



Western and
Central Pacific
Fisheries
Commission

**SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE ROADMAP INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP
(SPA-RM-IWG05)**

ELECTRONIC MEETING
09:00 – 13:00 Pohnpei Time, Friday, 11 October 2024

CHAIR'S SUMMARY REPORT

SPA-RM-IWG05-2024-00

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

1. The SPALB Roadmap IWG Chair Moses Mataika (Fiji) opened and welcomed all participants to the online meeting, summarizing the IWG's progress.
2. The agenda for the meeting is provided in **Attachment 1**, and the list of participants is in **Attachment 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 2. SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE HARVEST STRATEGY UPDATES

3. SPC provided an update on the latest development of the harvest strategy for the South Pacific albacore since SMD02, including updates on target reference points and evaluation of candidate management procedures, which are detailed below.

2.1 South Pacific Albacore Interim Target Reference Points

4. Graham Pilling (SPC) gave a presentation on the progress of the SPALB iTRP ([SPA-RM-IWG05-2024-05: Recalibration of the Adopted South Pacific Albacore Interim Target Reference Point and Review of WCPFC20 Requested Options](#)), taking into account the 2024 SPALB stock assessment, as well as discussions from WCPFC20, SC20, and SMD02.
5. Japan requested clarification on the big gap between the results of 40-year projections when using fish weight versus fish numbers in the analysis, including the reasons for the difference in vulnerable biomass between the DWFN and PICT fleets. The SSP explained that the impact of fish weight and/or fish numbers in the analysis can vary depending on factors such as stock conditions. The difference in vulnerable biomass between the DWFN and PICT fleets is primarily attributed to their selectivity.
6. Chinese Taipei sought clarification from the SSP regarding whether the definition of PICT vessels includes chartered vessels. The SSP responded that their classification of DWFN and PICT vessels in the stock assessment is based on the consistency of fish size data, which is more closely related to the catch selectivity of these fleets (DWFN and PICT).
7. The IWG thanked the SSP for the presentation on SPALB iTRP.

2.2 South Pacific Albacore Management Procedures

8. Noting that SMD02 selected additional candidate MPs for further evaluation, including effort-based MPs and new MPs with alternative HCRs, the SSP provided an update on the current outcomes of the MP evaluations requested by SMD02.

9. Finlay Scott (SPC) delivered a presentation on evaluating candidate management procedures (MP) for South Pacific albacore ([SPA-RM-IWG05-2024-06](#)). He noted that 16 candidate MPs and six performance indicators are currently described in the paper. He suggested reducing these candidate MPs by focusing on the fisheries' main objectives, considering catch or effort-based management, and examining the constraints or HCR shapes.

10. **SPA-RM-IWG-05 acknowledged with appreciation the SSP presentation on SPA candidate MPs.**

11. **The SPA-RM-IWG-05 requested the SSP rescale (e.g., present the relative variability or coefficient of variation) of the Y-axes of the catch and effort variability performance indicator plots presented in the SPAMPLE web app to facilitate comparison of the variability in catch and effort under the different harvest control rules.**

AGENDA ITEM 3. ALLOCATION

12. Legal Adviser Penny Ridings presented [SPA-RM-IWG05-2024-03](#) (Information Paper on Elements of Allocation Frameworks in Other tRFMOs, based on [WCPFC-TTMW4-2023-IP03](#)) for the IWG's consideration. She highlighted the allocation criteria, reviewed allocation frameworks from other t-RFMOs, and discussed the associated issues and challenges. She also outlined the steps toward developing an allocation framework, considering the process, timeline, and its relationship to developing the South Pacific albacore management procedure.

13. Japan clarified that Article 3 of the Convention pertains to the Area of Application and suggested that referring to Article 10(3) would be more appropriate. They also recommended including fishing patterns, historical catch, and other relevant elements in the Convention text related to allocation criteria. The Legal Adviser concurred with Japan's suggestion.

14. Canada emphasized their unique and domestically significant albacore fishery and expressed support for the allocation principles outlined in the Convention, particularly Article 10 (c, e, f), to safeguard Canada's albacore fishery.

15. American Samoa expressed that historical aspects of the fishery should be considered a top priority in prioritizing allocation criteria.

16. Niue, on behalf of the SPG¹, appreciated the paper presented by the Secretariat and requested that this be forwarded to the Commission.

17. **The SPA-RM-IWG-05 highlighted the need to consider the detailed allocation criteria in Article 10(3) of the WCPF Convention, including the history of the fisheries.**

¹ Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu

AGENDA ITEM 4. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

18. The Chair opened the floor to discuss the approach to developing a new/revised CMM that includes the range of the South Pacific albacore stocks and all fisheries targeting albacore and implementing an adopted management procedure.

