



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

11-19 August 2026
Apia, Samoa (Hybrid)

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-IP02

30 July 2026

Submitted by WCPFC Secretariat and SPC-OFP

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to inform the Scientific Committee (SC) of the relevant science-related activities undertaken since SC21.

II. Summary Report of the 21st Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

2. The 21st Regular Session of the Scientific Committee was convened from 13 to 21 August 2025 in Tonga. The Secretariat posted the Outcomes Document on the SC21 website on 1 September 2025, and intersessionally adopted the Summary Report, including the Executive Summary, on 3 November 2025.

III. Scientific Services from the SPC-OFP

3. In 2006, the Commission signed the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Commission's Scientific Services Provider (SPC-OFP) to provide scientific and data management services. In December 2009, the Commission and the SPC agreed to revise the MOU to provide for a three-year arrangement as directed by the Commission. In 2019, the MOU was changed to the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement). The MOA is composed of two sections: 1) general scientific, financial, and administrative agreement, which will be updated every three years, and 2) Annex I of the MOA (*Agreement for the Annual Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Pacific Community*) which will be updated each year to accommodate scientific services as requested by the Commission for each calendar year. The SPC and the WCPFC co-signed the 2026 scientific services in Annex 1 on 20 March 2026 (**Attachment A**).

4. The SPC-OFP produced or was involved in producing over 80 papers and reports for SC22, covering all four theme issues of the SC plenary agenda, steering committee meetings, online discussion forum topics, and provided *ad hoc* advice and support throughout the year. In addition, the SPC-OFP led or assisted with the following activities:

- Participated in TCC21 (23 – 30 September 2025) and WCPFC22 (1 – 5 December 2025), producing several additional key scientific papers and presentations for each meeting;
- Participated in the second South Pacific albacore management workshop, online (5 November 2025);

- Participated in the First Bigeye Management Workshop (20-21 May 2026), producing several additional key scientific papers and presentations for the meeting;
- Participated in the first WCPFC and IATTC Joint Working Group on the Management of South Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries, online, 18-19 March 2026;
- Attended the First South Pacific Albacore Allocation Workshop, Wellington, New Zealand (25 – 26 June 2026);
- Facilitated the 20th Tuna Data Workshop in Nadi, Fiji (9 – 13 March 2026) to assist in the compilation of CCM's tuna fishery data;
- Hosted the Pre-assessment Workshop in Noumea, New Caledonia (24 – 27 March 2026). The meeting focused on the 2026 stock assessments for the bigeye and yellowfin tunas. It also covered technical developments in Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), specifically addressing challenges in MSE development for mixed fishery and management procedures for bigeye tuna. Other key topics included updates to the MULTIFAN-CL modeling framework, as well as the SEAPODYM.
- Assisted the WPEA Tuna Data Review and Annual Tuna Catch Estimates Workshops hosted by the Project participating countries (Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam);
- Updated regularly the tables on Annual Catch and Effort estimates (the “ACE tables” <https://www.wcpfc.int/sustainability/scientific-data>) to provide additional estimates to the Commission meetings;
- In Q1 2026, SPC and the WCPFC Secretariat developed and introduced the SciData web portal to support standardized electronic submission, validation and management of scientific data.
- Coordinated the PTTP Cruise Planning Advisory Committee meeting (27 February 2026) and the 20th PTTP Steering Committee meeting (2 July 2026) electronically and is conducting the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (PTTP) Western Pacific cruises;
- Continued the Biological Sampling Programme and hosted the 8th WCPFC Pacific Marine Specimen Bank Steering Committee meeting electronically on 24 July 2026; and
- Progressed the relevant SC projects agreed over the 2025/2026 period (see Section IV);
- Participated in the 7th, 8th and 9th E-reporting and E-monitoring Intersessional Working Group, online, 19 November, 2 April and 16 June;
- Participated in the 7th, 8th and 9th Regional Observer Programme Intersessional Working Groups, online, 23 September, 1 April and 3 June.

