

Pacific Marine Specimen Bank

WCPFC-22 2026

SPC-OFP
17/08/2026

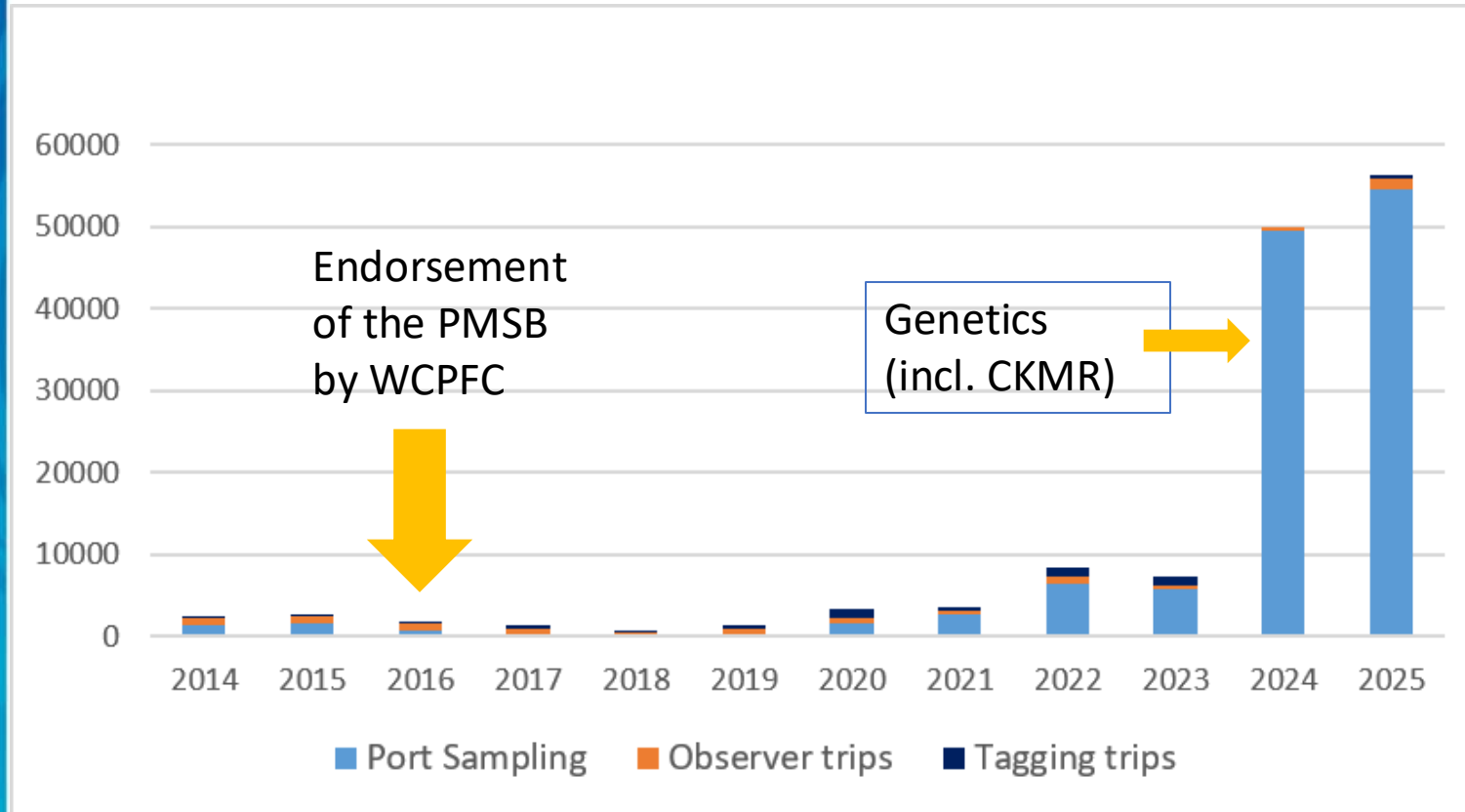
PMSB report: SC22-RP-P35b-01rev1
<https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/32262>

**PMSB steering committee (24/07/2026)
report: SC22-RP-P35b-02**
<https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/32595>



