



TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS

Circular No.: 2026/02
Date: 22 January 2026
No. pages: 1

Subject: SPAJWG Meeting announcement

Dear All,

Colleagues will recall discussions at the 22nd Regular Annual Session of the Commission (WCPFC22) in December 2025, relating to the establishment of a Joint Working Group with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on South Pacific Albacore tuna management (SPAJWG). This responded to a tasking by the Commission at WCPFC21 and followed informal virtual sessions in 2025 between the IATTC and WCPFC members, to develop a Terms of Reference and an indicative Workplan for the SPAJWG to convene in 2026.

At its 103rd meeting in September 2025, the IATTC adopted the SPAJWG Terms of Reference ([RESOLUTION C-25-04](#)) and acknowledged the provisional Workplan, and elected Mr. Guillermo Moran (Ecuador) to assume the role of Co-Chair of the SPAJWG on behalf of the IATTC. At WCPFC22, the Commission also considered and adopted the SPAJWG Terms of Reference ([Attachment 15, WCPFC22 Outcomes](#)), endorsed the provisional Workplan, and elected Mr. Mat Kertesz (Australia) to the position of Co-Chair, which was pending confirmation by Australia post-WCPFC22. I am pleased to advise that Australia has since confirmed Mr. Kertesz's availability to serve as Co-Chair on behalf of the WCPFC.

Following recent consultations between the WCPFC and IATTC Secretariats, together with the SPAJWG Co-Chairs, and in accordance with the provisional workplan outlining a first meeting in the first half of 2026, it is proposed that the inaugural SPAJWG meeting be conducted virtually on 18-19 March 2026 (Pohnpei dates) from 9:00am to 12:30pm (Pohnpei time) each day. This corresponds to 17-18 March 2026 from 2:00pm to 5:30pm (Pacific Standard Time). The 1st SPAJWG meeting will necessarily occur in a virtual format in the absence of a host government or programmed funds in the budget of either Commission for hosting this meeting in person.

A Provisional Agenda, relevant meeting documents, and registration details will be distributed in due course.

For any questions, please contact Science Manager, Dr. SungKwon Soh (sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int), with a copy to Fisheries Management and Compliance Adviser, Hilary Ayrton (hilary.ayrton@wcpfc.int).

Sincerely,

Rhea Moss-Christian
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR