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Annual Report on the Work of the Commission in 2025

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Submitted by the Executive Director

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission concluded a productive 2024 with the first adoption by any tuna RFMO of a comprehensive binding measure to address crew labour standards on fishing vessels. The measure will take effect in 2028, and its adoption sets in motion the process for members to set forth the required legal framework at the national level to prepare for full implementation of the measure when it comes into force. It also sends an important signal that in the WCPFC, human rights are non-negotiable.

WCPFC continued its efforts in 2025 to strengthen its conservation and management of migratory fish stocks and to adapt to the increasing awareness within the global community around ocean health and the role of RFMOs. Intersessional activities in 2025 reflected a mature international organization, with a deepening focus on refining its foundations in data collection and monitoring, two key pillars of effective conservation and management. The Commission's detailed scientific work in 2025 also reflected a sustained interest in better understanding the relationships between highly migratory fish stocks and their natural environment. Decision making in WCPFC continues to be grounded in the best available scientific evidence, underpinned by the strong support of WCPFC's Scientific Services Provider (SSP), the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community (SPC-OFP).

The Commission's new conservation and management measures that took effect in 2025 reflected the success of the Northern Committee, through its informal joint working group (PBFJWG) with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), to rebuild the Pacific bluefin tuna stock in the North Pacific and ensure through targeted monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures that this success will be maintained into the future. Additional measures to reverse the declining population of North Pacific striped marlin also took effect in 2025, seeking to balance the target and incidental catch of this billfish as part of a longer-term rebuilding strategy. Non-target and associated or dependent species (NTADS) received renewed attention in 2025 with updated mitigation measures taking effect for sharks and cetaceans. Finally, in recognition of the value in active notification of when fishing vessels are operating under charter arrangements, the Commission renewed its charter notification measure in 2024 for a further three years, until 2027.

Recognizing that compliance and enforcement are essential to strong conservation and management, the Commission continued its technical work through several intersessional working groups (IWG) focused on refining the Commission's monitoring and data collection activities. This sustained focus ensures that resources and investments by CCMs are connected to clear outcomes that support the Commission's mandate and objectives.

WCPFC continues to play an important role in supporting Members and stakeholders engaged in market-based sustainability programs. Initiatives such as the Marine Stewardship Council and Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch provide recognised third-party sustainability guidance and assurance for tuna products from the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) region that are supplied to major markets, including Europe and the Americas. In 2025, fishing industry stakeholders underscored the value of these programs in enhancing market access, creating economic incentives for well-managed fisheries, and reinforced the importance of WCPFC commitments to data reporting, monitoring (including electronic monitoring), bycatch mitigation, and the adoption of comprehensive harvest strategies. These sustainability initiatives have strengthened the visibility and competitiveness of WCPO fisheries in global markets. As additional fisheries in the region are pursuing third-party sustainability recognition, it's clear that the Commission's work continues to be relevant to meeting international market expectations.

The Commission advanced its 2025 work programme through regular sessions of its subsidiary bodies: the **Northern Committee**, **Scientific Committee**, and **Technical & Compliance Committee**, each held their 21st session in July, August, and September, respectively. Alongside these meetings, the Commission sustained various work streams via electronic, virtual, and face-to-face working groups between subsidiary body meetings. As the Commission begins its third decade of work, its achievements are as clear as its opportunities: tuna stocks are biologically healthy, harvest strategies are progressing, and technological advancements are boosting monitoring capabilities. WCPFC members, cooperating non-members, and participating territories (CCMs) are poised to end another busy year with robust outcomes for the world's largest tuna fishery.

PURPOSE AND REPORT STRUCTURE

The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive, high-level overview of how the Commission's 2025 agenda supported efforts to achieve the WCPF Convention objective to responsibly manage and conserve highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO.

This report summarises the Commission's 2025 activities and discussions, structured around the conservation and management of WCPO tuna and billfish stocks, as well as each bycatch species under the WCPFC's purview. Updates on harvest strategy development for each of the tuna stocks is also included in the updates, with a timeline of harvest strategy development in the WCPFC since 2015 contained in **Attachment A**. Updates in 2025 to WCPFC's monitoring and evaluation tools are also covered, including in a comprehensive overview contained in **Attachment B**. This report also provides updated information on international ocean governance activities in 2025, organizational matters (Governance and Institution) and budget and financial issues, including information on 2025 voluntary contributions. An overview of the Secretariat's 2025 activities is contained in **Attachment C**.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Commission's 2025 intersessional activities demonstrated its ongoing commitment to science-based management, evidenced through its continued focus on refining data collection requirements by fisheries observers, minimizing fishing impacts on seabirds, and improving management of fish aggregating devices (FADs). The focus on management of the South Pacific albacore fishery through two online workshops advanced the Commission's discussions on development of a Management Procedure (MP) and an implementation plan for one of its key fisheries. This effort was complemented by the Commission's efforts in 2025 to establish a joint working group (SPAJWG) with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on shared management of the South Pacific albacore fishery.

CHALLENGES

Section IX of this report highlights long-standing data gaps and the lack of independent data to verify certain obligations that continue to challenge the integrity of the Commission's fish stock sustainability outcomes. The sustained focus by the Commission on strengthening data collection and monitoring programmes in the intersessional period will address much of this challenge if accompanied by support for implementation. Finally, as the Commission advances its efforts to develop harvest strategies in a complex multi-stock, multi-gear fishery, strengthened collaboration and cooperation will be essential. This will require WCPFC to respond to climate change, technological advances, and international conservation commitments that push the Commission toward ecosystem-based, climate-aware management. Rising market and retailer expectations for evidence-based sustainable and ethical tuna further heighten the need for better reporting, enhanced monitoring systems, and steady implementation of the harvest strategy framework.

LOOKING FORWARD

Section X of this report offers future strategic priorities for the Commission's consideration, emphasising the role that integrated data analysis plays in modernising and advancing WCPFC's work. Healthy WCPO tuna stocks provide opportunities for the Commission to increase its focus in the coming years on closing data gaps, strengthening the availability of information to support independent verification of obligations, and strengthening the foundation of the Commission's compliance monitoring program. Healthy stocks also necessitate the Commission to think and act more globally in its approach to fisheries management. The Commission's work must reflect a clear understanding that healthy fish stocks are but one component of a healthy ocean, and sustainable fisheries management requires a holistic approach to environmental stewardship. Commission outcomes that reflect an awareness and understanding of the important interdependence that exists throughout the marine ecosystem are fundamental to WCPFC's success.

II. MANAGEMENT OF TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCKS IN THE WCPO | 2025 UPDATES

The **2025 report** from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the state of the world's fishery resources states that in 2023, the most recent year for which non-provisional data is available (to the FAO), 95 percent of the total global tuna catch comes from sustainable stocks that are not overfished and where overfishing is not occurring. This strong stock status is partially attributed to the health of skipjack tuna stocks, which contributed to more than half of the global catch.

The most recent and WCPFC-focused **2024 Overview of tuna fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean** was reviewed at the 21st Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC21) and, consistent with the FAO report, points to an overall positive picture of WCPO fisheries. Key information from the report include:

- Provisional 2024 total tuna catch for WCPFC Convention Area: **3,024,149mt**
- **85%** of the total Pacific Ocean tuna catch of 3,559,788mt
- **54%** of the global tuna catch
- **>80%** of the tuna catch in the WCPFC Convention Area occurs in coastal state waters

CATCH SUMMARIES OF WCPO TUNA STOCKS

Catch information for four WCPO tuna stocks (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, and SP albacore) is depicted in **Figures 2-5**, below, from the SC21 paper "**Estimates of Annual Catches in the WCPFC Statistical Area**", prepared by the SSP. Catch information for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore tuna, respectively, are shown in the section on **Northern Stocks**, below. Figures for those stocks are generated from catch data compiled by the **International Scientific Committee for tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)**, which provides scientific advice to the WCPFC's Northern Committee in respect of the North Pacific tuna and tuna-like fishes. The Figures provide a useful depiction of the scale of tuna catch in the **WCPF Convention Area** by species and gear type, and in relation to total global tuna catches and tuna catches in other oceans. **Figure 5** shows that tuna catches from the WCPO continue to dominate the global tuna supply, which is provisionally estimated in 2024 as 5.3 million metric tonnes. The WCPF Convention Area tuna catch for 2024 represented 54% of the total global tuna catch, at 3 million metric tonnes.

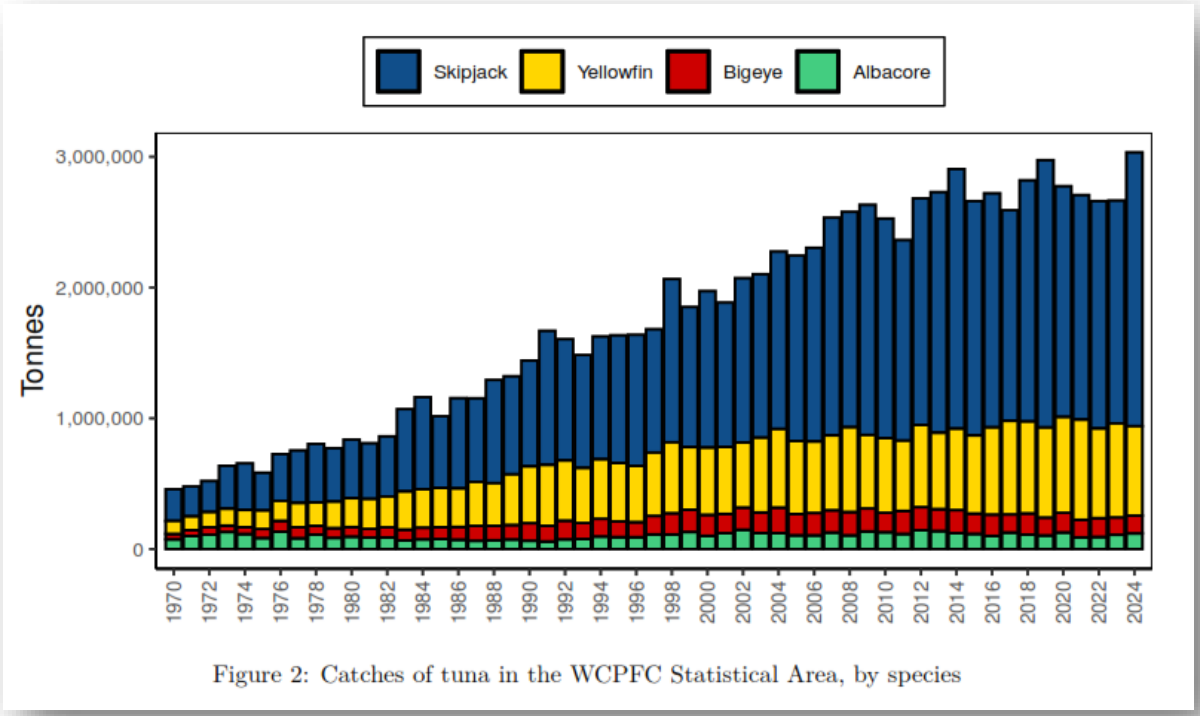


Figure 2: Catches of tuna in the WCPFC Statistical Area, by species

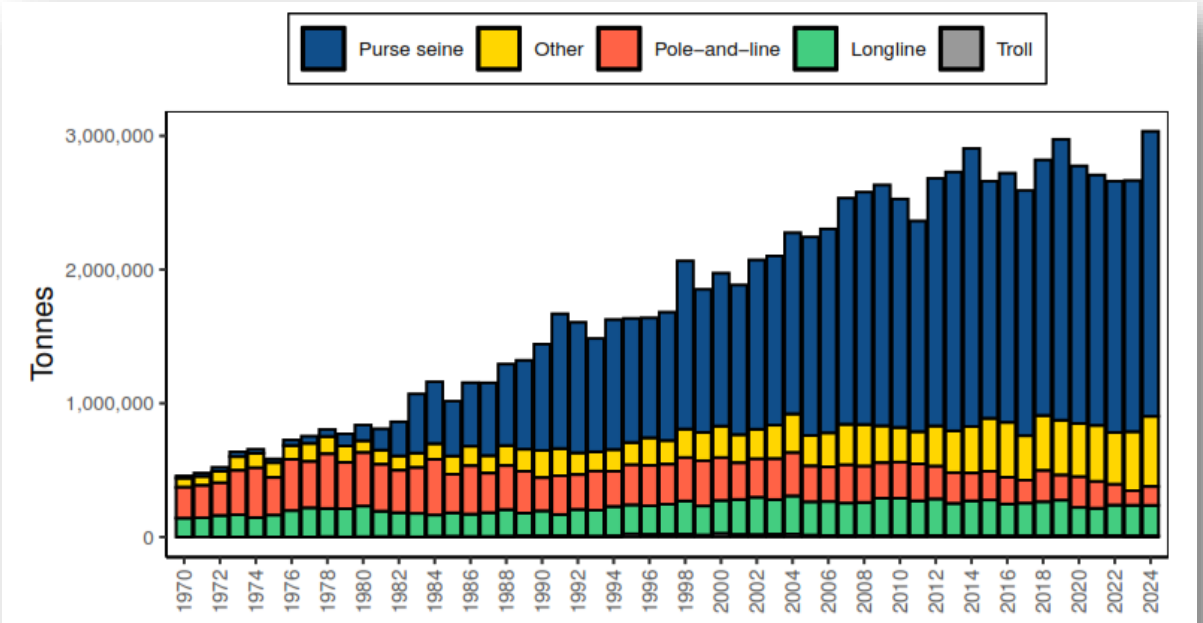


Figure 3: Catches of tuna in the WCPFC Statistical Area, by gear

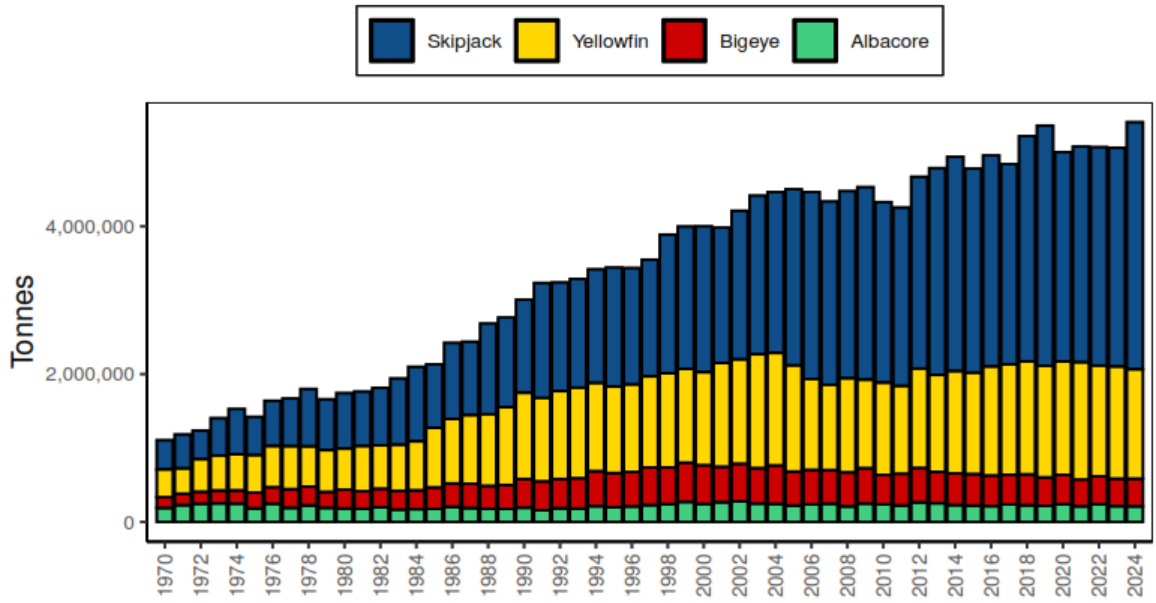


Figure 4: Global tuna catches, by species

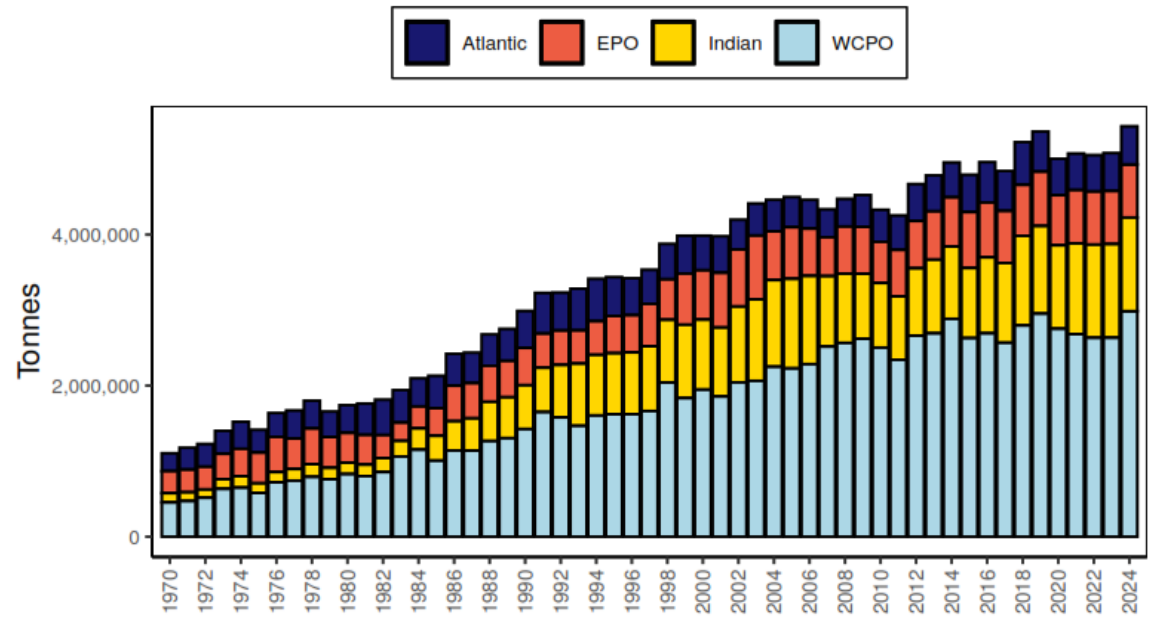


Figure 5: Global tuna catches, by ocean area

THE TROPICAL TUNA MEASURE AS A BRIDGING MEASURE TO HARVEST STRATEGIES (FOR BIGEYE, YELLOWFIN, AND SKIPJACK TUNAS)

The WCPFC's tropical tuna measure (CMM 2023-01) continues to serve as a cornerstone of the Commission's efforts to sustainably manage three tuna stocks (bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack) in the WCPO, through measures that set catch and effort limits and promote sustainable fishing practices for the three tuna stocks.

