



**COMMISSION**  
**Second Science-Management Dialogue (SMD02)**  
10:00 – 15:00, Pohnpei Time, 10-12 September 2024 (Online)

---

**OUTCOMES DOCUMENT**

---

**WCPFC21-SMD02-2024-00**

**AGENDA ITEM 1      OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. SMD02 adopted the agenda for SMD02 (**WCPFC-SMD02-2024-02 Rev 02**).

**AGENDA ITEM 2      OBJECTIVES OF SMD02**

2. SMD02 agreed the purpose of the SMD02 as well as the key areas of focus for SMD02 in 2024 set out in paragraph 264 of the WCPFC20 Summary Report\_Rev01.

**AGENDA ITEM 3      BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3. SMD02 acknowledged the work of the Scientific Services Provider (SSP) provided to date and the work of the Scientific Committee (SC) as presented by the SC Chair and Management Issues Theme Convener.

**AGENDA ITEM 4      SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE**

**4.1      Cooperation with IATTC**

4. SMD02 welcomed the efforts made by the WCPFC and IATTC Secretariats for greater cooperation and coordination between them and between the SSP and IATTC, especially with respect to South Pacific albacore (SP-ALB), to ensure compatibility between measures adopted by the two RFMOs.
5. SMD02 supported continuing discussions between the Secretariats to improve coordination, including with respect to ensuring accurate counting of catches in the overlap area; alignment of management decisions to ensure compatibility; and harmonizing the timing for the submission of data and information to relevant WCPFC and IATTC meetings.

6. SMD02 noted the SC20 Recommendation on the need for the collection and sharing of SP-ALB genetic samples across the South Pacific and requested that discussions take place between the two Secretariats on supporting the SSP in accessing or collecting genetic samples of SP-ALB in the southern IATTC area.

7. SMD02 agreed on the value of a joint working group (JWG) process between WCPFC CCMs and IATTC CPCs to harmonize management measures for SP-ALB and invited the Commission to consider the establishment of such a JWG.

#### **4.2.1 Review of iTRP**

8. SMD02 reviewed a summary of the 2024 SP-ALB stock assessment before the SSP presented **WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-01** and noted the recent high catches of South Pacific albacore in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. SMD02 generally supported maintaining the use of both weights and numbers in the South Pacific albacore catch-based projections.

### **4.3 South Pacific Albacore Management Procedures**

#### **4.3.1 Interrogation of performance indicators and identification of preferred outcomes**

9. SMD02 expressed appreciation for the evaluations undertaken by the SSP of selected candidate Management Procedures for South Pacific albacore (**WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-02**).

10. SMD02 supported maintaining all the current performance indicators noting that those focused on vulnerable biomass and catch stability are critical for South Pacific albacore fisheries.

#### **4.3.2 Settings and Assumptions of the MPs**

11. SMD02 supported a 3-year frequency for running the South Pacific albacore Management Procedure (MP), which is in line with the current skipjack MP, the South Pacific albacore assessment schedule, and the biology of South Pacific albacore, and which balances responsiveness to stock status changes and stability for fishery operations.

12. SMD02 supported the removal of candidate MPs that use an absolute estimator, and MPs using Harvest Control Rule (HCR) 4, from the set of candidate MPs provided in **WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-02**.

#### **4.3.3 Additional work to be conducted by the SSP to support decision-making on MPs**

1. SMD02 agreed to the additional work set out in **Table 1**. SMD02 also suggested that other items on the list be further considered by the Commission within the prioritization process of the work of the SSP in 2025 as appropriate.

2. SMD02 noted that there were several requests from WCPFC20 and SC20 regarding SP-ALB TRPs, SP-ALB MP-related analyses, and BET/YFT TRP analyses, which the SSP is currently undertaking. These requests, as well as the SP-ALB MP analysis requests, which do not require additional science units and can be managed within SSP existing resources are outlined in **Table 2**.
3. SMD02 requested that the data used in SPAMPLE<sup>1</sup> be made available either publicly or on request, in accordance with the Commission’s data rules.

