessment of active CMMs' susceptibility to be impacted by climate change.
225. In developing the Commission's Climate Change Work Plan, WCPFC20 requested that the co-leads work with members to incorporate ongoing efforts on climate change impact on fisheries from each of the subsidiary bodies and also provide a framework for coordinating Commission-wide work on climate change.

10. HARVEST STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FOR SP ALBACORE, SKIPJACK, YELLOWFIN, BIGEYE, NP ALBACORE, AND PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNAS

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-01B](#) & [WCPFC20-2023-14 Rev01](#)

226. The Executive Director presented the overarching points of working paper 14, which included an overview of the work completed to date on development of harvest strategies, and a high-level update of developments in 2023, primarily by the Scientific Committee. This was followed by the WCPFC Compliance Manager who explained the WCPFC data collection and monitoring programmes that support the harvest strategy work, summarized in Table 6 of WP14.
227. Nine management tools were identified in the first instance in Table 6:
- 1) Data requirements for stock assessment and estimation models used in monitoring strategies
 - 2) Data requirements for potential performance indicators used in monitoring strategies
 - 3) Days fished fishery limits [purse seine]
 - 4) Vessel capacity/number limits
 - 5) Target species Catch Limits
 - 6) Bycatch mitigation measures and safe handling, including catch or no-retention limits
 - 7) FAD measures, including time-area closures, FAD retrieval and vessel/fleet instrumented buoy limits
 - 8) Transshipment Regulation Scheme
 - 9) Inspection and MCS activities, and analytical interpretations of CCMs data, to support CCMs meeting Convention objective and management objectives

10.1 South Pacific Albacore

10.1(a) Update on South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Intersessional Working Group

Papers: [SPA-RM IWG Update](#), [WCPFC20-2023-13](#), [WCPFC20-2023-IP05](#), [WCPFC20-2023-DP03](#), [WCPFC20-2023-DP07](#)

228. The Chair of the Intersessional Working Group on the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap (SPA-RM IWG), Ms. Neomai Ravitu (Fiji), presented an update on the IWG's progress in 2023. One virtual meeting had been held in May 2023, as summarized in the [report](#) on the relevant WCPFC webpage, and there had been few opportunities to hold additional meetings. The 2023 meeting looked at candidate TRPs, including the SPG and Australia proposal for an interim TRP, as well as work needed to assist in developing the management procedure, where questions around the "big dip" in the forward stock depletion ratio projections dominated discussion.
229. Further discussions were held in a small working group at WCPFC20 to revisit the workplan for 2024 and plan further IWG meetings. Fiji as Chair of the SPA-RM IWG presented the recommendations of the small working group to the WCPFC20 plenary (**Attachment 18**).
230. Tokelau wanted to consider the TRP recommendation in more detail but had no problem with the other recommendations in the report of the SPA-RM small working group.

231. The Commission noted the Report of the Chair of the SPA Roadmap-IWG.

10.1(b) South Pacific Albacore TRP

232. Dr Graham Pilling (SSP) explained the process for developing Albacore Target Reference Point options. Candidate TRP conditions had been identified by CCMs during SPA-RM IWG meetings and these candidates were analysed through stock projections looking at:

- i. Identification of future catch levels for specified objectives;
- ii. Projection of stock forward under those levels for 30 years when equilibrium more or less achieved;
- iii. Identifying implications for CPUE (“longline-vulnerable biomass”
- iv. Identifying implications for risk (versus LRP and F_{MSY})
- v. Resultant “equilibrium” depletion level (=TRP value) based on most recent (2021) stock assessment.

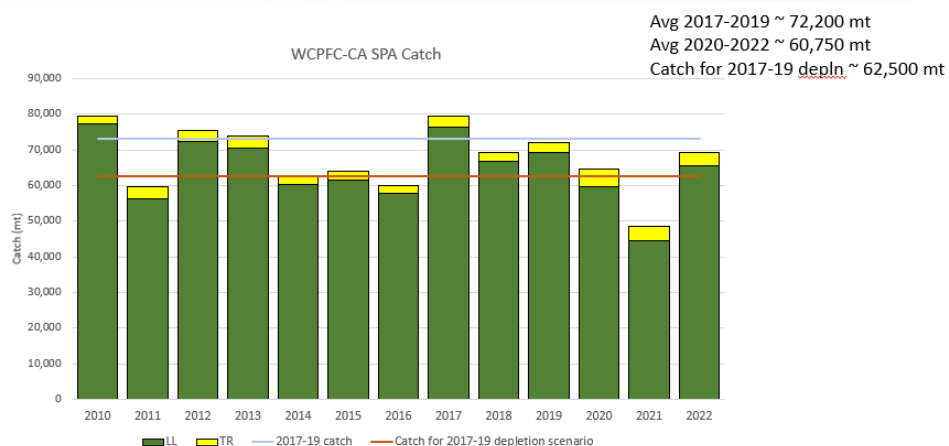
233. These analyses were performed using WCPFC Convention Area catch controls and South Pacific-wide catch controls.

234. The calculations related to different potential TRP levels produced the following table:

Scenario	Depletion			Vulnerable biomass		Approximate catch			Risk F > F_{MSY}
	Long-term avg. SB/SB _{F=0} (WCPFC-CA)	SB/SB _{F=0} rel. 2017-2019	Risk < LRP	VB rel. 2013 +8%	VB rel. 2017-2019	Catch scalar	WCPFC-CA	Remainder EPO	
2 x MSY	0.32	-37%	38%	-53%	-36%	1.14	82,300	15,600	26%
SB/SB _{F=0} 2019	0.39	-20%	28%	-43%	-21%	1.03	74,000	15,600	18%
	0.41	-17%	26%	-41%	-18%	1.00	72,200	15,600	17%
	0.47	-4%	19%	-33%	-7%	0.90	65,000	15,600	14%
SB/SBF=0 2017-19	0.49	0%	17%	-30%	-3%	0.86	62,500	15,600	12%
VB 2017-19	0.51	3%	16%	-28%	0%	0.84	60,500	15,600	12%
	0.53	8%	14%	-25%	4%	0.80	57,800	15,600	10%
SB/SB _{F=0} 2015-18	0.58	18%	9%	-18%	14%	0.71	51,300	15,600	7%
	0.58	19%	8%	-18%	15%	0.70	50,500	15,600	6%
SB/SB _{F=0} 2013	0.60	23%	6%	-15%	18%	0.66	47,800	15,600	5%
	0.64	30%	4%	-10%	25%	0.60	43,300	15,600	3%
	0.69	40%	1%	-3%	35%	0.50	36,100	15,600	0%

235. The recent catches were as follows, to provide some context of what actual catch changes might be required to achieve different TRPs.

Recent catch patterns



236. After further discussion in a small working group, a recommendation was brought back to the Commission for decision, and adopted as follows:

237. The Commission noted with appreciation the presentation by the Scientific Services Provider on the target reference point for South Pacific albacore tuna.
238. The Commission agreed on an interim target reference point (iTRP) for south Pacific albacore specified as four percent below the estimated average spawning potential depletion of the stock over the period 2017-2019 ($0.96 SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$)². This supersedes an earlier decision of the Commission made at WCPFC 15 (paragraphs 207 to 212).
239. The Commission shall amend or develop appropriate conservation and management measures to implement a management procedure, developed in accordance with CMM 2022-03, with the ultimate objective of maintaining the south Pacific albacore stock at the interim target reference point, on average.
240. The Scientific Committee shall refer to this iTRP in its assessment of the status of the WCPO south Pacific albacore tuna stock and in reporting to the Commission on management advice and implications for this stock.
241. In recognition of some outstanding scientific issues, this iTRP shall be subject to review by the Commission following the 2024 stock assessment and further development of candidate management procedures. Subsequent to this review, the confirmed or amended iTRP will again be adopted by the Commission within a Conservation and Management Measure that specifies a management procedure for South Pacific albacore tuna.
242. The Commission tasked the SSP to undertake:
- evaluations of some selected candidate Management Procedures for South Pacific albacore where the output of the HCR is total allowable effort and alternatively where the output of the same or similar HCR is total allowable catch;
 - evaluation of a range of alternative candidate South Pacific albacore target reference points between $SB/SB_{F=0}$ 0.42 – 0.56 (long-term avg $SB/SB_{F=0}$ (WCPF-CA), or preferably equivalent levels defined in terms of a reference period.) that will be considered in the context of the review of the adopted iTRP.

10.1(c) South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure

243. This agenda item was taken together with Agenda 10.1(d).

² Technical definitions:

“Spawning potential depletion” refers to the estimated South Pacific albacore 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.

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 South Pacific albacore 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.

10.1(d) South Pacific Albacore Management Strategy Evaluation

244. Dr. Rob Scott (SSP) made a presentation on the progress of the South Pacific albacore management strategy evaluation work, noting that there had been a more detailed presentation to SC19 in August 2023. The Operating Model (OM) for South Pacific albacore would run alongside the South Pacific albacore stock assessment, so 2024 would be a busy year for South Pacific albacore science.

245. Dr. Scott noted that what had been dubbed the “big dip” in the future projections of South Pacific albacore biomass depletion had been a major issue in 2023. It was still not clear how much of this could be due to a temporary but strong dip in assessed recruitment and how much to a modelling/data interaction, but both were probably factors.

246. Two recommendations were made under agenda items 10.1(c) and 10.1(d):

Operating Models

- The Commission is invited to note that SC will further develop the reference OM set provided in Table 5 (WP14) over the next year to allow the continued progress and evaluation of candidate MPs for SPA, and SC20 will consider formally adopting the reference OM set, noting the potential for other changes in light of the 2024 SPA stock assessment.

Management Procedure and Management Strategy Evaluation

- The Commission is invited to review the current set of 6 candidate MPs for initial consideration, and provide guidance based on these exploratory MPs on features to be further developed by the SSP, including performance indicators, controlled fisheries and control mechanisms, and harvest control rule (HCR) shape and design.

247. Samoa on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the SSP for the work to date on the South Pacific albacore Management Procedure. They supported the use of the Age Structured Production Model (ASPM) as the estimation method, while noting the need for further investigation of the metrics to be used as the ASPM inputs into the HCR. Concerning the operational considerations noted for attention by the SSP, they reiterated their positions at SC19:

- i. Proposing that the South Pacific albacore Management Procedure follow a 3-year cycle.
- ii. Supporting the inclusion of all commercial fisheries in the WCPO south of the equator in the South Pacific albacore Management Procedure.
- iii. Proposing that the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy should account for both catch and effort controls.
- iv. Regarding the ‘areas to be managed by the Management Procedure’, they preferred that the whole South Pacific region below the equator be included in the Management Procedure. They were well aware of the challenges with the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and the IATTC overlap area, and they urged all CCMs to reach out and engage with the IATTC to recognise our efforts with the development of a South Pacific albacore Management Procedure and the need for reciprocal and compatible efforts in the EPO. Putting in place an effective management for this fishery is a shared responsibility of the two Commissions and also a shared benefit from a better-managed south Pacific albacore fishery.

248. On the question of a Science Management Dialogue (SMD), FFA CCMs supported the call for another SMD in 2024 as indicated in the [SPA-RM IWG Work Plan](#). They thought it timely for this dialogue to occur, in order to resume the frank discussions amongst managers and scientists on key developments in South Pacific albacore management procedures. They also

suggested maintaining the Terms of Reference from the first SMD, with a primary focus on the South Pacific albacore Management Procedure development, the skipjack Management Procedure issues, and the bigeye and yellowfin tuna Target Reference Points. They suggested that the SMD be held immediately after SC20 and depending on costs, could be two days of a hybrid meeting or entirely online. They looked forward to discussing these issues at an SMD next year.

249. Indonesia congratulated the SSP for their work on South Pacific albacore. They understood that there were economic objectives that required higher levels for the TRP to meet those objectives. It would be useful to understand how the South Pacific albacore TRP might affect other stocks, such as swordfish and yellowfin controlled by a South Pacific albacore Management Procedure. Indonesia also noted that there was an increasing amount of South Pacific albacore caught in Indonesian archipelagic waters recently and wondered how this would be accounted for in the SPC models. Possibly this was a sign of climate change since this species had never been a significant catch in Indonesian waters previously.
250. Niue on behalf of FFA CCMs made some comments on the progress of the South Pacific albacore MSE. They supported the SC19 recommendation to allow the use of the proposed OM reference set as interim for the time being, as it provided a platform for progressing the work towards identifying a robust Management Procedure. SC19 had also noted that further adjustments to the OM grid would probably be required following continued research, as well as in light of next year's South Pacific albacore stock assessment. They wished to flag the need for SC20 to reconsider this matter. They recognised the need for several areas of uncertainty to be identified and explored, including climate change scenarios and potential hyperstability in CPUE, and they suggested including these factors in the robustness set. They recognised the importance of continuing the momentum in this critical work and the ongoing need for collaboration, communication, and research to improve understanding of South Pacific albacore dynamics and to develop an effective Management Procedure. The process for developing Management Procedures should not be unduly delayed based on concerns about the proposed OM reference set. This could be updated as needed and the wide uncertainty bounds provided a precautionary platform against which Management Procedures could be tested across a wide range of scenarios.
251. French Polynesia supported Samoa's intervention on behalf of FFA CCMs, especially regarding the need to consider all the fisheries south of the equator and the need to tackle this issue at the Pacific-wide level, including the involvement of IATTC. They also supported what was said about the SMD but would be flexible regarding the time in 2024 for this meeting to be convened.
252. The Solomon Islands as PNA Chair made it clear that PNA and Tokelau CCMs supported the ongoing work to develop a Management Procedure for South Pacific albacore. They noted the papers that had been submitted to SC19 for consideration. However, on the development of the MSE framework for the South Pacific albacore Management Procedure, they assumed the limits of all pre-existing management arrangements had not been taken into account. They therefore made the following comments:
- i. The proposal had not considered limits from pre-existing management arrangements that are effort-based. The management objectives of these were different from that of the fishery the Management Procedure was modelled on.
 - ii. The composition of the longline fleet was changing through time and the baseline catch and effort limits had also changed over time. The Management Procedure objective was therefore not consistent through time.

- iii. In order to maintain stability in the fishery as intended, then the development of the Management Procedure would need to reconsider the objective at some stage as this work is progressed.
253. Australia associated itself with the FFA statement and said that they supported the “Hillary Step” HCR shape, which they noted was also used for skipjack tuna. The “Hillary Step” was attractive from a management sense because it has a flat region around the TRP (providing stability) but also allowed an increase in catch or effort when conditions were good. However, they were not saying that the focus should be solely on this shape. And ultimately it would be HCR performance that controlled this choice, as was noted in the presentation. On metarules, including maximum change rules (e.g 10%): Australia expressed its support for the inclusion of a maximum change rule such as ±10%, noting that it was desirable to ensure some degree of stability in fishing opportunities for fishing fleets through time. They did however recognise that a maximum change rule would impact the Management Procedure’s responsiveness and increase LRP risks in the short term.
254. China had concerns about the timeline of the MSE work that had been proposed in the presentation as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management controls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Catch or Effort based control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Combination – which fisheries ? 2. Frequency of MP (3 years) 2. Extent of MP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which fisheries subject to the MP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All fisheries south of the equator 2. Troll fishery (explore options to separate) 2. EPO - compatible measures (fixed recent) 3. HCR design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TRP (depletion based - reference years) 2. Maximum change in a management period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. E.g. 10% maximum change in scalar 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>WCPFC20</td> <td>TRP agreement</td> <td>Dec 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SPA-IWG</td> <td>??</td> <td>??</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WCPFC-SC20</td> <td>New SPA assessment Updated Operating Models Candidate MPs evaluated MP dry-run</td> <td>Aug 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WCPFC-SMD02</td> <td>??</td> <td>??</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WCPFC21</td> <td>Adopt SPA MP</td> <td>Dec 2024</td> </tr> </table>	WCPFC20	TRP agreement	Dec 2023	SPA-IWG	??	??	WCPFC-SC20	New SPA assessment Updated Operating Models Candidate MPs evaluated MP dry-run	Aug 2024	WCPFC-SMD02	??	??	WCPFC21	Adopt SPA MP	Dec 2024
WCPFC20	TRP agreement	Dec 2023														
SPA-IWG	??	??														
WCPFC-SC20	New SPA assessment Updated Operating Models Candidate MPs evaluated MP dry-run	Aug 2024														
WCPFC-SMD02	??	??														
WCPFC21	Adopt SPA MP	Dec 2024														

255. China pointed out that the new stock assessment would represent the best available science at that point in time, and that would mean that all the reference points might change, especially if there might be a new model region structure in the new assessment. This would create a lot of uncertainty when trying to decide what reference model to agree. How confident were we to be able to develop and implement this within such a tight timeframe?
256. The SSP noted that MSE was testing the management procedure against a range of assumptions and was not focussed solely on the best possible stock assessment. It was expected that the new stock assessment outputs would fall within the range of scenarios assumed for testing the management procedures.
257. The USA supported the statement by FFA CCMs on the value of holding a SMD in 2024 and for engagement with IATTC. They felt that any SMD would want to include consideration of the multi-species framework and to include colleagues from IATTC in the dialogue.
258. The SSP noted that around 80% of the South Pacific albacore catch was in the longline fishery, a similar ratio to the percentage of the skipjack catch taken in the purse-seine fishery, which was why skipjack and South Pacific albacore had been treated relatively independent of gear interactions when considered across the overall fishery. In terms of the monitoring, the albacore catch trends in archipelagic waters would need to be monitored and if they deviated from trends assumed in MSE testing then the assumptions would need to be revisited.

259. New Zealand reiterated the comments from FFA CCMs supporting the inclusion of all commercial fisheries in the WCPO south of the equator within the South Pacific albacore Management Procedure. They also recognised that the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy must account for both catch and effort controls. For New Zealand, and the troll fishery specifically, they wanted to see both effort and catch controls explored in the development of the Management Procedure. Due to the small impact on the overall stock of the current troll fishery, they continued to consider that there might be a variety of mechanisms to achieve different treatment of the troll fishery, which should be explored during the process of developing and implementing a Management Procedure. Regarding the EPO, they noted that the South Pacific albacore catch in the EPO was 45% higher in 2021 than the 2017-2019 average level. They did not want to see a future where the WCPO was reducing catch based on the output of the Management Procedure but catches in the EPO kept increasing. This would be very problematic if South Pacific albacore is a single stock across the entire south Pacific. While they recognised the difficulties of getting agreement across two RFMOs, it should be noted that in the case of North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna, the two RFMOs seemed to be able to work together in the management of these stocks, leading New Zealand to believe that similar cooperation would be possible on South Pacific albacore. This could usefully be considered by the SPA-RM IWG or a SMD in 2024.
260. Korea supported the SSP recommendations regarding the Operating Models. Regarding the interim Management Procedure, performance indicators might be needed to cater for stability of market supply. Korea preferred the kind of HCR shape used for the skipjack Management Procedure and also supported holding an SMD, with timing to be negotiated.
261. Following continuation of discussions and development of recommendations in a Small Working Group, the Commission adopted the following outcomes relating to South Pacific albacore:
262. The Commission noted that SC will further develop the reference Operating Model set over the next year to allow the continued progress and evaluation of candidate Management Procedures for South Pacific albacore, and SC20 will consider formally adopting the reference set of the Operating Model, noting the potential for other changes in light of the 2024 South Pacific albacore stock assessment.
263. The Commission noted the importance and need for a Science-Management Dialogue to expedite the progress of implementation on the *Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2022-03*.
264. The Commission agreed to hold a Science-Management Dialogue in 2024 (SMD-02) focused on:
- a. South Pacific albacore management procedures (including review of the iTRP);
 - b. Development of BET and YFT TRPs;
 - c. Issues pertaining to the application of the SKJ management procedure, and
 - d. Harvest strategy capacity-building for CCMs (SPC-facilitated).
265. The Commission agreed that, similar to SMD-01 (2022), SMD-02 would be co-chaired by the WCPFC and SC Chairs.
266. The Commission agreed that SMD-02 would be held online between SC20 and TCC20, with possible dates 10-12 September 2024 (Pohnpei time).

- 267. The Commission tasked the WCPFC and SC Chairs to develop an agenda based on the above-listed topics, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Scientific Services Provider.
- 268. Noting the importance of the application of compatible measures between WCPFC and IATTC to enhance the effectiveness of collective conservation and management efforts, the Commission agreed to invite representatives from the IATTC secretariat, and CPCs³ as appropriate, to participate as observers in SMD-02.
- 269. The Commission acknowledged that its management of the South Pacific albacore in the WCPF-CA would be enhanced by joint IATTC management in the EPO, and that cooperation between the two RFMOs should be encouraged.
- 270. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to strengthen its relations with the IATTC to foster closer cooperation, with the aim of enhancing cross-RFMO coordination in the development of the MSE and management procedures for South Pacific albacore.

10.1(e) Review of CMM 2015-02 (South Pacific Albacore)

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-13](#) & [WCPFC20-2023-DP03](#)

- 271. The WCPFC Compliance Manager presented working paper 13 and noted that DP03 by FFA CCMs covered many of the same issues.
- 272. The Commission had interim management arrangements through the South Pacific albacore CMM, but the main operative element of this measure had not changed since it was first agreed in 2005. Subsequent amendments had been restricted by the Commission to fine-tuning improvements in the reporting obligations, but these were still not fully adequate. TCC still had some challenges in evaluating compliance with the measure because of interpretation issues connected with the term “targeting”. Also, there were gaps in the information available, particularly about baselines and the verification of baselines, as well as in the catch and effort data, which reduced confidence in compliance assessment of the measure.
- 273. The Secretariat proposed the following recommendations in working paper 13:
 - a. adopt a framework that will establish RFV-reporting requirements for the CMM 2015-02 paragraph 1 limits and other “vessels fishing for-type CMM limits”, by adopting an amendment to the RFV SSPs CMM 2022-05 which adds into Attachment 1 a new data field “Area based CMM limit obligation(s)” as described in the following table:

Min. ⁶	Field name	Field format	Field description/instructions	Example	Ref. in CMMs
	Area based CMM limit obligation(s)	Text If vessel is authorised under multiple CMMs, separate applicable obligations with “.”	Any CMM-specific authorisations granted by the flag State for the vessel to fish under one or more specific “vessel is fishing for area-based CMM limits” Enter the obligation identifier eg “CMM 20xx-xx xx” as listed in Area based CMM limit obligation list maintained by the WCPFC Secretariat. Leave blank if the vessel is not authorized by its flag State to be used for fishing under any of the specified CMM limits.	CMM 2015-02 01, CMM 2019-03 01	CMM 2018-06 or its replacement: 6(r)

³ IATTC Parties, co-operating non-parties, co-operating fishing entities or regional economic integration organizations

- b. Task the Secretariat with prioritizing the development of an enhancement to the WCPFC's annual reporting online facilities to enable relevant CCMs to complete a report as part of Annual Report Part 2, for individual vessels an equivalent of "fished" and "did not fish" in accord with the relevant CMM limit(s) in the previous year (this would be based on the CCM reported RFV data in previous year at a. above).
 - c. Task the Secretariat to continue to consider opportunities for relevant flag CCMs to be supported and informed about potential reporting gaps arising from the new RFV data field and associated annual reporting requirements, and to explore IT-related tools to assist the Secretariat with working closely with relevant CCMs to resolve any data and reporting inconsistencies in advance of dCMR evaluations.
 - d. Task the Secretariat, working with relevant CCMs, to review and update the CMM database with information about basis for baselines for specific "area-based vessels fishing for" type limit obligations and to present an update on progress to TCC20 in 2024.
274. The Chair noted that there was also a Delegation Paper from FFA members under this agenda item which was being taken as read since the issues it raised had been discussed many times.
275. Chinese Taipei said that they managed their obligations under CMM 2015-02 by authorizing a limited number of vessels to fish in the area, and they would work with the Secretariat on this reporting framework. They also wondered when the amendments proposed might take place.
276. Japan stated that clarification of what vessels were targeting which species was necessary. Some delegations had made a proposal to clarify that "vessels actively fishing for" would have a threshold of 50% albacore and Japan supported that approach. But defining "actively fishing for" as a 50% threshold should not be generalized but restricted to South Pacific albacore.
277. Niue noted that the CMM and the Secretariat proposals did not define what "actively fishing for" constituted and it was left up to each CCM. However different members had different interpretations and the FFA proposal in DP03 was for a common understanding of what "actively fishing for" means.
278. China stated that its longstanding position had been that there was no scientific evidence for drawing a line at 20 degrees south to define the area of application of the vessel number limit. But since it was in place, everyone had to respect and implement it, and for the past few years China had reported and improved their compliance. China wanted to work with WCPFC to develop a comprehensive South Pacific albacore measure on one condition – that there be no mention of a 20-degree South line. However, China had no problem with the FFA proposed definition of "actively fishing for".
279. The USA felt that there had been a number of comments on the definition of "actively fishing for" and that there appeared to be consensus on this FFA proposal.
280. New Zealand noted there had been no opposition to this proposal so perhaps members could just adopt it.
281. Japan however felt that the proposal in DP03 needed to be presented and discussed.
282. Chinese Taipei also wished to discuss the proposal by the FFA CCMs in DP03.
283. Niue made a short presentation of the proposal on behalf of FFA CCMs. To ensure consistency in the interpretation of the term "actively fishing for" used in CMM 2015-02, FFA Members

supported the interpretation provided by the SSP and which was consistent with (i) how other fleets have been evaluated and (ii) how the baseline for all fleets has been determined (where possible and relevant). This interpretation was generally accepted and used in the evaluation of CMM 2015-02 paragraph 4 in the CMS process in the past. The recent efforts to undermine the assessment of this obligation by quoting ‘lack of clarity or definition’ to justify exceeding an agreed limit, was bad practice and not in line with the spirit of this measure nor the spirit of cooperation within the Commission. They proposed some wording for this definition and invited comment.

284. The European Union thanked FFA CCMs for putting forward the proposal and noted that this particular issue had been a problem for many years and had prevented TCC from making compliance assessments against this important obligation. It also appreciated that its comments had been taken into account, and that swordfish was now also included in the total calculation, so the EU was happy to support the proposal.
285. Japan reiterated its general support for the proposal that aims to clarify what vessels are actively fishing for albacore. Japan asked that Southern bluefin tuna (SBT) and SKJ also be included in the denominator of the calculation, since some vessels targeting these species have a bycatch of albacore. Japan thanked FFA CCMs for tabling this proposal again.
286. Korea agreed with the comments by Japan.
287. China had no difficulties with the slight amendments proposed by Japan to the FFA definition of “actively fishing for”. But just for the information of the Commission they noted that Chinese vessels were forbidden to retain Southern bluefin tuna.
288. After further discussion in the margins to clarify the understanding of all concerned CCMs, the SPA-RM SWG returned to plenary with an agreed definition, which was adopted by WCPFC20.

289. The Commission agreed that the term “actively fishing for” used in CMM 2015-02 is applied to:
“Vessels fishing south of 20 degrees South with an annual catch of albacore in that area with South Pacific albacore greater than 50% of the catch of potential target tuna (albacore, yellowfin, bigeye, southern bluefin), skipjack and swordfish.”

10.2 Tropical Tunas

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-14 Rev01](#), [WCPFC20-2023-IP06](#), [WCPFC20-2023-IP07](#), [WCPFC20-2023-IP08](#), [WCPFC20-2023-DP12](#)

290. Agenda item 10.2 provided the Commission with an opportunity to review the progress made in 2023 on the development of harvest strategies for skipjack, bigeye, and yellowfin tuna stocks, and to consider any updates on the Harvest Strategy Work Plan for these stocks for 2024, 2025, and 2026 to be adopted under Agenda Item 10.4.

10.2(a) Skipjack tuna

10.2(a)(i) Skipjack Management Procedure Implementation

291. The SSP explained the background and operation of the interim Skipjack Management Procedure. WCPFC19 had adopted CMM 2022-01 for an Interim Management Procedure for WCPO skipjack tuna. The MP had been run this year (2023) with the intention that any management interventions resulting from the MP would be implemented in 2024-26

292. Following the SPC presentation the Chair drew attention to the following recommendations in the paper:

- The Commission is invited to note the successful running of the skipjack MP as outlined in SC19-MI-WP-01, which indicates that maximum effort in the purse seine and pole-and-line fisheries and maximum catches in all other fisheries should be set to their respective baseline levels (specified in CMM 2022-01) for the period 2024-2026, when implementing CMM 2022-01.
- The Commission is also invited to note that a re-evaluation of the skipjack estimation method needs to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the MP.

293. PNG on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the SSP for running the interim skipjack tuna management procedure for the first time. They recommended that the Commission take into consideration the output of this management procedure and set catches in other commercial fisheries and fishing effort in the purse seine and pole-and-line fisheries at their respective baseline levels for the period 2024-2026, in accordance with CMM 2022-01. Such a result would be consistent with the objective of relative stability in fishing levels between management periods in the iSKJ-MP. FFA CCMs noted that there was a disconnect between the outputs of the iSKJ-MP in CMM 2022-01 and the catch and effort levels specified in CMM 2021-01 (the tropical tuna measure). To ensure the tropical tuna measure could be used to implement the outputs of the iSKJ-MP for the period 2024-26, FFA CCMs had proposed the addition of a new paragraph to the tropical tuna measure in DP15. This proposed new paragraph provides that:

Notwithstanding paragraphs 24 and 25, in the years 2024-2026:

- (a) Effort in the purse seine fishery shall not exceed the 2012 level;*
- (b) Effort in the pole and line fishery shall not exceed the 2001-4 level; and*
- (c) Catch in the domestic fisheries of assessment region 5 shall not exceed the average 2016-18 level.*

If these levels are exceeded during 2024-26 this CMM will be amended appropriately.

294. Finally, FFA CCMs noted that the contraction of pole and line fishing effort to restricted areas of the overall assessment region is impairing the ability to index relative abundance of WCPO SKJ across the equatorial region and the diagnostic analyses indicated that this lack of index data is likely to affect the future performance of the iSKJ-MP. They therefore supported the recommendation from SC19 for a re-evaluation of the estimation method in the iSKJ-MP prior to the next run of this management procedure in 2026.

295. The EU asked for clarification from FFA CCMs and SPC on the last point and wondered if the exceptional circumstances protocol had been triggered or was it no longer valid? Would this require the whole management procedure to be re-evaluated? It also inquired if the multiplier of 1 should be set at the sum of the number of days in 2012 without any consideration of trend in areas not managed by the management procedure. Its third question was about the estimation model which yielded 0.42 whereas MP “dry run” last year produced a depletion level of 0.54 and how these had been reconciled.

296. Responding to the EU questions, the SSP thought it would not be necessary to re-evaluate the whole management procedure. One of the challenges in estimating the total number of days was that the limits for different CCMs were different, some in catch and some in effort. Conversions were attempted but there were a lot of caveats. On the differences between the estimation model and the previous dry run, it wasn't quite clear exactly where these differences had originated. Probably it was due to running the assessment at the same time as the dry run, using the same personnel, and using similar inputs which provided more

possibilities for crossover errors to occur. However, the estimation model since then had proven stable over several iterations, and the SSP was now confident in the outputs.

297. New Zealand noted the discrepancies in the running of the iSKJ MP between 2022 and 2023 and that this had been attributed by the SSP to running the management procedure in the same year as the stock assessment, which had placed pressure on SPC staff. They appreciated the recommendation from the SSP that, in future, the management procedure and the stock assessment should not occur in the same year. This would be best practice and needed to also be considered in the context of the harvest strategy workplan – for all stocks.
298. Solomon Islands on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs reinforced the FFA statement. They welcomed the first run of the management procedure. The run provided an output that the Commission was now taking into account in the review of the tropical tuna Measure in accordance with paragraph 8 of CMM 2022-01. As expected, the run had provided a learning experience and there were a number of issues arising. The main one was the need for closer alignment between the management procedure and the tropical tuna CMM. The same issue would need to be addressed for the management procedures of other stocks.

As a response to this issue, the USA and PNA and Tokelau had made some suggestions about how to revise the text of the TTM to acknowledge that the iSKJ MP has been implemented. FFA CCMs had just made a valuable proposal aiming at clarifying the implementation of the management procedure in the CMM. PNA and Tokelau supported that proposal. There would still be a need for work to improve the alignment between the management procedure and the CMM before the next run of the iSKJ MP. They would be open to discussion on that issue, expecting that it would be addressed at the SMD next year. PNA and Tokelau were interested in the option of revising the management procedure so that it aligns with the tropical tuna CMM. They would like to see a request framed for the SSP to advise the SMD on what work would be needed to reframe the management procedure in that respect. They also supported the recommendation for a re-evaluation of the estimation method.

299. Japan stated that it would be premature at this stage to make a decision to review the estimation model because the SC had not recognised any exceptional circumstances, yet. If there were any exceptional circumstances identified, then there might be a need to consider reevaluating the estimation model.
300. The Marshall Islands noted that PNA and Tokelau CCMs had other issues with this run of the management procedure in addition to the alignment issue noted by the PNA Chair. These included instability in the management procedure output, changes to historical data, changes in baselines, the sustainability of the estimation model and the role of the assessments. They however appreciated that this was just the first year of the 6-year trial, so there would be time to address these issues in the 3 years before the management procedure was run again. However, the changes to the historical data were of concern for 2 reasons.
- i. Firstly, it was not clear what the effect of those changes was on the management procedure output. Their understanding was that the Harvest Strategy approach was based around adopting a fixed estimation method which is used at 3-year intervals. The historical data is seen as part of that fixed estimation method. So, they didn't think there should be changes to the historical data. If there were, then there would need to be information to show on how those changes affected the management procedure output.
 - ii. Secondly, the changes seemed to potentially invalidate the analysis on which the choice of the TRP was based and the MSE used to select a management procedure, and therefore the management procedure itself. So, they supported the conclusion in WCPFC20-2023-

IPO6 that the data sets to be used should be specified. Beyond that, it seems essential to them that there should not be any changes to the historical data unless information can be provided on the impact of those changes on the management procedure output, the TRP and the MSE results. On this occasion, they wanted to see what changes were made and the effect of those changes on the management procedure output. They hoped this information could be provided at some point.

301. The Commission noted the successful running of the skipjack Management Procedure as outlined in SC19-MI-WP-01.
302. The Commission also noted that a re-evaluation of the skipjack estimation method may need to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the Management Procedure.

10.2(a)(ii) Monitoring Strategy for Skipjack Management Procedure

303. Dr. Scott (SSP) explained the process behind the monitoring strategy which was used to routinely evaluate all aspects of the management procedure to ensure that it was performing as expected. A draft monitoring strategy had been presented to SC19 and TCC19, and it had been designed to be as streamlined and compact as possible to avoid overburdening those bodies – especially as additional monitoring strategies would need to be added as additional management procedures were agreed.
304. For operationalising the monitoring strategy, a full annual review of every element would be substantial work so it was proposed to have a summary monitoring report that progressively passes to relevant working groups and some work programmes might need to be modified to ensure consideration of necessary elements. It was expected that most of the information feeding into a monitoring report would come from the SSP and submitted to SC/TCC/IWGs as needed, but also voluntary information from CCMs could be added on an ad-hoc basis.
305. TCC would be responsible for monitoring compliance issues – consideration of limits - catch/effort reporting, observer coverage etc. WP14 Table 6 outlined data collection and monitoring tools currently in place to support monitoring of CMMs and this would be a useful starting point for TCC. WP14 Attachment B provided additional detail to support discussion and identified relevant Commission bodies and the information they might be able to provide.
306. Finally, the Commission was invited to consider the adoption of the proposed monitoring strategy for skipjack tuna as outlined in Attachment A of WP14. It was suggested that if a monitoring strategy is not adopted by WCPFC20, and noting that the SSP will need to evaluate the 2024 implementation of the skipjack management procedure in 2025 together with the skipjack stock assessment, the Commission may wish to consider tasking the SC and TCC Chairs to jointly lead intersessional work in 2024 to facilitate the development of a monitoring strategy for adoption at WCPFC21, using the information in Attachment B of WP14 as a reference.
307. Korea wondered if it would be possible for the Commission to adopt the monitoring strategy in Attachment A of WP14 at this meeting but felt that the suggestion for tasking SC and TCC chairs to lead intersessional work to facilitate the adoption of a monitoring strategy at WCPFC21 would be a good way forward.
308. Australia on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the SSP, SC, and TCC for their work in developing a monitoring strategy for the skipjack tuna management procedure and noted: firstly, that the initial development and implementation of this monitoring strategy, and the associated summary report, would likely be an iterative process, with some time-lags before each

subsidiary body would be able to fulfil some of its roles; secondly, some elements of the monitoring strategy would not be able to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis because the iSKJ MP and stock assessment are only run every three years; and thirdly, that the annual review of each element of the monitoring strategy would provide an opportunity for the Commission to review, and where necessary, update the management objectives to ensure the overall harvest strategy remains appropriate as the nature of the fishery evolved over time.

309. Although FFA CCMs felt that significant progress had been made in terms of developing a monitoring strategy for the iSKJ MP, they believed there were a few gaps in the summary monitoring report that needed to be addressed before it could be endorsed. They were keen to work with the SSP and other CCMs to address these gaps and ensure that a monitoring strategy was up and running by 2024, as scheduled in the indicative Harvest Strategy Work Plan.
310. Marshall Islands on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs considered that there were some issues arising from the iSKJ MP run that needed further consideration. It was important that these were referred to in the monitoring report so that there was a basis for following up on them. They also noted that there were some specific elements in the draft Report where the SC was inviting comment from the Commission, and they thought it important that the Commission provided comments on those elements. However, they could support further development of the monitoring strategy intersessionally as proposed in the second part of the recommendation.
311. The EU thanked the SSP for its important work on the strategy for monitoring the operation of the iSKJ MP. Noting the reduction in the pole and line index fisheries and the non-inclusion of certain fisheries, it inquired if these could be considered under the modelling assumptions. Also as discussed earlier, was the management procedure robust against issues such as the discrepancy between the logsheet and the VMS days? Was this something that needed to be tested for robustness, or as something potentially to be included in the monitoring strategy?
312. The SSP felt the trends mentioned by the EU ought to be tested to see if they might significantly affect the management procedure. There was a column in the monitoring report which allowed TCC and SC to signal any concerns about whether these discrepancies were large enough to be addressed. The “effort creep” in the SSP’s figures resulting from logsheet reporting of searching days as transit days also might be investigated.

313. The Commission noted that it was not in a position to adopt a monitoring strategy for skipjack tuna at this time but there was a need for intersessional work, led by the SC and TCC Chairs, to facilitate the development by SSP of a monitoring strategy for adoption at WCPFC21, using the information in Attachment B of WCPFC20-2023-14 as a reference.

10.2(b) and 10.2(c) Bigeye tuna and Yellowfin tuna

10.2(b)(i) and 10.2(c)(i) TRP

10.2(b)(ii) and 10.2(c)(ii) Develop management procedures

10.2(b)(iii) and 10.2(c)(iii) Management strategy evaluation

314. These agenda items were taken together.
315. Dr. Paul Hamer (SSP) explained the mixed fishery harvest strategy, noting that SC15 had agreed to initially consider a multi-species framework for developing mixed-fishery harvest strategies. Fisheries would be managed through single stock management procedures for

skipjack and South Pacific albacore while bigeye and yellowfin would be indirectly managed through these management procedures. This was still a 'proposed approach' – the mechanics of the MSE modelling were feasible, but could it achieve objectives across stocks?

316. The next steps would be to: develop operating models (BET, YFT, SP-ALB) and candidate management procedures (SP-ALB, BET), TRPs (YFT, BET, SP-ALB); stitch these all together; run evaluations of candidate management procedures; and report back to SC20. The SSP urged that some patience would be needed, and that the HCRs might need modifications so they can work together effectively.
317. While the proposed hierarchical approach would not fully capture mixed fishery/mixed species interactions in an integrated framework (which would require multi-species management procedures), it provided a staged approach for developing fishery-based harvest strategies from a collection of single species modelling frameworks. If the approach suggested that these were not well managed under this mixed fishery framework, then another approach would be needed. SC19 had reviewed updates from the SSP on the development of the mixed fishery MSE framework and recommended that WCPFC20 take note of the progress to date and provide feedback.
318. Indonesia was concerned that there was no specific management procedure for yellowfin tuna and would like to see a recommendation from WCPFC for this to be developed. The assumption was that YFT had more resilience than BET, but experience from the Indian Ocean suggested differently. Of the four main tuna stocks, only YFT did not have a management procedure.
319. The USA pointed out that the risk of breaching the LRP for yellowfin was quite low so felt that a management procedure would be very conservative for yellowfin. It would be less conservative for bigeye, but the risk of breaching the bigeye TRP would still be considered conservative.
320. The SSP responded to the request from Indonesia for WCPFC20 to consider recommending a separate YFT management procedure. This possibility had been discussed in some depth in previous years because of similar concerns from other yellowfin dependent CCMs, and this discussion was briefly recapped. One of the factors in deciding not to develop a standalone WCPFC Management Procedure for yellowfin tuna at this testing stage of the mixed-fishery concept had also been the fact that the biggest component of the yellowfin catch was taken in archipelagic waters, outside the oversight of the Commission.

Stock	SKJ MP	SPA MP	BET MP	AW
SKJ	80			20
SPA		87	13	
BET	38	4	43	15
YFT	41	3	13	43

★ WCPFC-SC19-2023/MI-WP-07

321. Tuvalu on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the SSP for the work done to progress harvest strategy development for bigeye. They encouraged collaboration and discussion among Commission members to reach an agreement on a TRP for bigeye tuna in 2024, in line with the harvest strategy workplan. Until a TRP was agreed, FFA Members supported maintaining the interim management objective in the TTM that maintained the spawning depletion ratio for bigeye

- tuna at or above the average for 2012-2015. They emphasised the importance of establishing a TRP for the effective management and conservation of bigeye tuna. Additionally, FFA CCMs were concerned with the results of the tropical tuna CMM evaluation, particularly given that under the long-term recruitment assumption and under the fully utilised future harvest scenarios, the bigeye objective would not be achieved. It was imperative to address challenges and uncertainties relating to bigeye to ensure its long-term sustainability.
322. FFA CCMs supported the continuation of the work being done on the mixed fishery framework. In particular, they supported further investigation into the relationship between bigeye and yellowfin longline catch scalars. Understanding the dynamics between these two species to inform effective management strategies was of critical importance, especially within the context of the mixed fishery framework.
323. Australia said that FFA CCMs supported maintaining the interim yellowfin tuna objective in paragraph 13 of the tropical tuna measure (CMM 2021-01) until a suitable target reference point was agreed upon by the Commission. Under the indicative Harvest Strategy Work Plan, the Commission was scheduled to adopt a target reference point for yellowfin tuna by the end of 2024 and FFA CCMs looked forward to cooperating in 2024 with other CCMs to progress the work to develop this target reference point. They noted with interest that preliminary results by the SSP indicated that selecting target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin tuna could be done independently because, depending on where the targets are set, it can be very difficult to achieve both targets simultaneously. With this in mind, and assuming the bigeye tuna target reference point was to be set at a fixed level, FFA CCMs suggested a more flexible approach may be necessary when adopting a target reference point for yellowfin tuna, such as using a range or threshold. FFA CCMs supported the continuation of the work being done on the mixed fishery framework.
324. On yellowfin particularly, FFA CCMs noted with concern the large and growing impact of fisheries on tropical tuna stocks, in particular on yellowfin tuna in Region 2 as reflected in the 2023 yellowfin tuna stock assessment. In the last 6 years, the impact of the non-purse seine/longline fisheries in this region on yellowfin tuna had grown from 35% to 46% of the total fishery impacts on the stock depletion. This growing impact was a major concern for FFA CCMs as it risked undermining the Commission's work to ensure tropical tuna stocks remained sustainable and that the tropical tuna fishery was well-controlled. They welcomed the ongoing effort from coastal States in Region 2 and by SPC to better quantify baseline catch levels and identify management actions for these fisheries. FFA CCMs noted the importance of continuing this critical work through the WPEA project, and extended thanks to New Zealand for funding this work. FFA CCMs further highlighted the particular importance of increasing port monitoring data to understand and manage tuna catches and sought for this to be continued as a priority in the continuation of the WPEA project.
325. FFA CCMs noted that, as the Commission transitioned to harvest strategy-based management, it would be critical that the management measures agreed in the tropical tuna measure were comprehensive and effectively implemented. They welcomed the opportunity to work with Region 2 coastal States and the broader Commission to ensure that effective management measures were implemented for all other commercial fisheries.
326. Finally, FFA CCMs noted that a significant proportion of the catch and effort on tropical tuna in Region 2 occurred in archipelagic waters under the sovereignty of coastal States. They recognised that the management of fisheries in archipelagic waters was beyond the scope of the Commission and was a matter for these coastal States. However, noting the significant impacts of these fisheries on the stocks under the purview of the Commission, and hence the

impacts on the tropical tuna fishery in FFA CCMs' waters, they called upon these coastal States to make all efforts to implement compatible management measures for these fisheries.

327. Japan shared the concern expressed by FFA CCMs about the significant increase of catch in Region 2. Regarding TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin, Japan said that, although the process of setting TRPs will be complicated, it will be ready for the discussion to arrive at a TRP for both species next year.
328. China indicated its preference for a bigeye tuna reference year of 2012-2014 and it thought the priority for immediate work should be for bigeye rather than yellowfin.
329. Regarding the bigeye tuna TRP, PNG said that PNA and Tokelau CCMs supported the FFA CCM statement on the importance of continuing work on the bigeye TRP as a priority in 2024. They had previously raised two issues with the bigeye TRP: the first was that the TRP must not lock-in the FAD closure and the disproportionate burden associated with it. That would be inconsistent with paragraph 12 of the Harvest Strategy CMM 2012-06. Paragraph 12 says that Harvest strategies shall not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions. This required that the bigeye harvest strategy did not lock-in the FAD closure without offsetting arrangements being provided to address the associated disproportionate burden. In that direction, PNA and Tokelau requested that the candidate TRP options include the current management objective based on the 2012-15 depletion level adjusted for the effect of removing the FAD closure. The second issue for PNA and Tokelau was their support for the use of a lower, more flexible threshold-type TRP rather than a fixed point TRP, at least initially, as one of the options indicated in the SC Management Issues Working Paper 7.
330. Tuvalu said that, as PNG has indicated, PNA and Tokelau had supported the use of a lower, more flexible threshold-type TRP in discussion at the Scientific Committee rather than a fixed point TRP, at least initially. This issue had been raised at SC19 in 2023 by the SSP in the SC Working Paper 7. In that paper, the SSP had suggested that the Commission consider whether the yellowfin TRP should be represented by a single value, a range or a threshold level to address the difficulty of achieving multiple management objectives, and noted that these points might also apply to a bigeye TRP. PNA and Tokelau were also coming to the conclusion that a more flexible approach to management objectives for bigeye and yellowfin would be needed for two additional reasons: The first was the difficulty of getting agreement on management objectives among CCMs who have very different visions of how stocks and fisheries should be managed. For example, it had taken three years just to reach agreement on how to revise the skipjack TRP after a modelling change. They also recalled the lengthy discussions on management objectives for bigeye and yellowfin in the work on revising the tropical tuna CMM. The second was that reaching agreement on the form and level of management objectives had been made more difficult by modelling changes. As a result of the effect of modelling changes, the use of fairly straightforward depletion levels as TRPs had to be dropped and the Commission had moved to using reference period timeframes. But even that had been complicated by changes in models that had resulted in changes in stock trajectories, as in skipjack, that had complicated the adoption of reference period-based TRPs. Therefore, PNA and Tokelau supported the threshold approach to the form of the bigeye management objective.
331. On yellowfin, Kiribati speaking on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs reinforced the FFA position that the yellowfin TRP should be a threshold-type TRP, at least initially, to address the difficulty of achieving the objectives for all key stocks as noted in WP14. On the yellowfin management procedure, PNA and Tokelau supported the approach proposed by the SSP where "Yellowfin does not have its own management procedure, at least initially". And they

wondered what the yellowfin harvest strategy might look like. Would that be documented somewhere and what would the document look like if it was not in a management procedure? They had a similar question for the yellowfin Management Strategy Evaluation. What would the yellowfin MSE look like?

332. The SSP said that the yellowfin harvest strategy analysis would look similar to bigeye. The SSP would produce all the same kind of performance metrics for the yellowfin MSE as for bigeye.
333. The USA wondered if a standalone yellowfin management procedure would be appropriate for implementation by the Commission when 40% of the yellowfin tuna catch was taken in archipelagic waters outside the scope of a Commission management procedure.
334. The SSP considered that the point made by the USA was a useful one, since any standalone yellowfin management procedure would have limited effect compared to the other three stocks. However, it might still work because it would be based on the WCPFC-wide yellowfin tuna stock assessment.
335. Niue said that bigeye tuna was a very important species for SPG CCMs and other southern longline fisheries participants. Reinforcing the concerns voiced by the broader FFA membership, they wanted to ensure that the management measures being developed for bigeye would take into account how these management measures might impact southern fisheries.
336. The Chair thanked participants for the extremely useful feedback.

337. The Commission noted the progress to date on the development of the mixed fishery MSE framework.

10.2(d) Development of CMM 2023-01 (Consultative Draft)

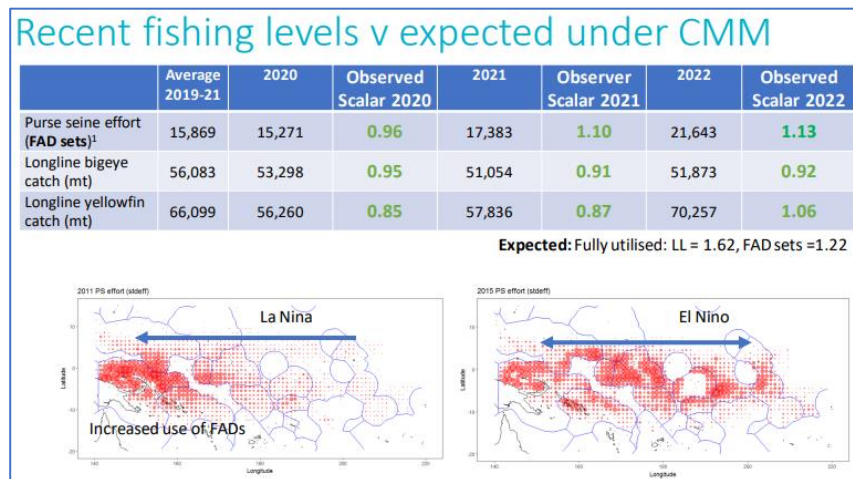
10.2(d)(i) Evaluation of CMM 2021-01

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-15_Rev01](#)

338. Dr. Paul Hamer (SSP) presented WCPFC20-2023-15_Rev02, describing the SSP's most recent evaluation of the current tropical tuna measure (CMM 2021-01).
339. This analysis involved two steps. The first was to develop alternative scenarios for future fishing levels possible under CMM 2021-01 and the second was to evaluate the consequences of each scenario for tropical tuna stocks and compare these to CMM 2021-01 objectives.
340. Three alternative scenarios were evaluated and scalars developed as follows:
- **'Optimistic'** = essentially **2019-2021** average levels, CMM is implemented.
 - **'Fully utilised'** = all opportunities under the CMM maximised; 2012 purse-seine effort as per skipjack Management Procedure, high seas FAD sets maximised, LL BET catch limits taken. It is not assumed that Table 1 total PS levels are met – mostly aspirational.
 - "In-between" **'SKJ MP'** scenario – PS effort at 2012 levels, LL catch with 2 alternatives.
341. The evaluations were made for BET (recent and long-term recruitment), YFT and SKJ. For YFT and SKJ, the purse-seine impact was primarily through the overall purse-seine effort. For BET, purse-seine impact was primarily through the FAD set effort. For YFT, there was a continued assumption that BET longline catch scalars are applied to yellowfin, as no YFT limits are specified in the CMM.

342. After presenting the work described in WCPFC20-2023-15_Rev01, the SSP summarised the outcome of the latest evaluation and noted that, if all limits were fully utilised, the current CMM incorporating the skipjack MP would achieve the objectives for skipjack. For bigeye, full utilisation would marginally achieve the BET objective under the recent recruitment scenario, but not under the longer-term recruitment scenario. And the fully-utilised scenario would not achieve the objective for yellowfin, although there would be some caveats around the assumptions that had to be made about applying the scalars from bigeye directly to yellowfin.
343. In short, the SSP felt that overall there was little room to increase the fishing opportunities under current CMM limits and still meet the objectives. Even though CCMs were not maximizing the total catch and effort under their total limits at the moment, if fishing was to be maximised – as was legitimately possible – there would be no room to increase those limits and still meet the objectives.
344. Nauru spoke on behalf of FFA CCMs to thank the SSP and acknowledge the updated evaluation of the tropical tuna Measure. As stated in previous interventions, the suitability of the assumption – that a direct relationship between the bigeye and yellowfin catch scalars exists – requires further investigation. The observed differences in 2022 suggested that this assumption might not always hold true. Recognising that the likelihood that conditions for the 'fully utilised' scenarios were not likely to be met, insights into the practical feasibility of achieving such fully utilised conditions would be informative. FFA CCMs noted the exclusion of the substantial and increasing yellowfin catch data from Region 2 in the evaluation. They noted that the exploitation in Region 2 impacts countries to the east, and that this has an impact on SIDS artisanal fisheries, not solely commercial fisheries. These impacts and the effective management of yellowfin across all fisheries required consideration. Given the results of this evaluation, the assumption that yellowfin can be effectively managed by proxy through the management of skipjack and bigeye, may not hold true. The suitability of current management measures under the tropical tuna Measure in effectively managing yellowfin tuna, particularly given the yellowfin objective is not projected to be achieved under any future fishing scenarios evaluated, would require careful consideration. Finally, to assist in addressing concerns relating to yellowfin, FFA CCMs strongly supported and encouraged the voluntary catch reduction, the continuation of the WPEA project, and the Harvest Strategy work being conducted by Indonesia as described in DP12.
345. Japan thanked the SSP for providing this CMM 2021-01 evaluation which was quite informative. Concerning Table 5 on the BET outcomes, this showed the probability of stock biomass depletion ratio falling below the LRP is relatively small, but the effort scalar indicated a relatively high probability of F breaching the overfishing indicator. There was a big gap between these two risk levels. Japan emphasized that increase of BET mortality should be carefully considered.
346. The SSP said it was difficult to compare a biomass depletion metric with a F_{MSY} -based metric. F_{MSY} indicators led to substantially different outcomes – where uncertainty is much wider leading to a greater risk of breaching the reference level compared to biomass depletion metrics, where the uncertainty is less and the range of outcomes is thus much tighter.

(SPC slide 9)



347. Japan reiterated its concern about the increase in YFT catch in Indonesian waters. In relation to this, Japan welcomed that Indonesia was planning to apply its harvest strategy approach including a 10% reduction in effort. This was an encouraging step by Indonesia and very helpful because Indonesian archipelagic waters contain much of the yellowfin fishing effort in the region. Japan asked Indonesia when this would be applied.
348. Indonesia noted that their archipelagic waters were not included in the area of WCPFC oversight through the Convention, but Indonesia was very aware of their responsibility for their archipelagic waters not contributing to overfishing, and the need for compatible measures to be applied. All stakeholders in Indonesia had been involved in the process of identifying management measures to achieve this. The three measures were: a limit on the number of FADs; seasonal closures for industrial vessels; and a limit on the size of vessels. The Harvest Strategy agreement between government and stakeholders had LRP, TRP and operational objectives, but not a specific Harvest Control Rule. Although SPC and some others had been informed of these requirements it was possible there was some lack of communication about this agreement to other CCMs. The intent was to keep all tropical tuna in Indonesian archipelagic waters around the level of the baseline year 2021, to be applied in 2023. They had already been able to reduce the total catch by about 6% through the application of previous management measures agreed with stakeholders. It was emphasized that this was not a specific catch reduction for yellowfin, but for all tropical tunas. A 10% reduction was expected by 2025, and this would be followed by another consultation with stakeholders. This is not an easy process because it required consultation with all stakeholders in every province. Indonesia noted that the operational goal might not be achieved under the OM developed with help of AU CSIRO, because of the impact of other fisheries in the same region outside Indonesia, including Vietnam, Philippines and some FFA CCMs. Indonesia wanted to make it clear to the Commission membership that they were managing their waters responsibly.
349. PNA and Tokelau thanked the SSP for the paper. They noted that the results broadly confirmed the results of the assessments showing that the tropical tuna stocks are likely to continue to be effectively managed under the existing provisions of the tropical tuna CMM, especially bigeye and skipjack. There was clearly more work to do on yellowfin to reconcile the management objective with reported increases of historical catches from small scale fisheries but, overall, there was no evidence here for substantial changes being needed in the current management arrangements to ensure stock health and fishery sustainability.

350. The USA drew attention to the question of recent bigeye recruitment and suggested using the optimistic scenario because it was more realistic. It was unlikely that all CCMs would use all of their allocated catch or effort in the pessimistic scenario. Also, as the USA had explained previously, an objective based on spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, especially for yellowfin, was not really representative and the USA hoped that these objectives could be re-evaluated in upcoming discussion on the new tropical tuna CMM.
351. The European Union congratulated the SSP on this work. In particular the analysis of the impact of the exemptions in the measure, which – although fortunately limited – appeared to be similar to the impact of the high seas effort in Table 2, and therefore it was important to continue monitoring exemptions as long as they exist.
352. The EU also had a question on the formulation of the purse-seine scenarios. They had noted that the objectives for YFT would not be met, and the objective for BET would not be met under long term recruitment levels using the pessimistic/fully-utilised scenario. However, these objectives were relatively conservative. And if they were correct, the only difference between “optimistic” and “pessimistic” was the effort on the high seas for the CCMs limited under Table 2 of the measure. However, since the effort of the Coastal States in the EEZ was not limited and in some cases the impact was higher than some of the CCMs bound by high seas limits, this was a bit challenging because this effort was minor in comparison to the increases that could take place in the EEZs. Also the fully-utilised scenario somehow assumed that any effort above that derived by the MP would only be carried out by the CCMs in Table 2, and occur on the high seas. However, the MP only considered the overall effort and not how it should be distributed. They suggested that the Scientific Committee might be able to review these assumptions and provide opinions on the likelihood of some of the different scenarios, as a way forward, including in particular the time frames, for example, that are used in the projections on a species-by-species basis, as well as the recruitment that is used for the projections for bigeye tuna in particular.
353. Dr Hamer responded that the 1.19 scalar applied to the total effort in the Convention Area. The way it was attributed was relative to the fishing patterns in the baseline period. So, this was scaled up and applied in the model according to the fishery pattern, to preserve relativity between the in-zone and the high seas effort. This meant there was no unlimited effort, and they were all still capped under the total effort limit specified by the MP, and it was distributed according to the recent period from the assessment.
354. The Commission noted the report from the Scientific Services Provider on the evaluation and review of CMM 2021-01 (WCPFC20-2023-15).

10.2(d)(ii) Additional analyses requested at TTMW4

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-16 Rev01](#)

355. Dr Graham Pilling (SSP) presented WCPFC20-2023-16. He noted that working paper 16 included all analyses performed by the SSP arising from requests by TTMW3 and TTMW4. His presentation however concentrated on the additional analyses requested by TTMW4. Seven new questions had been asked of the SSP as follows:

#	Request to SPC	CCM
1	Update of data summaries as in SC18-MI-IP-08 – LL catch and PS/PL effort by area (AW, EEZ, HSP, other HS) and HS v flag	EU
2	Updated figures 9 and 10 of SC18-MI-IP08 with PS effort in waters under national jurisdiction (EEZs and AWs), in the HS by CCMs in table 2 of CMM, in the HS by the Philippines, in the HS by Pacific Island fleets fishing in high seas adjacent to their home waters during the HS closures, in the HS by CCMs not listed in Table 2 (not including the effort already included in the previous item).	EU
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of estimates of additional longline yields alongside the estimates of foregone purse seine catch from the FAD closure set out in Table 11 of Working Paper 4. 2. A table showing the adjustments to the longline bigeye catch limits for each CCM over time since 2008. This is basically an extension of the table from China back to 2008 3. An estimate of the potential impact of extending footnote 1 to cover all SIDS including American Samoa. 	PNA+ CCMs
4	An objective of a new tropical tuna measure may be to balance the impacts or depletion to bigeye and yellowfin between fishery sectors. In the WCPO, associated purse seine and miscellaneous sectors have the largest impacts on the two stocks. From the most recent assessment documents presented to SC19, the impact is not balanced. The US requests annual fishery sector impact estimates from 2000-2021 for WCPO bigeye and yellowfin contained in Figure 70 from the bigeye assessment and Figure 66 from yellowfin tuna assessment.	US
5	Future projection of depletion rate of BET, YFT and SKJ respectively with an assumption that catches in region 2/5 increase or decrease by 10%, 20%, 30%.	Japan

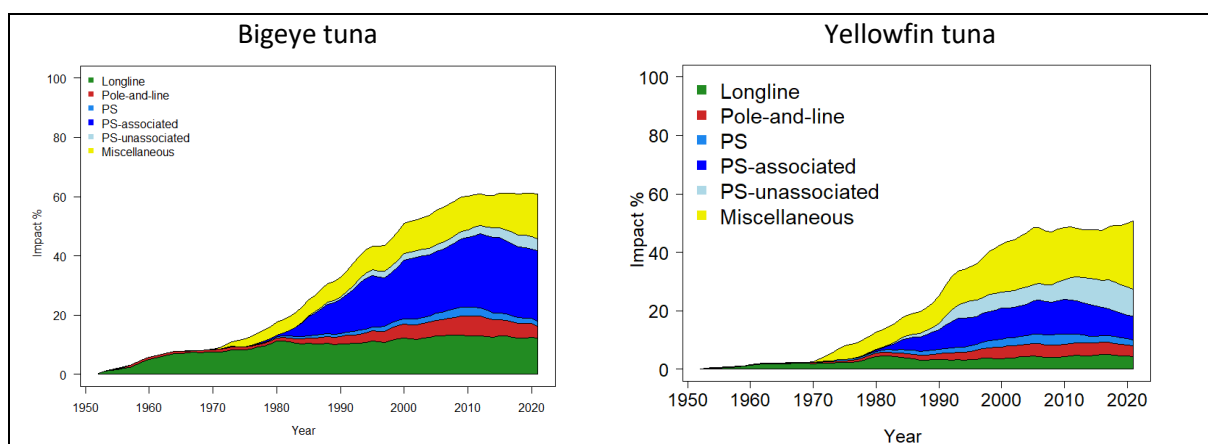
356. Dr. Pilling's presentation concentrated on four of these latest questions, for the purpose of illustrating some of the assumptions that had had to be made. He was however happy to respond to any specific points arising from other questions considered by the paper, pending available time.
357. Question 3.1 had been to estimate additional longline yields and foregone purse-seine catch as a result of the FAD closure. This had been challenging. The projections are based on catch in the long line fishery, but that catch is actually recorded in terms of numbers of fish. The SSP had worked out what the conditions in the purse-seine fishery would have been in a particular year based on the amount of effort and the FAD closure period in place, and then assuming that the long line catch stayed at a scalar level of one – at the 2019-2021 baseline – they projected forward and then looked at what the gains might be in an equilibrium sense. So, for the same number of fish, how much additional weight is gained because the FAD closure was in place, and those fish would have been slightly bigger as a result. One thing Dr. Pilling stressed was that the numbers in the table in the paper were very likely to be considerably

underestimated. If more time had been available this could have been done with a different approach but, unfortunately, there was not the time to fully deliver this piece of work.

	Estimated total purse seine catch (mt) in absence of FAD closure	Estimated longline bigeye catch (mt) gained	
		Recent recruitment	Long term recruitment
2009	108,507	300	490
2010	75,243	420	680
2011	98,753	500	710
2012	111,823	420	660

358. Question 3.3 had been to estimate the potential impact of extending footnote 1 to cover all SIDS including American Samoa. The SSP had looked at this in two different ways. The first was to look at the number of FAD sets per month made in each of those EEZ's outside the closure and then assume that this average would be taken inside the closure period, and then see how many extra FAD sets resulted. The second was to look at the maximum number of FAD sets per month outside the closure in each year, and then assume that also happened inside the closure period. A scalar or multiplier could then be calculated off each individual year, and thus one could compare the number of FAD sets within a year with the number of additional FAD sets that would have resulted due to the footnote being in place for those countries. This was illustrated in the table below. Assuming that the average number of sets outside the closure happened inside the closure period because of the footnote 1, there would be a maximum increase in FAD sets by 1%. And if the maximum set rates are assumed, it would result in between a 1% and 3% increase, depending on the year between 2019 and 2022. The caveat was that what was really being assumed is that if the FAD closure was removed for these countries, we wouldn't see a very large influx of additional effort into the EEZs, which would actually imply a greater number of FAD sets being made than the results here.

Year	FAD set scalar	
	Scenario 1 (Avg)	Scenario 2 (max)
2019	1.01	1.03
2020	1.01	1.02
2021	1.00	1.01
2022	1.00	1.01



359. Question 4 was on the impact plot values within the stock assessments. The SSP estimated what the gear specific impact would be on each stock over time during the model period, essentially turning off all the fisheries but one; identifying the impact in terms of the depletion

that that gear produced; turning that fishery off and turning on the next, et cetera. And that produced the cumulative graph below where the height of the colours indicated the level of impact, and the level of depletion over time from each of those gears. One thing he pointed out was that the totals were approximately equal to the overall depletion identified within the stock assessment. But they were not exactly equal. There were some interactions between fisheries which could not be captured when fisheries were turned off.

360. The last question to be presented was question 5 which was looking at what would happen if the catch in the western tropical region – the ‘WPEA’ area around Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam – was increased or decreased in each of the stock assessment models. These changes had been made in terms of catch for skipjack and bigeye, and in terms of effort for yellowfin, and the table here was showing the long-term impact on the stocks – at the end of the 30-year projection. The impact in terms of the resulting depletion was shown in the Table below, with the two recruitment scenarios for bigeye, then yellowfin and skipjack, where the top row showed the results for a 30% increase in catch or effort in that region where all other regions were constant, to the bottom of the Table where a 30% decrease in catch or effort had been applied, with each cell showing the resulting stock depletion ratio levels.

Change in 'WPEA region' fisheries	Bigeye		Yellowfin	Skipjack
	Recent recruitment	Long term recruitment		
+30%	0.43	0.42	0.38	0.48
+20%	0.44	0.42	0.39	0.49
+10%	0.45	0.43	0.40	0.49
0%	0.46	0.44	0.40	0.50
-10%	0.48	0.45	0.42	0.50
-20%	0.50	0.47	0.43	0.51
-30%	0.51	0.49	0.45	0.52

361. Niue on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the SSP for responding to the additional work tasked by the TTMW4 to help the Commission make informed decisions on the revision of the tropical tuna measure. FFA CCMs had used parts of this work to inform their proposed revisions to this measure detailed in Delegation Papers 1, 2 and 15, and they looked forward with anticipation to the comments from other CCMs on these revisions, with a view to having a revised tropical tuna measure adopted at WCPFC20.
362. Tuvalu on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs drew attention to Table 1 in WP16 which highlighted the scale of the disproportionate burden resulting from the FAD closure. It indicated that the FAD closure resulted in a loss of around 29,000 tonnes of purse seine catch per month of FAD closure. That was a loss annually in the purse seine fishery of around 90,000 tonnes for each 3-month closure. By comparison, the FAD closure generated increases of only around 200 tonnes of additional bigeye yield per month of FAD closure, depending on the recruitment option used in the model. From the point of view of the economics of the fishery, this did not make a lot of sense. The Commission was sacrificing around 60 million dollars' worth of purse-seine catch in order to generate a few hundred thousand dollars - perhaps around a million dollars' worth of bigeye catch. And from the point of view of PNA and Tokelau this represented a large disproportionate burden, because nearly 90% of that loss of purse seine catch was in the waters of PNA and Tokelau. In the case of Tuvalu, they were getting back around 20% of the catch value in government revenues, which were essential for national services. So, they felt the FAD closure was no longer serving its purpose, and removing this disproportionate burden of bigeye conservation by removing or reducing the FAD closure must now be the key issue for CCMs to address in the tropical tuna measure Review. PNA and Tokelau CCMs looked forward to further discussion on this.

363. Japan thought that the high FAD set scalar would continue to increase under the current El Niño and if these conditions continued then the future projection of biomass depletion for BET would be quite different from the current projection. But they thanked SPC for carrying out this work in such a short space of time.
364. Dr. Pilling pointed out that it was always challenging to predict what would happen in the future. They had tried to take all reasonable possibilities into account, but Japan was correct: if a higher level of FAD fishing occurred, then the impact on bigeye would be higher, and it was something that the Commission should be keeping an eye on.
365. The Commission noted with appreciation the additional analysis undertaken by the Scientific Services Provider as requested at TTMW4 (WCPFC20-2023-16_Rev01).

10.2(d)(iii) Update on progress in FADMO-IWG

366. The Chair of the FAD Management Options IWG (FADMO-IWG) Jamel James (FSM) provided a brief update based on the [FAD Management Options Update Report](#).
367. PNG on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs thanked the FADMO-IWG Chair. They considered FAD management to be a very high priority. Some of the FAD management issues that needed to be addressed had a substantial technical component that was difficult to discuss online. PNA and Tokelau supported holding a physical meeting of the FADMO-IWG back-to-back with TCC, in 2025 at the latest. They saw this as a high priority to advance FAD management measures in preparation for the review of the tropical tuna measure in 2026.
368. Tonga on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the Chair of FADMO-IWG for the report provided and acknowledged the work this IWG had carried out this year. FFA CCMs had put forward several measures to improve the management of FADs, to better understand FAD origin, designs, and materials, and to receive constant information on position to ease the necessary task of identifying and retrieving lost dFADs. As coastal States, FFA CCMs had to deal with the impacts associated with lost and abandoned FADs, with negative environmental impact and implications for artisanal fisheries, and associated costs to their administrations. FFA CCMs thanked French Polynesia for their proposal to encourage FAD retrieval and supported it on the basis that SC19 has also recommended that the Commission look into implementing robust FAD tracking and retrieval. However, noting that paragraph 22 of the TTM was non-binding, they wanted to strengthen this paragraph regarding responsibilities for reducing the number of lost and abandoned FADs. For that reason, they would be asking the FADMO-IWG to prioritise this work.
369. Vanuatu proposed on behalf of FFA CCMs the following tasks for the FADMO-IWG Workplan:
- Provide advice to WCPFC23 on the implementation of stepwise introduction of biodegradable dFADs;
 - Provide advice to WCPFC23 on the effectiveness of the limit on the number of FADs deployed as set in paragraph [21] of the CMM 2023-01, considering the new provision proposed by the PNA and Tokelau,
 - Develop a FAD logbook for vessel operators and to review the IWG work plan accordingly to action recent developments,
 - FFA CCMs supported the recommendation of SC19 to make FAD recovery strategies an agenda item for the FADMO IWG and consider this should be prioritised and progress sought as a matter of urgency.
370. The EU stated that FAD management is a priority and that a second EU-funded project for the development of non-biodegradable FADs was in the pipeline.

371. New Caledonia joined FFA CCMs in thanking French Polynesia for their proposal to make the retrieval of lost and abandoned FADs a binding measure.
372. Tuvalu had a question about the existing requirement for non-entangling FADs in 2024, and wondered if it was clear whether this would apply to existing FADs or only to new FADs?
373. The FADMO-IWG Chair noted this had been raised in the FADMO Small Working Group and there was a text on the secure side of the WCPFC website. The understanding resulting from that discussion was that the requirement would apply to FADs which were deployed or re-deployed after the measure came into effect on 1st January 2024.
374. The Cook Islands placed great importance on FAD management and had recorded at least 300 drifting FAD strandings on their shores to date, mainly in the Northern Cook Islands. This was only the known strandings and thus likely to be an underestimate. The Cook Islands committed to sharing experiences with others on how to deal with this problem.
375. French Polynesia stated that it was highly impacted by lost FADs, more so than any other part of the region, and felt it was time for the Commission to tackle this problem. They supported the recommendations from SC19.
376. Canada confirmed its commitment to addressing the problem of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear as an active member of the global ghost gear initiative (GGGI). Understanding the need to give members time to ensure effective domestic application of non-entangling and biodegradable FAD provisions, Canada urged implementation as soon as possible and in line with timelines adopted by the IATTC. They noted that SC19 had made a recommendation on the subject and they also supported French Polynesia's proposal on retrieval of lost, abandoned and stranded FADs.
377. In line with this issue, Canada noted that the WCPFC marine pollution measure was scheduled for review last year and would be considering opportunities to strengthen this measure intersessionally with a view to presenting a proposal at next year's annual meeting. Given the linkages between ghost gear, lost, abandoned, and stranded FADs and pollution, they extended an invitation to French Polynesia and any other interested CCMs to work with Canada on this throughout 2024.
378. Fiji fully supported the SC19 recommendation to create a FADMO-IWG agenda item to address lost FADs.
379. China suggested a need to develop language that interprets how to treat FADs deployed before 2024 which might remain in the water following the 1 January 2024, deadline for the introduction of non-entangling FADs.
380. The FADMO-IWG considered this discussion further in the margins of WCPFC and brought a set of recommendations back to plenary at the end of the meeting. These were adopted as follows:
- | | |
|------|--|
| 381. | The Commission noted the report and recommendations of the Chair of the FAD Management Options IWG (WCPFC20-2023-FADMOIWG). |
| 382. | The Commission considered outcomes of SC19 and TCC19 related to the updates of FAD Management Options IWG tasks in 2023 in the development of a revised tropical tuna conservation and management measure. |

383. The Commission further tasks the FADMO-IWG to consider ways to implement FAD recovery programs/strategies, including economic aspects and standards required for programs to be effective, to be a standing agenda item for the FADMO-IWG in 2024.
384. In the development of 2024-2026 FADMO-IWG Workplan, the FADMO-IWG shall incorporate the following:
- a. Provide advice to WCPFC23 on the implementation of stepwise introduction of bio-degradable dFADs;
 - b. Provide advice to WCPFC23 on the effectiveness of the limit on the number of dFADs deployed as set in paragraph [21] of the CMM 2023-01 and;
 - c. To develop a FAD logbook for vessel operators and to review the IWG workplan accordingly to action recent developments

10.2(d)(iv) Indonesia large-fish handline limit

385. There was no discussion in plenary on this agenda item.

386. The Commission noted Information Papers IP22, IP23 and IP24 submitted by Indonesia and the SSP on the Indonesian large-fish handline limit.

Negotiation of CMM 2023-01 (Consultative Draft)

387. The negotiation of the text of the new tropical tuna measure commenced with the presentation of the Chair's Consultative Draft and presentations of proposals from relevant CCMs under Agenda Item 6, followed by an opportunity for specific questions of clarification. Discussion of these proposals was held under Agenda Item 10.2(d). Detailed discussions and negotiations on the proposed revisions to the tropical tuna measure were undertaken through a series of Small Working Groups and informal discussions involving interested CCMs focusing on specific provisions of the measure. The final stages of the discussion took place mostly in plenary on the last evening of the meeting.
388. The Solomon Islands on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs thanked the Commission Vice-Chair for facilitating the 'huddle' discussions. They felt that the discussion had taken a step in the right direction, but there was still some work to do to bring the proposals closer together. Since 2008 PNA had been carrying the disproportionate conservation burden of managing the bigeye stock. This was both in terms of the costs of the lost revenue as they had already mentioned, which they estimated at US\$100m for the 3-month FAD closure in PNA and Tokelau EEZs, but also from not taking the opportunity to reduce the FAD closure period in 2018. They reminded other CCMs that the starting point for this discussion was in Attachment F of CMM 2013-01, which set out the cuts in the longline fishery that did not equate to an equivalent 30% reduction in catch, except for one CCM, China. So, the CCMs listed in Table 3 of the CMM ("Bigeye Longline Catch Limits") had all benefited from an increase in catch limits while PNA and Tokelau had continued to carry the conservation burden. Therefore, removing half the FAD closure was a balancing of the ledger in their view, with the other half to be removed in 3 years, depending on the stock status. This would result in catch limits for CCMs in Table 3 being returned to 2014 levels as captured in Attachment F of CMM 2013-01. PNA and Tokelau acknowledged the importance of the principle of transferability for efficient fisheries management. However, transferability doesn't work when there is substantial latent effort in the limits. That would undermine the effectiveness of the existing limits. Noting the latency in both fisheries, the "fully-utilized" scenario in the projections will not be fully realized, adding to the conservation efforts. Lastly, as they had signalled from the beginning of the week, they placed a very strong link between increased BET catches and increased LL

MCS. They would not be able to consider proposals for increases to LL BET catch limits again without an increase in human observer coverage or electronic monitoring.

389. PNA and Tokelau proposed the following package of measures to resolve these difficulties:
- 1.5/2.5 month FAD closure removal for EEZ and High Seas starting in 2024.
 - 10% increase from Table 3 limit for CCMs with 10% Observer coverage by 2026, when they reach the 10% coverage level.
 - No increases in Table 3 limit for CCMs that maintain only 5% observer coverage levels.
 - Delete the third bullet point of the footnote to Table 3 on transferability.
 - Limit BET catch by US flag vessels to 6,554 mt so no chartering)
390. France said that they supported their territories. These stocks were very important for French territory fishing activities in the Pacific as well as for local consumption. They drew the Commission's attention to the need to adopt a management measure compatible with sustainable fishing objectives while preserving the fishing opportunities of local fleets. With the sustainability of stocks being an essential point for the supply of French territories, France expressed its concern with the PNA and Tokelau proposal.
391. Niue, speaking on behalf of the six members of the South Pacific Group said SPG was concerned that the proposed FAD closure reductions and BET longline limit increases would likely result in further negative impacts on southern longline fisheries. They were worried that reductions in FAD controls would increase bigeye mortality, while increases in longline effort would increase bigeye and yellowfin mortality - potentially breaching the objectives of the measure. As they had noted earlier in the week, bigeye and yellowfin are vitally important to their southern longline fisheries. They were also concerned that any further impact from longline effort south of the equator would also increase albacore mortality - a critical concern. They were also uncertain how these proposed changes in management would impact upon the recently-agreed management procedure for skipjack, and what this would mean for future management. Given these concerns, they requested that increases be limited to avoid breaching objectives, and limited to fisheries north of the equator to avoid further impacts on albacore.
392. New Caledonia noted that it is not a full member of Commission but had been working hard for more than 40 years to develop its fisheries for the benefit of its own people. It considered that the WCPFC text was unique and precious, and the strongest among any of the tuna RFMOs for ensuring balance and equity.
393. Australia sought more clarity on how the observer increase would be implemented. They didn't just want to see an increase on paper.
394. The Federated States of Micronesia on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs recalled that the Commission was told 15 years ago that the bigeye stock needed a 30% reduction in fishing mortality. Nobody took any action so PNA went away and took action on the one fishery they controlled, with a 3-month FAD closure, 100% observer coverage, full catch retention etc. They had heard from SPC that this had cost over a billion dollars' worth of catch over 15 years and yet they were hearing that others were bearing a disproportionate burden of conservation. They reminded the meeting that these purse-seine measures applied between 20°N to 20°S. According to the science, the stock was in a good place to alleviate this burden and PNA was proposing that the Commission assess the results in 3 years' time and adjust as necessary.

