

Dear Colleagues,

As co-Chairs of the upcoming 2nd Science-Management Dialogue (SMD02) scheduled to take place virtually on 10-12 September 2024 (Pohnpei dates), we are pleased to share some preliminary views in advance to support CCM and stakeholder preparations.

Included in this Circular is a revised Provisional Annotated Agenda¹ and an Indicative Schedule for your review. The Provisional Annotated Agenda was drawn up in consultation with the Secretariat, including the Scientific Services Provider, and takes into account relevant outcomes of the 20th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC20) which concluded recently in Manila, Philippines.

The Commission at WCPFC20 agreed² that SMD02 would focus on the following:

- 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.
- iv. Harvest strategy capacity-building for CCMs.

On the matter of harvest strategy capacity building, the SSP is doing its best to continue supporting capacity building efforts for members in 2024, including during SMD02.

SC20 considered South Pacific albacore management procedures, provided technical guidance on additional information to be provided for the consideration of the SP albacore ITRP, and adopted the Operating Models used for the testing of management procedures.

SC20 also reviewed information to support development of BET and YFT target reference points and provided guidance on additional analyses for consideration at WCPFC21.

With respect to the SKJ management procedure, the Commission at WCPFC20 noted that a re-evaluation of the skipjack estimation method may need to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the Management Procedure³. SC20 considered this matter and provided technical guidance on the approach to use when re-evaluating the estimation method within the WCPO skipjack interim MP. Current information was to be provided to the SMD02, while SC21 was recommended to review outputs from the re-evaluation and provide recommendations to WCPFC22 regarding the potential need to revise the current

interim skipjack MP. SC20 also recommended the monitoring strategy be forwarded to the SMD, TCC and the Commission (WCPFC21) for their consideration.

We welcome initial views on any agenda items from CCMs who wish to share in advance of SMD02. We look forward to progressing these important discussions during the SMD02 and to achieving outcomes to support the Commission's further deliberations at WCPFC21.

Please reach out to either of us with any questions or comments in advance of SMD02: Josie Tamate (josie.tamate@gmail.com) and Emily Crigler (Emily.Crigler@noaa.gov).



Josie Tamate

WCPFC Chair



Emily Crigler

SC Chair