



Western and  
Central Pacific  
Fisheries  
Commission

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TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,  
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS

Circular No.: 2024/47

Date: 31 July 2024

No. pages: 2

**Subject: Postponement of the 5<sup>th</sup> SPARM-IWG Meeting**

Dear All,

Further to Circular 2024/28 of 30 May 2024, I wish to advise Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) that the Chair of the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Intersessional Working Group (SPARM-IWG), Mr Moses Mataika, has advised of a postponement of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IWG, which was initially scheduled for 2 August 2024.

Please refer to the attached letter from the IWG Chair for details on rescheduling the IWG meeting.

The IWG Chair proposes that the 5<sup>th</sup> SPARM-IWG meeting be held online on **11 October 2024**. Please direct any questions to the IWG Chair at [mataika.moses@gmail.com](mailto:mataika.moses@gmail.com).

Yours sincerely,

Rhea Moss-Christian  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

31 July 2024

Bula Vinaka,

I hope this message finds you well as we prepare for the upcoming Scientific Committee meeting.

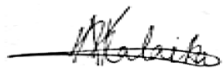
I am writing to inform members of the SPARM-IWG that our meeting has been postponed to October 11, 2024. I apologise for the late notice. Recently, concerns have arisen regarding the progress of South Pacific albacore (SPA) work and discussions around certain elements of the agenda. SPC colleagues have highlighted significant technical challenges in finalising the new SPA assessment and completing the Management Procedures (MP) papers, particularly concerning the Operating Models.

Given these challenges, I believe it would be prudent to reschedule the IWG meeting to later in the year. With the SC20 and the Science Management Dialogue set to discuss MP development, it may be more effective to hold our meeting after the TCC20. This timing would allow us to focus on the outputs from the IWG to the Commission, including MP developments, a review of the Conservation and Management Measure (CMM), and other areas of the work plan as endorsed in WCPFC19.

We acknowledge and commend the efforts of the SPC, recognizing the unforeseen challenges and issues they are facing. We were determined to complete some of the work for the SPARM-IWG, particularly agenda item 5 (Management Issues Theme) of the SC20. However, we also recognize the need for efficiency in scheduling these meetings, given the busy schedules and numerous commitments of all members this year.

Additionally, it would give SPC time to progress its work and allow members to consider the IWG outcomes in preparation for the WCPFC Annual Meeting. We are mindful of giving our SPC colleagues the necessary space to finalise their work ahead of the SC20, particularly given the current challenges in Noumea.

Therefore, I request that members of the SPARM-IWG agree to postpone the IWG meeting to October 11, 2024. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Kind regards,  
Moses. Mataika  
Email: [mataika.moses@gmail.com](mailto:mataika.moses@gmail.com)