

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

Biology Specialist Working Group

Convener's Draft Terms of Reference

The general objective of the Biology Specialist Working Group is to improve our understanding of the biology of HMS, in particular to provide quantitative estimates of key life history parameters and migration patterns for stock assessment purposes to the WCPFC Scientific Committee.

The functions of the Biology Specialist Working Group are to:

1. Provide a means for evaluating the suite of biological parameters for both target and non-target species;
2. Coordinate the basic research work critical to deal with both target and non-target species biology;
3. Identify key research priorities for future research;
4. Make recommendations regarding research and biological parameters to support stock assessment; and
5. Prepare the reports of the specialist working group.