395. SPC presented the analyses they had been asked to produce overnight which looked at the results in terms of BET biomass depletion ratio, of the various combinations of FAD closure (high seas and EEZ) and longline bigeye limit increase requested by certain CCMs in the smaller, informal working group sessions. It was assumed that bigeye longline limits would be fully utilized (including those currently taking less than 2000t). This analysis was posted as [WCPFC20-2023-35](#).
396. Korea asked if there was a difference if there was no full utilisation of limits, such as would probably occur if there was no transferability.
397. SPC said they would still need to make the assumption that Table 3 limits would be fully utilized in the future as there was no clear basis for assuming otherwise. If they were not in fact fully utilised, there would be no requirement to increase the total limits. These assumptions were influential. SPC also explained that for the purse-seine fishery the assumption was that effort would either increase to 2012 levels or that recent (lower) levels would continue. Alternative assumptions could be made, but SPC's aim was to bracket the likely future effort levels.
398. After a further small breakout group meeting by "longline-caught bigeye-interested" CCMs to discuss the PNA and Tokelau proposal, a counterproposal was tabled and FSM then explained PNA and Tokelau CCM's response to the "longline" group of CCMs, thanking those who had provided suggestions. PNA and Tokelau had reviewed this and held an internal consultation. Unfortunately, they saw the proposal as taking the various groups further apart rather than closer together. PNA and Tokelau were however willing to take a final attempt to seek agreement on a package that was agreeable to everyone. They said that after considerable discussion, a final PNA and Tokelau counter counterproposal to the longline CCMs' counterproposal to the original PNA and Tokelau proposal was made as follows:
- 1.5/2.5 EEZ/HS FAD closure removal for EEZs, starting in 2024.
 - 10% increase from Table 3 limit for CCMs with 10% observer coverage, when they reach the 10% coverage level, in the year before. This coverage level can include use of electronic monitoring.
 - No increases in Table 3 limit for CCMs that maintain 5% observer coverage levels.
 - Delete the third bullet point of the footnote to Table 3 on transferability.
 - Delete paragraph 9.
 - Limit BET catch by US flag vessels to 6,554mt, so no chartering.
399. Korea asked PNA and Tokelau CCMs to join Korea and a small number of other delegations in an informal breakout session to try and reach agreement as that modality would be more efficient and time-saving than going back and forth with multiple proposals and counter proposals.
400. Tokelau pointed out that PNA and Tokelau had carefully considered how the disproportionate burden could be lifted and had come up with their best offer. There was no reason to go back into a small group, unless the longline CCMs wanted to reconsider their own positions.
401. Japan still felt that there could be some discussion and proposed one more small, informal breakout group which Japan could facilitate as Commission Vice-Chair, and which could include PNA and Tokelau participation, if desired.
402. Following discussions in the informal breakout-group, the USA presented a draft Table 3 and FAD set management amendment to the measure as follows:

CCMs	Catch Limits
CHINA	8,224
INDONESIA	5,889*
JAPAN	18,265
KOREA	13,942
CHINESE TAIPEI	10,481
USA	63,554

*Provisional and maybe subject to revision following data analysis and verification
**For those who maintain a 5% observer coverage level, no catch increase is allowed.
Any increase in BET tuna catch levels, above 5% up to 10%, by a CCM in table 3 shall correspond with a proportional increase of observer coverage (e.g., a 7% increase of catch level corresponds with a 7% observer coverage and a 10% increase of catch levels corresponds with a 10% observer coverage). Any CCM who wants such an increase shall notify the Secretariat by December 31 of the year prior to fishing operations. If such CCM fails to achieve the required observer coverage level assessed for the year of increase of catch limits, then it will be subject to a payback penalty of 110% of the increased level that can be repaid in

years, and will be assigned a status of priority non-compliant through the CMR process for this obligation.

***Any observer coverage above 5% can be achieved by human and/or EM coverage

****The U.S. limit will be attributed fully to the United States.

Japan will make an annual one-off transfer of 500 metric tonnes of its hioeve tuna

FAD Set Management

14. A ~~one and a half~~ ~~three~~ (1 1/2) months (July, August and September) prohibition of deploying, servicing or setting on FADs shall be in place between 0001 hours UTC on 1 July and 2359 hours UTC on 30 September each year for all purse seine vessels, tender vessels, and any other vessels operating in support of purse seine vessels fishing in exclusive economic zones and the high seas in the area between 20°N and 20°S.¹

15. In addition to the ~~one and a half~~ ~~three~~ month FAD closure in paragraph 14, except for those vessels flying the Kiribati flag when fishing in the high seas adjacent to the Kiribati exclusive economic zone, and Philippines' vessels operating in HSP1 in accordance with **Attachment 2**, it shall be prohibited to deploy, service or set on FADs in the high seas for ~~one two~~ additional ~~sequential~~ months of the year. Each CCM shall decide which ~~two one~~ ~~sequential~~ months (either April – May or November – December) shall be closed to setting on FADs by their fleets in the high seas for 2022, and 2023 and notify the Secretariat of that decision by March 1, each year. In case a CCM decides to change the notified period at any given year of the application of this CMM this shall be notified to the Secretariat before 1st March of that year.

403. France indicated that it was still concerned about this proposal's impact on the sustainability of stocks and because of the increase in catch limit of the USA. They would have liked to have heard responses across the floor to two questions raised earlier by New Caledonia relating to attribution of catch between Participating Territories and their administering power, because these were important questions. The WCPFC Convention protected the rights of the SIDS and participating territories to enable the development of their fisheries. France had expressed their concern about the transfer of the longline bigeye catch limit from the US territories to the USA and stated that they wanted to work further on this issue regarding territories. They wanted to clarify the mechanism for catch attribution and vessel management. For example, regarding France and its territories, each territory had its own vessel register different from

- France's mainland. This preserved the development rights of the territories. France was interested in working within the Commission to clarify the link between members and their territories to prevent any confusion in the future tropical tuna measure and other CMMs.
404. New Zealand still had questions about the USA limit in Table 3. If the territories' limit was incorporated into the USA limit, would this mean that the territories now had a zero limit?
405. The USA responded that territories don't have longline fleets and the catch attributed to territories had always been taken by the USA.
406. French Polynesia shared the concerns expressed by SPG and New Caledonia and New Zealand. They were worried that reductions in FAD controls would increase bigeye mortality, while increases in longline effort would increase both bigeye and yellowfin mortality - potentially breaching the CMM objectives. Regarding observer coverage, they wanted to make sure this coverage could be achieved before linking it with an increased catch being allowed. They needed to look at the extra analyses prepared by SPC on bigeye depletion of proposed options and suggested these be looked at first.
407. The USA wanted it to be clear that territories still had the right to develop their own fisheries and they would not like anything to restrict that.
408. After consideration by PNA and Tokelau CCMs of the proposal presented by the longline group of CCMs, FSM on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs expressed appreciation to the longline group for their efforts to consider the PNA and Tokelau proposal. All had made best efforts to understand each other's views and proposals. Briefly the revised PNA and Tokelau proposal was as follows:
- Agreement to reduce the removal of the 3 months EEZ FAD closure to 1.5 months removal. The FAD closure would now be from 1 July to mid-August.
 - Agreement to 1 month HS FAD Closure removal – subject to similar notification procedure as current on choice between (April-May) or (Nov-Dec)
 - Maintain observer coverage increase 5% to 10%
 - (2.5% observer coverage increase for 5% catch increase)
 - (5% observer coverage increase for 10% catch increase)
 - With respect to the US limit, PNA was very clear that the 6,554mt is a firm limit and, because the aspirations of US territories still exist, there would not be new special arrangements for that additional catch being attributed to the USA.
 - For the monitoring, they were aware there were not yet any WCPFC EM standards agreed and suggested the Secretariat develop a proposal to capture the concerns raised about lack of EM standards and consider this either intersessionally or at TCC20 and progressed through the EREM WG to accelerate the process of making EM available as an agreed mechanism for monitoring.
409. Proposals that had been made were incorporated into Revision 6 of the Chairs Consultative Draft (WCPFC20-2023-33_Rev06) and the Chair took the meeting through the latest version of the Draft, concentrating on the options yet to be agreed, starting with the section on FAD Set Management.
410. Japan understood that it had been agreed that paragraph 9 (attribution of catch and effort of US-flagged vessels operating under agreements with its participating territories being attributed to its participating territories) would be deleted, but it was still in the draft.

411. The USA suggested that this negotiation was operating under the principle that “nothing was agreed to until everything had been agreed to” and did not want paragraph 9 deleted until everything had been agreed.
412. The Chair said that was her understanding as well. She also noted that if there was no consensus on any paragraph, then that text would be rolled over and would remain the status quo. On that basis, paragraph 13 on the yellowfin objective would remain as it was since there had been no agreement to change it.
413. Regarding paragraph 17 on non-entangling FADs, Tuvalu noted they had made a suggestion on Day 1, supported by China, that this requirement applied to *new* FADs and there seemed to be some confusion about the deployment of these new FAD designs and would suggest insertion of the word “new” before “FAD to be deployed in the WCPFC Convention Area”.
414. The EU wanted some clarification, and wondered if this would provide an exemption for the redeployment of old, entangling FADs, or for FADs that had already been constructed and on board a vessel on 1st January.
415. Tuvalu explained that they had previously sought clarification from the Secretariat who had said that if a FAD was set upon but not retrieved it would be deployed and that there might be thousands of FADs already in the water by 1st January that did not meet the new requirement. But Tuvalu was open to suggestions for making the wording completely clear. But the idea was that this new requirement would be applied to new FADs rather than those that were already in the water.
416. China supported Tuvalu’s suggestion and the suggested language and said that at TCC20 they would suggest that this obligation be only a report obligation, not an implementation obligation because it would be very difficult to make that judgment.
417. Regarding paragraph 18, on the introduction of biodegradable FAD materials there were two alternative proposals, from the USA and PNA and Tokelau. The USA agreed to go along with the first PNA and Tokelau proposal to read “18. No later than 2026 the Commission shall take a decision on the implementation of biodegradable FAD requirements”.
418. The Chair pointed out that in the absence of consensus, the USA’s proposal for an additional paragraph 19bis, that would ensure that the use of nylon ropes to strengthen FADs was a temporary solution only, was not agreed. And on paragraph 19 itself, there was no consensus on any of the proposed changes, so the status quo existing text would be maintained.
419. The USA had thought there was some agreement on paragraph 19. The USA alternative paragraph could be removed, but they wanted to retain the FFA suggestion for the definition of “biodegradable” in this context and the final FFA/Japan proposal on the communication of information about biodegradable FADs. The Chair noted agreement on this, and also the consensus on the paragraph 20 from the FADMO IWG.
420. Regarding paragraph 21, there was no consensus on several alternative proposed changes, but the paragraph would be referred to the FADMO-IWG for further work.
421. The additions to paragraph 22 on the responsible management of FAD retrieval initiated by French Polynesia, were adopted.
422. Regarding the USA proposal for an additional paragraph (23 bis) that would require monthly reporting, after a delay of 60-90 days, of all active FADs data to the SSP with a daily resolution, there was no consensus, and the Commission agreed to refer this issue to the FADMO-IWG.

423. The updating of the dates in paragraph 23 was agreed.
424. Regarding paragraph 24 on Zone-based purse-seine effort control, the need to update the dates in the paragraph was agreed, but Korea's proposal to insert an exemption from reporting for those CCMs without known or established tropical tuna purse-seine fisheries in their EEZ raised comment.
425. Tokelau noted that the Commission had developed an audit point for this particular obligation and several CCMs had already been assessed in in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme against it. As a result, they were uncomfortable about the wording of this text that Korea was proposing to insert as a footnote to Paragraph 24.
426. Japan recalled that the obligation to declare effort limits in own EEZ for the purse-seine fishery was not new and had been in place for around 10 years. They felt that updating the deadline for notification to 2023 as FFA had proposed would be appropriate rather than the 2024 proposals, and they were not clear about the meaning of the Korean proposed footnote. They were not as supportive of this addition.
427. Korea believed that they had already provided enough explanation about this proposal both in the past and in this meeting. Their concern was that, for now, they had no basis on which to set such a limit in the Korean EEZ. It would be impossible to set a limit and notify the Secretariat. If this proposal was difficult for certain CCMs to agree, then the only option for Korea to avoid non-compliance would be to declare an imaginary or arbitrary limit for the Korean EEZ.
428. France said that it was important for this Commission not to pre-judge the ability of Territories to develop their EEZ fisheries in the future and they thanked Korea for their proposal for this footnote and agreed with it.
429. The European Union recalled the discussion on this issue at TCC19 and understood the point that Korea was making. It was a fair point. The EU could agree to what was proposed here with some amendment, by deleting the word "known".
430. The Chair asked how the Commission viewed the proposal just made by the European Union, and if the Commission wanted to update the due date to 2023 or 2024, or the end of February 2024. The Commission agreed that the end of February 2024 would be the due date for notification of previously undeclared limits.
431. RMI noted that if the Korean footnote proposal was to avoid using an arbitrary number, then this was not clear because Korea already had significant purse-seine effort in the region.
432. At the invitation of the Chair, the Commission Compliance Manager suggested that this proposal by Korea might help with the ongoing difficulties that several CCMs were having, with no established tropical tuna purse-seine fisheries in their EEZs but wanting to reserve the right to establish fisheries in their own waters in the future and preferring not to have to declare a limit that would apply to their EEZ at this point in time. At TCC this seemed to be emerging more as an issue of applicability rather than non-compliance. It was the Secretariat's understanding that the Korean proposal would provide clarity around the CCMs to which this provision of non-applicability would apply, and this would be a very transparent way of dealing with what has been an ongoing issue for a number of years.
433. With this explanation, and if the footnote were only applied to the second sentence of paragraph 24 rather than the first, Japan felt this footnote could be a way of addressing Korea's concern.

434. Tokelau felt that the original Korea text read more clearly and in the interests of time felt that it should be used.
435. The Marshall Islands could go along with Tokelau's suggestion to use the proposed text from Korea as long as it was clear that Korea was not seeking an exemption. It was one thing to be avoiding an arbitrary number, but it reads like some sort of exemption, like having no limit at all and that would be a worry too. If Korea could provide that assurance that an exemption is not being sought, then the Marshall Islands indicated it could agree and move on.
436. Korea assured the meeting that the intent of its proposed footnote was not to seek any kind of exemption.
437. With that assurance, the Chair ruled that the footnote was agreed.
438. Regarding high seas purse seine limits, the Chair noted that for Paragraph 25 two proposals from Korea and PNA and Tokelau had been presented under Agenda Item 6 and there had been no comments since then on the subject. As currently there was no consensus on an amended paragraph 25, the Chair's proposal was to maintain the status quo and keep paragraph 25 unchanged.
439. Korea expressed their disappointment. The skipjack and bigeye tuna stocks were in good condition which is why the Commission was discussing the adoption of an increase in flag-based longline bigeye catch limits and a decrease in the EEZ FAD closure period. In Korea's view those proposed changes constituted increases in fishing opportunities and in that context, it was quite difficult to understand why an increase in the high seas purse-seine effort limit could not also be considered. In the interests of time and the spirit of cooperation they did not propose to pursue the issue further during the meeting but expected to revisit it at the next revision of this CMM and hope for a more productive and constructive discussion.
440. The Marshall Islands said that FFA CCMs would follow Korea's lead and, in the interests of time, withdraw their own proposal regarding setting up a hard high seas purse seine limit and would support the Chair's approach of maintaining the status quo. Like Korea, they would likely raise this at a later date.
441. The USA asked if the proposal by American Samoa and the USA regarding Tables 1 and 2 of Attachment 1 would be discussed here. With the affirmative indication from the Chair the USA explained that they felt their proposal for the deletion of the footnote in Table 1 (EEZ purse-seine effort limits) was probably the easier to deal with since they hadn't heard any objection to their proposal to delete the footnote to Table 1⁴. Regarding Table 2 (High seas purse seine effort control) they asked their colleague from American Samoa to begin that discussion, around the proposal in DP09.
442. American Samoa said that the USA/American Samoa proposal was to remove the footnote in Table 1, as just mentioned by the USA, and to also provide a new footnote in Attachment 2⁵. They made a presentation explaining the contents of DP09 and made it clear that American Samoa would be involved in the development of how this exemption would be implemented, helping the USA to develop eligibility criteria and compliance rules. American Samoa's position was that any exemption granted here should only benefit American Samoa and no-

⁴ *** The United States notified the Secretariat of the combined US EEZ and high seas effort limits on 1 July 2016 (1828 fishing days on the high seas and in the U.S. EEZ (combined)). The US EEZ limit is understood to be this notified limit minus the high seas effort limit for the United States set out in Table 2 of Attachment 1."

⁵ Which would qualify the USA high seas purse-seine days limit with "Except for U.S. flagged vessels notified as operating as an integral part of the American Samoa economy."

one else. They were aware that many CCMs had been worried about this and, to reiterate, this exemption benefit would only go to American Samoa, and they would work with the USA to make sure that happened. American Samoa pointed out two glaring facts that were not only very clear, but undisputed. One: American Samoa was a small island Participating Territory that was a member of this Commission. Two: A disproportionate burden for American Samoa currently existed, and the Commission had not disputed that. However American Samoa was not seeking sympathy. It was seeking equity. This decision needed to be done today. The USA then presented DP13, which was related to this proposal. They felt that American Samoa was suffering a disproportionate burden of conservation at the moment, and that it was the Commission's responsibility to remove this, as it had for many other SIDS. To do otherwise would be hypocritical.

443. The USA explained that they supported American Samoa and had been working with them for a year to find a way forward that worked for American Samoa. They had heard across the floor questions about USA support for the territory and disproportionate burdens, and this was how the USA would alleviate the burden. They were obligated to do this. They had heard many interventions about disproportionate burden and wanted to see fair consideration of the American Samoan proposal.
444. Samoa stood together with American Samoa on this issue. They had the same culture, and they had the same issues that American Samoa was trying to deal with. They knew there were a lot of political constraints to what they were asking for, but they asked the Commission to consider American Samoa's proposal.
445. Tuvalu noted that the 12 USA vessels already landed most of their catch in American Samoa, except during the FAD closure, because they could not fish without FADs, and during that period they went and landed mainly in Latin America. Tuvalu wondered if adding this footnote would actually change anything very much for American Samoa. They also wondered what was going to happen to the 1,270 days that had already been set as the limit for the for the USA fleet. It was already the largest high seas limit for what is one of the smallest fleets.
446. The USA said that the idea was that this exemption would be an incentive for those vessels to stay in the Western and Central Pacific and continue to offload in American Samoa. That would be part of the benefit from that. As for the question concerning the effort limit, the United States was open to revising the 1,270 days if this footnote could be agreed to.
447. The Federated States of Micronesia agreed with some of the concerns raised by Tuvalu with respect to the proposal by American Samoa. First, they acknowledged that issue of the disproportionate burden is a real one, and it was something that the Commission had tried to address some years before. They believed a special exemption had been made for a hundred days on top of the current high seas limit for the US vessels to unload in American Samoa. But their understanding was that this didn't happen. FSM wanted the vessels to unload in American Samoa and queried why American flagged vessels needed an incentive from the Commission to unload in American Samoa? With only about 12 boats left in the USA fleet, the FSM questioned if the exemption was made, how many additional USA vessels would unload in American Samoa? And what assurances would be made that this would incentivize them? The FSM noted that when looking at the history of the vessels during the FAD closures, USA vessels went somewhere else, so it was not clear how this would incentivize them to not unload in the eastern Pacific and unload in Pago Pago, instead. Some assurance was needed. FSM also sought clarification from United States colleagues when they said that, if this exemption was granted that they would be prepared to agree to revise their high seas purse seine limit. Would that be to revise it down for those vessels that use the days on the high

- seas to unload in Pago Pago, or to revise it up when those vessels started fishing over their current limit?
448. The USA confirmed that what they were offering was to revise the number of USA days on the Table downwards. But they requested clarification of the point being made in the other scenario raised by FSM.
449. FSM reiterated that it was not clear how an exemption for USA-flagged vessels from the high seas limit when operating in the American Samoa EEZ would actually incentivise these vessels to unload in Pago Pago. FSM had processing plants that were badly needing fish, so FSM was talking to its flag fleet to put fish into that plant because they were FSM flagged, and FSM expected them to support domestic development to create employment. So, this appeared to be more of an internal issue to the USA, including in terms of how they should address it.
450. American Samoa understood some of these concerns. Operationally it had been mentioned the FAD closures resulted in the vessels going east, further away from American Samoa, which meant it was much more economical for them to deliver to other ports. And American Samoa was seeking this exemption with the hope that all the fish would be landed in Pago Pago, and hopefully some of the other vessels that had reflagged would be drawn back. There used to be 40 vessels but currently there were only 12 that had been identified as key components to the economy of American Samoa. And it had been asked how would this be ensured? That would be part of the process when the criteria for eligibility for those 12 vessels are developed, and American Samoa would be working together with the USA to ensure that any benefit would remain in the Territory and not go anywhere else.
451. The Marshall Islands, speaking for itself and not on behalf of FFA CCMs, said that they heard American Samoa and must assist where they could. This proposal came with the assurance that it would guarantee that the problem that American Samoa faced would be solved, or at least addressed, in working with the USA to condition this supply, and that hopefully the vessels would eventually offload most, if not all of their catch in Pago Pago. American Samoa should be rest assured that the issue was understood – the linkages – the migration of vessels across the WCPFC and to the EPO. The Marshall Islands therefore wondered if this would be the ultimate resolution of the issue faced by American Samoa over a number of years. If that was the case, working with American Samoa to make those conditions that would eventually help it, then by all means, Marshall Islands would stand by American Samoa and their proposal. They also noted that there were other moving parts that needed to be considered, and no one component could be considered in isolation. There was a package. There was a pending longline provision that also needed to be addressed, and also – in a separate context – there was the USA-FFA Multilateral Tuna Treaty. But for purposes of the proposed exemption footnote, for the period that is being considered, and with a review process, these would eventually address the issue that American Samoa ought to be looking at in terms of the supply chain of the US vessels. The Marshall Islands had a sense that there was a guarantee there by their brothers from American Samoa working with the USA. And so RMI supported the footnote, if that would make ends meet, and of course with the conditions that had been mentioned that would eventually help American Samoa, its Government, and its people.
452. FSM said they wanted to support American Samoa. They certainly wanted to address the issue of disproportionate burden. They were Small Island Developing States Pacific Islanders, and so it was important for FSM to see them succeed. FSM would plan to support this exemption but wanted some kind of assurances, first. First of all, the FSM asked for reports to the Secretariat on which vessels would be granted this exemption on their landings in American Samoa. Secondly, the FSM would like to know exactly how many days were being sought to

- support the American Samoa landings. And they sought assurance that when the days were known, the Commission would be looking at the US high seas effort limits in Table 2, and looking to revise it down so that those fleets continue to use those days for landings in American Samoa. If that was the understanding about what American Samoa and the USA were seeking, FSM would be able to support it.
453. The USA had the ability to report on days and landings and could fulfil that reporting requirement, as well as the rule-making process that would be undertaken as soon as this footnote might be agreed. But FSM would have to reserve comment on Table 2 at the moment.
454. The European Union said this was a difficult proposal to consider when they had many times expressed the difficulties that they had with exemptions that were not properly framed and which did not provide sufficient assurance that they would achieve their intent. That being said, they fully understood the challenges faced by American Samoa, and also believed that there needed to be a way to address their concerns as much as possible, be that through the Commission or through USA domestic processes. At the same time, if this issue was so important to the USA, they wondered why it had been left to the last minute of the last hour of a very long meeting to discuss this matter: after all, other topics had been debated intensively – the longline issues, the FAD closures etc. Why did they not start at the beginning of the meeting, so there was enough time to try to find a way to accommodate the concerns of American Samoa. In addition to that, why come here with a proposal which was simply not substantiated enough or robust enough for the plan to be completely understood. The USA was requesting the Commission to provide an immense exception to the USA fleet without having established any process but promising that everything would be done afterwards. It would have been so much easier for the Commission if the process had already been designed and brought forward for consideration, to give us confidence that there was already a plan that would be implemented and monitored, with a list of the vessels participating in the plan, and the conditions of their participation etc. These elements were all missing so a decision on this would be very difficult. With all good will, the EU delegation did not know how to approach this. If around the room there was a consensus emerging to support this exemption, the EU delegation would not oppose. But they wanted to make it very clear that this was a very difficult proposal for the EU to accept and they hoped that it would really serve the purpose that was supposed to serve, and that it will benefit American Samoa.
455. Fiji said that all CCMs knew the value of what the footnote represented, and as stated by their EU colleagues, they also thought this should have been discussed by the Commission earlier, noting all the complexities around what would and what would not work. Also, the Commission had learned from the USA in response to colleagues from Tuvalu that they were willing to scale the effort limits down if that the footnote was agreed. Noting all that and the questions raised by FSM about the details of how this would be operationalized, it would have been expected that more time would be available to discuss this. But, as some had stated, there was just not enough time remaining to actually assess how this would be progressed, with all the uncertainties arising around the floor. In agreeing with the comments from the European Union, Fiji stated that the uncertainties limited their ability to actually commit or to support the proposal that was being put forward.
456. The Chair was getting a sense of general support with respect to the proposal by American Samoa regarding the new exemption footnote. There was also some concern regarding process. So perhaps what was needed for some conditions to be added, such as “the United States shall provide information to the Secretariat of the catches and landings of all vessels notified under this provision”, in addition to the footnote. That text was being provided to help address the concern that has been expressed by some CCMs.

457. New Zealand had heard concern from a number of CCMs about how exactly this footnote would be implemented in the face of the existing 1,270 high seas purse seine days allocated to the USA – the highest high seas limit of any CCM in Table 2. NZ didn't think the addition of the requirement to report catch – which is an obligation anyway – would add to the understanding of how the USA would use its 1,270 days, alongside the “US-flagged vessels notified as operating as an integral part of the American Samoa economy” which would be exempt from the high seas purse seine limit. It was not clear what the total high seas effort limit might end up being for the USA.
458. The Federated States of Micronesia was not really sure where the discussion was leading, and as New Zealand and Fiji and others had pointed out, there were some issues and concerns being raised. The text that had been provided by the Chair on notification of landings in American Samoa was appreciated, but the previous FSM intervention had also been about the number of high seas purse seine days that might end up being used by USA vessels through these exemptions. They wanted to know something like the declared number of days that would be utilised to create that particular incentive. And the Commission didn't just need to simply receive reports about the landings of the vessels notified under this exemption. The use of the days must be for landings in American Samoa and this fish should not go anywhere else. If this exemption was to be applied, it had to be directly beneficial to American Samoa. Any vessel notified and allowed a certain number of high seas days under the exemption, must unload in American Samoa. That was the kind of assurance that FSM could agree to at this late stage of the meeting.
459. The USA said that they couldn't initiate a rule-making in the absence of the footnote because the process required them to go through a public, very transparent, very rigorous process of defining how it would be implemented. And it was recognised that this was a constraint that the USA had. The USA delegation's inability to make certain commitments was tied to the public rule-making process that could alter some of those things. That said, the USA delegation thought that what it had been hearing were concerns that the USA also shared, and also wanted to ensure that this would benefit American Samoa. They were committed to working hand in hand with American Samoa to achieve this. The USA held its fleet to a very high standard, and they met many more expectations across the Commission because of the rigorous process they applied to their own fleet. But the delegation at this meeting could not provide specific assurances before going through the public rule-making process that would provide the very granular assurances that were being sought.
460. The EU stated that it had hoped that American Samoa and the USA would have been able to estimate the quantity of raw material necessary for the cannery to have an economically viable operation – how many trips, how many vessels etc, and that kind of information would have made it a lot easier for the EU to support the request. The EU preference was to have an assurance that vessels using these exemptions would be required to land all of their catch in American Samoa and this assurance would have made it a lot easier to agree.
461. The Chair thought there was general support and that it was only a matter of process that needed to be worked out.
462. American Samoa felt that the EU had made good points and felt at fault for not clarifying some of this information earlier. About 70-75% of the fish required by the cannery is supplied by these 12 vessels.
463. The Chair suggested additional text be added to Table 2 and the draft footnote to read “Those US flag vessels notified under this provision shall land catches under this exception in American Samoa.”

464. The EU proposed that this draft wording be amended to “Those US flag vessels notified under this provision shall land all their catches taken under this exemption in American Samoa”.
465. The USA asked for a few minutes to consult internally on this because it was a complex issue to address.
466. Fiji recognised the comments made by colleagues from the USA and also reflected on the question asked earlier by colleagues from Tuvalu. The USA had stated that more time was needed because of the complexity of the issue. This was exactly the question they had been asked, in terms of confirmation that these exempted vessels will land all their catch in American Samoa during the FAD closure to address the disproportionate burden faced by colleagues from American Samoa.
467. After consultation the USA suggested substituting the originally proposed footnote text of “Except for US flagged vessels operating as an integral part of the American Samoan economy” with the following text: “On a per trip basis the high seas days from a US flagged vessel landing its catch in American Samoa shall not be attributed to the US limit in Table 2.”
468. The Federated States of Micronesia thought that this sounded even more open-ended.
469. After giving some time for further comment, and receiving none, the Chair noted that although there had been early support for this proposal, it was well past midnight and there was now clearly no consensus, so the status quo – the existing Tables 1 and 2 of CMM 2021-01 would remain.
470. The USA said it was disappointed that after hearing about the effects of disproportionate burden on the members of this Commission, and working in good faith to address it, it was shameful that the same rights were not being afforded to their territory.
471. The Chair moved on to paragraph 28bis in the Chair’s tropical tuna measure consultative draft where it was agreed that if any of the baseline fishing conditions specified in 1.b) of the Harvest Control Rules of the Skipjack Tuna Management Procedure CMM were exceeded, the CMM would be amended to make sure they were maintained.
472. The Chair noted there was not yet any consensus on paras 35bis to 35quater and these had been considered by the Longline MCS Small Working Group. If there was no consensus then the status quo, which was existing paragraphs 31-35, would remain.
473. New Zealand took the meeting back to paragraph 26, where they assumed that “status quo” would also apply here, since the proposed amendment at the end of the paragraph had not been considered yet. New Zealand’s view was that the amendments at the end of paragraph 26 should be deleted, and the paragraph should remain as it is, because the overall baseline fishing conditions for the skipjack management procedure were covered in 28bis, which had been agreed.
474. The Chair agreed that paragraphs 25 and 26 would remain status quo.
475. The Chair repeated that if there was no consensus on 35bis onwards then paragraph 35 the status quo would apply. The same with paragraphs 36 to 40: no change.
476. The PNA Office sought some clarity because they understood that paragraph 35quater was part of the discussion on the increased observer coverage related to the increased catches, and that would stay open.

477. The Chair said that there was no consensus on 35ter and 35quater but there was already agreement regarding electronic recording of catch to come into effect next year as a result of CMM 2022-06 and it was proposed to repeat that in the Tropical Tuna CMM in 35ter. If there was no opposition this would be reflected in the TT CMM.
478. Japan pointed out that paragraphs 31-35 should remain as the status quo because there was no consensus among CCMs and the proposed language from the longline small working group on longline MCS paragraphs would be for consideration in 2024.
479. In response to a question from the WCPFC Chair, the Chair of the Longline MCS Small Working Group said that the SWG looked at 35bis and 35ter and there were some comments, but the group had not been able to finish discussing 35quater. The results had been posted to the secure drafts of the meeting webpage. Several CCMs had thought 35bis was beneficial but some had problems with implementation challenges. And there was a proposal from the USA to insert a footnote allowing electronic means for notification of high seas entry and exit and other MCS data gaps. For 35ter some CCMs considered that there was already a decision on this in CMM 2022-06, and so this was redundant, whilst others believed that it should be referenced and that it did not create any additional obligation. On the last longline MCS amendment, 35quater, PNAO had already suggested leaving it open, so it needed to be returned to later as it was part of another negotiation.
480. The Chair understood that 35ter was part and parcel of a package being discussed, and that 35bis and 35ter could be removed but 35quater would remain for the time being.
481. FSM agreed that they had held off on removing 35quater, because they had been looking to see what the outcome would be on other elements of the tropical tuna measure. But there was now a footnote in Table 3 on the issue of the phased observer coverage, so the 30% observer coverage here could be changed to the 10% needed in order to increase catch limit.
482. Japan proposed deleting paragraph 35ter because the increase in longline observer coverage from 5% to 10% would be required only for those who wanted to increase their bigeye catch, and the observer coverage was being discussed under Table 3. Korea agreed, and the Chair ruled that 35ter would be deleted.
483. Japan wanted it to be confirmed that 35bis, 35ter and 35quater were all deleted. The Chair understood that was the case.
484. Going back to paragraph 41, it was confirmed that the FFA proposal to postpone the development of the allocation framework by 3 years from the dates contained in CMM 2021-01 had been accepted.
485. For paragraph 47 Indonesia had added a footnote that their large fish handline limit would be 12,682 t. Indonesia understood that some CCMs felt it needed more work, so Indonesia could agree to leave it out and address it later. Indonesia was working with SPC on this but understood that it might take time to reach agreement.
486. On Paragraph 52, the Chair sought agreement on the duration of application of the new measure. FFA CCMs and China had proposed from 16th February 2024 to 15th February 2027, while the USA had proposed that the CMM would remain in effect until replaced or amended by the Commission.
487. Tuvalu said they would prefer the measure was in force for three years. China also preferred the three years. The Chair noted the preference for three years. There was no objection so the duration of three years, until 15 February 2027, was agreed.

488. Before moving the issue of the “package”, the Chair drew attention to the Attachment describing the Measure for the Philippines – Attachment 2 in CMM 2021-01, where there was a small wording change proposed by the Philippines (to remove “traditional” and substitute “fresh ice/chilled”).
489. Tuvalu did not agree. This was a long-standing debate. FFA CCMs had originally agreed to this special exemption for the Philippines from the Western High Seas Pocket closure specifically for these *traditional* vessels and was not intended to be extended to other vessels using different refrigeration.
490. After waiting for any response, the Chair noted there was no agreement on this amendment so the status quo would apply.
491. The Philippines noted that it was very late, and their request had been made many times and they had explained that they were not asking for additional days but simply asking the Commission to help them save all of the fish they were already catching, as 20% were being lost. This was very difficult for the Philippines. Every other CCM had something to go home with apart from the Philippines. The delegation was under strict instructions from their Secretary to make this very reasonable request, but found one of their colleagues continuing to block this request.
492. The Chair did understand the Philippines proposal but there was no consensus on that so, unfortunately: status quo.
493. The Philippines said that it was very difficult to agree to any measure without consideration of this very simple request.
494. The Chair noted that this Attachment 2 proposed change would be held open for the time being. The Chair’s hands were tied in the absence of consensus.
495. Tokelau noted that the Chair’s summation was correct and that there was no consensus. This was a special arrangement that PNA and Tokelau had always understood was set up to protect the livelihoods of fishers who had traditionally operated ice vessels in this area. If the Philippines wished to delete the reference to these vessels, it made one wonder if the special arrangement itself was still required. And so, to maintain the arrangement they suggested a rollover without the deletion. Otherwise, the whole of Attachment 2 could be deleted.
496. China, in the interests of compromise, suggested letting the Philippines replace half their fresh fish vessels with freezer vessels.
497. The Philippines thanked China for offering language that the Philippines might consider but still didn’t know why they could not be granted their request since the number and size of vessels would remain the same. At the moment they were losing 30%, 20-30%, of the fish they were catching on the high seas. It would be very difficult to go back home and say that it had not been possible to negotiate on this. This was an UNFSA treaty obligation to ensure that resources were not wasted. They appealed to the understanding of the meeting that this was not something that should be taken away from them or denied to them.
498. The Chair said that unless there were views supporting the Philippines request there would be no change to Attachment 2. PNA and Tokelau CCMs had said there was no support. No further views were expressed across the floor.
499. The Chair moved discussion on to the final PNA and Tokelau proposals regarding the FAD closures described in paragraphs 14 and 15, which were agreed as amended.

500. The Chair moved the meeting on to Table 3 of Attachment 1, to consider the latest proposals from the PNA and Tokelau CCMs and the longline group of CCMs.
501. Korea thanked all who had worked very hard on this. They had some doubts that the 1.5 month FAD closure removal and the 10% longline catch increase was the right balance, but for the sake of time and in the interests of cooperation could go along with this package with a small alteration: to change the time frame from “December of the year prior to fishing operations” before the fishing year to the “end of February of the year of fishing operations”.
502. Indonesia had closely followed the discussion regarding an increase in longline bigeye catch and a balanced decrease in the FAD closure period and asked for the following statement to be entered into the Summary Report as follows:
- “The options in the (evaluation of potential long-term outcomes for bigeye tuna depletion of proposed purse seine FAD closure periods and longline Table 3 catch limit changes) provided by SPC as reference, inform that all options fall below the CMM 2021-01 objective (2012-2015 average levels = $0.34SB_{F=0}$) for long term.”
- “In our view, the Commission still needs to be precautionary to increase the catch level of LL BET and reduce the FAD closure in the WCPO, taking into account the uncertainties about the stock.”
- “However, there are still some options at, or above $0.34 SB_{F=0}$, that may provide room for some increase of catch for the short term. Therefore, we urge that this change be considered only for short-term mitigation and not as a long-term solution and be subject to be reassessment and evaluation.”
503. Korea addressed Indonesia's comment with the recollection that Indonesia had made that same statement in the small working group, but it was never agreed by the group. So rather than having those points in the measure itself, Korea welcomed Indonesia's attributed statement being included in the meeting report.
504. The EU understood that this proposed wording in Table 3 was the product of agreement between the members involved, and so was not envisaging to oppose that. But for the record it wanted to express some concerns: the first was that this suggested provision now allowed something that the Commission had clearly prevented under the previous paragraph 9, which specifically did not allow the derivation of fishing rights allocation. The EU wanted to stress that it was concerned by that development that was going against the spirit of the previous paragraph 9. The second point was the bizarre proportionate link between increase in observer coverage and increase in catch, and they would not like the Commission to set a precedent that these two issues are supposed to be linked. For the EU it was essential that observer coverage percentage be increased, in particular for the longline fisheries, whether or not there is an increase in catch. The last point was that when this text was first proposed it was not clear whether there was a clear understanding that this arrangement did not allow the limit, that was now proposed for the United States, to be further increased. So, a footnote was proposed to indicate that this would not be the case and the EU suggested that it is added for clarity.
505. The Chair noted the EU concerns, and they would be recorded in the Summary Report.
506. France referred to the process of trying to find a consensus in the process of agreeing an increase in the USA bigeye catch limit, where France's overseas territories would be more comfortable if a footnote was added to the Table. They had worked with others on the two alternative wording proposals and thanked the United States and other delegations for their

constructive input, which had been very much appreciated. They wanted to bring this footnote proposal to the meeting for discussion.

507. The proposed alternatively worded footnotes to Table 3 of Attachment 1 were put on the screen as follows:

["In accordance with the deletion of para 9, catch and effort of U.S. flagged Hawaii based longline vessels will no longer be attributed to US Participating Territories. If, in the future, the US territories wish to establish an allocation separate from the US allocation, this shall be considered by the Commission."]

[ALT: "In accordance with the deletion of para 9 of CMM 2021-01, catch and effort of U.S. flagged Hawaii based longline vessels will no longer be attributed to US Participating Territories. Future allocation for the US Territories shall remain separate."]

508. Tuvalu said they supported the intention of the first footnote provided by France. They were also keen to see that this transfer of attributed fishing limits didn't happen again. One way would be the footnote that France had suggested. Another way would be to go back to paragraph 9 and instead of saying that "catch and effort of United States flag vessels *shall* be attributed", to simply say, "*shall not* be attributed to participating territories", and then the second sentence would be deleted. But either way they supported the intention.
509. The USA noted that although they had worked closely with France on the language, the first option was not one they could work with, but they could work with the second.
510. New Caledonia asked to go back to the current set of footnotes in Table 3 and asked if the word "or" between "human and/or electronic coverage" could be removed from the third proposed footnote ("any observer coverage above 5% can be achieved by human and/or electronic coverage").
511. China did not agree with the New Caledonia proposal because the "or" was important for them. And on France's proposed footnote intended to assist US Participating Territories, China had difficulties with any interpretation regarding future allocations based on the Convention. China felt that allocation should be only for the members.
512. The European Union drew attention to the sentence in the Table 3 footnotes that said, "any increase in bigeye catch levels up to 10% by a CCM except for the United States in Table 3 shall correspond with a proportional increase of observer coverage" and said that they had expressed concern that this might not be understood. This text might be understood to mean that the USA could increase its current levels, or the levels allowed by the new measure without any proportional increase. They understood that the USA wasn't looking for a proportional increase because they didn't need it, but it was allowed for under the current text, and the EU had suggested a footnote to clarify that the new catch limit established for the USA under this provision would not be increased due to any of the provisions that are proposed there. It was the EU view that this was not clear in the current sentence they had just outlined.
513. French Polynesia made a suggestion to try and address the concern expressed by China about the implications of the word "allocation" in connection with territories and suggested that this be replaced with "attribution" in the footnote proposed by France.
514. The USA wanted to make two points. They had always been clear that they were not seeking any other increase. They had not been the ones removing the language related to the United States, although they agreed that it was becoming confused. So, they would be fine with a

simple sentence that said the United States would not be seeking to increase its catch limit. That had been their position throughout these discussions, and they were fine for it to be reflected. On France's footnote, they could live with "allocation" changing to "attribution" if that gave some comfort to others to support agreement.

515. China thanked French Polynesia for the suggestion. They understood that participating territories did not pay contributions. But of the members' contributions, 30% was based on the catch. If the future contribution of the catch was attributed to the US territory it would add to the financial obligation of the territory to pay contributions based on the catch. So that was why they thought they could not agree with that suggestion.
516. The EU wanted to suggest a small amendment to capture the point they had been making before. For the second proposed footnote in Table 3 they proposed to say: "for the USA and for those who maintain a 5% observer coverage, no catch increase is allowed". They considered this should be an easy fix.
517. New Zealand thanked France for putting forward the proposed footnote. New Zealand thought this footnote useful and that it provided more clarity about what was intended. More certainty was needed about what this whole issue meant and what it might mean in the future. New Zealand thought the first version of the French footnote was clearer, in the sense that it was talking about what might happen in the future and "attribution" was the more appropriate word there. But New Zealand thought it was appropriate to have this elaboration of what was intended with regard to the USA Limit.
518. The EU agreed with New Zealand.
519. The USA said again that they had worked closely with France on the language but could not accept the first alternative but could accept the second ("In accordance with the deletion of para 9 of CMM 2021-01, catch and effort of US flagged Hawaii-based longliners will no longer be attributed to US participating territories, future attribution for the US territories shall remain separate"). It would probably be helpful in the interests of time to focus on the alternative that the US could accept.
520. China, in the interests of time and the spirit of cooperation could go along with the second of the France-proposed footnotes, using the term "attribution" instead of "allocation".
521. The USA suggested that with this addition of the France text agreed as amended, that the fourth asterisk point now be deleted which said "the US limit will be attributed fully to the United States" since that was now covered by the addition by France.
522. FSM pointed out that the reference to a "for example, a 2.5% increase in observer ..." should read "for example, a 2.5 percentage point increase in observer ...".
523. There was no objection to this correction and the Chair asked if the meeting could decide on removing the bracketed "[above 5%]" in the sentence following the one FSM had just mentioned.
524. Japan made a drafting change to the sentence for the purpose of clarity: "[Those CCMs which increase its observer coverage above 5% up to 10% can increase its catch limit up to 10% proportionately to its observer coverage increase"]
525. Korea felt this change by Japan was quite different from the understanding that Korea had of the discussion in the group. Korea was of the view that the proposed text from Japan could be read to mean that the increase in observer coverage would have to be verified before any

increase in bigeye catch could be allowed. The penalty clause was to account for CCMs which had overfished their limit before increasing observer coverage. Korea preferred that the original text before the Japan drafting change be retained. Alternatively, it could be expressed as “those CCMs wishing to increase their bigeye catch limits shall increase their observer coverage in a proportionate manner” or words to that effect.

526. China felt that the Japanese proposal was clearer.
527. After further discussion on the finer points of the footnotes in Table 3 of Attachment 1, the text of Table 3 was agreed.
528. The Chair stated that the final step, now that bigeye longline details had been agreed, would be to remove paragraph 9 of the Chair’s consultative draft relating to “catches and effort of United States flagged vessels operating under agreements with its Participating Territories”.
529. The USA, on the understanding that Table 3 of Attachment 1 had been agreed as discussed, could agree to the removal of paragraph 9.
530. With that, the Chair sought confirmation that a revised Tropical Tuna Measure was ready for adoption.
531. The Philippines took the floor to explain that, in case CCMs were under the impression that it was the catcher vessels that were going to be using freezers, it was only the carrier (the mothership of the group seiner) and asked for the Philippines proposal regarding Attachment 2 to be considered again on the basis that the proposal did not seem to be very well understood by other CCMs. It had been their impression over the last four days that this proposal had already been agreed. In fact, the last draft indicated that this was a measure that had been agreed to.
532. The Chair noted that it had already been agreed, because there was no consensus on the Philippines proposal, to roll over Attachment 2 without change. And even if the meeting were to agree to reopen it, the Chair did not think it would achieve consensus. The decision of the Chair was that Attachment 2 was rolling over, but that was the Chair’s view and of course the Commission might have other views. She sought the view of the Commission. Would CCMs agree with that proposed decision?
533. The Chair took it that the silence meant that the status quo on Attachment 2 would apply. She then asked for confirmation from the Commission that the consultative draft of the tropical tuna CMM, as discussed and amended by this Annual Session, was adopted?
534. The Philippines said that before considering whether they could join such a consensus, their delegation would have to request some time to consult with their headquarters.
535. The Chair granted the request and asked delegates to return to plenary after a short recess requested by the Philippines.
536. The Philippines said they had consulted with Tokelau and China as well as headquarters and that they would like to agree to the suggestion by China that half of the vessels that are currently allowed to operate on the high seas (18 out of 36 vessels) be allowed to be refrigerated. The Philippines emphasised that it was not the fishing vessels but purely the carrier that takes the fish to the Philippines that would be changed purely from ice to refrigeration.

537. Tuvalu said that the suggestion had been heard. Perhaps if this had been brought at an earlier stage with a proper proposal on how this was going to be done, which vessels, what would be the impact on catches, what would be the impact on the capacity of the fleet etc then maybe it could have been given more serious consideration. Perhaps the Philippines could bring the proposal back in that way on another occasion. But Tuvalu didn't think this was really the time and didn't think members of the Commission appreciated being almost held to ransom over this issue. Members recalled very clearly that these vessels were operating in a closed area. This area was closed to purse-seining by all other CCMs. Philippines had been given this special concession because they said that there was a fleet of ice boats that had traditionally fished there, and they wanted to be allowed to continue fishing there, and that was why this concession was granted. If we change now to freezer boats, possibly next year there will be another request. Would that be for larger vessels? Would it be for something else? This was a limited one-off concession that was granted at the time under special circumstances. Tuvalu had not been able to consult with all FFA colleagues, but there had always been a clear view from the FFA that that this proposal was not acceptable and requested the Secretariat to advise on what – in circumstances where one member was blocking consensus on a major measure – would be the next step?
538. The Chair asked the Commission Legal Advisor to provide some guidance.
539. Legal Advisor said that the Convention and the rules of procedure provided that, where all efforts to reach consensus had been exhausted, then there was a possibility of going to a vote. The process was that the Chair had to first make a determination that all efforts to reach consensus had been exhausted, and then the Chair must set a time-frame for the taking of a vote. That might be in a short period of time, given the lateness of the hour. And then a vote would be taken where members of the Commission vote by secret ballot. This particular issue would be a matter of substance and so there would be a requirement for a three-quarters majority in each of the two chambers – one chamber being the FFA CCMs and the other being all non-FFA CCMs. She also noted that the standard procedure is to have credentials from each CCM, and this had been mentioned by the Finance and Administration Manager at the beginning of the meeting. These credentials were required for voting so that is one reason why the Secretariat asked for all members to provide written credentials, in the event that a vote would take place.
540. China pointed out that, based on Paragraph 4, Article 10 of the Convention⁶, exclusion of any type of fishing vessel should be decided by consensus. China hoped that the measure could be agreed to by consensus.
541. Korea had a very serious concern about the procedure being proposed. Korea believed that at some point the Chair mentioned that the measure was adopted, and then the Philippines raised their flag and made their objection, and that was not how things are done. Once a measure was adopted, it could not be reopened. So, they wished to ask if it was confirmed that the measure had been adopted before the Philippines raised that issue again. On another issue for example the US made their request on the American Samoa issue on day one. They had reached out to a number of members to convince them of the need for consideration, but they had yielded in the end because consensus was important. However, Korea had never been approached by the Philippines on this issue, and, speaking honestly, Korea did not fully grasp the implications of this further exemption, and did not fully understand what the issue

⁶ “4. The Commission may adopt decisions relating to the allocation of the total allowable catch or the total level of fishing effort. Such decisions, including decisions relating to the exclusion of vessel types, shall be taken by consensus.” (from Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention)

- was. So, without knowing what the implication and the issue was exactly, Korea could not agree.
542. China proposed that language be added to Attachment 2 that would allow the carrier to be a freezer vessel because they understood that in this group seine fishing operation, as mentioned by friends from the Philippines that currently the carrier that provided the transshipment for the fishing vessel also has no refrigeration. So that had created the problem. So maybe some language could be added that would allow the mother-boats carrying the fish to have refrigeration, which could help in reaching a consensus.
543. Responding to Korea, the Philippines had thought this proposal had been fully understood since it had been brought several times before the Commission. They hoped everyone would support their proposal to use refrigerated carriers – these were not fishing vessels but carriers⁷.
544. Korea noted that the meeting had heard from the Legal Advisor, and that CCMs needed to respect the Legal Advisor. Korea agreed with her interpretation and thus had different views from the interpretation of China. Concerning Rule 23, paragraph, 4: Decisions relating to the allocation of total allowable catch or the total level of fishing effort. Then looking at the measure itself, this was related to high seas purse-seine effort. In this case no total hard limit was set, and there was no allocation decision. So, in that case Korea's interpretation was that the Commission could go ahead and take a vote.
545. The European Union responded to the comments made by China that the Commission would not be excluding any vessels because it was the EU's understanding that ice vessels were already in the measure and the Philippines had made a proposal to include a different type of vessels not foreseen in the current measure, therefore it would not be removing them from the measure. So, they did not agree with the interpretation made by China. The Philippines had also made reference to last year's meeting, so the EU had checked the meeting papers and the Delegation Paper from 2022 was only one page and there was no detailed information included. It simply referred to documents submitted in 2015, and it was likely that many participants at the present meeting were not attending that meeting in 2015. So it was difficult to accept that the Commission was considered to be fully informed by a reference last year to a paper in 2015. The EU was seeking flexibility to get the Commission through this difficult moment.
546. The Philippines asked for time to consult with the EU because if what they said was true then some flexibility was justified.
547. Nauru agreed with the sentiments expressed by Tuvalu and also the concerns raised by Korea on the process. This was a special exemption for the traditional vessels, and if anything needs to be changed then it should go through a proper review process. Tinkering with it at a late hour would not help. If the special arrangement given to the Philippines in High Seas Pocket One was no longer fit for its intended purpose, then Nauru suggested that the Commission either review it or remove it. Nauru noted that it had lost count of how many times the Chair had identified no consensus on this matter.
548. The Philippines said that after consultation within their delegation, as well as with their headquarters, they regretted that they had fallen short of reaching out to everyone, which seemed to be the main reason for the lack of support. They thanked the EU for having researched the information provided and understood that had they been better prepared and

⁷ The motherships of the traditional group-seine operations.

reached out more seriously, this situation could have been avoided. For that reason, despite the earlier indication of the delegation that they might not be able to join everybody in the consensus, and understanding the level of effort that was put forward by many members of this Commission, the Philippine delegation could not in good conscience continue to block consensus. They hadn't obtained what they had been hoping for, but in the interest of consensus and amicable settlement, as well as maintaining relationships and cooperation at this Commission, the Philippines would support the measure.

549. The Commission adopted CMM 2023-01, attached at **Attachment 3**.
550. The Commission tasked the FADMO-IWG to consider requirements for the transmission of satellite buoy data from drifting FADs in 2024 to promote effective and sustainable FAD management in the WCPFC.

10.3 Process to develop an Allocation Framework under CMM 2021-01

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-17](#)

551. The Chair briefly presented working paper 17, noting that this paper is a recommendation for a process for developing an allocation framework for WCPO tropical tuna fisheries and stocks, not a proposal for the allocation framework itself.
552. It was expected that this would be a multi-year process, and it was proposed that at least one virtual workshop would be held in 2024 to begin the process of developing allocation frameworks in accordance with a proposed workplan. This workshop should aim to narrow down the criteria, consider options for allocation, and identify the data required to progress the discussions on allocation, and the sequence of events after that might be:

Year 1

- i. Narrow down proposed allocation criteria to identify core criteria, supplemented by additional criteria that CCMs consider essential.
- ii. Identify data needs to assist in operationalising the agreed criteria.
- iii. Discuss how the criteria for allocation will be used in an allocation framework.
- iv. Consider elements of an allocation framework including the needs of developing and/or coastal States, eligibility for allocations, the priority to be given to different fisheries/stocks, the metric for allocations, and the use of allocations.

Year 2

- i. Consider the data identified to assist in operationalising the agreed criteria.
- ii. Agree on how the criteria for allocation will be used in an allocation framework.
- iii. Agree on elements of an allocation framework including the needs of developing and/or coastal States, eligibility for allocations, the priority to be given to different fisheries/stocks, the metric for allocations, and the use of allocations.

Year 3 – Implement the allocation framework through agreement on the allocation of hard limits and their incorporation in conservation and management measures.

553. Korea thanked the Chair for proposing a framework but was worried that it would take a very long time to achieve this. The need for allocation was urgent and the tropical tuna CMM had already extended the original 2019 deadline to 2023. However, a phased approach, with interim limits could address this and the interim limits suggested by Korea ([Proposed changes to CMM 2021-01](#), and [Proposed Interim Allocation Arrangement for High seas PS effort limit](#)) might be considered.

554. Tokelau on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked and acknowledged the work by the WCPFC Chair on this proposed approach. It was important that, for sustainable management, effective measures to control and allocate fishing effort and catch limits were implemented. Setting a high seas hard limit for the purse seine fishery was a priority for FFA CCMs, and subsequent allocation of the hard limit would be needed. Accordingly, FFA CCMs supported the suggested workshop approach as a starting point for discussions on allocation. The proposed workplan required a substantial amount of effort, so they recommended a phased approach, and that the workshop proposed for 2024 be held in 2026. FFA CCMs noted that all previous tropical tuna CMMs had included high seas exemptions for SIDS so as to avoid unfairly limiting SIDS development rights. These exemptions were fundamental to the adoption and ongoing agreement. However, they recognised that these exemptions also introduced uncertainty and risk and in this context they had long supported allocation under a hard overall limit as a pathway to being able to do away with these exemptions. FFA CCMs felt it essential for all CCMs to be on board with the proposed approach and actively involved in the development process. They encouraged transparent communication and collaboration among all CCMs to ensure the success of this work.
555. Japan was generally supportive of the Chair's proposal for a 3-year timeline. It could be a complicated discussion and different for species and fisheries. The schedule for next year was very busy and it might even take longer to complete the allocation process.
556. PNA and Tokelau CCMs reinforced the FFA statement. They appreciated working paper 17 because allocation frameworks needed to be discussed. They considered that allocation was an important element of effective long term management arrangements for the region's tuna fisheries. They agreed that workshops, rather than an IWG, were the appropriate way to advance work on these allocation frameworks. However, PNA and Tokelau did not at this point support prioritising allocation in the way proposed by WP17. Like other CCMs, PNA and Tokelau CCMs had made a very large commitment to work on allocation since the time when paras 27 and 41 were included in the TTM in 2017. That investment had not been productive. PNA and Tokelau supported the FFA proposal to hold the next allocation workshop in 2026, and their support for any longer-term programme of work would depend on the 2026 workshop in almost exactly the same way proposed in paragraph 13 of WP17. This would mean that the workplan and the holding of future workshops would be decided at WCPFC23 in the light of progress made at the 2026 workshop.
557. The EU wanted to clarify that the Chair's proposal was only for Tropical Tuna, and if so, then would broadly support it. The Chair's proposed sequence of events needed to start as soon as possible because allocation was very important. The EU would also like to see the definition of an appropriate hard limit for purse-seine effort, but they did not think it would be appropriate to have an Olympic allocation (first come first served) process for the WCPO high seas. This would create a rush for fish that in the long term would undermine the conservation of the stocks while putting the fishermen at risk through increased competition.
558. The Chair clarified that this proposed allocation process was under the tropical tuna measure. She also noted that a number of CCMs had not been supportive of the proposed way forward and, if there was no appetite for this, the way ahead would need to be reconsidered. To that end, an alternative proposal could be developed.
559. Several CCMs said that they had supported the Chair in everything but timing, since it was clear that this would be a difficult process and other issues were on the priority agenda for next year, following several years of lack of progress on allocation. The USA suggested that the workshop proposed by the Chair be deferred by one year to 2025, which would then make 2029 the target for implementation.

560. Niue thanked the Chair for the proposal and said that Niue continued to support allocation as priority for WCPFC. Noting views around the floor they also welcomed most of those suggestions, from US, China and FFA, about the way forward. They noted that the allocation framework would also be a pathway towards the removal of the exemptions that were currently necessary to ensure small island developing States' fishery development rights, and it would require careful negotiation to maintain the balance between the expectations of developed and developing participants. It was also an essential component of the pathway towards a comprehensive management framework that would give substance to the Harvest Strategy Approach. The longer the Commission continued to put this aside, the more difficult it would become.
561. Korea amplified the points made by the European Union. They also wondered how the Commission would ensure that the iSKJ MP was implemented without having hard limits applicable to all CCMs. The MP was already adopted and already in interim operation, and Korea believed that it was important.
562. The Chair proposed the following text as an output of this discussion:
- “The Commission noted the need to progress the development of allocation frameworks and the time that will be required to conclude such efforts and agreed to a phased approach to the development of criteria for allocation, elements of an allocation framework and implementation of the frameworks commencing in 2026.”
563. The Marshall Islands as chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee noted that the preference of FFA CCMs was indeed 2026. FSM supported RMI, noting that SIDS were challenged by their capacity to work on all the issues concurrently, and that harvest strategies were the immediate priority. 2026 would be a good time to restart the high seas allocation framework discussions.
564. The EU was concerned that this decision text did not capture one of their key concerns: the need to tie this particular process to the tropical tuna measure and also, as had been expressed by paragraph 27 of the tropical tuna measure, to work on defining hard limits as well as on allocation of those limits.
565. Korea, noting FFA preference to restart in 2026, made it clear that this should not preclude any CCM from making proposals to be considered at WCPFC21 and WCPFC22 and for the results of that discussion being made available to the 2026 allocation workshops.
566. After an insertion prioritising allocation work under the Tropical Tuna Measure, the following decision was adopted by the Commission:
567. The Commission noted the need to progress the development of allocation frameworks, particularly for the tropical tunas, and the time that will be required to conclude such efforts and agreed to a phased approach to the development of criteria for allocation, elements of an allocation framework, and implementation of the frameworks, commencing in 2026.

10.4 Update Harvest Strategy Work Plan

568. The [Harvest Strategy Work Plan](#) was taken as read and discussed in the margins throughout the meeting.

569. In response to the Chairs' invitation for comments under this agenda item, the Cook Islands opened the discussion and spoke on behalf of FFA CCMs, noting that they remained committed to the successful implementation of the indicative Harvest Strategy Work Plan and reiterated the concerns and potential changes that they had raised at SC19. For South Pacific albacore, there were clear challenges for adopting a management procedure in 2024 as scheduled under the Harvest Strategy Work Plan. They noted there was potential for changes and improvements to the operating models to deal with a number of technical issues including the retrospective bias and implausible projected biomass depletion trend (the 'big dip'). Related to this was the potential for further updates to the operating models following the 2024 South Pacific albacore stock assessment. These were very real issues that might delay the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy. However, they did not advocate any changes to the indicative work plan at this point in time.
570. For bigeye and yellowfin tuna, they proposed rescheduling the adoption of Management Procedures for these two stocks to 2026, so as to avoid running of these Management Procedures in the same year as the respective stock assessments were conducted. This was consistent with advice provided in WCPFC-2023-IP06, which recommended that the management procedure should not be run in the same year as the stock assessment to avoid a variety of technical and process problems. FFA Members therefore asked the Commission to consider amending the indicative Harvest Strategy to recognise these concerns and to reflect the proposed change.
571. The EU expressed its flexibility to defer, if needed, some elements of South Pacific albacore component of the Harvest Strategy Work Plan and thus hopefully benefit from the scientific work in 2024. They also agreed with running the Operating Model and Stock Assessment in different years to avoid the kind of problems that had arisen this year.
572. New Zealand supported the statement of the Cooks Islands on behalf of FFA. They considered that it was important that the workplan build in some level of flexibility to accommodate unforeseen technical issues – as had been experienced, for example, with the South Pacific albacore operating model and projected biomass trends – the so-called "big dip". They also noted that it was best practice to ensure that the running of the Management Procedure and the stock assessments were considered in different years of their respective three-year cycles, since the stock assessment is a means of monitoring the implementation of the Management Procedure.
573. On the final day of the WCPFC20 meeting, James Larcombe (Australia), who had shepherded the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan since its inception, noted that the issues had been further discussed in the margins following the discussion in plenary, and a revised plan was posted to the meeting webpage for review. The plan had been adjusted to be as achievable as possible. The main changes to the Work Plan were in the update to the summary at the front, the addition of a new year 2027, and the removal of prior years. The BET/YFT Management Procedure adoption had been postponed to 2026 to avoid overlap with the assessments.
574. WCPFC20 adopted the updated Indicative Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2022-03 (**Attachment 4**).

10.5 Information and data requirements to support management decisions

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-18](#)

575. WCPFC Assistant Compliance Manager, Eidge Sharp, presented WP18. This described additional information on the data collection and monitoring needs identified by SC19 and TCC19 covering at-sea transshipments, strengthening monitoring, and the Western Pacific East Asia Improved Tuna Monitoring Activity Project. This information was intended to complement the TS-IWG, IWG-ROP, and ERandEM-IWG updates and work plans, and addressed more specific data and information collection needs.
576. A new analysis that geographically compared high seas transshipments with areas of highest CPUE was showcased (see below) and key points arising on data and monitoring were that:
- Reliance on self-reported data and 5% longline observer coverage deleteriously impacts the Commission's decisions, highlighting the need for independent verification.
 - These new analyses have highlighted data gaps and quality issues as well as ways to strengthen data for the Commission and CCMs.
 - Additional monitoring tools including electronic technologies could assist further improvement.
 - For at-sea transshipments:
 - A high proportion of WCPO longline catches are reported as transhipped on the high seas of Convention Area and outside the Convention Area - 32% of ALB, 35% of BET (2021).
 - Transshipment reporting by observers is in early stages of implementation, and refinement of ROP protocols may be needed.
 - Reported transshipment data is not validated.
 - Examples of observer and vessel practices affecting data quality:
 - Copies of the same declaration reported by both vessels;
 - Data fields incorrect, inconsistent or incomplete e.g. start date and time, fish onboard;
 - Revised declarations submitted well after an event has been completed and reported with no explanation;
 - Observer reports reflect vessel reporting and are not an independent assessment.
577. The paper included a number of recommendations, with the Commission invited to:
- a. Note the gaps in WCPFC VMS data available to validate the reported location of transshipments because of the quarantine rules agreed at WCPFC9 in 2012 that apply a 200nm buffer zone around the eastern side of the Convention Area, and which were based on a desire to avoid additional excessive transmission costs, and the significant changes in VMS position reporting cost structures since the decision at WCPFC9 which reduces the necessity for these rules.
 - b. Decide to reverse the WCPFC9 decision to remove the WCPFC VMS quarantine rules that apply to the waters to the east and south of the Convention Area given its impact on monitoring WCPFC transshipments, particularly WCPFC-caught fish that are transhipped in the IATTC Convention Area.
 - c. Support the Secretariat's plans for the continued development of analytic tools and concurrent work with CCMs to address data gaps and data quality issues that arise from reporting and analysis of transshipment related data and information.
 - d. Explore options to expand the observer coverage on longline vessels through both human and electronic approaches in the WCPO so that the SC can provide better estimates of bycatch levels and other metrics from these fleets. Likewise, TCC19

reaffirmed the importance of increasing monitoring and observer coverage in the longline fishery to allow for independent verification of certain key obligations, especially catch limits, and commit to establishing an electronic monitoring programme for the WCPFC as soon as possible.

578. SC19 had already recommended ways for addressing gaps in operational longline logbook data fields, particularly: gear descriptors to support CPUE standardization and related analyses (voluntary) shown in Table 1 WCPFC20-2023-18 e.g. set target species, mainline length and gear settings that influence fishing depth; and adding 'transshipment at sea' to the list of ACTIVITIES recorded DAILY to allow 'trips' to be defined in operational data submitted to link logsheet trip catch data to transshipment event data. These SC19 recommendations were forwarded via TCC19 to the Commission in the WP18 recommendations on "operational needs for scientific data analysis", and were for WCPFC20 to:
- e. Acknowledge the scientific value of the additional longline operational data fields in Table 1 which are already collected from some CCMs and if expanded to more CCMs, would provide immediate benefit to the Commission's work. Considering the concerns from some CCMs in collecting these data fields, the Commission is invited to agree that the additional longline operational data fields (Table 1) should be included in the "Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (SciData)" on a voluntary submission basis only.
 - f. Request the SSP to provide updates to the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee beginning in 2025 on the status of data submission in (e) and the impact on scientific analyses.
 - g. Adopt the addition of a new activity code for any day when a "transshipment at sea occurs" that would allow the SSP to define 'trips' within the operational data submitted to the Commission to allow aggregating of catch by species at the trip level which is fundamental to support the validation processes that provide more certainty in the data used in assessments and other work of the Commission.
 - h. Note the updates and workplans of the TS-IWG, IWG-ROP, and ERandEM WG provide further recommendations for transshipment related data collection and monitoring processes.
579. China asked if these recommendations were from the Secretariat or from the Scientific Committee.
580. The Secretariat responded that Working Paper 18 presented the outcomes of the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee as was explained in the introduction on the purpose of the paper. The objective was to bring everything together to support the management discussions that are taking place under Agenda 10 with respect to harvest strategies. What the meeting was looking at were the recommendations that came forward from SC19 for the Commission, and the approach here was to keep those recommendations connected to the discussions around management, and the intersessional work that was taking place under the various working groups. The recommendations in the paper that were not covered in the other IWGs were letters (e) and (f), and the recommendations in WP18 were ones that the Commission could take up now. The work in the Transshipment small working group was still ongoing, and there were some outcomes from the ER&EM working group, and also the WPEA project that the Chair had indicated that the meeting would come back to, as well to wrap up all of the discussions around data and information requirements in support of harvest strategies.
581. China thanked the Secretariat for the explanation but understood that some of this paper involved data analysis by the Secretariat and felt that such analysis should be done through

- SC not the WCPFC Secretariat. It was not appropriate for the Secretariat to advise that the 5% longline minimum observer coverage level be increased. There should be a Scientific Committee recommendation on matters like that.
582. Japan agreed with China that recommendations from subsidiary bodies are now mixed with recommendations from the Secretariat which had taken up a lot of time. These recommendations should come from subsidiary bodies, not the Secretariat, so as not to waste the time of the WCPFC plenary.
583. China asked that technical issues be considered by the technical meetings and not dropped directly into the WCPFC annual session. Essentially, China had a lot of difficulties in adopting these recommendations. In the past the Commission had reviewed SC recommendations via the SC report, which were presented as consensus recommendations using agreed language. This new format was not so easy to digest. They hoped that next year the Commission could return to business as usual.
584. Chinese Taipei understood that the Secretariat had put a lot of effort into this but they were also finding it difficult to process these Secretariat recommendations.
585. FFA CCMs said they supported the recommendations in the paper relating to strengthening monitoring. These had been put forth by SC19 and supported by TCC19 and needed to be addressed here.
586. FFA CCMs also supported reversing the WCPFC9 decision to remove the WCPFC VMS quarantine rules that apply to the waters to the east and south of the Convention Area given its impact on monitoring WCPFC transshipments, particularly WCPFC-caught fish that are transhipped in the IATTC Convention Area (recommendation (b) in WP18).
587. Korea supported the proposal that FFA CCMs had mentioned, to remove the VMS quarantine rules that applied to the waters to the east and south of the Convention Area.
588. Australia supported the SC recommendations on additional data fields, put forward as recommendations (e) and (f) above.
589. Korea also supported recommendations (e) and (f) but wanted to know the identity of “those CCMs providing data on a voluntary basis”. SPC (Peter Williams) responded that SPC members had been providing logbook data for these fields going back to the 1990s – and also that Australia, USA and New Zealand may have been collecting such data and be able to provide it to WCPFC if this recommendation is approved.
590. Chinese Taipei hesitated to support recommendation (f) because the status of data provided on a voluntary basis should not be analysed for “data gaps” in the same way as mandatory data.
591. China said that although it was understood that operational data was required under the tropical tuna measure, they would only provide data on a voluntary basis for albacore while the 20 degree South line remained in place and until a comprehensive albacore measure was agreed.
592. Japan said they were confused because the transshipment working group was working on similar issues, and here some of the Secretariat recommendations concerned transshipment monitoring. The focus should be on the text of the transshipment CMM, and it was difficult to look at the WP18 transshipment recommendations outside that context.

593. In view of the confusion of some CCMs, and the lack of time to explain the provenance of each recommendation and how they might relate to different working groups, the meeting moved on.

594. The Commission supported the need for further work on information and data requirements to support management decisions and referred the issue to TCC20 for further consideration.

10.5(a) At sea transshipment monitoring and management

595. The Transshipment Working Group met in the margins and submitted a number of recommendations to plenary which WCPFC20 adopted as follows:

596. WCPFC20 requested the Secretariat 1) establish transshipment activity, observer reports, and carrier vessel data exchange arrangements with the following RFMOs: IATTC, IOTC, CCSBT, SPRFMO and NPFC and 2) provide an update to TCC20 seeking recommendations for WCPFC21.

597. WCPFC20 noted the TS-IWG did not conclude its work and requested the TS-IWG meet in-person/hybrid for at least a one-day workshop immediately before TCC20 to continue its review of the measure. The workshop will evaluate the un-agreed provisions of WCPFC20-2023-TS-IWG01Rev2 and invite additional proposals from CCMs for text revisions to CMM 2009-06.

598. WCPFC20 requested that after the TS-IWG meets in September 2024, the TS-IWG shall provide recommendations for further revisions to the transshipment CMM to WCPFC21.

599. FFA CCMs through Australia thanked the TS-IWG co-chairs for their hard work and coordination. They noted that only 3 recommendations had been agreed as a result of the IWG's entire work, and felt it would be appropriate to summarise the context of this work for the record, noting that the current transshipment measure had been agreed in 2009. Nine years later, in 2018, WCPFC15 agreed to conduct a review of the transshipment measure through an Intersessional Working Group. The TS-IWG was tasked to complete two objectives:

- i. To assess CMM 2009-06's scope and effectiveness in regulating and monitoring transshipment activity in a manner consistent with the Convention,
- ii. To recommend amendments or other actions, if any, related to CMM 2009-06 to improve the regulation and monitoring of transshipment activities.

600. Yet 5 years later, nothing useful had been allowed to emerge. Those CCMs engaged in high seas transshipment had refused to agree to any meaningful improvement in the regulation of that transshipment. FFA members continued to reaffirm their commitment to addressing deficiencies within high seas transshipment monitoring, and this priority was repeated every year.

601. FFA CCMs were disappointed with this outcome not only because the taskings of this work had not been fulfilled, nor just because CCMs, the Secretariat, SPC and observers had invested countless hours of time, and money – but mostly because the existing weaknesses in high seas transshipment regulation remained. If indeed high seas transshipment monitoring and regulation in the WCPO did not require any improvement – as was clearly the position of a number of CCMs – then FFA CCMs called upon all CCMs engaged in high seas transshipment to

justify the continuation of that practice with accurate and timely reporting to WCPFC and with verified monitoring data. Otherwise, they respectfully urged those CCMs to take the initiative to lead proposals in the future that would demonstrate that this activity was in fact effectively regulated.

602. New Zealand, along with other CCMs, had aspirations to improve the regulation of high seas transshipment through improved monitoring, data collection and independent verification of transshipment activities. They noted that other RFMOs had made meaningful progress on the regulation of transshipment, and it was time that WCPFC did the same. They reiterated that transshipment at sea should be the exception, not the norm. New Zealand hoped to be able to move forward with improving this measure in 2024 – and they supported an in-person meeting in conjunction with TCC20 – as took place at this year’s TCC19. They thanked the USA for the offer of some funding to extend the TCC timeframe to allow for this.
603. The Marshall Islands shared the same disappointments as other FFA CCMs. They wondered if a one-day workshop in 2024 would solve this problem, or would we just continue “kicking the can down the road” on a weak point that should have been strengthened years ago? Perhaps transshipment on the high seas should simply be suspended until this one-day workshop solved the problem to the satisfaction of all CCMs.
604. The EU agreed with FFA CCMs and others’ disappointment by the lack of progress on this outdated measure. They were surprised that nothing significant had emerged from this WCPFC process because NPFC had adopted a transshipment measure and many NPFC members were also members of WCPFC. They hoped for clear progress next year.
605. Canada agreed with previous speakers, and agreed with the EU that the NPFC transshipment measure provided a useful example.

10.5(b) Strengthening monitoring: observer coverage on LL fleets and development of electronic monitoring

606. The Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring Working Group Chair, Dr. Shelton Harley (New Zealand), presented “Update and Proposed Work Priorities for the ER and EM IWG” for discussion.
607. Japan thought the workplan as presented was generally acceptable but noted that the workplan gave priority to longlining and transshipment monitoring. Perhaps there was a general consensus for longline fishery monitoring to be a priority because of the much lower observer coverage, but for transshipment there was already 100% observer coverage on transshipment carriers, so Japan did not fully support this being a priority for electronic monitoring (EM).
608. FSM had been trialing EM since 2018 and the trials had been valuable for the development of FSM’s own EM programme. FSM was now moving forward to require 2024 implementation of EM on all national longliners and called upon other WCPFC CCMs to progress in a similar way, if they had not already. FSM thanked the ER&EMWG Chair for the update and fully supported the schedule of work put forward.
609. Korea thanked the ER&EMWG Chair for the update and looked forward to working with others to move forward. They had a slight difference of understanding with Japan about having observers on both the offloading and the carrier vessel and felt there remained a slight monitoring gap on the longline side.

610. The EU supported the proposed way forward. They understood this work would progress online, and would be happy to contribute input as necessary, and share the technical specifications and standards used by the EU. They noted that other tuna RFMOs had already moved forward, and IOTC, ICCAT and now IATTC were working on this front. They hoped there would be cooperation between IATTC and WCPFC on standards given the area overlap and the operations by some vessels in both areas.
611. The United States thanked the Chair of the ER&EM WG for sharing an update on proposed work priorities and the timeline for those priorities. They supported the proposed work priorities to focus on the development of SSPs and a CMM for a WCPFC EM program over the next two years. As was commonly known, there were many members in the WCPFC that had developed or were in the process of developing EM programs and the USA proposed accelerating the timeline for the development of SSPs such that the Commission could consider adopting interim standards in 2024. They thought it important to have some interim standards so that WCPFC can ensure consistency in how programs and data streams are being developed. They recognised that this was a large undertaking, but believed there were a lot of resources that could be drawn upon to help in finalising EM minimum standards. ICCAT had recently adopted some minimum standards, IATTC has agreed to adopt interim standards next year, and it was understood that many others including the FFA have guidelines that could help inform interim EM standards for the WCPFC. The United States proposed the following amendment to the WCPFC ER&EM working group work plan language:
- "WCPFC20 tasks the ER&EM working group to develop a set of interim EM standards for adoption in 2024 at WCPFC21".
612. Australia strongly supported the ongoing work of the Commission and the ER&EMWG to implement both e-reporting and e-monitoring. They thanked New Zealand and Dr. Harley for their ongoing efforts and leadership in the valuable work. In Australia's view, ER implementation continues to progress and strengthen – particularly in light of the revised catch and effort CMM requiring e-reporting from 2024. Regarding EM, this work had been progressing well and the Commission was now in a strong position to finalise some core elements to support EM implementation. In particular, as repeatedly noted by most CCMs during the WCPFC20 Annual Session – the critical next step is the Commission's adoption of EM SSPs. Australia supported the ER&EMWG's workplan and proposed that EM SSP development be prioritised for 2024. In this respect, they supported the suggestion made by the USA regarding the WG workplan's approach to EM standards. Australia continued to support the Commission in its ongoing ER and EM work and commended those other CCMs that continue to progress their national EM implementation. This was a critical area to address the availability and accessibility of datasets, and the Commission needed to maintain EM development as a priority.
613. French Polynesia explained that they had been implementing an E-Monitoring pilot programme for two years in their domestic longline fishery. This had been a success, and E-Monitoring appeared to be a useful and complementary tool to the human observer program, in order to address the need for better scientific data. Moreover, E-Monitoring allowed the identification of good and bad practice on board vessels and had been used to disseminate best practices across the fleet. So French Polynesia supported this proposal from the ER&EMWG Chair and asked the Commission to adopt regional standards for electronic monitoring as quickly as possible to increase scientific coverage and to improve good practice on board vessels.
614. Canada supported the USA's proposal to accelerate the development of SSPs and noted the existence of other examples that could assist with this development.

615. China noted the importance and high value of ER & EM and supported Japan's view on the monitoring of transshipment events.
616. The Marshall Islands had trialled EM and gone as far as developing the database, with a lot of data going to SPC. They urged the meeting not to forget the purpose of this activity, which was to reduce uncertainty and close the data and verification gaps. The longline MCS issues raised by FFA members were just a tool and not the complete answer. The Commission needed to be mindful of the challenges to SIDS and the Marshall Islands called upon other Commission members to assist SIDS in applying EM technology. They wished the ER&EMWG Chair had been able to attend the WCPFC20 meeting in the Cook Islands in person because there had been intense interest in ER&EM, but perhaps it was appropriate to address electronic monitoring and reporting through electronic discussion.

617. The Commission noted the Report of the ER&EM WG (WCPFC20-2023-ERandEM-IWG-02) and agreed to adopt the Schedule of Work set out in Appendix 1 of the report (**Attachment 5**).
618. The Commission tasked the ER&EM WG to develop a set of interim EM standards for adoption at WCPFC21 in 2024.
619. The Commission noted the need for cooperation with IATTC in the development of EM procedures for WCPFC.

- **IWG-ROP Update from Chair**

620. An update (WCPFC20-2023-IWGRGP) from the Regional Observer Programme Intersessional Working Group Chair was presented for discussion.
621. EU broadly supported the update and proposed way forward.
622. On behalf of FFA CCMs, PNG thanked the Chair of the IWG-ROP for the report and the update. FFA CCMs welcomed the work to review the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields and to remove redundant fields. Given the level of detail in the document and the other priorities on the table at this meeting, FFA members would continue to work with the Chair and the Secretariat after WCPFC20 and into the new year to provide feedback on the revised Minimum Standard Data Fields.
623. The United States supported increasing the Regional Observer Program SSP longline observer requirement above the current level of 5% and would welcome robust discussion through the ER&EM WG and the IWG for the Regional Observer Program in 2024 with the objective of determining how EM could be developed to complement Commission monitoring objectives. The United States was committed to identifying practical means for collecting more information on fisheries catch, including bycatch species, and they were hopeful that advances in technology would offer a solution to this long-held problem in sustainable fisheries management.