IV. Progress of the SC Work Programme Activities

5. The WCPFC22 approved the 2026 SC budget in **Attachment B**. The progress of SC work programmes conducted in 2025-2026 is briefly noted below, with Commission budgets in parentheses:

a) *Project 35b: WCPFC Pacific Marine Specimen Bank (\$ 111,711)*

The progress report for Project 35b is now available on the SC22 website ([WCPFC-SC22-2026-RP-P35b01](#)). The WCPFC Pacific Marine Specimen Bank project has been continuing since 2016, and the 8th Steering Committee meeting was held electronically on [24 July 2025](#). CCMs are invited to visit the PMSB website: <https://www.spc.int/ofp/PacificSpecimenBank>.

b) *Project 42: Pacific-wide tagging project (\$950,000)*

WCPFC22 endorsed the 2026-2028 PTTP Work Plan and allocated \$950,000 for 2026. The PTTP report ([WCPFC-SC22-2026-RP-PTTP01](#)) details activities from 2025-2026, including research voyages, tag recoveries, and seeding activities, while highlighting 2025 issues for the PTTP Steering Committee and outlining plans for 2026-2028. Funded since 2006 by various international entities, PTTP focuses on collecting data on exploitation rates, movement, habitat

utilization, and the impact of FADs on tuna behaviors. Due to the lack of a suitable tagging platform in 2024, the decision was made to focus on expanding tag seeding activities ([SC20-RP-PTTP-02](#)). In 2025, the Central Pacific tagging cruise (CP-17) was undertaken, starting from June 25 to August 9, 2025, on the F/V Gutsy Lady 4, originating in Honolulu, Hawaii. Key tagging platforms were refurbished and increasing tag seeding efforts were undertaken to improve reporting rates. The PTTP also emphasizes the importance of the Tag Recovery Network, aiming to enhance tag recovery processes and engagement with the fishing industry. The 20th Steering Committee meeting was held electronically on 2 July 2026, and its report is in [WCPFC-SC22-2026-RP-PTTP02](#).

c) *Project 100d: Application of CKMR methods to SP albacore and cost-benefit evaluation and prioritization of CKMR to WCPFC stocks (\$75,000)*

This project builds on the foundation established under Project 100c by advancing the application of Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR) for South Pacific albacore and supporting future CKMR use across WCPFC-managed stocks. The project will generate CKMR-derived demographic parameters, including absolute adult abundance, mortality rates, and population connectivity, with the aim of incorporation into the 2027 South Pacific albacore stock assessment through the collection, genotyping, and analysis of additional tissue samples. In parallel, P100d will deliver a comprehensive cost-benefit evaluation of CKMR applications for WCPFC tuna, billfish, shark, and other stocks, providing guidance on sampling requirements, timelines, logistical considerations, genomic development needs, and expected costs. By maintaining the sampling capacity established under P100c and leveraging existing design studies and stock assessment knowledge, P100d aims to reduce uncertainty in stock assessments while informing the Scientific Committee on priorities and opportunities for future CKMR implementation across the Convention Area. The progress report of this project is available in [WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-WP11](#).

d) *Project 121: Ecosystem and Climate Indicators (USD 15,000)*

The project aims to create candidate ecosystem and climate indicators, provide technical advice on their evaluation, and develop communication tools for WCPFC stakeholders. The project includes technical analyses, workshops with members and experts, Scientific Committee reporting, routine indicator preparation, and the development of communication tools, such as report cards. The project is planned over five years, funded by the Green Climate Fund Regional Tuna Programme and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Climate Science for Ensuring Pacific Tuna Access Project. WCPFC's funding of US\$20,000 for 2025 was intended for expert participation, and US\$15,000 annually for 2026-2027 for indicator validation and communication support. The progress report of this project is on [WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-IP01](#).

e) *Project 122 and 122a: Scoping Study and Global Workshop on Longline Effort Creep in the WCPO (USD 20,000)*

Project 122a supports the first Global Joint Tuna RFMO Longline CPUE Technical Workshop, to be held from 12 to 16 October 2026 in Yokohama, Japan. Building on the findings of WCPFC Project 122, the project has expanded into a collaborative global initiative to improve the scientific basis and technical consistency of longline CPUE standardisation across tuna RFMOs. Preparations are well advanced, with the draft agenda and supporting review paper completed, five invited experts confirmed, external funding secured, and more than 70 participants registered. The workshop is expected to deliver technical recommendations and peer reviewed publications to strengthen longline CPUE standardisation and related analytical practices across tuna RFMOs. The report of this project is in [WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP18](#).

f) *Project 123: Scoping the Next Generation of Tuna Stock Assessment Software (USD 50,000)*

