



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

11-19 August 2026

Apia, Samoa (Hybrid)

**ISSUES ARISING FROM THE COMMISSION
(FROM SC21 AND WCPFC22)**

WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-IP01

30 July 2026

Submitted by the Secretariat and SPC-OFP

ISSUES ARISING FROM SC21 AND WCPFC22

("A" = Agenda)

Topic	SC21 Summary Report	WCPFC22 Outcomes	SC22
DATA AND STATISTICS THEME			
Reconciliation of size composition data for stock assessments (Project 127)	54. SC21 recognized the importance of reconciling size composition data for stock assessments and recommended continuation of the projects identified as part of phase 2 of this project. 55. SC21 requested the SSP circulate a draft pro forma of supporting information to accompany non-ROP size data submissions, for CCMs to review and provide feedback to the SSP. 56. SC21 encouraged CCMs to provide responses to the SSP on the draft pro forma and communicate with them on size data collection methods for non-ROP size data. 57. SC21 requested that the SSP provide a report to SC22 on the development of the pro forma and a summary of CCM responses, with the objective of working towards implementing a standardized pro forma (consistent with the requirements for size data provisions contained in the SciData guidelines) by 2027.		A3.1.2 WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP02
Operational data	69. SC21 supported the development of a standardized data reporting mechanism by the SSP to enhance the efficiency of processing required data submissions under the SciData guidelines. SC21 encouraged CCMs to work with the SSP as it prepares revised templates for consideration at TCC21.	16. The Commission: d) adopted the proposed standardized data submission templates contained in WCPFC22-2025-38 for SciData submissions.	A3.1.4 WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP03
Cannery Data	78. SC21 requested the SSP to plan a dedicated workshop in October 2025, to include participation by all interested CCMs, and particularly those CCMs that may have significant cannery data. The workshop objectives are to discuss existing and potential cannery data collections and to develop agreed WCPFC standards for using these data to adjust species composition and catch estimates from the purse seine fishery. Korea has generously offered to host this workshop.		A3.1.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-IP06
Review of CMM 2018-04	96. SC21 endorsed the formation of an informal intersessional working group led by the United States to review CMM 2018-04 for	16. The Commission:	A6.4.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-

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	sea turtles, noting that an examination of sea turtle data reporting requirements could be undertaken as part of this review. SC21 requested that this informal intersessional working group report back to SC22 and TCC22 on the outputs of its discussions.	a) endorsed the formation of an informal intersessional working group (led by the U.S.) to review CMM 2018-04 in 2026 and report back to SC22, TCC22, and WCPFC23.	EB-WP09
FAD logbook data fields	107. SC21 acknowledged the importance of developing a FAD logbook and generally supported the proposed minimum FAD logbook data fields, but recognized the concerns about the logical consistency, redundancy, and availability among logbook data fields. SC21 encouraged CCMs to work through the FAD MO IWG to refine the proposed minimum FAD logbook data fields.	20. The Commission endorsed the proposed FAD logbook data fields under Annex II, WCPFC22-2025-10, to be reported by vessel operators as a sound basis for implementation, noting the need for ongoing refinement of FAD design and material classifications as additional information becomes available. Related to the FAD logbook, the Commission further requested FADMO-IWG to continue considering approaches to streamline reporting arrangements, including data submission mechanisms, validation, and alignment with other reporting systems.	A3.1.5.1 ; A6.3.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP04
SciData	122. SC21 recommended revising section 1.5 in Annex 1 of the SciData guidelines as follows: - Weight of fish caught per set' to be replaced by 'Weight of catch per set' - Add 'Number of discarded/released individuals per set' to capture interactions with cetaceans 123. SC21 recommended revising the SciData guidelines in Annex 2 table A2.2.4 to add footnotes to the text "and other species as determined by the Commission" in the SPECIES CODE reference text field and in the NOTES columns for the following field: - DISCARDED/RELEASED NUMBER field to align with the requirements for reporting catches of cetaceans under CMM 2024-07 (table A2.2.4).	16. The Commission: b) adopted the proposed modifications to the SciData (outlined in paragraphs 122 and 123 of the SC21 Summary Report) to align with the requirements for reporting cetacean interactions under CMM 2024-07.	SciData Document updated Further updates will be discussed under A3.1.5