2025 activities

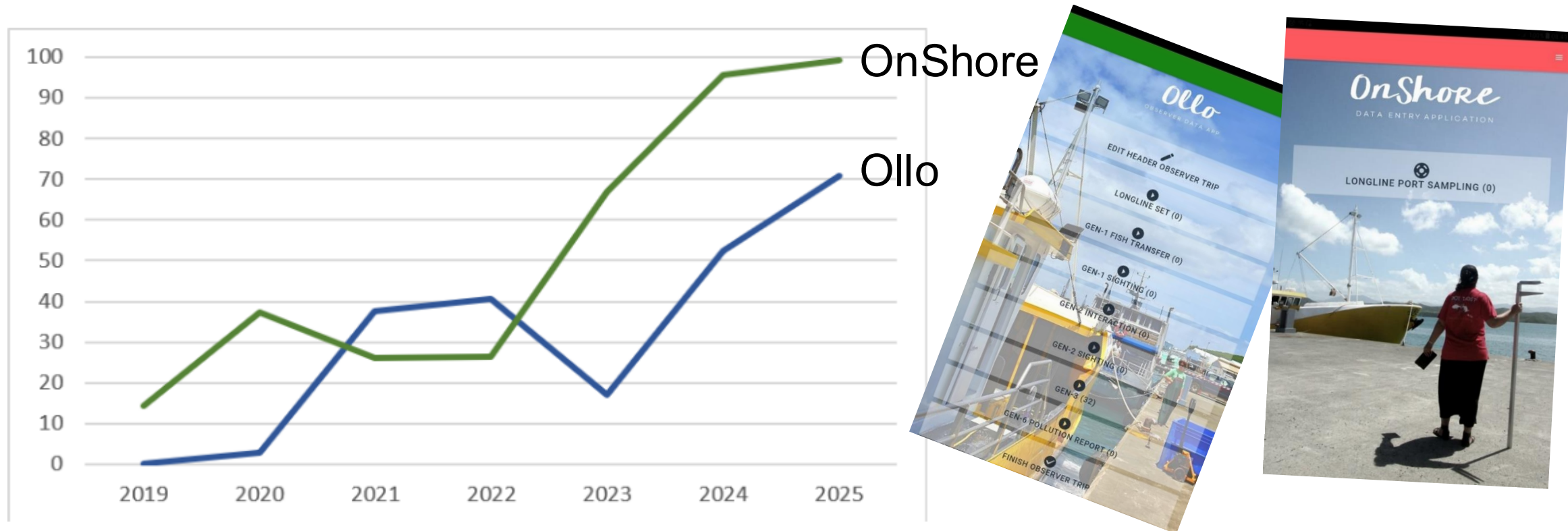
79,821 biological samples collected from 57,081 fish



