



Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Nuku'alofa, Tonga
13 – 21 August 2025

MEETING NOTICE AND INFORMATION

WCPFC-SC21-2025-01
8 May 2025

The Twenty-first Regular Session of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC-SC21) will be held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga from 13 (Wednesday) to 21 (Thursday) August 2025. Heads of Delegations (HODs) and Convenors Meetings will be held on Tuesday, 12 August 2025. The meeting venue is the Tonga High School Indoor Stadium, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

This Meeting Notice, Provisional Agenda, and Provisional Annotated Agenda are now posted on the [SC21 website](#).

SC21 MEETING STRUCTURE

As agreed at SC8, the SC will conduct four thematic sessions during the plenary: Data and Statistics, Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation, Management Issues, and Stock Assessment. The SC21 meeting will be supported by the [SC21 website](#) and the [SC21 Online Discussion Forum](#) (ODF).

SC21 will be held as a hybrid meeting, allowing for both in-person and virtual participation via Zoom. CCM¹ representatives may participate virtually only if their Head of Delegation (HOD), or an officially designated alternate, is unable to attend the meeting in person. For any technical support regarding virtual participation, please contact the Secretariat's IT team at ITSupport@wcpfc.int.

Steering Committee meetings for the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project and the WCPFC Pacific Marine Specimen Bank will be held before SC21. The Steering Committee meeting for the Japan Trust Fund will take place during SC21. In addition, Informal Small Group (ISG) meetings will be convened on the margins of the plenary session, and the ISG topics will be considered at the Heads of Delegation meeting.

Contact information for SC officers and the Secretariat is provided below.

SC Chair	Emily Crigler: emily.crigler@noaa.gov
ST Theme	Valerie Post: valerie.post@noaa.gov
SA Theme	Hidetada Kiyofuji: hkiyofuj@affrc.go.jp

¹ WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories

	Berry Muller: bmuller@mimra.com Michelle Sculley: michelle.sculley@noaa.gov
MI Theme	Shuya Nakatsuka: nakatsuka_shuya49@fra.go.jp
EB Theme	Yonat Swimmer: yonat.swimmer@noaa.gov Leyla Knittweis: Leyla.Knittweis@mpi.govt.nz
Secretariat	SungKwon Soh: sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int Elaine Garvilles: elaine.garvilles@wcpfc.int

REGISTRATION

Meeting registration is available at the [SC21 meeting site](#). All participants are requested to complete their registration via this site. Early registration is strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for approval processes to be completed and to ensure participants receive timely notifications when meeting documents are uploaded.

HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING AND CONVENOR'S MEETING

Two SC21 preparatory meetings will be held at the meeting venue on Tuesday, 12 August 2025:

- 1) The Conveners' Meeting with the SC Chair and the SPC-OFP representatives will be held at 14:00 to finalize their theme session arrangements and meeting procedure.
- 2) The Heads of Delegation Meeting will be convened by the SC Chair at 16:00. All Theme Convenors are expected to attend.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING MEETING PAPERS

The procedure for submitting papers to SC21 is based on the guidelines established at SC2 (Attachment S, SC2 Summary Report) and the recommendations adopted at SC20 (paragraphs 767–774 of the SC20 Summary Report).

- 1) Authors should note that the SC Chair, Theme Conveners, and the Secretariat will assess the suitability of each submission based on the abstract and the justification provided, following the functions of the Scientific Committee as outlined in Article 12 of the Convention. This review process does not apply to Annual Report – Part 1, reports from Commission-approved SC projects, or documents submitted by the Commission's Scientific Services Providers, such as SPC and ISC.
- 2) All documents for SC21 must be submitted via the dedicated **SC21 paper submission webpage**, the details of which will be provided in due course. A simplified flowchart outlining the SC21 paper submission process is included in **Annex 1**.
 - a) Annual Report – Part 1
A template for Annual Report Part 1 is available at [Guidelines/SC-01](#) on the WCPFC website (note: there have been no changes in the Addendum since 2024). The deadline for submitting Part 1 Report is 7 July 2025 (paragraph 832, WCPFC20 Summary Record).
 - b) Meeting Documents
All papers submitted to the Scientific Committee should address specific requests from the Commission or the Scientific Committee and include information relevant to those requests.