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ER and EM	156. SC21 noted that WCPFC21 tasked the ERandEM IWG to develop advice on potential changes to the interim EM standards to improve harmonization across RFMOs, and recommended forwarding SC21-ST-WP-12, “Report of the Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards Harmonization Workshop,” to the ERandEM IWG for its consideration.	24. The Commission endorsed the ER and EM IWG workplan (Attachment 6) and requested the IWG prioritize the audit and assurance framework, review EM data requirements not currently covered by the ROP minimum data fields, and refine the SSPs for onboard EM systems and ensure they align with neighboring RFMOs where appropriate. The Commission also tasked the ER and EM IWG with elaborating a draft CMM for the development of a WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Program in 2026, as appropriate.	A3.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST- WP09 , WP10 WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-IP07
FIRMS Partnership	169. Noting the value of alignment with other tuna RFMOs already participating in FIRMS, SC21 supported WCPFC progressing its engagement with the FIRMS partnership through a phased approach, consistent with FIRMS’ partnership structure. SC21 emphasized that this should involve no submission of non-public domain data, no duplication of existing data reporting, and no need for additional resources.		A8 WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-IP04
STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME			
Project 123: Scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software	194. SC21 recommended the SSP to collaborate with external contributors on this project to improve transparency, broaden expertise, and support the long-term development of the next-generation tuna stock assessment platform. 195. The report from the Informal Small Group 07 (Project 123: Scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software) is included as Attachment J. 196. ISG-07 provided the following project work areas to be conducted in 2026: • DTU work on external tagging analysis • Tuna model development collaboration (IATTC, etc); and • Operational Model/simulation testing framework to evaluate model performance.		A4.1.2 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA- WP01 , WP02 , and WP03 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP02

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	197. SC21 encouraged the continuation of work on the project with the revised 2026 work plan listed in the updated Project 123 Terms of Reference (TOR).		
Template for reporting stock assessment outcomes (Project 113b)	207. SC21 adopted the revised template as a guideline, with the caveat that certain elements, such as reference points, should be considered on a case-by-case basis for each species.	15. The Commission requested the Northern Committee to review and apply the WCPFC Management Advice and Uncertainty Template (SC21 SA-IP-22), consistent with the ISC25 agreement and the SC21 recommendation, and to incorporate this template as a guideline in its regular reporting of management advice for northern stocks. 17. The Commission: b) requested SC22 to advise whether the advice from the Committee on stocks whose catches are retained could explicitly address whether the use of a stock is sustainable using the language in the Convention.	ISC agreed to use the template (Paragraph 12, NC22 Summary Report) A4.7 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP25
Skipjack Stock Assessment	245. SC21 recognised the need for a regular peer review system for the WCPFC stock assessment, acknowledging the importance of conducting periodic, in-depth, independent reviews of stock assessments as an example of good global fisheries management practice, and recommended that this be considered at SC22.		A11 WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-WP06
Indicator Analysis	273. SC21 recommended that the SSP undertake a detailed analysis of BET weight trends by space, time, and fleet over the past 10 to 20 years. This will improve our understanding of these patterns and inform next year's assessment, which will be discussed at the next Pre-Assessment Workshop (PAW).		A4.3.2.1 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP13 Also related papers: WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-WP06; WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA- IP03 , IP06 , IP08 , IP11

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			A4.3.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-WP07
Provision of scientific information from the ISC	280. SC21 supported the ISC25 agreement to review the WCPFC management advice and uncertainty template, and encouraged the Northern Committee to request the ISC to apply this template as a guideline in its regular reporting of management advice to promote consistency and comparability of stock assessment results across the WCPO.		A4.4 A4.4.1 A4.4.2 A4.5.1 WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-WP03 Rev01 (refer to Section 13, page 77); WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-WP08 Rev02 and WP10
SWP SWO Stock Assessment	321. SC21 recommended several research avenues to help improve the next assessment, including: • additional conditional age-at-length data; • exploring the use of close-kin mark recapture; • the further exploration of a simplified modeling approach; and • SC21 also recommended moving data-moderate billfish assessments like Southwest Pacific swordfish and striped marlin to a two-year approach, similar to the shark assessments.		A4.6.9.2 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP23
SWP MLS Stock Assessment	354. SC21 recommended that stock status and management advice be based upon the Bayesian surplus production model (BSPM) results as the most parsimonious and robust assessment presented for the SW Pacific MLS stock. As such, the summary text, figures, and tables below are based on the BSPM. 371. SC21 noted that under projections using recent average catch, the stock had a 55% probability of recovering to greater than MSY levels by 2026 (Table MLS-04), and recommended not increasing catch above recent average levels. 372. SC21 also agreed that the projections requested in SC20 were likely not necessary based upon the results provided (Agenda item		No updates made on CMM for Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific (CMM 2006-04)