The tropical tuna measure was reviewed and revised at WCPFC20 in 2023, and the changes took effect in 2024 and are effective through 2026. These included enhanced monitoring requirements commensurate with any increase in longline bigeye tuna catch, as well as reduced periods for in-zone and high-seas FAD closures to be applied by purse seine vessels. CMM 2023-01 is scheduled for review and renewal at WCPFC23 in 2026.

CMM 2023-01 also functions as an ongoing "bridging measure" to **harvest strategies**, with biological objectives for each stock designed to ensure that the Commission's management is responding to the best available science. The interim **Management Procedure for skipjack tuna** adopted by the Commission in 2022 replaced the interim objective for that stock in the updated CMM 2023-01.

The Commission's development of harvest strategies for each of the three tuna stocks covered by CMM 2023-01 has continued to progress in 2025. As the development of harvest strategies is advanced, the Commission will review and revise the CMM as necessary to cater to its adaptive management approach.

SC21 met in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, from 13-21 August 2025, and reviewed a new stock assessment for skipjack tuna. SC21 also considered harvest strategy issues relating to bigeye tuna. The latest information on stock status and harvest strategy development for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas is summarized below for each stock, including high level summaries of 2025 discussions and recommendations from SC21 for the Commission's consideration at WCPFC22.

BIGEYE TUNA

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing Occurring
Bigeye tuna *Thunnus obesus*	2023 (SC19)	No	No

The interim objective for bigeye tuna in CMM 2023-01 is to maintain the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015, pending agreement on a target reference point. The latest **bigeye stock assessment** from 2023 indicated that the **interim objective was being achieved** and that the **recent depletion level of bigeye tuna was close to the interim objective**. WCPFC21 also provided guidance on three candidate bigeye tuna TRP levels for evaluation through candidate management procedures for the stock. In 2025, SC21 reviewed available information on WCPO bigeye tuna and supported the need for improved understanding of trends over the past 10 to 20 years to inform the 2026 assessment.

2025 Updates | Bigeye tuna

- SC21's bigeye discussion highlighted weak indicators and data needs. Catch is at a ~30-year low, and CPUE remains well below historic levels. SC21 acknowledged a recent surge of small bigeye catch in "Other" gears in Region 7. If confirmed, projections indicate this could lead to overfishing. However, SC21 cautioned that the size class may be misclassified and asked the SSP to address this with urgency. SC21 also requested a detailed look at mean weight trends across fleets, places, and time to inform the next bigeye stock assessment, which is scheduled for 2026.
- On the harvest strategy, the SSP presented a full feedback simulation, and initial candidate MPs tied to the three TRP options set at WCPFC21. SC21 stressed sensitivities: only about 27% of the total BET catch is under the draft MP (tropical longline between 20°N and south of 10°S), with large shares outside MP control, including archipelagic waters. Robustness tests are needed for those fisheries, together with catch baselines informed through the West Pacific East Asia (WPEA) Project, and scenarios with and without FAD closures (current tests assume the 2024 FAD rules in CMM 2023-01). Mixed-fishery assumptions were clarified (e.g., purse-seine effort held at 2012 levels under the skipjack MP in the operating model), and SC21 noted the possibility of varying FAD periods inside a bigeye MP given the trade-off with longline catches at a fixed depletion goal. Overall, SC21 welcomed continued BET-MP development and refinement through 2025.
- Projects approved by SC20 in 2024 and reviewed at SC21 delivered significant advances for bigeye tuna data quality, modelling capacity, and management inputs. The 2025 work focused on improving longline CPUE standardization, size data accuracy, tagging integration, and environmental indicators, each contributing to more robust stock assessment and harvest strategy evaluation for bigeye.

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing Occurring
Yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares*	2023 (SC19)	No	No

YELLOWFIN TUNA

The interim objective for yellowfin tuna in CMM 2023-01 is to maintain the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015, pending agreement on a target reference point. The **latest yellowfin stock assessment** from 2023 indicated that the interim objective was being achieved, so the **stock is not overfished and not experiencing overfishing**. In 2025, SC21 reviewed available information and updates from the SSP on the efforts relating to the mixed fishery approach to harvest strategies, where the management of yellowfin tuna under the harvest strategy framework would be catered to through the implementation of management procedures for the other key tuna stocks.

2025 Updates | Yellowfin tuna

- SC21 reviewed progress on the yellowfin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and recommended building the initial operating-model reference set from the 2023 YFT stock-

assessment grid, then expanding it to include additional uncertainties consistent with the bigeye OM work and past peer-review advice. It also called for a common set of performance indicators across yellowfin and bigeye. Under the proposed mixed-fishery framework, YFT would be managed via catch/effort constraints triggered by the other species' management procedures (without a dedicated YFT MP), and SC21 requested testing to confirm that this approach can still achieve YFT objectives.

- On the science inputs, SC21 called for completion of Project 128a to compare competing hypotheses about stock connectivity between the WPEA and the wider Pacific as part of preparing the 2026 yellowfin assessment; if new genetics suggest different connectivity, future assessments should include targeted sensitivity runs. It also endorsed population-structure genetics work (Project 128) focused on yellowfin (and skipjack) to refine East Asia–WCPO linkages, and it prioritised building an age-composition data stream, noting that rapid whole-otolith ageing is already being applied to yellowfin.

SKIPJACK TUNA

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing Occurring
Skipjack tuna *Katsuwonus pelamis*	2025 (SC21)	No	No

The interim objective for skipjack tuna in CMM 2023-01 is to maintain the spawning biomass of skipjack tuna on average at a level consistent with the target reference point (TRP) contained in CMM 2022-01 (interim skipjack MP). The interim skipjack MP was first applied in 2024, and the **2025 skipjack stock assessment** estimates the stock is, on average, at ~98% of the (re-calibrated) TRP, with an 80% interval of 0.94 – 1.01, which sits within the performance range envisaged for the interim skipjack MP. That indicates the **spawning biomass is being maintained, on average, at a level consistent with the TRP**, per the stated objective.

2025 Updates | Skipjack tuna

- SC21 confirmed the 2025 WCPO skipjack assessment shows the **stock is not overfished and no overfishing is occurring**, with depletion stable since ~2010 and F/F_{MSY} well below 1. The assessment's trajectories (variable catches post-2009, mixed CPUE signals, highly variable recruitment) were judged consistent with expectations under the interim MP in CMM 2022-01, with recent depletion close to the recalibrated interim TRP. SC21 supported continuing the interim MP (noting the performance relative to the TRP value recalibrated based upon the 2025 assessment) and strengthening MP monitoring, and they noted the value of a more regular scheduling of peer-review of regional stock assessments as part of that monitoring framework. Work on estimation methods revealed that although the Japan pole-and-line CPUE standardization has been improved and MP outputs appear to be robust in the short-term, longer-term declines in data quality remain a risk, so developing backup indices remains important.

- Linkages to other measures and stocks were also emphasized at SC21. Analyses suggested FAD-closure duration changes in CMM 2023-01 had a negligible impact on skipjack MP performance on average, but 2024's potentially ENSO-related spike in free-school sets highlighted uncertainty in proportional shifts in fishing mode. Given that the stock status is near the TRP, and projections are stable, SC21 recommended a one-time extension of the MP application cycle from three to four years (subject to amendment of the review date of CMM 2023-01). The purpose of recommending the one-time extension is to align the next MP run in 2026-2027 with wider MP activities (e.g. BET MP adoption) and the suggested adjusted timeline for review of CMM 2023-01, and the updated stock assessment for skipjack tuna scheduled for 2028-2029. Skipjack interactions with yellowfin, especially, should be monitored against expectations using consistent indicators, and SC21 endorsed methods for skipjack/bigeye biological sampling while underscoring capacity-building to implement harvest strategies and national-level MPs.

ROADMAP FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

At WCPFC14 (2017), the Commission established a virtual intersessional process to develop a Roadmap to implement the elements needed for the effective conservation and management of South Pacific albacore tuna. The intersessional process included tasks to consider elements necessary for the implementation of a harvest strategy and an allocation process. Four intersessional meetings were held between 2017 and 2024 which progressed discussions on an interim TRP, a management procedure for South Pacific albacore, and allocation criteria.

At WCPFC21, the Commission agreed that CCMs will cooperate to develop a management procedure and implementing measure for SP-ALB during 2025, with a view to adopting both a management procedure and its implementing measure at WCPFC22, and that it would replace CMM 2015-02[1]. In support of this effort, the Commission also agreed to convene South Pacific albacore management workshops in 2025, which is reflected in the IWG's 2025 workplan. A commitment to establish a joint working group with IATTC on the management of South Pacific albacore across the Pacific Ocean reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to strengthen its conservation and management of the South Pacific albacore fishery in the WCPO. A summary of stock status for the SP-ALB stock and status of harvest strategy development follows.

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing
South Pacific albacore tuna *Thunnus alalunga*	2024 (SC20)	No	No

SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

WCPFC's management of the South Pacific albacore fishery is undertaken through CMM 2015-02. At WCPFC20 (2023), the Commission adopted an interim TRP (iTRP) for South Pacific albacore specified as four percent below the estimated average spawning potential depletion of the stock over the period 2017-2019 (0.96 $SB_{2017\text{-}2019}/SB_{F=0}$). The

[1] See para 716 of WCPFC21 Summary Report.

Commission also agreed to amend or develop appropriate conservation and management measures to implement a management procedure, developed in accordance with CMM 2022-03 (*Conservation and Management Measure on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for key fisheries and stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean*), with the ultimate objective of maintaining the South Pacific albacore stock at the iTRP.

Further, the Commission agreed to review the iTRP following the **2024 South Pacific albacore stock assessment** and develop candidate management procedures, with a view to confirming or amending the iTRP within a conservation and management measure that specifies a management procedure for South Pacific albacore tuna. At SC20, the 2024 stock assessment concluded that the **stock status of South Pacific albacore is close to the iTRP** (estimated to be a median depletion of 0.50 across the model ensemble). The assessment considered that the results were broadly consistent with the previous 2021 stock assessment and suggested that the **albacore stock across the South Pacific is not overfished and not undergoing overfishing**. Guidance from managers in 2024 focussed on a South Pacific albacore management procedure to achieve three candidate depletion levels, one of which is consistent with the iTRP.

2025 Updates | South Pacific albacore tuna

- SC21 outcomes for South Pacific albacore focused on confirming the readiness of the fishery's MP for adoption at WCPFC22 and ensuring its technical and biological robustness. SC21 confirmed that all four candidate management procedures performed well, with a low risk of breaching the limit reference point (<20%). SC21 also endorsed continued use of the Estimation Method without the troll index. Sensitivity tests showed the MPs were robust under different catch assumptions for regions outside the control of the MP.
- SC21 recommended developing three additional candidate MPs (seven in total) to test varying catch and effort assumptions, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of management options to forward to the South Pacific Albacore Management Workshop (SPAM-WS) and then to WCPFC22 for decision, with supporting biomass and CPUE data to enable transparent review and Commission-level consideration.
- **SPAM-WS01** met virtually on 11-12 September 2025 and consolidated SC21's scientific groundwork into a near-final policy framework for the South Pacific albacore MP. It confirmed consensus on core design principles (biological targets, data cycles, and transparency) but left key choices such as spatial coverage, HCR selection (currently 40 options), and allocation to be finalized through a second virtual **SPAM-WS02** on 5 November 2025, and Commission negotiation at WCPFC22.

WCPFC NORTHERN STOCKS

The **21st Regular Annual Session of the Northern Committee** (NC21) met in Toyama City, Japan from 14-15 July 2025. Immediately preceding NC21 was a meeting of the **10th informal session of the Joint Working Group between the WCPFC-NC and IATTC** on the management of Pacific bluefin tuna (PBFJWG10), from 10-12 July 2025, as well as the **6th meeting of the Technical Working Group** to establish an electronic catch documentation scheme for Pacific bluefin tuna (CDSTWG6) on 9 July 2025.

The Northern Committee is responsible for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF), North Pacific albacore tuna (NP-ALB), and North Pacific swordfish (NP SWO). The ISC provides scientific advice to the Northern Committee for these three stocks, as well as for North Pacific striped marlin (NP MLS), which is not designated by the Commission as a Northern stock and thus not under the purview of the Northern Committee. Stock status summaries as well as updates on harvest strategy development for the northern stocks are summarised, below.

PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing
Pacific bluefin tuna *Thunnus orientalis*	2024 (ISC24)	No	No

The recovery of PBF continued to improve in 2025, supported by updated stock projection results based on the **2024 benchmark stock assessment**. The assessment confirmed that rebuilding is progressing, though some uncertainty remains due to recruitment variability. It also indicated more optimistic rebuilding outcomes under scenarios applying

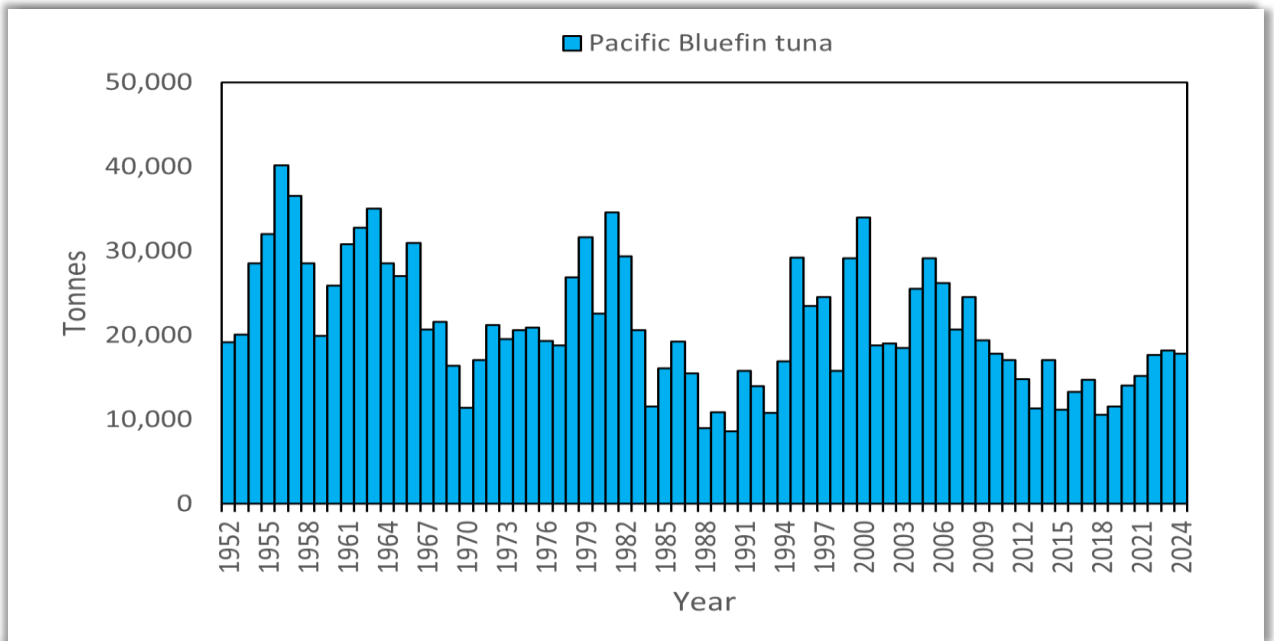


Figure PBF-01: Annual catches of Pacific bluefin tuna reported by ISC members in the North Pacific Ocean. *Source. ISC25 Annual Catch tables* (*data converted into chart for illustrative purposes*).

the conversion factor in CMM 2024-01, which allows for converting small-fish quotas to large-fish quotas.

The 2024 stock assessment for PBF concluded the following:

- No biomass-based limit or target reference points have been adopted for PBF, but the PBF stock is **not overfished relative to 20%$SSB_{F=0}$**, which has been adopted as a biomass-based reference point for some other tuna species by the IATTC and WCPFC. SSB of PBF reached its initial rebuilding target (SSB_{MED} = 6.3%$SSB_{F=0}$) in 2017, seven years earlier than originally anticipated by the RFMOs, and its second rebuilding target (20%$SSB_{F=0}$) in 2021.
- No fishing mortality-based reference points have been adopted for PBF by the IATTC and WCPFC. The recent (2020-2022) $F\%_{SPR}$ is estimated to be 23.6% and thus the **PBF stock is not subject to overfishing relative to some of the F-based reference points** proposed for tuna species, including $F20\%_{SPR}$.

2025 Updates | Pacific bluefin tuna

- The PBFJWG met three times in 2025 to advance discussions on MSE development for PBF. At its third 2025 meeting immediately prior to NC21, PBFJWG10 agreed on a structured work plan toward finalizing the long-term harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna by 2026. In adopting PBFJWG10's proposed approach, NC21 agreed to continue their bilateral and multilateral engagement post-NC21 to ensure the adoption of a harvest strategy could be achieved in 2026. NC21 also sought guidance from the ISC on defining "exceptional circumstances" (e.g., low recruitment).
- NC21 reaffirmed its commitment to working toward the development of an MSE-based long-term harvest strategy. With the four management objective categories of safety, status, stability, and yield to guide harvest strategy development, PBFJWG10 agreed that priority should be given to ensuring the PBF stock never becomes heavily depleted again and biomass is maintained above the second rebuilding target.
- NC21 also agreed to complete a long-term harvest strategy and adopt a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in 2026, and to strengthen measures for monitoring, control, and surveillance for implementation in 2027 (see Northern Committee Work Programme at Attachment F of NC21 Summary Report). In addition, NC21 is planning for a peer review of the 2024 PBF stock assessment in 2026.

NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing
North Pacific albacore tuna *Thunnus alalunga*	2023 (ISC23)	No	No

The Commission's adoption at WCPFC20 (2023) of a revised Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery (**HS 2023-01**) represented the first trans-Pacific harvest strategy. The latest stock assessment information (2023) conducted by the ISC concluded that the North Pacific albacore stock is likely not overfished relative to the threshold (30%SSBcurrent, $_{F=0}$) and limit (14%SSBcurrent, $_{F=0}$) reference points adopted by the WCPFC

and IATTC, and the stock is likely not experiencing overfishing relative to the adopted target reference point (F45%SPR).

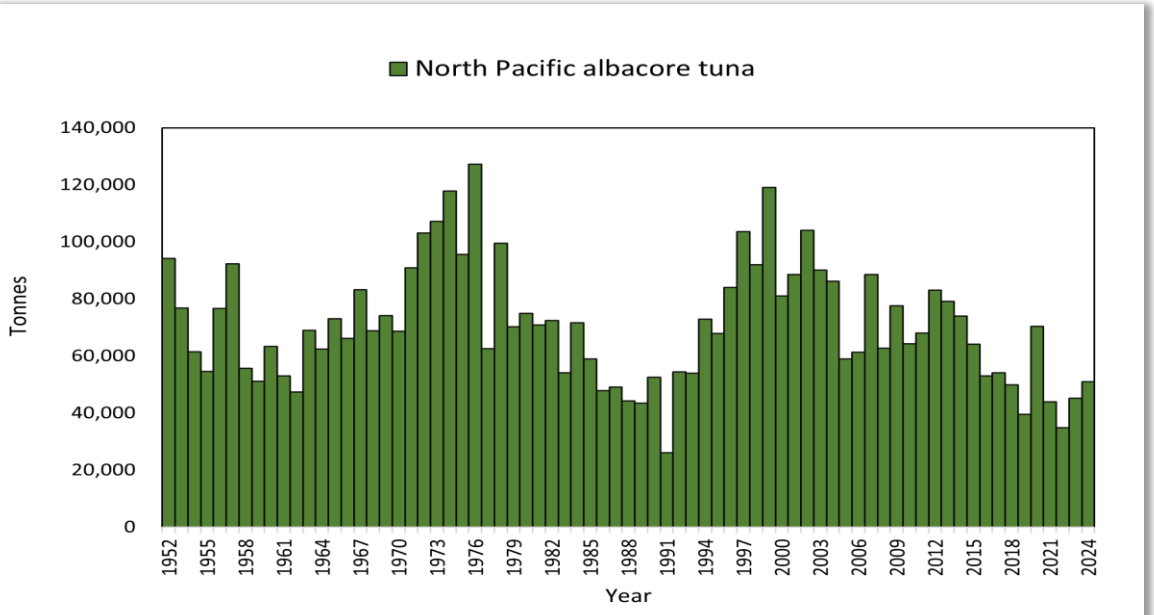


Figure NP-ALB-01: Annual catches of North Pacific albacore tuna reported by ISC members in the North Pacific Ocean. *Source. ISC25 Annual Catch tables* (*data converted into chart for illustrative purposes*).

2025 Updates | North Pacific albacore tuna

- Discussions at NC21 on NP ALB focused primarily on three areas: member reporting, application of the harvest strategy, and review of the conservation and management measures contained in CMM 2019-03. NC21's review of member reporting addressed a need to report in the future on management changes that individual NC members may implement during reporting years.
- On the application of the **NP ALB harvest strategy**, NC21 discussions focused on the ISC's proposed criteria for exceptional circumstances and refining how fishing intensity is translated into catch and effort limits. The ISC confirmed that fishing effort remains at or below 2002–2004 levels and that stock status is near the target reference point. NC21 requested the ISC to estimate historical fleet impacts (2002–2004 and 1999–2015) to guide future reductions if biomass falls below thresholds.
- Although NC21 did not propose any amendments to CMM 2019-03, NC's future work programme reflects a commitment to annually review members' implementation of CMM 2019-03, continue development of the harvest strategy based on the latest ISC assessments, and rectify shortcomings identified in reporting or measure application.

HARVEST STRATEGY WORKPLAN

(covering bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack, and South Pacific albacore tunas)

The Commission's **Harvest Strategy Workplan** was updated in 2024 at WCPFC21 to reflect progress to date and to confirm the Commission's focus in 2025 on preparations for adoption of an MP for South Pacific albacore. **Attachment A** to this report provides a summary of work undertaken by the Commission since 2015 toward the establishment of harvest strategies for four WCPO tuna stocks.

Table 1, below, shows the progress toward adoption of harvest strategy elements for the six WCPFC tuna stocks and fisheries, which includes progress on Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore tuna.

Table 1. Status of Harvest Strategy Development for Six WCPO Tuna Stocks

Source: SPC for SKJ, SP-ALB, BET, and YFT; ISC for PBF and NP-ALB.

STOCK (Gear) / ELEMENT	SKIPJACK (Tropical purse-seine)	SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE (Southern longline)	BIGEYE (Tropical longline)	YELLOWFIN	PACIFIC BLUEFIN[1]	NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE[2]
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	**TRP adopted**	*iTRP identified*	*Candidate TRPs identified*	*Noted*	**Candidate objectives adopted**	**Adopted**
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE	**MP adopted**	*Developing*	–	–	**Developed**	**Adopted**
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	*Identified*	*Identified*	–	–	**Candidate indicators adopted**	*Identified*
MONITORING STRATEGY	**Adopted**	*Developing*	–	–	*Developing*	**Adopted[3]**
MIXED FISHERY	*Developing*				Not applicable	Not applicable

[1] WCPFC20 adopted Harvest Strategy 2023-02 on Pacific Bluefin tuna (PBF) and is currently developing a long-term harvest strategy for PBF.
[2] WCPFC20 adopted Harvest Strategy 2023-01 for North Pacific Albacore, which includes management objectives, a monitoring strategy, and the harvest control rule.
[3] Part of Harvest Strategy 2023-01 for North Pacific Albacore and NC21 agreed to use the exceptional circumstances criteria developed by ISC (Attachment E of NC21 summary report).

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH | TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Each stock assessment offers insights into areas for improvement and recommendations to support future work. SC21 considered updates from the SSP to WCPFC's Tuna Assessment Research Plan (TARP) for improving the stock assessments of 'key' WCPO tuna stocks: WCPO skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin, and South Pacific albacore and endorsed several research priorities, including:

1. **CPUE Abundance Indices (Project 122a)** – Develop TORs and secure funds for a joint *t-RFMO technical workshop* on longline CPUE analysis (planned for 2026).
2. **Population Structure (Project 128)** – Conduct a large-scale genetic study to improve understanding of connectivity between the *East Asia region* and the *broader WCPO* (focused on

yellowfin and skipjack, with possible bigeye inclusion). A long-term funding need of ~USD 1 million was noted, with an initial phase 1 budget of USD 125,000 prepared by CSIRO.

3. **Age-Length Data Pipeline** – Develop an integrated data pipeline to support age and growth analyses critical to tuna stock assessments.
4. **Size Data Reconciliation and Conversion Factors (Project 127a)** – Continue improvements in data processing and standardization (linked to Project 127).
5. **Next-Generation Tuna Model Development (Project 123)** – Support work on advancing stock assessment modelling frameworks.

These projects were recognized as critical to ensuring robust, defensible, and transparent tuna stock assessments across the region. SC21 also acknowledged the need for a regular peer review system for the WCPFC stock assessment, reflecting the importance of conducting periodic, in-depth, independent reviews of stock assessments as an example of good global fisheries management practice.

STATUS OF WCPO BILLFISH STOCKS: STRIPED MARLIN AND SWORDFISH

The WCPFC conservation and management framework for key billfish species consists of conservation and management measures for Southwest Pacific striped marlin (CMM 2006-04), South Pacific swordfish (CMM 2009-03), North Pacific striped marlin (CMM 2024-06), and North Pacific swordfish (CMM 2023-03). Catch (and effort) information for each of the billfish stocks is shown in the **Figures** below for each stock, together with summaries of 2025 updates to their stock status and management frameworks.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing Occurring
Southwest Pacific striped marlin *Kajikia audax*	2025 (SC21)	Likely	Unlikely

The conservation and management measure for Southwest Pacific striped marlin is one of the longest standing CMMs of the Commission as it approaches 20 years since its adoption. The CMM recognizes the need to apply a precautionary approach, which at the time of its adoption in 2006, reflected uncertainties in stock status and efforts to avoid moving the stock into an overfished state.

The **latest stock assessment for SW Pacific striped marlin** (2024-2025) concluded that the **stock is estimated to be overfished but not undergoing overfishing**, with recent depletion relative to D_{MSY} at 0.77 (95% CI: 0.33 – 2.3) and recent fishing mortality relative to F_{MSY} at 0.77 (95% CI: 0.05 – 1. 51). The stock assessment further concluded that there is a 74% probability that the stock is below D_{MSY} and only a 22.9% probability that overfishing is occurring. Importantly, ten-year projections, assuming recent average catch levels, indicate continued recovery, with median D/D_{MSY} projected to reach 1.32 by 2032 and only a 26.05% chance of remaining overfished.

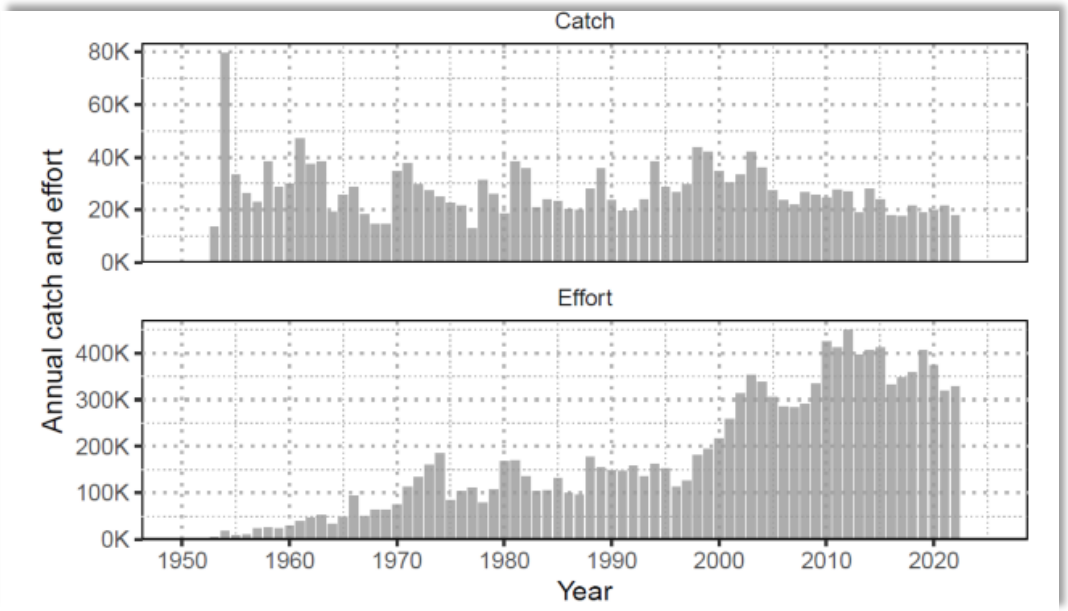


Figure MLS-02. Annual catch (numbers; individuals) of striped marlin and nominal longline effort (hooks fished; thousands) in the Southwest Pacific Ocean (1952-2022). *Source: SC21*

2025 Updates | Southwest Pacific striped marlin

- SC21 reviewed a major revision of the **Southwest Pacific striped marlin stock assessment**, conducted through a strong collaborative effort between SPC and NOAA Fisheries (USA). The updated work provided a clearer understanding of the stock's status and key uncertainties.
- SC21 endorsed the use of a simplified modelling approach as the basis for management advice, recognizing it as the most reliable representation of the available data. Members highlighted the importance of continued scientific collaboration to address remaining gaps in knowledge, particularly around population structure and data quality, through ageing studies and genetic research.
- Noting that under projections using recent average catch which showed the stock had a 55% probability of recovering to greater than MSY levels by 2026, SC21 recommended not increasing catch above recent average levels.
- SC21's discussions reinforced the value of sustained regional cooperation and investment in science to support billfish management. The work on striped marlin will also feed into broader research under the WCPFC Billfish Research Plan, which aims to improve understanding of the biology and connectivity of South Pacific billfish stocks to strengthen future management decisions.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC SWORDFISH

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing Occurring
Southwest Pacific swordfish *Xiphias gladius*	2025 (SC21)	exceptionally unlikely	exceptionally unlikely

At WCPFC21, the Commission agreed to develop a MSE framework for Southwest Pacific swordfish. This framework will be designed to evaluate candidate management procedures and to give consideration to the development of a Harvest Strategy, beginning after the 2025 stock assessment. The Commission further requested Australia and the EU to develop a project scope and workplan for the consideration of SC21, on the basis that the project would be a formal Commission project and managed by the SSP, with supervision by the SC. The Commission noted that this project should not be included in the indicative Harvest Strategy Workplan for key tuna stocks, so as not to distract from the Commission's priority on those stocks. No funding was sought from the Commission for project activities in 2025, as a result.

There are no agreed reference points for Southwest Pacific swordfish, so the stock is assessed against the default WCPFC reference points (SB/SB_{MSY} and F/F_{MSY}), with additional information. The 2025 assessment indicates the stock is in good condition relative to MSY-based reference points. Although biomass and depletion have declined over time, recent results suggest the female spawning biomass has remained relatively stable in recent years.

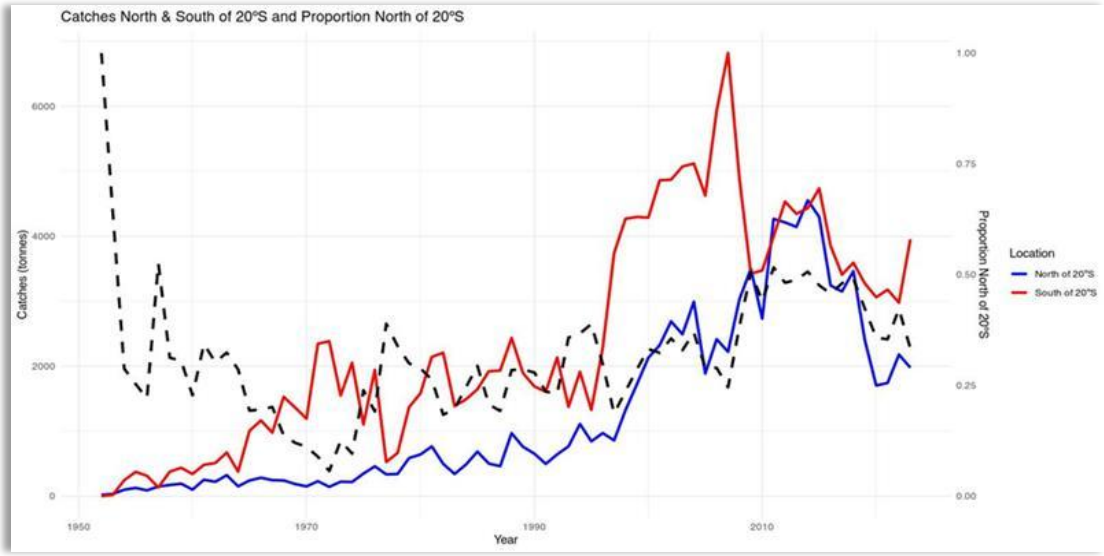


Figure SWO-03. Plot of the total Southwest Pacific swordfish catch (primary axis) south of 20S (red line), between the equator and 20S (blue line), and proportion of catch between the equator and 20S (dashed black line, secondary axis) by year in the WCPFC-CA. *Source: SC21 Summary Report.*

2025 Updates | Southwest Pacific swordfish

- SC21 reviewed an **updated Southwest Pacific swordfish stock assessment**, which concluded that the **stock is exceptionally unlikely to be experiencing overfishing (<1% probability) and to be overfished (<1% probability) relative to MSY-based reference points**, although spawning biomass has shown a gradual decline over the past decade. Members recognized the strong technical work behind the assessment and emphasized that, while the stock's overall status remains healthy, continued monitoring and management attention are needed to prevent further declines.
- SC21 also reviewed the scope for a project to develop a MSE framework for Southwest Pacific swordfish and to develop and evaluate candidate management procedures, starting in 2026. The MSE will take into account the key uncertainties highlighted in the 2025 swordfish assessment (e.g., population scale, growth, and spatial structure), as these will be challenges for both the operating models and estimation methods. In reviewing the project scope, SC21 recommended that the Commission consider the broader Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy, which sets out project tasks against a 5-year time frame.

NORTH PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN

The ISC conducts the stock assessment for North Pacific striped marlin (NP MLS), and this is reviewed by the Northern Committee and the Scientific Committee.

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing Occurring
North Pacific striped marlin *Kajikia audax*	2025 (SC21)	Very likely	Likely

At WCPFC21, the Commission adopted a revised CMM for NP MLS (CMM 2024-06) to replace the previous CMM from 2010. The new CMM sets a 2,400-mt total allowable catch (TAC) (consistent with scientific advice), representing a ~60% cut from the highest catch levels between 2000-2003. An automatic review of the CMM is triggered if the TAC is exceeded. The new CMM also implements transparent bycatch controls by assigning individual limits to five primary CCMs totalling 2,324.8 mt, leaving ~75 mt for other CCMs. An underage reserve lets unused quota carry forward (e.g., 826 mt from 2023 applied to 2025), with access capped at 165 mt to help CCMs meet limits. A new provision requires releasing live NP MLS to maximize survival once a CCM hits its limit. Finally, the Commission tasked the ISC and Scientific Committee with strengthening stock assessment robustness. The rebuilding plan runs through 2027 pending a new assessment.

At its 2025 meeting, the ISC maintained the stock status advice from the **2023 stock assessment** which concluded that when the status of NP MLS is evaluated relative to dynamic 20%$SSB_{F=0}$-based reference points, the 2020 spawning stock biomass of 1,696 mt is 54% below 20%$SSB_{F=0}$ (3,660 mt) and the 2018-2020 fishing mortality is about 28% above F20%$SSB_{(F=0)}$. Therefore, relative to 20%$SSB_{F=0}$-based reference points, the NP MLS stock is **very likely to be overfished** (>99% probability) and is **likely to be subject to overfishing** (>66% probability).

