



**COMMISSION
Twenty-Second Regular Session
1-5 December 2025
Manila, Philippines (Hybrid)**

Provisional Meeting Outcomes and Attachments¹

**WCPFC22-2025-OUTCOMES
16 December 2025**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

PROVISIONAL OUTCOMES

- ATTACHMENT 1:** Terms of Reference for the independent review of implementation of Article 30 and special requirements of developing States
- ATTACHMENT 2:** 2025 Strategic Investment Plan
- ATTACHMENT 3:** VMS Standard Operating Procedures
- ATTACHMENT 4:** Removal of redundant data fields from ROP MSDF
- ATTACHMENT 5:** Updated 2026 ROP-IWG Workplan
- ATTACHMENT 6:** Updated ER & EM IWG Workplan
- ATTACHMENT 7:** Updated South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG Workplan
- ATTACHMENT 8:** HSBI Standardized Multi-Language Questionnaire
- ATTACHMENT 9:** HSBI Voluntary Guide: DNA Sampling
- ATTACHMENT 10:** HSBI Voluntary Guide: Catch Quantification
- ATTACHMENT 11:** HSBI Voluntary Guide: Measuring Tool Calibration
- ATTACHMENT 12:** HSBI Voluntary Guide: Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide
- ATTACHMENT 13:** HSBI Voluntary Guide: Collection and Dissemination of Photographic and Video Evidence
- ATTACHMENT 14:** Port State Measures WG 2026 Workplan
- ATTACHMENT 15:** Terms of Reference for a Joint Working Group between IATTC and WCPFC on South Pacific albacore management (SPAJWG)

¹ All CMMs, workplans, and other documents updated or adopted at WCPFC22 will also be available on the relevant sections of the WCPFC website in early 2026.

- ATTACHMENT 16: Provisional 2026 Workplan for the Joint Working Group between IATTC and WCPFC on South Pacific albacore management (SPAJWG)
- ATTACHMENT 17: CMM 2025-01: Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore Tuna
- ATTACHMENT 18: Terms of Reference for South Pacific Albacore Allocation Workshop
- ATTACHMENT 19: CMM 2025-02: Bigeye, Yellowfin, and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
- ATTACHMENT 20: CMM 2025-03: Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna
- ATTACHMENT 21: Skipjack Monitoring Strategy
- ATTACHMENT 22: PNA+ Guidance on Development of a Bigeye Tuna Management Procedure
- ATTACHMENT 23: Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy
- ATTACHMENT 24: Updated Harvest Strategy Workplan
- ATTACHMENT 25: CMM 2025-04: Application of High Seas FAD Closures and Catch Retention
- ATTACHMENT 26: CMM 2025-05: Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing on Seabirds
- ATTACHMENT 27: CMM 2025-06: Sharks
- ATTACHMENT 28: Final Compliance Monitoring Report for 2025 for RY2024
- ATTACHMENT 29: List of Obligations for Review by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026
- ATTACHMENT 30: Reporting Template for CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07
- ATTACHMENT 31: Adopted Audit Points
- ATTACHMENT 32: CMM 2025-07 on a Conservation and Management Measure on Boarding and Inspection Procedures
- ATTACHMENT 33: WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2026
- ATTACHMENT 34: Adopted 2026 Budget and Indicative Budgets for 2027 and 2028
- ATTACHMENT 35: Indicative schedule of 2026 meetings and workshops on South Pacific albacore and bigeye tuna

PROVISIONAL OUTCOMES

AGENDA ITEM 1.1: Adoption of Agenda

1. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda contained in [WCPFC22-2025-01_Rev02](#).

AGENDA ITEM 3: 2025 Annual Report of the Executive Director

2. The Commission accepted the Report of the Executive Director and acknowledged the extensive work undertaken by CCMs throughout 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Implementation of Article 30 of the WCPF Convention and CMM 2013-07 (Special Requirements of Developing States)

3. The Commission agreed to undertake an independent review of the Commission's implementation of Article 30 of the WCPF Convention and its recognition of the special requirements of developing States in Commission processes. The Terms of Reference for the review are set out in [Attachment 1](#).

AGENDA ITEM 5.1: 2025 Strategic Investment Plan

4. The Commission approved the updated Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for 2025 ([Attachment 2](#)).
5. The Commission requested the Secretariat to take into account input from CCMs in relation to connecting capacity needs and requests with available assistance in future SIPs and other relevant updates.

AGENDA ITEM 5.2: Western Pacific East Asia Project (WPEA)

6. The Commission requested that reporting under the WPEA-SPF project include a clear metric or performance indicator to better track improvements in data coming from the WPEA region to WCPFC.

AGENDA ITEM 6.3: Applications for 2026 Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status

7. The Commission approved Cooperating Non-Member status for eight applicants for 2026: The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam.

AGENDA ITEM 6.3.1: Participatory rights of Cooperating Non-Members

8. The Commission agreed to the following participatory rights for CNMs for 2026:
 - a) **The Bahamas:** The participatory rights of The Bahamas are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
 - b) **Curaçao:** The participatory rights of Curaçao are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
 - c) **Ecuador:** The participatory rights of Ecuador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to

be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2023-01 or its replacement measure.

- d) **El Salvador:** The participatory rights of El Salvador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing only. The total level of effort by purse seine vessels of El Salvador on the high seas shall not exceed 29 days in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2023-01 or its replacement measure.
 - e) **Liberia:** The participatory rights of Liberia are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
 - f) **Panama:** The participatory rights of Panama in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels and one Panamanian purse seiner reflagged from Ecuador operating under CMM 2023-01 and subject to all relevant WCPFC obligations. Panama's participatory rights also apply to vessels that supply food, water, and spare parts to carrier vessels that engage in transshipment activities, provided that these vessels do not engage in activities supporting fishing vessels, including providing and/or servicing FADs.
 - g) **Thailand:** The participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.
 - h) **Vietnam:** The participatory rights of Vietnam in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.
9. In addition to the above participatory rights, the Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam may register "FAD retrieval vessels" that could only be used to retrieve FADs from the water. These vessels should be subject to the following monitoring and reporting requirements:
- a) use of electronic reporting systems to document FAD retrieval,
 - b) submission of logs detailing FAD retrieval activities, including vessel identification, date, and FAD fate or disposal, and the location of activities, and
 - c) 100% observer coverage (human or EM) and VMS tracking to ensure compliance.

WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area

10. In accordance with the decision of WCPFC9 regarding the management of the overlap area of 4°S and 50°S between 130°W and 150°W, vessels flagged to Ecuador, El Salvador, and Panama will be governed by the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.
11. In accordance with the Data Exchange MOU agreed by both Commissions, fishing vessels flying the flag of a member of either the IATTC or WCPFC shall cooperate with the RFMO to which they are not a member by voluntarily providing operational catch and effort data for its fishing activities for highly migratory species in the overlap area.
12. For investigation of possible IUU fishing activities and consistent with international and domestic laws, vessels flying the flag of a CNM that is a Contracting Party to the IATTC will cooperate with those coastal State members of the WCPFC whose EEZs occur in the overlap area by voluntarily providing VMS reports (date, time and position) to those coastal States when operating in the overlap area.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Reports from Subsidiary Bodies**8.1 21st Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC21)**

13. The Commission noted the ongoing work of the Joint Working Group to develop a proposal for a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) measure or resolution for consideration in 2026. The Commission advised the co-Chairs of the Joint Working Group to communicate their work to support the development of an effective CDS that can inform the development of a CDS for other species within the purview of the Commission.
14. The Commission adopted the NC21 Summary Report.
15. The Commission requested the Northern Committee to review and apply the WCPFC Management Advice and Uncertainty Template ([SC21_SA-IP-22](#)), consistent with the ISC25 agreement and the SC21 recommendation, and to incorporate this template as a guideline in its regular reporting of management advice for northern stocks.

8.2 21st Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC21)

16. The Commission:
 - a) endorsed the formation of an informal intersessional working group (led by the U.S.) to review CMM 2018-04 in 2026 and report back to SC22, TCC22, and WCPFC23.
 - b) adopted the proposed modifications to the SciData (outlined in paragraphs 122 and 123 of the SC21 Summary Report) to align with the requirements for reporting cetacean interactions under CMM 2024-07.
 - c) agreed to establish an 8-day meeting schedule as a default for future meetings of the Scientific Committee.
 - d) adopted the proposed standardized data submission templates contained in [WCPFC22-2025-38](#) for SciData submissions.
 - e) adopted the SC21 Summary Report and endorsed the recommendations not covered under other agenda items.
17. The Commission:
 - a) tasked the ROP-IWG to assess and identify potential enhancements needed to improve the accuracy and consistency of observer data on shark species identification and reporting.
 - b) requested SC22 to advise whether the advice from the Committee on stocks whose catches are retained could explicitly address whether the use of a stock is sustainable using the language in the Convention.
 - c) requested SC22 and the SSP to review the current assessment workflow and identify realistic steps to improve efficiency, including earlier engagement with CCMs during assessment development, while maintaining the quality and integrity of scientific advice.

- d) requested the SC Vice-Chair to lead intersessional work to develop options for prioritizing the work of the Scientific Committee for consideration by SC22 and further requested SC22 to report its recommendations on prioritization to WCPFC23.
- e) requested the SC22 to further consider potential modifications to the current SciData submission deadline to a date earlier than 30 April.
- f) tasked the WCPFC Secretariat, Commission and Subsidiary Body Chairs, and SSP to evaluate options for adjusting meeting timetables for consideration by WCPFC23 and its subsidiary bodies in 2026.

8.3 21st Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC21)

- 18. The Commission adopted the updated VMS Standard Operating Procedures (**Attachment 3**).
- 19. The Commission adopted the TCC21 Summary Report and endorsed the recommendations not covered under other agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Reports from Intersessional Working Groups and Processes

9.1 FAD Management Options IWG

- 20. The Commission endorsed the proposed FAD logbook data fields under Annex II, [WCPFC22-2025-10](#), to be reported by vessel operators as a sound basis for implementation, noting the need for ongoing refinement of FAD design and material classifications as additional information becomes available. Related to the FAD logbook, the Commission further requested FADMO-IWG to continue considering approaches to streamline reporting arrangements, including data submission mechanisms, validation, and alignment with other reporting systems.
- 21. The Commission tasked the FADMO-IWG to continue work in 2026 on streamlining reporting arrangements and reducing duplication—including exploring options for direct transmission of satellite buoy data from the PNA to the Secretariat and/or the SSP—and to continue discussions on appropriate timeframes for event-based reporting, with clear options and recommendations to be provided to the Commission in 2026.

9.2 Regional Observer Programme IWG

- 22. The Commission agreed to the removal of specific redundant data fields from the Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF) (**Attachment 4**).
- 23. The Commission endorsed the updated ROP-IWG workplan for 2026 (**Attachment 5**).

9.3 ER and EM IWG

- 24. The Commission endorsed the ER and EM IWG workplan (**Attachment 6**) and requested the IWG prioritize the audit and assurance framework, review EM data requirements not currently covered by the ROP minimum data fields, and refine the SSPs for onboard EM systems and ensure they align with neighboring RFMOs where appropriate. The Commission also tasked the

ER and EM IWG with elaborating a draft CMM for the development of a WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Program in 2026, as appropriate.

9.4 South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG

25. The Commission endorsed the updated South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Intersessional Working Group Workplan 2023-2026 (**Attachment 7**).

9.5 High Seas Boarding and Inspection – Development of Voluntary Guides

26. The Commission adopted a Standardized Multi-Language Questionnaire for HSBI (**Attachment 8**).

27. The Commission adopted the following voluntary guides for HSBI:

- a) HSBI DNA Sampling (**Attachment 9**)
- b) HSBI Catch Quantification (**Attachment 10**)
- c) HSBI Measuring Tool Calibration (**Attachment 11**)
- d) HSBI Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide (**Attachment 12**)
- e) HSBI Collection and Dissemination of Photographic and Video Evidence Guide (**Attachment 13**)

28. The Commission supported the continuation of the HSBI Working Group in 2026 under the leadership of David Power (Australia), to further develop draft Voluntary HSBI Guides and recommendations for the Commission's consideration at WCPFC23.

29. The Commission tasked the HSBI Working Group in 2026 to:

- a) develop a new Voluntary HSBI Guide to support inspection procedures related to the CMM 2024-04 on Crew Labour Standards.
- b) update the HSBI Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide, as needed, to align with the newly adopted seabird CMM 2025-05.
- c) continue refining and improving existing HSBI Voluntary Guides, as needed.

9.6 Port State Measures WG – Review of CMM 2017-02

30. The Commission endorsed the workplan for the PSM-WG for 2026 (**Attachment 14**).
31. The Commission requested that CCMs provide feedback on the suggested potential next steps for the 2026 review process set out in Table 2 of Attachment 14, noting that some feedback was provided at WCPFC22 for incorporation.
32. The Commission invited nominations from CCMs for a co-Chair of the Port State Measures Working Group.

9.7.1 CMM 2017-04 on Marine Pollution

33. The Commission requested that the informal intersessional process led by Canada continue its work on the review of CMM 2017-04 on Marine Pollution during 2026.
34. The Commission further requested interested CCMs and Observers to engage in this work and to develop recommendations and any proposed amendments to CMM 2017-04 for submission to SC22 and TCC22 in 2026, with a view to adopting a revised measure at WCPFC23.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Incorporating Climate Change Considerations into Management and Conservation of WCPO Fisheries and Ecosystems

35. The Commission requested SSP and the Secretariat to explore the development of early warning tools to anticipate climate-driven changes and encouraged CCM support for associated data and resource needs.
36. The Commission noted that the CCVA consultancy had met its terms of reference and provided a sound conceptual framework, while recognizing that full implementation would require substantial additional data and resources. The Commission agreed that climate considerations should be progressively integrated into existing SC, TCC, and Secretariat processes, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.
37. The Commission agreed to continue integrating climate considerations into its scientific and management work, guided by the ongoing ecosystem and climate indicator development and by a pragmatic, phased approach to understanding climate risks consistent with current data and resource constraints.
38. The Commission requested SSP to ensure that future assessments of climate impacts on tuna resources explicitly include the geographic regions of Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Conservation and Management of Tunas and Billfish, Including Development of Harvest Strategies

11.1 South Pacific albacore

11.1.1 Establishment of the WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore tuna management (SPAJWG)

39. The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference for the WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific Albacore (SPAJWG) ([Attachment 15](#)) and endorsed the provisional 2026 Workplan ([Attachment 16](#)).
40. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to work with the IATTC Secretariat to confirm the venue and dates for the first formal hybrid meeting in March 2026 as early as possible, for timely notification to both Commissions.

11.1.3 Adoption of Management Procedure (MP)

41. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-01 on a Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore Tuna (**Attachment 17**).

11.1.4 Adoption of Implementation Arrangements for the MP

42. The Commission agreed to progress an Implementing Measure through the SPA-IWG activities in 2026, taking into account the proposal from FFA members contained in [WCPFC22-2025-02b](#) and noting the need for flexibility in developing implementing arrangements for South Pacific albacore management.
43. The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference for a South Pacific albacore allocation workshop (**Attachment 18**) to be held in New Zealand, tentatively on 7-8 May 2026.

11.2 Issues related to CMM 2023-01 (Conservation and Management of Bigeye, Yellowfin, and Skipjack tunas in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean)

44. The Commission agreed to amend paragraph 53 of CMM 2023-01 so that it will remain in effect until 15 February 2028, and to make corresponding amendments to paragraph 14, paragraph 27, paragraph 29, and paragraph 42 to provide for the one-year extension of CMM 2023-01 and adopted CMM 2025-02, which supersedes CMM 2023-01 (**Attachment 19**).

11.3 Skipjack tuna

45. The Commission agreed to a one-time extension of the current skipjack Management Procedure application period from 3 to 4 years so the Management Procedure would be run in 2027, not 2026, with consequential changes every subsequent three-year period. The Commission agreed to amend the Table in paragraph 8, paragraph 11, and paragraph 12 of CMM 2022-01 to reflect this decision and adopted CMM 2025-03, which supersedes CMM 2022-01 (**Attachment 20**).
46. The Commission endorsed the consolidated updates to the skipjack monitoring strategy (**Attachment 21**).

11.4 Bigeye tuna

47. The Commission agreed that three candidate target reference points (TRP) for bigeye tuna identified at WCPFC21 and based on the 2012–2015 depletion level, shall remain under evaluation as targets, and requested the SSP to continue assessing all three TRP options and provide comparative performance results for the Commission's consideration at WCPFC23.
48. The Commission requested the SSP to include the probability of the stock remaining above MSY as an additional performance indicator and encouraged continued development of climate-related robustness tests.
49. The Commission requested the SSP to develop additional candidate Management Procedures (MPs) that include controls for both the tropical longline and tropical purse seine fisheries. Additionally, the Commission provided the following guidance to the SSP in developing candidate MPs for bigeye tuna:

- a) Use of a three-year management period with a two-year data lag.
- b) Evaluate a range of HCRs controlling the tropical longline and tropical purse seine fleets, at different levels of FAD closure length (from 0 to 3 months) and tropical longline catch and/or effort, that form the basis of a continuum of MPs all tuned to achieve the same TRP.
- c) Evaluate the plausibility of developing additional HCRs through interpolating the outputs of the evaluated HCRs.
- d) Evaluation of HCRs with and without constraints to the outputs between management periods.
- e) Evaluation of the candidate TRPs identified by the Commission at WCPFC21.
- f) Evaluate fixed assumptions on catch outside of the MP control.

When the Commission considers the MSE results, consideration should be given to how to translate and apply MP outputs to the range of existing management measures in place, including the longline catch limits, PNA+ Longline Vessel Day Scheme, and FAD management measures.

50. The Commission noted the importance of and need for a series of dedicated bigeye tuna management workshops (BMWs) to expedite the progress of implementation on the Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2022-03.
51. The Commission agreed to hold a series of BMWs in 2026 focused on the design of the BET management procedure.
52. The Commission agreed that the BMWs would be chaired by the SC Chair.
53. The Commission agreed that the BMWs would be held online, one prior to SC22 and one between SC22 and TCC22, and any additional workshops scheduled as necessary, with dates to be determined by the SC Chair in consultation with the Secretariat and members.
54. The Commission agreed that CCMs will cooperate to develop a management procedure for bigeye tuna during 2026, with a view to adopting a management procedure at WCPFC23.
55. The Commission requested the SSP to conduct sensitivity analyses addressing uncertainties in Indonesian, Philippine, and Vietnamese archipelagic fisheries, including scenarios representing recent levels, recent averages, historical peak catches, and new national management measures.
56. The Commission requested the SSP to evaluate MP performance under fixed assumptions for catches outside the MP's direct control.
57. The Commission acknowledged the guidance ([Attachment 22](#)) from PNA+ on the bigeye MP.

11.5 Yellowfin tuna

58. The Commission acknowledged the sequenced approach to the development of Target Reference Points (TRPs) for bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and the range of factors to consider when developing an effective monitoring strategy for yellowfin that are related to the bigeye management procedure. When evaluating the outcomes for yellowfin tuna within the mixed fishery approach, the Commission supported the sensitivity scenarios outlined by the SSP in [WCPFC22-2025-26 Rev01](#), and to use the same performance indicators as developed for bigeye tuna, which include maximum sustainable yield (MSY) metrics.

11.6 Southwest Pacific swordfish

59. The Commission adopted the *Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy* as a Commission workplan to guide further development of a management procedure for Southwest Pacific Swordfish ([Attachment 23](#)).

11.7 Review and Update Harvest Strategy Workplan

60. The Commission endorsed an updated Harvest Strategy Workplan ([Attachment 24](#)).

11.8 Review of Measures Related to Conservation and Management of Tunas and Billfish*Transshipment (CMM 2009-06)*

61. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to publish and maintain on the Commission's website, a list of vessels engaged in high seas transshipment activities by year, and regularly update it as new information becomes available.

FAD Closure and Catch Retention (CMM 2009-02)

62. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-04 on the Conservation and Management Measure on FAD Closures and Catch Retention ([Attachment 25](#)), which supersedes CMM 2009-02.

AGENDA ITEM 12.	Mitigating Impacts of Fishing on Non-Target and Associated or Dependent Species (NTADS) in the WCPO
------------------------	--

12.1 Review of CMM 2018-03 (Seabirds)

63. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-05 on the Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing on Seabirds, which supersedes CMM 2018-03 ([Attachment 26](#)).

12.3 Review of CMM 2024-05 (Sharks)*Revised CMM 2024-05 Annex 2 shark reporting template*

64. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-06 on Sharks, which supersedes CMM 2024-05 by amending Annex 2 to support CCMs in determining the effectiveness of alternative measures set out in paragraph 9: CCMs describe any instances of non-compliance observed with respect to

paragraphs 7, 8 and 9; and describe the quantity of sharks caught where the CCM applied the alternative measures and the total quantity of sharks taken (**Attachment 27**).

Alternative Measures for Sharks

65. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to compile the information provided by CCMs separately for those CCMs implementing the alternative measures and those CCMs that are implementing a “fins naturally attached” policy with respect to paragraphs 10 and 11 of CMM 2025-06, including the information provided in response to the amended Annex 2.
66. The Commission requested the TCC Chair to include in the annual TCC Heads of Delegation meeting agenda, consideration of whether the compiled report could be released for discussion in open session.
67. The Commission noted that the information in this compilation is non-public domain data and that CCMs could consider whether this information could be released and discussed in open session at TCC.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Compliance Monitoring

Compliance Monitoring Report

68. The Commission adopted the Compliance Monitoring Report covering Reporting Year 2024 (RY2024) (**Attachment 28**).
69. The Commission tasked NC22 to initiate the review of CMM 2019-03 on North Pacific Albacore in 2026, to ensure that compliance with the measure can be assessed and to accurately reflect the management procedure that was adopted for this stock in 2023.

Approach to Aggregate Tables and Subsampling

70. The Commission agreed that, consistent with paragraph 28(ii) of CMM 2023-04 on the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, the aggregate tables will be prepared using the year-specific percent sampling methodology, and that TCC will review these aggregate tables in conjunction with the Compliance Monitoring Review process to facilitate discussion of any relevant issues identified by CCMs.
71. The Commission further agreed that, consistent with previous practice, the outcome of the review of aggregate tables will not be linked to the application of a compliance status.

List of obligations for review by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026

72. The Commission adopted the list of obligations to be reviewed in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026, covering Reporting Year 2025 (RY2025) (**Attachment 29**).
73. The Commission agreed that, for any obligation with an Audit Point “under review”, the existing adopted Audit Point will be used to assess compliance in 2026 for activities undertaken in 2025.

Draft Reporting Template for CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07

74. The Commission adopted the Reporting Template for CMM 2013-06 on the *Criteria for the Consideration of Conservation and Management Proposals* and CMM 2013-07 on the *Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories*, for use by CCMs in 2026 (**Attachment 30**).

New and Amended Draft Audit Points

75. The Commission adopted new and amended Audit Points (**Attachment 31**) for application in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026.
76. The Commission agreed that further work on the remaining Audit Points will be undertaken during 2026.

Amendment to the HSBI CMM 2006-08

77. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-07 on a Conservation and Management Measure on Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures (**Attachment 32**), which supersedes CMM 2006-08.

TCC workplan

78. The Commission agreed the TCC Workplan for 2025–2027 would be revised and circulated by the TCC Chair to CCMs in early 2026 once all relevant decisions of WCPFC22 had been included.

AGENDA ITEM 14. Adoption of 2026 IUU Vessel List

79. The Commission adopted the WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2026, and agreed that the four fishing vessels NEPTUNE, FU LIEN No.1, YU FONG 168, and KUDA LAUT 03 will remain on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2026 (**Attachment 33**).

AGENDA ITEM 15. Report of the 19th Finance and Administration Committee

80. The Commission adopted the Report of the 19th Finance and Administration Committee, which includes the 2026 Budget and Indicative Budgets for 2027 and 2028 (**Attachment 34**).

AGENDA ITEM 16. Cooperation with Other Organizations and International Ocean Governance Issues

81. The Commission tasked the Secretariat with maintaining engagement with relevant international ocean conservation initiatives and to report back to the Commission on a regular basis on international ocean-related developments that may impact WCPFC and its activities.

AGENDA ITEM 17. Administrative Matters

82. The Commission made the following appointments to Commission positions commencing after the end of WCPFC22 (6 December 2025):
- a) Ms. Emily Crigler (USA) as Chair of the Scientific Committee.

- b) Mr. Rohan Curry (AU) as Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee.
 - c) Mr. Ilkang Na (KR) as Chair of the Technical and Compliance Committee.
 - d) Ms. Glenda Barry (PNG) as Vice Chair of the Technical and Compliance Committee.
 - e) Ms. Putuh Suadela (Indonesia) as co-Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.
 - f) Ms. Liman Helgenberger (FSM) as co-Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.
 - g) Ms. Lesley Hawn (USA) as Chair of the ER and EM Intersessional Working Group.
83. The Commission noted that the nomination of Mr. Mat Kertesz (Australia) for co-Chair of the WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore (SPAJWG) will be confirmed intersessionally by Australia.
84. The Commission invited nominations for Vice Chair of the Northern Committee and co-Chair of the Port State measures intersessional review to be made intersessionally in 2026.
85. The Commission agreed on the following meeting venues and dates for 2026:
- a) 22nd Northern Committee, including the 11th PBFJWG (8-14 July 2026, Nagasaki, Japan)
 - b) 22nd Scientific Committee (11-19 August 2026, Apia, Samoa)
 - c) 22nd Technical and Compliance Committee (23-29 September 2026, Pohnpei, FSM)
 - d) 20th Finance and Administration Committee (29 November to 4 December 2026, [TBD])
 - e) 23rd Regular Session of the Commission (30 November to 4 December 2026, [TBD])
86. The Commission agreed on tentative meeting dates and venues, including meetings to be held virtually, for the South Pacific albacore Implementing Measure Workshops and Bigeye Tuna Management Workshops (**Attachment 35**). Confirmed dates will be notified in due course.



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ARTICLE 30 IMPLEMENTATION

Objective: Review of the Commission’s recognition of the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories enshrined in Article 30 of the WCPF Convention and related WCPFC instruments, activities and processes.

Scope of Review: The Review shall be conducted by a Panel and assess how the Commission implements Article 30 of the WCPF Convention. It shall review all current and past activities, instruments and processes that the WCPFC and CCMs, have developed and implemented to recognise the special requirements of developing States, with a particular focus on the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories. The panel shall also engage with relevant regional or subregional organisations for the purpose of reviewing activities delivered by these organisations, relating to the implementation of Article 30, such as FFA and SPC.

Deliverables: The Panel shall prepare a report that responds to the prescribed outputs, including providing targeted recommendations for the enhancement of the Commission’s implementation of Article 30 requirements. In conducting the Review, the Panel shall consult with, at least, the WCPFC Secretariat, CCMs (both developing and developed CCMs), WCPFC observers (past and present) and regional organisations or partners that support developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories CCMs in the WCPFC.

The panel is expected to travel to TCC22 and/or WCPFC23, if necessary, to gather information and consult with CCMs.

Outputs:

- a) A chronological history of the Commission’s implementation of Article 30, taking into account WCPFC22-2023-WP03, WCPFC-2025-WP32 and WCPFC22-2025-IP01, including:
 - i. how it has been operationalised through CMMs, Commission decisions, tools, processes and activities;
 - ii. what the Commission and CCMs have done to date to support the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories.
- b) Analysis of how Article 30, CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07 is reflected in the Commission’s work (aligned to its mandate and the Convention);
- c) Analysis of the specific ways the Commission has institutionally and operationally ensured that conservation management measures do not result in transferring,

- directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories;
- d) analysis of methodologies for the evaluation of disproportional burden of conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories;
 - e) Analysis of CCMs understanding of, and contributions to, Article 30;
 - f) Analysis of the effectiveness of WCPFC mechanisms that provides the articulation of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories needs;
 - g) Analysis of the effectiveness of WCPFC and CCMs mechanisms and activities in addressing developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories. needs under Article 30;
 - h) Identification of gaps, weaknesses and strengths to the Commission's implementation of Article 30; and
 - i) Recommendations for how the Commission can enhance its implementation of Article 30 requirements and associated CMMs; and
 - j) Provide any additional observations or recommendations relevant to Article 30.

Composition of Review Panel

The Review Panel shall comprise 3 independent experts, one of whom will be assigned the role of Chair. Panel representatives shall have a detailed understanding of, and direct experience working on:

- a) developing State interests and the implementation of measures to avoid or mitigate disproportionate burden of fisheries conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories.
- b) WCPFC processes and conservation and management measures.
- c) International cooperation and development aid

At least one panel representative shall have significant knowledge and experience working on developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories requirements and an understanding of the unique operational dynamics and governance structures within the territories.

The Review Panel shall be established by the WCPFC Executive Director, in consultation with CCMs, based on a call for expression of interest and taking into account the availability of any candidates, a balance of experiences which would be relevant to the review and any other relevant criteria.

This review will have a budget of USD 120,000.

Timeframe: The review will commence in 2026 with the final report to be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 June 2027.

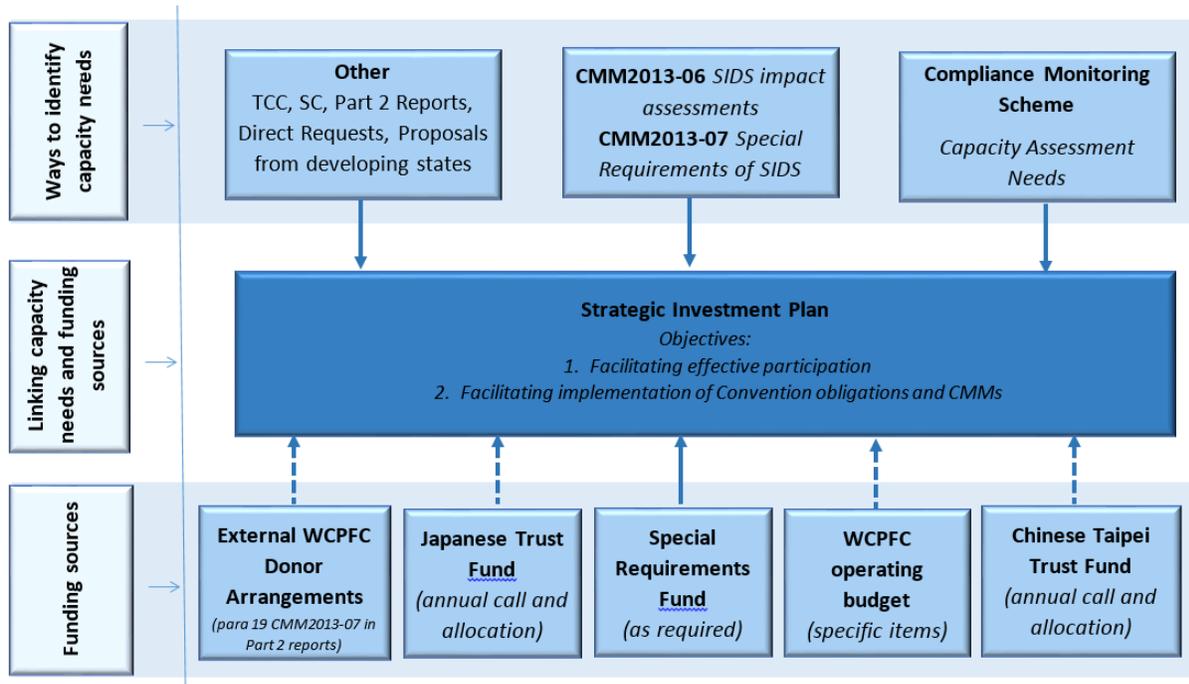
The Panel will submit this report to SC23 and TCC23 for any comments or recommendations, before being considered by WCPFC24.



2025 Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14th meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.
2. The purpose of the Strategic Investment Plan is to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies as outlined in the following diagram:



Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:
- effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
 - development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above. The WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to CCMs when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission in fulfilling the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention¹.

Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Needs areas were recommended by TCC21 in the Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2024 activities:

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
Indonesia Scientific data provision (SciData03) RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 26 Sep 2017 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: within 3 years</i>	Indonesia reported significant challenges which hindered their ability to gather and complete the necessary operational data. The expected timeframe for meeting this capacity assistance need was 2027. However, Indonesia noted that there may still be challenges in providing 100% of data to SSP (SPC-OFP). TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia’s capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Indonesia Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 26 Sep 2017	Indonesia reported that effort was being put into resolving the issue of meeting the shark catch reporting requirements. Additional assistance is needed to improve data collection, including through the holding of a further WPEA

¹ Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
<p>whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3) RP</p> <p>Indonesia Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3) RP</p>	<p><i>Anticipated CDP end date: within 3 years</i></p>	<p>workshop with SSP (SPC-OFP). TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia’s capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Fiji Implementation of requirements to ensure that fishing vessels comply with Commission standards including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet WCPFC VMS requirements (CMM 2014-02 9a) IM</p> <p>Reporting of required ALC/MTU data in accordance with WCPFC VMS requirements (CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8) RP</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i></p>	<p>Fiji reported that it had faced turnover in VMS officers. It had been able to train the VMS officers, but Fiji still needed the Secretariat’s assistance in working through operationalizing the CMM in development of the SOPs. This would take place over the next nine (9) months. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Fiji’s capacity assistance needs in Fiji’s CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Indonesia 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33) IM</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 9 Oct 2021 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: March 2025</i></p>	<p>Indonesia reported that observer coverage is lower than last year because of budgetary constraints. It was still planning to reach 100% coverage and was working with industry on cost sharing arrangements, but this work was ongoing. Indonesia hoped to be in a position to have 100% coverage in 2027. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia’s capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Philippines 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024)</p>	<p>The Philippines reported that it had hired more observers and were currently at 85% observer coverage (up from 60% in the year before). The Philippines was seeking additional funds to reach 100%</p>

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
(CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33) IM	<p>CDP 10 Sept 2019 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: November 2023</i></p> <p>CDP 27 Sept 2025 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: by 2028</i></p>	<p>observer coverage. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Philippine’s capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
Vanuatu Report in regard to their implementation of the requirement to achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission RP	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP 26 Sept 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: by 2026</i></p>	<p>Vanuatu reported that there is information on the minimum observer coverage, but additional legislative work is needed to ensure that this requirement is met in the longer term. TCC21 maintained the CAN status, but noted that further information may be provided prior to WCPFC22 as to whether Vanuatu’s capacity assistance needs in their CDP had been met.</p>
Fiji Report in regard to submission by a Member to WCPFC of a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel RP	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i></p>	<p>Fiji reported that it met the FISHED/DID NOT FISH reporting obligation, however Fiji needed ongoing assistance in order to develop specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and reporting requirements to ensure that they met this obligation on an ongoing basis. Fiji withdrew its CAN request and CDP as it had met the obligation, but indicated that it would still require the assistance of the Secretariat and FFA Secretariat to ensure that it would continue to meet this obligation into the future.</p>

- Some targeted assistance was identified to assist SIDS and other CCMs in implementing specific obligations during the 2025 dCMR process. These are identified in the table and information set out below.

Obligation	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed
<u>CMM 2011-03 01</u> <i>Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set</i> <i>IM</i>	Indonesia	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2024) CDP 24 Sept 2025
<u>CMM 2023-01 30</u> <i>Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S)</i> <i>IM</i>	Solomon Islands	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2024) CDP 24 Sept 2025

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

- The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY 2024 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2025. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY 2018 and are continuing in RY 2024 (#).

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 Paras 01-03 General Provisions	<p>FSM is a SIDS country. However, FSM continues to assist other fellow SIDS through collaboration within the PNA, FFA and other bilateral arrangements. FSM is also a recipient of assistance from non-SIDS within the WCPFC membership.</p> <p>Indonesia Indonesia's involvement in the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) partnership was officially announced at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from September 1 to 4, 2014, in Apia, Samoa. As a committed partner, Indonesia has actively participated in several multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives aimed at supporting SIDS. Notably, Indonesia has been instrumental in the Coral Triangle Initiative, which is operational in several SIDS, including Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This collaboration underscores Indonesia's dedication to fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation in small island nations.</p> <p>For further details on these initiatives, you can visit the following links: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219 http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238</p> <p>In mid-2020, Indonesia strongly advocated for the mobilization of adequate resources and support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during a high-level discussion. The discussion focused on mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action, and exploring new pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway for SIDS. Indonesia's call underscores its commitment to supporting the sustainable development and resilience of small island nations, highlighting the need for global cooperation to</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	<p>address the unique challenges faced by SIDS.</p> <p>Indonesia unequivocally reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the sustainable development and advancement of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the 4th SIDS Conference on May 28th, 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by these nations and enhancing partnerships based on mutual interests, Indonesia aims to foster significant progress and shared prosperity.</p> <p>Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries that depend much on assistance from regional and sub-regional agencies such as WCPFC, FFA and PNA including donor partners.</p> <p>Niue: Capacity building needs for reporting requirements.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna islands tuna development plan for the next 5 years is targeting a single middle-size longliner for the domestic market. So as to inform a more robust viability analysis, a short experimental tuna fishing campaign is expected to be implemented in the short term. However, the search for a partner in the region to implement it has not been successful so far: 2 companies have been reached out for a time charter arrangement but both offered chartering conditions that were considered too risky if not unaffordable. One of them has dismissed a proposal for a fishing license including requirement to offload in Wallis and commitment from local authorities to contract a buyer for the fish with an agreed price. In that context, assistance needs from CCMs and regional organisations (SPC and WCPFC) for capacity building relate to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helping design terms of reference for the chartering arrangement - helping find a company who would make a vessel and skilled crew available for 3 months within affordable day fee - providing observer(s) to cover one trip out of 2 or 3
<p>CMM 2013-07</p> <p>Paras 04-05</p> <p>Capacity development for personnel</p>	<p>FSM is a small island developing state and a recipient of such assistances. FSM has received capacity development assistance provided through regional, sub-regional programs and collaboration with other SIDS.</p> <p>Fiji did make a submission in 2024 where Fiji needs training and attachments in the following areas: 1. WCPFC MCS data analysis; 2. Training on Commission VMS; 3. CMR. The implementation of this training is still ongoing and will be reported under 2025 Part 2 Report.</p> <p>Indonesia <i>(as per above response for 01-03)</i></p> <p>New Caledonia is a territory and has not required any assistance in this category in 2024. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2024.</p> <p>Vanuatu VU is anticipating and welcome more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirements.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna No capacity building assistance requested and thus received in the past few years from CCMs. One contract staff in charge of Fisheries Observatory has attended SPC's Tuna Data Workshop in 2024 and 2025. The lack of permanent staff hinders the dept's capacity to build on training opportunities.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	<p>Assistance needs relate to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fisheries dept: data collection, refreshment on WCPFC requirements, processes and current work - fisheries sector: early career captain capacity building for longline (through boardings as chief mates on well-performing vessels in the region)
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 06-07 Assistance with technology transfers</p>	<p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Nauru is a SIDS and supports the transferring of fisheries technology to accelerate the social and economic development of SIDS/T</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS - VU welcome assistance relating to fisheries science and technology through ePSM , EMS, ER and with the aim to improve all e systems into development of VU. - Anticipating more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirement</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 08-09 Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</p>	<p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries depending on assistance from non-SIDS countries.</p> <p>Tonga one of the SIDs countries although our current national capacity does not provide Tonga the ability to assist capacity development of other SIDs. Tonga is the recipient of capacity development assistance.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna (as per above response for 01-03, and 04-05)</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 10-11 Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance</p>	<p>FSM participation in regional/sub-regional fora on MCS. FSM participated in joint cooperation efforts amongst the FFA membership in maritime surveillance in 2024. FSM's participation in implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring, CDS, EM/ER, PSM, FAD tracking and sharing MCS data when necessary.</p> <p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati is a SIDS and requires support and assistance in both aerial and surface patrols.</p> <p>Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance.</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS - VU actively participated in numerous regional operations on surveillance and monitoring, both assets and personnel as required by mandate of such engagements. This include MCS operations coordinated by the FFA RFSC. - Seeking further capacity assistance in this area to ensure its personnel and line agencies respond and operate more efficiently whenever needed.</p> <p>Wallis and Futun: SPC (S. HARE, 2019) conducted an assessment of IUU fishing potential risk in the EEZ, based on a backward analysis of VMS and AIS logs over 2014-2018. Though it concluded that no UNN fishing have taken place over the period, a lot of people keep on thinking that the EEZ is illegally harvested and that it explains the scarcity of tuna nearshore and offshore. Assistance from other CCMs would pertain to :</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	<p>- cooperation to ensure no vessel nears or enters WF EEZ without VMS on, to experiment and implement new technologies for real-time surveillance, like cross-checking detection of radar signals by satellite and VMS tracking</p> <p>- investigations on whether tuna resources are declining faster than around and what are the factors responsible for that.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 12-18 Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access</p>	<p>FSM FSM's Involvement in PNA marketing initiative most specifically the MSC development to broaden the marketing value in FSM's fishing industry. In addition to improving the market value, FSM receives regional and sub-regional assistance in MCS capacity building to meet certification requirement that will allow fishing stocks to be market to high valued vendors. Assistance in implementing port state measure minimum standards aims to achieve these marketing objectives. This is an ongoing work.</p> <p>Fiji has a 100% domestic tuna sector. As part of Fiji's 2024 support towards the tuna sector, Government allocation remained at 90,000 USD to support markets access for MSC certification. Additionally, to boost and streamline fish processing, Fiji has begun work to digitalize vessel arrivals via Electronic Port State Measures (EPSM) and catch verification via Catch Accountancy System (CAS) to support catch verification process and market demands. There is also a assessment and review of internal processors to ensure that appropriate activities are developed to support Fiji's domestic industry.</p> <p>Indonesia <i>(as per above response for 01-03)</i></p> <p>RMI No additional assistance required at this time however, the RMI may seek further assistance with onshore developments and market access requirements.</p> <p>Palau Palau is a SIDS and supports this CMM, and may seek assistance in the future.</p> <p>Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance.</p> <p>Tonga is one of the SIDs countries and therefore this obligation is not applicable. To support the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries businesses and market access, Tonga implemented it under the Fisheries Management Act 2002, Section 7, Sub-section 36, Fishing Vessels License Term and Condition, Fishing Agreement and Access Agreement with the Fishing Company and Tuna Fisheries Management Plan. Ministry of Fisheries established a Development Scheme for the Fisheries Sector to improve the business climate and reduce the cost of doing business a Fishing Consumer Tax Exemption was approved in June 2013 exempting imported fishing gear, bait, and essential supplies from customs tariffs. In 2013 the operation of the Tu'imatamoana fish market and Processing Facilities was transferred under an MOU to the National Fisheries Committee (Fishing Industries Committee). In addition, the Ministry of Fisheries established a Soft Loan Scheme known Fisheries Development and Export Fund (FDEF) to support the sector market Access. Not only that but the Ministry assisted the Fishing Companies in developing and improving their business planning and management, and offered a comprehensive training and capacity development program. In 2020, Tonga ratified the PACER Plus Agreement is a Regional Development-Centre Trade Agreement</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	<p>designed to support Tonga in regional and Global Trade. Tonga exports fish to international markets (Australia, NZ, USA, Fiji, Pangopango, Hawaii, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore). The compliance Division inspects 100% of every export before handing the Export Permit to the companies, and entry the export data into the system and reports every quarter.</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS. - Capacity assistance required for development of the National CDS plan .VU definitely needs capacity assistance for both domestic and international markets. CCM sees the importance in having such assistance as it will boost domestic and international market standards as well.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna (<i>as per above response for 01-03, and 04-05</i>)</p>

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

8. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.

9. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at Attachment 1. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.

10. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

Title: Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
Obligation: Article 30
<p>Capacity Building Assistance Needed:</p> <p>Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and • in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget). <p>It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member, including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests.</p> <p>Parameters around accessing the program will include:</p>

- limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget

Timeframe: Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program

Cost: up to USD300,000 annually

FAC18 agreed to recommend that the following edits are made to the Financial Regulations:

3.5 The draft budget shall include an item specifying the costs required to finance the travel and subsistence for ~~one~~ two representatives from each developing State Party to the Convention and, where appropriate, territories and possessions, to each meeting of the Commission and to meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

Removal of Financial Regulation 7.8

~~7.8 Financial Regulation 7.5 and 7.7 on the application process and reporting requirements, respectively, shall be waived for:~~

~~a) one traveler from each small island developing States and Participating Territories delegation to meetings of the Annual Session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; and~~

~~b) the travel for the Chairs of SC, TCC, FAC Co-Chair and the WCPFC Vice Chair from SIDS to the Annual Session.~~

FAC18 also agreed to recommend that for 2025 contributions for the additional \$46,090 would be split between non-SIDS on a proportional basis, and that this would be agreed for one year, with a future tasking to review the \$46,090 offset applied to non-SIDS next year.

This was subsequently adopted by the Commission at WCPFC21.

Capacity assistance delivered by FFA/SPC that were funded through the Regional Capacity Building Workshop budget item in the WCPFC core budget

11. Each year since 2015, the Commission has included under Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme an annual budget line for Regional Capacity Building Workshops which FFA/SPC are to advise on the activities to be supported. The following are the activities that have been funded annually:

2016: WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers	To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: \$126,268
2017: WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers	To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: \$55,000
2017: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$75,000
2018: WCPFC support towards FFA capacity building workshops	Two regional workshops were held (April and November) on allocation processes. Several opportunities were taken during the year to engage members on the development of a regional longline strategy with a dedicated workshop held in November. A dedicated workshop to discuss the south Pacific albacore target reference point, and development of the roadmap was held in November.	Cost: \$72,558
2018: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$57,442
2019: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna	Cost: \$71,625

	monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	
2021: WCPFC support to sea safety training for selected observers from several FFA member's national observer programmes (NOPs).	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for the FFA Members' national observer programmes to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: \$223,374
2022: Observer sea safety training project proposal for WCPFC Regional Capacity Building Workshops Funding	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for Nauru's national fisheries observer programme to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: \$124,887
2023: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$108,640
2023: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC20	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC20 meeting.	Cost: \$21,360
2024: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$93,816
2024: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC21	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC21 meeting.	Cost: \$36,184
2025: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$82,517
2025: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC21	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC21 meeting.	Cost: TBC

ATTACHMENT 1

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US, the SRF and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transshipment	11	All donors

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

Donor/program	Eligible Recipients
Australia: various programs	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	PACP countries and Pacific regional
FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Common Oceans Tuna project 2022 - 2027)	WCPFC, FFA, SPC
FFA: various programs	Pacific island FFA members
GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
New Zealand: various programs	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
US: various programs	All WCPFC members



Commission VMS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

1. Version notes

Version	WCPFC decision reference	Description of updates	Effective date
1.0	WCPFC6	<i>Approved by the Commission, as per requirement of VMS SSPs section 6.9</i>	<i>Feb 19 2010</i>
2.0	WCPFC15	<i>Updates made to include versioning and to streamline and improve the focus of the SOPs and better reflect current Secretariat practices including reference to the present VMS service provider/s</i>	<i>Feb 13 2019</i>
3.0	WCPFC18	<i>Updates made to provide details on recent and ongoing Secretariat software upgrades to improve capacity to monitor manual reports and monitor / address MTU non-reporting. Also clarifies procedures for activating MTUs and specific gateways, and current procedures for MTU testing (including new MTU testing checklist) prior to Commission decisions on approval or de-listing.</i>	<i>Feb 08 2022</i>
4.0	WCPFC21	<i>Updates to reflect technological updates, processes and enhancements to address current VMS data gaps or procedural issues. Also includes edits to Annex B agreed at TCC20 and adopted at WCPFC21.</i>	<i>Feb 01 2025</i>
5.0	WCPFC22	<i>Updates to reflect process updates and enhancements to address current VMS data gaps or procedural issues.</i>	<i>Feb 01 2026</i>

2. Overview

The WCPFC operates a Vessel Monitoring System (Commission VMS) to assist in the management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

In December 2008, a Service Level Agreement (SLA) was formalized with FFA for the provision of the WCPFC VMS services. The contracted system that provides VMS information to the FFA VMS and the

WCPFC VMS systems is referred to as the “Pacific VMS”. The WCPFC VMS came into operation on April 1, 2009.

The approved structure of the WCPFC VMS allows vessels to report to the WCPFC through two ways: i) directly to the WCPFC VMS, or ii) to the WCPFC through the FFA VMS. In respect of the latter, it is recognized that there may be additional requirements for VMS reporting which arise from FFA requirements and national VMS requirements that are relevant.

The WCPFC currently has more than 3,000 WCPFC vessels on the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV)¹ that report to the WCPFC VMS through the Pacific VMS. In addition, the WCPFC VMS receives, through the SLA with FFA, high seas VMS information relating to FFA-registered vessels.

The Commission VMS requires the use of Mobile Transceiver Units (MTUs)/Automatic Location Communicators (ALCs) that are on the Commission’s approved list of MTU/ALC². This list is based on the Secretariat’s assessments of ALCs against minimum standards for the Commission VMS. These standards are set out in Annex 1 of [CMM 2014-02](#) (or its successor measure) and [WCPFC SSPs](#). In particular, the Secretariat provides a recommendation about whether the make and model of an ALC has the capability to successfully report to the Commission VMS.

2.1 Purpose of these Standard Operating Procedures

These standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been developed to provide uniform guidance for Commission personnel in the management and operation of the Commission VMS.

2.2 Specific Commission Decisions and Guidelines governing the Commission VMS and access to VMS data

- a) Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission ([2007 Data RaP](#)) – December 2007;
- b) Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FFA for the provision of the WCPFC VMS services – December 2008 (WCPFC VMS came into operation on April 1, 2009);
- c) 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 Purposes. ([Rules and Procedures for Protection Access to and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data 2009](#)) – December 2009;
- d) WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures ([VMS SSPs](#)) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2021 (or its update);
- e) WCPFC Agreed Statement describing Purpose and Principles of the WCPFC VMS – December 2011 ([suppl. CMM 2014-02-1](#));

¹ **The Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) is hosted at <https://vessels.wcpfc.int/>**

² The terms “ALC”, “MTU”, “ALC/MTU”, and “MTU/ALC” are used interchangeably in this document.

- f) WCPFC9 decision regarding application of Commission VMS to national waters of Members (WCPFC9 Summary Report paragraph 238) – December 2012 ([suppl_CMM 2014-02-3](#));
- g) Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission VMS – [CMM 2014-02](#) (or its replacement CMM) – December 2014;
- h) WCPFC VMS Reporting Requirement Guidelines – May 2018 (or its update) ([VMS Reporting Requirements Guidelines](#)); and
- i) The last update of the list of approved MTU/ALCs ([MTU/ALC Type Approval List - 6 Feb 2024](#)).

2.3 General Information Security Policy and Administrative Procedures for the Secretariat

The WCPFC Secretariat's Information Security Policies and Guidelines, as well as Administrative Procedures apply to the administration of and access to the Commission VMS.

2.4 Update of these SOPs

VMS SSPs 6.9 states: *"A set of Standard Operating Procedures, elaborated by the Secretariat, and subject to approval by the Commission on the recommendation of the TCC, will be developed to deal with all operational anomalies of the VMS, such as interruption of position reports, downloading of DNIDs and their equivalent and responding to reports providing incoherent data (e.g. vessel on land, excessive speed, etc.)."*

3. VMS Software Applications

3.1 Trackwell

The Trackwell VMS user interface is implemented as a suite of web modules selectable from the main menu.

The main modules are:

- a) Monitoring – Secretariat and CCM VMS operator's main view;
- b) Vessel – the vessel registry database synchronized with the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV)
- c) Events and Actions – used to define the events to be monitored and the actions to be taken when an event occurs;
- d) Reports – provide a list of pre-programmed reports for Secretariat and CCM VMS operators eg. A count of position reports per day by area per month or a date range;
- e) Live Map – An interactive map display showing vessels' position and zones in near real-time; and
- f) Map history - this module contains tools to display historical trails of one or more vessels in a graphical map interface. The user can then define a date and time range to see the trail history of the selected vessels.

The Monitoring View is the operator’s main view. All important events and alerts handled by the system are listed in this view as issues. An operator can select an “Issue” to work on or record actions taken in relation to the selected issue until it is closed.

3.2 Software to Automate Integration of Manual Position Reports into the Commission VMS

Vessels are expected to report their positions automatically. The Secretariat had set up a mailbox arrangement with TrackWell to facilitate automatic integration of VMS manual reports based on the common North Atlantic Format (NAF). This mailbox has been phased out since April 2025 and is no longer available. VMS manual reports are now submitted by CCMs by direct upload to the Commission VMS. Correctly formatted data received are automatically integrated into the Commission VMS. These positions are clearly identifiable as manually generated reports (e-MAN) and can be distinguished from non-manually generated VMS positions.³

3.3 VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)

Since 2020, through the development of the VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST), the Secretariat provides a fully automated report for each CCM to review, in more detail, the reporting status for all their vessels. The reporting status provides a daily snapshot of whether⁴ each vessel on the RFV is meeting its Commission VMS requirements, including whether each vessel is reporting directly to WCPFC VMS. These requirements are met by direct reporting to the Commission VMS or through reporting via the FFA VMS (based on FFA Good Standing List). For any vessel not reporting, the daily snapshot should assist to indicate whether WCPFC has completed the necessary steps to activate its MTU to report to the Commission VMS, and if so, the VRST provides a generic current vessel status (e.g., “OK” or “STOP”) for each of their vessels and a daily VMS-reporting status (how many position reports are transmitted by each vessel each day for the past 31 days)⁵. The data can be exported to a file in CSV format for each report.

The VRST was enhanced in 2021 giving flag CCMs the ability to update VRST data to inform the status for their non-reporting vessels. An additional enhancement in 2025 allows VMS manual reports to be submitted online by CCMs using the Upload Manual Positions facility in the VRST.

3.4 Software for online registration of MTUs and reporting of MTU/ALC Audits

Since 2023, through the development of the upgraded Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) online system, the Secretariat has provided CCMs with an online facility that facilitates the submission of necessary vessel tracking data for each fishing vessel required to report directly to the Commission VMS. The RFV allows each flag CCM to update their registration of MTUs, track progress of their MTU Activations/Deactivations, and provides an alert when MTU Activation has failed. This same web portal is also used for CCM data entry, review, and reporting of MTU Audit Inspection results.

³ See further details in section 3.3 and 4.5 below.

⁴ Based on available data and information.

⁵ That VRST’s display of CCMs’ most recent month’s vessel-level VMS-reporting status does not impose any additional monitoring obligations on flag CCMs or the Secretariat.

