

Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC)

Methods Specialist Working Group

Provisional Agenda

Monday, August 8, 2005, 11:00

- A. Introduction
- B. Selection of rapporteurs
- C. Adoption of agenda
- D. Review of available information
 - 1 Development of MULTIFAN-CL.

Stock assessment of yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean. Hampton, J., P. Kleiber, A. Langley, Y. Takeuchi & M. Ichinokawa. SA WP-1

Stock assessment of bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean, with comparisons to a Pacific-wide assessment. Hampton, J., P. Kleiber, A. Langley, Y. Takeuchi, M. Ichinokawa & M. Maunder SA WP-2.

- a. Spatial partitioning
- b. Management scenario evaluation
- c. Improvements to CPUE standardization
- d. Additional reference points
- e. Discussion
- f. Conclusions

Tuesday, August 9, 2005, 8:30

- D. Review of available information (continued)
 - 2 Development of SEApodym
 - a. First application of SEAPODYM to Pacific bigeye tuna. **Lehodey** P. ME WP-1.
 - b. Seapodym on a mixed-resolution spatial scale. Senina, I.N., **Sibert**, J.R. and P. Lehodey. ME WP-2
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Conclusions
 - 3. Contributed papers
 - a. Why are there still large pelagic predators in the oceans?: evidence of severe hyper-depletion in longline catch-per-effort. **Ahrens**, R. & C. Walters. ME WP-3

Tuesday, August 9, 2005, 13:00

E. Future Plans

1 Review M-SWG draft terms of reference (attached below)

2 Selection of convener

3 Tasks for 2006

3 Medium and long term plan

F. Advice to Scientific Committee

G. Other Business

H. Preparation of report

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Draft Terms of Reference

The Methods Specialist Working Group will coordinate research and make recommendations to the WCPFC Scientific Committee on technical questions related to analytical methods used for fishery management. The terms of reference for the Methods Specialist Working Group include the following:

1. Develop criteria for evaluating the performance of models applicable to fisheries for the highly migratory fish stocks of the western and central Pacific Ocean.
2. Investigate the statistical properties and performance of selected stock assessment methods using simulation analysis and other appropriate methods and, on the basis of studies undertaken, make recommendations regarding the most appropriate methods to be used for the assessment of target and by-catch species of the western and central Pacific Ocean tuna fishery.
3. Provide ongoing review of the structure of stock assessment and projection models as applied to various species of interest and, where necessary, make recommendations regarding enhancements to the models to improve their performance or to address deficiencies with respect to specific applications.
4. Coordinate research to determine appropriate biological reference points for target tuna and by-catch species of the western and central Pacific Ocean tuna fishery and make recommendations on the basis of this research.
5. Advise the Scientific Committee on appropriate methods of formulating scientific advice for management.
6. Advise Scientific Committee on methods that might be used to support the ecosystem approach to fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean.
7. Advise Scientific Committee on analytical research needs.