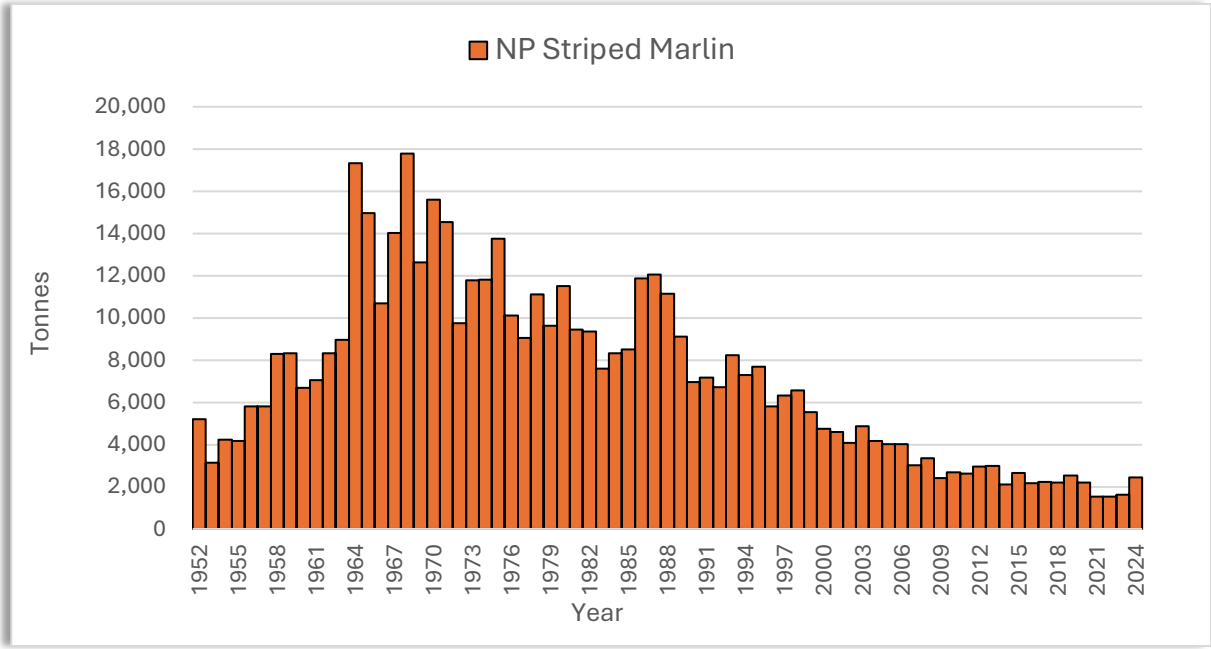


Figure WCNPO-MLS-01. *Source: ISC25 Annual Catch Table (data converted into chart for illustrative purposes).*

2025 Updates | North Pacific striped marlin

- ISC25 recommended that catch of NP MLS should be kept at or below the recent level (2018-2020 average catch = 2,428 t), noting that the results of deterministic projections showed that when catches are 2,400 t, or less, the stock is expected to recover above SSB_{MSY} and near the $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ reference level by 2040, or sooner at the lower catch levels under a low recruitment regime (3,660 t).
- ISC25 further noted that recent catches of NP MLS had been lower than 2,400 t and new projections suggest the possibility for a more rapid recovery. However, the 2,400 t limit (set by the new CMM 2024-06) and additional reductions are still recommended to meet the WCPFC rebuilding plan target.
- NC21 and SC21 considered updated advice from the ISC BILLFISH Working Group's 2025 analysis which used reported catch from 2021-2024 in the projections instead of estimated catch based upon 2018-2020 fishing mortality. All three scenarios indicated that additional reductions in catch would be necessary in 2028 to meet the rebuilding target of $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ by 2034, and these projections are generally consistent with those provided in 2024. This information will be considered further at WCPFC22.

Stock	Latest Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing Occurring
North Pacific swordfish *Xiphias gladius*	2025 (SC21)	No	No

NORTH PACIFIC SWORDFISH

The Commission adopted its first conservation and management measure for North Pacific swordfish (NP SWO) in 2022, based on a recommended CMM from the 18th Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC18). In 2023, the Commission adopted proposed amendments from NC19 to require reporting of catches of NP SWO in the Convention Area and all fishing effort in those fisheries as well as catch and effort across the North Pacific by those CCMs whose fisheries are taking more than 200 metric tons per year of NP SWO. The CMM requires that fishing effort must not increase beyond the 2008–2010 average annual level.

At the request of NC20 (2024), the ISC reported to NC21 on its discussions to develop a MSE framework for NP SWO, citing scientific capacity constraints to complete the work in an estimated 5-year timeframe.

ISC25 (2025) reiterated the latest stock status information for NP SWO based on the **2023 stock assessment**:

- When the status of NPO SWO is evaluated relative to MSY-based reference points, the 2021 SSB of 35,778 mt is 220% of SSB_{MSY} (16,000 mt) and the 2019-2021 average F is about 49% below F_{MSY}.
- Relative to MSY-based reference points, **overfishing is very likely not occurring** (>99% probability) and the NPO SWO stock is **very likely not overfished** (>99% probability).

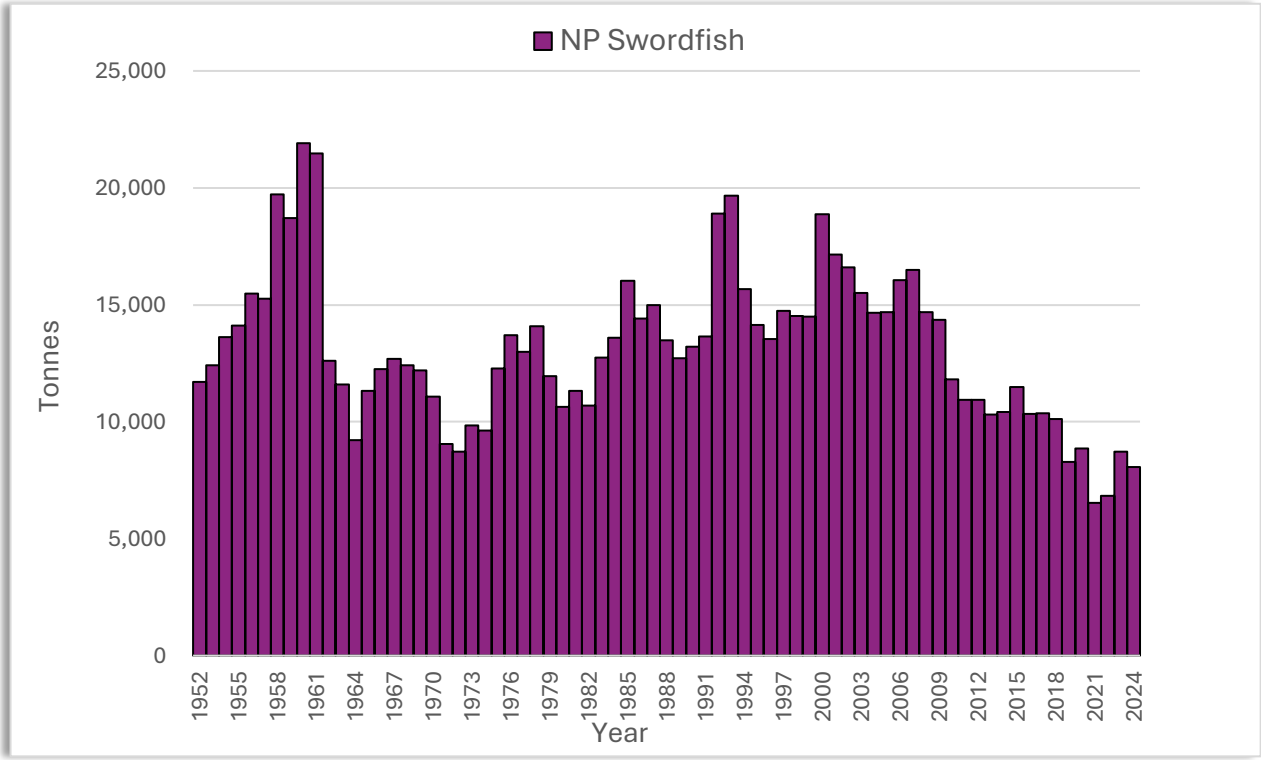


Figure WCNPO-SWO-01. *Source: ISC25 Annual Catch Table (data converted into chart for illustrative purposes).*

2025 Updates | North Pacific swordfish

- ISC25 provided conservation information for the NP SWO stock which has produced annual yields of around 11,500 mt per year since 2016, or about two-thirds of the MSY catch amount, and shown no evidence of F above F_{MSY} or substantial depletion of spawning potential. The ISC also noted that retrospective analyses show that the assessment model appears to underestimate spawning potential in recent years.
- NC21 approved starting an MSE and assigned ISC to create a workplan, while NC will review management objectives. Once extra MSE capacity is available, ISC will begin technical work for NP SWO and present a detailed MSE workplan to NC22 in 2026. NC will also discuss potential operational management objectives for NP SWO in 2026.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH | BILLFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT UPDATES

SC21 reviewed the 2025 updates from the SSP on the WCPFC Billfish Research Plan. Key agreements were to add a joint billfish–shark assessment methods workshop in 2026 to standardize approaches for data limited stocks, revise Biology Project 3 from directed tagging of SW Pacific swordfish to an epigenetics and genetics-based study of age and stock structure, and adjust the assessment schedule to align with ISC timing for NP striped marlin and NP swordfish. To let the new methods workshop inform choices, SC21 also agreed to defer low information assessment characterizations for black marlin, sailfish, and shortbill spearfish from 2026 to 2027. These recommendations were formally adopted by SC21.

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND STOCK MONITORING

In addition to collaboration that comes through the Commission's contract with the SPC-OFP as its scientific services provider, the WCPFC works closely with the IATTC through the MOU that supports cooperation in data collection and stock assessment for shared Pacific Ocean tuna stocks.

Strong collaboration and contributions from CCM scientists and scientific institutions such as NOAA (USA) and CSIRO (Australia) also underpin WCPFC's stock assessment work, in addition to the CCM scientists from Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, and the USA who collaborate through the ISC in respect of WCPFC's northern stocks.

III. ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (EBFM)

The WCPF Convention acknowledges the duty to consider fishing impacts on the marine environment. This is reflected in the Convention Preamble and in Article 5(d), as follows:

> Preambular paragraph 5: *Conscious of the need to avoid adverse impacts on the marine environment, preserve biodiversity, maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems and minimize the risk of long-term or irreversible effects of fishing operations.*

Article 5(d): *assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks.*

By accounting for the impacts of fishing on non-target species, habitats, and ecological processes, the Commission aims to maintain ecosystem health and resilience while ensuring the sustainable use of fisheries resources. The WCPFC applies EBFM principles in its conservation and management efforts by incorporating measures to minimize bycatch, protect vulnerable species, and adapt to environmental changes, such as those driven by climate change.

NON-TARGET AND ASSOCIATED OR DEPENDENT SPECIES

The Commission's conservation and management measures (CMMs) for bycatch, also referred to as non-target and associated or dependent species (NTADS), cover seabirds, sea turtles, several shark species[2], mobulid rays, and cetaceans. Collectively, these CMMs focus on minimizing the impact of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem.

The Commission's 2025 intersessional work programme relating to the mitigation of fishing impacts on non-target and associated or dependent species in the WCPO was reviewed at SC21 and TCC21. The intersessional process to develop voluntary guides under the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI) Scheme also included a focus on bycatch, with the development of guidance for authorised HSBI inspectors in assessing bycatch mitigation measures that require quantifiable measurements, and the minimum standards for taking and recording measurements.

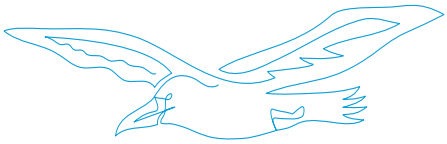
SC20 recommended rotating the EB theme agenda items to review cetaceans and elasmobranchs at SC21, and sea turtles and seabirds at SC22, with additional reviews as requested by the Commission or guided by CMM review schedules. SC21 reaffirmed this approach and recommended that further discussions and decisions on the EB theme agenda be undertaken at SC22.

SC21 highlighted a persistent challenge in bycatch management: the limited coverage of Regional Observer Programme (ROP) observers in longline fisheries. According to SC21, this shortfall has resulted in insufficient data, which undermines the reliability of bycatch rate estimates. To address this issue, SC21 strongly encouraged the Commission to consider increasing observer coverage, whether through traditional human observers or by implementing electronic monitoring systems. Enhanced observer coverage is viewed as essential for improving the accuracy of bycatch data and, consequently, the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Further information on fisheries interactions with NTADS, as collected through the ROP, is available in the **2025 Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme** submitted to TCC21.

Summaries of 2025 discussions for each bycatch species are below.

[2] Silky, oceanic whitetip, whale shark

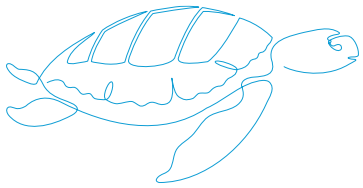
SEABIRDS



At WCPFC21, the Commission tasked New Zealand to lead a review of the seabird measure (CMM 2018-03) in 2025, for consideration by the Commission at WCPFC22, taking into account any advice from SC21 and TCC21. The 2025 intersessional review was a continuation of 2024 efforts to strengthen the mitigation measures in the CMM and minimize the impacts of fishing on vulnerable bird species in the WCPF Convention Area.

In 2025, New Zealand invited further comments on the science reviewed in 2024, any new science and supporting information, and additional comments on the New Zealand proposal tabled at WCPFC21. As a result of the 2025 review, New Zealand revised the scope of proposed amendments to CMM 2018-03 and proposed that amendments be considered in stages, with a priority focus on areas where the most benefit can be realised while minimising impacts on fishing. For the first stage in 2025, New Zealand proposed to focus efforts to revise the Southern Hemisphere measures to address bycatch risk to the most endangered species.

SC21 concentrated its seabird work on strengthening CMM 2018-03 in the area between 25°–30°S by moving toward combined mitigation (tori lines + weighting + night setting) or hook shielding, and by modernizing tori line specs via a minimum standards + technical guidelines approach. Most CCMs, as well as ACAP and BirdLife, supported the staged application and precautionary action given declines in Antipodean/Gibson's albatross, while some CCMs asked for more field evidence, raised safety/operational concerns, or preferred to wait on related assessments. SC21 requested TCC21 to consider further any practicality issues related to the use of combined mitigation measures south of 25° South while Project 68 continues efforts to improve seabird mortality estimation as data improve.



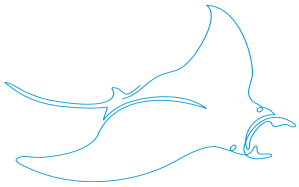
SEA TURTLES

SC21 discussions focused on the need for better reporting on sea turtle interactions to ensure mitigation measures are appropriate**,** including the need to improve longline observer/EM coverage to support stronger turtle bycatch estimates. The SSP highlighted a need to align SciData requirements with the need to understand actual turtle counts, shallow set identification, and gear fields. SC21 and TCC21 also considered proposals from the Regional Observer Programme IWG to enhance the scope of observer data collection, improving its alignment with scientific and compliance monitoring of obligations under CMM 2018-04.

In reviewing SC20 outcomes, the Commission at WCPFC21 agreed to review and revise CMM 2018-04 (sea turtles) in 2026, to ensure that the reporting requirements are clearly defined and to consider expanding the scope of the measure to include mitigation measures for deep-set longline fisheries, for consideration by SC22, TCC22**,** and WCPFC23, and prepare a full review of CMM 2018-04 in 2026 via a USA-led informal intersessional WG. Analyses reiterated that shallow sets have much higher turtle interaction rates than deep sets, and raised concern, especially for loggerheads, pending better data. SC21 supported the

establishment of the intersessional WG and acknowledged that turtles will be a priority during SC22's EB theme session.

MOBULIDS

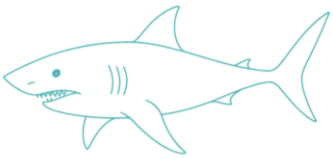


A presentation by the IATTC Secretariat to SC21 noted that conservation of mobulid rays (manta and devil rays) is constrained by the limited availability of species-specific data on interactions with pelagic longline fisheries, including bycatch rates and post-release survival. This is consistent with discussions on sea turtles, as well, where SC21 and TCC21 considered proposals from the Regional Observer Programme IWG to enhance the scope of observer data collection, improving its alignment with scientific and compliance monitoring of obligations under CMM 2019-05.

Results of a collaborative research programme focused on the U.S. Hawai'i-based longline fishery showed that satellite tagging revealed that mobulid rays, when released from fishing gear using best handling and release practices, exhibit high rates of post-release survival. Combining EM data with tagging outcomes further enabled linkage between interaction conditions and survival rates for improved population assessments.

SC21 acknowledged the value of further research on post-release mortality of mobulids to accurately assess the mortality rate after fisheries interactions, and requested guidance from the SSP on how post-release survival data can be incorporated into bycatch impact assessments, and its potential value for evaluating the effectiveness of CMM 2019-05.

SHARKS



SC21 discussions on sharks focused mainly on oceanic whitetip and the review of the 2025 stock assessment. Assessment schedules for other shark species were also considered. SC21 also discussed cross-cutting issues relating to the conservation and management of all shark species covered by WCPFC, such as support for a structured shark sampling plan to be conducted by SPC for reporting back to SC22. SC21 also encouraged continued multi-model shark assessments to address data limitations and structural assumptions, and noted that the best handling/safe release guidelines shared by the IATTC will be a useful reference when WCPFC reviews CMM 2024-05 on sharks in 2027.

Oceanic whitetip sharks (OCS): SC21 reviewed the third stock assessment conducted in 2025 for OCS that updated data through 2023 and adopted methods used in other WCPFC shark assessments. Some of the main conclusions from the assessment were that although stock status has been improving since 2015, the multi-model approach for assessing OCS resulted in an overall low stock status, but with high confidence that recent fishing mortality is below levels that would preclude stock rebuilding. Also, the largest fishing mortality of OCS was estimated to be in longline fisheries. Reductions in OCS interactions because of changes in fishing practices over the last decade may have substantially reduced this source of mortality, likely halting the previously observed steep decline, and possibly leading to some gradual stock rebuilding.

SC21 tasked the ROP-IWG to pinpoint specific data gaps and upgrades to improve species identification and reporting, noting lower observer reporting of oceanic whitetip than logbooks in some regions and fewer length measurements since CMM 2011-04. The ROP-IWG presented proposals to SC21 and TCC21 to improve observer data collection for all sharks, including whale sharks, noting that current data fields have not been updated to reflect recent CMM amendments and ongoing monitoring and compliance discussions.

Given the ongoing uncertainty in stock structure and life history, SC21 recommended tagging, genetic, and life history studies to strengthen the biological basis for future oceanic whitetip assessments.

Stock status | Oceanic whitetip shark

- Recent fishing mortality was estimated to be below suggested biological reference points for sharks with high probability (F_{recent}/F_{crash} = 0.54 [95% credible interval 0.37-0.74]).
- Stock is overfished at 6% of estimated unfished equilibrium biomass, and as likely as not to be subject to overfishing (F_{recent}/F_{MSY}= 1.07 [0.73 –1.39]; P[F>F_{MSY}] = 0.57).
- The multi-model ensemble indicated recent fishing mortality rates are below suggested limit reference points (F_{lim} and F_{crash}), and current estimated fishing pressure is unlikely to preclude stock rebuilding.

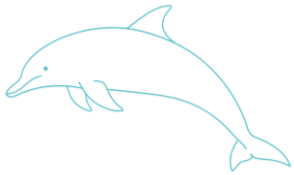
SC21 discussions relating to other shark species included:

i. Blue shark: SC21 recommended that Phase 1 of the Southwest Pacific blue shark stock assessment start in 2026, and the ISC scheduled the North Pacific blue shark stock assessment for 2027.

ii. Shortfin mako shark: Assessments are split by region (SW Pacific and N Pacific), with the next assessment for the SW Pacific stock scheduled for 2027. For the North Pacific stock, the ISC will move to a two-year assessment cycle, and the last stock assessment was completed during 2023-2024.

iii. Silky shark: The last assessment was completed in 2024, and the next assessment is scheduled for 2028-2029.

