



**Western and  
Central Pacific  
Fisheries  
Commission**

**COMMISSION**

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**Draft Terms of Reference for a WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on  
South Pacific Albacore**

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**2 December 2024**

**Submitted by the United States**

**WCPFC-IATTC South Pacific Albacore Joint Working Group**  
**Preliminary Draft Terms of Reference**

**Purpose**

To establish a South Pacific Albacore Joint Working Group (SPA-JWG) to enhance cooperation between WCPFC and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) for South Pacific albacore tuna research and management. The SPA-JWG will endeavour to develop recommendations for consideration by both Commissions regarding scientific cooperation and as appropriate, harmonized or coordinated management of SPA across the range of the stock.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the SPA-JWG are to:

- develop a common understanding of the management objectives for SPA in both convention areas;
- coordinate, conduct and promote scientific and economic analyses and also, [encourage] [facilitate] the collection and exchange of relevant fisheries data, knowledge and expertise [in a consistent manner] on areas pertinent to the sustainable management of SPA;
- enhance the harmonization of harvest strategies through, inter alia, the development of a joint workplan;
- identify [priority] areas for improvement in monitoring, reporting, and data sharing;
- advise on the development and maintenance of compatible management arrangements [to implement aligned harvest strategies] for SPA across all fisheries, including the coordination of catch and/or effort levels between the two Commissions;
- collaborate to identify ways to streamline the timelines of technical and decision-making sessions to ensure efficient progress towards the robust management of SPA. This should include opportunities for [recommending] intersessional decision-making where necessary [and any other matters as determined by both Commissions].

**Timeline**

To be developed.

**Workplan**

In 2025, an introductory informal session [may be held between WCPFC and IATTC] to commence the development of a joint workplan to achieve the objectives of the SPA-JWG.

**Special requirements of SIDS**

Funding support must be provided for at least one person from each SIDS<sup>1</sup> delegation.

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<sup>1</sup> Small Island Developing States and Participating Territories.