<b>Table 1 – List of new SP-ALB MP-related analyses to be prioritised for attention by SSP before WCPFC21, in addition to ongoing analyses requested by WCPFC20 and SC20, or requested by SMD02 which do not require additional science units. Analyses in the blue shaded cells (12/13 and 14) were selected by ballot of participating CCMs at SMD02 for implementation.</b>				
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Technical feasibility</b>	<b>Science units</b>	<b>SSP Notes</b>
SP-ALB TRPs	1. Perform evaluation setting EPO Catches to 2017-2019 avg levels	OK	2	SC20 request
SP-ALB MPs	3. Evaluate MPs based upon effort	Medium, currently possible for LL fisheries only	10	WCPFC20 request. Run across the reduced grid of 7 MPs that SMD02 defined.
	4. Evaluate MPs with EPO fishing set at 2017-19 levels	OK	-	Done as a one-off sensitivity for SMD02. Could be used as a robustness test for ‘adopted’ MP.
	5. Provide VB performance indicator relative to 2020-2022	OK	-	Done for SMD02
	11. Exclude archipelagic waters from the MP control	OK	-	Part of the MSE framework that had not been fully developed in time for SMD02 but will be added.
	12/13. Evaluate new MP: HCR where threshold level is to the left of the iTRP	OK	2*	Modification of HCR1 with a 5% constraint and relative input into the HCR. The absolute change point at $0.45SB_{F=0}$ will be translated into the relative equivalent. <b>NOTE:</b> on the assumption that just on catch-based MPs. If also anticipated for effort-based MPs, 4 science units.
	Evaluate new MP: HCR where change point is at 0.85 and a constraint of 20%			Modification of HCR1 and relative input into the HCR. <b>NOTE:</b> on the assumption that just on catch-based

<sup>1</sup> [SPAMPLE](#) is an online tool for exploring and comparing the performance of alternative candidate management procedures (MPs) for South Pacific albacore.

				MPs. If also anticipated for effort-based MPs, 4 science units.
	14. Evaluate HCR where Hillary step lies across the range 0.37 to 0.47 $SB_{F=0}$ after EM bias correction <sup>1</sup>	OK	2*	Modification of HCR2 design with a 5% constraint and relative input into the HCR (see footnote <sup>1</sup> ). <b>NOTE:</b> on the assumption that just on catch-based MPs. If also anticipated for effort-based MPs, 4 science units.
	15. Make data within SPAMPLE available	OK, dependent upon the format of the data being requested	-	Data underpinning the plots within SPAMPLE are available on request.
BET/YFT TRPs	16. Re-evaluate setting R2 YFT 'miscellaneous fisheries' fishing to more recent levels	OK	4	SC20 request. YFT R2 fishing will be in terms of effort. Implies re-running the 'nuclear grid'.

(Maximum number of points available before WCPFC21, in addition to ongoing work: 4)

Footnote<sup>1</sup>: Details for proposed HCR:

HCR	Type	SB/SB <sub>F=0min</sub>	Scalar <sub>min</sub>	Scalar <sub>max</sub>	Curve	Step <sub>min</sub>	Step <sub>max</sub>	Height	Constraint
2	'Hybrid'	0.2	0.42	1.2	1	0.37	0.47	1.2	5%

**Table 2. List of new SP-ALB MP-related analyses that were *not* prioritized for the work of the SSP before WCPFC21.** Analyses with ~~strike through~~ (2 and 17) were not included in the ballot because they were considered unnecessary (item 2) or not feasible within the time available prior to WCPFC21 (item 17). The remaining analyses (6, 7, 9, 10, and 17) could be considered by WCPFC21 for implementation in 2025 if still necessary.

Subject	Request	Technical feasibility	Science units	SSP Notes
SP-ALB TRPs	<del>2. Present vulnerable biomass outcomes relative to 2020-2022 levels</del>	OK	<del>1</del>	<del>SMD02 request. Note results within SPAMPLE are presented in this way and were considered sufficient, so no science units were considered necessary.</del>
SP-ALB MPs	6. Evaluate the impact of MP not applying to PICT fleets in 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d	OK	3*	Perform as a one-off sensitivity from HCR1 with a 5% constraint using a relative HCR input. Fishing of the uncontrolled 'PICT' fleets set to 2017-2022 average. <b>NOTE:</b> if this were across all 7 MPs, this would be 10 science units. Catch-based MPs only. If also on effort, 6 science units are required.
	7. Evaluate the baseline of 2000-	OK	2*	Perform as a one-off sensitivity from HCR1 with a 5% constraint using a relative