CETACEANS



SC21 considered cetacean interaction data requirements in a paper presented by the SSP, noting that key reporting of cetacean interactions comes from observer-collected data, but that flag CCMs have responsibilities to report on captures through operational data and to detail interactions with cetaceans more fully in reports to the Commission. SC21 recommended revising **Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission** (SciData) requirements as requested in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the SC21 Outcomes Document, and encouraged CCMs to promote training for vessel operators and observers where data reporting gaps are identified to facilitate the complete and accurate reporting of cetacean interactions. In addition, SC21 supported the development of a Pacific Ocean-wide Cetacean Identification Guide to support the implementation of CMM 2024-07, in collaboration with the SSP, WCPFC Secretariat, and other WCPO stakeholders.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

A healthy marine environment is essential to healthy tuna stocks. Threats from pollution, climate change, and destructive fishing practices can harm the ocean ecosystem that supports thriving tuna populations. Marine pollution is a growing concern for fisheries worldwide. Pollutants from plastics and toxic chemicals threaten the food supply for tuna as well as their spawning success. The ongoing negotiations for a global Plastics Treaty reflect the growing threat that plastic pollution poses to the oceans and marine ecosystems. Likewise, warming ocean temperatures can also disrupt spawning and feeding habitats, as well as influence migratory distributions of tuna which can result in devastating consequences for Pacific SIDS if tuna stocks shift away from their EEZs.

The WCPFC's conservation and management measure on marine pollution is undergoing a review in 2025 with a view to strengthening its provisions to mitigate pollution by WCPFC-managed fisheries. On climate change, the Commission adopted a workplan at WCPFC21 that tasks each of the subsidiary bodies with a range of actions to support awareness, understanding, and appropriate action, when required, to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on WCPO fisheries.

MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION

At WCPFC21, the Commission agreed that Canada would lead a review of the marine pollution CMM 2017-04, following broad support from CCMs for strengthening WCPFC's approach to minimise pollution from fishing activities. The Commission tasked intersessional work to progress through 2025 and 2026, and for TCC22 to review a revised CMM that could be adopted at WCPFC23.

At TCC21, Canada submitted an **update** on its 2025 intersessional activities to review CMM 2017-04. Three broad themes were identified through the intersessional work: definitions, scope of the measure, and management. Work will continue through October/November 2025, and in 2026, and a revised CMM will be submitted to WCPFC23 for adoption. The most recent version of the amended CMM is found in Annex 1 of Canada's **update** to TCC21.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON WCPO FISHERIES

In recognition of the threats to WCPO fisheries by climate change, the Commission adopted Resolution 2019-01 in 2019 on the need to incorporate climate change into its fisheries conservation and management efforts. In 2022, the Commission agreed to make climate change a standing agenda item across all of its annual meeting agendas (NC, SC, TCC, and annual meeting). At WCPFC21, the Commission adopted terms of reference to guide the development of a climate change vulnerability assessment (CCVA) framework in 2025, through a consultancy funded jointly by the United States and Chinese Taipei. The results of the CCVA framework development were presented by the consultants to NC21, SC21, and TCC21 for review and input, which will be incorporated into the presentation of the CCVA framework to the Commission at WCPFC22 under Agenda Item 10.

2025 CLIMATE CHANGE WORKPLAN

The **WCPFC Climate Change Workplan** covers the period 2024-2027. In 2025, a range of tasks were given to NC21, SC21, and TCC21, as well as the Commission at WCPFC22 to progress efforts to incorporate climate change into its conservation and management of WCPO fisheries.

In addition to reviewing the CCVA framework tool, NC21 adopted a 2026-2028 work programme that includes a task to develop a framework for how to include climate change analyses into NC processes.

Climate change was integrated throughout SC21's discussions, which included an update on the ecosystem and climate indicators "report card" (**Project 121**). The update reported on a successful workshop held in November 2024 and the development of several new candidate indicators as well as several proposed fishery indicators that have been further explored and tested against screening criteria. SC21 recommended that the SSP investigate the addition of estimated median phytoplankton size derived from satellite remotely sensed SST and chlorophyll-a data to the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card, and that the SSP provide a working paper to SC22 with outcomes from the proposed March 2026 workshops on Ecosystem Indicators and Climate Indicators.

TCC21 also received an update from the SSP on ecosystem and climate indicator work and recommended that future presentations include information on key data gaps that might hinder greater awareness and understanding of climate change impacts.

Per its workplan, the Commission will consider and discuss appropriate ways to incorporate climate change into the work of the Commission and the subsidiary bodies, information derived from the CMM CCVA framework tool, identify and discuss appropriate avenues for incorporating climate change resources available outside the Commission into the work of the Commission in support of executing the work of the Commission, and enhance cross-RFMO coordination for climate change discussions, especially with IATTC.

As scientists gather more information on the potential impacts of climate change on fish migratory and behavioural patterns, WCPFC will be tested in ways that will require not only adaptability, but also proactivity and a willingness to protect its most vulnerable members from the potentially devastating consequences of changing ocean conditions on critical fisheries resources.

IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

The strength and effectiveness of WCPFC's conservation and management measures rests in robust monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the Commission's measures are contributing to their intended sustainability outcomes. The Commission's monitoring tools and data collection activities are well-established and the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) is providing valuable information on the status of CCM's implementation of WCPFC decisions. Gaps in monitoring and data collection remain and the Commission will be challenged in the coming years to address those gaps to ensure that WCPFC's conservation and management framework is supported by robust data and consistent application and implementation of measures by all CCMs.

2025 UPDATES ON TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE MATTERS

The Commission's 2025 efforts to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation framework was seen in the continuation of discussions through the Regional Observer Programme intersessional working group (ROP-IWG) and FAD Management Options intersessional working group (FAD-MO IWG). The Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring working group (ER&EM WG) picked up its work at TCC21, following the appointment of a new interim Chair in August, and members engaged in intersessional review of the port States measure (CMM 2017-02). Finally, members contributed to the development of voluntary guides to strengthen WCPFC's HSBI Scheme.

TCC21 convened in Pohnpei, FSM, from 24 – 30 September 2025 and implemented the WCPFC's 15th year of the CMS. In addition to its annual review of the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR) covering the 2024 reporting year, and other core compliance monitoring activities, the TCC considered updated information relating to CCM's implementation of, and compliance with CMMs, and developed technical advice and recommendations to the Commission for its consideration at WCPFC22.

A review of broad themes emerging from 15 years of TCC's compliance assessment points to persistent issues relating to full implementation of reporting requirements, a need for refinement or clearer guidance in bycatch mitigation requirements, challenges in connecting observer data with investigations of alleged infringements, and general ambiguity of several obligations. The Commission's intersessional work is consistent with the issues arising out of TCC's experience with compliance evaluation and summaries of the Commission's 2025 technical and compliance programme activities are summarised below.

REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

Under the leadership of Lucas Tarapik (PNG), the ROP-IWG met three times in 2025 to streamline and update the minimum standard data fields, better integrate observer data into the Compliance Case File System (CCFS), and simplify the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, noting that SC21 reiterated that low longline observer coverage limits reliable bycatch estimates. The ROP-IWG is also developing additional observer data fields for transhipments of non-catch items e.g., crew or supplies, to support potential reporting enhancements under CMM 2009-06, should the Commission decide to amend the measure to enhance transhipment monitoring, and future implementation of crew labour standards in CMM 2024-04. TCC21 supported the ROP-IWG's proposal to remove certain data fields from the list of minimum standard data fields and held extensive discussions relating to the use of observer data in the CCFS, including the need to update data fields to reflect changes in CMMs that impact scientific and compliance monitoring. Recognizing the utility of the CCFS as a tool to support flag CCMs in fulfilling their obligation to monitor the activities of their vessels, TCC21 encouraged further discussions among CCMs to strengthen and streamline the CCFS for that purpose.

FAD MANAGEMENT

On gear and operations, the FADMO IWG advanced work on buoy data transmission (prioritizing real-time reporting), FAD recovery strategies, a FAD logbook, biodegradable FADs, and dFAD deployment limits. Issues around buoy deactivation and which vessel types from Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) may

engage in FAD activities have been a multi-year issue for the Commission and for TCC. Under the leadership of Jamel James (FSM), the FAD-MO IWG was in general support of applying 100% observer coverage, electronic reporting, and VMS tracking for any vessel engaged in FAD deployment, servicing, or retrieval, on the expectation that FAD rules should apply equally to all CCMs, including CNMs, to ensure consistent treatment and avoid gaps in monitoring. FAD-MO IWG participants noted that FAD retrieval activities could be distinguished from servicing or fishing operations, with caution to avoid loopholes, and clarified that supplying FAD materials in port does not constitute "servicing".

HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION

The HSBI WG drafted voluntary regional guides (e.g., DNA testing, volumetrics for quantity estimation, photo/video evidence, bycatch mitigation device measurement, and tool calibration) for TCC21 review. David Power (Australia) led intersessional discussions in 2025, including three virtual sessions, culminating in the development of the following voluntary guides for HSBI, which TCC21 recommended for adoption at WCPFC22:

i. **HSBI DNA Sampling Guide**
ii. **HSBI Catch Quantification Guide**
iii. **HSBI Measuring Tool Calibration Guide**
iv. **HSBI Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide**
v. **HSBI Collection and Dissemination of Photographic and Video Evidence Guide**

The HSBI WG also worked on draft revisions to the *HSBI Standardized Multilanguage Questionnaire* with further draft revisions to be considered for possible adoption at WPCFC22.

PORT STATE MEASURES

The Port State Measures review in 2025 is being led by Meli Raicebe (Fiji) and is focused on considering mechanisms to support SIDS implementation capacity and addressing data sharing (including with CNMs) as well as aligning with the FAO Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA) and other RFMO's to provide an approach that reflects the needs of the Pacific region. Following the first virtual PSMWG meeting in March 2025, members agreed six priorities: harmonize data fields with PSMA, integrate port state provisions across related CMMs, reassess SIDS capacity building provisions, fill gaps on port arrivals and denial of access and inspection scope, strengthen data sharing arrangements, and catalogue implementation challenges. TCC21 encouraged PSM-WG participants to continue working intersessionally ahead of WCPFC22, noting that the Commission is not expected to take any PSM-related decisions in 2025.

ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING

The Commission's adoption at WCPFC21 of a set of interim EM standards marked a significant advancement in CCM's efforts to close long-standing data gaps in WCPFC-managed fisheries. With the 2024-appointed ER&EM WG Chair, Dan Gilmete (FSM), stepping down in the first half of 2025, the continuation of the WG's work was delayed until the interim Chair, Lesley Hawn (USA), was appointed intersessionally in August 2025. CCMs continue to view EM as a viable option for supporting verification of compliance with certain obligations, evidenced by national efforts to progress EM program

development by several CCMs. Informal discussions took place in the margins of TCC21, led by the interim WG Chair, who circulated an update shortly after TCC21 to announce a revised workplan and plans to convene a virtual session on 7 November 2025.

TRANSHIPMENT MONITORING

The Commission's intersessional efforts to review and strengthen its transhipment measure (CMM 2009-06) reached an endpoint at WCPFC21, when the Commission agreed to disestablish the IWG and instead, incorporate the IWG's work into TCC's work programme. TCC21 reviewed a proposal from the Marshall Islands relating to paragraph 37 of CMM 2009-06 on impracticability, and a consultation note from Korea. Although it was clear that there was common ground in effective monitoring and verification of transshipment activities, CCMs had divergent views on how this was best achieved.

COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF WCPFC'S MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION PROGRAMMES

Further details on 2025 updates to WCPFC monitoring and evaluation tools and activities are contained in the Overview in **Attachment B**. This Overview was presented to TCC21 in the Executive Director's Annual Report on Technical and Compliance Matters, and has been updated since TCC21 for presentation in this report.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Operation NASSE 2025 took place from 1 June to 30 July 2025 and was hosted by the United States, with participants from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Cook Islands, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. With aerial and surface assets deployed by Australia, New Zealand, France, and the United States, the surveillance operation conducted 30 boardings, over 80 aerial sightings, seven port inspections, and ~5,030 satellite-supported detections. In total, 284 vessels were tracked, and 39 potential compliance cases were referred (including 27 with no high seas VMS reporting), strengthening WCPFC enforcement and regional cooperation.

Between May and October 2024, Canada hosted **Operation NORTH PACIFIC GUARD** in collaboration with Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States. The operation resulted in boardings of 15 high seas fishing vessels and the aerial observation of over 400 fishing vessels, with 11 potential contraventions of WCPFC CMMs arising from six WCPFC HSBI events, and 13 potential contraventions of WCPFC CCMs arising from 34 fisheries aerial surveillance missions. All vessels encountered during the operation were targeting highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPFC Convention Area and were duly-authorized within the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.

Since 2017, tuna RFMO Secretariat compliance counterparts have collaborated informally through the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN), with a parallel Pan Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (PPFCN) launched in late 2020, both supported by the International MCS (IMCS) Network and, for TCN, support from GEF and FAO. In June 2025, a combined TCN–PPFCN meeting in Tokyo (hosted by the NPFC Secretariat) brought together WCPFC, CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, NPFC, and SPRFMO Secretariat

compliance officers. Guided by WCPFC20 and WCPFC21 taskings to advance reciprocal data exchange arrangements in 2025, WCPFC Secretariat compliance staff focused on defining precisely which data to share and any differences in standards, agreeing on secure (including interim) exchange mechanisms with appropriate documentation, and confirming Commission-level MOUs and data sharing provisions to enable those exchanges.

V. SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

WCPFC's strong sustainability outcomes can be attributed to several factors, with one of the most significant drivers being the strength of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Participating Territory (PT) members of the WCPFC. Their strong stewardship in safeguarding the WCPO highly migratory stocks and marine ecosystem began long before WCPFC was established, and their contributions continue to be seen in the healthy status of key fisheries managed by the WCPFC. Simply stated, weak management is not an option for SIDS and PT members, whose economies and livelihoods are highly dependent on healthy oceans and marine resources.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 30 OF THE CONVENTION

The Commission implements Article 30 of the Convention in 2025 in several ways:

i. Establishment of the Special Requirements Fund referenced in Article 30.3 of the Convention.
ii. Resolution 2018-01 on the Aspirations of Small Island Developing States and Territories.
iii. CMM 2013-06 on the Criteria for the Consideration of Conservation and Management Proposals.
iv. CMM 2013-07 on the Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories.
v. Standing agenda item on Consideration of the special requirements of developing States pursuant to Part VIII of the Convention.
vi. Adoption of a Strategic Investment Plan to target investment toward priority needs as identified by developing States.
vii. Establishment of a Capacity Development Plan process under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme to support developing States and territories in meeting their obligations.
viii. Trust Funds established by Japan and Chinese Taipei for the purposes of capacity building in developing States and territories.
ix. Dedicated budget line to support SIDS capacity building, including short-term attachments for SIDS officials with the Secretariat.
x. Accommodation in the Commission's annual budget to offset SIDS' membership contributions.
xi. Additional funding in the Commission's annual budget to support two SIDS participants with annual meeting attendance.
xii. Funding by Northern Committee members to support participation of developing States and territories in Northern Committee meetings.

At SC21, SIDS CCMs highlighted the growing demands and workload associated with reviewing scientific data each year, and the need for existing support to be maintained into the future to ensure that SIDS participation in WCPFC's scientific work could continue. TCC21 further considered the special

requirements of developing States and reviewed the Capacity Development Plans submitted by some developing State and territory CCMs as part of the compliance review process. TCC21 also reviewed responses by CCMs to reporting obligations contained in CMM 2013-07.

Compliance assessment of CMM 2013-06 drew particular attention at TCC21, following on from TCC20's efforts to review and assess the Commission's implementation of, and compliance with CMM 2013-06, which was tasked by WCPFC20. TCC21 was challenged with articulating clear criteria that all CCMs could agree to as appropriate measurements of compliance, with some SIDS CCMs noting that improvement in the Commission's efforts is required.

At WCPFC22, the Commission will have an opportunity to address the concerns raised by SIDS and PT CCMs on implementation of CMM 2013-06 and Article 30, more generally, and identify the appropriate path forward for ensuring that WCPFC's work is adequately reflecting the principles embodied in the Convention relating to developing States and territories.

WEST PACIFIC EAST ASIA PROJECT – SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PROJECT

The West Pacific East Asia – Sustainable Fisheries Project (WPEA-SFP) supports improved understanding of tuna fisheries in the Pacific Ocean waters of Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam. Approximately 30% of the annual WCPO tuna catches, including about 40% of the total annual yellowfin tuna catch in the WCPO, come from the waters of these three countries. The need for accurate data on catch, effort, and catch composition from this area has been highlighted as a key uncertainty in WCPO stock assessments for years, giving rise to the initiation of the WPEA Project in 2009.

The current phase of the WPEA-SFP began in July 2024 and is funded by the Government of New Zealand through to June 2027. Key achievements since mid-2024 were reported to SC21 and include:

a. convening of the Annual Catch Estimates workshops in each of the three WPEA countries. These workshops are the focal point of the tuna year, bringing together national and regional stakeholders to work through catch figures and agree on the annual estimates. At each workshop, recommendations from the previous workshop are reviewed, and new recommendations are made to seek improvements in the quality and quantity of tuna data.
b. occasions when all three project countries come together for a shared workshop or meeting, such as the negotiations training, the stock assessment and harvest strategy workshop, and the annual WPEA-SPF planning meeting.
c. holding the stock assessment and harvest strategy workshop to coincide with the CSIRO-run workshop for WCPFC Project 128: *Improving understanding of connectivity of key tuna species in the Western Pacific and East Asia region with the WCPFC Convention Area*, which allowed for additional participation and an overlap between SPC and CSIRO scientists working on the project.

WCPFC's continued support for the WPEA project reflects an ongoing interest in ensuring that the best available scientific data is available to underpin WCPFC's conservation and management decisions. Likewise, the participation by Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam demonstrates their strong commitment to contributing to robust assessments of tuna stocks in the WCPO.

SIDS CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN 2025

The Secretariat continued its delivery of support and training to CCMs in 2025, both online and in person, to support enhanced understanding and use of WCPFC's online tools. Requests for assistance at workshops or one-on-one sessions came from individual members and organisations such as the FFA. In 2025, two fisheries officials each from Fiji and the Solomon Islands spent two weeks at the Secretariat to gain familiarity with WCPFC's reporting processes and online systems, including the CCFS, Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV), Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Fish/Did not fish functions, and Annual Report Part 2 (reporting requirements and use of the online facility). In addition, with thanks to Canada for the continued funding support, the Secretariat was able to continue work in 2025 on the development of more accessible training resources to sustain training support to CCMs into the future.