19. USA sought clarification if there needs to be a discussion on updating the work plan or if CCMs are expected to submit proposals for moving this forward next year. The Chair responded that he wanted to gather views on this topic and noted that the work plan can be further discussed in Agenda 6.

20. The SPA-RM-IWG-05 noted Canada’s request that any review of the current measure reference Canada’s troll fishery.

AGENDA ITEM 5. COOPERATION WITH IATTC

21. Science Manager SungKwon Soh summarized the SMD02 discussions on future collaboration with the IATTC. He highlighted the ongoing cooperation between the SSP and IATTC, which includes a South Pacific-wide stock assessment, close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR), genetic sampling, and otolith collection. The SMD02 discussions also addressed virtual meetings between the two secretariats, the IATTC Resolution on South Pacific albacore (C-24-04), concerns over catch attribution in the overlap area to ensure data accuracy and equitable management between the two regions, as well as proposals to improve genetic sampling and data sharing. This includes establishing a joint working group (JWG) to harmonize management measures between the two RFMOs.

22. The USA shared that they plan to submit a paper to WCPFC21 on cross-cooperation between the two RFMOs, WCPFC and IATTC.

23. Canada supported the idea of having a JWG, to strengthen cooperation between IATTC and WCPFC

24. The SPA-RM-IWG-05 supported cooperation with IATTC on South Pacific Albacore and noted that the United States would bring a document to WCPFC21 for consideration as a starting point.

AGENDA ITEM 6. SPA-RM-IWG WORK PLAN

25. The Chair opened the floor to review and discuss the [SPA-RM-IWG Work Plan 2023 -2026](#).

26. On behalf of the SPG, the Cook Islands expressed hope for the adoption of the interim target reference point and management procedure for South Pacific albacore at WCPFC21. They emphasized the importance of adhering to the 2023–2026 work plan schedule, given the significance of the South Pacific albacore fishery.

27. The SPA-RM-IWG Chair indicated that the SPA-RM-IWG work plan would be updated intersessionally and brought to WCPFC21.

AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

28. There were no other issues raised or discussed.

AGENDA ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF AGREED POINTS

29. The SPA-RM-IWG-05 agreed the outcomes of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

30. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM on 11 October 2024 (PNI time).



**SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE ROADMAP INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP
(SPA-RM-IWG05)**

ELECTRONIC MEETING

09:00 – 13:00 Pohnpei Time, Friday, 11 October 2024

AGENDA

SPA-RM-IWG05-2024-01 (Rev.01)

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Moses Mataika will open an online meeting by summarizing the IWG's progress.

AGENDA ITEM 2. SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE HARVEST STRATEGY UPDATES

The SSP provides an update on the latest development of the harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore since SMD02, including updates on target reference points and evaluation of candidate management procedures.

2.3 South Pacific Albacore Interim Target Reference Points

As requested by SC20 and SMD02, the SSP will provide an updated evaluation of TRPs by setting EPO fisheries to average levels from 2017 to 2019.

The IWG will provide any agreed TRPs to the Commission if available.

2.4 South Pacific Albacore Management Procedures

SMD02 selected additional candidate MPs for further evaluation, including effort-based MPs and new MPs with alternative HCRs. Additionally, the exclusion of archipelagic waters from MP should be considered.

The SSP will provide an update on the current outcomes of the MP evaluations requested by SMD02. The IWG will provide the Commission with advice based on the available information.

AGENDA ITEM 3. ALLOCATION

The Secretariat presents [WCPFC-TTMW4-2023-IP03](#) (*Information Paper on Elements of Allocation Frameworks in Other RFMOs*) for discussion. IWG will consider approaches (allocation principles, including elements) to develop an allocation formula as needed.

AGENDA ITEM 4. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

Discuss the approach to developing a new/revised CMM that includes the range of the South Pacific albacore stocks and all fisheries targeting albacore and implementing an adopted management procedure.

AGENDA ITEM 5. COOPERATION WITH IATTC

The WCPFC Secretariat will summarize the SMD02 discussions regarding future collaboration with the IATTC. The IWG may explore establishing a mechanism, such as a joint working group, to facilitate the joint management of South Pacific albacore stocks in coordination with the IATTC. This would include developing compatible measures between the two RFMOs, mainly focused on developing harvest strategies for South Pacific albacore.

AGENDA ITEM 6. SPA-RM-IWG WORK PLAN

As needed, the IWG will review and revise the [SPA-RM-IWG Work Plan 2023 -2026](#).

AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

The IWG will consider other matters for future IWG activities.

AGENDA ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF AGREED POINTS

If available, the IWG will adopt the agreed points and recommend them to the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSING OF THE MEETING



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