



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
TENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands  
6-14 August 2014

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**Final Selected Recommendations from the Review of the WCPFC**

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**WCPFC-SC10-2014/ GN-WP-05**

**Secretariat**

SC9 reviewed a matrix of recommendations from the *WCPFC Independent Performance Review* and provided SC's responses to all recommendations (Attachment L, SC9 Report). At WCPFC10, the Commission agreed that the Secretariat would revise the matrix contained in WCPFC10-2013/14 to remove all recommendations which have been addressed and completed, and present the revised matrix to WCPFC11 (Para 144, WCPFC10 Report). On 20 December 2013, the Executive Director distributed a revised matrix through the WCPFC Circular 2013/128; and science section of the revised matrix is extracted and annexed to this document with SC9's responses to the relevant section for consideration by SC10 under Agenda Item 11.2.2.



Circular No.: 2013/128  
Date: 20 December 2013  
No. pages: 85

**Circular to all members**

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**MATRIX OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WCPFC PERFORMANCE REVIEW SPLIT  
INTO WORKING GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES**

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**Paper prepared by the Secretariat**

**Background**

At WCPFC10 the Commission decided as follows:

**144. WCPFC10 agreed that the Secretariat would revise the matrix contained in WCPFC10-2013/14 to remove all recommendations which have been addressed and completed, and present the revised matrix to WCPFC11.**

The Secretariat has now sorted and color coded the matrix to make it easy to follow. You will note that there are few items left in the Matrix but they are issues that I believe do require your consideration. I was able to remove many of the stock and fisheries related recommendations as time has moved these on for us. The same applies to many of the administrative issues that Aaron and I have been able to address and progress over time. This smaller set of recommendations is therefore forwarded for your consideration and for ease of reference I have also included in this circular the original paper that we tabled at WCPFC9 and 10 in case you wished to resurrect any that I have missed that you feel should be a priority.

The matrix is sent for you information and consideration for action at the committee meetings this year. It will also be forwarded to the Chairs of the Committees and added to the agenda for these meetings. If you have any corrections I am happy to take them on board as I have just added my understanding of status of the recommendations in the extra column to help progress issues.

Prof Glenn Hurry  
Executive Director

SC

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Section	Recommendation	Action(active /completed/ ongoing)	Issue (policy/ management/ legal/ compliance/financial)	Committee	Priority (high/ medium/ low/ underway)	Progress
<b>5. Conservation and Management</b>						
<b>5.4. The Ecosystem Approach</b>						
5.4.2. Key Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WCPFC is to be commended for pursuing a pragmatically-focused ecosystem approach built on the ERA of direct linkages between fishing and the WCPO ecosystem(s);</li> <li>• The Commission and SC are also to be commended for developing various mitigating measures to address fishery-species interactions for seabird, turtles and sharks in particular;</li> <li>• WCPFC is encouraged to expand data collection for potential fisheries and ecosystem interactions to provide priority information on such interactions to monitor interaction extent, mitigation effects and interaction effects;</li> <li>• WCPFC is encouraged to further consider other effects likely to arise from fishing operations on the WCPO ecosystem. Such effects include lost, or abandoned, fishing gear</li> </ul>	Active and ongoing	Management	SC/TCC/WC PFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium</li> </ul> <p>The WCPFC has done a lot of work in this area and we have the bycatch data base at SPC. Issues for initial consideration by SC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing SC and TCC</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>and potential marine ecosystems<sup>2</sup> risks. At-sea monitoring may be necessary before such risks are identified;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The question of general biodiversity protection does not appear to have been addressed as yet and the WCPF is encouraged to consider ways (e.g. using spatial protection) how this might be achieved;</b></li> <li>• <b>A number of RFMOs have instituted Scientific Observer Programs to monitor, and gather information on, fisheries-ecosystem interactions/effects. Within the bounds of what may be practicable, the WCPFC is encouraged to consider how such programs<sup>3</sup> may assist its ecosystem work in terms of promoting an EAFM, and the ERA, approach regionally;</b></li> <li>• <b>Some other RFMOs (e.g. the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization- NAFO) put policy guidelines in place for their EAFM</b></li> </ul>					

<sup>2</sup> For example, such risks include transference of alien and potential damaging species in bilge water. They also include considerations such as light pollution, net entanglements, etc.