624. The Commission noted the report of the IWG-ROP Chair (WCPFC20-2023-IWGRGP).

10.5(c) WPEA-ITM Project

625. The WPEA Project Manager, Mr. Lars Olsen presented an update of the New Zealand-funded WPEA-ITM project activities in 2023, and the project status and expected activities in 2024 ([WCPFC20-2023-11](#)). The recommendations of WP11 were for WCPFC20:

- i. to note the continuing progress of the WPEA-ITM project and acknowledge the importance of improved data and reporting from the WPEA region of the WCPFC Convention Area; and
 - ii. to endorse the recommendations from SC19 to develop a new project proposal for the next phase of WPEA work. This should begin immediately after the current WPEA-ITM project expires at the end of 2024.
626. New Zealand said it was a privilege to support their partner countries on this important work of improving tuna catch monitoring and data management, ultimately to support sustainable fisheries management and reduced IUU fishing. In the current phase of the project, despite continuing COVID disruptions and other challenges, this project had continued to make meaningful progress to improve the quantity and quality of tuna data. NZ was grateful for the hard work and dedication demonstrated by partner countries, the Secretariat, and SPC colleagues.
627. As the conclusion of the current phase of the project was approaching, as noted by the Project Manager, they were pleased to inform the Commission that New Zealand would be providing additional funding to support the implementation in the current phase. They had also aligned the project timeframes and expected that this would ensure that everything was in position for the next phase. New Zealand was committed to continuing to support this project in the next phase and were currently going through the internal approval process. They expected to be able to share more updates at the annual WPEA Steering Committee meeting scheduled for early in 2024 and looked forward to continuing to work with partner countries and the Secretariat and SPC colleagues in the next phase.
628. Korea thanked Mr Olsen for the report on the WPEA, noting that the project was building important capacity for improving reporting, particularly from an area important to the regional yellowfin tuna stock. Korea noted the work to design a new phase when the current phase expired and commended New Zealand for their support.
629. The EU joined other members who had expressed views about this work and acknowledged the efforts of the SPC and Secretariat in working with WPEA partners. They had seen distinct improvements in the quality of the data emerging and expected this to have a very positive contribution to knowledge about the tropical tuna stocks in the subregion.
630. Samoa on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the Executive Director and the WPEA countries for the report. They noted the progress made through this project and acknowledged New Zealand's funding support. FFA members noted that in 2022 the tuna catch in WPEA countries had accounted for nearly 30% of the total reported catch of oceanic tuna in the WCPFC statistical area and around 44% of total catch of yellowfin tuna. The importance of ensuring that robust data was available from these fisheries could not be understated. They supported the recommendations in the project manager's report and understood the importance of improved data and reporting from the WPEA region and acknowledged the efforts from the recipients, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, as well as the tireless and ongoing efforts of SPC in supporting this work. They highlighted the need for a clear and concise transition or exit strategy to be included in the development of the new project proposal and felt that these clarifications should be provided to the Commission prior to the approval of the new project. FFA Members also noted the importance of continuing to use the improved data developed through the WPEA project to inform more effective management of tuna fisheries in WPEA countries. They wished to particularly acknowledge the efforts of Indonesia outlined in DP12.
631. Indonesia took the opportunity to thank the project manager Lars Olsen for his great effort in running the project, and to WCPFC especially the Finance and Administration Manager and

the Executive Director, and particularly the New Zealand government for the funding to the three countries. The confirmation of NZ's intention to complete their internal process designed to support a new phase of the project was welcomed. Indonesia was using the information generated by this project in the development of harvest strategies in Indonesian archipelagic waters. Government, NGOs and industry were gradually increasing their support for data collection.

632. The Philippines thanked WCPFC for its role in developing a new phase of the project and acknowledged the indispensable support of SPC in advancing its data-reporting capabilities.
633. Vietnam similarly thanked all involved in this project which had been very effective in supporting visible improvements in data from the subregion, which would contribute to improvements in management of these stocks, both in Vietnamese waters and the region as a whole.

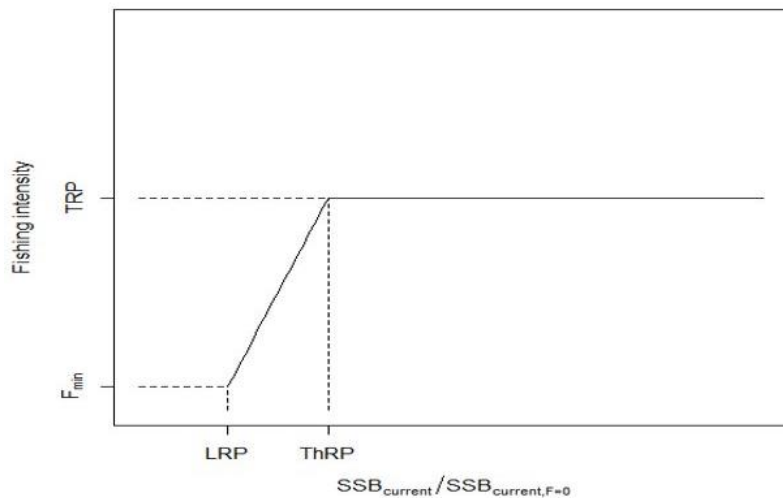
634. The Commission noted the report on the progress of the 2023 activities of the Western Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring (WPEA-ITM) Project (WCPFC20-2023-11) and acknowledged the importance of improved data and reporting from the WPEA region of the WCPFC Convention Area.
635. The Commission endorsed the recommendations from SC19 to develop a new project proposal for the next phase of WPEA work, to begin immediately after the current WPEA-ITM project expires at the end of 2024.
636. The Commission noted with appreciation the decision by New Zealand to continue funding the WPEA-ITM project.

10.6 North Pacific Albacore

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-19](#)

Recommendation on revised North Pacific Albacore Harvest Strategy (HS 2022-01)

637. The Chair of the Northern Committee, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan) presented the elements of WCPFC20-2023-19 pertaining to North Pacific Albacore Tuna.
638. He noted that the Commission had adopted CMM 2019-03 to replaced CMM 2005-03, and that Paragraph 2 of the CMM provided an “effort-based limit for vessels fishing for” North Pacific albacore which applied to most CCMs with vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area. Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei and United States had notified their fishing days limits with reference to 2002-04 levels. The Philippines limit was not yet specified because estimates for Philippines’ handline fishery in the North Pacific fishing for North Pacific albacore tuna were under review.
639. NC19 recommended the revised Harvest Strategy for the North Pacific Albacore Fishery (Attachment A of Working Paper 19) for the Commission’s consideration and adoption. The harvest control rule parameters controlled a relationship between stock status and fishing intensity as shown in the following figure, with the minimum allowed fishing intensity (F_{min}) equal to $F_{87\%}$, which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results in the stock producing 87% of spawning potential ratio (SPR) $SSB_{current}$ refers to spawning stock biomass in the terminal year of the assessment and $SSB_{current, F=0}$ to the terminal year dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass.



NP-ALB Harvest Control Rule

Note: $SSB_{current}$ refers to spawning stock biomass in the terminal year of the assessment and $SSB_{current,F=0}$ to the terminal year dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass

640. Canada said that sustainable management of North Pacific albacore was important to Canada, as was the adoption of this harvest control rule. NC19 had discussed this and adopted it as a recommendation, and Canada looked forward to ISC advice on a fishing strategy. If adopted this would be one of the first, if not *the* first, pan-Pacific Harvest Strategy and this would be a wonderful achievement for WCPFC.
641. FFA CCMs thank the Northern Committee for their work to revise the North Pacific albacore tuna harvest strategy HS 2022-01 and supported several of the proposed revisions to the harvest strategy. These included: limiting changes to catch and effort limits to 20% from the previous year to promote stability; tasking the Northern Committee to recommend changes to the CMM 2019-03 to ensure fishing intensity was set below the levels recommended; translating fishing intensity into fleet-specific catch or effort limits; and amending section 4 so when the ISC performs a stock assessment it will consider the criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances and notify the Northern Committee if these exceptional circumstances occurred. They also supported the definition of harvest control rules to set fishing intensity for North Pacific albacore but underlined that a Management Strategy Evaluation be undertaken to test how robust these rules (and reference points) were to a range of uncertainties. However, they did not agree with the last sentence of the 'Other Provision' section in this harvest strategy. To be consistent with Article 11(7) of the WCPFC Convention, it would be the Commission that would decide the future of the Harvest Strategy and not the Northern Committee.
642. The NC19 Chair noted that the wording of the North Pacific albacore recommendation was taken from the existing Harvest Strategy text, but it would be possible to make an editorial change to the recommendation to make clear the role of the Commission.
643. Korea said they could go along with the amended decision wording proposed by Tokelau for North Pacific albacore.
644. The Commission adopted the revised Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery recommended by NC19 (WCPFC20-2023-19, Attachment A), with an editorial correction (reference to the Commission with respect to decision-making) (**Attachment 6**).

10.7 Pacific bluefin tuna

645. In presenting the elements of [WCPFC20-2023-19](#) pertaining to Pacific Bluefin Tuna, the Chair of the Northern Committee noted that 2nd rebuilding target (20%SSB_{F=0}) is expected to occur much faster for this stock than originally envisaged, and that the harvest control rule was going to be applied after next year.

10.7(a) and (b) Recommendations on revised CMM 2021-02 and revised PBF Harvest Strategy (HS 2021-01)

646. The Commission adopted CMM 2021-02 at the 18th Regular Session, to replace CMM 2020-02. Paragraph 3 of the CMM specified the annual catch limits for small (less than 30kg) and large (30kg or larger) Pacific bluefin tuna that applied to the fisheries of Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei with “vessels fishing for” Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area. Paragraph 4 specified an annual 10mt catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger, which applied to catches in fisheries of Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Philippines, and the United States.
647. NC19 had revised the text of CMM 2021-02 (Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna) to increase the limit on the conversion of small fish catch limit to large fish catch limit using the conversion factor of 0.68 (or 1.47), and recommended this (WCPFC20-2023-20, Attachment B) for adoption by the Commission.
648. NC19 also recommended the revised Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (Attachment H of the NC19 Summary Report) for review and adoption by the Commission.
649. Under the Decision Rules in the Harvest Strategy, the following detailed harvest control rules had been added for the post-second rebuilding period:

The following harvest control rules shall be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by the ISC during the period from the year in which the stock is projected to achieve the second rebuilding target of 20%SSB₀ to the year a long-term harvest strategy based on an MSE process is implemented.

a) If the SSB projection indicates that SSB will be below 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%, management measures shall be modified to increase the SSB to at least 20%SSB₀ with 60% probability. For this purpose, the ISC is requested to provide information on possible management measures to achieve 60% that the stock is above 20%SSB₀ after 10 years of the latest stock assessment.

b) If the SSB projection indicates that SSB will be greater than 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%, management measures should be adjusted so long as any changes maintain SSB greater than 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%. For this purpose, the ISC is requested to provide information on possible management under which the stock is maintained above 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%.

c) Any adjustments to management measures shall be considered in cooperation between the two RFMOs taking into account historical and future projected proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO. For this purpose, ISC is requested, to provide relevant information, including projected proportional fishery impact of potential management measures changes.

d) This harvest control rule will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, if depletion estimates across the time-series have been adjusted due to changes in assumptions and/or settings of the stock assessment model.

650. Tokelau on behalf of FFA CCMs had some reservations about the proposed amendments from the Northern Committee to CMM 2021-02 and wanted time to consider them.

651. The EU noted that the upward trajectory of the stock was good news, but the Commission should remember that the stock was still only at 10% of the unfished level and needed to remain cautious that the level of harvest did not reverse the stock trajectory. The risk was still high. The EU also felt that there had not been enough management strategy evaluation work done on this proposed Harvest Strategy. A range of monitoring and control measures had been proposed to IATTC, and the EU would encourage members of both Commissions to consider adding these MCS elements to the respective PBF measures of both organisations.
652. New Zealand thanked the NC19 Chair for the presentation. NZ had a relatively small bycatch fishery covered by the measure and had noticed an extraordinary increase in incidental catch of Pacific bluefin recently which had caused some challenges to manage in relation to the relatively small limit that is applied to CCMs other than the CCMs named within the measure. They wanted some consideration for members that had a small fishery for the stock covered by this measure, after the Commission had the stock assessment and the opportunity to review the arrangements.
653. Australia said they had had a similar experience and supported the request by New Zealand.
654. The USA supported the NC19 recommendation and noted that this was estimated to have no increase in impact on the stock but was a move to encourage the taking of larger fish. They also provided a warm invitation to the EU to participate in the Joint Working Group given their interest in the process.
655. Korea also supported adoption of the revised harvest strategy by the Commission.
656. The EU thanked the USA for their invitation to join the Joint WCPFC/IATTC Working Group. This was an important forum for having discussions, but they did not believe that the adoption of any management measure was dependent on any kind of agreement at that joint discussion forum. WCPFC and IATTC were independent bodies and the EU believed that each RFMO, whether IATTC or WCPFC, could adopt the management measures that they considered to be the most effective for their circumstances, independently of what the joint working group might have decided.
657. The NC19 Chair responded to the EU with the view that pan-Pacific stocks needed involvement of both the Northern Committee and IATTC. He recognized that the EU was part of IATTC and welcomed all other WCPFC members to join the joint working group in Hokkaido, Japan in July 2024. This coordination was quite essential. He noted that this interim measure had already been adopted by IATTC without these objections.
658. The Marshall Islands on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs thanked Japan for their proposal. In their view, the two-part reductions for Pacific bluefin catch were integral components of the current rebuilding efforts to restore the Pacific bluefin stock – both the overall reductions in catch, and the specific limits on juvenile catches. For the most part, they felt the Pacific bluefin stock assessments had been quite optimistically framed, so they were concerned that sufficient sensitivity had not been built into the projections of the stock rebuilding trajectory. Moreover, as they had explained previously, they had trouble with the lack of consistency when asked to agree to catch limit increases for a bluefin stock, that was currently well below the 20% depletion ratio, by CCMs that weren't able to support the easing of the FAD closure on a bigeye stock that was at 34% and projected to increase. In line with the FFA statement earlier, PNA and Tokelau wanted to see this inconsistency resolved before this proposal could be supported.
659. The WCPFC20 Chair noted there was no consensus on this issue and invited participants to discuss a way forward in the margins and return to the issue the following day. When the

Chair re-opened the agenda item towards the end of the final day of the meeting there were no objections to adopting the recommendations as follows:

660. The Commission adopted amendments to CMM 2021-02 (Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna) (WCPFC20-2023-20, Attachment B) contained at **Attachment 7**.
661. The Commission adopted the revised HS 2021-01 (Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries) recommended by NP19 (WCPFC20-2023-20, Attachment C) contained at **Attachment 8**.

10.7(c) Update on Development of Catch Documentation Scheme

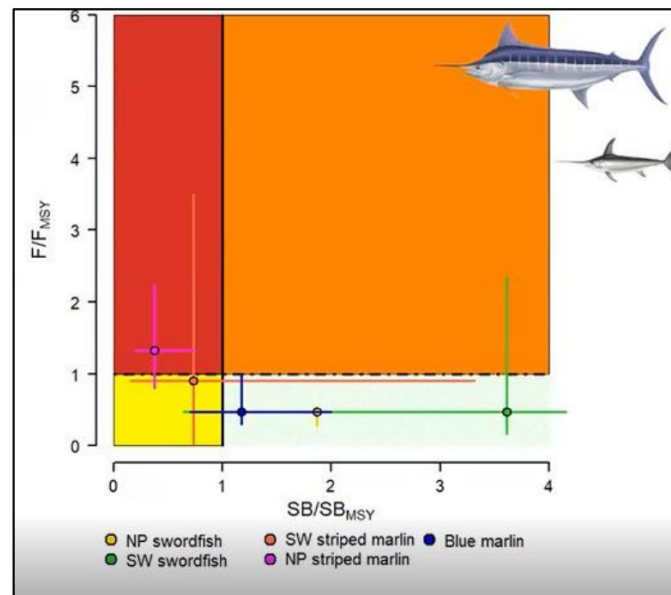
662. Mr. Shingo Ota, Chair of the Joint IATTC-NC PBF CDS Technical Committee, reported on progress in the development of the catch documentation scheme for Pacific bluefin tuna.
663. Korea acknowledged the hard work of the PBF CDS Technical Committee Chair and looked forward to working further with other CCMs in the PBF CDS Working Group next year.
664. The Marshall Islands on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the Chair of the PBF CDS Technical Committee for the progress report and commended the committee's effort in advancing the development of a Catch Documentation Scheme for Pacific bluefin tuna. While the scheme was in its early development stages, they were encouraged by the progress made thus far and looked forward to receiving further updates in future meetings of the Commission.

665. The Commission noted the update from the Chair of the Joint IATTC-NC PBF CDS Technical Committee, Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan) on progress in 2023 to develop a catch documentation scheme for Pacific bluefin tuna.

11. BILLFISH STOCKS

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-20](#)

666. The Chair drew attention to Working Paper 20 (Review of Billfish Conservation and Management Measures), which would not be presented but taken as read.
667. Figure 1 of this working paper neatly summarised the best available scientific information about the stock status of the Commission's main billfish stocks on a single Kobe plot. According to this particular standard for assessing fishing mortality and spawning biomass relative to Maximum Sustainable Yield, Southwest Pacific swordfish, North Pacific swordfish and blue marlin were all estimated to be healthy. North Pacific striped marlin was overfished in terms of the spawning biomass necessary to provide MSY, and Southwest Pacific striped marlin was both overfished in terms of biomass and subject to an unsustainable level of fishing mortality.



Recommended priority for billfish new stock assessments

668. Working Paper 20 forwarded several recommendations from SC19 about priorities for new billfish stock assessments and their timing. These were accepted by the Commission.

669. The Commission noted the SC recommendation that new assessments for billfish stocks were a high priority, and agreed with the SC19 recommended order of priority as:

- i. North Pacific striped marlin: 2023 start year and complete year;
- ii. Southwest Pacific striped marlin: 2024 start year and complete year;
- iii. Southwest Pacific swordfish: 2025 start year and complete year.

Supporting further progress towards establishing limit reference points for billfish species

670. The Commission was also invited through Working Paper 20 to discuss an issue emerging from SC19 and requiring a management decision: to provide guidance as to whether in the case of non-targeted species it was acceptable to have a higher level of risk to the stock and a lower biomass Limit Reference Point compared with the equivalents for target stocks. This guidance was needed to assist the Scientific Committee in applying the SC17 framework for selecting Limit Reference Points for billfish species.

671. The Federated States of Micronesia on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs said they considered that the Scientific Committee should be advised that it was acceptable to have a higher level of risk to the stock and a lower biomass LRP compared with the equivalents for key target species where the LRPs were set at 20% depletion against unfished spawning biomass. This had been clearly anticipated in Article 10.1 c) of the Convention which set out a standard for management of non-target stocks which was clearly different from that for target stocks. The Commission definition of an LRP was that it defined a state of the fishery that is considered to be undesirable and which management action should avoid. They noted that the 20% LRPs adopted for the key target stocks took into account factors such as the risk of greater fluctuations in recruitment and smaller fish sizes and values as biomass declined because of the socio-economic importance of the four key tuna stocks. These were not strictly biological considerations, and they would not be applicable to non-target species. So PNA and Tokelau proposed that the Scientific Committee should be advised that it was acceptable to allow a

higher level of risk to the stock and a lower biomass LRP compared with the equivalents for the key target species of 20%.

672. New Zealand's position on this issue was that in principle the level of risk around Limit Reference Points for non-target billfish species should be equivalent to those for targeted tropical tuna. i.e. no more than 20% risk of breaching any LRPs. This was particularly the case for Southwest Pacific striped marlin and swordfish. New Zealand considered that the life history parameters, such as growth, maximum age, natural mortality, and age at maturity of Southwest Pacific striped marlin and swordfish were generally comparable to the WCPFC target tuna species. They also noted that in some cases, stocks which were considered non-target for some are targets for others. And this was particularly the case in New Zealand for Southwest Pacific swordfish where this species is actually targeted. So, New Zealand considered that using a depletion-based LRP for these stocks would be consistent with the approach applied to the targeted tuna stocks.
673. Australia noted that the accepted roles when it came to reference points was for the SC to determine and recommend LRPs while the Commission had a role in deciding the acceptable level of risk for breaching those LRPs. When it came to determining TRPs, this was firmly the role of the Commission. Regarding what Australia considered to be a question for the Commission on the risks of breaching the LRP, agreeing higher risk levels for bycatch species presented some difficulties for Australia in accordance with Australia's domestic policies. They noted however that at this late stage of the meeting there was no time remaining for a substantive discussion on this matter.
674. French Polynesia supported the New Zealand and Australian comments on swordfish. French Polynesia's concerns were the same.
675. The Commission did not achieve consensus on the guidance to be provided to SC20 on the interpretation of Article 10.1.c of the Convention for application in the SC17 framework for selecting Limit Reference Points for billfish species.

11(a) North Pacific swordfish (CMM 2022-02)

676. The Commission was invited to review and adopt the amended Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Swordfish as recommended by the NC19 in Attachment A of Working Paper WCPFC-2023-20.
677. The Commission was also invited to agree that all applicable CCMs should notify the Secretariat by no later than 31 March 2024 of their baselines and limits for their fisheries to which they consider paragraph 2 of CMM 2022-02 (North Pacific Swordfish) applies.

To support CCMs implementation and reporting obligations of CMM 2022-02 as well as future TCC assessments of the relevant limit and the annual reporting requirement obligation, the Commission was invited to task the CMS-IWG Audit Points Lead to recommend draft audit points to the Commission on the relevant limit and annual reporting requirement obligations for this stock at the earliest practical opportunity. Draft Audit Points based on the template language of existing agreed audit points, and which included in square brackets the proposed revisions to CMM 2022-02 as recommended by NC19, were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the Commission's consideration as follows:

Obligation and brief description	Draft Audit Point definition
CMM 2022-02 02	The CCM reported in AR Pt2 its level of fishing effort of its fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish in the Convention Area north of 20N

CCMs take measures [for fisheries taking more than 200 Mt] to ensure level of fishing effort by vessels fishing for NP SWO N20N is not increased	and the Secretariat can verify the CCM’s reported information and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded
<p>CMM 2022-02 04</p> <p>Annual report of catches of North Pacific swordfish and fishing effort, [in two tables the area north of 20°N in the convention area, as well as the entire North Pacific north of the equator,] using the template and by gear type, for those fisheries subject to the limits in paragraph 2 of the CMM</p>	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of information on all catches and effort by CCM flagged vessels subject to the limits in paragraph 2, by gear type and days fished (effort) and by weight (catch), [in two tables: the area north of 20°N in the convention area, as well as the entire North Pacific north of the equator, and] using the template at Annex 1 of CMM 2022-04.

678. New Zealand on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the Chair of the Northern Committee for the proposal to amend CMM 2022-02 and supported the addition of the term ‘taking more than 200 metric tons per year of’ to paragraph 2 of this measure to clarify the scope of effort limits to which this measure applied. They also supported the amendments to paragraph 4 to ensure that data on North Pacific swordfish was reported both in the WCPFC Convention Area north of 20° North, and across the North Pacific north of equator, because having two sets of data would help in assessing the effectiveness of this CMM. On the other hand, they did not support the deletion of the reference to the draft CMM for South Pacific swordfish from the preamble and asked the Chair of the Northern Committee why it was necessary to delete this reference? While they acknowledged there was no agreement on strengthening CMM 2009-03 for Swordfish in 2022, this remained a priority for FFA Members and they suggested that the text be reinstated in CMM 2022-02 or the text be amended to provide “*Noting that draft Conservation and Management Measure for South Pacific Swordfish to strengthen the existing measure will continue to be a consideration at the Commission, given that its fishing mortality has been at high levels in the last decades*”. In addition, FFA Members requested the Northern Committee to provide the draft Audit Points for the revised measure, as well as a CMM 2013-06 assessment. Finally, FFA Members noted that while the adoption of CMM 2022-02 was a good first step, they would like the Northern Committee to outline a long-term plan for this stock, one that develops refined candidate reference points and associated harvest control rules through a management strategy evaluation process.
679. The Chair of the Northern Committee, in reference to South Pacific Swordfish, said this amendment had been proposed at last year’s NC18 to take account of a concern of the European Union. At no point was the deletion of that preambular reference raised so it was surprising for this to be raised now. At next year’s meeting he sincerely hoped the Commission could adopt the recommendation. Regarding FFA comments on the development of a Harvest Strategy, he was sure that Northern Committee members would do that.
680. The European Union thanked the Chair of the Northern Committee for this work, and agreed that there had been no objection to the removal of the preambular reference to South Pacific Swordfish, and it would probably not be possible for the Northern Committee to reconvene to revise the text again. The EU would like to see this amendment maintained.
681. New Zealand stated that it was important to FFA CCMs for this reference to be maintained, and it was not necessary to reconvene the Northern Committee to reinsert the text. It could perhaps be considered at NC next year by FFA CCMs.

682. The EU wanted to point out to FFA CCMs that the NC draft CMM had proposed some improvements, and the contentious issue was a cosmetic preambular issue. It suggested that the Commission approve the body of the CMM and send the preamble to NC20 for further consideration.
683. Korea noted that the last sentence of paragraph 2 of Annex 1 to the WCPFC Rules of Procedure said that the Commission shall not take a decision with regard to any such measure (regarding stocks which occur mostly in the area north of 20° north parallel) without a recommendation concerning such measure from the Northern Committee. And paragraph 3 said that the Commission may however request NC to formulate and send back a recommendation on CMMs for a northern stock.
684. New Zealand said that FFA members could accept the changes in the body of the CMM proposed by NC19 but proposed that the Commission ask NC to consider the reinserting the previously deleted preambular text next year.

685. The Commission adopted the amended Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Swordfish (WCPFC20-2023-20, Attachment A) contained at **Attachment 9**.
686. The Commission requested that the Northern Committee consider the deleted preambular paragraph of CMM 2022-02 and the scientific advice at NC20 and provide a further recommendation to the Commission at WCPFC21.

11(b) South Pacific swordfish (CMM 2009-03)

687. There were no recommendations concerning this stock in WP20, and no issues were raised from the floor.

11(c) North Pacific striped marlin (CMM 2010-01)

688. Working paper WCPFC20-2023-20 synthesised the relevant outputs of the ISC and SC consideration of this stock and recommended that the Commission decide as follows:

Noting the less than healthy state of North Pacific Striped Marlin and in accordance with SC19s management advice and the precautionary approach, the Commission is invited to adopt necessary amendments to reduce applicable catch limits for CCMs under CMM 2010-01. These catch limit reductions should apply until a new stock assessment for NP striped marlin has been completed, and updated management advice is provided by the Scientific Committee.

689. The Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA CCMs, said that they were pleased to note that after 5 years, a stock assessment for Western and Central North Pacific Ocean striped marlin had finally been undertaken by the ISC, and the Commission now had the information to take firm action and rebuild the stock. They suggested that the Commission waste no time in taking this action because there was a very high probability that this stock was overfished and was subject to overfishing relative to biomass-based reference points. FFA Members noted with interest the suggestion by the Billfish Working Group that the catch should be kept at, or below, the recent level of 2,428 metric tonnes (the 2018-2020 average catch) until the stock assessment was further improved or additional projections provided. Under this constant catch scenario, the stock was projected to recover above SSB_{MSY} and near the reference level of $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ by 2040, but never actually get to the reference level under the assumption of the low recruitment regime. *Nearly* reaching the reference level by 2040 was simply not good enough for a stock that had been performing poorly for so long, particularly when projection results show that a catch of 2,300 metric tonnes, or less, would recover the stock above the

reference level by 2026. Importantly, the latter tonnage was only 5% lower than that suggested by the Billfish Working Group but would get the stock to the reference level in 3 years rather than *nearly* get there in 17 years.

690. For this reason, FFA CCMs recommended that the Commission adopt a more precautionary approach than suggested by the Billfish Working Group and reduce the catch to 2,300 metric tonnes or less when amending CMM 2010-01. 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. This would be consistent with the Commission's approach towards similarly depleted stocks like oceanic whitetip and silky sharks. FFA CCMs also supported the collection of data in the ongoing International Billfish Biological Sampling program to improve the growth curve of this species and model developments to address other sources of uncertainty.
691. The European Union expressed its full support for the points made by FFA CCMs, including particularly the need for urgency and for a more ambitious rebuilding plan.
692. Japan pointed out that WCPFC20 had already discussed this species under Agenda Item 8 on the Status of Stocks and the USA had proposed a peer review because the 2024 Stock Assessment had a lot of ambiguity, particularly the accuracy of some of the historical data before the 1990s. There would be an outcome from the peer review next year and the Commission should then consider actions based on the outcome of the peer review. Japan noted the advice from other CCMs, but Japan was looking at potential revisions to this CMM next year.

693. The Commission noted the less than healthy state of North Pacific Striped Marlin, SC19s management advice and the precautionary approach, and the planned independent peer review of the North Pacific Striped Marlin stock assessment in 2024 and agreed to await the outcome of the peer review with a view to considering potential revisions to CMM 2010-01 at WCPFC21.

11(d) Southwest Pacific striped marlin (CMM 2006-04)

694. The Federated States of Micronesia on behalf of FFA CCMs noted with serious concern that according to the last assessment, the Southwest Pacific striped marlin stock was overfished and that catch and effort were on the rise in the areas not controlled by the CMM (0 to 15 degrees South). As such, they had supported the recommendation by the SC19 on placing high priority on the development of a new stock assessment for SWP striped marlin with a start year and complete year of 2024. And, pending the results of the new stock assessment, SC20 should also consider evaluating the implications of expanding the area covered by the CMM and requesting a review of the SWP striped marlin CMM by WCPFC21 taking into account advice from SC20.

11(e) Information and data requirements to support management decisions

695. Continuing with the recommendations in Working Paper WCPFC20-2023-20, the Chair noted that "The Commission was invited to adopt the SC19 recommendations to address data gaps for billfish and billfish fisheries needed to support the Billfish Research Plan" as follows:

- The Commission is invited to agree that CCMs submit information to the Secretariat and SSP as soon as possible, to indicate the date/time standard that was used in their historical operational longline data submissions to the Commission.
- The Commission is invited to agree that CCMs are expected and required to submit information about the date/time standard that can be linked back to GMT/UTC in their operational data, for future data submissions.
- The Commission is invited to note the offer of assistance from the SSP to assist Flag CCMs with understanding and submitting information in accord with this reporting requirement, and urged relevant Flag CCMs to contact the SSP as soon as practicable should assistance be needed; and
- Recognising the importance of catch and effort data related to short-billed spearfish and sailfish species, and the Commission is invited to task the Secretariat, with the assistance of the SSP, to make the necessary amendment to the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission.

696. The USA suggested inserting “February 2024” instead of “as soon as possible” in the recommendation in the first paragraph.

697. There were no further comments on these four SC19 recommendations regarding information and data requirements to support management decisions.

698. The Commission agreed that CCMs submit information to the Secretariat and SSP by February 2024 to indicate the date/time standard that was used in their *historical* operational longline data submissions to the Commission.

699. The Commission agreed that CCMs are expected and required to submit information about the date/time standard that can be linked back to GMT/UTC in their operational data for *future* data submissions.

700. The Commission noted the offer of assistance from the SSP to assist Flag CCMs with understanding and submitting information in accord with this reporting requirement, and urged relevant Flag CCMs to contact the SSP as soon as practicable should assistance be needed.

701. Recognising the importance of catch and effort data related to short-billed spearfish and sailfish species, and the Commission tasked the Secretariat, with the assistance of the SSP, to make the necessary amendment to the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission.

TCC assessments of billfish CMM limits currently based on self-reported information

702. Finally, the Chair pointed out that Working Paper 20 paragraph 44 had forwarded a recommendation from TCC19 regarding the general limitation of TCC’s assessments of compliance by CCMs with all billfish CMM limits. As she had mentioned earlier, anything which had been drawn to the attention of the Commission as a note would be taken as agreed.

703. The Commission noted the general limitation of TCC’s assessments of compliance by CCMs with all billfish CMM limits, because they are based on self-reported information, and further noted that there will continue to be limited data available to the Secretariat to independently verify the reporting by CCMs of compliance with these limits until the levels of independent monitoring are improved significantly through increased observer coverage and implementation of E-monitoring.”

704. As a general and final comment, Tokelau for PNA and Tokelau CCMs appreciated the way this paper had brought together information on billfish. They thought the paper would be enhanced by providing some information on trends in billfish catches. They noted that Statistics Working Paper 2 presented to the Scientific Committee this year provided estimates of annual longline catches of billfish species, and similar estimates of purse seine billfish catches were also provided to the Scientific Committee. They realised there were some limitations to this data including that the published data did not distinguish between catches of northern and southern billfish species. But including them in this report would provide useful information on trends in billfish catches and help to focus attention on necessary improvements in monitoring and data collection. PNA and Tokelau requested the Secretariat to include those estimates of billfish catches in the longline and purse seine fisheries provided to the Scientific committee in the paper next year.

12. MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF FISHING ON NON-TARGET AND ASSOCIATED OR DEPENDENT SPECIES (NTADS) IN THE WCPO

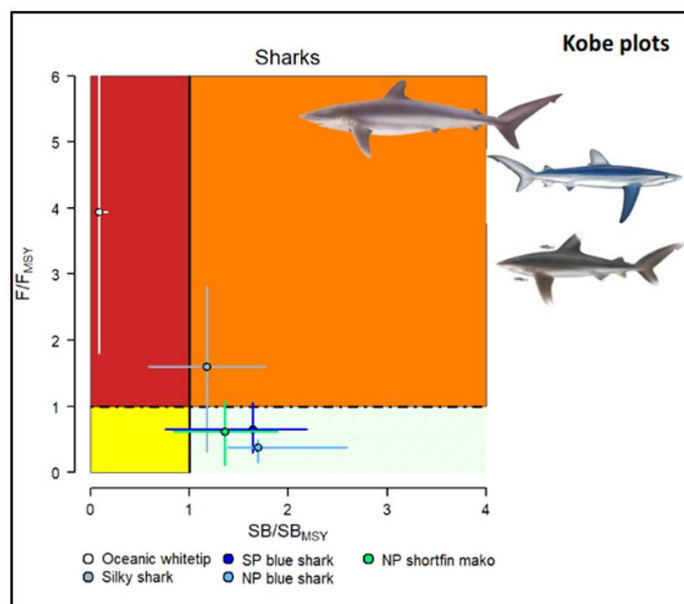
Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-21](#)

Review of NTADS CMMs

705. The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to Working Paper WCPFC20-2023-21 (*Review of CMMs on Non-Target and Associated or Dependent Species in the WCPO*), which covered most of the subject matter of this whole agenda item 12 and would be taken as read without being presented.

12(a) Sharks (CMM 2022-04)

706. The latest scientific information about the status of key WCPO shark species is summarised in the following Kobe Plot in WP21. South Pacific blue shark, North Pacific blue shark and North Pacific shortfin mako shark populations appear to be in a healthy state. Oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark less so, with fishing mortality of silky shark being greater than the default MSY



reference point, and oceanic whitetip experiencing extremely low biomass as well as unsustainably high levels of fishing mortality.

707. The Chair noted the recommendations on sharks in Working Paper 21. These recommendations had emerged from SC19 and/or TCC19 for consideration for adoption by WCPFC20. These were to:

- i. endorse that in 2024 an integrated assessment for silky shark be attempted and that alternative assessment methods such as data-limited methods or a risk analysis be developed concurrently.
 - ii. endorse SC19's recommendation that, given the reduction in observer coverage over the COVID years and the amendments made to the shark CMM in 2022, it would be more effective to postpone the review of CMM 2022-04 to 2027.
 - iii. consider a need to support better data collection, particularly for less commonly caught species interactions and the utility of electronic technologies to complement monitoring and estimation of their interactions.
 - iv. note that the current [Shark Research Plan](#) (SRP) is extended to 2030 to encompass two assessment cycles.
 - v. endorse, to the extent possible, integrated shark assessments projects undertaken within the WCPFC should also include a data-poor component so that advice on stock status can still be provided even if the integrated assessment approach fails.
708. The USA also presented the USA/Canada proposal in DP17 (*Recommendation related to CMM 2022-04 Sharks*) for review of the effectiveness of the shark-finning restrictions in the Sharks CMM.
709. The EU said they had voiced a similar proposal at TCC19, and they fully supported the USA/Canada proposal.
710. The Marshall Islands said that elasmobranch bycatch was an important concern for PNA and Tokelau. In particular they supported the ongoing work on silky sharks including data-limited methods in the next assessment, which will be informative for this and other species assessments. PNA and Tokelau also supported postponing evaluation of CMM 2022-04 as the CMM has only recently come into force.
711. Niue and USA both voiced concern about the poor status of the oceanic whitetip shark and drew attention to the urgent need to fill data gaps concerning this species.

Sharks (CMM 2022-04)

712. The Commission directed CCMs who utilize alternative measures to the prohibition on finning in paragraph 7 of CMM 2022-04, to provide detailed information on the implementation and monitoring of those alternative measures in advance of TCC20, as directed in paragraph 11 of CMM 2022-04. The Commission also encourages CCMs to report to TCC20 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 Commission tasks the Secretariat to compile information with regards to the application of the provisions in paragraphs 8 and 9 of CMM 2022-04. The information provided shall be used by TCC20 and WCPFC21 to review the implementation of alternative measures.

Silky shark stock assessment in the WCPO (Project 108)

713. The Commission endorsed that in 2024 an integrated assessment for silky shark be attempted and that alternative assessment methods such as data-limited methods or a risk analysis be developed concurrently.

Review of CMM for sharks

714. The Commission endorsed SC19's recommendation that it would be more effective to postpone the review of CMM 2022-04 to 2027.
715. The Commission noted a need to support better data collection, particularly for less commonly caught species interactions, and the utility of electronic technologies to complement monitoring and estimation of their interactions.
716. The Commission noted that limited information is currently available in regard to alternative measures currently implemented under paragraph 9 of the measure to inform the review of this measure, and TCC19 noted that it is not in a position to evaluate the effectiveness of such measures. TCC19 also noted that some CCMs have committed to provide additional information ahead of TCC20 on the implementation of alternative measures under paragraph 9 to inform the review of the measure in 2024.

Mid-term Review of 2021-2025 Shark Research Plan (Project 97b)

717. The Commission endorsed, to the extent possible, that integrated shark assessments projects should also include a data-poor component so that advice on stock status can still be provided even if the integrated assessment approach fails.

12(b) Seabirds (CMM 2018-03)

718. Working Paper 21 had one recommendation relating to seabirds, arising from SC19:
- To note that New Zealand will lead informal intersessional meetings with interested CCMs to review the latest scientific evidence on seabird bycatch mitigation and gather views on the review of CMM 2018-03 with an aim to draft a revision of CMM 2018-03 for submission to SC20, TCC20, and WCPFC21.
719. New Zealand described the intersessional review process taking place next year. Significantly more seabirds nest in New Zealand than any other area in the world, and pelagic longline fishing posed the most significant bycatch risk. New Zealand was leading a review to ensure that mitigation measures are in place in all areas where there is significant risk of bycatch of seabirds. Two meetings were planned in 2024, in February and May, and submissions were invited regarding a potential CMM for appraisal by TCC20 and potential adoption by WCPFC21.
720. Korea said they would be happy to join in this endeavour. They understood this intersessional work would also involve industry stakeholders and scientists.
721. Australia welcomed the initiative and looked forward to working with New Zealand in the New Year.
722. Fiji had one of the fisheries that would usually come into close contact with seabirds and signalled their commitment to working with New Zealand in this intersessional process.
723. French Polynesia thanked New Zealand for their work. They were very committed to the Commission's work on seabirds and will also be having a workshop early in 2024 on seabird bycatch mitigation, with the help of New Zealand, Birdlife International, and ACAP in French Polynesia. They thanked all for these partners for their assistance and, as stated previously at SC19, they were committed to work with New Zealand on updating the CMM.

724. Several other CCMs, including Chinese Taipei, New Caledonia, Indonesia, Samoa, the EU, and the USA commended New Zealand for the initiative and promised to work with them. The European Union also noted for future planning its limitations in participating in virtual meetings that take place late at night.
725. The Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) took the opportunity to explain who ACAP were and what they did – for the benefit of those CCMs who were not familiar with them. ACAP was a multilateral intergovernmental agreement, as was the WCPFC, but ACAP was global rather than regional. ACAP came into force in 2004, around the same time as WCPFC held its first meeting and its objective was to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels. There were 13 Parties to ACAP and some of those were Members of the WCPFC, including France, Australia and New Zealand, as well as Spain. In addition, some non-Parties were regular participants in the ACAP meeting, such as the US and Canada. ACAP had a mechanism for cooperation with WCPFC through an MOU and they were pleased to be able to participate in WCPFC meetings as an observer. They would likewise be very pleased to see WCPFC Members who were not Parties to ACAP attend as observers to ACAP meetings, especially the Working Group and Advisory Committee meetings, which is where ACAP’s best practice was discussed and updated in line with the most recently available research and practical experience.
726. ACAP’s mission to conserve albatrosses and petrels meant that a lot of its work was spent on developing seabird bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries, given that this is the biggest threat to albatrosses and petrels. They were very pleased that WCPFC19 last year decided to carry out a review and updating of CMM 2018-03. This was a valuable endeavour and should set an example to other RFMOs. ACAP had attended the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting in 2023 where they presented the latest Best Practice Advice review and update, in paper SC19-2023-EB-IP-21. They would be happy to provide ACAP expertise and input to the intersessional process just proposed by New Zealand to work on the review of the CMM for presentation to the Commission in 2024. If there were any questions or comments ACAP would be happy to talk in the margins with interested parties.
727. The Commission noted that New Zealand will lead informal intersessional meetings with interested CCMs to review the latest scientific evidence on seabird bycatch mitigation and gather views on the review of CMM 2018-03 with an aim to draft a revision of CMM 2018-03 for submission to SC20, TCC20, and WCPFC21.

12(c) Sea Turtles (CMM 2018-04)

728. Working Paper 21 noted that the Commission had adopted WCPFC’s first sea turtle CMM at WCPFC5 in 2008 (CMM 2008-03) and revised it at WCPFC15 in 2018 (CMM 2018-04). WCPFC15 also adopted safe handling guidelines (suppl_CMM 2018-04-1) and accompanying graphics (suppl_CMM 2018-04-2).
729. The paper conveyed one of the suggestions of SC19 on turtles and invited the Commission to consider development of a best practices and guidelines to minimize the impact of FADs on sea turtles to inform CCMs of potential impacts, including detailed information on Fully Non-entangling FADs and ideas related to a “FAD WATCH” program.
730. Canada said that one of their top priorities was to ensure the sustainable management of fisheries, and they understood the negative impacts of fisheries on non-target and associated or dependent species in the WCPO, so they fully supported the recommendations put forward by the Scientific Committee to continue efforts to mitigate such impacts, particularly through

the development of safe handling protocols, improvements to existing measures, and to increase data collection.

731. PNA and Tokelau CCMs through the Marshall Islands noted the need for an amendment to the sea turtle CMM 2018-04. They thought there was a fairly simple fix for the lack of clarity in the CMM language, and suggested in both paragraphs 5(c) and 7(e) to delete the words "results of the reporting" and replacing them with "information collected under..." This would allow the data collected to be provided as the CCMs see fit and with no need for results to be presented. The existing wording implied some level of analysis to be done before reporting to the Commission, which has resulted in a lack of clarity on reporting obligations. They also supported the recommendation for work on guidelines to minimise the impact of FADs on sea turtles. They noted that it is estimated that most of the 200 sea turtles taken annually in the purse seine fisheries were taken in free school sets. By comparison, the longline fishery caught about 13,000 sea turtles annually and some of this data from SPC's estimates would be useful to include in this NTADS summary paper.
732. Tuvalu, speaking on behalf of all FFA CCMs considered that, while noting the difficulty of logbook-based data collection for sea turtles, the clarification of reporting requirements in paragraphs 5 and 7 of CMM 2018-04 may be necessary. Clarifying reporting requirements would ensure consistent and accurate reporting, and that CMM objectives were being met. However, incomplete data, including in reporting interactions and potential infringements, posed challenges in assessing CMM compliance. Therefore, FFA Members supported improvements in data collection through initiatives such as increasing longline observer coverage rates, refinement of ROP data fields and the implementation of the PNA and Tokelau FAD logbooks, and where necessary, through amendments to CMMS. This would support the CMS Audit Point Small Working Group's conclusion that amendments to the sea turtle CMM or SciData are required to ensure accurate reporting, and that the CMM is working as intended. They also wanted to note that refinements to data collection to improve FAD-related data and monitoring were being initiated by the PNA and Tokelau through the PNA 4th Implementing Arrangement, and that this was supported by the wider FFA membership. Additionally, the Commission will have implemented a ban on the use of mesh netting on FADs under CMM 2021-01 as of 1 January 2024. FFA CCMs considered the agreement and documentation of best practices and guidelines to minimise the impact of FADs on sea turtles would help inform CCMs of the potential impacts of their fisheries on turtles, and that improved data would better inform the analyses required for developing these guidelines.
733. The USA supported the recommendation from SC19 on the development of best practices and guidelines to minimize the impact of FADs on sea turtles. They would be happy to work with partners to develop and adopt such guidelines, and also noted briefly, and following the comments from colleagues at FFA, the SC19 recommendation that the Commission explore options to expand the level of observer coverage on longline vessels in order to improve estimates of bycatch, including sea turtles.

<p>734. The Commission noted the need to develop best practices and guidelines to minimize the impact of FADs on sea turtles to inform CCMs of potential impacts, including detailed information on fully non-entangling FADs and ideas related to a "FAD WATCH" programme.</p>

12(d) Cetaceans (CMM 2011-03)

735. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

12(e) Information and data requirements to support management decisions

736. Working paper 21 noted the CMS Audit Points small working group at TCC19 had concluded that an amendment to the Turtle CMM or the SciData would be needed, in order to clarify the expectations of paragraphs 5(c) and 7(e) in terms of the form of reporting that was required.
737. The Chair invited the Commission “to consider whether it is necessary to clarify the reporting requirements in paragraphs 5 and 7 of CMM 2018-04, while noting the difficulty of logbook-based data collection for sea turtles”.
738. Tuvalu previously had provided the views of FFA CCMs on this question under Agenda Item 12.3 (see paragraph 733), and felt that it was indeed necessary to clarify these reporting requirements.
739. Japan stated that recording, and reporting the bycatch information to the flag state authority are obligations, however, the reporting format to the secretariat is not identified and submission of operational data is not required under the current CMM. China agreed.

Bycatch estimates of longline fisheries

740. Working Paper 21 outlined outcomes from SC19 that noted the adopted level of 5% ROP observer coverage rate for longline vessels, which had been in place for over a decade, had not provided robust estimates of bycatch associated with longline fisheries. A previous analysis by the SSP (SC16-ST-IP-11) suggested that observer coverage of at least 10% of longline trips would improve the precision of estimates of bycatch, and that the increase in precision would be highest for species with infrequent interactions. SC19 had recommended that the Commission explore options to expand the observer coverage on longline vessels through both human and electronic approaches in the WCPO so that the SC could provide better estimates of bycatch levels and other metrics from these fleets.
741. TCC19 had also considered the current level of observer coverage on longline vessels, which impacted the Commission’s ability to independently verify several obligations. Although the Commission and its subsidiary bodies had been discussing the observer coverage levels in the longline fishery for several years, there had been no agreement to increase the minimum 5% ROP coverage rate since the adoption of the original ROP CMM 2007-01. The aim at the time of adoption in 2007 was to achieve this minimum level across most fisheries no later than 30 June 2012. TCC19 had reaffirmed the importance of increasing monitoring and observer coverage in the longline fishery, including through the implementation of electronic monitoring.
742. Taking account of the SC19 recommendation for the Commission to explore options to expand the observer coverage on longline vessels through both human and electronic approaches in the WCPO so that the SC could provide better estimates of bycatch levels and other metrics from these fleets, and the TCC19 reaffirmation of the importance of increasing monitoring and observer coverage in the longline fishery, including through the implementation of electronic monitoring, the recommendation to WCPFC20 in WP21 was “to consider an increase in longline observer coverage of at least 10% of trips, which allows for reasonably good estimates of bycatch, and that the increase in precision would be highest for species that are frequently caught, and weakest for rarely caught species, especially sea turtles and cetaceans” noting that this was already being considered in discussions on the tropical tuna CMM longline provisions, and in the CMS CMM.
743. The Marshall Islands asked for the floor to recap on bycatch issues in general, endorsing the efforts of SC19 to close the data gaps. It had been said many times that the four main tuna

stocks were sustainable, but there was still concern about the status of many associated species under the WCPFC mandate. In particular the oceanic whitetip shark which was deeply in the red quadrant of the Kobe Plot. This was also something of relevance to the FAC. The support for the work that the scientists needed to do was not only for the key tuna stocks, but the issues around bycatch and mitigation measures also deserved support. There were funding opportunities that could be tapped into to support this scientific work. He encouraged dialogue with those that might provide those opportunities, and for the Commission to consider how to integrate those opportunities into the budget in order to make ends meet to support the additional research that was necessary on some of these species, particularly the oceanic white tip shark.

744. Japan noted that the recommendation for an increase in longline observer coverage was also being worked on through a PNA proposal on longline MCS measures, and at the same time it was a factor in the small working group on the balance of fishing opportunities in the Tropical Tuna measure discussion. Japan suggested this issue continue to be addressed through the small working groups and that it would not be appropriate to make a clear recommendation at this stage under this agenda item.

13. COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-22](#), [WCPFC20-2023-23](#), [WCPFC20-2023-24](#), & [WCPFC20-2023-DP01](#)

13.1 CMS-IWG Workplan

745. The Compliance Monitoring Scheme Intersessional Working Group (CMS-IWG) Chair and TCC Vice-Chair, Mr. Ilkang Na (Korea), provided an update on progress in 2023 on the activities of the CMS-IWG.
746. The CMS-IWG Lead on the Development of Audit Points, Mr. Viv Fernandez (Australia), provided an update on progress in 2023 towards the finalization of audit points, and recommended the adoption of remaining audit points ready for consideration.
747. The CMS-IWG Lead for Corrective Actions, Ms. Elizabeth O’Sullivan (United States), provided an update on the 2023 progress towards developing terms of reference for that work, to assist the Commission in considering next steps to develop corrective actions.
748. Discussion under this agenda item was also to cover TCC19 recommendations related to the Compliance Verification, Aggregate Tables process, the added value from analytical work and opportunities for further enhancing CCMs participation in the Commission’s work.

13.1(a) Finalisation of audit points

749. The CMS-IWG Lead on the Development of Audit Points, Mr. Viv Fernandez Viv presented the report of the subgroup on completing outstanding audit points. The SWG had been able to agree on a subset of the 123 audit points and to agree which paragraphs of which measures did not need audit points. The CMS-IWG Chair thanked Viv for his tireless approach to this work and drew attention to a number of recommendations for potential endorsement by WCPFC20.
750. Many CCMs thanked the SWG for this work.
751. The Chair noted no objections to the proposed audit points, so they were adopted.

752. The Commission noted the report of the CMS-IWG Audit Point Lead on adopted audit points set out in **Attachment 10**.
753. The Commission endorsed the following recommendations of the CMS-IWG drawn from its work developing audit points in 2023:
- a. TCC, as a standing agenda item relating to the Special Requirements of Developing States, review and assess the Commission's implementation of, and compliance with, CMM 2013-06 for the previous calendar year.
 - b. The Commission considers the obligation outlined in paragraph 1, CMM 2013-06 and whether it is fit for purpose, including whether it requires CCMs to report information already reported in other CMMs or obligations.
 - c. TCC20 consider whether any amendments are required to VMS SSPs 7.2.4 to provide clearer language in relation to this reporting requirement (i.e. protocol for inspecting States to inspect ALCs/MTU of other CCMs vessels at sea, includes reporting requirements for inspecting States).
 - d. TCC20 consider how CCMs can monitor their vessels' compliance with CMM 2018-05 15 (g).
 - e. SC20 and TCC20 review the SciData requirements to capture turtle interaction reporting requirements under CMM 2018-04, paragraphs 5c and 7e.
 - f. TCC20 consider whether any adopted audit points for Quantitative Limit obligations require additional verification sources or processes to better facilitate compliance assessments.
 - g. TCC20 prepare new audit points for the revised catch and effort reporting CMM (CMM 2022-06), noting it enters into force on 1 January 2024.
 - h. The Commission task TCC to annually prepare a provisional list of obligations to be assessed in the following year's Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS). This will allow the Secretariat and TCC chair sufficient time to determine whether the Commission will need to adopt any additional audit points to inform the CMS process.
 - i. The Commission reminds CCMs to use the audit point checklist adopted by WCPFC19 for any proposed new or amended obligations (Attachment R, WCPFC19 Summary Report). CCMs' use of this checklist will ensure that the development of audit points is embedded within the Commission's consideration of new proposals.
 - j. The Commission will apply the following general approach when determining the particular category of obligations (i.e. implementation or reporting) and developing associated audit points:
 - i. obligations that require CCMs to take particular control or action over its vessels, operators, masters or crew (e.g. 'CCMs shall ensure that its flagged vessels...') are best treated as implementation obligations. This is because these obligations require CCMs to exercise control over its vessels, masters or crew - and require national binding measures to enable it to do so, along with appropriate monitoring controls
 - ii. obligations that require specific action from a national authority or its officers (e.g. inspectors) are best treated as reporting obligations rather than implementation obligations. This is because CCMs do not generally have national binding measures requiring their national authority or officials to take specific action, and instead they implement or require such action as part of national procedures or policies.
 - iii. obligations that require CCMs to complete an action (e.g. 'CCMs shall...') but provide some qualification (e.g. 'to the extent practicable' or 'where possible') are best treated as reporting obligations. This is because a CCM still has a binding obligation

- to take a particular action but has some discretion in light of particular circumstances.
- iv. obligations requiring CCMs to cooperate are best treated as reporting obligations.
 - v. obligations may be categorised as both implementation and reporting obligations.
 - vi. no audit points are required for:
 - (i) Convention obligations that are covered by specific CMMs or which are general in nature;
 - (ii) non-binding obligations; and
 - (iii) obligations that apply to the Commission (in relation to CCMs' compliance assessments)
 - vii. The Commission will consider obligations that apply to it and how compliance with these obligations can be assessed.

13.1(b) Develop corrective actions

754. CMS IWG Chair noted that the IWG had not been able to meet, but it ought to meet in 2024 to begin discussion on corrective actions.
755. The Solomon Islands on behalf of FFA CCMs appreciated the work that had gone into this, However, as they had said in the past, this was not a priority for FFA Members. The lack of engagement from other CCMs in terms of providing comments into the various versions of the draft Terms of Reference also indicated to them that this was not a priority for other CCMs either. In light of the numerous priorities currently facing the Commission, FFA Members recommended a pause on this particular undertaking.
756. Papua New Guinea felt that the issue of corrective actions was related to the outcome of the expiry of the CMS CMM. They therefore reserved their position on this issue at this time.
757. The USA clarified their understanding that the Commission was not postponing the work on the Terms of Reference, but postponing the work on Corrective Actions itself, and thought the postponement date could be reflected in the revised CMS CMM.
758. The Chair noted that the Commission was not in a position to adopt the Terms of Reference at this stage.

759. The Commission agreed to postpone the work on the development of corrective actions until sometime in the future.

13.2 Compliance Monitoring Report RY2021 and RY2022

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-25](#)

760. This agenda item was to allow the Commission to consider the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report (pCMR) recommended by TCC19 and also to take into account any additional information that might be provided by CCMs. A small working group was established to consider the provisional CMR and compile a Final CMR for the consideration and adoption by the Commission in plenary.
761. The TCC Chair Mat Kertesz (Australia) introduced the draft CMR produced by TCC19 and drew attention to some implementation and verification challenges. He commended the final draft CMR for adoption by the Commission.

762. Nauru, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs expressed appreciation for the work that the Secretariat put in every year to support the CMS process, in particular compiling the Compliance Monitoring Reports and supporting the CMR review process. They also thanked the TCC Chair for leading the CMR review, both at TCC19 and in the margins of WCPFC20. They appreciated that a lot of time and effort went into supporting the CMS both from the Secretariat and also from CCMs. The CMS was in its thirteenth year and although it was not perfect, there had been a lot of gains and lessons learned as the CMS evolved. This was also obvious in the technical support work by the Secretariat and the presentations to TCC19 on the excellent analyses undertaken and the potential improvements that the Commission can benefit from in harnessing the information held in Commission databases. FFA Members supported adopting the Compliance Monitoring Report.

763. The Commission adopted the Compliance Monitoring Report RY2021 and RY2022 (**Attachment 11**).

13.3 Develop list of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2024

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-26](#)

764. This agenda item was to provide for a Commission decision on the list of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2024. Working paper 26 was not presented in view of the short time remaining in the meeting but taken as read.

765. New Zealand, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, said the principles in the paper together with the Risk Based Assessment Framework (RBAF) were a good basis for determining the list of obligations to be assessed under the CMS. FFA members saw merit in the proposed approach in the paper and supported the proposed trial for 2024 of the 11 implementation type obligations. They saw this as a good initiative towards reforming and streamlining the CMS review. They recommended tasking the Secretariat, working with the TCC Chair and TCC Vice-Chair, to support the proposed trial at TCC20, and for TCC20 to provide an update to WCPFC21 in 2024. They agreed in principle with the list of 53 obligations proposed in working paper 26. Any obligation in this list which had audit points remaining to be finalized by the Audit Point Small Working Group should be prioritised for adoption.

766. There were no comments and no objections so WCPFC20 adopted the list of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2024.

767. The Commission endorsed the list of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2024 set out in WCPFC20-2023-26, Annex 1 (**Attachment 12**).

768. The Commission tasked the Secretariat working together with the TCC Chair and TCC Vice-Chair to support a trial at TCC20 of the suggested approach for certain Implementation (IM) obligations where most applicable CCMs met the audit point, based on the obligations listed in paragraph 12 of **WCPFC20-2023-26**, and to request that TCC20 provide an update to WCPFC21.

13.4 Expiry of CMM 2021-03 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme)

Papers: [WCPFC20-2023-DP05](#) (Revs 01-05)

769. This agenda item was to provide for the Commission to consider a successor measure to ensure the continued operation of the CMS beyond the expiry of CMM 2021-03 on 31st

December 2023. A proposal for a renewed CMS CMM had been provided by PNA and Tokelau CCMs, and had gone through several rounds of discussion, commentary, and revision before being presented by the PNA Chair, Solomon Islands for potential adoption by the Commission.

770. The Solomons Islands on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs appreciated the feedback that they had received by email from Australia, EU, and Japan. It was clear that there was broad agreement among CCMs about the need to address the imbalance in the CMS. They had not heard any alternative proposals for addressing the imbalance, and the comments they had received generally focused on two main areas: first, there were questions about the proposed sampling scheme in paragraph 13 bis with some helpful suggestions for clarification; second, there was concern at the proposed deletion of the Future Work section. In response PNA and Tokelau had proposed to largely restore the previous text on Future Work. In addition to these points, they wanted to ensure that WCPFC delegations understood that some of the headlines about “PNA reducing observer coverage” were incorrect. PNA and Tokelau continued to see observers as the frontline of fisheries management in the region. The 100% observer coverage on purse seine vessels was a key element of the health of stocks and fisheries of the region. In that direction, as WWF had kindly noted, the payments for observers on PNA vessels would generally increase by 30% next year. The valuable reports from observers on possible infractions will continue to be provided to the Commission and entered into the Compliance Case File System. Flag states will continue to be required to investigate and report on cases in the Case File System, including PNA flag States whose fleets now make up most of the purse seine fleet. However, the scope of the cases used for the *Compliance Monitoring Report* would take into account the failure of monitoring in the longline fishery. This would strengthen the CMS by enabling remedial actions for non-compliance to be considered within the CMS and broader use of the aggregated tables. PNA and Tokelau hoped that the revisions they had proposed and the explanations provided would encourage support to be broadened for the proposal so that it could be adopted here.
771. The USA was generally fine with the proposal but suggested a number of further improvements, including allowing the Secretariat to design a draft sampling scheme in Section IX so as not to divert CCMs from the task of designing more critical elements. The USA was not entirely comfortable with this draft but appreciated that some CCMs had major concerns and were willing to go forward with it because of the essential nature of the CMS.
772. The EU said they had also had an opportunity to engage with the proponents. The EU was very well aware of the problem of longline observer coverage but did not feel that reducing the amount of data available to the CMR from the purse-seine fishery was the most effective way of addressing the problem of the so-called imbalance between the two main gears. Adopting this proposal would weaken the framework already in place. The proponents had put a lot of energy into this draft and the EU appreciated their flexibility in accommodating many of the EU suggestions, but they still weren’t really sure how the proposed approach would work and what would happen at the next TCC meeting if it didn’t work.
773. Korea had many of the same concerns, but the proponents had been willing to accommodate their suggestions for future work, and they were prepared for it to go forward.
774. Australia drew attention to paragraph 13ter, which sought to do what the EU had just outlined – to have specific ways to address the imbalance. Australia also wanted to ensure there was no lowering of standards, and that was the context for this 13ter insertion.
775. Japan also thanked PNA and Tokelau for taking many of their comments into account. They noted that the text was now very complicated because of all the amendments. They understood the CMS process was about checking compliance with major elements, and it was

late in the meeting to begin discussing such a major text. But Japan's priority was to ensure the continuation of the CMS, and it had been difficult to reach common ground when so many different views were suggested.

776. Canada noted that the CMS was a fundamental mechanism to assess compliance by CCMs with the Commission process at large. They recognised that imbalance of observer coverage was also very important to most members. They also suggested that the measure should be "reviewed" by September 2026, not "expire" by.
777. New Zealand acknowledged the frustration of PNA and Tokelau about the imbalance in observer coverage between the longline and purse seine fisheries. New Zealand had actively promoted improved monitoring of the longline fishery, including supporting the proposals put forward by PNA and Tokelau in the context of the tropical tuna measure. For New Zealand's part, it was essential that the Compliance Monitoring Scheme continued as a core means to hold CCMs to account in relation to WCPFC obligations and to deter non-compliance. Like other CCMs, New Zealand had concerns about paragraph 13 bis (d). They also had a question about the application of the purse seine sampling to the Aggregate Tables and inputs to the Compliance Case File System. Was it intended that the sampling be confined to the CMR only? This was not clear from the proposal.
778. The EU regretted that a Small Working Group to go through all the details had not been possible. They also wanted to clarify what happened with para 13 bis (d) and would prefer to continue to work on this intersessionally.
779. The Chair suggested that PNA and Tokelau come back to the meeting with a clean, updated version of the text and convene a small group to work out the remaining issues. This was later reflected in Rev05 of DP05.
780. Japan would go along with the revised text in DP05.
781. The EU indicated that it could reluctantly go along with the proposed text for the next three years to see how it played out and would consider revisiting it when the measure would expire.

782. The Commission adopted CMM 2023-04 on a Compliance Monitoring Scheme, contained at Attachment 13.

14. PROGRESS TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CMM ON CREW LABOUR STANDARDS

783. The Co-Chairs of the Labour Standards Intersessional Working Group, Putuh Suadela (Indonesia) and Sarah McAvinchey (New Zealand), provided an update on 2023 progress towards the development of a draft CMM proposal.
784. Sarah McAvinchey presented the latest report from the Crew Labour Standards Intersessional Working Group. She thanked those who had taken part for their excellent engagement and feedback. She believed that important progress had been made and looked forward to continuing the work with CCMs and other parties. Although it had been noted already, it bore repeating that the work of this Commission was often world-leading, and labour standards was another area where this Commission could show global leadership.
785. She provided a short summary of the last meeting and its approach to drafting the CMM as it currently stood on the website for this meeting. The IWG last met in September, and that

meeting was focused solely on the text of the measure. The approach taken in revising the draft CMM was to maintain the areas where there was general consensus and remove the detail from the sections that had become overly prescriptive following discussions last year. The IWG had focussed the CMM on minimum health and safety requirements, and then on addressing the most egregious issues. It was recognised that this left a very important gap in the CMM but those issues, such as serious illness and injury, might need to be addressed in future work. As was well understood, this was the human side of regional fisheries work and addressing this was a critical issue for the Commission.

786. Regarding the key issues remaining to be addressed, two of those were the area of application, and how the Commission would address any coverage for crew providers. The area of application was a critical issue, and the revised CMM text provided two options. A critical part of the work next year would be on crew providers. Comments had been provided over several rounds of text revisions, and also in some of the IWG meetings. Regarding obligations on crew providers, the Co-Chairs wanted to note that WCPFC's role and purview was on flag States, port States, and Coastal State obligations. This, of course, did not negate the importance that crew providers played in labour standards, but just defined the mandate.
787. The goal for the next stage was to have a measure adopted at WCPFC21, noting that the Commission may seek a slight delay in the effective date to allow CCMs time to work at the national level. A half-day virtual meeting was being planned for the second half of June 2024 to focus on the text. With the concurrence of the TCC Chair, an additional half-day meeting would be planned for the same day as the TCC Heads of Delegation meeting, so that this would be in-person in September. TCC would consider the draft measure, and then submit a revised draft to WCPFC21.
788. Finally, the Co-Chairs noted that improving labour standards on fishing vessels remained a moral imperative, and CCMs needed to stand ready to ensure a binding measure can be secured in 2024.
789. Korea appreciated the hard work of the Co-Chairs. Korea was reinforcing national law and policy to improve working conditions and secure the human rights of crew. It was hoped that WCPFC members could narrow down the range of views and agree on an implementable CMM in the near future.
790. The USA was disappointed that more attention could not have been paid to this work in 2023, but it had been a busy year. However, it did not feel right to wait another half year to resume working on the draft and felt a more aggressive schedule would be needed to get this agreed in 2024. But they did appreciate the work done so far.
791. FFA CCMs thanked the Co-Chairs from NZ and Indonesia for their leadership over the intersessional period in the development of the CMM. Crew labour standards and ensuring that work in fishing is safe, decent and worthwhile were high priorities for FFA Members. They highlighted the importance of ensuring fair labour standards for all vessel crew and that this was a moral imperative for the Commission as it was critical to success in ensuring the sustainable use, in all its forms, of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. It was clear to FFA Members that there would be additional work needed to finalise this measure. Key issues such as the area of application, alignment with international conventions and enforceability required significant discussion through this forum, and consultation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. This was a challenging issue to overcome, requiring a 'whole of government approach' to develop, implement and enforce, noting the severity and transnational nature of some violations occurring on vessels in the Convention Area, and there was a need for more consultation within national governments

and between CCMs. FFA further wished to highlight that this Measure would improve people's lives. It was critical that the Commission get the drafting of this CCM right the first time because the fishers working in the WCPO were the lifeblood of our work and without them we would not be here. Therefore, FFA proposed that in 2024 there should be a robust and concerted effort to continue the development of the measure with a view to adoption at WCPFC21.

792. Australia acknowledged the leadership from the Co-Chairs on progressing the crew labour standards CMM. Australia strongly supported the need for this critical work to continue, with tangible progress in 2024. They echoed FFA members' emphasis on the importance of this work and the need to protect the rights of fishing crew to ensure they operated in a safe and fair working environment.
793. PNG encouraged all CMMs to engage with their fishing industries on improving the working environments of their crew.
794. Tuvalu acknowledged the good work conducted by the Commission and supported the comments already made by other members. Tuvalu wished to inform the Commission that they had been taking proactive measures to protect the rights and welfare of the crew members of vessels working in the Tuvalu EEZ. In 2020, Tuvalu with the help of the FFA adopted a national regulation that set the minimum labour and human rights standards requirements for fishing vessels operating in their waters, making Tuvalu one of the first FFA SIDS to do so. Due to COVID-19, the government was planning regular meetings with all relevant stakeholders for the implementation and enforcement of the new law to start on the 1st of January 2024. Tuvalu had consulted with the FFA, the ILO, other international UN agencies, the Commission, and fishing partner companies. They had recently made good use of funding from the government of New Zealand to conduct training for Tuvalu crews in Funafuti, and Tuvalu was likely to be applying to other funds, such as the Canada Indo-Pacific Programme, for assistance to support work under the regulation. They also acknowledged the indirect work of the faculty staff of ANCORS at the University of Wollongong for their guidance and recommendations for the path forward on the regulation. They noted that Tuvalu was a small country with a population of just over 11,000 people, so they were very aware of the value of people. Tuvalu called upon all CCMs to support one another and to support the work, at both the national level and through this WCPFC forum, to ensure that work in fishing is safe, decent and worthwhile for all fishers working on fishing vessels.
795. Chinese Taipei said that in recent years, protection and the promotion of the rights and the benefits of a migrant crew working on board or distant water fishing fleets had always been their top priority. They supported the Co-Chairs' views that the areas of focus should be minimum standards and the issues which had the greatest level of agreement by most CCMs, and take a stepwise approach to providing better protection to crew members. Chinese Taipei committed to working with all CCMs during the intersessional process next year.
796. Canada stood ready to meet with members intersessionally, and as early as possible, with the goal of getting a measure adopted in 2024.
797. The Cook Islands felt that improving lives of fishers was one of the major elements in our stewardship of the ocean. The Cook Islands said that they were taking steps to implement labour standards and employment conditions into national laws to ensure that all fishing crew were treated fairly, and their welfare taken care of.
798. The EU joined others in thanking the Co-Chairs for the intersessional work that they had achieved thus far and was glad to see the Commission was gradually getting there. Hopefully,

next year CCMs would be in a position to finally adopt a measure and standards for promoting decent work and safety in fisheries.

799. Kiribati added their support for progressing this work on labour standards, and wished to highlight, like many colleagues around the table, that Kiribati was also taking steps to incorporate conditions into their fishing licenses to ensure protection of fishing crew operating in Kiribati waters.
800. Fiji saw great value in putting great effort into the protection of crew on fishing vessels, just as the Commission had been in the protection of observers. In addition to working conditions that included intense weather and long hours, there was also the complication that crew were often citizens of different countries. Fiji had been working with the private sector and stakeholders to agree a policy on crew labour standards.
801. The Marshall Islands was in the process of incorporating crew standards into licence conditions. Marshall Islands people were a seafaring people and this work in trying to achieve safe and harmonious conditions for crew had considerable significance for them.
802. Samoa wanted to emphasise that standards of crew welfare were a matter of highest priority to them, and they would be working to incorporate crew standards and employment conditions into their licensing conditions. Samoa recognized that in 1948 the world stood united to proclaim the fundamental value of the rights that all people possess. Samoa was concerned that these rights were not being experienced by some vessel crew in the WCPO. Samoa hoped that WCPFC members could follow the lead of our forefathers and work through 2024 to adopt a binding CMM that would ensure fishing crew rights.
803. Tonga, like many Pacific islands, was working on improving labour standards on fishing vessels through their national systems. They were proud of the work and had started through policy, development and training across government and industry stakeholders, to implement this work effectively.
804. China also thanked the Co-Chairs of the IWG on crew labour standards, which China had joined. China attached great importance to human rights and labour rights protection and has ratified most core labour conventions of the International Labour Organisation. China has established a domestic system to protect labour rights. China recognized FAO is now drafting a social responsibility in the fisheries sector document and will take part actively in that process as well as in the WCPFC crew standards working group to improve the crew labour protection among different stakeholders. China hoped that we could find a better solution in WCPFC for improving crew labour rights.
805. The Federated States of Micronesia believed in the principle of fair working conditions and fully supported this work. National consultation remained a priority for getting to a level where this measure could be adopted.
806. The World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) noted that this was an important matter which never seemed to have enough time devoted to it. They thanked the Co-Chairs and all the members that had committed to the principles and purpose of this measure through the working group. They noted at the outset that the Commission had just spent the better part of three days discussing how to divide up the pie that is the Pacific tuna fisheries. Everybody wanted the biggest slice they could get and were willing to fight to get it. Yet scant time, about 25 minutes at the moment, was allocated to the people who make that pie possible - the crew. No delegations would be [here](#) without fishers out [there](#). The fisheries pie simply did not exist without fishers, so it was a shame that this critically important issue had been deferred to effectively the 11th hour on the last day. WWF simply wished to submit two written comments

to the record in support of due process for crew accused of misconduct and the need for a reporting requirement for serious injury and death of crew.

- a. The first was on paragraph 5(g), which allowed for an employer to terminate a crew member for insubordination, sabotage, or breach of contract or for misconduct, and force that crew member to pay for their repatriation and other costs. Crew members were already subject to a large enough power imbalance with employers, and we didn't need to add to it by including a provision that all but guaranteed a perverse incentive to charge every crew member departing a vessel to pay a cost without at least providing for due process to verify and validate the claims of the captain, master, or vessel owner. It was imperative that crew be offered an opportunity to defend themselves in the event they were accused of misconduct.
- b. The second was a matter of understanding the scope and scale of crew serious injuries and deaths across the Convention Area. The Commission could not meaningfully address the problem without understanding the extent of the problem. Therefore, WWF believed that a provision must be included in paragraph 14 to require that details of any incidents and their resolution must be transparently reported to the WCPFC as part of the Annual Report. Consistent with the WWF position statement, they again emphasized the explicit need for a recordkeeping and reporting requirement maintained by the WCPFC Secretariat for all serious injuries and fatalities that occur on board fishing vessels subject to compliance oversight by the WCPFC.

807. WWF suggested that every delegation look across the table at the human beings in front of them. Having worked many years together, delegations might disagree on issues, but they recognised their shared humanity. Now, think about the crew – the people that were often talked about in the abstract as if they were pieces of equipment, even though they were just like all of us sitting here in this room with families, friends, dreams, and aspirations of a better life through work at sea. All WCPFC20 participants were acutely aware of the reality that crew faced. There had been much recent gold medal journalism on atrocities at sea against crew. Some Korean news media had reported on bodies being pushed overboard at sea in their local news and Korea took significant steps to address the issue. And Chinese Taipei had significantly stepped up their game to address the issue, in recognition of its seriousness. The FFA had independently established Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions (HMTCs) on crew welfare that were world-leading and various important national level efforts had been expressed around the table. Yet, while this forum used rhetoric like “serious” and “concerning” and “important” its actions suggested otherwise when it continually pushed back action on a minimal measure to address it. As the working group Co-Chair suggested, it was a moral imperative that this issue be addressed with the urgency that we claim for it, not just give it lip service, and follow the recommendations of others to aggressively advance the timeline for implementation.

808. Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL) said they did not need to repeat what WWF had just said but could contribute data covering hundreds of cases of abuse and mistreatment of fishers at sea. While the Commission delayed for yet another year, people continued to suffer. APIL really hoped that there could be a commitment to making an agreement no later than next year.

809. WCPFC noted with appreciation the report of the Co-Chairs of the Crew Labour Standards IWG.
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810. The Commission noted the overwhelming support of CCMs for further work in 2024 on crew labour standards and requested the Co-Chairs to work with interested CCMs to progress this work in 2024 so that a CMM on Crew Labour Standards can be adopted at WCPFC21.

15. REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

15.1 NC19

811. In view of the short time remaining, and the fact that the main recommendations from these bodies had already been dealt with under other agenda items, the Chair proposed that the NC19 and SC19 reports be taken as read, and the few recommendations from TCC19 (contained in [WCPFC20-2023-27](#)) that had not already been considered under other agenda items be taken as accepted. There were no objections.

812. The Commission adopted the report and recommendations of NC19 (WCPFC20-2023-NC19).

15.2 SC19

813. The Commission adopted the report and recommendations of SC19 (WCPFC20-2023-SC19).

15.3 TCC19

814. TCC Chair Mat Kertesz drew attention to TCC19 recommendations that needed attention at WCPFC20, and which had not already been dealt with under other agenda items.

815. One issue was the Philippines proposal in WCPFC20-2023-DP11, for which TCC19 had deferred consideration to WCPFC20 to provide time for the Philippines to provide the additional information required for consideration of type-approval for the VMS-100Si unit.

816. The Philippines presented DP11_rev1 and requested the Commission's approval of this type of VMS.

817. Korea supported this approval, provided that some additional questions could be answered. Would a separate AIS be used for safety purposes, noting that AIS was not a mandatory requirement for WCPFC purposes, and would the AIS antennae be removed from the units themselves?

818. The Philippines clarified that the antenna would be removed from the unit for any operations on the high seas.

819. The Marshall Islands supported the Philippines request for approval.

820. Chinese Taipei understood that this unit could be using AIS for domestic operations, as required by the Philippines fisheries agency, but for operations in international waters the unit could only be used for VMS.

821. Japan sought clarification on how the old devices would be distinguished from the new devices.

822. Philippines said the new devices had "100-Si" written on them and the old ones had "100-S".

823. Based on the information provided, the USA supported the Philippines proposal.
824. There being no other questions, the Commission accepted the Philippines request.
825. The other issue was contained in the TCC Chair's paper WCPFC20-WP34 updating WCPFC20 on TCC Priority work for 2024. The recommendation was simply to note the issues identified in the paper and to task the TCC Chair with further developing the TCC Workplan in the early part of 2024. He noted that a number of issues that had previously been TCC project tasks were not transitioning into the regular business of the Secretariat.

826. The Commission adopted the report and recommendations of TCC19 (WCPFC20-2023-TCC19).
827. The Commission noted the information provided by the TCC Chair on the update of the CMS-IWG Workplan (WCPFC20-2023-24).
828. The Commission tasked the TCC Chair to develop an updated and consolidated TCC Workplan for 2024, to inform planning for TCC20, for circulation to CCMs in the first quarter of 2024.
829. The Commission accepted the proposal from the Philippines (WCPFC20-2023-P11_Rev01) and agreed to the accreditation of the MTU/ALC VMS 100Si unit.

15.4 Consideration of changes to scheduling of SC20 and TCC20

830. The Chair suggested that WCPFC20-2023-WP28 need not be presented, and only the most critical recommendations considered. The one issue needing explicit WCPFC20 approval was the recommendation for Annual Reports Part 1 to be submitted by 7 July 2024 and Part 2 by 15 June 2024.

831. The Commission did not change the current scheduling of SC20 and TCC20, but requested that the Secretariat, SC Chair, SC Vice-Chair, SC Convenors, TCC Chair, and TCC Vice-Chair further explore and consider options discussed at SC19 and TCC19 and report the intersessional discussions to WCPFC21 for its consideration.
832. The Commission agreed that in 2024, the deadlines for AR Pt 1 reports will be 7 July 2024 and AR Pt 2 reports will be 15 June 2024.

16. REPORT OF THE FAC17

16.1 Report of the Seventeenth Finance and Administration Committee

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-FAC17](#)

833. FAC Co-Chair David Power presented the key outcomes of the 17th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC17), which had met several times in the margins of WCPFC20 in addition to its main session just before the WCPFC meeting on 3 December 2023.
834. The Marshall Islands took the opportunity to thank the WCPFC membership for their constructive engagement with the problem of depletion of the SIDS and Territories Special Requirements Fund. There was at least part of an automatic replenishment mechanism now in place.

835. The USA supported adoption of the FAC report, budget and recommendations. They suggested some intersessional work on replenishment and said that the USA was intending to make a \$30,000 voluntary contribution to the SRF.
836. Cook Islands recalled a lot of work in previous years to identify mechanisms for supporting the SRF. This was actually a requirement for the Commission as a whole. The cost of participation in the Commission is fairly high and at least \$100,000 needed to be put aside to support the participation of smaller members. She hoped that CCMs would support a sustainable mechanism being put in place.
837. Papua New Guinea agreed with the Cook Islands, and also thanked the USA for their voluntary contribution.

838. The Commission accepted the audited financial statements for 2022 as set out in paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-05 and that the outstanding issue on the auditor's report be addressed and reported to FAC18.
839. The Commission supported the recommendations as proposed in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09. The Commission:
- a. approved placing all professional staff on one simplified salary scale (Table 4 of Attachment 1 of WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09);
 - b. approved converting the professional staff salary scale from Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to USD, with a proposed initial conversion exchange rate from current salaries of 1 SDR=1.45 USD;
 - c. agreed to use the annual inflationary changes provided in the UN D1 salary scale to automatically include equivalent percentage increases (up to 5%) for all professional staff salaries in the proposed budget;
 - d. agreed to change the regular salary review to every 8 years or as needed/requested by the Commission or Secretariat, while recognizing the importance of ensuring those salary reviews are more comprehensive and provide benchmarks to the most relevant organizations and, where appropriate, information to support job-sizing exercises;
 - e. adopted the amendments to the staff regulations to give effect to these recommendations and make other technical or conforming edits (Attachment 2, WCPFC-2023-FAC17-09).
840. The Commission noted with concern that the SRF was fully depleted ahead of WCPFC20 and that insufficient funds were available to meet the requests made by Small Island Developing States to support their participation in WCPFC20 and agreed to transfer USD100,000 from CNM Fund to the SRF and encouraged CCMs to make voluntary contributions to the SRF for 2024.
841. The Commission agreed to adopt a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF as matter of urgency. The Commission tasked the FAC Co-Chairs, along with interested CCMs, to convene an intersessional working group to consider options, including potential revisions to the Financial Regulations and the Principles, guidelines and operational procedures for the Commission's Special Requirements Fund, and to conduct further work to support the proposed implementation of a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF to be considered at FAC18 and WCPFC21.
842. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to review the Staff Regulations to identify outdated provisions and report back to FAC18 with draft recommended changes to those regulations.