VI. GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Governance and institutional frameworks facilitate effective decision-making, implementation, and enforcement within the WCPFC. These structures promote transparency and equity, ensuring that the interests of CCMs and stakeholders are appropriately considered. In 2025, CCMs engaged in in-depth discussions at SC21 regarding the growing challenges encountered by the SSP in completing stock assessments in a timely manner that permits adequate review and input from CCMs. To support the Commission's objectives, the Secretariat continued to enhance its capacity in 2025 to provide public information about WCPFC, underscoring the significance of transparency and information sharing in achieving common goals. Additionally, to protect and secure the Commission's expanding data resources, the Secretariat advanced initiatives to establish a cybersecurity and network governance framework.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

Beginning at SC18 in 2022, CCMs considered challenges raised by the SSP relating to the time available to CCMs to review and provide feedback on key assessment inputs. SC19 again considered these challenges and recommended that the Commission increase the budget for SSP to support an additional full-time assessment scientist, which the Commission agreed to at WCPFC20. SC20 continued discussions on the timely provision of data and encouraged CCMs who were able to do so to submit their scientific data before the annual deadline of 30 April each year but did not make any recommendations to the Commission to change reporting deadlines.

The SSP raised the same issues again at SC21, noting that for the fourth consecutive year, no concrete changes had been agreed to alleviate the challenges first raised in 2022. Owing to the importance of this issue to the Commission's scientific foundations, SC21's recommendation to WCPFC22 is included below in its entirety:

> *SC21 recommended that the Commission consider the utility as well as the feasibility of including data from the previous year in stock assessments, noting that the current April 30 data submission deadline and August scheduling of the SC meeting pose significant challenges when including data from the previous year. SC21 recommended that if the Commission considers it important to retain data from the previous year in the stock*

assessments, it should prioritize consideration of the following constraints and the implications of that decision: 1) challenges for CCMs in providing annual scientific data submissions earlier than the current 30 April deadline; and 2) the current scheduling of SC meetings to be held in annually in August. SC21 requested that the Secretariat, in consultation with SPC, provide a paper outlining these challenges for consideration by WCPFC22.

The Commission will consider the paper requested by SC21 at WCPFC22 under Agenda Item 11.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

The Secretariat's capacity to manage consistent media and communication efforts improved in 2025, with a number of Secretariat staff contributing to the development of media products, mostly for WCPFC's social media profiles on **Facebook** and **LinkedIn**. The Secretariat published three quarterly newsletters[3] between January and August 2025, and a fourth quarterly newsletter is planned for December 2025. User interaction with WCPFC's Facebook and LinkedIn pages has continued to grow and feedback from stakeholders has been positive. Early in 2025, the Secretariat began revising the WCPFC website as part of a cybersecurity project that required transfer of the existing website to an updated, more secure hosting platform. This presented an opportunity to re-organize the website to focus on presenting information in a more user-friendly manner, including revision of design and branding elements that were more suited to an organization like WCPFC. The revamped website is expected to be published in early November 2025.

INFORMATION AND NETWORK SECURITY GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

At the 18th Finance and Administration Committee (FAC18), the Secretariat shared information about its efforts to secure the WCPFC's information and technology infrastructure. The Secretariat continued in 2025 to implement various initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity and protect CCMs' data. In early 2025, the Secretariat held an internal workshop with staff to discuss the development of a cybersecurity risk register and to build awareness among Secretariat staff of potential cyber threats.

At TCC21, the Secretariat provided updated information on its efforts to develop a governance framework to improve the organisation's security posture. The Secretariat is in the early stages of implementing a security framework based on Dynamic Standards International (DSI), which is a is a multi-tiered, regularly updated solution that is better aligned to the Secretariat's resources. Consistent staff training throughout 2025 on how to detect and report potential cyberthreats complements the Secretariat's efforts to safeguard the Commission's data in a fast-evolving digital environment.

VII. INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2025

International ocean-governance forums in 2025 pushed the global agenda from pledges toward implementation. In February, the Honiara Summit brought Pacific leaders, fisheries ministers, and more

[3] Accessible from the homepage of the WCPFC website.

than 300 stakeholders together to put Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries at the heart of 2025 ocean diplomacy. This was followed by the 10th Our Ocean Conference which mobilized 287 voluntary commitments worth US$9.1 billion, reinforcing finance and partnerships for ocean action.

Then in June, the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Nice adopted the political declaration "Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action," uniting governments around accelerating SDG-14 delivery by taking concrete steps to expand marine protection, curb pollution, and advance maritime decarbonization.

Also in 2025, momentum gathered behind the BBNJ Agreement with the convening of two Preparatory Conferences and the achievement of the required number of ratifications for entry into force.

Together, these developments shape the policy environment in which WCPFC operates. Summaries of each of these events is further elaborated, below.

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN CONFERENCES

Three ocean conferences took place in 2025, one of which was focused on Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries. **The Honiara Summit** took place in Honiara, Solomon Islands in February 2025 and focused on meaningful action and innovation towards achieving *SDG14: Life Below Water* with a dedicated focus on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. The Summit was jointly hosted by the Government of Solomon Islands and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in close collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization of the (FAO) and the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thompson.

The **10th Our Oceans Conference** (OOC10) followed The Honiara Summit in April 2025, hosted by the Government of Korea in Busan. With the theme of *'Our Ocean, Our Action'* to promote global actions for a sustainable ocean, OOC10 promoted digital technology in the ocean industry as a tool for achieving sustainability. Information on the Our Ocean website states that since 2014, the Our Ocean Conference has become a global call to action for the ocean, mobilizing over 2,900 commitments worth approximately USD$169 billion.

The **Third UN Oceans Conference** (UNOC3) took place in June 2025 in Nice, France, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica. UNOC3 brought together all UN member states, their heads of state and government, international agencies, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and international donors to accelerate action and mobilize all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean. The Conference had three main priorities in support of implementation of SDG14: (1) Work towards the successful completion of ocean-related multilateral processes to raise the level of ambition for ocean protection, (2) Mobilizing funding for SDG14 and supporting the development of a sustainable blue economy, (3) Strengthen and better disseminate marine science knowledge for better policymaking.

BBNJ AGREEMENT

The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) reached its required 60 ratifications on 20 September 2025 to trigger its entry into force in early January

2026. The first two Preparatory Conferences took place in April and August 2025, respectively, as UN members and stakeholders began laying the groundwork for the new global ocean agreement.

The BBNJ Agreement establishes a global framework to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. It addresses four main areas: sharing benefits from marine genetic resources, creating area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, conducting environmental impact assessments, and supporting capacity-building for developing States. The Agreement is guided by precautionary and ecosystem approaches, equity, science and traditional knowledge, transparency, and international cooperation. Institutional mechanisms ensure coordinated conservation while supporting sustainable use and fair participation. The latter point about institutional mechanisms for coordinated action is particularly relevant for WCPFC, where the BBNJ Agreement envisions the establishment of cooperative arrangements with international fisheries bodies (IFBs) like the WCPFC in the fulfilment of its objectives. Implementation of the BBNJ Agreement will require WCPFC members to enhance national-level coordination such that BBNJ and WCPFC activities are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

DEEP SEA MINING

At SC20, CCMs considered scientific research relating to the potential impacts of deep sea mining activities on pelagic fisheries and recommended that the Commission task the Secretariat to engage with a range of stakeholders to gather more information. The Commission at WCPFC21 further tasked the Secretariat to seek observer status for WCPFC to the International Seabed Authority (ISA). The Secretariat submitted its notice of interest in January 2025 and at the ISA's annual meeting in July 2025, WCPFC's request for observer status was approved.

At present, the ISA has not issued any commercial mining licenses while the Mining Code remains under development. In the Pacific Ocean, exploratory activities are underway in the Clarion Clipperton Zone which overlaps the WCPFC and IATTC Convention Areas, and a regional environmental management plan (REMP) is under development for an area of the North Pacific Ocean that overlaps with the WCPF Convention Area.

Further information on international ocean governance activities will be available in a Secretariat working paper to WCPFC22 under Agenda Item 16.

VIII. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The WCPFC's annual budget covers a broad range of operational and programmatic activities essential for the Commission's mandate to manage and conserve highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Key components of the budget include funding for scientific research and stock assessments, which guide management decisions, as well as compliance monitoring systems like the VMS and the ROP. Additionally, the budget supports capacity-building initiatives, particularly for SIDS and PTs, and covers the administrative costs of the Secretariat, including hosting annual meetings, facilitating intersessional work, and maintaining critical databases and reporting systems. A significant number of voluntary contributions from members and non-governmental organizations that target specific projects or initiatives help supplement the Commission's work. Overall, the budget ensures that the Commission can effectively carry out its conservation and management responsibilities across the region.

2025 BUDGET (ALL FIGURES IN USD)

At its 2024 annual session, the Commission agreed to a **2025 budget of $9,783,471** for the General Account Fund. Member contributions comprised $9,091,572, of which $3,299,694 had not been collected at the time of writing, including outstanding balances from previous fiscal years. The total expenditure for 2025 is estimated to be $8,997,528 from the General Account Fund. There have been no advances from the Working Capital Fund for 2025, to date. Further details on the 2025 budget are found in the working paper for the 19th Regular Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC19), *Proposed Budget for the Commission's Work Programme for 2026 and Indicative Budgets for 2027 and 2028* (FAC19-2025-06).

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary contributions continue to play an important role in supplementing the WCPFC's annual budget, providing additional financial support beyond member contributions. These contributions help advance key areas of the Commission's work, including scientific research, capacity building, and technical assistance, including support to SIDS. **Table 2** contains information on 2025 voluntary contributions. A total of **$487,910** was received from CCMs toward Commission activities, including contributions to the Special Requirements Fund. (*Note that this figure does not include Canada's contribution of $233,124 which was provided in 2020 and is being used in 2025*).

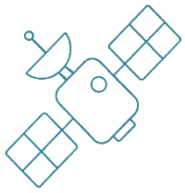
Table 2: Voluntary contributions received from members toward Commission activities in 2025.

Member	Contribution Amount (USD)	Purpose
Canada	$60,539	Continued development and testing of online application tool/s (i.e. dashboards) to facilitate and support member awareness of reporting gaps and to commence the development of targeted guidance and learning aids.
	$233,124	*Annual meeting hosting (provided in 2020; applied in 2025)*
China	$30,000	Special Requirements Fund
FSM	$5,000	TCC21
Japan	$156,566	Japanese Trust Fund
Korea	$135,805	Pacific Tuna Tagging Project
USA	$30,000	Special Requirements Fund
	$20,000	VMS Manual Reporting
	$50,000	BET Stock Assessment Workshop

IX. CHALLENGES IN 2025

KEY CHALLENGES FACED IN 2025

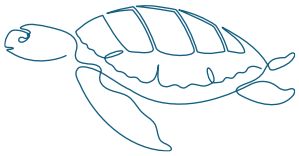
Notwithstanding the challenges highlighted in the 2024 Report of the Executive Director[4], which are still relevant, the WCPFC grappled in 2025 with additional challenges related to the availability of data to support compliance monitoring, strengthening measures for mitigation of fishing impacts on NTADS, and progressing a harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore tuna.



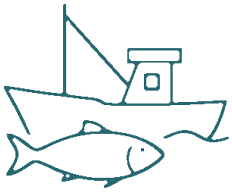
COMPLIANCE MONITORING

Maximizing compliance across the vast and diverse WCPFC membership remains a significant challenge. The CMS, while in its 15th year, still deals with inconsistencies in data reporting, particularly in high seas and longline fisheries. Data and monitoring gaps from some members and for some fisheries, including observer coverage discrepancies between longline and purse seine fisheries, have hindered accurate assessments of and proper awareness and understanding of trends and patterns in fishing activities, and in some cases identification of potential violations. Strengthening compliance through better reporting and enhanced monitoring systems continues to be a top priority.

MITIGATING FISHING IMPACTS ON NTADS



A healthy ocean means healthy tuna stocks and WCPFC's efforts to mitigate fishing impacts on non-target and associated or dependent species remain hampered by gaps in monitoring and data collection to support a better understanding of the status of several bycatch species. International efforts to establish marine protected areas (MPAs) on the high seas through the new BBNJ Agreement will overlap with WCPFC's mandate. Where WCPFC (and other RFMOs) are seen as ineffective, the BBNJ mechanisms may exert influence, potentially by non-WCPFC CCMs. With WCPO tuna stocks in a currently healthy state, the Commission has a clear opportunity to address some of the long-standing data gaps that are hindering the full effectiveness of its mitigation measures for sensitive, vulnerable, and endangered NTADS that form part of a healthy tuna ecosystem.



PROGRESSING HARVEST STRATEGIES

The demands of modern fisheries management are rapidly evolving, driven by climate change, technological advancements, and international marine conservation agreements. WCPFC's expanding role beyond traditional fisheries management, to include ecosystem-based approaches and addressing the impacts of climate change on marine resources, will be partially realized through its application of a harvest strategy management framework. The challenges of WCPFC's multi-fishery, multi-gear conservation and

[4] Compliance issues, stakeholder balance, and emerging fisheries management demands. See WCPFC21-2024-02.

management mandate make harvest strategy development particularly challenging, despite the progress that is taking place. As market and retailer requirements increase to meet rising consumer demands fuelled by greater awareness and access to information, the WCPFC will be challenged to meet higher expectations around sustainably- and ethically- caught tuna.

X. FUTURE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

With a strong sustainability footing evidenced by biologically healthy tuna stocks, the WCPFC has clear opportunities to redefine its future work by enhancing the way it adapts and responds to the demands of modern fisheries management. WCPFC's foundations for consensus-based decision making are strong and well-supported by the extensive experience of SIDS in marine resource management. That experience is further enhanced through the long-standing partnerships of non-SIDS and other partners operating in several economic sectors in the region. Building on this history, WCPFC can serve as a model for success in regional cooperation, demonstrating that through concerted effort and political will, a vast range of interests can coalesce around serving a common objective.

WCPFC's 2026 work programme points to strategic priorities focused on strengthening the availability of data to support stock assessment and compliance review, improving research to understand fishery impacts, and strengthening operationalization of Article 30 requirements in all areas of the Commission's work. These activities are well integrated into the Commission's ongoing efforts to advance development of harvest strategies for WCPO tuna and billfish stocks. Greater collaboration and swifter action are required by WCPFC members and stakeholders to ensure that the last two decades of investment into sustainably managing the region's highly migratory fish stocks is maintained well into the future.

Each year, the Commission manages larger and more diverse streams of information to assess performance against Convention objectives. Through the Secretariat's development and administration of the WCPFC Information Management System, CCMs are advanced in their abilities to submit and manage information on their flagged vessel activities directly, including vessel authorizations and reporting requirements in WCPFC databases. This direct interaction between CCMs and WCPFC databases is accelerating how evidence informs management.

The Commission's sustained investment in information systems is a major achievement for WCPFC-managed fisheries. Over two decades of data collection and monitoring of the world's largest tuna fishery now provide a foundation for integrated analysis across science, compliance, and ecosystem considerations. Integrating key datasets into a coherent and comprehensive picture of how management measures affect fisheries resources, and the surrounding ecosystem will convert two decades of data collection into actionable insight. This enables risk-based compliance and monitoring that targets high priority vessels, areas, and time periods, and strengthens scientific and ecosystem advice by combining long-term catch/effort and monitoring data with spatial and environmental context.

Strategic, integrated analysis across science, compliance, and ecosystem considerations also increases transparency and trust through interoperable data practices, while respecting WCPFC confidentiality and security requirements. WCPFC's experience in management of highly migratory fish stocks, including high seas data stewardship, aligns with the other four tuna RFMOs and positions the Commission as a strong,

reliable partner for the collaboration and transparency envisioned between international fisheries bodies and the new BBNJ Agreement.

By aligning its efforts with strategic priorities such as ecosystem-based management, enhanced data-driven decision making, and strengthened regional cooperation, WCPFC will be well positioned to tackle present challenges and demonstrate measurable progress, including through improved stock assessments and compliance outcomes, in advancing the long-term sustainability of fisheries throughout the western and central Pacific Ocean.