Project 123 is a three-year initiative (2024 to 2026) to develop a pathway for transitioning WCPFC tuna stock assessments from MULTIFAN-CL to next-generation assessment software. The project aims to ensure future assessment platforms remain robust, transparent, and capable of supporting harvest strategies, management procedures, and emerging analytical requirements. Current work is focused on defining software design requirements, evaluating candidate modelling approaches, exploring the integration of spatio-temporal methods and tagging information, and strengthening collaboration with technical partners, including IATTC and the Technical University of Denmark, to guide the future development and implementation of the new assessment framework. The progress report of this project is in [WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-WP01](#).

g) *Project 127a: Review and reconciliation of size data collected in the WCPFC-CA for stock assessment purposes (USD50,000)*

The project aims to review and improve the collection and use of size composition data for tuna stock assessments within the framework of the WCPFC. The project focuses on addressing inconsistencies, sampling issues, and data processing challenges to support more effective stock assessments. Key activities include reviewing historical and current data collection methods, identifying sampling inadequacies, addressing data inconsistencies, and collaborating with relevant CCMs to develop solutions. The project is expected to take one year, with initial reporting to SC21 and final reporting to SC22 and has an approved budget of \$50,000. The report of this project is detailed in [WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP02](#).

h) *Project 129: Building an age-length data stream for tuna assessments (USD 80,000)*

This multi-phase project aims to reduce a major source of uncertainty in WCPFC tuna stock assessments by establishing a long-term age-length monitoring program for key tuna species. The project will develop and validate rapid ageing techniques, including otolith morphometrics and epigenetic methods, to support large-scale collection of paired age and length data for integration into stock assessments. Implemented in four phases from 2026 to 2029, the project will improve estimates of growth, age structure, and population dynamics, strengthening the scientific basis for stock assessments and fisheries management. The progress report of this project is available in [WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-WP12](#).

i) *Project 130: Joint bycatch assessment workshop for billfish and sharks (USD 60,000)*

This project aims to improve and standardize stock assessment methods for Pacific billfish and sharks, particularly data-limited species. It will convene a pan-Pacific workshop involving WCPFC, IATTC, ISC, and other tuna RFMOs to evaluate current assessment approaches, identify best practices, and develop guidance on assessment methods, fishery characterization, reference points, and future assessment priorities. The project will strengthen the consistency, transparency, and scientific robustness of bycatch species assessments across the Pacific. The report of this project is available in [WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-IP21 Rev01](#).

V. Cooperation with other organizations

6. The Secretariat was represented at the following science-related meetings during the last 12 months:

- Common Oceans Tuna Project Global Tuna RFMO Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop, 20 - 22 January 2026, Rome, Italy
- Sixteenth Meeting of the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG), 3–6 March 2026 in Canberra, Australia, WCPFC Secretariat participated virtually

- Third intersessional meeting of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWGI03), 11-13 March 2026, New Port Beach, California, USA
- First meeting of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC Working Group on South Pacific Albacore Tuna, 18 - 19 March 2026, virtual;
- SPC Pre-Assessment Workshop, 24 – 27 March, Noumea, New Caledonia;
- ISA Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP) for the Northwest Pacific Ocean, Busan, Republic of Korea, from 18–21 May 2026
- Twenty-sixth ISC Plenary Meeting, 19 - 29 June 2026, Taipei; and
- WPEA Project-related workshops and meetings for data review, annual catch estimates, and other related meetings were conducted online and/or in person.

VI. Research Projects

Japanese Trust Fund Project

7. In 2026, the Japanese Government, through the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), gave a total budget of US\$145,082, including WCPFC's 7.5% administration fee. Four project proposals were approved for 2026 from the following CCMs: FSM (1), SPG (1), and Tonga (3). The Steering Committee will review the progress of each project at the margins of SC22. The JTF Status Report ([WCPFC-SC22-2026-RP-JTF011](#)) provides a detailed description of progress.

West Pacific East Asia Project

8. The current WPEA-ITM Project, funded by the New Zealand government, continued to conduct key data collection activities in Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam. Details are described in the WPEA-ITM Project Update ([WCPFC-SC22-2026-RP-WPEA01](#)).

