

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

Nuku’alofa, Tonga

13 – 21 August 2025

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**WCPFC-SC21-2025-03 (Rev.01)**

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**
	1. **Welcome address**
	2. **Meeting arrangements**
	3. **Issues arising from the Commission**
	4. **Adoption of the agenda**
	5. **Reporting arrangements**
	6. **Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee**
2. **REVIEW OF FISHERIES**
	1. **Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries**
	2. **Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries**
	3. **Annual Report – Part 1 from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories**
	4. **Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations**
3. **DATA AND STATISTICS THEME**
	1. **Data gaps of the Commission**
		1. **Report on the WCPFC scientific data**
		2. **Reconciliation of size composition data for stock assessments (Project 127)**
		3. **Improving operational data evaluation and submission standards**
		4. **Better data on fish weights and lengths for scientific analyses (Project 90)**
		5. **Improved coverage of cannery receipt data (Project 114)**
		6. **Minimum data reporting requirements**
4.

### **Proposal on sea turtle data reporting requirements for fishing operations**

### **Development**of a FAD Logbook

### **Reporting requirements for cetacean interaction**

* + 1. **Bycatch estimates of the longline fishery**
	1. **Further analysis of purse seine fishing behavior, reporting, and effort estimation**
	2. **Regional Observer Programme**
		1. **ROP Data Issues**
		2. **Training observers for elasmobranch biological sampling (Project 109)**
	3. **Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring**
	4. **Fisheries and Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) Partnership**
	5. **Other ST issues**
1. **STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME**
	1. **Improvement of MULTIFAN-CL software**
		1. **Update of MULTIFAN-CL software**
		2. **Scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software (Project 123)**
	2. **Template for reporting stock assessment outcomes (Project 113b)**
	3. **WCPO Tunas**
		1. **WCPO skipjack tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)***
			1. Skipjack stock assessment
			2. Provision of scientific information to the Commission
		2. Stock assessment and trends
		3. Stock status
		4. Management advice
		5. **Other WCPO tunas**
			1. Indicator analysis
			2. Updated reproductive biology of tropical tunas (Project 120)
	4. **Northern stocks**
		1. **Provision of scientific information from the ISC**
		2. **Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)**
			1. Research on migratory patterns
	5. **Billfish**
		1. **Southwest Pacific swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)**
			1. Stock assessment of Southwest Pacific swordfish
			2. Provision of scientific information to the Commission
2. Stock assessment and trends
3. Stock status
4. Management advice
	* 1. **Southwest Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)**
			1. Stock assessment of Southwest Pacific striped marlin
			2. Provision of scientific information to the Commission
	1. **Sharks**
		1. **Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)**
			1. Oceanic whitetip shark stock assessment (Project 124)
			2. Provision of scientific information to the Commission
	2. Stock assessment and trends
	3. Stock status
	4. Management advice
	5. **Projects and Requests**
		1. **Application of Close-Kin-Mark-Recapture methods (Project 100c)**
		2. **Longline effort creep and CPUE index collaboration across Tuna-RFMOs (Project 122a)**
		3. **Biology from billfish in longline fisheries (Project 125)**
		4. **Developing sampling strategy for sharks (Project 126)**
		5. **Stock connectivity scoping study (Project 128)**
		6. **Research Plan Update**
			1. Tuna Assessment Research Plan (2023 – 2026) annual update
			2. Billfish Research Plan (2023 – 2030) annual update
			3. Shark Research Plan 2021-2030 annual updates
			4. WCPFC tuna biological sampling plan (Project 117)
			5. WCPFC billfish biological sampling plan (Project 118)
	6. **Other SA issues**
5. **MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME**
	1. **Development of the WCPFC harvest strategy framework for key tuna species**
		1. **Skipjack tuna**
			1. Skipjack tuna management procedure
			2. Monitoring strategy for skipjack tuna
		2. **South Pacific albacore tuna**
			1. South Pacific albacore management procedure
			2. Joint WCPFC/IATTC Working Group for South Pacific Albacore
			3. Updates on SP Albacore Roadmap IWG
		3. **Bigeye tuna**
			1. Bigeye operating models
			2. Bigeye management procedure – design
			3. Bigeye Target Reference Points and Performance Evaluation of Candidate Management Procedures
		4. **Mixed fishery MSE framework**
		5. **Progress of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Work Plan**
	2. **Pacific bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation**
	3. **Southwest Pacific striped marlin – management projections**
	4. **North Pacific striped marlin projections**
	5. **Southwest Pacific swordfish management procedure**
	6. **Review of effectiveness of CMM 2023-01**
	7. **Other MI issues**
6. **ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME**
	1. **Ecosystem and Climate Indicators**
		1. **Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card**
		2. **Climate change**
			1. Climate Change Workplan
			2. CMM climate change vulnerability assessment
		3. **Updates on the 2019 SEAPODYM Review**
	2. **FAD impacts**
		1. **Research on non-entangling and biodegradable FADs**
		2. **Research on dFAD loss and abandonments**
		3. **Updates on FAD Management Options IWG**
	3. **Bycatch management**
		1. **Bycatch Management Information System**
		2. **Bycatch Assessment and Management**
	4. **Review of CMM for Seabirds (CMM 2018-03)**
	5. **Elasmobranchs**
		1. **Review of CMM for sharks (CMM 2024-05)**
	6. **Cetaceans**
	7. **Deep-sea mining**
	8. **Other EB issues**
7. **OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS**
	1. **Pacific Marine Specimen Bank (Project 35b)**
	2. **Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (Project 42)**
	3. **West Pacific East Asia Project**
	4. **Japan Trust Fund activities**
	5. **Other Projects**
8. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**
9. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**
10. **FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**
	1. **Development of the 2026 work program and budget, and projection of 2027-2028 provisional work program and indicative budget**
11. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
	1. **Future operation of the Scientific Committee**
		1. **Guidelines and process improvements**
		2. **Policy of SC meeting duration**
	2. **Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee**
	3. **Next meeting**
12. **OTHER MATTERS**
13. **ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**
14. **CLOSE OF THE MEETING**