4. Operational Procedures

This section contains ten (10) subsections:

- a) Access to WCPFC VMS Tools
- b) Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs;
- c) MTU/ALC Activation Procedure for WCPFC VMS;
- d) VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST);
- e) Manual Position Reporting;
- f) Routine Reports from the Secretariat on VMS reporting anomalies and WCPFC VMS;
- g) Secretariat processes to identify and follow-up on VMS reporting issues;
- h) Proposals for Inclusion of Additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MLC/ALC List;
- i) Removal of ALC/MTU from the Approved ALC/MTU List; and
- j) Commission VMS Helpdesk.

4.1 Access to WCPFC VMS Tools

Since late 2023, the Secretariat has provided a Single-Sign-On (SSO) facility to WCPFC's online systems, which includes WCPFC's Trackwell VMS. Access to WCPFC VMS related systems is visible and managed by Party Administrators who may grant permissions to users through assigning one of the following roles: VMS Viewer or VMS Editor. More information on managing roles can be found in the Party Administrator Guide on the [WCPFC Support Helpdesk](#).

4.2 Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs

The flag CCM **submits** all necessary data to complete its data file in WCPFC's database, in respect of all vessels authorized to operate in the WCPFC Convention area. In accordance with the VMS SSPs, this data will include the name of the vessel, unique vessel identification number (UVI) [* if and when adopted by the Commission], radio call sign, length, gross registered tonnage, power of engine expressed in kilowatts/horsepower, types of fishing gear(s) used as well as the make, model, unique network identifier (user ID) and equipment identifier (manufacturer's serial number) of the ALC that vessel will be using to fulfil its Commission VMS reporting requirements.

To facilitate the submission of necessary vessel tracking data for each fishing vessel required to report directly to the Commission, the Secretariat has introduced online registration of MTUs through the upgraded RFV. Vessel tracking data for vessels already reporting to FFA VMS will not be activated and may not need to be provided but if submitted, can be filed in case the vessel needs to have the ALC activated to report to WCPFC VMS system (should the vessel no longer report to the FFA VMS system).

When an MTU Update request has been submitted by a flag CCM, the Secretariat will proceed with activation/deactivation procedures in Section 4.3.

4.3 MTU/ALC Activation Procedure for WCPFC VMS

Vessels not listed on the FFA Good Standing List will be activated to report directly to WCPFC VMS once information required under Paragraph 2.9 of the Commission VMS SSPs is provided in full.

The online registration of MTUs through the RFV online system ensures that the following details are provided for all MTU activation requests:

1. Vessel Name
2. Reg No
3. IRCS
4. Vessel Type
5. Flag
6. Approved MTU Type
7. Equipment ID
8. Network ID

WCPFC VMS has gateways for the following services:

- a) Faria Watchdog
- b) Halios – CLS MTUs using the Iridium service
- c) Inmarsat BGAN – for iFleetONE MTUs
- d) Inmarsat C and D+
- e) Iridium – for insight X2 EMTU (Nautic Alert)
- f) Iridium (mini LEO) - for BB3 & BB5 MTUs (SASCO)
- g) Iridium SBD – for iTrac II (MetOcean Telematics) and RomTrax Wifi (Rom Communications)
- h) ORBCOMM – currently operational for Australian vessels using IDP-690
- i) PTSOG Chinese Taipei
- j) SkyMate
- k) SRT VMS 100Si

The Secretariat will follow the activation procedure that is specific to the gateway for the MTU/ALC (see Notes on Secretariat Process for each Gateway in Annex A).

1. If activation was successful, the Secretariat will update the status of the MTU Update request in RFV online system to show that the MTU is Active.⁶
2. If a deactivation request was successful, the Secretariat will update the status of the MTU Update request in RFV online system to show that the MTU is Inactive.⁷
3. If activation was not successful, the Secretariat will update the status of the MTU Update request in RFV online system to show that Activation Failed. The Secretariat will also request the CCM official to check the vessel's MTU/ALC, rectify any anomalies with the MTU/ALC or VTAF data and to resubmit the MTU Update Request. If the MTU/ALC activation fails on the second attempt, the Secretariat will notify the CCM and draw to the CCM's attention that vessel position reports shall be provided by the vessel on a manual basis, as required by the Commission VMS SSPs.

4.4 VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)

The VRST provides the authorized CCM contact with a daily snapshot of whether each CCM vessel on the RFV is meeting its Commission VMS requirements. The VRST is updated each day at 1am UTC. CCMs are also able to download a copy of the relevant report in CSV format. There are currently five parts to the VRST:

- The "Information" tab provides explanatory information about the VRST.
- The "All Vessels" tab is in response to the WCPFC12 task and provides the latest WCPFC VMS reporting status for every vessel on the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV).
- The "CCM Vessels" tab lists only RFV vessels flagged to the CCM, viewable only by the CCM's authorized contact. It provides CCMs with a daily snapshot of information whether each of their vessels on the RFV is meeting its Commission VMS requirements. If a vessel is not on the FFA Good Standing List, the VRST provides an indication of whether WCPFC has completed the necessary steps to activate the vessels MTU to report to the Commission VMS; if so, the VRST provides a generic current vessel status (e.g., 'OK' or 'STOP') for each of their vessels, and a daily VMS-reporting status (how many position reports are transmitted by each vessel each day for the preceding 31 days). Since June 2025, an email alert to all flag CCM users with VMS Editor access permissions lists all their flagged vessels that show "STOP" status for their attention and action to re-establish normal reporting as soon as possible. For vessels that are not on FFA Good Standing List, the VRST will display the following status to the vessels based on reporting and CCMs advice.
 - a) 'ACTR' – VTAF info received and in the process of activation by the Secretariat.
 - b) 'In Port' – based on advice from CMMs that the vessel is in port and MTU is powered down.
 - c) 'OK' – the vessel's MTU is reporting correctly to WCPFC VMS. No action required.
 - d) 'Outside the WCPFC Convention Area' – based on advice from flag CCM, the vessel is operating outside of the Convention area and is not reporting to WCPFC VMS.

⁵ The success of their vessels' MTU/ALC activations will also be evident in the VRST to CCMs.

⁵ The success of their vessels' MTU/ALC activations will also be evident in the VRST to CCMs.

- e) 'Within flag CCM EEZ' – based on advice from flag CCM, the vessel is within the flag CCM's EEZ and is not reporting to WCPFC VMS.
- f) 'STOP' – The vessel has stopped reporting. Secretariat staff to work with Flag CCM to resolve the non-reporting issue.
- The "Non-Reporting Vessels" tab is a subset of the CCM Vessels tab list, providing a list of vessels from which the expected VMS data are not being received. For each vessel that is not reporting to the WCPFC VMS, authorized CCM users are able to update the status to 'In Port' or 'Outside the Convention Area' or 'Within flag CCM EEZ', and the date the status took effect. When VMS data are received by the WCPFC VMS, the status is automatically reset to 'OK'.
- The "Manual Reports" tab provides a report on the number of manual reports by vessel submitted and processed by VMS.

4.5 Manual Position Reporting

Since 1 March 2013, the Commission has agreed reporting timeframes for manual reporting in the event of ALC malfunction and a standard reporting format for these manual reports (see WCPFC SSPs – December 2021 (or its update) ([VMS SSPs](#))).

From April 2025, CCMs upload their manual reports in the NAF format, using the "Upload Manual Positions" facility in the VRST. NAF strings are copied into the facility and automatically validated against system rules. Any sections of the NAF format with errors are highlighted. Once validation confirms the correctly formatted data, the system will allow the upload to Trackwell where it is integrated into the Commission VMS. These positions are clearly identifiable on the WCPFC Trackwell map as manually generated reports (e-MAN) and they can be distinguished from non-manually generated VMS positions.

See **Annex B** for NAF format message for a manual report.

CCM vessels that fail to report to the Commission VMS must commence manual reporting not later than the time specified in the SSPs unless the CCM contact point has provided an appropriate and accurate update of the MTU status (via the VRST directly, or by email to the Secretariat VMS staff).

The vessel may re-commence fishing on the high seas only when the MTU/ALC has been confirmed as operational by the WCPFC Secretariat following the flag CCM informing the Secretariat that the vessel's automatic reporting complies with the regulations established in the Commission VMS Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs).

4.6 Routine Reports from the Secretariat on VMS reporting anomalies and WCPFC VMS

As was explained in Section 4.4, the VRST tool, which is accessible by authorized CCM users, provides CCMs with a daily snapshot of whether each of their vessels on the RFV is meeting Commission VMS requirements.

The following reports are provided to TCC annually:

- Annual Report on the Commission VMS;

- Annual Report on the administration of the data rules and procedures;
- WCPFC Information and Network Security Framework.

The Secretariat also provides periodic detailed reports to each flag CCM to support the draft Compliance Monitoring Report preparation and review process. During 2025, the Secretariat will begin the transition to providing monthly VMS reporting gaps to CCMs. This will supplement the VRST daily snapshot and “STOP” email alerts, supporting CCM’s earlier identification and resolution of reporting issues.

Ad hoc reports may be generated on request and following necessary approvals in accordance with the data rules and administrative procedures.

4.7 Secretariat processes to identify and follow-up on VMS reporting issues

The Secretariat will routinely check on the VMS reporting status of vessels when there is a change to their listing on FFA Good Standing List and take appropriate action:

- a) If a vessel that has its MTU activated to report directly to WCPFC VMS is subsequently listed on the FFA Good Standing List, WCPFC Secretariat VMS staff will take necessary steps to deactivate the MTU and update WCPFC records to show that the vessel is expected to be reporting to WCPFC VMS through the FFA VMS.
- b) If a vessel that was on the FFA Good Standing List is de-listed, VMS staff will take necessary steps to activate the most recent VTAF received for direct reporting.
- c) Flag CCMs may receive relevant updates through the VRST about whether their vessel is on the FFA Good Standing List and if a MTU is in the process of activation by the Secretariat (refer to Section 4.4).

The Secretariat routinely checks the following issues:

- a) That a vessel is not showing as ‘STOP’ in VRST, when:
 - a high seas transshipment notification is received by the Secretariat.
 - a notification is received that a vessel will be or has been inspected through the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme.
 - a charter notification is received by the Secretariat.
 - a notification in accordance with para. 3, Attachment 2 of CMM 2023-01 (or subsequent CMM) is received by the Secretariat.
 - a notification is received that a vessel will be or has been inspected in Port.
 - upon request by an authorized CCM contact.
- b) For all vessels that have a vessel status ‘STOP’ in the VRST, a workflow process will document actions taken by the VMS staff to resolve non reporting.

- c) Flag CCMs may receive relevant updates through the VRST about whether their vessel is on the FFA Good Standing List, if a MTU is in the process of activation by the Secretariat, if a vessel is In Port or outside the Convention Area, and if the vessel is reporting normally or has stopped reporting to the Commission VMS. (refer to Section 4.4).

The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat when a VMS non-reporting is identified:

1. Create a workflow record that the vessel has stopped reporting and proceed with the process of getting the MTU to resume reporting.
2. Check with the flag CCM to confirm that the MTU is switched on and reporting to the CCM's VMS. If so:
 - a) Confirm with the flag CCM that the MTU Register information is accurate;
 - b) For Inmarsat C MTUs, a re-download of DNID and polling might be required;
 - c) For other MTU types, the Secretariat will contact the MCSP to verify the MTU's status, and VMS staff to follow up with Trackwell or MCSP where appropriate, to ensure the data is being received by the WCPFC VMS.
3. If the flag CCM indicates that the MTU has been replaced, remind the CCM contact of their responsibility to register MTU information with the Secretariat, and proceed with normal activation process (refer to Section 4.3 above).
4. Failure of the MTU to properly report requires the flag CCM to ensure that the vessel provides manual reports as per manual reporting requirements (refer Section 4.5 above).

4.8 Proposals for Inclusion of Additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MTU/ALC List

Commission VMS SSPs require that the Secretariat assess proposals for inclusion of additional ALC makes and models on this list from both CCMs and equipment manufacturers. VMS SSPs 2.7 states *"The Secretariat shall include the ALC/MTU make or model being proposed on this list, if no CCM objects in writing within 30 days of the Secretariat circulating notice of its intent to all CCMs, and, if in the Secretariat's assessment, the ALC/MTU make or model meets the minimum standards for the Commission VMS as set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor measure), the WCPFC SSPs, as relevant, by determining that the ALC/MTU make and model has the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS, and by using the methodology established by the FFA with expenses for type approval processing."*

The Secretariat is to assess proposals for the inclusion of additional MTU/ALC units and their communication / satellite service provider / gateway, against the MTU/ALC type approval checklist (appended in **Annex C**). The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat when a proposal from MTU manufacturers, CCMs, and service providers is received seeking the inclusion of additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MTU/ALC List:

- a) Application received with sufficient⁸ supporting technical documentation.
- b) Secretariat checks application information and verifies it against minimum standards in Annex 1 of the CMM 2014-02 (or its successor).
- c) Submit request for testing to Trackwell. Trackwell will liaise with the ALC/MTU applicant to conduct physical⁹ testing to ensure the gateway created is able to receive error-free position reports as per Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor).
- d) Trackwell will provide a complete test report to the Secretariat for final assessment.
- e) As part of the assessment, the Secretariat VMS staff shall detail how each step on the checklist was or was not satisfied for the ALC/MTU proposed for listing.

Where the Secretariat concludes in its assessment that a proposed ALC/MTU make or model does meet these requirements, the Secretariat will follow the existing approval process and timelines outlined above (from VMS SSPs 2.7). Additionally, the Secretariat shall provide CCMs with details on how each step on the checklist was satisfied for the ALC/MTU, along with any other documentation provided by the flag CCM or vendor, to better inform CCM's consideration.

Where the Secretariat concludes in its assessment that a proposed ALC/MTU make or model does not meet these requirements, or if a CCM objects in writing to the Secretariat's proposal to approve a new ALC/MTU make or model, the Secretariat shall make recommendations in the annual report to TCC regarding the proposed ALC/MTU make or model for TCC's consideration. The Secretariat shall provide CCMs with details on how each step on the checklist was satisfied for each unit, along with any other documentation provided by the flag CCM or vendor, to better inform CCM's consideration.

4.9 Removal of ALC/MTU from the Approved ALC/MTU List

The Secretariat will recommend to TCC as needed, the removal of units currently on the list of approved ALC/MTU makes and models that no longer meet the minimum standards set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or successor measure), or that do not have the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS. As part of the assessment, the Secretariat VMS staff shall detail how each step on the checklist in **Annex C** was, or was not, satisfied for each MTU/ALC unit proposed for removal from the Approved ALC/MTU List.

4.10 Commission VMS Helpdesk Support

The Secretariat is committed to developing online self-service support options via the [WCPFC Support Knowledgebase](#), and additional VMS help topics are in being developed.

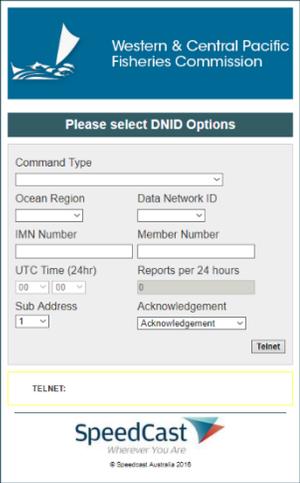
Requests for support on the Commission VMS can be sent via email to VMS@wcpfc.int.

⁸ For example, full technical specifications of all MTU/ALC hardware that will be installed on vessels, citations of any previous domestic or RFMO type approvals of the proposed MTU/ALC, data/results from previous domestic or other testing of the equipment, or images depicting the hardware components.

⁹ Tests of successful position reporting to the Commission VMS by the relevant MTU hardware that is physically located within the Convention Area.

Annex A

Notes on Secretariat’s Activation Process for MTU/ALC by VMS Gateway as of December 2024

VMS Gateway	Notes on Secretariat’s Activation Process
Faria Watchdog	Email sent to SpeedCast (support.mss.apac@speedcast.com) A request to provide Faria 4-digit unique MTU Id made on activation.
Halios – CLS MTUs <i>using the Iridium service</i>	Email sent to CLS-OCEANIA (hspencer@groupcls.com). MTU reporting status may also be verified through the CLS portal application - https://mydata.cls.fr/iwp/Main.do .
Inmarsat BGAN <i>for iFleetONE MTUs</i>	Email sent to Addvalue (weehong.ng@addvalue.com.sg).
Inmarsat C and D+	<p>For Inmarsat C MTUs, activation is done at the Secretariat using a web application developed by SpeedCast.</p> <p>If activation was not successful, the Secretariat to advise CCM Official of why the activation was unsuccessful, which may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown mobile number Mobile logged out Mobile is not in the Ocean Region DNID sent to vessel, but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS; Program sent to vessel but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS; or Start Command sent to vessel but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS 
Iridium <i>for insight X2 EMTU (Nautic Alert)</i>	Email sent to Nautic Alert (nfvelado@nauticalert.com)
Iridium (mini LEO) <i>for BB3 & BB5 MTUs (SASCO)</i>	Email sent to SASCO email: (chuck@sasco-inc.com)
Iridium SBD	Email sent to MetOcean Telematics (service@metocean.com).

VMS Gateway	Notes on Secretariat's Activation Process
<i>for iTrac II (MetOcean Telematics)</i>	
Iridium SBD <i>for RomTrax Wifi (Rom Communications)</i>	Email sent to Rom Communications (michael@romcomm.net).
ORBCOMM <i>currently operational for Australian vessels using IDP-690</i>	The flag CCM's mobile communications service provider (MCSP) for the MTUs establishes a reporting channel / account for the vessels that are required to report to the Commission VMS.
PTSOG <i>currently operational for Chinese Taipei</i>	If other CCMs authorize their vessels to use Orbcomm MTUs, consultation with WCPFC and TrackWell is necessary to establish communication channel arrangements between the CCM's Orbcomm service provider and WCPFC's VMS service provider (TrackWell), before the vessels can be activated to report to the WCPFC VMS.
SkyMate	Email sent to Skymate (williamricaurte@navcast.com).
SRT VMS 100Si	Email sent to SRT-UK office (support@srt-marinesystems.com) and cc to Dino Escano (based in PH) (dino.escano@srt-marine.com)

NAF format message for a manual report – as of Dec 2024

The following table specifies the elements of the NAF format message for a manual report.

Field-code	Data-element	Syntax	Contents	Examples
SR	Start record	No data	No data	//SR//
TM	Type of message	Char*3	POS Or MAN	//TM/POS// Or //TM/MAN//
SQ	Sequence number	Num*6	1-999999	//SQ/001//
ID	Vessel ID	Num*7	WCPFC Vessel ID	//ID/12054/
NA*	Vessel Name	Char*50	Vessel Name	//NA/YUN RUN 7//
LT	Latitude (decimal)	Char*7	+(-)DD.ddd	//LT/45.544// or //LT/-23.743//
LG	Longitude (decimal)	Char*8	(-)DDD.ddd	//LG/-044.174// or //LG/+166.000//
DA	Date	Num*8	YYYYMMDD	//DA/20210825//
TI	Time	Num*4	HHMM	//TI/1555//
AD <i>(optional)</i>	Address destination	Char*	WCPFC	//AD/WCPFC//
ER	End record	No data	No data	//ER//

Sample strings:

```
//SR//TM/POS//SQ/1//ID/11285//LT/29.863//LG/122.506//DA/20221011//TI/0600//ER//
```

Or

```
//SR//TM/MAN//SQ/889//ID/11230//NA/JINXIANG12//LT/-13.812//LG/-171.753//DA/20240919//TI/0600//AD/WCPFC//ER//
```

Or

```
//SR//TM/POS//SQ/1//ID/11285//NA/YUN RUN 7//LT/29.863//LG/122.506//DA/20221011//TI/0600//AD/WCPFC//ER//
```

Request for MTU/ALC type approval checklist

ALC/MTU testing checklist				
Item	Description	Requirements	Evidence Provided (YES or NO)	Secretariat Assessment
Documents to be provided on application				
1	Submit application	Letter of application. Supporting technical reference documentation. Provide proof of Type Approval received for the ALC/MTU.		
Assessment against Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02				
2	The ALC/MTU shall automatically and independently of any intervention on the vessel communicate.	ALC/MTU static unique identifier. the current geographical position. UTC date and time.		
3	Data shall be obtained from a satellite-based positioning system.	Indicate satellite service provider.		
4	ALC/MTU fitted to fishing vessel must be capable of transmitting data.	hourly intervals.		
5	The data shall be received by the Commission VMS under normal operating conditions.	within 90 minutes of being generated by the ALC/MTU.		
6	ALC/MTU fitted to fishing vessel must be protected.	Tamper proof.		
7	Storage of information within the ALC/MTU under normal conditions.	safe, secure and integrated.		
8	It must not be reasonably possible for anyone other than the monitoring authority to alter any of authority's data stored in the ALC/MTU.	Secure DNIIDs and reporting parameters.		
9	Any features built into the ALC/MTU or terminal software to assist with servicing shall not allow unauthorised access to any areas of the ALC/MTU.	ALC/MTU software access should be password protected.		
10	The ALC/MTU shall be installed on the vessel in accordance with their manufacturer's specification and applicable standards.	The ALC/MTU shall be installed on the vessel in accordance with their manufacturer's specification and applicable WCPFC requirements.		
11	Under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data forwarded must be accurate to within 100 square metres Distance Root Mean Square (DRMS).	98% of the positions must be within this range.		
12	The ALC/MTU and/or forwarding service provide must be capable to support the ability for data to be sent to multiple independent destinations.	capable for direct simultaneous reporting.		
13	The satellite navigation decoder and transmitter shall be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.	GPS and transmitter module be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.		
TrackWell testing				
14	Gateway / Communications channel.	Gateway / Channel setup and capable of receiving positions reports in either PUSH or PULL method.		
15	Position transmission.	Positions received without errors.		
16	Latency.	Positions received with 90 minutes of being generated by the ALC/MTU.		
17	Test report.	test completion report provided to the Secretariat		
The Secretariat has assessed the Application and deemed that the << insert ALC/MTU type name >> has PASSED / FAILED the requirements to be included in the WCPFC Approved List of ALC / MTU				



List of Redundant Data Fields to be Removed from the ROP MSDF

Excerpt from ROP-IWG06 Chair’s Summary Report as reflected in [TCC21-2025-17E](#) and agree to recommend adoption at WCPFC22

Attachment B: List of Data Fields Recommended for Removal from the MSDFs

The table presented here is a preliminary list. It does not include all the fields that were proposed for removal in [ROP-IWG5 Working Paper 02](#). Instead, it is a list of fields where feedback to date indicates some support for the removal of these fields, and where no objections or requests for further consideration have been raised.

At ROP-IWG06 meeting, participants preliminarily agreed to recommend that the attached list of data fields are removed from the list of WCPFC ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields.

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
VESSEL IDENTIFICATION					
Flag State Registration Number	This number will be sourced from vessel papers. You can normally get this information during the briefing.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means and so suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	2
Vessel Owner/Company	Name and contact if possible, of the owner of the vessel, if owned by a company, then use the company name.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means and so suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	4

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
VESSEL ATTRIBUTES					
Vessel fish hold capacity	The total maximum amounts in metric Tons (mT.) that the vessel freezers, wells and other fish storage areas on a vessel can hold.	<i>Observers have been collecting information in metric tonnes since 1994.</i>	<i>2024 PNA Comment: Could be also considered for removal, because this information is also available on the RFV, although we note that the units for this field in the RFV are volume or weight, whereas the units for the MSDF are weight.</i>	<i>RFV records Cubic Metres and can be accessed if needed</i>	30
Length (specify unit)	The "LOA" Length Over All can be taken from the vessel plans or from other paper work that indicates the LOA.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation or the vessel plan. Observer cannot verify if length is correct.</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	32
Tonnage (specify unit)	The vessel may be registered using Gross Tonnage (GT) or in (GRT) this will be indicated on the vessel registration papers.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation or the vessel plan. Observer cannot verify if tonnage is correct</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	33
Engine power (Specify unit)	The engine power and the power units used on board can usually be found in the vessel plans or from other paper work of the vessel. If not sure where to look, ask the engineer.	<i>Observer can get this in several ways, can get it from engine model number info online if available. Most observers ask the engineer who will tell them the HP.</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	34

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
VESSEL ELECTRONICS					
Radars	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information on make and Model</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		35
Global Positioning System (GPS) (Yes/ No)	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		37
Track Plotter	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers</i>		38
Weather Facsimile	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		39
Sea Surface Temperature (SST) gauge	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers</i>		40
Vessel Monitoring System	Indicate the type of systems used on a vessel- The most popular and widely used system is the INMARSAT system, however some vessels may use the ARGOS system- some vessels may have both. There are also other systems if these are being used please record	<i>Observers are asked to identify the system used and the make and model of the units on board</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means.</i>		47

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
GENERAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES					
Mainline length	What is the total length of the mainline when it is fully set usually recorded in miles or kilometer's (make sure the unit is clearly indicated)	<i>Observer collects information from Captain or Deck Boss</i>	<i>There may be technological approaches that could streamline the estimation of mainline length by observers.</i>	<i>Eg Using a known Lat and long for start and end of set on a GPS/VMS tracks could be used to estimate the distances travelled and the shape of the set</i>	50
Mainline hauler	Indicate Y or No - Most longline vessels will have an instrument that hauls the lines in after it has been set- some very small vessels may haul line by hand.	<i>Observer collects Yes, No information</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		54
Branch line hauler	Indicate Y or No - Some long line vessels may use special haulers to coil the branch lines	<i>Observer collects Yes, No information</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		55

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
PURSE SEINE - INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES					
Numbers of schools sighted per day	How many free or associated schools of fish were sighted during the day? The vessel may not set on these because of size or amount in school	<i>Observer is asked to record every free school or floating object sighted during the day when searching, also record all activities involved with free schools and floating objects. For this to be accurate the observer would need to be on constant watch from 0430 to 1930 every day 15/16 hrs. a day</i>	<i>No change suggested</i>	<i>Difficulties in collecting this info as observer would need to be on watch all day to record accurately. As it is, observers generally only indicate what the vessel investigates</i>	118
OBSERVER TRIP MONITORING SUMMARY					
Vessel certificate of registration:	Flag State Registration Number as in 'General Attributes'	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means – suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV – could be removed.</i>	197
WCPFC Authorisation:	WIN number if supplied	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means– suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV = could be removed.</i>	199



Updated ROP-IWG Workplan

Proposed workplan for the ROP-IWG in 2026

1. Progress the proposals to WCPFC22 that require additional work in 2026:
 - Revised CCFS process flow;
 - Scope of monitoring for potential infringements for CCFS; and
 - ROP non-catch transfer reporting.

2. Progressing remaining workplan taskings:
 - Progressing Priority tasking 4: Consideration related to emerging technologies – work closely with ER/EM - IWG for common understanding on the usage of MSDF;
 - Review of interim Transshipment Observer Monitoring Minimum Data Fields;
 - Consideration of joint IWG work resulting from ERandEM-IWG and ROP-IWG;
 - SC21 recommendation to ROP-IWG to assess and identify specific data gaps for enhancement needed to improve the operation and consistency of shark species identification and reporting, noting low reporting rates of oceanic whitetip sharks by observers relative to logbooks in some regions and diminishing levels of length records since the implementation of CMM 2011-04. (SC21 Outcomes Document, paragraph 103); and
 - Possible additional reporting requirements for Sea Turtles (CMM 2018-04).

3. Others taskings and priorities as agreed through WCPFC22 if required.

Indicative Workplan Timetable for 2026

Timeline	Planned Activities
Early March	First virtual meeting: Focus on 1. above and introducing new taskings for 2026
August	Second virtual meeting in advance of SC22
September	Third virtual or in-person meeting in advance of TCC22
December (WCPFC23)	Adoption of recommendations



ERandEM IWG 2026 Workplan

WCPFC21 Adopted ERandEM IWG 2025-2026 Work Plan

	2025				2026																																
	WEEK	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
7th ERandEM IWG (Virtual)																																					
WCPFC22, Chair's report																																					
WCPFC22, Tentative mtg. in the margins																																					
8th ERandEM IWG (Virtual)																																					
9th ERandEM IWG (Virtual)																																					
SC22, Updates																																					
TCC22, Updates																																					
WCPFC23, Chair's report																																					
Development of a proposed assurance/audit process for EM standards for longlining based on ROP audit model																																					
Distribute discussion paper outlining a proposed assurance/audit process																																					
Finalize interm assurance/audit process																																					X
Review and/or develop templates for Part 1 EM program reporting and other parts of the EM standards where standardized reporting would be of value to members																																					
Prepare templates for EM Program reporting for discussion paper																																					
Distribute/Discuss interim templates for EM program reporting standards and vessel management plans																																					X
Work closely with the ROP IWG to further review EM data requirements based on relevant CMM requirements not already covered in the ROP minimum data fields																																					
Review work of ROP IWG and address outstanding EM data requirements that have yet to be discussed																																					
Revisit the SSPs for onboard EM systems and data fields																																					
Prepare draft revised Appendix 3 Minimum EM Data Reqs																																					X
Initiate work on EM standards for carrier vessels conducting transshipment with longline vessels																																					
Consider work of the ROP IWG, the TSIWG, and other RFMOs on transshipment data fields																																					
Distribute discussion paper outlining a proposed EM standards for carrier vessels and LLs transshipping																																					
Finalize interm EM standards for carrier vessels and LLs transshipping																																					X
Develop advice on potential changes to the interim EM standards to improve harmonization across RFMOs																																					
Ensure minimum standards are aligned and harmonized with other RFMOs																																					
2nd ABNJ Tuna II "EM Tuna RFMO Min Stds Harmonization Workshop" (TBA)																																					

X = expected adoption of proposed work stream at WCPFC23



SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE ROADMAP IWG WORKPLAN 2023-2026

Purpose

1. To define the responsibilities of the SPA Roadmap Inter Sessional Working Group (IWG) in progressing key issues on the management of the South Pacific albacore.

Terms of Reference

2. The terms of reference for the workgroup shall include consideration of the management issues:
 - a) Elements necessary for a pathway to support the development of the SPA management procedure, including the revision of the management objective and the iTRP.
 - b) Elements necessary for establishing an allocation framework.
 - c) Elements for developing a new conservation and management measure.

3. The roadmap will also contain(s) three main components:
 - a) Development of the SPA Management Procedure.
 - b) Allocation Framework: Develop recommendations for a framework on how the Commission allocates the overall limit for South Pacific Albacore, taking into consideration all fisheries, the interests and aspirations of SIDs and Participating Territories and the impacts of Climate Change and the actions required to achieve the biological and economic objectives of the fishery.
 - c) Development of a new CMM.

Workplan:

This workplan addresses the main components identified through the TOR above. It is intended to be a working document that will be revised by the IWG as work progresses. *Considering the margins of the SC and/or TCC meetings for the IWG to meet; and the SMD type meeting to be a virtual meeting.

	Support the development and adoption of the Management Procedure	Establishing a framework for the allocation of the SPA TAC	Development of a new implementing CMM
Objectives	- The IWG will progress the discussions on a management objective and the revision of the	- The IWG to identify and develop recommendations on key components and	- To develop a new measure that incorporates the allocation framework, as well as any other issues

	<p>iTRP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress the discussions and make recommendations on a management procedure for the SPA for the Commission to consider 	<p>a process for establishing an allocation framework.</p>	<p>identified by the IWG, that will function as an implementing mechanism for the management procedure.</p>
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consider the South Pacific albacore (SPA) objectives and a revised interim TRP and recommendations for WCPFC20 to consider. - Ongoing development of the SPA management procedure and testing for the IWG to progress the discussions on the SPA MP development and provide guidance in the margins of the SC19 and/or TCC19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consider key issues, principles and developments, required to be considered in the development of the allocation framework for the Commission to consider, in particular Article 10.3 of the Convention. - Report to the Commission on the progress of the work by the IWG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take note of discussions/progress from the MP and the SPA Allocation framework developments, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to identify management measure implications to be addressed.
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing SPA Management Procedure development and testing and 'dry run' of MP application. - A Science management dialogue dedicated to SPA focused on selecting candidate MPs for potential adoption). - Recommend to the Commission to adopt a SPA management procedure. - Development of a CMM for a Management Procedure for SPA for adoption by WCPFC21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending on outcomes from 2023, the IWG to consider recommending the start of the allocation process discussion. Potential physical workshop for allocation to be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take note of discussions/progress from the MP and the SPA allocation framework development, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to identify key elements for a revised CMM for the SPA

	Management Procedure	Implementation Measure
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of a Management Procedure CMM for the SPA by WCPFC22. - Adopted management procedure is <u>run</u> for the first time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission will hold a workshop, or workshops, dedicated to the management procedure, implementing arrangements, mixed fisheries issues as well as allocation of SPA if appropriate. - Advice provided by SC21 and TCC21 on implementing CMM as appropriate. - Take note of discussions/progress on the MP, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to identify key Elements for a new implementing CMM for SPA.
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run management procedure. - Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy - Commission adopts implementing arrangements for management procedure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission will hold, workshops, dedicated to the implementing arrangements for SPA (including allocation) - Advice provided by SC22 and TCC22 on monitoring strategy for South Pacific albacore and implementing CMM as appropriate. - WCPFC23 adopt an implementing CMM for SPA.
2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Management Procedure would commence in 2027 and run in a three-year cycle (2027-2029) 	



STANDARDIZED MULTI-LANGUAGE QUESTIONNAIRE
INITIAL RADIO CONTACT

1. _____ (a) _____ VESSEL _____ (b) _____ THIS IS THE _____ (c) _____ CALLING YOU ON CHANNEL 16 VHF-FM----OVER.

- (a) Fishing, Carrier or Bunker
- (b) Fishing, Carrier or Bunker vessel's name
- (c) Patrol Vessel's name

2. Please use radio channel 16, (one six).
3. Fishing vessel (name), this is patrol vessel (name) --- we are here on behalf of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and are authorized to ensure you are complying with all applicable conservation and management measures. Our international radio call sign is []. We intend to board and inspect your vessel, and you are required to cooperate.

PRE-BOARDING QUESTIONS

Pre boarding questions may also help communication during a boarding, or for a radio inquiry. The intention is mainly to assist with a smooth boarding and confirm some details. Answers may also be obtained through visual observation of the vessel and the RFV. These questions may apply to fishing, carrier or bunker vessels.

1. Prior to boarding your vessel, we need to ask you a few questions.
2. Is your vessel registered with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission?
3. Under which country's flag are you registered?
4. What is your international radio call sign?
5. What is your homeport?

6. How much (a-c) do you have onboard?
 - a. Fish
 - i. what type?
 - b. Supplies
 - c. Fuel
7. What was your last port of call?
8. What is your next port of call?
9. What is the name and nationality of vessel master?
10. How many crew do you have onboard?
 - a. what are their nationalities?
11. Do you have any weapons onboard?
 - a. where are they located?
12. Do you have a fishery observer onboard?
 - a. what is the observer's name and nationality?
13. We will be sending over a boarding party in (a-c) minutes or after the completion of your current operation;
 - a. five
 - b. fifteen
 - c. thirty
14. To assist our boarding party in boarding your vessel, we request you to (a-e).
 - a. Stop your vessel
 - b. Slow your vessel
 - c. Continue on your present course and speed
 - d. Turn to (port / starboard)
 - e. Lower a ladder on the (port / starboard) side
15. Do you have a safe boarding ladder for our inspectors to use?
 - a. Please ensure that it is attached securely to your vessel on the starboard side—this is the lee side with minimal wind and wave action and hangs 1-1.5 meters above the waterline.
 - b. Have one crew member stand by the ladder to assist our team if needed.
16. Please be advised that the destruction or disposal at sea of prohibited fisheries products, prior to or during the inspection process, may be deemed an obstruction of the inspection procedures and is strictly prohibited.
17. Please continue to monitor radio channel 16 (or other indicated channel) while our inspectors prepare to embark upon your vessel.

18. Direct crew members not assisting with boarding to remain in their cabins or the mess hall until further notice. This will keep the boarding area clear for safety.
19. Inform our team of any on-board medical emergencies or crew health concerns prior to boarding, to facilitate coordinated support and avoid disruptions.

BOARDING QUESTIONS

1. Good (morning / afternoon / evening), are you the master of the vessel?
(a) please notify master to come to us for further inquiries.
2. I am here to inspect your vessel for compliance with measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.
3. These are our identity cards and a copy of the relevant conservation and management measures.
4. This is a list of actions being considered as serious violation.

[Refer to Attachment 1 for translated list of serious violations]
5. All data collected during the inspection will be used solely for law enforcement and compliance purposes, in line with data protection principles of WCPFC.
6. Do you understand?
7. You have the right to provide a statement and to explain your position on any matters raised during this inspection. Your explanation will be noted as part of the official record.
8. The Vessel master or authorized crew is welcome to accompany us during the inspection. This allows for real-time communication about vessel operations.
9. The boarding team will record videos and take photos to verify compliance with WCPFC measures. Your vessel may also voluntarily record video of the inspection process.
10. Once the inspection is complete, we will provide an interim report. It will include any objection or statement you want to include in the report.
11. You are entitled to contact the authorities of your flag states.
12. We will complete the inspection within 4 hours. However, if a serious violation is found, we will extend the boarding time.
13. You are entitled to report any action which you consider harassment of the vessel, officers or crew during the boarding, and request these statements to be inserted into the boarding report. You may also report to your flag state authorities after the boarding.
14. You may report to the authority of the flag state any damage or loss attributable to boarding action which you believe is unlawful or exceeds what is reasonably required in the light of available information.

15. Is there anyone here who speaks _____ (a-f)_____
 - a. English
 - b. Japanese
 - c. Korean
 - d. Chinese
 - e. French
 - f. Spanish
16. I do not have anyone onboard who can speak your language.
17. I am using bilingual language cards. Please answer my questions simply and slowly, using yes or no whenever possible.
18. These people will assist me in my inspection.
19. Please muster your crew on the (fantail / bow / open deck).
20. Please indicate where you keep your weapons onboard.
21. This is a copy of the text of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention which provides me the authority to board your vessel and conduct this inspection.
22. Please review this document and let me know if you have any questions.
23. This is a copy of the relevant Commission Conservation and Management Measures which apply to your vessel.
24. When were you inspected last? Who inspected you?
25. I intend to inspect your vessel to ensure your compliance with these conservation and management measures.
26. Please show me:
 - a. Your vessel's documents
 - b. Your current permits
 - c. Your catch logs
 - d. Your plotting charts
27. When reviewing documents, our team will handle them with care and return each document immediately after verification. We may take photographs of the document.
28. Please show me line cutters and the de-hookers
29. Please show me tori-lines. I need to measure the length of them.

30. I would like to take two or three small tissue samples of this fish to confirm the species identification. One sample will be taken back to a certified lab for DNA analysis; the other will be retained if your flag state requests the sample and the third may be kept as a backup.
31. You should sign the seal after we put the samples in the evidence box/bag.
32. How do you deal with plastic waste on board? Do you have an incinerator on board your vessel?
33. Have you transshipped since your last landing at port? Please show me the related documents.
34. Your documents and records indicate you are in complete compliance with all Commission Conservation and Management Measures.
35. Your documents and records indicate you are not in complete compliance with all Conservation and Management Measures.
36. This is the specific conservation and management measure by which you are not in compliance.
37. Please provide any comments or statements here.
38. This (is / is not) considered by the commission to be a serious violation.
39. I am collecting this evidence to verify if there is a violation.
40. I am photographing this item to document a potential violation.
41. I will use this boarding report to document my inspection of your vessel.
42. Please sign here.
43. This boarding report indicates you (are / are not) in compliance with all commission conservation and management measures.
44. This is your copy of the boarding report.
45. A copy of this boarding report will be provided to the fisheries enforcement authorities of your country (for further action).
46. Thank you for your assistance on this boarding.
47. I have completed the inspection of your vessel.
48. We are departing your vessel at this time.
49. Assist our team in safely disembarking by ensuring the boarding ladder remains secure.

50. To assist our boarding party in disembarking your vessel, we request you to_(a-e)_until_(1-3).

- a. Stop your vessel
- b. Slow your vessel
- c. Continue on your present course and speed
- d. Turn to (port / starboard)
- e. Lower a ladder on the (port / starboard) side

1. 30 minutes after our departure
2. We give you the signal
3. We contact you through the radio

51. You may resume normal vessel operations immediately after our team departs. No further clearance is required.

Attachment 1. List of actions being considered as serious violation

According to the conservation and management measures of WCPFC, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the Convention or conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:

- a. fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag Member, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention;
- b. failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
- c. fishing in a closed area;
- d. fishing during a closed season;
- e. intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission;
- f. significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the Convention;
- g. using prohibited fishing gear;
- h. falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
- i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
- j. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the Commission;
- k. refusal to accept a boarding and inspection, other than as provided in paragraphs 26 and 27;
- l. assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector; and
- m. intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
- n. such other violations as may be determined by the Commission, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures.



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

HSBI DNA Sampling Guide

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 Consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.2	27 November	For WCPFC22 Consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.3	4 December	Includes revisions at WCPFC22	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair

Contents

PURPOSE STATEMENT	1
Application of DNA sampling in WCPFC HSBI activities.....	2
HSBI DNA SAMPLING Minimum Standards	3
CCM DNA sampling and analysis procedures.....	5
Accessibility of DNA Sampling and Multi-language information.....	6

PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors conducting tissue sampling and subsequent DNA sequencing and analysis (hereafter, broadly referred to as “DNA sampling”) as part of WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹). For CCMs wishing to use DNA sampling for HSBI, the development of this Guide also intends to:
 - support the establishment of a robust DNA sampling process by CCMs at the CCM’s level to verify species identification of individual specimens in support of HSBI
 - assist CCMs in ensuring that DNA data are credible and admissible using appropriate methods and procedures throughout the entire DNA sampling process
 - support the establishment of minimum practices at the CCM’s level which are necessary to ensure that DNA sampling produce accurate, precise analytical findings, and findings are conveyed in an unbiased, objective manner

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

- provide guidance to CCMs on tools that can be used for gathering and preserving tissue samples during HSBI and the minimum standards for DNA sequencing and analysis, where the results or findings are intended to be admissible as evidence in support of potential court or administrative proceedings
2. This Guide sets out the minimum standards in the application of DNA sampling during a HSBI and the post analysis process, which includes:
 - tissue sampling
 - tissue sample handling, preservation, sealing and storage
 - tissue sample transfer/shipping
 - DNA extraction, sequencing, and analysis in accordance with accredited procedures
 - transmission of DNA results
 - DNA sequence, extracted DNA, and tissue sample retention and accessibility for flag CCM testing.
 3. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to authorised HSBI activities within the WCPFC convention area.
 4. This guide can be modified in response to new information, technical innovations, and perspectives. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.

Application of DNA sampling in WCPFC HSBI activities.

5. The aim of HSBI is to check whether a vessel is operating in compliance with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) obligations.
6. Inspectors conducting HSBI activities can detect and confirm species on board at the time of inspection. Sometimes, a visual inspection of morphological characteristics may be all that is needed to obtain a species identification.
7. The application of molecular genetics offers a powerful tool to complement the work of Authorised inspectors conducting HSBI activities, including the conclusive identification of specimens at the species level.
8. Genetic analysis can be a useful method for species identification when species identity cannot be determined on a purely morphological basis, for example if the morphological characteristics are unfamiliar to the inspector, similar, or are absent (e.g. processing of specimens retained onboard).
9. Genetic analysis through DNA sequencing of fish for identification can support investigations to verify a vessel's reported catch, through providing additional proof and the ability to confirm the identity of the species in question. Examples include, to determine between:
 - Pacific and Southern bluefin tunas
 - small-sized bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and

- different bycatch species that are prohibited for retention.
10. DNA sequencing results can be used to corroborate other forms of evidence such as vessel logbooks and photographs taken by the Authorised inspectors. This can be used, among other tools and sources of information, to support risk assessments to prioritise the vessel for further inspection, investigation and prosecution as determined by the flag CCM.
 11. The use of DNA sampling during HSBI can assist the flag CCM, or the inspecting CCM, where field-based tools are applied, with assessing compliance with vessel licensing, catch and reporting obligations, including to:
 - confirm species identification
 - verify that only species which a vessel is authorised to catch are being retained and declared
 - verify catch reporting and catch log data
 - verify, or provide rapid screening for retention of protected species.

HSBI DNA SAMPLING Minimum Standards

Methods of tissue sampling (not limited to)

Laboratory-based analysis		Field-based analysis
Muscle Biopsy	Fin Biopsy	Other
DNA biopsy sampling involves taking a tissue sample from a single fish.	Tissue sample is collected from a single fish through cutting off a section of the fin.	Rapid field-based DNA testing (ie. environmental/tissue samples) designed for risk assessment and screening purposes only.

EVIDENTIARY PROCEDURES for DNA Sampling

12. The general principles and procedures for DNA sampling for evidentiary purposes in fisheries monitoring and investigations:
 - a) Documenting and recording tissue sampling**
13. Tissue sampling should be documented using a recording device, including photographs and videos. To the extent practicable, the entire sampling process (and any field-based DNA testing, if conducted) should be recorded (preferably with video) for evidentiary purposes. Additional notations with details of suspected infringements and time stamps for relevant tissue sampling and analysis results should be provided with the video files.
14. Tissue sampling should be conducted by authorised inspectors, with witnesses' present (master or crew), especially if not documented with a recording device (and prioritise that witnesses from the fishing vessel are present).
15. Authorised inspectors should record in the HSBI report, including but not limited to the following information related to DNA sampling:
 - tissue sampling information:
 - sample identification number
 - location of fish sampled (e.g. blast freezer, hold #)
 - description (processed state of fish)

- comments, including the reason for or background of the tissue sampling
- the master of the vessel must be provided with an interim copy of the report which includes details of any tissue sampling. The master must also be given the opportunity to include any objection or comment to be included in the final report.

b) Collection and preservation of tissue samples

16. Authorised inspectors should:

- photograph and video record tissue sampling (see chain-of-custody, below)
- take tissue samples, to the extent practicable, from the commercially least valuable part of the fish, such as the tail.
- take at least two tissue samples and ideally three samples from the same fish, one for the inspecting CCM and one for the flag CCM (if requested) and one for the laboratory to keep as a backup and confirm in case of diverging results].
- collect, label, preserve and seal each tissue sample separately, at the sampling site.
- label each tissue sample with the following minimum details on the sample labels:
 - Date
 - Unique sample reference number
 - Vessel name
 - Collector name
 - Witness name, role and signature
- affix the waterproof sample labels directly to the sample vials or collection bags.
- secure each sample container or evidence bag containing the tissue sample, with a tamper-evident seal. The seal should be signed by at least one authorised inspector and the vessel master, or a crew member designated by the master.
- ensure both vials and associated evidence bags can be traced back to the same sampled fish.
- photograph the sealed container or evidence bag showing these signatures.
- keep the tissue samples in a freezer. If a freezer is not available samples should be stored in a cool, dark environment, as long as they are not deteriorated.

c) Preventing cross-contamination of tissue samples

17. Protective measures are necessary to prevent cross-contamination of samples. The following should be used for each individual sample:

- Use new or unopened sampling tools.
- Wear single-use disposable gloves.

d) Maintaining a chain of custody for tissue samples between the sample site and the testing laboratory

18. From the beginning to the end of the DNA sampling process, it is crucial to be able to demonstrate every single step undertaken to ensure traceability and continuity of the sample. The integrity of tissue samples and, later, extracted DNA samples, must be maintained as they pass from one person to another.

19. The ‘chain of custody’ is a continuous record of the life of the sample from the moment it was sampled to the moment it is analysed. Every step must be recorded and verified to ensure the

sample is not tampered with, changed or lost. It is the Authorised inspector's responsibility to ensure chain of custody of the tissue sample by ensuring:

- the tissue samples are stored in a tamper-evident sealed bag or envelope, preferably stamped with a unique serial number.
- the chain of custody record is maintained.
- the tissue samples are sent to an accredited laboratory for testing as outlined in the CCM's DNA sampling procedures.

e) Transmission of DNA sampling results to the flag CCM

20. Authorised inspectors should note in the full inspection report, that DNA sampling occurred.
21. The inspecting CCM should update without delay, but no later than 30days, the flag CCM of the sample arriving in port and advise them when testing results are expected to be available, if not already shared with flag CCM.
22. Timing of DNA analysis and results will vary depending on circumstances, such as:
 - time for tissue sample to return to port
 - time to facilitate arrangements to deliver the tissue sample to an accredited laboratory
 - time to deliver the tissue sample to an accredited laboratory
 - time for extraction, sequencing, and analysis of the DNA by an accredited laboratory.
23. Once the finalised DNA sampling results are received by the relevant authority of the inspection vessel, they should be provided, together with the inspection report, to the flag CCM within 5 business days. In addition to the results, the credentials from the testing laboratory and recognised standards as outlined in the CCMs Sampling Procedures including the DNA extraction, analysis method information and reference sequence database used should be attached.

CCM DNA sampling and analysis procedures

24. CCMs wishing to use DNA testing for HSBI evidentiary purposes should share their DNA Sampling for Evidentiary Purposes Procedures with the Secretariat for posting on the HSBI page on the WCPFC website.
25. The CCM's DNA Sampling for Evidentiary Purposes Procedures should include:
 - DNA sampling method for HSBI activities
 - DNA sampling procedures for HSBI activities
 - Chain of custody form
 - Details of testing Laboratory and credentials and recognised standards, these could include:
 - ISO 17025 / 9001 – *this accreditation supports laboratories in maintaining complex processes of testing and calibration to the highest standards and demonstrates to external clients that the laboratory outputs are valid and reliable.*
 - Quality Management Systems (QMS)

- Society for Wildlife Forensic Science (SWFS) Standards and Guidelines for Wildlife Forensic Analysis – *the minimum standards and additional guidelines for wildlife forensic analysts in the sub discipline of DNA*
- Genetic reference database – *used for species assignment for WCPFC catch and compliance. This should include the GenBank Accession number of the reference sequence used for positive species identification.*
- Sample retention and accessibility – tissue and DNA extracts should be retained, for up to 2 years to allow for future testing by the flag CCM, if requested.
- If requested, the DNA sample should be sent to the flag CCM within 30 days after DNA extraction, sequencing and analysis by the laboratory.
- The flag CCM retains the right to conduct DNA sampling to verify the sampling results submitted by the inspection vessels. If the flag CCM conducts DNA sampling, it should observe the same standards as set out in this guide and follow similar methods to the original testing as much as possible (including assay and genetic reference database used for species identification).

Accessibility of DNA Sampling and Multi-language information

26. To assist the DNA sampling process during HSBI activities, it may be beneficial for the CCM's DNA sampling procedures to be translated into languages that are in use on fishing vessels and/or as pictographs to bridge any language barriers.
27. The following supporting documentation could be considered for translation into flag CCM languages by the Authorized inspector CCMs:
 - HSBI multi-language cards
 - DNA sampling for Evidentiary Purposes procedures provided online.
 - DNA sampling for Evidentiary Purposes procedures potentially given/shown to master of vessel prior to DNA sampling by HSBI Authorised inspectors.
28. In addition, flag CCMs should also consider providing information about DNA sampling procedures that may be used during HSBI Inspections to their fishing vessels in a language(s) used by their vessels.

--



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

HSBI Catch Estimation Guide

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.2	27 November	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.3	4 December	Includes revisions at WCPFC22	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair

Contents

PURPOSE STATEMENT	1
Quantify and estimate catch weights in WCPFC HSBI activities.	2
HSBI Catch quantification estimation	3
Accessibility of Catch quantification method information	6

PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors conducting WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹) on:
 - an estimation on the quantities of fish on board, when direct weighing or weighing by sampling is not possible
 - tools and methods for catch quantifications
 - the minimum standards for analysis.

2. The development of this Guide also aims to:
 - support the establishment of robust catch estimation methods to quantify and estimate the catch on board

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

- ensure that catch estimates are credible and are consistently using appropriate methods and procedures.
3. This guide refers to general considerations in the application of estimating the catch² on board during a HSBI and the estimation and analysis process, which includes:
 - catch document³ analysis
 - freezer and Fish Hold inspections
 - verifying Catch
 - quantifying catch
 - weight estimations
 - analysis
 - reporting.
 4. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to HSBI activities within the WCPFC area of competence.
 5. This guide can be modified in response to new information, technical innovations, and perspectives. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.

Estimate catch weights in WCPFC HSBI activities.

6. The aim of HSBI is to ensure compliance of a vessel with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC CMM obligations.
7. A key function of an authorised inspectors during a HSBI is to identify potential misreporting, unreported transshipment, under reporting or record keeping errors.
8. Inspectors conducting HSBI activities can detect and confirm species on board at the time of inspection. They can do this by comparing the information in catch documents with a visual check, count or estimation of catch on board.
9. The purpose of estimating catch is to verify what is declared on the log sheets is what is on board the fishing vessel. It is an important tool for Inspectors to assess if the catch is being recorded accurately, and in line with the relevant WCPFC CMMs.
10. The use of catch estimation during HSBI activities can assist with assessing compliance with vessel licensing and reporting obligations, including to:
 - verify catch reporting/ catch log data
 - estimate total catch held on the vessel
 - assist a risk assessment for a more extensive sampling i.e. Port inspection.
11. The general process of catch estimation, might vary according to the type of fishing vessel, but in general involves the following steps:

² Catch refers to the target, bycatch or non-bycatch species.

³ Catch documents can include logbooks, log sheets, observer reports, transshipment declarations, captain's notes, engineers' reports - both electronic or written.

- In the absence of a hold capacity plan, and when possible measure the hold as accurately as possible to calculate the total hold space⁴
 - estimate the area of the hold filled with fish to estimate tonnage of fish
 - compare estimated tonnage with the amount of fish recorded in the fishing logbook
 - assess whether there is reasonable suspicion that non-compliances can be linked to tonnage inconsistency.
12. This is an initial estimate so Authorised Inspectors can check the logbook to identify significant discrepancies. If significant discrepancies are found:
- this may inform or call for a more accurate approach, such as a port inspection within the framework provided by WCPFC CMMs, or unload/offload, or;
 - inform the flag State and request an enquiry into the vessel.

HSBI Catch estimation

Table 1. Methods of estimating catch quantity

Volumetrics	Subsample	Processed unit counts
Estimate fish in the hold where the volume of the hold is known, or can be calculated	weighing a subsample of a species then calculating average fish weight	counting the total number of specimens (processed or whole), multiplied by the estimated average weight to find the total weight of the species

13. The most appropriate estimation method will depend on various parameters such as the type of vessel⁵, type of fish hold, the type (e.g. whole, processed, frozen etc.) and amount of catch on board. It may be useful to use two methods in combination. Consider what fish are onboard, how they are stored and what information you have available to help decide what method(s) could assist.
14. The general principles and procedures for catch estimation in fisheries inspections:
- documentation and records
 - information gathering
 - hold measurements: density and conversion factors
 - compare catch information to catch estimates.

a) Documentation and records

15. Authorised inspectors should:
- document the catch estimation process including analysis, using photographs and videos
 - conduct the catch estimation process with witnesses' present (master and crew), where practicable.
 - ideally work in pairs or as a trio, to cover the tasks:

⁴ Further guidelines on how to measure the hold capacity may be considered by the HSBI SWG in 2026.