VII. Voluntary Contributions from Members and Observers

9. Members and observers of the Commission have voluntarily contributed financial support toward the scientific work of the Commission. In December 2024, the European Union provided approximately EUR 218,000 to fund Project 110a: *Additional Work on Trialling and Supporting the Development of Non-entangling and Biodegradable FADs in the WCPO*, and EUR 200,000 for Project 120: *Updated Reproductive Biology of Tropical Tunas*. The Korean government continues to support Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (PTTP), having contributed approximately USD 170,000 annually, with future commitments to be made on an annual basis. Additional funding support for the Commission's harvest strategy work, application of cross-kin mark recapture, Ecosystem and Climate Indicators, and other science projects was also provided by members and observers, including the European Union, New Zealand, the United States, IATTC, CSIRO, and ISSF.

ANNEX 1**Agreement for the Annual Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Pacific Community**

(Pursuant to Article 2 of MOA)

I. Period covered by this Agreement

This Agreement is for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2026. It will be reviewed annually and extended by one calendar year.

II. Specific Services and Terms of Reference for the Provision of Scientific Services for 2026

The scientific services to be provided to the Commission by SPC's OFP during the period of this Agreement are as follows:

Activity	Description of Service	Specific Outputs	Timing	Performance ¹
<i>Core SPC services</i>				
1. Data management, statistical analyses, and related services				
i.	Data Management			
	1) Incorporate data provided by Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) under the Commission's data provision policy into existing databases and facilitate access of Commission Secretariat staff to those data as appropriate.	- Databases updated and installed at WCPFC headquarters - Updated database query tools for regional databases available at WCPFC headquarters - WCPFC staff training as required	January-December	
	2) Produce a summary of the status of the provision of scientific data to the Commission.	- SC / TCC / WCPFC papers as required - Continued update of	Mid-July, mid-September	

¹ To be completed by SPC and WCPFC in November each year and provided as a paper to the Regular Session of the WCPF Commission and its appropriate subsidiary bodies (e.g., FAC)

		the WCPFC Scientific Data Catalogue	and mid-November	
ii.	Compilation of catch and effort estimates			
	1) Compile estimates of annual catches by species, gear type, and flag, as specified in the procedures for <i>Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission</i> AND in support of the functions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.	SC papers	Mid-July	
	2) Estimates of annual catches by vessel flag, EEZ, archipelagic waters, and IATTC/WCPFC overlap area for use in determining the catch component of the Commission's assessed contributions	Catch table provided to the Commission Secretariat	Late-Sept	
	3) For catches for which estimates are not otherwise available, conduct statistical analyses to estimate catches, particularly regarding: a) purse-seine catches of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna, b) discards of target tuna species	SC papers	Mid-July	
	4) Provide updates of catch estimates of non-target species, including estimate uncertainties (e.g., CVs) of bycatch for the purse seine fishery, noting the challenges of reduced observer coverage through the Covid period: a) SC14 recommended that the Scientific Services Provider continue the work on purse seine and longline bycatch estimates and provide updates every 2-3 years (Paragraph 83, SC14 summary report). The latest papers provided include: • <i>PS bycatch estimates: SC14-ST-IP-04, SC17-ST-IP-06 and SC20-ST-WP-07</i> • <i>LL bycatch estimates: SC14-ST-WP-03, SC16-ST-IP-11, SC19-ST-WP-02 and SC21-ST-WP-09</i> The LL bycatch estimate update is due for SC24 in 2028 and the next purse seine bycatch update is due for SC23 in 2027, both under a 3-year cycle. b) Future papers consider the following SC17 recommendation (Para 58, SC17 Summary Report):	SC papers	Mid-July	

	58. SC17 recommended that future analyses providing estimates of purse seine bycatch include estimates of marine mammal bycatch to the species level, where possible, to allow for additional monitoring of bycatch and bycatch rates of marine mammal species. c) Estimates of marine mammal/cetacean interactions can be produced if requested (ref: SC17-ST-IP-10, SC19-EB-WP-10).			
	5) Preparation of data summaries to support the CMR process as independent verification		Jan-Dec	
	6) Implement, maintain, and support the use of the standardized SciData submission templates adopted by the Commission in WCPFC22-2025-38, including keeping the templates and associated technical specifications in an accessible format and providing technical support to CCMs to enable consistent adoption and correct completion of the templates (<i>para 16d, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>).		Jan-Dec	
iii.	Data dissemination			
	1) Produce and publish the Tuna Fishery Yearbook on the Commission's website, which contains annual catch estimates by gear type, flag, and species.	A yearbook published on WCPFC website	Dec	
	2) Disseminate public domain catch, effort, and size data on the Commission's website at an agreed-upon level of resolution, enhancing where possible, while ensuring that the WCPFC rules for public domain data are applied.	Update WCPFC public domain webpage	Jan-Dec	
	3) Continue to produce the <i>Overview of Tuna Fisheries in the WCPO, including Economic Conditions</i> paper and summaries of northern stocks in the WCPFC Convention Area; and more information on the "other" fisheries (<i>Para 38, SC15 Summary Report</i>).	SC paper	Mid-July	
	4) Generate the Annual Catch and Effort (ACE) tables based on the latest data, publish the ACE Tables on the relevant WCPFC webpages according to the agreed schedule.	Update WCPFC ACE Tables webpage	Mid-July, mid-September and November	
	5) Generate and disseminate the latest WCPFC public domain bycatch	Update WCPFC BDEP	November	