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	5.3).		
Oceanic Whitetip Shark Stock Assessment	409. SC21 additionally recommended continuing multi-model assessments for shark species, where possible, to address persistent concerns with data quality and structural assumptions. 411. SC21 recommended that the IWG-ROP assess and identify specific data gaps for enhancements needed in order to improve the accuracy and consistency of shark species identification and reporting, noting lower reporting rates of oceanic whitetip sharks by observers relative to logbooks in some regions and diminishing levels of length records since the implementation of CMM 2011-04. 412. Given persistent uncertainties about stock structure and life-history parameters, SC21 recommended that tagging, genetic, and life-history studies be conducted to improve the biological baseline for future stock assessments of oceanic whitetip shark.	17. The Commission: a) tasked the ROP-IWG to assess and identify potential enhancements needed to improve the accuracy and consistency of observer data on shark species identification and reporting.	A4.6.9.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP24; Paragraphs 39-41, ROPIWG08-2026-00 (Chairs Summary Report); Paragraph 25, ROPIWG09-2026-00 (Chair's Summary Report)
Biology from billfish in longline fisheries (Project 125)	428. SC21 agreed that the development of a structured sampling plan for sharks and billfish is important and necessary to the improvement of the stock assessments and advice provided to the Commission, and that an update to this project should be presented at SC22 after the completion of Project 118 (WCPFC billfish biological sampling plan).		A4.6.5 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP19, IP20
Stock connectivity scoping study (Project 128)	441. SC21 generally supported the proposed work for project 128a and further recommended the completion of the impact analysis of various connectivity hypotheses between the WPEA and the greater Pacific basin as part of the preparation for the yellowfin tuna assessment in 2026. If the outcomes of further genetic analyses indicate a different connectivity hypothesis than those considered in 2026, another sensitivity analysis of the new hypothesis would be necessary in future assessments. 442. SC21 also recommended that Project 128a collect bigeye tuna samples to apply a similar connectivity analysis.		Deferred to 2027
WCPFC biological sampling plans	457. SC21 noted the sampling plans for skipjack and bigeye tuna that were presented and agreed that the current methodology was robust. SC21 requested that these methods be applied to the other		A4.6.5 WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP20

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	tuna, billfish, and shark stocks, and these results should be provided at SC22.		
MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME			
South Pacific albacore JWG		40. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to work with the IATTC Secretariat to confirm the venue and dates for the first formal hybrid meeting in March 2026 as early as possible, for timely notification to both Commissions.	A5.1.3.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-IP03
South Pacific albacore management procedure	534. SC21 noted that it is desirable to constrain the number of candidate MPs evaluated to a manageable level. SC21 recommended that, in addition to the results presented in SC21-MI-WP-04, three additional MPs be developed for the Commission's consideration that more fully explore EPO (excluding overlap area) catch consequences as well as the use of a fixed effort assumption in the WCPFC-CA area equator to 10°S. 535. SC21 recommended that, to the extent possible, the results of this expanded set of seven candidate MP evaluations and all candidate MP evaluations in WCPFC21-2024-30 (those applied to longline and troll fisheries operating in the WCPFC-CA, south of the equator) be provided to the SPAMWS01 in September 2025 and to the Commission for their consideration and decision. 536. SC21 also requested that the SSP report the median time series of vulnerable biomass from the OMs for the historical period and to develop a table with the average nominal CPUE (kg/100 hooks) for the reference period (2020–2022) by CCMs with SPA catches.		A5.1.3.1 SPAMWS01-WP-01 ; SPAMWS02-WP-01 ; WCPFC22-2025-21 ; WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-WP07 , WP08
South Pacific albacore implementing arrangement		43. The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference for a South Pacific albacore allocation workshop (Attachment 18) to be held in New Zealand, tentatively on 7-8 May 2026.	WCPFC-SPAA01-2026 (Chair's Summary Report)
Bigeye operating	568. Mindful of the above concerns, SC21 supported the use of the proposed reference set of 24 OMs for the bigeye tuna as a basis for		A5.1.1.1 WCPFC-SC22-2026-

