

Tuna Assessment Research Plan (TARP) Report

TARP - SA-IP-08

- Recommendations for future work noted in stock assessment reports
 - applicable over many assessments
 - potentially lost over time
- Collating work being undertaken by all CCMs in support of assessments
 - Efficiency
 - Effectiveness
- SPC developed a draft Tuna Research Plan for SC16 (SC16-SA-IP-20)
- IP updated annually for each SC since, subject of a SWG at SC19

Updates

- Update of 2023's TARP for SC20 with:
 - recommendations arising from the BET and YFT assessments
 - reflection of SC projects agreed last year
 - supporting project funding etc.
- Does not reflect recommendations from 2024 SPA assessment, which is to be discussed at this SC.
- Schedule SWG to identify gaps and identify priority project areas to be the focus of ToRs for consideration at this SC.
- Key area highlighted by the SSP:
 - Cross t-RFMO CPUE standardisation consideration
 - Approaches for evaluating/standardising WCPFC member size data

Billfish Research Plan Report

BRP - SA-IP-09

- Billfish Research Plan 2023-2027 (SA-IP-09) was adopted by SC19 and endorsed by WCPFC20 in December 2023, supported to go to 2030.
- This is the first annual update
- Purpose is to review progress against the BRP tasks and facilitate future planning of WCPFC billfish research.
- Provides a project list and assessment schedule.

Completed projects

- For SC20 two projects have been completed,
 - Stock assessment of Southwest Pacific striped marlin (SC20-SA-WP-03, 12 and 13) and
 - Development of a statistically robust sampling plan for billfish (SC20-SA-IP-13).
- Two papers were submitted to SC20 that fall outside of the BRP;
 - Rebuilding plan for WCPO striped marlin (SC20-SA-IP-15) and
 - CPUE analysis of the New Zealand recreational fishery for striped marlin (SC20-SA-IP-17)

2024 project proposals

- There are four new projects scheduled to start in 2025 pending agreement at the SC20 ISG-Billfish and approval of the budget by WCPFC21.
 - SP SWO stock assessment
 - Assessment approaches for WCPO black marlin, sailfish and shortbill spearfish
 - Biology of SP striped marlin, blue marlin, black marlin, shortbill spearfish and sailfish in the WCPO from longline fisheries.
 - Undertake directed longitudinal tagging of Southwest Pacific swordfish to reduce the uncertainty in movement rate.

2024 project proposals

- Draft project ToRs have been provided for the ISG to discuss and make recommendations to the SC

Recommendations

- SC20 ISG-Billfish review the work plan and project list for the 2025 year, and make recommendations to SC20 for any changes the SC may want to consider.
- SC20 ISG-Billfish review the project specifications and make any changes for SC20's review.

Shark Research Plan Report

SRP - SA-IP-10

- Shark Research Plan 2021-2025 (Brouwer and Hamer 2020) was adopted by SC16 and endorsed by WCPFC17 in December 2020.
- This is the 4th annual update for the 2021-2030 SRP, (including the mid-term review of the 2021-2025 SRP – which was extended to 2030) .
- Purpose is to review progress against the SRP tasks and facilitate future planning of WCPFC shark research.
- Includes a project list and assessment schedule.

2024 completed projects

- For SC20, three projects have been completed
 - North Pacific shortfin mako shark assessment SC20-SA-WP-14
 - WCPO silky shark assessment SC19-SA-WP-103 and SC19-SA-IP-094 SC20-SA-WP-04
 - WCPO oceanic whitetip shark assessment year 1 analysis SC20-SA-WP-11 and SC20-SA-IP-23)
- In addition, a new project *Oceanic whitetip and silky shark in longline fisheries between 20N and 20S and outside the area to evaluate CMM 2022-04* has been completed (SC20-EB-WP-05)

2025 projects

- There are three projects that are scheduled to start pending agreement at SC20 ISG-Sharks and approval of the budget at WCPFC21
 - Fishery characterisation of manta and mobulid rays and whale sharks.
 - Pacific oceanic whitetip shark assessment – phase II.
 - Developing a statistically robust and spatial/temporal optimized sampling strategy for biological data collection.

2024 project proposals

- Draft project ToRs have been provided for the ISG to discuss and make recommendations to the SC

Recommendations

- SC20 ISG-Sharks review the work plan and project list for the 2025 year, and make recommendations to SC20 for any changes the SC may want to consider.
- SC20 ISG-Sharks review the proposed amendments to the stock assessment schedule and make recommendations to SC20.
- SC20 ISG-Sharks review the project specifications and make any changes for SC20's review.
- SC20 ISG-Sharks consider if there is enough information to provide the SC with advice on the use of data poor metrics in shark assessments, and their future use for low information stock assessments.