	data, including data defined in the <i>Bycatch Data Exchange Protocol</i> (BDEP) on the WCPFC public domain webpage.	and public domain bycatch webpages		
	6) Update and disseminate the WCPFC Data Catalogue via the WCPFC Data Catalogue webpage.	Update WCPFC Data Catalogue webpage	November	
iv.	<i>Technical / policy advice</i>			
	1) Provide <i>ad-hoc</i> advice on science and data-related implications of relevant MCS activities, including, but not limited to: transshipment, the regional observer programme, port sampling, VMS, port state measures, catch documentation schemes, the implementation of e-reporting and e-monitoring (ER and EM), etc.	Advice provided on request	Jan - Dec	
	2) Provide advice and tasks on data-related procedures of the Commission, e.g., <i>Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to and Dissemination of Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission</i> , and <i>Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission</i> ".	Advice provided on request	Jan - Dec	
	3) Provide support for coordination and collaboration on data-related matters between the ISC and WCPFC, including specific tables showing provisions of operational-level catch and effort data for the North Pacific region from all CCMs.	Advice provided on request	Jan-Dec	
	4) Related to the evaluation of the purse seine fishing effort (SC20-ST-WP-03), conduct further work to better understand relationships between fishing behaviours and strategies, reporting requirements, and estimations of purse seine fishing effort. (<i>Paragraph 88, SC20 Summary Report</i>)	SC paper/potential SC project ToR	Mid-July	
	5) Apply the Tuna Biological Sampling Plan methodology developed under Project 117 to additional stocks, including other tuna species and, as appropriate, selected billfish and/or shark stocks including development of sampling plans for billfish stocks using the Project 117 methodology (<i>para. 124 – 125, SC21 Outcomes Document</i>).	SC papers	Mid-July	
	6) Prepare a Working Paper for SC22 describing isotope ratios, mercury and pollutant studies using PMSB samples, including progress, preliminary results (if any), relevance, and recommendations for future work (<i>para. 203d, SC21 Outcomes Document</i>).	SC papers	Mid-July	

2. Stock assessment and related analytical services				
v.	Target species stock assessments and auxiliary analyses			
	1) Conduct the following specific list as the 2026 priority work for the scientific services (Sub-item 1), SSP's additional resourcing, and additional stock assessment scientist (Sub-item 2) in Table WP-01 of the SC21 Summary Report: a) WCPO bigeye and yellowfin tuna stock assessments; b) Ongoing work on WCPO tuna stock assessments; c) Development, support, and consolidation work on MULTIFAN-CL, including work addressing the Yellowfin Peer Review recommendations; d) Ongoing work on improving the workflow and systems for efficient repeatability of stock assessments and supporting analyses; and e) Ongoing work on assessment diagnostics based on SC discussions.	SC papers	Mid-July	
	2) Undertake analyses of catch and effort data, including operational-level data where possible, to construct indices of abundance for target and non-target species; and any additional research on biological parameters, to support stock assessments.	SC paper(s)	Mid-July	
	3) Make available stock assessment data, model settings and results files.	Link to input files, model settings, and output files posted on SPC-FAME website, and link on WCPFC website	Dec	
	4) Present indicator papers for bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack tuna, and South Pacific albacore for those years when a stock assessment is not conducted, with explanatory details for the figures and a brief interpretation of the trends.	SC paper	Mid-July	
	5) Trends paper for the South Pacific albacore longline and troll fisheries.	SC paper	Mid-July	
	6) Reporting template for stock status and management advice a) To provide the 2026 stock assessment results, review and	Included in SC stock assessment papers	Mid-July	

