



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**
11-19 August 2026
Apia, Samoa (Hybrid)

WCPFC HARVEST STRATEGY WORK PLAN

WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-IP08

23 July 2026



INDICATIVE WORKPLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES UNDER CMM 2022-03

WCPFC22-2025-HS Workplan

- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM2014-06 (now superseded by CMM 2022-03). It set out a deliberately ambitious schedule of technical work and Commission decision making for the development of harvest strategies across the four key tuna stocks. The workplan was always intended to be a living document and has been updated annually to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments.
- It is acknowledged that delays in the execution of the workplan may occur, noting the complexity of developing harvest strategies for multiple species within the multilateral WCPFC environment as well as the capacity of member CCMs to understand and participate fully in the process. For this reason, all parties are cautioned against an expectation that harvest strategy elements will be completed in specific years. Completion dates have changed in the past and may change in the future.
- This workplan simply schedules decisions noting that it is the Commission's decision as to their interim nature. It is important to understand the implications of single species management procedures within a multi-species fishery context upon application of any of the management procedures.
- There is a very important need for capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process and ultimately to have confidence that an adopted harvest strategy is an agreeable balance of their objectives. This is particularly so as the Commission starts to consider the multispecies nature of the fishery and how management procedures will interact.
- For clarity and consistency, the term "Management Procedure" is used from 2020 onward in this workplan in place of the term "Harvest Control Rule (HCR)". A Management Procedure is a key part of a Harvest Strategy comprising a more formal specification of data collection, the associated estimation model (e.g. the estimation of stock status through an analytical or empirical method) together with a Harvest Control Rule. Together these clearly define what management actions are to be made in response to changes in the stock or fishery condition.

2025 Update

- The technical progress of the Scientific Services Provider included the evaluation of candidate MPs for South Pacific albacore based upon a revised geographical scope of the MP consistent with the mixed fishery framework, and further evaluations following guidance from the two SPA management workshops held in 2025; development of initial bigeye operating models, estimation methods and MPs for bigeye to achieve Commission-identified TRPs; and monitoring of skipjack MP performance taking into account the results of the 2025 skipjack stock assessment. Harvest strategy capacity building workshops were also conducted.

- Following WCPFC22-DP11 on “Wider issues for consideration within the harvest strategy workplan review”, the workplan has been updated to include the scheduling for the review or adoption of MP implementing arrangements.
- The Commission agreed that the skipjack tuna MP, as a one-off, be extended to four years in its current cycle and also that the Commissions review of the Tropical Tuna Measure be shifted from 2026 to 2027 with continuation of all relevant arrangements through 2027. These changes have been captured within the workplan.
- For bigeye tuna the workplan continues to reflect a decision to adopt a management procedure in 2026 noting the tentative scheduling of this for 2025 was not achieved. WCPFC22 provided guidance on the development of candidate management procedures for bigeye tuna to support the adoption in 2026. The MP is scheduled to be run for the first time in 2027.
- For South Pacific albacore, the first running of the MP has been re-scheduled to 2026.

Within the tables below, progress in earlier years is in grey. Bold items are the six elements that are referred to in CMM 14-06/22-03 (a. Objectives, b. Reference Points, c. Acceptable Levels of Risk, d. Monitoring, e. Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure and f. MSE). Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development and so are part of the plan but are not one of these six elements.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2023	Agree Target Reference Point (b). Commission agree a TRP for South Pacific albacore Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f) • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d).	[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy] SC provide advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy (d).	Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation (f) [Continue development of multispecies framework] • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. [Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]	Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation (f) [Continue development of multispecies framework] • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. [Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2024	Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f) • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice for review Target Reference Point • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. [Updated stock assessment considered by SC20]	[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy] SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy. Commission adopts the monitoring strategy(d)	Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f) [Continue development of mixed fishery framework] • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.	Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f) [Continue development of mixed fishery framework] • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2025	Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f) SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. Commission review and adopt a management procedure. [SPA-IWG plan: Adopted management procedure is <u>run</u> for the first time.]	Stock assessment. SC reviews the interim management procedure in accordance with the monitoring program	Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f) - SC agree the operating models for MSE. - SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. - Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. Target Reference Point (b). - Commission consider TRP for bigeye within evaluation of candidate MPs. Tentative: Commission ADOPT a target reference point together with a management procedure. [Continue development of mixed fishery framework]	[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2026	Run management procedure for the first time. SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy. Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d) Commission adopts implementing arrangements for management procedure.		Stock assessment Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f) • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC endorses the estimation method. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. Agree Target Reference Point (b). • Commission agree a TRP for bigeye. Commission ADOPT a management procedure.	Stock assessment Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f) • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on outcomes under the mixed fishery approach.. • Commission consider outcomes under the mixed fishery approach. • SC provides advice on monitoring strategy. Agree Target Reference Point (b). • Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin. Commission adopts the mixed fishery management approach for YFT.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2027	Stock assessment.	Run the management procedure for the second time. Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP.	Run management procedure for the first time. SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d) Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP. Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)	SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d) Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP. Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2028		Stock assessment.		