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models	further development. However, SC21 recommended that work should continue to promptly refine and expand the OM reference set to include alternative assumptions as listed below as much as practicable, with a view to the formal adoption of the OM reference set in 2026. SC21 noted that assumptions around the purse seine FAD closure period may not need to be included in the OM reference set, but rather that those assumptions can be addressed through specific MP design and sensitivity analysis. 569. SC21 noted that in 2026, SC22 is scheduled to review a new BET stock assessment in addition to adopting BET OMs, the latter being necessary for WCPFC23 to adopt BET MP. SC21 reiterated that as a default, development of a new assessment should not necessarily impact OM development unless SC recommends otherwise or SSP determines it necessary.		MI-WP01
Bigeye Management Procedure - Design	576. SC21 noted that the candidate EM (estimation method) to inform the BET MP is based on an age-structured production model implemented in Stock Synthesis 3, and the resulting HCR input is calculated as a relative measure of stock status: estimated SB/SBF=0 in the final year relative to the mean estimated SB/SBF=0 in 2012-2015 (SC21-MI-WP-06). SC21 endorsed the general approach of using an ASPM for the EM but made a number of technical suggestions for consideration in future work to refine the EM (e.g., model settings for sigma R, natural mortality, steepness, construction of CPUE indices) for further analysis, including re-evaluation of the EM under any expanded OM grid and taking into account the outcomes of agenda item 5.1.3.1.		WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-IP07 (BMW01 – Chair’s Summary Report) A5.1.1.2 WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-WP02 A5.1.1.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-WP03
Bigeye Target Reference Points and Performance Evaluation of Candidate Management Procedures	594. SC21 welcomed the development of a full feedback simulation modelling framework for BET and the initial testing of candidate MPs designed to achieve the three TRP options identified by WCPFC21. SC21 noted that the MP controls only a fraction of the BET catch (27% over the period 2020-2022) and stressed the importance of considering the dynamics of other fisheries that catch BET that are either managed under an MP (same or separate) or require assumptions about their management. SC21 also noted that specific settings within the BET MSE remained to be defined by the	47. The Commission agreed that three candidate target reference points (TRP) for bigeye tuna identified at WCPFC21 and based on the 2012–2015 depletion level, shall remain under evaluation as targets, and requested the SSP to continue assessing all three TRP options and provide comparative performance results for the Commission’s consideration at	WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-IP07 (BMW01 – Chair’s Summary Report) A5.1.1.4 WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-WP04

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	Commission. 595. A variety of alternatives for MP design settings were suggested by CCMs. Those need to be carefully considered by the Commission so that plausible assumptions are properly covered in the MSE testing. SC21 also draws the Commission's attention to the fact that the order of MP and MSE application under the mixed fishery harvest strategy framework (i.e., which species' MP goes first) could affect the performance across the individual MPs, and that this order of MP application has not yet been formally agreed upon. 596. SC21 recommended that WCPFC22 review the current proposed BET MSE framework and provide guidance on BET MP settings and assumptions. 597. SC21 considered that the six proposed performance indicators should be included in future presentations and encouraged the SSP to consider further options to help inform management decision-making, including through feedback from WCPFC22.	WCPFC23. 48. The Commission requested the SSP to include the probability of the stock remaining above MSY as an additional performance indicator and encouraged continued development of climate related robustness tests. 49. The Commission requested the SSP to develop additional candidate Management Procedures (MPs) that include controls for both the tropical longline and tropical purse seine fisheries. Additionally, the Commission provided the following guidance to the SSP in developing candidate MPs for bigeye tuna: a) Use of a three-year management period with a two-year data lag. b) Evaluate a range of HCRs controlling the tropical longline and tropical purse seine fleets, at different levels of FAD closure length (from 0 to 3 months) and tropical longline catch and/or effort, that form the basis of a continuum of MPs all tuned to achieve the same TRP. c) Evaluate the plausibility of developing additional HCRs through interpolating the outputs of the evaluated HCRs. d) Evaluation of HCRs with and without constraints to the outputs between management periods. e) Evaluation of the candidate TRPs identified by the Commission at WCPFC21.	