	appropriately apply: - the SC20 recommendations on reporting guidelines for stock status and management advice (as outlined in paragraphs 350–353 of the SC20 Summary Report), and - the Commission's feedback on the reporting template (as noted in paragraph 18 of the WCPFC21 Outcomes Document).			
	7) Support SC22 in responding to the Commission's request that advice on stocks whose catches are retained explicitly address whether the use of a stock is sustainable using language consistent with the Convention, including preparing draft text options and supporting technical rationale for SC consideration (<i>para 17b, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>).	SC paper	Mid-July	
vi.	<i>Model development and refinement</i>			
	1) Refinement or development of stock assessment models, as appropriate, and refinement of models for CPUE standardization, model ensemble approaches, and harvest strategy framework.	SC paper(s) as required	Mid-July	
	2) Support SC22 discussions on the peer review framework and timetable for WCPFC stock assessments (SC21 outcomes document para 27).	SC paper as required	Mid-July	
3. Management analyses and CMM performance monitoring				
vii.	<i>Conservation and Management Measure performance monitoring</i>			
	1) According to Paragraph 52 of the Measure, review CMM 2023-01 (<i>CMM for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the WCPO</i>) annually and provide advice to SC to ensure that the various provisions have the intended effect. 2) Consider the Commission's request in paragraph 32 of the WCPFC21 Outcomes Document and advise SC22 when providing a review of the CMM 2023-01 under the Management Issues Theme session. <i>32. The Commission tasks the SC and TCC to consider the issues of certain CCMs without baseline catch limit under paragraph 48 of CMM 2023-01 and provide advice to the Commission.</i>	SC / TCC/ WCPFC papers, and tables or figures as required	Mid-July, mid-September and mid-November	

viii.	Development of Harvest Strategy Framework			
	1) Updated Indicative Harvest Strategy Work Plan 2) Conduct items specified in the <i>Revised HS Work Plan</i> (Attachment 24, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document). 3) Recognizing that the Government of New Zealand funds the harvest strategy work through the ‘Sustainable Pacific Fisheries’ project rather than under the WCPFC SSP contract, carry out tasks outlined below and update the progress on developing the harvest strategy framework by incorporating relevant recommendations from previous Commission and subsidiary body meetings as required.	SC / TCC / WCPFC papers	Mid-July	
	A. <u><i>Bigeye harvest strategy development</i></u> 1) Continued assessment of the three candidate TRPs and submission of comparative performance results for Commission consideration (<i>para. 47, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>) 2) Evaluate BET MSE performance including probability of the stock remaining above MSY as a performance indicator in MP/TRP evaluations; and continue development of climate-related robustness tests (<i>para. 48, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>) 3) Develop additional candidate MPs that include controls for both tropical longline and tropical purse seine fisheries, consistent with Commission guidance (three-year management period with two-year data lag; evaluate range of HCRs incl. FAD closure length and LL catch/effort; interpolation plausibility; with/without inter-period constraints; TRP evaluation; fixed assumptions for catch outside MP control) (<i>para 49, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>). 4) 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 (<i>para 55, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>). 5) Provide technical work and support for development of a BET MP through the 2026 Bigeye Management Workshop series and related processes (<i>para 50-54, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>).	SC / TCC / WCPFC papers	Mid-July	

	6) Evaluate MP performance under fixed assumptions for catches outside the MP's direct control (<i>para 56, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>).			
	B. <u>Yellowfin harvest strategy development</u> Continue to support the Commission's harvest strategy development for yellowfin tuna by (i) applying the sequenced approach to the development of Target Reference Points (TRPs) for bigeye and yellowfin tunas, (ii) taking into account factors relevant to an effective monitoring strategy for yellowfin that are related to the bigeye management procedure, and (iii) evaluating yellowfin outcomes under the mixed fishery approach using the sensitivity scenarios outlined in WCPFC22-2025-26_Rev01 and the same performance indicators as developed for bigeye tuna, including MSY metrics measures (<i>para 58, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>).			
	C. <u>South Pacific albacore harvest strategy development</u> Support the SPA MP implementation such as MP operation and associated assessment and advisory support. (<i>para. 41, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>)			
	D. <u>Skipjack harvest strategy development</u> Monitor performance of the skipjack MP using available data through 2025, during the period where the Commission continues to apply the tropical tuna CMM			
ix.	Ecosystem and Climate Indicators			
	1) Noting WCPFC project 121, update the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card and present annually to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. 2) Provide technical assistance as needed to the WCPFC Secretariat, the Commission, and its subsidiary bodies in implementing the <i>WCPFC Climate Change Workplan 2024 – 2027</i> (Attachment 14, WCPFC21 Outcomes Document) and the <i>CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment</i> consultancy (Attachment 14, WCPFC21 Outcomes Document). 3) Explore development of early warning tools to anticipate climate-	SC / TCC / WCPFC papers		