⁵ The estimation method in paragraph 21 may not be applicable to fresh fish stowed in tuna longliners at this moment.

- reviewing the logbooks and interviews the master for species, product types, and estimated catch
- performing the necessary physical measurements in each fish hold for fish volume estimation⁶, based on the hold capacity plans

16. The HSBI report should record any catch estimation and analysis. The authorised inspector should record as much as possible, including but not limited to the following information:

- date of the inspection
- vessel name
- vessel coordinates
- catch estimation methods, measurements (including unit of measurement), estimations, conversion factors and analysis
- Witness name, role and signature.

17. The master of the vessel must be provided with an interim copy of the report which includes details of any catch quantification analysis. The master must also be given to opportunity to include any objection or comment to be included in the final report.

b) Procedural steps

18. Authorised inspectors should calculate the total cubic capacity of each cargo hold, measured in cubic metres. Information on the vessel cargo holds, freezer or storage areas can be found in various ships documents, and ideally, be certified by the CCM and valid:

- Vessel Plans or Capacity Plan
- Hull Survey Certificates
- General Arrangements
- Stability Book.

19. Authorised inspectors should check ships beam (width) for verification of vessels principal dimensions. This will confirm information on the plans belongs to that vessel.

c) Measuring the hold – volumetrics

20. To obtain the hold volume by measuring interior dimensions, Authorised inspectors can either, measure the volume occupied by the fish in the hold, or measure the free air space in the hold, and deduct it from the total cubic capacity of the hold (paragraph 18).

21. To obtain fish volume estimation by species, convert the fish volume into fish weight. The factors below are illustrative examples for the inspector's reference:

i. Apply density factors⁷.. Some examples (mean values)*:

- Marlin (MLS): 1080 kg/m³
- Bigeye tuna (BET): 1064 kg/m³

⁶ Further guidelines on how to measure hold capacity may be considered by the HSBI SWG in 2026.

⁷ [Magnuson, J. J. 1973. Comparative study of adaptations for continuous swimming and hydrostatic equilibrium of scombroid and xiphoid fishes. Fishery Bull. 71:337–356.](#)

- Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF): 1070 kg/m³
- Albacore tuna (ALB): 1054 kg/m³
- Skipjack tuna (SKJ): 1090 kg/m³
- Swordfish (SWO): 1075 kg/m³

ii. Apply processing conversion factor⁸ if fish is processed, species by species. The following conversion factors are some of the examples:

Species (FAO code)	Whole	Gutted	Gutted + Head off
Marlin (MLS)	1.00	1.10	1.30
Bigeye tuna (BET)	1.00	1.29	1.33
Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF)	1.00	1.16	1.36
Albacore tuna (ALB)	1.00	1.23	1.31
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	1.00	1.10	1.29
Swordfish (SWO)	1.00	1.31	1.30
Sharks (CWZ)	1.00	1.10	2.00
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1.00	1.10	1.36

iii. Apply stacking factors⁹, taking into account if stacking is loose (factor 0.45), medium (factor 0.51, mean value for frozen tuna), or tight (factor 0.54).

Example Calculation

Hold: 8 × 8 × 2.5 m = 160 m³

Fill rate: 70%

Species: Bigeye tuna (BET), gutted

Density: 1064 kg/m³

Stacking factor: 0.51

Processing factor: 1.29

Usable volume: 160 × 0.7 = 112 m³

Gross weight = 112 × 1064 = 119168 kg

Stacked weight = 119,280 × 0.51 = 60775,68 kg

⁸ [The Food and Agriculture Organization's \(FAO\) Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics \(CWP\) Handbook of Fishery Statistics: Indicative factors for converting product weight to live weight for a selection of major fishery commodities.](#)

⁹ Note that stacking factors vary depending on the type of fishing vessel (e.g. purse seine, longline, trawler).

$$\text{Catch weight} = 60775,68 \times 1.29 = 78400,6 \text{ kg} \approx 78,4 \text{ tonnes}$$

d) Analysis of Results

22. Compare the estimation result with the fishing logbook, captain's declarations, and any landing or transshipment data. Calculate the data and assess whether there are significant differences between the figures.

- If fishing logbook figure significantly > estimates of catches onboard:
 - look for concealed space where fish could be stored
 - look for evidence that an undeclared transshipment occurred during the fishing vessel trip, where the fishing vessel gave fish.
- If fishing logbook figure significantly < estimates of catches onboard:
 - look for evidence that an undeclared transshipment occurred during the fishing vessel trip, where the fishing vessel received fish
 - look for species that might be underreported.

Accessibility of catch estimation method information

23. To assist the catch estimation process during HSBI, it may be beneficial for the catch quantification procedures to be translated into languages that are in use on fishing vessels and/or as pictographs to bridge any language barriers.

24. Information accessibility of the HSBI Catch estimation process for the vessel master crew and for the HSBI Authorised inspectors could be supported via:

- HSBI Multi-language cards
- the catch quantification procedures given/shown to master of vessel by HSBI Authorised inspectors
- the voluntary guide translated by CCMs.



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

Measuring Tool Calibration and Certification Guide

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.2	27 November	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.3	4 December	Includes revisions at WCPFC22	HBSI WB	HSBI WG Chair

Contents

PURPOSE STATEMENT	1
Application of measuring tools in WCPFC HSBI activities.	2
Measuring tool calibration minimum standards	2

PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors conducting WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹) on the minimum standards for the use of measuring tools during a HSBI, which includes:
 - tape measures, and
 - weighing scales.
2. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to authorised HSBI activities within the WCPFC Convention Area.
3. This guide should be modified in response to new information, technical innovations, and perspectives. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

Application of measuring tools in WCPFC HSBI activities.

4. The aim of HSBI is to check a vessel is operating in compliance with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) obligations.
5. Inspectors conducting HSBI activities should use calibrated measuring tools to take measurements of the:
 - length and weight of fishing gear
 - the fishing holds
 - catch, and
 - vessel markings
6. Taking measurements during HSBI activities can assist with assessing compliance with:
 - by-catch mitigation methods
 - logbook reporting and catch estimations
 - vessel marking and identification
7. The calibration and independent certification of measuring tools is crucial and constitutes an important factor in successful compliance investigations and to ensure consistency between inspections.

Measuring tool calibration minimum standards

Table 1. Types of commonly used measuring tools:

Tape measures			
steel, retractable	fabric, retractable	Infrared and laser	Magnetic
Weighing scales			
Hook		pocket	

8. The general principles and procedures for measuring tool use and calibration in fisheries investigations:
 - a) **Documentation and records**
9. Authorised inspectors should:
 - document the taking of measurements using a recording device, including photographs and videos that identify the measurement tools used and their serial number and certification number where available.
 - take measurements with witnesses' present (master and crew,) and prioritise that witnesses from the fishing vessel are present.
 - ideally work in pairs.
 - record any measurements taken in the HSBI report. The page which records measurements and applied tools should also record the witness name, role and signature.

10. The master of the vessel must be provided with an interim copy of the report which includes details of any measurement taken. The master must also be given to opportunity to include any objection or comment to be included in the final report.

b) Certification guidelines and details of the measuring tools

11. Measuring tools should be certified by an independent nationally accredited body at the point of manufacturing in accordance with ISO or international recognised standards.
12. Certification details should be available and provided to the flag CCM upon request, and on reasonable grounds such as to support flag state investigation. Certification details could include:
 - type of measuring tool
 - technical data sheet
 - certified calibration certificates
 - independently verified by a national body
 - manufacturing information on ISO or international standards
 - EC Class² (I, II, III)
 - the inspecting CCM keeps all certification material available to be shared with the flag CCM if requested.

c) Guidelines for calibration of measuring tools

13. Measuring tools should be periodically tested for accuracy, such as:
 - comparing the measurements on a measuring tape to a known standard, typically a certified reference or master tape
 - the recalibration of weighing scales
14. Pre-boarding condition checks should be conducted on measuring tools to ensure they are undamaged and in working order.

² Measuring tape accuracy is guided by harmonised standards set out by the European Committee which divide the category into three classes according to their level of accuracy.



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

Bycatch Mitigation Measuring

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.2	27 November	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.3	4 December	Includes revisions at WCPFC22	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair

Contents

PURPOSE STATEMENT	1
Assessing bycatch mitigation measures in WCPFC HSBI activities.	2
Bycatch mitigation measuring Minimum Standards.....	2
Accessibility of bycatch mitigation measuring and multi-language information	5
Annex 1. Example HSBI report template/ inspection checklist - seabird mitigation measures	6

PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors conducting WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹) on:
 - assessing bycatch mitigation measures that require quantifiable measurements and
 - the minimum standards for taking and recording measurements
2. The development of this Guide aims to support a consistent approach to the monitoring of bycatch mitigation measures on the high seas in such cases where the bycatch mitigation measure requires a quantifiable measurement (e.g., length or weight).

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

3. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to authorised HSBI activities within the WCPFC Convention Area.
4. This guide should be modified in response to future amendments to bycatch mitigation measures for any species and emerging technologies. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.

Assessing bycatch mitigation measures in WCPFC HSBI activities.

5. The aim of HSBI is to ensure a vessel is compliant with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) obligations.
6. Authorised inspectors conducting HSBI activities should inspect required bycatch-catch mitigation measures (and equipment) that are on board, being used, or are available for use, including to:
 - confirm presence or absence of bycatch mitigation methods, tools, equipment, etc.
 - confirm application of bycatch mitigation methods by trip
 - verify configuration and construction of bycatch mitigation methods
 - record condition of bycatch mitigation methods
7. Inspection and recording bycatch mitigation measures (methods, tools and equipment) by Authorised Inspectors during HSBI activities assesses compliance with CMMs for:
 - Seabirds,
 - Shark,
 - Cetaceans,
 - Sea Turtles, and
 - Mobula Rays
8. Authorised inspectors are to be fully familiar with the provisions of the CMMs in force on bycatch mitigation measures, including with respect to any areas of application with obligations. These should be taken into consideration with the vessel's current location and trip operations.
9. Inspecting and recording bycatch mitigation measures during HSBI activities, can provide the flag CCM with information at vessel and fishing trip level related to the implementation of bycatch related CMMs.

Bycatch mitigation measuring Minimum Standards

10. The general principles and procedures for taking measurements of bycatch mitigation measures in HSBI:
 - a) Documentation and records*
11. Authorised inspectors should:
 - document any measurements taken using a recording device, including photographs and videos.

- Take any measurement with witness' present (\ master or crew,) and prioritise that witnesses from the fishing vessel are present.
- ideally work in pairs
- inspect the Vessel Master's notes including fishing vessel operation tracking and the daily catch and effort records.

12. The HSBI report should record bycatch mitigation measure information. The authorised inspector should record as much as possible, including but not limited to the following information related to bycatch mitigation:

- Bycatch mitigation methods (refer Annex 1):
 - used by vessel
 - measurements (including unit of measurement)
 - witness name, role and signature.

13. The master of the vessel must be provided with an interim copy of the report which includes detail of any bycatch mitigation methods and measurements. The master must also be given to opportunity to include any objection or comment to be included in the final report.

b) Equipment

- Calibrated/certified tape measure and weighing scales
- Photo and video recorder
- HSBI report / recording information materials

Collection and analysis of bycatch mitigation measures (and tools) for Seabirds

Weighted branch lines

14. Branch lines are to be weighted accordingly, based on the distance from the hook. Authorised Inspectors should:

- measure the distance from the weight to the eye (top) of the hook
- document the packages of weights on board
- document the weights showing weight amount if readable
- use calibrated scales to weigh individual weights.

Tori lines

15. Tori lines specifications are dependent on the total length of the vessel (on the RFV and confirmed via the ships documents) and applicable areas on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention Area (i.e. North of 23 North, South of 25 South and 30 South). Refer to Annex 1. Example HSBI report template/inspection checklist - seabird mitigation measures.

16. Space is limited when measuring a tori line at-sea, however, an indicative assessment of length can be achieved using mathematical techniques. To measure the tori line, authorised inspectors should:

- choose and clear an area on the vessel deck, running along the vessel is often an open and clear space
- measure the area on the vessel deck
- lay the tori line out in sections along this length (back and forth)
- measure to confirm length of sections

- count number of lengths
- measure overage piece of line leftover
- calculate overall length of tori line e.g. 10 sections of line, measuring 15m = 150m tori line length (plus any overage)
- carry out a second measurement in case of discrepancy
- Measure both tori lines if the vessel has two.

Tori line streamers

17. Authorised inspectors should:

- measure distance between long streamers
- measure distance between short streamers
- measure the first long streamers from the start of the tori line that meets the attachment point
- measure from attachment point to the first long streamer
- measure and record the length of long and short streamers.

Tori pole

18. The tori pole or attachment point is where the tori line is deployed from. Authorised inspectors should:

- measure from top of tori pole (estimate) or attachments point to the sea surface.

Night Setting

19. Depending on the area of fishing, night setting may be an approved seabird mitigation measure. Information on mitigation measures may be recorded in the vessels' Daily Catch and Effort Records or the ships log. Where night setting is declared, Authorised inspectors should:

- identify the start time (UTC) and end time of setting (UTC),
- verify the location and corresponding requirement
- identify the time of nautical dawn and dusk using a nautical almanac
- identify if setting of fishing gear has occurred after nautical dawn or before nautical dusk using vessel records.

Hook-shielding devices

20. Hook shielding devices may be used as a stand along seabird mitigation measure. Where identified, authorised inspectors should:

- identify if hook shielding devices are used on all gear (full or partial)
- measure and record the weight of the hook shielding device and distance to the eye (top) of the hook.

Management of offal discharge

21. Management of offal discharge is a permitted as a seabird mitigation measure where fishing occurs north of 23° North. Where management of offal discharge is identified, Authorised inspectors can speak with the master and crew to record fishing practices during setting and/or hauling.

Blue dyed bait

22. Where blue dyed bait is identified as used, Authorised inspectors should:

- confirm that bait used is fully thawed when dyed
- compare the colour of dye to the vessel placard showing the colour to which bait is to be dyed (provided by the Commission Secretariat).

Accessibility of bycatch mitigation measuring and multi-language information

To assist the bycatch mitigation measuring process during HSBI activities, it may be beneficial for these procedures to be translated into languages that are in use on fishing vessels and/or as pictographs to bridge any language barriers.

The following supporting documentation should be considered for translation by CCMs:

- HSBI Multi-language cards
- Measuring of bycatch mitigation measure procedures translated into flag CCM languages, provided online.
- Measuring of bycatch mitigation measure procedures given/shown to master of vessel by HSBI Authorised inspectors.

In addition, flag CCMs should also consider providing information about measuring bycatch mitigation measure procedures that may be used during HSBI inspections to their fishing vessels in a language(s) used by their vessels.

Annex 1. Example HSBI report template/ inspection checklist - seabird mitigation measures

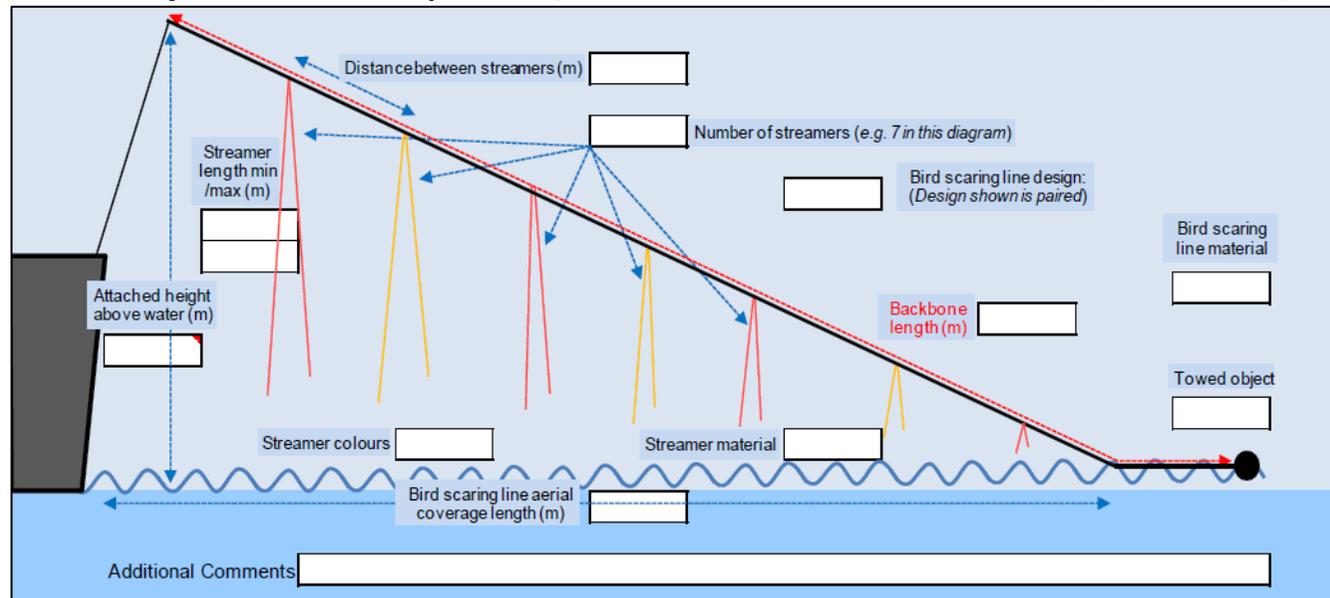
Tori Line for vessels $\geq 35\text{m}$ total length and below 25° South (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1,1a)		
<p>Image of a tori line</p> <p><i>[Schematic needs to fully reflect WCPFC requirement, i.e. clear differentiation between long/short streamers, aerial extent, and total length]</i></p>		
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment
Tori Line General Specifications	Did the vessel have at least one tori line?	Has the vessel been fishing below 25 South during the current fishing trip? (Y/N)
		Does the vessel have a tori line? (Y/N)
		Number of tori lines examined?

	Long/Short Streamers	Does the tori line have long and short streamers? (Y/N)	
	Streamer Colour	Colour of streamers:	
	Overall tori line length	What is the overall length (m) of the tori line?	
		Is the tori line at least 200m in total length? (Y/N)	
	Aerial Extent	Over what length (m) are streamers included over the total length of the tori line?	
Tori Pole	Does the vessel have a tori pole? (Y/N)		
	What is the height (m) at which the tori line is secured? Is the height greater than 7m from the sea surface? (Y/N)		
Long Streamer Specifications	Streamer Spacing	What is the distance (m) between long streamers?	
		Are streamers spaced no more than 5m apart? (Y/N)	
	Long Streamer Swivels	Are swivels used to secure the long streamers to the tori line (Y/N)	
Long Streamer Length	What is the length (m) of long streamers used?		
	Are long streamers likely to reach the sea surface when the sea is calm over the length of the aerial extent? (Y/N)		
Short Streamer Specifications	Streamer spacing	What is the distance (m) between short streamers?	
		Are streamers spaced no more than 1m apart? (Y/N)	
Short Streamer Length	What is the length (m) of short streamers used?		
	Are short streamers greater than 1m in length? (Y/N)		

Tori Line for vessels <35m total length and below 25° South (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1,1b)

Image of a tori line

[Schematic needs to fully reflect WCPFC requirement, i.e. clear differentiation short streamers, aerial extent, and total length]



Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Tori Line General Specifications	Did the vessel have at least one tori line?	Has the vessel been fishing below 25 South? (Y/N) Does the vessel have a tori line? (Y/N)	

		Number of tori lines examined?	
	Long/Short Streamers	Does the tori line have short streamers? (Y/N) and/or Does the tori line have long streamers? (Y/N)	
	Streamer Colour	Colour of streamers:	
	Overall tori line length	What is the overall length (m) of the tori line?	
	Aerial Extent	Over what length (m) are streamers included over the total length of the tori line? Are streamers included over the at least the first 75m of the tori line? (Y/N)	
	Tori Pole	Does the vessel have a tori pole? (Y/N) What is the height (m) at which the tori line is secured? Is the height greater than 6m from the sea surface? (Y/N)	
Long Streamer Specifications	Streamer Spacing	What is the distance (m) between long streamers? Are streamers spaced no more than 5m apart? (Y/N)	
	Long Streamer Swivels	How are long streamers secured to the tori line?	
	Long Streamer Length	What is the length (m) of long streamers used? Are long streamers likely to reach the sea surface when the sea is calm over the length of the aerial extent? (Y/N)	
	Streamer spacing	What is the distance (m) between short streamers? Are streamers spaced no more than 1m apart? (Y/N)	

Short Streamer Specifications	Short Streamer Length	What is the length (m) of short streamers used? Are short streamers greater than 1m in length? (Y/N)	
--------------------------------------	-----------------------	---	--

Night setting (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 4)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Night Setting	Night Setting Applicable	Has the vessel been fishing below 30 South? Y/N Does the vessel indicate use of night setting? (Y/N)	
	Setting Times ²	Does the vessel set fishing lines after nautical dawn and before nautical dusk? (Y/N) Has Daily catch and Effort Records been provided to examine Night Setting? Y/N	
		What is the start time of setting? What is the time of nautical dawn and/or nautical dusk at the operation latitude/longitude)? What is the end time of setting? What time did the setting switch to weighted branch-line?	
	Deck Lighting	Is the master aware of the need for deck lighting kept to a minimum (note lights should not breach minimum standards for safety and inspection (Y/N)	Annex 1,4(iii)

² Note however that during a HSBI, obtaining all this information may be impractical for Authorised inspectors. Where times are recorded, specify in UTC.

Weighted Branch Lines (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 5)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Weighted branch line	Application ³	Has the vessel been fishing below 25 South? (Y/N)	
		Does the vessel use of weighted branch lines? (Y/N)	
	Are weighted branch lines used on all fishing gear? (Full, Partial, No)		
	What is the number of weighted branch lines and what times are they set?		
	What is the number of unweighted branch lines and what times are they set?		
	Specification	Do weighted branch lines meet minimum weight and length specifications? (Y/N)	
		At least 40g within 50cm of the hook?	
		At least 45g within 1m of the hook?	
		At least 60g within 3.5m of the hook?	
		At least 98g within 4m of the hook?	

Hook Shielding devices (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 6)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Weighted branch line	Application	Has the vessel been fishing below 25 South? (Y/N)	
		Does the vessel use of hook shielding devices? (Y/N)	
	Are hook shielding devices used on all fishing gear? (Full, Partial, No)		
Specification	What is the weight (g) of the hook shielding device?		

³ Note however that during a HSBI, obtaining all this information may be impractical for Authorised inspectors. Where times are recorded, specify in UTC.

Tori Lines North of 23° North (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 2a, b, and c)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Tori Line General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N) Is the vessel length is 24m or above? Does the vessel have a tori line? (Y/N) Number of tori lines examined?	
	Minimum Length	What is the overall length (m) of the tori line? Is the tori line at least 100m in total length? (Y/N)	
	Attachment Point	What is the height (m) at which the tori line is secured? Is the height greater than 5m from the sea surface? (Y/N)	
Long Streamers	Streamer Spacing	What is the spacing between long streamers? Is the interval between long streamers less than 5m? (Y/N)	
	Streamer specifications	How are the long streamers secured to the tori line? Are long streamers secured using swivels? (Y/N) Are long streamers as close to the water as possible? (Y/N)	

Short Streamers	Streamer Spacing	<p>What is the spacing between streamers?</p> <p>Is the interval between short streamers less than 1m? (Y/N)</p>	(Note only encourage where the vessel is <24m total length).
	Streamer specifications	<p>What is the length of short streamers?</p> <p>Are streamers at least 30cm in length? (Y/N)</p>	

Side Setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 3)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
General Specifications	Application	<p>Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N)</p> <p>Does the vessel side set and use a bird curtain? (Y/N)</p>	
	General Requirements	<p>Is the mainline deployment deployed from port or starboard side as far from the stern as possible? (at least 1m) (Y/N)</p> <p>Is a mainline shooter used? (Y/N) If so, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.</p>	
	Bird Streamers	<p>Is bird curtain: Pole aft of line shooter at least 3m long? (Y/N)</p> <p>Has a minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2m of pole. (Y/N)</p> <p>What is the diameter of the streamers?</p>	

		<p>Is the diameter of the main streamers at least 20mm? (Y/N)</p> <p>What is the diameter of branch streamers? Is the diameter of the branch streamers at least 10mm? (Y/N)</p> <p>Are the branch streamers long enough to drag on water? (Y/N)</p>	
--	--	---	--

Management of offal discharge (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 7)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N)	
	General Requirements	Does the vessel discharge offal during setting or hauling? (Y/N). If Yes, is offal discharged from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling?	

Blue-dyed bait (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 8)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N)	

	General Requirements	Does the vessel use dyed bait? (Y/N) Does the vessel have a placard showing the standardised colour of bait? (Y/N)	
--	----------------------	---	--

Deep setting line shooter (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 9)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N)	
	General Requirements	Does the vessel use a deep setting line shooter? (Y/N) Is the master aware of the requirement that the majority of hooks set by the deep setting line shooter reach depths at least 100m (Y/N)	



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

HSBI Collection and Dissemination of Photographic and Video Evidence

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.2	27 November	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.3	4 December	Includes revisions at WCPFC22	HBSI WG	HSBI WG Chair

Contents

PURPOSE STATEMENT 1

 Application of Photography and Video Collection During HSBI Activities. 2

 Photographic and Video Collection Practices 3

 Dissemination of Media Evidence to Flag State 4

PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors on the collection and dissemination of photographic and video media collected as part of WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹). For CCMs with an authorized inspection presence conducting HSBI activities, the development of this Guide also intends to:
 - support the generation and dissemination of clear, detailed, and evidentiary-quality boarding and alleged violation reports to CCM authorities
 - assist CCMs in investigation any alleged compliance issues identified onboard fishing vessels subjected to HSBI and support CCM follow up processes, including judicial

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

processes if relevant, with robust photographic and video media that will afford reliable evidence for such purposes.

- support the establishment of best practices amongst inspecting authorities.
2. This Guide refers to general considerations in the application of common photographic and video collection and reporting practices conducted by inspectors during and subsequent to HSBI activities, which includes:
 - device settings
 - documentation protocols
 - media file handling
 - reporting
 - transmission of media to flag state.
 3. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to authorised HSBI activities within the WCPFC Convention Area.
 4. This Guide can be modified in response to new information, technical innovations, and perspectives. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.
 5. Inspectors should consider any specific evidentiary protocols relevant to the national requirements of the fishing vessel authorities that are raised to the attention of the inspection authority or HSBI Working Group when conducting collection and reporting activities.

Application of Photography and Video Collection During HSBI Activities.

6. The aim of HSBI is to verify compliance of a vessel with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC CMM obligations and support the flag state conduct a fulsome investigation into any potential violations observed.
7. Inspectors conducting HSBI activities should seek to document potential violations of WCPFC obligations with photographic and video recording devices wherever deemed practicable during the course of a boarding and inspection in order to supply the best evidence to the flag CCM, together with the inspection report. Photographic and video documentation is recognized as a compelling source of visual evidence to substantiate non-compliance.

Photographic and Video Collection Practices

Devices

8. The appropriate media recording device (video recording, photography, audio, etc.) to be used is at the discretion of the inspector and will depend on the nature of the potential violation(s) being documented.
9. The inspector should ensure that a correct and consistent time/date stamp be used by all media collection devices. The time zone used (i.e. Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), Pohnpei Standard Time, local time, etc.) should be indicated in the boarding and/or potential violation report.
10. Media imagery should be recorded in a conventional or standard file format and wherever possible, with maximum resolution and minimal compression. Example file formats include JPEG, RAW, and TIFF for photography and MP4 and AVI formats for video recording.
11. To the extent possible, metadata² should be recorded and preserved within the media files documented by inspectors, in case it is required for evidentiary purposes by the flag CCM. This metadata may often be embedded within files as EXIF data.

Photography and Video Recording

12. Wherever practicable, photograph or video record evidence in situ, or in place, prior to removal or movement of item.
13. Inspectors recording photographic or video evidence should attempt to use a systematic approach to evidence collection in order to support comprehensive, credible, and clear documentation of potential evidence (i.e. systematic and not random documentation of catch holds), especially with evidence relating to DNA sampling.
14. Depending on the nature of the evidence being documented, a systematic approach to the documentation of individual spaces or items may also be warranted in order to document the context or relation of evidence aboard a vessel. This may involve sequenced recording that transitions from wide-angle view to mid-range view and finally a close-up detailed view.

Media Files

15. Inspectors shall not intentionally alter, edit or manipulate media evidence in any manner that could distort or misrepresent the evidence. If imagery enhancements are performed, it should be documented within the report.
16. Whenever possible, all original media files should be maintained by the inspection authority and not deleted until the flag CCM has finalized their investigation, or files have been transmitted to their authorities.

² Metadata is data that often specifies additional details about file creation, such as date and time, modification history, camera type, geographic coordinates, and other relevant data.

17. Inspectors should preserve media files in their original format and filename, without modification, and make them available to a CCM upon request, until the conclusion of any administrative or judicial processes.

Inspector Documentation and Reporting

18. Wherever practicable, inspectors should document the following aspects of photographic and video collection activities:
 - a. identification number or official contact point for the photographer/videographer³.
 - b. date and time
 - c. description and location of imagery and/or subject
 - d. file details.
19. The creation and transmittal of media collection (photographic, video, or any combination) logs is widely accepted as a best practice to support legal admissibility, clear reporting, and establish chain of custody for media evidence collection supporting judicial or administrative proceedings.
20. Boarding and/or potential violation reports transmitted to the flag state should include details and/or descriptions of any necessary context relating to media evidence submitted within the report that is not otherwise self-evident. This may include such details as the location, subject, relationship or significance of the evidence depicted in the media. Reference to specific media files affording key evidence within the report may support clearer interpretation of evidence.

Dissemination of Media Evidence to Flag State

21. The submission of annotated photograph or media to the flag CCM is generally a useful aid to support in the interpretation of media with evidentiary value and understanding context. Providing access to both annotated and original media formats is encouraged.
22. If media evidence, such as photographs, are transmitted to the flag CCM within a document other than the original file format, such as PDF or Word, the inspection authority should take additional steps to either transmit the original media files in original formats or make them available upon request. Ensuring access to full resolution and original media evidence may support analysis and evidentiary standards.
23. The transmission of large media evidence files – such as video footage or extensive photo collections – may not be feasible via the official HSBI email contact points designated by the Secretariat due to bandwidth limitations associated with e-mail servers. Therefore, the use of cloud-based servers may be warranted to facilitate the exchange of larger media files between CCMs. Wherever possible, security features such as password protection, end-to-end encryption or e-mail-specific access links should be used to ensure the confidentiality and protection of such sensitive data.

³ name of photographer/videographer - disclosure is at the discretion of inspecting CCM but suggested where required to support administrative or judicial processes.

24. Additional transmission mediums, such as the potential use of the Secretariat's HSBI notification portal or Case Compliance File System (CCFS), should be assessed for the potential ability to deliver this capability of file sharing between CCMs.



Update and Workplan to Progress the Review of CMM 2017-02

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the review of [CMM 2017-02](#) *Port State Minimum Standards* and summarises the key points of focus for potential refinements to existing rules and other Commission decisions as discussed by CCMs at PSM-WG01 in March 2025 ([Summary of Meeting](#)) and at PSM-WG02 in September 2025 ([Summary of Meeting](#)).

Introduction

2. In 2024, the Commission agreed to establish a working group led by Fiji to undertake review of CMM 2017-02 in 2025. The review was to include the linkage between CMM 2017-02 and the MCS Data Rules, including with respect to the potential for CNM access to MCS data. ([TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 63](#)).
3. Paragraphs 28 – 29 of CMM 2017-02 also provide guidance on such a review:

Periodic review

28. The Commission shall review this measure within 2 years of its entry into force, which shall include but not be limited to an evaluation of its effectiveness, and any financial and administrative burdens associated with its implementation.

29. In the review of this measure, the Commission may consider additional elements such as notification requirements, port entry, authorization or denial, use of ports, and additional inspection requirements.

Areas of focus identified for review

4. CCMs provided further guidance on the scope of the review during the PSM-WG1 meeting held in March 2025 which was summarised in the Chair's Summary Report as:
 - a. Identification of gaps in the current CMM and where additional details would be useful, such as on port arrivals and denial of port access, and what inspections could cover.
 - b. Review of data sharing arrangements with a view to strengthening data exchange requirements within the WCPFC Data Rules and considering how those data sharing arrangements will be applied.
 - c. Identification of implementation challenges and the applicability of the measure.
 - d. Review of requirements in existing CMMs that relate to Port State measures in order to maximize the linkages and ensure the CMMs are integrated.
 - e. Consideration of the scope of existing provisions of the measure relating to capacity building for SIDS and whether these were sufficient.

- f. Harmonization and standardization of data requirements with those of the PSMA and other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (tRFMOs).
- 5. The PSM-WG01 noted that there was a need for analysis of CMM 2017-02 to identify potential gaps that could support CCM consideration of amendments to this measure. More detail associated with this analysis was provided in the Chair’s discussion paper - [TCC21-2025-19A](#). Additional areas were also identified as useful for PSM WG participants to consider in the review of CMM 2017-02.

CCMs with designated ports under CMM 2017-02 and CCMs that are parties to the PSMA

- 6. **Table 1** below shows the WCPFC [CCMs that have implemented CMM 2017-02](#) and those that are [parties to the PSMA](#). 10 CCMs have notified WCPFC of designated ports under CMM 2017-02, and 24 CCMs are parties to the PSMA.

Table 1. Status of CCMs who have notified of designated ports under CMM 2017-02 and those that are parties to the PSMA.

	SIDS WCPFC Members and Participating Territories	Non-SIDS WCPFC Members	Cooperating Non-Members
CCMs who have notified of designated Ports under CMM 2017-02	France (French Polynesia, New Caledonia), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu	Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, United States of America	Thailand
CCMs who are parties to PSMA as at 18 August 2025	Fiji, France (French Polynesia, New Caledonia), Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, United States of America	Bahamas, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, Viet Nam

Special requirements of Small Island Developing States and participating territories (SIDS)

- 7. CMM 2017-02 took effect in February 2018 and was to be reviewed within two years. Implementation of the CMM was voluntary until such time as CCM’s designated ports and/or contact points. The above table shows that since that time, most SIDS have chosen not to designate ports under CMM 2017-02.
- 8. Paragraphs 22 -27 of the CMM provide examples of the types of assistance that could be required and requires CCMs to cooperate to establish appropriate mechanisms to provide technical and/or financial assistance to deliver those needs, building on, but not limited by, the key capacity or resource assistance and those mechanisms set out in paragraph 4 of CMM 2013-06.
- 9. The two-year review period reflected the Commission’s priority to develop a mechanism for providing assistance to SIDS, which was scheduled for presentation to the Commission at WCPFC16 in 2019. This timing ensured that the measure could be reviewed within two years. Paragraph 25 also states

that the establishment of the mechanism was noted to be “critical in SIDS’ decision-making processes about whether to designate their ports under this CMM.”

10. As the required mechanism has not been agreed and the review of CMM 2017-02 not progressed, this would be a priority for the work of the PSM-WG.
11. As guidance develops through Commission discussions in this WG, the WG will be able to respond appropriately through proposed amendments to CMM 2017-02.

Potential areas to consider in harmonization with tuna RFMOs

12. In relation to other tRFMOs, there are existing [Memoranda of Understanding](#) that generally enable reciprocal data exchanges that include for monitoring, surveillance and control purposes. In the case of CCSBT and IATTC, there are also Memoranda of Cooperation (CCSBT and IATTC) that provide more specific details on the type of data exchange. Once specific amendments to CMM 2017-02 are clearer, an assessment can be made as to whether any changes to these arrangements are necessary.
13. Across tRFMOs, there is a broad alignment on the core principles of port state measures, particularly the designation of ports, the requirement for inspection procedures and the general exchange of information. However, key gaps remain that hinder full harmonization. These include inconsistent obligations or minimum standards for port entry, arrivals, denial and inspection on IUU grounds, the absence of uniform real-time reporting standards and a weak cross-referencing with other MCS or relevant tRFMOs measures. Differences also exist in the binding nature of capacity building requirements and support for developing CCMs, particularly SIDS. More detail associated with this assessment was provided in [TCC21-2025-19A](#).

Next steps

14. **Table 2** below is an updated version of the table that was discussed during [PSM-WG02](#) meeting. The first two columns are the original list of priority areas and initial points for discussion based on discussions from PSM-WG1. The priority areas and points for discussion are presented without ranking and are not intended to limit the scope of areas for review.
15. At PSM-WG2 the Chair invited participants to provide further views to elaborate on each of the five areas and initial list of points for discussion. A summary of the key points raised is included in the third column in **Table 2**. In the fourth column, the Chair provides suggestions on potential next steps for consideration during the 2026 review process.

Recommendations

16. The Chair invites participants to provide further views to further refine the scope of the five areas, in particular the initial suggestions of the next potential steps set out in Column 4 of **Table 2**.
17. WCPFC22 is invited to note the update in this paper and to support the workplan proposed for the continued work of the PSM-IWG in 2026 in **Table 3**.

Table 2: Proposed scope of review for CMM 2017-02 in 2026

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
1. Support for SIDS and developing States and implementation challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider reviewing the adequacy of current assistance provisions. ii. Consider establishing an operational funding facility. iii. Consider defining clear burden-sharing mechanisms with triggers for assistance. iv. Consider developing metrics to monitor delivery of capacity building and support. v. Consider reviewing how flexibility of the measure affects consistent implementation. vi. Consider assessing barriers faced by SIDS and developing States (legal frameworks, inspector training, MCS capacity). vii. Consider examining the adequacy of current funding/technical assistance provisions. viii. Consider identifying areas where clarification/simplification could improve applicability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of capacity-building provisions and identification of implementation challenges for SIDS highlighted. • Existing regional measures provide certain controls, which could be complemented by additional mechanisms. • Financial, technical, and legal challenges may affect the effective implementation of new port controls. • Resource constraints such as trained inspectors and legal frameworks need to be addressed. • Operational support mechanisms, including funding, burden sharing, and structured assistance with capacity-tracking, were discussed. • Transshipment controls were highlighted as an area to consider concurrently to avoid conflicting obligations related to SIDS port use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Develop draft recommendation text to operationalise paragraphs 22 -27 of CMM 2017-02. 1.2 Consider linkages to CMM 2013-07 and CMM 2013-06 annual reporting and the WCPFC Strategic Investment Plan.

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
<p>2. Port entry, arrivals and denial of access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider establishing mandatory minimum standards for advance notification. ii. Consider reviewing procedures for authorization/denial of entry, including IUU grounds. iii. Consider risk-based inspection minimum standards and prioritization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified need to fill gaps on port arrivals, denial of access, and inspection scope • Minimum standards on advance notification were discussed to address enforcement challenges from late or missing vessel notices. • Alignment of Commission databases with GIES was identified as a potential mechanism to improve management of vessel entry and arrivals. • The concept of near real-time reporting for high-risk vessels and definitions of “high-risk” cases were discussed to support targeted inspections. • Interactions between mandatory denial of port entry and transshipment obligations were highlighted as requiring careful consideration. • Optional port entry and arrival conditions, as well as non-binding guidelines, were also discussed where existing frameworks already provide controls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Consider potential refinements to the MCS data access rules and procedures to improve support to Port CCMs being able to request and access near real-time reporting for high-risk vessels. 2.2 Develop minimum and/or best practice [voluntary] standards for port entry and arrival conditions, including advance notification requirements 2.3 Consider linkages to WCPFC requirements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. transshipment regulation and reporting requirements, b. HSBI events conducted; c. Other CMM requirements to support consideration of entry applications

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
<p>3. Facilitating access to WCPFC data to support Port entry procedures</p>	<p>i. Consider establishing procedures that will more efficiently facilitate review and delivery of data under approved requests to support Port entry procedures, including from CNMs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of data-sharing arrangements and strengthening of WCPFC Data Rules application highlighted. • Challenges were identified in accessing timely and complete non-public domain data for port entry assessments, particularly for vessels not operating in certain waters despite existing Data Rules provisions (paragraphs 5 and 19). • Clarification and strengthening of CMM provisions to provide clear access for port CCMs, including for Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs), was discussed. • The potential establishment of an efficient communication platform between flag and port CCMs to enable faster data exchange was noted. • Delays in data access were highlighted as a factor that may result in vessels entering port before verification, given the 72-hour decision timeframe. 	<p>3.1 Consider potential refinements to the MCS data access rules and procedures to improve support to Port CCMs, including CNMs, to support requests and access to near real-time reporting</p> <p>3.2 Develop draft recommendation text to task the Secretariat to progress work in 2027 to support alignment of WCPFC databases with GIES and any national or regional PSM information management systems</p>

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
<p>4. Inspection standards and scope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider reviewing Annex A to establish binding minimum standards. ii. Consider defining minimum inspection coverage (documents, gear, catch, logbooks, authorizations). iii. Consider harmonization of inspection report standards with PSMA, other tRFMOs and pan-Pacific RFBs, where applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on harmonisation and standardisation of inspection requirements with PSMA and other RFMOs. • The possibility of establishing binding minimum inspection standards under a WCPFC framework was discussed, alongside potential effects on vessel port visits. • Existing provisions were noted as not fully aligned with international best practices, which could reduce the effectiveness of port measures. • The role of non-mandatory port measures, including designated ports, was highlighted as affecting regional implementation. • Minimum inspection standards for vessel documents, fishing gear, catch, logbooks, and authorisations were discussed to promote consistency. • Harmonization of inspection templates with PSMA and other tuna RFMOs was noted. • Definitions of “high-risk” vessels, areas, and activities were discussed to support targeted inspections and improve regional consistency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Consider development of minimum and/or best practice standards for port inspections 4.2 Consider development of WCPFC minimum data fields for port inspections and associated reporting 4.3 Develop WCPFC definition of “high-risk” vessels, areas, and activities to support Port Inspection activities. (Will support consideration of 2.3 above)

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer definitions of “high-risk” were identified as a way to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and help reduce the occurrence of unreported (“ghost”) vessels. 	
<p>5. Reporting and data exchange</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider strengthening timely reporting of inspection-related information. ii. Consider aligning inspection templates with PSMA GIES. iii. Consider introducing near-real time reporting for high-risk cases. iv. Consider exploring cross-tRFMO pan Pacific RFBs and CNM data sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on harmonisation of data requirements with PSMA and strengthening data-exchange provisions. • The importance of timely and reliable data exchange for effective port measures was highlighted for port, coastal, and flag CCMs. • Development of standardised reporting templates and electronic systems linking WCPFC and PSMA databases was discussed. • The FFA electronic Port State Measures Reporting tool (e-PSM) was identified as an example of a system directly connected to PSMA. • Near real-time reporting for high-risk cases was noted as a potential approach, alongside consideration of technical and definitional challenges before implementation. • The overall role of timely reporting in identifying IUU activities and strengthening regional compliance was emphasised. 	<p>5.1 Develop draft recommendation text to task the Secretariat to progress work in 2027 to support alignment of WCPFC databases with GIES and any national or regional PSM information management systems (eg FFA e-PSM)</p>

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
<p>6. Integration with other CMMs/MCS tools</p>	<p>i. Consider linkage between port inspections to transshipment monitoring, IUU vessel listing, HSBI and VMS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of related CMMs recommended to maximise linkages and integration of port measures within overall MCS framework. • Port-related measures were discussed in the context of complementing existing CMM obligations, such as vessel markings, observer coverage, and transshipment controls. • Integration across the Commission’s compliance framework was identified as a way to reduce duplication and enhance coherence. • Compatibility between data-sharing systems under port measures and other regional MCS tools was highlighted as important to improve efficiency and information flow. 	<p>6.1 Develop draft recommendation text to task the Secretariat in 2027 to review related CMMs recommended to maximise linkages and integration of port measures within overall MCS framework</p>

Table 3: Chair's Indicative Workplan for the review of WCPFC CMM 2017-02 in 2026

Timeline	Planned Activities
February-March	First online meeting: Opportunity for participants to provide further comments on the priority areas, and initial suggestions of the next potential steps set out in Column 4 of Table 2
April-June	Development of initial draft recommendation texts, which may include draft amendments to CMM 2017-02, tasks to the Secretariat and first drafts of standards and procedures.
June - July	Second online meeting: to discuss initial draft recommendation texts.
September (in association with TCC22)	In-person meeting to finalise recommendations for WCPFC23.
December (WCPFC23)	Adoption of recommendations

*Timelines are indicative and may be adjusted in coordination with CCMs and the Secretariat.



**Terms of Reference for the IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group on
South Pacific Albacore Tuna (SPAJWG)**

Taking into account the mandates for cooperation and coordination between the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) with respect to the south Pacific albacore tuna contained in, *inter alia*, IATTC Resolution C-24-04 and the recommendation adopted by WCPFC21 instructing the Chair of the WCPFC to help develop Terms of Reference for the establishment of a Joint Working Group;

Recognizing that South Pacific albacore is an important tuna species harvested by members of both Commissions;

In accordance with the provisions of Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention and Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Agree:

To establish an IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore tuna (SPAJWG) to enhance cooperation between WCPFC and IATTC for South Pacific albacore tuna research and management, with the following terms of reference:

1. The SPAJWG shall be composed of representatives designated by Members of both Commissions and WCPFC Participating Territories, and who may be accompanied by such experts or advisors as each Member may deem appropriate. The SPAJWG may also include, as observers, representatives of relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to either Commission.
2. The functions of the SPAJWG shall be the following:
 - a. To develop a common understanding and approach for the conservation and management of South Pacific albacore in both convention areas;
 - b. To enhance the harmonization of harvest strategies and other conservation and management actions through, *inter alia*, the development of a workplan for the SPAJWG, which shall be developed at its inaugural meeting in the first half of 2026;
 - c. To develop compatible and/or harmonized management arrangements or measures for South Pacific albacore, as appropriate, across all fisheries, including the coordination of catch and/or effort levels between the two Commissions;
 - d. To coordinate scientific research and analyses and facilitate the collection and exchange of relevant fisheries data, scientific knowledge, and expertise;
 - e. To identify priority areas for improvement in monitoring, reporting, and data sharing;

- f. To collaborate in the identification of ways to streamline the relevant decision-making processes within each Commission to ensure efficient progress towards the robust conservation and management of South Pacific albacore;
 - g. To undertake additional tasks related to South Pacific albacore, as appropriate and pursuant to corresponding requests from both Commissions;
 - h. To report to each Commission on the advances of its work.
3. Regarding the overlap area, the SPAJWG may consider recommendations for coordinated data collection, scientific work, and management in this area, taking into account decisions jointly taken by the two Commissions.
4. Each Commission will appoint a co-chair of the SPAJWG for the term each will determine.
5. The Secretariats of both Commissions will coordinate the adoption and implementation of all arrangements needed for the work of the SPAJWG. This includes the preparation, translation, and dissemination of meeting documents, information sharing, in a manner consistent with the applicable rules and procedures of each Commission. Unless otherwise provided for, the IATTC Secretariat shall be responsible for providing simultaneous English-Spanish interpretation for meetings of the SPAJWG, and the translation of meeting documents between the two languages, as appropriate.
6. Meetings of the SPAJWG will be convened by the Co-Chairs, consistent with the relevant rules of procedure of both Commissions, and in consultation with the Chair and Director of each Commission, in a format to be decided on a case-by-case basis (virtual, presential or hybrid), taking into account the matters to be discussed and *inter alia*, the availability of funding.
7. The SPAJWG shall adopt its conclusions and recommendations by consensus. If efforts to achieve consensus fail, the meeting reports shall so indicate and shall reflect the SPAJWG discussions.
8. The conclusions and recommendations adopted by the SPAJWG shall be submitted to both Commissions, as well as to their subsidiary bodies as appropriate.
9. In order to optimize its work, as appropriate, the SPAJWG, through the Co-Chairs:
 - a. will ensure coordination with other relevant subsidiary bodies of both Commissions, particularly with a view to seeking their inputs;
 - b. may seek appropriate inputs from all relevant stakeholders, such as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations or natural persons such as scientists, researchers, managers, industries, etc.
10. These Terms of Reference shall enter into force at the time of their adoption by both Commissions, with the Terms of Reference and Workplan open for review by each Commission and revised as appropriate, annually.



Provisional 2026 Workplan for the IATTC–WCPFC Joint Working Group on South Pacific Albacore

This Workplan has been developed on a provisional basis in anticipation of its consideration and adoption by the Joint IATTC–WCPFC Working Group on the Management of South Pacific Albacore (SPAJWG), which is expected to be established by the IATTC and the WCPFC at their upcoming annual meetings in 2025. Its purpose is to serve as a multi-year roadmap guiding collaboration between the two Commissions. The Workplan outlines a phased approach to harmonizing scientific analysis, coordinating management strategies, improving monitoring and data exchange, and advancing regionally compatible measures for the effective conservation and management of South Pacific albacore tuna fisheries.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

To support the effective implementation of this Workplan, the following cross-cutting issues will be duly taken into consideration throughout all phases:

- Small Island Developing States (SIDS), developing Members, and participating territories engagement: Within the WCPFC, there is a need for financial and logistical support for delegates from SIDS, developing States, and participating territories. Similarly, within IATTC, there is the same need for its developing Members.
- Transparency: The need for all meeting documents, recommendations, and data-sharing protocols to be made available in English and Spanish.
- Stakeholder Involvement: The need to ensure, as appropriate, the participation of scientific experts, NGOs, and industry representatives to be invited as observers or advisors, consistently with the respective rules of procedure of each Commission.
- Capacity Building: The need to support the development of technical and institutional capacity in SIDS, developing Members, participating territories, and Cooperating Non-Members, especially in scientific and monitoring capabilities.
- Communication and Outreach: The need to enhance understanding and visibility of SPAJWG's objectives and progress among stakeholders and the public.

REVIEW OF THE WORKPLAN

Once adopted by the Working Group, and to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness, the SPAJWG Workplan shall be subject to an annual review by SPAJWG participants at the end of each calendar year. This review will:

- Assess the progress made toward each planned activity;
- Identify and record completed or terminated actions;
- Flag any activities requiring adjustment, rollover, or intensified follow-up in the following year.

The results of the annual review shall inform the planning of subsequent SPAJWG meetings and be reported to both Commissions. Any resulting comments or recommendations made by either Commission

are reported back to the SPAJWG.

RESOURCE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

Consistent with the relevant provisions of the Terms of Reference, and in recognition of the resource requirements to implement certain activities under this Workplan, the two Commissions will consider and endeavor to accommodate budgetary needs as appropriate.

YEAR 1: 2026 — INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

A. First SPAJWG Meeting in the first half of 2026

1. Implementation of the SPAJWG Workplan

- The SPAJWG will review and consider the time frame, specific needs, and expected outcomes of the Workplan as needed

2. Overview of the SPA Management

- Summary of recent stock status based on stock assessment for WCPO only, Pan-Pacific scale, and EPO only.
- Overview of current SPA management approaches adopted by both Commissions, including arrangements for the overlap area.
- Introduction to the development of Harvest Strategies for SPA by each Commission.

3. Review of Management Procedure Evaluations (subject to the progress of the SPA MP at WCPFC22)

- Review the adopted WCPFC SPA MP (draft schedule provided in **Table 1**), the outcomes of the first running of the MP, and the adopted SPA MP implementation CMM.
- Review the application of the WCPFC’s 2025 MP outputs to SPA management for 2026.
- Review of the scope of the SPA MP in the context of the geographic area (including the overlap area) and the mixed fishery structure
- Review of the IATTC components (fishing level) in the SPA HS framework
- Develop a detailed plan of harvest strategy-related SPAJWG activities for 2026 and beyond.

Table 1. The WCPFC’s South Pacific Albacore Management Arrangements in a repeating 3-year schedule (Proposed by the South Pacific Group¹ and Australia in December 2024; [WCPFC21-2024-DP11 Rev01 Updated](#))

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2025	- Run the MP (using data to 2023). - Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	- Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for 2026- 2028.	- Develop/Review the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2026-2028 , taking into account the output of the MP.
2026		- Monitor the performance of the MP.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM.
2027	- Perform full stock	- Monitor and review the	- Apply the SPA Management

¹ Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu

	assessment (y _{last} = 2025).	performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise the Commission.	Arrangements CMM. - Review the performance and use of the MP.
2028	- Run the MP (using data to 2026). - Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	- Monitor the performance of the MP. - Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2029-2031).	- Review and revise the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2029-2031 , taking into account the output of the MP.
2029		- Monitor the performance of the MP.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM.
2030	- Perform full stock assessment (y _{last} = 2028).	- Monitor and review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise the Commission.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM. - Review the performance and use of the MP.
2031	- Run the MP (using data to 2029). - Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	- Monitor the performance of the MP. - Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2032-2034).	- Review and revise the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2032-2034 , taking into account the output of the MP.
etc.	-	-	-

4. Compatible management measures

The SPAJWG will consider the effectiveness of the MP across both Convention Areas to develop and recommend to both commissions compatible management measures, including quantitative limits, monitoring, reporting, data sharing arrangements, and coordination of the overlap area.

5. Preparing WCPFC’s 2027 SPA stock assessment

- Establish a clear framework for coordination between SPC and IATTC scientists, including the development of intersessional meetings and communication channels to address key elements of the assessment, such as:
 - Input data requirements and exchange
 - Modeling approaches
 - Regional structure assumptions
 - Determining the scope of the assessment, including whether it will be Pacific-wide or RFMO-specific, with separate components for WCPFC and IATTC.

The SPAJWG will facilitate this discussion and establish a timeline for data sharing between the two organizations.

- Promote methodological alignment between SPC-OFP and IATTC in stock assessment practices to ensure comparability and consistency of outputs.
- Explore the development of SPA-wide projection models that incorporate both catch numbers and catch weight, to enhance the robustness of future management advice.

6. Support and Review Project 100c (CKMR)² Outputs

- Review results from CKMR³ sampling (2023–2025) and explore data integration into management advice. (SPC, SC, SPAJWG, etc.)
- Begin planning CKMR-informed stock assessments or MSE tests for the 2029–2031 MP cycle.

B. Intersessional Activities toward 2027

The following issues, among others, may be discussed, subject to the availability of supporting documents and time constraints.

1. SPAJWG reference document

- Develop one reference document for SPAJWG, covering a summary of stock structure, stock status, catch and effort levels, current management system, harvest strategy framework, climate change impacts, etc.
- Develop a list of areas where monitoring, reporting, and data sharing could be improved

2. Data issues

- Recommend to both Commissions to consider the adoption of shared data standards and timelines for stock status evaluations – comparing assessments from the WCPO-only, Pan-Pacific, and EPO-only approaches – and review existing data exchange and monitoring mechanisms, including plans for CKMR sampling and integration with ongoing tagging programs under SPC coordination.