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		f) Evaluate fixed assumptions on catch outside of the MP control. When the Commission considers the MSE results, consideration should be given to how to translate and apply MP outputs to the range of existing management measures in place, including the longline catch limits, PNA+ Longline Vessel Day Scheme, and FAD management measures.	
Bigeye management workshop (BMW)		50. The Commission noted the importance of and need for a series of dedicated bigeye tuna management workshops (BMWs) to expedite the progress of implementation on the Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2022-03. 51. The Commission agreed to hold a series of BMWs in 2026 focused on the design of the BET management procedure. 55. The Commission requested the SSP to conduct sensitivity analyses addressing uncertainties in Indonesian, Philippine, and Vietnamese archipelagic fisheries, including scenarios representing recent levels, recent averages, historical peak catches, and new national management measures. 56. The Commission requested the SSP to evaluate MP performance under fixed assumptions for catches outside the MP's direct control. 57. The Commission acknowledged the guidance (Attachment 22) from PNA+ on the bigeye MP.	A5.1.1.5 WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-IP07 (BMW01 – Chair's Summary Report); BMW02: 1-2 October 2026
Mixed fishery MSE framework	613. SC21 reviewed the current status of YFT MSE development (SC21-MI-WP-08) and recommended that the initial yellowfin tuna	58. The Commission acknowledged the sequenced approach to the development of	A5.1.2.1 , A5.1.2.2 , A5.1.5

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	operating model reference set be constructed around the 2023 yellowfin stock assessment grid, consistent with the approach used for the other key tuna species. Additionally, it was recommended that the proposed OM grid be expanded to also take into account similar additional uncertainties as suggested for the BET OM grid, as well as recommendations from the past tuna assessment peer reviews. 614. SC21 further noted that a consistent set of performance indicators across yellowfin and bigeye tunas should be used. 615. SC21 noted that under the current proposed framework of the mixed fishery MSE framework, YFT is intended to be managed through the catch and effort constraints that are applied by the three other MPs without a dedicated MP for YFT. SC21 noted that testing of the mixed fishery harvest strategy framework would be needed to evaluate how effectively such a management framework can achieve YFT objectives.	Target Reference Points (TRPs) for bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and the range of factors to consider when developing an effective monitoring strategy for yellowfin that are related to the bigeye management procedure. When evaluating the outcomes for yellowfin tuna within the mixed fishery approach, the Commission supported the sensitivity scenarios outlined by the SSP in WCPFC22-2025-26 Rev01, and to use the same performance indicators as developed for bigeye tuna, which include maximum sustainable yield (MSY) metrics.	WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-WP05, WP06, IP02
Progress of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Work Plan	621. Based on these considerations, SC21 recommended that the Commission support a one-time extension of the current skipjack MP application period from 3 to 4 years. SC21 noted that such a change would need to be reflected in an amendment to CMM-2022-01. SC21 recommended that SC21-MI-WP-10 be provided to WCPFC22. 622. SC also reconfirmed the importance of capacity building for the implementation of the harvest strategy.	60. The Commission endorsed an updated Harvest Strategy Workplan (Attachment 24).	A5.1.4.1, A5.1.6 WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-WP09, IP03 and IP08
Pacific bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation	634. SC21 recalled paragraph 7 of CMM 2022-03 on Harvest Strategies, which requires both target and limit reference points for each stock, acceptable levels of risk, an HCR, and a monitoring strategy to be adopted. SC21 commended the work done by ISC and noted the results, and recommended that the NC reach an agreement on an MP for PBF, based on the performance evaluated through the MSE.		A5.1.7 WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-IP09; No agreement was reached on the adoption of the PBF MP (Para. 14, NC22 Summary Report)
Southwest Pacific swordfish management procedure	645. SC21 recognized that the Commission has agreed to develop a management strategy evaluation framework to evaluate candidate management procedures for Southwest Pacific swordfish and to consider developing a Harvest Strategy. SC21 endorsed the project	59. The Commission adopted the Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy as a Commission workplan to guide further	A5.1.8 WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-WP11

