



Western and
Central Pacific
Fisheries
Commission

A Review of the Scope and Feasibility of an Assessment of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) Susceptibility to Climate Change Impacts

(WCPFC-NC20-2024/WP-05)

SPC-OFP and WCPFC Secretariat

20th Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC20)

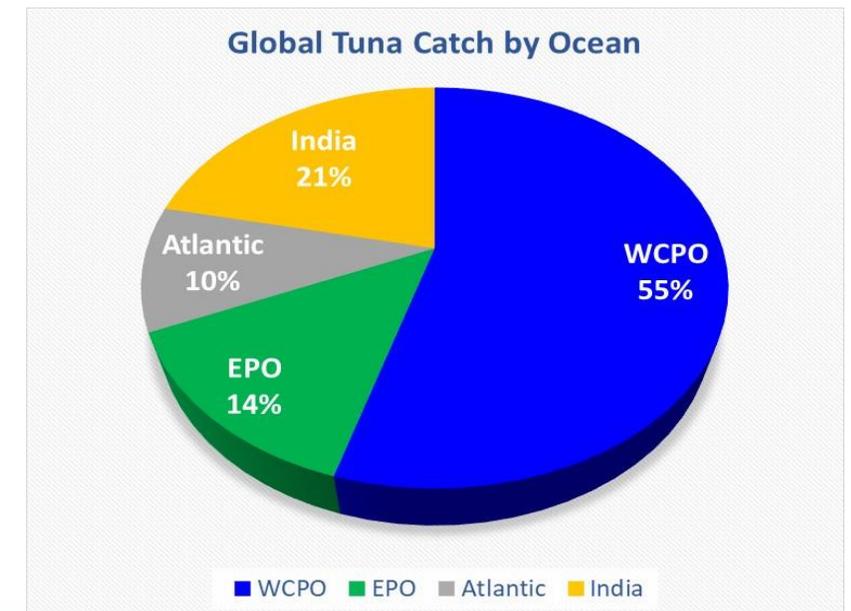
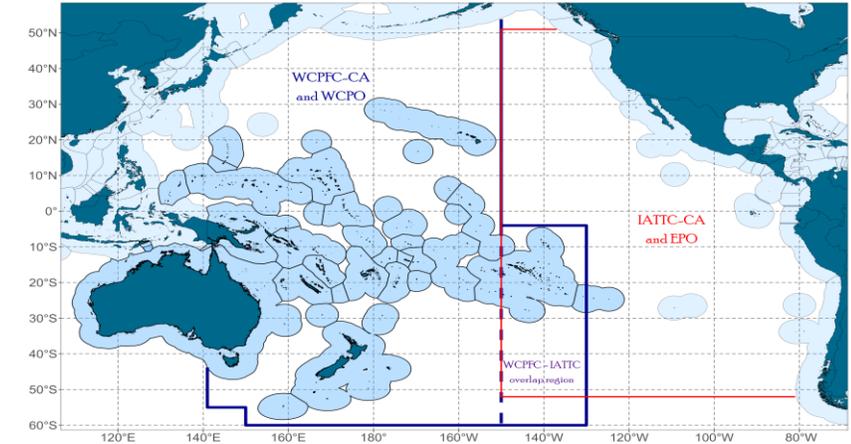
Kushiro Tourism and International Relations Center, Kushiro, Hokkaido, Japan

15 – 16 July 2024



Tuna Fisheries in the WCPO and Climate Change

- The WCPO tuna catches is estimated at 2.7 million MT
 - 55% of the total global tuna catch
 - 80% of the total Pacific Ocean catch
 - over 85% of the WCP–CA tuna catch occurs in the waters of the coastal states
- Climate change is causing significant shifts in stock distribution and altering the marine ecosystems globally
 - rising sea surface temperatures
 - ocean acidification
 - changing ocean currents, etc



