



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

Apia, Samoa
11-19 August 2026

WCPFC Skipjack tuna monitoring strategy report

WCPFC-SC22-2026-MI-WP09.1_Rev01
15 August 2026

Submitted by SPC-OFP

Text proposed for deletion shown in red.

Existing text to remain in the table shown in blue

New text to be agreed at this meeting shown in yellow highlight

Columns for TCC and Commission greyed out as not to be amended by SC.

1. INTRODUCTION

Table 1: Monitoring strategy for the skipjack Management Procedure (CMM 2022-01).

1. Review of MP performance		
a. Comparison of predicted MP performance against latest stock assessment outcomes		
SC	TCC	Commission
Regularly review/check the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Annex III of CMM 2022-01 and provide advice to the Commission on: a) The performance of the MP in managing skipjack tuna to achieve defined objectives including the TRP. This includes the robustness of the MP to changes in the fishery and any exceptional circumstances consistent with Annex IV of CMM 2022-01. b) The application of the MP outputs to CMM 2023-01. SC19: With the first implementation of the MP in 2024, the stock assessment in 2025 will be the first in which the impact of the MP on stock status will be experienced. Only one year of MP implementation will be included in that assessment and it will therefore provide only a preliminary measure of performance. The MSE predicted outcomes of the adopted MP and the 2022 stock assessment show good correspondence with assessed status for the most recent years but some departure for the historical period. SC20: No new information	Regularly review/check the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Table 3, Annex III of CMM 2022-01 and provide advice to the Commission on: a. Catch and effort levels for all fisheries subject to the MP relative to maximum levels specified under the most recent output of the MP. b. Identify quality of information and gaps in available data that would affect ability to monitor the implementation of the MP relative to the MP outputs. TCC20: Additional information on relevant catch and effort for the fisheries subject to the MPs will be needed by TCC. TCC21: reviewed information prepared by the Scientific Services Provider presenting information about the performance and outputs of the MP, compared to the 2024 levels for three fishery components: Purse seine (incl AW) effort, pole and line effort, domestic catch (ref TCC21-2025-IP04_rev1 Table 16). TCC21 noted that the information indicated that in 2024 the catch or effort in the	WCPFC20: Noted the successful running of the MP as outlined in SC19-MI-WP-01 WCPFC22: The Commission agreed to a one-time extension of the current skipjack Management Procedure application period from 3 to 4 years so the Management Procedure would be run in 2027, not 2026, with consequential changes every subsequent three-year period. The Commission agreed to amend the Table in paragraph 8, paragraph 11, and paragraph 12 of CMM 2022-01 to reflect this decision and adopted CMM 2025-03.

SC21: The 2025 stock assessment (SC21-SA-WP-02) includes only 1 year of data (2024) under MP implementation and therefore provides a preliminary measure of MP performance. The 2025 stock assessment indicates the recent stock depletion is close to the recalibrated TRP and is within the range expected through the MSE testing of the interim skipjack MP. SC22: Updated projections indicate relative stability of stock depletion in the future when recent (2025) conditions are assumed. SC22: Pending development of a mixed fishery monitoring strategy, stock status of BET and YFT should be reported in relation to the interim management objective to maintain those stocks at or above the average spawning biomass depletion for the period 2012-2015.	fisheries subject to the MP were below the levels specified by the MP for 2024-2026. Additional information on the trends between effort and catch in the purse seine fishery, including effort creep will be needed by TCC	The Commission endorsed the consolidated updates to the skipjack monitoring strategy
b. Data availability to run the MP		
SC	TCC	Commission
Check availability, quantity and quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation method) SC19: Sufficient data were available to run the MP. However, declining effort in the pole and line fishery in some regions (e.g. tropical region) and consequent reduction of informative CPUE data represents a risk to the future performance of the MP. A re-evaluation of the estimation method may need to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the MP.	Check availability, quantity and quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation method) TCC20: No new information	WCPFC20: Noted that a re-evaluation of the estimation method may need to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the MP.