843. The Commission adopted the report of FAC17 and the recommendations in the FAC17 Report (**Attachment 14**).

16.2 Budget for 2024 and Indicative Budgets for 2025 and 2026

844. The Commission budget for 2024 and Indicative Budgets for 2025 and 2026 were agreed by WCPFC20.

845. The Commission adopted the final 2024 budget of USD 9,308,383 and associated budget Annexes (**Attachment 15**).

17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

17.1 Secretariat's Updated Corporate Plan 2024-2027

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-29](#)

846. The Chair took paper WCPFC20-2023-29 as read and noted that the Secretariat was proposing not to update a Corporate Plan this year in the continued absence of an agreed set of strategic priorities for the Commission.

847. The EU agreed that it may not be necessary to update the Corporate Plan since it did not seem to add much value to the work of the Commission, and that the CMMs and the workplans of the Commission's Subsidiary Bodies could possibly provide the necessary guidance to the Secretariat.

848. The Executive Director noted that the Corporate Plan had been acting more like a reflection of the Secretariat's work than as a guide, and agreed with the EU suggestion that there was already sufficient guidance from the Convention, the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures, and the Commission and Subsidiary Body meetings to guide the Secretariat's annual work plan.

849. FFA CCMs noted the Secretariat's views on the challenges in developing the Corporate Plan and supported the proposal by the Secretariat to discontinue updating the current Corporate Plan as a guide for internal planning, at this stage. They proposed allowing the Executive Director to continue to run the Secretariat as it is currently operating, and for the work of the Secretariat to be guided by agreed priorities of the Commission in the meantime. FFA Members were not supportive of revisiting the development of a Strategic Plan for the Commission.

850. The USA was interested in revisiting the idea of a Commission Strategic Plan and suggested beginning to examine the process that might in future be needed to develop and achieve agreement.

851. The Commission noted that the Secretariat will not update the Corporate Plan covering the period 2024-2027.

17.2 Relationships with Other Organizations

17.2(a) MOU with NPFC

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-30](#)

852. Working Paper 30 on the MOUs with the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) was taken as read, and

the Chair noted that both of these MOUs had previously been considered by SC19 and TCC19 and should now be ready for endorsement.

853. The Commission approved the signature of the MoU with NPFC in Attachment 1 of WCPFC20-2023-30, contained in **Attachment 16**.

17.2(b) MOU renewal with SPRFMO

854. The Commission approved the signature of the MoU with SPRFMO inclusive of the changes described in Attachment 2 of WCPFC20-2023-30, contained in **Attachment 17**.

17.2(c) Relations with IATTC

Paper: [WCPFC20-2023-31](#)

855. Working Paper 31 was taken as read and the Chair opened the floor for discussion.
856. The EU supported this cooperation or even an expansion of this cooperation, particularly on the scientific front and in the sharing of information between the FAD Management Options Working Groups of both organisations. The other area of cooperation was on the shared South Pacific albacore stock, particularly the sharing of information relating to the next stock assessment.
857. Papua New Guinea on behalf of FFA CCMs thanked the Secretariat for this useful paper. They recommended that the Secretariat report on activities under these MOUs on an annual basis and proposed that the Secretariat contact the IATTC Secretariat to discuss how best to strengthen collaboration on developing compatible measures for the management of the shared South Pacific albacore stock, and particularly regarding the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure (SPA-MP). They noted that the Pacific Bluefin Catch Documentation Scheme work provided a useful precedent for this kind of pan-Pacific collaboration and that a similar approach might be established to collaborate with IATTC on the development of the SPA MP, and to discuss whether the inclusion or recognition of the 'Overlap Area' in the development of the MP was feasible for WCPFC to pursue. They encouraged further strengthening of collaboration on data, information and tools to feed the research and inform management, including addressing the climate change challenge. PNG noted that a significant number of high seas transshipments occur in the overlap area, so this would be another field where continued collaboration between WCPFC and IATTC would be needed. In addition, there was a need to ensure compatibility of Electronic Monitoring standards.

858. The Commission noted the status of cooperation between WCPFC and IATTC and requested the WCPFC Secretariat to provide an annual update on collaboration between the two organisations.

17.3 Election of officers

859. The Commission made the following appointments to Commission positions commencing after the end of WCPFC20 (9 December 2023):
- i. Ms Emily Crigler (United States) was appointed Chair of the Scientific Committee
 - ii. Mr David Power (Australia) and Ms Putuh Suadela (Indonesia) were appointed FAC Co-Chairs

860. The Commission invited nominations for SC Vice-Chair and NC Vice-Chair to be made intersessionally.

17.4 Future Meetings

861. Tonga advised that they would be unable to host SC20 as had been provisionally indicated at SC19, because the meeting venue would be in the process of renovation at that time in preparation for the 2024 Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting. The Philippines offered to host SC20.

862. The Commission agreed on the following meeting venues and dates:
- i. Ninth Joint IATTC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG-09) to be held 10-13 July 2024 in Kushiro City, Hokkaido, Japan.
 - ii. NC20 to be held 15-16 July 2024 in Kushiro City, Hokkaido, Japan.
 - iii. SC20 to be held 14-21 August 2024 in the Philippines.
 - iv. TCC20 to be held 25 September – 1 October 2024 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
 - v. Commission Annual meeting (WCPFC21) and FAC18 to be held 1-6 December 2024 in Fiji.

18. OTHER MATTERS

863. Te Ipukarea Society of the Cook Islands briefly presented their paper on the potential implications of deep seabed mining for tuna stocks and the other pelagic species in international waters that came under the purview of the Commission ([WCPFC20-2023-OP14](#)).
864. These species were important for the region, which was why this meeting had been convened, to ensure proper management of these stocks into the future. The meeting had already agreed that impacts of climate change were a concern for fish stocks in the region. This change was predicted to push stocks to the east, including into the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ) where deep seabed mining exploration had been going on for a number of years. At least one company had already announced that it would be applying for a commercial mining licence in the CCZ in 2024, with the expectation of starting mining in 2025.
865. The possible impacts on pelagic fishery resources would include the effects of turbidity from discharge plumes on the primary productivity of the ocean, already impacted by rising ocean temperatures. Light and noise pollution would also occur. And there was at least one study of the potential for radioactive elements being released from the polymetallic nodules if disturbed. These all were potential impacts on pelagic fishes and the food chains on which they relied. There were links in information paper OP14 to several relevant papers on this issue, and the paper “Climate change to drive increasing overlap between Pacific tuna fisheries and the emerging deep sea mining industry” was particularly relevant. A version of this paper had been presented at the 14th Meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee in May 2023. The Te Ipukarea Society respectfully requested that the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC consider this issue at its next meeting, with a view to getting this issue onto the agenda for WCPFC21.
866. Following this presentation, New Caledonia noted their concern about this issue, and was taking action locally. New Caledonia was in the process of considering a 10-year moratorium

prohibiting deep sea mining or prospecting in the EEZ, and this could be in place by January 2024.

19. SUMMARY REPORT OF WCPFC20

867. The Executive Director noted that the WCPFC20 Outcomes document would be provided to participants within 7 days of the close of the meeting and the draft summary report would be available shortly afterwards and finalized after the normal timeframe for comment by CCMs.

20. CLOSE OF MEETING

868. Several Pacific Island delegations made brief closing statements acknowledging that the late closure of the meeting and the intense negotiations bore witness to the commitment of all CCMs to the process of managing these vitally important fisheries, thanking the Cook Islands for the wonderful welcome and meeting arrangements, congratulating the Chair for steering the flagship Tropical Tuna Measure home in her inaugural meeting, and looking forward to meeting again next year at SC20 in the Philippines, TCC20 in Pohnpei, or WCPFC21 in Fiji.
869. The Executive Director thanked all CCMs for their constructive deliberations, the Chair for her perseverance, the Scientific Services Provider and the WCPFC Secretariat team for the roles they had played all week in supporting the meeting process. Lastly, she thanked the host, the Cook Islands, and looked forward to seeing everyone next year.
870. Chair thanked all participants and declared that it had been an honour to serve the meeting. She particularly thanked the Executive Director, Legal Advisor (Dr. Penny Ridings), the Compliance Manager (Dr. Lara Manarangi-Trott) and all the Secretariat team, and the generosity of the host country Cook Islands who had helped the Commission along the way to achieving agreement on most of the priority issues. The Chair expressed her “Meitaki maata” to all colleagues, and safe travels.
871. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 03:35am on Saturday, 9th December 2023.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: A to M

- ATTACHMENT A:** List of Participants
- ATTACHMENT B:** Opening Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Cook Islands
- ATTACHMENT C:** Opening Statement by the WCPFC Chair
- ATTACHMENT D:** Opening Statement by the WCPFC Executive Director
- ATTACHMENT E:** Opening Statement by the Minister of Fisheries of Fiji
- ATTACHMENT F:** Opening Statement by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa
- ATTACHMENT G:** Opening Statement by the Minister of Fisheries and Trade of Tuvalu
- ATTACHMENT H:** Opening Statement by the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee
- ATTACHMENT I:** Opening Statement by the Director of International Policy and Cooperation in the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea
- ATTACHMENT J:** Opening Statement by the Director of Marine & Wildlife Resources of American Samoa
- ATTACHMENT K:** Opening Statement by the Secretary of Lands & Natural Resources of CNMI
- ATTACHMENT L:** Opening Statement by Australia
- ATTACHMENT M:** Statement on Membership by Ecuador

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ATTACHMENT B: Cook Islands Deputy Prime Minister, Opening Statement

PSALM 133:1

“HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT IT IS WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER IN UNITY.

KIA ORANA TATOOU KATOATOAA ITE AROHA PORIA O TO TATOOU ATUAA.

Kia orana ki na tuhanga e toru tei matau hia e tatou ite akaharavei.

Koia oki te Hevangelia, Te Henua e te Ture.

Te au tavini o te Atua. Te au ariki e to te Kavamani.

- Bishop Pere
- Karika George Taripo Ariki
- Vakatini Philip Ariki
- Hon. Kalaveti Ravu, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry for Fiji
- Hon. La’aulialemalietoa Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for Samoa
- Hon. Reverend Dr Kitiona Tausi, Minister of Fisheries and Trade for Tuvalu
- Hon. Emani Fakaotimanava-Lui, Associate Minister for Natural Resources for Niue
- His Excellency Phung Duc Tien, Vice Minister of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for Vietnam.
- WCPFC Executive Director, Rhea Moss-Christian
- WCPFC Chair, Dr. Josie Tamate
- FFA Director General, Dr. Manu Tupou-Roosen
- PNAO CEO, Dr Sangaa Clarke
- CROP agencies
- Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Kia orana kotou katoatoa I teia popongi sumaringa

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this 20th regular session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission here in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. On behalf of the Government and people of the Cook Islands, Kia orana e aere mai.

I am honoured and delighted to welcome each and every one of you to this important gathering to discuss and address crucial matters concerning our tuna fisheries, and the marine ecosystems that they inhabit. Your presence here today reflects a shared commitment to the sustainable conservation and management of western and central Pacific Ocean tuna resources. A task that demands collaboration, innovation, and collective effort.

The Pacific Ocean is not only a vast expanse of water, but it is also a critical source of sustenance and livelihoods for our people. Here in the Cook Islands our marae moana is sacred. The well being of our ocean is crucial to the prosperity of our Pacific nations and the preservation of our cultural heritage. The responsibility placed upon us all as stewards of these resources is immense, and we must act with integrity and prudence to ensure their preservation for generations to come.

The Cook Islands, like many of our fellow Pacific Island nations, rely heavily on fisheries as a cornerstone of our economy and a vital source of nutrition. But as the world’s largest tuna fishery, producing almost 3 million metric tons, and valued at \$6 billion dollars, we also feed and employ billions of other people around the world.

With climate change posing a significant risk to the sustained access and health of tuna stocks, and altering marine ecosystems it is imperative that we adapt and build resilience within management strategies to mitigate the impact of these changes. By integrating climate change considerations into our fisheries management frameworks, we can better safeguard our marine resources, and I am pleased to see the commitment that the Commission has made by keeping this issue on the annual agenda.

In the face of unprecedented challenges such as overfishing, marine pollution, and the impacts of climate change, your role becomes even more critical. Today, this gathering is not just as representatives of your respective nations but as stewards of the oceans, entrusted with the duty to strike a balance between human needs and the preservation of our marine ecosystems, for future generations.

The sustainable management of fisheries is relentlessly linked to the well-being and prosperity of our Pacific communities. We recognize that achieving this must be done hand-in-hand with all delegations around this table. As a shared resource, this forum provides you with a unique opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue, share best practices, and forge partnerships that will pave the way for sustainable fisheries management. By working together, we can develop innovative solutions, implement effective policies, and promote responsible practices that will safeguard the health and resilience of our oceans and tuna resources.

In the pursuit of collective goals, let us not forget the importance of inclusivity and collaboration. The diversity of perspectives in this room is your strength, and by leveraging your collective knowledge and experiences, you can create comprehensive strategies that address the multifaceted challenges you face.

In 20 years, WCPFC has achieved a lot. From establishing measures for tropical tuna, data and monitoring programmes, albacore, observer safety, the special requirements of small island developing states and territories, and transshipment, to the compliance monitoring scheme ... the WCPFC can boast a productive history thus far. But your work is not done.

As you embark on the week ahead, I encourage you to be proactive, open-minded, and solution oriented.

Seize this opportunity to make tangible progress, setting the foundation for a future where our fisheries thrive, ecosystems flourish, and coastal communities prosper.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to each one of you for making the journey to Rarotonga, and as your host for this milestone 20th annual meeting of the Commission, I encourage you to enjoy the beat of our drums, the rhythm of our dancers, and the heart and soul in the smiles of our people.

I leave you with a verse from the bible.

1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather be one mind, united in thought and purpose.

Kia mau te serenga, kia mau te napenga, Kia mau.

Kia orana e kia manuia

ATTACHMENT C: WCPFC Chair, Opening Statement

- Deputy Prime Minister for Cook Islands, Honorable Robert Tapaitau
- Honorable Kalaveti Ravu – Fiji Minister of Fisheries and Forestry
- Honorable La’aulialemalietoa Leauatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt – Samoa’s Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Honorable Reverend Dr Kitiona Tausi, Tuvalu’s Minister of Fisheries and Trade
- Honorable Emani Fakaotimanava-Lui, Niue’s Associate Minister for Natural Resources
- His Excellency Phung Duc Tien, Vietnam’s Vice Minister
- Heads of Delegations
- WCPFC Vice Chair - Mr Takumi Fukuda
- WCPFC Executive Director – Ms Rhea Moss-Christian
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

A warm fakaalofa lahi atu to you all. Kia Orana tautou katoa.

Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation to our host country, the government and the people of Cook Islands, for the warm welcome given to all of us here in Rarotonga. So soon after hosting the Pacific Leaders Forum, you have extended your warm Cook Islands hospitality to another major international forum. Meitaki maata.

It has been another a full-on year, for the Commission. 2023 saw the resumption of in-person and hybrid meetings. Throughout the year, Subsidiary Bodies and various Working Groups have made progress on tasks for the Commission. To all the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the SWGs, thank you for your contribution to the work of the Commission. I would also like to take this opportunity, to acknowledge the ongoing support from the Science Service Provider, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, in providing essential scientific information for the Commission.

Colleagues, we have a very busy agenda for this week’s meeting. But I am confident that the work we have done throughout the year means we can make substantial progress on all the key issues. I would like to briefly outline my priorities as Chair for our work together this week.

Firstly, the Tropical Tuna Conservation and Management Measure is, from my point of view, a top priority.

I am optimistic that we can adopt a revised Tropical Tuna measure at this meeting. We have done the necessary work to enable you to undertake your consultations so that when we land here in Rarotonga, we will continue our final efforts and adopt a revise Tropical Tuna Measure as one of the key outcomes from this Commission meeting.

Secondly, progressing the Harvest Strategy work. Last year in Da Nang, the Commission adopted the interim Skipjack Management Procedure. The next species on the list is the South Pacific Albacore Tuna. I want us to decide on an interim Target Reference Point for South Pacific Albacore Tuna at this Commission meeting.

Overall, we need to chart the Secretariat’s work for next year and beyond. I hope we can conclude work on some of the works that already the subject of substantial intersessional effort.

Members, I am committed to serving you well as your Chair. I know you will help me guide our meeting, our WCPFC20 vaka, to a good landing on Friday with a basketful of clear, constructive outcomes for everyone.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the Secretariat, led by the Executive Director and her team, for the excellent support throughout the year. It is an honor and a joy working with you all.

Thank you all; Fakaue lahi mahaki,

Meitaki Maata. Kia Monuina.

ATTACHMENT D: WCPFC Executive Director, Opening Statement

Kia Orana, lokwe, Kaselehlie. It's a great honor for me to address you today and welcome members and participants on behalf of the Secretariat, to WCPFC20. To our host nation, the people and government of the Cook Islands, meitaki maata for doing the honor of hosting the Commission in Rarotonga for its milestone 20th regular session, marking two decades of significant work and achievements to secure the world's largest tuna fishery. It is a special privilege to be meeting in the Cook Islands, not only because this is a beautiful location, but also because being here allows the Commission the opportunity to see firsthand the innate relationship between one of its small island developing State members and the ocean.

Our ocean region supports millions of people all over the world with its rich and abundant marine diversity and being here reminds us of the stewardship that Pacific Island people have been exercising over our marine resources for centuries.

Our region's tuna and tuna-like resources make up over 60% of the global supply, and WCPFC provides us with the forum to coordinate efforts in respect of these globally significant resources. The tuna stocks of this region are presently "in the green", or biologically healthy, due in part to the success of parties in working together, but it also reflects the reality that to be anything other than successful would have devastating results for so many of our Pacific Island communities. There is so much at stake at a global level, as well, in the livelihoods of fishing crew and companies, as well as populations around the world who rely on fisheries resources for critical sources of income and food security.

The passing of decades always presents possibilities. In our case, we are two decades into Commission work and this week presents us with an important occasion to step back, reflect on how far we've come, and enter our 21st year with renewed focus and intent. In reviewing the Commission's last 20 years of work, I was reminded of the clear vision and great ambition at the foundation of this organization; the initiative and foresight of the FFA members, together with the developed fishing partners, expressing the will and determination to establish something that would withstand the test of time and would be positioned to serve the interests of stakeholders situated within and outside this region.

Twenty years on since the Commission first met in Pohnpei in 2024, and almost 30yrs on from the first negotiating session in 1994, this idea to bind stakeholders together under a single Convention to manage the world's largest tuna fishery is still worthy of praise. It's still worthy of time, and effort, and all the resources that go into collecting and organizing multiple interests into a single output for a single objective, and that is: to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

As we move through the agenda this week to consider whether we are on the right path to achieving that objective, I want to point out that the documents before you are developed with that goal in mind.

The Secretariat will be listening for further guidance from the Commission on how it wants to redefine its work in the future to leverage technological advances, including the maturity of its monitoring and data collection programmes, and refocus its efforts on closing data gaps to be able to meaningfully assess the impact of its decisions. I acknowledge the contributions that each of your governments are making in various forms to support each other in the work of this organization. The support coming in from various NGOs is also acknowledged.

With that, we look forward to supporting Madame Chair and all delegations present this week, in your efforts to secure and safeguard the fisheries resources and ecosystems of the western and central Pacific Ocean for current and future generations. Meitaki maata.

**FIJI OPENING STATEMENT FOR WCPFC20
RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS**

Prepared to be delivered by

**HONOURABLE KALAVETI VODO RAVU
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND FORESTS**

FIJI

Monday, 3rd December 2023

The HONOURABLE Minister from Cook Islands

My fellow Ministers

The Executive Director WCPFC

The Commission Chair

WCPFC Members

Ladies and Gentleman,

Ni sa bula vinaka ka ni mata vinaka mai!!!

Madame Chair, At the outset, I would first like to acknowledge the Government and People of Cook Islands for welcoming us to your beautiful shores.

Your warm hospitality and Vuvale spirit signifies the universal language that we speak towards commitment and togetherness in ensuring the sustainable utilization of our shared tuna stock.

We are indeed blessed to be in a country with beautiful scenery and picture perfect beaches to have this years WCPFC annual meeting.

Madame Chair, I would like to emphasize Fiji's commitment towards the work of the WCPFC and the broader membership. Our continuous commitment towards the implementation of CMM's and our participation during annual meetings is a testimony to our quest in recognising scientific advice. And with science make appropriate adjustments to fishing operations within the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Madame Chair, while there are a number of critical items in this year's agenda, I would like to briefly touch on key items that Fiji will look to seek support and traction on.

The first is in regards to the Albacore fishery!

Madame Chair, the discussions on setting a target reference point for albacore has been ongoing for years.

While we acknowledge the commitment done to openly discuss the different effort levels, it is vital that a decision needs to be made in this space.

In light of this, Fiji as a member of the South Pacific Group and Australia with the broader FFA membership is proposing an interim target reference point to be considered at this year's meeting.

We believe that agreeing on a iTRP this year will set us in a progressive position next year and I would urge other members to support this important work.

Secondly Madame Chair, Crewing and Labour Standards.

While there is considerable effort to ensure that stocks are within sustainable levels, it is imperative that we recognise the crew on board fishing vessels.

Conditions on board fishing vessels are extremely challenging.

Apart from the harsh unpredictable weather conditions, having to work long hours is a must given the limited accommodation space on fishing vessels.

Progressing the work on the development of a Conservation Management Measure on Crew Labour Standards is important and additional work to finalize this measure is acknowledged. Though challenging for some, as it requires an interagency, whole of Government approach to implement and enforce, we recognize that this measure will greatly improve crew's lives.

Madame Chair, it is for these reasons and more that we all need to work towards ensuring that appropriate standards are developed to safeguard crew members on board fishing vessels.

Their lives are of equal importance and we all have a part to play to support the efforts made this far and hopefully have a measure to consider in the near future.

Additionally Madame Chair is the point on FADs.

Fiji recognises the importance of FADs to members that engage in the purse seine fishery and the work that has been developed to identify options for biodegradable FADs.

Having said that, Fiji has had concerns over the loss of FADs that have drifted to our waters and in most cases washed up on our reefs and coasts.

While the loss of FADs is at times inevitable, Fiji would like to see that mitigation measures are put in place to help reduce this risk.

This may mean that broader cooperation needs to be in place to help retrieve lost FADs and we would like to encourage other members to support this important work.

Moreover Madam Chair, as Small Island Developing States, we rely heavily on funds made available through the WCPFC Secretariat.

While we recognise the invaluable support from our development partners in making funds available with the Secretariat, we would like to register our concerns on the current balance of the SRF funds.

As we all would be aware, as small islands with very limited operational budgets, the SRF funds is one of the most accessible funding arrangements for our small administration.

As such, we would like to see that there is consideration in the replenishment of these funds. We would like to seek support from our development partners to please consider additional

arrangements that would see these funds replenished to address the needs of SIDS.

Conclusion

Lastly Madame Chair, Fiji would like to register our support on the important role you play throughout this week.

We will work in support of your advice to get us to where we need to be at the end of the week. Having said that, I wish you and the broader WCPFC membership the very best in this week's deliberations.

Vinaka vakalevu and I thank you.

ATTACHMENT F: Samoa Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Opening Statement

Remarks by Hon. La'aulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries

Madam Chair, Dr. Josie Tamate,

Honorable Ministers,

Executive Director, Madam Rhea Moss-Christian,

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives of Commission Members, Participating non Members, Development Partners, Observers, Intergovernmental Agencies and NGOs, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Talofa lava and Good Morning to you all;

First and foremost, I thank our Heavenly Father for the gift of life. We have travelled afar, across many oceans without incident. God has brought us all here to the beautiful shores of the Cook Islands to be in the company of her people, and to continue to ensure the work of the Tuna Commission, continue to reap the rewards for its members.

I extend a warm greeting to you on behalf of the Government of Samoa, and her people. Allow me to express our gratitude and appreciation to the host Government and the people of the Cook Islands for providing to us a warm welcome and hospitality since our arrival into Rarotonga.

We wish to thank the Executive Director of WCPFC, and her hard working team, for organizing the WCPFC annual meeting. Our delegation has traveled here today to personally express Samoa's commitment to active engagement with all members of the Tuna Commission in this process. We look forward with great interest, the discussions that will occur over the next few days.

Madam Chair, tuna and pelagic fisheries resources in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, are important to Samoa. It serves as vital source for food security, livelihoods and economic prosperity as a Small Island Developing State. Collaborating with all members to ensure the harvest of these fisheries is conducted in a sustainable manner, biologically and economically is critical to Samoa's vision of a prosperous future. We aim to freely discuss with flag states, coastal state, port states, or market states, the issues when the opportunity presents itself to ensure we all receive economic and social benefits derived from the resources.

Chair, at the 52nd Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting held recently in the Cook Island in November 2023, the priority areas included the endorsement of the Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The 2050 Strategy was designed to strengthen our collective action in the region for the next three decades. At the heart of the 2050 Strategy is the centrality of the Blue Pacific Ocean and our natural resources to our people, our economies, to social development and to our culture and livelihoods. As we continue to embark on this journey, it is critical that we keep this frame of mind in any dialogue and engagements as we strive as a region to rebuild our fisheries stocks. For Samoa, a vibrant and sustainable fisheries sector continues to underpin our national efforts towards the full realization of our Sustainable Development Goals. In particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 that says, "To conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". In addition we have successfully launched our national plan earlier last year called the 'Pathway for the Development of Samoa FY2021/22-FY2025/2026'.

Chair, Samoa is here at this Commission meeting, with a renewed sense of dedication and commitment, to continue to work closely with the WCPFC Secretariat, and our development partners, to support our Secretariat in its efforts for the sustainable management and conservation of our fisheries resources.

Allow me to share with you some of the key areas that are critically important to Samoa and undoubtedly, to all Small Island Developing States.

1. Madam Chair, Samoa's domestic tuna longline fleet developed in the mid 1990's as the main foreign revenue earner, for our economy. In recent years, our domestic fleet has struggled with the

high cost of fishing in addition to the reduction of catch rates of the South Pacific albacore tuna. This situation has resulted in changes to the operations for our tuna fleets to mitigate against poor economic returns. As we address the challenges in the Southern albacore tuna fishery, Samoa remains committed to working collaboratively with other Commission members to find solutions. We appreciate the Commission's attention to this critical matter and look forward to working together for an agreeable way forward of our domestic tuna fishery.

2. The South Pacific albacore tuna stock is important to Samoa. But we are witnessing a decline in catch rates and vulnerable levels of spawning biomass. We do note with great concern through the work of the SPC, the South Pacific albacore tuna stock is also projected to continually decline under current fishing conditions. Madam Chair, the decline of the South Pacific albacore tuna must not continue. The Commission is obligated to implement management measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of this resource. We note the effective management of the Southern Longline Fishery is of high importance to all CCMs targeting South Pacific Albacore. Therefore, Samoa is supportive and committed to all their efforts including that the South Pacific group to improve the management of this key fishery through the harvest strategy approach and the implementation of zone-based management. Samoa commends the Scientific Science Provider, SPC, and the Forum Fisheries Agency, and others for their hard work on the South Pacific albacore tuna.

3. On that note I respectfully request that all Commission members, and our fishing partners interested in the South Pacific Albacore tuna, to urgently develop robust management arrangement for this resource. On that note, Samoa would like to encourage other CCMs to consider progressing the various elements of a Harvest strategy and to provide your support to the South Pacific Group and Australia proposal on the interim Target Reference Point for South Pacific Albacore tuna. The proposed interim target reference point that will put forward by SPG, is the estimated average depletion of the South Pacific albacore tuna stock over the period 2017-2019. This proposed ITRP, we believe, is more relatable and is achievable to bringing economic stability for all Commission members that harvest south Pacific albacore tuna in the South Pacific.

4. Climate Change remains the single greatest threat facing the Blue Pacific Region as discussed at the 52th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting. Climate change is having a profound impact on our country's fisheries as a Small Island Developing State. The adverse effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and changes in sea surface temperatures, pose significant threats to the marine ecosystems that sustain Samoa's fisheries. Recognizing the need for collective action, Samoa seeks the unwavering support of the Commission in devising effective strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on its fisheries and enhance the resilience of Samoa's coastal communities. We believe, the Commission plays a crucial role in fostering collaborative efforts, knowledge-sharing, and the implementation of sustainable practices that can safeguard our fisheries in the face of climate change challenges. The Tuna Commission is a key partner in developing and implementing adaptive measures for the management of its fisheries, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the resources for the present and future generations.

5. Madam Chair, we would also like to underscore the importance of information and data requirements in supporting management decisions, which will be discussed later under Agenda Item 10. Enhancing data collection and the implementation of Electronic Reporting is of paramount importance to Samoa. Ensuring the effective integration of ER systems into Samoa's fishing vessels will enhance the accuracy and timeliness of data collection. This, in turn, will contribute significantly to the sustainable management of our shared fisheries in the Samoan EEZ and beyond. The commitment to improving ER aligns with Samoa's dedication to employing modern technologies for robust fisheries management. So we look forward in collaborating with the Commission, to enhance our collective efforts in this area.

6. Furthermore, Madam Chair, we would like to stress the importance of Agenda Item 13.1, regarding Compliance Monitoring Scheme. I would like to express Samoa's commitment and support

to progress finalizing of audit points, for the Commission's decision for the next steps to develop corrective actions.

7. Finally, let us all be encouraged to adopt measures that will ensure the sustainable management and migratory tuna and all other stocks within the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Your Excellencies, Madam Chair, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. I wish all delegations a positive and successful meeting.

GOD BLESS, SOIFUA MA IA MANUIA.

ATTACHMENT G: Tuvalu Minister of Fisheries and Trade, Opening Statement

Chair of WCPFC, Fellow Ministers from member countries, Executive Director of the WCPFC and your staff, Distinguished Delegates to WCPFC, Representatives of Regional Organisations and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the meeting and outline a few of the priorities of the Government of Tuvalu for WCPFC 20 in the days ahead.

Firstly, let me associate myself with the remarks of other delegations in thanking the Government and People of the Cook Islands for the hospitality and courtesy accorded to our delegation since we have arrived here. It is a great pleasure to be here in another Polynesian country and encouraging to see that one of our Small Island Developing State members can host such a large meeting and do it very well.

I would also like to congratulate you, Madam Chair, in this your first full WCPFC meeting as Chair; and our Executive Director who also took up her appointment this year. Again it is good to see Pacific Island women in both of these key positions, and I would like to assure you both of Tuvalu's support for you in your roles.

Madam Chair, the meeting has a number of important issues to address, but I would like to highlight three key points which are of particular importance to Tuvalu.

1. As we all know this meeting needs to agree a new Tropical Tuna Measure to replace CMM 2021-01 which expires at the end of this year. Tuvalu, like other PNA and FFA members, continues to believe that the current measure has served us well. It is meeting its objectives, the tuna stocks are healthy, and it provides a good balance between the interests of the different fisheries and the different WCPFC members. With some minor amendments, we believe that the new CMM should be very similar to the old one. There is an well-known saying 'if it is working, don't mess with it'.
2. We had hoped that this meeting would also have been able to come up with limits and an allocation process for high seas purse seine effort – but it seems that we are still far away from achieving that goal. We believe that such limits should be consistent with the interim Management Procedure for Skipjack that we agreed last year; and that the allocation should fully respect the special requirements of Small Island Developing States that are enshrined in our Convention.
3. Finally, I have mentioned already the need for balance in our fisheries management. When it comes to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, it seems all our focus is on the purse seine fishery even though it is well monitored and controlled; while the high seas longline fishery is out of sight and out of mind. We fully support the PNA proposal to increase observer coverage of the longline fleet – whether by human observers or electronic monitoring – and set a similar level of scrutiny for observer reports sampled from the 100% coverage that we have in that fishery.

Madame Chair there are many other issues for this meeting to consider, but the longer I talk the less time will be left for our Fisheries experts to discuss them. So I will end my remarks by wishing all of you the very best for your deliberations in the week ahead.

Thank you, Fakafetai Lasi,

Tuvalu mo te Atua.

ATTACHMENT H: Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee, Opening Statement

By the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee, Mr Glen Joseph of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Madam Chair and Colleagues, it is a pleasure to meet you all again in person.

At the outset, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our host, the Government and the People of the Cook Islands for the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival and the excellent arrangements.

Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States

Article 30 of the Convention is a fundamental provision and is the cornerstone upon which the Commission is built. FFA Members reiterate the clear obligation in Article 30 to ensure that the special requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories (SIDS) are fully recognised and addressed in all Commission decisions and processes. This obligation is complemented by CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07. We emphasise this at every opportunity, given its significance to FFA Members. And we underlined this in our letter dated 3 November in Delegation Paper 1, and we reiterate this here.

Chair, Article 30.3 provides for the establishment of the Special Requirements Fund to facilitate the effective participation of SIDS in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. However, we note with serious concern that the Special Requirements Fund is depleted. In recognition of Article 30 and the relevant Financial Regulation 7.2, we are of the firm view that we are not solely reliant on voluntary contributions to the SRF. FFA Members call for the Commission to identify other sources of funds for the automatic replenishment of the SRF as a matter of priority at this session.

Chair, we reiterate the requirement that all proposals are accompanied with a CMM 2013-06 assessment. Notwithstanding that requirement, we continue to receive various proposals that do not have a CMM 2013-06 assessment (or Audit Points where applicable).

FFA Priorities

Within the context of Article 30, as we highlighted in our Delegation Paper 1, FFA Members highlighted six priorities for this session.

- ***Climate change*** - as emphasised by our Leaders, climate change is the single greatest threat to our people. Climate change places the significant and valuable benefits derived from our tuna resources at great risk. We are pleased to advise of the adoption of the FFA Climate Change Strategy by our Fisheries Ministers earlier this year, which helps inform how we engage on this in the WCPFC context. We strongly support the Commission's active progress of this work.
- ***Tropical Tuna Measure*** - our most notable proposal is to restrict the total amount of purse seine effort on the high seas within the WCPFC Convention Area between 20S and 20N to a maximum of 2300 days to ensure the integrity in the implementation of the Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna. We are also very concerned about the status of yellowfin tuna.
- ***South Pacific albacore*** - we look forward to agreeing a revised interim target reference point and addressing the long-standing issue with the current South Pacific albacore measure on the text "actively fishing for".
- ***Compliance Monitoring Scheme*** - This is another important priority for FFA Members, in particular, addressing the issue of imbalance of the data available from the purse seine and longline that is used in the CMS process.
- ***Transshipment*** - in the review of the transshipment measure to address the issues in the Terms of Reference.

- **Labour Standards** - Progressing work on improving labour standards in the WCPO is a critical issue for FFA Members, with a view to adopting a binding measure at WCPFC21 in 2024.

Chair, FFA Members look forward to working with you and other CCMs to advance these priorities during this session.

**ATTACHMENT I: Director General of International Policy and Cooperation,
Korea Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Opening Statement**

Since this is the first time that Korea has taken the floor, Korea would like to express its sincere thanks to our host, the Cook Islands government, for hosting the 20th session of the WCPFC. I am lucky enough to be back to this “little paradise” after just three weeks since my last visit on the occasion of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Korea also thanks our new Executive Director and her team for their excellent support leading up to the meeting.

Madame Chair, WCPFC 20 has a long list of agenda items, which is not a surprise to us all. On the top of the list we have the revision of the tropical tuna measure. This important CMM has evolved over the last ten years, successfully fulfilling its purpose of conserving and managing the tropical tuna stocks in the WCPO. As a Member, Korea is proud that the Commission has been able to keep our shared fish stocks in a healthy status for a decade now.

Since WCPFC 19, CCMs have engaged in a number of negotiations to produce a successor of the Measure. Korea sincerely hopes that we will leave the meeting with an outcome we can be proud of, that is fair, reasonable and equitable.

The progress of our Compliance Monitoring Scheme stands as a testament to our shared commitment to responsible fisheries management. Moving forward with various intersessional work is a critical step towards enhancing transparency and accountability. It is through these mechanisms that we can build trust and confidence among Members, ensuring the effective implementation of conservation and management measures.

Ecosystem considerations and the impacts of climate change also demand our attention. Korea is committed to working with other CCMs to progress these agenda items during WCPFC 20. An increasing amount of anecdotal evidence has surfaced to support the likely changes in the migratory patterns of the tuna stocks, including Pacific Bluefin tuna, and the Commission should start having a serious look into the potential impact of climate change on these changes and act accordingly.

Korea appreciates the subsidiary body chairs for their dedication, and hopes that the Commission will recognize the hard work of the TCC, SC and NC and endorse their recommendations, including the revision of CMMs.

In conclusion, let us approach the discussions of this session with open minds and a firm resolve to overcome the challenges that lie ahead, as we have always done as a group.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

ATTACHMENT J: Director of Marine & Wildlife Resources of American Samoa, Opening Statement

Madam Chair, Honorable Ministers, Government of Cook Islands, Executive Director, distinguished Delegates and Members of the Commission. Kia Orana and Talofa. It is a great pleasure to be back in the beautiful Cook Islands, thank you for being such gracious hosts. First, and foremost, I wish to give God all the glory for his love and protection, and especially his mercy for bringing us all safely to the beautiful shores of the Cook Islands. I extend to you a very warm Talofa Lava from the Governor and people of American Samoa.

I stand before you today as a proud indigenous Samoan, from American Samoa, and am acutely aware of the pivotal moment we find ourselves in. This gathering holds immense significance not only for our region but for the collective future of small island states and developing territories.

The waters that surround our islands are not just a source of sustenance; they are the lifeblood of our communities, ingrained in the cultural fabric that defines us. As we convene here, we must acknowledge the shared responsibility we bear in ensuring the sustainable management of our fisheries resources. The decisions made in this room will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of the WCPO and impact the livelihoods of those who depend on them.

The potential outcomes of this meeting carry profound implications for the future well-being of small island states and developing territories. The challenges we face are multifaceted and expansive – from the potential threats of overfishing to the effects of climate change, threatening the delicate balance of our marine ecosystems. It is imperative that we foster cooperation and devise innovative strategies to safeguard the interests of our nations, ensuring the prosperity of both present and future generations.

We stand at a crossroads, where the decisions we make this week will determine whether we can preserve the rich biodiversity of our oceans, maintain the integrity of our fisheries, and secure a sustainable economic future for our communities. Our commitment to responsible and equitable fisheries management is not just a duty to ourselves but a pledge to the global community and our future generation to be good stewards of the seas.

Let us seize this opportunity to collaborate, share knowledge, and forge agreements that will lay the foundation for resilient and sustainable fisheries. It is our collective responsibility to not only make difficult management decisions, but also to avoid transferring disproportionate burdens of those decisions onto any SIDS or Participating Territories. The success of this commission is not only measured in terms of sustainability or economic gains but in the preservation of our shared heritage and the empowerment of our people.

In listening to all the previous opening statements this morning, it is very very clear that the issues and concerns expressed are shared. American Samoa shares those concerns as well. In unity, we can overcome the challenges that lie ahead. Let this meeting be remembered as a turning point, where we collectively chose a path towards a future where small island states and developing territories thrive in harmony with our oceans. The destiny of our nations is intertwined with the health of our fisheries, and by working together, we can ensure a legacy of abundance and prosperity for all.

Most importantly, I am sad to say (yet again) that American Samoa has been disadvantaged and continues to carry a disproportionate burden from the actions, or inaction, of this Commission for many years. We are a Participating Territory of the United States. But before anything else, we are Pacific islanders and we are Samoans. Myself, and the thousands of people in my community back home, are Pacific islanders. And like most of you sitting here in this meeting, we too rely on tuna for our economic livelihoods.

I wish to reiterate again 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...and the need to ensure that such measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions.

Quite honestly, we are tired of being the flag bearer for the disproportionate burden of conservation action of this Commission. Nobody should have to bear this burden. Article 30 provides the ground rules that should prevent that from happening, and I call on this body to recognize that a disproportionate burden exists for American Samoa and that it is our collective responsibility to rectify that situation.

American Samoa has tabled a proposal in the Tropical Tuna Measure that will, hopefully, provide a first step towards relief from the disproportionate burden we currently carry. That proposal will be heard and discussed later this week, and I wish to thank you all in advance for your review and favorable consideration.

In closing, I wish Chair Tamate, Executive Director Moss-Christian, Ministers, Officials and Delegates a successful meeting. There is a Samoan proverb that expresses a blessing: *la pupula outou mata, ma ia malamalama outou ala.* This is in very similar to the scripture, where Jesus says: – “blessed are your eyes, for you see; blessed are your ears, for you hear.” Madam Chair, Executive Director, Honorable Ministers, Delegates of this Commission - This week, I pray that not only your eyes and ears be opened, but most importantly your hearts be open as well.

Thank you.

**ATTACHMENT K: Secretary of Lands & Natural Resources of
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Opening Statement**

Lessor mwamwaay, Hafa Adai, Tirow me Faischo Madam Chair, Madam Executive Director, Honorable Ministers, Delegates, WCPFC staff, ladies and gentlemen. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands extends its gratitude to the Government of the Cook Islands for hosting the 20th Regular Session of the WCPFC.

The CNMI enjoys the honor to have its delegation at this Commission as a Participating Territory - acknowledged under Article 43 of the Convention Text and entitled to privileges under Article 30. CNMI appreciates the opportunities the Commission grants Small Island Developing States and Participating Territories alike – to achieve their aspirations and secure their rights to access benefits of our shared tuna resources.

The CNMI shares the same concerns with its Pacific Island brothers and sisters on maintaining access to benefits provided by tuna resources. We share the same concern related to climate change, which will affect our island communities and lead us into an unknown future.

The CNMI asks that along with Guam and American Samoa, we continue to improve dialogue as a Pacific Island community.

The CNMI looks forward to a productive 20th Regular Session here in beautiful Rarotonga and thanks you all for the opportunity to address this Commission with this opening statement.

Ghilissou me Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

Sylvan O. Igisomar

Secretary

Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ATTACHMENT L: Australia, Opening Statement

Australia's Statement to the 20th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (4–8 December 2023, Rarotonga)

Good morning Chair, Executive Director, distinguished guests, members and observers. It is Australia's pleasure to attend the 20th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Australia expresses our gratitude to the Government of the Cook Islands and the Ministry for Marine Resources for hosting the Commission meeting in beautiful Rarotonga. Being here in the Cook Islands brings to front of mind the importance of fisheries to the lives of the Pacific.

Australia also thanks the Secretariat for preparing so thoroughly for this Commission meeting. The high quality of the Secretariat's work has helped the membership to prepare and advance the wide-ranging work of the Commission.

Australia commends the continued combined efforts of the members to manage our shared fish stocks in line with best practice, to ensure they remain sustainable well into the future. We give specific recognition to Pacific Island members, whose dedicated efforts in improving management have elevated this RFMO to a benchmark to which others aspire.

We note the tropical tuna measure is again the primary focus of the Commission this year as we look to revise the measure to incorporate the skipjack management procedure and set a hard limit for high seas purse seine fishing. We seek a new measure for three years to align with the management procedure and allow Commission time to progress other critical work.

Australia remains strongly committed to the ongoing development and implementation of harvest strategies in this Commission. The adoption of harvest strategies in the Commission is essential to achieve long-term security of migratory tuna stocks.

Australia, along with the South Pacific Group, is pleased to propose an interim target reference point for south Pacific albacore. The adoption of an agreed iTRP will be a vital step in progressing harvest strategy development for this key tuna species.

We support the implementation of a robust, effective and fair Compliance Monitoring Scheme to monitor and review compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures.

We note the continued disparity in monitoring between the purse seine and longline fisheries and welcome efforts to improve monitoring of the longline sector, especially in the high seas. We thank the membership and secretariat for the considerable intersessional work on improving the compliance monitoring scheme and to continue to prioritise future work to ensure effective compliance monitoring within the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Finally Chair, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to you for your leadership over the past year. We welcome the continued guidance that you provide to the Commission.

ATTACHMENT M: Ecuador's Statement on Membership to WCPFC

Madame Chair and delegates.

First, I want to thank the government and people of the Cook Islands for the hospitality and warm welcome we have received since the very first moment we have arrived to this wonderful country.

Secondly, I want to thank the Parties in this meeting for considering once more Ecuador's renewal of the Cooperating Non-Party (NPC) status.

It is a pleasure and responsible obligation for us to keep our cooperation, especially considering tuna and other migratory species shared areas among the vast Western, Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean. However, Ecuador has shown its interest since a few years ago to become a full member of this RFMO.

Why does Ecuador want to become a Member? Because we want to share the experience that we have acquired in the last 60 years as Member of other RFMOs like the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) or the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) since 2010 or the CCMLR since 2022.

Ecuador is chairing this year IATTC and is also proudly chairing the Agreement of Port State Measures, which demonstrate how serious Ecuador is taking its fight against Illegal Unreported and Undeclared Fisheries.

Ecuador has no interest on flagging longline tuna vessels in the area or flagging carrier vessels. Ecuador has 7 tuna purse seine vessels registered, 5 out of those actually fishing in the last 5 years, thanks to fishing days regularly negotiated with PNA countries. Ecuador has zero days in the high seas and has no intention to change that status. Ecuador has a good compliance performance in the last years; Ecuador has regularly honoured its annual financial obligations to WCPFC as a CNM.

We do not see any reason or concern to keep Ecuador out from being a full Member of WCPFC, established under international legal framework of UNCLOS, which most of the Countries attending this meeting have adhered to. Delegates, Ecuador assures you all that our Membership will do nothing but improve cooperation and strengthening WCPFC and sustainability of tuna and other migratory species.

If any Member has a concern, a way to move forward we suggest might be that the Commission develops a procedure that CNM countries could comply in a transparent manner.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: 1 to 18

- ATTACHMENT 1: 2024 WCPFC IUU Vessel List
- ATTACHMENT 2: 2023 WCPFC Strategic Investment Plan
- ATTACHMENT 3: CMM 2023-01 Tropical Tunas
- ATTACHMENT 4: Updated Harvest Strategy Workplan
- ATTACHMENT 5: ER and EM 2024 Schedule of Work
- ATTACHMENT 6: Harvest Strategy 2023-01 NP Albacore Fishery
- ATTACHMENT 7: CMM 2023-02 Pacific Bluefin Tuna
- ATTACHMENT 8: Harvest Strategy 2023-02 Pacific Bluefin Tuna
- ATTACHMENT 9: CMM 2023-03 North Pacific swordfish
- ATTACHMENT 10: WCPFC20 Adopted Audit Points
- ATTACHMENT 11: Compliance Monitoring Report for RY2021 and RY2022
- ATTACHMENT 12: List of CMS Obligations for 2024
- ATTACHMENT 13: CMM 2023-04 Compliance Monitoring Scheme
- ATTACHMENT 14: FAC17 Report
- ATTACHMENT 15: WCPFC Budget with Annexes
- ATTACHMENT 16: MOU with NPFC
- ATTACHMENT 17: MOU with SPRFMO
- ATTACHMENT 18: South Pacific Albacore SWG Outcomes

ATTACHMENT 1: 2024 WCPFC IUU Vessel List



(Effective from 6 February 2024: WCPFC20 agreed to maintain the WCPFC IUU list for 2023 and added one new vessel)

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 ¹	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 WCPFC 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 WCPFC 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' laws and regulations. (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)
Kuda Laut 03	Philippines	08 Dec 2023	<i>Tbc</i>	DUM-4015	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	New Zealand	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention Area (High Seas Pocket One) without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2019-07-para 3a)

¹ **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 was 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. Accordingly, the 2024 list above has been updated.

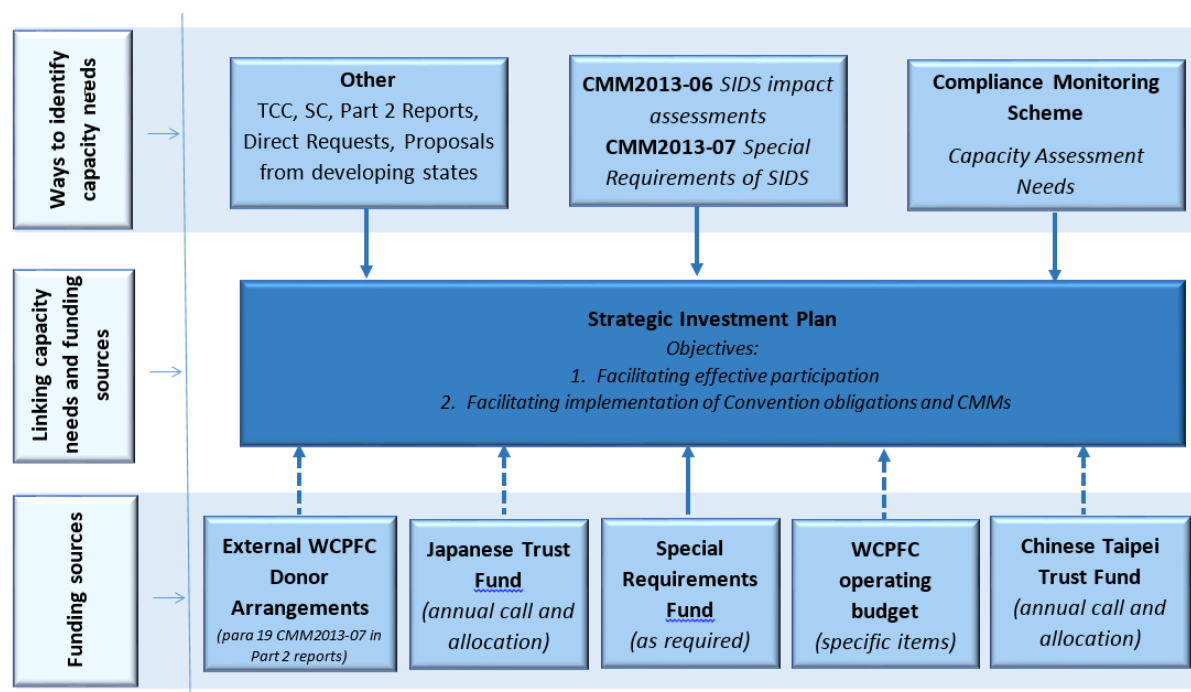


COMMISSION
Twentieth Regular Session
 4-8 December 2023
 Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

2023 Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14th 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 Convention¹.

Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas were recommended by TCC19 in the Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2021 and 2022 activities:

<p>Indonesia for Scientific data provision (SciData03)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported that there were some continuing delays in the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out in the Capacity Development Plan (CDP). TCC19 noted that implementation of the capacity needs in the CDP 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 and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported that assistance and funding was being sought from SPC to hold dedicated workshops on sharks but there were ongoing delays in holding these workshops. TCC19 noted the continuing delays</p>
<p>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY</p>	<p>TCC19 noted the continuing delays</p>

¹ Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

<p>status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)</p>	<p>2020, RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>in implementation of the capacity needs in the CDP 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 CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Philippines for 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>The Philippines reported slow progress in implementing 100% observer coverage in its national waters. TCC19 expressed its hope that substantial progress would be made in meeting the CDP and requested the Philippines to report back following TCC with more specificity on the dates when the obligation can be met. TCC19 noted that for RY 2020 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Indonesia for 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported ongoing issues with regard to human resources and the number of available observers to meet the 100% observer coverage in national waters. TCC19 noted its expectation that this obligation would be able to be met in 2022 requested Indonesia to report back following TCC with more specificity on the dates when the obligation can be met. TCC19 noted that for RY 2020 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>French Polynesia reported that new regulations and best practices on sea turtles have been adopted in 2022 and it expected the</p>

<p>dip-nets where appropriate (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 6)</p>		<p>obligation will be met at the end of 2022. TCC19 noted with pleasure that French Polynesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP would be met in 2022 and maintained the CAN status until then.</p>
<p>French Polynesia for Sea Turtle mitigation requirements for shallow-set longline vessels, including incident reporting requirements (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 7a)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020, RY2021)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2022)</p>	<p>French Polynesia reported that new regulations and best practices on sea turtles have been adopted in 2022 and French Polynesia has had no shallow set fishing since 2021. TCC19 noted with pleasure that French Polynesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP would be met in 2022 and maintained the CAN status until then.</p>
<p>Vanuatu for requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including incident reporting requirements (CMM 2011-03 paragraph 2)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022)</p>	<p>Vanuatu reported that to meet this obligation it requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical assistance in reviewing and developing regulations including review of license conditions to implement prescriptive CMM obligations including Commission guidelines for operators. • assistance to develop relevant regulations and associated SOPs to enable Vanuatu to effectively monitor each flag vessels meeting these requirements. Vanuatu expects this obligation will be met by the end of 2025. <p>TCC19 noted that Vanuatu has submitted a Capacity Development Plan as required by CMM 2019-06, and it expects to meet this obligation by 2028.</p>
<p>Vanuatu for report to describe, where applicable, any alternative measures from those in CMM 2019-04 SHARKS</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed</p>	<p>Vanuatu reported that to meet various obligations in CMM 2019-04 it requires technical assistance</p>

<p>which are applied by CCMs in areas under national jurisdiction (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 5)</p>	<p>(CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>in reviewing and developing regulations to implement prescriptive CMM obligations, including Commission requirements under CMM 2019 04.</p>
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of 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) - including consideration of paragraph 10 endorsed alternative measures (CMM 2019-04 paragraphs 7-10)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>Once these regulations are in place Vanuatu will require assistance to develop management plan and SOPs to enable Vanuatu to effectively monitor each flag vessels meeting these requirements of all sharks retained.</p>
<p>Vanuatu for annual report on shark fins attached/alternative measures and meeting of deadline (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 11)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>As part of this work, Vanuatu will also be reviewing each shark National Plan of Action to ensure shark regulations are met</p>
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of measures to prevent fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping and landing any fins harvested in contravention of CMM 2019-04 (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 12)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022)</p>	<p>TCC19 noted that Vanuatu has submitted a Capacity Development Plan as required by CMM 2019-06, and it expects to meet this obligation by 2028.</p>
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to take measures necessary to ensure carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 13)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to implement at least one option to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries, and notify choice and whenever the selected option is changed (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 14-15)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	
<p>Vanuatu for CCMs to develop and report their management plans for longline fisheries targeting sharks in their Part 2 Annual Report (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 16)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to ensure that sharks that are caught but are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel in order</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	

<p>to facilitate species identification (only applicable where observer or EM camera is present, and where safe for crew and observers) (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 18)</p>		
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing oceanic whitetip & silky sharks (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(01))</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022)</p>	
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement that to release oceanic whitetip & silky sharks asap (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(02))</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022)</p>	
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement that if oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to government or discarded (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(03))</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of prohibition for purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 21(01 - 07))</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	
<p>Vanuatu for report on Implementation of CMM 2019-04 Sharks (Part 2 Annual Report (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 23)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	
<p>Vanuatu for implementation of requirements to prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing mobulid rays (CMM 2019-05 paragraphs 04-06, 08,10)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p>	<p>Vanuatu reported that to meet this obligation it requires technical assistance in reviewing and developing regulations to implement prescriptive CMM obligations, including Mobulid Ray requirements under CMM 2019 05. Once these regulations are in place Vanuatu will require assistance to develop management plan and SOPs to enable Vanuatu to effectively monitor each flag vessels meeting these requirements. TCC19 noted that Vanuatu has submitted a Capacity Development Plan as required by</p>

		CMM 2019-06, and it expects to meet this obligation by 2028.
Vanuatu for Pacific bluefin required report (CMM 2020-02 paragraph 5)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021) Capacity Assistance Completed CMR RY2022)	Vanuatu reported that it has identified 3 main issues with the Pacific Bluefin Reporting where capacity building assistance from the Secretariat is sought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-country training on CMMs interpretation and implementation • Reviewing policies and procedure to meet reporting obligations • Understanding Audit Points
Vanuatu for Pacific bluefin required report on implementation (CMM 2020-02 paragraph 11)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021) Capacity Assistance Completed CMR RY2022)	TCC19 noted that Vanuatu has submitted a Capacity Development Plan as required by CMM 2019-06 and that it expects that if assistance is provided, the report obligations will be met by the end of 2025.

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

6. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2021 and RY2022 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2023. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY 2018 and are continuing in RY 2021 and RY 2022 (#).

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 and 2022 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 01-03 General Provisions	<p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia 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. http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219 http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238"</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>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 and 2022 reporting year
	<p>Kiribati 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>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and therefore supports the measure</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga cooperate at regional and sub regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS Fisheries.</p> <p>Vanuatu: 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>
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 04-05 Capacity development for personnel</p>	<p>Fiji still needs trainings and attachments in the following areas: 1) prosecution 2) Data Analysis 3) MCS</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati is a small island country with limited resources to manage its vast EEZ.</p> <p>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and therefore supports the measure</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga: 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>Vanuatu: As mentioned earlier, requests have been submitted for assistance on observer EM related training and support.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 06-07 Assistance with technology transfers</p>	<p>FSM: National IMS Development/FIMS Development/TUFMN2 development/EM/ER initiatives. Trialing of Starboard AIS System.</p> <p>Fiji is looking towards 100% vessel coverage on E-Reporting and is working very closely with SPC on the ground to achieve this.</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati as small island developing states depend much on technology assistance from regional agencies and development partners.</p> <p>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and therefore supports the measure</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga: Our current national capacity does not provide Tonga ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is recipient of capacity development assistance</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 and 2022 reporting year
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 08-09 Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</p>	<p>Vanuatu: CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</p> <p>FSM: Participation in Implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring, CDS, EM/ER, PSM,FAD Biodegradable material and sharing of MCS data when necessary.</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati: Kiribati is small island with limited resources, hence unable to provides further assistance while concentrating effort within national jurisdiction only.</p> <p>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and therefore supports the measure</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>PNG: Adopted CMMs that are applicable and consistent to the national obligations and existing fishery.</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga cooperate at regional and sub-regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS Fisheries</p> <p>Vanuatu will require capacity assistance from the Secretariat to ensure compliance with the measure, with much focus on legislation and policy text review, incorporating principles stipulated under the Convention, CMMs and relevant commission decisions.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 10-11 Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance</p>	<p>FSM: - Bilateral or multilateral Surveillance Operation arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FFA & PNA observer program, - subregional surveillance operations - FSM, RMI and Palau tri lateral operations - NTSA bilateral activities - U.S and FSM ships rider agreement <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati: 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>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and recognise SIDS fisheries development needs and assist through FSMA arrangement.</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Vanuatu will require capacity assistance from the Secretariat and relevant regional agencies and donor partners to ensure compliance with the measure.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 and 2022 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 Paragraphs 12-18 Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access	FSM: PNA market related initiatives - MSC, VDS,CDS,EM/ER,PSM processes in place French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory. Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>) RMI 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 New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017 Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance. Vanuatu will require capacity assistance from the Secretariat and relevant regional agencies and donor partners to ensure compliance with the measure.
CMM 2017-03 paragraphs 03-06, 11, 12 Observer Safety CMM	Cook Islands: Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require legislation changes #

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

Title: Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
Obligation: Article 30
Capacity Building Assistance Needed: Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and • 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). 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.

Parameters around accessing the program will include:

- 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

Timeframe: Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program

Cost: 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

10. 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:

2016: 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
2017: 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
2017: 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
2018: 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

2018: 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
2019: 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
2021: 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
2022: 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: \$124,887
2023: 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: \$108,640
2023: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC20	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC20 meeting.	Cost: \$21,360

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)
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

Donor/program	Eligible Recipients
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 (Common Oceans Tuna project 2022 - 2027)	WCPFC, FFA, SPC
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



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR BIGEYE, YELLOWFIN AND SKIPJACK
TUNA IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN

Conservation and Management Measure 2023-01

PREAMBLE

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recalling 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 1982 Convention and the Agreement;

Recalling further the final statement of the Chairman of the Multilateral High Level Conferences in 2000 that: “It is important to clarify, however, that the Convention applies to the waters of the Pacific Ocean. In particular, the western side of the Convention Area is not intended to include waters of South-East Asia which are not part of the Pacific Ocean, nor is it intended to include waters of the South China Sea as this would involve States which are not participants in the Conference” (Report of the Seventh and Final Session, 30th August- 5 September 2000, p.29);

Recognizing that the Scientific Committee has:

- (a) advised that the interim management objective for bigeye tuna in CMM 2021-01, to maintain the spawning biomass depletion ratio at or above the average SB/SB_{F=0} for 2012-2015, is being achieved;
- (b) advised that the interim management objective for yellowfin tuna in CMM 2021-01, to maintain the spawning biomass depletion ratio at or above the average SB/SB_{F=0} for 2012-2015, is being achieved; and
- (c) determined that the first run of the skipjack management procedure was successfully carried out and its output scalar of 1, indicates that catch and effort be maintained at baseline levels and recommended that the Commission take appropriate management action to ensure that the biomass depletion level fluctuates around the target reference point (TRP).

Recognizing further the interactions that occur between the fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna;

Noting that Article 30(1) of the Convention requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States that are Parties to the Convention, in particular small island developing States and Territories and possessions, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries on such stocks, including the provision of financial, scientific, and technological assistance;

Noting further that Article 30(2) of the Convention requires the Commission to take into account the special requirements of developing States, in particular Small Island developing States and Territories. This includes ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by it do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, Parties, and Territories;

Noting that Article 8(1) of the Convention which requires compatibility of conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction;

Recalling Article 8(4) of the Convention which requires the Commission to pay special attention to the high seas in the Convention Area that are surrounded by exclusive economic zones (EEZs);

Noting that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) have adopted and implemented “A Third Arrangement Implementing The Nauru Agreement Setting Forth Additional Terms And Conditions Of Access To The Fisheries Zones Of The Parties”;

Noting further that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement have adopted and implemented a Vessel Day Scheme for the longline fishery, a Vessel Day Scheme for the purse seine fishery and a registry for FADs in the zones of the Parties, and may establish longline effort limits, or equivalent catch limits for longline fisheries within their exclusive economic zones;

Noting furthermore that the Members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency have indicated their intention to adopt a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based bigeye catch limits within their EEZs;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted a limit reference point (LRP) for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna of 20% of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2022-03 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and a Work Plan to guide the development of key components of a Harvest Strategy, including the recording of

management objectives, adoption of reference points, and development of harvest control rules;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2022-01 which established an interim Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna;

Recognizing the United Nations' Climate Change Sustainable Development Goal number 13 to "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts", and that climate change has particularly negative impacts on Small Island Developing States and Territories; and noting that Article 5 (c) of the Convention requires the application of the precautionary approach, and Article 5 (d) of the Convention requires the Commission to assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or depend upon or associated with the target stocks and that WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 mandates the integration of climate change into the decision making processes of WCPFC, including into the management of fish stocks in the Convention Area;

Noting the SEAPODYM analyses presented to SC11, SC12 and SC13 on the projected impacts climate change will have on tuna distribution, larval numbers and stock biomass, the WCPFC needs to build resilience into the medium and long-term planning and manage WCPO fish stocks in a precautionary manner, as mandated in WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 and Article 30(2)(c) of the Convention requires the Commission to ensure there is no disproportionate burden of conservation action on developing States, Parties and Territories;

Adopts in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure with respect to the skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

PURPOSE

1. This measure is intended and designed to support fisheries for skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna, and yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area that benefit CCMs and their communities, and to do so in a way that is fair to all Members and addresses the special requirements of developing States and Participating Territories. The measure's provisions are based on the interim stock-specific objectives below, the interim management procedure for WCPO skipjack tuna established in CMM 2022-01 as well as other relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Commission. As the harvest strategies for the tropical tuna stocks and/or their associated fisheries are developed, the objectives and provisions of the Measure will be amended accordingly.

PRINCIPLES FOR APPLICATION OF THE MEASURE

Compatibility

2. Conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction shall be compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks in their entirety. Measures shall ensure, at a minimum, that stocks are maintained at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, pending agreement on target reference points as part of the harvest strategy approach, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area as expressed by Article 5 of the Convention.

Area of Application

3. This Measure applies to all areas of high seas and all EEZs in the Convention Area except where otherwise stated in the Measure.

4. Coastal states are encouraged to take measures in archipelagic waters and territorial seas which are consistent with the objectives of this Measure and to inform the Commission Secretariat of the relevant measures that they will apply in these waters.

Small Island Developing States

5. With the exception of paragraphs 13-24, 30, 32-37 and 48-51, nothing in this Measure shall prejudice the rights and obligations of those small island developing State Members and Participating Territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their domestic fisheries.

6. For the avoidance of doubt, where the term “SIDS” is used throughout this measure, the term includes Participating Territories. The term “CCM” means Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories.

7. In giving effect to this CMM, the Commission shall pay attention to:

- a. the geographical situation of a small island developing State which is made up of non-contiguous groups of islands having a distinct economic and cultural identity of their own but which are separated by areas of high seas;
- b. the special circumstances of a State which is surrounded by the exclusive economic zones of other States and has a limited exclusive economic zone of its own; and
- c. the need to avoid adverse impacts on subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Charter Arrangements

8. For the purposes of paragraphs 38-39 and 43-47, attribution of catch and effort shall be to the flag State, except that catches and effort of vessels notified as chartered under CMM 2021-04 or its replacement shall be attributed to the chartering Member, or Participating Territory. Attribution for the purpose of this Measure is without prejudice to attribution for the purposes of establishing rights and allocation.

Overlap Area

9. Where flag CCMs choose to implement IATTC measures in the overlap area, any calculation of limits for the Convention Area (excluding the overlap area) that are done on the basis of historical catch or effort levels, shall exclude historical catch or effort within the overlap area. Notwithstanding decisions on application of catch and/or effort limits, all other provisions of this measure apply to all vessels fishing in the overlap area.

HARVEST STRATEGIES AND INTERIM OBJECTIVES FOR BIGEYE, SKIPJACK, AND YELLOWFIN TUNA

Bigeye

10. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015.

Skipjack

11. The spawning biomass of skipjack tuna is to be maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point contained in CMM 2022-01 on an interim Management Procedure for Skipjack Tuna.

Yellowfin

12. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015.

PURSE SEINE FISHERY

FAD Set Management

13. A one and a half (1 1/2) months (July to mid-August) prohibition of deploying, servicing or setting on FADs shall be in place between 0001 hours UTC on 1 July and 2359 hours UTC on 15 August each year for all purse seine vessels, tender vessels, and any other vessels operating in support of purse seine vessels fishing in exclusive economic zones and the high seas in the area between 20°N and 20°S.¹

14. In addition to the one and a half month FAD closure in paragraph 13, except for those vessels flying the Kiribati flag when fishing in the high seas adjacent to the Kiribati exclusive economic zone, and Philippines' vessels operating in HSP1 in accordance with **Attachment 2**, it shall be prohibited to deploy, service or set on FADs in the high seas for one additional month of the year. Each CCM shall decide which one month (either April, May, November or December) shall be closed to setting on FADs by their fleets in the high seas for 2024, 2025, 2026 and notify the Secretariat of that decision by March 1, each year. In case a CCM decides to change the notified period at any given year of the application of this CMM this shall be notified to the Secretariat before 1st March of that year.

15. The provisions of paragraphs 3 to 7 of CMM 2009-02 apply to the high seas FAD closures.

Non-entangling FADs

16. To reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, CCMs shall ensure that the design and construction of any new FAD to be deployed in the WCPFC Convention Area from 1 January 2024 shall comply with the following specifications:

- (a) The use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD.
- (b) If the raft is covered, only non-entangling material and designs shall be used.
- (c) The subsurface structure shall only be made using non-entangling materials.

17. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, CCMs shall encourage vessels flying their flag to use, or transition towards using, non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs.

18. No later than 2026, the Commission shall take a decision on the implementation of biodegradable FAD requirements.

¹ Members of the PNA may implement the FAD set management measures consistent with the Third Arrangement Implementing the Nauru Agreement of May 2008. Members of the PNA shall provide notification to the Commission of the domestic vessels to which the FAD closure will not apply. That notification shall be provided within 15 days of the arrangement being approved. The Secretariat shall provide each year to the Scientific Services Provider and TCC the list of fishing vessels that have not applied the FAD closure in the previous year, as well as, their respective numbers of FADs sets during the FADs closure.

19. The Scientific Committee shall continue to review research results on the use of biodegradable material on FADs and shall provide specific recommendations to the Commission no later than 2026 including on a timeline for the stepwise introduction of biodegradable FADs, potential gaps/needs and any other relevant information. The definition for biodegradable is non-synthetic materials and/or bio-based alternatives that are consistent with international standards for materials that are biodegradable in marine environments. The components resulting from the degradation of these materials should not be damaging to the marine and coastal ecosystems or include heavy metals or plastics in their composition. CCMs are encouraged to communicate and disseminate information on the development of biodegradable FADs.

20. The Commission no later than its 2026 annual session, based on specific guidelines defined by the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group and advice from SC and TCC, shall consider the adoption of measures on the implementation of biodegradable material on FADs.

Instrumented Buoys

21. A flag CCM shall ensure that each of its purse seine vessels shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) with activated instrumented buoys. An instrumented buoy is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel. A flag CCM shall ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD tracking.

22. (1) CCMs shall also encourage their flag vessels to:

- (a) responsibly manage the number of drifting FADs deployed each year;
- (b) carry equipment on board to facilitate the retrieval of lost drifting FADs;
- (c) make reasonable efforts to retrieve lost drifting FADs;
- (d) report the loss of drifting FADs to CCM fisheries authorities, and if the loss occurred in the EEZ of a coastal State, also report the loss to the coastal State concerned; and
- (e) initiate retrieval programs for lost, abandoned or stranded FADs through cooperative initiatives among fishing vessels or other vessels implementing programmes for the recovery of such FADs.

(2) CCMs are encouraged to report annually to the Commission on the effort to implement each item of this paragraph 22(1).

(3) The FADMO IWG shall consider any information provided by CCMs on their implementation of paragraph 22(1) to enable the development of recommendations to TCC and the Commission on lost, abandoned, or stranded dFADs in 2025.

23. The Commission no later than 2026 based on consideration of the FAD Management Options Working Group shall review the effectiveness of the limit on the number of FADs deployed as set out in paragraph 21 and whether the current limit of 350, or any limit, is appropriate and provide advice on the monitoring of FADs.

Zone-based purse seine effort control

24. Coastal CCMs within the Convention Area shall restrict purse seine effort and/or catch of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna within their EEZs in accordance with the effort limits established and notified to the Commission and set out in **Table 1 of Attachment 1**. Those coastal CCMs that have yet to notify limits to the Commission shall do so by 29 February 2024.²

High seas purse seine effort control³

25. CCMs that are not SIDS shall restrict the level of purse seine effort on the high seas in the area 20°N to 20°S to the limits set out in **Attachment 1, Table 2**, except that the Philippines shall take measures on the high seas in accordance with **Attachment 2**.

26. CCMs shall ensure that the effectiveness of these effort limits for the purse seine fishery are not undermined by a transfer of effort in days fished into areas within the Convention Area south of 20°S and/or north of 20°N.

27. The limits set out in **Attachment 1, Table 2** do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission. The Commission commits to transitioning to a more equitable allocation framework for high seas fishing opportunities that takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission will commence a process to develop that framework in 2026, to enable the Commission to reach agreement in 2026 on hard effort or catch limits in the high seas of the Convention Area and a framework for the allocation of those limits in the high seas amongst all Members and Participating Territories that adequately takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission shall also consider options as to how CCMs would use their limits.

² The provision of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who do not have established purse seine fisheries taking skipjack, yellowfin or bigeye tuna within their EEZs and have notified the Secretariat accordingly.

³ Throughout this measure, in the case of small purse seine fleets, of five vessels or less, the baseline level of effort used to determine a limit shall be the maximum effort in any period and not the average.

28. Where the catch and effort limits in paragraphs 24 and 25 have been exceeded, any overage of the annual limits by a CCM or the collective annual limits of a group of CCMs shall be deducted from the limits for the following year for that CCM or group of CCMs.

29. Notwithstanding paragraphs 24, 25 and 48, in each of the years 2024-2026, if any of the baseline fishing conditions specified in 1.b) of the Harvest Control Rules of the Skipjack Tuna Management Procedure are exceeded, the CMM will be amended to make sure they are maintained.

Catch retention: Purse Seine Fishery

30. To create an incentive to reduce the non-intentional capture of juvenile fish, to discourage waste and to encourage an efficient utilization of fishery resources, CCMs shall require their purse seine vessels fishing in EEZs and on the high seas within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S to retain on board and then land or transship at port all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna. (Paragraphs 8 to 12 of CMM 2009-02 set out the Commission's rules for catch retention in the high seas.) The only exceptions to this paragraph shall be:

- (a) when, in the final set of a trip, there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, noting that excess fish taken in the last set may be transferred to and retained on board another purse seine vessel provided this is not prohibited under applicable national law; or
- (b) when the fish are unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or
- (c) when serious malfunction of equipment occurs.

31. Nothing in paragraphs 13-15 and 30 shall affect the sovereign rights of coastal States to determine how these management measures will be applied in their waters, or to apply additional or more stringent measures.

Monitoring and Control: Purse Seine Fishery

32. Notwithstanding the VMS SSP, a purse seine vessel shall not operate under manual reporting during the FADs closure periods, but the vessel will not be directed to return to port until the Secretariat has exhausted all reasonable steps to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions in accordance with the VMS SSPs. The flag State shall be notified when VMS data is not received by the Secretariat at the interval specified in CMM 2014-02 or its replacement, and paragraph 36.

33. CCMs shall ensure that purse seine vessels entitled to fly their flags and fishing within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S exclusively on the high seas, on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States, or vessels fishing in waters under the jurisdiction

of two or more coastal States, shall carry an observer from the Commission's Regional Observer Program (ROP) (CMM 2018-05).

34. Each CCM shall ensure that all purse seine vessels fishing solely within its national jurisdiction within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S carry an observer. These CCMs are encouraged to provide the data gathered by the observers for use in the various analyses conducted by the Commission, including stock assessments, in such a manner that protects the ownership and confidentiality of the data.

35. ROP reports for trips taken during FADs closure period shall be given priority for data input and analysis by the Secretariat and the Commission's Science Provider.

36. VMS polling frequency shall be increased to every 30 minutes during the FAD closure period. The increased costs associated with the implementation of this paragraph will be borne by the Commission.

Research on Bigeye and Yellowfin

37. CCMs and the Commission are encouraged to conduct and promote research to identify ways for purse seine vessels to minimize the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna, particularly in accordance with any research plans adopted by the Commission.

LONGLINE FISHERY

38. As an interim measure, CCMs listed in **Attachment 1, Table 3** shall restrict the level of bigeye catch to the levels specified in **Table 3**. Where the limits in **Table 3** have been exceeded, any overage of the catch limit by a CCM listed in **Table 3** shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year for that CCM.

39. CCMs listed in **Attachment 1, Table 3** shall report monthly the amount of bigeye catch by their flagged vessels to the Commission Secretariat by the end of the following month. The Secretariat shall notify all CCMs when 90% of the catch limits for a CCM is exceeded.

40. The limits set out in **Attachment 1, Table 3** do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission.

41. Subject to paragraph 5, each Member that caught less than 2,000 tonnes in 2004 shall ensure that its bigeye catch does not exceed 2,000 tonnes annually.

42. The Commission commits to transitioning to a more equitable allocation framework for fishing opportunities that takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission will commence a process to develop that framework in 2026, to enable the

Commission to reach agreement in 2026 on hard limits for bigeye amongst all Members and Participating Territories.

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT FOR PURSE SEINE AND LONGLINE VESSELS

Purse Seine Vessel Limits

43. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁴, shall keep the number of purse seine vessels flying their flag larger than 24m with freezing capacity operating between 20°N and 20°S (hereinafter “LSPSVs”) to the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.

44. The concerned CCMs shall ensure that any new LSPSV constructed or purchased to replace a previous vessel or vessels, shall have a carrying capacity or well volume no larger than the vessel(s) being replaced, or shall not increase the catch or effort in the Convention Area from the level of the vessels being replaced. In such case, the authorization to fish in the Convention Area of the replaced vessel shall be immediately revoked by the flag CCM.

Limits on Longline Vessels with Freezing Capacity

45. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁵, shall not increase the number of their longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye tuna above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.⁶

Limits on ice-chilled longline vessels landing fresh fish

46. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁷ shall not increase the number of their ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye tuna and landing exclusively fresh fish above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01, or above the number of licenses under established limited entry programmes applying during the operation of CMM 2013-01.⁸

47. Nothing in this measure shall restrict the ability of SIDS or Participating Territories to construct or purchase vessels from other CCMs for their domestic fleets.

OTHER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

⁴ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁵ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁶ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

⁷ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁸ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

48. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total catch of their respective other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tuna, but excluding those fisheries taking less than 2,000 tonnes of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack), shall not exceed either the average level for the period 2001-2004 or the level of 2004.

DATA PROVISION REQUIREMENTS

49. Operational level catch and effort data in accordance with the *Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data* attached to the Rules for *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission* relating to all fishing in EEZs and high seas south of 20N subject to this CMM except for artisanal small-scale vessels shall be provided to the Commission not only for the purpose of stocks management but also for the purpose of cooperation to SIDS under Article 30 of the Convention.^{9 10}

50. The Commission shall ensure the confidentiality of those data provided as non-public domain data.

51. CCMs whose vessel fish in EEZs and high seas north of 20N subject to this CMM shall ensure that aggregated data by 1 x 1 in that area be provided to the Commission, and shall also, upon request, cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of tropical tuna stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made between each CCM and the Scientific Provider. Those CCMs shall report such agreement to the Commission.

REVIEW AND FINAL PROVISIONS

52. The Commission shall review this CMM annually to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect.

53. This measure replaces CMM 2021-01. This measure shall come into effect on 16 February 2024 and remain in effect until 15 February 2027 unless earlier replaced or amended by the Commission.

⁹ CCMs which had domestic legal constraints under CMM 2014-01 shall provide operational level data as of the date on which those domestic legal constraints were lifted.

¹⁰ This paragraph shall not apply to Indonesia, until it changes its national laws so that it can provide such data. This exception shall expire when such changes take effect but in any event no later than 31 December 2025. Indonesia will, upon request, make best effort to cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of those stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made with the Scientific Provider.

Table 1: EEZ purse seine effort limits [paragraph 24]*(Table updated with information provided to Secretariat)*

Coastal EEZ/Group	CCMs'	Effort in Vessel days/Catch limit	Comment
PNA		44,033 days	This limit will be managed cooperatively through the PNA Vessel Day Scheme.
Tokelau		1000 days	
Cook Islands		1,250 days	
Fiji		300 days	
Niue		200 days	
Samoa		150 days	
Tonga		250 days	
Vanuatu		200 days	
Australia		30,000 mt SKJ 600 mt BET 600 mt YFT	
French Polynesia		0	
Indonesia		70,820 mt	
Japan		1500 days	
Korea		*	
New Zealand		40,000 mt SKJ	
New Caledonia		20,000 mt SKJ	
Philippines		*	
Chinese Taipei		59 days (~34 purse seine vessels)	
United States **		558 days	
Wallis and Futuna		*	

* Limits not notified to the Commission

** The United States notified the Secretariat of the combined US EEZ and high seas effort limits on 1 July 2016 (1828 fishing days on the high seas and in the U.S. EEZ (combined)). The US EEZ limit is understood to be this notified limit minus the high seas effort limit for the United States set out in **Table 2 of Attachment 1**.