Submissions should also provide clear and actionable advice for the SC's consideration.

- 3) The following deadlines apply to submitting all papers and meeting documents to the Scientific Committee (SC21).
 - a) A paper title, preliminary abstract, and a justification explaining how the paper aligns with the functions of the Scientific Committee (as outlined in Article 12 of the Convention, **Annex 2**) must be submitted by 24 June 2025 (50 days before the start of the SC21).
 - b) Full papers must be submitted by 14 July 2025 (30 days before the start of SC21).
- 4) All papers received will be posted as early as possible. All participants will be responsible for downloading and printing their papers, where desired. Limited printing and photocopying services will be available at the meeting venue.
 - a) Working Papers (WP)
Papers considered by the relevant Theme Convenors and the Chair as a working paper for presentation to the SC should be directly relevant to a specific agenda item and will support substantive discussion. Working Paper presentations will be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes, except for stock assessments, which will have a maximum of 30 minutes. Relevant Convenors will attach a cover page, assign a unique document number, and post it on the website (e.g., WCPFC-SC21-2025/ST-WP-XX).
 - b) Information Papers (IP)
Papers classified by the relevant Theme Convenors and the Chair as information papers should be of general interest, that is, supplementary documents circulated for information purposes only, not intended for presentation, but which may be referenced during discussions. Relevant Theme Convenors will attach a cover page, assign a unique document number, and post it on the website (e.g., WCPFC-SC21-2025/SA-IP-XX).
 - c) Observer Papers (OP)
OPs are those papers submitted by Observers to the Commission to provide relevant background information or specific positions or statements related to issues under consideration by the Scientific Committee (e.g., WCPFC-SC21-2025/OP-XX). As a general rule, observers may submit Information Papers unless invited by the Secretariat, SC Theme Convenors, or the SC Chair to present a Working Paper.

ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM (ODF) FOR SC21

All ODF users should refer to the following guidelines:

- a) The ODF website will be accessible to all registered and approved SC21 participants.
- b) Commission-funded SC projects that will not be discussed during the plenary will be posted on the ODF platform. The ODF discussion outputs may be briefly reviewed, if required, under the "Other Issues" section of each theme session or under Agenda Item 10 (SC Work Programme and Budget) for finalization.
- c) Stock assessment papers should be made available on the ODF to facilitate more detailed technical discussions before the plenary. This will allow the SC plenary to focus on higher-level

issues. In cases where technically complex questions arise on the ODF, authors may respond to them during the plenary session, indicating that they will be addressed at that time.

- d) Other information papers may also be posted on the ODF upon request by authors seeking feedback, or by the SC Chair, Vice-Chair, or Theme Conveners who wish to include the papers in their sessions but are constrained by time limitations. Authors are fully responsible for responding to any comments or questions raised on their papers.
- e) Following the closure of the ODF (or at the end of the first week of the meeting), a *Summary of the SC21 Online Discussion Forum* will be posted. The SC may consider any specific issues raised by CCMs under Agenda Item "Other Matters," and appropriate action may be taken under the relevant agenda item as needed.

FUNDING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

The Commission will fund the participation (a daily allowance and most direct economical airfare) of two representatives from each developing country and participating territory that is a member of the Commission. Formal nominations for participants to receive this support should be submitted to the Secretariat (Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int) by 15 July 2025 under the signature of their WCPFC Official Contact for eligible developing countries and participating territories.

The latest travel arrangement for funded nominees is to be finalized two weeks before commencing travel.