Year	Progress Summary (*Reference*)
2015	i. Agreed to harvest strategy workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 (*WCPFC12 Summary Report, Att. Y*) ii. The Commission adopted CMM 2015-06 establishing a TRP for skipjack tuna. (*WCPFC12 Summary Report, Att. G*)
2016	i. Agreed to determine the acceptability of potential HCRs where the estimated risk of breaching the LRP is between 0 and 20%. (*WCPFC13 Summary Report, Para 296*) ii. Accepted the initial list of performance indicators for tropical purse seine fisheries for the purpose of the evaluation of harvest control rules (*WCPFC13 Summary Report, Att. M*) iii. Agreed to a refined workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 (*WCPFC13 Summary Report, Att. N.*) iv. Agreed to an interim timeframe of up to ten years for rebuilding the bigeye tuna stock to the agreed Limit Reference Point of 0.2SBF=0 (*WCPFC13 Summary Report, para 305*)
2017	i. Noted candidate performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery and the Tropical Longline fishery to evaluate harvest control rules. (*WCPFC14 Summary Report, Attachment K, Table 1 and 2*) ii. Agreed on actions to prioritise the development and adoption of a Target Reference Point for south Pacific albacore at WCPFC15. (*WCPFC14 Summary Report, para 188*) iii. Tasked the Secretariat to develop a dedicated space on the WCPFC website for publishing harvest strategies, including interim harvest strategies, agreed to by the Commission. (*WCPFC14 Summary Report, para 208*) iv. Agreed to reprioritise as needed the annual agenda of the Commission and Scientific Committee to allow sufficient additional time for consideration of harvest strategy issues. In addition, WCPFC recognised that there may also be a need for a dedicated science/management dialogue. (*WCPFC14 Summary Report, para 215*)
2018	i. Agreed to hold a 6-day annual meeting in 2019 with additional time devoted for the Commission to discuss harvest strategies. (*WCPFC15 Summary Report, para 328*) ii. adopted the Updated Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06. (*WCPFC15 Summary Report, Att. I*) iii. Agreed on an interim TRP for South Pacific albacore at $0.56SB_{F=0}$ with the objective of achieving an 8% increase in CPUE for the southern longline fishery as compared to 2013 levels. The TRP shall be reviewed every 3 years, consistent with the SP albacore assessment schedule, and the timeline for achieving the interim TRP shall be no later than 20 years. (*WCPFC15 Summary Report, paras 207-212*)
2019	i. No need to review the Management Objectives on an annual basis. (*WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 170*) ii. Important to consider economic indicators based on economic and other data. (*WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 181*) iii. Agreed to progress work on a multispecies approach and to report back to the Commission. (*WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 195*) iv. Continue to build CCM's capacity on harvest strategies. (*WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 207*) v. Adopted the Updated Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies. (*WCPFC16 Summary Report, Att. H*) vi. SC to provide advice on the formulation of TRPs for skipjack tuna and effort creep estimated in relation to the TRPs. (*WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 258*).

	vii. Revise WCPFC16-2019-15 (*Minimum TRPs for WCPO yellowfin and bigeye tuna consistent with alternative LRP risk levels, and multispecies implications*) using candidate revised interim skipjack TRPs of 42%,44%, 46%, 48% and 50% of SB/SBF=0. *(WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 259).* viii. Requested SC to provide advice on the formulation of TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin tuna for other candidate TRP indicators other than depletion ratio, such as longline CPUE. *(WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 273)* ix. Requested the SSP to conduct an analysis for bigeye and yellowfin tuna similar to that undertaken in WCPFC16-2019-14 (Current and projected stock status of WCPO skipjack tuna to inform consideration of an updated target reference point). *(WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 274)* x. Agreed that the interim paragraphs 12 and 14 of CMM 2018-01 be retained and tasked SC and SSP to explore potential candidate TRPs for the two stocks. *(WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 275)*
2020	i. Requested SPC to update the skipjack TRP work by including additional candidates, including 36%, 38% and 40% in the median depletion table. *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 159)* ii. Noted the results of analyses on candidate TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin (WCPFC17-2020-12). *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 165; WCPFC17-2020-12 (SC16-requested analyses to inform WCPFC17 discussions on candidate target reference points for WCPO bigeye and yellowfin tuna)* * The SSP has made substantial technical progress during 2020, notably on MSE for South Pacific albacore and skipjack.
2021	i. Noted advice on possible formulations of a TRP for skipjack tuna. *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 100)* ii. Noted the results of analyses on candidate TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin. *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 107)* iii. Noted the importance of agreeing on TRP for bigeye and yellowfin and agreed to progress this work in 2022. *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 108)* iv. Agreed to defer consideration of MPs for skipjack until 2022. *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 111)* v. Noted the advice related to a recalibration of the interim TRP for the SP albacore. *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 171)* vi. Adopted the updated *Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06*. *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 256; Att. I)* vii. The Commission agreed to have the first Science-Management Dialogue, on a trial basis, back-to-back with SC18 in 2022, with a list of proposed areas of focus. *(WCPFC18 Summary Report, para 271-272)*
2022	i. Noted the presentation on the TRP for skipjack tuna. *(WCPFC19 Summary Report, para 145)* ii. Adopted CMM 2022-01 *Conservation and Management Measure on a Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack* Tuna *(WCPFC19 Summary Report, para 152, Att. G)* iii. Noted TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, and agreed on the need for further work prior to considering TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin tuna. *(WCPFC19 Summary Report, para 156; WCPFC19-2022-12 (WCPO bigeye and yellowfin TRP evaluations (with updated 2022 skipjack assessment results))* iv. Noted on South Pacific albacore objectives and the TRP. *(WCPFC19 Summary Report, para 212; WCPFC19-2022-15 (Further analyses to inform discussions on South Pacific albacore objectives and the TRP)*

	v. Noted the additional work tasked by SMD01 to support decision-making on MPs for South Pacific albacore (WCPFC19-2022-16). *(WCPFC19 Summary Report, para 222; WCPFC19-2022-16 (Updates on MP evaluations for south Pacific albacore since SMD01)* vi. Adopted CMM 2022-03 *CMM on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for key fisheries and stocks in the WCPO. (WCPFC19 Summary Report, para 270)* vii. Adopted the updated *Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06. (WCPFC19 Summary Report, para 277; Att. L)* viii. Given the heavy workload in 2023, agreed not to hold an SMD in 2023 and agreed to assess the need to hold an SMD in 2024. *(WCPFC19 Summary Report, para 291))* * First Science Management Dialogue held in August 2022. *(SMD01 Outcomes Document: WCPFC19-2022-SMD01-01)*
2023	**SPALB TRP** i. Agreed on an interim target reference point (iTRP) for south Pacific albacore specified as (0.96 $SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$)[5]. (*WCPFC20 Summary Report (Rev1), Para. 238)* ii. The iTRP for SPALB this iTRP shall be subject for review following the 2024 stock assessment and further development of candidate MPs. (*WCPFC20 Summary Report (Rev1), Para. 241)* iii. Tasked the SSP to undertake additional evaluations on selected candidate MPs and alternative candidate TRPs for SPALB. (WCPFC20 Summary Report (Rev1), Para. 242) **SPALB Management Procedure** iv. Agreed to hold a Science-Management Dialogue in 2024 (SMD-02) focused on: a. South Pacific albacore MPs (including review of the iTRP); b. Development of BET and YFT TRPs; c. Issues pertaining to the application of the SKJ management procedure, and d. Harvest strategy capacity-building for CCMs (SPC-facilitated). (*WCPFC20 Summary Report (Rev1), Para. 264)* v. Noted the importance of applying compatible measures between WCPFC and IATTC, the Commission tasked the Secretariat to strengthen its relations with the IATTC in the development of the MSE and MPs for South Pacific albacore. (*WCPFC20 Summary Report (Rev1), Para. 268-270)* **SKJ Management Procedure** vi. Noted the successful running of the skipjack MP and the need to re-evaluate the skipjack estimation method prior to the next implementation of the MP. (*WCPFC20 Summary Report (Rev1), Para. 301-302)* **SKJ Monitoring Strategy** vii. Noted a need for intercessional work, led by the SC and TCC Chairs, to facilitate the development by SSP of a monitoring strategy for adoption at WCPFC21. (*WCPFC20 Summary Report (Rev1), Para. 301-313)* **Mixed Fishery MSE** viii. Noted the progress to date on the development of the mixed fishery MSE framework. (WCPFC20 Summary Report (Rev1), para 337)
2024	**SKJ Management Procedure**

[5] Technical definitions:

	i. SC20 recommended that the SSP evaluate the following potential approaches to modify the estimation method for the WCPO skipjack interim MP, using the current OM grid and HCR, to evaluate whether the performance of the MP would change if the EM were revised, and report back to SC21 on outcomes and recommendations: a. Modification of tropical CPUE abundance indices in the existing estimation method along the lines of the approach taken using unassociated set purse seine CPUE data by the 2022 stock assessment. b. Further investigation of alternative stock assessment platforms and modelling approaches. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, Para. 98)* ii. SC20 further recommended that SC21 review the outputs from the re-evaluation and provide recommendations to WCPFC22 regarding the potential need to revise the current interim skipjack MP (CMM 2022-01). (*SC20 Outcomes Document, Para. 100)* **SKJ Monitoring Strategy** iii. SC20 requested that the SSP conduct the following analyses related to the monitoring strategy for skipjack: a. Evaluate whether changes in the FAD closure duration (as adopted in CMM 2023-01) will affect the performance of the interim MP; b. Representativeness and appropriateness of candidate CPUEs for use in MP. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, Para. 101)* iv. SC20 recommended that in years when an assessment is not conducted, the monitoring strategy could be reviewed by SC and feedback provided through the Online Discussion Forum. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, Para. 102)* v. SC20 recommended the monitoring strategy be forwarded to the SMD, TCC and the Commission for their consideration. *(SC20 Outcomes Document, para 104)* **SPALB Target Reference Point** vi. SC20 recommended the Commission note that the biomass depletion associated with the adopted iTRP has been re-estimated to be 50% based on the 2024 assessment, which was 47% based on the 2021 assessment. *(SC20 Outcomes Document, Para. 105)* vii. SC20 recommended that both catch numbers and weight be used for projections. SC20 further recommended that SSP present trends in vulnerable biomass among specific WCPFC-CA longline fleets, and for WCPFC-CA catch levels to be related to 2017-2019 levels. *(SC20 Outcomes Document, para 107*) viii. SC20 recommended including more scenarios for projections by fixing EPO catch at 2017-2019 levels and using multiple catch levels in the WCPFC-CA related to 2017-2019 levels. *(SC20 Outcomes Document, para 108)* **SPALB Operating Model**

"Spawning potential depletion" refers to the estimated South Pacific albacore spawning potential as a percentage of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing (i.e., the unfished spawning potential). The metric is dynamic and is estimated for each model time step.

The method to be used in calculating spawning potential in the absence of fishing ($SB_{F=0}$) shall be:

a. $SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$ is the average of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing for a time window of ten years based on the most recent South Pacific albacore stock assessment, where t1=y-10 to t2=y-1 where y is the year under consideration; and

b. The estimation shall be based on the relevant estimates of recruitment that have been adjusted to reflect conditions without fishing according to the stock recruitment relationship.

ix. SC20 adopted the operating model (OM) reference set, together with the proposed robustness set (Table 2, SC20-MI-WP-04), for the evaluation of candidate SPALB MPs. (*SC20 Outcomes Document para 109*)

x. SC20 recommended that future work to elaborate the OM sets be conducted through the monitoring strategy and could include:
   a. development of scenarios for the impacts of climate change
   b. consideration of potential effects of effort creep and/or hyperstability in CPUE
   c. development of models that address uncertainties around stock structure to the robustness set. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, para 110*)

xi. SC20 recommended that simulations be conducted to explore the implications of assuming a single stock OM when there could be multiple stocks. If ongoing genetics work confirms the presence of multiple-stocks and the simulations indicate that the single-stock assumption made in the OMs is problematic, then exceptional circumstances should be considered and the OM sets should be revised to account for multiple reproductive stocks in the South Pacific. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, para 111*)

SPALB Management Procedure

xii. SC20 recommended that SSP focus primarily on the following two ASPM-derived estimators with a view to having a robust estimator, without obvious future data vulnerabilities:
   a. A direct biomass depletion approach using mean SB/SBF=0 of the last three years; and
   b. A ratio approach that uses Mean SB/SBF=0 of the last three year (same as in 1.a) relative to 2017-2019. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, para 112*)

xiii. SC20 noted that there was bias in estimation model performance at low predicted stock sizes. SC20 recommended that this bias be addressed through the design of the HCR and its significance or otherwise will be evaluated through evaluation of candidate MPs. Should the estimation model bias become problematic in the MP design context, then steps will need to be taken to address that issue. *(SC20 Outcomes Document, para 113)*

xiv. SC20 recommended that SSP conduct a Management Strategy Evaluation of a range of candidate MPs, using updated estimators together with HCR and maximum change metarule specifications similar to those presented at SC19 (SC19-MI-WP-06). (*SC20 Outcomes Document, para 114*)

xv. SC20 recommended that SSP, in addition to running projections assuming a single baseline for all fisheries within the Management Procedure evaluations, explore the potential implications of using different reference periods for different fisheries and gears within the MP. *(SC20 Outcomes Document, para 115)*

xvi. SC20 recommended that EPO catches be assumed to remain constant at recent levels but with an exploration of a case where the EPO is subject to MP controls (in a similar way to SC20-MI-WP-03). (*SC20 Outcomes Document, para 116*)

xvii. SC20 noted that it was desirable to constrain the number of candidate MPs evaluated for consideration and recommended that steps be taken to manage this, including using one-off variations from a base-case scenario, rather than a full factorial grid of options. *(SC20 Outcomes Document, para 117-118)*

BET and YFT Target Reference Points

xviii. SC20 recommended that the SSP include the following updates to SC20-MI-WP-07 for presentation to the Commission:
   a. Update tables 2-7 with the equivalent depletion levels for South Pacific albacore based on the 2024 South Pacific albacore stock assessment;

	b. Include additional columns in the evaluation of candidate TRPs for YFT and BET which provide the impact on vulnerable biomass within the tropical longline fishery and the southern longline fishery. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, Para. 119*) xix. SC20 recommended that the SMD and Commission take into account the analysis contained in xvSC20-MI-WP-07 including the following when considering TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin tuna: a. Based on the 2023 stock assessment for yellowfin, the miscellaneous fisheries are estimated to account for approximately 37% of the impact on the spawning potential over the period 2016-2018 , but recent catch for yellowfin is higher. b. Based on the analysis in SC20-MI-WP-07, the CMM 2023-01 objectives for yellowfin and bigeye tuna cannot both be met simultaneously. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, Para. 120*) xx. SC20 recommended that an additional working paper be submitted to WCPFC21, which will include a re-evaluation of the candidate yellowfin and bigeye tuna TRPs using more recent fishing conditions for the domestic fisheries of Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam. The 2016-18 average catches are significantly lower than the recent fishing level, likely leading to a more optimistic projected stock status for yellowfin tuna. (*SC20 Outcomes Document, Para. 121*)
2025	**SKJ Management Procedure** i. SC21 supported the continued application of the interim skipjack MP for the next implementation cycle, while also emphasizing the importance of further development of alternative indices in advance of the third implementation of the MP. This work should be conducted as part of the scheduled MSE review in 2028 (or potentially, 2029). SC21 further noted that changes to the tuning indices used by the MP may require reconditioning of the OMs and retesting of the MP, which is a considerable undertaking. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 131*) **SKJ Monitoring Strategy** ii. Based on the discussion and information available, including the 2025 SKJ stock assessment, SC21 made updates to the skipjack monitoring strategy table as shown in Attachment 5 of the SC21 Outcomes Document. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 132*) **SPALB Management Procedure** iii. Regarding changes of management area south of 10°S and a reduced set of MPs with different MP conditions, SC21 encouraged the SSP to provide sufficient explanation and additional information as necessary to the SPAMWS01 (Sept 2025) and to WCPFC22 to assist decision makers. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 133*) iv. SC21 requested WCPFC22 to consider developing a mechanism to provide timely feedback for MSE development to achieve the timelines detailed in the harvest strategy workplan. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 134*) v. SC21 recommended the continued application of the Estimation Method, which does not include a troll index, as presented to WCPFC21 in WCPFC21-2024-30_Rev01. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 137*) vi. For the four candidate MPs provided, SC21 draws the attention of the Commission to the following:

- All the MPs perform well in terms of biological risk to the stock, with the risk of breaching the limit reference point below the specified 20% threshold, and only HCR 10 shows a greater than 5% risk of breaching this threshold.
- The candidate MPs have different outcomes in terms of the trade-off between catches and catch rates.
- Sensitivity tests were conducted, which evaluated the performance of the MPs when catches in the two areas outside of the MP were set to higher levels (EPO excluding the overlap area at 22,500 mt, and the WCPFC-CA between 0° and 10°S at 12,000 mt), which appears below. These tests showed that the performance of the candidate MPs was not strongly affected by the alternative catch assumptions examined. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 138*)

vii. SC21 noted that it is desirable to constrain the number of candidate MPs evaluated to a manageable level. SC21 recommended that, in addition to the results presented in SC21-MI-WP-04, three additional MPs be developed for the Commission's consideration that more fully explore EPO (excluding overlap area) catch consequences as well as the use of a fixed effort assumption in the WCPFC-CA area equator to 10°S.

- EPO (excluding the overlap area) set to 22,500 mt (being the approximate average of catches in the years 2021-22), WCPFC-CA 0-10°S set to 9,000t (being the approximate average in the period 2014-2023), using a catch control HCR "tuned" to achieve the adopted iTRP.
- EPO (excluding the overlap area) set to 13,500 mt (being the approximate catch in the year 2020), WCPFC-CA 0-10°S set to 9,000 t (being the approximate average in the period 2014–2023), using a catch control HCR "tuned" to achieve the adopted iTRP.
- EPO (excluding the overlap area) set to 18,000 mt (being the approximate average for the period 2014-2023), WCPFC-CA 0-10°S set to average effort levels in the period 2014-2023, using a catch control HCR "tuned" to achieve the adopted iTRP. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 139*)

viii. SC21 recommended that, to the extent possible, the results of this expanded set of seven candidate MP evaluations and all candidate MP evaluations in WCPFC21-2024-30 (those applied to longline and troll fisheries operating in the WCPFC-CA, south of the equator) be provided to the SPAMWS01 in September 2025 and to the Commission for their consideration and decision. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 140*)

ix. SC21 also requested that the SSP report the median time series of vulnerable biomass from the OMs for the historical period and to develop a table with the average nominal CPUE (kg/100 hooks) for the reference period (2020–2022) by CCMs with SPA catches. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 141*)

BET Operating Models

x. SC21 supported the use of the proposed reference set of 24 OMs for the bigeye tuna as a basis for further development. However, SC21 recommended that work should continue to promptly refine and expand the OM reference set to include alternative assumptions as listed below in Table MI-01 (in the SC21 Outcomes Document) as much as practicable, with a view to the formal adoption of the OM reference set in 2026. SC21 noted that

	assumptions around the purse seine FAD closure period may not need to be included in the OM reference set, but rather that those assumptions can be addressed through specific MP design and sensitivity analysis. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 144*)
	BET TRPs and Performance Evaluation of Candidate Management Procedures
	xi. SC21 noted that the MP controls only a fraction of the BET catch (27% over the period 2020-2022) and stressed the importance of considering the dynamics of other fisheries that catch BET that are either managed under an MP (same or separate) or require assumptions about their management. SC21 also noted that specific settings within the BET MSE remained to be defined by the Commission. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 147*)
	xii. A variety of alternatives for MP design settings were suggested by CCMs. Those need to be carefully considered by the Commission so that plausible assumptions are properly covered in the MSE testing. SC21 also draws the Commission's attention to the fact that the order of MP and MSE application under the mixed fishery harvest strategy framework (i.e., which species' MP goes first) could affect the performance across the individual MPs, and that this order of MP application has not yet been formally agreed upon. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 148*)
	xiii. SC21 recommended that WCPFC22 review the current proposed BET MSE framework and provide guidance on BET MP settings and assumptions. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 149*)
	xiv. SC21 considered that the six proposed performance indicators should be included in future presentations and encouraged the SSP to consider further options to help inform management decision-making, including through feedback from WCPFC22. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 150*)
	Progress of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Work Plan
	xv. SC21 recommended that the Commission support a one-time extension of the current skipjack MP application period from 3 to 4 years. SC21 noted that such a change would need to be reflected in an amendment to CMM 2022-01. SC21 recommended that SC21-MI-WP-10 be provided to WCPFC22. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 155*)
	xvi. MSE analyses for three stocks (SKJ, SPA, BET) were presented to SC21 this year and represented a significant body of work for the SC's consideration. SC21 noted that, as the development and implementation of the harvest strategy approach progresses under the milestones within the WCPFC harvest strategy work plan, it is critical to receive timely guidance and instruction from the Commission on key aspects of this work. The workplan anticipates the adoption of multiple MPs in the near future, and it is important that the Commission provide guidance in relation to the implementation of the mixed fishery approach. (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 157*)
	xvii. SC21 noted that for complex fisheries management, such as that required for WCPFC key tuna stocks, the development and simultaneous application of species-specific MPs, as in WCPFC, is a reasonable approach due to the difficulty in developing fully integrated multi-stocks approaches. When developing species-specific MPs in this approach, settings must be agreed

	not just for individual MPs but also for how those individual MPs should interact. These would include, but are not limited to: ● How each fishery is to be managed (catch or effort). ● What catch or effort levels in fisheries not managed by the MP should be considered. ● The scope of candidate MPs in terms of their spatial extent and the fisheries to be managed. ● Management objectives for fisheries and, in particular, TRP options to consider. ● How the stock status of individual species may trigger Exceptional Circumstances in other species MPs. Order of MP application (*SC21 Outcomes Document, Para. 158*)

2025 OVERVIEW OF UPDATES TO COMMISSION MONITORING TOOLS

SYSTEM/TOOL	BRIEF DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE	REFERENCES	2025 UPDATES
Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) **(*hosted in WCPFC Monitoring and Evaluation, incorporating CMMs site and the Compliance Case File System site*)**	To ensure that Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) implement and comply with obligations arising under the Convention and conservation and management measures (CMMs) adopted by the Commission. The purpose of the CMS is also to assess flag CCM action in relation to alleged violations by its vessels, not to assess compliance by individual vessels.	1. CMM 2023-04 2. Monitoring and Evaluation incorporating CMM site, includes Audit Points, CCM Limits and Risk Based Assessment Framework 3. WCPFC Compilation of currently in force CMMs and Resolutions (link to download) 4. Compliance Case File System site 5. CMS Audit Points Checklist 6. Past CMS Intersessional Working Group (IWG) Activities 7. Annual Reporting Support i. Annual Report Part 2 Online Support ii. CMR Online Support iii. Annual Report Guidance for CCMs 8. Annual Reporting Templates i. Annual Report Part 1 Template ii. Capacity Development Plan Template 9. Final Compliance Monitoring Reports, adopted by the Commission 10. Updated and enhanced paper on Available Data for Verifying Compliance in TCC (TCC21 Working Paper 15) 11. Updated and enhanced paper to support consideration of the Provisional List of Obligations for review in the CMS (TCC21 Working Paper 10) 12. Secure CCM Portal CMR 2025 page– provides access to CMR-related documents such as copies of historical CMR files and Aggregated CCFS tables	1. Upgraded Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR) online facility, fully integrated with Annual Report Part 2 and information about quantitative limits. 2. Enhanced facility to support CCM updates on RBAF Consequence scores for obligations. 3. Improvements to online interface for "previous year CMR issues", and TCC assessment process of Capacity Assistance Needed and Implementation Gaps. 4. Improvements to information displays in the Annual Reporting online dashboard and CCFS Annual Summary dashboard. 5. Updates on implementation of subsampling methodology for CCFS cases and aggregate tables (TCC21 Working Paper 09).

