

WCPFC Bigeye Tuna Management Procedure Workshop

WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-IP07 - BMW01 Summary Report

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Harvest Strategy Workplan & WCPFC22 Outcomes



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WCPFC22 Revisions to Harvest Strategy Workplan: Adoption of Bigeye Tuna MP in 2026

01. NEW

BET Stock Assessment

02. ADOPT

BET Management Procedure
(MP)

03. ADOPT

BET Target Reference Point
(TRP)



Bigeye Tuna Management Workshops (BMWs)

WCPFC22 noted the critical need for a series of dedicated workshops to progress the bigeye tuna harvest strategy workplan.

Relevant WCPFC22 Outcomes



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Target Reference Points (TRP) & Indicators

- Continued evaluation of three candidate TRPs (based on 2012–2015 depletion) remain under evaluation; provide comparative performance results due at WCPFC23.
- Requested SSP to include probability of stock remaining above MSY as an additional performance indicator.
- Encouraged continued development of climate-related robustness tests.

Guidance for Bigeye Tuna Management Procedures (MPs)

- **Requested SSP develop additional candidate MPs that include controls for both tropical longline and tropical purse seine fisheries**
- **Provided the following guidance to SSP in the development of MPs:**
 - Use of a three-year management period with a two-year data lag;
 - 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;
 - Evaluate the plausibility of developing additional HCRs through interpolating the outputs of the evaluated HCRs;
 - Evaluate of HCRs with and without constraints to the outputs between management periods;
 - Evaluate fixed assumptions on catch outside of the MP control; and
 - 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.

Bigeye Tuna MP Workshops



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WCPFC22 agreed to host a series of Bigeye Management Workshops (BMW) in 2026 focused on BET MP design (chaired by the SC Chair).

BMW01

May 19-20, 2026

Objective:

Provide feedback to SSP for analyses to be presented at SC22.

Main Decision Points

- Spatial range and fisheries managed through the bigeye MP
- General shape and operation of the Harvest Control Rule (HCR)
- Duration of management period and assumed future catch levels outside range
- Candidate performance indicators for evaluation
- Output controls (e.g., longline catch/effort, purse seine FAD closure)
- Desired increment of change (e.g., in FAD closure period)
- Meta rule(s) for constraints on fishing pressure changes

Outcomes from BMW01



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Decision Point	Agreed BMW01 Outcomes
Spatial Range	SSP to evaluate 3 spatial ranges: ● Full Convention Area; ● 10°S–20°N; and ● 10°S–20°N *excluding* HI LL fishery. Overlap area should be outside core MP control and addressed when translating MP outputs to implementing arrangements
Fisheries Managed	Decision will depend on spatial range
Target Reference Points	● 0.94*2012-2015 average spawning biomass depletion (32%) ● 0.94*2012-2015 average spawning biomass depletion (32%) with 60 and 70% threshold ● 1.06*2012-2015 average spawning biomass depletion (36%)
Harvest Control Rule	● Hillary Step-style HCR for the BET MP ● SPC to develop 3 balanced HCR pairings (LL-favored, PS-favored, and Neutral) tuned to achieve the TRP.
Management Cycle	3-year management periods utilizing a 2-year data lag framework.

Outcomes from BMW01



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Decision Point	Agreed BMW01 Outcomes
Assumed Future Catch	Fisheries not directly controlled by BET MP should be assumed to remain at fixed recent catch levels (for longline that it depends on the spatial range selected)
Candidate Performance Indicators	● Stock status in the WCPFC-CA (SB/SBF=0) ● Proximity to the TRP, with threshold TRPs reported as probability of being above the TRP ● Probability that SB/SBF=0 is below the LRP ● Expected BET catch for fisheries managed through the BET MP, reported separately for LL and PS where feasible ● Expected vulnerable biomass for LL fisheries managed through the BET MP, as a proxy for catch rates ● Catch variability for fisheries managed through the BET MP, separated for LL and PS where feasible ● Effort variability for fisheries managed through the BET MP, separated for LL and PS where feasible ● F relative to FMSY ● MSY
Output Controls	Agreed to model LL catch limits and PS FAD closure periods.

Next Steps:



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Review SSP analyses for BET MP

22nd Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee Meeting

2nd Workshop focused on BET MP design

- In person in Hawaii (hosted by the United States)
- Continue discussion of major decision points to adopt a BET MP

WCPFC23 - Adopt a BET MP and associated TRPs