



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

13-24 August 2007
Honolulu, United States of America

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
METHODS SPECIALIST WORKING GROUP**

SC3-2007-ME-SWG-01

1. Opening of the Meeting

2. Selection of Rapporteurs

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Issues Arising from WCPFC-3

4.1. Review of information

- a) *Continued refinement of stock assessment models (incl. models to standardize CPUE) (Topic 2).*

IP-1: Hoyle, S. et al “*Proceedings of the pelagic longline catch rate standardization meeting*”

WP-1: Hoyle, S. “*Re-analysis of regional weighting factors for YFT and BET stock assessments*”

WP-2: Hampton, J., D. Fourier and P. Kleiber. “*Update of recent developments in Multifan-CL: catch conditioning and recruitment parameterisation*”

- b) *Methods to estimate IUU catches in the WCPO (Topic 3)*

- c) *Further review of 2006 swordfish assessment (Topic 19, CMM-2006-03).*

- d) *Review research to reduce uncertainty for striped marlin assessment (Topic 20, CMM-2006-04)*

4.2. Advice to the Scientific Committee

5. Progress on SC2 Work Programme for 2007

5.1. Review of information

- a) *Investigation of alternative stock status reference points to replace MSY and identification of limit and target reference points.*

WP-3: Davies, C. and T. Polacheck. “*Review of stock status reference points, including identification of appropriate target and limit reference points*”

- b) *Development of methods used to evaluate potential management strategies including MSE development and uncertainty.*

WP-4: Campbell et al. “*An empirical-indicator -based harvest strategy for the Australian tuna and billfish fisheries*”

WP-5: Kolody et al. “*Application of a harvest strategy evaluation approach to the Australian swordfish fishery.*”

5.2. Advice to the Scientific Committee

6. Progress on additional ME-SWG Research Issues identified at SC2 (not covered by Agenda Items 2 and 3):

6.1. Review of information

- a) *Exploration of sensitivity to structural assumptions in stock assessment models*

WP-6: Hoyle, S. and A. Langley. “*A comparison of Multifan-CL and Stock Synthesis 2 stock assessment software: application to South Pacific albacore*”

- b) *Investigation of the sensitivity of model outcomes to hypotheses concerning changes in fishing power not adequately accounted for in the standardisations.*

WP-7: Ward, P. “*Preliminary estimates of the relative catchability of pelagic longline fishing gear*”

- c) *Further consideration of how to reflect uncertainty in projections*

- d) *Development of recruitment indices independent of assessment models.*

- e) *Development / review of models for evaluation of impacts on ecosystem, and the development of reference points for ecosystem-based management*

6.2. Advice to the Scientific Committee

7. Research Planning

7.1. Medium Term Research Plan

7.2. Operational Research Plan for 2007/08 with budget

7.3. Work programme for 2009-2010 with indicative budget

8. Administrative Matters

8.1. Other matters

9. Adoption of Report

10. Close of Meeting