144 people were trained/mentored on biological sampling

2025 activities

OnShore and Ollo e-reporting systems used in 16 PICTS

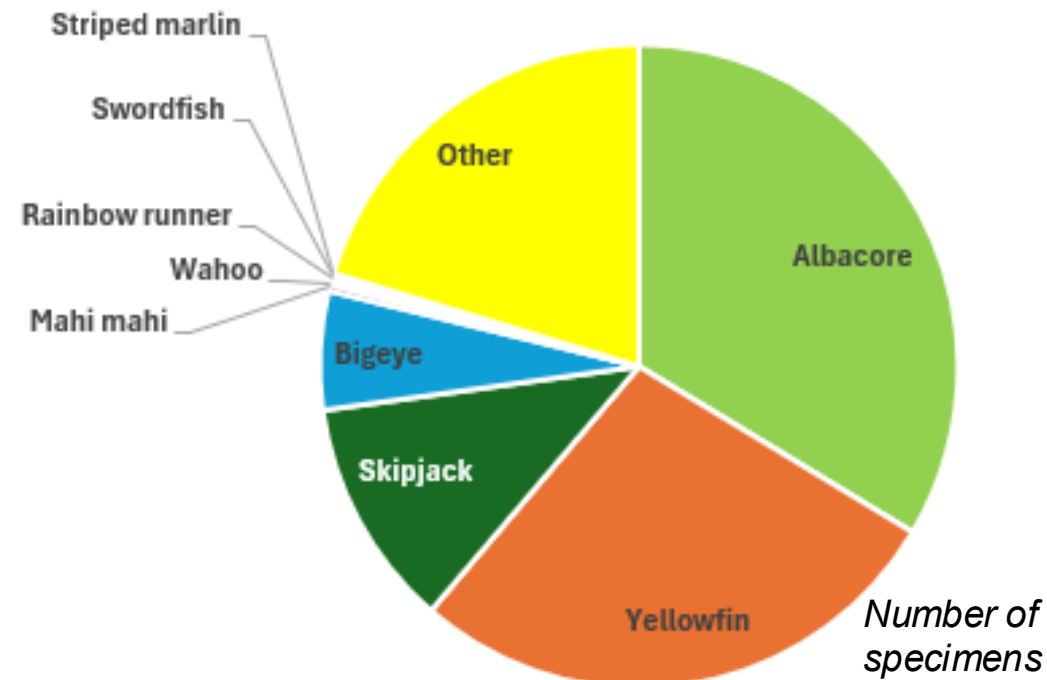


10 new projects initiated

8 SC papers and 9 scientific publications

PMSB repository

498,732 biological samples have been collected so far, of which 367,680 from 238,722 individual animal specimens are currently available for analyses



Storage capacities:

- 105 m³ of -20°C storage

- 1 m³ of -80°C storage

- Numerous chest freezers in the region

- Compactus storage for specimens in ethanol and otoliths

PMSB usage

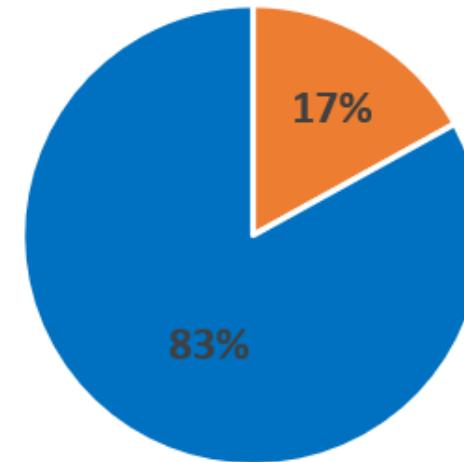
~110,000 samples have been distributed for research projects

PMSB utilization rate ~22%
(40+% by Dec 2026 to meet P100d
needs)

Many of the (human) biobanks
report less than 10% utilisation
(Henderson et al 2019)

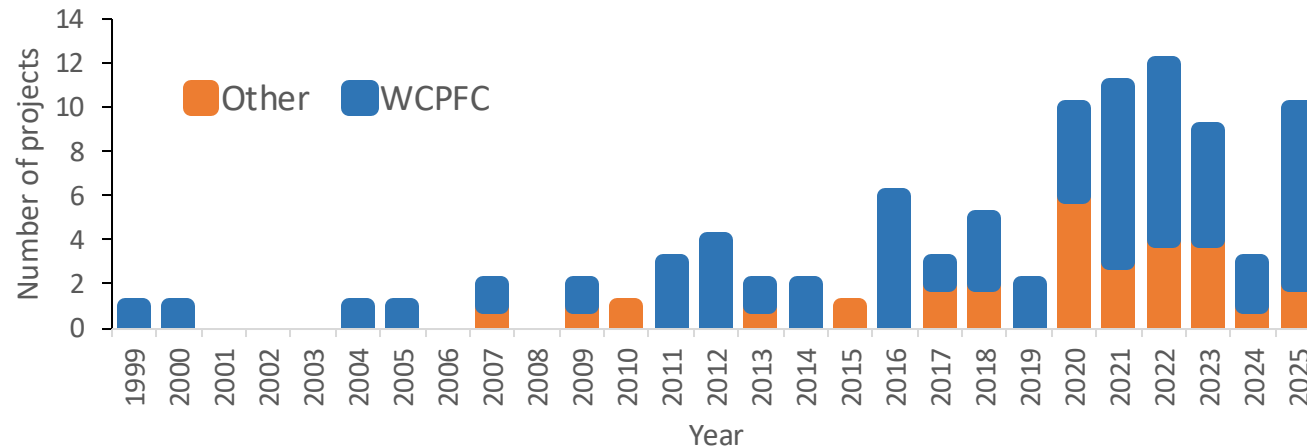
PMSB samples distribution by project type (%)