	2004 for all fisheries (LL + TR)			HCR input. Assuming HCRs are unadjusted from the current (output of 1 = 2000-2004). <b>NOTE:</b> if this were across all 7 MPs, this would be 8 science units. Catch-based MPs only. If also on effort, 6 science units are required.
	9. Add gear specific catch as additional performance indicators	OK	1	LL and TR as a total will be presented in the SPAMPLE tables only.
	10. Add catch and effort variability performance indicators under effort-based runs	Medium	3	As a request, effort variability includes effort-based runs only (linked to the WCPFC20 request above)
BET/YFT TRPs	17. Re-evaluate setting R2-BET 'miscellaneous fisheries' fishing to more recent levels	OK	8	<del>Not requested by SC20. YFT R2 fishing may need to be in terms of effort. Implies re-running the 'nuclear grid'. Two recruitment scenarios to be evaluated.</del>

**AGENDA ITEM 5 DEVELOPMENT OF BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TRPs**

13. SMD02 expressed appreciation for the SSP presentation on the analyses to inform discussions on candidate bigeye and yellowfin TRPs (**WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-04** and **WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-05**), which updated the analyses previously presented to WCPFC18 and concluded that the current objectives for these species cannot be simultaneously met at the exact level.

14. SMD02 expressed concern over the increase in yellowfin catches in Region 2, noting that these took place mainly in archipelagic waters excluded from the tropical tuna measure. SMD02 noted the request of SC20 for analysis from the SSP to be submitted to WCPFC21, which will include a re-evaluation of the candidate yellowfin and bigeye tuna TRPs using more recent fishing conditions for the domestic fisheries of Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam. SMD02 noted that the SSP expects to deliver the schedule of work for yellowfin tuna in the shaded area of **Table 1** for WCPFC21.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 APPLICATION OF THE SKIPJACK TUNA MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE – MONITORING STRATEGY**

15. SMD02 thanked the SSP for the updated skipjack monitoring strategy (**WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-06**), which, amongst other things, provided clear guidance on what technical advice TCC can provide to the Commission. SMD02 supported the approach of not making adjustments to the key elements of the monitoring strategy on an annual basis, but that modelling be

undertaken as part of the next review of the management procedures in 2026, including for scenarios related to climate change.

16. SMD02 recommended that as part of the next regular review of the skipjack management procedure, the Commission directly incorporate SEAPODYM and/or other model projections into the skipjack management strategy evaluation operating model grid projections.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 CLIMATE CHANGE**

17. SMD02 noted the proposed Work Plan from the Co-Chairs of the Climate Change Working Group (**WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-07**), which included a reference to a dedicated SMD on climate change in 2025. However, given the important work on harvest strategies to be done in 2025, SMD02 considered that an SMD on climate change should not be held in 2025, although SMD02 agreed that the Commission should continue to incorporate climate change considerations into the work of the Commission.

18. SMD02 suggested that the Commission continue to support incorporating climate change considerations into the WCPFC harvest strategy process, and that SC consider incorporating SEAPODYM and/or other model projections into MSE and monitoring work where appropriate for South Pacific albacore and skipjack, and potentially yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks.

19. SMD02 suggested that WCPFC21 request the Secretariat, with input from the SSP, to develop Terms Of Reference for SC21 for a project funding an independent review of SEAPODYM so that the progress made to address issues raised in the last SEAPODYM review (**WCPFC-SC16-EB-IP-06**) can be understood prior to explicitly incorporating SEAPODYM outputs into future MSE OM grid projections and monitoring work for South Pacific albacore, bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna stocks managed by the Commission.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 OTHER MATTERS**

### **8.1 New report template for WCPFC Stock Assessment Reports**

20. SMD02 noted the recommendation from the Scientific Committee on the new report template for WCPFC Stock Assessment Reports (**WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-08**).

## **AGENDA ITEM 9 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **9.1 Next SMD meeting**

21. SMD02 agreed that decisions about the future of the SMD process and the timing and focus of future meetings were to be decided by the Commission.