Table 2. High seas purse seine effort control [paragraphs 25-27]

CCM	EFFORT LIMIT (DAYS)
CHINA	26
ECUADOR	**
EL SALVADOR	**
EUROPEAN UNION	403
INDONESIA	(0)
JAPAN	121
NEW ZEALAND	160
PHILIPPINES	#
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	207
CHINESE TAIPEI	95
USA	1270

** subject to CNM on participatory rights
The measures that the Philippines will take are in **Attachment 2**.

Table 3. Bigeye Longline Catch Limits [paragraphs 37-39]

Bigeye catch limits by flag	
CCMs	Catch Limits
CHINA	8,224
INDONESIA	5,889*
JAPAN	18,265
KOREA	13,942
CHINESE TAIPEI	10,481
USA	6,554

*Provisional and maybe subject to revision following data analysis and verification

**For the United States and those who maintain a 5% observer coverage level, no catch increase is allowed.

Any increase in BET tuna catch limit, up to 10%, by a CCM in table 3 shall correspond with a proportional increase of observer coverage, (eg observer + Electronic Monitoring (EM) coverage increases from 5% to 10%; and for example, a 2.5 percentage point increase in observer + EM coverage corresponds with a 5% increase in the catch limit; and a 5 percentage point increase in observer + EM coverage corresponds with a 10% increase in the catch limit.) A minimum level of 5% ROP coverage shall be maintained.

Any CCM who wants such an increase shall notify the Secretariat by the end of February of the year of fishing operations. If such CCM fails to achieve the required observer coverage level assessed for the year of increase of catch limits, then it will be subject to a payback penalty of 110% of the increased portion of the catch limit that can be repaid in either of the next two years, and will be assigned a status of priority non-compliant through the CMR process for this obligation.

***Any observer coverage above 5% can be achieved by human observer and/or EM coverage

In accordance with the deletion of paragraph 9 of CMM 2021 01, catch and effort of U.S. flagged Hawaii based longline vessels will no longer be attributed to US Participating Territories, future attribution for the US territories shall remain separate.

Japan will make an annual one-off transfer of 500 metric tonnes of its bigeye tuna catch limit to China.

Measure for Philippines

1. This Attachment shall apply to Philippine traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group.

AREA OF APPLICATION

2. This measure shall apply only to High Seas Pocket no. 1 (HSP-1), which is the area of high seas bounded by the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the Federated States of Micronesia to the north and east, Republic of Palau to the west, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to the south. For the purposes of this measure, the exact coordinates for the area shall be those used by the WCPFC vessel monitoring system (VMS). A map showing the HSP-1 Special Management Area (SMA) is attached.

REPORTING

3. Philippines shall require its concerned vessels to submit reports to the Commission at least 24 hours prior to entry and no more than 6 hours prior to exiting the HSP-1 SMA. This information may, in turn, be transmitted to the adjacent coastal States/Territories.

The report shall be in the following format:

VID/Entry or Exit: Date/Time; Lat/Long

4. Philippines shall ensure that its flagged vessels operating in the HSP-1 SMA report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat. Such information shall include: vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed.

OBSERVER

5. The fishing vessels covered by this measure shall employ a WCPFC Regional Observer on board during the whole duration while they operate in HSP-1 SMA in accordance with the provisions of CMM 2018-05.

6. Regional Observers from other CCMs shall be given preference/priority. For this purpose, the Philippines and the Commission Secretariat shall inform the CCMs and the Adjacent Coastal State of the deployment needs and requirements at 60 days prior expected departure. The Secretariat and the CCM that has available qualified regional observer shall inform the Philippines of the readiness and availability of the Regional Observer at least 30 days prior to the deployment date. If none is available, the Philippines is authorized to deploy regional observers from the Philippines.

VESSEL LIST

7. The Commission shall maintain an updated list of all fishing vessels operating in HSP-1 SMA based on the foregoing vessel's entry and exit reports submitted to the Commission. The list will be made available to Commission Members through the WCPFC website.

MONITORING OF PORT LANDINGS

8. The Philippines shall ensure that all port landings of its vessels covered by this decision are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis.

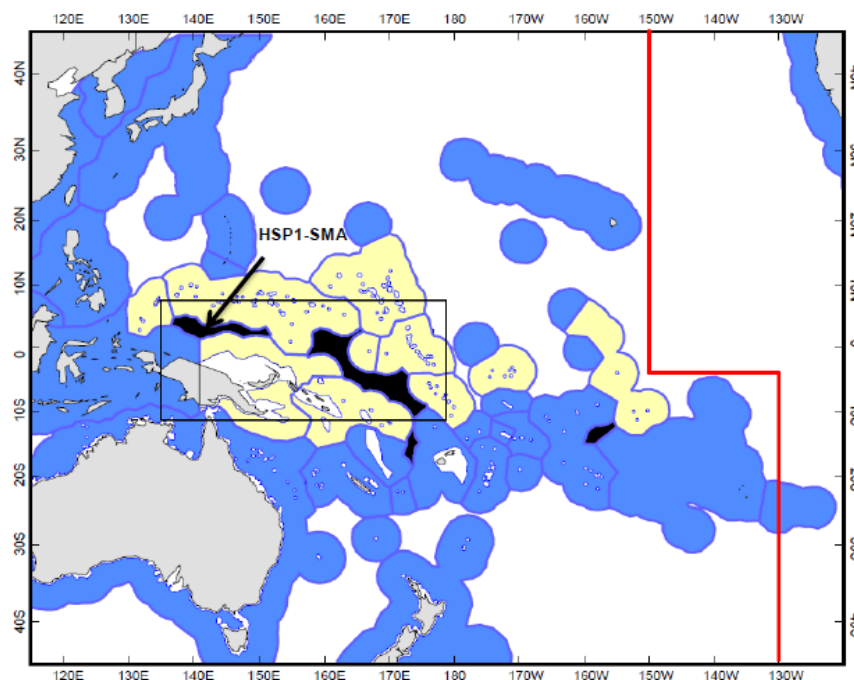
COMPLIANCE

9. All vessels conducting their fishing activities pursuant to this Attachment to CMM 2023-01 shall comply with all other relevant CMMs. Vessels found to be non-compliant with this decision shall be dealt with in accordance with CMM 2019-07 or its replacement CMM, and any other applicable measure adopted by the Commission.

EFFORT LIMIT

10. The total effort of these vessels shall not exceed 4,659 days.¹¹ The Philippines shall limit its fleet to 36 fishing vessels (described by the Philippines as catcher fishing vessels) in the HSP-1 SMA.

Map showing HSP-1 SMA where the Arrangements in Attachment 2 apply



This map displays indicative maritime boundaries only. It is presented without prejudice to any past, current or future claims by any State. It is not intended for use to support any past, current or future claims by any State or territory in the western and central Pacific or east Asian region. Individual States are responsible for maintaining the coordinates for their maritime claims. It is the responsibility of flag States to ensure their vessels are informed of the coordinates of maritime limits within the Convention Area. Coastal States are invited to register the coordinates for their negotiated and agreed maritime areas with the Commission Secretariat.

¹¹ Reference Table 2(b), WCPFC9-2012-IP09_rev3



COMMISSION
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INDICATIVE WORK PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES UNDER CMM 2022-03

WCPFC20-2023-HS Workplan_Rev01
7 December 2023

Prepared by Australia

- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM2014-06 (now superseded by CMM 2022-03). 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.

2023 Update

- The technical progress of the Scientific Services Provider included the running of the skipjack management procedure and drafting of the skipjack monitoring strategy, refinement of the MSE framework for South Pacific albacore in accordance with the recommendations of the SMD01 and Commission, and the continued development of the mixed fishery harvest strategy framework for WCPO tuna stocks. Harvest strategy capacity building workshops were also conducted, with further refinement of the online capacity building material.
- The indicative plan has been extended for an additional year to 2027.
- An interim TRP for South Pacific albacore was agreed by WCPFC20.
- Adoption of a management procedure for South Pacific albacore remains scheduled for 2024. However, WCPFC20 also recognised the clear potential for this to be delayed until 2025 noting the possible modification of the operating model reference set following the 2024 stock assessment and reflecting concerns around retrospective bias and short term projected downward trends in biomass (the ‘big dip’). Further, it is noted that the SSP was assigned additional taskings by WCPFC20 (examination of effort-based SPA MPs and exploration of alternative candidate TRPs) and undertaking the complete range of SPA and other analyses to support the 2024 meeting sequence will be challenging.
- For bigeye and yellowfin tuna, adoption of a management procedure was moved from 2025 to 2026 to avoid the subsequent running of these management procedures in the same year their respective stock assessments are scheduled. In accordance with this change, several other changes to the plan were made in the years prior to 2026 for these two stocks.

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 (a. Objectives, b. Reference Points, c. Acceptable Levels of Risk, d. Monitoring, e. Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure and f. 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
2022	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. 	<p>Complete review of the Target Reference Point.</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. 	<p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential management procedures. <p>[YFT peer review. Relevant to BET operating models.]</p>	<p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential management procedures. <p>[YFT peer review. Relevant to operating models.]</p>
	<p>Progress Summary: The first Science Management Dialogue was held in August 2022 and the meeting page (https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/smd01) provides a set of papers and analyses that summarize progress.</p>			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2023	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b). Commission agree a TRP for South Pacific albacore</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). 	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p>SC provide advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy (d).</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjac	Bigeye	Yellowfi
2024	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice for review Target Reference Point • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC20]</p> <p>Commission review and adopt a management procedure.¹</p>	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for bigeye 	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin.

¹ The Commission recognised that there are technical considerations that may delay this MP adoption by one year to 2025 with delays to subsequent decisions.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2025	<p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p> <p>[SPA-IWG plan: Adopted management procedure is <u>run</u> for the first time.]</p>		<p>Develop management procedures (e) and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. 	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2026	[SPA-IWG plan: Adopted management procedure <u>implemented</u> for the first time.]		<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Commission ADOPT a management procedure.</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Commission ADOPT a management procedure.</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2027			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)

ATTACHMENT 5: ERandEM 2024 Schedule of Work



COMMISSION
Twentieth Regular Session
4-8 December 2023
Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

ERandEM Proposed Schedule of Work

ER and EM Work Plan Priority Tasks	Timing	Mode of working	Outputs
a. Identification of priority Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs)	Dec 23 – Feb 24	Via email	Key materials and priority SSPs identified
	Apr-May 24	Virtual meeting	Review of priority SSPs for inclusion in SC and TCC paper
b. Confirm information needs for longline and longline transshipment	Aug-Sep 24	SC and TCC consideration	Recommendation and advice from these two subsidiary bodies
	Dec 24	WCPFC-21	Agreement and/or feedback on SSPs
c. Develop proposed assurance and associated SSPs			
d. Develop an initial draft CMM for a WCPFC EMP	TCC	In-person session	Outline of draft CMM
	Oct- Nov 24	Via email	Draft CMM and key questions identified
	Dec 24	WCPFC-21	Feedback on draft CMM
e. Finalise SSPs and propose changes to other WCPFC documents	Dec 24 – Feb 25	Via email	Key activities and timelines for 2025 identified, including any consequential amendments required
	Apr-May 25	Virtual meeting	<i>To be confirmed</i>
	Aug-Sep 25	SC and TCC consideration	<i>To be confirmed</i>
	TCC	In-person session	<i>To be confirmed</i>
	Dec 25	WCPFC-22	Adoption of CMM on a WCPFC EMP ☺



HARVEST STRATEGY FOR NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHERY

Harvest Strategy 2023-01

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 the criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances developed by the ISC, and notify the Northern Committee if these exceptional circumstances have occurred.

5. Harvest Control Rules (HCR)

The harvest control rules apply to all fisheries harvesting albacore in the EEZ and high seas in the Convention Area north of the equator.

The harvest control rule parameters produce a relationship between stock status and fishing intensity as shown in Figure 1 and are as follows with the minimum allowed fishing intensity (F_{min}) equal to $F_{87\%}$, which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results in the stock producing 87% of spawning potential ratio (SPR). $SSB_{current}$ refers to spawning stock biomass in the terminal year of the assessment and $SSB_{current, F=0}$ to the terminal year dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass.

- If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{current, F=0}$ is above or equal to $SSB_{threshold}$ with a probability of at least 50%, fishing intensity shall be maintained at or below the TRP on average over 10 years.
- If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{current, F=0}$ is below $SSB_{threshold}$ with a probability greater than 50%, and is above the LRP with a probability of at least 50%, fishing intensity shall be reduced¹ to a level in accordance with following formula:

$$F = \frac{TRP - F_{min}}{SSB_{threshold} - LRP} * (SSB_{current}/SSB_{current, F=0} - LRP) + F_{min}$$

- If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{current, F=0}$ is at or below the LRP with a probability greater than 50%, the WCPFC shall, in collaboration with the IATTC, consult with the ISC and adopt rebuilding measures that will rebuild SSB to levels of at least the $SSB_{threshold}$ with a probability of at least 65 % within 10 years of $SSB_{current}/SSB_{current, F=0}$ having been identified to be at or below the LRP with a probability greater than 50%. In the absence of such rebuilding measures, fishing intensity shall be set at F_{min} ².

If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{current, F=0}$ is above the LRP and below $SSB_{threshold}$ the maximum increase or decrease in catch or effort between the three-year management periods shall be 20% relative to the catch and effort levels specified for the previous year.

In the year following the relevant ISC stock assessment, the Northern Committee will recommend adjustment to the existing CMM for North Pacific Albacore to ensure fishing intensity is at or below the level set forth by this HCR using the latest ISC stock assessment. Changes to fishing intensity in accordance with the harvest control parameters shall apply between assessments starting the year after the stock assessment was completed, until the year following the next stock assessment that provides an estimate of unfished SSB .

¹ When adopting proposed revisions to the conservation and management measures proposed, which may include inter alia reductions in fishing effort, CCMs will take into account historical fishing activity and the source of increased fishing mortality in reference to the average effort referenced in CMM 2019 -03.

² Ibid.

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.

This Harvest Strategy replaces the “Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery” adopted as Harvest Strategy 2022-01.

A review of the performance of the Harvest Strategy by the Northern Committee and the ISC shall be completed by 2030 and 2033. The aim of the review is to ensure the Harvest Strategy is performing as expected and to determine whether there are conditions that justify its continuation, or that warrant: reconditioning the MSE operating models; retuning the existing Harvest Strategy; including new indices into a new Harvest Strategy; and/or considering alternate candidate management procedures or development of a new MSE framework. Based on those reviews and subsequent ISC advice, the Commission in 2030 and 2033 shall decide on the future of the Harvest Strategy.

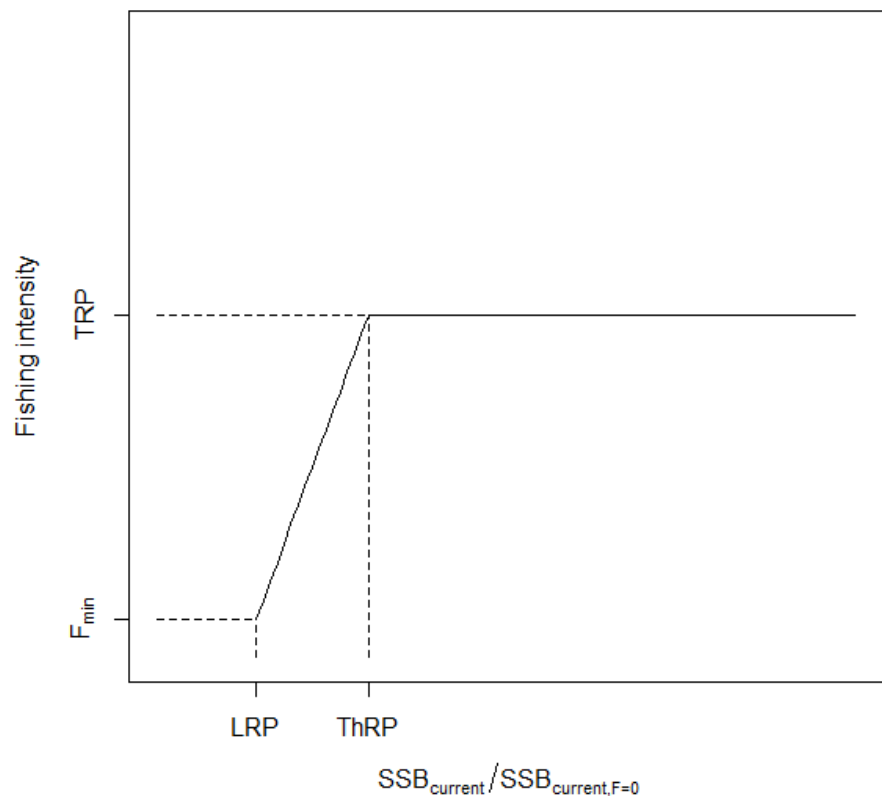


Figure 1. Illustration of the harvest control rules with target reference point (TRP), threshold reference point (ThRP), limit reference point (LRP), and the minimum allowed fishing intensity (F_{min}). The harvest control rules include the triggering of a rebuilding measure if the $SSB_{current} / SSB_{current, F=0}$ falls below the LRP.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Conservation and Management Measure 2023-02

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised ten times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04, CMM 2017-08, CMM 2018-02, CMM 2019-02 and CMM 2020-02) based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;

Noting the latest stock assessment provided by ISC Plenary Meeting in July 2020, indicating the following:

- (1) spawning stock biomass (SSB) fluctuated throughout the assessment period (fishing years 1952- 2018), (2) the SSB steadily declined from 1996 to 2010, (3) the slow increase in the stock biomass has been continuing since 2011, (4) total biomass in 2018 exceeded the historical median with an increase in immature fish; and (5) fishing mortality (F%SPR) declined from a level producing about 1% of SPR in 2004-2009 to a level producing 14% of SPR in 2016-2018;
- A substantial decrease in estimated F has been observed in ages 0-2 in 2016-2018 relative to the previous years;
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, and in 2016 had a greater impact than any other fishery group;
- Harvesting small fish has a greater impact on future spawning stock biomass than harvesting large fish of the same amount;
- The projection results indicate that, under all the examined scenarios, the initial goal of rebuilding the stock to SSB_{MED} by 2024 with at least 60% probability, is reached with 99% or 100% probability, and that the risk of SSB falling below SSB_{loss} is negligible; and
- The projection results also indicate that, under all the examined scenarios, the estimated probability of achieving the second biomass rebuilding target (20% of SSB_{F=0}) 10 years after the achievement of the initial rebuilding target or by 2034, whichever is earlier, is greater than 90%.

Recalling that paragraph (4) of the Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

General Provision

1. This conservation and management measure has been prepared to implement the Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (Harvest Strategy 2017-02), and the Northern Committee shall

periodically review and recommend revisions to this measure as needed to implement the Harvest Strategy.

Management measures

2. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.
3. Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei shall, respectively, take measures necessary to ensure that its catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg and Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger shall not exceed the annual catch limits in the tables below. The basis for the limits is as follows; annual catch limits for Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg are 50% of the 2002-2004 average annual levels and annual catch limits for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger are 115% of the 2002-2004 average annual levels or 30 metric tons for a CCM who does not have an initial catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger before 2022.

Pacific Bluefin tuna less than 30kg

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	8,015 metric tons	4,007 metric tons
Korea	1,435 metric tons	718 metric tons

Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	4,882 metric tons	5,614 metric tons
Korea	0 metric tons	30 metric tons
Chinese Taipei	1,709 metric tons	1,965 metric tons

4. CCMs, not described in paragraph 3, may increase their catch of Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger by 15% above their 2002-2004 annual average levels. CCMs with a base line catch of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year.
5. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit.¹
6. CCMs described in paragraph 3 may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg stipulated in paragraph 3 above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin

¹ Notwithstanding paragraph 5, a CCM may carry over up to 17% of its initial catch limits in 2021, 2022 and 2023, which remain uncaught, to 2022, 2023 and 2024, respectively.

tuna smaller than 30kg². CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.

7. All CCMs except Japan shall implement the limits in paragraph 3 on a calendar-year basis. Japan shall implement the limits using a management year other than the calendar year for some of its fisheries and have its implementation assessed with respect to its management year. To facilitate the assessment, Japan shall:
 - a. Use the following management years:
 1. For its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, use the calendar year as the management year.
 2. For its other fisheries, use 1 April – 31 March as the management year³.
 - b. In its annual reports for PBF, for each category described in a.1 and a.2 above, complete the required reporting template for both the management year and calendar year clearly identifying fisheries for each management year.
8. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 31 July each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and ≥30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards. CCMs shall report their annual catch limits and their annual catches of PBF, with adequate computation details, to present their implementation for paragraph 5 and 6, if the measures and arrangements in the said paragraphs and relevant footnotes applied. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.
9. CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction.
10. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.
11. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.
12. CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the **Attachment** of this CMM.

² In 2022, 2023 and 2024, a CCM may count the amount of catch 30kg or larger adjusted with the conversion factor 0.68 (catch 30kg or larger multiplied by 0.68) against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg up to 30% of its initial catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg. Notwithstanding the first sentence of this footnote, a CCM who does not have an initial catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger before 2022 may apply the conversion factor 0.68 up to 40% instead of 30% of its initial catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30kg for the same period.

³ For the category described a.2 of paragraph 7, the TCC shall assess in year 20XX its implementation during the management year that starts 1 April 20XX-1 (e.g., in the 2020 compliance review, the TCC will assess Japan's implementation for its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during calendar-year 2019 and for its other fisheries during 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020)

13. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.
14. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 13 and 16 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 31 July annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.
15. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.
16. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.
17. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 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 Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
18. The provisions of paragraph 17 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly 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.
19. This CMM replaces CMM 2021-02. On the basis of stock assessment conducted by ISC in 2024, and other pertinent information, this CMM shall be reviewed and may be amended as appropriate in 2024.

Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

- (1) Objective
- (2) General provision
- (3) Definition of terms
- (4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
- (5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
- (6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
- (7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
- (8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
- (9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
- (10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
- (11) Role of the Secretariat
- (12) Relationship with non-members
- (13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
- (14) Consideration to developing members
- (15) Schedule for introduction
- (16) Attachment
 - (i) Catch document forms
 - (ii) Re-export certificate forms
 - (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
 - (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

4. Work plan

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

- 2017 The joint working group will submit this concept paper to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.
- 2018 The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 2019 The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 20XX The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.



HARVEST STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERIES

Harvest Strategy 2023-02

Introduction and scope

This harvest strategy has been prepared in accordance with the Commission's Conservation and Management Measure on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Although the provisions of this harvest strategy are expressed in terms of a single stock, they may be applied to multiple stocks as appropriate and as determined by the Northern Committee.

1. Management objectives

The management objectives are, first, to support thriving Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries across the Pacific Ocean while recognizing that the management objectives of the WCPFC are to maintain or restore the stock at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, second, to maintain an equitable balance of fishing privileges among CCMs and, third, to seek cooperation with IATTC to find an equitable balance between the fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and those in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

2. Reference points

Because steepness in the stock-recruitment relationship is not well known but the key biological and fishery variables are reasonably well estimated¹, the stock of PBF is to be treated as a Level 2 stock under the Commission's hierarchical approach for setting biological limit reference points.

2.1 Rebuilding targets

Initial rebuilding target:

The initial rebuilding target for the PBF stock size is the median SSB estimated for the period 1952 through 2014, to be reached by 2024 with at least 60% probability.

Recruitment scenario during initial rebuilding period:

The low recruitment scenario (resampling from the relatively low recruitment period (1980-1989)) or the recent recruitment scenario (resampling from the last 10 years), whichever is lower, will be used for the ISC's SSB projections until 2024 or until the SSB reaches the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier. The ISC is requested to periodically evaluate whether the recruitment scenario used during the initial

¹ See the information provided by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (WCPFC-NC9-2013/IP-03) in response to a request made by the Northern Committee at its Eighth Regular Session (Attachment F of the report of NC8).

rebuilding period is reasonable given current conditions, and to make recommendations on whether a different scenario should be used. If ISC recommends a different scenario, this will be considered by the NC.

Second rebuilding target:

The second rebuilding target for the PBF stock size is $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ ², to be reached by 2034, or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, with at least 60% probability.

However, if: (1) the SSB reaches the initial rebuilding target earlier than 2024; (2) ISC recommends a recruitment scenario lower than the average recruitment scenario; and (3) the SSB projections indicate that the second rebuilding target will not be achieved on this schedule, the deadline for rebuilding may be extended to 2034 at the latest.

Also, if there is a recommendation from the Northern Committee that $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ is not appropriate as the second rebuilding target, taking into account consideration from IATTC, scientific advice from ISC, IATTC or WCPFC SC, and socioeconomic factors, another objective may be established.

Recruitment scenario during second rebuilding period:

After the initial rebuilding target is reached and until the second rebuilding target is reached, the recruitment scenario to be used for the SSB projections will tentatively be the average recruitment scenario (resampling from the entire recruitment period).

The ISC is requested to periodically evaluate whether the recruitment scenario used during the second rebuilding period is reasonable given current conditions, and to make recommendations on whether a different scenario should be used. If ISC recommends a different scenario, this will be considered by the NC.

2.2 Development of reference points

The Northern Committee will develop more refined management objectives as well as limit reference point(s) and target reference point(s) through MSE process specified in Section 6.

3. Acceptable levels of risk

Until the stock is rebuilt, the Northern Committee will recommend conservation and management measures as needed to ensure rebuilding in accordance with the probabilities specified in sections 2.1 and 5 for each of the two rebuilding targets.

Once the stock is rebuilt, in accordance with Article 6.1(a) of the Convention, the Northern Committee will recommend conservation and management measures as needed to ensure that any target reference point(s) (once adopted) are achieved on average in the long term, and ensure that the risk of the stock size declining below the B-limit (once adopted) is very low.³

4. Monitoring strategy

² $SSB_{F=0}$ is the expected spawning stock biomass under average recruitment conditions without fishing.

³ WCPFC13 agreed that any risk level greater than 20 percent to be inconsistent with the limit reference point related principles in UNFSA (as references in Article 6 of the Convention) including that the risk of breaching limit reference points be very low.

The ISC will periodically evaluate the stock size and exploitation rate with respect to the established reference points and the report will be presented to the Scientific Committee. Until 2024, while the MSE is being developed (see section 6), the ISC is requested to conduct stock assessments in 2018, 2020 and 2022.

In order to cope with the adverse effects on the rebuilding of the stock due to drastic drops of recruitment: (1) all the available data and information will be reviewed annually, including recruitment data provided by the ISC and in National Reports; and (2) the ISC is requested to conduct in 2019, and periodically thereafter as resources permit and if drops in recruitment are detected, projections to see if any additional measure is necessary to achieve the initial rebuilding target by 2024 with at least 60% probability.

5. Decision rules

Harvest control rules during initial rebuilding period:

The interim harvest control rules below will be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC.

- a. If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the initial rebuilding target by 2024 is less than 60%, management measures will be modified to increase it to at least 60%. Modification of management measures may be (1) a reduction (in %) in the catch limit for fish smaller than 30 kg (hereinafter called “small fish”) or (2) a transfer of part of the catch limit for small fish to the catch limit for fish 30 kg or larger (hereinafter called “large fish”). For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide different combinations of these two measures so as to achieve 60% probability.
- b. If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the initial rebuilding target by 2024 is at 75% or larger, the WCPFC may increase their catch limits as long as the probability is maintained at 70% or larger, and the probability of reaching the second rebuilding target by the agreed deadline remains at least 60%. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide relevant information on potential catch limit increases.

Harvest control rules during second rebuilding period:

The harvest control rules during the second rebuilding period below will be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC.

- a. If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the second rebuilding target by 2034 or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, is less than 60%, management measures shall be modified to increase it to at least 60%. For this purpose, the ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide information on possible management measures to achieve 60% probability.
- b. If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the second rebuilding target by 2034, or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, is at 75% or larger, fishery controls may be changed, including adjustment of catch limits, as long as the probability is maintained at 70% or larger. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide relevant information on potential fishery controls.
- c. Any adjustments to management measures shall be considered in cooperation between the two RFMOs taking into account historical and future projected proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO. For this purpose, ISC will be requested,

if necessary, to provide relevant information, including projected proportional fishery impact of potential management measures changes.

- d. This harvest control rule will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, if depletion estimates across the time-series have been adjusted due to changes in assumptions and/or settings of the stock assessment model.

Harvest control rules post second rebuilding period:

The following harvest control rules shall be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by the ISC during the period from the year in which the stock is projected to achieve the second rebuilding target of 20%SSB₀ to the year a long-term harvest strategy based on an MSE process is implemented.

- a. If the SSB projection indicates that SSB will be below 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%, management measures shall be modified to increase the SSB to at least 20%SSB₀ with 60% probability. For this purpose, the ISC is requested to provide information on possible management measures to achieve 60% that the stock is above 20%SSB₀ after 10 years of the latest stock assessment.
- b. If the SSB projection indicates that SSB will be greater than 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%, management measures should be adjusted so long as any changes maintain SSB greater than 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%. For this purpose, the ISC is requested to provide information on possible management under which the stock is maintained above 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%.
- c. Any adjustments to management measures shall be considered in cooperation between the two RFMOs taking into account historical and future projected proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO. For this purpose, ISC is requested, to provide relevant information, including projected proportional fishery impact of potential management measures changes.
- d. This harvest control rule will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, if depletion estimates across the time-series have been adjusted due to changes in assumptions and/or settings of the stock assessment model.

The Northern Committee will, through MSE development process, develop decision rules related to the limit reference points once adopted including for the case of their being breached.

6. Performance evaluation

Until the stock is rebuilt, the Northern Committee will work with the ISC and the Scientific Committee and consult with the IATTC to identify and evaluate the performance of candidate rebuilding strategies with respect to the rebuilding targets, schedules, and probabilities.

The ISC is requested to start the work to develop a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in 2019 and have a goal of completing it by 2024.

To support development of the MSE, ISC is encouraged to identify at least two experts and NC members are encouraged to provide additional funds for the ISC's work on the MSE.

The Joint WG will start to discuss in 2018, and aim to finalize no later than 2019, guidelines for the MSE, including at least one candidate long-term target reference point (TRP), two candidate limit reference

points (LRPs) and candidate harvest control rules (HCRs), which will be provided to the ISC. Those candidate TRPs, LRPs and HCRs will be tested and changed if appropriate during the MSE development process.

In preparation for the Joint WG meeting in 2019, the ISC is requested to organize workshops in early 2018 and 2019 to support the identification of specific management objectives, including level of risks and timelines. The workshops will include managers, scientists and stakeholders, taking into account any recommendations of the Joint WG, and the number of representatives should be relatively small, as it was for the MSE workshop for North Pacific albacore.

In evaluating the performance of candidate target reference points, limit reference points, and harvest control rules, the Northern Committee, in consultation with the ISC and the Scientific Committee, should consider the following criteria:

- 1) Probability of achieving each of the rebuilding targets within each of the rebuilding periods (if applicable).
- 2) Time expected to achieve each of the rebuilding targets (if applicable).
- 3) Expected annual yield, by fishery.
- 4) Expected annual fishing effort, by PBF-directed fishery.
- 5) Inter-annual variability in yield and fishing effort, by fishery.
- 6) Probabilities of SSB falling below the B-limit and the historical lowest level.
- 7) Probability of fishing mortality exceeding FMSY or an appropriate proxy, and other relevant benchmarks.
- 8) Expected proportional fishery impact on SSB, by fishery and by WCPO fisheries and EPO fisheries.

Recognizing that developing the operating model and other aspects of the MSE will take time and additional resources, and might require further dialogue between the Northern Committee, the ISC, and the IATTC, while the MSE is in development the ISC is requested to perform this work using the best means at its disposal.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR NORTH PACIFIC SWORDFISH

Conservation and Management Measure 2023-03

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; 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 WCPFC 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 more than 200 metric tons per year of North Pacific swordfish in the Area is not increased beyond 2008-2010 average annual level ^{1,2}.
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.

¹ 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.

² 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.

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 as well as catch and effort across the North Pacific 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.

Annex 1. Average annual fishing effort for 2008-2010 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish

CCM	Area ³	Fishery (gear type)	2008-2010 Average			Year			Year			Year		
			Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days ⁴	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days

³ If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report the Area and North Pacific Ocean separately.

⁴ 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.



COMMISSION

Twentieth Regular Session

4-8 December 2023

Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

WCPFC20 Adopted Audit Points

WCPFC20 adopted audit points

WCPFC20 adopted audit points				
1.	Vessel Markings and Specs 2004-03 02 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs implement the fishing vessel marking and technical specification requirements (CMM 2004-03) MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION OF FISHING VESSELS</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged vessel operators to mark their vessels in accordance with the marking and technical specification requirements of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 CMM 2004-03.</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged vessels are marked in accordance with the marking and technical specification requirements of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 CMM 2004-03, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with the relevant requirement.</p>	<p>Paragraph 2 includes a range of fishing vessel marking and technical specification requirements outlined in subparagraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.1 General requirements - 2.2 Markings and other technical specifications 	<p>AP agreed.</p>
2.	Vessel Markings and Specs 2004-03 03 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

				No AP required.
3.	High Seas Boarding and Inspection 2006-08 07 Category: Implementation (IM) and Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>For flag CCMs with vessels authorized to operate on the high seas: CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged vessels operating on the high seas to accept boarding and inspection by authorized inspectors</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that in the event of an HSBI event, CCM flagged vessels are accepting authorized inspectors to carry out their activities, and how CCM responds to potential infringement or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p> <p>For Members with vessels on the Register of Inspection Vessels: Member submitted a statement in AR Pt2 report that:</p> <p>a. confirms implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that implements the requirement to ensure that their authorized inspectors comply with the boarding and inspection procedures in CMM 2006-08 during the conduct of HSBI operations</p> <p>b. describes how Member is monitoring and</p>	<p><i>[IM]</i></p> <p><i>Audit Point for flag CCMs with vessels authorized to operate on the high seas:</i></p> <p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged vessels operating on the high seas to accept boarding and inspection by authorized inspectors</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that in the event of an HSBI event, CCM flagged vessels are accepting authorized inspectors to carry out their activities, and how CCM responds to potential infringement or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p> <p><i>[RP]</i></p> <p><i>Audit Point for Members with vessels on the Register of Inspection Vessels:</i></p>	<p>7. Each Member of the Commission shall ensure that vessels flying its flag accept boarding and inspection by authorized inspectors in accordance with these procedures.</p> <p>Such authorized inspectors shall comply with these procedures in the conduct of any such activities.</p>	<p>AP for IM agreed.</p> <p>RP AP agreed.</p>

	ensuring that in the event of an HSBI event, authorized inspectors are carrying out their activities in accordance with the procedures in the CMM, and how the Member responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.	The Secretariat confirms receipt of a report from Members with vessels on the Register of Inspection Vessels that its authorized inspectors complied with the boarding and inspection procedures in CMM 2006-08 during the conduct of HSBI operations.		
4.	High Seas Boarding and Inspection 2006-08 30 and 32 Category: Report (RP)			
	Agreed Audit Point	Revised Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	The Secretariat confirms receipt from the Contracting Party (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.	The Secretariat confirms transmission from the Member, and the CCM of the relevant fishing vessel, that a full report of a high seas boarding and inspection event was submitted within 3 full working days of the completion of the boarding and inspection. Where a serious violation was observed by the inspector, the Secretariat confirms receipt of notification from the Member of the fishing vessel inspected.	30. Authorized inspectors shall prepare a full report on each boarding and inspection they carry out pursuant to these procedures in accordance with a format that may be specified by the Commission. The authorities of the inspection vessel from which the boarding and inspection was carried out shall transmit a copy of the boarding and inspection report to the authorities of the fishing vessel being inspected, as well as the Commission, within 3 (three) full working days of the completion of the boarding and inspection. Where it is not possible for the authorities of the inspection vessel to provide such report to the authorities of the fishing vessel within this timeframe, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall inform the authorities of the fishing vessel and shall specify the time period within which the report will be provided. 32. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 37, the authorities of the inspection	AP agreed

			vessels shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the Commission	
5.	High Seas Boarding and Inspection 2006-08 30 and 32 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Audit Point for Report (RP) adopted. No IM AP required.
6.	High Seas Boarding and Inspection 2006-08 33 and 36 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<i>(previously Report (R))</i> Applicable Flag CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that authorities of fishing vessel of requirement to respond no later than 3 full working days to a HSBI observed serious violation notification as per (CMM 2006-08) CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	The Secretariat confirms, based on its records of communication, that the relevant CCM commenced an investigation upon receipt of a serious violation notification and sent the required notification response no later than 3 full working days.	Serious Violations 33. Upon receipt of a notification under paragraph 32, the authorities of the fishing vessels shall without delay: a. assume their obligation to investigate and, if the evidence warrants, take enforcement action against the fishing vessel in question and so notify the authorities of the inspection vessel, as well as the Commission; or b. authorize the authorities of the inspection vessel to complete investigation of the possible violation and so notify the Commission. 36. Upon receipt of a notification pursuant to	AP agreed (RP) Agree no IM AP required

			paragraph 32, the authorities of the fishing vessel shall make best effort to respond without delay and in any case no later than within 3 (three) full working days.	
7.	High Seas Boarding and Inspection 2006-08 40 Category: Report (RP)			
	Agreed Audit Point	Revised Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	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.	Secretariat confirms receipt of a report from a Member 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.	40. Contracting Parties that authorize inspection vessels to operate under these procedures shall report annually to the Commission on the boarding and inspections carried out by its authorized inspection vessels, as well as upon possible violations observed.	AP agreed.
8.	High Seas Boarding and Inspection 2006-08 40 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				AP for RP adopted. No AP required.
9.	High Seas Boarding and Inspection 2006-08 41 Category: Report (RP)			
		Preferred Agreed Audit Point	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
		The Secretariat confirms that CCM provided information on actions CCM has taken in response to HSBI of CCM fishing	41. Members of the Commission shall include in their annual statement of compliance within their Annual Report to the Commission under Article	NOTE: this adopted AP required reconsideration due

		vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations, and that information on CCM proceedings and sanctions is included, as applicable.	25(8) of the Convention action that they have taken in response to boarding and inspections of their fishing vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations, including any proceedings instituted and sanctions applied.	to an error whereby the Commission adopted two versions. AP agreed
10.	High Seas Boarding and Inspection 2006-08 41 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Audit Point for Report (RP) adopted. No AP required.
11.	High Seas Driftnets 2008-04 02 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Secretariat Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Confirm whether obligation was implemented Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement to take measures to prohibit large-scale driftnets in the high seas CMM 2008-04 CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM fishing vessels operating on the high seas in the Convention Area from using large-scale driftnets b. describes how it is monitoring its fishing vessels operating on the high seas in the Convention Area to ensure they are not	2. CCMs shall take all measures necessary to prohibit their fishing vessels from using large-scale driftnets while on the high seas in the Convention Area	AP Agreed

	to any potential infringements	using driftnets and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.		
12.	High Seas FAD Closures & Catch Retention 2009-02 03-07 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>FAD Closure Rules - high seas</p> <p>Theme: Additional measures for tropical tunas</p> <p>Sub Theme: Purse seine fishery FAD set management</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs implement the High Seas FAD Closure rules.</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that implements the high seas FAD closure rules outlined in paragraphs 3 to 7, CMM 2009-02.</p> <p>b. describes how it is monitoring and ensuring its fishing vessels are complying with the high seas FAD closure rules outlined in paragraphs 3 to 7, CMM 2009-02, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p>	<p>3. The definition of a FAD in footnote 1 to CMM 2008-01 shall be interpreted as including: "any object or group of objects, of any size, that has or has not been deployed, that is living or non-living, including but not limited to buoys, floats, netting, webbing, plastics, bamboo, logs and whale sharks floating on or near the surface of the water that fish may associate with"</p> <p>4. During the FAD closure period specified in CMM 2008-01, no purse seine vessel shall conduct any part of a set within one nautical mile of a FAD. That is, at no time may the vessel or any of its fishing gear or tenders be located within one nautical mile of a FAD while a set is being conducted.</p> <p>5. The operator of a vessel shall not allow the vessel to be used to aggregate fish, or to move aggregated fish including using underwater lights and chumming.</p> <p>6. A FAD and/or associated electronic equipment shall not be retrieved by a vessel during the period of a FAD closure unless:</p> <p>a. the FAD and/or associated electronic equipment are retrieved and kept on board the</p>	<p>AP Agreed</p>

			<p>vessel until landed or until the end of the closure; and</p> <p>b. the vessel does not conduct any set either for a period of seven (7) days after retrieval or within a fifty (50) mile radius of the point of retrieval of any FAD.</p> <p>7. In addition to paragraph 6, vessels shall not be used to operate in cooperation with each other in order to catch aggregated fish. No vessel shall conduct any set during the prohibition period within one nautical mile of a point where a FAD has been retrieved by another vessel within 24hrs immediately preceding the set.</p>	
13.	<p>High Seas FAD Closures & Catch Retention 2009-02 08-13</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Rules for Purse seine catch retention, including reporting - high seas</p> <p>Theme Additional measures for tropical tunas</p> <p>Sub Theme Purse seine catch retention</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the High Seas Rules for Purse Seine Catch Retention, including reporting requirements.</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that implements the High Seas Rules for Purse Seine Catch Retention, including reporting requirements, outlined in paragraphs 8 to 13, CMM 2009-02.</p> <p>b. describes how it is monitoring and ensuring its fishing vessels are complying with the high seas FAD closure rules outlined in paragraphs 3 to 7, CMM 2009-02, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p>	<p>Rules for Catch Retention</p> <p>8. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board for reasons related to the size, marketability, or species composition, the fish shall only be released before the net is fully pursed and one half of the net has been retrieved.</p> <p>9. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board because they are “unfit for human consumption”, the following definitions shall be applied:</p> <p>a. “unfit for human consumption” includes, but is not limited to fish that;</p> <p>i. is meshed or crushed in the purse seine net or</p> <p>ii. is damaged due to shark or whale depredation;</p>	<p>Audit Point for Report (RP) adopted.</p> <p>AP Agreed.</p>

or

- iii. has died and spoiled in the net where a gear failure has prevented both the normal retrieval of the net and catch and efforts to release the fish alive; and
- b. “unfit for human consumption” does not include fish that;
 - i. is considered undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition; or
 - ii. is spoiled or contaminated as the result of an act or omission of the crew of the fishing vessel.

10. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board because it was caught during the final set of a trip when there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, the fish may only be discarded if a. the vessel master and crew attempt to release the fish alive as soon as possible; b. no further fishing is undertaken after the discard until the fish on board the vessel has been landed or transhipped.

11. Fish shall not be discarded from the vessel until after an observer has estimated the species composition of the fish to be discarded.

12. The operator of the vessel shall submit [to the Executive Director a report that includes the following information within forty-eight 48 hours after any discard

- a. Name, flag and WIN of the vessel;
- b. Name and nationality of master;
- c. Licence number;
- d. Name of observer on board;
- e. Date, time and location (latitude/longitude) that discarding occurred;
- f. Date, time, location (latitude/longitude) and

			<p>type (drifting FAD, anchored FAD, free school etc) of the shot;</p> <p>g. Reason that fish were discarded (including statement of retrieval status if fish were discarded in accordance with paragraph 6);</p> <p>h. Estimated tonnage and species composition of discarded fish;</p> <p>i. Estimated tonnage and species composition of retained fish from that set;</p> <p>j. If fish were discarded in accordance with paragraph 10, a statement that no further fishing will be undertaken until the catch on board has been unloaded; and</p> <p>k. Any other information deemed relevant by the vessel master.</p> <p>13. The operator of the vessel shall also provide a hard copy of the information described in para 12 to the WCPFC Observer on board.</p>	
14.	<p>Swordfish 2009-03 03 Category: Quantitative Limits (QL)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				<p>AP for IM adopted with verification component. No AP required (as QL).</p>
15.	<p>Data Buoys 2009-05 01,03,05 Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision

				Points/Comments
	<p>Para 01, 03, 05: Applicable Flag CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement to prohibit their fishing vessels from fishing within 1nm of a data buoy in the high seas, or from interacting with a data buoy in the high seas; prohibit their fishing vessels from taking on board a data buoy unless specifically authorized or requested to do so by the Member or owner responsible for that buoy; and implement the requirement for reporting any incidents of entanglement with a data buoy and to remove the entangled fishing gear with as little damage to the data buoy as possible, CCMs shall notify the Secretariat of all such reports. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged vessels from interacting with, or fishing within 1nm of, any data buoy, taking on board a data buoy without proper authorization, or in the event of entanglement with a data buoy, requires the CCM fishing vessel to remove entangled fishing gear such that minimal damage occurs to the data buoy.</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged vessels are not interacting with or fishing within 1nm of any data buoy, taking on board a data buoy without proper authorization, or in the event of entanglement with a data buoy, are removing the entangled fishing gear with minimal damage to the data buoy, and how the CCM is responds to potential infringement or instances of non-compliance with these requirements.</p>	<p>1. CCMs shall prohibit their fishing vessels from fishing within one nautical mile of or interacting with a data buoy in the high seas of the Convention Area, which includes, but is not limited to, encircling the buoy with fishing gear; tying up to or attaching the vessel, or any fishing gear, part or portion of the vessel, to a data buoy or its mooring; or cutting a data buoy anchor line.</p> <p>3. CCMs shall prohibit their fishing vessels from taking on board a data buoy unless specifically authorized or requested to do so by the Member or owner responsible for that buoy.</p> <p>5. CCMs shall require their fishing vessels that become entangled with a data buoy to remove the entangled fishing gear with as little damage to the data buoy as possible. CCMs are encouraged to require their fishing vessels to report to them all entanglements and provide the date, location and nature of the entanglement, along with any identifying information contained on the data buoy. CCMs shall notify the Secretariat of all such reports.</p>	<p>AP agreed.</p>
16.	<p>Transshipment 2009-06 13 Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure of</p>	<p>Section 1 General Rules 13. Each CCM shall ensure that vessels they are</p>	<p>AP agreed</p>

	<p>measures that implement the requirement that CCMs shall ensure that vessels they are responsible for carry observers from the WCPFC ROP to observe transshipments at sea as per (CMM 2009-06)</p> <p>Note a WCPFC14 accepted TCC13 recommendation that the Commission requires CCMs to report coverage achieved for their carrier vessels conducting transshipment at sea, in line with the vessel specifications outlined in paragraph 13 of CMM 2009-06, in their AR Pt 2(TCC13 Summary Report para 200)</p> <p>** Note that to date TCC has not given weight to this criteria, perhaps to a lack of clarity on what was expected**</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements.</p> <p>3. The currently available information to the Secretariat is the high seas transshipment reports, where checks can be made of observers reported to be on the carrier vessel.</p> <p>** Final CMR (2019) said "WCPFC16 and TCC15 noted that in addition to a statement of implementation of CMM 2009- 06, paragraph 13, where a CCM reported in its high seas transshipment declarations that there was an ROP observer on board a CCM offloading vessel or the receiving vessel, the CCM would be assessed as "Compliant""**</p>	<p>the requirement for vessels the CCM is responsible for to carry observers from the WCPFC ROP to observe transshipments at sea.</p> <p>b. includes information on level of observer coverage achieved according to relevant vessel category (paragraphs 13a, 13b, or 13c of CMM 2009-06).</p> <p>c. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that vessels it is responsible for are carrying observers from the WCPFC ROP to observe transshipments at sea; how the CCM is monitoring and ensuring it is meeting its observer coverage requirements, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement</p> <p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM reported in its high seas transshipment declarations that there was an ROP observer on board the CCM's offloading vessel or the receiving vessel.</p>	<p>responsible for carry observers from the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme (ROP) to observe transshipments at sea as follows:</p> <p>a. for transshipments to receiving vessels less than or equal to 33 meters in length, and not involving purse seine caught fish or frozen longline caught fish, 100% observer coverage starting on the effective date of this Measure, with the observer(s) deployed on either the offloading vessel or receiving vessel;</p> <p>b. for transshipments other than those covered by subparagraph (a) and involving only troll-caught or pole-and-line-caught fish, 100% observer coverage starting 1 January 2013, with the observer(s) deployed on the receiving vessel.</p> <p>c. for transshipments other than those covered by subparagraphs (a) and (b), 100% observer coverage starting on the effective date of this Measure, with the observer(s) deployed on the receiving vessel.</p>	
17.	<p>Cetaceans 2011-03 01 Category: Quantitative Limits (QL)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision

				Points/Comments
				AP for IM agreed.
				No AP required.
18.	Cetaceans 2011-03 03 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Secretariat Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p><u>*2011-03 *02 and 03</u></p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the two requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including taking of reasonable steps to ensure safe release and incident reporting requirements as per (CMM 2011-03) PROTECTION OF CETACEANS</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM provided information on how it requires the master of its flagged vessels to follow WCPFC guidelines in relation to the safe release of cetaceans.</p>	<p>3. In taking steps to ensure the safe release of the cetacean as required under paragraph 2(a), CCMs shall require the master of the vessel to follow any guidelines adopted by the Commission for the purpose of this measure.</p>	<p>AP for CMM 2011-03 02 (IM) adopted.</p> <p>Agreement to maintain existing IM AP for para 2</p> <p>New RP AP for paragraph 3 agreed.</p>
19.	Observer Coverage 2012-03 02 Category: Quantitative Limits (QL)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

	<p>CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N</p> <p>Theme: Observer activity related requirement</p> <p>Sub Theme: Observer coverage category</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>The CCM reported in AR Pt2 its observer coverage of effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond national jurisdiction in area N 20 N and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported observer coverage level and confirm that the CCM has achieved at least 5% coverage for each fishery.</p>	<p>2. For such fishing vessels, CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish by the end of December 2014.</p>	<p>AP agreed.</p>
20.	<p>HS Catch and Effort Reporting</p> <p>2013-05 01</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
	<p>Confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement to ensure the master of each vessel completes an accurate written or electronic log of every day that it spends at sea on the high seas of the Convention Area as specified</p> <p>CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM vessel masters to complete an accurate written or electronic log of every day it spends at sea on the high seas of the Convention Area</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its vessel masters complete an accurate written or electronic log of every day it spends at sea on the high seas</p>	<p>1. Each CCM shall ensure that the master of each vessel flying its flag in the Convention Area shall complete an accurate written or electronic log of every day that it spends at sea on the high seas of the Convention Area as follows:</p> <p>a. 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</p>	<p>AP agreed.</p> <p>Note: the Commission will need to adopt a new Audit Point for the revised measure as well (noting it enters into force 1 Jan 24)</p>

	with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	of the Convention Area, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.	<p>b. for days with no fishing operations but where any other ‘fishing effort¹’ occurred, then the relevant activities (e.g. “SEARCHING”, DEPLOY/RETRIEVE FAD”) must be entered in the log at end of the day; or</p> <p>c. for days with no fishing operations and no other fishing effort¹, the main activity of the day must be entered in the log at the end of the day.</p> <p>¹ according to Article 1(d) of the Convention</p>	
21.	HS Catch and Effort Reporting 2013-05 02 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that info recorded by the master of each vessel each day with fishing operations shall, at a minimum include the information as specified. CCMs should also provide info showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM vessel masters to record the minimum specified information in para 2(a-c) of CMM 2013-05. b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its vessel masters record the minimum specified information, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of noncompliance with this requirement.	2. Information recorded for each day with fishing operations shall, at a minimum, include the following: a. The information specified in sections 1.3 to 1.6 of ANNEX 1 of the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission; b. 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. c. 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, key cetaceans, seabirds and sea turtles.	AP agreed
22.	HS Catch and Effort Reporting 2013-05 03			

	Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that the master of each vessel fishing in the Convention Area provides an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information to its national authority CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM vessel masters to provide an accurate and unaltered original or copy of information required under CMM 2013-05 to CCM national authority within 15 days of the end of a trip or transshipment, or within a specified period as determined by the CCM b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that CCM vessel masters provide an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the information required under CMM 2013-05 to CCM national authority within 15 days of the end of a trip or transshipment, or within a specified period as determined by the CCM, and how CCM responds to potential infringement or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.	3. Each CCM shall require the master of each vessel flying its flag in the Convention Area provides an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information to its national authority within 15 days of the end of a trip or transshipment, or within the period specified by any existing national requirement for the provision of such information.	AP Agreed
23.	HS Catch and Effort Reporting 2013-05 04 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance	CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure	4. 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	AP Agreed

	<p>with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that the master of each vessel fishing in the Convention Area provides 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.</p> <p>CCMs should also provide information showing it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>that requires CCM vessel masters to provide an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the information required under CMM 2013-05 pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that CCM vessel masters provide 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, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p>	<p>required information pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip.</p>	
24.	<p>*Rev - CMM Criteria 2013-06 01 Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	<p><i>WCPFC Secretariat Criteria</i></p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
		<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of a report outlining efforts by the reporting CCM to cooperate, either directly or through the Commission, to enhance the ability of developing States, particularly the least developed among them and SIDS and territories in the Convention Area, to develop their own fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, including but not limited to the high seas within the Convention Area.</p>	<p><u>General:</u> 1. CCMs shall develop, interpret and apply conservation and management measures in the context of and in a manner consistent with the 1982 Convention and Articles 24, 25 and 26 of the Agreement. To this end, CCMs shall cooperate, either directly or through the Commission, to enhance the ability of developing States, particularly the least developed among them and SIDS and territories in the Convention Area, to develop their own fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, including but not limited to the high seas within the Convention Area.</p>	<p>No AP required as IM</p> <p>RP AP agreed</p>

25.	*Rev - CMM Criteria 2013-06 03 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Secretariat Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	N/A		<p><u>Impact of new proposals on SIDS and territories:</u> 3. In considering any new proposal the Commission shall apply the following questions to determine the nature and extent of the impact of the proposal on SIDS and territories in the Convention Area:</p> <p>a. Who is required to implement the proposal?</p> <p>b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?</p> <p>c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?</p> <p>d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?</p> <p>e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?</p> <p>f. What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?</p> <p>g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?</p> <p>h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a</p>	<p>Obligation on Commission not CCMs, therefore scope of AP difficult to determine. Suggest obligation requires revision.</p> <p>No agreement on AP, nor scope of what AP should be due to wording of paragraph.</p> <p>Associated CMS IWG recommendation adopted by WCPFC20 noting this obligation requires Commission consideration.</p>

			disproportionate burden on SIDS?	
26.	Special Requirements of Developing States 2013-07 01-03 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No AP required
27.	Special Requirements of Developing States 2013-07 04-05 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Audit Point for CMM 2013-07 19 Report (RP) adopted. No AP required.
28.	Special Requirements of Developing States 2013-07 06-07 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Audit Point for CMM 2013-07 19 Report (RP) adopted.

				No AP required.
29.	Special Requirements of Developing States 2013-07 08-09 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Audit Point for CMM 2013-07 19 Report (RP) adopted. No AP required.
30.	Special Requirements of Developing States 2013-07 10-11 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Audit Point for CMM 2013-07 19 Report (RP) adopted. No AP required.
31.	Special Requirements of Developing States 2013-07 12-18 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Audit Point for CMM 2013-07 19 Report (RP) adopted.

				No AP required.
32.	VMS 2014-02 04 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Note – template for ARP2 reporting contained in Annex 2, CMM 2014-02 No AP required.
33.	VMS 2014-02 Category: Implementation (IM)	9a		
	2022 Draft Audit Point (not agreed)	Proposed draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	1. CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of national binding measures or management plans that require its flagged vessels to comply with the Commission standards (contained in CMM 2014-02 and the VMS SSPs) for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALCs/MTUs that meet Commission requirements. 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. 2. The Secretariat confirms that CCMs:	CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged fishing vessels to comply with the Commission standards (contained in CMM 2014-02 and the VMS SSPs) for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALCs/MTUs that meet Commission requirements. b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged fishing vessels meet the Commission’s VMS standards and requirements and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of	9. Obligation of CCMs (a) Each flag CCM shall ensure that fishing vessels on the high seas in the Convention Area comply with the requirements established by the Commission for the purposes of the Commission VMS and are equipped with ALCs that shall communicate such data as determined by the Commission.	Note – template for ARP2 reporting contained in Annex 2, CMM 2014-02 AP Agreed

	<p>a. have binding measures or management plans requiring vessels to install ALC units that are on the Commission ALC/MTU Approved List;</p> <p>b. have binding measures or management plans outlining its processes for taking action when vessels that are ‘fishing in the Convention Area beyond their area under national jurisdiction’ stop reporting to the Commission VMS; and</p> <p>c. have MTUs/ALCs that are successfully activated and reporting to Commission VMS.</p> <p>For any unsuccessful activation, the Secretariat shall confirm whether this is an issue requiring flag CCM or Secretariat action.</p>	non-compliance with the relevant requirement.		
34.	<p>VMS</p> <p>2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.1.3 and 7.2.2</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>CCMs to conduct periodic audits of ALC/MTUs of its vessels and report results to the Commission (AR Pt 2)</p> <p>Theme: Operational requirements for fishing vessels</p> <p>Sub Theme: Annual report on implementation</p> <p>Supersedes: CMM 2011-02 9a VMS SSPs 7.2.2</p> <p>7.2.2 Reporting checklist in ARP2 (2020 Specific) (Proposed NEW): “What checks and procedures do flag CCMs presently use to inspect ALC/MTUs of its vessels that are authorised to “fish in the Convention Area beyond their area under national jurisdiction”?”</p> <p>“On what basis (e.g., under certain circumstances as</p>			<p>Note: ARP2 reporting template contained in Annex 2 CMM 2014-02</p> <p>Audit Point for Report (RP) adopted.</p> <p>No IM AP required.</p>

	they may occur, based on the vessel's fisheries compliance behaviour, randomly, etc.) do flag CCMs schedule audits of ALC/MTUs?			
35.	VMS 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				Audit Point for Report (RP) adopted. No AP required.
36.	VMS 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 5.4 - 5.5 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	VMS Manual Reporting procedures - applies until 1 March 2024 and remains in force unless the Commission decides otherwise Theme: Operational requirements for fishing vessels Sub Theme: VMS 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs implemented the required VMS Manual	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of national binding measure that requires its flagged vessels to manually report in accordance with the VMS SSPs including the requirement to report its position manually to the Secretariat every 6 hours. b. describes how the CCM is monitoring and ensuring its flagged vessels comply with VMS manual reporting procedures in accordance with the VMS SSPs including	SSPs, Attachment 1 4. In the event of non-reception of two consecutive, programmed high seas VMS positions, and where the Secretariat has exhausted all reasonable steps[3] to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions the Secretariat will notify the flag State CCM who shall then direct the vessel Master to begin manual reporting. During this period the vessel shall be required to report its position manually to the Secretariat every 6 hours. If automatic reporting to the Commission VMS has not been re-established within 30 days of the commencement of manual	AP Agreed.

	<p>reporting Procedures</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p> <p>5.4 – 5.5 AR Pt 2 (prior year implementation) PR-048</p>	<p>the requirement to report its position manually to the Secretariat every 6 hours, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance.</p>	<p>reporting the flag state CCM shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port. The vessel may recommence fishing on the high seas only when the ALC/MTU has been confirmed as operational by the Secretariat following the flag State CCM informing the Secretariat that the vessel’s automatic reporting complies with the regulations established in this SSP.</p> <p>4bis. The standards outlined in Paragraph 4 above will apply for the period 1 March 2013 to 1 March 2024 and will remain in force thereafter unless the Commission directs otherwise. This will also be reviewed for MCS effectiveness by TCC.</p> <p>5. In exceptional circumstances[4], the flag State CCM may extend the period established in paragraph 4 for an additional consecutive 15 days during which time the vessel will continue to report its position manually every 4 hours to the Secretariat while on the high seas. When such permission is provided the flag State CCM shall provide a report to the Secretariat as to the nature of the exceptional circumstances and steps taken to re-establish automatic reporting. Such reports shall be included in the Secretariat’s annual report on the operations of the Commission’s VMS to the TCC as required under paragraph 7.3.9.</p>	
37.	<p>VMS</p> <p>2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 7.2.4</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>

	<p>Protocol for inspecting States to inspect ALCs/MTU of other CCMs vessels at sea, includes reporting requirements for inspecting States</p> <p>[CCFS CCM Initiated Case Type - relevant VMS inspection outcomes where the flag CCM has been requested to investigate will be recorded by the Secretariat in this list]</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs implement the required protocols for inspecting ALCs/MTUs of other CCMs vessels at sea</p> <p>2. CCMs are to provide to the WCPFC Secretariat a list of all ALC inspections by flag and vessels type, including a summary of the results of each inspection</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted a report to the WCPFC Secretariat of all ALC inspections by flag and vessels type, including a summary of the results of each inspection.</p>	<p>7.2.4 [CCMs] To provide to the WCPFC Secretariat a list of all ALC inspections by flag and vessels type, including a summary of the results of each inspection.</p>	<p>AP agreed.</p>
<p>38.</p>	<p>VMS</p> <p>2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 7.2.5</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
	<p>Report to Secretariat any ALC/MTU, and associated details, that appear to not be in compliance with applicable CMMs related to VMS reporting</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs report to Secretariat within 5 days of detection of any ALC/MTU, and its associated</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that the flag CCM submitted information on any ALC/MTU on its flagged vessels that appear to not be in compliance with the Commission VMS requirements (including CMM 2014-02, VMS SSPs) within 5 days of the flag CCM becoming aware of any such compliance issues.</p>	<p>7.2.5 [CCMs] To report, by e-mail, facsimile or data entry procedures established by the Commission to the Secretariat within a period of 5 days any registered ALC, including connections and antennas, associated vessels (by name and flag) and vessel masters that appear to not be in compliance with CMM-20014-02 (or its successor measure) and/or specifications and procedures agreed by the Commission as well as the details of the non-compliance. The Secretariat will issue an</p>	<p>AP agreed</p>

	details, that appear to not be in compliance with applicable CMMs related to VMS reporting		acknowledgement of reception of each report and, in the absence of this acknowledgement within 72 hours of transmission, the CCM is required to retransmit any unacknowledged report.	
39.	VMS 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 7.2.5 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Report to Secretariat any ALC/MTU, and associated details, that appear to not be in compliance with applicable CMMs related to VMS reporting Theme: Inspection activity related requirement Sub Theme: VMS 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs report to Secretariat within 5 days of detection of any ALC/MTU, and its associated details, that appear to not be in compliance with applicable CMMs related to VMS reporting			Note – there is a proposed Reporting obligation for this paragraph (above). IWG comments support only having a RP AP due to nature of obligation. No IM AP required.
40.	Port State Measures 2017-02 05 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Applicable Flag CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance			Comments that this obligation does not require an AP since port States have

	with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement for its flagged vessels CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements			sovereignty regarding its ports and flagged vessels already submit to the port State jurisdiction and are required to cooperate. Agreed no AP required.
41.	Port State Measures 2017-02 08 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Applicable Port CCMs (those CCMs that have notified the WCPFC in accordance with para 6) are to confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement for its flagged vessels CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	The Secretariat confirms that port CCMs, that have designated ports in accordance with CMM 2017-02, have submitted information on how they ensure that its fisheries port inspections are undertaken by Government authorized inspectors, and whether each inspector is required to carry a document of identity issued by the port CCM.	<u>Authorised fisheries inspectors</u> 8. Port CCMs shall ensure that fisheries inspections are undertaken by Government authorized inspectors. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CCM.	Consistent view that this should be RP obligation, with no issues raised aside from a minor proposed edit from FFA Members to clarify applicability of the obligation. AP agreed
42.	Port State Measures 2017-02 09 and 10 Category: Report (RP)			

	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Applicable Port CCMs (those CCMs that have notified the WCPFC in accordance with para 6) are to confirm whether obligation was implemented.</p> <p>Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by certain Port CCMs, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that port CCMs, that have designated ports in accordance with CMM 2017-02, have submitted a statement confirming that it has conducted port inspections of:</p> <p>a) any foreign longline, purse seine and carrier vessel that enters their designated port and is not listed on the RFV, unless the vessel is authorized with another RFMO that the port CCM is a Party to, as practicable; and</p> <p>b) vessels that appear on the IUU list of an RFMO.</p>	<p>Inspection requirements</p> <p>9. Port CCMs shall carry out inspections on at least the following vessels:</p> <p>a) on any foreign longline, purse seine and carrier vessel that enters their designated port and is not listed on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, other than in cases where the vessel is authorized with another RFMO that the port CCM is a Party to, as practicable;</p> <p>b) vessels that appear on the IUU list of an RFMO.</p> <p>10. A port CCM shall give particular consideration to inspecting those vessels suspected of undertaking IUU fishing activities, including if identified by non-CCMs or other RFMOs, particularly where evidence of IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing has been provided.</p>	<p>JP and CT consider this obligation more appropriate as RP (because requires action from national authority). This approach is consistent with CMS IWG approach to similar obligations to date.</p> <p>RP AP agreed.</p>
43.	<p>Port State Measures</p> <p>2017-02 15</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	[No criteria as RP obligation]			<p>Comments query whether AP is needed at all (is a general obligation, plus Art 25(2) cases already captured by the Compliance Case File System – so no</p>

				added value having an AP). Agreed no AP required
44.	Port State Measures 2017-02 17 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Applicable Port CCMs (those CCMs that have notified the WCPFC in accordance with para 6) are to confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	The Secretariat confirms that port CCMs, that have designated ports in accordance with CMM 2017-02, have submitted a statement confirming that it only provided authorized port entry to vessels that have committed IUU fishing, or fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing, or is on a RFMO IUU list, for inspection and investigation purposes, and prohibited any activities by such vessels that support fishing operations, including landing, transshipment, and re-provisioning.	<u>Inspection Procedures</u> 17. In cases where there is sufficient evidence indicating that a vessel has committed IUU fishing, or fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing, or is on a RFMO IUU list, port CCMs shall only provide such a vessel authorisation to enter its designated port for inspection and investigation purposes. Activities that support fishing operations inter alia, landing, transshipment, and re-provisioning shall be prohibited.	JP and CT consider this more appropriate as RP because it is a requirement on national authorities most commonly implemented via national procedures. Agree no IM required, RP AP agreed.
45.	Port State Measures 2017-02 26 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

	<p>Requirement to encourage use of ports of SIDS to the extent practicable</p> <p>Theme: Inspection activity related requirement</p> <p>Sub Theme: Port State measures</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs encourage its flagged vessels to use ports of SIDS where practicable.</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted a statement outlining how it, to the extent practicable, encouraged the use of ports of SIDS in order to increase the opportunity to undertake inspections, and participation of SIDS in fisheries for WCPO tuna stocks.</p>	<p>26. CCMs shall, to the extent practicable, encourage the use of ports of SIDS in order to increase the opportunity to undertake inspections, and participation of SIDS in fisheries for WCPO tuna stocks.</p>	<p>Consistent with past practice, no support for this as IM obligation because of language ‘to the extent practicable’. Because still includes language ‘shall’, including as RP obligation.</p> <p>RP AP agreed.</p>
46.	<p>*Rev – Observer Safety</p> <p>2017-03 03-06</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
	<p>Applicable Flag CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented.</p> <p>Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement for its flagged vessels.</p> <p>CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements.</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted in AR Pt2 a statement confirming that it required its flagged vessel operators:</p> <p>a. in the event an observer dies, is missing, or presumed fallen overboard, to meet the requirements in paragraph 3a to 3h, and to notify the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center, the CCM observer provider, and the Secretariat;</p> <p>b. if an observer dies, to ensure that the body is well-preserved for the</p>	<p>3. In the event that a WCPFC ROP observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, the CCM to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall ensure that the fishing vessel:</p> <p>a. immediately ceases all fishing operations;</p> <p>b. immediately commences search and rescue if the observer is missing or presumed fallen overboard, and searches for at least 72 hours, unless the observer is found sooner, or unless instructed by the flag CCM to continue searching²;</p> <p>c. immediately notifies the flag CCM;</p> <p>d. immediately alerts other vessels in the vicinity by using all available means of communication;</p>	<p>General support for this obligation to be RP as the required action is triggered by an event. This approach supports others’ comments that the ‘monitoring’ element is difficult to include as it relates to a reportable event.</p>

		<p>purposes of an autopsy and investigation; and</p> <p>c. in the event an observer experiences serious illness or injury, to meet the requirements in paragraph 5a to 5e.</p>	<p>e. cooperates fully in any search and rescue operation</p> <p>f. whether or not the search is successful, return the vessels for further investigation to the nearest port, as agreed by the flag CCM and the observer provider;</p> <p>g. provides the report to the observer provider and appropriate authorities on the incident; &</p> <p>h. cooperates fully in any and all official investigations, and preserves any potential evidence and the personal effects and quarters of the deceased or missing observer.</p> <p>4. Paragraphs 3(a), (c) and (h) apply in the event that an observer dies. In addition, the flag CCM shall require that the fishing vessel ensure that the body is well-preserved for the purposes of an autopsy and investigation.</p> <p>5. In the event that a WCPFC ROP observer suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, the CCM to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall ensure that the fishing vessel:</p> <p>a. immediately ceases fishing operations;</p> <p>b. immediately notifies the flag CCM</p> <p>c. takes all reasonable actions to care for the observer and provide any medical treatment available and possible on board the vessel;</p> <p>d. where directed by the observer provider, if not already directed by the flag CCM, facilitates the disembarkation and transport of the observer to a medical facility equipped to provide the required care, as soon as practicable; and</p> <p>e. cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the cause of the illness or injury.</p>	<p>RP AP agreed.</p>
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			6. For the purposes of paragraphs 3 through 5, the flag CCM shall ensure that the appropriate Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, observer provider and Secretariat are immediately notified. ² In the event of force majeure, flag CCMs may allow their vessels to cease search and rescue operations before 72 hours have elapsed.	
47.	*Rev – Observer Safety 2017-03 07 and 08 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Applicable Flag CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements.	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged vessels to do the following in the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe an observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed, and the observer or observer provider indicates to the fishing vessel CCM that they wish for the observer to be removed from the vessel: i. Immediately take action to preserve the safety of observer and mitigate and resolve situation on board ii. Notify the flag CCM authorities and the observer provider of the situation as soon as possible, including status and location of observer iii. Facilitate safe disembarkation of the observer in a manner and place agreed to	7. In the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe a WCPFC ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed such that their health or safety is endangered and the observer or the observer provider indicates to the CCM to which the fishing vessel is flagged that they wish for the observer to be removed from the fishing vessel, the CCM to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall ensure that the fishing vessel: a. immediately takes action to preserve the safety of the observer and mitigate and resolve the situation on board; b. notifies the flag CCM and the observer provider of the situation, including the status and location of the observer, as soon as possible; c. facilitates the safe disembarkation of the observer in a manner and place, as agreed by the flag CCM and the observer provider, that facilitates access to any needed medical treatment; and d. cooperates fully in any and all official	Support for draft IM AP, with removal of monitoring element. AP agreed

		<p>by flag CCM and observer provider that facilitates access to any required medical treatment</p> <p>iv. Cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the incident</p> <p>b. a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged vessels to do the following where there are reasonable grounds to believe an observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed, but neither the observer nor observer provider indicates to the fishing vessel CCM that they wish for the observer to be removed from the vessel:</p> <p>i. that the fishing vessel takes action as soon as possible to ensure the safety of the observer and resolve the situation,</p> <p>ii. notifies the flag CMM authorities and the observer provider as soon as possible, and</p> <p>iii. cooperates fully in all official investigations into the incident.</p>	<p>investigations into the incident.</p> <p>8. In the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a WCPFC ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed but neither the observer nor the observer provider wishes that the observer be removed from the fishing vessel, the CCM to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall ensure that the fishing vessel:</p> <p>a. takes action to preserve the safety of the observer and mitigate and resolve the situation on board as soon as possible;</p> <p>b. notifies the flag CCM and the observer provider of the situation as soon as possible; and</p> <p>c. cooperates fully in all official investigations into the incident</p>	
48.	<p>*Rev – Observer Safety</p> <p>2017-03 09</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Applicable Port CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented? Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a Port CCM, in accordance	The Secretariat confirms that port CCMs submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that confirms, in the event that any observer safety issues outlined in paragraphs 3 to 7	9. If any of the events in paragraphs 3 – 7 occur, port CCMs, shall facilitate entry of the fishing vessel to allow disembarkation of the WCPFC ROP observer and, to the extent possible, assist in any	Comments received support this as RP obligation.

	with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement	occurred, it facilitated port entry for fishing vessels carrying WCPFC ROP observers and facilitated safe disembarkation of WCPFC ROP observers.	investigations if so requested by the flag CCM.	RP AP agreed.
49.	*Rev – Observer Safety 2017-03 10 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Applicable CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented. Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a CCM (as a flag State and/or as an observer provider), in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement	The Secretariat confirms that CCMs, that are providers of WCPFC ROP observers, submitted a statement outlining how it implements the requirements of paragraph 10 a – c in the event that, after an ROP observer’s disembarkation from a fishing vessel, the observer provider identifies a possible violation involving assault or harassment of the observer while on board the fishing vessel.	10. In the event that, after disembarkation from a fishing vessel of a WCPFC ROP observer, an observer provider identifies—such as during the course of debriefing the observer—a possible violation involving assault or harassment of the observer while on board the fishing vessel, the observer provider shall notify, in writing, the flag CCM and the Secretariat, and the flag CCM shall: a. investigate the event based on the information provided by the observer provider and take any appropriate action in response to the results of the investigation; b. cooperate fully in any investigation conducted by the observer provider, including providing the report to the observer provider and appropriate authorities of the incident; and c. notify the observer provider and the Secretariat of the results of its investigation and any actions taken.	IWG comments support this being RP obligation rather than IM obligation due to wording of paragraph. RP AP agreed
50.	*Rev – Observer Safety 2017-03 11 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision

				Points/Comments
	<p>Applicable CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented.</p> <p>Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement.</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that CCMs, that are providers of WCPFC ROP observers, submitted a statement outlining how its national provider implements the requirements of paragraph 11 a – f.</p>	<p>11. CCMs shall ensure that their national observer providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. immediately notify the flag CCM in the event that a WCPFC ROP observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard in the course of observer duties; b. cooperate fully in any search and rescue operation; c. cooperate fully in any and all official investigations into any incident involving an WCPFC ROP observer; d. facilitate the disembarkation and replacement of a WCPFC ROP observer in a situation involving the serious illness or injury of that observer as soon as possible; e. facilitate the disembarkation of a WCPFC ROP observer in any situation involving the assault, intimidation, threats to, or harassment of that observer to such an extent that the observer wishes to be removed from the vessel, as soon as possible; and f. provide the flag CCM with a copy of the observer report on alleged violations involving that provider’s observer upon request, pursuant to the WCPFC Rules and Procedures for Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission and Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission for the Purpose of MCS Activities and the Access to and 	<p>JP and EU consider this better treated as RP obligation, consistent with past practice on obligations requiring national authorities/providers to take action.</p> <p>RP AP agreed.</p>

			Dissemination of High Seas VMS Data for Scientific Purposes.	
51.	*Rev – Observer Safety 2017-03 12 Category: Report (RP)			
	<i>WCPFC Sec Criteria</i>	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Applicable CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a CCM (as an Inspecting Member for the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme and/or as a flag CCM in respect of their fishing vessels on the Record of Fishing Vessels), in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted a statement outlining how it: a) ensures that any authorized High Seas Boarding and Inspection vessels flying their flag cooperate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operation involving an observer; and b) encourages any other vessels flying their flag to participate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operations involving a WCPFC ROP observer.	12. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 CCMs shall ensure that any authorized High Seas Boarding and Inspection vessels flying their flag cooperate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operation involving an observer. CCMs shall also encourage any other vessels flying their flag to participate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operations involving a WCPFC ROP observer.	Lead note: there is still a clear obligation on CCMs, therefore consistent with CMS IWG approach this treated as RP obligation. No drafting issues raised with RP AP. RP AP agreed.
52.	Marine Pollution 2017-04 01 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No AP required
53.	Marine Pollution 2017-04 02 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision

				Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement prohibit their fishing vessels operating within the WCPFC Convention Area from discharging any plastics (including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene) but not including fishing gear.</p> <p>footnote 1: Fishing gear, for the purposes of this measure, that are released into the water with the intention of later retrieval such as FADs, traps and static nets, are not considered garbage as per CMM 2017-04</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits its fishing vessels from discharging any plastics (including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene)</p> <p>b. describes how it is monitoring its fishing vessels to ensure they are not discharging plastics and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p>	<p><u>Adopts, in accordance with Article 5 (d-f) and 10 (1)(h) of the Convention that:</u></p> <p>2. CCMs shall prohibit their fishing vessels operating within the WCPFC Convention Area from discharging any plastics (including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene) but not including fishing gear.</p>	AP agreed.
54.	<p>Marine Pollution</p> <p>2017-04 05</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Encourage adoption of additional measures to reduce marine pollution, including retrieval of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, and provision of adequate port facilities</p> <p>Theme: Mitigating impacts of fishing on species of special interest</p> <p>Sub Theme: Marine Pollution mitigation</p> <p>Applies to:- flag CCMs with flagged fishing vessels</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of a statement from the CCM that describes how it encouraged its flagged vessels within the Convention Area to retrieve abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and retain the material on board, separate from other waste for discharge to port reception facilities, and to report ALDFG.</p>	<p>3. CCMs are encouraged to prohibit their fishing vessels operating within the WCPFC Convention Area from discharging:</p> <p>a) oil or fuel products or oily residues into the sea;</p> <p>b) garbage, including fishing gear[1], food waste, domestic waste, incinerator ashes and cooking oil; and</p> <p>c) sewage, except as would be permitted under applicable international instruments.</p> <p>4. CCMs are encouraged to undertake research</p>	<p>No AP required for paras 3, 4, 6 and 7.</p> <p>RP AP agreed for paragraph 5.</p>

	<p>that FISHED on the RFV in RY</p> <p>Further Information box to be used to provide a statement related to CCMs consideration of the encouragement in CMM 2017-04 MARINE POLLUTION to adopt additional measures to reduce marine pollution, including retrieval of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, and provision of adequate port facilities.</p> <p>2. CCMs in preparing their statement might note that the following might be a helpful reference [CCFS Observer Initiated Case Type = POL] at https://ccfs.wcpfc.int. Where needed CCM should liaise with Secretariat to resolve any issues or make appropriate clarifications directly into CCFS</p>		<p>into marine pollution related to fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area to further develop and refine measures to reduce marine pollution, and are encouraged to submit to SC and TCC any info derived from such efforts.</p> <p>5. CCMs shall encourage their fishing vessels within the WCPFC Convention Area to retrieve abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear and retain the material on board, separate from other waste for discharge to port reception facilities. Where retrieval is not possible or does not occur, CCMs shall encourage their fishing vessels to report the latitude, longitude, type, size and age of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear.</p> <p>6. CCMs are requested to ensure adequate port reception facilities are provided to receive waste from fishing vessels. SIDS CCMs are requested to utilise, as appropriate, regional port reception facilities in accordance with international standards.</p> <p>7. CCMs are encouraged to ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag and operating within the WCPFC Convention Area inform their flag State of ports in countries that are Party to the annexes of MARPOL which do not have adequate port reception facilities for MARPOL wastes.</p>	
55.	<p>Marine Pollution</p> <p>2017-04 08</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
	<p>Requirement to actively support SIDS and Territories through provision of adequate port facilities for</p>	<p>[RP]</p>	<p>8. CCMs shall cooperate, consistent with national laws and regulations, directly or through the</p>	<p>RP AP Agreed</p>

	<p>receiving and appropriately disposing of waste from fishing vessels.</p> <p>Applicable CCMs are to confirm whether any steps were taken to implement the obligation? Yes / No / not applicable</p> <p>Non-SIDS CCMs should provide information / details of types of assistance provided to SIDS related to provision of adequate port facilities for receiving and appropriately disposing of waste from fishing vessels, with an emphasis on the reporting year SIDS CCMs may provide details on assistance needs.</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt from the CCM of a statement that describes how the CCM cooperated directly, or through the Commission, to actively support SIDS and Territories through the provision of adequate port facilities for receiving and appropriately disposing of waste from fishing vessels.</p>	<p>Commission, and in accordance with their capabilities, to actively support SIDS and Territories through the provision of adequate port facilities for receiving and appropriately disposing of waste from fishing vessels</p>	
56.	<p>Marine Pollution</p> <p>2017-04 09-11</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
				<p>No AP required.</p>
57.	<p>Seabird</p> <p>2018-03 01, 02, 06</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
		<p>Based on CCM identification of which mitigation measures are being applied to CCM vessels in the applicable relevant area, the CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p>	<p>South of 30° South</p> <p>1. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing south of 30°S, to use either</p> <p>a) at least two of these three measures:</p> <p>i) weighted branch lines;</p> <p>ii) night setting;</p>	<p>Note: Draft AP amended to include all requirements of paragraphs 1,2 and 6 of CMM 2018-03.</p> <p>Note: There is an</p>