Other WCPFC



PMSB usage

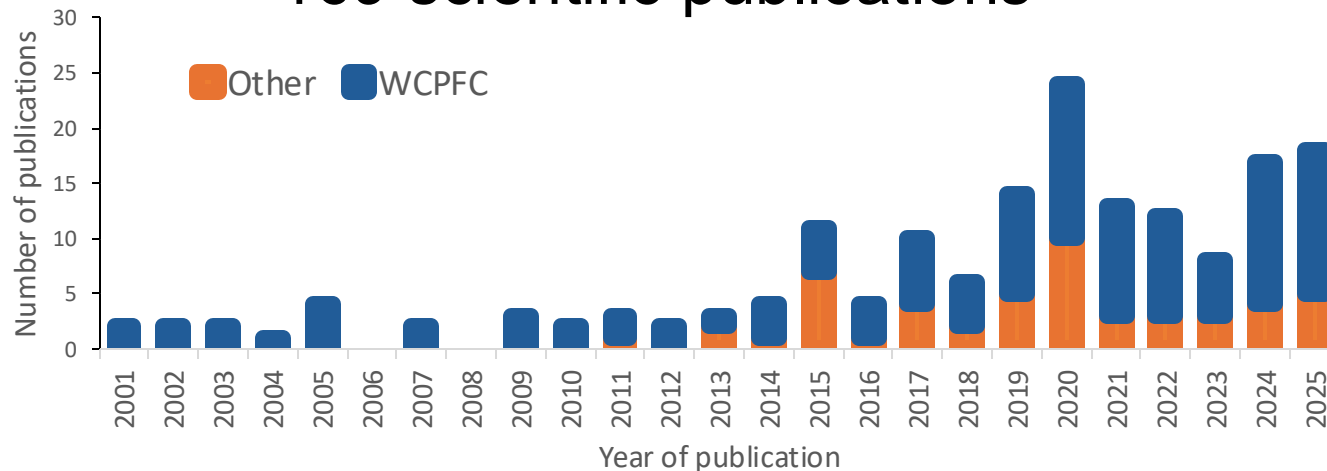
102 projects



WCPFC

Stock assessment of tuna and bycatch species
Stock structure & connectivity
Reproduction, maturity & recruitment
Age & growth
Movements
Pelagic ecosystem
Food web
Ecosystem description
Ecosystem models & simulations