		CMS webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/compliance-monitoring WCPFC Reporting Deadlines: https://www.wcpfc.int/calendar/all/	
Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) ***(hosted in WCPFC Vessels site)***	Combined list of all the details that each Member and Cooperating Non-Member has provided to the WCPFC Secretariat of its vessels that are authorized to fish beyond its national jurisdiction within the Convention Area.	1. CMM 2018-06 2. CMM 2022-05 (Standards, Specifications, and Procedures) 3. CMM 2013-04 (Unique Vessel Identifier) 4. CMM 2004-03 (Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels) 5. CMM 2024-03 (Charter Notification Scheme) 6. Vessels online system • RFV Database • Fished and Did Not Fish Reporting System • Charter Notification Reporting System • RFV mobile App 7. Vessels Online System Support 8. Streamlined and enhanced RFV Annual Report to TCC (TCC21 Required Report 5)	1. Updates to Vessels Online system to improve usability and data quality (e.g. streamlined charter record management, a new dashboard tools highlighting missing data fields (such as IMO numbers, owner details, and authorisation data), and automated notifications to the Secretariat when annual "fished/did not fish" reports are submitted.) 2. Upgraded "search" functionality to include previous vessel names, which reduces data duplication and improves information retrieval. 3. Integrated WCPFC RFV vessel and authorization data into an IMCS Network online tool (CRAVT), which presents vessel authorization data alongside information from other RFMOs and RFBs.
Pacific Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	Cost-effectively monitor the activities of fishing vessels authorized by flag CCMs to fish for highly migratory fish species in the Convention Area in areas beyond jurisdiction of the Flag CCM.	1. CMM 2014-02 2. Statement Describing Purpose and Principles of WCPFC VMS 3. VMS Reporting Requirements Guidelines 4. VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST) 5. VMS Standards, Specifications, and Procedures	1. Prototype Analytical Tool developed in 2023, to support routine Secretariat verification and monitoring of VMS Reporting and other reporting e.g. transhipments. 2. Secretariat transition to generating monthly VMS

		6. FFA VMS Requirements 7. MTU/ALC Type-Approved List 8. VMS Standard Operating Procedures 9. https://trackwell.wcpfc.int/ 10. VMS webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/vessel-monitoring-system 11. Vessels online system • Vessel MTU Management • MTU Audit Inspection Reporting 12. MTU Inspection Reporting Support 13. VMS Manual Reporting Support 14. Streamlined and enhanced VMS Annual Report to TCC produced using an automated and reproducible process (TCC21 Required Report 1)	transmission gaps reports to each flag CCM. 3. Daily email sent to users with "VMS Editor" access showing vessels that have stopped reporting based on VRST data. 4. Direct upload feature provided for CCM submissions of VMS Manual position reports (in NAF format). 5. WCPFC single-sign-on continued to be applied to all WCPFC VMS systems, including WCPFC Trackwell VMS. 6. Routine update of VMS SOPs to reflect continual improvements made to relevant WCPFC online systems (see TCC21 Working Paper 20.) 7. Continual enhancements to support monitoring of annual reporting of audit inspection reports, and facility created to support bulk uploads of MTU audit reporting.
High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) **(*hosted in WCPFC Inspections site*)**	Boarding and inspection and related activities conducted pursuant to procedures adopted in the CMM, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and in force; applicable only on the high seas within the Convention Area.	1. CMM 2006-08 2. HSBI Summary Statistics 3. Register of Inspection Vessels 4. Authorities of the Inspection Vessel 5. Authorities of the Fishing Vessel 6. HSBI Inspections Online System 7. HSBI Online System Support 8. Streamlined and enhanced HSBI Annual Report to TCC produced using an automated and reproducible process (TCC21 Required Report 4)	1. New Inspections System that enables direct notification and uploading of supporting information related to HSBI events and facilitates the creation of Article (25)2 cases where potential infringements are identified; CCMs can view HSBI reports and related compliance cases for their flagged vessels or associated HSBI events.

		HSBI webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/high-seas-boarding-inspection HSBI WG webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/develop_hsbi-guides	2. Development of voluntary regional guides by HSBI WG for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections.
Transhipment Regulation Scheme **(high seas transhipment reporting *hosted in WCPFC TSER Reports site*)**	Management of all transhipment in the Convention Area of all highly migratory fish stocks covered by the Convention. Does not apply to transhipment of highly migratory fish stocks where fish is taken and transhipped wholly in archipelagic waters or territorial seas. Transhipment in a port or in waters under the national jurisdiction of a CCM shall take place in accordance with applicable national law.	1. CMM 2009-06 2. Transhipment E-Reporting Standards, Specifications, and Procedures: for flag CCMs to report high seas transshipment pre-notification and declaration data 3. High Seas Transhipment Reporting APP (TSER-APP) 4. WCPFC TSER Reports Site: Provides online access for authorised Flag CCM users to view their high seas transhipment notification and high seas transhipment declaration data as received by WCPFC 5. Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transhipment Monitoring - 2023 6. Streamlined and enhanced Transhipment Annual Report to TCC (TCC21 Required Report 3) Transhipment Regulation Scheme webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/transhipment-regulation	1. Continued implementation of Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transhipment Monitoring 2. Routine use of Prototype Analytical Tool developed in 2023 to support Secretariat verification and monitoring of transhipment monitoring. 3. High seas transhipment events verification and monitoring included in quarterly gap reports prepared by Secretariat for each flag CCM. 4. Provision of monthly reports from the Secretariat to relevant coastal CCMs providing information about high seas transhipment events where the high seas transhipment reporting indicates that the transhipped catches were taken within their EEZ. 5. Streamlined and automated access of these reports to coastal CCMs through the WCPFC TSER reports site. 6. Progressed data exchange with other RFMO Secretariats 7. Ongoing efforts by CCMs to strengthen transhipment CMM.

Port State Minimum (PSM) Standards	To establish processes and procedures for CCMs to request that port inspections be undertaken on fishing vessels suspected of engaging in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing.	1. CMM 2017-02 2. Streamlined and enhanced Annual Report to TCC (TCC21 Required Report 7) PSM Standards webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/wcpfc-port-state-minimum-standards PSMWG webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/reviewcmm17-02_portstatemnmstds	1. As of 18 August 2025, the number of Parties to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement comprises 18 Members and 6 Cooperating Non-Members. 2. Continuing to receive FAO port State inspection notifications from the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) and CCMs 3. PSMWG is progressing work to strengthen CMM 2017-02 on port State measures.
Regional Observer Programme (ROP)	To collect verified catch data, other scientific data, and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of the Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission.	1. CMM 2018-05 2. CMM 2017-03 (Observer Safety) 3. Guidelines for ROP 4. List of WCPFC Authorised National and Subregional Observer Programmes for the ROP 5. Contact details for National and Subregional Observer Programme Coordinators 6. WCPFC ROP Vessel Safety Check Form 7. WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines updated 2023 8. Table of ROP minimum standard data fields 2016 9. Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transhipment Monitoring - 2023 10. Observer Guide to WCPFC CMMs - Booklet 2025 11. Information observer data management and observer coverage (SC21-ST-IP05)	1. ROP-IWG is progressing work to advance discussions on improving observer data collection including improved transhipment data collection, streamlining the WCPFC Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDFs), and refining the use of observer data in the Compliance Case File System (CCFS). 2. Streamlined and enhanced ROP Annual Report to TCC produced using an automated and reproducible process (TCC21 Required Report 2)

		ROP webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/regional-observer-programme ROP-IWG webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/iwg-rop	
Electronic Monitoring	Electronic Monitoring (EM) in the fisheries context refers to the use of technology, such as onboard cameras, sensors, and GPS systems, to automatically record and collect information about fishing activities at sea. This technology can capture data on gear deployment, catch composition, bycatch, and compliance with fishing rules, even when human observers are not present. As a starting point for EM in the WCPFC, there has been clear direction from the Commission and its subsidiary bodies that increased data collection, monitoring and verification is required for longline fishing, in particular longline fishing that occurs on the high seas. Further, that any use of EM would be in addition to current observer requirements.	1. WCPFC Interim Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards, covering Technical, Data and Reporting Requirements ER&EM WG webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/ERandEM-IWG	1. ER&EM WG is continuing work to progress development of EM standards. 2. Updates from Interim ER&EM WG Chair are in TCC Working Paper 21 and Circular 2025/66.
Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) List	List of vessels which have engaged in fishing activities for species covered by the Convention within the Convention Area in a manner which has undermined the effectiveness of the WCPF	1. CMM 2019-07 2. WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2025 and links to access other IUU Lists	1. TCC21 recommended a draft 2026 IUU Vessel List to the Commission for consideration at WCPFC22. 2. The Secretariat Compliance team continues to liaise,

	Convention and the WCPFC measures in force.	WCPFC IUU Vessel List webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/wcpfc-iuu-vessel-list	through TCN and PPFCN, to share updates on RFMO IUU Vessel Lists with other tuna RFMOs and pan-Pacific RFBs. An online tool is currently being developed by IMCS Network to streamline the sharing of updated information between RFMO and RFB Secretariats regarding IUU Vessel List updates.
Data Access Rules and Procedures	Rules and procedures to govern protection, access to, and dissemination of data for various purposes.	1. 2007 Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission 2. 2009 Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission for the Purpose of Monitoring, Control or Surveillance (MCS) Activities and the Access to and Dissemination of High Seas VMS Data for Scientific Purpose. 3. Report on the Administration of Data Rules (TCC21 Required Report 8) Data Access Rule webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/administration-wcpfc-data-access-rules-and-procedures	1. SC21 implemented the updated SC Project Proposal template to include notes on necessary WCPFC data access. 2. Secretariat has progressed development of WCPFC's Information and Network Security Governance Framework.
Other Reporting Obligations	Required reporting through CMMs or other Commission decisions	1. Cooperating Non-Member Application Process i. CMM 2019-01 ii. CNM Request Template 2. Special Management Areas i. CMM 2016-02 Eastern High Seas Special Management Area (Streamlined and enhanced Annual	1. Updated template for Cooperating-Non-Member requests was used by all CNM applicants in 2025 (TCC Working Paper 5 presents the CNM requests for 2026). 2. Prototypes of an Analytical Tool developed in 2023 continued to be used to

		Report to TCC on EHSP SMA TCC21 Required Report 06) ii. CMM 2023-01 Attachment 2 Measure for Philippine traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group in High Seas Pocket 1 (Philippines annual report on activities is provided in SC21-ST-IP04) iii. Notifications related to choice of measures in Overlap Area with IATTC (provided in TCC Information Paper on tropical tuna CMM reporting) 3. Electronic Reporting Standards i. Intersessional Working Group on E-reporting and E-monitoring (ER&EM WG) ii. ER Standards for observer data and logbooks iii. ER Standards for high seas transhipment iv. Annual Report to TCC on performance of E-reporting standards (TCC21 Required Report 09) 4. FAD Management and Monitoring i. FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group (FAD-MO-IWG) ii. CMM 2023-01 paragraphs 13 – 23 has FAD Management Measures applying to tropical purse seine fisheries, reporting requirements and future work iii. Information on additional high seas FAD closure choice and paragraph 13 footnote 1 notifications provided in TCC Information Paper on tropical tuna CMM reporting.	support Secretariat verification and monitoring of Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area and High Seas Pocket Special Management Area 3. Developed streamlined and enhanced paper on other high seas pockets (TCC21 Required Report 6_supplement) In late 2025, work will also be completed to develop a streamlined and enhanced paper on the overlap area between IATTC and WCPFC. 4. The FAD-MO IWG's 2024-2026 workplan placed priority on the following tasks for 2025: a. Satellite Buoy Data Transmission Requirements b. FAD Recovery Programs/Strategies c. FAD Logbook Development d. Biodegradable FADs e. DFAD Deployment Limits

		5. Bigeye longline catch reporting i. Information on additional high seas FAD closure choice and paragraph 13 footnote 1 notifications provided in TCC Information Paper on tropical tuna CMM reporting 6. South Pacific Albacore CMM reporting i. CMM 2015-02 ii. Summary provided in TCC Information Paper on CMM 2015-02 reporting) 7. North Pacific Albacore reporting i. CMM 2019-03 ii. Summary provided in NC21 Working Paper 1 8. North Pacific Swordfish CMM reporting i. CMM 2023-03 ii. Summary provided in NC21 Working Paper 3 9. Pacific Bluefin CMM reporting i. CMM 2024-01 ii. CMM 2024-02 iii. Summary provided in NC21 Working Paper 2 iv. CCM reports on CMM 2024-01 (PBF) and CMM 2024-02 (MCS of PBF) provided as NC21/JWG for PBF 10 delegation papers 10. Shark CMM i. CMM 2024-05 ii. suppl_CMM 2024-05-1 | Guidelines for the safe release of encircled whale sharks	

		iii. suppl_CMM 2024-05-2 | Best handling practices for the safe release of Sharks (other than Whale Sharks and Mantas/Mobulids) iv. Responses in 2025 Annual Report Part 2 on paragraphs 10 and 11 of CMM 2024-05 (TCC Working Paper 23_secure) 11. Capacity Assistance Requests and Capacity Development Plans i. CMM 2013-07 ii. Responses in 2025 Annual Report Part 2 on CMM 2013-07 (Working Paper 12) iii. Updates from AR Pt 2 and CMR reporting are provided in TCC Working Paper 11. iv. Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention webpage v. WCPFC Strategic Investment Plan 2024 vi. CMM 2013-06 12. Crew Labour Standards CMM Reporting i. CMM 2024-02 enters into force 1 January 2028, and preparations for required reporting and adoption of audit points will be needed beforehand.	

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES IN 2025

The Secretariat's work in 2025 continued to be guided by Commission decisions, including those taken at WCPFC21, as well as from WCPFC CMMs and the Convention. The workplans that guide intersessional work, including those of the subsidiary bodies, also provide the necessary guidance and direction for the allocation of Secretariat resources.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Secretariat places a high priority on continuous staff learning and skills development, ensuring that the Commission is strongly supported by a Secretariat that is adaptable, modern, and relevant to the needs of the organization. The Secretariat staff have participated in a range of skills and knowledge training from the use of AI to general administrative and communication skills. Several staff also engaged in basic fisheries management certification through online, self-directed coursework.

All Secretariat staff continue to participate in ongoing cybersecurity awareness training, a necessary requirement for an organization that is operating primarily in a digital environment.

HOST GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Secretariat opened its doors to the public again in 2025 on World Tuna Day (May 2), when it hosted an open house for the local Pohnpei community to visit WCPFC Headquarters and learn about the organization. Preceding Tuna Day, Secretariat staff visited several local schools, elementary and high schools, and delivered short presentations to students to build awareness and understanding of the importance of tuna fisheries in the WCPO, as well as to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). School presentations were well received and will continue as a regular Secretariat activity in future years.

The Secretariat also welcomed visiting students from the Marshall Islands and Japan in 2025, and Secretariat staff developed and delivered presentations to the students about WCPFC's work in the region.

The Commission's Community Outreach budget supported contributions to the Rotary Club scholarships fund, local sports fishing competitions, local sporting events, and an annual national tourism and trade expo. The Secretariat also donated used furniture to the local public library and the Pohnpei State government. The Secretariat's Annex facility was also utilized by several local groups and organizations throughout the year.

OTHER SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

Secretariat staff engaged in the following international activities in 2025:

i. FAO Common Oceans Tuna Project (COTP) – RFMO development of an Ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) Framework
ii. COTP – RFMO Bycatch Management Workshop
iii. The Honiara Summit
iv. Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Regional Information Management System workshop and MCS Working Group

v. United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) 18th Informal Consultation of States Parties (ICSP18) (recorded presentation)
vi. Third United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC3)
vii. 1st and 2nd sessions of the BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Conference
viii. 103rd Regular Session of the IATTC (IATTC103)
ix. Philippines National Tuna Congress
x. Global Tuna Alliance Partners Meeting (recorded presentation)
xi. Tuna Compliance Network and Pan Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network

Further updates relating to the Commission's Headquarters, including Secretariat facilities, will be available in working papers for FAC19.