VISA TO VISIT TONGA

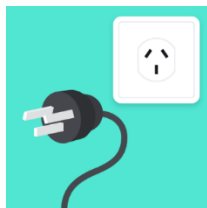
Most participants visiting Tonga do not require a visa for stays of up to 30 days; however, visitors must hold a valid ticket for the return journey to their country of origin or next destination and a passport valid for at least six months. You may also need to show proof of sufficient funds and confirmed accommodation.

For further information on visa requirements, please refer to:
<https://www.revenue.gov.to/immigration-and-general-services>

CURRENCY IN TONGA

The currency used in Tonga is the Tongan pa'anga and the international code is TOP. You can exchange a variety of major foreign currencies for the Tongan Pa'anga (TOP). Some of the most commonly exchanged currencies include Australian Dollars (AUD), United States Dollars (USD), New Zealand Dollars (NZD), and Euro (EUR).

POWER OUTLET REQUIREMENTS



In Tonga, the power outlets are Type I, which have three flat pins in a triangular pattern. The standard voltage is 240V and the frequency is 50Hz. This means that you will likely need a travel adapter to plug your devices into the Tongan outlets.

TRANSPORTATION

You may contact your hotel to arrange transportation from the airport to your accommodation. In addition, the car rental companies listed in **Table 1** also offer airport transportation services.

Table 1. Car Rental Companies

Company	Additional Information
Sunshine Rental Cars	Unga Rd, Nukulaofa Phone : 676 23-848 https://tongasunshine.to/
Avis Car Rentals	QV55+H74, Fua'amotu Phone : 676 21-179 https://www.avis.com/en/locations/to/tongatapu/tbu
Alpha Rental Cars	Ph: 676 7736730 Arctonga.com arctonga@gmail.com
Thanks n Praise car rental	RR45+M26, Vaini Ph : 676 37-852 Facebook : Auto Provider/thanks N Praise

ACCOMMODATION

Participants requiring accommodation are advised to book directly with their preferred hotel or property listed in **Table 2** below as soon as possible.

Table 2. Accommodation Options

Hotel / Guest House/ Property	Distance to the Meeting Venue			No. of Rooms/Units
	Distance	Walk	Drive	
Little Italy info@littleitalytonga.com	2.1 km	25minn	5 min	22
Tungi Colonade Company Hotel reservation@tungicolonade.com	400m	5 min	1 min	16
City Hotel cityhoteltonga88@yahoo.com info@cityhoteltonga.com	900m	12 min	3 min	9
Emerald Hotel emeraldhoteltonga@gmail.com/emerald-joe@hotmail.com www.tongaholiday.com/listing/meida-hotel	1.3 km	18 min	4 min	20
Kongakava Hotel	3.2 km	44m	7 min	10
Jezami Hotel reception@jezamihotel.com	1.4km	19m	4 min	5
Paradise First Hotel Paradise1stHotel@gmail.com	4.4 km	56 min	9 min	8
Tanoa International Dateline Hotel	1.4km	19 min	4 min	122

