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**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**

### **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**