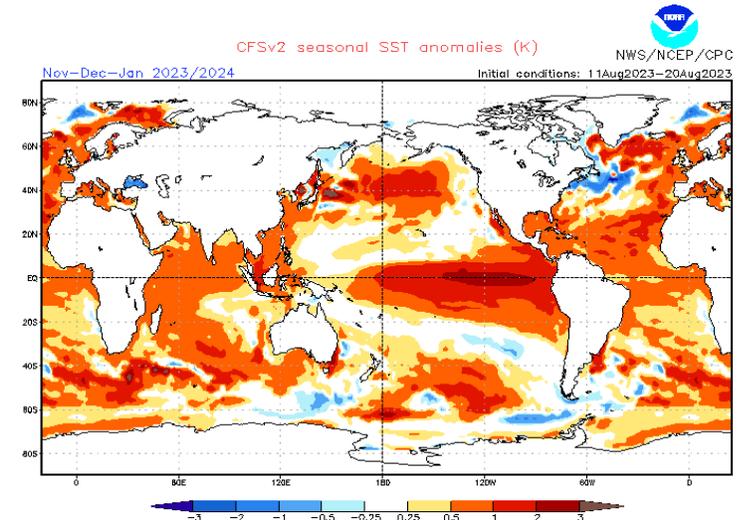
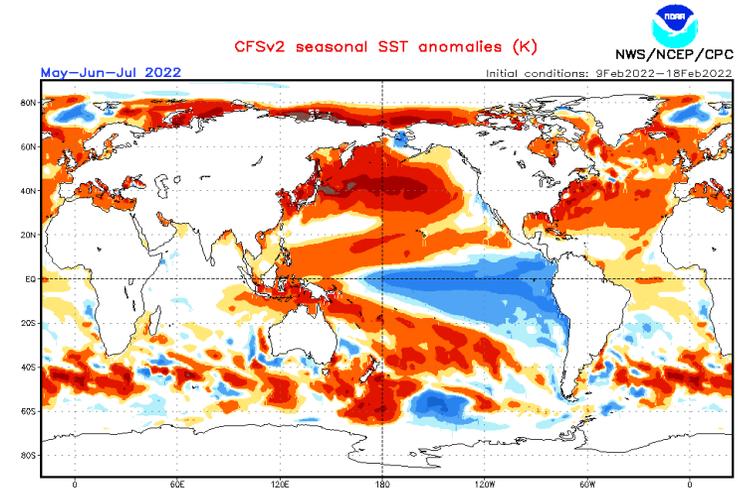
Purpose

- Explore the scope and feasibility of assessing active CMMs
 - to determine specific CMM provisions that may be susceptible to the impacts of climate change
- Findings from the CMM assessment can provide additional data and information needed to supplement:
 - NTADs species CMMs
 - MCS-related CMMs
 - incorporation of climate change impacts into the WCPFC harvest strategy framework