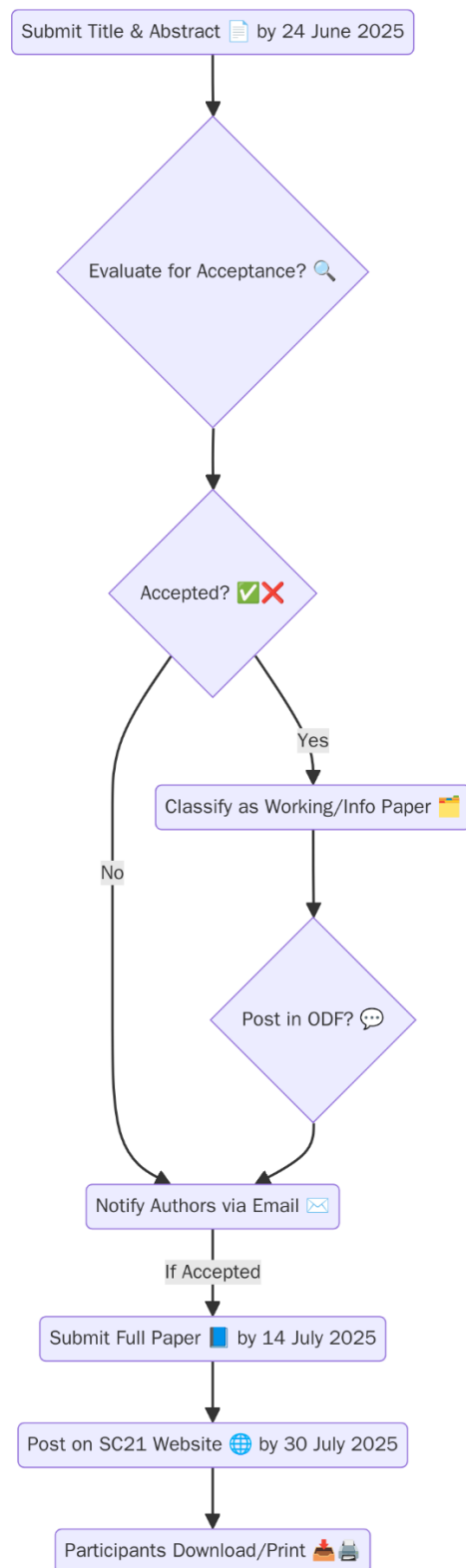
dateline@tanoahotels.com				
Meida Hotel meidahotel@gmail.com / mmoala83@gmail.com	1.6km	21 min	4 min	20
GUEST HOUSE				
Laneihko Bed & Breakfast halavataunv@gmail.com				4
The Captain Cook Apartment cookapartments@yahoo.com www.captaincooktonga.com	2.0 km	24 min	5 min	17
Villa Ishadora villaishadora@yahoo.com	3.7 km	50 min	9 min	8
Villa Apartment & Villa Lodge manager@tongavilla.com	1.9 km	26 min	5 min	6
Mango Bed & Breakfast ftataata@gmail.com				3
Sunshine Company Ltd				108
Penitani Lodge petani.lodge1207@gmail.com www.tongaholiday.com/listing/petani-lodge				
International Metropole Corporation Co Ltd trading as Sande Motel mst66688@yahoo.com.hk www.tongaholiday.com/listing/joes-kahana-resort-and-restaurant				8
Nasaleti Accommodation Units mortelana2017@outlook.com				4
Simon's Place simensplacetonga@gmail.com	800m	11 min	3 min	12
Friendly Islander Papiloa's Place papiloabf@gmail.com / friendlyislander.papiloas@gmail.com www.friendlyislander-tonga.com				26
Nanisi Place pelu.ulitafea@gmail.com	600 m	8 min	2 min	3
Hafu's House hafushouse@gmail.com	1.6km	22 min	5 min	6
One's Guest House s_akauola@yahoo.com				2
Fahina's Apartment filipeuluiva@gmail.com				
Lata - 'i - Tonga Hotel huangjinlai2012@gmail.com	2.9 km	40 min	7 min	16
Lose 'o Vava'u Guest House fili_1960@hotmail.co.nz				
Leti's Guest House valeti-moeakiola@hotmail.com				6
Talieva Inn	550m	8 min	1 min	