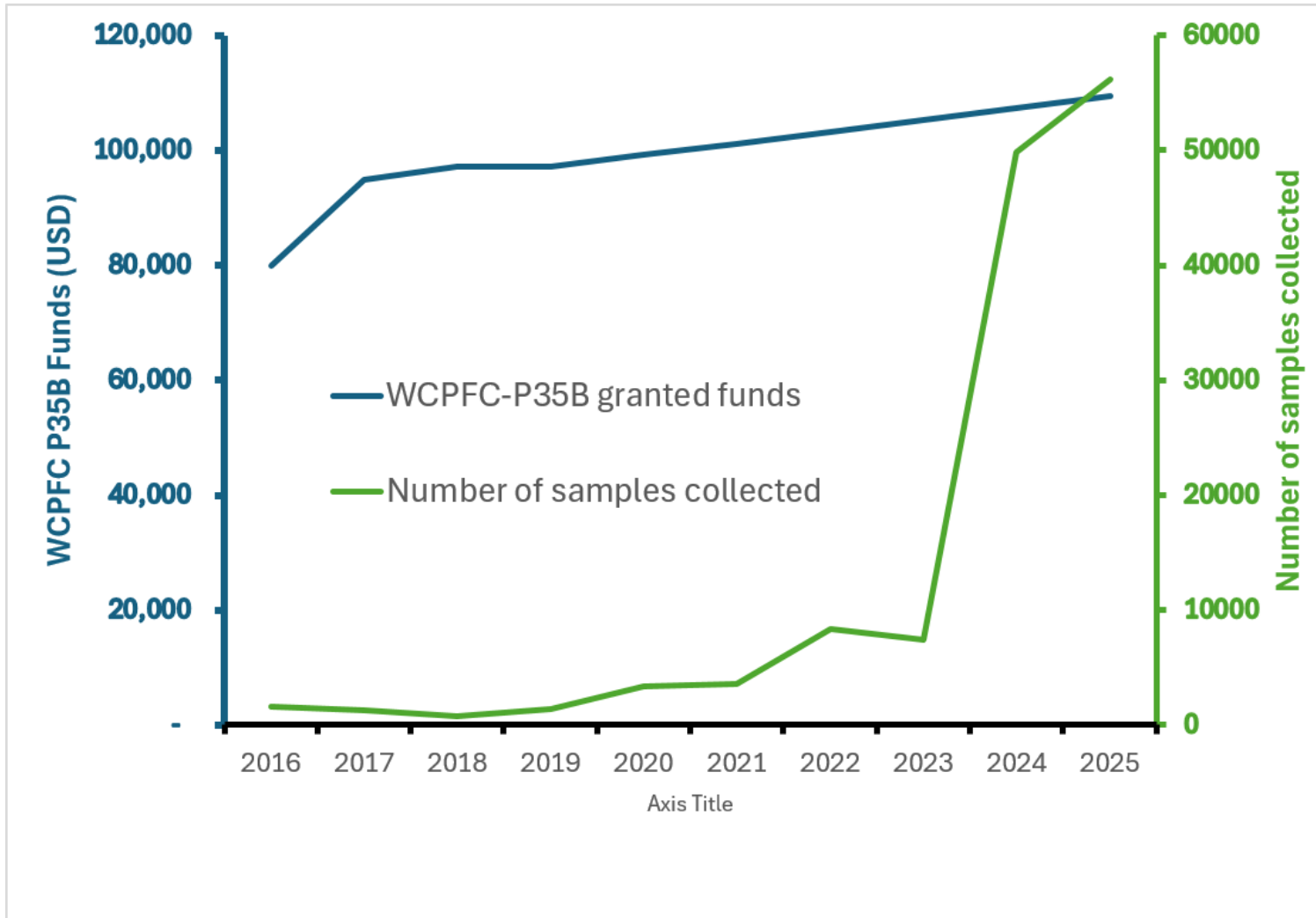
169 scientific publications



Other

Mercury, isotopes and pollutants
Biology, ecology of other species (seabirds, micronekton...)
New species description (micronekton)
Spatial distribution of other species
Biodiversity

PMSB cost & contribution 2025



Fixed amount since 2018
with a 2% annual inflation
addition

PMSB cost & contribution 2025

Collecting samples in the field

SPC Staff	39%
Consultants managing sampling and sampling equipment	26%
Travel for training / sampling	1%

Managing the storage and withdrawal of samples

SPC Staff	18%
Rental of freezer space, maintenance of equipment/facilities for storage	2%

Management fees	15%
-----------------	-----

Investment on
long-term
facilities and
infrastructures
not included

ROUGH COST ESTIMATE IN 2025: 1,500,000 USD

WCPFC P35B CONTRIBUTION IN 2025: **109,520 USD** **7.5%**

OTHER DONORS' CONTRIBUTION: 92.5%

Pacific Community, New Zealand, Australia, France, GEF, GCF, European Union

Work plan 2026-27

- **Start the development of a PMSB business case (presentation at SC23).**
- **Investigate methods to modernise/digitalise the PMSB.**
- **Investigate options to increase storage capacity in Nouméa.**
- Development of the PMSB website .
- Continue to improve training material.
- Continue the enhancement of electronic reporting ER apps.
- Continue the development of a WCPO-wide sampler network.
- Continue the development of our Quality Management System.

PMSB budget

	Budget approved	Budget proposed	Indicative budgets	
Year	2026	2027	2028	2029
Amount (USD)	111,711	113,945	116,224	118,549

2% annual inflation addition

Recommendations for SC22

We invite SC22 to:

- Continue to support initiatives to increase rates of biological sampling, especially by fisheries observers at sea, noting that this contribution is essential to the ongoing success of the WCPFC's work.
- Incorporate the identified budget into the WCPFC 2027 budget and the 2028-29 indicative budgets, as development of the WCPFC PMSB is intended to be ongoing and is considered essential.
- Endorse that the work plan in Section 5 of the steering committee report should be pursued by the Scientific Services Provider, in addition to standard duties associated with maintenance and operation of the WCPFC PMSB.