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	scope, addressing this decision provided in SC21-GN-WP-04, Project P21x03, and recommended that the development of the MSE take into account the key uncertainties highlighted in the 2025 swordfish assessment (for example, population scale, growth, and spatial structure), as these will be challenges for both the operating models and estimation methods. SC21 also recommended that the commission consider the broader Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy contained in Attachment 1 of the scope.	development of a management procedure for Southwest Pacific Swordfish (Attachment 23, WCPFC22 Summary Report).	
ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH THEME			
Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card	648. SC21 commends the SSP's work on developing new indicators for the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card and encourages the SSP to continue refining the criteria to support their use in management. 649. SC21 recommended that the SSP investigate the addition of estimated median phytoplankton size derived from satellite remotely sensed SST and chlorophyll-a data to the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card. 650. SC21 requested that the SSP provide a Working Paper to SC22 with outcomes from the proposed March 2026 workshops on Ecosystem Indicators and Climate Indicators.	35. The Commission requested SSP and the Secretariat to explore the development of early warning tools to anticipate climate-driven changes and encouraged CCM support for associated data and resource needs. 38. The Commission requested SSP to ensure that future assessments of climate impacts on tuna resources explicitly include the geographic regions of Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.	A6.1.1 , A6.1.2 WCPFC-SC22-2026- EB-IP01 , IP02 , IP03
Updates on the 2019 SEAPODYM Review	673. SC21 noted the progress made on the 2019 SEAPODYM Review and recommended that the SSP progress validation against other approaches to continue improving this important tool. SC21 agreed that this should include fitting to simulated data, focusing on population dynamics by evaluating variation (e.g., the Indian Ocean yellowfin data produced by SPM, Goethel, et al., 2024). 674. SC21 recommended that reporting of the reference models for tropical tunas based on SEAPODYM to SC22 include, as appropriate, standard convergence diagnostics, sensitivity analyses to fixed parameters and key model assumptions, likelihood profiles, sensitivity of model results to data used in the optimization period, and quantification of uncertainty in model estimates.		A6.2 WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP01 WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-IP04

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Research on non-entangling and biodegradable FADs	686. SC21 requested that additional work on the definition of biodegradable materials be conducted, including on the standards of biodegradable materials in the marine environment. SC21 suggested that the SSP develop a TOR for a project to be considered by SC22. 687. SC21 also recommended that similar work should be considered for materials used in the construction of anchored FADs and that the SSP develop a TOR for a project to be considered at SC22.		A6.3.1 WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-IP06 , WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP02 ; WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-IP05
Research on dFAD loss and abandonments	697. SC21 welcomed the monitoring of dFAD tracking buoys outside fishing grounds and the pilot projects to retrieve buoys and dFADs close to shore undertaken by the SSP in collaboration with partners, and requests the FAD MO IWG to facilitate discussion on ways to track FADs once they are not actively monitored by the owners. 699. SC21 considers it important to balance stakeholder concerns on the work encouraged of CCMs above through cooperation between purse seine industries, buoy providers, coastal states, territories, and other stakeholders. SC21 encourages CCMs and stakeholders to update the SC on the progress of this work at future meetings. 700. SC21 encouraged CCMs, the fishing industry, and other stakeholders to complete the ongoing stakeholder surveys, to participate in the February 2026 international workshop on mitigation of drifting FAD loss and abandonment in French Polynesia, and interested CCMs to participate in the collection of data on in-situ stranded FADs. 701. SC21 recommended that additional work should be conducted to better understand the impacts of stranded FADs on different habitats, including using FAD tracking data, and recognized the importance of the availability of historical data. 702. SC21 recognized that ongoing funding sources are needed for the continuation of the work led by the SSP on these topics. SC21 hence requested that a work plan and any relevant project proposals should be developed by the SSP on the assessment of options to increase FAD recovery, and requested the SSP provide the latest scientific information to the FADMO IWG and SC22.		A6.3.2 WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP03 ; WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-IP07