	driven changes affecting stocks/fisheries (<i>para.35, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>) 4) Ensure that future assessments of climate impacts on tuna resources explicitly include the geographic regions of Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam (<i>para.38, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>). 5) Conduct and/or support the March 2026 Ecosystem and Climate Indicator workshops and prepare a Working Paper for SC22 summarizing workshop outcomes, recommendations, and next steps, including investigating the inclusion of estimated median phytoplankton size (derived from satellite-remote sensed SST and chlorophyll-a data) in the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card (<i>para. 164 – 165, SC21 Outcomes Document</i>).			
x.	Wider ecosystem and bycatch mitigation theme activities			
	1) Report the reference models for tropical tunas based on SEAPODYM to SC22 including (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.	SC paper	Mid-July	
	2) Related to Projects 110 and 110a, develop two project TORs for consideration by SC22 to undertake additional work on the definition of biodegradable materials for dFADs - including a review of standards relating to biodegradability in the marine environment - and similar work relating to materials used in the construction of anchored FADs (<i>para. 174 – 175, SC21 Outcomes Document</i>).	SC papers	Mid-July	
	3) Provide guidance on how post-release survival data [specifically for mobulid rays] can be incorporated into bycatch impact assessments, and its potential value for evaluating the effectiveness of CMM 2019-05 (SC21 outcomes report para 195)			
x.	Analyses to support development of Conservation and Management Measures			
	1) Evaluate the potential impacts of existing, new or revised	SC / TCC / WCPFC	Jan - Dec	

	management measures, and the results of which may be suggested to the Commission and/or meetings of its subsidiary bodies as requested.	papers and <i>ad hoc</i> advice, as required		
	2) Provide data and advice regarding the revision of CMMs as requested.	SC / TCC / WCPFC papers as required	Jan - Dec	
4. Other advisory and technical services				
xi.	Other advisory and technical services			
	1) Support continuing Intersessional Working Groups for 2026, including the SP Albacore Roadmap IWG, SPA management workshops, bigeye management workshops (BMW), the FAD Management Options IWG, and other FAD-related issues tasked by the Scientific Committee and the Commission, subject to funding..		Jan-Dec	
	2) Provide technical evaluation and options to support consideration of adjustments to meeting timetables, in coordination with the Secretariat and Chairs including some potential considerations and modifications on the SciData provision deadline earlier than 30 April (<i>paras. 17e-f, WCPFC22 Outcomes Document</i>).	SC paper	Mid-July	
	3) Support the SPAJWG process during 2026		Jan-Dec	
	4) Provide any requested information and analyses to support the SPA allocation workshop discussions		Jan-Dec	
5. Oversight of WCPFC-funded or supported projects				
xii.	1) Oversight of the Commission-supported projects (as of January 2026) and appropriate reporting, including consideration of SC recommendations related to each contract: • Project 35b: Maintenance of the WCPFC Pacific Marine Specimen Bank • Project 42: Implementation of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Program • Project 100d: Application of CKMR methods to SP albacore and cost-benefit evaluation and prioritisation of CKMR to WCPFC stocks (tuna, billfish, sharks) • Project 110a: Extension of non-entangling and biodegradable			

	FADs (duration 2024-2027) • Project 114: Improved Cannery Receipt Data • Project 120: Updated reproductive biology of tropical tunas (duration 2024-2026) • Project 121: Ecosystem and Climate Indicators (duration 2023-2027) • Project 122a: Scoping study on longline effort creep in the WCPO (duration 2024-2026) • Project 123: Scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software (duration 2024-2026) • Project 125: Biology from billfish samples in LL fisheries (duration 2025-2028) • Project 126: Developing sampling strategy for sharks (no cost extension) • Project 127a: Reconciliation of size composition data collection (duration 2025-2026) • P21X05: Building an age-length data stream for tuna assessments • P21X07: Joint bycatch assessment workshop for billfish and sharks			
	2) Provide a “provisional” list of the SPC-OFP documents for SC22 to the WCPFC Secretariat (Science Manager) as early as possible but no later than <u>15 April 2026</u> for the finalization of the SC22 provisional agenda.	List of SPC documents for SC22	By 15 April 2026	