3. SPAJWG Research plan and budget

- With the support of both Secretariats, develop a scientific research plan for the SPAJWG’s work, including any necessary budget implications, and recommend it to each Commission.
- Prior to the SPAJWG meeting, the respective research plans should be shared and consolidated, and the research responsibilities clearly assigned to each Commission to facilitate budget allocation between them.

² *Preparing WCP tuna fisheries for application of CKMR methods to resolve key stock assessment uncertainties, 2023-2025*

³ Accurately estimating absolute spawning biomass is a key challenge in WCPFC stock assessments. Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR) offers a practical solution, providing not only biomass estimates but also insights into population structure, connectivity, and natural mortality to improve management decisions.

Annex. The provisional and indicative schedule for SPAJWG Meetings, aligned with the regular meeting calendars of both Commissions, with a provisional proposed agenda for each meeting.

2025		2026	
		Jan-Mar.	Secretariats: Preparation for the 1st SPAJWG Meeting (Hybrid) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting time • Venue • Agenda
20 May	1st Informal SPAJWG Meeting (online) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of DRAFT TOR • Consider elements to be included in the workplan (see Annex 1) • Confirm the 2nd Informal SPAJWG meeting date (29 July – 1 August) 	March	1st Formal SPAJWG Meeting (a 3-day hybrid meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of recent stock status from stock assessments • Review of the scope of the SPA MP in the context of the geographic area and the mixed fishery structure • Review of the WCPFC-adopted SPA MP, outcomes of the first MP run, and the SPA MP Implementation CMM • Review of the IATTC components (fishing level) in the SPA HS framework • Develop a scientific research plan with budget implications as needed for the SPAJWG work, assisted by both Secretariats, and recommend it to each Commission
June – July	Secretariats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a DRAFT workplan and timeline • Communicate with CCMs (WCPFC) and CPCs (IATTC) to refine the workplan • Both Secretariats draft the SPAJWG meeting cycles and decision-making structure 		
2-6 June	IATTC-SAC16	Early June	IATTC-SAC17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the SPAJWG budget and recommend it to the Commission if needed
29Jul (Tue)- 01Aug (Fri)	2nd Informal SPAJWG Meeting (online) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize TOR • Review and finalize the Workplan and timeline prepared by both Secretariats • Recommend the meeting date, duration, (hybrid?), and meeting venue for the 1st in-person (?) SPAJWG meeting, SPAJWG-01 (this is important) 	Late July- early August	2nd Formal SPAJWG Meeting (if needed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
13-21 August	WCPFC-SC21	Mid-August	WCPFC-SC22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the SPAJWG budget and

			recommend it to the Commission if needed
1-5 September	IATTC-103 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt TOR • Finalize and recommend the workplan to be adopted at the 1st SPAJWG in 2026 • Recommend the meeting date and venue for the 1st in-person (?) SPAJWG meeting, SPAJWG-01 	Early September	IATTC-104 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and endorse the SPAJWG budget
1-5 December	WCPFC22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt TOR – subject to the decisions by both RFMOs, the SPAJWG will be established. • Review the IATTC-recommended workplan and endorse/recommend it to SPAJWG-01 for adoption • Recommend the meeting date and venue for the 1st in-person (?) SPAJWG meeting, SPAJWG-01 	Early December	WCPFC23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and endorse the SPAJWG budget



**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE
FOR SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE**

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-01

Interim South Pacific albacore Tuna Management Procedure

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure.

Objective

1. The objective of the interim Management Procedure (MP) for South Pacific albacore, is to ensure that:
 - a) the spawning potential depletion¹ratio of South Pacific albacore is maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point²; and
 - b) the spawning potential depletion ratio of South Pacific albacore tuna is maintained above the limit reference point with a risk of the limit reference point being breached no greater than 20 percent;

with a view to maintaining the economic performance of dependent fisheries together with reasonable levels of total catch, in a manner that achieves relative stability in fishing levels between management periods.

Reference Points

2. The target reference point for South Pacific albacore is specified as four percent below the estimated average spawning potential depletion of the stock over the period 2017-2019 ($0.96 SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$).³ This supersedes an earlier decision of the Commission made by WCPFC20 (WCPFC21 Outcomes, paragraphs 29 to 32).

Scope and design of the MP

3. The MP applies to longline and troll fisheries taking albacore tuna within the WCPFC convention area Exclusive Economic Zones and high seas south of the latitude of 10 degrees South, but excluding the exclusive economic zones of Tokelau and Tuvalu. The MP (and this CMM) determines the total annual albacore catch to be taken within this region while a separate South Pacific Albacore Management Arrangements CMM will set out the implementation and management arrangements for achieving this.

¹ The limit reference point is specified as 20 percent of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing, calculated as described in technical definitions within paragraph 2.

² With a 50% probability of being above the target reference point.

Elements of the MP

4. The MP includes:

- a) The Harvest Control Rule set out in Annex I;
- b) The Estimation Method using the settings set out in Annex II;
- c) Data Requirements and the Monitoring Strategy set out in Annex III;
- d) The procedure for Exceptional Circumstances set out in Annex IV.

Schedule and Roles of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Services Provider

5. The Scientific Committee shall regularly review the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Annex III, and provide advice to the Commission on:
 - a) the performance of the MP as a basis for pre-defined rules that manage South Pacific albacore in order to achieve biological, ecological, economic and social objectives, including the robustness of the MP to changes in the fishery and any exceptional circumstances consistent with Annex IV; and
 - b) the application of the MP output to the relevant management implementing arrangements.
6. The Scientific Services Provider shall run the MP, perform the stock assessment, and support the Scientific Committee and Commission consideration of the MP.

³ Technical definitions: 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 can be 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 of unfished spawning potential shall be based on the relevant estimates of recruitment that have been adjusted to reflect conditions without fishing according to the stock recruitment relationship.

7. The Commission shall review the South Pacific Albacore Management Arrangements in a repeating 3-year schedule as follows:

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2025	- Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	- Provide advice to the Commission on Candidate MPs.	- Develop the SPA Management Arrangements CMM, taking into account the nature of the MP.
2026	- Run the MP (using data to 2024) for application to the period 2027-2029.	Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the period 2027- 2029.	- Apply the output of the MP to the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2027-2029.
2027	- Perform full stock assessment ($y_{last} = 2025$).	- Monitor and review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM. - Consider SC advice on the performance of the MP.
2028		- Monitor performance of the MP.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM.
2029	-Run the MP (using data to 2027).	-Monitor the performance of the MP. -Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2030-2032).	- Apply the output of the MP to the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2030-2032.
2030	- Perform full stock assessment ($y_{last} = 2028$).	- Monitor and review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM.
2031		- Monitor performance of the MP.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM. - Consider SC advice on the performance of the MP.
2032	- Run the MP (using data to 2030).	- Monitor the performance of the MP. - Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2033-2035).	- Apply the output of the MP to the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2033-2035.
Etc. in a repeating 3-year cycle			

Management Strategy Evaluation

8. The MP has been simulation tested to determine its likely performance against a range of plausible scenarios. These scenarios and the details of the testing procedure are provided in WCPFC-SC20/MI-WP04. The results of the evaluations are outlined in WCPFC22-2025-21 and are available online at: <https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/SPAMPLE/>.

Allocation

9. Allocation is not included in, or affected by, the MP.

Review and Final Provisions

10. The Commission shall review this CMM in 2029 and 2032 to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect. The Commission may amend the CMM at any point to fully apply the MP.
11. This measure shall come into effect on 16 February 2026 and shall remain in effect until 15 February 2033 unless replaced or amended by the Commission.

ANNEX I: HARVEST CONTROL RULE

1. The Specification of this HCR follows HCR 7 in WCPFC22-2025-21. It has the following baseline assumptions:
 - a) Area: south of 10°S in the WCPFC-CA excluding the EEZs of Tokelau and Tuvalu (Figure 1)
 - b) Applicable fisheries: longline and troll
 - c) EPO (excluding overlap area) catch: 18,000 mt per annum
 - d) Equator to 10°S catch: 9,667 mt per annum including slivers of the EEZs of Tokelau and Tuvalu that are south of 10°S

2. The harvest control rule is outlined in Figure 2 with parameters provided in Table 1. Features include:
 - a) The input to the harvest control rule derives from the Estimation Method (Annex 2).
 - b) For each 3-year management period, the harvest control rule uses the estimate of stock status as determined by the Estimation Method, to calculate a scalar that adjusts catches up or down relative to the baseline fishing conditions, subject to the +10% -5% constraint on maximum allowable change between management periods.
 - c) The output from the harvest control rule is an annual, overall, unallocated annual Total Allowable Catch.

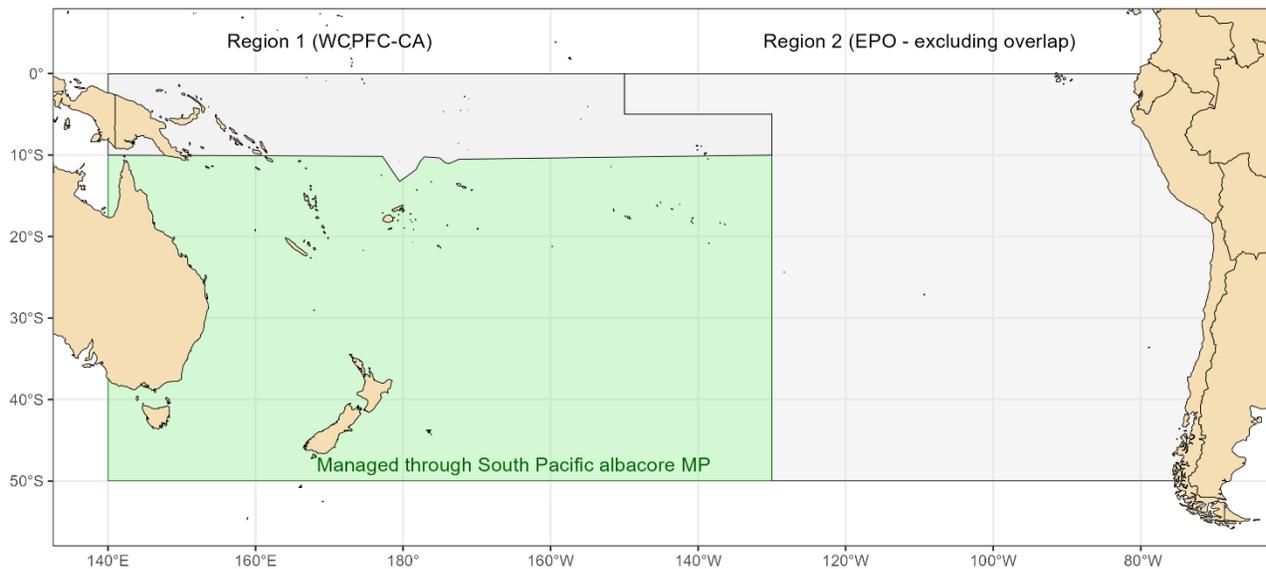


Figure 1: Area of application of the South Pacific albacore MP (in green).

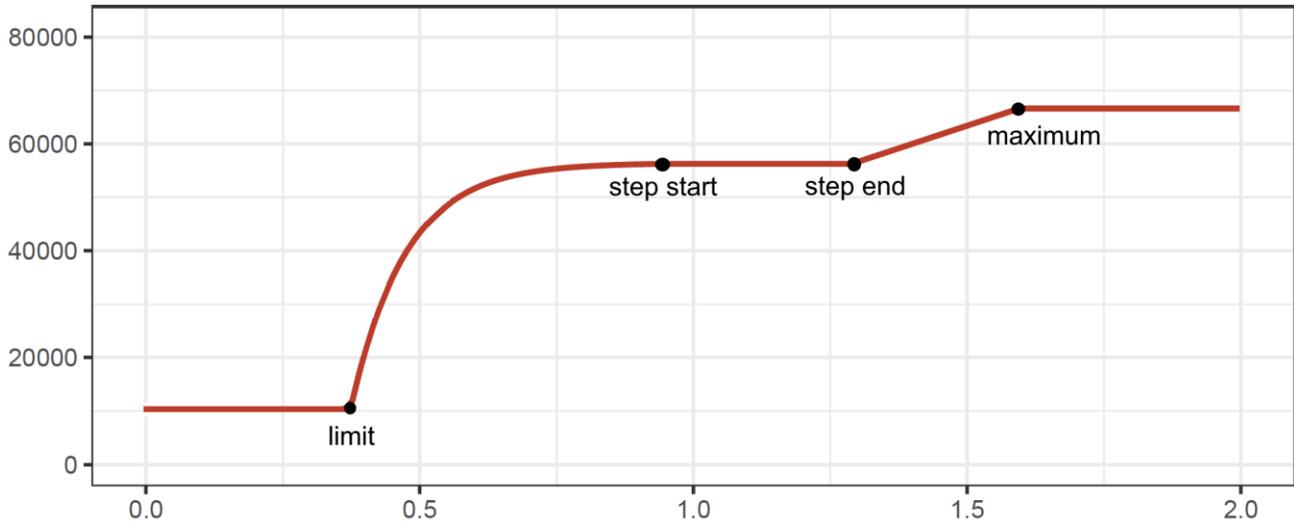


Figure 2. Harvest control rule.

Table 1. Harvest control rule parameters (see also WCPFC22-2025-21). Type = 'Asymptotic Hillary step'.

HCR 7	Parameter	Limit	Step start	Step end	Maximum
	Relative SB/SB _{F=0}	0.37	0.94	1.29	1.59
	HCR output	0.2	1.09	1.09	1.29
	Catch output (mt)	10,293	56,096	56,096	66,389

3. The maximum change in catch indicated by the HCR between any 3-year management period shall be a decrease of 5% and an increase of 10% relative to the catch levels specified by the MP for the previous three year period. For the first running of the MP, the maximum change in catch shall not exceed either a decrease of 5% or an increase of 10% relative to the last year of available catch data (i.e. 2023).

ANNEX II: ESTIMATION METHOD

1. Stock status is estimated within the MP using an Age-Structured Production Model implemented in MULTIFAN-CL.
2. The estimation method employs similar fishery definitions and model structure to that of the 2024 stock assessment, except that the troll fishery CPUE index is omitted from the estimation method (see Table 2).
3. The value of stock status returned from the estimation method is a relative measure, calculated as the mean depletion ($SB_y/SB_{F=0}$) in the last 3 years relative to the mean depletion for the period 2017-2019 ($SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$). All quantities are calculated by the Estimation Method model. The calculation for $SB/SB_{F=0}$ is generally as described in Paragraph 2.

Table 2. Settings for the estimation method

Model Setting	Value
Regional structure	2 regions
Number of fisheries	19
Longline	13
Troll / Driftnet	4
Index	2 (longline only)
Steepness	0.8
Natural mortality	Lorenzen, M12 = 0.36
Growth	Fixed
ML1	45.538
ML2	100.115
K	0.3932
Movement rates	Fixed (2024 assessment)
Selection patterns	Fixed (2024 assessment)
Average recruitment	Last 2 years
Recruitment distribution	0.819, 0.181

Table 3: Model settings and post-processing steps used in the CPUE standardisation for South Pacific albacore estimation method. Two index fisheries are generated derived from; a global model used for fishery 20 (EPO) and a northern model used for fishery 18.

Model Setting	Description
Model Type	A spatiotemporal delta-gamma generalized linear mixed model (delta-GLMM), implemented in two model configurations: a global model and a north model.
Data Filtering	Global indices generated from data across entire assessment area North model generated from data for the WCPO between 5°S and 30°S
Spatial Knot Configuration	A mesh with 157 spatial knots for the global model and 85 knots for the northern model.
Model Equations	$y_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p_i)$ $\log\left(\frac{p_i}{1-p_i}\right) = \text{Year}_i + s(\text{month}_i) + \omega_1(s_i) + \phi_1(s_i, t_i) + s(\text{HBF}_i) + \text{Flag}_i + \varepsilon_1$ $c_i \sim \Gamma(\log\mu_i, \sigma^{-2}, \eta_i\sigma^2)$ $\log\eta_i = \text{Year}_i + s(\text{month}_i) + \omega_2(s_i) + \phi_2(s_i, t_i) + s(\text{HBF}_i) + \text{Flag}_i + \varepsilon_2$ <p>where σ is the coefficient of variation for positive catch rate measurement errors, y is the encounter probability, c is the CPUE, and i indexes individual records. <i>Year</i> is the year effect; $s(\text{month})$ is a spline function for month effect; ω is the spatial random effect at location x; ϕ is the spatiotemporal random effect at location x and time t; $s(\text{HBF})$ is a spline function for hook-based fishing effort; and <i>Flag</i> is the additive effect of the flag group. The spatial variation terms $\omega_2(x_i)$ are modeled as a Gaussian random field with a Matérn covariance function to account for spatial autocorrelation.</p>
HBF Imputation	Missing HBF values are predicted using a random forest approach (Breiman 2001) implemented via the randomForest R package (Liaw and Wiener 2002). The model uses predictors including year, month, latitude, longitude, number of hooks fished, vessel flag, the proportional catch of the four main species (albacore, yellowfin, bigeye, swordfish), and total catch value, with 500 trees.
Implementation Platform	sdmTMB version 0.3.0 (R package).
Normalisation Method	CPUE values are mean-centered using absolute values.
Penalty Term Calculation	Penalty terms are applied as the coefficient of variation (CV) for the catch-conditioned model.

ANNEX III: DATA REQUIREMENTS AND MONITORING STRATEGY

Table 4. Data requirements under the WCPO MP and considerations for the monitoring strategy with respect to the collection, provision, coverage, and quality of data necessary to run the MP and generate performance indicators.

Data requirement	Monitoring Considerations
MP: estimation model	
Annual catch estimates.	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Aggregate catch/effort data.	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Longline operational catch/effort data.	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Standardised CPUE indices for longline fisheries	Continuation of ongoing arrangements.
Monitoring Strategy: performance indicators	
Catch and effort data as above	Calculation of performance indicators listed in table 6 for comparison with MSE outputs.
Other data as available to calculate performance indicators – this may include:	The frequency and scope of these data may vary depending on data availability and collection procedures. Performance indicators calculated from them may represent only a subset of the fishery.

Table 5. Aspects to be considered for inclusion in the monitoring strategy and the Commission body at which those considerations can be made.

MP Element	Commission Body	Monitoring Considerations
Review the MSE framework		
OM sets.	SC	Ensure that the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM sets.
Calculation of performance indicators.	SC	Appropriate representation of objectives by performance indicators.
Modelling assumptions.	SC	Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework.
Data availability to support the OM sets	SC	Improvements to data collection to either enhance the OM sets and/or better represent uncertainty in the OM sets.
Review performance of the MP		
Comparison of MP performance against latest stock assessment.	SC	Check that the MP is performing as expected.
Data availability to run the MP.	SC	Check availability, quantity, quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation model, see table 3).
Other sources of data to monitor performance not included in the MSE framework.	SC/TCC	Identify other data as available to inform calculation of performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc).
Review of the MP		
Management objectives.	Commission	In accordance with para 8, periodically check that the overall objectives of the MP remain appropriate.
Consider Exceptional Circumstances		
Exceptional circumstances.	SC/TCC/ Commission	Drawing on all of the above, have events (unexpected, extra-ordinary) occurred such that remedial action is required to either review, modify or replace the MP

Table 6. Performance Indicators Examined within the Management Strategy Evaluation

Indicator 1	Stock status ($SB/SB_{F=0}$)
Indicator 2	Probability $SB/SB_{F=0} < LRP$
Indicator 3	Expected albacore catch in the WCPFC convention area, south of 10°S
Indicator 4	Expected albacore catch of fisheries managed through the MP
Indicator 5	Expected vulnerable biomass (VB - a proxy for catch rates) in the WCPFC convention area, south of 10°S, relative to the level in 2020-2022.
Indicator 6	Albacore catch variability (annual absolute change in catch in the WCPFC convention area, south of 10°S)
Indicator 7	Effort variability (of longline fisheries in the WCPFC convention area, south of 10°S)

ANNEX IV: EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Exceptional circumstances are defined as the occurrence of events that are outside the range of scenarios considered for testing the MP. In the case of such events, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the MP or, in severe cases where there is considered to be a risk to the stock, take remedial action. Exceptional circumstances are not a mechanism for making regular, small adjustments to the MP, but rather should be invoked where, through an agreed process, the operation of the MP has been demonstrated to be highly risky or inappropriate. This Annex provides guidance on the process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and the necessary actions but does not provide firm definitions of all possible exceptional circumstances.

Process to determine if exceptional circumstances exist

2. SC to implement and conduct a monitoring strategy and to advise the Commission on the occurrence of exceptional circumstances based on the results of:
 - Routine annual evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances based on information presented to and reviewed by SC; and
 - Detailed evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances every 3 years coincident with the stock assessment.
3. Examples of what might constitute exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:
 - Persistent low recruitment outside the range for which the MP was tested;
 - Substantial improvements in knowledge, or new knowledge, concerning the dynamics of the population which would have an appreciable effect on the operating models used to test the MP;
 - Non-availability of important input data resulting in an inability to run the MP;
 - Stock assessment biomass estimates that are substantially outside the range of simulated stock trajectories considered in the MP evaluations, calculated under the reference set of operating models;
 - Significant increases in the contribution of fisheries not affected by the MP, beyond the levels assumed in the development and testing of the MP, that substantially impact MP performance against the Objective;
 - Failure of reported catch and effort to be within an acceptable range around the levels indicated by the MP; and
 - Persistent or strong negative outcome in indicators calculated under the monitoring strategy.

Process for action in the event of exceptional circumstances

4. Having determined that there is evidence for exceptional circumstances, the SC will, in the same year, provide advice to the Commission including, but not limited to:
 - the nature and considered severity of the exceptional circumstances;
 - the necessary action required;
 - where the severity is considered to be high, the recommendation may be for a change to the catch/effort limits; and
 - where the severity is considered to be low, the recommendation may be that the Scientific Committee review the MP earlier than scheduled.



**Terms of Reference for a Workshop on the Framework for the
Allocation of South Pacific albacore proportional shares**

Objectives

The objective of the workshop will be to undertake preparatory work for the purposes of implementing the South Pacific albacore management procedure, which requires the Commission to agree on proportional shares for Commission Members and Participating Territories, and that adequately take into account Articles 8, 10(3) and 30 of the Convention.

Tasks

1. At the Workshop, CCMs will
 - i. Discuss data provided by the Science Services Provider and the Secretariat in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 and identify additional data needs to inform workshop discussions.
 - ii. Discuss proposals on allocation frameworks submitted by Members at least one month before the start of the workshop.
 - iii. Based on (ii), narrow down options for consideration by WCPFC23;
 - iv. Discuss steps to take towards reaching an agreement on proportional shares.

Data input

2. In order to facilitate discussions at the Workshop, the Science Services Provider is asked to provide a full complement of EEZ and high seas catch and effort data, at least one month before the workshop.
3. CCMs may request the Secretariat to provide any other data or information they deem necessary relevant to discussions at the Workshop.

Meeting

4. To efficiently facilitate the development of proportional shares for a South Pacific albacore allocation framework, a physical meeting will be convened for 2 days in early 2026.
5. This workshop will be chaired by [xxx].



**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR BIGEYE, YELLOWFIN AND SKIPJACK TUNA
IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-02

PREAMBLE

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recalling that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention) is to ensure through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the Agreement;

Recalling further the final statement of the Chairman of the Multilateral High Level Conferences in 2000 that: “It is important to clarify, however, that the Convention applies to the waters of the Pacific Ocean. In particular, the western side of the Convention Area is not intended to include waters of South-East Asia which are not part of the Pacific Ocean, nor is it intended to include waters of the South China Sea as this would involve States which are not participants in the Conference” (Report of the Seventh and Final Session, 30th August- 5 September 2000, p.29);

Recognizing that the Scientific Committee has:

- (a) advised that the interim management objective for bigeye tuna in CMM 2021-01, to maintain the spawning biomass depletion ratio at or above the average SB/SBF=0 for 2012-2015, is being achieved;
- (b) advised that the interim management objective for yellowfin tuna in CMM 2021-01, to maintain the spawning biomass depletion ratio at or above the average SB/SB F=0 for 2012-2015, is being achieved; and
- (c) determined that the first run of the skipjack management procedure was successfully carried out and its output scalar of 1, indicates that catch and effort be maintained at baseline levels and recommended that the Commission take appropriate management action to ensure that the biomass depletion level fluctuates around the target reference point (TRP).

Recognizing further the interactions that occur between the fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna;

Noting that Article 30(1) of the Convention requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States that are Parties to the Convention, in particular small island

developing States and Territories and possessions, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries on such stocks, including the provision of financial, scientific, and technological assistance;

Noting further that Article 30(2) of the Convention requires the Commission to take into account the special requirements of developing States, in particular Small Island developing States and Territories. This includes ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by it do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, Parties, and Territories;

Noting that Article 8(1) of the Convention which requires compatibility of conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction;

Recalling Article 8(4) of the Convention which requires the Commission to pay special attention to the high seas in the Convention Area that are surrounded by exclusive economic zones (EEZs);

Noting that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) have adopted and implemented “A Third Arrangement Implementing The Nauru Agreement Setting Forth Additional Terms And Conditions Of Access To The Fisheries Zones Of The Parties”;

Noting further that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement have adopted and implemented a Vessel Day Scheme for the longline fishery, a Vessel Day Scheme for the purse seine fishery and a registry for FADs in the zones of the Parties, and may establish longline effort limits, or equivalent catch limits for longline fisheries within their exclusive economic zones;

Noting furthermore that the Members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency have indicated their intention to adopt a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based bigeye catch limits within their EEZs;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted a limit reference point (LRP) for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna of 20% of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM [2022-03](#) on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and a Work Plan to guide the development of key components of a Harvest Strategy, including the recording of management objectives, adoption of reference points, and development of harvest control rules;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2022-01 which established an interim Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna;

Recognizing the United Nations’ Climate Change Sustainable Development Goal number 13 to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, and that climate change has particularly negative impacts on Small Island Developing States and Territories; and noting that Article 5 (c) of the Convention requires the application of the precautionary approach , and Article 5 (d) of the Convention requires the Commission to 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 depend

upon or associated with the target stocks and that WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 mandates the integration of climate change into the decision making processes of WCPFC, including into the management of fish stocks in the Convention Area;

Noting the SEAPODYM analyses presented to SC11, SC12 and SC13 on the projected impacts climate change will have on tuna distribution, larval numbers and stock biomass, the WCPFC needs to build resilience into the medium and long-term planning and manage WCPO fish stocks in a precautionary manner, as mandated in WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 and Article 30(2)(c) of the Convention requires the Commission to ensure there is no disproportionate burden of conservation action on developing States, Parties and Territories;

Adopts in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure with respect to the skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

PURPOSE

1. This measure is intended and designed to support fisheries for skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna, and yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area that benefit CCMs and their communities, and to do so in a way that is fair to all Members and addresses the special requirements of developing States and Participating Territories. The measure's provisions are based on the interim stock-specific objectives below, the interim management procedure for WCPO skipjack tuna established in CMM 2022-01 as well as other relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Commission. As the harvest strategies for the tropical tuna stocks and/or their associated fisheries are developed, the objectives and provisions of the Measure will be amended accordingly.

PRINCIPLES FOR APPLICATION OF THE MEASURE

Compatibility

2. Conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction shall be compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks in their entirety. Measures shall ensure, at a minimum, that stocks are maintained at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, pending agreement on target reference points as part of the harvest strategy approach, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area as expressed by Article 5 of the Convention.

Area of Application

3. This Measure applies to all areas of high seas and all EEZs in the Convention Area except where otherwise stated in the Measure.
4. Coastal states are encouraged to take measures in archipelagic waters and territorial seas which

are consistent with the objectives of this Measure and to inform the Commission Secretariat of the relevant measures that they will apply in these waters.

Small Island Developing States

5. With the exception of paragraphs 13-24, 30, 32-37 and 48-51, nothing in this Measure shall prejudice the rights and obligations of those small island developing State Members and Participating Territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their domestic fisheries.
6. For the avoidance of doubt, where the term “SIDS” is used throughout this measure, the term includes Participating Territories. The term “CCM” means Members, Cooperating Non- Members and Participating Territories.
7. In giving effect to this CMM, the Commission shall pay attention to:
 - a. the geographical situation of a small island developing State which is made up of non-contiguous groups of islands having a distinct economic and cultural identity of their own but which are separated by areas of high seas;
 - b. the special circumstances of a State which is surrounded by the exclusive economic zones of other States and has a limited exclusive economic zone of its own; and
 - c. the need to avoid adverse impacts on subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Charter Arrangements

8. For the purposes of paragraphs 38-39 and 43-47, attribution of catch and effort shall be to the flag State, except that catches and effort of vessels notified as chartered under CMM 2021- 04 or its replacement shall be attributed to the chartering Member, or Participating Territory. Attribution for the purpose of this Measure is without prejudice to attribution for the purposes of establishing rights and allocation.

Overlap Area

9. Where flag CCMs choose to implement IATTC measures in the overlap area, any calculation of limits for the Convention Area (excluding the overlap area) that are done on the basis of historical catch or effort levels, shall exclude historical catch or effort within the overlap area. Notwithstanding decisions on application of catch and/or effort limits, all other provisions of this measure apply to all vessels fishing in the overlap area.

HARVEST STRATEGIES AND INTERIM OBJECTIVES FOR BIGEYE, SKIPJACK, AND YELLOWFIN TUNA

Bigeye

10. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SBF=0$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SBF=0$ for 2012-2015.

Skipjack

11. The spawning biomass of skipjack tuna is to be maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point contained in CMM 2022-01 on an interim Management Procedure for Skipjack Tuna.

Yellowfin

12. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SBF=0$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SBF=0$ for 2012-2015.

PURSE SEINE FISHERY

FAD Set Management

13. A one and a half (1 1/2) months (July to mid-August) prohibition of deploying, servicing or setting on FADs shall be in place between 0001 hours UTC on 1 July and 2359 hours UTC on 15 August each year for all purse seine vessels, tender vessels, and any other vessels operating in support of purse seine vessels fishing in exclusive economic zones and the high seas in the area between 20°N and 20°S.¹

14. In addition to the one and a half month FAD closure in paragraph 13, except for those vessels flying the Kiribati flag when fishing in the high seas adjacent to the Kiribati exclusive economic zone, and Philippines' vessels operating in HSP1 in accordance with **Attachment 2**, it shall be prohibited to deploy, service or set on FADs in the high seas for one additional month of the year. Each CCM shall decide which one month (either April, May, November or December) shall be closed to setting on FADs by their fleets in the high seas for 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and notify the Secretariat of that decision by March 1, each year. In case a CCM decides to change the notified period at any given year of the application of this CMM this shall be notified to the Secretariat before 1st March of that year.

15. The provisions of paragraphs 3 to 7 of CMM 2009-02 apply to the high seas FAD closures.

¹ Members of the PNA may implement the FAD set management measures consistent with the Third Arrangement Implementing the Nauru Agreement of May 2008. Members of the PNA shall provide notification to the Commission of the domestic vessels to which the FAD closure will not apply. That notification shall be provided within 15 days of the arrangement being approved. The Secretariat shall provide each year to the Scientific Services Provider and TCC the list of fishing vessels that have not applied the FAD closure in the previous year, as well as, their respective numbers of FADs sets during the FADs closure.

Non-entangling FADs

16. To reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, CCMs shall ensure that the design and construction of any new FAD to be deployed in the WCPFC Convention Area from 1 January 2024 shall comply with the following specifications:

- a. The use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD.
- b. If the raft is covered, only non-entangling material and designs shall be used.
- c. The subsurface structure shall only be made using non-entangling materials.

17. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, CCMs shall encourage vessels flying their flag to use, or transition towards using, non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs.

18. No later than 2026, the Commission shall take a decision on the implementation of biodegradable FAD requirements.

19. The Scientific Committee shall continue to review research results on the use of biodegradable material on FADs and shall provide specific recommendations to the Commission no later than 2026 including on a timeline for the stepwise introduction of biodegradable FADs, potential gaps/needs and any other relevant information. The definition for biodegradable is non-synthetic materials and/or bio-based alternatives that are consistent with international

standards for materials that are biodegradable in marine environments. The components resulting from the degradation of these materials should not be damaging to the marine and coastal ecosystems or include heavy metals or plastics in their composition. CCMs are encouraged to communicate and disseminate information on the development of biodegradable FADs.

20. The Commission no later than its 2026 annual session, based on specific guidelines defined by the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group and advice from SC and TCC, shall consider the adoption of measures on the implementation of biodegradable material on FADs.

Instrumented Buoys

21. A flag CCM shall ensure that each of its purse seine vessels shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) with activated instrumented buoys. An instrumented buoy is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel. A flag CCM shall ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD tracking.

22. (1) CCMs shall also encourage their flag vessels to:
- a. responsibly manage the number of drifting FADs deployed each year;

- b. carry equipment on board to facilitate the retrieval of lost drifting FADs;
- c. make reasonable efforts to retrieve lost drifting FADs;
- d. report the loss of drifting FADs to CCM fisheries authorities, and if the loss occurred in the EEZ of a coastal State, also report the loss to the coastal State concerned; and
- e. initiate retrieval programs for lost, abandoned or stranded FADs through cooperative initiatives among fishing vessels or other vessels implementing programmes for the recovery of such FADs.

(2) CCMs are encouraged to report annually to the Commission on the effort to implement each item of this paragraph 22(1).

(3) The FADMO IWG shall consider any information provided by CCMs on their implementation of paragraph 22(1) to enable the development of recommendations to TCC and the Commission on lost, abandoned, or stranded dFADs in 2025.

23. The Commission no later than 2026 based on consideration of the FAD Management Options Working Group shall review the effectiveness of the limit on the number of FADs deployed as set out in paragraph 21 and whether the current limit of 350, or any limit, is appropriate and provide advice on the monitoring of FADs.

Zone-based purse seine effort control

24. Coastal CCMs within the Convention Area shall restrict purse seine effort and/or catch of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna within their EEZs in accordance with the effort limits established and notified to the Commission and set out in **Table 1 of Attachment 1**. Those coastal CCMs that have yet to notify limits to the Commission shall do so by 29 February 2024.²

High seas purse seine effort control³

25. CCMs that are not SIDS shall restrict the level of purse seine effort on the high seas in the area 20°N to 20°S to the limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 2, except that the Philippines shall take measures on the high seas in accordance with **Attachment 2**.

26. CCMs shall ensure that the effectiveness of these effort limits for the purse seine fishery are not undermined by a transfer of effort in days fished into areas within the Convention Area south of 20°S and/or north of 20°N.

27. The limits set out in **Attachment 1, Table 2** do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and

² The provision of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who do not have established purse seine fisheries taking skipjack, yellowfin or bigeye tuna within their EEZs and have notified the Secretariat accordingly.

³ Throughout this measure, in the case of small purse seine fleets, of five vessels or less, the baseline level of effort used to determine a limit shall be the maximum effort in any period and not the average.

are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission. The Commission commits to transitioning to a more equitable allocation framework for high seas fishing opportunities that takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission will commence a process to develop that framework in 2026, to enable the Commission to reach agreement in 2027 on hard effort or catch limits in the high seas of the Convention Area and a framework for the allocation of those limits in the high seas amongst all Members and Participating Territories that adequately takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission shall also consider options as to how CCMs would use their limits.

28. Where the catch and effort limits in paragraphs 24 and 25 have been exceeded, any overage of the annual limits by a CCM or the collective annual limits of a group of CCMs shall be deducted from the limits for the following year for that CCM or group of CCMs.

29. Notwithstanding paragraphs 24, 25 and 48, in each of the years 2024-2027, if any of the baseline fishing conditions specified in 1.b) of the Harvest Control Rules of the Skipjack Tuna Management Procedure are exceeded, the CMM will be amended to make sure they are maintained.

Catch retention: Purse Seine Fishery

30. To create an incentive to reduce the non-intentional capture of juvenile fish, to discourage waste and to encourage an efficient utilization of fishery resources, CCMs shall require their purse seine vessels fishing in EEZs and on the high seas within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S to retain on board and then land or transship at port all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna. (Paragraphs 8 to 12 of CMM 2009-02 set out the Commission's rules for catch retention in the high seas.) The only exceptions to this paragraph shall be:

- a. when, in the final set of a trip, there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, noting that excess fish taken in the last set may be transferred to and retained on board another purse seine vessel provided this is not prohibited under applicable national law; or
- b. when the fish are unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or
- c. when serious malfunction of equipment occurs.

31. Nothing in paragraphs 13-15 and 30 shall affect the sovereign rights of coastal States to determine how these management measures will be applied in their waters, or to apply additional or more stringent measures.

Monitoring and Control: Purse Seine Fishery

32. Notwithstanding the VMS SSP, a purse seine vessel shall not operate under manual reporting during the FADs closure periods, but the vessel will not be directed to return to port until the Secretariat has exhausted all reasonable steps to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions in accordance with the VMS SSPs. The flag State shall be notified when VMS data is not received by the Secretariat at the interval specified in CMM 2014-02 or its replacement, and paragraph 36.

33. CCMs shall ensure that purse seine vessels entitled to fly their flags and fishing within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S exclusively on the high seas, on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States, or vessels fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States, shall carry an observer from the Commission's Regional Observer Program (ROP) (CMM 2018-05).

34. Each CCM shall ensure that all purse seine vessels fishing solely within its national jurisdiction within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S carry an observer. These CCMs are encouraged to provide the data gathered by the observers for use in the various analyses conducted by the Commission, including stock assessments, in such a manner that protects the ownership and confidentiality of the data.

35. ROP reports for trips taken during FADs closure period shall be given priority for data input and analysis by the Secretariat and the Commission's Science Provider.

36. VMS polling frequency shall be increased to every 30 minutes during the FAD closure period. The increased costs associated with the implementation of this paragraph will be borne by the Commission.

Research on Bigeye and Yellowfin

37. CCMs and the Commission are encouraged to conduct and promote research to identify ways for purse seine vessels to minimize the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna, particularly in accordance with any research plans adopted by the Commission.

LONGLINE FISHERY

38. As an interim measure, CCMs listed in **Attachment 1, Table 3** shall restrict the level of bigeye catch to the levels specified in **Table 3**. Where the limits in **Table 3** have been exceeded, any overage of the catch limit by a CCM listed in **Table 3** shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year for that CCM.

39. CCMs listed in **Attachment 1, Table 3** shall report monthly the amount of bigeye catch by their flagged vessels to the Commission Secretariat by the end of the following month. The Secretariat shall notify all CCMs when 90% of the catch limits for a CCM is exceeded.

40. The limits set out in **Attachment 1, Table 3** do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission.

41. Subject to paragraph 5, each Member that caught less than 2,000 tonnes in 2004 shall ensure that its bigeye catch does not exceed 2,000 tonnes annually.

42. The Commission commits to transitioning to a more equitable allocation framework for fishing opportunities that takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission will commence a process to develop that framework in 2026, to enable the Commission to reach agreement in 2027 on hard limits for bigeye amongst all Members and Participating Territories.

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT FOR PURSE SEINE AND LONGLINE VESSELS

Purse Seine Vessel Limits

43. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁴, shall keep the number of purse seine vessels flying their flag larger than 24m with freezing capacity operating between 20°N and 20°S (hereinafter “LSPSVs”) to the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.

44. The concerned CCMs shall ensure that any new LSPSV constructed or purchased to replace a previous vessel or vessels, shall have a carrying capacity or well volume no larger than the vessel(s) being replaced, or shall not increase the catch or effort in the Convention Area from the level of the vessels being replaced. In such case, the authorization to fish in the Convention Area of the replaced vessel shall be immediately revoked by the flag CCM.

Limits on Longline Vessels with Freezing Capacity

45. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁵, shall not increase the number of their longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye tuna above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.⁶

Limits on ice-chilled longline vessels landing fresh fish

46. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁷ shall not increase the number of their ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye tuna and landing exclusively fresh fish above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01, or above the number of licenses under established limited entry programmes applying during the operation of CMM 2013-01.⁸

47. Nothing in this measure shall restrict the ability of SIDS or Participating Territories to construct or purchase vessels from other CCMs for their domestic fleets.

OTHER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

48. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total catch of their respective other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tuna, but excluding those fisheries taking less than 2,000 tonnes of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack), shall not exceed either the average level for the period 2001-2004 or the level of 2004.

⁴ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁵ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁶ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

⁷ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁸ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

DATA PROVISION REQUIREMENTS

49. Operational level catch and effort data in accordance with the *Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data* attached to the Rules for *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission* relating to all fishing in EEZs and high seas south of 20N subject to this CMM except for artisanal small-scale vessels shall be provided to the Commission not only for the purpose of stocks management but also for the purpose of cooperation to SIDS under Article 30 of the Convention.^{9 10}

50. The Commission shall ensure the confidentiality of those data provided as non-public domain data.

51. CCMs whose vessel fish in EEZs and high seas north of 20N subject to this CMM shall ensure that aggregated data by 1 x 1 in that area be provided to the Commission, and shall also, upon request, cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of tropical tuna stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made between each CCM and the Scientific Provider. Those CCMs shall report such agreement to the Commission.

REVIEW AND FINAL PROVISIONS

52. The Commission shall review this CMM annually to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect.

53. This measure replaces CMM 2021-01. This measure shall come into effect on 16 February 2024 and remain in effect until 15 February 2028 unless earlier replaced or amended by the Commission.

⁹ CCMs which had domestic legal constraints under CMM 2014-01 shall provide operational level data as of the date on which those domestic legal constraints were lifted.

¹⁰ This paragraph shall not apply to Indonesia, until it changes its national laws so that it can provide such data. This exception shall expire when such changes take effect but in any event no later than 31 December 2025. Indonesia will, upon request, make best effort to cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of those stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made with the Scientific Provider.

ATTACHMENT 1**Table 1: EEZ purse seine effort limits [paragraph 24]***(Table updated with information provided to Secretariat)*

Coastal EEZ/Group	CCMs'	Effort in Vessel days/Catch limit	Comment
PNA		44,033 days	This limit will be managed cooperatively through the PNA Vessel Day Scheme.
Tokelau		1,000 days	
Cook Islands		1,250 days	
Fiji		300 days	
Niue		200 days	
Samoa		150 days	
Tonga		250 days	
Vanuatu		200 days	
Australia		30,000 mt SKJ 600 mt BET 600 mt YFT	
French Polynesia		0	
Indonesia		70,820 mt	
Japan		1,500 days	
Korea		*	
New Zealand		40,000 mt SKJ	
New Caledonia		20,000 mt SKJ	
Philippines		*	
Chinese Taipei		59 days (~34 purse seine vessels)	
United States **		558 days	
Wallis and Futuna		*	

* *Limits not notified to the Commission*

** *The United States notified the Secretariat of the combined US EEZ and high seas effort limits on 1 July 2016 (1828 fishing days on the high seas and in the U.S. EEZ (combined)). The US EEZ limit is understood to be this notified limit minus the high seas effort limit for the United States set out in **Table 2** of **Attachment 1**.*

ATTACHMENT 1**Table 2. High seas purse seine effort control [paragraphs 25-27]**

CCM	EFFORT LIMIT (DAYS)
CHINA	26
ECUADOR	**
EL SALVADOR	**
EUROPEAN UNION	403
INDONESIA	(0)
JAPAN	121
NEW ZEALAND	160
PHILIPPINES	#
KOREA	207
CHINESE TAIPEI	95
USA	1,270
** subject to CNM on participatory rights	
# The measures that the Philippines will take are in Attachment 2 .	

ATTACHMENT 1

Table 3. Bigeye Longline Catch Limits [paragraphs 37-39]

CCM	CATCH LIMIT
CHINA	8,224
INDONESIA	5,889*
JAPAN	18,265
KOREA	13,942
CHINESE TAIPEI	10,481
USA	6,554

*Provisional and maybe subject to revision following data analysis and verification

**For the United States and those who maintain a 5% observer coverage level, no catch increase is allowed.

Any increase in BET tuna catch limit, up to 10%, by a CCM in table 3 shall correspond with a proportional increase of observer coverage, (eg observer + Electronic Monitoring (EM) coverage increases from 5% to 10%; and for example, a 2.5 percentage point increase in observer + EM coverage corresponds with a 5% increase in the catch limit; and a 5 percentage point increase in observer + EM coverage corresponds with a 10% increase in the catch limit.) A minimum level of 5% ROP coverage shall be maintained.

Any CCM who wants such an increase shall notify the Secretariat by the end of February of the year of fishing operations. If such CCM fails to achieve the required observer coverage level assessed for the year of increase of catch limits, then it will be subject to a payback penalty of 110% of the increased portion of the catch limit that can be repaid in either of the next two years, and will be assigned a status of priority non-compliant through the CMR process for this obligation.

***Any observer coverage above 5% can be achieved by human observer and/or EM coverage

In accordance with the deletion of paragraph 9 of CMM 2021 01, catch and effort of U.S. flagged Hawaii based longline vessels will no longer be attributed to US Participating Territories, future attribution for the US territories shall remain separate.

Japan will make an annual one-off transfer of 500 metric tonnes of its bigeye tuna catch limit to China.

ATTACHMENT 2**Measure for Philippines**

1. This Attachment shall apply to Philippine traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group.

AREA OF APPLICATION

2. This measure shall apply only to High Seas Pocket no. 1 (HSP-1), which is the area of high seas bounded by the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the Federated States of Micronesia to the north and east, Republic of Palau to the west, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to the south. For the purposes of this measure, the exact coordinates for the area shall be those used by the WCPFC vessel monitoring system (VMS). A map showing the HSP-1 Special Management Area (SMA) is attached.

REPORTING

3. Philippines shall require its concerned vessels to submit reports to the Commission at least 24 hours prior to entry and no more than 6 hours prior to exiting the HSP-1 SMA. This information may, in turn, be transmitted to the adjacent coastal States/Territories.

The report shall be in the following format: *VID/Entry or Exit: Date/Time; Lat/Long*

4. Philippines shall ensure that its flagged vessels operating in the HSP-1 SMA report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat. Such information shall include: vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed.

OBSERVER

5. The fishing vessels covered by this measure shall employ a WCPFC Regional Observer on board during the whole duration while they operate in HSP-1 SMA in accordance with the provisions of CMM 2018-05.

6. Regional Observers from other CCMs shall be given preference/priority. For this purpose, the Philippines and the Commission Secretariat shall inform the CCMs and the Adjacent Coastal State of the deployment needs and requirements at 60 days prior expected departure. The Secretariat and the CCM that has available qualified regional observer shall inform the Philippines of the readiness and availability of the Regional Observer at least 30 days prior to the deployment date. If none is available, the Philippines is authorized to deploy regional observers from the Philippines.

VESSEL LIST

7. The Commission shall maintain an updated list of all fishing vessels operating in HSP-1 SMA based on the foregoing vessel's entry and exit reports submitted to the Commission. The list will be made available to Commission Members through the WCPFC website.

MONITORING OF PORT LANDINGS

8. The Philippines shall ensure that all port landings of its vessels covered by this decision are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis.

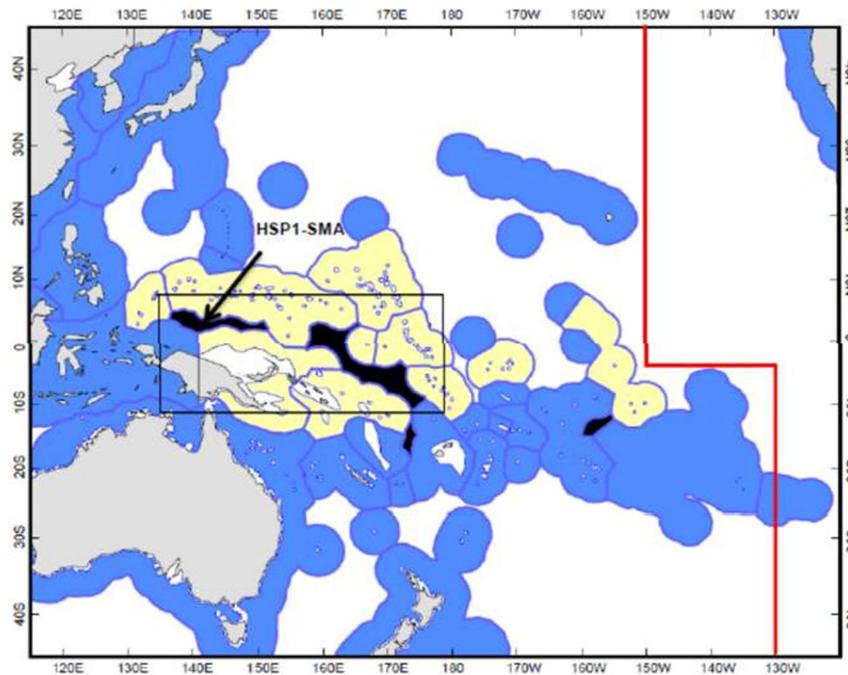
COMPLIANCE

9. All vessels conducting their fishing activities pursuant to this Attachment to CMM 2023-01 shall comply with all other relevant CMMs. Vessels found to be non-compliant with this decision shall be dealt with in accordance with CMM 2019-07 or its replacement CMM, and any other applicable measure adopted by the Commission.

EFFORT LIMIT

10. The total effort of these vessels shall not exceed 4,659 days.¹¹ The Philippines shall limit its fleet to 36 fishing vessels (described by the Philippines as catcher fishing vessels) in the HSP-1 SMA.

Map showing HSP-1 SMA where the Arrangements in Attachment 2 apply



This map displays indicative maritime boundaries only. It is presented without prejudice to any past, current or future claims by any State. It is not intended for use to support any past, current or future claims by any State or territory in the western and central Pacific or east Asian region. Individual States are responsible for maintaining the coordinates for their maritime claims. It is the responsibility of flag States to ensure their vessels are informed of the coordinates of maritime limits within the Convention Area. Coastal States are invited to register the coordinates for their negotiated and agreed maritime areas with the Commission Secretariat.

¹¹ Reference Table 2(b), WCPFC9-2012-IP09_rev3



**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON A
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE FOR WCPO SKIPJACK TUNA**

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-03

Interim Skipjack Tuna Management Procedure

Objective

1. The objective of the interim Management Procedure (MP) for skipjack tuna, is to ensure that:
 - a) the spawning potential depletion¹ ratio of skipjack tuna is maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point; and
 - b) the spawning potential depletion ratio of skipjack tuna is maintained above the limit reference point with a risk of the limit reference point being breached no greater than 20 percent;

in a manner that achieves the objective of relative stability in fishing levels between management periods and in the longer term.

Reference Points

2. The reference points are:
 - a) Target reference point: Calculated on the basis of two spawning potential depletion values:
 - **The first value** represents **the estimated average depletion** of the skipjack tuna stock over the period 2018-2021 ($SB_{2018-2021}/SB_{F=0}$).
 - **The second value** represents the long-term median equilibrium stock depletion that would be reached under the agreed baseline fishing conditions for skipjack tuna:
 - a) purse seine effort at 2012 levels,
 - b) pole and line effort at average 2001-04 levels, and
 - c) the domestic fisheries in assessment region 5 at average 2016-18 levels.

Both values are expressed as a percentage of the estimated average spawning potential in the absence of fishing ($SB_{F=0}$), calculated as described in paragraph 3.

¹ Spawning potential depletion refers to the estimated 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.

Values are calculated as medians based upon the grid of assessment models as agreed by the WCPFC Scientific Committee.

The target reference point is the average of these two values (weighting of 50/50). -

- b) Limit reference point: 20 percent of the estimated recent average spawning potential in the absence of fishing, calculated as described in paragraph 3.
3. 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 skipjack tuna 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.

Scope of the MP

4. The MP applies to the catch and effort of purse seine and pole and line fisheries, and other commercial fisheries referred to in paragraph 47 of CMM 2021-01 taking more than 2,000 tonnes of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack) in the Exclusive Economic Zones and high seas.

Elements of the MP

5. The MP includes:
- a) The Harvest Control Rule set out in Annex I;
 - b) The Estimation Model using the settings set out in Annex II;
 - c) Data Requirements and the Monitoring Strategy set out in Annex III;
 - d) The procedure for Exceptional Circumstances set out in Annex IV; and
 - e) The provision for Special Circumstances set out in Annex V.

Roles of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Services Provider

6. The Scientific Committee shall regularly review the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Annex III, and provide advice to the Commission on:
- a) the performance of the MP as a basis for pre-defined rules that manage skipjack tuna in order to achieve biological, ecological, economic and social objectives, including the robustness of the MP to changes in the fishery and any exceptional circumstances consistent with Annex IV; and
 - b) the application of the MP outputs to CMM 2021-01: CMM for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean or any successor Measure (Tropical tuna CMM).

7. The Scientific Services Provider shall run the MP, perform the full assessment, and support Scientific Committee and Commission consideration of the MP.
8. The Commission shall review the Tropical Tuna CMM in a repeating 3-year schedule (apart from the first cycle which encompasses 4-years) as follows:

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2023	-Run the MP (using data to 2022). -Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	-Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the period 2024-2026.	-Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. -Revise catch and effort related limits for 2024-2027.
2024		-Data to monitor performance of the MP not available in first year of implementation.	-Apply Tropical Tuna CMM.
2025	-Perform full stock assessment ($y_{last} = 2024$).	-Review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	-Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM. -Review the performance and use of the MP.
2026		-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2025.	-Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM.
2027	-Run the MP (using data to 2026). -Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2026. -Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2028-2030).	-Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. -Revise catch and effort related provisions for 2028-2030.
2028	-Perform full stock assessment ($y_{last} = 2027$).	-Review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	-Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM. -Review the performance and use of the MP.
2029		-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2028.	Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM.
2030	-Run the MP (using data to 2029).	-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2029.	-Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
	-Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	-Provide advice to the Commission on catch and effort related provisions for the next management period (2031-2033).	account the output of the MP. -Review catch and effort related provisions for 2031-2033.

Management Strategy Evaluation

9. The MP has been simulation tested to determine its likely performance against a range of plausible scenarios. These scenarios and the details of the testing procedure are provided in WCPFC-2022-SC18/-MI-WP-03. The results of the evaluations are outlined in WCPFC-SC18-2022/-MI-WP-02 and are available online at: https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/PIMPLE_WCPFC19/.