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FADMO-IWG Updates	708. SC21 agreed that the implementation of FAD recovery plans requires further discussion to overcome operational challenges and that the FADMO-IWG should consider incentive-based policies where practical. SC21 noted the work currently carried out by the SSP on this topic. 709. SC21 suggested the FAD MO IWG continue discussions on developing a WCPFC web portal for the reporting and tracking of FAD stranding events and noted the template on FAD sightings already developed by the SSP (Appendix 2 SC21-EB-WP-05), currently used by 16 CCMs and adopted by the IATTC. 710. SC21 noted that the effectiveness of the dFAD deployment limit as set in CMM 2023-01 in limiting FAD deployments can be impacted due to buoy deactivation practices, and requests that the FADMO-IWG and TCC21 further consider this issue.	21. The Commission tasked the FADMO-IWG to continue work in 2026 on streamlining reporting arrangements and reducing duplication—including exploring options for direct transmission of satellite buoy data from the PNA to the Secretariat and/or the SSP—and to continue discussions on appropriate timeframes for event-based reporting, with clear options and recommendations to be provided to the Commission in 2026.	A6.3.3 WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP04
Elasmobranchs	744. SC21 acknowledged the value of further research on post-release mortality of mobulids to accurately assess the mortality rate after fisheries interactions. 745. SC21 requested guidance from the SSP on how post-release survival data can be incorporated into bycatch impact assessments, and its potential value for evaluating the effectiveness of CMM 2019-05.		A6.7 WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-IP12
Cetaceans	761. SC21 supported the development of a Cetacean Identification Guide for the Pacific Ocean to support the implementation of CMM 2024-07. SC21 supported the TORs provided by the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which recognised non-budgetary implications for the WCPFC, and recommended that this be produced in collaboration with the SSP, WCPFC Secretariat, and other WCPO stakeholders.		International Whaling Commission Secretariat will submit a Cetacean Identification Guide to WCPFC23
Deep-sea mining	768. SC21 further encouraged the Secretariat to link WCPFC scientific advice to ISA processes such as the development of Regional Environmental Management Plans, and recommended strong WCPFC participation in future workshops to ensure tuna fisheries are considered in defining Areas of Particular Environmental Interest.		A6.6 WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-IP17

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OTHER PROJECTS			
Pacific Marine Specimen Bank (Project 35b)	772. SC21 endorsed the following recommendations from the PMSB Steering Committee: d. Endorse request from the WCPFC Secretariat that a Working Paper should be presented at SC22 on isotope, mercury, and other pollutant studies that have used PMSB samples		A7.1.1 WCPFC-SC22-2026-RP-P35b03
ADMINISTRATION			
SC Guidelines and process improvements	824. SC21 adopted the Guidelines for Paper Submission and Operations of the Scientific Committee (SC21-GN-WP-03) and requested that they be posted on the 'Key Documents' section of the WCPFC Website, with a link also included on each meeting page for future meetings of the Scientific Committee. 826. SC21 acknowledged the increasing challenge with the availability of stock assessments sufficiently in advance of SC meetings to facilitate CCM's review, which is partially due to the availability of CCM data to the SSP. SC21 again encouraged CCMs to make best efforts to submit their scientific data to the SSP earlier than the annual deadline of 30 April. SC21 recommended that the Commission consider the utility as well as the feasibility of including data from the previous year in stock assessments, noting that the current April 30 data submission deadline and August scheduling of the SC meeting pose significant challenges when including data from the previous year. SC21 recommended that if the Commission considers it important to retain data from the previous year in the stock assessments, it should prioritize consideration of the following constraints and the implications of that decision: 1) challenges for CCMs in providing annual scientific data submissions earlier than the current 30 April deadline; and 2) the current scheduling of SC meetings to be held in annually in August. SC21 requested that the Secretariat, in consultation with SPC, provide a paper outlining these challenges for consideration by WCPFC22. 836. SC21 noted the continued increasing workload of the Scientific Committee and the SSP, in particular, the added work related to harvest strategies in addition to traditional stock	16. The Commission: c) agreed to establish an 8-day meeting schedule as a default for future meetings of the Scientific Committee. 17. The Commission: c) requested SC22 and the SSP to review the current assessment workflow and identify realistic steps to improve efficiency, including earlier engagement with CCMs during assessment development, while maintaining the quality and integrity of scientific advice. d) requested the SC Vice-Chair to lead intersessional work to develop options for prioritizing the work of the Scientific Committee for consideration by SC22 and further requested SC22 to report its recommendations on prioritization to WCPFC23. e) requested the SC22 to further consider potential modifications to the current SciData submission	Guidelines for Paper Submission and Operations of the Scientific Committee A11.1 WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-WP05 and WP06; WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-IP06

Topic	SC21 Summary Report	WCPFC22 Outcomes	SC22
	assessment work, and recommended that the Commission consider the resources necessary to undertake this workload and provide guidance to SC22 on potential prioritization of work. SC21 recommended further discussion of this issue during SC22 based on advice from the Commission on the prioritization of SC's work. 837. SC21 recommended that the Commission agree to establish an 8-day meeting schedule as a default for regular meetings of the Scientific Committee.	deadline to a date earlier than 30 April. f) tasked the WCPFC Secretariat, Commission and Subsidiary Body Chairs, and SSP to evaluate options for adjusting meeting timetables for consideration by WCPFC23 and its subsidiary bodies in 2026.	