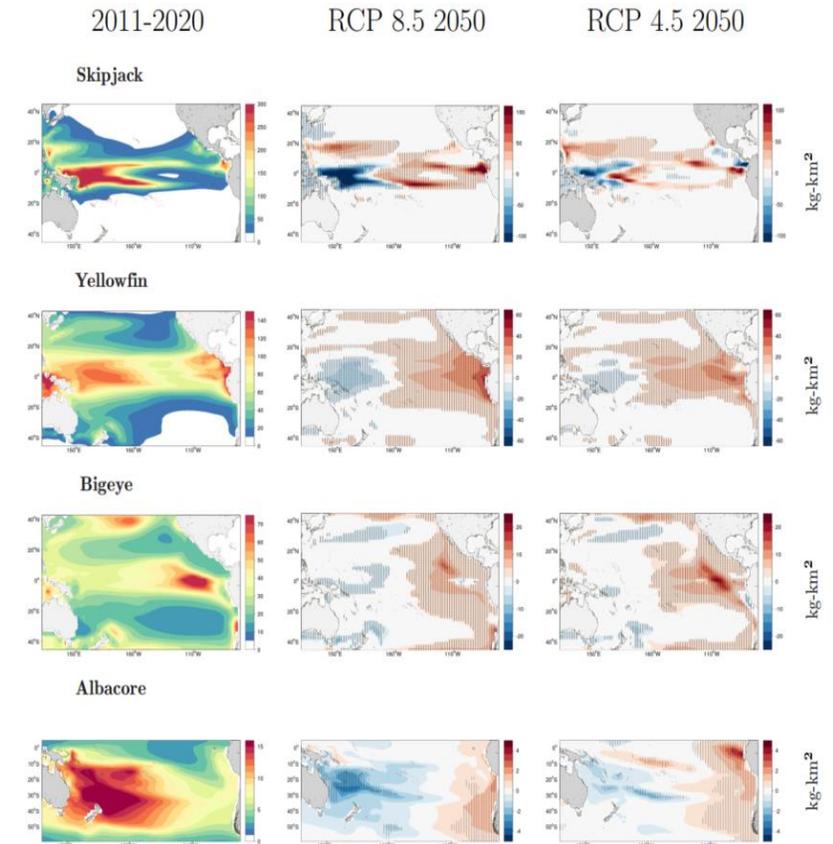
Background

- Climate-related discussions in WCPFC
- Development of SEAPODYM
- Directive from WCPFC20



Approach for Assessing CMMs

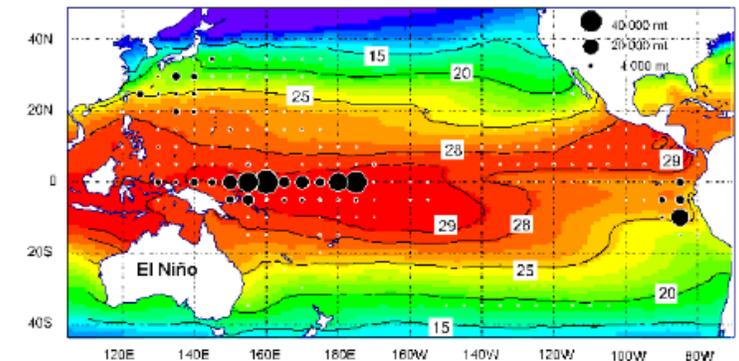
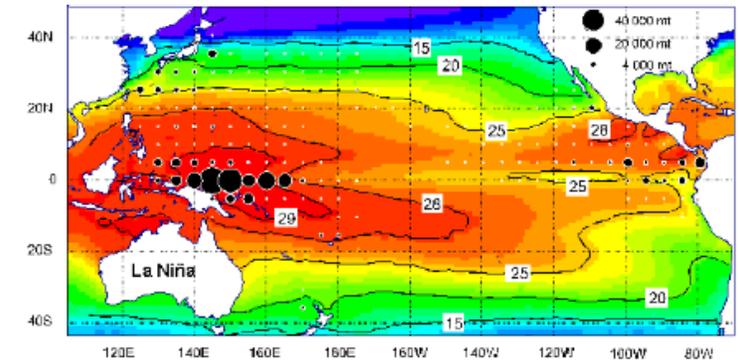
- through a consultancy
- approved Terms of Reference (TOR) by WCPFC21
- conduct a full assessment
 - Comprehensive review of CMMs
 - include possible actions in response to an obligation's level of vulnerability
 - inform a subsequent work program of the Commission
- multi-year schedule (2-3 years)
- review the level of data and information



Framework for Assessing CMMs

- Consider criteria for the selection of CMMs that are explicitly susceptible to the impacts of climate change
- Preliminary Findings
- Examples in [Attachment 1](#)
 - CMM 2023-01 (Tropical tunas)
 - CMM 2018-03 (Seabirds)