Allocation

10. Allocation is not included in, or affected by, the MP.

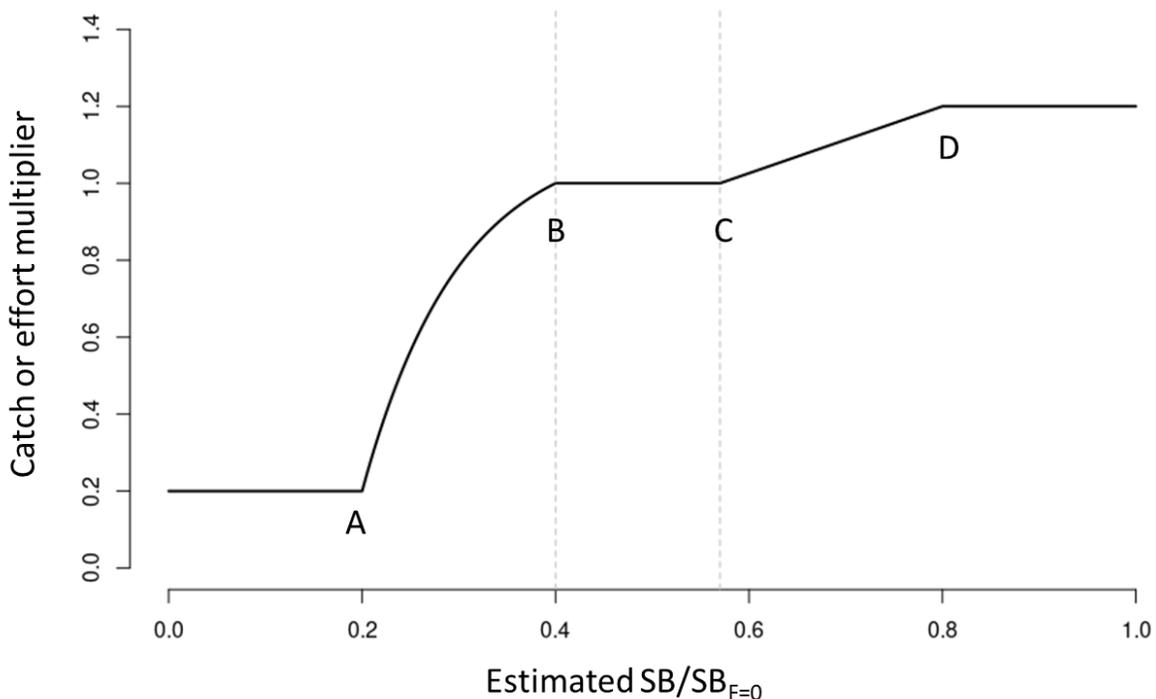
Review and Final Provisions

11. The Commission shall review this CMM in 2025 and 2029 to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect. The Commission may amend the CMM at any point to fully apply the MP.

12. This measure shall come into effect on 16 February 2023 and shall replace CMM 2015-06 at that time. It shall remain in effect until 15 February 2031 unless replaced or amended by the Commission.

ANNEX I: HARVEST CONTROL RULE

1. The harvest control rule is outlined in Figure 1. Features include:
 - a) The input to the harvest control rule is the estimated spawning potential depletion ratio for the latest estimation year ($SB_{latest}/SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$), where SB_{latest} is the estimated spawning potential in the last year of data within the estimation model and $SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$ is the same time period as described in 3 b) above;
 - b) The output from the harvest control rule is a scalar (multiplier) that adjusts future catch or effort relative to baseline fishing conditions (purse seine effort at 2012 levels, pole and line effort at average 2001-04 levels, and the domestic fisheries in assessment region 5 at average 2016-18 levels);
 - c) All fisheries are scaled equally. Scalars apply to effort for purse seine fisheries, and to catch for all other fisheries; and
 - d) For each 3-year management period, the harvest control rule uses the estimate of stock status ($SB_{latest}/SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$), as determined by the Estimation Model, to calculate a scalar that adjusts catches or effort up or down relative to the baseline fishing conditions.

Figure 1. Harvest control rule

The harvest control rule formulation is provided in WCPFC-SC18-2022/MI-WP-03. The parameters are as follows:

Type = 'asymptotic_Hillary_step_constrained'

	Label	SB/SB _{F=0}	Output multiplier	Value
SB/SB _{F=0} min	A	0.2	0.2	
SB/SB _{F=0} max	D	0.8	1.2	
Step min	B	0.40	1	
Step max	C	0.57	1	
Curve				10
Max change up				1.1
Max change down				0.9

2. The maximum increase or decrease in effort indicated by the HCR between any 3-year management period shall be 10% relative to the catch and effort levels specified by the MP for the previous three years period.

ANNEX II: ESTIMATION MODEL

1. Stock status ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is estimated within the MP from a MULTIFAN-CL Estimation Model (Annex II) detailed in WCPFC-SC18-2022-MI-WP02 Attachment A. The parameters of the Estimation Model are as follows:

Model Setting		Value
Regional Structure		8 regions
Steepness		0.8
Length comp. wtg.		100
Tag mixing period		1 qtr
VonB growth params	Lmin	25.7051
	Lmax	78.0308
	K	0.212
Hyperstability in CPUE		0

ANNEX III: DATA REQUIREMENTS AND MONITORING STRATEGY

Table 1. Data requirements under the WCPO MP and considerations for the monitoring strategy with respect to the collection, provision, coverage, and quality of data necessary to run the MP. Data prioritisation is considered here with specific regard to the monitoring strategy.

Data requirement	Priority	Monitoring Considerations
MP: estimation model		
Annual catch estimates.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Aggregate catch/effort data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Operational catch/effort data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Standardised CPUE indices for important index fisheries (e.g. pole and line fisheries).	High	Continuation of ongoing arrangements.
Species composition data for purse seine catches.	High	Dependent on observer coverage.
Size composition data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Tagging data	High	Dependent on ongoing WCPFC funding.
Monitoring Strategy: stock assessment		
As above for MP.	High	As a minimum, the data listed above will be required to run the stock assessment.
Additional data to inform the stock assessment.	Low	Where available, additional data will be used to improve the stock assessment e.g. growth, maturity, effort creep, population structure and movement.
Monitoring Strategy: performance indicators		
Other data as available to calculate performance indicators – this may include:	The frequency and scope of these data may vary depending on data availability and collection procedures. Performance indicators calculated from them may represent only a subset of the fishery.	
Economic data.	Medium	e.g. voluntarily submitted economic information
Ecosystem data.	Medium	e.g. bycatch and discards (mandatory) information
Social information.	Medium	e.g. industry/employment, household surveys

Table 2. Aspects of the Management Procedure that may be considered for inclusion in the monitoring strategy and the Commission body at which those considerations can be made.

MP Element	Commission Body	Monitoring Considerations
Review the MSE framework		
OM grid.	SC	Ensure that the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM grid.
Calculation of performance indicators.	SC	Appropriate representation of objectives by performance indicators.
Modelling assumptions.	SC	Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework.
Data availability to support the MSE framework.	SC/TCC	Improvements to data collection to either enhance the OM framework and/or reduce the uncertainty included in the OM grid.
Review performance of the MP		
Comparison of MP performance against latest stock assessment.	SC	Check that the MP is performing as expected.
Data availability to run the MP.	SC/TCC	Check availability, quantity, quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation model).
Other sources of data to monitor performance not included in the MSE framework.	SC/TCC	Identify other data as available to inform calculation of performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc).
Review of the MP		
Management objectives.	Commission	Check that the overall objectives of the MP are still appropriate.
Exceptional circumstances.	SC/TCC/ Commission	Drawing on all of the above, have events (unexpected, extra-ordinary) occurred such that remedial action is required to either review, modify or replace the MP

Table 3. Performance Indicators Examined

Indicator 1	Maintain SKJ, YFT, BET biomass at or above levels that provide fishery sustainability throughout their range.
Indicator 3	Maximise economic yield from the fishery (average expected catch).
Indicator 4	Maintain acceptable CPUE.
Indicator 6	Catch stability.
Indicator 7	Effort stability: effort variation relative to a reference period.
Indicator 8	Proximity of $SB/SB_{F=0}$ to the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ in 2018-21.

ANNEX IV: EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Exceptional circumstances are defined as the occurrence of events that are outside the range of scenarios considered for testing the MP. In the case of such events, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the MP or, in severe cases where there is considered to be a risk to the stock, take remedial action. Exceptional circumstances are not a mechanism for making regular, small adjustments to the MP, but rather should be invoked where, through an agreed process, the operation of the MP has been demonstrated to be highly risky or inappropriate. This Annex provides guidance on the process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and the necessary actions but does not provide firm definitions of all possible exceptional circumstances.

Process to determine if exceptional circumstances exist

2. SC to implement and conduct a monitoring strategy and to advise the Commission on the occurrence of exceptional circumstances based on the results of:
 - Routine annual evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances based on information presented to and reviewed by SC; and
 - Detailed evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances every 3 years coincident with the stock assessment.
3. Examples of what might constitute exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:
 - Persistent low recruitment outside the range for which the MP was tested;
 - Substantial improvements in knowledge, or new knowledge, concerning the dynamics of the population which would have an appreciable effect on the operating models used to test the MP;
 - Non-availability of important input data resulting in an inability to run the MP;
 - Stock assessment biomass estimates that are substantially outside the range of simulated stock trajectories considered in the MP evaluations, calculated under the reference set of operating models;
 - significant increases in the contribution of fisheries not affected by the MP impacting stock depletion;
 - Failure of reported catches and effort to be within an acceptable range around the levels indicated by the MP; and
 - Persistent or strong negative outcome in indicators in Annex III.

Process for action in the event of exceptional circumstances

4. Having determined that there is evidence for exceptional circumstances, the SC will, in the same year, provide advice to the Commission including, but not limited to:
 - the nature and considered severity of the exceptional circumstances;

- the necessary action required:
 - where the severity is considered to be high, the recommendation may be for a change to the catch/effort limits; and
 - where the severity is considered to be low, the recommendation may be that the Scientific Committee review the MP earlier than scheduled.

ANNEX V: SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

1. The application of the MP shall not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions.



Updates to the Skipjack Monitoring Strategy

Introduction

1. The skipjack management procedure (MP) was adopted by the Commission through [CMM 2022-01](#) and first implemented in 2024 under [CMM 2023-01](#), marking a milestone in the application of harvest strategies for the WCPO purse-seine fishery. As part of the harvest strategy framework, a dedicated *monitoring strategy* guides the regular review of the MP's performance, ensuring that it continues to meet management objectives and remains robust to changing fishery conditions. The monitoring strategy also provides for the identification of data and compliance issues, supports alignment between the MP and the Tropical Tuna CMM, and defines the respective review roles of the Scientific Committee (SC), Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC), and the Commission.
2. At SC21, the Committee reviewed analytical work on the representativeness of pole-and-line CPUE data and the impacts of changes to FAD closure periods. It concluded that the current MP remains valid for its second implementation period and that the 2025 skipjack stock assessment confirms stock depletion near the recalibrated TRP, consistent with MSE projections. SC21 highlighted, however, that the continuing decline in pole-and-line data poses a future risk to the estimation method which should be addressed before the third implementation of the MP. SC21 also recommended advancing work on climate-change scenarios.
3. TCC21, for its part, reviewed catch and effort levels relative to MP outputs and noted that 2024 fishing levels for all fisheries subject to the MP were below the maximum levels specified by the procedure. TCC21 endorsed corresponding updates to the monitoring strategy and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with the Scientific Services Provider to track effort trends and data quality.
4. The updated monitoring strategy for the Skipjack Management Procedure (CMM 2022-01), incorporating the outcomes of SC21 and TCC21, is provided in **Attachment A**.

Recommendation

5. WCPFC22 is invited to review and endorse the consolidated updates to the skipjack monitoring strategy and to provide any further guidance or tasking to ensure its continued effectiveness. In particular, the Commission may wish to consider directions for strengthening data inputs to the estimation method, advancing integration of climate-related uncertainties, and maintaining consistency between the MP outputs and the implementation framework under the Tropical Tuna CMM.

Attachment A. Monitoring strategy for the skipjack Management Procedure (CMM 2022-01¹).

1. Review of MP performance		
a. Comparison of predicted MP performance against latest stock assessment outcomes		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Regularly review/check the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Annex III of CMM 2022-01 and provide advice to the Commission on:</p> <p>a) The performance of the MP in managing skipjack tuna to achieve defined objectives including the TRP. This includes the robustness of the MP to changes in the fishery and any exceptional circumstances consistent with Annex IV of CMM 2022-01.</p> <p>b) The application of the MP outputs to CMM 2023-01.</p> <p>SC21: The 2025 stock assessment (SC21-SA-WP-02) includes only one year of data (2024) under MP implementation and therefore provides a preliminary measure of the MPs performance. The 2025 stock assessment indicates the recent stock depletion is close to the recalibrated TRP and is within the range expected through the MSE testing of the adopted interim skipjack MP. Projections indicate relative stability of stock depletion in the future when recent (2024) conditions are assumed.</p>	<p>Regularly review/check the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Table 3, Annex III of CMM 2022-01 and provide advice to the Commission on:</p> <p>a) Catch and effort levels for all fisheries subject to the MP relative to maximum levels specified under the most recent output of the MP.</p> <p>b) Identify quality of information and gaps in available data that would affect ability to monitor the implementation of the MP relative to the MP outputs.</p> <p>TCC20: Additional information on relevant catch and effort for the fisheries subject to the MPs will be needed by TCC.</p> <p>TCC21: TCC21 reviewed information prepared by the Scientific Services Provider presenting information about the performance and outputs of the MP, compared to the 2024 levels for three fishery components: Purse seine (incl</p>	<p>WCPFC20: Noted the successful running of the MP as outlined in SC19-MI-WP-01</p>

¹ At WCPFC22, the Commission adopted a minimally revised Skipjack Management Procedure in CMM 2025-03, which replaces CMM 2022-01.

	<p>AW) effort, Pole and line effort, Domestic AW catch (ref: TCC21-2025-IP04_rev1 Table 16). TCC21 noted that the information indicated that in 2024 the catch or effort in the fisheries subject to the SKJ MP were below the levels specified by the MP for 2024-2026. Additional information on the trends between effort and catch in the PS fishery, including effort creep will be needed by TCC.</p>	
<p>b. Data availability to run the MP</p>		
<p>SC</p>	<p>TCC</p>	
<p>Check availability, quantity and quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation method)</p> <p>SC19: Sufficient data were available to run the MP. However, declining effort in the pole and line fishery in some regions (e.g. tropical region) and consequent reduction of informative CPUE data represents a risk to the future performance of the MP.</p> <p>SC20: The effect of changes made to the historical data is not known.</p> <p>SC21: Analyses (SC21-MI-WP-01) indicate that the current MP remains valid in the short-term, for at least the second implementation of the MP. In the longer-term, degradation of data used in the MP estimator remains a risk which should be addressed before the third implementation of the MP.</p>	<p>Check availability, quantity and quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation method)</p> <p>TCC20: No new information TCC21: No new information</p>	<p>WCPFC20: Noted that a re-evaluation of the estimation method may need to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the MP.</p>

c. Other sources of data to monitor performance		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Identify any other data, as available, that might not be included in the MSE framework, that can inform on performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc.)</p> <p>SC21: No other sources of data have been identified.</p>	<p>Identify any other data, as available, that might not be included in the MSE framework, that can inform on performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc.)</p> <p>TCC20: No new information TCC21 No new information</p>	
d. Performance of the estimation method (EM)		
SC	TCC	
<p>Confirm the EM is performing well and not subject to estimation failure.</p> <p>SC19: Overall the EM performed well and provided estimates of stock status within the prediction range of the MSE.</p>	<p>No input anticipated.</p>	
2. Review of the MP design		
a. Management objectives		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>No input anticipated.</p>	<p>No input anticipated.</p>	<p>Review the TT-CMM, taking account of the outputs of the SKJ MP.</p> <p>Check that the overall objectives of the MP remain appropriate.</p> <p>Revise catch and effort limits for 2024-06 as necessary.</p> <p>WCPFC20: CCM requests further work to better align the skipjack MP with the TT-CMM.</p>

		WCPFC22: requested advice on changes that would be required to align the skipjack MP with the Tropical Tuna CMM so that the MP output can be applied to adjust the existing measures in the Tropical Tuna Measure instead of adjusting future catch or effort relative to baseline fishing conditions.
b. Scope of the management procedure		
SC	TCC	Commission
Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate SC21: No new information	Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate TCC20: No new information TCC21: No new information	Confirm that the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remain appropriate
c. Exceptional circumstances		
SC	TCC	Commission
Provide technical advice to identify the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and review, modify or replace the MP as appropriate. SC21: None identified.	Provide technical advice to identify exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and recommend remedial action where necessary. TCC20: No new information TCC21: No new information	Identify the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and review, modify, or replace the MP as appropriate.
3. Review of MSE		
a. Operating model grid		
SC	TCC	Commission
Ensure the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM grid. SC19: OM grid to be extended to include climate change scenarios (robustness set). In	No input anticipated.	

<p>particular the effects of warm pool expansion in the WCPO. This requires further analysis of SEAPODYM outputs and may occur over an extended time frame.</p> <p>Medium priority</p> <p>Further investigation of the OM grid is suggested to investigate the lack of overlap in estimates of stock status for the historical period. These issues will be considered for inclusion when the current MP is reviewed.</p> <p>Low priority</p> <p>SC21: The impact of changes to the FAD closure period on the expected performance of the WCPO skipjack tuna MP were evaluated (SC21-MI-WP-02). It was determined that the FAD closure period had very little impact on the performance of the skipjack MP.</p> <p>SC21: The ongoing need to consider climate change impacts within the Skipjack MP operating model set were noted.</p>		
<p>b. Calculation of performance indicators</p>		
<p>SC</p>	<p>TCC</p>	<p>Commission</p>
<p>Check that performance indicators adequately represent management objectives</p> <p>SC21: No new information at the time of SC21.</p>	<p>No input anticipated.</p>	

c. Modelling assumptions		
SC	TCC	Commission
Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework. SC21: No issues identified at the time of SC21.	No input anticipated.	
d. Data availability to support the MSE framework		
SC	TCC	Commission
Identify any improvements in data collection to either enhance the OM framework or reduce uncertainty included in the OM grid.	No input anticipated.	

PNA+ Bigeye MP Guidance

Area of Application: WCPO

TRP Nature: Threshold

MP Output: Fishing Mortality/Intensity

Application of MP Output: the MP Output is used to identify the range of combinations of longline/purse seine adjustments estimated to provide the level of fishing mortality/intensity adjustment indicated by the MP (see figures 1,3 and 5 of WCPFC-TTMW4-2023-04).

HCR: Hillary step design with a $\pm 10\%$ constraint applied

Implementation Arrangements:

- TT CMM measures including:
 - longline bigeye catch limits
 - FAD closure
 - active FAD buoy limit
 - catch retention
- PNA Longline VDS
- Enhanced monitoring, including CDS

Rationale

The proposed approach:

- a) Is fully consistent with the principles in CMM 2022-03:
- b) Takes into account:
 - The wide range of measures in place including the WCPFC Longline bigeye catch limits, the PNA+ Longline Vessel Day Scheme limits and the extensive range of FAD management measures.
 - The precedent of effective management actions taken by the Commission when management action was recommended previously.
 - The evidence that this record and pattern of bigeye management has been successful. The bigeye stock is healthy and is the only global bigeye stock that has never been overfished.
 - The cost of adopting new management arrangements.
 - The measures previously adopted by the Commission and PNA+ as required Article 8 of the Convention.
- c) Can be speedily adopted and implemented because it does not require additional implementation arrangements.

More generally, it doesn't make sense for the Commission to put in place costly new arrangements for bigeye management when there are already in place a range of management measures which have proven to be effective for managing the bigeye stock.



Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy¹

1. This attachment provides a draft workplan developed in accordance with [CMM 2022-03](#). It sets out a schedule of technical work and Commission decision-making for the development from 2026 to 2030. The workplan is a living document and will be updated as needed to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments. It is acknowledged that delays in the execution of the workplan may occur, noting the complexity of developing harvest strategies for multiple species within the multilateral WCPFC environment.
2. This workplan simply schedules decisions, noting that it is the Commission’s decision as to whether they may be ‘interim’ in nature.
3. The term “Management Procedure” is defined as a formal specification of data collection, the associated estimation model (e.g., the estimation of stock status through an analytical or empirical method), together with a Harvest Control Rule. Together, these clearly define what management actions are to be made in response to changes in the stock or fishery condition.
4. Note: The table below refers to the elements contained in [CMM 2022-03](#):
 - a. Objectives,
 - b. Reference Points,
 - c. Acceptable Levels of Risk,
 - d. Monitoring,
 - e. Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure, and
 - f. MSE.
5. Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development and so are part of the plan, but are not one of these six elements.

¹ As presented to SC21 in WCPFC-SC21-2025/GN-WP-04(Rev.03) which presented “Terms of Reference for Proposed Projects for 202c – 2028”. The paper is available only to registered participants of SC21 and accessible from the SC21 meeting webpage.

Broader Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy.

Note some items (*in blue*) are outside of the MSE project scope, so will need to be progressed separately.

2025	[Scheduled SW Pacific swordfish stock assessment]
2026	<p>SC consider the operating models for use in Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). SC provide any advice on potential Management Procedures (MP) to evaluate. SC provides advice on baseline swordfish catch levels and candidate management controls for all fisheries catching Southwest Pacific swordfish within the WCPFC-CA.</p> <p>The Commission consider the Objectives for the management of the stock. The Commission provide advice on candidate management procedures to evaluate.</p>
2027	<p>SC consider a set of Performance Indicators for evaluating candidate MPs. SC consider the performance of candidate MPs and provide technical advice for subsequent work. SC consider the candidate Limit Reference Point or set of reference points for Southwest Pacific swordfish.</p> <p>The Commission record the set of Objectives for the management of the stock and a set of Performance Indicators for evaluating candidate MPs. Commission consider candidate TRPs to be evaluated within candidate MPs.</p>
2028	<p>SC formally agree on the operating models for MSE. SC provide advice to the Commission on the performance of candidate MPs, including their associated candidate TRP.</p> <p>The Commission consider and refine the candidate set of MPs, including their associated candidate TRP. The Commission consider adopting a Limit Reference Point or set of reference points for Southwest Pacific swordfish together with acceptable levels of risk.</p>
2029	<p>SC provide advice to the Commission on the performance of candidate management procedures. SC consider appropriate monitoring strategy elements.</p> <p>The Commission consider adopting an MP.</p> <p>[Scheduled SW Pacific swordfish stock assessment]</p>
2030	<p>SC provide advice to the Commission on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>The Commission consider adopting any required implementing arrangements.</p>



INDICATIVE WORKPLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES UNDER CMM 2022-03

WCPFC22-2025-HS Workplan

- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM2014-06 (now superseded by CMM 2022-03). It set out a deliberately ambitious schedule of technical work and Commission decision making for the development of harvest strategies across the four key tuna stocks. The workplan was always intended to be a living document and has been updated annually to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments.
- It is acknowledged that delays in the execution of the workplan may occur, noting the complexity of developing harvest strategies for multiple species within the multilateral WCPFC environment as well as the capacity of member CCMs to understand and participate fully in the process. For this reason, all parties are cautioned against an expectation that harvest strategy elements will be completed in specific years. Completion dates have changed in the past and may change in the future.
- This workplan simply schedules decisions noting that it is the Commission's decision as to their interim nature. It is important to understand the implications of single species management procedures within a multi-species fishery context upon application of any of the management procedures.
- There is a very important need for capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process and ultimately to have confidence that an adopted harvest strategy is an agreeable balance of their objectives. This is particularly so as the Commission starts to consider the multispecies nature of the fishery and how management procedures will interact.
- For clarity and consistency, the term "Management Procedure" is used from 2020 onward in this workplan in place of the term "Harvest Control Rule (HCR)". A Management Procedure is a key part of a Harvest Strategy comprising a more formal specification of data collection, the associated estimation model (e.g. the estimation of stock status through an analytical or empirical method) together with a Harvest Control Rule. Together these clearly define what management actions are to be made in response to changes in the stock or fishery condition.

2025 Update

- The technical progress of the Scientific Services Provider included the evaluation of candidate MPs for South Pacific albacore based upon a revised geographical scope of the MP consistent with the mixed fishery framework, and further evaluations following guidance from the two SPA management workshops held in 2025; development of initial bigeye operating models, estimation methods and MPs for bigeye to achieve Commission-identified TRPs; and monitoring of skipjack MP performance taking into account the results of the 2025 skipjack stock assessment. Harvest strategy capacity building workshops were also conducted.

- Following WCPFC22-DP11 on “Wider issues for consideration within the harvest strategy workplan review”, the workplan has been updated to include the scheduling for the review or adoption of MP implementing arrangements.
- The Commission agreed that the skipjack tuna MP, as a one-off, be extended to four years in its current cycle and also that the Commissions review of the Tropical Tuna Measure be shifted from 2026 to 2027 with continuation of all relevant arrangements through 2027. These changes have been captured within the workplan.
- For bigeye tuna the workplan continues to reflect a decision to adopt a management procedure in 2026 noting the tentative scheduling of this for 2025 was not achieved. WCPFC22 provided guidance on the development of candidate management procedures for bigeye tuna to support the adoption in 2026. The MP is scheduled to be run for the first time in 2027.
- For South Pacific albacore, the first running of the MP has been re-scheduled to 2026.

Within the tables below, progress in earlier years is in grey. Bold items are the six elements that are referred to in CMM 14-06/22-03 (a. Objectives, b. Reference Points, c. Acceptable Levels of Risk, d. Monitoring, e. Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure and f. MSE). Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development and so are part of the plan but are not one of these six elements.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2023	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <p>Commission agree a TRP for South Pacific albacore</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). 	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p>SC provide advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy (d).</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2024	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice for review Target Reference Point • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC20]</p>	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. 	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2025	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. <p>Commission review and adopt a management procedure.</p> <p>[SPA-IWG plan: Adopted management procedure is <u>run</u> for the first time.]</p>	<p>Stock assessment.</p> <p>SC reviews the interim management procedure in accordance with the monitoring program</p>	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission consider TRP for bigeye within evaluation of candidate MPs. <p>Tentative: Commission ADOPT a target reference point together with a management procedure.</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p>	<p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2026	<p>Run management procedure for the first time.</p> <p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p> <p>Commission adopts implementing arrangements for management procedure.</p>		<p>Stock assessment</p> <p>Develop management procedures(e) and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC endorses the estimation method. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for bigeye. <p>Commission ADOPT a management procedure.</p>	<p>Stock assessment</p> <p>Develop management procedures(e) and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on outcomes under the mixed fishery approach.. • Commission consider outcomes under the mixed fishery approach. • SC provides advice on monitoring strategy. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin. <p>Commission adopts the mixed fishery management approach for YFT.</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2027	Stock assessment.	<p>Run the management procedure for the second time.</p> <p>Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP.</p>	<p>Run management procedure for the first time.</p> <p>SC provides advice for the Commission’s agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)</p> <p>Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>	<p>SC provides advice for the Commission’s agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)</p> <p>Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2028		Stock assessment.		



**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON THE APPLICATION OF HIGH SEAS
FAD CLOSURES AND CATCH RETENTION**

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-04

Recalling that CMM 2008-01¹ provides for a FAD closure and catch retention by purse seine vessels in the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S;

Concerned to ensure clear rules for the application of the provisions relating to the FAD closure and catch retention;

Concerned to ensure compatibility of measures established for the high seas with those already adopted for areas under national jurisdiction in accordance with Article 8 (1);

Conscious that incomplete or inconsistent application of the elements of CMM 2008-01 will undermine the effectiveness of the Measure;

Recalling that the PNA have developed detailed Regulations for the implementation of FAD closures and catch retention in their EEZs;

Concerned at reports by the WCPFC Secretariat and Members about cases of inconsistent application of the two month FAD closure in the high seas in 2009;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Measure to be read as a part of CMM 2008-01:

OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives of this Measure are:
 - a. to ensure consistent and robust application of FAD closures and catch retention in the high seas between 20°S and 20°N through the specification of minimum standards.
 - b. to apply high standards to the application of the FAD closure and catch retention in order to remove any possibility for the targeting of aggregated fish, or the discard of small fish.
2. Each CCM shall take the necessary measures to ensure that purse seine vessels flying its flag on the high seas comply with these rules in the application of the provisions of CMM 2008-01 relating to a FAD closure and catch retention.

¹ Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

RULES FOR FAD CLOSURE

3. The definition of a FAD in footnote 1 to CMM 2008-01 shall be interpreted as including:

“any object or group of objects, of any size, that has or has not been deployed, that is living or non-living, including but not limited to buoys, floats, netting, webbing, plastics, bamboo, logs and whale sharks floating on or near the surface of the water that fish may associate with”

4. During the FAD closure period specified in CMM 2008-01, no purse seine vessel shall conduct any part of a set within one nautical mile of a FAD. That is, at no time may the vessel or any of its fishing gear or tenders be located within one nautical mile of a FAD while a set is being conducted.

5. The operator of a vessel shall not allow the vessel to be used to aggregate fish, or to move aggregated fish including using underwater lights and chumming.

6. A FAD and/or associated electronic equipment shall not be retrieved by a vessel during the period of a FAD closure unless:

- a. the FAD and/or associated electronic equipment are retrieved and kept on board the vessel until landed or until the end of the closure; and
- b. the vessel does not conduct any set either for a period of seven (7) days after retrieval or within a fifty (50) mile radius of the point of retrieval of any FAD.

7. In addition to paragraph 6, vessels shall not be used to operate in cooperation with each other in order to catch aggregated fish. No vessel shall conduct any set during the prohibition period within one nautical mile of a point where a FAD has been retrieved by another vessel within twenty-four (24) hours immediately preceding the set.

RULES FOR CATCH RETENTION

8. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board for reasons related to the size, marketability, or species composition, the fish shall only be released before the net is fully pursed and one half of the net has been retrieved.

9. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board because they are “unfit for human consumption”, the following definitions shall be applied:

- a. “unfit for human consumption” includes, but is not limited to fish that:
 - i. is meshed or crushed in the purse seine net; or
 - ii. is damaged due to shark or whale depredation; or
 - iii. has died and spoiled in the net where a gear failure has prevented both the normal retrieval of the net and catch and efforts to release the fish alive; and
- b. “unfit for human consumption” does not include fish that:
 - i. is considered undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition; or
 - ii. is spoiled or contaminated as the result of an act or omission of the crew of the fishing vessel.

10. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board because it was caught during the final set of a trip when there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, the fish may only be discarded if:

- a. the vessel master and crew attempt to release the fish alive as soon as possible;
- b. no further fishing is undertaken after the discard until the fish on board the vessel has been landed or transhipped.

11. Fish shall not be discarded from the vessel until after an observer has estimated the species composition of the fish to be discarded.

12. The Flag CCM shall require the operator of the vessel to provide to the flag CCM authority and/or the Secretariat the following information as soon as practicable, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after any discard:

- a. Name, flag and WCPFC Identification Number of the vessel;
- b. Name and nationality of master;
- c. Licence number;
- d. Name of observer on board;
- e. Date, time and location (latitude/longitude) that discarding occurred;
- f. Date, time, location (latitude/longitude) and type (drifting FAD, anchored FAD, free school etc) of the shot;
- g. Reason that fish were discarded (including statement of retrieval status if fish were discarded in accordance with paragraph 6);
- h. Estimated tonnage and species composition of discarded fish;
- i. Estimated tonnage and species composition of retained fish from that set;
- j. If fish were discarded in accordance with paragraph 10, a statement that no further fishing will be undertaken until the catch on board has been unloaded; and
- k. Any other information deemed relevant by the vessel master.

13. The operator of the vessel shall also provide a hard copy of the information described in paragraph 12 to the WCPFC Observer on board.

14. Any flag CCMs who requires their vessel to provide the information in paragraph 12 only to the flag CCM shall notify this arrangement to the Secretariat by the end of February 2026.

15. The flag CCM referred to in paragraph 14 shall compile the information submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 from January 1 to December 31 in the previous year and report it to the Secretariat by July 7 annually.

16. The Secretariat shall compile the information submitted in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 15 and make it available to the flag CCM, SC and TCC.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF FISHING ON SEABIRDS

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-05

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Concerned that some seabird species, notably albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction;

Noting advice from the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources that together with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the greatest threat to Southern Ocean seabirds is mortality in longline fisheries in waters adjacent to its Convention Area;

Noting scientific research into mitigation of seabird bycatch in surface longline fisheries has showed that the effectiveness of various measures varies greatly depending on the vessel type, season, and seabird species assemblage present;

Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee that combinations of mitigation measures are essential for effective reduction of seabird bycatch;

Recognising the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas under national jurisdiction;

Recalling Article 5 of the Convention, which in giving effect to members duty to cooperate in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the UNFSA, requires members of the Commission under Article 5(e) to adopt measures to minimise, inter alia, catch of non-target species; and

Further recognising Article 30 of the Convention and the need to ensure that conservation and management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions.

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories (CCMs) should, to the greatest extent practical, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) if they have not already done so.

2. CCMs should report to the Commission on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

Adopts, in accordance with Article 5(e) and 10 (1)(c) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean the following measures to address seabird bycatch:

South of 30° South

1. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing south of 30°S, to use either
 - a. at least two of these three measures:
 - i. weighted branch lines;
 - ii. night setting;
 - iii. tori lines; or
 - b. hook-shielding devices.

Table 1 does not apply south of 30° South. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

West of 175°W between 25°S-30°S

2. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing in the area, to use either
 - a. at least two of these three measures:
 - i. weighted branch lines;
 - ii. night setting;
 - iii. tori lines; or
 - b. hook-shielding devices.

Table 1 does not apply south of 25° South. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

East of 175°W between 25°S-30°S

3. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing in the area to use one of the following mitigation measures:
 - i. weighted branch lines;
 - ii. tori lines; or
 - iii. hook-shielding devices.

Table 1 does not apply in the area 25°S-30°S. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

4. The extension of the requirement to use two out of three mitigation measures or hook shielding devices from the region West of 175° West between 25° S -30° S shall not come into effect until 1 January 2028. Prior to this date the requirements to use only one mitigation measure (paragraph 2) apply.

5. The requirements applying between 25° South -30° South shall not apply in the EEZs of French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji due to the low risk to seabirds. Those SIDS and Territories that have vessels operating south of 25° South are encouraged to collect data on seabird interactions, increase observer coverage rate as appropriate, and implement seabird mitigation measures when they operate within their EEZs.

6. The provisions in paragraph 1-4 shall be reviewed no later than 3 years from the implementation date by the SC, based on the best available scientific information. The review shall consider both the efficacy of the mitigation measures being used and the risk to vulnerable seabirds in areas where mitigation measures are not required including relevant SIDS EEZs and make recommendations to the Commission if needed.

North of 23° North

7. CCMs shall require their large-scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length fishing north of 23°N, to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A. CCMs also shall require their small-scale longline vessels less than 24 meters in overall length fishing north of 23°N, to use at least one of the mitigation measures from Column A in Table 1. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
<i>Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines¹</i>	<i>Tori line²</i>
<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Blue-dyed bait</i>
<i>Tori line</i>	<i>Deep setting line shooter</i>
<i>Weighted branch lines</i>	<i>Management of offal discharge</i>
<i>Hook-shielding devices³</i>	

¹ If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from Column A, this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

² If a tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B, this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e. paired) tori lines.

³ Hook-shielding devices can be used as a stand-alone measure.

Other Areas

8. In other areas (between 25°S and 23°N), where necessary, CCMs are encouraged to have their longline vessels employ one or more of the seabird mitigation measures listed in Table 1.

General Principles

9. For research and reporting purposes, each CCM with longline vessels that fish in the Convention Area south of 25°S or north of 23°N shall submit to the Commission in part 2 of its annual report information describing which of the mitigation measures they require their vessels to use, as well as the technical specifications for each of those mitigation measures. Each such CCM shall also include in its annual reports for subsequent years any changes it has made to its required mitigation measures or technical specifications for those measures.

10. CCMs are encouraged to undertake research to further develop and refine measures to mitigate seabird bycatch including mitigation measures for use during the setting and hauling process and should submit to the Secretariat for the use by the SC and the TCC any information derived from such efforts. Research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas to which the measure will be used.

11. The SC and TCC will annually review any new information on new or existing mitigation measures or on seabird interactions from observer or other monitoring programmes. Where necessary, an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or recommendations for areas of application will then be provided to the Commission for its consideration and review as appropriate.

12. CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longlining are released alive and in as good condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird concerned. Research into the survival of released seabirds is encouraged.

13. The intersessional working group for the regional observer programme (IWG-ROP) will take into account the need to obtain detailed information on seabird interactions to allow analysis of the effects of fisheries on seabirds and evaluation of the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures.

14. CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported or collected by observers to enable the estimation of seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the Convention applies. (see Annex 2 for Part 1 reporting template guideline). These reports shall include information on:

- a. the proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures used; and
- b. observed and reported species specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers or statistically rigorous estimates of species-specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactions per 1,000 hooks) and total numbers.

15. This Conservation and Management measure replaces CMM 2018-03, which is hereby repealed.

ANNEX 1. SPECIFICATIONS**1. Tori lines (South of 25° South)****1(a). For vessels \geq 35 m total length****<Minimum Standards>**

- i. Deploy at least one tori line. If two tori lines are deployed, both tori lines shall be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set. During the line setting, baited hooks shall be cast into the water -close to the tori line coverage area, and it shall be avoiding the surface areas of propeller turbulence.
- ii. A tori line using long and short streamers shall be used as follows:
 - a. Long streamers shall be placed at intervals of no more than 5 m, and shall be attached-to avoid entanglement with the main line. Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions shall be used.
 - b. Short streamers shall be minimum length 1m and shall be placed no more than 1m apart.
 - c. Streamers shall be attached along the tori line for at least the first 100m from behind the stern to the point where the mainline enters the water.
- iii. Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent greater than or equal to 100m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall have a minimum length of 200m. If a towing object is attached to the end of the tori line, the tori line shall have a minimum length of 120m.
- iv. The tori line shall be attached to a tori pole >7 m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical.
- v. If vessels use only one tori line, the tori line shall be deployed windward of sinking baits.

<Technical Guidelines>**i. One or two tori lines**

Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use two tori lines at times of high bird abundance or activity.

ii. Mainline material

- a. It is effective to use different materials of the tori line for the aerial section and for the underwater section.
- b. For the aerial section, a lightweight material that is easy to insert a streamer is desirable.
- c. For the underwater section, a material that floats in water is preferable to reduce entanglement with fishing gear, and a rope with a rough texture to provide

underwater drag is preferable too.

- d. It should be noted that entanglement between fishing gear and tori-lines poses serious safety risks, including pole breakage. To avoid such incidents, it is advisable to incorporate a mechanism that allows the main line to be disconnected when excessive tension is applied. Examples of such safety measures include connecting lower-durability rope sections along the line to create break points, or using hardware that disconnects under high tension loads.

iii. **Towing object**

The towing object attached to the end of the tori line should generate sufficient drag to achieve required aerial extent greater than or equal to 100m.

iv. **Streamer color**

Streamers should be brightly colored.

v. **Streamer attachment method**

Light weight swivels, plastic joints or pulleys, or long streamers made of relatively rigid materials, can be used to prevent entanglement.

vi. **Pole height**

Note that raising the tori-line attachment position may require extending the total line length or adding an additional towing device to ensure sufficient aerial extent.

vii. **Operational practice**

A spare tori-line and streamers should be carried onboard to repair or replace damaged tori lines. Tori lines and streamers should be examined regularly and maintained as necessary. When using a bait-casting machine, the landing position should be adjusted in advance.

1(b). For vessels <35 m total length

- i. A single tori line using either long and short streamers, or short streamers only shall be used.
- ii. Streamers shall be: brightly coloured long and/or short (but greater than 1m in length) streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows:
 - a. Long streamers placed at intervals of no more than 5m for the first 75 m of tori line.
 - b. Short streamers placed at intervals of no more than 1m.
- iii. Long streamers should be attached to the line in a way that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. All long streamers shall reach the sea-surface in calm conditions. Streamers may be modified over the first 15 m to avoid tangling.

- iv. Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a minimum aerial extent of 75 m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall be attached to a tori pole >6m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical. Sufficient drag must be created to maximise aerial extent and maintain the line directly behind the vessel during crosswinds. To avoid tangling, this is best achieved using a long in-water section of rope or monofilament.
- v. If two tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2. Tori lines (North of 23° North)

2(a). Long Streamer

- i. Minimum length: 100 m
- ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of the point where the hookline enters the water.
- iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iv. Streamers must be less than 5m apart, be using swivels and long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible.
- v. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2(b). Short Streamer (For vessels ≥ 24 m total length)

- i. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
- ii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iii. Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30 cm minimum length.
- iv. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2(c). Short Streamer (For vessels <24 m total length)

This design shall be reviewed no later than 3 years from the implementation date based on scientific data.

- i. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
- ii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iii. If streamers are used, it is encouraged to use the streamers designed to be less than 1m

apart and be 30cm minimum length.

- iv. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the mainline.

3. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

- i. Mainline deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.
- ii. When seabirds are present the gear must ensure mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.
- iii. Bird curtain must be employed:
 - a. Pole aft of line shooter at least 3m long;
 - b. Minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2m of pole;
 - c. Main streamer diameter minimum 20mm;
 - d. Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10mm.

4. Night setting

- i. No setting between nautical dawn and before nautical dusk.
- ii. Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date.
- iii. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.

5. Weighted branch lines

- i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:
 - e. one weight greater than or equal to 40g within 50cm of the hook; or
 - f. greater than or equal to a total of 45g attached to within 1 m of the hook; or
 - g. greater than or equal to a total of 60 g attached to within 3.5 m of the hook; or
 - h. greater than or equal to a total of 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

6. Hook-shielding devices

- i. Hook-shielding devices encase the point and barb of baited hooks to prevent seabird attacks during line setting. The following devices have been approved for use in WCPFC fisheries:

- a. Hookpods, which comply with the following performance characteristics⁴
1. the device encases the point and barb of the hook until it reaches a depth of at least 10 metres or has been immersed for at least 10 minutes;
 2. the device meets current minimum standards for branch line weighting as specified in this Annex; and
 3. the device is designed to be retained on the fishing gear rather than being lost.

7. Management of offal discharge

- i. Either no offal discharge during setting or hauling;
- ii. Or strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.

8. Blue-dyed bait

- i. If using blue-dyed bait it must be fully thawed when dyed.
- ii. The Commission Secretariat shall distribute a standardized colour placard.
- iii. All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

9. Deep setting line shooter

- i. Line shooters must be deployed in a manner such that the hooks are set substantially deeper than they would be lacking the use of the line shooter, and such that the majority of hooks reach depths of at least 100 m.

⁴ Noted by SC14.

ANNEX 2. GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING TEMPLATES FOR ANNUAL PART 1 REPORTS

The following tables should be included in the Annual Report Part 1, summarising the most recent five years.

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or

[23°N – 25°S¹]. For each year, the table gives the total number of hooks; the number of observed hooks; observer coverage (the percentage of hooks that were observed); the number of observed captures (both dead and alive); and the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks).

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
[year]						
[year]						
[year]						
[previous year e.g. 2017]						
[current year e.g. 2018]						

¹ Insert 'North of 23°N', 'South of 30°S', '25°S-30°S' or '23°N – 25°S'. For CCMs fishing in all areas, provide separate tables for each area.

² Provide data as captures per one thousand hooks.

Table y: Proportion of mitigation types¹ used by the fleet in [year].

	Combination of Mitigation Measures	Proportion of observed effort using mitigation measures				
		South of 30°S	<u>West of 175°W between 25°S-30°S</u>	<u>East of 175°W between 25°S-30°S</u>	25°S to 23°N	North of 23°N
	No mitigation measures					
Options required south of 25°S	TL + NS					
	TL + WB					
	NS + WB					
	TL + WB + NS					
	HS					
Other options 25°S-30°S	WB					
	TL					
Other options north of 23°N	SS/BC/WB/DSLS					
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)					

¹ TL = tori line, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branch lines, SS = side setting, BC = bird curtain, BDB = blue dyed bait, DSLS = deep setting line shooter, MOD = management of offal discharge, HS = hook-shielding device.

Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here						
	Totals (must equal 100%)					

Table z: Number of observed seabird captures in [CCM] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	<u>West of 175°W between 25°S-30°S</u>	<u>East of 175°W between 25°S-30°S</u>	North of 23°N	23°N – 25°S	Total
E.g. Antipodean albatross						
[species name]						
[species name]						
[species name]						
[species name]						
[species name]						
[species name]						
Total						



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-06

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC), in accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention);

Recognizing *the economic and cultural importance of sharks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, the vulnerability of certain shark species to fishing pressure, and the need for measures to promote the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark populations and fisheries;*

Recognizing *the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, to enable effective shark conservation and management;*

Recognizing *further that certain species of sharks and rays, such as basking shark and great white shark, have been listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).*

Adopts, *in accordance with Article 5, 6 and 10 of the Convention, that:*

I. Definitions

1. (1) Sharks: All species of sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras (Class Chondrichthyes)
- (2) Full utilization: Retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, vertebrae and skins, to the point of first landing or transshipment
- (3) Finning: Removing and retaining all or some of a shark's fins and discarding its carcass at sea

II. Objective and Scope

2. The objective of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of sharks.
3. This CMM shall apply to: (i) sharks listed in Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention and (ii) any other sharks caught in association with fisheries managed under the WCPF Convention.

4. This measure shall apply to the high seas and exclusive economic zones of the Convention Area.
5. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the sovereignty and sovereign rights of coastal States, including for traditional fishing activities and the rights of traditional fishers, to apply alternative measures for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing sharks, including any national plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks, within areas under their national jurisdiction. When Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) apply alternative measures, the CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in their Part 2 Annual Report, a description of the measures.

III. FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of sharks

6. CCMs should implement, as appropriate, the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA). For implementation of the IPOA, each CCM should, as appropriate, include its National Plan of Action for sharks in Part 2 Annual Report.

IV. Full utilization of shark and prohibition of finning

7. CCMs shall take measures necessary to require that all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized. CCMs shall ensure that the practice of finning is prohibited.
8. In order to implement the obligation in paragraph 7, in 2025, 2026, and 2027, CCMs shall require their vessels to land sharks with fins naturally attached to the carcass.
9. Notwithstanding paragraph 8, in 2025, 2026, and 2027, CCMs may authorize their vessels to implement one of the alternative measures listed below to comply with paragraph 7¹. CCMs shall implement enhanced monitoring efforts on its vessels authorized to implement the alternatives.

To ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified by inspectors on board the vessel at any time, these alternatives shall be applied before sharks are stored in fish holds as soon as possible.

(1) Each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding fins using rope or wire; or

(2) Identical and uniquely numbered tags are attached to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins in a manner that inspectors can easily identify the matching of the carcass and fins at any time. Both the carcasses and fins shall be stored on board in the same hold.

10. All CCMs shall include in their Part 2 Annual Report, using the template provided in Annex 2, information on the implementation of the measures in paragraphs 8 and 9 as applicable, including 1) how authorized vessels have enhanced their monitoring efforts; 2) how many vessels used the alternative measures in the previous year; 3) how compliance is enforced at sea and in port, including how possible incidents of disproportionate fin counts, high grading and species

¹ Until July 1 2025, CCMs may use the following alternative: each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably biodegradable one.

substitution have been addressed; 4) an explanation of why the fleet has adopted its fin-handling practice and 5) any other information TCC might deem necessary.

11. CCMs shall provide information to TCC on any enforcement difficulties encountered in the case of the alternative measures, from observer, electronic monitoring, aerial, boarding, and landing inspection reports.
12. The Secretariat shall compile the information provided by CCMs with respect to paragraphs 10 and 11 each year and make it available to TCC.
13. The TCC shall review and discuss the reports submitted in accordance with Paragraphs 10 and 11 in 2025, 2026, and 2027. TCC23 shall, taking into account, the outcomes from these reports and discussions, advise the Commission on the effectiveness of the measures set out in paragraph 9 as alternatives to the obligation contained in paragraph 7 and recommend measures for consideration and possible adoption at the 2027 annual meeting of the Commission. If, in 2025, 2026, or 2027, a CCM who used the alternative measures does not provide information in accordance with paragraph 10 to ensure the effectiveness of the alternative measures set out in paragraph 9, paragraph 9 will expire in 2027 for that CCM.
14. CCMs shall take measures necessary to prevent their fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping, and landing any fins harvested in contravention of this CMM.
15. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that both carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify the correspondence between an individual carcass and its fins when they are landed or transshipped.

V. Minimizing bycatch and practicing safe release

16. For longline fisheries targeting tuna and billfish, CCMs shall ensure that their vessels comply with at least one of the following options:
 - (1) do not use or carry wire trace as branch lines or leaders; or
 - (2) do not use branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines. See Annex 1 for a schematic diagram of a shark line.
17. The implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 14 above shall be on a vessel by vessel or CCM basis. Each CCM shall notify the Commission of its implementation of paragraph 14 by March 31, 2021 and thereafter whenever the selected option is changed.
18. Starting on January 1, 2024, between 20 N and 20 S, CCMs shall ensure that their longline vessels targeting tuna and billfish do not use, or if carrying, must stow wire trace as branch lines or leaders and do not use shark lines or branch lines running directly off of the longline floats or drop lines (see Annex 1 for schematic diagram of a shark line).

19. For longline fisheries targeting sharks, CCMs shall develop and report their management plans in their Part 2 Annual Report.
20. The Commission shall adopt and enhance bycatch mitigation measures and develop new or amend, if necessary, existing Shark Safe Release Guidelines² to maximize the survival of sharks that are caught and are not to be retained. Where sharks are unwanted bycatch they should be released alive using techniques that result in minimal harm, taking into account the safety of the crew. CCMs should encourage their fishing vessels to use any Commission adopted guidelines for the safe release and handling of sharks.
21. CCMs shall ensure that sharks that are caught and are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel before being cut free in order to facilitate a species identification. This requirement shall only apply when an observer or electronic monitoring camera is present, and should only be implemented taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer.
22. Beginning on January 1, 2024, for sharks that are caught by longline vessels and are not retained, CCMs shall require their fishing vessels to release these sharks, as soon as possible, taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer, using the following guidelines:
 - (1) Leave the shark in the water, where possible; and
 - (2) Use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible.
23. Development of new WCPFC guidelines or amendment to existing guidelines for safe release of sharks should take into account the health and safety of the crew.

VI. Species specific requirements

24. Oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark
 - (1) CCMs shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel or landing any oceanic whitetip shark, or silky shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.
 - (2) CCMs shall require all vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM to release any oceanic whitetip shark or silky shark that is caught as soon as possible after the shark is brought alongside the vessel, and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible, following any applicable safe release guidelines for these species.
 - (3) Subject to national laws and regulations, and notwithstanding (1) and (2), in the case of oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark that are unintentionally caught and frozen as part of a purse seine vessels' operation, the vessel must surrender the whole oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark to the responsible governmental authorities or discard them at the point of landing or

² The Commission adopted at WCPFC15 Best Handling Practices for the Safe Release of Sharks (other than Whale Sharks and Mantas/Mobulids)

transshipment. Oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark surrendered in this manner may not be sold or bartered but may be donated for purpose of domestic human consumption.

(4) Observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples from oceanic whitetip sharks and silky shark caught in the Convention Area that are dead on haulback in the WCPO, provided that the samples are part of a research project of that CCM or the SC. In the case that sampling is conducted as a CCM project, that CCM shall report it in their Part 2 Annual Report.

25. Whale shark

(1) CCMs shall prohibit their flagged vessels from setting a purse seine on a school of tuna associated with a whale shark if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.

(2) CCMs shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any whale shark caught in the Convention Area, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.

(3) For fishing activities in Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) exclusive economic zones, the prohibition in paragraph (1) shall be implemented in accordance with the Third Arrangement implementing the Nauru Agreement as amended on 11 September 2010.

(4) Notwithstanding sub-paragraph (1) above, for fishing activities in exclusive economic zones of CCMs north of 30 N, CCMs shall implement either this measure or compatible measures consistent with the obligations under this measure. When CCMs apply compatible measures, the CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in their Part 2 Annual Report, a description of the measure.

(5) CCMs shall require that, in the event that a whale shark is incidentally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall:

(a) ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release.; and

(b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, including the number of individuals, details of how and why the encirclement happened, where it occurred, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the whale shark on release.

(6) In taking steps to ensure the safe release of the whale shark as required under sub-paragraph (5)(a) above, CCMs shall encourage the master of the vessel to follow the WCPFC Guidelines for the Safe Release of Encircled Whale Sharks (WCPFC Key Document SC-10)³.

(7) In applying steps under sub-paragraphs (1), (5)(a) and (6), the safety of the crew shall remain paramount.

³ Originally adopted on 8 December 2015. The title of this decision was amended through the Commission decision at WCPFC13, through adopting the SC12 Summary Report which contains in paragraph 742: "SC12 agreed to change the title of 'Guidelines for the safe release of encircled animals, including whale sharks' to 'Guidelines for the safe release of encircled whale sharks'."

(8) The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of this paragraph on the basis of observer reports, as part of the Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme.

VII. Reporting requirements

26. Each CCM shall submit data on the WCPFC Key Shark Species⁴ for Data Provision in accordance with Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (WCPFC Key Document Data-01).
27. CCMs shall advise the Commission (in their Part 2 Annual Report) on implementation of this CMM in accordance with Annex 2.

VIII. Research

28. CCMs shall as appropriate, support research and development of strategies for the avoidance of unwanted shark captures (e.g. chemical, magnetic and other shark deterrents), safe release guidelines, biology and ecology of sharks, identification of nursery grounds, gear selectivity, assessment methods and other priorities listed under the WCPFC Shark Research Plan.
29. The SC shall periodically provide advice on the stock status of key shark species for assessment and maintain a WCPFC Shark Research Plan for the assessment of the status of these stocks. If possible, this should be done in conjunction with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.
30. The SC shall periodically review the impact of fishing gear on sharks that are not retained, including oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark, inside and outside of the area between 20 N and 20 S, and provide advice on potential mitigation measures that would benefit such shark species.

