



COMMISSION
Twenty-First Regular Session
28 November to 3 December 2024
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**DRAFT Recommendation for the Process to Establish a Joint Working Group Between
IATTC and WCPFC for the Management of South Pacific Albacore Fishery**

WCPFC21-2024-DP14b
2 December 2024

Submitted by USA

Proposed process

1. The WCPFC Chair will initiate discussions in early 2025 with the IATTC Chair to affirm both Commissions' interest in an intersessional process for establishing the JWG. This initial discussion will establish an initial informal meeting (online) in the first half of 2025 for members of both Commissions that will be co-Chaired by the Executive Directors of each Secretariat and will:
 - a. Include the presentation of preliminary draft Terms of Reference developed by members and coordinated by the United States (drawing from WCPFC21-2024-DP14a). The draft Terms of Reference will include guidance on leadership of the JWG as well as the purpose and objectives of the JWG;
 - b. Consider key elements of a workplan to achieve the objectives of the JWG that will be further coordinated by each Secretariat and presented to each Commission in 2025;
 - c. Develop a provisional timeline by the Secretariats to facilitate the exchange of views between IATTC and WCPFC members on the draft TOR and workplan;
 - d. Discuss a process for decision-making by IATTC and WCPFC for the establishment of the JWG.
2. The United States will consult among all members of both Commissions and update both Commissions on the development of the Terms of Reference outlined in paragraph 1(a).
3. The WCPFC Secretariat will liaise with the IATTC Secretariat and provide updates to CCMs and stakeholders on the progress of tasks outlined in paragraphs 1(b-d).
4. WCPFC's engagement in the establishment of the JWG will be guided by the WCPFC Convention, including the special requirements of developing States.

The Commission is invited to:

- a. **Request the WCPFC Chair to engage with the IATTC Chair in early 2025 on the establishment of a JWG for SP Albacore, with the objective of establishing an informal initial meeting of the JWG in the first half of 2025 and adopting the Terms of Reference by WCPFC22 in 2025.**

- b. Cooperate with the United States and others in developing the terms of reference.**
- c. Task the WCPFC Secretariat to provide support to the WCPFC Chair in developing the workplan and timeline for the JWG for SP Albacore, and to keep members and stakeholders informed on developments.**