



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

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

**WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-IP04
23 July 2026**

Submitted by the WCPFC Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

Article 22 of the Convention requires the Commission to collaborate with other intergovernmental organizations that may contribute to attaining the objective of the Convention. The WCPFC maintains formal relations with 13 intergovernmental institutions and agencies, including other regional fisheries management organisations. The broad objectives of these relationships are to promote cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The Commission has relations with the organisations listed below, and the agreements with each of these organisations can be found on the [Regional Fisheries Management Organizations](#) webpage on the WCPFC website.

- 1) The Pacific Community in respect of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC);
- 2) Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA);
- 3) International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC);
- 4) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- 5) Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
- 6) Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC);
- 7) Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);
- 8) Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP);
- 9) Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT);
- 10) North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC);
- 11) South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO);
- 12) North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC); and

13) Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS).

EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS

1) The Pacific Community (SPC)

The WCPFC and SPC-OF data exchange agreement was adopted in 2009.

An MOU between WCPFC and SPC was signed in December 2005 for 2006 scientific services, updating the specific services annually. In 2016, the three-year MOU was revised, highlighting the development of management strategy evaluation to support the implementation of the Commission's harvest strategy framework. In 2019, the three-year MOU was revised, with the terminology of 'MOU' being replaced by the 'Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)'. The *Agreement for the Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Pacific Community* (ANNEX 1) for 2026 was entirely signed by both parties on 20 March 2026.

2) Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

As directed by the Fourth Regular Session of the Commission, an MOU between the two Secretariats was finalized.

There is also a *Service Level Agreement* (SLA) between the FFA and the Commission for VMS services consistent with paragraph 5 of Article 15 of the Convention.

3) International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)

The Second Regular Session of the Commission in December 2005 adopted an MOU with ISC.

4) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 adopted an MOU with SPREP.

5) Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 adopted an MOU with IOTC.

6) Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

An MOU was executed by representatives of the IATTC and WCPFC following its endorsement by WCPFC3 at Apia, Samoa, in December 2006.

In December 2009, the two Commissions signed a *Memorandum of Cooperation on the Exchange and Release of Data* at the end of WCPFC6 at Papeete, French Polynesia.

A *Memorandum of Cooperation on the Cross Endorsement of Regional Observers between WCPFC and IATTC* was signed at the IATTC meeting in La Jolla, USA, in July 2011.¹

At WCPFC20, the Commission called for closer collaboration with the IATTC to strengthen conservation and management, particularly through joint development of Management Strategy Evaluation and management procedures for South Pacific albacore. In 2024, both Commissions initiated the

¹ See Attachment Q, [WCPFC7 Summary Report](#).

establishment of a *Joint IATTC-WCPFC Working Group on South Pacific Albacore Tuna* (SPAJWG), leading to an informal joint meeting in May 2025 where draft Terms of Reference were developed to guide cooperation on harvest strategies, scientific coordination, data sharing, and compatible management measures. The Secretariats subsequently prepared a 2026 Workplan, and the SPAJWG was formally launched with its first virtual meeting on 18 to 19 March 2026, marking the start of coordinated long-term management of the South Pacific albacore stock.

Close cooperation has continued between the WCPFC and IATTC for the management of Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries, primarily through the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBFJWG), which includes the development of the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme. The PBFJWG is now moving forward to adopt a long-term harvest strategy framework for Pacific bluefin tuna, along with its implementation measures.

7) Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

WCPFC5 adopted an Arrangement with CCAMLR. The Arrangement was signed by the Chair of CCAMLR on 12 January 2009 and remained in effect for three (3) years. On 10 March 2013, the Arrangement was renewed by removing the specific effective period and signed by the Chairs of both organizations.

8) Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

An MOU between CCSBT and WCPFC was signed following the endorsement of the Second Regular Session of the Commission in December 2005 at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

WCPFC13 and CCSBT agreed to a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Exchange and Release of Data between WCPFC and CCSBT and a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Endorsement of WCPFC ROP Observers for Observing Transshipments of Southern Bluefin Tuna on the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area with CCSBT. The signing of these two memoranda was concluded on 5 June 2017.

Recent ongoing collaboration with the CCSBT focused on aligning scientific data, shared risk assessments, and mitigation measures for ecologically related species – particularly regarding seabirds, sharks, and electronic monitoring – while navigating the sensitivities surrounding compliance-related information exchange.

9) Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP)

The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 adopted an MOU with ACAP.

10) North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

The two Secretariats developed an MOU, which was approved by WCPFC06 at Papeete, French Polynesia, in December 2009 and signed in December 2010.

11) South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (SPRFMO)

The signing of an MOU between the SPRFMO and the WCPFC was finalized on 6 August 2020. The objective of the MOU is to facilitate cooperation between the two Organizations to advance their respective objectives, particularly concerning stocks or species that are within the competence or mutual interest of both Organizations.

This MOU was renewed following approval from both Commissions with the removal of a term limit to the MOU. The Chairs of each organisation signed the renewed MOU on 22 May 2024.