IX. Capacity building

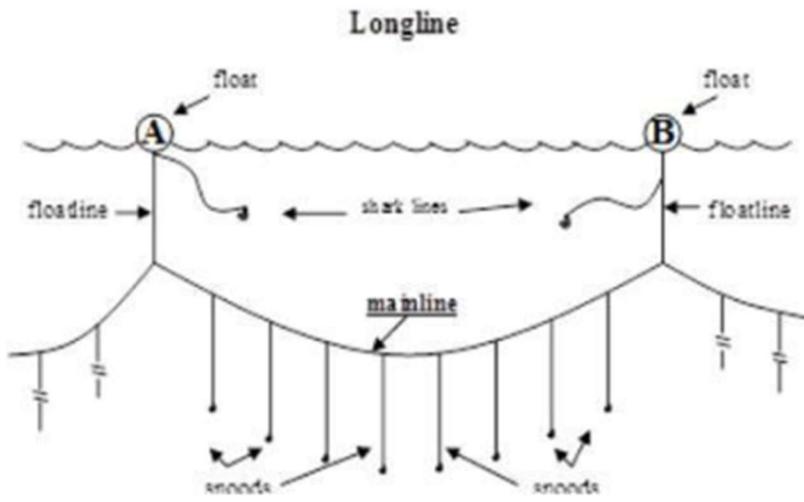
31. The Commission should consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of the IPOA and collection of data on retained and discarded shark catches.
32. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of this measure, including supplying species identification guides for their fleets and guidelines and training for the safe release of sharks, and including, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, in areas under national jurisdiction.

⁴ The WCPFC Key Shark Species for Data Provision are designated per the Process for Designating WCPFC Key Shark Species for Data Provision and Assessment (WCPFC Key Document SC-08) and are listed in Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (WCPFC Key Document Data-01).

X. Review

33. On the basis of advice from the SC and/or the TCC, the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this CMM, including species specific measures, taking into account, inter alia, any recommendation from the SC or TCC, in 2027 and amend it as appropriate.
34. This CMM replaces CMM 2024-05.

Annex 1. Schematic diagram of a shark line



Annex 2: Template for reporting implementation of this CMM

Each CCM shall include the following information in Part 2 of its annual report:

1. Description of alternative measures in para 5, if applicable
2. Results of their assessment of the need for a National Plan of Action and/or the status of their national Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, as appropriate
3. Details of National Plan of Action, as appropriate, for implementation of IPOA Sharks in para 6 that includes:
 - (1) details of NPOA objectives; and
 - (2) species and fleet covered by NPOA as well as catches thereby
 - (3) measures to minimize waste and discards from shark catches and encourage the live release of incidental catches of sharks;
 - (4) work plan and a review process for NPOA implementation
4. Description of any non-compliance observed with respect to paras 7, 8 and 9.
5. With respect to para 9:
 - (1) Whether sharks or shark parts are retained on board their flag vessels, and if so, how they are handled and stored
 - (2) In case that CCMs retain sharks and choose to apply a requirement for fins to be naturally attached to carcasses
 - Their monitoring and enforcement systems relating to this requirement
 - (3) In case that CCMs retain sharks and choose to apply measures other than a requirement for fins to be naturally attached to carcasses
 - Their monitoring and enforcement systems relating to this requirement
 - A detailed explanation of why the fleet has adopted its fin-handling practice;
 - (4) Provide the quantity of sharks caught where the CCM applied the alternative measures and the total quantity of sharks taken, in numbers and/or weight and where available, by species.
6. The management plan in para 19 that includes:
 - (1) specific authorizations to fish such as a license and a TAC or other measure to limit the catch of shark to acceptable levels;
 - (2) measures to avoid or reduce catch and maximize live release of species whose retention is prohibited by the Commission;
7. A report on sampling programs for oceanic whitetip sharks and silky shark as a CCM project as referred to in para 24 (4)
8. Estimated number of releases of oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark caught in the Convention Area, including the status upon release (dead or alive), through data collected from observer programs and other means.

9. Description of compatible measures as referred to in para 25 (4)
10. Any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, including the details required under para 25 (5)(b).



2025 FINAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT (COVERING 2024 ACTIVITIES)

Executive Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. WCPFC22 undertook its annual review of compliance by CCMs in accordance with the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) adopted at WCPFC20 – [CMM 2023-04](#). The revised CMM embedded a number of key elements of the work undertaken to date on the CMS, particularly the use of audit points, review of outstanding (>104 weeks) cases in the Online Compliance Case File System (CCFS), discussion of anomalies identified by CCMs through review of the aggregate tables and the adoption of a random sampling mechanism to address the imbalance in observer data that stems from the significant disparity in observer coverage between the purse seine and longline fisheries.
2. In 2025, TCC21 and WCPFC22 assessed CCMs' compliance over RY2024 against a list of obligations agreed to at WCPFC21. The CMS provides for TCC to identify a compliance assessment for each specific obligation that is assessed. Where audit points have been agreed, the review of the dCMR and application of a compliance score was undertaken based on these for RY2024.
3. In accordance with paragraph 7 and Annex I of [CMM 2023-04](#), the following statuses were considered in making the assessments: Compliant, Non-Compliant, Priority Non-Compliant, Capacity Assistance Needed, and CMM Review or Audit Point Review.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT BY TCC21

4. TCC21 reviewed the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR for RY2024) for thirty-eight (38) CCMs and for one obligation for one (1) collective group of Members in a closed session. Some CCMs reiterated the importance of transparency in all aspects of the Commission's work and supported holding the CMR process in open sessions in the future.

III. COMPLIANCE REVIEW PROCESS

5. TCC21 considered the CMR Review Process in advance of conducting its review ([WCPFC-TCC21-2024-07 rev1](#)).
6. TCC21 agreed that the CMR process for TCC21 will be undertaken in four stages:
 - 1) Review of Capacity Assistance Needed statuses from previous years.
 - 2) Review progress by CCMs to resolve implementation gaps identified in previous CMRs from RY2022 and RY2023.
 - 3) Review of issues arising from the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR) and application of a compliance status for RY2024.
 - 4) Review of the Aggregate Tables limited to data sourced from Article 25(2) cases.

- a. Review of overarching tables (**dCMR02 pp 30-50**) for CCM comment
 - b. Review of outstanding (>104 weeks) cases in the CCFS (**no cases to review**)
7. TCC21 agreed that it would prioritise consideration of the 115 potential compliance issues identified by the Secretariat in the full draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR).
 8. TCC21 agreed that in line with the approach taken in previous CMR reviews, CCMs may raise additional potential issues not identified in the dCMR. Consistent with the practice of past years, the review of the dCMR would be undertaken obligation by obligation, not by CCM. In addition, TCC21 agreed to limit the practice of allowing CCMs to provide additional information verbally to situations of clarification only.
 9. The dCMR had been prepared based on the list of obligations for assessment agreed by WCPFC21 ([WCPFC-TCC21-2024-07 rev1 Annex 3](#)). The review of the dCMR and the application of a compliance score were undertaken based on agreed audit points.
 10. CMM 2023-04 also included a change in the criteria for determining a Priority Non-Compliant (PNC) status to recognize the work to develop audit points and determine risks associated with different obligations (including through the development of a Risk-based Assessment Framework, RBAF). TCC21 determined that the following obligations would have the status of Priority Non-Compliant:
 - 1) All Quantitative Limit (**QL**) will be considered high risk for the purpose of assigning a compliance status.
 - 2) Implementation (**IM**) obligations consistently rated high in the RBAF will be considered high risk for the purpose of assigning a compliance status:
 - i) 2006-08 07 (vessels to accept HSBI)
 - ii) 2009-06 13 (carriage of ROP observers to observe transshipment)
 - iii) 2014-02 9a (comply with Commission VMS standards)
 - iv) 2018-06 04 (vessel authorisation requirements).
 - 3) Implementation (**IM**) and Report (**RP**) obligations with mixed views on risk will not be considered high risk for the purpose of assigning a compliance status. These obligations are CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 5.4-5.5, and CMM 2018-06 09.
 - 4) Scientific Data Report obligations (**SciData 01, 02, 03, 05**) will be considered high risk for the purpose of assigning compliance status, noting that TCC and Commission work to strengthen reporting of information for management and compliance purposes.
 11. Where a status of “Non-Compliant” or “Priority Non-Compliant” was assigned, TCC21 determined in accordance with CMM 2023-04 42, that CCMs may provide additional information up to 21 days after TCC21, noting that additional information is limited to filling an information gap.
 12. The CMR SWG met in the margins of WCPFC22 to consider additional information CCMs provided up to 21 days after TCC21 and whether this additional information warranted a change in the CCM’s compliance status.
 13. With respect to the Aggregate Tables referred to in CMM 2023-04, TCC21 reviewed the Aggregate Tables in Figures 19-34 and Tables 13-19 (dCMR-02). Building on the work undertaken last year, and the feedback provided at TCC20 and WCPFC21, the Secretariat has undertaken further work on options for the sampling mechanism, which is presented in [WCPFC-TCC21-2025-09](#). Noting the information presented in paper 09, TCC21 decided that it would not use a subsampling approach that has not been endorsed by TCC and the Commission to apply to a compliance review of observer-

sourced data in the Aggregate Tables. However, TCC21 agreed to review the Aggregate Tables in relation to Article 25(2) cases only.

IV. SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE REVIEW ASSESSMENTS

a. Capacity Assistance Needs

14. TCC21 received reports from CCMs on the progress of Capacity Development Plans (CDP) covering the eight (8) CAN assessments from 2024 ([WCPFC-TCC21-2025-11](#)). As a general point, TCC21 requested CCMs with ongoing capacity needs to update their CDPs, to provide an overview of progress towards meeting the obligation and where needed, to revise the expected completion date.

15. The outcomes of the discussions are in the table and information set out below.

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	Capacity Needed Completed
Indonesia Scientific data provision (SciData03) RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 26 Sep 2017 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: within 3 years</i>	
Indonesia Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3) RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 26 Sep 2017 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: within 3 years</i>	
Indonesia Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3) RP		
Fiji Implementation of requirements to ensure that fishing vessels comply with Commission standards including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet WCPFC VMS requirements (CMM 2014-02 9a) IM	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i>	
Fiji Reporting of required ALC/MTU data in accordance with WCPFC VMS requirements (CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8) RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i>	
Indonesia 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33) IM	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 9 Oct 2021	

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	Capacity Needed Completed
	<i>Anticipated CDP end date: March 2025</i>	
Philippines 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33) IM	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 10 Sept 2019 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: November 2023</i> CDP 27 Sept 2025 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: by 2028</i>	
Vanuatu Report in regard to their implementation of the requirement to achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP 26 Sept 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: by 2026</i>	
Fiji Report in regard to submission by a Member to WCPFC of a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023) CDP 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i>	Fiji (RY2024)

- a. **Indonesia** (SciData 03): Indonesia reported significant challenges which hindered their ability to gather and complete the necessary operational data. The expected timeframe for meeting this capacity assistance need was 2027. However, Indonesia noted that there may still be challenges in providing 100% of data to SSP (SPC-OFP). TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia’s capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

- b. **Indonesia** (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3 / CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3): Indonesia reported that effort was being put into resolving the issue of meeting the shark catch reporting requirements. Additional assistance is needed to improve data collection, including through the holding of a further WPEA workshop with SSP (SPC-OFP). TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia’s capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

- c. **Fiji** (CMM 2014-02 9a / CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8): Fiji reported that it had faced turnover in VMS officers. It had been able to train the VMS officers, but Fiji still needed the Secretariat’s assistance in working through operationalizing the CMM in development of the SOPs. This would take place over the next nine (9) months. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Fiji’s capacity assistance needs in Fiji’s CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

d. **Indonesia** (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33): Indonesia reported that observer coverage is lower than last year because of budgetary constraints. It was still planning to reach 100% coverage and was working with industry on cost sharing arrangements, but this work was ongoing. Indonesia hoped to be in a position to have 100% coverage in 2027. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

e. **Philippines:** (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33): The Philippines reported that it had hired more observers and were currently at 85% observer coverage (up from 60% in the year before). The Philippines was seeking additional funds to reach 100% observer coverage. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

f. **Vanuatu** (5% observer coverage RP): Vanuatu reported that there is information on the minimum observer coverage, but additional legislative work is needed to ensure that this requirement is met in the longer term. TCC21 maintained the CAN status, but noted that further information may be provided prior to WCPFC22 as to whether Vanuatu's capacity assistance needs in their CDP had been met.

g. **Fiji** (FISHED/DID NOT FISH RP): Fiji reported that it met the FISHED/DID NOT FISH reporting obligation, however Fiji needed ongoing assistance in order to develop specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and reporting requirements to ensure that they met this obligation on an ongoing basis. Fiji withdrew its CAN request and CDP as it had met the obligation, but indicated that it would still require the assistance of the Secretariat and FFA Secretariat to ensure that it would continue to meet this obligation into the future.

16. TCC21 noted that there was an issue where a developing State has met the individual obligation for a particular reporting year, but has identified an ongoing need for assistance in meeting the obligation in future. TCC21 noted the importance of ensuring that such capacity assistance needs were addressed through various mechanisms that were available to CCMs.

17. TCC21 noted that CCM CDPs required by CMM 2023-04, should not be open ended. At a minimum, a clear end date by which it is expected that the CAN will be met should be included in the CDP report. Annual reporting under the CMR process should include information on the progress that the CCM has made towards meeting the requirements of the obligation which enables CCMs to identify how the capacity assistance needed is progressing.

18. TCC21 also agreed that Indonesia and the Solomon Islands would be assessed as CAN for obligations (Indonesia: [CMM 2011-03 01](#); Solomon Islands: [CMM 2023-01 30](#)) in RY2024 and have submitted a CDP as required by CMM 2023-04.

b. Review of updates on outstanding implementation obligations from RY2022 and RY2023

19. TCC21 reviewed the list of twenty-seven (27) issues for fifteen (15) implementation obligations for nine (9) CCMs for RY2022 and RY2023 implementation gaps, noting that for certain implementation obligations, most CCMs have met all the agreed Audit Points, with only a limited

number of CCMs continuing to have implementation gaps.¹ At TCC21, the status of these specific implementation gaps was reviewed through the CMS process in relation to these nine CMMs. Where the implementation gap remained, additional information may be provided in line with CMM 2023-04, paragraph 42. The obligation, CCM and statement of implementation is set out in the table below.

20. TCC21 recalled that where a CCM has provided a statement of implementation that met the Audit Point, that status would not change unless there is an amendment to the obligation or if the circumstances of the CCM change.

Obligation	CCM CMR issue	Statement of IM meets the audit point
CMM 2004-03 Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels		
CMM 2004-03 02 Fishing vessel marking and technical specifications	Ecuador (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2008-04 Conservation and Management Measure to Prohibit the Use of Large Scale Driftnets on the High Seas of the Convention Area		
CMM 2008-04 02 Measures necessary to prohibit use by their vessels of large-scale driftnets in the high seas	Philippines (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2011-03 Conservation and Management Measure for Protection of Cetaceans (superseded by CMM 2024-07)		
CMM 2011-03 01 Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set	Indonesia (RY2022, RY 2023)	Implementation gap remains and CAN status. CDP 24 Sept 2025
CMM 2017-04 Conservation and Management Measure on Marine Pollution		
CMM 2017-04 02 Prohibit fishing vessels from discharging any plastics (including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene) but not including fishing gear	Ecuador (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2018-05 Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme		
CMM 2018-05 07 Vessels to be prepared to accept an observer from the ROP, if required	Ecuador (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Ecuador (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains

¹ One implementation obligation that is not included in this list is [CMM 2014-02 9a](#), because this obligation is recommended to be reviewed annually (see [TCC21-2025-10](#))

Obligation	CCM CMR issue	Statement of IM meets the audit point
CMM 2018-05 09 CCMs shall source observers for their vessels as determined by the Commission	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2018-06 Conservation and Management Measure on the Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish		
CMM 2018-06 02 CCMs to ensure its fishing vessels only transship to/from, and provide bunkering for/ are bunkered by or otherwise supported by vessels on the RFV	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2018-06 17 Flag CCM to ensure fishing vessels are on RFV is accordance with this CMM. Vessels not on RFV shall be deemed not authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land HMFS in Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of its flag State.	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2018-06 18 CCMs to prohibit landings in ports or transshipment to vessels not on RFV	France (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Ecuador (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2019-05 Conservation and Management Measure on Mobulid Rays caught in association with fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area		
CMM 2019-05 03 Prohibit targeted fishing or intentional setting on mobulid rays	United States (RY2023)	Implementation gap resolved as of June 2023
	Ecuador (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2019-05 (04-06, 08, 10) Prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing mobulid rays	United States (RY2023)	Implementation gap resolved as of June 2023
	Nicaragua (RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2021-01 Conservation and Management Measure on Tropical Tunas (superseded by CMM 2023-01)		
CMM 2021-01 14 Purse seine 3 month FAD closure (1 July - 30 September)	Indonesia (RY 20218 – RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Philippines (RY20218 – RY2023)	Implementation gap remains

CMM 2024-05 Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks (previously CMM 2019-04)		
CMM 2024-05 07-09 Take measures necessary to require all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized and ensure the prohibition of finning (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) – (previously CMM 2019-04 07-10)	Philippines (RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	Implementation gap resolved as of August 2023
CMM 2024-05 24 (01-03) Specific requirements to protect oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark species as specified in CMM 2024-05 (previously CMM 2019-04 20 (03))	Nicaragua (RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
CMM 2024-05 25 (01-07) Prohibit purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks (previously CMM 2019-04 21 (01-07))	Indonesia (RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	Implementation gap remains
	Nicaragua (RY2022, RY2023)	Implementation gap remains

c. Review of dCMR and issues arising

21. As per the process undertaken in previous CMR reviews, the review of issues arising from the dCMR was undertaken in the TCC21 plenary session.

22. The dCMR was prepared based on the list of obligations for assessment agreed by WCPFC21. The review of the dCMR prioritised those potential issues identified by the Secretariat. Following this an opportunity was provided for CCMs to raise other issues.

23. There were no obligations which were ‘not assessed’ for CCMs. There were no assessments on which consensus could not be reached at TCC21. Noting the new compliance status in CMM 2023-04 of ‘CMM Review or Audit Point Review’, consistent with the approach taken at TCC20, TCC21 sought to differentiate between ‘CMM Review’ on the one hand and ‘Audit Point Review’ on the other hand.

a) CMM Review

24. There was one obligation that TCC21 assessed as CMM Review.

- [CMM 2019-03 02 North Pacific Albacore \(QL\)](#): The obligation contained a limit for vessels “fishing for” North Pacific Albacore, which posed challenges in being able to verify the information provided by CCMs. TCC21 noted that the Northern Committee adopted a harvest strategy for North Pacific Albacore in 2023, but had not adopted an implementing measure to give effect to the management procedure. TCC21 recommended that the Commission and the Northern Committee address the North Pacific Albacore CMM so that the quantitative limit could be assessed in future.

b) Audit Point Review

25. There were two obligations that TCC21 assessed as Audit Point Review:

- [CMM 2023-01 26 Not to transfer PS effort \(IM\)](#): TCC21 noted that there was an issue with the extent to which the Audit Point tracked the obligation in CMM 2023-01, paragraph 26. There

was also an issue of applicability of paragraph 26, as it was not clear to some CCMs how it was linked to paragraph 25 and Attachment 1, Table 2 of CMM 2023-01. TCC21 reviewed the applicability of paragraph 26 but no common understanding was reached. Because the Tropical Tuna measure is an important measure and relates to the quantitative limit in paragraph 25, TCC21 recommended that work be undertaken between TCC21 and WCPFC22 to review and clarify the Audit Point if necessary.

- **CMM 2023-01 33** *Requirement for purse seine vessels to carry a ROP observer RP*: TCC21 noted that this obligation has not been assessed since 2020. A number of issues had arisen in assessing compliance with the obligation. While CCMs had self-reported that their purse seine vessels had carried ROP observers, the SSP (SPC-OFP) sometimes did not receive all the observer data to verify the presence of ROP observers on the vessels. This was an issue in particular for vessels that were chartered, where the CCM whose flag the vessel is entitled to fly was responsible for ROP observer placement, but may not be able to ensure that the chartering CCM submitted the requisite observer data to SSP. Some CCMs asserted that the CCM responsible for this reporting in a chartering arrangement is the original flag CCM, and not the chartering CCM. Some CCMs recognise it is not clear whether the flag CCM is responsible for giving the observer data to SSP because they might not be able to receive the observer data from the chartering CCM. TCC21 noted the importance of ROP observer coverage and the receipt of 100% of observer reports. However, there were currently gaps in the receipt of observer reports. Observer data was important for scientific and compliance purposes and the gap highlighted the need for longer term work in the Commission on the ROP data issues and on verification of this obligation. TCC21 also noted that the Audit Point for the obligation required the submission of “a report” on ROP observer placement, and not for its verification. Some CCMs also noted that verifiable information on placements of observers could also be needed for monitoring of compliance against this obligation. TCC21 considered that the requirement to carry a ROP observer was an important obligation in the Tropical Tuna measure, and the Audit Point did not reflect this. TCC21 recommended that work be undertaken between TCC21 and WCPFC22 to review and clarify the Audit Point and that the Commission consider how to verify compliance with this obligation.

26. In addition, TCC21 recommended to WCPFC22 that certain CMMs, obligations or Audit Points would benefit from further consideration by the Commission to assist in assessing compliance. These together with some other matters, are considered in Section V below.

27. The RY2024 assessments are set out in Appendix 1. Consistent with the Final Compliance Monitoring Reports for 2023, CCMs evaluated as “Non-Compliant” or “Priority Non-Compliant” for obligations are strongly encouraged to address their implementation issues.

V. ISSUES RELATED TO SPECIFIC CMMs OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS

28. TCC21 noted that the development of agreed audit points had assisted in addressing previous issues encountered at TCC where there were different interpretations of the obligations and different views on how implementation of the obligation was to be assessed. Nevertheless, there were some issues identified by CCMs which were of an ongoing nature. Some of these issues required further consideration by the Commission.

- **CMM 2012-03 02 QL:** TCC21 noted that WCPFC data requirements do not capture information which specifies if the vessel is catching fish for fresh or frozen landing. It was noted that there were two parts to the Audit Point: provision of information by the CCM and verification by the Secretariat. TCC21 recommended that the WCPFC22 consider the mechanism for CCMs to provide additional information to enable the Secretariat to verify the information for observer coverage in each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N. TCC21 also recommended that relevant CCMs work with the Secretariat in relation to specific non-compliance cases on how to provide additional information to enable the Secretariat to verify information for observer coverage in each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in the area N of 20N.
- **CMM 2019-03 02 QL:** TCC21 noted that there were ongoing challenges for assessing compliance with obligations that were tied to expressions such as “actively fishing for” or “fishing for” a particular stock. The development of definitions of “fishing for” a particular species, as had occurred with SP Albacore, would assist with the assessment of compliance with such obligations, while taking into account the characteristics of different fisheries.
- **CMM 2023-01 30 IM:** TCC21 noted that this was the first time that this implementation obligation had been assessed and questions had arisen over the threshold for the Secretariat’s assessment of compliance with the Audit Point. TCC21 agreed that where a CCM had referred to the use of ER systems, which imply near real time reporting, that would meet the 48 hour notification requirement for purse seine catch retention as set out in the Audit Point.
- **CMM 2023-02 02 QL:** TCC21 noted that the quantitative limit for effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin was limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in the area north of 20N, but there was a lack of clarity as to whether this limit should apply on a fishery-by-fishery basis or as total effort by all vessels. TCC21 recommended that the WCPFC22 give consideration to tasking the Northern Committee to clarify CMM 2023-02, paragraph 2.
- **CMM 2023-02 03 QL:** The quantitative limit for Pacific bluefin tuna includes both small and large fish and the CMM allows the ability to carry over catch from previous years and to transfer from small fish to large fish limits. TCC21 noted that this posed challenges for ongoing compliance assessments unless the data was clearly presented by the CCM in its Annual Report Part 2. TCC21 noted the importance of ensuring that Secretariat has the requisite information to monitor the catch limit from one year to another that the carryover is consistent with the previous year. TCC21 recommended that the Northern Committee and the Commission give consideration to improving the processes so that the information on carry over of catches and transfer of small and large fish is clearly identified to enable the Secretariat to more easily verify compliance with this obligation in future.
- **CMM 2023-02 04 QL:** TCC21 noted the difficulty of assessing this obligation in the 2023 Pacific Bluefin measure in light of the one-off footnote 1 in the successor measure for 2024, CMM 2024-01, which allows the carry forward of catch from past years. TCC21 expressed concerns about this footnote which had led to the retrospective application of the measure and recommended that such arrangements be avoided in the future.

29. The CMR process had also raised a number of general issues that were raised in the context of the CMR process which TCC21 considered should be brought to the attention of WCPFC22:

- TCC21 noted that the CMR process had highlighted a number of data discrepancies between CCM self-reported data and the SSP (SPC-OPF) report used by the Secretariat for the purposes of verification. Discrepancies had also been found in positional data within operational catch and effort data submissions. TCC21 noted the importance of trying to reconcile data discrepancies between self-reported data provided by CCMs and the report compiled by the SSP, which is derived from the data provided by CCMs. TCC21 encouraged CCMs to work with SSP and the Secretariat on an ongoing basis to resolve any such discrepancies. TCC21 also expressed the need for some caution when different numbers were used to verify compliance with a Quantitative Limit. In a number of cases such discrepancies did not have a bearing on the compliance status of a CCM. However, TCC21 recalled the importance of increasing the independent verification of data and the work that the Secretariat had undertaken to improve the use of available data for independent verification.
- TCC21 reiterated the importance of CCMs providing requisite information in the Annual Report Part 2 while recognising the importance of ongoing work to reduce duplicative reporting (including alignment with the Annual Report Part 1 where possible).

VI. REVIEW OF AGGREGATE TABLES

30. TCC21 reviewed the Aggregate Tables and in particular information on trends in issues by obligation/CMM (Figures 20 and 22 of the dCMR-02), and the numbers and outcomes of case file Article 25 events (Figures 19 and 22). TCC21 noted that the Aggregate Tables were not to be used for the purposes of compliance assessment.

31. TCC21 noted that review of the Aggregate Tables highlighted that there were a number of Article 25(2) cases with no infraction following an investigation. CCMs are required to convey a full investigation report to the reporting CCM, but reports were not being received. TCC21 encouraged all those flag CCMs to provide the full investigation report to the reporting CCM as required by Article 25(2).

32. TCC21 noted that there were different views on the CMR review of Aggregate Tables being limited to Article 25(2) cases and the potential for imbalance in the information provided in these tables. In particular, TCC21 noted that according to the supplementary information (dCMR02_suppl) the ratio of CCFS cases between purse seine and longline in the aggregated tables agreed to be included in the CMR report this year was 1:9 (purse seine to longline). Some members considered this might be misleading without the number of inspections per vessel type. TCC21 recommended that the Aggregate Tables continue to be produced each year and as more data sources become available their utility is likely to improve.

VII. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

33. Some targeted assistance was identified to assist SIDS and other CCMs in implementing specific obligations during the dCMR process. These are identified in the table and information set out below.

Obligation	CMR section	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed Score
CMM 2011-03 01 <i>Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set</i>	Implementation	Indonesia	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2024) CDP 24 Sept 2025
CMM 2023-01 30 <i>Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S).</i>	Implementation	Solomon Islands	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2024) CDP 24 Sept 2025

34. Some areas of capacity assistance were identified by certain CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering RY2023 and that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2024 are listed in the table below (see [WCPFC-TCC21-2025-12 rev1](#)).

List of additional areas of capacity assistance identified by CCMs in Annual Report Part 2

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 Paras 01-03 General Provisions	<p>FSM is a SIDS country. However, FSM continues to assist other fellow SIDS through collaboration within the PNA, FFA and other bilateral arrangements. FSM is also a recipient of assistance from non-SIDS within the WCPFC membership.</p> <p>Indonesia Indonesia's involvement in the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) partnership was officially announced at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from September 1 to 4, 2014, in Apia, Samoa. As a committed partner, Indonesia has actively participated in several multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives aimed at supporting SIDS. Notably, Indonesia has been instrumental in the Coral Triangle Initiative, which is operational in several SIDS, including Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This collaboration underscores Indonesia's dedication to fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation in small island nations.</p> <p>For further details on these initiatives, you can visit the following links: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219 http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238</p> <p>In mid-2020, Indonesia strongly advocated for the mobilization of adequate resources and support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during a high-level discussion. The discussion focused on mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action, and exploring new pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway for SIDS. Indonesia's call underscores its commitment to supporting the sustainable development and resilience of small island nations, highlighting the need for global cooperation to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS.</p> <p>Indonesia unequivocally reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the sustainable development and advancement of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the 4th SIDS Conference on May 28th, 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda. By recognizing the unique</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>challenges faced by these nations and enhancing partnerships based on mutual interests, Indonesia aims to foster significant progress and shared prosperity.</p> <p>Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries that depend much on assistance from regional and sub-regional agencies such as WCPFC, FFA and PNA including donor partners.</p> <p>Niue: Capacity building needs for reporting requirements.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna islands tuna development plan for the next 5 years is targeting a single middle-size longliner for the domestic market. So as to inform a more robust viability analysis, a short experimental tuna fishing campaign is expected to be implemented in the short term. However, the search for a partner in the region to implement it has not been successful so far: 2 companies have been reached out for a time charter arrangement but both offered chartering conditions that were considered too risky if not unaffordable. One of them has dismissed a proposal for a fishing license including requirement to offload in Wallis and commitment from local authorities to contract a buyer for the fish with an agreed price. In that context, assistance needs from CCMs and regional organisations (SPC and WCPFC) for capacity building relate to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helping design terms of reference for the chartering arrangement - helping find a company who would make a vessel and skilled crew available for 3 months within affordable day fee - providing observer(s) to cover one trip out of 2 or 3
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 04-05 Capacity development for personnel</p>	<p>FSM is a small island developing state and a recipient of such assistances. FSM has received capacity development assistance provided through regional, sub-regional programs and collaboration with other SIDS.</p> <p>Fiji did make a submission in 2024 where Fiji needs training and attachments in the following areas: 1. WCPFC MCS data analysis; 2. Training on Commission VMS; 3. CMR. The implementation of this training is still ongoing and will be reported under 2025 Part 2 Report.</p> <p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>New Caledonia is a territory and has not required any assistance in this category in 2024. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2024.</p> <p>Vanuatu VU is anticipating and welcome more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirements.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna No capacity building assistance requested and thus received in the past few years from CCMs. One contract staff in charge of Fisheries Observatory has attended SPC's Tuna Data Workshop in 2024 and 2025. The lack of permanent staff hinders the dept's capacity to build on training opportunities.</p> <p>Assistance needs relate to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fisheries dept: data collection, refreshment on WCPFC requirements, processes and current work - fisheries sector: early career captain capacity building for longline (through boardings as chief mates on well-performing vessels in the region)

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 06-07 Assistance with technology transfers</p>	<p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Nauru is a SIDS and supports the transferring of fisheries technology to accelerate the social and economic development of SIDS/T</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS - VU welcome assistance relating to fisheries science and technology through ePSM , EMS, ER and with the aim to improve all e systems into development of VU. - Anticipating more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirement</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 08-09 Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</p>	<p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries depending on assistance from non-SIDS countries.</p> <p>Tonga one of the SIDS countries although our current national capacity does not provide Tonga the ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is the recipient of capacity development assistance.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna (as per above response for 01-03, and 04-05)</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 10-11 Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance</p>	<p>FSM participation in regional/sub-regional fora on MCS. FSM participated in joint cooperation efforts amongst the FFA membership in maritime surveillance in 2024. FSM's participation in implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring, CDS, EM/ER, PSM, FAD tracking and sharing MCS data when necessary.</p> <p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati is a SIDS and requires support and assistance in both aerial and surface patrols.</p> <p>Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance.</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS - VU actively participated in numerous regional operations on surveillance and monitoring, both assets and personnel as required by mandate of such engagements. This include MCS operations coordinated by the FFA RFSC. - Seeking further capacity assistance in this area to ensure its personnel and line agencies respond and operate more efficiently whenever needed.</p> <p>Wallis and Futun: SPC (S. HARE, 2019) conducted an assessment of IUU fishing potential risk in the EEZ, based on a backward analysis of VMS and AIS logs over 2014-2018. Though it concluded that no UNN fishing have taken place over the period, a lot of people keep on thinking that the EEZ is illegally harvested and that it explains the scarcity of tuna nearshore and offshore. Assistance from other CCMs would pertain to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cooperation to ensure no vessel nears or enters WF EEZ without VMS on, to experiment and implement new technologies for real-time surveillance, like cross-checking detection of radar signals by satellite and VMS tracking - investigations on whether tuna resources are declining faster than around and what are the factors responsible for that

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 12-18 support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access</p>	<p>FSM FSM's Involvement in PNA marketing initiative most specifically the MSC development to broaden the marketing value in FSM's fishing industry. In addition to improving the market value, FSM receives regional and sub-regional assistance in MCS capacity building to meet certification requirement that will allow fishing stocks to be market to high valued vendors. Assistance in implementing port state measure minimum standards aims to achieve these marketing objectives. This is an ongoing work.</p> <p>Fiji has a 100% domestic tuna sector. As part of Fiji's 2024 support towards the tuna sector, Government allocation remained at 90,000 USD to support markets access for MSC certification. Additionally, to boost and streamline fish processing, Fiji has begun work to digitalize vessel arrivals via Electronic Port State Measures (EPSM) and catch verification via Catch Accountancy System (CAS) to support catch verification process and market demands. There is also a assessment and review of internal processors to ensure that appropriate activities are developed to support Fiji's domestic industry.</p> <p>Indonesia <i>(as per above response for 01-03)</i></p> <p>RMI No additional assistance required at this time however, the RMI may seek further assistance with onshore developments and market access requirements.</p> <p>Palau Palau is a SIDS and supports this CMM, and may seek assistance in the future.</p> <p>Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance.</p> <p>Tonga is one of the SIDS countries and therefore this obligation is not applicable. To support the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries businesses and market access, Tonga implemented it under the Fisheries Management Act 2002, Section 7, Sub-section 36, Fishing Vessels License Term and Condition, Fishing Agreement and Access Agreement with the Fishing Company and Tuna Fisheries Management Plan. Ministry of Fisheries established a Development Scheme for the Fisheries Sector to improve the business climate and reduce the cost of doing business a Fishing Consumer Tax Exemption was approved in June 2013 exempting imported fishing gear, bait, and essential supplies from customs tariffs. In 2013 the operation of the Tu'imatamoana fish market and Processing Facilities was transferred under an MOU to the National Fisheries Committee (Fishing Industries Committee). In addition, the Ministry of Fisheries established a Soft Loan Scheme known Fisheries Development and Export Fund (FDEF) to support the sector market Access. Not only that but the Ministry assisted the Fishing Companies in developing and improving their business planning and management, and offered a comprehensive training and capacity development program. In 2020, Tonga ratified the PACER Plus Agreement is a Regional Development-Centre Trade Agreement designed to support Tonga in regional and Global Trade. Tonga exports fish to international markets (Australia, NZ, USA, Fiji, Pangopango, Hawaii, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore). The compliance Division inspects 100% of every export before handing the Export Permit to the companies, and entry the export data into the system and reports every quarter.</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS. - Capacity assistance required for development of the National CDS plan .VU definitely needs capacity assistance for both domestic and international markets. CCM sees the importance in having such assistance as it will boost domestic and international market standards as well.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna <i>(as per above response for 01-03, and 04-05)</i></p>

List of Appendices:

- i. Appendix 1 – Traffic Light fCMR matrix
- ii. Appendix 2 – Tabular version of fCMR outcomes
- iii. Appendix 3 – Aggregate tables for Article 25(2) cases

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM 2006-04 Conservation and Management Measure for Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific					
CMM 2006-04 01 Limit number of fishing vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S to 2000 - 2004 levels Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective	Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Phillipines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America				
CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures					
CMM 2006-08 07 Fishing vessels to accept HSBI boardings by duly authorised inspectors, and as applicable Members to ensure compliance of its authorised inspectors with the HSBI procedures Implementation	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvadore, Panama, Thailand				
CMM 2009-02 Conservation and Management Measure on the Application of High Seas FAD Closures and Catch Retention					
CMM 2009-02 03-07 FAD Closure Rules - high seas Implementation	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador				
CMM 2009-02 08-13 Rules for Purse seine catch retention, including reporting - high seas Implementation	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM 2009-03 Conservation and Management for Swordfish					
<p>CMM 2009-03 01 Limit number of vessels fishing for SWO south of 20S to the number in any one year between 2000-2005</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	<p>Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America</p>				
<p>CMM 2009-03 02 Limit the catch of SWO by its vessels in area south of 20S to the amount in any one year during 2000-2006</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	<p>Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America</p>				
CMM 2009-06 Conservation and Management Measure on the Regulation of Transhipment					
<p>CMM 2009-06 13 CCM shall ensure that vessels they are responsible for carry observers from the WCPFC ROP to observe transhipments at sea.</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand</p>				
<p>CMM 2009-06 29 Limit on purse seine vessels transhipment outside of port to vessels that have received an exemption from the Commission. Where applicable, flag CCM authorisation should be vessel-specific and address any specific conditions identified by the Commission.</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	<p>Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM 2009-06 34 Ban on high seas transshipment, unless a CCM has determined impracticability in accordance with para 37 guidelines, and has advised the Commission of such. Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective	China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Vanuatu, Panama, Thailand				
CMM 2010-01 Conservation Management Measure for the North Pacific Striped Marlin					
CMM 2010-01 05 NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011 Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective	China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei		United States of America		
CMM 2012-03 Conservation and Management Measure for Implementing the ROP by vessels fishing north of 20N					
CMM 2012-03 02 CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective	Japan, United States of America				Japan [2]
CMM 2014-02 Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission VMS					
CMM 2014-02 9a Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements Implementation	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Curacao, Panama, Thailand, Vanuatu, El Salvador		Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Ecuador	Fiji	Fiji [2], Japan [8], Republic of Korea [3], Philippines [8]
CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 5.4 - 5.5 VMS Manual Reporting procedures - applies until 1 March 2024 and remains in force unless the Commission decides otherwise Implementation	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Curacao, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand	Ecuador, Indonesia		Fiji	

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM 2015-02 Conservation and Management Measure for South Pacific albacore					
CMM 2015-02 01 Limit on number of vessels actively fishing for SP ALB south of 20S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective	Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America				
CMM 2016-02 Conservation Management Measure for the Eastern High Seas Special Management Area					
CMM 2016-02 06 Transshipment is prohibited in E-HSP from 1 Jan 2019 Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand				
CMM 2018-05 Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme					
CMM 2018-05 Annex C 06 CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission Report	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu		Indonesia		
CMM 2018-06 Conservation and Management Measure on the Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish					
CMM 2018-06 04 Vessels authorization requirement Implementation	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
<p>CMM 2018-06 09 Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel Report</p>	<p>Australia, Cook Islands, Canada, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand</p>	<p>Indonesia</p>			
CMM 2019-03 Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Albacore					
<p>CMM 2019-03 02 CCMs take measures to ensure level of fishing effort by vessels fishing for NP ALB is not increased Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	CMM Review				
CMM 2022-04 Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks					
<p>CMM 2022-04 07-10 Take measures necessary to require all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized and ensure the prohibition of finning (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) - includes consideration of para 10 request from CCM Implementation</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Thailand, Panama</p>	<p>Nauru</p>			

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
<p>CMM 2022-04 16 Requirements to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries between 20N and 20S (effective 1 Jan 2024)</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu</p>	<p>United States of America</p>			
CMM 2022-06 Conservation and Management Measure on Daily Catch and Effort Reporting					
<p>CMM 2022-06 01 Requirement to ensure the master of each vessel completes an accurate electronic log of every day that it spends at sea on the high seas of the Convention Area as specified (effective for most vessels as of 1 Jan 2024)</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>	<p>Ecuador</p>			
<p>CMM 2022-06 02 Requirement that information recorded by the master of each vessel each day with fishing operations shall, at a minimum include the information as specified</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>	<p>Ecuador</p>			
<p>CMM 2022-06 03 Requirement that the master of each vessel fishing in the Convention Area provides an required information to its national authority within 15 days of the end of a trip or transshipment event</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>	<p>Ecuador</p>			

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
<p>CMM 2022-06 04 Requirement to provide operational catch and effort data recorded by the master of each vessel each day with fishing operations to the Commission, and where possible in accordance with the agreed SSPs</p> <p>Report</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>			Indonesia	
<p>CMM 2022-06 05 Requirement that the master of each vessel fishing in the Convention Area provides an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>	Ecuador			
CMM 2023-01 Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean					
<p>CMM 2023-01 13 Purse seine 1 1/2 month FAD closure (1 July - 15 August)</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>	Ecuador			

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
<p>CMM 2023-01 14 Annual advice on choice and implementation of one additional month high seas purse seine FAD closure (April, May, Nov or Dec)</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu</p>	<p>Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, El Salvador</p>	<p>Indonesia</p>		
<p>CMM 2023-01 16 Required FAD design and construction specification requirements to reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or other species (effective 1 Jan 2024)</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>	<p>Philippines, United States of America, Ecuador</p>			
<p>CMM 2023-01 21 Each purse seine vessel is limited to no more than 350 FADs with activated instrumented buoys</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>	<p>Indonesia, Ecuador</p>			
<p>CMM 2023-01 24 Purse seine EEZ limits (for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna) and advice from other coastal CCMs of EEZ limits to be applied</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	<p>Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Niue, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), Philippines, Samoa, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, United States of America, Vanuatu</p>				
<p>CMM 2023-01 25 High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	<p>China, European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Ecuador, El Salvador</p>		<p>Indonesia</p>		

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM 2023-01 26 CCMs not to transfer fishing effort in days fished in the purse seine fishery to areas N20N and S20S Implementation	Audit Point Review				
CMM 2023-01 30 Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S) Implementation	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador	Philippines, Ecuador		Solomon Islands	
CMM 2023-01 32 Purse seine vessels are not to operate under manual reporting during FAD closure period Implementation	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador	Ecuador			
CMM 2023-01 33 Requirement for purse seine vessels to carry a ROP observer Report	Audit Point Review				
CMM 2023-01 34 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction Implementation	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, United States of America			Indonesia, Philippines	Indonesia [9], Philippines [9]
CMM 2023-01 38 Bigeye longline annual catch limits for 2024-2026, with adjustment to be made for any overage and certain CCMs may also increase the catch limit by committing to proportionate increase in observer coverage level above the minimum 5% ROP coverage level Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective	China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States of America				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
<p>CMM 2023-01 41 Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand, Philippines				
<p>CMM 2023-01 43 Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	Australia, China, European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Ecuador, El Salvador				
<p>CMM 2023-01 44 CCM reported whether it replaced any of its flagged large scale purse seine vessels in the previous year and has advised the Commission that the replacement vessel did not result in an increase in carrying capacity or an increase in catch or effort levels</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	China, European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Ecuador, El Salvador				
<p>CMM 2023-01 45 Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targetting bigeye above the current level (applying domestic quotas are exempt)</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	China, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America				
<p>CMM 2023-01 46 Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targetting bigeye and landing exclusively fresh fish above the current level or above the number of current licenses under established limited entry programmes (applying domestic quotas are exempt)</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	China, Japan, Philippines, United States of America				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
<p>CMM 2023-01 Att 2 04 Philippines to ensure its flagged vessels report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat (vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed)</p> <p>Implementation</p>	Philippines				
<p>CMM 2023-01 Att 2 08 Philippines to monitor landings by vessels operating in HSP1-SMA and collect reliable catch data by species</p> <p>Implementation</p>	Philippines				
CMM 2023-02 Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna					
<p>CMM 2023-02 02 Total effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America				
<p>CMM 2023-02 03 Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei applying from 2024</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	Japan, Republic of Korea		Chinese Taipei		
<p>CMM 2023-02 04 Pacific Bluefin 30kg or larger catch limits, by flag for certain other members</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	Australia, Canada, China, European Union, New Zealand, United States of America, Philippines				Australia [2]
CMM 2023-03 Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Swordfish					
<p>CMM 2023-03 02 CCMs take measures to ensure fishing effort by fisheries taking more than 200mt of NP SWO N20N per year is limited to 2008 – 2010</p> <p>Quantitative Limits: CCM-level and Collective</p>	Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Philippines				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Multiple years with a Potential Compliance Issue
SciData Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (revised at WCPFC4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 19 and 20)					
SciData 01 Estimates of Annual Catches Report	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Ecuador, El Salvador, Vietnam				
SciData 02 Number of vessels active Report	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Ecuador, El Salvador, Vietnam				
SciData 03 Operational Level Catch and Effort Data Report	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Ecuador, El Salvador, Vietnam			Indonesia	Indonesia [10]
SciData 05 Size composition data Report	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador, Vietnam		Ecuador		Ecuador [2]

1 CCM-initiated/Article 25(2) cases

Article 25(2) cases over time

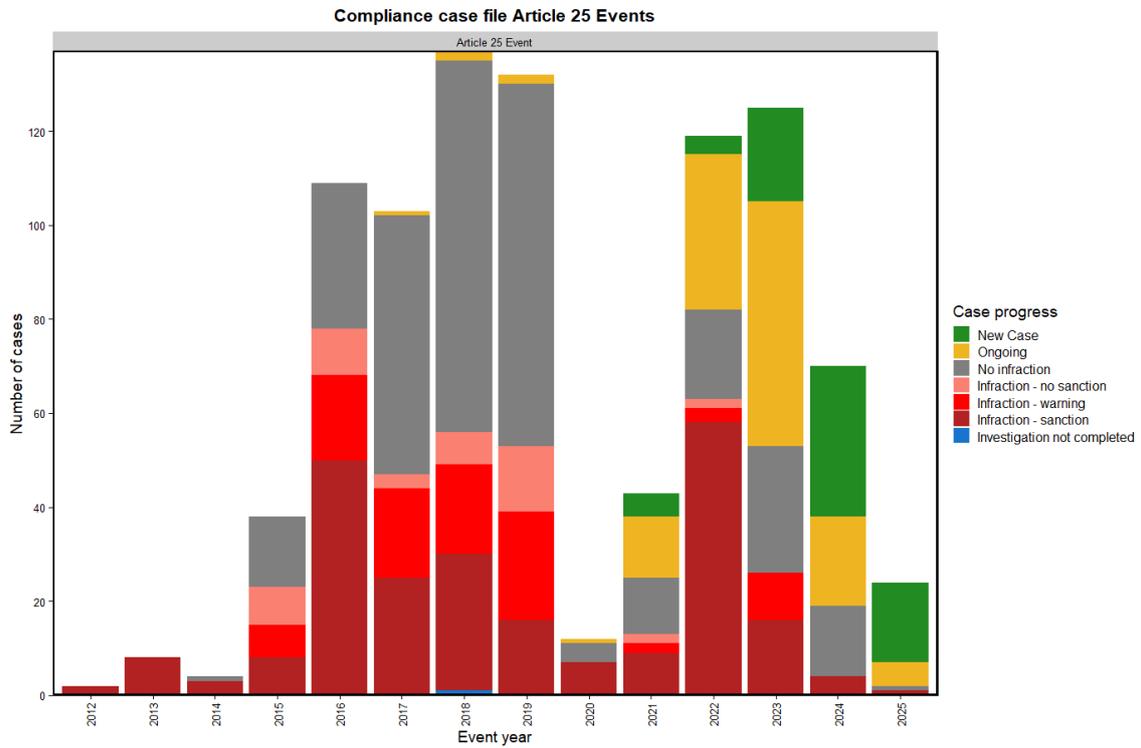


Figure 19: Summary of the Article 25(2) cases between 2012 and 2025 showing the case progress and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

Table 13: The breakdown in case numbers by year.

	Case type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Article 25 (2)	AIR	0	1	1	6	21	3	1	0	6	87	12	27	3
	HSBI	2	1	28	97	67	116	131	5	37	31	66	26	19
	PORT	0	0	3	0	6	4	0	2	0	0	10	2	0
	VMS	6	2	5	3	0	6	0	1	0	0	20	0	2
	OTH	0	0	1	3	9	8	0	4	0	1	17	15	0
	Total	8	4	38	109	103	137	132	12	43	119	125	70	24

Obligations in Article 25 (2) cases

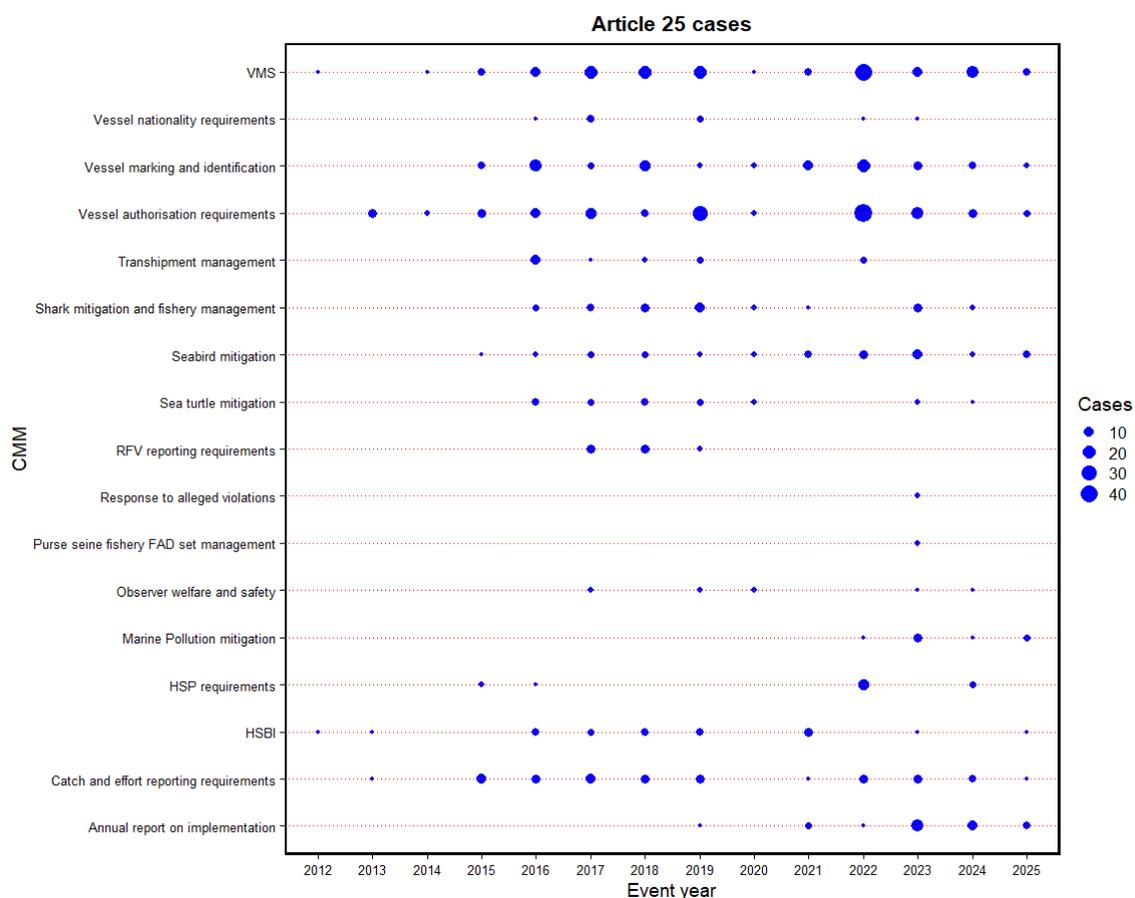


Figure 20: Article 25(2) cases by CMM theme from 2012 - 2025

Table 14: The number of Article 25(2) cases by CCM.

All Article 25(2) cases															
CCM	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
China	0	0	1	20	53	43	23	43	0	9	13	25	5	1	236
European Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	5	5	0	17
Fiji	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	8	0	2	0	8	0	1	25
Federated States of Micronesia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	16	15	3	36
Japan	0	0	1	2	7	4	24	3	0	1	1	4	2	1	50
Kiribati	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Korea (Republic of)	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	12
Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nauru	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	4
Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Philippines	0	6	2	2	0	0	4	0	0	4	84	26	22	0	150
El Salvador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chinese Taipei	2	0	0	12	45	28	66	69	7	23	13	36	20	17	338
United States of America	0	0	0	1	1	21	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Vanuatu	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	4	0	4	3	0	0	0	19
Total	2	8	4	38	109	103	137	132	12	43	119	125	70	24	926

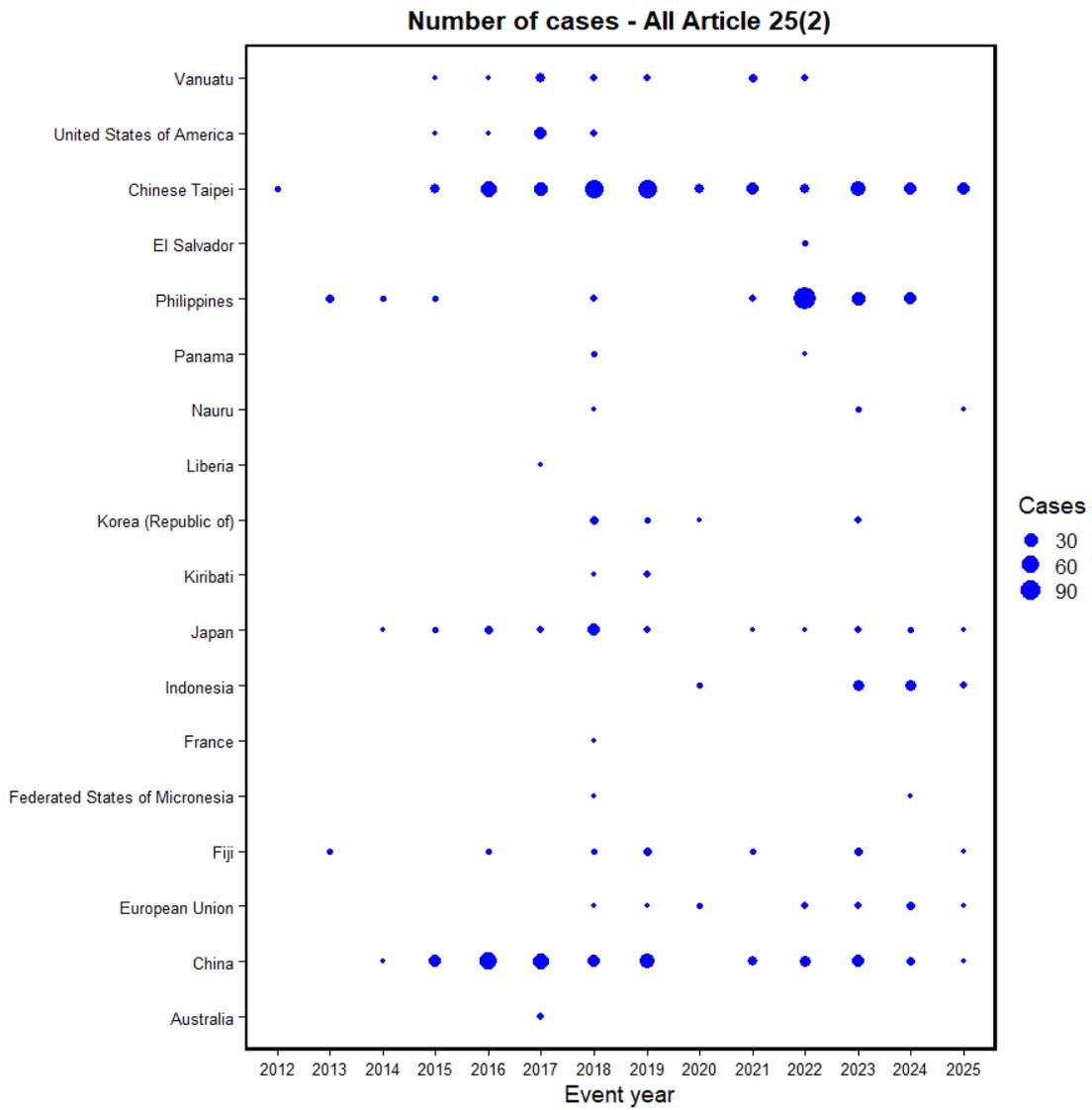


Figure 21: The number of Article 25(2) cases by CCM.

