



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

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Apia, Samoa (Hybrid)

**PROGRESSING THE USE OF CANNERY RECEIPT DATA FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK (P114) –
A NEW APPROACH**

**WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-IP06
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Submitted by SPC-OFP

Executive Summary

Project 114 to improve the use of cannery receipt data for scientific work has progressed through the years, but not to the point where these data can reliably be used to evaluate or improve the accuracy of species composition estimates from the purse seine fishery. Progress has stalled largely due to concerns companies may have related to sharing their cannery receipt data. Here, we propose an alternate approach whereby CCMs would work with their stakeholders to obtain and use these data to adjust their purse seine compositions in a standardized way prior to submission without providing these cannery receipt data to the Commission. This approach has been used by Japan, and may offer a framework for progressing this work.

SC22 is invited to:

- consider the new proposal/approach under Project 114 to support the work for national scientists to receive cannery receipt data directly to adjust the species composition in their purse seine annual catch estimates and aggregate catch/effort data prior to submission to the Commission;
- recommend convening a brief virtual meeting in late 2026 to present and discuss this proposal/approach further; and
- agree to a no-cost extension to the end of 2027 with final reporting to SC23 (final project report prepared for WCPFC24 based on SC23 outcomes).

1 Background

Vidal et al. (2025) reiterated the challenges of obtaining accurate information on the species composition of the purse seine catch during at-sea fishing operations and that the species composition sampling conducted by observers can only feasibly sample less than 0.2% of the catch due to the high volume of catches and the need to avoid significant disruptions to fishing operations. WCPFC Project 60 activities developed processes to generate model-based estimates for species composition using observer data (Peatman et al., 2017), and while the resulting estimates of species compositions offer an improvement over the nominal reported catches, there remains uncertainty. WCPFC Project 114 was established in recognition that cannery receipt data could further improve upon species composition estimates, in both providing an independent data source to verify observer based estimates (e.g., Peatman et al., 2020), and potentially a means of adjusting purse seine species catch compositions down to the purse seine trip level.

The work of WCPFC Project 114 to date has mainly focussed on:

- i. highlighting the importance of cannery receipt data for the scientific work of the Commission;
- ii. compiling, curating and presenting summaries of cannery data submissions to the WCPFC;

- iii. developing standards for cannery receipt data submission, and
- iv. working with member countries with purse seine fleets to submit cannery receipt data to the Commission on a voluntary basis where there are gaps.

Unfortunately, aside from the continued submissions of cannery receipt data for the ISSF-affiliated companies and some progress with Philippine processing companies, the coverage of cannery receipt data submitted to the Commission remains low. The Scientific Services Provider (SSP) has engaged with several major processor companies (through the facilitation of respective government fisheries agencies) to request the provision of cannery receipt data but the responses have generally been unfavourable, due mainly to concerns related to data confidentiality and extra work to organise the data (often in the national language) for submission.

The SSP recognises the important work by Japan in the early period of the WCPFC to highlight the importance of cannery receipt (landing slip) data in providing a means to adjust the logsheet reported purse seine catch by species reported on logbooks, a process that Japan scientists have conducted on their purse seine fleet data prior to submission to the Commission for a number of years.

The SSP is therefore considering other approaches to progress the work within WCPFC Project 114, and one proposal is whether it is feasible for national scientists to receive the cannery receipt data (or Final Outturn data) for their purse seine fleet and use these data to adjust the tuna species composition (aggregated at the trip level) in the logbook data for their purse seine fleet to then generate more reliable estimates of tuna species catch in their annual catch estimates and aggregate catch/effort data. This approach is basically the methodology that Japan has been using for many years. This approach may resolve some of the current barriers in preparing and submitting cannery receipt data to the Commission and perhaps provide a step towards what might be a longer-term ambition to have cannery receipt data submitted to the Commission.

If the concept of this proposal is deemed reasonable, the SSP can plan to hold a brief virtual meeting for Project 114, convening relevant stakeholders (national scientists industry representatives, etc.) later in 2026, to present and discuss this proposal in more detail, noting that the SSP would assist CCMs with any aspect of this work under Project 114, as required, particularly for its Pacific Islands member countries.

2 References

- Peatman, T., Satoh, K., Matsumoto, T., Caillot, S., and Smith, N. (2017). Improving the quality of Japanese purse seine catch composition estimates: a Project 60 collaboration. *WCPFC SC13 ST-WP-03, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 9-17 August*.
- Peatman, T., Williams, P., and Nicol, S. (2020). Project 60: Progress towards achieving SC15 recommendations. *WCPFC SC16 ST-IP-04, Online, 12-19 August*.

Vidal, T., Gislard, S., Scutt Phillips, J., and Peatman, T. (2025). Project 114 Update: Progress in improving CANNERY RECEIPT DATA for WCPFC scientific work. *WCPFC-SC21-2025/ST-WP-04, Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 13-21 August.*