

WCPO skipjack MP monitoring strategy

WCPFC 21st Regular Session of the Commission

Suva, Fiji,
28th November – 03rd December 2024

SPC-OFP

Monitoring Strategy

- Routinely checks management procedure performing as expected
- Considers:
 - Review of MP performance
 - Is the MP performing as expected?
 - Is the MP being implemented as expected?
 - Review of MP design
 - Performance of the estimation method
 - Exceptional circumstances
 - Review of evaluation framework
 - Procedures for evaluating candidate MPs
 - Scenarios considered in the OM grid
- May identify changes in the dynamics of the fishery resulting from environmental, economic or social factors that may require a reconsideration for the management objectives and the testing of alternative MPs

Where are we?

- Elements and outline in CMM 2022-01
- Monitoring strategy framework presented to SC19, WCPFC20, SC20, SMD02 and TCC20
 - SC19 supported the proposed monitoring strategy (scheduled for adoption at WCPFC20)
 - WCPFC20 noted a need for intersessional work to develop it further for WCPFC21
 - SC20 considered issues arising and provided updates to Table 1
 - SMD02 considered issues associated with climate change – no suggested updates.
 - TCC20 considered what input it could provide – suggested some changes regarding OM data
- Issues arising:
 - Monitoring catch and effort levels specified under the MP
 - Practical issues when running the MP (input data)
 - Implementation of catch and effort limits arising from MP

Monitoring catch and effort

- Compliance with MP outputs - Is the MP being implemented as expected?
- TCC tasking to review catch and effort in relation to limits specified by the MP
 - For fisheries subject to the MP (CMM 2022-01)
 - When data become available
- **SC20 recommended the monitoring strategy be forwarded to the SMD, TCC and the Commission for their consideration.**
- **TCC20 noted that data submissions on fishery specific catch and effort provide only partial information (pole and line effort data; species specific catch data).**

Updating estimation method

- Issue of reduced pole and line fishing in tropical region
 - CPUE time series input into estimation method
- **SC20 requested SSP evaluate the representativeness and appropriateness of candidate CPUEs for the use in MP.**

Alignment with CMM 2023-01

- Implementation of WCPO skipjack MP through TT-CMM (CMM 2023-01)
- Disconnect between MP settings and effort levels detailed in Tables 1 and 2
 - Revise MP to align with CMM 2023-01
 - Revise CMM 2023-01 to align with MP
- Consider the new FAD closure period within CMM 2023-01
 - May require additional MP testing
- **SC20 requested that SSP evaluate whether changes in the FAD closure duration (as adopted in CMM 2023-01) will affect the performance of the interim MP;**

Monitoring Schedule

Year	SSP	SC/TCC	Commission	Notes
2023	Run MP (using data to 2022)	Advise Comm. on MP outputs for 2024-26	Review TT-CMM taking account of MP	
2024		Monitor performance	Apply TT-CMM (2024-26)	
2025	Full stock assessment (using data to 2024)	Review performance of MP		1 year of data for which MP applies
2026	Run MP (using data to 2025)	Advise Comm. on MP outputs for 2027-29	Review TT-CMM taking account of MP	
2027		Monitor performance	Apply TT-CMM (2027-29)	
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SC20 & SMD02 Recommendations

- SC20 recommended that in years when an assessment is not conducted, the monitoring strategy could be reviewed by SC and feedback provided through the Online Discussion Forum.
- SC20 recommended the monitoring strategy be forwarded to the SMD, TCC and the Commission for their consideration.
- SMD02 supported the approach of not making adjustments to the key elements of the management procedure 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.
- 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.
- **TCC20 recommended to the Commission that it adopt the SKJ monitoring strategy (TCC20-2024 -17_rev1), noting the updates and input provided by TCC20.**
- TCC20 noted that, as the Commission adopts more Management Procedures, there could be a need for a standing item on the TCC agenda to consider Management Procedures.

Monitoring strategy table

c. Other sources of data to monitor performance		
SC	TCC	Commission
Identify any other data, as available, that might not be included in the MSE framework, that can inform on performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc.) SC19: No new information noted at SC19. SC20: No other sources of data have been identified.	Identify any other data, as available, that might not be included in the MSE framework, that can inform on performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc.)	
d. Performance of the estimation method (EM)		
SC	TCC	Commission
Confirm the EM is performing well and not subject to estimation failure. SC19: Overall the EM performed well and provided estimates of stock status within the prediction range of the MSE.	No input anticipated.	

SC20 recommended the following modifications to Table 1: Monitoring strategy for the skipjack Management Procedure:

Amend element 1.a-a (comparison of predicted MP performance against the latest stock assessment outcomes) to read “The performance of the MP in managing skipjack tuna to achieve defined objectives, including the TRP”.

Amend element 1.b) (Data availability to run the MP) to include a new comment for SC20: “The effect of changes made to the historical data is not known”.