talievainn@gmail.com				
Dreaming Dawn kepuioane@gmail.com	3.7 km	51 min	8 min	6
Southsea's Ocean Transpor				6
Heilala Holiday Lodge stay@heilala.to				14
Okasiva Guest House	1.8 km	25 min	5 min	4
Nukuma'anu Cottage	2.8 km	37 min	7 min	3
Green Lodge solomonefifita@yahoo.com www.green-lodge-to.book.direct/en-gb	4.5 km	1 hr	10 min	13
Waterfront Lodge waterfro1@kalianet.to / billfishtonga@yahoo.co.nz	206 km	35 min	6 min	8
House of Tonga houseoftonga@gmail.com www.tongaholiday.com/listing/hotel-nukualofa	900 m	12 min	2 min	7
Toni's Guest House tonigh2@yahoo.co.uk www.tonisguesthouse.com	3.9 km	53 min	9min	5
Noa Guest House drucilla2358@gmial.com http://www.tongaholiday.com	1.0 km	13 min	3 min	15
Tuna Lodge reception@jezamihotel.com	2.8 km	38 min	7 min	4
Celestial Lagoon Guesthouse & Backpackers sifateisi@hotmail.com				22
Lose Lodge amelia02@kalianet.to	650m	9 min	2 min	10
Island Abode Apartment kamakonga@yahoo.com				5
Acu - Reflex Guest House acureflex.tonga@gmail.com	1.2 km	16 min	3 min	3
Malau Lodge malau.lodge@live.com www.tongaholiday.com/listing/malau-lodge	1.4 km	19 min	4 min	9
Winnie's Bed & Breakfast winniesbb.tonga@gmail.com winnies.to				6
Tonga Holiday Villa neilnorris0128@gmail.com	5.2 km	1 hr 10 min	11 min	5
Seaview Lodge seaview.tonga@gmail.com www.seaview-lodge.com	1.4 km	18 min	4 min	13
Sela's Guest House mettonga@kalianet.to www.tongaholiday.com	1.0 km	14 min	3 min	15
Harbour View Apartment				11

deanbishoprick@yahoo.com				
Olini Lodge & Café olinifonua@gmail.com				
Diamond Lei Heaven Apartment vasi_taiamoni@yahoo.com www.tongaholiday.com	3.2 km	43 min	7 min	7
Sepiuta Lodge neahiva@gmail.com	3.6 km	47 min	8 min	12
Loveys Lagoonview Apartment lavimaka@gmail.com www.facebook.com/LoveysLagoon	3.8 km	48 min	8 min	13
Evilla House evillahouse@hotmail.com				4
The White House smoehau@icloud.com				8
Fale Tonga Guest House j.halaapiapi@web.de	2.9 km	39 min	7 min	3
Sneak Away Place ladunofo@gmail.com				1
Sky Lodge Apartment info@skylodge.to	4.6 km	1 hr 1m	10 min	6

Note: For further assistance, please contact Lavinia Vaipuna at nia.vaipuna@gmail.com or lavinia.vaipuna@tongafish.gov.to

Annex 1. Simplified Flowchart of the SC21 Paper Submission Process



Annex 2. WCPFC Convention, Article 12

Article 12

Functions of the Scientific Committee

1. The Scientific Committee is established to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available.
2. The functions of the Committee shall be to:
 - (a) recommend to the Commission a research plan, including specific issues and items to be addressed by the scientific experts or by other organizations or individuals, as appropriate, and identify data needs and coordinate activities that meet those needs;
 - (b) review the assessments, analyses, other work and recommendations prepared for the Commission by the scientific experts prior to consideration of such recommendations by the Commission and provide information, advice and comments thereon, as necessary;
 - (c) encourage and promote cooperation in scientific research, taking into account the provisions of article 246 of the 1982 Convention [see below](#), in order to improve information on highly migratory fish stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon such stocks in the Convention Area;
 - (d) review the results of research and analyses of target stocks or non-target or associated or dependent species in the Convention Area;
 - (e) report to the Commission its findings or conclusions on the status of target stocks or non-target or associated or dependent species in the Convention Area;
 - (f) in consultation with the Technical and Compliance Committee, recommend to the Commission the priorities and objectives of the regional observer programme and assess the results of that programme;
 - (g) make reports and recommendations to the Commission as directed, or on its own initiative, on matters concerning the conservation and management of and research on target stocks or non-target or associated or dependent species in the Convention Area; and
 - (h) perform such other functions and tasks as may be requested by or assigned to it by the Commission.
3. The Committee shall exercise its functions in accordance with such guidelines and directives as the Commission may adopt.
4. The representatives of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, or their successor organizations, shall be invited to participate in the work of the Committee. The Committee may also invite other organizations or individuals with scientific expertise in matters related to the work of the Commission to participate in its meetings.