		<p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged longline vessels to:</p> <p>i. use at least two mitigation measures in paragraph 1(a) or hook shielding devices when fishing south of 30°S</p> <p>ii. use one of the mitigation measures in paragraph 2 when fishing in area 25°S-30°S</p> <p>b. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged longline vessels fishing north of 23°N:</p> <p>i. 24m or more in overall length, to use at least two mitigation measures in paragraph 6, Table 1 CMM 2018-03, including at least one from Column A</p> <p>ii. less than 24m in overall length, to use at least one of the mitigation measures from Column A in Table 1, CMM 2018-03.</p> <p>b. describes how it is monitoring and ensuring its fishing vessels comply with seabird mitigation requirements in paragraphs 1,2 and 6 of CMM 2018-03 and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with the relevant requirement.</p>	<p>iii) tori lines; or</p> <p>b) hook-shielding devices.</p> <p>Table 1 does not apply south of 30° South. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.</p> <p>25° South -30° South</p> <p>2. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing in the area 25°S-30°S to use one of the following mitigation measures:</p> <p>i) weighted branch lines;</p> <p>ii) tori lines; or</p> <p>iii) hook-shielding devices.</p> <p>Table 1 does not apply in the area 25°S-30°S. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.</p> <p>3. The extension of the scope of application of seabird mitigation measures from 30°S to 25°S shall not come into effect until 1 January 2020.</p> <p>6. CCMs shall require their large-scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length fishing north of 23°N, to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A. CCMs also shall require their small-scale longline vessels less than 24 meters in overall length fishing north of 23°N, to use at least one of the mitigation measures from Column A in Table 1</p>	<p>adopted AP [RP] for CMM 2018-03 02.</p> <p>AP Agreed</p>
58.	<p>Sea Turtles</p> <p>2018-04 04</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

	<p>CCMs to ensure fishermen use proper mitigation and handling techniques and foster the recovery of any turtles that are incidentally captured</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs ensure fishermen use proper mitigation and handling techniques and foster the recovery of any turtles that are incidentally captured as per (CMM 2018-04)</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt from the CCM of a statement that describes how the CCM:</p> <p>a. requires fishers on its flagged vessels to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured hard-shell sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including giving it resuscitation, before returning it to the water; and</p> <p>b. ensures that fishers on its flagged vessels are aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques as described in WCPFC guidelines.</p>	<p>4. CCMs shall require fishermen on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured hard-shell sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including giving it resuscitation, before returning it to the water. CCMs shall ensure that fishermen are aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques, as described in WCPFC guidelines.</p>	<p>JP and EU prefer treatment as RP obligation because of 'if practicable' and the fact it relates to use of guidelines.</p> <p>RP AP Agreed.</p>
59.	<p>Sea Turtles</p> <p>2018-04 05 a-d</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures to implement sea turtle mitigation requirements for purse seine vessels as per (CMM 2018-04) CMM OF SEA TURTLES, specifically to</p> <p>i. To the extent practicable, avoid encirclement of sea turtles, and if a sea turtle is encircled or entangled, take practicable measures to safely release the turtle.</p>			<p>Audit Point for CMM 2018-04 05 a-d Report (RP) adopted.</p> <p>CMS IWG discussed SC19 recommendation related to the inconsistency between CMM 2018-04 5(c) and</p>

<p>ii. To the extent practicable, release all sea turtles observed entangled in fish aggregating devices (FADs) or other fishing gear.</p> <p>iii. If a sea turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water; disentangle the turtle without injuring it before resuming the net roll; and to the extent practicable, assist the recovery of the turtle before returning it to the water.</p> <p>iv. Carry and employ dip nets, when appropriate, to handle turtles.</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p> <p>3. CCMs should have included in AR Pt 2 either as a response to this question or as CMM 2018-04 para 2 required report (2) information collected on interactions with sea turtles in fisheries managed under the Convention, (3) confirmation that vessels are required to record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations, and the results of such reporting is provided to the Commission in accordance with paragraph 5(e) and 7(d) of CMM 2018-04 through annual reporting of Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission, and (4) all ROP observer data collected on interactions with sea turtles is provided to the Commission in accordance with CMM 2018-04 paragraph 3.</p> <p>4. check SPC DORADO report for reported instances of sea turtle interactions in purse seine fisheries</p>			<p>7(e) and the Sci Data requirements.</p> <p>Agreed no AP required pending the outcome of any future Sci Data discussions.</p> <p>No AP (IM) required.</p>
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60.	Sea Turtles 2018-04 07 a – b Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Agreed Audit Point	Revised Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>c. if the Secretariat confirms that paragraph 7a requirements do not apply because SC has accepted in accordance with paragraph 7b that the CCMs shallow-set longline fishery/ies has minimal observed interaction rates of sea turtles</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The Secretariat confirms that CCM provided information in AR Pt 2 of any CCM vessel interactions with sea turtles in</p>	<p>7. CCMs with longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner* shall:</p> <p>a. Ensure that the operators of such vessels, while in the Convention Area, are required to employ or implement at least one of the following three methods to mitigate the capture of sea turtles:</p> <p>i. Use only large circle hooks, which are fishing hooks that are generally circular or oval in shape and originally designed and manufactured so that the point is turned perpendicularly back to the shank. These hooks shall have an offset not to exceed 10 degrees.</p> <p>ii. Use only finfish for bait.</p> <p>iii. Use any other measure, mitigation plan** or activity that has been reviewed by the SC and TCC and approved by the Commission to be capable of reducing the interaction rate (observed numbers per hooks fished) of turtles in shallow-set longline fisheries.</p> <p>b. The requirements of paragraph 7(a) need not be applied to those shallow-set longline fisheries determined by the SC, based on information provided by the relevant CCM, to have minimal*** observed interaction rates of sea turtles over a three-year period and a level of observer coverage of at least 10% during each of those three years.</p> <p>* footnote 1: “Shallow-set” fisheries are generally</p>	<p>Revised AP of CMM 2018-04 07a to take into account the exclusion in para 7b of CMM 2018-04</p> <p>AP Agreed</p>

		fisheries managed under the Convention and confirmation that CCM vessels are required to record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations.	to be considered those in which the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters; however pursuant to paragraph 7(c) CCMs are to establish and enforce their own operational definitions.** footnote 2: A mitigation plan details the actions that will be taken to achieve specified reductions in sea turtle interactions.*** footnote 3: As determined by SC5.	
61.	Sea Turtles 2018-04 07c Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Reporting requirement for operational definitions of shallow set swordfish fisheries, and sea turtle mitigation requirements including large circle hooks 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs establish and enforce operational definitions for shallow-set swordfish longline fisheries, large circle hooks, any measures under (CMM 2018-04) para 7(a iii), or measures adopted by the Commission under CMM 18-04 para 12. A report on the definitions established by a CCM is to be included in Annual Report Part 2 and can be provided in "Further Information box" or as an Attachment. 2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action	Secretariat confirms that CCMs with longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner provided a statement of its establishment and enforcement of operational definitions of 'shallow-set longline fisheries, large circle hooks' and any measures under (CMM 2018-04) para 7(a)(iii), or measures adopted by the Commission under CMM 2018-04 para 12.	7. CCMs with longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner ¹ shall: c. For the purpose of implementing this paragraph (7), establish and enforce their own operational definitions of shallow-set longline fisheries, large circle hooks, and any measures under 7(a)(iii) or adopted by the Commission under paragraph 12, ensuring that they are as enforceable as possible, and report these definitions to the Commission in Part 2 of their annual reports.	AP Agreed

	in response to any potential infringements			
62.	Sea Turtles 2018-04 07 d-e Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Annual reporting requirement for incidents involving sea turtles in shallow-set longline fisheries Applies to:- flag CCMs with flagged longline fishing vessels that FISHED on the RFV in RY Further Information box to be used for statement Details may include confirming that CCM annual reporting of Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission, includes the results of required reporting by longline vessel operators of all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations and that have been reported to the appropriate authorities of the CCM [refer CMM 2018-04 paragraph 7(d)]			CMS IWG discussed SC19 recommendation related to the inconsistency between CMM 2018-04 5(c) and 7(e) and the Sci Data requirements. Agreed approach: No AP required until such time as TCC/SC review Sci Data requirements regarding turtle interaction reporting.
63.	Sea Turtles 2018-04 07d Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Reporting requirement for incidents involving sea	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:	7. CCMs with longline vessels that fish in a	AP Agreed

	<p>turtles in shallow-set longline fisheries for swordfish</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that longline vessels are to record all incidents involving sea turtles during shallow-set swordfish fishing operations and to report such incidents to the appropriate national authorities as per (CMM 2018-04).</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner to record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations and report such incidents to the appropriate national authorities.</p> <p>b. describes how CMM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged longline vessels, that fish in a shallow-set manner, are recording record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations and reporting such incidents to the appropriate national authorities, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of noncompliance with these requirements.</p>	<p>shallow-set manner1 shall:</p> <p>d. Provide for their longline vessels to record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations and report such incidents to the appropriate authorities of the CCM.</p>	
64.	<p>Regional Observer Programme</p> <p>2018-05 07</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Vessels to be prepared to accept an observer from the ROP, if required</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs to ensure their fishing vessels are prepared to accept a ROP observer, if required as per CMM 2018-05</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged vessels to accept an ROP observer, if required by the Commission.</p> <p>b. describes how the CCM is monitoring and ensuring its flagged vessels are accepting ROP observers, and how the CCM responds</p>	<p>7. Each CCM of the Commission shall ensure that fishing vessels fishing in the Convention Area, except for vessels that operate exclusively within waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State, are prepared to accept an observer from the Commission ROP if required by the Commission.</p>	AP Agreed

	2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	to potential infringements or instances of noncompliance with this requirement.		
65.	Regional Observer Programme 2018-05 08 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCM shall be responsible for meeting the level of observer coverage as set by the Commission. Supersedes: CMM 2007-01 08 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs to meet observer coverage levels as set by the Commission as per (CMM 2018-05) 2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements			CCM views that no AP required because this is a general obligation, and fishery specific observer coverage requirements are separately stipulated in relevant CMMs (CMM 2018-05 Annex C 06 (observer coverage for non-PS vessels); CMM 2021-01 32 and 33 (PS observer requirements).. No AP required.
66.	Regional Observer Programme 2018-05 09 Category: Implementation (IM)			

	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>CCMs shall source observers for their vessels as determined by the Commission</p> <p>Theme: Observer activity related requirement</p> <p>Sub Theme: Observer coverage</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs to source observers for vessels as determined by the Commission as per (CMM 2018-05)</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires it to source observers for their flagged vessels as determined by the Commission.</p> <p>b. describes how the CCM is monitoring and ensuring it is sourcing observers for their flagged vessels as determined by the Commission, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of noncompliance with this requirement.</p>	<p>9. CCMs shall source observers for their vessels as determined by the Commission</p>	<p>AP Agreed.</p>
67.	<p>Regional Observer Program</p> <p>2018-05 10</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs shall explain to the vessel captain, observer duties relevant to appropriate measures adopted by the Commission as per (CMM 2018-05) ROP</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted information on how it implements the requirement to explain to the vessel captains of its flagged vessels, observer duties relevant to appropriate measures adopted by the Commission.</p>	<p>Obligations of CCMs of the Commission</p> <p>10. CCMs shall explain to the vessel captain, observer duties relevant to appropriate measures adopted by the Commission.</p>	<p>Agreement this should be RP obligation.</p> <p>RP AP agreed.</p>

	in response to any potential infringements			
68.	Regional Observer Programme 2018-05 11 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCMs to use information collected by observers for the purpose of investigations under Convention Article 23 and 25, and shall cooperate in exchange of such information in accordance with standards adopted by the Commission 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs use information collected by observers for the purpose of investigations under Convention Article 23 and 25, and shall cooperate in exchange of such information in accordance with standards adopted by the Commission. 2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this requirement and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	Secretariat confirms that CCMs have provided a statement on its use of information collected by observers for the purpose of investigations under Convention Articles 23 and 25, and the CCM's cooperation in exchange of such information in accordance with standards adopted by the Commission.	11. CCMs shall take advantage of the information collected by observers for the purpose of investigations under Convention Articles 23 and 25, and shall cooperate in the exchange of such information, including by proactively requesting, responding to, and facilitating the fulfilment of requests for, copies of observer reports in accordance with standards adopted by the Commission, as applicable.	This obligation currently treated in ARP2 as an IM obligation (hold on file approach). Current CMS IWG approach is to treat obligations to cooperate as reporting obligations. Comments support treatment as RP AP, with no drafting issues raised. RP AP agreed.
69.	Regional Observer Programme 2018-05 14 Category: Report (RP)			

	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>CCM shall nominate a WCPFC National Observer Coordinator</p> <p>Applies to:- CCMs with a WCPFC ROP authorised observer programme.</p> <p>Further Information box to be used for statement: CCMs in preparing their statement might find the (WCPFC National Obs CoordinatorsList https://www.wcpfc.int/wcpfc-national-observer-coordinator-cmm-2018-05-para-13 a helpful resource Where needed CCM should liaise with the Secretariat to resolve any issues</p>	<p>Secretariat confirms that CCMs have provided a statement confirming its nomination of a National Observer Coordinator and notification to the Secretariat of any changes to the nominee or his/her contact information.</p>	<p>14. Each CCM shall nominate a WCPFC National Observer Coordinator, who shall be the contact point on matters related to the ROP, and keep the Secretariat informed of any changes to the Coordinator and his/her contact information.</p>	<p>RP AP agreed</p>
70.	<p>Regional Observer Programme</p> <p>2018-05 14</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				<p>No AP required (because RP sufficient and appropriate)</p>
71.	<p>Regional Observer Program</p> <p>2018-05 15(g)</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that CCMs submitted a statement in its AR Pt2 that confirms how it ensured that vessel</p>	<p><u>Guiding principles for operation of the Commission ROP</u></p> <p>15. The Commission ROP shall operate in</p>	<p>No IM AP required.</p>

	<p>measures that implement the requirement that CCMs are to ensure vessel operators comply with the "Guidelines for the rights and responsibilities of vessel operators, captains and crew" (Attachment K Annex B to (CMM 2018-05)</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements (there may be relevant information in the Online Compliance Case Observer Obstruction Alleged Infringements list)</p>	<p>operators complied with the Guidelines in Annex B — Guidelines for the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators, Captains and Crew.</p>	<p>accordance with the following principles: g) The Commission ROP shall be operated to ensure that observers shall not be unduly obstructed in the discharge of their duties. To this extent, CCMs of the Commission shall ensure that vessel operators comply with the Guidelines in Annex B — Guidelines for the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators, Captains and Crew.</p>	<p>RP AP agreed.</p>
72.	<p>Regional Observer Programme 2018-05 2018-05 Annex C 04 Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>ROP data submission Theme: Observer activity related requirement Sub Theme: Observer programme Supersedes: CMM 2007-01 Attachment K Annex C 04 Applies to CCMs with WCPFC ROP authorised observer programme. Further Info box used for statement.</p>	<p>Secretariat confirms that CCMs with a WCPFC ROP authorised observer programme have submitted a statement confirming that it has submitted data obtained through its observer programmes to the Commission.</p>	<p>No later than 31 December 2008: - Existing sub-regional programmes and national programmes shall be regarded as a part of the ROP, and shall continue unless otherwise determined by the Commission. - Data obtained through these observer programmes shall be submitted to the Commission and shall be considered Commission data</p>	<p>RP AP agreed.</p>
73.	<p>Regional Observer Programme 2018-05 2018-05 Annex C 04 Category: Quantitative Limit (QL)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

				No AP required as QL (keep as RP).
74.	Regional Observer Programme 2018-05 2018-05 Annex C 04 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No IM AP required (keep as RP).
75.	*Rev – Regional Observer Program 2018-05 Annex C 06 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission as per (CMM 2018-05) REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME 2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements 3. WCPFC11 agreed to a reporting procedure for ROP longline coverage (reminder sent in WCPFC Circular 2015-08) - metric to be selected and notified to the Secretariat. CCMs are to include in AR Pt 1 a report			Most recent comments support treatment as RP obligation (because national authorities responsible for meeting coverage levels – and CMS IWG treatment of those types of obligations as RP). No IM AP required

	on previous year longline observer coverage using the chosen metric and in the agreed format 4. Check SPC advice on level of ROP observer coverage achieved in RY, based on ROP data received by WCPFC/SPC			
76.	Regional Observer Program 2018-05 Annex C 06 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
		The Secretariat confirms receipt by the CCM in AR P1 of the required information contained in WCPFC11 reporting procedure of previous year longline observer coverage achieved using the chosen metric and in the agreed format. The Secretariat can verify, through ROP data received by WCPFC, that the CCM did meet the minimum observer coverage rate of 5% for its flagged, non-PS vessels	<u>Implementation programme for the Regional Observer Programme</u> No later than 30 June 2012, CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission (except for vessels provided for in paras 9 and 10). In order to facilitate the placement of observers the logistics may dictate that this be done on the basis of trips.	Support for treatment as RP obligation not IM (see above) RP AP Agreed.
77.	Regional Observer Programme 2018-05 2018-05 Annex C 08 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCMs shall meet any additional ROP observer obligations as specified in CMMs 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that it requires it to meet any ROP observer		Consistent views that no AP required because is general obligation and relevant obligations

	<p>measures that implement the requirement that CCMs to meet any additional ROP observer coverage levels as agreed in CMMs. Note, the specific additional observer coverage requirements in measures, will also be covered under the individual CMMs.</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>obligations (such as coverage levels) as agreed in CMMs.</p> <p>b. describes how the CCM is monitoring and ensuring that is meeting any ROP observer obligations agreed in CMMs, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with these requirements.</p>		<p>are contained in specific CMMs.</p> <p>No AP required.</p>
78.	<p>Record of Fishing Vessels</p> <p>2018-06 02</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement for CCMs to ensure its fishing vessels only transship to/from, and provide bunkering for/ are bunkered by or otherwise supported by vessels on the RFV</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements.</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires its flagged vessels in the Convention Area from transshipping to/from, engaging in bunkering activities with, or otherwise receiving support by non-CCM flagged vessels, vessels not on the WCPFC Interim Register, or vessels not operating under charter, lease, or similar mechanisms to a CCM</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged vessels are not transshipping to/from, engaging in bunkering activities with, or otherwise receiving support by non-CCM flagged vessels, vessels not on the WCPFC Interim</p>	<p><u>A. Authorisation to Fish</u></p> <p>2. Each member of the Commission shall take necessary measures to ensure that its fishing vessels, when in the Convention Area, only tranship to/from, and provide bunkering for, are bunkered by or otherwise supported by:</p> <p>(a) vessels flagged to members, or</p> <p>(b) Other vessels flagged to States not members of the Commission only if such vessels are on the WCPFC Interim Register of non-Member Carrier and Bunker Vessels established under section D below (the "Register"); or</p> <p>(c) Vessels operated under charter, lease, or similar mechanisms in accordance with paragraphs 42 to 44 of this measure.</p>	AP agreed

		Register, or vessels not operating under charter, lease, or similar mechanisms to a CCM, and how CCM is responding to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance by its vessels with this requirement.		
79.	Record of Fishing Vessels 2018-06 04 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the vessel authorization to fish requirements specified in CMM 18-06 paragraph 4</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements.</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt 2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that ensures the authorizations it issues to its vessels to fish beyond its areas of national jurisdiction and in the Convention Area contain the following information:</p> <p>i. the specific areas, species and time periods for which the authorization is valid;</p> <p>ii. permitted activities by the vessel;</p> <p>iii. a prohibition of fishing, retention on board, transshipment or landing by the vessel in areas under the national jurisdiction of another State except pursuant to any license, permit or authorization that may be required by such other State;</p> <p>iv. the requirement that the vessel keep on board the authorization issued pursuant to paragraph 1 above, or certified copy</p>	<p><u>A. Authorisation to Fish</u></p> <p>4. Each such authorization shall set forth for the vessel to which it is issued:</p> <p>(a) the specific areas, species and time periods for which the authorization is valid;</p> <p>(b) permitted activities by the vessel;</p> <p>(c) a prohibition of fishing, retention on board, transshipment or landing by the vessel in areas under the national jurisdiction of another State except pursuant to any license, permit or authorization that may be required by such other State;</p> <p>(d) the requirement that the vessel keep on board the authorization issued pursuant to paragraph 1 above, or certified copy thereof; any license, permit or authorization, or certified copy thereof, issued by a coastal State, as well as a valid certificate of vessel registration; and</p> <p>(e) any other specific conditions to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted pursuant to it.</p>	AP agreed

		thereof; any license, permit or authorization, or certified copy thereof, issued by a coastal State, as well as a valid certificate of vessel registration; and v. any other specific conditions to give effect to the provisions of the CMMs adopted pursuant to it.		
80.	Record of Fishing Vessels 2018-06 04 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>*Note in practice, and through adoption of the RFV SSPs flag CCM users are to submit updates with respect to their vessels listed on the Record of Fishing Vessels in accordance with the standards, specifications and procedures for the RFV-refer CMM 2013-03/CMM 2014-03.</p> <p>**Authorised CCM users are able to use the online reporting tool at https://intra.wcpfc.int</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of measures to notify any additions, modifications and deletions of Vessels from the record, including for each vessel all details as set out in paragraph 6.</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements.</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted information in AR Pt2 about its implementation of the requirement to provide complete and updated information in accordance with the WCPFC RFV SSPs in respect of each of its flagged fishing vessels authorized to fish beyond CCM area of national jurisdiction in the Convention Area.</p>	<p>B. Members' record of fishing vessels</p> <p>4. Each such authorization shall set forth for the vessel to which it is issued:</p> <p>(a) the specific areas, species and time periods for which the authorization is valid;</p> <p>(b) permitted activities by the vessel;</p> <p>(c) a prohibition of fishing, retention on board, transshipment or landing by the vessel in areas under the national jurisdiction of another State except pursuant to any license, permit or authorization that may be required by such other State;</p> <p>(d) the requirement that the vessel keep on board the authorization issued pursuant to paragraph 1 above, or certified copy thereof; any license, permit or authorization, or certified copy thereof, issued by a coastal State, as well as a valid certificate of vessel registration; and</p>	<p>Consistent views for this to be RP obligation</p> <p>AP agreed.</p>

	3. Summarise the number of vessels on the RFV where CCM made modifications/updates in RY		(e) any other specific conditions to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and CMMs adopted pursuant to it.	
81.	Record of Fishing Vessels 2014-03 02 / 2022-05 02 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Requirements and specifications to implement 2018-06 paragraph 6 (submit completed vessel record data for vessels authorised to fish beyond its flag CCMs areas under national jurisdiction)</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement to submit complete vessel record data to the Secretariat for its vessels on the Record of Fishing Vessels as per CMM 2018-06 CMM on RFV Note footnote 3 of CMM 2014-03: Although vessels with only the minimum required fields 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 CMMs</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements.</p> <p>- are there gaps in any RFV entries (both minimum required fields and the other required fields).</p>	<p>1. The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted information in AR Pt2 about its implementation of the requirement to 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 of CMM 2022-05</p> <p>2. The Secretariat can confirm that it has received the complete vessel record data to the Secretariat for its vessels on the Record of Fishing Vessels as per CMM 2018-06 and CMM 2022-05.</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>footnote 3: 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.</p>	<p>Consistent views for this to be RP obligation</p> <p>RP AP agreed.</p>

82.	Record of Fishing Vessels 2018-06 09 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No AP required
83.	Record of Fishing Vessels 2018-06 11 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Requirement to report extraordinary circumstances as to why IMO or LR number is not able to be obtained. 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs flagged vessels on the RFV obtain an IMO or LR. Flag CCMs shall report any such extraordinary situations where a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO or LR in Part 2 of their annual reports. 2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	Where a flag CCM has not reported an IMO or LR number for a vessel that is authorised on the RFV, the Secretariat to confirm that the CCM submitted in its ARP2 information, for each CCM authorised vessel, about any extraordinary situations where a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO or LR number.	11. In assessing compliance with 6(s) above, the Commission shall take into account extraordinary circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO or LR number despite following the appropriate procedures. Flag CCMs shall report any such extraordinary situations in Part 2 of their annual reports	AP agreed.
84.	Record of Fishing Vessels 2018-06 16 Category: Implementation (IM)			

	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCMs to advise of the results of their annual review of implementation of paragraph 1 of CMM 2018-06 (RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS)			AP for Report (RP) adopted. No AP required.
85.	Record of Fishing Vessels 2018-06 17 Category: Implementation (IM) and Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement to ensure its FVs have been placed on the RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06</p> <p>Vessels not on RFV shall be deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land HMFS in the Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of its flag State</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements.</p>	<p>[IM]</p> <p>CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that</p> <p>i. deems any vessels flying CCM flag and not on the RFV to be unauthorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, or land highly migratory fish stocks caught in the Convention Area beyond CCM’s national jurisdiction</p> <p>ii. prohibits any vessels flying CCM flag to fish for, retain on board, transship, or land highly migratory fish stocks caught in the Convention Area beyond CCM’s national jurisdiction, that is not included on the RFV</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is ensuring that its authorized vessels are placed on the RFV in accordance with the CMM and that CCM vessels not authorized through placement</p>	<p>C. WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels</p> <p>17. It is the responsibility of each member of the Commission to ensure that its fishing vessels have been placed on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels in accordance with the requirements of this measure, and any vessel not included in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels shall be deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of its flag State. Each member of the Commission shall prohibit such activities by any vessel entitled to fly its flag that is not included on the Record and shall treat a violation of this prohibition as a serious violation. Such vessels shall be eligible to be considered for IUU listing.⁵</p> <p>⁵This revision is to correct an omission in an amendment to this paragraph under CMM 2004-01 that was approved in WCPFC6, but not included</p>	<p>CT supports RP obligation. EU queried which parts of para 17 need to be captured in an AP (to avoid duplication).</p> <p>Agreed approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep IM - focused on CCMs’ prohibition requirement for unauthorized vessels – a critical element of the RFV and flag State control.

		<p>on the RFV are not fishing for, retaining on board, transshipping, or landing HMFS in the Convention Area beyond CCM's national jurisdiction, and how CCM is responding to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p> <p>[RP]</p> <p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted a statement in its ARPt2 that confirms it has ensured that its fishing vessels have been placed on the RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06</p>	in the new CMM 2009-01	<p>However, remove separate elements to respond to CT and EU concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include addition RP obligation to capture requirement on national authority. <p>APs Agreed for RP and IM.</p>
86.	<p>Record of Fishing Vessels</p> <p>2018-06 18</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Applicable CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented.</p> <p>Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement to prohibit landings in their ports or transshipment activities with vessels not on RFV</p> <p>CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits landing at its ports or transshipment to its flagged vessels of HMFS caught in the Convention Area by vessels that are not entered on the Record</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that vessels not on the Record are not landing at its ports and that vessels not on the Record are not transshipping to CCM's flagged vessels, and how CCM is</p>	<p>C. WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels</p> <p>18. Each CCM shall further prohibit landing at its ports or transshipment to vessels flying its flag of highly migratory fish stocks caught in the Convention Area by vessels not entered on the Record or the Register.</p>	<p>AP agreed</p>

		responding to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.		
87.	Sharks 2019-04 06 / 2022-04 06 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Assessment of need for National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of sharks and/or as appropriate status and details of such plans (provide in Part 2 Annual Report)	The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted in AR Pt2: a. a report on its implementation, as appropriate, of the IPOA-Sharks, that addresses the elements contained in the template at Annex 2 paragraph 2; and b. includes, as appropriate, its National Plan of Action for sharks that addresses the elements contained in the template at Annex 2 paragraph 3.	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 ARP2 Annex 2: Template for reporting implementation of this CMM. Each CCM shall include the following information in Part 2 of its annual report: 2. Results of their assessment of the need for a National Plan of Action and/or the status of their [Sharks NPOA], as appropriate 3.Details of NPOA, 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	AP agreed
88.	Sharks 2022-04 16			

	Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Theme: Mitigating impacts of fishing on species of special interest</p> <p>Sub Theme: Shark mitigation and fishery management</p> <p>None</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that:</p> <p>i. prohibits its flagged longline vessels, between 20N and 20S, targeting tuna and billfish from using wire trace as branch lines or leaders,</p> <p>ii. requires its flagged longline vessels, between 20N and 20S, targeting tuna and billfish, if carrying wire trace as branch lines or leaders, to stow them,</p> <p>iii. prohibits its flagged longline vessels, between 20N and 20S, targeting tuna and billfish from using shark lines or branch lines running directly off of the longline floats or drop lines</p> <p>b. describes how the CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels, between 20N and 20S, to ensure the requirements are met and how its responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>AP agreed</p>
<p>89.</p>	<p>Sharks</p> <p>2022-04 20</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

	<p>Requirement for longline vessels to release sharks that are not to be retained asap, and required guidelines for safe release of sharks (effective from 1 Jan 2024)</p> <p>Theme: Mitigating impacts of fishing on species of special interest</p> <p>Sub Theme: Shark mitigation and fishery management</p> <p>None</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted a statement in its ARPt2 that confirms it has required its longline fishing vessels to release any caught sharks that are not retained as soon as possible, taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer, using the following guidelines:</p> <p>(1) Leave the shark in the water, where possible; and</p> <p>(2) Use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible.</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>(1) Leave the shark in the water, where possible; and</p> <p>(2) Use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible.</p>	<p>RP AP agreed.</p>
90.	<p>Mobulid Rays</p> <p>2019-05 03</p> <p>Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirements in (CMM 2019-05) MOBULID RAYS to prohibit vessels from targeted fishing or intentional setting on mobulid rays in the Convention Area. Be sure to also include as part of response the relevant part of the CMM 2019-05 para 7 required report related to implementation of this requirement. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCMs implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM vessels from targeting fishing or intentional setting on mobulid rays</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its vessels are not targeting fishing or setting intentionally on mobulid rays, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with the relevant requirement.</p>	<p>3. CCMs shall prohibit their vessels from targeted fishing or intentional setting on mobulid rays in the Convention Area.</p>	<p>AP agreed.</p>
91.	<p>Mobulid Rays</p>			

	2019-05 07 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Report on Implementation of CMM 2019-05 Mobulid rays (Part 2 Annual Report)</p> <p>In practice, AR Pt2 contains questions for CMM 2019-05 03 and CMM 2019-05 (04-06, 08, 10) which together would be expected to comprise the CMM 2019-05 07 report</p>			<p>Consistent views no AP needed because all relevant paras/obligations covered by separate APs.</p> <p>No AP required.</p>
92.	<p>IUU Vessel List</p> <p>2019-07 22</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>CCMs shall take all necessary non-discriminatory measures, including under their applicable legislation, to take certain actions in respect of vessels listed on the IUU Vessel List</p> <p>Theme: Activity related requirement</p> <p>Sub Theme: Response to alleged violations</p> <p>Supersedes: CMM 2010-06 22</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs take necessary non-discriminatory measures,</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted a statement in its ARPt2 that confirms any necessary non-discriminatory measures it has taken under their applicable legislation, international law and each CCMs' international obligations, and pursuant to paras 56 and 66 of IPOA-IUU to, to implement CMM 2019-07 paragraph 22 a to g.</p>	<p>22. CCMs shall take all necessary non-discriminatory measures under their applicable legislation, international law and each CCMs' international obligations, and pursuant to paras 56 and 66 of IPOA-IUU to:</p> <p>a. ensure that fishing vessels, support vessels, mother ships or cargo vessels flying their flag do not participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with, support or re-supply vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List;</p> <p>b. ensure that vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List that enter ports voluntarily are not authorized to land, tranship, refuel or re-supply therein but are inspected upon entry;</p> <p>c. prohibit the chartering of a vessel on the WCPFC</p>	<p>RP AP Agreed.</p>

	<p>including under their applicable legislation, in respect of vessels that are listed on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.</p> <p>A list of actions to be taken in respect of respect of vessels that are listed on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, is provided in paragraph 22.</p>		<p>IUU Vessel List;</p> <p>d. refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List in accordance with para 1f, Section A, in CMM 2018-06 or its replacement measure;</p> <p>e. prohibit commercial transactions, imports, landings and/or transshipment of species covered by the WCPFC Convention from vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List;</p> <p>f. encourage traders, importers, transporters and others involved, to refrain from transactions in, and transshipment of, species covered by the WCPFC Convention caught by vessels on WCPFC IUU Vessel List;</p> <p>g. collect, and exchange with other CCMs, any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false import/export certificates for species covered by the WCPFC Convention from vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.</p>	
93.	<p>Tropical Tuna</p> <p>2021-01 15</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Annual advice on choice and implementation of two additional month high seas purse seine FAD closure (April-May or Nov-Dec)</p> <p>Based on Secretariat records, was a notification of additional month high seas FAD closure choice received?</p>			<p>AP for IM adopted.</p> <p>CT had indicated that it prefers to keep as IM until after TT measure revised at WCPFC20.</p>

				No AP required (and consider new AP following any revision of TT measure).
94.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 17 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Each purse seine vessel is limited to no more than 350 FADs with activated instrumented buoys</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs to ensure that the design and construction of any FAD to be deployed in, or that drifts into, the Convention Area shall comply with the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD. • If raft is covered, only non-entangling material and designs shall be used. • The subsurface structure shall only be made using non-entangling materials. <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires it to ensure that the design and construction of any FAD to be deployed in, or that drifts into, the Convention Area shall comply with the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD. • If raft is covered, only non-entangling material and designs shall be used. • The subsurface structure shall only be made using non-entangling materials. <p>b. describes how the CCM is monitoring and ensuring that the requirements are met with respect to its flagged vessels, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with these requirements.</p>	<p>17. To reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, as from 1st January 2024,2 CCMs shall ensure that the design and construction of any FAD to be deployed in, or that drifts into, the WCPFC Convention Area shall comply with the following specifications:</p> <p>(a) The use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD.</p> <p>(b) If the raft is covered, only non-entangling material and designs shall be used.</p> <p>(c) The subsurface structure shall only be made using non-entangling materials.</p>	<p>Lead note: CMS IWG approach to date is to treat obligations drafted like this as IM obligation. Note, this obligation does apply to current reporting year (even if TT measure revised)</p> <p>IM AP agreed.</p>

95.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 18 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Requirement to encourage vessels to use, or transition towards using, non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs Theme: Additional measures for tropical tunas Sub Theme: Purse seine fishery FAD set management	The Secretariat confirms receipt of a statement in AR Pt2 that confirms how CCM encouraged its flagged vessels to use, or transition towards using, non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs.	18. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, CCMs shall encourage vessels flying their flag to use, or transition towards using, non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs.	AP agreed
96.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 21 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Secretariat Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that at any one time, each flagged purse seine vessel shall have no more than 350 drifting FADs with activated instrumented buoys 2. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement to ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that Coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure(s) that limits each of CCM flagged PS vessel to 350 activated instrumented buoys, and that ensures its vessels comply with coastal State laws relating to FAD management. b. describes how CCM is monitoring its activation and deployment of instrument buoys and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement and coastal State laws relating to FAD management are handled.	<u>Instrumented Buoys:</u> 21. A flag CCM shall ensure that each of its purse seine vessels shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) with activated instrumented buoys. An instrumented buoy is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel. A flag CCM shall ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD tracking.	AP Agreed

	tracking 3. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements			
97.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 22 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Secretariat Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Requirement to encourage vessels to manage FADs deployed and make reasonable efforts to retrieve and report lost FADs Theme: Additional measures for tropical tunas Sub Theme: Purse seine fishery FAD set management None	The Secretariat confirms receipt of a statement in AR Pt2 that confirms how CCM encouraged its flagged vessels to responsibly manage the number of drifting FADs deployed each year, carry equipment on board to facilitate the retrieval of lost drifting FADs, make reasonable efforts to retrieve lost drifting FADs; and to report the loss of drifting FADs, and if the loss occurred in the EEZ of a coastal State, report the loss to the coastal State concerned.	22. CCMs shall also encourage vessels to: (a) responsibly manage the number of drifting FADs deployed each year; (b) carry equipment on board to facilitate the retrieval of lost drifting FADs; (c) make reasonable efforts to retrieve lost drifting FADs; and (d) report the loss of drifting FADs, and if the loss occurred in the EEZ of a coastal State, report the loss to the coastal State concerned.	AP agreed
98.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 24 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				AP for QL adopted. Agree no AP

				required.
99.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 24 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				AP for QL adopted. Agree no AP required.
100.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 26 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Secretariat Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCMs not to transfer fishing effort in days fished in the purse seine fishery to areas N20N and S20S Theme: Quantitative limits for tuna and billfish Sub Theme: PS fishery effort control 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement for CCMs not to transfer fishing effort in days fished in the purse seine fishery to areas N20N and S20S 2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	1. CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that ensures that CCM flagged purse seine vessels do not transfer effort in days fished to the area north of 20N and south of 20S b. describes how it is monitoring its flagged purse seine vessels to ensure they do not transfer effort in days fished to the area north of 20N and south of 20S and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.	High seas purse seine effort and control ³ : 26. CCMs shall ensure that the effectiveness of these effort limits for the purse seine fishery are not undermined by a transfer of effort in days fished into areas within the Convention Area south of 20°S and/or north of 20°N ³ Throughout this measure, in the case of small purse seine fleets, of five vessels or less, the baseline level of effort used to determine a limit shall be the maximum effort in any period and not the average.	AP agreed

		2. The Secretariat can verify that the CCM's flagged vessels have not shifted PS effort to the area north of 20N and south of 20S.		
101.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 29 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Secretariat Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S)</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the High Seas Rules for purse seine catch retention: requirement for purse seine vessels fishing in areas bounded by 20N and 20S to retain on board and then land or transship at port all BET, SKJ and YFT(The only exceptions is as stated in the CMM 18-01 para 31 a, b and c)</p> <p>2. CCM should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p> <p>3. Based on Secretariat database records how many h/s purse seine fishery catch retention reports were received for RY?</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure of the requirement for CCM's flagged purse seine vessels fishing in EEZs and on the high seas between 20N and 20S to retain on board and then land or transship at port all BE, SJ, and YF tuna. The statement must include information on CCM's implementation of the requirements for its PS operators of vessels on the high seas to submit a report to the ED within 48-hours after any discard.</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged PS vessels are following the requirements for catch retention when operating in EEZs and the high seas and are submitting reports to the ED when on the high seas and where required, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p>	<p><u>Catch retention: Purse Seine Fishery</u></p> <p>29. To create an incentive to reduce the non-intentional capture of juvenile fish, to discourage waste and to encourage an efficient utilization of fishery resources, CCMs shall require their purse seine vessels fishing in EEZs and on the high seas within the area bounded by 20oN and 20oS to retain on board and then land or transship at port all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna. (Paragraphs 8 to 12 of CMM 2009-02 set out the Commission's rules for catch retention in the high seas.) The only exceptions to this paragraph shall be:</p> <p>(a) when, in the final set of a trip, there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, noting that excess fish taken in the last set may be transferred to and retained on board another purse seine vessel provided this is not prohibited under applicable national law; or</p> <p>(b) when the fish are unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or</p> <p>(c) when serious malfunction of equipment occurs.</p>	AP agreed

102.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 31 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that flag CCMs ensure that purse seine vessels shall not operate under manual reporting during the FAD closure period</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p> <p>3. Based on Sec records, did any purse seine vessels provide VMS manual reports during the applicable months of the FAD closure?</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure of the requirement for CCM flagged purse seine vessels to not operate under VMS manual reporting during FAD closure periods</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged purse seine fishing vessels do not operate under VMS manual reporting during FAD closure periods, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with the relevant requirement.</p>	<p><u>Monitoring and Control: Purse Seine Fishery</u></p> <p>31. Notwithstanding the VMS SSP, a purse seine vessel shall not operate under manual reporting during the FADs closure periods, but the vessel will not be directed to return to port until the Secretariat has exhausted all reasonable steps to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions in accordance with the VMS SSPs. The flag State shall be notified when VMS data is not received by the Secretariat at the interval specified in CMM 2014-02 or its replacement, and paragraph 35.</p>	AP agreed.
103.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 32 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Requirement for purse seine vessels to carry a ROP observer			AP for RP adopted. Agree no AP (IM) required.
104.	*Rev – Tropical Tuna 2021-01 33			

	Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Applicable Flag CCMs are to confirm whether obligation was implemented? Provide additional information / details that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement for 100% purse seine coverage (between 20N and 20S), specifically the rules that flag CCMs are to implement for vessels operating exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure of the requirement for all CCM flagged purse seine vessels to carry an observer if they are operating solely within the CCM's national jurisdiction within 20N and 20S. b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that each of its flagged PS vessels that is operating solely within its national jurisdiction is carrying an observer, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p>	<p><u>Monitoring and Control: Purse Seine Fishery</u> 33. Each CCM shall ensure that all purse seine vessels fishing solely within its national jurisdiction within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S carry an observer. These CCMs are encouraged to provide the data gathered by the observers for use in the various analyses conducted by the Commission, including stock assessments, in such a manner that protects the ownership and confidentiality of the data.</p>	<p>AP agreed.</p>
105.	<p>Tropical Tuna 2021-01 Att 2 04 Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Philippines to ensure its flagged vessels report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat (vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed) 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs fishing vessels to report sightings of vessels in</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of any reports from Philippine flagged vessels operating in HSP-1 SMA of any sightings of fishing vessels, with vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed. Philippines to report in its ARP2 any sightings reports from its flagged vessels</p>	<p>Att 2 04. Philippines shall ensure that its flagged vessels operating in the HSP-1 SMA report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat. Such information shall include: vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed</p>	<p>AP agreed.</p>

	HSP-1 SMA to the Secretariat.	operating in HSP1 (including nil reports where relevant).		
106.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 Att 2 04 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Philippines to ensure its flagged vessels report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat (vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed). Theme: Additional measures for tropical tunas Sub Theme: HSP requirements Supersedes: CMM 2020-01 Att 2 04 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs fishing vessels to report sightings of vessels in HSP-1 SMA to the Secretariat.	Philippines submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms its implementation through adoption of a national binding measure of the requirement for its flagged vessels operating in HSP-1 SMA to report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat with details of vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed. b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its flagged vessels operating in HSP-1 SMA report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat with details of vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.	Att 2 04. Philippines shall ensure that its flagged vessels operating in the HSP-1 SMA report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat. Such information shall include: vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed	AP agreed.
107.	Tropical Tuna 2021-01 Att 2 08 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

	<p>Philippines to monitor landings by vessels operating in HSP1-SMA and collect reliable catch data by species</p> <p>Theme: Additional measures for tropical tunas</p> <p>Sub Theme: HSP requirements</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that all port landings of its HSP1 vessels are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis</p> <p>2. CCM should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>Philippines submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms its implementation through adoption of a national binding measure of the requirement for all port landings of its HSP1 vessels to be monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that all port landings of its HSP1 vessels are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.</p>	<p>8. The Philippines shall ensure that all port landings of its vessels covered by this decision are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis.</p>	<p>AP agreed.</p>
<p>108.</p>	<p>Tropical Tuna</p> <p>2021-01 Att 2 08</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	<p>WCPFC Sec Criteria</p>	<p>Draft Audit Point for consideration</p>	<p>CMM Paragraph</p>	<p>Decision Points/Comments</p>
	<p>Philippines to monitor landings by vessels operating in HSP1-SMA and collect reliable catch data by species</p> <p>Theme: Additional measures for tropical tunas</p> <p>Sub Theme: HSP requirements</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that all</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of a statement from Philippines that it has monitored and accounted for all port landings of its vessels operating in HSP1-SMA, to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis.</p>	<p>8. The Philippines shall ensure that all port landings of its vessels covered by this decision are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis.</p>	<p>Consider draft AP.</p>

	<p>port landings of its HSP1 vessels are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis</p> <p>2. CCM should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>			
109.	<p>Tropical Tuna 2021-01 47 Category: Quantitative Limit (QL)</p>			
	WCPFC Secretariat Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
			<p><u>Other Commercial Fisheries:</u> 47. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total catch of their respective other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tuna, but excluding those fisheries taking less than 2,000 tonnes of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack), shall not exceed either the average level for the period 2001-2004 or the level of 2004.</p>	<p>Agreed no AP currently feasible as further SC/TCC work required as the audit point work cannot resolve the issue</p>
110.	<p>Pacific Bluefin tuna 2021-02 09 Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				<p>Agreed no AP required</p>
111.	Pacific Bluefin tuna			

	2021-02 10			
	Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Requirement to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juvenile BFT each year</p> <p>2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of a statement in AR Pt2 that confirms what measures the CCM took to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna each year.</p>	<p>10. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.</p>	<p>Agreed no IM AP needed</p> <p>RP AP agreed.</p>
112.	<p>Pacific Bluefin tuna</p> <p>2021-02 11</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>Requirement to take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of BFT and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM</p> <p>Theme: Additional measures for BFT</p> <p>Sub Theme: Response to alleged violations</p> <p>1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of a statement in AR Pt2 that confirms what measures the CCM took, to the extent possible, necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of CMM 2021-02 11.</p>	<p>11. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.</p>	<p>Lead note: Consistent with past practice, treatment as RP most appropriate (i.e. is still a binding obligation).</p> <p>RP AP agreed.</p>

	CCMs take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of BFT and its products that undermine the effectiveness of CMM for BFT 2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements			
113.	Pacific Bluefin tuna 2021-02 13 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Requirement to take measures to strengthen monitoring and data collection. 1. AR Pt 2 should include a statement that confirms the adoption by a flag CCM, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, of binding measures that implement the requirement that CCMs take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting systems for BFT fisheries and farming in order to improve data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting. 2. CCMs should also provide information showing that it has a system to monitor and ensure compliance with this obligation and has taken action in response to any potential infringements	Secretariat confirms that CCMs submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that provides information on the measures it has taken to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.	13. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.	AP agreed.
114.	*Rev – Convention Art 23.3 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

				No AP required.
115.	*Rev – Convention Art 24.3 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No AP required
116.	*Rev – Convention Art 23.4 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No AP required.
117.	*Rev – Convention Art 25.11 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No AP required.
118.	*Rev – Convention Art 25.8 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No AP required.
119.	*Rev – Convention Art 27 Category: Report (RP)			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision

				Points/Comments
	<p>Reports of outcomes of Port State Inspections. Summary to be provided in Part 2</p> <p>Applies to:- CCMs which conducted port inspection activities during the previous calendar year</p> <p>Further Information box to be used for statement. Details may include, if applicable, summary information on port inspections, including the number of port inspections that were conducted in the previous calendar year</p> <p>The annual summary may also be provided as an Attachment</p>			<p>This obligation should be addressed under CMM 2017-02.</p> <p>No AP required.</p>
120.	<p>*Rev – Convention Art 5 (j)</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			
	WCPFC Sec Criteria	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
				No AP required.



**2023 FINAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT
(COVERING 2021 and 2022 ACTIVITIES)**

Executive Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. WCPFC20 undertook its annual review of compliance by CCMs in accordance with the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) adopted at WCPFC19 – CMM 2021-03, which amended and extended CMM 2019-06 and based on the updated Provisional CMR provided by TCC19.¹ In 2023 TCC19 and WCPFC20 assessed CCMs' compliance over the previous 2-year reporting period (RY2021 and RY2022) against a list of Commission obligations agreed to at WCPFC18. The CMS provides for TCC to identify a compliance assessment for each specific obligation that is assessed. Where audit points have been agreed, the review of the dCMR, updated pCMR and application of a compliance score was undertaken based on these for RY2022.
2. In accordance with paragraph 7 and Annex I of CMM 2019-06, the following statuses were considered in making the assessments: Compliant, Non-Compliant, Priority Non-Compliant, Capacity Assistance Needed, and CMM Review.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT BY TCC19

3. TCC19 reviewed the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR for RY2021 and RY2022) for thirty-eight (38) CCMs and for one obligation for one (1) collective group of Members in a closed working group session. The USA acknowledged that the draft and Provisional CMR are classified as non-public domain data and expressed the hope that a way forward could be found to allow the participation of Observers in TCC's consideration of the CMS in open session in future. Some other CCMs stated that the process and requirements for release of non-public domain data had not been met. The decision was therefore taken to close the meeting.

III. COMPLIANCE REVIEW PROCESS

4. TCC19 considered the CMR Review Process in advance of conducting its review (**WCPFC-TCC19-2023-08**).
5. TCC19 agreed that it would prioritize consideration to the 316 potential compliance issues identified by the Secretariat in the full draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR) (115 for RY2021, 201 for RY2022). In line with the approach taken in previous CMR reviews, it was agreed that CCMs may raise additional potential issues not identified in the dCMR.
6. TCC19 agreed that the review of the dCMR would be undertaken obligation by obligation, assessing compliance issues for the two reporting years consecutively for each CCM. The dCMR had been prepared based on the list of obligations for assessment agreed by WCPFC18. Where audit points

¹ For clarity, references to operational provisions of the CMS CMM refer to CMM 2019-06.

had been agreed, the review of the dCMR and the application of a compliance score would be undertaken based on these.

7. Where a status of “Non-Compliant” or “Priority Non-Compliant” was assigned, TCC19 determined in accordance with CMM 2019-06, paragraph 40, CCMs may provide additional information up to 21 days after TCC19, noting that additional information is limited to filling an information gap (CMM 2019-06 paragraph 40).
8. The CMR SWG met in the margins of WCPFC20 to consider additional information CCMs’ provided up to 21 days after TCC19 and whether this additional information warranted a change in CCMs’ compliance status. The CMR SWG noted that in 2023 there were improvements in the efficiency of the Secretariat’s verification process, which in many cases, supported changes to CCMs’ compliance status where relevant additional information was provided prior to TCC and within 21 days of TCC19. The CMR SWG noted that addressing VMS data gaps remained a challenge for CCMs as it often required close and ongoing engagement with the Secretariat. In one such instance, additional information provided after the 21 day deadline was considered. CCMs are encouraged to routinely utilize available WCPFC tools for monitoring VMS reporting gaps and resolving them prior to TCC’s or the Commission’s review of the CMR.
9. Consistent with the CMR process of past years, TCC19 agreed to limit the practice of allowing CCMs to provide additional information verbally to situations of clarification only. The provision of any new or additional information that went beyond clarification had to be in writing. As this was the first time the audit points had been applied, TCC19 agreed that some flexibility was warranted to allow CCMs to provide written information during TCC19 so that compliance scores could be progressed at TCC19, and not held over to the margins of WCPFC20. TCC noted that in many instances it has been challenging to analyse properly the substantial information provided through the CMR review session and recommended that this practice be considered under exceptional circumstances.
10. With respect to the review of the Aggregated Tables, TCC19 followed the approach that was endorsed by WCPFC19 and set out in [WCPFC-TCC19-2023-08](#). In line with the Commission’s existing approach regarding the dCMR, outstanding cases related to ROP pre-notifications (PAI) (excluding Observer Obstruction and Marine Pollution) and cetaceans and whale shark interactions (CWS) were excluded from the review of the Aggregated Tables.
11. TCC19 agreed to first review the outstanding cases (>104 weeks) in the Online Compliance Case File System on a CCM-by-CCM basis. In line with paragraph 34 of CMM 2019-06, CCMs with cases identified in this document would be asked to articulate to TCC19 information in line with paragraph 34(a) and paragraph 34(b), namely:
 - a) Identify what is needed to progress or resolve these cases;
 - b) Determine a timeframe for resolution of the cases.
12. TCC19 agreed that CCMs could provide information pertaining to these cases at a level they determined appropriate, but TCC19 would not consider the details of individual cases. The information provided by CCMs was recorded in the pCMR in line with the obligation to report to the Commission how identified implementation challenges are to be resolved.
13. In line with the process agreed by WCPFC19, the identification of potential anomalies with CCMs’ implementation of obligations under paragraph 33 of CMM 2019-06 was a member-led process.

TCC19 agreed that where an anomaly was identified, TCC19 may seek information in line with paragraph 33(a) and paragraph 33(b), namely:

- a) Identify any targeted assistance that might be required to address the challenge;
- b) Determine a timeframe for the resolution of the challenge.

- 14. TCC19 agreed that recommendations related to identified anomalies may be included in the pCMR.
- 15. TCC19 accepted the Chair’s suggestion that the review of the Aggregated Tables would not affect the application of a CCM’s compliance score for 2021 and 2022. Although the possibility was left open for TCC19 to revise this process following consideration and discussion of the Aggregated Tables, it did not do so.
- 16. The review of the Aggregated Tables took place after the dCMR review. The Chair oversaw this process in line with the Principles articulated in Section II of CMM 2019-06 and guided by the Purpose of the CMS as articulated in Section I of CMM 2019-06.

IV. SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE REVIEW ASSESSMENTS

a. Capacity Assistance Needs

- 17. TCC19 received reports from CCMs on the progress of capacity development plans covering activities in 2020, 2021 and 2022 (**WCPFC-TCC19-2023-20**). The outcomes of the discussions are in the table and information set out below.

Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed Completed
Scientific data provision (SciData 03)	Indonesia (RY2016, RY 2017, RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	
Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3)	Indonesia (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	
Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)	Indonesia (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	
100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 33)	Philippines (RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	

Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed Completed
100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35 / CMM 2021-01 33)	Indonesia (RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	
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)	French Polynesia (RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	
Sea Turtle mitigation requirements for shallow-set longline vessels, including incident reporting requirements (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 7a)	French Polynesia (RY2020 RY2021)	French Polynesia (RY2022)

a. **Indonesia** (SciData 03): Indonesia reported that there were some continuing delays in the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out in the Capacity Development Plan (CDP). TCC19 noted that implementation of the capacity needs in the CDP 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 and maintained the CAN status.

b. **Indonesia** (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3): Indonesia reported that assistance and funding was being sought from SPC to hold dedicated workshops on sharks but there were ongoing delays in holding these workshops. TCC19 noted the continuing delays in implementation of the capacity needs in the CDP 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 CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

c. **Indonesia** (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3): Indonesia reported that assistance and funding was being sought from SPC to hold dedicated workshops on sharks but there were ongoing delays in holding these workshops. TCC19 noted the continuing delays in implementation of the capacity needs in the CDP 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 and maintained the CAN status.

d. **Philippines**: (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35) The Philippines reported slow progress in implementing 100% observer coverage in its national waters. TCC19 expressed its hope that substantial progress would be made in meeting the CDP and requested the Philippines to report back following TCC with

more specificity on the dates when the obligation can be met. TCC19 noted that for RY 2020 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

e) **Indonesia** (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35) Indonesia reported ongoing issues with regard to human resources and the number of available observers to meet the 100% observer coverage in national waters. TCC19 noted its expectation that this obligation would be able to be met in 2022 requested Indonesia to report back following TCC with more specificity on the dates when the obligation can be met. TCC19 noted that for RY 2020 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

f) **French Polynesia** (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 6) French Polynesia reported that new regulations and best practices on sea turtles have been adopted in 2022 and it expected the obligation will be met at the end of 2022. TCC19 noted with pleasure that French Polynesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP would be met in 2022 and maintained the CAN status until then.

g) **French Polynesia** (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 7a) French Polynesia reported that new regulations and best practices on sea turtles have been adopted in 2022 and French Polynesia has had no shallow set fishing since 2021. TCC19 noted with pleasure that French Polynesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP would be met in 2022 and maintained the CAN status until then.

18. TCC19 also agreed that Vanuatu would be assessed as CAN for a number of obligations for RY2021 and RY2022 and submitted capacity assistance needs plans as required by CMM 2019-06. The obligations for which capacity assistance needs for Vanuatu have been identified are set out in Section VII below.

b. Consideration of dCMR

i) Audit points

19. TCC19 noted that this was the first time that the agreed audit points were applied. TCC19 agreed that the audit points had made the dCMR process more efficient. However, not surprisingly, there were some teething issues with the implementation of the audit points. In some instances, the applicable audit point had multiple elements and some CCMs did not provide all the requisite information for all the various elements. For pragmatic reasons, and to avoid considerable further work at WCPFC20 to resolve outstanding issues, TCC19 accepted additional written information submitted during TCC to fill reporting gaps and determine a compliance score. It was accepted that this was done on an exceptional basis. In future the process set out in CMM 2019-06 would be followed and expectation that process for submission of additional information in response to the dCMR (paragraph 27 of CMM 2019-06) would be adhered to. TCC would also revert to the previous practice at TCC17 that verbal information provided at TCC would be limited to clarification only, and that provision of written information up to 21 days after TCC would also be restricted to that which only requires administrative consideration to fill an information gap, and not substantive information (paragraph 40 of CMM 2019-06).
20. A further complication in the application of audit points for obligations assessed in RY2022 was that they were not used in the assessments for RY2021. In some instances, this created an inconsistency in that a different standard of information was required. This meant that a CCM could be non-compliant for RY2022 but compliant for RY2021 even though the same situation existed in both Reporting Years. For reasons of fairness, due process, and efficiency, TCC19 agreed to not relitigate assessments. At the same time TCC19 considered that there should be a degree of consistency across obligations that

were assessed in RY2021 and RY2022 so that if, for example, there was a lack of implementing regulations in RY2022, leading to a non-compliant status, this same status applied to RY2021 if the regulations were lacking at that time.

21. TCC19 noted that the audit points require the submission of certain information and also in some instances specify the place where the information is to be found, such as in AR Pt 1. It is on this basis that the Secretariat undertakes the assessment in the dCMR. Allowing flexibility for CCMs to submit information in a different report than that specified in the audit point would require additional resources of the Secretariat to cross-check a variety of reports. Under the agreed CMR process, the dCMR was prepared on the basis that the audit points would be applied. Until such time as the audit points were amended, the preferable approach was to retain the approach adopted by the Secretariat.
22. There were some obligations where TCC19 considered that the relevant audit point needed to be reviewed to determine whether it remained appropriate (though this did not preclude taking an assessment for these obligations for the reporting years). TCC19 passed these to the Audit Point WG for its consideration. This applied to the following obligations:
- **CMM 2006-04 04 (RP)** *Annual catches of MLS (bycatch), and annual numbers of vessels fishing for MLS south of 15°S and their catch levels.*
 - **CMM 2019-04 07-10 (IM)** *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) - including consideration of paragraph 10 endorsed alternative measures.*
 - **CMM 2019-04 11 (RP)** *Report annually on shark fins attached/alternative measures.*
 - **CMM 2021-01 14 (IM)** *Three-month FAD closure (with respect to carrier vessels – currently not applicable).*
 - **CMM 2021-01 15 (IM)** *Two additional months high seas FAD closure (with respect to carrier vessels – currently not applicable).*
23. The EU indicated that the notifications required under **CMM 2021-01 14 footnote 1** and **CMM 2021-01 24** were not included in the current Audit Point for these paragraphs and suggested that they be sent to the Audit Point WG for consideration. Many CCMs consider this an interpretation issue which is more appropriate for the Commission to consider.

i) Obligations Not Assessed

24. The following obligations were not assessed for all CCMs:
- **CMM 2019-04 23 (RP):** It was noted that there were 8 elements in the audit point for this obligation, but the substantive issues included in these 8 elements were considered (and in many cases reporting gaps had been addressed) in assessments for other obligations in this CMM. If one of the elements was not met, the dCMR had identified a potential compliance issue. TCC19 therefore agreed that this obligation should not be assessed this year, but noted that this would be a useful obligation to assess in future years where the substantive obligations in this CMM were not assessed.
 - **CMM 2019-04 23 (DL):** In line with the above, TCC19 did not take an assessment for the deadline for this same obligation.
 - **Sci Data 05 (RP):** There were some potential compliance issues due largely to the lack of observer coverage in 2021 as a result of COVID-19 and the difficulty of obtaining alternative size data. The audit point did not give the Secretariat an ability to take extenuating circumstances into account. TCC19 agreed that while the standard in the audit point was appropriate in normal circumstances, it did not allow extenuating circumstances to be taken into account. The obligation was therefore not assessed.

25. In accordance with CMM 2019-06, paragraph 35, where there were majority/minority views on the correct assessment, TCC19's provisional assessment reflects the majority view and records the minority view. There were no assessments on which consensus could not be reached at TCC19.
26. There were no obligations that TCC19 assessed as CMM Review. However, TCC19 recommends to WCPFC20 that certain CMMs and obligations would benefit from further consideration by the Commission to assist in assessing compliance. These together with some other matters are considered in Section V below.
27. The RY2021 and RY2022 assessments are set out in Appendices 1 and 2. Consistent with the Final Compliance Monitoring Reports for 2012 – 2021, CCMs evaluated as “Non-Compliant” or “Priority Non-Compliant” for obligations are strongly encouraged to address their implementation issues.

V. ISSUES RELATED TO SPECIFIC CMMs OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS

28. TCC19 noted that the development of agreed audit points had assisted in addressing previous issues encountered at TCC where there were different interpretations of the obligations and different views on how implementation of the obligation was to be assessed. Nevertheless, there were some issues identified by CCMs which require further consideration by the Commission.
29. Some CCMs raised the incidents of discrepancies between Commission VMS data and national VMS data, which was an ongoing issue. These CCMs considered that this should be reviewed in the context of discussion on the VMS Annual Report ([WCPFC-TCC19-2023-RP01](#)), so that **CMM 2014-02** can be effectively implemented. There were also questions over the standard to be applied in assessing **CMM 2014-02 paragraph 9a** including the audit point, which is yet to be developed.
30. A question was raised over the implementation of the Charter notification CMM (**CMM 2021-04**). In the case of paragraph 4 of the measure, the audit point was clear, and was able to be verified by the Secretariat. However, TCC19 agreed that the language in the CMM was not clear and may need clarification by the Commission. There was also an issue identified by TCC19 concerning paragraph 7 of CMM 2021-04, and the clear requirement for the provision of chartering catch data. Some CCMs considered that this could be discussed in the context of the compliance verification paper.
31. CCMs raised a number of issues with the consolidated shark measure (**CMM 2019-04**):
 - **CMM 2019-04 05 (RP)**: It was suggested that clarification is required on what is meant by “alternative measures not contained in the CMM” that the CCM is applying in waters under its national jurisdiction, as compared with “additional measures” that a CMM may apply, and what is required to meet this obligation. TCC19 concurred that the obligation was not being understood by CCMs in the same way and agreed that there needed to be further clarification of what is an “alternative measure” and its applicability to a CCM.
 - **CMM 2019-04 07-10 (IM)**: There is a lack of clarity over the application of these obligations to carrier vessels, and in particular, how the retention requirements or alternative measures are applicable to carrier vessels.
 - **CMM 2019-04 07-10 (IM)**: The EU noted that paragraphs 7-10 meant that a choice was required to be made between paragraph 8 (retention fins naturally attached) and paragraph 9 (alternative measures). Without a choice being made, no clear directions could be given to fishers. This suggested that more work needed to be done on the audit point for paragraphs 7-10. There was also a difference

of interpretation between some CCMs on the relationship between paragraph 7 on non-retention and paragraphs 8 and 9, and if there was a ban on retention, the choice needed to be made.

- **CMM 2019-04 11 (RP):** Some CCMs noted that the purpose of paragraph 11 was to gather information to determine whether the alternative measures in paragraph 9 were effective and required TCC to consider compliance with the alternative measures. A question was raised as to whether this was an obligation that had to be assessed at the CCM level or whether it could be assessed at the vessel level. In response it was suggested that it was an obligation for a CCM to report, but the approach adopted by the CCM may lead to their flag vessels choosing an alternative measure. TCC19 agree that this and other issues related to paragraph 11 warranted further clarification.
- **CMM 2019-04 18 (IM):** The obligation only applies where there is an observer present. This suggests that the obligation does not apply where there is no observer or EM present. This should be considered further.

32. A number of issues were also raised by CCMs in relation to the tropical tuna measure (**CMM 2021-01**). TCC19 considered these should be considered by the Commission in the context of the revision of CMM 2021-01, which will take place at WCPFC20.

- **CMM 2021-01 14 (IM):** A question was raised over the relationship between paragraph 14 and footnote 1. The audit point only addressed paragraph 14. The EU noted that a flag CCM had provided a notification under footnote 1, whereas the chartering CCM should provide the relevant notification. TCC19 agreed that there was a conflation of paragraph 14 requirements and footnote 1 which posed some difficulties. In response to a request for clarification, the Secretariat advised that a late TCC19 paper ([WCPFC-TCC19-2023-IP07](#)) will include the list of notifications as per footnote 1.
- **CMM 2021-01 24 (QL):** TCC19 discussed the implementation of paragraph 24 of CMM 2021-01. The audit point for paragraph 24 makes it a quantitative limit, but the audit point also contains a notification requirement. This conflation created difficulties and was a matter for the Commission in revising the TTM. Furthermore, the deadline in paragraph 24 for notification of EEZ purse seine effort limits kept being revised forward by the Commission. TCC19 agreed that there was a **need for resolution** of the outstanding EEZ purse seine effort limits in the context of the ongoing work in revising the TTM, particularly in relation to EEZs where purse seining is not currently taking place but may do so in the future.

33. TCC19 discussed the relationship between the compliance assessments under CMM 2019-06 and the draft IUU vessel list. TCC19 agreed that the revised CMM on CMS was clear that compliance of individual vessels was not to be considered in the CMS process and that there was a need to separate these two processes. Some CCMs noted that there was a distinction between reporting that all the necessary legislative mechanisms are in place to implement an obligation, and the actual implementation of the obligation. For some obligations, the actual implementation was currently not assessed in the CMS. TCC19 agreed that discussion in the context of compliance verification (**TCC19 Agenda Item 7**) would be useful to capture other data sources that could be used to verify compliance. There was also the potential to raise such issues when discussing the aggregated tables.

VI. AGGREGATED SUMMARY TABLES

34. Aggregated Summary Tables of cases in the online compliance case file (CCFS) system which are based on the templates in Annex II of CMM 2019-06 were considered by TCC19 in accordance with paragraphs 33 and 34 of CMM 2019-06. Aggregate Summary Tables of cases in the online compliance case file system which are based on the templates in Annex III of CMM 2019-06 are attached as Appendix 3. The process was also supported by the work in the Secretariat, supported by two analytical consultancies, to develop a comprehensive set of aggregated tables based on CCFS data.

a) Addressing outstanding cases (> 24 months) in the Online Compliance Case File System

35. With respect to paragraph 34 of CMM 2019-06, and consistent with the process outlined in [WCPFC-TCC19-2023-08](#), each relevant CCM in turn was asked to provide to TCC19 information pertaining to these cases at a level that they determined appropriate and in line with **CMM 2019-06 paragraph 34a and b**, namely:
- a) Identify what is needed to progress or resolve these cases;
 - b) Determine a timeframe for resolution of the cases.
36. A summary of this information is included in tabular form in Appendix 3.
37. TCC19 agreed, consistent with the approach taken in TCC17, that tables relating to ROP pre-notifications (PAI) (excluding Observer Obstruction and Marine Pollution) and cetaceans and whale shark interactions (CWS) were not considered during the discussion of the Aggregated Tables.
38. TCC19 noted the significant work by the Secretariat in preparing the Aggregated Tables. TCC19 went through the Aggregated Tables CCM-by-CCM, which provided the opportunity for CCMs to note any issues with respect to the resolution of outstanding cases in the CCFS. The Executive Summary includes the common themes that came out of this discussion and some recommendations from TCC19 to the Commission.
39. As at TCC17, some CCMs highlighted the non-receipt of observer reports which had hindered their investigations. Observer reports were often crucial evidence if the alleged violation was disputed. Some CCMs noted the delays in receipt of observer reports, which sometimes meant that they were not entered into the CCFS for up to 18 months after the alleged infringement. This delayed investigations and was compounded if other data sources – such as electronic monitoring – were not available.
40. TCC19 acknowledged that there had been an increase in the number of observer reports received by some CCMs. However, the lack of resolution of outstanding cases was not a good reflection on the Commission. TCC19 agreed that efforts needed to be made to find a solution to this issue. TCC19 noted that previous discussions by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies have highlighted the difference between the provision of the full observer workbook/reports vs. the relevant data as identified by the observer provider for progressing an investigation and this issue also be considered in future discussions on this matter.
41. Many CCMs noted that these issues also highlighted the imbalance between the purse seine fishery (which requires 100% observer coverage) and the longline fishery (which requires 5% observer coverage). In the future, once electronic monitoring was adopted, the situation may improve as there would be an alternative data source to verify compliance.
42. CCMs considered that the provision of information on tracking of observer reports was a good initiative. However, TCC19 agreed that it was important to have information on the number of observer reports requested by CCMs and the number of observer reports received by these CCMs.
43. The delay in receiving observer reports also led to other issues in that vessel may be scrapped, entities may go out of business and the master and crew may move out of the tuna fishing industry. It was therefore difficult to identify those responsible for an alleged violation and difficult to investigate the alleged violation. This, together with issues relating to the investigative and prosecutorial resources, especially in small island developing States, may also cause delays in investigations and prosecutions.

44. Some CCMs noted challenges in resolving outstanding cases due to the domestic statute of limitations. TCC19 agreed that it would be useful for TCC to have information on the domestic statute of limitations for various types of cases: fisheries offences and criminal offences.
45. TCC19 discussed whether there should be a process for closing off cases in the CCFS where no progress could be made. TCC19 agreed that it was not appropriate to have a generic rule, or an automatic cut-off date for the closing of cases, especially given the differences between CCMs and their national investigative and prosecutorial processes. Some CCMs considered that national statutes of limitations were only one factor in deciding whether to close off old cases. TCC19 agreed that CCMs should provide an explanation as to why the case needs to be closed before completing the investigation.
46. Some CCMs noted that they placed priority on resolving recent cases, due to the difficulty of prosecuting old cases. TCC19 agreed that the issue of old cases in the CCFS be addressed by the Commission in a systematic way, but not in a way that undermined the requirement for flag CCMs to take action in response to alleged violations.
47. TCC acknowledged that when the concept of Aggregated Tables was raised, it was seen as a mechanism to facilitate general discussion on lingering cases in the CCFS, without going into detail of a case-by-case discussion on individual vessels cases. The process had helped to move the investigations along, assisted by the comprehensive information provided by the Secretariat. TCC19 agreed that there would be value in rationalizing and streamlining data flows so that only genuine cases were included in the CCFS. Another CCM noted the need to further rationalize data flows when ER&EM came online. TCC19 agreed that this was a useful process and should be continued and refined further.
48. TCC19 thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive information in the Aggregated Tables, TCC19 recommended to WCPFC20 that:
- an additional column be included in the Aggregated Tables to indicate whether the observer report had been requested, and whether it had been received.
 - the Commission request CCMs to provide to the Secretariat information on the domestic statute of limitations, the allowable period to bring a prosecution, for various types of cases: fisheries offences and criminal offences.
 - the Secretariat include the following information about Article 25(2) cases when developing the aggregated tables for TCC20 a) whether the infringement occurred in the high seas or in zone; and b) a breakdown of case subcategories by type of infringement.
 - the issue of cases older than 24 months in the CCFS be addressed by the Commission in a systematic way, not through automatic close-out of old cases, but with CCMs providing explanation as to why the case needs to be closed before completing the investigation, noting the requirement for flag CCMs to take action in response to alleged violations.
 - it consider ways in which to rationalize and streamline data flows so that only genuine cases were included in the CCFS.

b) Implementation challenges

49. With respect to paragraph 33 of CMM 2019-06 and in line with the process outlined in [WCPFC-TCC19-2023-08](#), CCMs were provided the opportunity to raise for TCC19 consideration implementation

challenges pertaining to either themselves, or other CCMs. TCC19 notes that no issues were raised in advance by CCMs by the deadline (of fifteen days prior to TCC19) nor prior to TCC19.

50. TCC19 noted that there was an issue in terms of the balance between purse seine and longline fisheries which needed to be taken into account in the overall assessment.
51. One CCM raised a potential anomaly from the floor with respect to a CCM’s compliance with its flag State duties, which it considered was apparent from the static and dynamic aggregated table.
52. As this issue was raised during the process on the spot, TCC19 considered that for reasons of fairness and due process, the relevant CCM needed to be provided with an opportunity to respond to the alleged anomaly, focusing on whether there was an implementation challenge that needed to be addressed.
53. TCC19 agreed that while the identification of anomalies was a member-led process, this was a learning experience and further discussion was required on how to make the information in the Aggregated Tables useful. TCC19 agreed to finalize the issue raised during the CMR process at WCPFC20.

VII. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

54. Some targeted assistance was identified to assist SIDS and other CCMs in implementing specific obligations. These are identified in the table and information set out below.

Obligation	CMR section	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed Score
CMM 2011-03 02 <i>Requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including incident reporting requirements</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 05 <i>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)</i>	Report	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 07-10 <i>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) - including consideration of</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)

Obligation	CMR section	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed Score
<i>paragraph 10 endorsed alternative measures</i>			
CMM 2019-04 11 <i>Report annually on shark fins attached/alternative measures</i>	Report Report Deadline	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 12 <i>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</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 13 <i>Take measures necessary to ensure carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 14-15 <i>Implement at least one option to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries, and notify choice and whenever the selected option is changed</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 16 <i>CCMs shall develop and report their management plans for longline fisheries targetting sharks in their Part 2 Annual Report</i>	Report	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 18 <i>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)</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)

Obligation	CMR section	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed Score
CMM 2019-04 20 (01) <i>Prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing oceanic whitetip & silky sharks</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 20 (02) <i>Requirement to release oceanic whitetip & silky sharks asap</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 20 (03) <i>If oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to government or discarded</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 21 (01-07) <i>Prohibit purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2019-04 23 <i>Report on Implementation of CMM 2019-04 Sharks (Part 2 Annual Report)</i>	Report	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2019-05 (04-06, 08, 10) <i>Prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing mobulid rays</i>	Implementation	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021, RY2022)
CMM 2020-02 05 <i>Pacific bluefin required report</i>	Report	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021)
CMM 2020-02 11 <i>Pacific bluefin required report on implementation</i>	Report	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2021)

55. Some areas of capacity assistance were identified by certain CCMs in their Annual Report Part II covering RY 2021 and RY 2022 and that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2023 are listed in the table below. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY2018 and are continuing in RY 2021 and RY 2022 (#).