12) North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

NPFC is an intergovernmental organization established to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in its Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur. Fisheries resources covered by the Convention are all fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and other marine species caught by fishing vessels within its Convention Area, excluding (i) sedentary species insofar as they are subject to the sovereign rights of coastal States and indicator species of vulnerable marine ecosystems as listed in, or adopted according to the NPFC Convention; (ii) catadromous species; (iii) marine mammals, marine reptiles and seabirds; and (iv) other marine species already covered by pre-existing international fisheries management instruments within the area of competence of such instruments. The WCPF Commission, at the WCPFC20 meeting in December 2023, approved the signing of the MOU with NPFC. The NPF Commission, at its 8th annual meeting in April 2024, adopted the MOU. The MOU was signed on 29 October 2024.

13) Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)

FIRMS, an FAO-coordinated global partnership established in 2004, collates and harmonizes validated fisheries summaries from regional and national bodies to feed into standardized global monitoring platforms and reference products. By formally joining the FIRMS partnership on June 8, 2026, the WCPFC enhances global transparency and retains full data ownership while committing to share public-domain stock updates and participate in the Steering Committee's governance, following a phased approach that ensures no submission of non-public domain data, no duplication of existing data reporting, and no need for additional resources.

OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

14) UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)

Together with SPC, WCPFC has continuously cooperated with CWP as a Member since 2008. The CWP meets approximately every three years. The objectives of the CWP are to (a) keep under continuous review the requirements for fishery statistics for research, policymaking, and management; (b) agree on standard concepts, definitions, classifications, and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics; and (c) make proposals and recommendations for action concerning the collection, collation, and dissemination of fishery statistics.

15) North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

PICES is an intergovernmental scientific organization established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine research in the northern North Pacific and adjacent seas. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. PICES continues to send an invitation letter to the Secretariat to attend the PICES Annual Meeting. The 2026 PICES meeting will be held from 24 to 30 October 2026 in Nanaimo, Canada. The meeting will convene ocean professionals across all career stages to advance interdisciplinary, actionable science and bridge the science-policy interface for sustainable marine management in a rapidly changing ocean.

16) International Seabed Authority (ISA)

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS. ISA is responsible for organizing and controlling mineral resource-related activities in the Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole, while ensuring the effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of deep-seabed mining activities. At WCPFC21 in December 2024, the Commission approved seeking observer status with ISA. At WCPFC22, the Secretariat informed the Commission that WCPFC had been granted observer status following the ISA Assembly meeting in July 2025.

In February 2026, the ISA invited the WCPFC Secretariat to participate in the Workshop on the Development of a Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP) for the North-west Pacific Ocean, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 21 May 2026. Following the workshop, the ISA Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) prepared the draft REMP for the North-west Pacific Ocean. Consistent with the Council's standardized procedure (ISBA/30/C/21), the ISA subsequently released the draft REMP and supporting scientific documentation for public consultation from 5 August to 3 November 2026. The WCPFC Secretariat will review the draft and submit comments to the ISA by the 3 November 2026 deadline.

17) Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) was adopted on 19 June 2023 as the third implementing agreement to UNCLOS. It aims to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction through international cooperation and implementation of UNCLOS provisions. The Agreement addresses marine genetic resources, area-based management tools including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and capacity-building and technology transfer, together with institutional, financial, and coordination arrangements. It entered into force in January 2026.

At WCPFC21, the Commission tasked the Secretariat with maintaining active engagement in the BBNJ process and reporting on developments relevant to the Commission. At WCPFC22, the Secretariat informed the Commission that implementation of the Agreement must not undermine existing instruments and bodies, including RFMOs, and highlighted that WCPFC scientific outputs could contribute to area-based management tools and environmental impact assessments. The Secretariat also reported on opportunities related to marine genetic resources, capacity-building, technology transfer, and the BBNJ Clearinghouse, and advised that it had participated in both BBNJ Preparatory Conference sessions while working with other tuna RFMO Secretariats to seek inclusion in future cooperation and coordination arrangements.

18) Common Oceans Tuna Project

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Common Oceans Tuna Project—officially titled *Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*—partners with the five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), including the WCPFC, to promote sustainable high-seas tuna production and marine biodiversity conservation. The project focuses on three key pillars: advancing science-based harvest strategies to ensure sustainable tuna stocks, strengthening

monitoring systems and electronic monitoring to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and reducing environmental impacts by mitigating bycatch of vulnerable species and promoting ocean-friendly Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs).

In early 2026, WCPFC participated in two GEF Common Oceans Tuna Project activities focused on management strategy evaluation (MSE) and climate change. At the MSE workshop in Rome, WCPFC presented progress on its harvest strategy work, while participants developed recommendations to strengthen MSE processes and promote greater harmonization and collaboration among the five tuna RFMOs. In February 2026, the Project Steering Committee reviewed progress on climate projection and reference model development, with revised Pacific analyses and preliminary climate projections scheduled for presentation at SC22. The project remains on track for completion in 2027.