III. Financial Support to be provided by the Commission

The financial support to be provided by the Commission to SPC’s OFP for the services outlined above is as follows:

Item	Cost basis	USD
Data management, stock assessment, and other advisory and technical services	Costs based on SPC costs of scientific staff positions, administration costs, travel to SC, TCC and WCPFC annual sessions, and computer support.	1,041,164
Providing essential computer support and software		187,484

development for stock assessment ²		
SPC's additional stock assessment scientist		171,666
Total Commission funding		1,400,314

IV. Schedule for Payments and Bank Details for Payment

The schedule of payments shall be as follows:

28 March 2026 (or before)	USD 350,079	Name of Bank	Banque de Nouvelle-Caledonie
30 April 2026 (or before)	USD 350,079	Address	25 av Henri Lafleur Victoire, Noumea, New Caledonia
30 June 2026 (or before)	USD 350,078	Account name	La Communauté du Pacifique - USD
30 September 2026 (or before)	USD 350,078	Account Number (IBAN/Swift code)	IBAN : FR76 1488 9000 8181 7160 0101 206 Swift Code: CEPANCNM

Rhea Moss-Christian
Executive Director, WCPFC

Date: _____ March 2026

Karen Mapusua
Acting Deputy Director General (Science and Capability), SPC

Date: _____ March 2026

^{2 2} Terms of reference for this resourcing includes, but is not limited to:

- Further enhancement of MULTIFAN-CL and its use in stock assessment to implement SC recommendations
- Maintain and further develop the MULTIFAN-CL website to facilitate access to software and support
- Continue to implement a formal framework for management of MULTIFAN-CL code updates, testing new developments, training, and updating the users' guide

WCPFC22's Approved Budget for 2025 Scientific Committee Projects

	<i>Approved budget</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure</i>	<i>Indicative budget</i>	<i>Approved budget</i>	<i>Indicative budget</i>	<i>Indicative budget</i>
ANNEX 1 (continued)	2025	2025	2026	2026	2027	2028
Part 2 - Science & Technical & Compliance Programme						
Section 2 (Item 2)						
Sub-item 2.1 Scientific Services (SPC) (Note 4)	1,020,749	1,020,749	1,041,164	1,041,164	1,061,987	1,083,227
Sub-item 2.2 Scientific Research						
Additional Resourcing SPC (Note 4)	183,808	183,808	187,484	187,484	191,234	195,058
SPC additional stock assessment scientist (Note 4)	168,300	168,300	171,666	171,666	175,099	178,601
P35b Pacific Marine Specimen Bank	109,520	109,520	111,711	111,711	113,945	116,224
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	875,000	875,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	988,630
P100d Application of CKMR to SPA and WCPFC stocks	0	0	0	75,000	115,000	0
P121 Ecosystem and Climate Indicators	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
P122a Workshop on longline effort creep and CPUE	0	0	0	20,000	0	0
P123 Scoping next generation of software	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0
P125 Biology from billfish samples in LL	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	40,000	0
p127a Recon. size composition data collection	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	0	0
P20X08 (P128a) Connectivity of YFT/SKJ WPEA&WCPFC	60,000	60,000	0	0	125,000	0
P21X01 Gear interactions and stock trends: cetaceans	0	0	0	0	60,000	0
P21X04 Assess. of the SWP blue shark stock-Phase 1	0	0	0	0	50,000	25,000
P129 Age-length data stream for tuna assessments	0	0	0	80,000	60,000	60,000
P130 Bycatch assessment WS: billfish & sharks	0	0	0	60,000	0	0
P21X09 Character. of low info: sharks & mobulids	0	0	0	0	60,000	0
P131 Southwest Pacific swordfish management strategy evaluation (voluntary funding from CCMs)			0	0	0	0
Total, sub-item 2.2	1,696,628	1,696,628	1,555,861	1,770,861	1,955,278	1,563,513
Sub-items (2.1+2.2)	2,717,377	2,717,377	2,597,025	2,812,025	3,017,265	2,646,740