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 and 2022 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 01-03	French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory. Indonesia 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

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 and 2022 reporting year
General Provisions	<p>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. http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219 http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238"</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>Kiribati 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>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and therefore supports the measure</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga cooperate at regional and sub regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS Fisheries.</p> <p>Vanuatu: 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 and 2022 reporting year
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 04-05</p> <p>Capacity development for personnel</p>	<p>Fiji still needs trainings and attachments in the following areas: 1) prosecution 2) Data Analysis 3) MCS</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati is a small island country with limited resources to manage its vast EEZ.</p> <p>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and therefore supports the measure</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga: 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>Vanuatu: As mentioned earlier, requests have been submitted for assistance on observer EM related training and support.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 06-07</p> <p>Assistance with technology transfers</p>	<p>FSM: National IMS Development/FIMS Development/TUFMN2 development/EM/ER initiatives. Trialing of Starboard AIS System.</p> <p>Fiji is looking towards 100% vessel coverage on E-Reporting and is working very closely with SPC on the ground to achieve this.</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati as small island developing states depend much on technology assistance from regional agencies and development partners.</p> <p>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and therefore supports the measure</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga: 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>Vanuatu: 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 and 2022 reporting year
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 08-09</p> <p>Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</p>	<p>FSM: Participation in Implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring, CDS, EM/ER, PSM,FAD Biodegradable material and sharing of MCS data when necessary.</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati: Kiribati is small island with limited resources, hence unable to provides further assistance while concentrating effort within national jurisdiction only.</p> <p>RMI 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>Nauru is a SIDS itself and therefore supports the measure</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>PNG: Adopted CMMs that are applicable and consistent to the national obligations and existing fishery.</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga cooperate at regional and sub-regional initiatives to support the development of SIDs Fisheries</p> <p>Vanuatu will require capacity assistance from the Secretariat to ensure compliance with the measure, with much focus on legislation and policy text review, incorporating principles stipulated under the Convention, CMMs and relevant commission decisions.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 10-11</p> <p>Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance</p>	<p>FSM: - Bilateral or multilateral Surveillance Operation arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FFA & PNA observer program, - subregional surveillance operations - FSM, RMI and Palau tri lateral operations - NTSA bilateral activities - U.S and FSM ships rider agreement <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati: 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>RMI 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>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2021 and 2022 reporting year
	<p>Nauru is a SIDS itself and recognise SIDS fisheries development needs and assist through FSMA arrangement.</p> <p>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Vanuatu will require capacity assistance from the Secretariat and relevant regional agencies and donor partners to ensure compliance with the measure.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paragraphs 12-18 Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access</p>	<p>FSM: PNA market related initiatives - MSC, VDS,CDS,EM/ER,PSM processes in place</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>RMI 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>New Caledonia received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance.</p> <p>Vanuatu will require capacity assistance from the Secretariat and relevant regional agencies and donor partners to ensure compliance with the measure.</p>
<p>CMM 2017-03 paragraphs 03-06, 11, 12 Observer Safety CMM</p>	<p>Cook Islands: Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require legislation changes #</p>

Appendix 2: 2023 Final Compliance and Monitoring Report (for 2021 and 2022 activities)

Obligation Category: Quantitative Limits (QL) Implementation (IM) Report (RP)

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
CMM 2006-04: SW Striped Marlin					
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Para 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">QL</p> <p><i>Limit number of fishing vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S to 2000 – 2004 levels</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Para 4</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">RP</p> <p><i>Annual catches of MLS (bycatch), and annual numbers of vessels</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
<i>fishing for MLS south of 15S and their catch levels</i>	22. Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
CMM 2009-03: Swordfish					
Para 1 QL <i>Limit number of vessels fishing for SWO south of 20S to the number in any one year between 2000-2005</i>	21. Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
	22. Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para 2 QL <i>Limit the catch of SWO by its vessels in area south of 20S to the amount in any one year during 2000-2006</i>	21. Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
	22. Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
<p><i>Para 3</i></p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>CCMs shall not shift their fishing effort for SWO to the area north of 20°S</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
<p><i>Para 8</i></p> <p>RP</p> <p><i>Report annually the number of vessels that fished for SWO and total catch of SWO - in AR Pt.1</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Indonesia, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu United States, Vanuatu</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Indonesia, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu United States, Vanuatu</p>				

CMM 2009-06: Transshipment

<p align="center">Para 11</p> <p align="center">RP</p> <p align="center"><i>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)</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Liberia, Panama</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Liberia, Panama</p>				
<p align="center">Para 29</p> <p align="center">QL</p> <p align="center"><i>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</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>				

<p><i>conditions identified by the Commission.</i></p>	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>				
<p>Para 34 QL <i>Ban on high seas transshipment, unless a CCM has determined impracticability in accordance with para 37 guidelines, and has advised the Commission of such</i></p>	<p>21. China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Liberia, Panama, Thailand</p>				
	<p>22. China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Liberia, Panama, Thailand</p>				
<p>Para 35 (a) (ii) RP <i>Flag CCM's notification to the Secretariat on its flag vessels that are authorised to transship on the high seas</i></p>	<p>21. China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Liberia, Panama, Thailand</p>				
	<p>22. China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Liberia, Panama, Thailand</p>				
<p>Para 35 (a) (iii)</p>	<p>21. China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei,</p>				

<p>RP WCPFC Transshipment Advance Notification (including fields in Annex III)</p>	United States, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama,				
	<p>22. China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama,</p>				
<p>Para 35 (a) (iv) RP WCPFC Transshipment Declaration (including information in Annex I)</p>	<p>21. China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama,</p>				
	<p>22. China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama,</p>				
CMM 2010-01: North Pacific Striped Marlin					
<p>Para 5 QL NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011</p>	<p>21. China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
	<p>22. China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
CMM 2011-03: Protection of Cetaceans from Purse Seine Fishing					
<p>Para 1 IM Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to</p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Indonesia, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New</p>				

<i>commencement of the set</i>	Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua				
	22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua	Indonesia			
Para 2 IM <i>Requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including incident reporting requirements</i>	21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Indonesia, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua				
	22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon			Vanuatu	

	Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua				
CMM 2014-02: Vessel Monitoring System					
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Para 9(a)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union Federated States of Micronesia, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>	<p>Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Panama</p>	<p>Japan Philippines Vanuatu</p>		<p>Japan [5] Philippines [5] Vanuatu [5]</p>
	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia</p>	<p>Korea</p>	<p>Fiji Japan Nauru Philippines Solomon Islands Vanuatu Panama</p>		<p>Fiji [2] Japan [6], Nauru [2] Philippines [6], Solomon Islands [2] Vanuatu [6] Panama [2]</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Para 9(a) – VMS SSPs para 2.8</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Provision of ALC/MTU 'VTAF' data</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu,</p>				

	Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama				
<i>Para 9(a) – VMS SSPs para 2.8</i> RP <i>Provision of ALC/MTU 'VTAF' data</i>	22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama				
CMM 2015-02: South Pacific Albacore					
<i>Para 4</i> RP <i>SP albacore required report</i>	21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu				
	22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, United States, Vanuatu				

CMM 2018-04: Mitigation Measures for Sea Turtle					
<p>Para 6</p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>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</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Indonesia, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p>			French Polynesia [2]	
	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p>			French Polynesia [3]	
<p>Para 7(a)</p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>Sea Turtle mitigation requirements for shallow-set longline vessels</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, United States</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, United States</p>				
CMM 2018-06: Record of Fishing Vessels					
<p>Para 3</p> <p>IM</p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia,</p>				

<p><i>CCMs should only allow its fishing vessels to be used for fishing, if properly authorized</i></p>	<p>Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p> <p>Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu,</p> <p>Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>				
<p>Para 9</p> <p>RP</p> <p><i>Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru,</p>				

<p><i>previous year, noting "fished" or "did not fish" for each vessel</i></p>	<p>New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p> <p>Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p> <p>Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>				
CMM 2019-04: Sharks					
<p>Para 5</p> <p>RP</p> <p><i>Report to describe, where applicable, any alternative measures from those in CMM 2019-04 SHARKS which</i></p>	<p>21. China, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands,</p>	Wallis and Futuna		Vanuatu	

<p><i>are applied by CCMs in areas under national jurisdiction (provide in Part 2 Annual Report)</i></p>	<p>Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau,</p>				
	<p>22. China, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau,</p>		Wallis and Futuna	Vanuatu [2]	Wallis and Futuna [2]
<p>Para 7-10</p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>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) - including consideration of para 10 endorsed alternative measures</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>	Philippines		Vanuatu	
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati,</p>		Philippines	Vanuatu [2]	Philippines [2]

	Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand				
<p><i>Para 11</i></p> <p>RP</p> <p><i>Report annually on shark fins attached/alternative measures</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand</p>	Philippines		Vanuatu	
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands,</p>		Philippines	Vanuatu [2]	Philippines [2]

	Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand				
<p><i>Para 11</i></p> <p>DL</p> <p><i>Report annually on shark fins attached/alternative measures</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Ecuador, El Salvador, Thailand</p>	<p>Canada Cook Islands Liberia Panama Curacao Liberia Nicaragua</p>		Vanuatu	
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>	<p>Papua New Guinea</p>	<p>Curacao Liberia</p>	<p>Vanuatu [2]</p>	<p>Curacao [2] Liberia [2]</p>
<p><i>Para 12</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union,</p>				

<p>IM</p> <p><i>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</i></p>	<p>Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p> <p>Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama,</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States,</p> <p>Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama</p>	<p>Philippines</p>		<p>Vanuatu</p>	
<p>Para 13</p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>Take measures necessary to ensure carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand,</p>			<p>Vanuatu</p>	

<p><i>transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify</i></p>	<p>Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Tokelau, Liberia, Panama</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Tokelau, Liberia, Panama</p>	<p>Philippines</p>		<p>Vanuatu [2]</p>	
<p>Para 14-15 IM <i>Implement at least one option to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries, and notify choice and whenever the selected option is changed</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States</p>			<p>Vanuatu</p>	
	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union,</p>			<p>Vanuatu [2]</p>	

	Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States				
<i>Para 16</i> IM <i>CCMs shall develop and report their management plans for longline fisheries targetting sharks in their Part 2 Annual Report</i>	21. Japan, Chinese Taipei			Vanuatu	
<i>Para 16</i> RP <i>CCMs shall develop and report their management plans for longline fisheries targetting sharks in their Part 2 Annual Report</i>	22. Japan, Chinese Taipei			Vanuatu [2]	
<i>Para 18</i> IM <i>Ensure that sharks that are caught but are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel</i>	21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands,	Philippines United States			

<p><i>in order to facilitate species identification (only applicable where observer or EM camera is present, and where safe for crew and observers)</i></p>	<p>Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu</p>		<p>Philippines United States</p>	<p>Vanuatu</p>	<p>Philippines [2] United States [2]</p>
<p><i>Para 20(01)</i> IM <i>Prohibit retaining/transhipping/storing/landing oceanic whitetip & silky sharks</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand,</p>			<p>Vanuatu</p>	

	Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand				
<p><i>Para 20(02)</i></p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>Requirement to release oceanic whitetip & silky sharks asap</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua</p>	Philippines			
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States,</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua</p>		Philippines	Vanuatu	Philippines [2]

<p><i>Para 20(03)</i></p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>If oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to government or discarded</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador</p>	Nicaragua		Vanuatu	
	<p>22. China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States,</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador</p>	Philippines	Nicaragua	Vanuatu [2]	Nicaragua [2]
<p><i>Para 21(01 - 07)</i></p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>Prohibit purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama</p>	Indonesia			

	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama</p>	Nicaragua	Indonesia	Vanuatu	Indonesia [2]
<p><i>Para 21(04)</i></p> <p>RP</p> <p><i>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)</i></p>	<p>21. Japan</p>				
	<p>22. Japan</p>				
<p><i>Para 23</i></p> <p>RP</p> <p><i>Report on Implementation of CMM 2019-04 Sharks (Part 2 Annual Report)</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau,</p>	NOT ASSESSED			

	<p>Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna</p> <p>Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>	
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna</p> <p>Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>	NOT ASSESSED
<p><i>Para 23</i></p> <p>DL</p> <p><i>Report on Implementation of CMM 2019-04 Sharks (Part 2 Annual Report)</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau,</p>	NOT ASSESSED

	Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand				
	22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand				NOT ASSESSED
CMM 2019-05: Mobulid Rays					
<i>Para 4-6, 8, 10</i> IM <i>Prohibit retaining/transhipping/storing/landing mobulid rays</i>	21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu,	Federated States of Micronesia Marshall Islands Papua New Guinea Samoa United States Liberia		Vanuatu	

	Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand	Nicaragua			
	22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand	Ecuador	Federated States of Micronesia Papua New Guinea Samoa United States Liberia Nicaragua	Vanuatu [2]	Federated States of Micronesia [2] Papua New Guinea [2] Samoa [2] United States [2] Liberia [2] Nicaragua [2]
CMM 2019-08 / CMM 2021-04: Charter Notification					
<i>Para 2 RP Charter notification report</i>	21. Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, United States				
	22. Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Island, Samoa, United States	Kiribati Papua New Guinea Solomon Islands			
<i>Para 7 RP Charter notification report</i>	21. Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, United States				
	22. Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Island, Papua New				

	Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, United States				
CMM 2020-01 / CMM 2021-01: Tropical Tunas					
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>20-01 Para 16 / 21-01 Para 14</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IM</p> <p><i>Purse seine 3 month FAD closure (1 July - 30 September)</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>		Indonesia Philippines		Indonesia [4] Philippines [4]
	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>		Indonesia Philippines		Indonesia [5] Philippines [5]
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>20-01 Para 17 / 21-01 Para 15</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IM</p> <p><i>Implementation of two additional month high seas FAD closure (April-May or Nov-Dec)</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federates States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>				

	<p>22. Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federates States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>				
<p>20-01 Para 17 / 21-01 Para 15</p> <p>RP</p> <p><i>Advice on choice of two additional month high seas FAD closure (April-May or Nov-Dec)</i></p>	<p>21. China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federates States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu El Salvador</p>				
	<p>22. China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federates States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu El Salvador</p>				
<p>20-01 Para 25 / 21-01 Para 24</p> <p>QL</p>	<p>21. Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Philippines,</p>		Wallis and Futuna		Wallis and Futuna [5]

Purse seine EEZ limits (for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna) and advice from other coastal CCMs of EEZ limits to be applied	Samoa, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, PNA				
	22. Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, PNA and Tokelau,		Wallis and Futuna		Wallis and Futuna [6]
20-01 Para 26 / 21-01 Para 25 QL High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S	21. China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua				
	22. China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States Ecuador, El, Salvador, Nicaragua				
20-01 Para 39 / 21-01 Para 37 QL Bigeye longline catch limits for 2021 and 2022, with adjustment to be made for any overage	21. China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei,		United States		
	22. China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States				
20-01 Para 41 / 21-01 Para 38	21. China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States				

<p>RP <i>Bigeye longline catch required report</i></p>	<p>22. China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
<p>20-01 Para 43 / 21-01 Para 40</p> <p>QL <i>Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand, Philippines</p>				
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand, Philippines</p>				
<p>20-01 Para 45 / 21-01 Para 42</p> <p>QL <i>Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S</i></p>	<p>21.Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua</p>				
	<p>22.Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua</p>				
<p>20-01 Para 47 / 21-01 Para 44</p> <p>QL <i>Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye above the current level</i></p>	<p>21. China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
	<p>22. China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				

<i>(applying domestic quotas are exempt)</i>					
<p>20-01 Para 48 / 21-01 Para 45</p> <p>QL</p> <p><i>Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targeting 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)</i></p>	<p>21. China, Japan, Philippines, United States</p>				
	<p>22. China, Japan, Philippines, United States</p>				
<p>Att 2 (3)</p> <p>RP</p> <p><i>Philippines vessels Entry/Exit reports for HSP1-SMA</i></p>			Philippines		Philippines [4]
			Philippines		Philippines [4]
<p>Att 2 (5-6)</p> <p>IM</p> <p><i>Specific requirements for deploying observers on Philippines vessels fishing in HSP1-SMA</i></p>	Philippines				
	Philippines				
CMM 2020-02 / CMM 2021-02: Pacific Bluefin Tuna					
	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand,</p>				

<p>20-02 Para 2(1) / 21-02 Para 02</p> <p>QL</p> <p>Total effort by vessels for Pacific bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N</p>	<p>Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
<p>20-02 Para 2(2) / 21-02 Para 03</p> <p>QL</p> <p>Catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30kg shall be reduced to 50% of 2002-04 level. Overage or underage may be used in following year</p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States</p>				
<p>20-02 Para 3</p> <p>IM</p> <p>Every possible measure to be taken not to increase catches of Pacific bluefin >30kg from 2002-04 levels with some exceptions</p>	<p>21. Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei</p>				
<p>21-02 Para 04</p> <p>QL</p> <p>Pacific Bluefin tuna every possible measure to be taken not to increase catches of BFT</p>	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, European Union, New Zealand, Philippines, United States</p>				

>30kg from 2002-04 levels					
20-02 Para 5 / 21-02 Para 8 RP <i>Pacific bluefin required report</i>	21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States,			Vanuatu	
	22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu				
20-02 Para 11 / 21-02 14 RP <i>Pacific bluefin required report on implementation</i>	21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States			Vanuatu	
	22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu				
Scientific Data					
Section 01 – Estimate of Annual Catches RP	21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea,				

	Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
	22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
<i>Section 02 – Number of Active Vessels RP</i>	21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon				

	Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
	22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
<i>Section 03 – Operational Level Catch and Effort Data</i> RP	21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador			Indonesia [6]	
	22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan,			Indonesia [7]	

	<p>Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador</p>				
<p><i>Section 05 – Size Composition RP</i></p>	<p>21. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador</p>	NOT ASSESSED			
	<p>22. Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>	NOT ASSESSED			

Appendix 3 - 2023 Final Compliance Monitoring Report Aggregated tables from the WCPFC online compliance case file system

Summary tables derived from the online compliance case file system and intended to provide summaries by topic of flag CCMs responses to compliance cases in the online compliance case file system. Information is based on ROP observer data as at 18th May 2023 on Article 25(2) notifications, and CCMs updates in the WCPFC online compliance case file system as at 27th July 2023.

I. Overview of Article 25(2) and observer-initiated cases

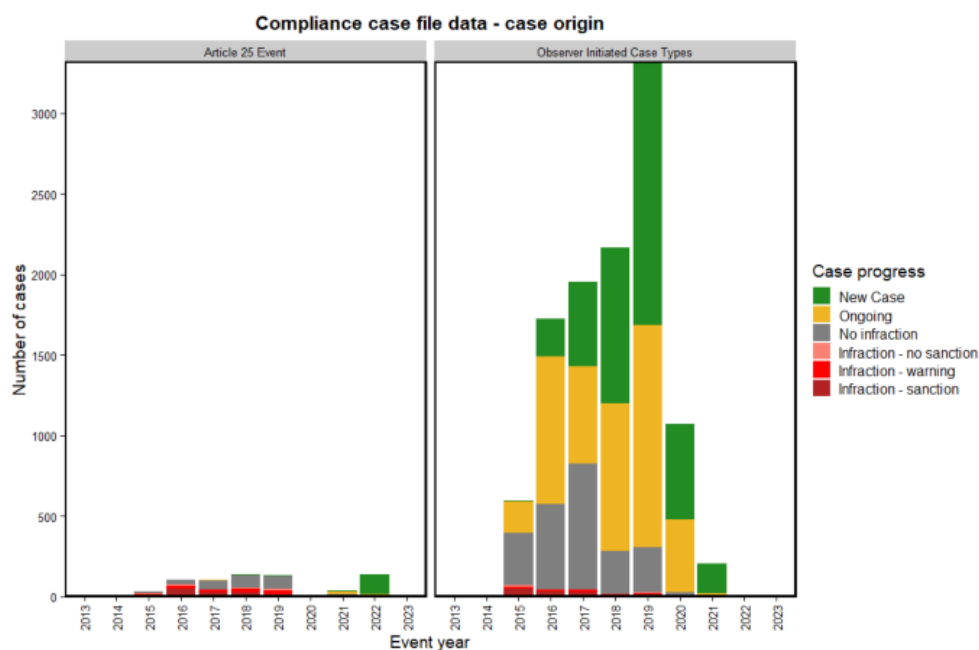


Figure 1: Summary of the Article 25(2) and observer-initiated cases between 2015 and May 2023 showing the case progress and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

Table 1: The breakdown in Article 25(2) and observer-initiated case number by year and with sub-total before including PAI and CWS cases.

	Case type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Article 25 (2)	AIR	0	1	1	6	21	3	1	0	6	108	0
	HSBI	0	1	24	96	67	116	130	5	35	28	0
	PORT	0	0	3	0	6	4	0	2	0	0	3
	VMS	6	2	5	3	0	6	0	1	0	0	0
	OTH	0	0	1	3	9	8	0	4	0	1	0
	Total	6	4	34	108	103	137	131	12	41	137	3
Observer Initiated Case	FAI	0	0	255	229	646	69	197	4	7	0	0
	OAI	0	0	151	64	38	77	80	29	6	0	0
	SHK	0	0	191	44	34	72	34	11	0	0	0
	POL	0	0	0	0	0	0	415	158	18	0	0
	Sub-total	0	0	597	337	718	218	726	202	31	0	0
	CWS	0	0	0	478	561	699	1,187	378	104	0	0
	PAI	0	0	0	911	677	1,248	1,408	491	71	0	0
	Sub-total	0	0	0	1,389	1,238	1,947	2,595	869	175	0	0

II. Information about vessels that have generated CCFS cases

Table 2: Count of individual flagged vessels that have generated CCFS cases by event year and vessel type.

Vessel type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bunker	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fish carrier	0	1	2	0	0	0	8	2
Longliner	92	67	88	160	111	40	112	3
Others	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pole and line	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner	118	212	255	244	252	210	241	2
Support vessel	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	0

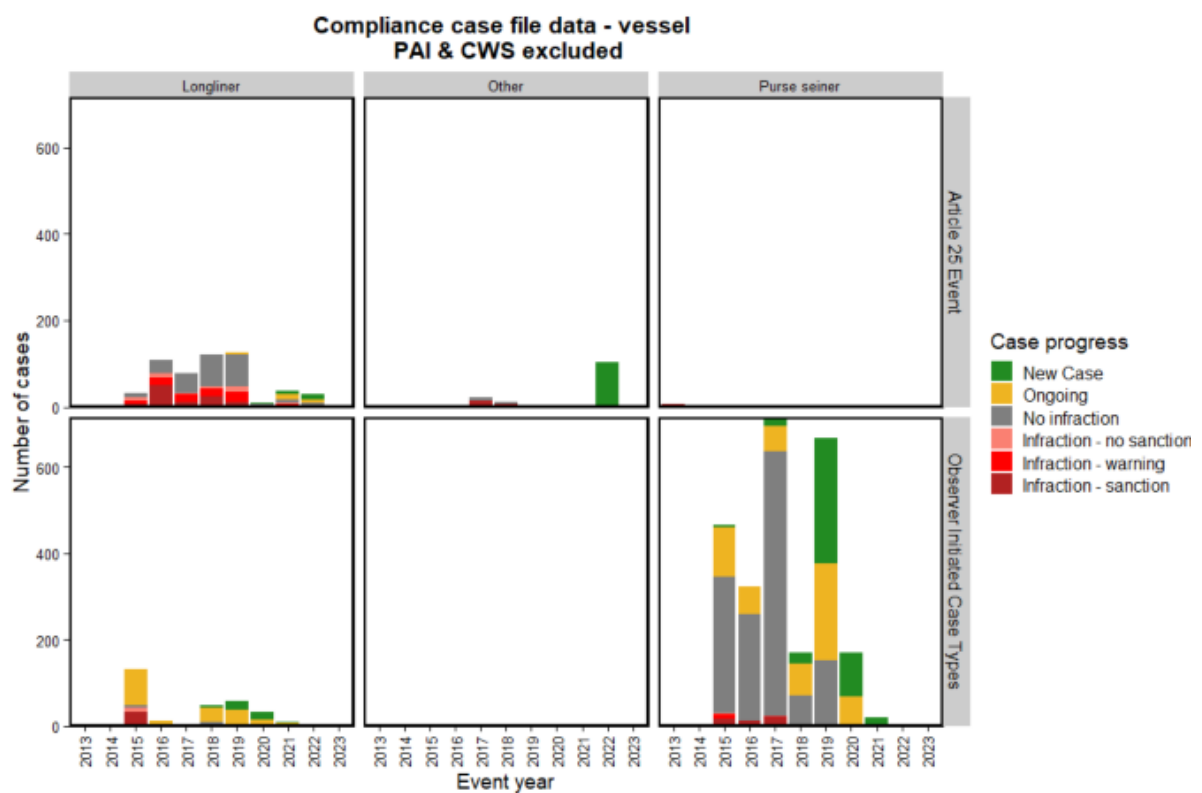


Figure 2: The number of cases by vessel type that are CCM initiated and observer-initiated, excluding PAI and CWS cases by vessel type.

III. Overview of Article 25(2) cases



Figure 3: Summary of the Article 25(2) cases between 2013 and May 2023 showing the case progress and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

Table 3: The breakdown in Article 25(2) cases by year.

	Case type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Article 25 (2)	AIR	0	1	1	6	21	3	1	0	6	108	0
	HSBI	0	1	24	96	67	116	130	5	35	28	0
	PORT	0	0	3	0	6	4	0	2	0	0	3
	VMS	6	2	5	3	0	6	0	1	0	0	0
	OTH	0	0	1	3	9	8	0	4	0	1	0
	Total	6	4	34	108	103	137	131	12	41	137	3

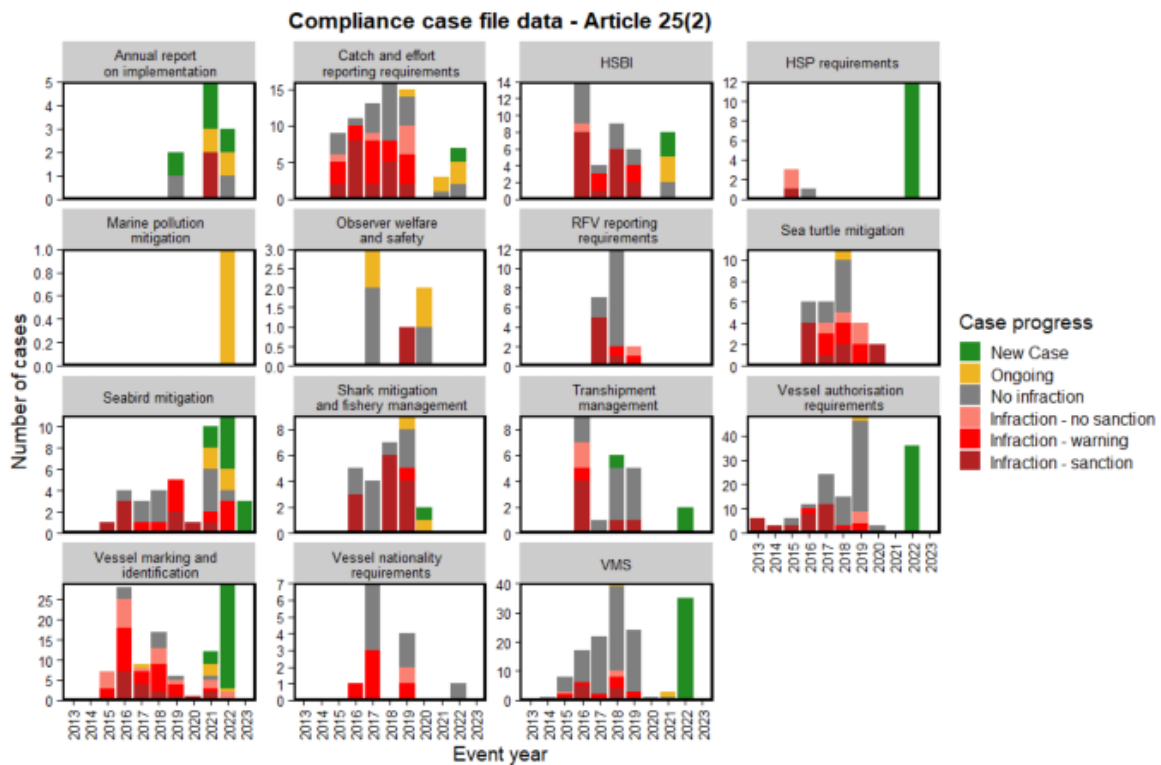


Figure 4: The number of Article 25(2) cases in the CCFS by CMM theme type.

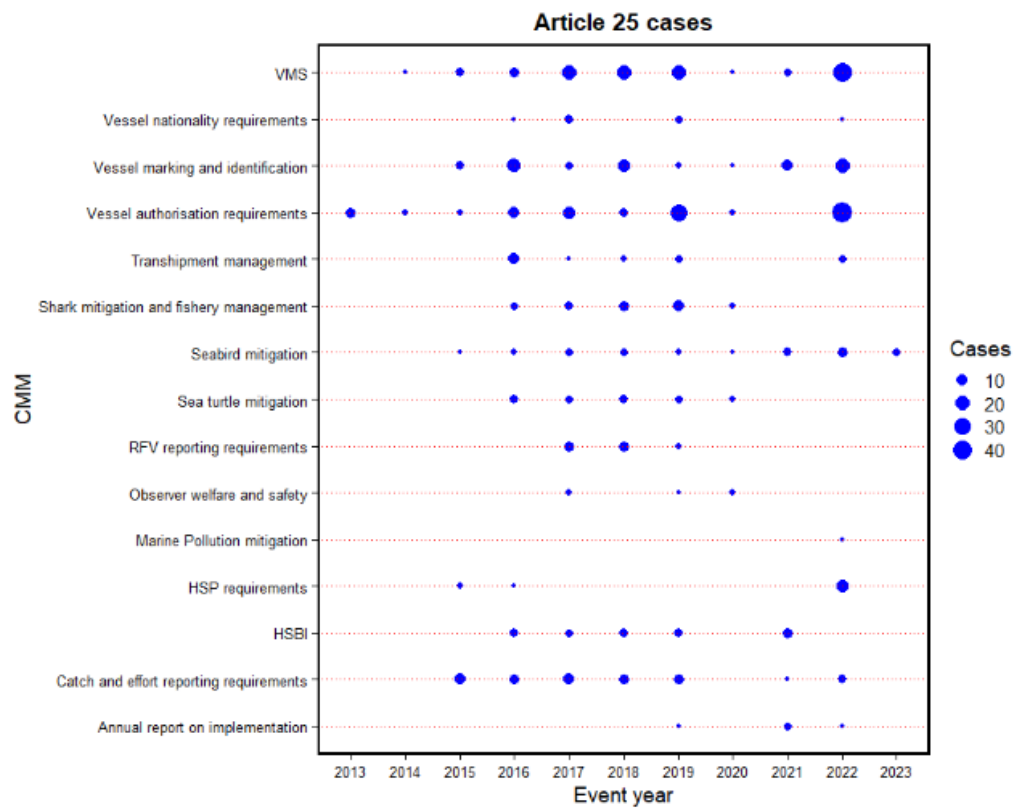


Figure 5: Article 25(2) cases by CMM theme type from 2013-2023.

IV. Overview of Observer-Initiated cases

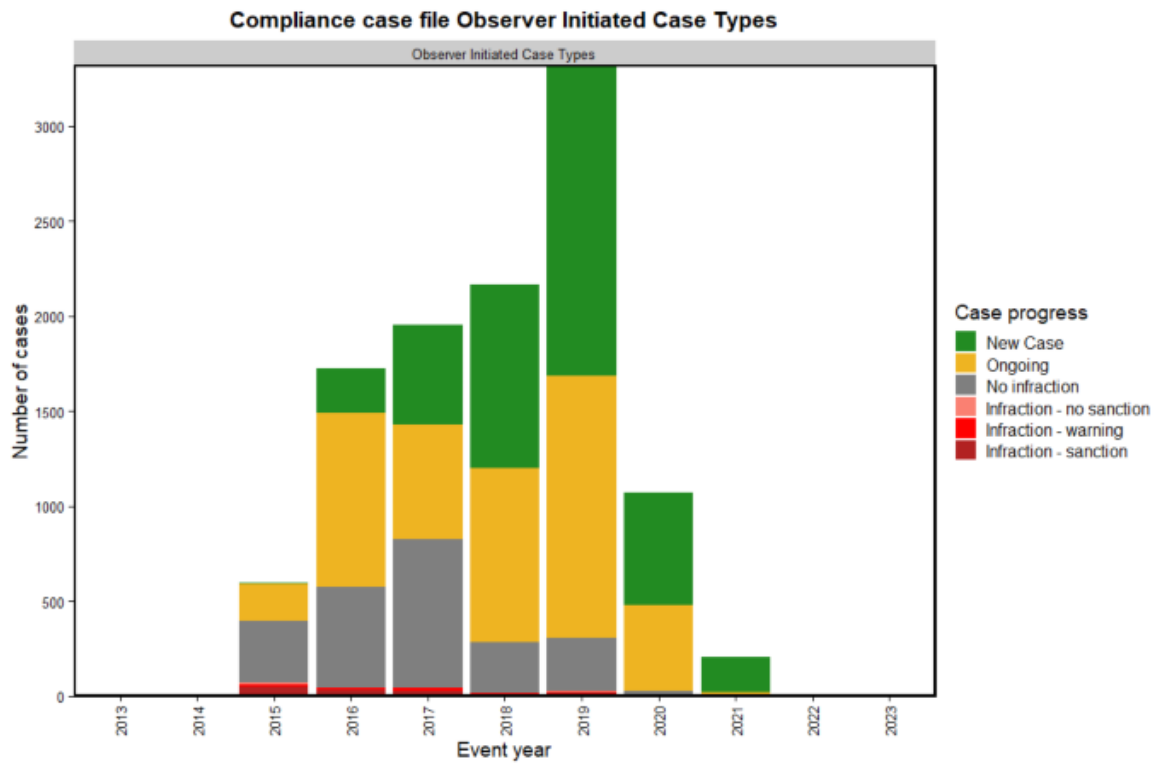


Figure 6: Summary of the observer-initiated case number between 2015 and May 2023 showing the case progress and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

Table 4: The breakdown in observer-initiated case numbers by year, with sub-total before including PAI and CWS cases.

	Case type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Observer Initiated Case	FAI	0	0	255	229	646	69	197	4	7	0	0
	OAI	0	0	151	64	38	77	80	29	6	0	0
	SHK	0	0	191	44	34	72	34	11	0	0	0
	POL	0	0	0	0	0	0	415	158	18	0	0
	Sub-total	0	0	597	337	718	218	726	202	31	0	0
	CWS	0	0	0	478	561	699	1,187	378	104	0	0
	PAI	0	0	0	911	677	1,248	1,408	491	71	0	0
	Sub-total	0	0	0	1,389	1,238	1,947	2,595	869	175	0	0

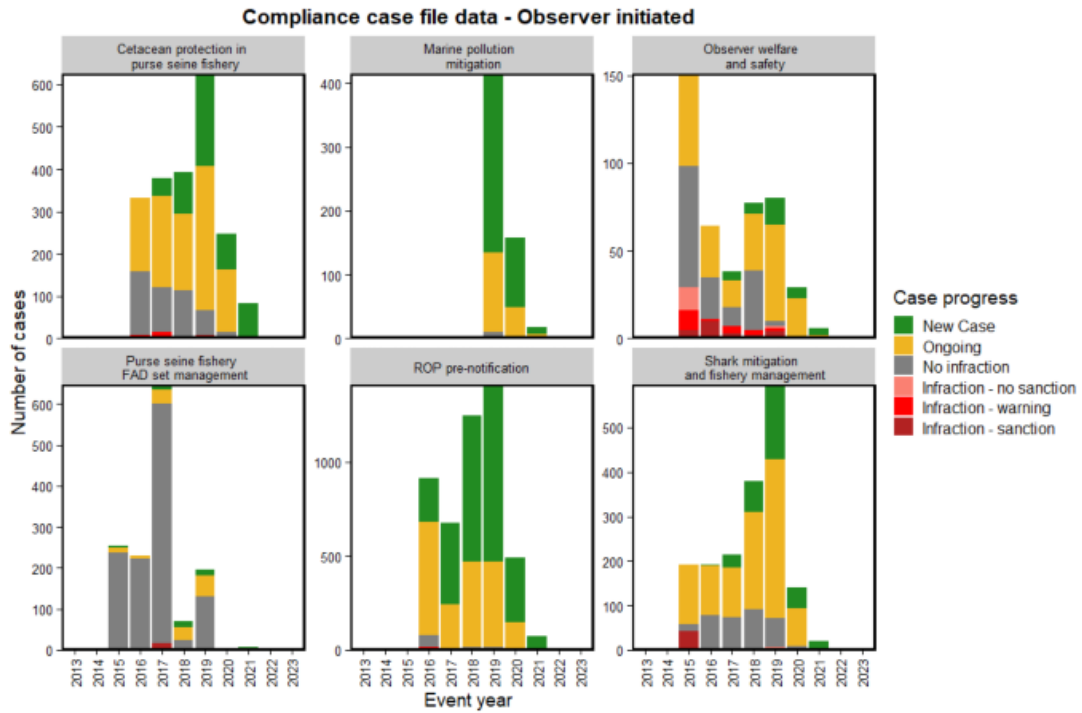


Figure 7: The number of observer-initiated cases in the CCFS by CMM theme type.

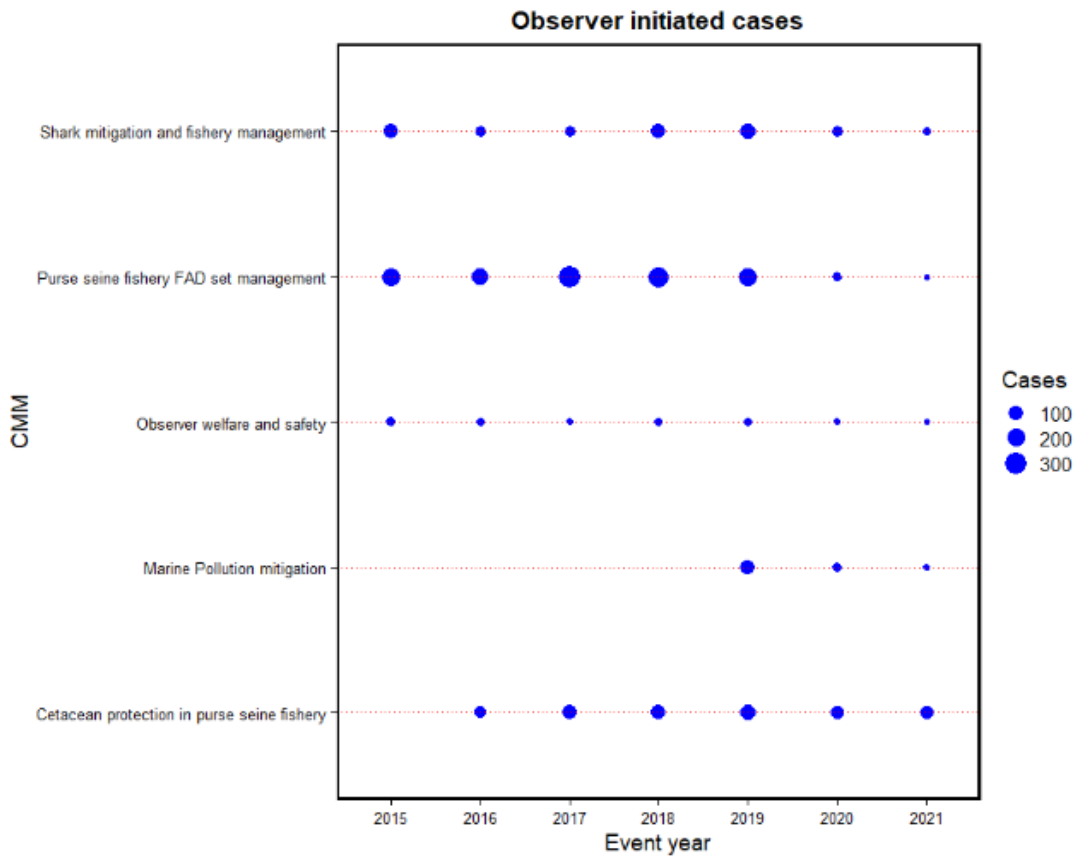


Figure 8: Observer-initiated cases by CMM theme type from 2013-2023.

FAI: Set Alleged infringement case snapshot summary

Data presented in these analyses are based on available ROP data as at 18th May 2023 and CCMs replies to CCFS cases that had been reviewed by the secretariat as at the 27th July 2023.

Cases for alleged infringements related to setting on FADs during the FAD closure period, as identified in the ROP data.

Cases were generated where a RPO observer has reported instances during a WCPFC ROP trip where purse seine vessel was observed to have made an associated set in a location and during a period when the vessel was not expected through provisions of the TT CMM to be permitted to set on FADs.

Obligation: CMM 2021-01 14,15

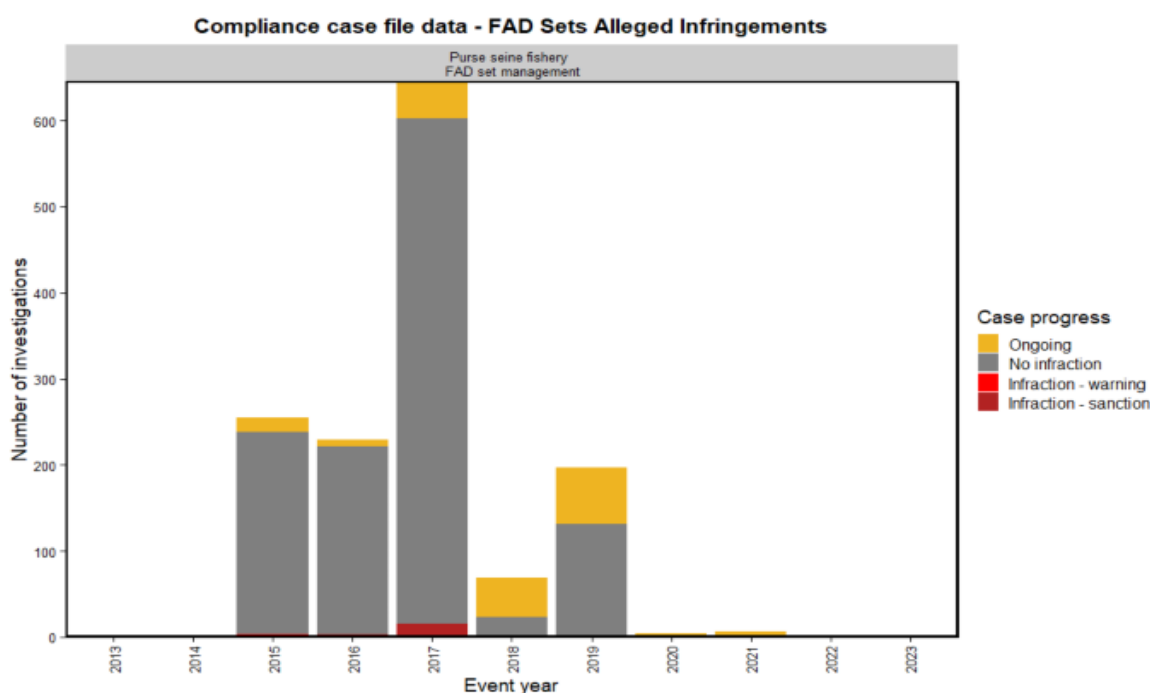


Figure 9: The number of observer-initiated FAD alleged infringement cases (FAI) and the case progress.

Table 5: The number of observer-initiated FAD alleged infringement cases (FAI) and the number of ROP observer reports received (value in parenthesis).

FAI - All											
Status	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Case	0	0	6 (0)	0	12 (4)	13 (1)	15 (0)	2 (0)	4 (0)	0	0
Investigation in Progress	0	0	11 (0)	7 (3)	32 (8)	33 (11)	51 (6)	2 (2)	3 (0)	0	0
No infraction	0	0	235 (24)	219 (56)	566 (84)	22 (6)	131 (8)	0	0	0	0
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infraction - warning	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Infraction - sanction	0	0	2 (2)	3 (3)	16 (16)	0	0	0	0	0	0

OIA: Observer Obstruction Alleged Infringements snapshot summary

Data presented in these analyses are based on available ROP data as at 18th May 2023 and CCMs replies to CCFS cases that had been reviewed by the secretariat as at the 27th July 2023.

Observer Trip Monitoring Codes

RS-A - Did the operator or any crew member assault, obstruct, resist, delay, refuse boarding to, intimidate or interfere with observer in the performance of their duties.

RS-B - Request that an event not be reported by the observer.

RS-D - Did the operator fail to provide the observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to the observer or the observers government, with food, accommodation and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those available to an officer on board the vessel.

Obligation: CMM 2018-05 15(g)
(formally CMM 2007-01 14(vii))

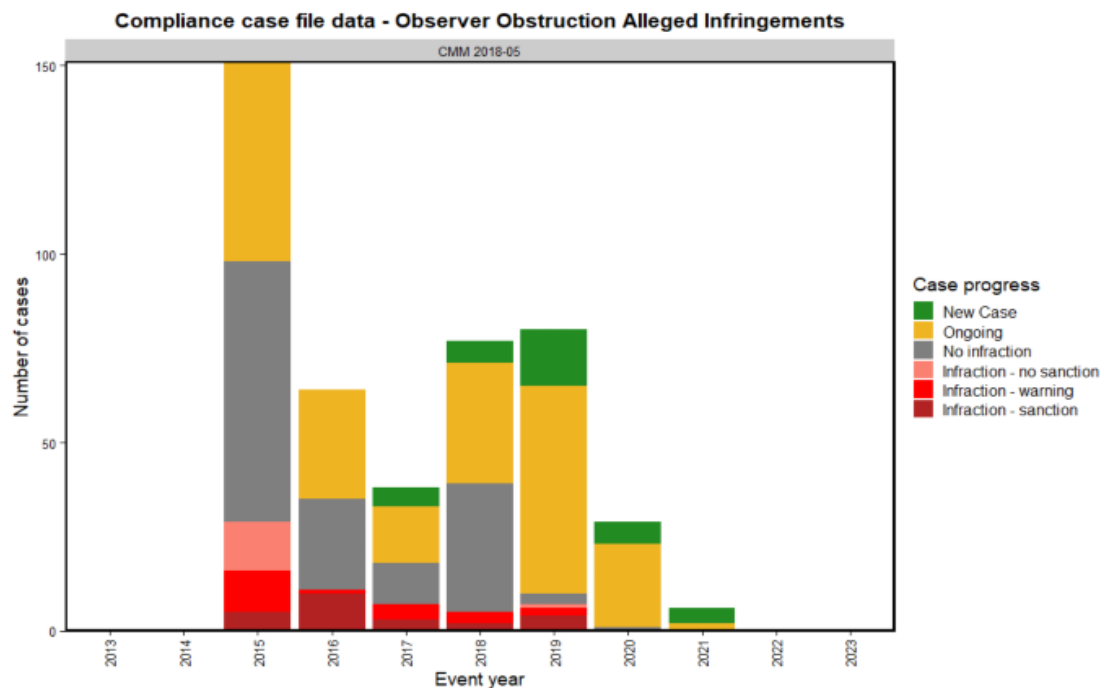


Figure 10: The number of observer-initiated observer obstruction cases (OIA) and the case progress.

Table 6: The number of observer-initiated observer obstruction cases (OAI) and the number of ROP observer reports received (value in parenthesis).

OAI - All											
Status	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Case	0	0	0	0	5 (2)	6 (1)	15 (0)	8 (1)	4 (0)	0	0
Investigation in Progress	0	0	53 (4)	29 (3)	15 (5)	32 (11)	55 (18)	22 (11)	2 (0)	0	0
No infraction	0	0	69 (68)	24 (21)	11 (10)	34 (34)	3 (3)	1 (1)	0	0	0
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	13 (13)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0
Infraction - warning	0	0	11 (11)	1 (1)	4 (4)	3 (3)	2 (1)	0	0	0	0
Infraction - sanction	0	0	5 (5)	10 (10)	3 (3)	2 (2)	4 (4)	0	0	0	0

SHK: Shark Catch Alleged Infringements snapshot summary

Data presented in these analyses are based on available ROP data as at 18th May 2023 and CCMs replies to CCFS cases that had been reviewed by the secretariat as at the 27th July 2023.

Cases for alleged infringements related to retention of oceanic white tip or silky sharks, or shark fining activity identified in ROP observer data.

Cases are generated where a ROP observer has reported instances during a WCPFC ROP trip where

- fishing vessel has caught an oceanic white tip or silky shark as identified by a specific species code (SP_code) in combination with an observed fate code (FATE_code) indicating retention is whole or in part.
- fishing vessel has caught shark as identified by a species code (SP_code) in combination with an observed fate code (FATE_code) indicating fining activity.

Obligation: CMM 2022-04

(formerly CMM 2010-07: Sharks, CMM 2011-04 Oceanic Whitetip Sharks, CMM 2013-08: Silky Sharks, and CMM 2019-04)

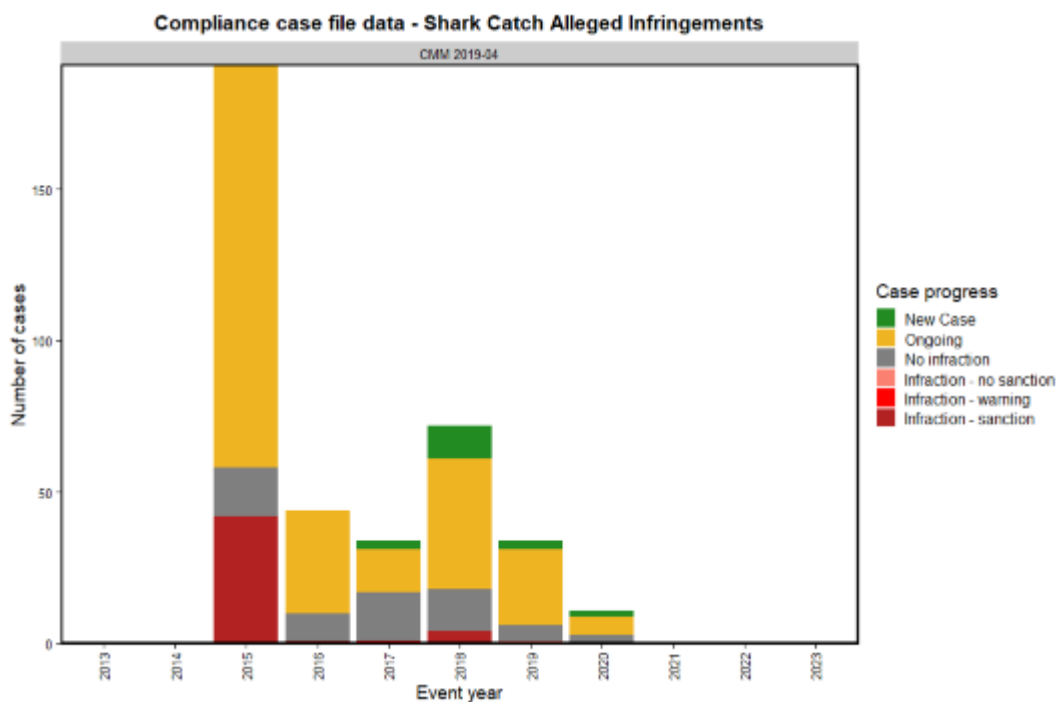


Figure 11: The number of observer-initiated shark-catch cases (SHK) and the case progress.

Table 7: The number of observer-initiated shark-catch cases (SHK) and the number of ROP observer reports received (value in parenthesis).

SHK - All											
Status	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Case	0	0	0	0	3 (2)	11 (5)	3 (0)	2 (0)	0	0	0
Investigation in Progress	0	0	133 (6)	34 (12)	14 (4)	43 (37)	25 (4)	6 (3)	0	0	0
No infraction	0	0	16 (16)	9 (9)	16 (16)	14 (14)	5 (5)	3 (3)	0	0	0
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0
Infraction - warning	0	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infraction - sanction	0	0	42 (42)	1 (1)	0	4 (4)	0	0	0	0	0

POL: Marine Pollution Infringements snapshot summary

Data presented in these analyses are based on available ROP data as at 18th May 2023 and CCMs replies to CCFS cases that had been reviewed by the secretariat as at the 27th July 2023.

Observer Trip Monitoring Codes

PN-A Dispose of any metals, plastics, chemicals or old fishing gear.

PN-B Discharge any oil.

PN-C Lose any fishing gear.

PN-D Abandon any fishing gear.

Obligation: CMM 2017-04 02, 03-07

(Cases commence in 2019, because CMM 2017-04 had an effective date of 1 January 2019.)

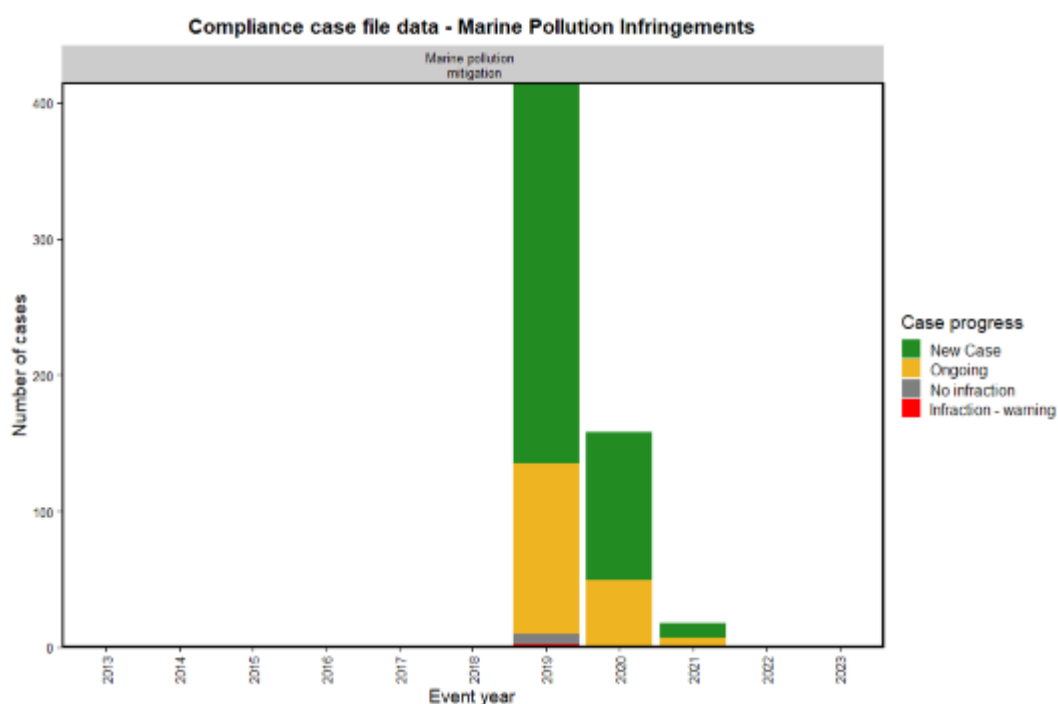


Figure 12: The number of observer-initiated pollution-related cases (POL) and the case progress.

Table 8: The number of observer-initiated pollution-related cases (POL) and the number of ROP observer reports received (value in parenthesis).

Status	POL - AI										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Case	0	0	0	0	0	0	280 (35)	109 (10)	11 (0)	0	0
Investigation in Progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	125 (22)	48 (4)	7 (0)	0	0
No infraction	0	0	0	0	0	0	8 (8)	1 (1)	0	0	0
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infraction - warning	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (1)	0	0	0	0
Infraction - sanction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CWS: Cetacean and Whale Shark Interactions snapshot summary

Data presented in these analyses are based on available ROP data as at 18th May 2023 and CCMs replies to CCFS cases that had been reviewed by the secretariat as at the 27th July 2023.

Relevant WCPFC requirements prohibit purse seine vessels from setting if a whale shark or cetacean is sighted prior to the commencement of the set; required reporting of any incidents of unintentional encircling; and guidelines for safe release.

Cases are generated where a ROP observer has reported instances during a WCPFC ROP trip where a cetacean or whale sharks as identified by a specific species code (SP_code) in combination with an observed fate code (FATE_code) indicates an interaction with the fishing vessels activity.

Obligation: CMM 2011-03

CMM 2022-04 (formally CMM 2012-04 and CMM 2019-04.)

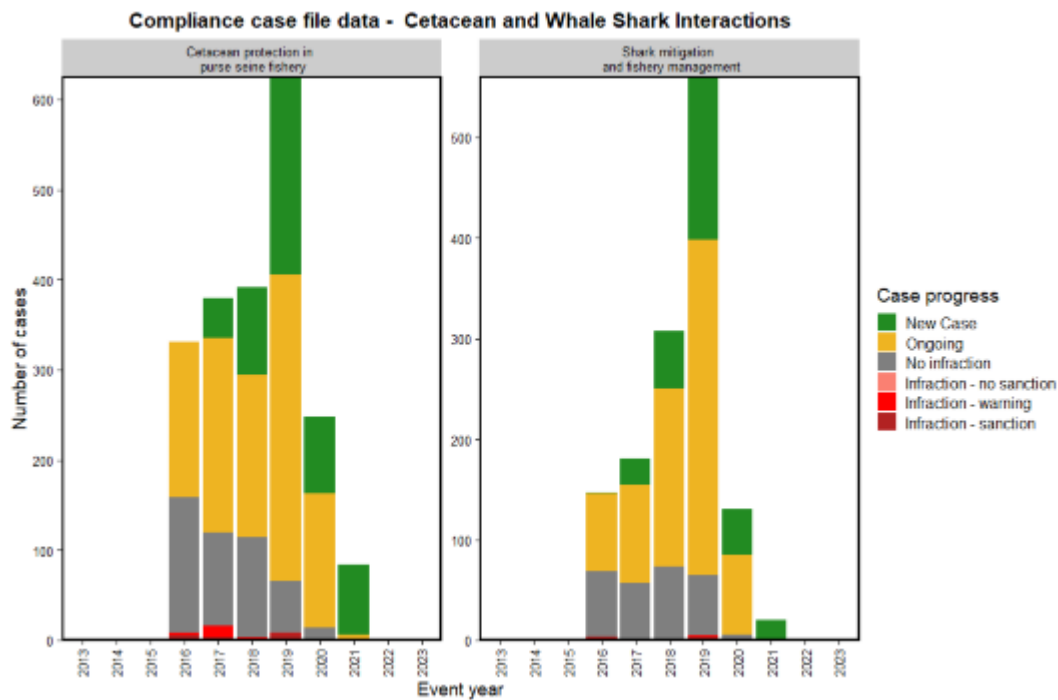


Figure 13: The number of observer-initiated cetacean and whale shark interactions in the purse seine fishery (CWS) and the case progress.

Table 9: The number of observer-initiated cetacean and whale shark interactions in the purse seine fishery (CWS) and the number of ROP observer reports received (value in parenthesis).

CWS - All											
Status	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Case	0	0	0	1 (0)	70 (18)	154 (5)	383 (4)	130 (11)	97 (0)	0	0
Investigation in Progress	0	0	0	250 (49)	314 (78)	368 (67)	673 (115)	228 (81)	6 (0)	0	0
No infraction	0	0	0	214 (208)	160 (160)	183 (182)	117 (115)	19 (19)	1 (0)	0	0
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Infraction - warning	0	0	0	4 (4)	14 (14)	1 (1)	3 (3)	0	0	0	0
Infraction - sanction	0	0	0	9 (9)	3 (3)	2 (2)	11 (11)	1 (1)	0	0	0

PAI: ROP Pre-Notification of those data elements (other than alleged observer obstruction incidents and marine pollution incidents) snapshot summary

Data presented in these analyses are based on available ROP data as at 18th May 2023 and CCMs replies to CCFS cases that had been reviewed by the secretariat as at the 27th July 2023.

Observer Trip Monitoring Codes

LC-A Inaccurately record retained "Target Species" in the vessel logs

LC-B Inaccurately record "Target Species" discards

LC-C Record target species inaccurately (e.g. combine bigeye/yellowfin/skipjack catch)

LC-E Inaccurately record retained bycatch species

LC-F Inaccurately record discarded bycatch species

LP-A Inaccurately record vessel position on vessel logsheets for sets, hauling and catch

LP-B Fail to report vessel positions to countries where required when entering and leaving an EEZ

NR-A Fish in areas where the vessel is not permitted to fish

NR-C Use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed

NR-E Transfer or tranship fish from or to another vessel

NR-G Fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where they were not authorized to fish

SI-B Interact (not land) with Species of Special Interest

SS-A Fail to monitor international safety frequencies

WC-A Fail to comply with any Commission CMMs

WC-B High-grade the catch

Obligation: []

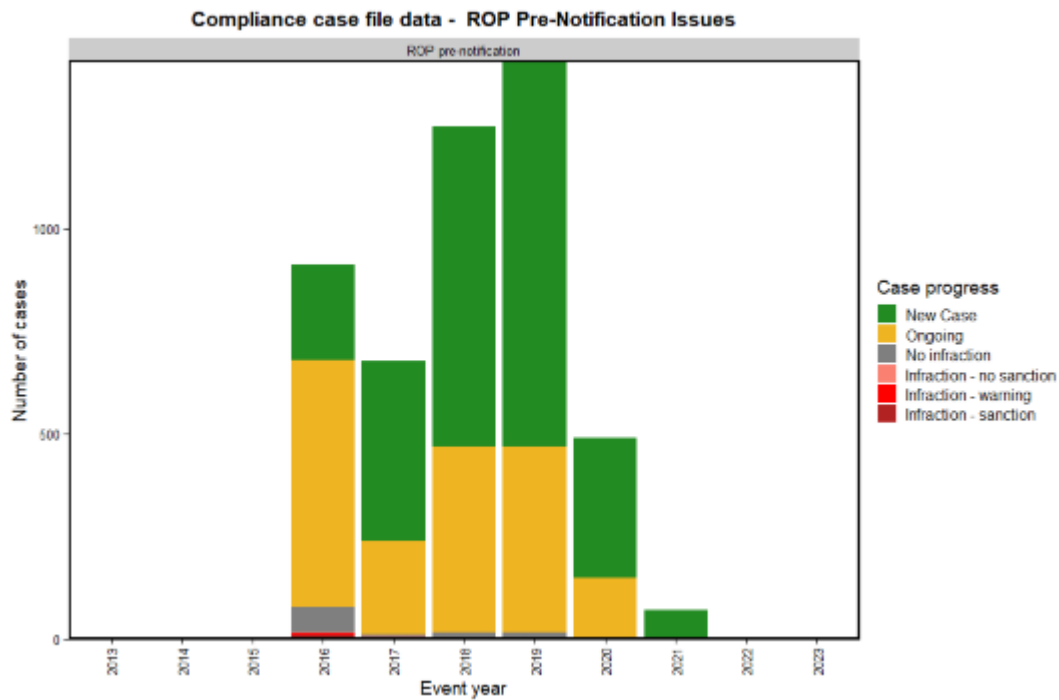


Figure 14: The number of observer-initiated pre-notification issues (PAI) and the case progress.

Table 10: The number of pre-notification issues (PAI) and the case progress.

Case progress	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
New Case	232	437	780	939	343	68
Ongoing	600	228	452	452	147	3
No infraction	62	6	11	16	1	0
Infraction - no sanction	2	1	0	0	0	0
Infraction - warning	5	2	4	1	0	0
Infraction - sanction	10	3	1	0	0	0

Table 11: The number of pre-notification issues (PAI) by case theme.

Theme	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ROP pre-notification	911	677	1248	1408	491	71
New cases >104 weeks	232	430	610	621	127	

V. Information about Outstanding cases > 104 weeks from the Online CCFS (CMM 2019-06 34)



Figure 15: The number of observer-initiated cases in the compliance case file system that have not been completed and are older than 104 weeks. Data is based on available ROP data as at 18th May 2023 and CCM replies that have been reviewed by the Secretariat as of 27th July 2023.

Table 12: The breakdown in Article 25(2) and observer-initiated case number by year, with sub-total before including PAI and CWS cases.

	Case type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Article 25 (2)	AIR	0	0	0	0	0	0
	HSBI	0	1	2	4	1	0
	PORT	0	0	0	0	0	1
	VMS	0	0	1	0	0	0
	OTH	0	0	0	0	2	0
	Total	0	1	3	4	3	1
Observer Initiated Case	FAI	2	19	28	36	33	31
	OAI	39	34	17	38	55	18
	SHK	49	107	21	52	24	5
	POL	0	0	0	8	244	73
	Sub-total	90	160	66	134	356	127
	CWS	0	37	363	429	774	280
	PAI	0	644	651	1,147	954	264
	Sub-total	0	681	1,014	1,576	1,728	544

ATTACHMENT 12: Obligations to be reviewed in 2023 CMR

LIST OF OBLIGATIONS TO BE REVIEWED IN 2023 DRAFT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT (COVERING 2022 ACTIVITIES) AND SUPPORTING NOTES FOR THE LIST FOR 2024 (COVERING 2023 ACTIVITIES)

Key: Indicative Risk Rating (based on compliance history up to RY 2020)

Category: **RP** = Report, **IM** = Implementation, **QL** = Limit, **DL** = Report Deadline

Low	Moderate	High	Severe
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Supporting detail for notes in right-most RY2023 list of obligations column:

(potential for future alternative reporting option)

Indicates the Secretariat’s suggestion that the reporting could be streamlined and supported through the approach in paragraph 16 – 17 in [WCPFC20-2023-26](#) *List of Obligations to be reviewed by the CMS in 2024*

2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues

Indicates review at TCC20 will be through a trial approach which recognizes that most applicable CCMs met the audit point. The Provisional CMR Executive Summary prepared by TCC (and final CMR adopted by the Commission) would record a summary of the reports by relevant CCMs in AR P2 on their progress to resolve individual obligation implementation gaps from the previous year, and the outcome of the TCC assessment would consider if the Audit Point had been met.

	CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations	
1	Sci Data	SciData 01	Annual Catch Estimates - Flag CCM responsibility	RP	Y	Recs for amendments to address data gaps in Scientific Data to be Provided in WP18, WP20 and WP21 .	Scidata provision is a priority data collection programme supporting harvest strategies (see WP14). Assessment at TCC19 used Tier-Scoring Evaluation Level based	SciData 01 (potential for future alternative reporting option)	1
2		SciData 02	Number of Vessels Active - Flag CCM responsibility	RP	Y			SciData 02 (potential for future alternative reporting option)	2

	R/2021/2022	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations	
CMM	Para and risk rating							
3	SciData 03	Operational Level Catch and Effort Data - Flag CCM responsibility	RP	Y		on CCM submissions to SSP. There were no compliance issues, only one Capacity Assistance Needed assessment, raised at TCC19.	SciData 03 (potential for future alternative reporting option)	3
4	SciData 05	Size Composition Data - Flag CCM responsibility	RP	Y		TCC19 did not assess due to lack of observer coverage in 2021 as a result of COVID-19 circumstances and difficulty of obtaining alternative size data. This was not a precedent	SciData 05 (potential for future alternative reporting option)	4
5	Tropical Tuna Measure 2021-01 14	Purse seine 3 month FAD closure (1 July - 30 September).	IM	Y	TCC19 – APs to be reviewed through CMS-IWG to determine whether it remained appropriate and applicability TCC19 – APs to be reviewed through CMS-IWG to determine whether it remained appropriate and applicability	TCC in the past evaluated this obligation annually, last evaluated in 2020, with average compliance score 94%. Two repeat year compliance issues for two CCMs for 2021 and 2022 raised at TCC19	2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues	
6	Tropical Tuna Measure 2021-01 15	Annual advice on choice and implementation of two additional month high seas	IM RP	Y []	RP - Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	TCC in the past evaluated this obligation annually, last evaluated in 2020, with average compliance	RP: 2021-01 15	5

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
7		purse seine FAD closure (April-May or Nov-Dec)				score >95%. IM and RP reviewed by TCC19 no compliance issues. Noting no IM compliance issues, suggest that in 2024 that only the RP is assessed.	(potential for future alternative reporting option)
	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	Current AP conflates quantitative limit and notification requirement, needs consideration in proposals to amend CMM 2021-01 (WP33).	The current data collection and monitoring programmes provide data from multiple sources that can be used to verify CCMs implementation of purse seine days fished implementation. For catch limits, information reported against limit obligations is self-reported. TCC19 agreed there was a need for resolution of the outstanding EEZ purse seine effort limits in the context of the ongoing work in revising the TTM, particularly in relation to EEZs where purse seining is not currently taking place but may do so in the future, otherwise no	2021-01 24 (potential for future alternative reporting option)

6

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
8						compliance issues raised at TCC19.	
8	2021-01 25	High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S	QL	Y		The current data collection and monitoring programmes provide data from multiple sources that can be used to verify CCMs implementation of purse seine days fished implementation. No compliance issues raised at TCC19	2021-01 25 (potential for future alternative reporting option)
9	2021-01 37	Bigeye longline annual catch limits for 2021-2023, with adjustment to be made for any overage	QL	Y		SC19 management advice, mostly healthy state. Information reported against limit obligation is self-reported. One compliance issue for limit in RY2021 raised at TCC19.	2021-01 37
10	2021-01 38	Monthly reporting of bigeye longline catches	RP	Y			(potential for future alternative reporting option)
11	2021-01 40	Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004	QL	Y			2021-01 40
12	2021-01 42	Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S	QL	Y		Information reported against limit obligations is partially verified, no compliance issues raised at TCC19.	2021-01 42

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations	
13	2021-01: 44	Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye above the current level (applying domestic quotas are exempt)	QL	Y		Information reported against limit obligations is self-reported, no compliance issues raised at TCC19.	2021-01 44	11
14	2021-01 45	Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targeting 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		Information reported against limit obligations is self-reported, no compliance issues raised at TCC19.	2021-01 45	12
15	2021-01 Att2 03	Philippines vessels Entry/Exit reports for HSP1-SMA	RP	Y		Information reported is verified using data from multiple sources, repeat year compliance issue raised at TCC19.	RP: 2021-01 Att 2 03	13
16	2021-01 Att2 05-06	Specific requirements for deploying observers on Philippines vessels fishing in HSP-1	IM	Y		IM reviewed by TCC19 no compliance issues		
17	Pacific Bluefin 2021-02 02	Total effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N	QL	Y	Sect rec for additional reporting requirement to assist TCC in completing future assessments of limit in WP13	ISC stock status and management advice noted by SC18, stock is in a depleted state but likely recovering as	2021-02 02	14

	CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations	
18		2021-02 03	Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei applying from 2022	QL	Y	NC rec to amend CMM footnote 8 in WP19 .	planned or possibly faster.	2021-02 03	15
19		2021-02 04	Pacific Bluefin 30kg or larger catch limits, by flag for certain other members	QL	Y		Information reported against limit obligations is self-reported, no compliance issues raised at TCC19.	2021-02 04	16
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: 01 Limit on number of vessels actively fishing for SP ALB south of 20S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels	QL	Y	Sect rec for additional reporting requirement to assist TCC in completing future assessments of limit in WP13		SC17 management advice, mostly healthy state, stock assessment scheduled with start year and end year of 2024.	<i>Pending resolution of CMM limit issues</i>
		2015-02 04	Annual report of SP ALB by vessel by species	RP	Y	FFA rec for proposal to address the term "actively fishing for" in CMM 2015-02 in DP03	Information reported against limit obligation is self-reported. No compliance issues for reporting requirement raised at TCC19. Continuing difficulties in assessing the limit.	2015-01 04	

CMM	R/2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: R/2023 inclusion	R/2023 list of obligations
	NP Albacore	2019-03: 02 CCMs take measures to ensure level of fishing effort by vessels fishing for NP ALB is not increased	QL	Y	Sect rec for additional reporting requirement to assist TCC in completing future assessments of limit in WP13	ISC stock status and management advice noted by SC19, mostly healthy state.	
		2019-03: 03 Annual report of catches and fishing effort north of the equator directed at ALB	RP	Y		Information reported against limit obligations is self-reported, no compliance issues raised when this obligation was last evaluated at TCC17.	
23	NP Marlin	NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011	QL	Y	SC19 discussed precautionary reduction in catch limits	ISC stock status and management advice noted by SC19, less than healthy state, rebuilding plan needed. Information reported against limit obligations is self-reported, no compliance issues raised at TCC19	18 2010-01 05
24	SWP. Marlin	Limit number of fishing vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S to 2000 – 2004 levels	QL	Y	Sect rec for additional reporting requirement to assist TCC in completing future assessments of limit in WP13	SC15 management advice, less than healthy state, stock assessment scheduled with start year and end year of 2024. Information reported against limit obligations is self-reported, no compliance issues raised at TCC19	19 2006-04 01
25		Annual catches of MLS (bycatch), and annual numbers of vessels fishing for	RP	Y	TCC19 – AP to be reviewed through CMS-IWG to		<i>Pending review of AP</i>

CMM	R/2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: R/2023 inclusion	R/2023 list of obligations
		MLS south of 15S and their catch levels			determine whether it remained appropriate		
26	Swordfish	2009-03 01	QL	Y	Sect rec for additional reporting requirement to assist TCC in completing future assessments of limit in WP13	SC17 management advice is that is mostly healthy state, stock assessment scheduled with start year and end year of 2025. Information reported against limit obligations is self-reported, no compliance issues were raised at TCC19.	2009-03 01
27		2009-03 02	QL	Y			2009-03 02
28		2009-03 03	IM	Y			
29		2009-03 08	RP	Y			
30	RFV		IM	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	TCC in the past evaluated this obligation annually, last evaluated in 2019, with average compliance score 98%	2018-06 02
		2018-06 03	IM	Y		IM reviewed by TCC19. One compliance issue for R/2022 raised at TCC19. Issue was resolved at WCPFC20 considering additional CCM	

	R/2021/2022	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: R/2023 inclusion	R/2023 list of obligations	
CMM	Para and risk rating							
31						information submitted post-TCC19		
		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		CMM requires annual report	2018-06 09 (potential for future alternative reporting option)	23
		Requirement to report extraordinary circumstances as to why IMO or LR number is not able to be obtained	RP	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	Never evaluated by TCC	2018-06 11	24
		Flag CCM to ensure fishing vessels are on RFV is accordance with this CMM. Vessels not on RFV shall be deemed not authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land HMFS in Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of its flag State	IM	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	TCC in the past evaluated this obligation annually, last evaluated in 2019, with average compliance score 99%	2018-06 17	25
		CCMs to prohibit landings in ports or transshipment to vessels not on RFV	IM	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	Last evaluated by TCC in 2013 with compliance score of 97%	2018-06 18	26
32	VMS	Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements	IM	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	TCC has evaluated this obligation annually, last evaluated in 2020, with average compliance score 86%. CMM requires annual review –	2014-02 9a (potential for future alternative reporting option)	27

CMM	R/2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: R/2023 inclusion	R/2023 list of obligations
33						CMM 2014-02 Annex 2 template applies. Eleven compliance issues were raised at TCC19 for RY 2021 and thirteen compliance issues for RY 2022. The counts of issues may change considering additional CCM information submitted post-TCC19	
	2014-02 09a VMS SSPs 2.8	Provision of ALC/MTU 'VTAF' data	RP	Y		TCC has evaluated this obligation annually and it was last evaluated in 2020, with average compliance score 91%. No compliance issues raised at TCC19	2014-02 09a VMS SSPs 2.8 (potential for future alternative reporting option)
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		TCC has evaluated this obligation annually, last evaluated in 2020, with average compliance score 80%. Partially able to be verified and three compliance issues were raised at TCC19 for RY2022 and one compliance issue for RY2021. These may all be resolved considering additional CCM	2009-06 11

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
35						information submitted post-TCC19.	
	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		Due to current analytical and data limitations the evaluations in CMR reviewed by TCC19 were partially verified, no compliance issues	
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	2009-0635 (a) (ii)	Flag State's notification to the Secretariat on its flag vessels that are authorised to transship on the high seas	RP	Y			2009-06 35 (a) (ii) (potential for future alternative reporting option)
38	2009-06 35 (a) (iii)	WCPFC Transshipment Advance Notification (including fields in Annex III)	RP	Y		No compliance issues raised at TCC19 Secretariat adopts administrative process to ensure complete transshipment reports for all transshipment events	2009-06 35 (a) (iii) (potential for future alternative reporting option)

	CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations	
39		2009-06 35 (a) (iv)	WCPFC Transshipment Declaration (including information in Annex I)	RP	Y		No compliance issues raised at TCC19 Secretariat adopts administrative process to ensure complete transshipment reports for all transshipment events	2009-06 35 (a) (iv) (potential for future alternative reporting option)	32
40	Charter Notifications	2021-04 02	Notification of charter arrangements made to the ED	RP	Y		Three compliance issues raised for this RP related to RY 2022 at TCC19, these are deadline issues.	(potential for future alternative reporting option)	
41		2021-04 07	Report annually to ED the catch and effort of chartered vessels in the previous year (unless specifically provided in other CMMs)	RP	Y		No compliance issue raised at TCC19	(potential for future alternative reporting option)	
42	Sea turtles		CCMs to ensure fishermen use proper mitigation and handling techniques and foster the recovery of any turtles that are incidentally captured	IM	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	Effective 1 January 2020, no compliance history.	2018-04 04	33
		2018-04 06	CCMs to require longline vessels to carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to	IM	Y		Effective 1 January 2020 Evaluated by TCC for RY2020.		

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
43		handle and promptly release sea turtles, as well as dip-nets where appropriate				One compliance issue raised at TCC19 for RY 2022, was resolved at WCPFC20 by considering additional CCM information submitted post-TCC19. A Capacity Assistance Need was also recognised for one CCM for RY2021 and RY2022.	
	2018-04 07 (a)	Sea Turtle mitigation requirements for shallow-set longline vessels	IM	Y	Draft revised AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	Effective 1 January 2020 Evaluated by TCC for RY2020 No compliance issued raised at TCC19	
			IM	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	Effective 1 January 2020, no compliance history.	2018-04 7 (d)
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	TCC19 - agreed the need for clarification of obligation and its applicability. Measure for review	One compliance issue identified by TCC for RY2021 and 2022, and one capacity assistance need identified for RY2021 and RY2022	<i>Pending resolution of CMM interpretation issues and AP review</i>
45	2019-04 07-10	Take measures necessary to require all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully	IM	Y	TCC19 – AP to be reviewed through CMS-IWG to	Two compliance issues identified by TCC for RY2021 and 2022, and	<i>Pending resolution of CMM interpretation issues and AP review</i>

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CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
46		utilized and ensure the prohibition of finning (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) - includes consideration of para 10 request from CCM			determine whether it remained appropriate and its applicability Measure for review in 2024	one capacity assistance need identified for RY2021 and RY2022. The counts may be updated considering additional CCM information submitted post-TCC19	
	2019-04 11	Report annually on shark fins attached/alternative measures	RP DL	Y []	TCC19 – AP to be reviewed through CMS-IWG to determine whether it remained appropriate Measure for review in 2024	TCC19 noted limited information available on alternative measures implemented to inform the review of the measures and TCC19 not in position to evaluate effectiveness of such measures. Some CCMs to provide information before TCC20. Evaluated RY2021 and 2022 Two reporting issues identified by TCC for RY2021 and one for RY2022, one or more may be resolved considering additional CCM information submitted post-TCC19. Seven deadline issues identified by TCC for RY	<i>Pending resolution of CMM interpretation issues and AP review</i>

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
47						2021 and three for RY 2022. One capacity assistance need identified for RY2021 and RY2022 for the report and the deadline	
48	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	Measure for review in 2024	One compliance issue identified by TCC for RY2022, and one capacity assistance need identified for RY2022	2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues
49	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	Measure for review in 2024	One compliance issue identified by TCC for RY2022, and one capacity assistance need identified for RY2021 and RY2022	2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues
50	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	Measure for review in 2024	No compliance issues identified by TCC for RY 2021 and RY2022, and one capacity assistance need identified for RY2021 and RY2022	
	2019-04 16	Develop and report annually on management plans for	RP	Y	Measure for review in 2024	No compliance issues identified by TCC for RY 2021 and RY2022, and one capacity assistance	

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
51		longline fisheries targeting sharks in Pt 2 Annual Report				need identified for RY2021 and RY2022	
	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	TCC19 – further consideration of obligation applicability, noting that the obligation only applies where there is an observer present. Measure for review in 2024	Two compliance issues identified by TCC for RY 2021 and RY2022, and one capacity assistance need identified for RY2022	2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues
52	2019-04 20 (01)	Prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing /landing oceanic whitetip & silky sharks	IM	Y	Measure for review in 2024	No compliance issues identified by TCC for RY 2021 and RY2022, and one capacity assistance need identified for RY2022	
53	2019-04 20 (02)	Requirement to release oceanic whitetip & silky sharks asap	IM	Y	Measure for review in 2024	Two compliance issues identified by TCC for RY 2021 and RY2022, one or more may be resolved considering additional CCM information submitted post-TCC19. One capacity assistance need identified for RY2022	2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues

	R _Y 2021/2022	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: R _Y 2023 inclusion	R _Y 2023 list of obligations
CMM	Para and risk rating						
54	2019-04 20 (03)	If oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to govt or discarded	IM	Y	Measure for review in 2024	One compliance issue identified by TCC for R _Y 2021 and two compliance issues for R _Y 2022, and one capacity assistance need identified for R _Y 2021 and R _Y 2022	2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues
55	2019-04 21 (01-07)	Prohibit purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks	IM	Y	Measure for review in 2024	One compliance issue identified by TCC for R _Y 2021 and two compliance issues for R _Y 2022, and one capacity assistance need identified for R _Y 2022	2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues
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	Measure for review in 2024	No compliance issues were raised at TCC19	

	CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations	
57		2019-04 23	Report annually on implementation of shark CMM (Annex 2 template)	RP	Y	TCC19 - paras 05 and 11 for review but are within scope of expected response to para 23 Measure for review in 2024	TCC19 did not assess because 8 substantive issues in AP were considered separately. TCC19 therefore agreed that this obligation should not be assessed this year, but noted that this would be a useful obligation to assess in future years where the substantive obligations in this CMM were not assessed	RP: 2022-04 23	35
				DL	[]			DL: 2022-04	36
58		2011-03 01	Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set	IM	Y		Two compliance issues were raised at TCC19 for RY2022, these may be resolved considering additional CCM information submitted post-TCC19.	2024 trial exception reporting only for CCMs with IM issues	
59	Cetaceans	2011-03 02	Requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including incident reporting requirements	IM	Y		One compliance issue for RY 2022 was raised at TCC19 but resolved at WCPFC20 based on additional information supplied post TCC10. One Capacity Assistance Needed for RY2022 retained.		