<sup>3</sup> For example, a concern has been raised that the recent observer coverage of 3.6% in Australia’s Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) makes estimation of Turtle-Fisheries interactions highly uncertain. The deployment of onboard mounted cameras as a means to collect much of the same data currently collected by observers has been identified as a potential solution

Section	Recommendation	Action(active /completed/ ongoing)	Issue (policy/ management/ legal/ compliance/financial)	Committee	Priority (high/ medium/ low/ underway)	Progress
	<p>approaches. These are sufficiently flexible to include recent 'best practice' developments such as those initiated under UNGA Resolution 61/105. The Commission is encouraged to give the development of such tools serious consideration in the interests of strategically 'mapping out' where it is going with its ERA activities. In these terms a designated area of the WCPFC Website for consolidating discussion on ecosystem issues might also be worth considering; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the previous comment, the SC is encouraged to develop 'plausible models' of WCPFC ecosystem to guide strategic development of its EAFM and to focus on key ecosystem components, including by means of a more structured regional plan of action on sharks and seabirds.</li> </ul>					
<b>5.5. Data collection and sharing</b>						
5.5.2. Data submission requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To a large measure, information on data submission requirements appear adequate;</li> <li>• However, some Longline catch data are only provided after a lag of several months<sup>4</sup>, some</li> </ul>	Active	Science/Data	SC/WCPFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High SC to consider and advise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMS work underway to improve data entry</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> In some cases in excess of 18 months after fishing has occurred

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	<p><b>CMMs lack the necessary infrastructure to ensure accurate/timely data submissions and data are sparse for species other than billfish or tuna;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Commission is urged to encourage the Secretariat to make such information easily accessible, particularly with respect to ensuring that data deadlines are met, and especially for fisheries subject to CMMs in force, and/or requiring assessment;</b></li> <li>• <b>Serious consideration should be given to providing an enduring, and detailed 'Data Submission' item on the WCPFC Website as a 'one-stop shop' for all data submission information; and</b></li> <li>• <b>To improve transparency attached to the timely submission of data, submission dates should be monitored by the Secretariat with the attached information being made available on the password protected portion of the WCPFC Website</b></li> </ul>					

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Scientific Committee  
Ninth Regular Session

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia  
6–14 August 2013

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE’S RESPONSES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

- Action (active /completed/ ongoing)
- Issue (policy/ management/ legal/ compliance/financial)
- Priority (high/ medium/ low/ underway)

Section	Recommendation	SC’s responses	Action	Issue	Committee	Priority	Progress
	<b>5. Conservation and Management</b>						
	<b>5.4. The ecosystem approach</b>						
5.4.2. Key developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WCPFC is to be commended for pursuing a pragmatically-focused ecosystem approach built on the ERA of direct linkages between fishing and the WCPO ecosystem(s);</li> <li>• The Commission and SC are also to be commended for developing various mitigating measures to address fishery-species interactions for seabird, turtles and sharks in particular;</li> <li>• WCPFC is encouraged to expand data collection for potential fisheries and ecosystem interactions to provide priority information on such interactions to monitor interaction extent, mitigation effects and interaction effects;</li> <li>• WCPFC is encouraged to further consider other effects likely to arise from fishing operations on the WCPO ecosystem. Such effects include lost, or abandoned, fishing gear and potential marine ecosystems<sup>1</sup> risks. At-sea monitoring may be necessary before such risks are identified;</li> <li>• The question of general biodiversity protection does not appear to have been addressed as yet and the WCPF is encouraged to consider ways (e.g. using spatial protection) how this might be achieved;</li> <li>• A number of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) have instituted Scientific Observer Programmes to monitor and gather information on fisheries-ecosystem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List what data would be useful to expand data collection for fisheries and ecosystem interactions, and priorities information to be collected on interactions to monitor the extent, mitigation effects and interactions rates with fishing gear. SC work plan should include the development of models to guide strategic development of an ecosystem based approach to managing these fisheries including the development of a regional plan of action on sharks and seabirds.</li> <li>• SC include in its work plan investigations into biodiversity protection; the effects likely to arise from</li> </ul>	Active and ongoing	Management	SC/TCC/WC PFC	Medium - WCPFC has done a lot of work in this area and the bycatch database is at SPC Issues for initial consideration by SC	Ongoing SC and TCC