High priority		
SC20: The effect of changes made to the historical data is not known.		
c. Other sources of data to monitor performance		
SC	TCC	Commission
Identify any other data, as available, that might not be included in the MSE framework, that can inform on performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc.) SC19: No new information noted at SC19. SC20: No other sources of data have been identified.	Identify any other data, as available, that might not be included in the MSE framework, that can inform on performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc.) TCC20: No new information	
d. Performance of the estimation method (EM)		
SC	TCC	Commission
Confirm the EM is performing well and not subject to estimation failure. SC19: Overall the EM performed well and provided estimates of stock status within the prediction range of the MSE. SC21: Para 488 of the SC21 report indicates that SC21 supported the continued application of the interim skipjack MP for the next implementation cycle, while also emphasizing the importance of further development of alternative indices in advance of the third implementation of the MP.	No input anticipated.	
2. Review of the MP design		
a. Management objectives		
SC	TCC	Commission
No input anticipated.	No input anticipated.	Review the TT-CMM, taking account of the outputs of the SKJ MP.

		Check that overall objectives of the MP remain appropriate. Revise catch and effort limits for 2024-06 as necessary. WCPFC20: CCM requests for further work to better align the skipjack MP with the TT-CMM.
b. Scope of the management procedure		
SC	TCC	Commission
Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate SC19: No new information at the time of SC19. SC20: No change.	Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate TCC20 No new information	Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate
c. Exceptional circumstances		
SC	TCC	Commission
Provide technical advice to identify the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and review, modify or replace the MP as appropriate. SC19: None identified. SC20: None identified.	Provide technical advice to identify exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and recommend remedial action where necessary. TCC20: No new information	Identify the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and review, modify or replace the MP as appropriate.
3. Review of MSE		
a. Operating model grid		
SC	TCC	Commission
Ensure the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM grid. SC19: OM grid to be extended to include climate change scenarios (robustness set). In particular the effects of warm pool expansion in the WCPO. This requires further analysis of SEAPODYM outputs and may occur over an extended time frame.	No input anticipated.	

Medium priority Further investigation of the OM grid is suggested to investigate the lack of overlap in estimates of stock status for the historical period. These issues will be considered for inclusion when the current MP is reviewed. Low priority SC20: Impacts of changes to FAD closure period from 2024 should be investigated and where necessary the OM grid modified to better represent fishery dynamics.		
b. Calculation of performance indicators		
SC	TCC	Commission
Check that performance indicators adequately represent management objectives SC19: No new information at the time of SC19.	No input anticipated.	
c. Modelling assumptions		
SC	TCC	Commission
Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework SC19: While no major issues are identified, any re-evaluation of the skipjack EM (identified under 1.2) may require a re-evaluation of the modelling framework	No input anticipated.	
d. Data availability to support the MSE framework		
SC	TCC	Commission
Identify any improvements in data collection to either enhance the OM framework or reduce uncertainty included in the OM grid.	No input anticipated.	

Table 2: Schedule for the implementation and review of the skipjack MP (from CMM 2025-03)

Year	Science Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2023	Run the MP (using data to 2022). Support the SC and Commission consideration of the MP	Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the period 2024-2026	Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. Revise catch and effort related limits for 2024-2026
2024		Data to monitor performance of the MP not available in first year of implementation.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM
2025	Perform full stock assessment (with data up to and including 2024).	Review performance of the MP including potential exceptional circumstances and advise Commission.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM. Review the performance and use of the MP.
2026		Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2025.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM.
2027	Run the MP (using data to 2025).	Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2026.	Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into

	Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2027-2029).	account the output of the MP. Revise catch and effort related provisions for 2028-2030
2028	Perform full stock assessment (with data up to and including 2027).	Review performance of the MP including potential exceptional circumstances and advise Commission.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM. Review the performance and use of the MP.
2029		Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2028.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM.
2030	Run the MP (using data to 2029) Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2029. Provide advice to Comm. on the MP outputs for the next management period (2027-2029).	Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. Revise catch and effort related provisions for 2031-2033