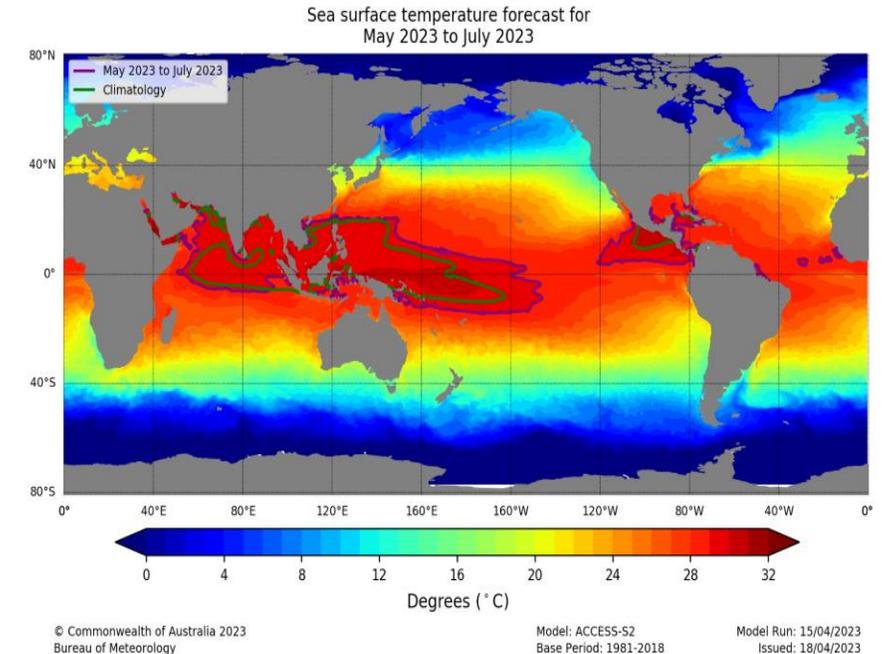
Purse seine skipjack catch and SST



Lehodey et al (1997)

Results and Recommendations from CMM Assessment

- Key findings
 - Provide recommended actions that could help mitigate the potential impacts of climate change
- Potential recommendations
 - amendment to the CMM provisions
 - ✓ modifying the fishing seasons, fishing operations, or catch/effort limits
 - increase collaboration with scientific bodies to improve understanding of climate impacts
 - enhanced data collection and monitoring



CMM Assessment and Supplementary Initiatives

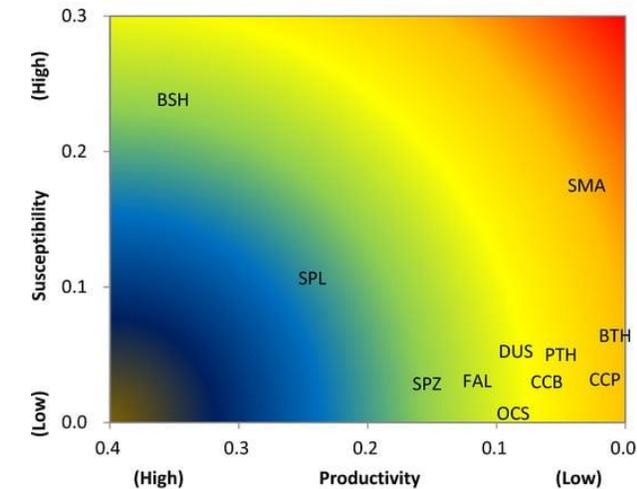
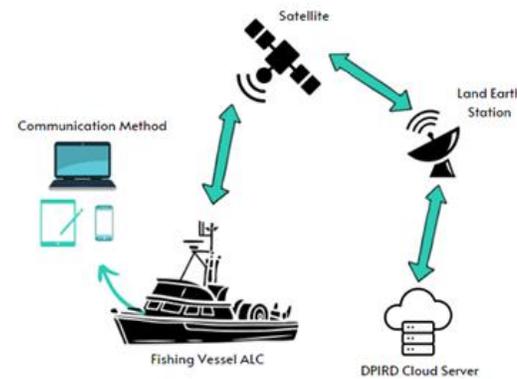
- Harvest Strategy
- NTADs
- MCS

Stock:	Skipjack	SP Albacore	Bigeye	Yellowfin
Key gear:	Tropical purse seine	Southern longline	Tropical longline	
Management objectives	TRP adopted [*]	Interim TRP [^]	Noted	Noted
Management procedure	MP adopted [*]	Developing		
Performance indicators	Identified	Identified	Identified	Identified
Mixed fishery	Developing			
Monitoring strategy	Proposed [#]	Developing		

^{*} WCPFC CMM 2022-01. Conservation and Management Measure on a Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna

[#] Scott, R et al. 2023. Monitoring the WCPO skipjack management procedure. WCPFC-SC19-MI-WP-02

[^] WCPFC20 Outcomes and Attachments (19Dec2023) - Rev.01





Recommendations

1. Note this paper and consider the general approaches to implement the assessment of CMMs susceptible to climate change impacts, including consideration of an appropriate timeframe for completing the assessment and the required resources to support it.
2. Review the Terms of Reference (TOR) for CMM assessment in Attachment B in NC20-WP-04 and provide advice on refining it.



Thank you 😊

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WCPFC Website: <https://www.wcpfc.int/>