CMM	R/2021/2022	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: R/2023 inclusion	R/2023 list of obligations	
	Para and risk rating							
60		Prohibit targeted fishing or intentional setting on mobulid rays	IM	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	Effective 1 January 2021, never evaluated by TCC	2019-05 03	37
	2019-05 (04-06, 08, 10)	Mobulids: Prohibit retaining/transshipping/landing of mobulid rays	IM	Y		Effective 1 January 2021 CMM requires annual report ARPt2 Evaluated R/2021 and 2022 Seven compliance issues raised at TCC19 for R/2021 and R/2022, and also a Capacity Assistance Need for R/2021 and R/2022.	2019-05 (04-06, 08, 10)	38
		Report on Implementation of CMM 2019-05 Mobulid rays (Part 2 Annual Report)	RP	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	Effective 1 January 2021, never evaluated by TCC and no risk rating.	2019-05 07	39
		Vessels to be prepared to accept an observer from the ROP, if required	IM	[]	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	This is a priority data collection programme supporting harvest strategies (see WP14). TCC in the past evaluated this obligation annually, last evaluated in 2016, with average compliance score 99%	2018-05 07	40

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations	
		CCMs shall source observers for their vessels as determined by the Commission	IM	☐	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP	Last evaluated by TCC in 2014, with average compliance score of 92%	2018-05 09	41
		CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission	IM	☐	Draft AP proposed – CMS-IWG AP Proposal to expand LL coverage requirements in WP33	Previously assessed by TCC annually, last assessed in 2019 with no Compliance issues noted. The current 5% minimum ROP requirement means there is limited independent verification of CCMs reporting of their compliance with longline limits.	2018-05 Annex C 06	42
		CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N	QL	☐	Draft AP proposed in WP20	Never evaluated by TCC	2012-03 02	43
NP Swordfish		CCMs take measures to ensure level of fishing effort by fisheries taking NP SWO N20N is not increased	QL	☐	Draft AP proposed in WP20	ISC stock status and conservation status noted by SC19, indicates a mostly healthy state.	2022-04 02	44
		Annual report of catches of North Pacific swordfish in waters N20N and fishing effort in N20N, using the template	RP	☐	NC rec to expand reporting requirement, draft AP proposed in WP20	CMM first implemented in 2023, no compliance history and no risk rating. The self-reported	2022-04 04	45

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
		and by gear type, for those fisheries subject to the limits in paragraph 2 of the CMM				baseline limits, applicability of limits and annual reporting obligation are yet to be reviewed by TCC through the CMS.	
Vessel Marking and Specs		Fishing vessel marking and technical specifications	IM	[]	Draft AP recommended by CMS-IWG	Last evaluated by TCC in 2013 and 2016, with average compliance score 96%	46 2004-03 02
High Seas Driftnets		Measures necessary to prohibit use by their vessels of large-scale driftnets in the high seas	IM	[]	Draft AP recommended by CMS-IWG	Never evaluated by TCC	47 2008-04 02
Marine Pollution		Prohibit fishing vessels from discharging any plastics (including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene) but not including fishing gear	IM	[]	Draft AP recommended by CMS-IWG	Last evaluated by TCC in 2020, no compliance issues	48 2017-04 02

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations	
		Encourage adoption of additional measures to reduce marine pollution, including retrieval of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear.	RP	[]	Draft AP recommended by CMS-IWG	Never evaluated by TCC, and no risk rating. Report could be useful to inform future Commission discussions on measures supporting reducing marine pollution	2017-04 05	49
		Requirement to actively support SIDS and Territories through provision of adequate port facilities for receiving and appropriately disposing of waste from fishing vessels	RP	[]	Draft AP recommended by CMS-IWG	Never evaluated by TCC. Report could be useful to inform future Commission discussions on measures supporting reducing marine pollution	2017-04 08	50
Seabird Mitigation		Required longline mitigation measures to be used by longline vessels in specific waters of the Convention Area	IM	[]	Draft AP recommended by CMS-IWG	Last evaluated by TCC in 2020, some compliance issues raised at the time.	2018-03 01,02, 06	51
		Report on which mitigation measures are used north of 23N or south of 30S, as well as technical specifications. Subsequent years include advice on any changes	RP	Y		Last evaluated by TCC in 2015 and 2016, with no Compliance issues raised	2018-03 08	52

CMM	RY2021/2022 Para and risk rating	Description	Category	Agreed AP	CMM or AP being revised/interpretation issue?	Comment re: RY2023 inclusion	RY2023 list of obligations
IUU Vessel List		CCMs shall take all necessary non-discriminatory measures, including under their applicable legislation, to take certain actions in respect of vessels listed on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List	IM	[]	Draft recommended AP by CMS-IWG	Last evaluated by TCC in 2016, with average compliance score of 97%	2019-07 22
Port State Minimum Standards				[]	TCC19 recommended WCPFC20 tasks TCC20 to review CMM Draft AP are under discussion through CMS-IWG.	Question of interpretation raised in AP development process. Recommend: that inclusion of obligations from Port State CMM should wait for the adoption of APs by the Commission.	<i>Pending adoption of APs</i>

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CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME

Conservation and Management Measure 2023-04

PREAMBLE

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (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):

Recalling that the Commission has adopted a wide range of conservation and management measures to give effect to the objective of the Convention,

Noting that, in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention, Members of the Commission have undertaken to enforce the provisions of the Convention and any conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission,

Noting also that, in accordance with international law, Members, Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission and Participating Territories have responsibilities to effectively exercise jurisdiction and control over their flagged vessels and with respect to their nationals,

Acknowledging that Article 24 of the Convention obliges Members of the Commission to take the necessary measures to ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag comply with the provisions of the Convention and the conservation and management measures adopted pursuant thereto, as well as the obligations of chartering States with respect to chartered vessels operating as an integral part of their domestic fleets,

Noting that, in a responsible, open, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, the Commission should be made aware of any and all available information that may be relevant to the work of the Commission in identifying and holding accountable instances of non-compliance by Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories with management measures,

Committed to Article 30 of the Convention which requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States, in particular SIDS and territories, which may include the provision of financial, technical and capacity development assistance,

Committed to the implementation of Conservation and Management Measure 2013-07 to give operational effect to the full recognition of the special requirements of SIDS and territories in the Convention Area, in particular such assistance as may be needed to implement their obligations,

Further committed to the implementation of Conservation and Management Measure 2013-06 by applying the criteria to determine the nature and extent of the impact of a proposal on SIDS and territories in the Convention Area, in order to ensure that they can meet their obligations, and to ensure that any measure does not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto SIDS and territories,

Recalling the specific function of TCC under Article 14(1)(b) of the Convention to monitor and review compliance by CCMs with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary,

Recognising the responsibility of Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories to fully and effectively implement the provisions of the Convention and the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission, and the need to improve such implementation and ensure compliance with these commitments,

Recalling the recommendation of the second joint meeting of the tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) that all RFMOs should introduce a robust compliance review mechanism by which the compliance record of each Member is examined in depth on a yearly basis,

Cognisant of the MCS and enforcement framework developed by the Commission, *inter alia* the 2010-06 Conservation and Management Measure to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing activities in the WCPO, the online Compliance case file system, Article 25 of the Convention, which considers the compliance by individual vessels,

Adopts the following conservation and management measure in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, establishing the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme:

SECTION I – PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) is to ensure that Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) implement and comply with obligations arising under the Convention and conservation and management measures (CMMs) adopted by the Commission. The purpose of the CMS is also to assess flag CCM action in relation to alleged violations by its vessels, not to assess compliance by individual vessels.

2. The CMS is designed to:

- (i) assess CCMs' compliance with their WCPFC obligations;
- (ii) identify areas in which technical assistance or capacity building may be needed to assist CCMs to attain compliance;
- (iii) identify aspects of CMMs which may require refinement or amendment for effective implementation;

- (iv) respond to non-compliance by CCMs through remedial and/or preventative options that include a range of possible responses that take account of the reason for and degree, the severity, consequences and frequency of non-compliance, as may be necessary and appropriate to promote compliance with CMMs and other Commission obligations;¹ and
- (v) monitor and resolve outstanding instances of non-compliance by CCMs with their WCPFC obligations.

SECTION II – PRINCIPLES

3. The implementation of the CMS and its associated processes shall be conducted in accordance with the following principles for the purpose of the application of this measure:

- (i) Effectiveness: Effectively serve the purpose of this CMM to assess compliance by CCMs and assist the TCC in fulfilling the provisions of Article 14(1)(b) of the Convention;
- (ii) Efficiency: Avoid unnecessary administrative burden or costs on CCMs, the Commission or the Secretariat and assist TCC in identifying and recommending removal of duplicative reporting obligations;
- (iii) Fairness: Promote fairness, including by: ensuring that obligations and performance expectations are clearly specified, that assessments are undertaken consistently and based on a factual assessment of available information; that CCMs are given the opportunity to participate in the process; and that there is a reasonable balance between fisheries and CCMs in the assessment process; and
- (iv) Cooperation towards Compliance: 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 action.

SECTION III – SCOPE AND APPLICATION

4. The Commission, with the assistance of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) shall evaluate CCMs' compliance with the obligations arising under the Convention and the CMMs adopted by the Commission and identify instances of CCM non-compliance, in accordance with the approach set out in this section.

5. The CMS shall not prejudice the rights, jurisdiction, and duties of any CCM to enforce its national laws or to take more stringent measures in accordance with its national laws, consistent with that CCM's international obligations.

¹ In accordance with the process for identifying corrective action, as provided for in paragraph 48(ii).

6. TCC shall annually prepare a provisional list of obligations to be assessed in the following year's CMS referring to a risk-based approach as a possible guidance. This will allow the Secretariat and TCC Chair sufficient time to determine whether the Commission will need to adopt any additional audit points to inform the next year's CMS process.

7. Each year, the Commission shall update what obligations shall be assessed in the following year upon consideration of the provisional list provided by TCC. Each year, the Commission shall adopt audit points for any obligations on the updated list of obligations that do not have adopted audit points.

8. The Commission shall undertake an annual assessment of compliance by CCMs during the previous calendar year with the priority obligations identified under paragraph 6. Such assessment shall be determined based on the following criteria:

- (i) For a CCM-level quantitative limit or collective CCM quantitative limit, such as a limit on fishing capacity, fishing effort, or catch, verifiable data indicating that the limit has not been exceeded.
- (ii) For other obligations:
 - a. Implementation – where an obligation applies, the CCM is required to provide information showing that it has adopted, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, binding measures that implement that obligation; and
 - b. Monitor and ensure compliance – the CCM is required to provide information showing that it has a system or procedures to monitor compliance of vessels and persons with these binding measures, a system or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance and has taken action in relation to potential infringements.

9. The preparation, distribution and discussion of compliance information pursuant to the CMS shall be in accordance with all relevant rules and procedures relating to the protection and dissemination of, and access to, public and non-public domain data and information compiled by the Commission. In this regard, Draft and Provisional Compliance Monitoring Reports shall constitute non-public domain data, and the Final Compliance Monitoring Report shall constitute public domain data.

SECTION IV – WCPFC ONLINE COMPLIANCE CASE FILE SYSTEM

10. The Secretariat shall maintain the WCPFC online compliance case file system as a secure, searchable system to store, manage and make available information to assist CCMs with tracking alleged violations by their flagged vessels.

11. For each case in the online system, the following information shall be provided by the flag CCM:

- (a) Has an investigation been started? (Yes/No)

- (b) If yes, what is the current status of the investigation? (Ongoing, Completed)
- (c) If the alleged violations stem from an observer report, have you obtained the observer report? (Yes/No)
- (d) If no, what steps have you taken to obtain the observer report?
- (e) What was the outcome of the investigation? (Closed – no violation; Infraction – not charged; Infraction – charged)
- (f) If no violation, provide brief explanation
- (g) If infraction, but not charged, provide brief explanation
- (h) If infraction charged, how was it charged (e.g., penalty/fine, permit sanction, verbal or written warning, etc.) and level of charged (e.g., penalty amount, length of sanction, etc.)

12. A flag CCM shall provide updates into the online system on the progress of an investigation until its conclusion.

13. CCMs that are relevant to a case shall be allowed to view those cases for vessels flying other flags. Relevant CCMs shall comprise the CCM that notified the case to the flag CCM, and where applicable, the coastal CCM, the ROP observer provider and the chartering CCM.

14. The Secretariat shall notify relevant CCMs when a case is entered into the online system.

15. In order to address the imbalance in observer coverage between the longline and purse seine fisheries in the online compliance case file:

- a) Each year, the Science Service Provider shall determine the level of observer coverage of fishing on ROP longline trips in the most recent year for which this data is available.
- b) The Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Services Provider, shall develop and utilise a scheme for randomly sampling observer-related cases from the online compliance case file system for the purse seine fishery on a trip basis designed to achieve the level of coverage in the CMR for ROP purse seine trips determined for the longline fishery under paragraph a).
- c) Observer-related cases from the sample of trips by purse seine vessels identified under sub-paragraph (b) above will be used for the CMR, including for the purposes of paragraphs 25 and 28.

SECTION V – SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

16. Notwithstanding paragraph 4, where a SIDS or Participating Territory, or Indonesia or the Philippines cannot meet a particular obligation that is being assessed, due to a lack of capacity², that CCM shall provide a Capacity Development Plan to the Secretariat with their draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR), that:

- (i) clearly identifies and explains what is preventing that CCM from meeting that obligation;
- (ii) identifies the capacity assistance needed to allow that CCM to meet that obligation;
- (iii) estimates the costs and/or technical resources associated with such assistance, including, if possible, funding and technical assistance sources where necessary;
- (iv) sets out an anticipated timeframe in which, if the identified assistance needs are provided, that CCM will be able to meet that obligation.

17. The CCM may work together with the Secretariat to draft the Capacity Development Plan. This plan shall be attached to that CCM's comments to the dCMR.

18. Where a capacity assistance need has been identified, through the preparation of a Capacity Development Plan, in a dCMR by a SIDS, Participating Territory, Indonesia or the Philippines, which has prevented that CCM from fulfilling a particular obligation, and TCC has confirmed that all of the elements of the Capacity Development Plan as stated in paragraph 16 are included, TCC shall assess that CCM as "Capacity Assistance Needed" for that obligation. TCC shall recommend to the Commission that it allow the Capacity Development Plan to run until the end of the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out therein.

19. That CCM shall report its progress under the Capacity Development Plan every year in its Annual Report Part II. That CCM shall remain assessed as "Capacity Assistance Needed" against that particular obligation until the end of the timeframe in the plan.

20. Where the Commission is identified in the Capacity Development Plan to assist that CCM, the Secretariat shall provide an annual report of such assistance to TCC.

21. If a CCM notifies the Commission that its capacity needs have been met, the Capacity Development Plan for that obligation shall be deemed completed and the CCM's compliance with that obligation shall then be assessed in accordance with Annex I.

22. Unless the SIDS, Participating Territory, Indonesia or Philippines amends the Capacity Development Plan that it submitted under paragraph 18 in its dCMR and TCC has confirmed that all the elements of that Plan as stated in paragraph 16 are included, once the timeframe in that original Plan has passed, that CCM's compliance with that obligation shall be assessed in accordance with Annex I.

² Any CCM may identify a capacity assistance need through the CMS process; however, the application of paragraphs 16-18 is limited to those CCMs identified in the paragraph.

23. The Commission recognises the special requirements of developing State CCMs, particularly SIDS and Participating Territories, and shall seek to actively engage and cooperate with these CCMs and facilitate their effective participation in the implementation of the CMS including by:

- (i) ensuring that inter-governmental sub-regional agencies which provide advice and assistance to these CCMs, are able to participate in the processes established under the CMS, including by attending any working groups as observers and participating in accordance with Rule 36 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, and having access to all relevant information, and
- (ii) providing appropriately targeted assistance to improve implementation of, and compliance with, obligations arising under the Convention and CMMs adopted by the Commission, including through consideration of the options for capacity building and technical assistance.

SECTION VI – PRIOR TO TCC

24. Prior to the annual meeting of the TCC, the Executive Director shall prepare a Draft Compliance Monitoring Report (the Draft Report) that consists of individual draft Compliance Monitoring Reports (dCMRs) concerning each CCM and a section concerning collective obligations arising from the Convention or CMMs related to fishing activities managed under the Convention.

25. Each dCMR shall reflect information relating to the relevant CCM's implementation of obligations as identified under paragraph 6 as well as any potential compliance issues, where appropriate. Such information shall be sourced from reports submitted by CCMs as required in CMMs and other Commission obligations, such as:

- i. information available to the Commission through data collection programmes, including but not limited to, high seas transshipment reports, Regional Observer Programme data and information, Vessel Monitoring System information, High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme reports, and charter notifications;
- ii. information contained in an Annual Report which is not available through other means; and
- iii. where appropriate, any additional suitably documented information regarding compliance during the previous calendar year.

26. The Draft Report shall present all available information relating to each CCM's implementation of obligations for compliance review by TCC.

27. At least 55 days prior to TCC each year, the Executive Director shall transmit to each CCM its dCMR.

28. At the same time, the Executive Director shall draw from the online case file system and transmit to:

(i) each flag CCM, the infringement identification relating to alleged violations by its flagged vessels on the online system for the previous year, for that CCM to review with its dCMR. Relevant CCMs, as described in paragraph 13, shall also be provided this same information; and

(ii) all CCMs, aggregated information across all fleets based on the information reported by CCMs pursuant to paragraph 10, for the previous 5 years. The templates attached as Annex II will serve as the basis for the data fields that will be included. This will be used to provide an indicator of potential anomalies in the implementation of obligations by a CCM, with a view towards identifying implementation challenges for that CCM and identifying systemic failures to take flag state action in relation to alleged violations. This information shall be considered by TCC alongside the Draft Report.

29. Upon receipt of its dCMR, each CCM may, where appropriate, reply to the Executive Director no later than 28 days prior to TCC each year to:

(i) provide additional information, clarifications, amendments or corrections to information contained in its dCMR;

(ii) identify any particular difficulties with respect to implementation of any obligations; or

(iii) identify technical assistance or capacity building needed to assist the CCM with implementation of any obligations.

30. Relevant CCMs may continue to provide additional information or clarification into the online compliance case file system. Where such additional information or clarification is provided, at least fifteen days in advance of the TCC meeting, the Executive Director shall circulate an updated version of the documents referred to under paragraph 28.

31. To facilitate meeting obligations under paragraphs 29 and 30, active cooperation and communication between a flag CCM and other relevant CCMs is encouraged.

32. At least fifteen days in advance of the TCC meeting, the Executive Director shall compile and circulate to all CCMs the full Draft Report that will include any potential compliance issues and requirements for further information to assess the relevant CCM's compliance status, in a form to be agreed to by the Commission, including all information that may be provided under paragraph 29.

33. TCC shall review the Draft Report and identify any potential compliance issues for each CCM, based on information contained in the dCMRs, as well as any information provided by CCMs in accordance with paragraph 29 of this measure. CCMs may also provide additional information to TCC with respect to implementation of its obligations.

SECTION VII – DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT AT TCC

34. (i) Taking into account any Capacity Development Plans developed pursuant to paragraphs 16-18, reports and other information described in paragraph 28(ii), any additional information provided by CCMs, and, where appropriate, any additional information provided by non-government organisations or other organisations concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of this Convention, TCC shall develop a Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report (the Provisional Report) that includes a compliance status with respect to all applicable individual obligations as well as recommendations for any corrective action(s) needed by the CCM or action(s) to be taken by the Commission, based on potential compliance issues it has identified in respect of that CCM and using the criteria and considerations for assessing Compliance Status set out in Annex I of this measure.

(ii) In the development of the Provisional Report, TCC shall not assess compliance by individual vessels.

35. When considering the aggregated report described in paragraph 28(ii), alongside the Draft Report, and where an implementation challenge has been identified by a CCM, the TCC shall, in consultation with the CCM:

- a. Identify any targeted assistance that might be required to address the challenge;
- b. Determine a timeframe for the resolution of the challenge;
- c. Report to the Commission on how that CCM will be able to satisfactorily meet its obligations; and
- d. Where the CCM is a SIDS or Participating Territory or Indonesia or the Philippines, Section V of this measure shall apply.

36. When considering the aggregated report described in 28(ii), alongside the Draft Report, and where cases have been in the compliance case file system for two or more years, remains open, and are not subject to paragraph 35, TCC shall, in consultation with the CCM:

- a. Identify what is needed to progress or resolve these cases;
- b. Determine a timeframe for resolution of the cases; and
- c. Report to the Commission on how that CCM will be able to satisfactorily meet its obligation.

37. A provisional assessment of each CCM's Compliance Status shall be decided by consensus. If every effort to achieve consensus regarding a particular CCM's compliance with an individual obligation has failed, the Provisional Report shall indicate the majority and minority views. A provisional assessment shall reflect the majority view and the minority view shall also be recorded.

38. Notwithstanding paragraph 37 above, a CCM shall not block its own compliance assessment if all other CCMs present have concurred with the assessment. If the assessed CCM

disagrees with the assessment, its view shall be reflected in the Provisional Report or the final Compliance Monitoring Report.

39. Where a CCM has missed a reporting deadline,³ but has submitted the required information, this obligation will be accepted by TCC, unless a CCM has a specific concern or if there are updates from the Secretariat based on new information received.

40. The Provisional Report shall also comprise an executive summary, as well as tables including aggregated data (templates attached in Annex III) relating to the information provided in paragraph 11, including recommendations or observations from TCC regarding:

(i) identification of any CMMs or obligations that should be reviewed to address implementation or compliance difficulties experienced by CCMs, particularly when TCC has identified ambiguity in the interpretation of or difficulty in monitoring and implementing that measure or obligation, including any specific amendments or improvements that have been identified,

(ii) capacity building assistance or other obstacles to implementation identified by CCMs, in particular SIDS and Participating Territories,

41. The Provisional Report shall be finalised at TCC and forwarded to the Commission for consideration at the annual meeting.

42. CCMs may provide additional information up to 21 days after TCC. Additional information is restricted to that which only requires administrative consideration by the Secretariat to fill an information gap. This paragraph shall not apply to substantive issues. TCC shall consider whether a particular obligation may be met with the provision of additional information.

43. The Secretariat shall update the compliance status of CCMs, 21 days after the deadline to submit additional information, based on the additional information provided by CCMs as outlined in paragraph 42. A summary of these updates shall be submitted to the Commission for their consideration, along with the pCMR.

SECTION VIII – PROCESS AT THE COMMISSION

44. At each annual Commission meeting, the Commission shall consider the Provisional Report recommended by the TCC, as well as any submission from a CCM indicating that its compliance assessment for a specific obligation at TCC was undertaken in a manner that the CCM deems to be procedurally unfair.

45. Taking into account any reviews undertaken after TCC under paragraph 44, the Commission shall adopt a final Compliance Monitoring Report.

46. The final Compliance Monitoring Report shall include a Compliance Status for each CCM against each assessed obligation and any corrective action needed, and also contain an executive summary setting out any recommendations or observations from the Commission regarding the

³ For the purposes of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, all reporting deadlines will be based on Universal Time Code (UTC) time unless the CMM establishing the deadline specifies otherwise.

issues listed in paragraph 40 of this measure, and include tables of aggregated data relating to the information provided in paragraph 11, as referenced in paragraph 40.

47. Each CCM shall include, in its Part II Annual Report, any actions it has taken to address non-compliance identified in the Compliance Monitoring Report from previous years.

SECTION IX – FUTURE WORK

48. The Commission hereby commits to a multi-year workplan of tasks to enhance the CMS, with the aim of making it more efficient and effective by streamlining processes. This workplan should include the development of guidelines and operating procedures to support the implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, and shall include *inter alia*:

- (i) explore investment in technology solutions to facilitate improvements to the compliance case file system.
- (ii) the development of corrective actions to encourage and incentivise CCMs' compliance with the Commission's obligations, where non-compliance is identified
- (iii) the development of the guidelines for participation of observers in closed meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies which consider the Compliance Monitoring Report. TCC shall consider any workplan and resourcing requirements to facilitate the work of the Secretariat in this regard.

SECTION X – APPLICATION AND REVIEW

49. This measure shall expire 31st December 2026.

COMPLIANCE STATUS TABLE

Compliance Status ¹	Criteria	Response
Compliant	Compliance with the audit points	None
Non-Compliant	Failure to meet the audit points	<p>Each CCM shall include, in its Part II Annual Report, any actions it has taken to address non-compliance identified in the Compliance Monitoring Report.</p> <p>Actions may include, one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A CCM must address the issue to gain compliance by the next compliance assessment; or b. A CCM shall provide a Status Report to the Secretariat; or c. Other response as determined by the Commission.
Priority Non-Compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. non-compliance with high-risk priority obligations and associated audit points b. repeated non-compliance with an obligation for two or more consecutively assessed years; or c. any other non-compliance identified as Priority Non-Compliant by the Commission. 	<p>Each CCM shall include, in its Part II Annual Report, any actions it has taken to address non-compliance identified in the Compliance Monitoring Report.</p> <p>Actions may include, one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A CCM must address the issue to gain compliance by the next compliance assessment; b. Other response as determined by the Commission.
Capacity Assistance Needed	When a SIDS or Participating Territory or Indonesia or the Philippines cannot meet an obligation that is being assessed due to a lack of capacity, that CCM shall provide a Capacity Development Plan to the Secretariat with the dCMR prior to TCC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The CCM shall complete the steps of the Capacity Development Plan for that obligation in order to become compliant with the obligation, and (ii) report progress against that plan every year in its Annual Report Part II until the end of the timeframe specified in that Plan.

¹ This annex applies to compliance statuses assigned for each individual obligation.

Compliance Status ¹	Criteria	Response
<i>CMM Review or Audit Point Review</i>	There is a lack of clarity on the requirements of an obligation.	The Commission shall review that obligation and clarify its requirements.

TWO PART TEMPLATE FOR THE AGGREGATED REPORT DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 26(II)

**PART A:-Template for Summary Tables related to each list in the
WCPFC Online Compliance Case File System¹**

Summary tables derived from the online compliance case file system and intended to provide summaries by topic of flag CCMs responses to compliance cases in the online compliance case file system.

Annex 1:- Summary Tables of Flag CCM responses to Article 25(2) requests for investigation notified in the WCPFC online Compliance Case File System

Data is based on High Seas Boarding and Inspection Report, Aerial Surveillance or Port Inspection Reports, and Reports on Observer Safety Incidents

Table 1A: Counts of all Article 25(2) cases by CCM by Investigation Status

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
			Infraction- no sanction	Infraction- sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
CCMxx	Year 2017						
	Year 2018						
...	...						

Table 1B-1X: Summary Tables of Article 25(2) alleged infringements grouped by topic* and by CCM by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status

**eg bycatch-related, vessel-related, VMS-reporting, others*

			Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
				Infraction- no sanction	Infraction- sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
CMM / CMM para A	Year 2017	CCMxx						
		CCMxy						
	Year 2018	CCMxx						

¹ Update of WCPFC-TCC15-2019-dCMR02_rev1 Summary Tables of Flag CCM responses to alleged infringements notified in the WCPFC online compliance case file system 2019 (17 September 2019)

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Annex 2: Summary Tables of Flag CCM responses to FAD Sets Alleged Infringements notified in the WCPFC online Compliance Case File System based on ROP data

Includes cases where ROP data indicates setting on FADs during a specified time period and/or in specific waters in the Convention Area, when the prohibition on setting on FADs was in effect.

Table 2A: Counts of all FAD Sets Alleged infringement cases by CCM by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status and counts of cases where ROP Observer Report was received

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance cases	ROP_rpt received count
CCMxx	Year 2017					
	Year 2018					
...						

Table 2B-2X: Summary Tables of FAD closure Tropical Tunas alleged infringements grouped by topic* and by CCM by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status

**eg 3 month FAD closure (1 July – 30 Sept), 4th Month FAD closure (1 – 31 Oct), High Seas FAD closure*

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
				Infraction- no sanction	Infraction- sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
Year 2017	CCMxx							
	CCMxy							
...								

Annex 3: Summary Tables of Flag CCM responses to Observer Obstruction Alleged Infringements notified in the WCPFC online Compliance Case File System based on ROP data
Includes cases where ROP data reports observer obstruction incidents

Table 3A: Counts of all Observer Obstruction Alleged infringement cases by CCM by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status and counts of cases where ROP Observer Report was received

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance cases	ROP_rpt received count
CCMA	Year 2017					
	Year 2018					
...						

Table 3B-3D: Summary Tables of Observer Obstruction alleged infringements grouped by topic and by CCM by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status

RS-A: *Did the operator or any crew member assault, obstruct, resist, delay, refuse boarding to, intimidate or interfere with observer in the performance of their duties*

RS-B: *Request that an event not be reported by the observer;*

RS-D: *Did the operator fail to provide the observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to the observer or the observer’s government, with food, accommodation and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to an officer on board the vessel;*

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
				Infraction- no sanction	Infraction- sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
Year 2017	CCMxx							
	CCMxy							
...								

Annex 4: Summary Tables of Flag CCM responses to Shark catch Alleged Infringements notified in the WCPFC online Compliance Case File System based on ROP data

Includes cases where ROP data indicates retention in part or whole of catches by vessels of shark species that are prohibited or a fate code that may indicate shark finning activities.

Table 4A: Counts of all Shark Catch Alleged infringement cases by CCM by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status and counts of cases where ROP Observer Report was received

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance cases	ROP_rpt received count
CCMxx	Year 2017					
	Year 2018					
...						

Table 4B-4D: Summary Tables of Shark Catch Alleged Infringements grouped by topic and by CCM by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status

CMM 2010-07 09: *CCMs shall take measures necessary to prohibit their fishing vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or trading any fins harvested in contravention of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM).*

CMM 2011-04: *1. Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (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, 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 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.*

CMM 2013-08: *1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (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 silky shark caught in the Convention Area, 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 silky shark that is caught in the Convention Area 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.*

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
				Infraction- no sanction	Infraction- sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	

Year 2017	CCMxx							
	CCMxy							
...								

Table 5A-5B: Summary Tables of Purse Seine Alleged Infringements grouped by topic and by CCM by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status

CMM 2011-03: 1. CCMs shall prohibit their flagged vessels from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean in the high seas and exclusive economic zones of the Convention Area, if the animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set.

CMM 2012-04: 1. This measure shall apply to the high seas and exclusive economic zones of the Convention Area. 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.

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
				Infraction-no sanction	Infraction-sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
Year 2017	CCMxx							
	CCMxy							
...								

Annex 5. Summary Table of Flag CCM responses to ROP Pre-Notification Issues, other than alleged observer obstruction, presently notified in WCPFC online Compliance Case File System
Includes notifications to aggregated across all CCMs of those data elements (other than alleged observer obstruction incidents) that were answered in the affirmative by a ROP observer on the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3.

***WCPFC14 accepted the TCC13 recommendation that the process of not considering the information contained in the ROP Pre-notification List, for the purpose of assessing any obligations for which it was relevant, with the exception of those cases related to observer interference or obstruction be followed in future years (WCPFC14 final CMR).*

WCPFC ROP Pre-notification codes

- LC-A** inaccurately record retained “target species” in the vessel log
- LC-B** inaccurately record “target species” discards
- LC-C:** record species inaccurately
- LC-E** inaccurately record bycatch species discards
- LC-F** inaccurately record retained bycatch species
- LP-A** inaccurately record vessel positions on vessel log sheet for sets, hauling and catch
- WC-a** Fail to comply with any Commission Conservation and Management Measures
- NR-a** Fish in any areas where the vessel is not permitted to fish
- NR-c** Use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed
- NR-e** Transfer or transship fish from or to another vessel
- NR-g** Fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where vessel is not authorised to fish
- LP-b** Fail to report vessel positions to countries, where required when entering and leaving an EEZ(crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the High Seas)
- PN-a** Dispose of any metals, plastics, chemicals or old fishing gear
- SS-a** Fail to monitor international safety frequencies

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
				Infraction-no sanction	Infraction-sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
Pre-notification code	Year							
...								

PART B:-Template for Summary Tables related to each CCM on cases in the WCPFC Online Compliance Case File System

Summary tables derived from the online compliance case file system and intended to provide summaries of an individual flag CCMs responses to compliance cases in the online compliance case file system.

CCMxx

Table 1:- Counts of all Alleged Infringement cases in the compliance case file system by year showing count of cases for each CCM by Investigation Status and where applicable counts of cases where ROP Observer Report was received

A25: Article 25(2)

FAI: FAD Sets Alleged infringements **OAI:** Observer Obstructions Alleged Infringements

SHK: Shark Catch Alleged Infringements

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance cases	ROP_rpt received count
FAI	Year 2017					
	Year 2018					
...						

Table 2:- Summary Tables of Flag CCM responses to compliance cases notified in WCPFC online Compliance Case File System that were based on ROP data

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
				Infraction -no sanction	Infraction -sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
CMM / CMM para A	Year 2017							
	Year 2018							

Table 3:- Summary Tables of Flag CCM responses to Article 25(2) requests for investigations notified in WCPFC online Compliance Case File System

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance cases

				Infraction- no sanction	Infraction- sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
CMM / CMM para A	Year 2017							
	Year 2018							

TEMPLATE FOR AGGREGATED TABLES TO BE APPENDED TO THE PROVISIONAL CMR

[Note: the aggregated tables are those from the previous reports and included summary by obligation (and not CCM) and include information on: Flag CCM notified; Flag CCM investigation in progress; Flag CCM investigation completed (including infraction – no sanction, infraction – sanction, infraction – warning, no infringement); total.]

Table I: Counts of all Alleged Infringement cases based on ROP observer data by year showing count of cases by Investigation Status and counts of cases where ROP Observer Report was received

FAI: FAD Sets Alleged infringements

OAI: Observer Obstructions Alleged Infringements

SHK: Shark Catch Alleged Infringements

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance cases	ROP_rpt received count
Year 2015	FAI					
Year 2016						
...						

Table II-xx: Summary Tables of outcome of flag CCM investigations of alleged infringements that were notified to WCPFC as Article 25(2) matters or in ROP observer data grouped by CMM/obligation and by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status

**For ease of readability, groups of CMM/obligations may be presented by tables of similar topic eg alleged FAD sets, bycatch-related, observer obstruction and safety incidents, vessel-related, VMS-reporting, others*

		Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Total Compliance cases
				Infraction- no sanction	Infraction- sanction	Infraction - warning	No infraction	
CMM / CMM para A	Year 2017							
	Year 2018							



COMMISSION

Twentieth Regular Session

4-8 December 2023

Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

**SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC17)**

WCPFC20-2023-FAC17

8 December 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventeenth Finance and Administration Committee (FAC17) was convened by the FAC Co-Chairs Mr Michael Brakke (USA) and Mr David Power (AU) on Sunday, 3rd December 2023. Subsequent sessions of FAC were held on 6th and 8th December 2023. 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, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United States of America, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, 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 4. 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-Chair Mr David Power (AU) called the 17th Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC17) to order at 9:00 AM on 3rd December 2023 with Co-Chair Mr Michael Brakke (US) attending virtually.
3. Neomai Ravitu (Fiji) led the opening prayer.
4. FAC Co-Chair Mr David Power (AU) welcomed all participants and thanked Cook Islands for hosting and the excellent support provided. WCPFC Executive Director Rhea Moss-Christian gave a brief opening message and welcomed all FAC17 delegates.
5. The Secretariat ICT Manager Tim Jones made a few comments on hybrid meeting arrangements noting AI assistant option in Zoom is not available to support online meeting participants.

6. The Secretariat Finance and Administration Manager (FAM) Aaron Nighswander gave an overview of the meeting arrangements.
7. FAC Co-Chair Mr David Power (AU) noted that FAC Co-Chair Michael Brakke (USA) will be joining online and further informed that the committee is expected to reconvene twice to finalize the discussions. The Co-Chair explained that the meeting report will follow a similar format as recent years. Rapporteurs will record interventions from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers, but the report will not seek to summarize every intervention. CCMs or Observers should specify when taking the floor if they want a particular statement attributed to them to be reflected in the meeting report.

1.1 Adoption of agenda

8. The FAC17 agenda set out in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-01 was adopted without revision.
9. FAC Co-Chair Mr Michael Brakke (USA) thanked the host and expressed his regret he could not join the meeting in person. He confirmed that he would participate virtually to the extent possible and engage on individual agenda items, but that FAC Co-Chair Mr. David Power will lead in working through the agenda at FAC17.

1.2 Meeting arrangements

10. The Secretariat's FAM had no further comments regarding the meeting arrangements beyond those already provided.
11. The FAC Co-Chair Mr David Power (AU) noted that he will lead in chairing the FAC17 meeting consistent with the introductory comments and reiterated that the report format will be consistent with the previous approach wherein it summarizes the outcomes of the meeting discussions and minimizes attribution of interventions unless specifically requested.

AGENDA ITEM 2. AUDITORS REPORT FOR 2022 AND GENERAL ACCOUNT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2022

12. The FAM summarized the information in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-05, noting the 2022 audit report was circulated to the Commission members on 2nd November 2023, with delays in the audit report due to the inability of the auditor to start on time. Transitioning to a new auditor (Ernst and Young) has created challenges, further noting that the primary auditor is located in CNMI, which added to the delays in the Commission's audit report. The FAM noted that based on the auditor's report, it stated that *"In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as of December 31, 2022....."* and that *".. there was compliance with the Commission's Financial Regulation 12.4 (c)."*
13. The FAM gave further information on the auditor's qualified opinion section of the auditor's report but was confident that this reflected a need to reconcile records in 2010 and earlier. He

noted that 2010 was the year the Commission's financial management shifted from Excel to QuickBooks. A reconciliation of financial records will be done early next year (2024).

14. The FAM reported that for the General Account Fund, the financial statements show that there was an excess of income over expenditure of USD734,230. In addition, prior years' contributions of USD1,282,585 were paid by some Members in 2022. In accordance with Financial Regulation 4.4, the balance was transferred to the Working Capital Fund.

15. FAC17 recommended that the Commission accept the audited financial statements for 2022 as set out in paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-05 and that the outstanding issue on the auditor's report be addressed and reported to FAC18.

AGENDA ITEM 3. STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S FUNDS

3.1 Report on General Account Fund for 2023 – Contributions and Other Incomes

16. The FAM introduced paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-04 issued on 26th October 2023. The assessed contributions for 2023 were USD7,602,727 and as of 20th October 2023, fourteen members had outstanding 2023 contributions. The total outstanding balance from those members was USD1,751,415 with three of those outstanding amounts under USD100. As of 28th November 2023, the total outstanding balance from members is USD1,453,267 with partial payment from FSM and Vanuatu. Members who have not paid their annual contributions to date were reminded to pay contributions so that the Commission's operations are not negatively impacted.
17. Some CCMs raised concern about the continued increase in the budget which may not be sustainable, particularly for SIDS and the Commission should look for ways to address this concern.
18. Some CCMs raised concern about the outstanding contributions from other members. The Secretariat has communicated with concerned CCMs regarding their outstanding contributions, and informed the meeting that outstanding contributions are being processed by some CCMs. One CCM asked about the cause of some outstanding contributions balances of under USD100. The FAM clarified that these are typically from the bank fees and/or currency exchange rate differences.
19. Concerns about the continued increase in CCM's contributions as a result of increases in the required budget will be further considered under Agenda 5.

20. FAC17 noted the status of the report in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-04 on the status of General Account Fund for 2023.

3.2 Report on the Status of Other Funds for 2023

21. The FAM introduced paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-07, noting the balances in i) the Special Requirements Fund (SRF); ii) the Japan Trust Fund; iii) the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund (CTTF); iv) the CNM Contributions Fund; v) the Voluntary Contributions Fund; vi) the West Pacific East Asia

Project Fund; and vii) the Working Capital Fund. The breakdown of the use of the funds is detailed in the paper.

22. The EU requested that ongoing projects in the Voluntary Contributions Fund are also listed in the report in future years to give the Commission better information on how these funds were utilized.
23. New Zealand informed FAC17 that they will provide additional funding of around NZD300,000 (USD185,500) for the ongoing phase of the West Pacific East Asia Improved Tuna Monitoring (WPEA-ITM) Project and they are undergoing an internal process for the next phase of the project.
24. Some CCMs noted and thanked Japan and Chinese Taipei for the very useful trust funds. For the CNM contributions, some countries have requested more information on how these funds were utilized.
25. Some CCMs indicated that they intend to make a recommendation at the plenary to request the Secretariat to conduct a review of observer attendance to the WCPFC meetings including cost and benefit to the Commission and the possibility for observers to pay an annual fee and report these outcomes to FAC18.
26. The FAM clarified that CNM contribution funds are being used for i) around USD100,000 to offset small SIDS contributions based on financial regulations and ii) USD50,000 to offset all members' contributions.
27. Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA members, raised concern on the status of the SRF noting financial regulation 7.2. FFA have submitted three proposals on how to sustain the SRF which includes i) continuing voluntary contribution to SRF; ii) transferring unused funds from CNM funds (around USD100,000); and iii) USD300,000 added to the operating budget to sustain the SRF, assessed on developed countries only. They expressed hope that these will be adopted as an outcome of this meeting this year.
28. Korea appreciates the funding support of New Zealand for the WPEA-ITM Project and confirmed that they will continue their funding support for the tuna tagging project. They noted that there is a new consultative group which is the South Pacific Group (SPG) and may need additional funding for their activities. They also noted that funding for SPG activities was split between SRF and CTF. The FAM clarified that the split in the funding for the SPG activities in 2023 was to save funds in the SRF, but the project could not fully be funded out of the CTF due to the rules of the fund.

29. FAC17 noted the report in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-07.

AGENDA ITEM 4. HEADQUARTERS ISSUES

4.1 Headquarters Matters

30. The FAM presented paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-08, highlighting the issues at headquarters arising in 2023. The FAM provided updates on the following: i) medical care, ii) telecommunication and internet, iii) travel, iv) security, v) headquarters building and vi) housing in Pohnpei.
31. The FAM gave additional updates on the Headquarters Building Assessment Project and suggested holding off on the issue as the Secretariat is currently discussing needed repairs with the FSM government. Updates on this topic will be reported back next year. The FAM further noted that UN and World Bank have established offices in FSM, and this increases market housing pressure. The cost of travel has continued to increase, but Nauru Airlines has added a new flight from Pohnpei (PNI) to Palau (PW) and vice versa, a new route. The FAM also noted the limited medical care in PNI, and utilities are unstable. As for the penetration test of the WCPFC IT system, the FAM clarified that no additional cost is required as a result the outcomes of that activity.

32. FAC17 noted the report in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-08.

4.2. Report from the Informal IWG Tri-Annual Salary Market Review and Professional Staff Remuneration

33. FAC Co-Chair Michael Brakke (USA) presented WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09 (*Report from the Informal Intersessional Working Group (IWG)-Tri-Annual Salary Market Review and Professional Staff Remuneration*). The informal IWG convened under the direction given by the Commission in Paragraph 438 of the WCPFC19 Summary Report. The IWG considered issues related to simplified salary scales, conversion to USD exchange rates, inflationary salary increases, the content and frequency of salary reviews, and potential changes to staff and financial regulations. The FAC Co-Chairs chaired the IWG in collaboration with the FAM. The IWG included representatives from Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Indonesia, and the United States and conducted its work via email correspondence.
34. The FAM informed the FAC17 that the report was reviewed by Secretariat staff.
35. FFA members said they were comfortable with this report and this is a good step forward. They also noted the budget implications, moving from SDR to USD. The FAM clarified that this will be a simpler way of budgeting and noted some savings of around USD 43,000 in 2024, USD 23,000 in 2025, and flat in 2026.
36. RMI suggested considering an increase for local staff, and requested the Secretariat to give some options for the FAC to consider.
37. Several other CCMs also expressed support for the recommended outcomes.
38. The FAC Co-Chair noted in response to the suggestion from RMI that support staff salary increases are already contemplated and included in the budget under Financial Regulation 19, but that the magnitude of increases could be further considered in the agenda item focused on the budget. The FAC Co-Chairs concluded this agenda item by thanking everyone for their support on this work.

39. FAC17 recommends to the Commission to support recommendations as proposed in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09 and set out below:

- FAC17 recommends the Commission approve placing all professional staff on one simplified salary scale (Table 4 of attachment 1 of WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09).
- FAC17 recommends the Commission approve converting the professional staff salary scale from Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to USD, with a proposed initial conversion exchange rate from current salaries of 1 SDR=1.45 USD.
- FAC17 recommends the Commission use the annual inflationary changes provided in the UN D1 salary scale to automatically include equivalent percentage increases (up to 5%) for all professional staff salaries in the proposed budget.
- FAC17 recommends the Commission change the regular salary review to every 8 years or as needed/requested by the Commission or Secretariat, while recognizing the importance of ensuring those salary reviews are more comprehensive and provide benchmarks to the most relevant organizations and, where appropriate, information to support job-sizing exercises.
- FAC17 recommends the Commission adopt the proposed changes in to the staff regulations set out in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09 to give effect to these recommendations and make other technical or conforming edits.

4.3. Restructure of Secretariat Resources

40. The ED, FAM, and Compliance Manager (Lara Manarangi-Trott) presented WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-10. The planned restructuring of Secretariat resources was based on the outcomes of a 2023 review of the Commission's emerging priorities against the Secretariat's current structure. The review was undertaken by the Secretariat with the intent of aligning workloads to best respond and adapt to current and anticipated requirements of the Commission, including an increasing need for data analytical work. As described in TCC19 working paper 18 prepared by the Secretariat, an initial phase of enhanced data analytics capability in 2022-2023 demonstrated the potential opportunities for Commission members to derive considerable value from WCPFC data holdings.
41. The review focused primarily on the Secretariat's Compliance section, with changes to this section expected to benefit the overall functioning of the Secretariat in support of the Commission's needs. The required budget to support the intended staff changes results in minimal adjustments to the proposed 2024 budget, and the indicative 2025 and 2026 budgets. A phased approach is considered to be the most practical as well as conducive to delivering enhanced Secretariat services to the Commission throughout the restructuring period and into the future.
42. Several CCMs stated that they see the merits of the restructuring of Secretariat resources, including the approach recommended in the paper. Some CCMs sought clarification on the

budget implications, including the necessity of hiring support staff and the services that will be delivered particularly on ensuring stability in services that will be delivered to members.

43. Regarding the budget implications, the Secretariat clarified that currently there are no additions to the budget and the restructure includes reallocating the budget for the new positions, including the consultancy and the travel cost needed to deliver the necessary services. There may be an increase in the budget in the long term but these increases would be necessary even with the current structure taking into account inflation, increases in travel costs, and other necessary considerations.

44. FAC17 noted the report in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-10.

AGENDA ITEM 5. WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024 AND INDICATIVE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2025 AND 2026

45. The FAM presented paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-06_Rev1, detailing the proposed 2024 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.
46. One CCM expressed their reservations on the budget, noting the large increase would be unacceptable. They suggested prioritizing to come up with an acceptable budget. They highlighted the following: i) additional stock assessment scientists, ii) an increase in the budget on silky shark assessment, iii) ecosystem and climate indicators, and iv) manta, mobulid, and shark assessments, with an intention to delete or defer some of these activities.
47. SPC clarified that additional scientists were requested to have greater input to the stock assessment process that the SC requires and more details on this can be referred to Annex 14 of WCPFC20-2023-06. How long these two additional scientists will be hired would depend on the workload, noting the increasing work requirements requested by WCPFC and SC.
48. Some CCMs expressed their support for an additional stock assessment scientist in 2024 and suggested re-evaluating the need thereafter. Some CCMs expressed appreciation of the work of the Scientific Services Provider (SSP) but concerns about the magnitude of the increase in budget.
49. Some CCMs made the following suggestions on the budget to consider: i) prioritize the work on mobulid, silky and whale shark assessment, ii) to allow more time for SPC scientists to do the analysis, iii) prioritize projects considering the SC ranking, iv) have a cap on the new proposals, and v) noting USA voluntary contribution USD20,000 for a workshop (P19X6) and USD29,000 for BioFads (P19X4) for 2024, these items should be taken out of the total budget. Further, there were suggestions to defer or remove low-ranking projects including the urgent need for these projects such as P19X9 (manta, mobulid, and whale shark assessments), P19X10 (Oceanic whitetip shark assessment) and P19X11 (shark biological data collection).
50. The SSP clarified that Project 113B (development of a template for stock status and management advice including the definition of risk and uncertainty) would be a consultancy to be delivered to SC, which needs consultation across membership, and the proposal cost includes travel.

51. WWF noted the importance of adequately funding scientific activities, considering that some estimates of the value of WCPO tuna stocks is around 6 billion dollars, against which this budget should be considered a minimal investment to a very valuable fishery.
52. Noting the above suggestions to reduce the budget, the FAC noted that this would reduce the overall budget by around USD 411,000 from the proposed budget.
53. RMI on behalf of FFA members raised concerns about the sustainability of the Special Requirements Fund (SRF) and its budget implications, and reiterated its proposals to ensure additional funding. RMI further noted that the SRF was created for the implementation of Article 30 and additional information on these funds including their management can be found on the WCPFC website.
54. When FAC17 reconvened on 6 December 2023, FAC17 Co-Chair reminded CCMs of five outstanding items related to the work plan and budget under Agenda Item 5 that would need their consideration: (1) the revised budget provided by the Secretariat; (2) consideration of the budget for scientific research under sub-item 2.2 of Annex 3, ensuring focus and concurrence with recommendations of the SC; (3) the proposal for additional voluntary contributions to support two priorities identified by the Secretariat; (4) the proposal from RMI for additional increase to the local staff salary; and (5) the FFA proposal on the SRF.
55. The FAM presented the revised Proposed Budget for the Commission's Work Programme For 2024 and Indicative Budgets for 2025 and 2026 (WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-06 Rev2) with around USD410,000 reduction in the budget.
56. The Executive Director made a brief presentation of two Secretariat Projects that need voluntary contributions: i) Enhancing the WCPFC website and ii) Capacity building opportunities for staff. These projects are essential to communicate WCPFC work in ways that are clear, more focused and to complement the work coming up in 2024.
57. The FFA proposed the following to sustainably finance the SRF:
 - a. Continue voluntary contributions to the SRF and encourage CCMs who are able to do so.
 - b. Transfer the unused funds from the CNM contributions fund to SRF, ensuring that the amount transferred would not affect the offset for SIDS contribution in the future which is around USD100,000. iii. An additional amount (USD300,000) be annually added to the budget, sourced from developed States for the SRF.
58. A majority of the developed CCMs supported i and ii of the FFA proposal. Regarding part iii of the FFA proposal, some CCMs said they were unable to accept it at this time, noting that it's a new proposal requiring further consultations with finance and legal departments in their respective governments. An FFA member and the Secretariat put forth some alternative formulations of the third option, including that the SRF budget increase would not be applied until 2025 or would be included in the draft budget. Although members could not agree to the alternative text, members expressed their willingness to work intersessionally to look for mechanisms to sustain the SRF

including the review and potential amendments to the Financial Regulations, and Principles, guidelines and operational procedures for the Commission's Special Requirements Fund.

59. The FAM also noted advice from the WCPFC legal advisor that the current Financial Regulations do not allow for financial contributions to be collected from a subset of CCMs for funding the SRF.
60. FAC17 also discussed the proposal of RMI to increase support staff salaries and there was support from CCMs to grant 5% increase inclusive of current annual inflation as per staff regulation 19.
61. China raised their concern on Annex 7 of WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-06 Rev2 on the computation of members contribution, particularly on the National wealth component, which represents 20% of the overall contributions. The FAM provided additional information and will work with China on this concern.
62. Canada announced that it would provide USD65,000 for the SRF in 2024.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">63. FAC17 recommends to the Commission to support the increase of support staff salaries at 5% inclusive of current annual inflation as per staff regulation 19.64. FAC 17 noted with concern that the SRF was fully depleted ahead of WCPFC20 and that insufficient funds were available to meet the requests made by Small Island Developing States and Participating Territories to support their participation in WCPFC20.65. Noting that the SRF is currently depleted, FAC17 recommended the Commission transfer USD100,000 from CNM Fund to the SRF and encouraged CCMs to make voluntary contributions to the SRF for 2024.66. FAC17 recommended that the Commission adopt a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF as matter of urgency. FAC17 noted the proposal from FFA members that USD300,000 per year be added annually to the budget starting from 2025, for the SRF, to be sourced equally from developed CCMs.67. FAC17 noted the advice from the Secretariat that the current Financial Regulations do not allow for ongoing financial contributions to be collected from a subset of CCMs for funding the SRF, and would need to be amended to assess contributions only on developed CCMs.68. FAC17 recommended that the FAC Co-Chairs work with interested CCMs, to consider options, including potential revisions to the Financial Regulations, and Principles, guidelines and operational procedures for the Commission's Special Requirements Fund, and to conduct any further work to support the proposed implementation of a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF to be considered at FAC18 and WCPFC21.69. FAC17 recommends to the Commission a 2024 budget of USD9,308,383 (Annexes 1-3) pending any subsequent decision reached by WCPFC20 that will have an impact on the budget. |
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AGENDA ITEM 6. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

70. Tuvalu nominated Mr David Power (AU) to continue his role as Co-Chair for FAC for another term.
71. FAC17 acknowledged the contributions of Mr Michael Brakke as FAC Co-Chair for 4 years. FAC Co-Chair Michael Brakke (USA) noted that he is not able to continue serving after 2 terms of service, and encouraged other delegations to identify and nominate the next Co-Chair. He thanked everyone for the opportunity and their support.
72. Korea nominated Ms Putuh Suadela of Indonesia to serve as Co-Chair of FAC commencing in 2024.

73. FAC17 recommended the Commission appoint Mr David Power (AU) for another term as Co-Chair for FAC and Ms Putuh Suadela (ID) to serve as Co-Chair of FAC commencing in 2024.

AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

74. The FAM suggested that updates to the Staff Regulation are needed as some sections of the regulations have become outdated.

75. FAC17 recommends the Commission task the Secretariat to review the Staff Regulations and report back to FAC18 with draft recommended changes to those regulations.

AGENDA ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF REPORT

76. FAC17 adopted this summary report which was tabled as WCPFC20-2023-FAC17.

77. FAC17 invites WCPFC20 to consider this report and to endorse its recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF MEETING

78. FAC Co-Chairs Mr Michael Brakke (USA) and Mr David Power (AU) closed the final session of FAC17 at 8:50 AM Cook Islands time on 8 December 2023.

ATTACHMENT 15: WCPFC Budget with Annexes

Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2024 and indicative figures for 2025 and 2026 (USD)

	<i>Approved budget 2023</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2023</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2024</i>	<i>Approved budget 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2026</i>
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1	Staff Costs					
Professional Staff Salary	1,021,558	979,859	1,027,522	983,173	989,884	1,009,292
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	1,010,690	874,529	1,014,209	990,655	973,966	985,416
Professional Staff Insurance	182,106	190,442	185,173	181,521	200,817	203,255
Recruitment/Repatriation	45,130	24,618	25,565	25,565	0	25,565
Support Staff	527,023	495,145	532,611	563,422	621,161	622,599
	Total, sub-item 1.1	2,786,507	2,564,593	2,785,080	2,744,337	2,785,827
Sub-Item 1.2	Other Personnel Costs					
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	20,000	60,836	20,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Consultants <i>(Note 1)</i>	153,000	155,824	153,000	153,000	153,000	153,000
	Total, sub-item 1.2	189,500	233,160	189,500	229,500	229,500
Sub-item 1.3	Official Travel					
	210,000	155,995	210,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Sub-item 1.4	General Operating Expenses					
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	42,000	39,631	42,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
Communications/Courier	84,000	81,924	82,000	84,000	82,000	82,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	39,964	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
Audit	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Bank Charges	10,000	12,818	10,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	9,955	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,000	3,478	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Security	105,525	100,031	105,525	110,867	110,867	110,867
Training	12,000	10,550	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
	Total, sub-item 1.4	325,525	313,351	323,525	331,867	331,867
Sub-item 1.5	Capital Expenditure					
Vehicles	22,000	9,706	0	22,000	0	0
Information Technology	48,400	42,579	48,400	48,400	48,400	48,400
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	32,936	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000

	Total, sub-item 1.5	102,400	85,221	80,400	102,400	80,400	80,400
Sub-item 1.6	Maintenance						
Vehicles		6,000	6,929	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology		167,863	165,079	167,863	169,039	169,039	169,039
Website Hosting		20,130	20,740	20,130	20,130	20,130	20,130
Buildings & Grounds		60,000	62,449	60,000	63,000	63,000	63,000
Gardeners and Cleaners		88,110	82,242	88,110	92,568	92,568	92,568
Insurance		28,500	28,506	28,500	28,500	28,500	28,500
	Total, sub-item 1.6	370,603	365,945	370,603	379,237	379,237	379,237
Sub-item 1.7	Meeting Services						
Annual Session		260,000	260,000	195,000	205,000	205,000	205,000
Scientific Committee		232,000	213,137	192,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
Northern Committee (Note 2)		18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee		174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800
Total, sub-item 1.7		684,800	665,937	579,800	617,800	617,800	617,800
Sub-item 1.8 Future Work - Commission (Note 3)		0	0	220,000	0	220,000	220,000
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1		4,669,335	4,384,202	4,758,908	4,607,141	4,844,631	4,904,931

ANNEX 1 (continued)	<i>Approved budget 2023</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2023</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2024</i>	<i>Approved budget 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2026</i>
Part 2 - Science and Technical & Compliance Programme						
Section 2 (Item 2)	981,112	981,112	1,000,734	1,000,734	1,020,749	1,041,164
Sub-item 2.1 Scientific Services (SPC) <i>(Note 4)</i>						
Sub-item 2.2 Scientific Research						
Additional Resourcing SPC <i>(Note 4)</i>	176,670	176,670	180,204	180,204	183,808	187,484
SPC 1st additional stock assessment scientist <i>(Note 4)</i>	0	0	0	165,000	168,300	171,666
SPC 2nd additional stock assessment scientist <i>(Note 4)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
P35b Pacific Marine Specimen Bank	105,268	105,268	107,373	107,373	109,520	111,711
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	730,000	730,000	730,000	800,000	875,000	950,000
P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	25,000	0	0	30,000
P90 Fish Lengths/Weights Conversion Analyses	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	0
P97b (P18X8) Shark Research Plan midterm review	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
P108 WCPO silky shark assessment	50,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	0	0
P112 (P18X1) Billfish Research Plan 2023 - 2027	55,000	55,000	0	0	0	0
P113 (P18X2) Ensemble model SA uncertainty	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
P113b Template for stock status/manag. advice	0	0	0	40,000	0	0
P114 Improved cannery receipt data	35,000	35,000	60,000	60,000	35,000	0
P115 (P18X4) Evidence for increasing SKJ recruits	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
P18X6 Pacific silky shark assessment	0	0	30,000	0	0	0
P18X7 Pacific whale shark assessment	0	0	85,000	0	0	0
P19X4 Additional work on developing BioFADs <i>(Note 4)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
P19X5 Updated reproductive biol. of trop. tunas <i>(Note 4)</i>	0	0	0	44,000	0	0
P19X6 Ecosystem and Climate Indicators	0	0	0	0	20,000	15,000
P19X7 Scoping study on longline effort creep	0	0	0	30,000	0	0
P19X8 Scoping next generation of assess. software	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000
P19X9 Manta/mobulid/whale shark assessment	0	0	0	0	56,000	0
P19X10 Oceanic whitetip assessment	0	0	0	60,000	60,000	0
P19X11 Sampling strategy for shark bio data	0	0	0	0	40,000	45,000
Total, sub-item 2.2	1,231,938	1,231,938	1,267,577	1,656,577	1,617,628	1,560,861

ANNEX 1 (continued)	<i>Approved budget 2023</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2023</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2024</i>	<i>Approved budget 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2026</i>
Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme						
ROP - Audit/Remediation	15,000	12,646	15,000	0	0	0
ROP - Training, Assistance & Development	10,000	4,721	10,000	0	0	0
ROP Travel for Audits and Training	0	0	0	35,000	35,000	35,000
ROP - Consultancy	0	0	0	85,000	85,000	85,000
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	200,000	179,900	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	206,810	210,321	210,946	214,527	218,818	223,194
IT Security Audit	11,900	10,454	11,900	10,500	10,500	10,500
Information Management System <i>(Note 5)</i>	120,000	118,092	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub.	20,000	25,500	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
CMS Future Work <i>(Note 6)</i>	80,000	79,071	50,000	50,000	30,000	20,000
Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity <i>(Note 7)</i>	80,000	77,677	40,000	80,000	80,000	0
Compliance and Monitoring Analyst Consultant <i>(Note 8)</i>	80,000	78,509	0	30,000	0	0
E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	0	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
CCM/Staff VMS Training	25,000	25,367	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	32,211	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Regional Capacity Building Workshops <i>(Note 9)</i>	130,000	129,640	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Total, sub-item 2.3	2,002,614	1,918,013	1,876,750	2,043,931	1,998,222	1,912,598
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2	4,215,664	4,131,063	4,145,061	4,701,242	4,636,599	4,514,623
Total, Parts 1 & 2	8,884,999	8,515,265	8,903,970	9,308,383	9,481,230	9,419,554

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services (including travel)	\$65,000
Meetings' rapporteur (including travel)	\$63,000
Miscellaneous Consultancies	<u>\$25,000</u>
	\$153,000

Note 2: 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 3: 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 2023 budget with the additional projects under Scientific Research.

Note 4: Section 2 Science programme

- Refer to Para 3 of Annex 13 for use of both SPC services fee and additional resourcing
- Refer to Para 4 of Annex 13 for job description of additional SPC scientists
- P19X4, P19X5 - Matching fund (20%) required to EU project

Note 5: Information Management System

2024/25 - Includes continual improvements to IT-related tools to improve ease of use for CCMs to manage their own reporting (refer to TCC19-2023-22)

Note 6: CMS Future Work

2024/25 - Necessary IT-related system consolidation for Annual Report Part 2 / CMR online systems (refer to TCC19-2023-22)

Note 7: Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity

2024/25 - TCC19 supported supplementary dedicated analytical capacity for the Secretariat in 2024 and 2025 (TCC19 Outcomes para 61). Focus includes improving Secretariat's analysis and reporting of data to support key Secretariat functions, through improvements that simplify and streamline the delivery of analysis and reports (refer TCC19-2023-18).

Note 8: Compliance and Monitoring Analyst Consultant

2024/25 - TCC19 supported supplementary dedicated analytical capacity for the Secretariat in 2024 and 2025 (TCC19 Outcomes para 61). Focus includes exploring what might be needed to assist the Secretariat in understanding the potential uses of data from the Commissions monitoring programmes, with an initial focus on Secretariat support to VMS monitoring, high seas transshipment monitoring and high seas pocket management, and optimize with the support of routine reports the Secretariats and CCMs joint work to address data quality issues and gaps affecting monitoring (refer TCC19-2023-18).

Note 9: Regional Capacity Building Workshops

ANNEX 2**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2024**

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,308,383
less	
Estimated interest	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(800,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>8,454,983</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2025

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,481,230
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,500)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(400,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,027,730</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2026

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,419,554
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,500)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(300,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,066,054</u></u>

Annex 3 - Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

2024 Contribution Table								
<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>	Total Contributions by Members	<i>Percent of Budget by member</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States*</i>	<i>Total of components: 100% of budget**</i>
Australia	32,519	105,813	14,307	0	152,640	1.83%	0	152,640
Canada	32,519	96,644	38	375	129,575	1.55%	0	129,575
China	32,519	210,915	147,081	1,132	391,647	4.70%	0	391,647
Cook Islands	32,519	1,010	15,356	0	48,885	0.59%	32,185	81,071
European Union	32,519	253,316	57,871	0	343,706	4.12%	0	343,706
Federated States of Micronesia	32,519	6,248	496,041	0	534,808	6.41%	0	534,808
Fiji	32,519	7,764	23,010	0	63,293	0.76%	0	63,293
France	32,519	103,048	12,179	0	147,746	1.77%	0	147,746
Indonesia	32,519	19,925	126,729	0	179,173	2.15%	0	179,173
Japan	32,519	127,289	1,050,700	520	1,211,028	14.52%	0	1,211,028
Kiribati	32,519	4,782	454,518	0	491,820	5.90%	0	491,820
Korea	32,519	74,674	959,088	3,092	1,069,373	12.82%	0	1,069,373
Marshall Islands	32,519	2,079	288,635	0	323,232	3.88%	7,263	330,495
Nauru	32,519	634	328,297	0	361,449	4.33%	27,397	388,847
New Zealand	32,519	73,520	27,331	0	133,370	1.60%	0	133,370
Niue	32,519	97	2	0	32,618	0.39%	25,690	58,308
Palau	32,519	903	33	0	33,454	0.40%	21,785	55,239
Papua New Guinea	32,519	4,545	152,121	0	189,185	2.27%	0	189,185
Philippines	32,519	10,505	152,314	0	195,338	2.34%	0	195,338
Samoa	32,519	6,013	4,937	0	43,469	0.52%	0	43,469
Solomon Islands	32,519	3,560	61,289	0	97,369	1.17%	0	97,369
Chinese Taipei	32,519	57,494	888,657	2,838	981,508	11.77%	0	981,508
Tonga	32,519	5,343	478	0	38,340	0.46%	2,515	40,855
Tuvalu	32,519	566	90,031	0	123,116	1.48%	9,713	132,829
United States of America	32,519	382,828	343,056	2,199	760,602	9.12%	0	760,602
Vanuatu	32,519	4,935	224,389	0	261,843	3.14%	0	261,843
Totals	845,498	1,564,448	5,918,488	10,155	8,338,589	100%	126,549	8,465,138

* To be offset by the CNM Contributions Fund.

** The total of components includes the addition for Northern Committee funding to offset the 2023 budget.

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	20,200	1,010	33,195	32,185
Federated States of Micronesia	114,160	5,708	6,248	0
Fiji	929,770	46,489	7,764	0
Kiribati	131,230	6,562	4,782	0
Marshall Islands	41,570	2,079	9,341	7,263
Nauru	12,670	634	28,031	27,397
Niue	1,935	97	25,787	25,690
Palau	18,050	903	22,687	21,785
Papua New Guinea	10,142,620	507,131	4,545	0
Samoa	222,380	11,119	6,013	0
Solomon Islands	724,270	36,214	3,560	0
Tonga	106,860	5,343	7,858	2,515
Tuvalu	11,310	566	10,278	9,713
Vanuatu	326,740	16,337	4,935	0
Total				126,549

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	1.53%	3.7%	375
China	4.62%	11.2%	1,132
Japan	2.12%	5.1%	520
Korea	12.61%	30.4%	3,092
Chinese Taipei	11.58%	27.9%	2,838
United States of America	8.97%	21.7%	2,199
Total	41.42%	100.00%	10,155

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	2024					2025 Indicative		2026 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	32,519	105,813	14,307	152,640	1.81%	162,980	1.81%	163,671	1.81%
Canada	32,519	96,644	38	129,201	1.53%	137,953	1.53%	138,539	1.53%
China	32,519	210,915	147,081	390,515	4.62%	416,969	4.62%	418,739	4.62%
Cook Islands	32,519	33,195	15,356	81,071	0.96%	86,563	0.96%	86,930	0.96%
European Union	32,519	253,316	57,871	343,706	4.07%	366,989	4.07%	368,547	4.07%
Federated States of Micronesia	32,519	6,248	496,041	534,808	6.33%	571,036	6.33%	573,460	6.33%
Fiji	32,519	7,764	23,010	63,293	0.75%	67,581	0.75%	67,868	0.75%
France	32,519	103,048	12,179	147,746	1.75%	157,755	1.75%	158,425	1.75%
Indonesia	32,519	19,925	126,729	179,173	2.12%	191,310	2.12%	192,122	2.12%
Japan	32,519	127,289	1,050,700	1,210,509	14.32%	1,292,510	14.32%	1,297,996	14.32%
Kiribati	32,519	4,782	454,518	491,820	5.82%	525,136	5.82%	527,365	5.82%
Korea	32,519	74,674	959,088	1,066,281	12.61%	1,138,512	12.61%	1,143,345	12.61%
Marshall Islands	32,519	9,341	288,635	330,495	3.91%	352,883	3.91%	354,381	3.91%
Nauru	32,519	28,031	328,297	388,847	4.60%	415,187	4.60%	416,950	4.60%
New Zealand	32,519	73,520	27,331	133,370	1.58%	142,405	1.58%	143,009	1.58%
Niue	32,519	25,787	2	58,308	0.69%	62,258	0.69%	62,523	0.69%
Palau	32,519	22,687	33	55,239	0.65%	58,981	0.65%	59,232	0.65%
Papua New Guinea	32,519	4,545	152,121	189,185	2.24%	202,001	2.24%	202,858	2.24%
Philippines	32,519	10,505	152,314	195,338	2.31%	208,571	2.31%	209,456	2.31%
Samoa	32,519	6,013	4,937	43,469	0.51%	46,413	0.51%	46,610	0.51%
Solomon Islands	32,519	3,560	61,289	97,369	1.15%	103,965	1.15%	104,406	1.15%
Chinese Taipei	32,519	57,494	888,657	978,670	11.58%	1,044,966	11.58%	1,049,402	11.58%
Tonga	32,519	7,858	478	40,855	0.48%	43,623	0.48%	43,808	0.48%
Tuvalu	32,519	10,278	90,031	132,829	1.57%	141,827	1.57%	142,429	1.57%

United States of America	32,519	382,828	343,056	758,403	8.97%	809,778	8.97%	813,215	8.97%
Vanuatu	32,519	4,935	224,389	261,843	3.10%	279,580	3.10%	280,767	3.10%
Totals	845,498	1,690,997	5,918,488	8,454,983	100.00%	9,027,730	100.00%	9,066,054	100.00%



Memorandum of Understanding between the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (hereafter NPFC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (hereafter WCPFC):

Acknowledging that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (hereafter NPFC Convention) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur;

Acknowledging also that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific ocean;

Recognising that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant intergovernmental organizations;

Recognising further that Article 21 of the NPFC Convention calls upon the NPFC to take into account the conservation and management measures or recommendations adopted by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant intergovernmental organizations that have competence in relation to areas adjacent to the NPFC Convention;

Conscious of the fact that there is a geographical area overlap within the Convention Areas of both the NPFC and the WCPFC;

Noting that provisions of both the NPFC and the WCPFC Conventions address the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong to the same ecosystem as the target species;

Desiring to put in place a mechanism to promote and facilitate cooperation between WCPFC and NPFC;

Therefore NPFC and WCPFC record the following understandings:

1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

The objective of this MoU is to facilitate, where appropriate, cooperation between NPFC and WCPFC ('the Organisations') in order to advance their respective objectives, particularly with respect to stocks or species which are within the mutual interest of both Organisations.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Organisations will establish and maintain consultation, cooperation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to both organisations, including but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange meeting reports, information, documents and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, consistent with the information sharing policies of each organization;
- ii. exchange data and scientific information in support of the work and objectives of both Organisations, consistent with the confidentiality rules, information sharing policies and internal data security procedures of each Organisation including, but not limited to, information on:
 - a) vessels authorised to fish in accordance with conservation and management measures adopted under the NPFC and WCPFC Conventions;
 - b) at the specific request of one of the Organisations, transshipment activities of those vessels authorised to conduct transshipment in accordance with conservation and management measures adopted under the NPFC and WCPFC Conventions, on a necessity basis; and,
 - c) vessels identified as having engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity and the IUU Vessel Lists established by each Organisation.
- iii. collaborate, where appropriate, on research efforts relating to species and stocks of mutual interest, including non-target, associated and dependent species;
- iv. cooperate where appropriate, on the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted under the NPFC Convention and under the WCPFC Convention;
- v. share best practices in areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to:
 - a) monitoring, control and surveillance policies and systems, including with respect to Vessel Monitoring Systems;
 - b) administration, auditing, training and structure of observer programmes; and
 - c) Compliance Monitoring Schemes, and information management systems.
- vi. exchange on expertise gained, lessons learned and use of best practices between the Organisations' Secretariats in their areas of activity.
- vii. consistent with each Organisation's rules of procedure, grant reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Organisations in relevant meetings of each Organisation, including those of each Organisation's subsidiary bodies;

3. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

To facilitate effective development, implementation and enhancement of cooperation, the Organisations may establish a consultative process between their respective Secretariats that includes telephone, email and any other means of communication. The consultative process may also proceed in the margins of meetings at which both Organisations' Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff.

4. MODIFICATION

This MoU may be modified at any time with the mutual written consent of both Organisations.

5. LEGAL STATUS

This MoU does not create legally binding rights or obligations. Each Organisation should cover their own costs related to the implementation of this MoU.

This MoU does not alter the obligations of members of either Organisation to comply with the conservation and management measures adopted under their respective Conventions.

6. OTHER PROVISIONS

This MoU will commence on the date of the second signature.

Either Organisation may discontinue this MoU by giving six months' prior written notice to the other Organisation.

7. SIGNATURES

Signed on behalf of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission:

FOR THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
(NPFC)

FOR THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC
FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)

Shingo Ota
Chair

Josie Tamate
Chair

Place:

Place:

Date:

Date:



Memorandum of Understanding between the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (hereafter SPRFMO) and the Commission for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (hereafter WCPFC):

Acknowledging that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (hereafter SPRFMO Convention) 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 fishery resources in the SPRFMO Convention Area and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur;

Acknowledging also that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific ocean;

Recognising that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant intergovernmental organizations;

Recognising also that Article 31 of the SPRFMO Convention requires the SPRFMO Commission, *inter alia*, to cooperate, as appropriate, with other relevant organisations on matters of mutual interest and to seek to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with such other organisations;

Conscious of the fact that there is a geographical area overlap within the Convention Areas of both the SPRFMO and the WCPFC;

Noting that provisions of both the SPRFMO and the WCPFC Conventions address the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong to the same ecosystem as the target species;

Desiring to put in place a mechanism to promote and facilitate cooperation between SPRFMO and WCPFC;

Therefore SPRFMO and WCPFC record the following understandings:

1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The objective of this MoU is to facilitate, where appropriate, cooperation between SPRFMO and WCPFC ('the Organisations') in order to advance their respective objectives, particularly with respect to stocks or species which are within the mutual interest of both Organisations.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Organisations will establish and maintain consultation, cooperation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to both organisations, including but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange meeting reports, information, documents and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, consistent with the information sharing policies of each Organisation;
- ii. exchange data and scientific information in support of the work and objectives of both Organisations, subject to the information sharing policies and data use, access and confidentiality rules of each Organisation, including but not limited to, information on:
 - a. vessels authorised to fish in accordance with conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO and WCPFC Conventions;
 - b. at the specific request of one of the Organisations, transshipment activities of those vessels authorised to conduct transshipment in accordance with conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO and WCPFC Conventions, on a necessity basis; and
 - c. vessels identified as having engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity and on the IUU Vessel Lists established by each Organisation;
- iii. collaborate, where appropriate, on research efforts relating to species and stocks of mutual interest, including non-target, associated and dependent species;
- iv. cooperate where appropriate, on the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted under the SPRFMO Convention and under the WCPFC Convention;
- v. share best practices in areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to:
 - a. monitoring, control and surveillance policies and systems, including with respect to Vessel Monitoring Systems;
 - b. administration, auditing, training and structure of observer programmes; and
 - c. Compliance Monitoring Schemes, and information management systems;
- vi. exchange of information between the Secretariats of the Organisations on expertise gained, lessons learned and the use of best practices in their respective activities;
- vii. consistent with each Organisation's rules of procedure, grant reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Organisations in relevant meetings of each Organisation, including those of each Organisation's subsidiary bodies.

3. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

To facilitate effective development, implementation and enhancement of cooperation, the Organisations may establish a consultative process between their respective Secretariats that includes telephone, email and any other means of communication. The consultative process may also proceed in the margins of meetings at which both Organisations' Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff.

4. MODIFICATION

This MoU may be modified at any time by the mutual written consent of both Organisations.

5. LEGAL STATUS

This MoU does not create legally binding rights or obligations. Each Organisation will cover its own costs related to the implementation of this MoU.

This MoU does not alter the obligations of members of either Organisation to comply with the conservation and management measures adopted under their respective Conventions.

6. OTHER PROVISIONS

This MoU will commence on the date of the second signature.

Either Organisation may discontinue this MoU by giving six months' prior written notice to the other Organisation.

7. SIGNATURES

Signed on behalf of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission:

FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (SPRFMO)

FOR THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC
FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)

Chairperson SPRFMO

Josie Tamate
Chairperson WCPFC

Place:

Place:

Date:

Date:



WCPFC20 SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE – SMALL WORKING GROUP (SPA-SWG)

Draft outcomes – meeting 1 & 2 & 3

The SPA-SWG considered three key agenda items:

1. The SPA iTRP proposal by SPG+AUS
2. The convening of a Science Management Dialogue (SMD02) in 2024
3. Joint management considerations with IATTC

1. Revised south Pacific albacore target reference point

The SPA-SWG considered the SPG+Australia proposal in WCPFC20-2023-DP07 for an interim target reference point (iTRP) using a reference period approach. The SPA-SWG noted that the previously agreed iTRP (WCPFC15 Summary Record (paragraphs 207 to 212) was unrealistic and considered a revised iTRP that was both reasonable and achievable was needed.

Noting some technical and scientific uncertainty pertaining to the projected recruitment dip and the suitability of the current operating models, the SWG considered that:

- the iTRP must be reviewed in 2024 at SC20, noting the planned presentation of the stock assessment for south Pacific albacore.
- a narrow alternative range of candidate target reference points (TRP) be tested similar to the approach taken for skipjack MP development. This range should be $SB/SB_{F=0}$ 0.42 – 0.56 (long-term avg $SB/SB_{F=0}$ (WCPF-CA)).
- the SSP undertakes evaluation of some selected candidate MPs where the output of the HCR is total allowable effort and alternatively where the output of the same/similar HCR is total allowable catch.

The SWG agreed that the work to develop management procedures applying to the area south of the equator, and an allocation framework, be progressed in 2024.

It was recognized that activities that occurred during the iTRP reference period (2017-19) would not be used to inform future discussions on allocation.

The SWG noted the importance of domestic fisheries and that these be taken into account in the development of a TRP.

The SWG SPA recommended that the Commission adopt the following decision text:

WCPFC20 agreed on an interim target reference point (iTRP) for south Pacific albacore specified as four percent below the estimated average spawning potential depletion of the stock over the period 2017-2019 ($0.96 SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$).¹

¹ Technical definitions:

Spawning potential depletion refers to the estimated South Pacific albacore 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.

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 South Pacific albacore 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.

This supersedes an earlier decision of the Commission made at WCPFC 15 (paragraphs 207 to 212).

The Commission shall amend or develop appropriate conservation and management measures to implement a management procedure, developed in accordance with CMM 2022-03, with the ultimate objective of maintaining the south Pacific albacore stock at the interim target reference point, on average.

The Scientific Committee shall refer to this interim target reference point in its assessment of the status of the WCPO south Pacific albacore tuna stock and in reporting to the Commission on management advice and implications for this stock.

In recognition of some outstanding scientific issues, this iTRP shall be subject to review by the Commission following the 2024 stock assessment and further development of candidate management procedures. Subsequent to this review, the confirmed or amended iTRP will again be adopted by the Commission within a Conservation and Management Measure that specifies a management procedure for South Pacific albacore tuna.

The Commission tasked the SSP to undertake:

- evaluations of some selected candidate MPs for SPA where the output of the HCR is total allowable effort and alternatively where the output of the same or similar HCR is total allowable catch.
- Evaluation of a range of alternative candidate SPA target reference points between SB/SBF=0 0.42 – 0.56 (long-term avg SB/SBF=0 (WCPF-CA), or preferably equivalent levels defined in terms of a reference period.) that will be considered in the context of the review of the adopted iTRP.

2. Science Management Dialogue

The SPA-SWG agreed for the need to convene a virtual or hybrid Science Management Dialogue (SMD) in 2024 to consider SPA management procedures, to be held over a 2- or 3-day period after SC20 but well in advance of the WCPFC21 meeting.

Noting the need for Pacific wide management of SPA, the SPA-SWG considered that an invitation should be extended to IATTC to participate as an observer in the SMD.

Additionally, the SMD would need to consider broader harvest strategy development work such as the development of BET and YFT TRPs and the implementation of SKJ Management Procedures.

The SPA-SWG noted the usefulness of harvest strategy workshops delivered by the SSP and suggested that this continues in 2024 given that the focus of the SMD will be on a different stock and fisheries, and participants are likely to differ.

The SPA-SWG noted that the format and function of SMD-01 worked well and should be emulated for any SMD held in 2024 and could be co-Chaired by the WCPFC and SC Chairs.

The SPA-SWG recommended that the Commission consider convening the SMD after SC20 but well in advance of the WCPFC21 meeting.

The SPA-SWG recommends that the Commission adopt the following:

- 1. The Commission noted the importance and need for a Science-Management Dialogue to expedite the progress of implementation on the Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies.**
- 2. The Commission agreed to hold a Science-Management Dialogue in 2024 (SMD-02) focused on:**

- i. South Pacific albacore management procedures (including review of the interim target reference point);
 - ii. Development of BET and YFT target reference points;
 - iii. Issues pertaining to the application of SKJ management procedure, and
 - iv. Harvest strategies Atta for CCMs (SPC-facilitated).
3. The Commission agreed that, similar to SMD-01 (2022), SMD-02 would be co-chaired by the WCPFC and SC Chairs.
 4. The Commission agreed that SMD-02 would be held online between SC20 and TCC20 [with possible dates 10-12 September 2024 (Pohnpei time).]
 5. The Commission tasked the WCPFC and SC Chairs to develop an agenda based on the above-listed topics, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Scientific Services Provider.
 6. Noting the importance of the application of compatible measures between WCPFC and IATTC to enhance the effectiveness of collective conservation and management efforts, the Commission agreed to invite representatives from the IATTC secretariat, or Members and Cooperating Non-Members as appropriate, to participate as an observer in SMD-02.

3. Joint management considerations with IATTC

The SPA-SWG strongly supported the need to ensure that a comprehensive management framework for south Pacific albacore was developed in both WCPFC and IATTC RFMOs. Whilst recognizing the separate mandates and decision-making processes, it is necessary for the two RFMOs to strengthen their cooperation and collaboration, noting SPA is a shared stock and the need to manage the WCPFC and IATTC overlap area.

The SPA-SWG noted the history of effective cooperation in shared stock management between the two RFMOs such as Pacific bluefin tuna and north Pacific albacore and considered it necessary that continued engagement occur throughout the development of harvest strategies for SPA. The SPA-SWG considered that the development of compatible measures between IATTC and WCPFC could be pursued to enhance the effectiveness of conservation and management of SPA.

The SPA-SWG recommends that the Commission adopt the following:

The Commission acknowledged that its management of the South Pacific albacore in the WCPF-CA would be enhanced by joint IATTC management in the EPO, and that cooperation between the two RFMOs should be encouraged.

The Commission tasked the Secretariat to strengthen its relations with the IATTC to foster closer cooperation, with the aim of enhancing cross-RFMO coordination in the development of the MSE and management procedures for South Pacific albacore.