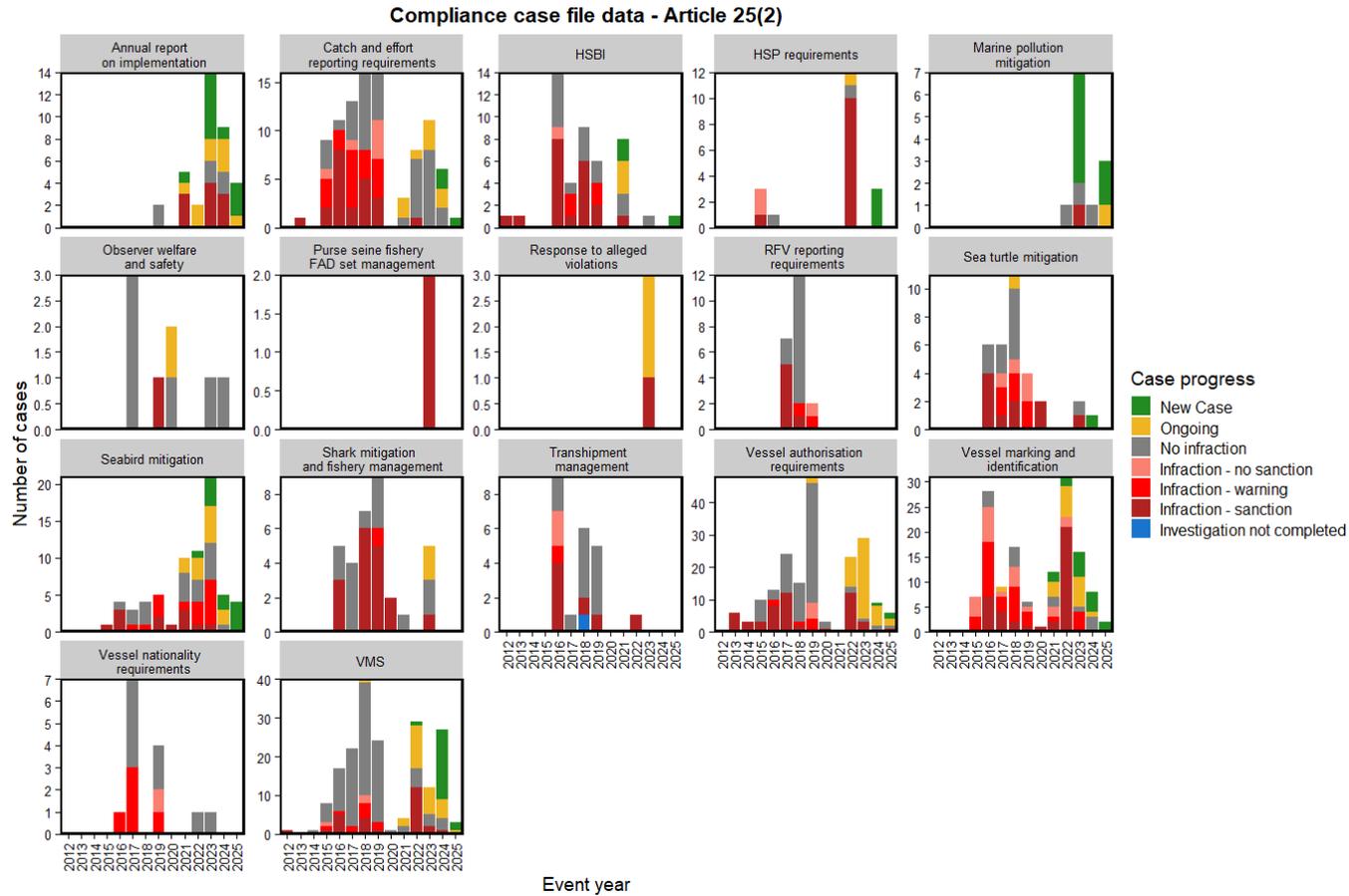


Figure 22: The number of cases in the compliance case file system related to Article 25(2) events by CCFS theme type.

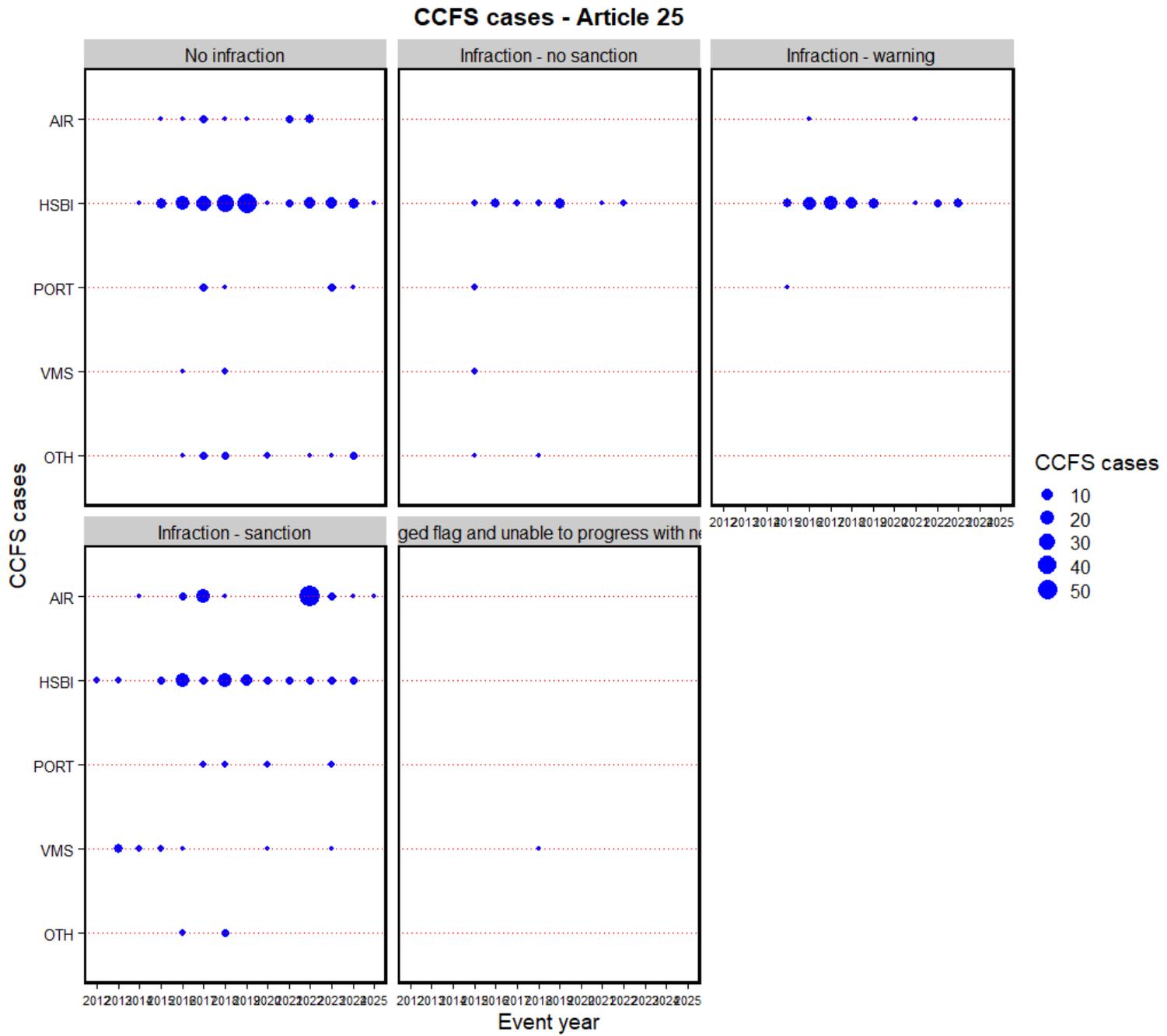


Figure 23: Completed Article 25(2) cases by CMM theme, year and investigation outcome.

High seas boarding and inspection

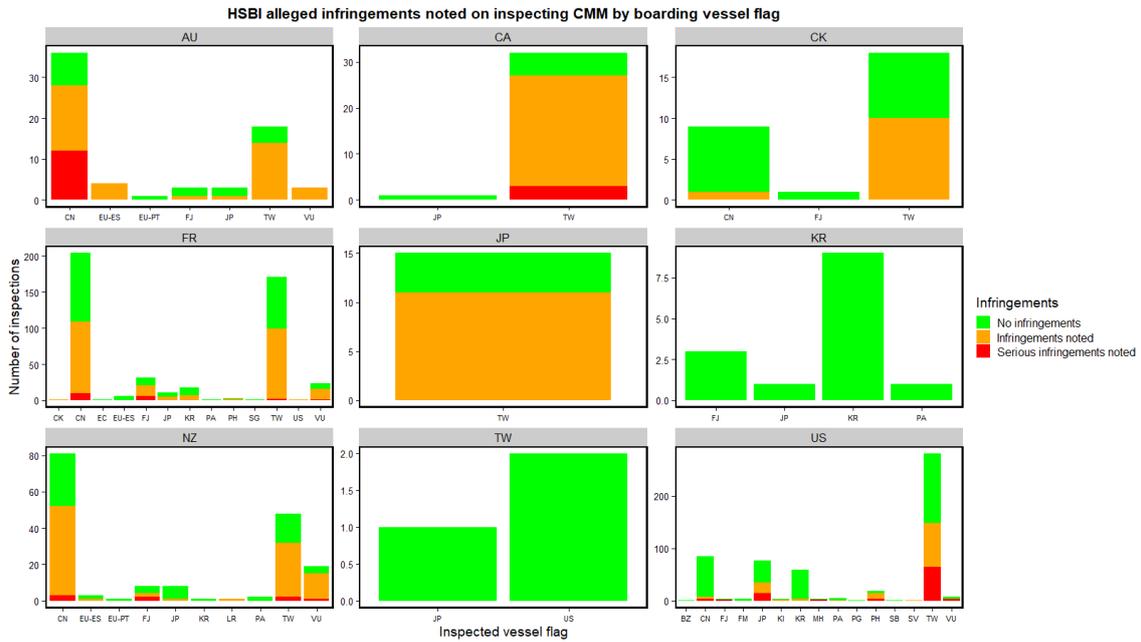


Figure 24: High seas boarding and inspection information showing the number of violations detected by boarding flag CCM on the inspected vessels flag. Note these numbers do not reflect the number of vessels but rather the number of violations noted on an inspection.

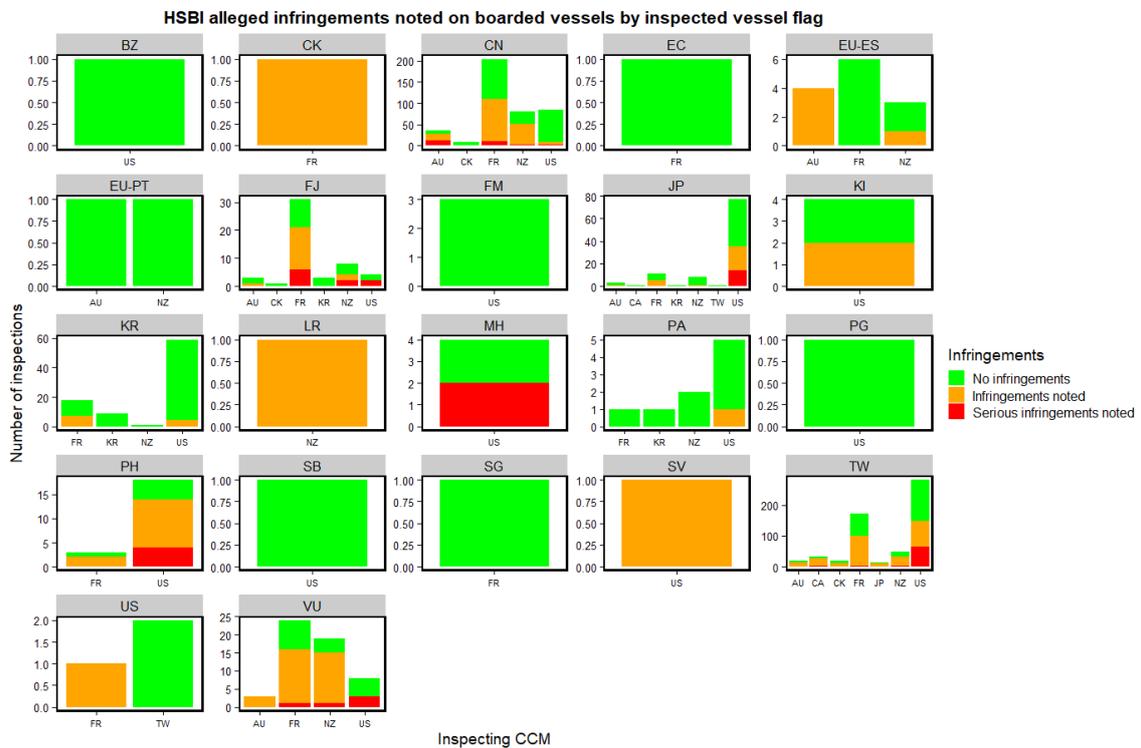


Figure 25: High seas boarding and inspection information showing the number of violations detected on boarded vessels by boarding flag CCM. Note these numbers do not reflect the number of vessels but rather the number of violations noted on an inspection.

Table 15: The number of vessels inspected, number of vessels that fished in the WCPO and the percentage of each fleet inspected.

Year	FV Country	Vessel type	Number inspected	Number of vessels	Percent of fleet inspected
2024	China	Longliner	26	251	10.36
2024	Chinese Taipei	Fish carrier	1	5	20.00
2024		Longliner	25	246	10.16
2024	EU-Spain	Longliner	3	14	21.43
2024	Korea (Republic of)	Fish carrier	1	16	6.25
2024		Longliner	1	47	2.13
2024	Philippines	Fish carrier	1	59	1.69
2024		Purse seiner	1	49	2.04
2024		Support vessel	2	112	1.79
2024	Vanuatu	Longliner	2	8	25.00

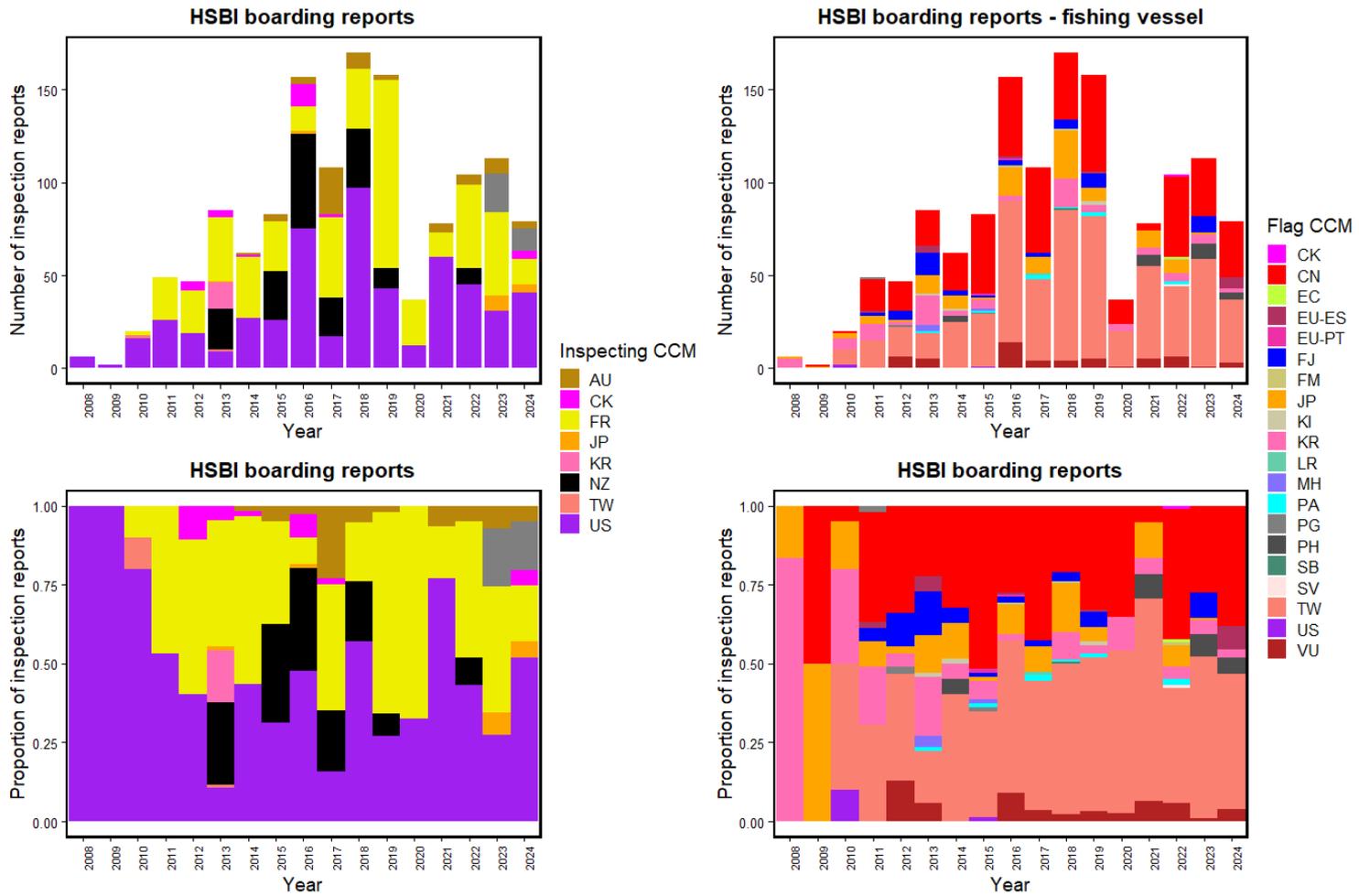


Figure 26: The number (top) and proportion (bottom) of HSBI boardings by boarding CCM (left) and vessel flag (right) from 2008 - 2025.

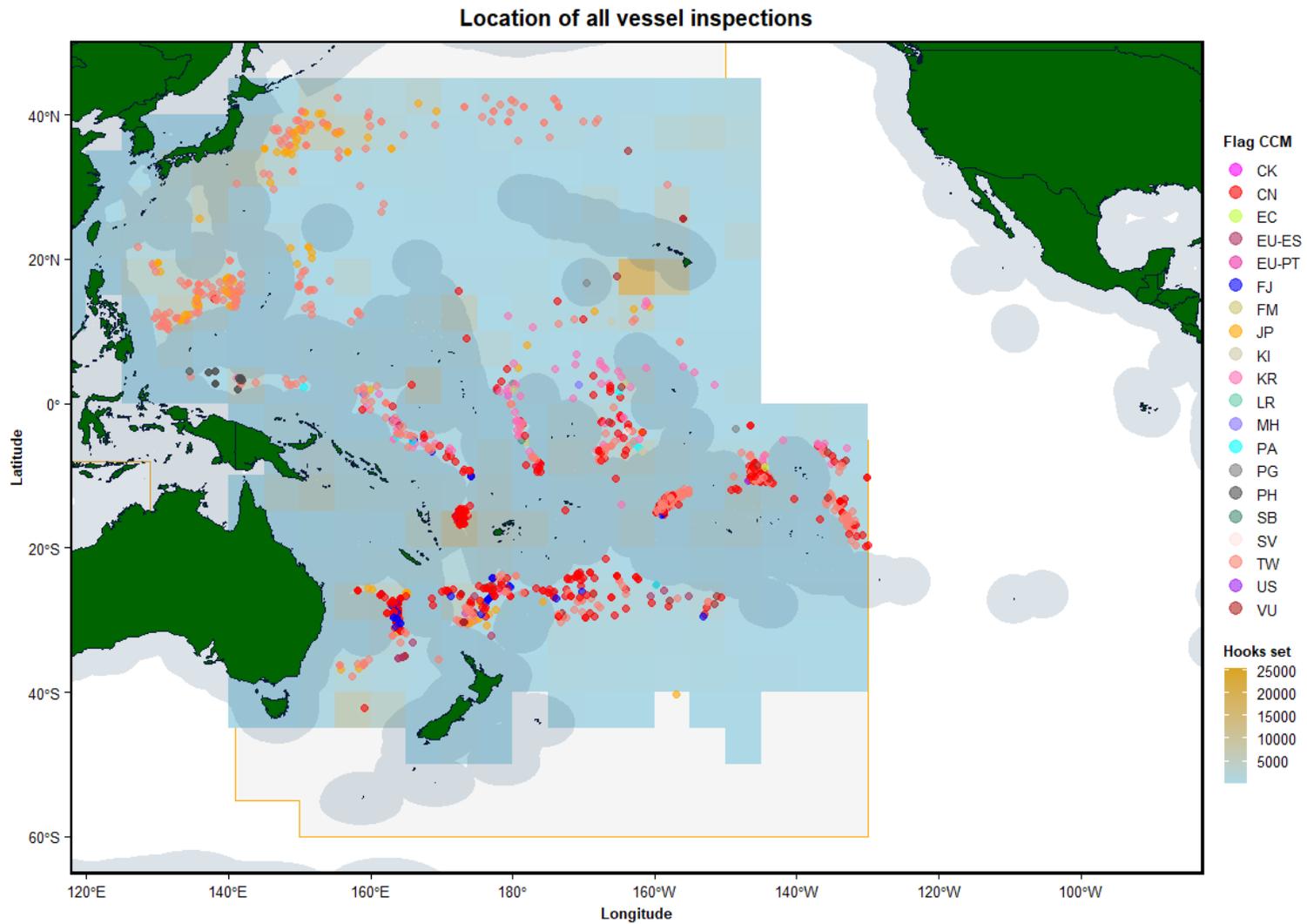


Figure 27: Distribution of all boarding and inspections conducted in the Convention Area since 2008 (as of 26th August 2025).

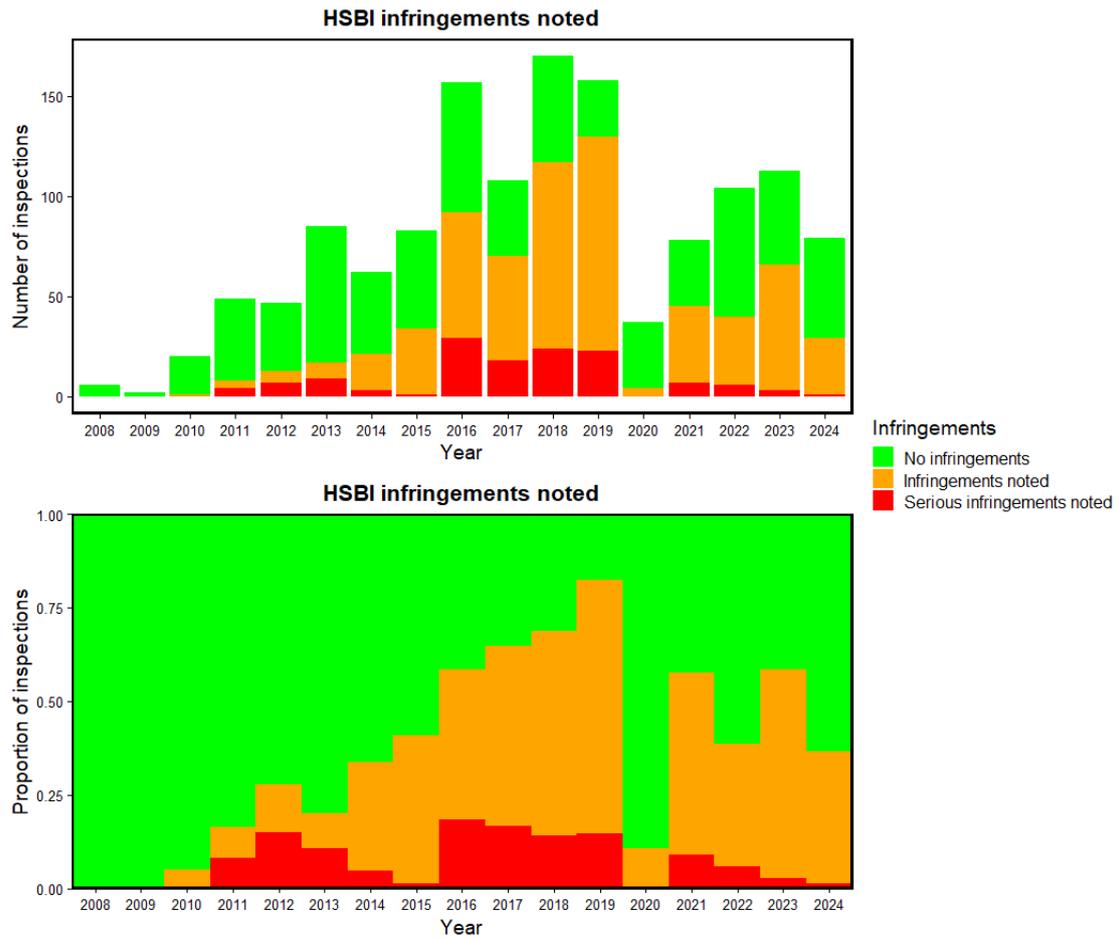


Figure 28: The number (top) and proportion (bottom) of High Seas boarding and inspection events in the WCPFC Convention Area conducted by CCMs between 2008 and 2025.

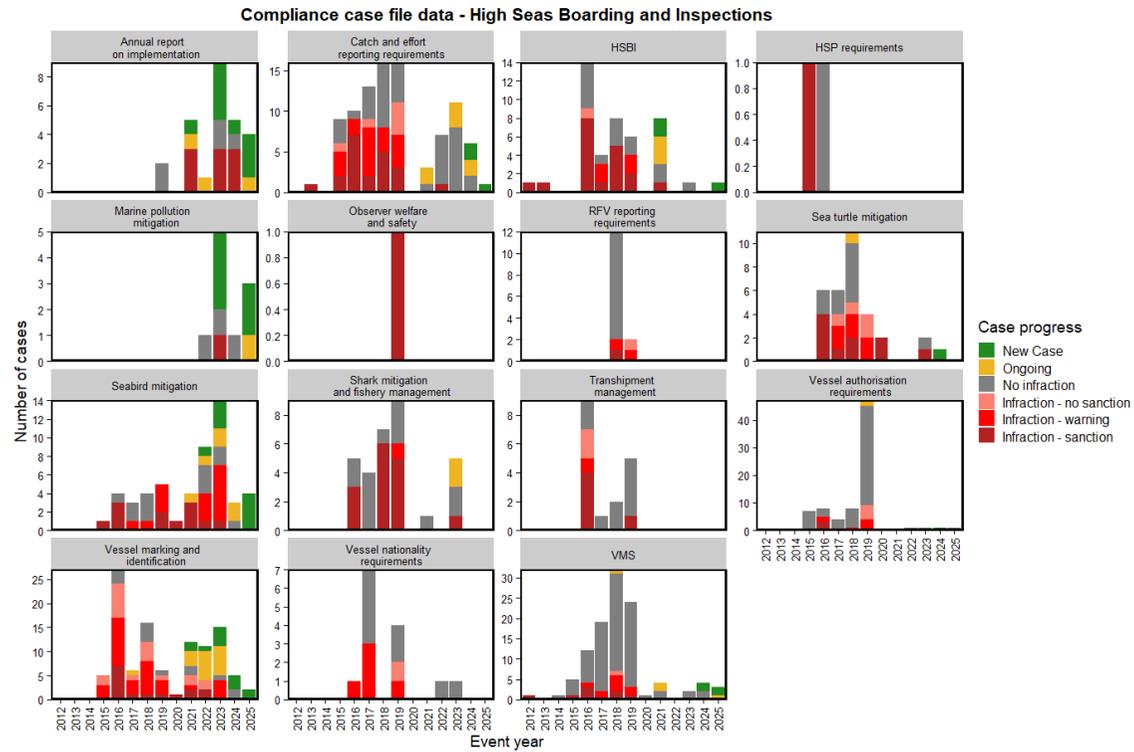


Figure 29: Summary of the themes and number of cases relating to alleged violations from HSBI between 2012 and 2025 and whether cases are still under investigation and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

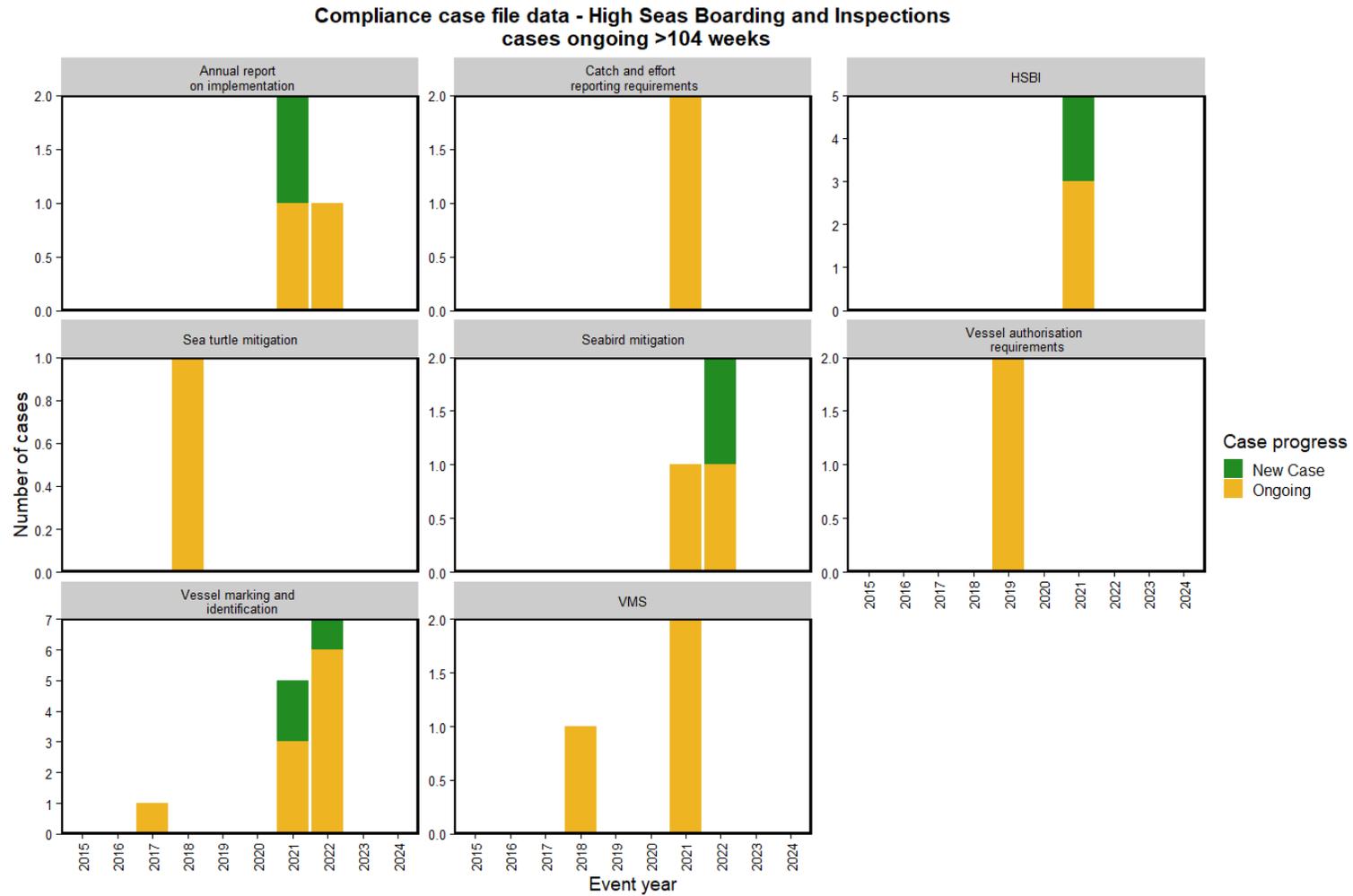


Figure 30: The number of ongoing HSBI cases by case theme for cases that have been ongoing for more than 104 weeks from the data extract date.

Aerial surveillance related cases

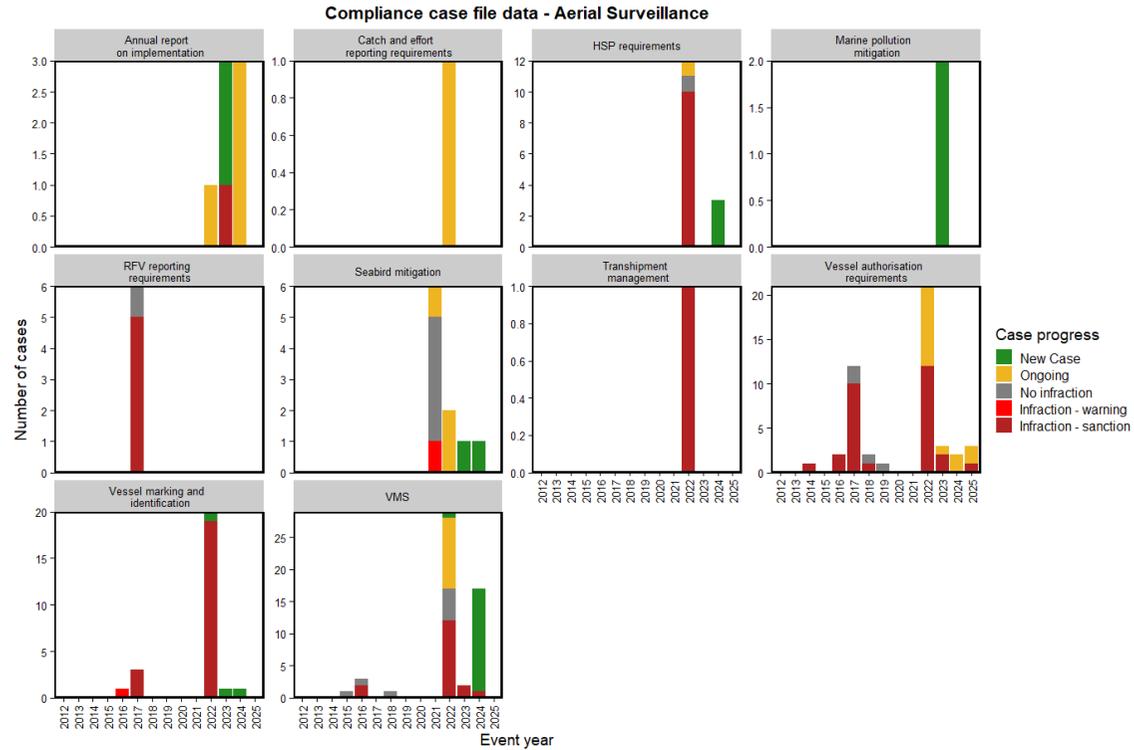


Figure 31: Summary of the themes and number of cases relating to alleged violations from aerial surveillance between 2012 and 2025 and whether cases are still under investigation and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

Table 16: The number of aerial surveillance cases and the case progress.

All CCMs - AIR													
Case Progress	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
New Case	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	21	29
Investigation in Progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	1	5	32
No infraction	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	4	6	0	0	18
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infraction - warning	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Infraction - sanction	0	1	0	4	18	1	0	0	0	54	5	1	84
Investigation not completed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1	6	21	3	1	0	6	87	12	27	165

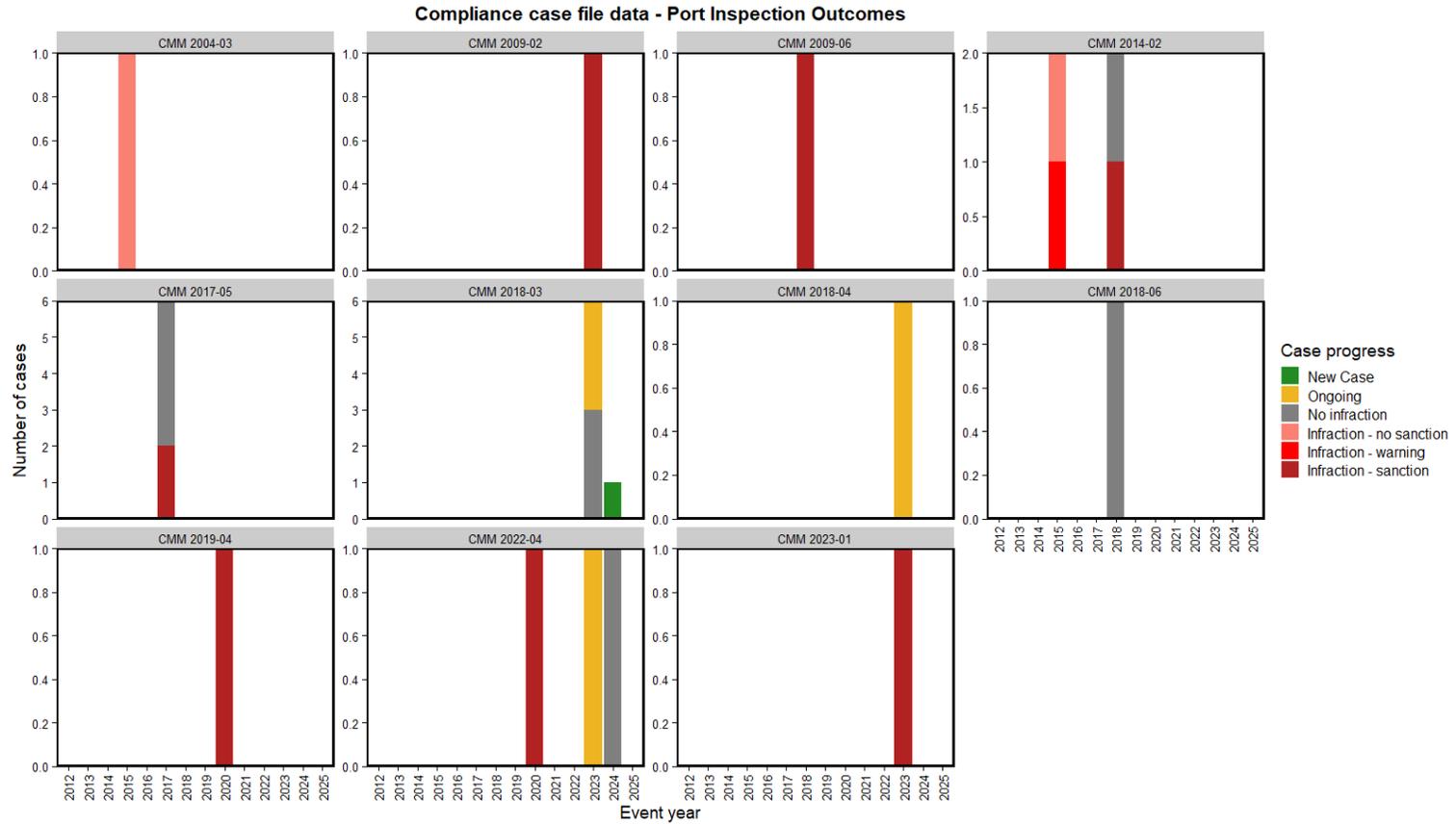


Figure 32: Summary of the themes and number of cases relating to alleged violations from port state inspections between 2012 and 2025 and whether cases are still under investigation and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

Table 17: The number of port inspection cases and the case progress.

All CCMs - PORT													
Case Progress	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
New Case	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Investigation in Progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
No infraction	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	10
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Infraction - warning	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Infraction - sanction	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	8
Investigation not completed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	3	0	6	4	0	2	0	0	10	2	27

VMS-related Article 25 (2) cases

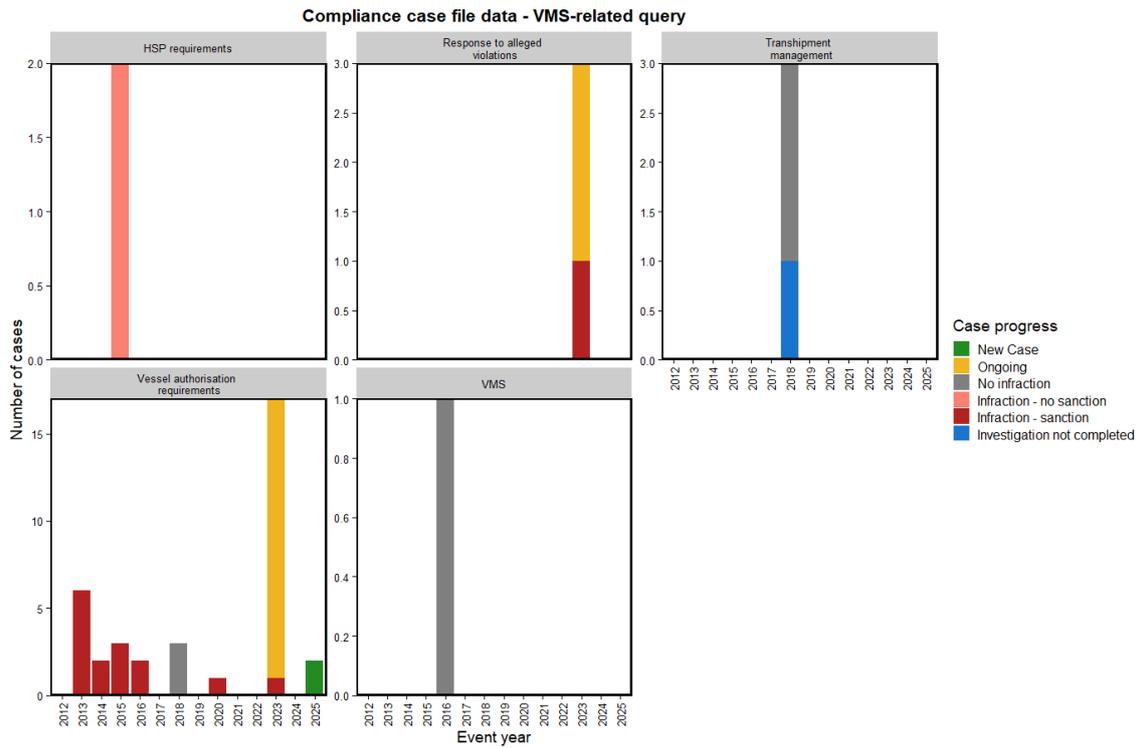


Figure 33: Summary of the themes and number of cases relating to alleged violations from VMS related infringements between 2012 and 2025 and whether cases are still under investigation and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

Table 18: The number of VMS cases and the case progress.

All CCMs - VMS													
Case Progress	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
New Case	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investigation in Progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	18
No infraction	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Infraction - warning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infraction - sanction	6	2	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	16
Investigation not completed	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	6	2	5	3	0	6	0	1	0	0	20	0	43

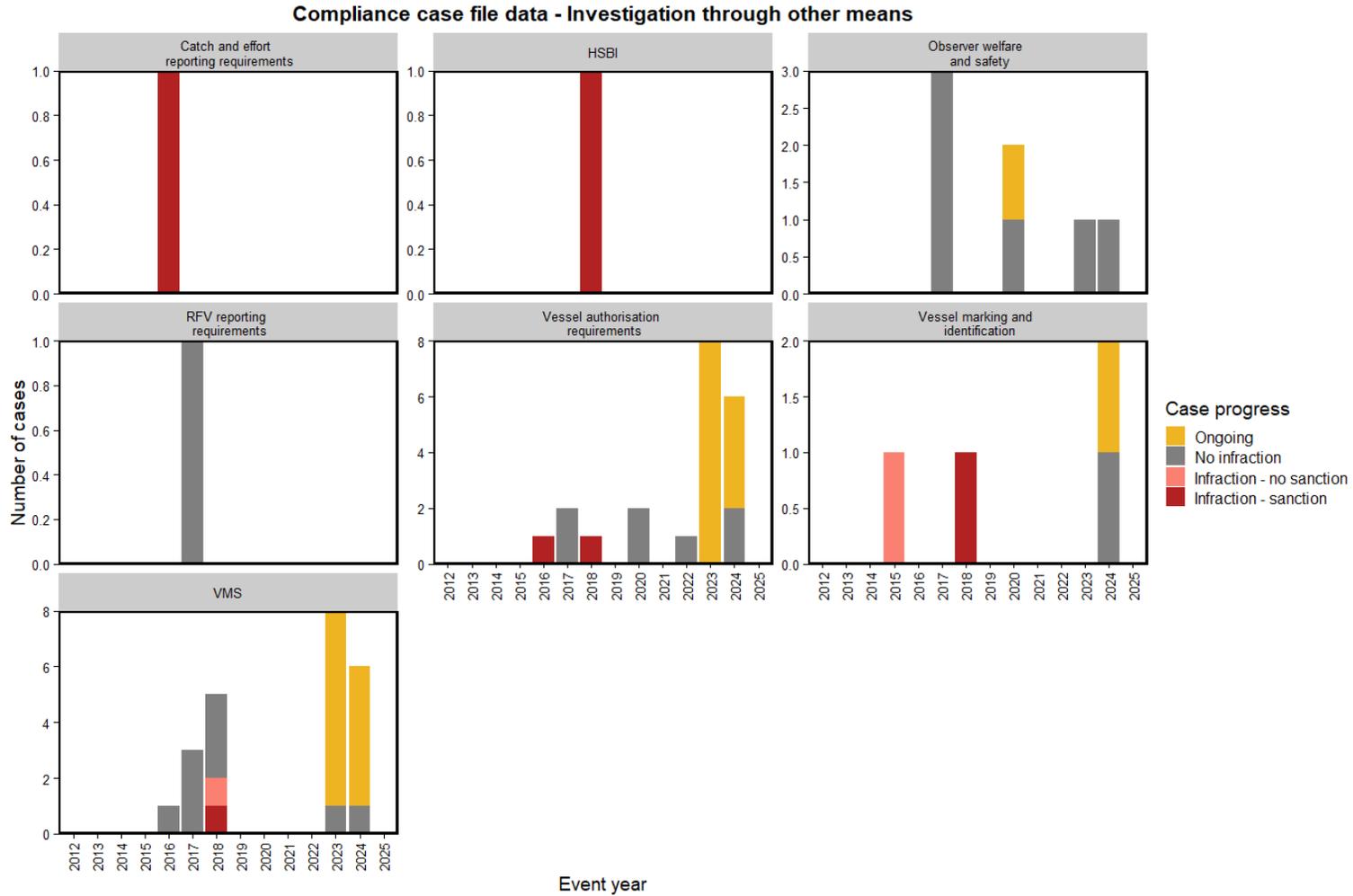


Figure 34: Summary of the themes and number of cases relating to alleged violations from investigations through other means between 2012 and 2025 and whether cases are still under investigation and, if completed, the outcome of the investigation.

Table 19: The number of other Article 25(2) cases and the case progress.

All CCMs - OTH													
Case Progress	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
New Case	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investigation in Progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	15	10	26
No infraction	0	0	0	1	9	3	0	3	0	1	2	5	24
Infraction - no sanction	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Infraction - warning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infraction - sanction	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Investigation not completed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	3	9	8	0	4	0	1	17	15	58



List of obligations for review by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026

22 QL obligations with agreed audit points

1. CMM 2006-04 01 QL Limit number of fishing vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S to 2000 – 2004 levels.
2. CMM 2009-03 01 QL Limit number of vessels fishing for SWO south of 20S to the number in any one year between 2000-2005.
3. CMM 2009-03 02 QL Limit the catch of SWO by its vessels in area south of 20S to the amount in any one year during 2000-2006.
4. CMM 2009-06 29 QL Limit on purse seine vessels transshipment outside of port to vessels that have received an exemption from the Commission. Where applicable, flag CCM authorisation should be vessel-specific and address any specific conditions identified by the Commission.
5. CMM 2009-06 20 2534 QL Ban on high seas transshipment, unless a CCM has determined impracticability in accordance with para 37 guidelines, and has advised the Commission of such.
6. CMM 2024-06 05¹ QL NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2025. To be assessed using audit point for 2010-01 05.
7. CMM 2012-03 02 QL CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N.
8. CMM 2015-02 01 QL Limit on number of vessels actively fishing for SP ALB south of 20S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels.
9. CMM 2016-02 02 QL Vessels in EHSP may report sightings of any other fishing vessel to Secretariat
10. CMM 2019-03 02 QL CCMs take measures to ensure level of fishing effort by vessels fishing for NP ALB is not increased.
11. CMM 2023-01 24 QL Purse seine EEZ limits (for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna) and advice

¹ Was CMM 2010-01 05 and replaced by CMM 2024-06 05 with effect from 1 February 2025

from other coastal CCMs of EEZ limits to be applied.

12. CMM 2023-01 25 QL High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S.

13. CMM 2023-01 38 QL Bigeye longline annual catch limits for 2024-2026, with adjustment to be made for any overage and certain CCMs may also increase the catch limit by committing to proportionate increase in observer coverage level above the minimum 5% ROP coverage level.

14. CMM 2023-01 41 QL Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004.

15. CMM 2023-01 43 QL Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S.

16. CMM 2023-01 44 QL CCM reported whether it replaced any of its flagged large scale purse seine vessels in the previous year and has advised the Commission that the replacement vessel did not result in an increase in carrying capacity or an increase in catch or effort levels.

17. CMM 2023-01 45 QL Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye above the current level (applying domestic quotas are exempt).

18. CMM 2023-01 46 QL Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye and landing exclusively fresh fish above the current level or above the number of current licenses under established limited entry programmes (applying domestic quotas are exempt).

19. CMM 2023-02 02 QL Total effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N.

20. CMM 2023-02 03 QL Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei applying from 2022.

21. CMM 2023-02 04 QL Pacific Bluefin 30kg or larger catch limits, by flag for certain other members.

22. CMM 2023-03 02 QL CCMs take measures to ensure fishing effort by fisheries taking more than 200mt of NP SWO N20N per year is limited to 2008 – 2010.

CMM 2014-02 VMS

23. CMM 2014-02 9a IM Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements.

SciData

24. SciData 01 RP Estimates of Annual Catches

- 25. SciData 02 RP Number of vessels active
- 26. SciData 03 RP Operational Level Catch and Effort Data
- 27. SciData 05 RP Size composition data

CMM 2018-06 Record of Fishing Vessels

28. CMM 2018-06 09 RP Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel.

CMM 2009-05 Data Buoys (for which Audit Points have been agreed but CCMs' statements of implementation are yet to be reviewed).

- 29. CMM 2009-05 01 IM Prohibit fishing vessels from fishing within one nautical mile of or interacting with a data buoy in the high seas.
- 30. CMM 2009-05 03 IM Prohibit fishing vessels from taking on board a data buoy.
- 31. CMM 2009-05 05 IM Require fishing vessels to remove fishing gear entangled with a data buoy.

Additional CMM obligations with agreed Audit Points

- 32. CMM 2006-08 07 RP Fishing vessels to accept HSBI boardings by duly authorized inspectors, and as applicable Members to ensure compliance of its authorized inspectors with the HSBI procedures.
- 33. CMM 2006-08 30 and 32 RP Requirement to provide full report on HSBI and as appropriate notify if a serious violation was observed.
- 34. CMM 2006-08 33 and 36 RP Response by authorities of the fishing vessel to a serious violation notification.
- 35. CMM 2006-08 40 RP Annual reporting by Members on the HSBI carried out by its authorized inspection vessels.
- 36. CMM 2006-08 41 RP Annual reporting by Members on their actions in response to HSBI of their fishing vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations.
- 37. CMM 2017-02 13-14 RP Requirement for inspection report to be provided if inspection is undertaken by Port CCM.
- 38. CMM 2017-03 03-06 RP Requirements that flag CCMs are to ensure their fishing vessels follow if an observer safety incident occurs while the observer is on the vessel (observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, observer suffers from a serious illness or injury).

39. CMM 2017-03 07-08 RP Required actions by a flag CCM where there are reasonable grounds to believe a WCPFC ROP observers safety incident occurred.
40. CMM 2017-03 09 RP Port CCM to facilitate entry of a fishing vessel where observer safety incident has been reported.
41. CMM 2017-03 10 RP Required actions if an observer safety incident is reported after the observer has disembarked the vessel.
42. CMM 2018-03 13 RP Annual Report of all available information on interactions with seabirds throughout Convention Area.
43. CMM 2018-04 02 and 03 RP Report on Implementation of sea turtles CMM including information collected on interactions with sea turtles by vessels and observers.
44. CMM 2018-04 05 (a-d) RP Annual reporting requirement for incidents involving sea turtles in purse seine fisheries and of any research on FAD design that reduces sea turtle entanglement.
45. CMM 2018-04 07 c RP Reporting requirement for operational definitions of shallow set swordfish fisheries, and sea turtle mitigation requirements including large circle hooks.
46. CMM 2023-01 17 RP Requirement to encourage vessels to use, or transition towards using, non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs.
47. CMM 2023-01 22 RP Requirement to encourage vessels to manage FADs deployed and make reasonable efforts to retrieve and report lost FADs.
48. CMM 2023-01 26 IM Requirement to ensure that the effectiveness of the PS effort limits are not undermined by a transfer of effort in days fished into areas within the Convention Area south of 20°S and/or north of 20°N. To be assessed using existing audit point.
49. CMM 2023-01 33 RP Requirement for purse seine vessels to carry ROP observer To be assessed using existing audit point.
50. CMM 2023-01 39 RP Monthly reporting of bigeye longline catches
51. CMM 2023-01 49 RP Requirement to provide operational level catch and effort data for EEZ and high seas north of 20N
52. CMM 2023-01 51 RP Requirement to provide 1x1 aggregate data for vessels fishing in EEZ and high seas north of 20N, as well as to cooperate in providing operational data to SPC for stock assessment.

