

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

Stock Assessment Specialist Working Group

Co-Conveners' Draft Terms of Reference

The overall purpose of the Stock Assessment Specialist Working Group is to provide quantitative estimates of the status (abundance) of highly migratory fish stocks and of the intensity of fishing upon them to the WCPFC Scientific Committee. The assessments underpin the scientific advice for management that is provided by the WCPFC Scientific Committee to the Commission.

The functions of the Stock Assessment Specialist Working Group shall be to:

1. Critically review assessments for target and non-target stocks;
2. Provide statements of stock status, and of the intensity of fishing, based on assessments, and other pertinent information;
3. Evaluate the sustainability of current and proposed future harvest practices in light of the Commission's objective (*Article 2*);
4. Make recommendations regarding the content of future assessments and any supporting analysis;
5. Make recommendations regarding research and data required to support stock assessments; and
6. Prepare the reports of the Working Group.