

Agenda Item 7 WP07

Considerations for yellowfin tuna under the mixed fishery approach

WCPFC BMW02
Honolulu, Hawaii (Hybrid)

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Background

- Under the mixed fishery approach, there is no MP for yellowfin. Fisheries that catch yellowfin are controlled by either the **skipjack MP**, **South Pacific albacore MP** or **bigeye MP**.
- Yellowfin tuna projections under different bigeye MP designs were presented at SC22 based on a subset of MPs using the “TLL including Hawaiian longline fleet” spatial scenario with contrasting target reference points (TRPs) and harvest control rule (HCR) pair scenarios.
- Since SC22, the BET OM grid has been updated so the prescribed fishing levels under each MP are now different to those presented at SC22.
- Updated yellowfin projections can be run on a subset of the new bigeye MPs before the bigeye MP is due for adoption at WCPFC23.

Preliminary outcomes

Preliminary projections of the yellowfin stock under a subset of bigeye MPs indicated that:

- The probability of the yellowfin stock status being above the **limit reference point** was at least 95%,
- The MPs designed for bigeye to hit the **lower TRP** (i.e., higher longline effort) result in a more depleted yellowfin stock,
- The management objective of maintaining the yellowfin stock around 2012-2015 average depletion levels was not met,
- Longline catches of yellowfin are higher for MPs designed to achieve the **lower TRP**,
- The expected future vulnerable biomass is lower than the 2019-2021 average level for longline and purse seine fisheries.

BMW02 is invited to:

- note that current management objectives for yellowfin may not be achieved for the range of bigeye TRPs currently under consideration;
- note that updated results will be provided to the Commission for the refined subset of bigeye MP scenarios identified by BMW02.