Additions requested:

53. CMM 2024-05 11 – CCMs report on enforcement difficulties encountered in the case of either of the two alternative measures

54. CMM 2018-05 Annex C 06 - CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission

55. CMM 2023-01 38 Attachment Table 3 – BET longline catch limit increase with proportionate increase in observer + EM coverage level monitoring requirement



REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR CMM 2013-06 (CRITERIA FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS) AND CMM 2013-07 (SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND TERRITORIES)

SECTION 1 — REPORTING BY SIDS AND TERRITORY CCMS ON:

1. Identification and articulation of needs and priorities (CMM 2013-06, paragraph 1 and CMM 2013-07, paragraph 3)

Reporting guidance: *At the start of each year, the Secretariat will pre-populate this section of the template using existing information on SIDS and Territories needs drawn from established sources, such as the Strategic Investment Plan. This pre-populated information in the template will be available together with the Annual Report Part 2. SIDS and Territories may then validate, refine, or supplement the information as needed.*

Identify any development needs to enhance the development of CCM’s domestic fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, including but not limited to, the high seas within the Convention Area related to:	Response
<i>a) Capacity Development of Personnel</i>	
<i>b) Transfer of Fisheries Science and Technology</i>	
<i>c) Fisheries Conservation and Management, including any Capacity Development Plans</i>	
<i>d) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance</i>	
<i>e) Support for Domestic Fisheries Sectors and Tuna-Fisheries-Related Businesses and Market Access</i>	
<i>f) any other development needs</i>	
<i>g) any outstanding needs and priorities that remain unaddressed from previous reporting year</i>	

SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

2. Capacity development of personnel (CMM 2013-07, paragraphs 4–5)

Reporting Guidance: provide details of training, support, or capacity-building activities undertaken to develop the capacity of nationals of SIDS and Territories, including academic study, internships, technical or institutional training. Include activities delivered directly, through the Commission, or in addition to those funded via WCPFC budget lines.

This may include information related to: Projects or activities that have been completed or are currently being implemented to assist SIDS and Territories. Please provide as much detail as available on dates / timeframes, the number of SIDS assisted and estimated value in USD of these projects or activities.

SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

3. Transfer of Fisheries Science and Technology (CMM 2013-07 Paragraphs 6–7)

Reporting guidance: Provide details of any actions or cooperation undertaken to promote the transfer of fisheries science or technology to SIDS and Territories, with regard to the exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. This may include information related to : projects or activities that have been completed or are currently being implemented to assist SIDS and Territories and outcomes or contributions to SIDS social and economic development.

SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

1. Fisheries conservation and management (CMM 2013-07 Paragraphs 8-9)

Under the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme, if a SIDS or Participating Territory cannot meet an obligation due to lack of capacity, it may submit a Capacity Development Plan that explains what is preventing it from meeting the obligation, identifies the capacity assistance required, estimates the costs or technical resources, and outlines a timeframe within which it expects to meet the obligation once the assistance is provided. All current CDPs can be viewed [here](#).

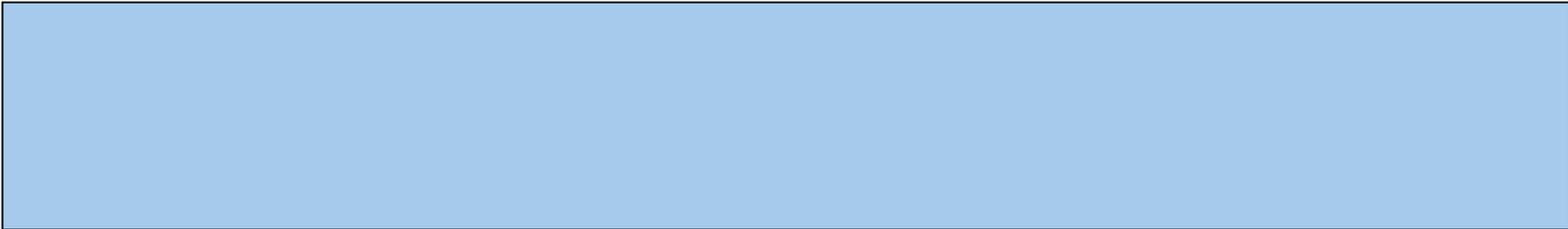
Reporting guidance: *Please describe below how the CCM has assisted SIDS and Territories with Capacity Development Plans during the reporting year, including the nature of the support provided (technical, financial, training, or policy), activities undertaken, value of assistance, and measurable outcomes achieved. In addition to CDP assistance, please describe how the CCM has provided broader support to SIDS and Participating Territories to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, Conservation and Management Measures, and other Commission decisions.*



SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

2. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (CMM 2013-07, paragraphs 11–12)

***Reporting guidance:** Provide details of how the CCM has cooperated, consistent with national laws and regulations, directly or through the Commission, to enhance the participation of SIDS and Territories in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). This may include information related to the type of coordination, description of coordination and SIDS or Territories involved.*



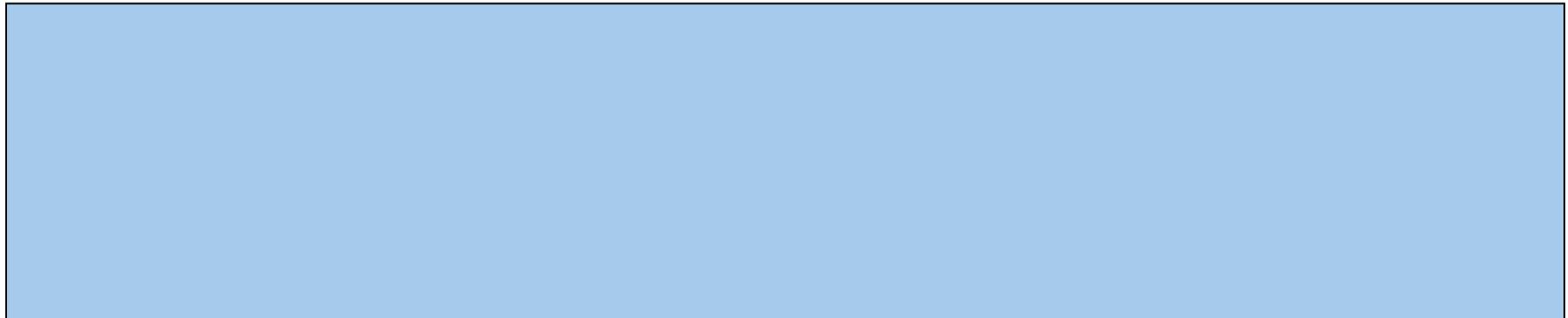
SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

**3. Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-Fisheries Related Businesses and Market Access
(CMM 2013-07, paragraphs 12–18)**

Reporting guidance: *Provide details of how the CCM has cooperated with SIDS and Territories to support technical and economic development, investment, employment, trade, and market access in the region. This may include information on both direct and indirect support (e.g. bilateral cooperation, funding, training, joint ventures, or infrastructure initiatives). If no assistance was provided, please explain why and outline any planned future cooperation.*

CCMs may include information on activities that:

- *assist SIDS to increase benefits from their fisheries resources;*
- *support growth of SIDS domestic fishing and related industries;*
- *avoid actions that limit SIDS processing, transshipment, or investment opportunities;*
- *enhance employment and promote the use of SIDS-based port, supply, and service facilities;*
- *improve awareness of market and import requirements;*
- *address unnecessary barriers to trade; or*
- *promote development of domestic tuna fisheries and tuna-related businesses in SIDS.*



SECTION 3 — REPORTING BY SIDS AND TERRITORY CCMs IN RESPONSE TO SECTION 2:

Reporting Guidance: This section enables SIDS and Territories to provide feedback on how the assistance reported by non-SIDS CCMs in **Section 2** has supported their identified development needs, as set out in **Section 1, from the previous reporting year**

Guiding Questions to consider for responses in the table below:

1. To what extent has the assistance reported by non-SIDS CCMs addressed your development needs identified in Section 1, from the previous reporting year?
2. Has the assistance strengthened your capacity to develop, manage, or benefit from your domestic fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, including within the high seas areas of the Convention Area?
3. Were there any areas where the assistance was insufficient, delayed, or not well aligned with your priorities?
4. What additional capacity, support, or cooperation would help address any remaining needs?

Focus area	Your Development Needs Identified in Section 1 from the previous reporting year	Was Assistance Received? <i>If yes, by which Projects or Activities Reported by Non-SIDS CCMs (from Section 2)</i>	Was the Assistance Adequate and Aligned with Your Needs? (Yes/No – please explain)	Outcomes or Benefits Realised	Outstanding Needs / Gaps Identified
<i>a) Capacity Development of Personnel</i>					
<i>b) Transfer of Fisheries Science and Technology</i>					

<i>c) Fisheries Conservation and Management / Capacity Development Plans</i>					
<i>d) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance</i>					
<i>e) Support for Domestic Fisheries Sectors and Tuna-Fisheries-Related Businesses and Market Access</i>					
<i>f) Other development needs</i>					
Any Additional Comments / Observations / Recommendations:					



ADOPTED AUDIT POINTS

1.	Pacific Bluefin Tuna CMM 2024-01 04 Category: Quantitative Limit (QL)			
	Agreed Audit Point for CMM 2023-02 04	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	<p>CCM reported its total catches of PBF 30kg or larger and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total catches and confirm that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not increased by more than 15% above its allowable limit, or that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not exceeded 10mt beyond the CCM's applicable baseline catch limit.</p>	<p>CCM reported its total catches of PBF 30kg or larger and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total catches and confirm that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not exceeded 10mt, or that the catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not exceeded 200mt and 40mt respectively, in the cases of New Zealand and Australia.</p>	<p>4. CCMs with a base line catch (2002-2004 average annual level) of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year. The catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger for New Zealand shall be 200 metric tonnes per year and for Australia 40 metric tonnes per year, taking into account their nature as bycatch fisheries conducted in their waters in the Southern hemisphere.¹</p> <p>Footnote 1: New Zealand and Australia may carry forward up to 35 tonnes per year and 10 tonnes per year, respectively, from 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to 2023 and 2024. This special arrangement does not create any precedent in future management.</p>	<p>The footnote is applicable to the catch limits of NZ and AU up to 2024 and not to the following years.</p> <p>AGREED</p>
2.	Pacific Bluefin Tuna CMM 2024-01 10 Category: Implementation (IM) Report (RP)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

	Re-categorization is suggested: from IM to RP	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM included a report or statement on the cooperation for effective implementation of the CMM, including juvenile catch reduction, either in the annual report required by para. 14 of CMM 2024-01 or in the Annual Report Part2.	10. CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction. For this purpose, CCMs will make every effort to prevent their catch of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) from increasing beyond their 50% of 2002-2004 levels	Obligations requiring CCMs to cooperate are best treated as reporting obligations. The second sentence of this paragraph is of a non-binding nature. AGREED
3.	Pacific Bluefin Tuna MCS CMM 2024-02 02 Category: Report (RP)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	The Secretariat confirms that: a. the CCM reported to the Secretariat by 15 June on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it took in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with CMM2024-01. b. the report provided by the CCM includes response to each	2. Each CCM that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it has taken in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with CMM2024-01 that include the following components: (1) Monitoring and control measures for fisheries a. Registration of commercial fishing vessels that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including the WCPFC RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06 on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization	AGREED

		<p>and every subsection under this paragraph (para. 2 of CMM 2024-02), including “not applicable” response as appropriate.</p>	<p>to Fish)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets) c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exist d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards) e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.) f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM 2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures) g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions <p>(2) Monitoring and control measures for farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Registration of farms that are authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered farms, number of registered ‘holding pens’ or ‘cages’) b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities) 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Pacific Bluefin Tuna MCS CMM 2024-02 03</p>			

	Category: Report (RP)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM that does not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming reported to the Secretariat by 15 June any bycatches of pacific bluefin tuna caught in the previous calendar year, through the annual report required by para. 9 of CMM 2024-01.	3. CCMs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming, shall report to the WCPFC Secretariat annually any by-catches of Pacific bluefin tuna under paragraph 9 of CMM 2024-01.	AGREED
5.	North Pacific Striped Marlin CMM 2024-06 10 Category: Report (RP)			
	Agreed Audit Point for CMM 2010-01 08 [RP]	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of national binding measures CCM applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce CCM vessels' catch and total catch.	Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report, through Annual Report Part 2, of national binding measures CCM applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce CCM vessels' catch and total catch.	10. Each year CCMs shall report in their Part 2 annual reports their implementation of this measure, including the measures applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce their catch, which may include, but is not limited to catch limits, gear modifications, size restrictions and/or spatial management, and the total catch taken against the	Minor adjustment to the existing audit point for the similar obligation in the preceding CMM AGREED

			limits established under paragraph 5.	
6.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 01 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Agreed Audit Point for CMM 2011-03 01 [IM]	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean (if sighted prior to commencement of the set) b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not set a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean where a sighting occurs prior to commencement of the set, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with	CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean (if sighted prior to commencement of the set) b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not set a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean where a sighting occurs prior to commencement of the set, and how potential infringements or	1. CCMs shall prohibit their flagged vessels from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean in the high seas and exclusive economic zones of the Convention Area, if the animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set.	The CMM was updated but this particular paragraph remains the same so the same audit points AGREED

	this requirement are handled.	instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.		
7.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 02 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Agreed Audit Point for CMM 2011-03 02 [IM]	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires the vessel master of CCM flagged PS vessels to follow safe release guidelines in the event a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the PS net b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure safe release guidelines are followed and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires the vessel master of CCM flagged PS vessels to follow safe release guidelines in the event a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the PS net b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure safe release guidelines are followed and how potential infringements or	2. CCMs shall require that, in the event that a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall: (a) ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release. This shall include stopping the net roll and not recommencing fishing operation until the animal has been released and is no longer at risk of recapture; and (b) through the logsheet or any other means, report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag CCM, including details of the species (if known) and number of individuals, location and date of such encirclement, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the animal on release (including, if possible, whether the animal was released alive but subsequently died).	The CMM was updated but this particular paragraph remains the same so the same audit points AGREED

	are handled.	instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.		
8.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 03 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged –longline and purse seine vessels flying their flag, including vessels fishing under charter arrangements, from harvesting, retaining onboard, transshipping, or landing any cetacean, in whole or any part thereof, in the Convention Area b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels or vessels it charters to ensure the	3. CCMs shall prohibit all longline and purse seine vessels flying their flag, including vessels fishing under charter arrangements, from harvesting, retaining onboard, transshipping, or landing any cetacean, in whole or any part thereof, in the Convention Area.	Mirroring the existing audit point for a similar obligation such as prohibition on oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark AGREED

		requirements are met, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.		
9.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 04 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged longline and purse seine vessels flying their flag, including vessels fishing under charter arrangements, to release, taking into account the safety of the crew, any cetacean that is caught or entangled by its fishing gear in the Convention Area as soon as	4. CCMs shall require all longline vessels flying their flag, including those fishing under charter arrangements, to release, taking into account the safety of the crew, any cetacean that is caught or entangled by its fishing gear in the Convention Area as soon as possible and in a manner that results in as little harm to the cetacean as possible and utilizing the Best Practices for the Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans (suppl_CMM 2011-03-01), if possible.	AGREED

		<p>possible and in a manner that results in as little harm to the cetacean as possible and utilizing the Best Practices for the Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans, if possible</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels or vessels it charters to ensure the requirements are met, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</p>		
10.	<p>Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 05 Category: Implementation (IM)</p>			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	<p>CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM’s implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires the</p>	<p>5. In taking steps to ensure the safe release of the cetacean as required under paragraphs 2(a) and 4, CCMs shall require the master of the vessel to follow any guidelines adopted by the Commission for the purpose of this measure.</p>	AGREED

		<p>masters of CCM flagged longline and purse seine vessels flying their flag, including vessels fishing under charter arrangements, to follow any guidelines adopted by the Commission for the purpose of the measure.</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring the masters of CCM flagged longline and purse seine vessels flying their flag, including vessels fishing under charter arrangements, to follow the guidelines and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--



**WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION BOARDING
AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES**

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-07

1. There are hereby adopted, pursuant to Article 26 of the Convention, the following Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) boarding and inspection procedures.

DEFINITIONS

2. For the purposes of interpreting and implementing these procedures, the following definitions shall apply:
- a. "Convention" means the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, adopted September 5, 2000 in Honolulu, Hawaii;
 - b. "Commission" means the Commission established by Article 9 of the Convention, commonly known as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);
 - c. "Authorities of the Inspection Vessel" means the authorities of the Contracting Party of the Commission under whose jurisdiction the inspection vessel is operating;
 - d. "Authorities of the Fishing Vessel" means the authorities of the Member of the Commission under whose jurisdiction the fishing vessel is operating;
 - e. "Authorized inspection vessel" means any vessel included in the Commission register of vessels as authorized to engage in boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures;
 - f. "Authorized inspector" means inspectors employed by the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection included in the Commission Register and authorized to conduct boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures.

PURPOSE

3. Boarding and inspection and related activities conducted pursuant to these procedures shall be for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and in force.

AREA OF APPLICATION

4. These procedures shall apply on the high seas within the Convention Area.

GENERAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

5. Each Contracting Party may, subject to the provisions of these procedures, carry out boarding and inspection on the high seas of fishing vessels engaged in or reported to have engaged in a fishery regulated pursuant to the Convention.
6. Unless otherwise decided by the Commission, these procedures shall also apply in their entirety as between a Contracting Party and a Fishing Entity, subject to a notification to that effect to the Commission from the Contracting Party concerned.
7. Each Member of the Commission shall ensure that vessels flying its flag accept boarding and inspection by authorized inspectors in accordance with these procedures. Such authorized inspectors shall comply with these procedures in the conduct of any such activities.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

8. These procedures are intended to implement and give effect to Article 26 and Annex III, Article 6(2), of the Convention and are to be read consistently with those provisions.
9. These procedures shall be implemented in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner, taking into account, inter alia:
 - a. such factors as the presence of observers on board a vessel and the frequency and results of past inspections; and
 - b. the full range of measures to monitor compliance with the provisions of the Convention and agreed conservation and management measures, including inspection activities carried out by the authorities of Members of the Commission in respect of their own flag vessels.
10. While not limiting efforts to ensure compliance by all vessels, priority for boarding and inspection efforts pursuant to these procedures may be given to:
 - a. fishing vessels that are not on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and are flagged to Members of the Commission;
 - b. fishing vessels reasonably believed to engage or to have been engaged in any activity in contravention of the Convention or any conservation and management measure adopted thereunder;
 - c. fishing vessels whose flag Member does not dispatch patrol vessels to the area of application to monitor its own fishing vessels;
 - d. fishing vessels with neither observers nor functioning Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems on board;
 - e. large-scale tuna fishing vessels;
 - f. fishing vessels with a known history of violating conservation and management measures adopted by international agreement or any country's national laws and regulations.
11. The Commission shall keep the implementation of these procedures under review.

PARTICIPATION

12. The Commission shall maintain a register of all authorized inspection vessels and authorities or inspectors. Only vessels and authorities or inspectors listed on the Commission's register are authorized under these procedures to board and inspect foreign flagged fishing vessels on the high seas within the Convention Area.

13. Each Contracting Party that intends to carry out boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures shall so notify the Commission, through the Executive Director, and shall provide the following:

- a. with respect to each inspection vessel it assigns to boarding and inspection activities under these procedures:
 - i) details of the vessel (name, description, photograph, registration number, port of registry (and, if different from the port of registry, port marked on the vessel hull), international radio call sign and communication capability);
 - ii) notification that the inspection vessel is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service;
 - iii) notification that the crew has received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.
- b. with respect to inspectors it assigns pursuant to these procedures:
 - i) the names of the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection;
 - ii) notification that such authorities' inspectors are fully familiar with the fishing activities to be inspected and the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures in force; and
 - iii) notification that such authorities' inspectors have received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.

14. Where military vessels are used as a platform for the conduct of boarding and inspection, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall ensure that the boarding and inspection is carried out by inspectors fully trained in fisheries enforcement procedures, or duly authorized for this purpose under national laws, and that such inspectors meet the requirements established in these procedures.

15. Authorized inspection vessels and inspectors notified by Contracting Parties pursuant to paragraph 13 shall be included on the Commission register once the Executive Director confirms that they meet the requirements of that paragraph.

16. To enhance the effectiveness of the Commission's boarding and inspection procedures, and to maximize the use of trained inspectors, Contracting Parties may identify opportunities to place authorized inspectors on inspection vessels of another Contracting Party. Where appropriate, Contracting Parties should seek to conclude bilateral arrangements to this end or otherwise facilitate communication and coordination between them for the purpose of implementing these procedures.

17. The Executive Director shall ensure that the register of authorized inspection vessels and authorities or inspectors is at all times available to all Members of the Commission and shall immediately circulate any changes therein. Update lists shall be posted on the Commission website. Each Member of the Commission shall take necessary measures to ensure that these lists are circulated to each of its fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area.

PROCEDURES

18. Authorized inspection vessels shall fly, in clearly visible fashion, the WCPFC inspection flag as designed by the Commission.

19. Authorized inspectors shall carry an approved identity card identifying the inspector as authorized to carry out boarding and inspection procedures under the auspices of the Commission and in accordance with these procedures.

20. An authorized inspection vessel that intends to board and inspect a fishing vessel on the high seas that is engaged in or reported to have engaged in a fishery regulated pursuant to the Convention shall, prior to initiating the boarding and inspection:

- a. make best efforts to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, by the appropriate International Code of Signals or by other accepted means of alerting the vessel;
- b. provide the information to identify itself as an authorized inspection vessel - name, registration number, international radio call sign and contact frequency;
- c. communicate to the master of the vessel its intention to board and inspect the vessel under the authority of the Commission and pursuant to these procedures; and
- d. initiate notice through the authorities of the inspection vessel of the boarding and inspection to the authorities of the fishing vessel.

21. In carrying out boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures, the authorized inspection vessel and authorized inspectors shall make their best efforts to communicate with the master of the fishing vessels in a language that the master can understand. If necessary to facilitate communications between the inspectors and the master of the vessel, the inspectors shall use the relevant part of the standardized multi-language questionnaire to be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to all Contracting Parties with authorized inspection vessels.

22. Authorized inspectors shall have the authority to inspect the vessel, its license, gear, equipment, records, facilities, fish and fish products and any relevant documents necessary to verify compliance with the conservation and management measures in force pursuant to the Convention.

23. Boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures shall:

- a. be carried out in accordance with internationally accepted principles of good seamanship so as to avoid risks to the safety of fishing vessels and crews;

- b. be conducted as much as possible in a manner so as not to interfere unduly with the lawful operation of the fishing vessel;
 - c. take reasonable care to avoid action that would adversely affect the quality of the catch; and
 - d. not be conducted in such manner as to constitute harassment of a fishing vessel, its officers or crew.
24. In the conduct of a boarding and inspection, the authorized inspectors shall:
- a. present their identity card to the master of the vessel and a copy of the text of the relevant measures in force pursuant to the Convention in the relevant area of the high seas;
 - b. not interfere with the master's ability to communicate with the authorities of the fishing vessel;
 - c. complete the inspection of the vessel within 4 (four) hours unless evidence of a serious violation is found;
 - d. collect and clearly document any evidence they believe indicates a violation of measures in force pursuant to the Convention;
 - e. provide to the master prior to leaving the vessel a copy of an interim report on the boarding and inspection including any objection or statement which the master wishes to include in the report;
 - f. promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection; and
 - g. provide a full report on the boarding and inspection to the authorities of the fishing vessel, pursuant to paragraph 30, which shall also include any master's statement.
25. During the conduct of a boarding and inspection, the master of the fishing vessel shall:
- a. follow internationally accepted principles of good seamanship so as to avoid risks to the safety of authorized inspection vessels and inspectors;
 - b. accept and facilitate prompt and safe boarding by the authorized inspectors;
 - c. cooperate with and assist in the inspection of the vessel pursuant to these procedures;
 - d. not assault, resist, intimidate, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay the inspectors in the performance of their duties;
 - e. allow the inspectors to communicate with the crew of the inspection vessel, the authorities of the inspection vessel, as well as with the authorities of the fishing vessel being inspected;
 - f. provide them with reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation; and
 - g. facilitate safe disembarkation by the inspectors.
26. If the master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow an authorized inspector to carry out a boarding and inspection in accordance with these procedures, such master shall offer an explanation of the reason for such refusal. The authorities of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, as

well as the Commission, of the master's refusal and any explanation.

27. The authorities of the fishing vessel, unless generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the boarding and inspection, shall direct the master to accept the boarding and inspection. If the master does not comply with such direction, the Member shall suspend the vessel's authorization to fish and order the vessel to return immediately to port. The Member shall immediately notify the authorities of the inspection vessel and the Commission of the action it has taken in these circumstances.

USE OF FORCE

28. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the inspectors and where the inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.

29. Any incident involving the use of force shall be immediately reported to the authorities of the fishing vessel, as well as to the Commission.

INSPECTION REPORTS

30. Authorized inspectors shall prepare a full report on each boarding and inspection they carry out pursuant to these procedures in accordance with a format that may be specified by the Commission. The authorities of the inspection vessel from which the boarding and inspection was carried out shall transmit a copy of the boarding and inspection report to the authorities of the fishing vessel being inspected, as well as the Commission, within 3 (three) full working days of the completion of the boarding and inspection. Where it is not possible for the authorities of the inspection vessel to provide such report to the authorities of the fishing vessel within this timeframe, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall inform the authorities of the fishing vessel and shall specify the time period within which the report will be provided.

31. Such report shall include the names and authority of the inspectors and clearly identify any observed activity or condition that the authorized inspectors believe to be a violation of the Convention or conservation and management measures in force and indicate the nature of specific factual evidence of such violation.

SERIOUS VIOLATIONS

32. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 37, the authorities of the inspection vessels shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the Commission.

33. Upon receipt of a notification under paragraph 32, the authorities of the fishing vessels shall without delay:

- a. assume their obligation to investigate and, if the evidence warrants, take enforcement action against the fishing vessel in question and so notify the authorities of the inspection vessel, as well as the Commission; or
- b. authorize the authorities of the inspection vessel to complete investigation of the possible violation and so notify the Commission.

34. In the case of 33(a) above, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall provide, as soon as practicable, the specific evidence collected by the authorized inspectors to the authorities of the fishing vessel.
35. In the case of 33(b) above, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall provide the specific evidence collected by the authorized inspectors, along with the results of their investigation, to the authorities of the fishing vessel immediately upon completion of the investigation.
36. Upon receipt of a notification pursuant to paragraph 32, the authorities of the fishing vessel shall make best effort to respond without delay and in any case no later than within 3 (three) full working days.
37. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the Convention or conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
- a. fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag Member, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention;
 - b. failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c. fishing in a closed area;
 - d. fishing during a closed season;
 - e. intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission;
 - f. significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the Convention;
 - g. using prohibited fishing gear;
 - h. falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
 - j. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the Commission;
 - k. refusal to accept a boarding and inspection, other than as provided in paragraphs 26 and 27;
 - l. assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector; and
 - m. intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
 - n. such other violations as may be determined by the Commission, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures.

ENFORCEMENT

38. Any evidence obtained as a result of a boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures with respect to violation by a fishing vessel of the Convention or conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and in force shall be referred to the authorities of the fishing vessel for action in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention.

39. For the purposes of these procedures, the authorities of the fishing vessels shall regard interference by their fishing vessels, captains or crew with an authorized inspector or an authorized inspection vessel in the same manner as any such interference occurring within its exclusive jurisdiction.

ANNUAL REPORTS

40. Contracting Parties that authorize inspection vessels to operate under these procedures shall report annually to the Commission on the boarding and inspections carried out by its authorized inspection vessels, as well as upon possible violations observed.

41. Members of the Commission shall include in their annual statement of compliance within their Annual Report to the Commission under Article 25(8) of the Convention action that they have taken in response to boarding and inspections of their fishing vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations, including any proceedings instituted and sanctions applied.

OTHER PROVISIONS

42. Authorized inspection vessels, while carrying out activities to implement these procedures, shall engage in surveillance aimed at identifying fishing vessels of non- Members undertaking fishing activities on the high seas in the Convention area. Any such vessels identified shall be immediately reported to the Commission.

43. The authorized inspection vessel shall attempt to inform any fishing vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 42 that has been sighted or identified as engaging in fishing activities that are undermining the effectiveness of Convention and that this information will be distributed to the Members of the Commission and the flag state of the vessel in question.

44. If warranted, the authorized inspectors may request permission from the fishing vessel and/or the flag state of the vessel to board a vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 42. If the vessel master or the vessel's flag state consents to a boarding, the findings of any subsequent inspection shall be transmitted to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall distribute this information to all Commission Members as well as to the flag State of the fishing vessel.

45. Contracting Parties shall be liable for damage or loss attributable to their action in implementing these procedures when such action is unlawful or exceeds that reasonably required in the light of available information.

COMMISSION COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT

46. Authorized inspection vessels in the same operational area should seek to establish regular contact for the purpose of sharing information on areas in which they are patrolling, on sightings and on boarding and inspections they have carried out, as well as other operational information relevant to carrying out their responsibilities under these procedures.

47. The Commission shall keep under continuous review the implementation and operation of these procedures, including review of annual reports relating to these procedures provided by Members. In applying these procedures, Contracting Parties may seek to promote optimum use of the authorized inspection vessels and authorized inspectors by:

- a. identifying priorities by area and/or by fishery for boarding and inspections pursuant to these procedures;
- b. ensuring that boarding and inspection on the high seas is fully integrated with the other monitoring, compliance and surveillance tools available pursuant to the Convention;
- c. ensuring non-discriminatory distribution of boarding and inspections on the high seas among fishing vessels of Members of the Commission without compromising the opportunity of Contracting Parties to investigate possible serious violations; and
- d. taking into account high seas enforcement resources assigned by Members of the Commission to monitor and ensure compliance by their own fishing vessels, particularly for small boat fisheries whose operations extend onto the high seas in areas adjacent to waters under their jurisdiction.

SETTLEMENT OF DISAGREEMENTS

48. In the event of a disagreement concerning the interpretation, application or implementation of these procedures, the parties concerned shall consult in an attempt to resolve the disagreement.

49. If the disagreement remains unresolved following the consultations, the Executive Director of the Commission shall, at the request of the parties concerned, and with the consent of Commission, refer the disagreement to the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC). The TCC shall establish a panel of five representatives, acceptable to the parties to the disagreement, to consider the matter.

50. A report on the disagreement shall be drawn up by the panel and forwarded through the TCC Chair to the Commission within two months of the TCC meeting at which the case is reviewed.

51. Upon receipt of such report, the Commission may provide appropriate advice with respect to any such disagreement for the consideration of the Members concerned.

52. Application of these provisions for the settlement of disagreements shall be non-binding. These provisions shall not prejudice the rights of any Member to use the dispute settlement procedures provided in the Convention.



Western and
Central Pacific
Fisheries
Commission

WCPFC IUU VESSEL LIST FOR 2026

(Effective from 3 February 2026)

Note: Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2019-07 para 19 and WCPFC13 decisions

Current name of vessel (previous names)	Current flag (previous flags)	Date first included on WCPFC IUU Vessel List ¹	Flag State Registration Number/ IMO Number	Call Sign (previous call signs)	Vessel Master (nationality)	Owner/beneficial owners (previous owners)	Notifying CCM	IUU activities
Neptune	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-00545	<i>unknown</i> (4LOG)		Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.	France	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)
Fu Lien No 1	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-01432 IMO No 7355662	<i>unknown</i> (4LIN2)		Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia	United States	Is without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)
Yu Fong 168	<i>unknown</i> (Chinese Taipei)	11 Dec. 2009		BJ4786	Mr Jang Faa Sheng (Chinese Taipei)	Chang Lin Pao-Chun, 161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands	Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands without permission and in contravention of Republic of the Marshall Islands' laws and regulations. (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)
Kuda Laut 03	Philippines	08 Dec 2023	Registry No. 120001812	DUM-4015	Alex L Cerina, Filipino	Tuna Explorers Incorporated	New Zealand	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention Area (High Seas Pocket One) without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2019-07-para 3a)

¹ **Supplementary note:** In October 2015, the Executive Director wrote to: Chinese Taipei and Georgia requesting information on their vessel/s on the WCPFC IUU list, and to other RFMOs (CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, NPAFC & SPRFMO) to seek their cooperation with locating the vessels on the list. Georgia confirmed that the vessels **Neptune** and **Fu Lien No 1** were no longer flying the Georgia flag. Chinese Taipei confirmed the **Yu Fong 168** license was revoked in 2009 and the vessel owner financially penalized for violating the rules of not returning to port. Chinese Taipei further advised information was received from Thailand's notification to IOTC that the vessel landed their catches in the port of Phuket in the year 2013. On 17 November 2017, Chinese Taipei informed WCPFC that the **Yu Fong 168** had been deregistered by Chinese Taipei. On 29 April 2020, WCPFC received further information from Chinese Taipei identifying the master of the **Yu Fong 168** at the time of the IUU fishing activity who had been sanctioned. Accordingly, the 2024 list above was updated.

ANNEX 1

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2026
and indicative figures for 2027 and 2028 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2025</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2025</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2026</i>	<i>Approved budget 2026</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2027</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2028</i>
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1 <i>Staff Costs</i>						
Professional Staff Salary	967,152	911,214	987,716	1,029,305	1,050,921	1,069,378
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	984,735	825,022	996,868	1,024,943	1,037,696	1,048,586
Professional Staff Insurance	174,229	158,942	176,682	166,554	167,243	170,026
Recruitment/Repatriation	25,565	49,144	25,565	63,913	51,130	0
Support Staff	669,825	613,726	693,588	716,851	727,808	758,102
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, sub-item 1.1	2,821,507	2,558,048	2,880,420	3,001,565	3,034,798	3,046,092
Sub-Item 1.2 <i>Other Personnel Costs</i>						
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	16,725	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	50,000	39,228	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Consultants <i>(Note 1)</i>	153,000	178,018	153,000	243,000	183,000	153,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	219,500	233,971	219,500	309,500	249,500	219,500
Sub-item 1.3 <i>Official Travel</i>	200,000	189,769	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Sub-item 1.4 <i>General Operating Expenses</i>						
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	48,000	40,630	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
Communications/Courier	84,000	76,742	84,000	84,000	84,000	84,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	36,839	41,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
Audit	17,510	18,052	18,540	18,540	18,540	18,540
Bank Charges	13,000	11,216	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	9,330	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	7,789	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,000	4,788	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Security	117,065	121,273	117,065	124,911	124,911	124,911
Training	15,000	10,718	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	359,575	337,377	360,605	364,451	364,451	364,451
Sub-item 1.5 <i>Capital Expenditure</i>						
Vehicles	0	0	22,000	22,000	0	22,000
Information Technology	48,400	36,112	48,400	48,400	48,400	48,400
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	28,776	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	80,400	64,888	102,400	102,400	80,400	102,400
Sub-item 1.6 <i>Maintenance</i>						
Vehicles	6,000	5,249	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	191,012	206,293	179,912	180,563	180,563	180,563
Website Hosting	26,877	26,877	26,877	39,782	39,782	39,782
Buildings & Grounds	63,000	60,921	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000
Gardeners and Cleaners	97,743	92,474	97,743	100,675	100,675	100,675
Insurance	29,250	28,119	29,250	29,250	29,250	29,250
Total, sub-item 1.6	413,882	419,933	402,782	419,270	419,270	419,270
Sub-item 1.7 <i>Meeting Services</i>						
Annual Session	225,000	225,000	205,000	225,000	205,000	205,000
Scientific Committee	235,000	220,489	220,000	235,000	220,000	220,000
Northern Committee <i>(Note 2)</i>	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	174,800	164,908	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800
Funding for Working Groups <i>(Note 12)</i>	25,000	19,550	0	175,000	0	0
Total, sub-item 1.7	677,800	647,947	617,800	827,800	617,800	617,800
Sub-item 1.8 <i>Future Work - Commission (Note 3)</i>	0	0	220,000	0	220,000	220,000
Sub-item 1.9 <i>Funding for Developing CCM to Meetings</i>	300,000	300,004	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	5,072,663	4,751,936	5,303,506	5,524,986	5,486,219	5,489,513

	Approved budget 2025	Estimated expenditure 2025	Indicative budget 2026	Approved budget 2026	Indicative budget 2027	Indicative budget 2028
ANNEX 1 (continued)						
Part 2 - Science & Technical & Compliance Programme						
Section 2 (Item 2)						
Sub-item 2.1	Scientific Services (SPC) (Note 4)					
	1,020,749	1,020,749	1,041,164	1,041,164	1,061,987	1,083,227
Sub-item 2.2	Scientific Research					
Additional Resourcing SPC (Note 4)	183,808	183,808	187,484	187,484	191,234	195,058
SPC additional stock assessment scientist (Note 4)	168,300	168,300	171,666	171,666	175,099	178,601
P35b Pacific Marine Specimen Bank	109,520	109,520	111,711	111,711	113,945	116,224
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	875,000	875,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	988,630
P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	30,000	0	0	0
P90 Fish Lengths/Weights Conversion Analyses	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
P100d Application of CKMR to SPA and WCPFC stocks	0	0	0	75,000	115,000	0
P19X6 (P121) Ecosystem and Climate Indicators	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
P122a Workshop on longline effort creep and CPUE	0	0	0	20,000	0	0
P19X8 (P123) Scoping next generation of software	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0
P19X10 (P124) Oceanic whitetip assessment	80,000	80,000	0	0	0	0
P20X04 (P125) Biology from billfish samples in LL	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	40,000	0
P20X05 Developing a sampling strategy for sharks	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
P20X07 (p127a) Recon. size composition data collection	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	0	0
P20X08 (P128a) Connectivity of YFT/SKJ WPEA&WCPFC	60,000	60,000	0	0	125,000	0
P21X01 Gear interactions and stock trends: cetaceans	0	0	0	0	60,000	0
P21X04 Assess.of the SWP blue shark stock-Phase 1	0	0	0	0	50,000	25,000
P21X05 Age-length data stream for tuna assessments	0	0	0	80,000	60,000	60,000
P21X07 Bycatch assessment WS: billfish & sharks	0	0	0	60,000	0	0
P21X09 Character. of low info: sharks & mobulids	0	0	0	0	60,000	0
Total, sub-item 2.2	1,696,628	1,696,628	1,555,861	1,770,861	1,955,278	1,563,513
Sub-item 2.3	Technical & Compliance Programme					
ROP Travel for Audits and Training	35,000	17,039	35,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
ROP - Consultancy	85,000	85,000	85,000	89,250	89,250	89,250
ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
Vessel Monitoring System	200,000	148,826	200,000	185,000	185,000	185,000
Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	214,527	191,548	218,818	195,379	199,287	203,272
Information Management System (Note 5)	120,000	134,760	120,000	145,000	120,000	120,000
Monthly Reports and CCM Dashboards (Note 6)	40,000	52,000	40,000	50,000	40,000	30,000
CMS Future Work (Note 7)	30,000	23,887	30,000	30,000	30,000	20,000
Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity (Note 8)	80,000	65,000	40,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Repeatable reports - next generation approach (Note 9)	30,000	30,300	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	0	30,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
CCM/Staff Training (Note 10)	25,000	12,258	25,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	13,698	40,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Regional Capacity Building Workshops (Note 11)	130,000	130,000	130,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Total, item 2.3	1,993,431	1,828,220	1,957,722	1,968,533	1,937,441	1,921,426
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2	4,710,808	4,545,597	4,554,746	4,780,558	4,954,706	4,568,166
Total, Parts 1 & 2	9,783,471	9,297,532	9,858,252	10,305,543	10,440,925	10,057,679

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services (including travel)	\$65,000
Meetings' rapporteur (including travel)	\$63,000
Article 30 review (\$90,000 in 2026 and \$30,000 in 2027)	\$90,000
Miscellaneous Consultancies	\$25,000
	<hr/>
	\$243,000

Note 2: Northern Committee

As per WCPFC9, additional funds will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

Note 3: Sub-item 1.8 Future Work - Commission

Budget line added in 2020 to account for unidentified future work that may be required by the Commission. Amount reduced to \$0 for the proposed 2026 budget with the additional projects under Scientific Research.

Note 4: Section 2 Science programme

- Refer to Annex 12 and Para 2 of Annex 13 for SPC scientific services, additional resourcing, and additional scientists
- Refer to paragraph 3 of Annex 13 for the scope of work of the proposed projects seeking 2026 funding support

Note 5: Information Management System

2025/26 - Includes continual improvements to IT-related tools to improve data management and ease of use for CCMs to manage their own reporting (refer to TCC19-2023-22)

Note 6: Monthly Reports and CCM Dashboards

Renamed AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub. - because AR Part 2 and CMR system upgrades to be completed in 2025 - reflects a shift to consider additional opportunities to support CCMs with their own reporting and processes for their review of reported data

Note 7: CMS Future Work

2025 - for CCFS subsampling approach improvements, planned CMR system report enhancements and links to CMM site including obligation compliance rating trends

Note 8: Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity

2025/26 - continuing exploration of work that delivers strategic solutions, to better support the current and future information management needs of the Commission (refer TCC20-2024-04).

Note 9: Repeatable reports - next generation approach

2024/26 - To deliver efficiencies in the Secretariat's generation of required annual reporting, supports continuous improvement in the editorial work and leverages recent work to improve data management in the compliance area (refer TCC20-2024-04)

Note 10: CCM/Staff Training Guidance and Learning Aids

Renamed CCM/Staff VMS Training to broaden the scope of the intended activities, including support for training guidance and learning aids for targeted capacity development

Note 11: Regional Capacity Building Workshops

FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

Note 12: Funding for Working Groups

\$150,000 for in-person (or physical) South Pacific Albacore Tuna IWG and \$25,000 for a one day physical meeting to progress the Bigeye Tuna Management Procedure and Key Decision Points

ANNEX 2**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2026**

Proposed budget expenditure total	10,305,543
less	
Estimated interest	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,855,543</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2027

Proposed budget expenditure total	10,440,925
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,990,925</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2028

Proposed budget expenditure total	10,057,679
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,607,679</u></u>

ANNEX 3

3(a) Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

2026 Contribution Table														
CCM	Base fee component: 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total Contributions before full offsets	Addition for Northern Committee ¹	Addition by Non-SIDS for SIDS offset ²	Offset for Small SIDS ³	SIDS Offset for Second Meeting Participant ⁴	Total Assessed on CCMs	Percent of Budget by member	Offset for Small SIDS from Fees and Trust Fund ⁵	SIDS Offset by Fees and Trust Fund ⁵	NC Adjustment ⁵	Total of components: 100% of budget
Australia	37,906	126,166	17,233	181,305	0	1,528	0	0	182,833	1.89%	0	0	0	182,833
Canada	37,906	117,458	0	155,364	754	1,309	0	0	157,426	1.63%	0	0	-754	156,673
China	37,906	252,938	226,076	516,920	2,508	4,355	0	0	523,783	5.41%	0	0	-2,508	521,275
Cook Islands	37,906	34,283	20,471	92,660	0	0	-32,988	-2,821	56,851	0.59%	32,988	1,353	0	91,193
European Union	37,906	290,957	108,843	437,705	0	3,688	0	0	441,393	4.56%	0	0	0	441,393
Federated States of Micronesia	37,906	7,136	585,032	630,074	0	0	0	-19,179	610,895	6.31%	0	9,203	0	620,098
Fiji	37,906	9,469	26,160	73,536	0	0	0	-2,238	71,297	0.74%	0	1,074	0	72,371
France	37,906	115,414	16,471	169,792	0	1,431	0	0	171,222	1.77%	0	0	0	171,222
Indonesia	37,906	24,556	149,407	211,868	0	1,785	0	0	213,653	2.21%	0	0	0	213,653
Japan	37,906	126,717	1,059,104	1,223,726	5,937	10,311	0	0	1,239,974	12.80%	0	0	-5,937	1,234,037
Kiribati	37,906	6,055	665,258	709,219	0	0	0	-21,588	687,631	7.10%	0	10,359	0	697,990
Korea	37,906	83,480	1,136,689	1,258,074	6,104	10,600	0	0	1,274,779	13.16%	0	0	-6,104	1,268,674
Marshall Islands	37,906	13,587	317,878	369,371	0	0	-11,710	-11,244	346,418	3.58%	11,710	5,395	0	363,523
Nauru	37,906	34,840	366,836	439,582	0	0	-34,242	-13,381	391,959	4.05%	34,242	6,421	0	432,622
New Zealand	37,906	84,636	8,915	131,458	0	1,108	0	0	132,565	1.37%	0	0	0	132,565
Niue	37,906	28,255	12	66,173	0	0	-28,164	-2,014	35,994	0.37%	28,164	967	0	65,125
Palau	37,906	23,396	19	61,322	0	0	-22,511	-1,867	36,944	0.38%	22,511	896	0	60,351
Papua New Guinea	37,906	5,203	201,676	244,784	0	0	0	-7,451	237,333	2.45%	0	3,575	0	240,909
Philippines	37,906	13,215	132,248	183,369	0	1,545	0	0	184,914	1.91%	0	0	0	184,914
Samoa	37,906	7,010	5,209	50,125	0	0	0	-1,526	48,599	0.50%	0	732	0	49,332
Solomon Islands	37,906	3,759	87,949	129,613	0	0	0	-3,945	125,668	1.30%	0	1,893	0	127,561
Chinese Taipei	37,906	66,845	1,033,127	1,137,878	5,521	9,587	0	0	1,152,987	11.91%	0	0	-5,521	1,147,466
Tonga	37,906	8,798	603	47,308	0	0	-3,590	-1,440	42,278	0.44%	3,590	691	0	46,559
Tuvalu	37,906	13,391	178,545	229,842	0	0	-12,908	-6,996	209,938	2.17%	12,908	3,357	0	226,203
United States of America	37,906	467,179	319,914	824,999	4,003	6,951	0	0	835,953	8.63%	0	0	-4,003	831,950
Vanuatu	37,906	6,366	235,204	279,476	0	0	0	-8,507	270,969	2.80%	0	4,082	0	275,051
Totals	985,554	1,971,109	6,898,880	9,855,543	24,827	54,198	-146,113	-104,198	9,684,257	100%	146,113	50,000	-24,827	9,855,543

Footnote 1 - Funding for NC as Agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

Footnote 2 - Offset by Non-SIDS per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant - Proportionally

Footnote 3 - Includes Offset for Small SIDS as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)

Footnote 4 - SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant

Footnote 5 - Adjustments to/from other accounts to total the final assessed budget with all components

ANNEX 3 Cont.

3(b) Offsets for Small Island Developing States

Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)					SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant after Adjustments		
CCM	Population	Maximum Payable for wealth component	National wealth component	Offset for Small Island Developing States	Percent of total budget	Percent of General Offset	General Offset for SIDS
Cook Islands	25,900	1,295	34,283	32,988	0.9%	2.7%	2,821
Federated States of Micronesia	113,160	5,658	7,136	0	6.4%	18.4%	19,179
Fiji	928,780	46,439	9,469	0	0.7%	2.1%	2,238
Kiribati	134,520	6,726	6,055	0	7.2%	20.7%	21,588
Marshall Islands	37,550	1,878	13,587	11,710	3.7%	10.8%	11,244
Nauru	11,950	598	34,840	34,242	4.5%	12.8%	13,381
Niue	1,820	91	28,255	28,164	0.7%	1.9%	2,014
Palau	17,700	885	23,396	22,511	0.6%	1.8%	1,867
Papua New Guinea	10,576,500	528,825	5,203	0	2.5%	7.2%	7,451
Samoa	218,020	10,901	7,010	0	0.5%	1.5%	1,526
Solomon Islands	819,200	40,960	3,759	0	1.3%	3.8%	3,945
Tonga	104,170	5,209	8,798	3,590	0.5%	1.4%	1,440
Tuvalu	9,650	483	13,391	12,908	2.3%	6.7%	6,996
Vanuatu	327,780	16,389	6,366	0	2.8%	8.2%	8,507
Total				146,113	35%	100%	104,198

3(c) Funding for NC as Agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

Non-developing States Members of NC	Percent of total budget	Percent of NC fund	Additional cost
Canada	1.58%	3.0%	754
China	5.24%	10.1%	2,508
Japan	12.42%	23.9%	5,937
Korea	12.77%	24.6%	6,104
Chinese Taipei	11.55%	22.2%	5,521
United States of America	8.37%	16.1%	4,003
Total	51.92%	100.00%	24,827

3(d) Offset by Non-SIDS for Second Meeting Participant - Proportionally

CCM	Contribution percent	Extrapolated percentage	Total
Australia	1.84%	2.82%	\$ 1,528
Canada	1.58%	2.42%	\$ 1,309
China	5.24%	8.04%	\$ 4,355
European Union	4.44%	6.80%	\$ 3,688
France	1.72%	2.64%	\$ 1,431
Indonesia	2.15%	3.29%	\$ 1,785
Japan	12.42%	19.02%	\$ 10,311
Korea	12.77%	19.56%	\$ 10,600
New Zealand	1.33%	2.04%	\$ 1,108
Philippines	1.86%	2.85%	\$ 1,545
Chinese Taipei	11.55%	17.69%	\$ 9,587
United States of America	8.37%	12.83%	\$ 6,951
Total	65.27%	100.00%	\$ 54,198

3(e) SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant

CCM	Total of components: 100% of budget	Percent of budget by CCM	Budget without \$300,000 for Second participant travel	Difference per Non-SID	Difference for SIDS	Percent of General Offset per SIDS	With 50K offset from Fees and Trust Fund	Remaining to be offset by non-SIDS	Total
Australia	181,305	1.8%	175,786	5,519	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Canada	155,364	1.6%	150,634	4,729	0	0.0%	0	0	0
China	516,920	5.2%	501,185	15,735	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Cook Islands	92,660	0.9%	89,839	0	2,821	2.7%	1,353	1,467	2,821
European Union	437,705	4.4%	424,382	13,324	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Federated States of Micronesia	630,074	6.4%	610,895	0	19,179	18.4%	9,203	9,976	19,179
Fiji	73,536	0.7%	71,297	0	2,238	2.1%	1,074	1,164	2,238
France	169,792	1.7%	164,623	5,168	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Indonesia	211,868	2.1%	205,419	6,449	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Japan	1,223,726	12.4%	1,186,476	37,250	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Kiribati	709,219	7.2%	687,631	0	21,588	20.7%	10,359	11,229	21,588
Korea	1,258,074	12.8%	1,219,779	38,295	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Marshall Islands	369,371	3.7%	358,128	0	11,244	10.8%	5,395	5,848	11,244
Nauru	439,582	4.5%	426,201	0	13,381	12.8%	6,421	6,960	13,381
New Zealand	131,458	1.3%	127,456	4,002	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Niue	66,173	0.7%	64,158	0	2,014	1.9%	967	1,048	2,014
Palau	61,322	0.6%	59,455	0	1,867	1.8%	896	971	1,867
Papua New Guinea	244,784	2.5%	237,333	0	7,451	7.2%	3,575	3,876	7,451
Philippines	183,369	1.9%	177,788	5,582	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Samoa	50,125	0.5%	48,599	0	1,526	1.5%	732	794	1,526
Solomon Islands	129,613	1.3%	125,668	0	3,945	3.8%	1,893	2,052	3,945
Chinese Taipei	1,137,878	11.5%	1,103,242	34,637	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Tonga	47,308	0.5%	45,868	0	1,440	1.4%	691	749	1,440
Tuvalu	229,842	2.3%	222,846	0	6,996	6.7%	3,357	3,639	6,996
United States of America	824,999	8.4%	799,886	25,113	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Vanuatu	279,476	2.8%	270,969	0	8,507	8.2%	4,082	4,425	8,507
Totals	9,855,543	100.00%	9,555,543	195,802	104,198	1	50,000	54,198	104,198

ANNEX 3 Cont.

3(f) Schedule of contributions based on proposed 2026 budgets without Offset for Small Island Developing States, adjustments for the funding for a second participant to meetings of the Commission, and Non-Developing States Members of NC

CCM	2026					2027		2028	
	Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member
Australia	37,906	126,166	17,233	181,305	1.8%	183,795	1.8%	176,745	1.8%
Canada	37,906	117,458	0	155,364	1.6%	157,498	1.6%	151,456	1.6%
China	37,906	252,938	226,076	516,920	5.2%	524,020	5.2%	503,919	5.2%
Cook Islands	37,906	34,283	20,471	92,660	0.9%	93,933	0.9%	90,329	0.9%
European Union	37,906	290,957	108,843	437,705	4.4%	443,718	4.4%	426,697	4.4%
Federated States of Micronesia	37,906	7,136	585,032	630,074	6.4%	638,729	6.4%	614,228	6.4%
Fiji	37,906	9,469	26,160	73,536	0.7%	74,546	0.7%	71,686	0.7%
France	37,906	115,414	16,471	169,792	1.7%	172,124	1.7%	165,521	1.7%
Indonesia	37,906	24,556	149,407	211,868	2.1%	214,779	2.1%	206,540	2.1%
Japan	37,906	126,717	1,059,104	1,223,726	12.4%	1,240,536	12.4%	1,192,950	12.4%
Kiribati	37,906	6,055	665,258	709,219	7.2%	718,961	7.2%	691,382	7.2%
Korea	37,906	83,480	1,136,689	1,258,074	12.8%	1,275,356	12.8%	1,226,434	12.8%
Marshall Islands	37,906	13,587	317,878	369,371	3.7%	374,445	3.7%	360,082	3.7%
Nauru	37,906	34,840	366,836	439,582	4.5%	445,621	4.5%	428,527	4.5%
New Zealand	37,906	84,636	8,915	131,458	1.3%	133,263	1.3%	128,151	1.3%
Niue	37,906	28,255	12	66,173	0.7%	67,082	0.7%	64,508	0.7%
Palau	37,906	23,396	19	61,322	0.6%	62,164	0.6%	59,780	0.6%
Papua New Guinea	37,906	5,203	201,676	244,784	2.5%	248,147	2.5%	238,628	2.5%
Philippines	37,906	13,215	132,248	183,369	1.9%	185,888	1.9%	178,758	1.9%
Samoa	37,906	7,010	5,209	50,125	0.5%	50,814	0.5%	48,865	0.5%
Solomon Islands	37,906	3,759	87,949	129,613	1.3%	131,394	1.3%	126,354	1.3%
Chinese Taipei	37,906	66,845	1,033,127	1,137,878	11.5%	1,153,509	11.5%	1,109,261	11.5%
Tonga	37,906	8,798	603	47,308	0.5%	47,958	0.5%	46,118	0.5%
Tuvalu	37,906	13,391	178,545	229,842	2.3%	232,999	2.3%	224,062	2.3%
United States of America	37,906	467,179	319,914	824,999	8.4%	836,332	8.4%	804,251	8.4%
Vanuatu	37,906	6,366	235,204	279,476	2.8%	283,315	2.8%	272,447	2.8%
Totals	985,554	1,971,109	6,898,880	9,855,543	100%	9,990,925	100%	9,607,679	100%