<sup>1</sup> For example, such risks include transference of alien and potential damaging species in bilge water. They also include considerations such as light pollution, net entanglements, etc.

Section	Recommendation	SC's responses	Action	Issue	Committee	Priority	Progress
	<p>interactions and effects. Within the bounds of what may be practicable, WCPFC is encouraged to consider how such programmes<sup>2</sup> may assist its ecosystem work in terms of promoting an EAFM and ecological risk assessment (ERA) approach regionally;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some other RFMOs (e.g. the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization, NAFO) put policy guidelines in place for their EAFM approaches. These are sufficiently flexible to include recent best practice developments such as those initiated under UNGA Resolution 61/105. The Commission is encouraged to give the development of such tools serious consideration in the interests of strategically mapping out where it is going with its ERA activities. In these terms, a designated area of WCPFC's website for consolidating discussion on ecosystem issues might also be worth considering; and</li> <li>• Following the previous comment, SC is encouraged to develop "plausible models" of WCPFC ecosystem to guide strategic development of its EAFM and to focus on key ecosystem components, including by means of a more structured regional plan of action on sharks and seabirds.</li> </ul>	<p>fishing operations on WCPO ecosystem risks.</p>					
	<p><b>5.5. Data collection and sharing</b></p>						
<p>5.5.2. Data submission requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To a large measure, information on data submission requirements appear adequate;</li> <li>• However, some longline catch data are only provided after a lag of several months,<sup>3</sup> some CMMs lack the necessary infrastructure to ensure accurate and timely data submissions, and data are sparse for species other than billfish or tuna;</li> <li>• The Commission is urged to encourage the Secretariat to make such information easily accessible, particularly with respect to ensuring that data deadlines are met, and especially for fisheries subject to CMMs in force, and/or requiring assessment;</li> <li>• Serious consideration should be given to providing an enduring, and detailed "Data Submission" item on WCPFC's website as a "one-stop shop" for all data submission information; and</li> <li>• To improve transparency attached to the timely submission of data, submission dates should be monitored by the Secretariat with the attached information being made available on the password protected portion of WCPFC's website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data gaps by data source and flag State are regularly posted on WCPFC's website. The SC data gaps paper provides a list and evaluation of the provisions of scientific data.</li> <li>• WCPFC's Information Management System (IMS) now provides a web-based system so that the data-provision evaluation in individual CCM Compliance Monitoring Reviews are readily accessible to CCMs on WCPFC's website through secure login, including the facility for CCMs to respond to the evaluation where required.</li> </ul>	<p>Active</p>	<p>Science/Data</p>	<p>SC/WCPFC</p>	<p>High - SC to consider and advise</p>	<p>IMS work underway to improve data entry</p>

<sup>2</sup> For example, a concern has been raised that the recent observer coverage of 3.6% in Australia's Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) makes estimation of Turtle-Fisheries interactions highly uncertain. The deployment of onboard mounted cameras as a means to collect much of the same data currently collected by observers has been identified as a potential solution

<sup>3</sup> In some cases in excess of 18 months after fishing has occurred