

Nuku'alofa, Tonga
13 – 21 August 2025

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

WCPFC-SC21-2025-02
[18](#) May 2025

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1.1 Welcome address
- 1.2 Meeting arrangements
- 1.3 Issues arising from the Commission
- 1.4 Adoption of the agenda
- 1.5 Reporting arrangements
- 1.6 Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee

AGENDA ITEM 2 REVIEW OF FISHERIES

- 2.1 Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries
- 2.2 Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries
- 2.3 Annual Report – Part 1 from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories
- 2.4 Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations

AGENDA ITEM 3 DATA AND STATISTICS THEME

- 3.1 Data gaps of the Commission
 - 3.1.1 Report on the WCPFC scientific data
 - 3.1.2 Improving operational data evaluation and submission standards
 - 3.1.3 Better data on fish weights and lengths for scientific analyses (Project 90)
 - 3.1.4 Improved coverage of cannery receipt data (Project 114)
 - 3.1.5 Minimum data reporting requirements
 - 3.1.5.1 Proposal on sea turtle data reporting requirements for fishing operations
 - 3.1.5.2 Development of a FAD Logbook – Jamel 4/11 email
 - 3.1.5.3 Reporting requirements for cetacean interaction
- 3.2 Further analysis of purse seine fishing behavior, reporting, and effort estimation
- 3.3 Regional Observer Programme
 - 3.3.1 ROP Data Issues
 - 3.3.2 Training observers for elasmobranch biological sampling (Project 109)
- 3.4 Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring
- 3.5 Fisheries and Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) Partnership

3.6 Other ST issues

AGENDA ITEM 4 STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME

4.1 Improvement of MULTIFAN-CL software

4.1.1 Update of MULTIFAN-CL software

4.1.2 Scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software (Project 123)

4.2 Template for reporting stock assessment outcomes (Project 113b)

4.3 WCPO Tunas

4.3.1 WCPO skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

4.3.1.1 Skipjack stock assessment

4.3.1.2 Provision of scientific information to the Commission

4.3.2 Other WCPO tunas

4.3.2.1 Indicator analysis

4.3.2.2 Updated reproductive biology of tropical tunas (Project 120)

4.4 Northern stocks

4.4.1 Provision of scientific information from the ISC

4.4.2 Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)

4.4.2.1 Research on migratory patterns

4.5 Billfish

4.5.1 Southwest Pacific swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)

4.5.1.1 Stock assessment of Southwest Pacific swordfish

4.5.1.2 Provision of scientific information to the Commission

a. Stock assessment and trends

b. Stock status

c. Management advice

4.5.2 Southwest Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)

4.5.2.1 Stock assessment of Southwest Pacific striped marlin

4.5.2.2 Provision of scientific information to the Commission

a. Stock assessment and trends

b. Stock status

c. Management advice

4.5.3 North Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)

4.6 Sharks

4.6.1 Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)

4.6.1.1 Oceanic whitetip shark stock assessment (Project 124)

4.6.1.2 Provision of scientific information to the Commission

a. Stock assessment and trends

b. Stock status

c. Management advice

4.7 Projects and Requests

4.7.1 Application of Close-Kin-Mark-Recapture methods (Project 100c)

4.7.2 Longline effort creep and CPUE index collaboration across Tuna-RFMOs (Project 122a)

4.7.3 Biology from billfish in longline fisheries (Project 125)

4.7.4 Developing sampling strategy for sharks (Project 126)

4.7.5 Reconciliation of size composition data for stock assessments (Project 127)

4.7.6 Stock connectivity scoping study (Project 128)

4.7.7 Research Plan Update

- 4.7.7.1 Tuna Assessment Research Plan (2023 – 2026) update
- 4.7.7.2 Billfish Research Plan (2023 – 2030) update
- 4.7.7.3 Review of the Shark Research Plan 2021-2030
- 4.7.7.4 WCPFC tuna biological sampling plan
- 4.7.7.5 WCPFC billfish biological sampling plan

4.8 Other SA issues

AGENDA ITEM 5 MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME

5.1 Development of the WCPFC harvest strategy framework for key tuna species

5.1.1 Skipjack tuna

- 5.1.1.1 Skipjack tuna management procedure
- 5.1.1.2 Monitoring strategy for skipjack tuna

5.1.2 South Pacific albacore tuna

- 5.1.2.1 South Pacific albacore management procedure
- 5.1.2.2 Joint WCPFC/IATTC Working Group for South Pacific Albacore
- 5.1.2.3 Updates on SP Albacore Roadmap IWG

5.1.3 Bigeye tuna

- 5.1.3.1 Bigeye operating models
- 5.1.3.2 Bigeye management procedure – design
- 5.1.3.3 Bigeye Target Reference Points and Performance Evaluation of Candidate Management Procedures

5.1.4 Mixed fishery MSE framework

5.1.5 Progress of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Work Plan

5.2 Pacific bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation

5.3 Southwest Pacific striped marlin – management projections

5.4 Southwest Pacific swordfish management procedure

5.5 Review of effectiveness of CMM 2023-01

5.6 Other MI issues

AGENDA ITEM 6 ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME

6.1 Ecosystem and Climate Indicators

6.1.1 Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card

6.1.2 Climate change

- 6.1.2.1 Climate Change Workplan
- 6.1.2.2 CMM climate change vulnerability assessment

6.1.3 Updates on the 2019 SEAPODYM Review

6.2 FAD impacts

6.2.1 Research on non-entangling and biodegradable FADs

6.2.2 [Research on dFAD loss and abandonments](#)

6.2.3 Updates on FAD Management Options IWG

6.3 Bycatch management

6.3.1 Bycatch Management Information System

6.3.2 Bycatch Assessment and Management

6.4 Review of CMM for Seabirds (CMM 2018-03)

6.5 Elasmobranchs

6.5.1 Review of CMM for sharks (CMM 2024-05)

- 6.6 Cetaceans
- 6.7 Deep-sea mining
- 6.8 Other EB issues

AGENDA ITEM 7 OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 7.1 Pacific Marine Specimen Bank (Project 35b)
- 7.2 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (Project 42)
- 7.3 West Pacific East Asia Project
- 7.4 Japan Trust Fund activities
- 7.5 Other Projects

AGENDA ITEM 8 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 9 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

AGENDA ITEM 10 FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

- 10.1 Development of the 2026 work program and budget, and projection of 2027-2028 provisional work program and indicative budget

AGENDA ITEM 11 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 11.1 Future operation of the Scientific Committee
 - 11.1.1 Guidelines and process improvements
 - 11.1.2 Policy of SC meeting duration
- 11.2 Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee
- 11.3 Next meeting

AGENDA ITEM 12 OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 13 ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 14 CLOSE OF THE MEETING