



SECOND SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE ALLOCATION WORKSHOP

22 October 2026

Virtual Meeting

Chair's Paper on Allocation Approach

WCPFC-SPAA02-2026-03

19 October 2026

Submitted by SPAA02 Chair

Background

1. This paper draws on [WCPFC-SPAA01-2026-DP02](#) (FFA members) and [WCPFC-SPAA02-2026-DP01](#) (Chinese Taipei) and attempts to consolidate key provisions of each into an allocation framework that would meet the Commissions intention of agreeing proportional shares to the south Pacific albacore fishery at WCPFC23.
2. While each of the CCM proposals has a different rationale and method, both deliver a broad EEZ: High seas split, and both contemplate further delineation of that high level split to individual CCMs (or potentially grouped CCMs, in the case of the FFA proposal).
3. All catch data in this paper is taken from [WCPFC-SPAA01-2026-IP01_Rev03](#), using the "WCPFC-CA below 10S" tables.
4. The high-level splits across the two proposals are:

Proposal/Baseline	EEZ	High Seas
FFA	75%	25%
CT1 – 2000-2004	55%	45%
CT2 – 2015-2024	57%	43%
CT3 – 2020-2024	53%	47%

5. This paper also draws on two important areas of convergence from SPAA01, namely:
 - Caution from many CCMs against pursuing an overly formulaic approach to determining allocations (reference para 29 of [SPAA01 report](#)).
 - Agreement that catch history cannot be the sole basis for allocation of south Pacific albacore (reference para 34 and recommendation 7 of the [SPAA01 report](#)).

6. This paper supports the key underpinning principles of each CCM proposal:
- The broader consideration of provisions in Articles 10(3) and 30 of the Convention, which are the basis for the FFA proposal.
 - Mitigating short term impacts on the operational viability of existing fleets, which is the basis of the CT proposal.

Proposal – Phased Approach

7. A phased approach to achieving allocation outcomes could be effective to support:
- Coastal State aspirations to develop south Pacific albacore fisheries.
 - Enhanced partnerships amongst CCMs through licensing and transferability.
 - Structured implementation to support existing fleets and investments.
8. The following phased implementation of the high-level split is suggested for consideration:

Year	EEZ	High Seas
2027-2029	62%	38%
2030-2032	64%	36%
2033-2035	66%	34%
2036 onward	68%	32%

9. The proposed starting point, incremental adjustments and longer-term split are intended to provide an illustrative basis for discussion, rather than a formula-derived allocation outcome. They seek to provide a pragmatic pathway for addressing the development aspirations of coastal States and Territories alongside the interests of existing fishing fleets, while allowing for a phased transition. The three-year increments for changes to the high level split are intended to coincide with the TAC setting process under the MP.
10. The proposed percentages and implementation periods remain subject to consideration and agreement by CCMs.

Apportionment of each Component

EEZ

11. It was generally noted in SPAA01 that coastal States/Territories are best placed to determine arrangements for apportioning the EEZ component. This could include a series of CCM-specific limits, or sub-regional limits assigned to a number of coastal CCMs.

High Seas

12. Noting the overall position from SPAA01 that catch history should not be used as the *only* criterion for allocation, it does form a reasonable currency for consideration of the high seas limit. SPAA01 identified that the choice of catch-history baseline drives significantly different results amongst CCMs. The table below takes a simple approach of using each CCM's four best years of high seas catch. This approach recognises the variability in the south Pacific albacore fishery.

Flag	Best 4 years catch (total)	Proportion of all CCMs best 4 years catch
Australia	72	0.04%
Belize	3,310	1.71%
Canada	836	0.43%
China	67,627	35.04%
Cook Islands	1,680	0.87%
FSM	229	0.12%
Fiji	8,076	4.18%
French Polynesia	166	0.09%
Japan	14,425	7.47%
Kiribati	1,473	0.76%
Marshall Islands	-	0.00%
New Caledonia	52	0.03%
New Zealand	88	0.05%
Niue	1	0.00%
PNG	173	0.09%
Philippines	-	0.00%
Portugal (EC)	73	0.04%
Republic of Korea	3,788	1.96%
Samoa	134	0.07%
Solomon Islands	4,799	2.49%
Spain (EC)	215	0.11%
Chinese Taipei	51,178	26.52%
Tonga	783	0.41%
Tuvalu	204	0.11%
USA	9,223	4.78%
Vanuatu	24,402	12.64%
Total	193,007	100.00%

The Workshop is invited to consider:

- a. Whether a phased approach to the EEZ and high seas split could provide a basis for progressing allocation discussions;
- b. The proposed starting point, incremental changes and timeframe for implementing the phased approach;
- c. Any further guidance or work required to progress allocation arrangements for consideration at WCPFC23, with particular emphasis on apportionment of the high seas and EEZ components.