



WWF

FACTSHEET

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Smart Fishing Initiative

CMM TRP SKJ: TARGETING A SUCCESSFUL FISHERY

Justifying support for a Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for a Target Reference Point (TRP) for Skipjack tuna (SKJ) in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).

What is a Target Reference Point?

A TRP is defined by a single (or small set of) measurable fishery indicators such as fishing mortality rate, yield, or stock biomass that are used to judge if the current state of the fishery is desirable.

A TRP incorporates biological, ecological, social, and economic considerations. It should never be lower than the Limit Reference Point (LRP) and should be sufficiently higher than the LRP to ensure managers have a buffer to account for information that is uncertain.

A TRP is often expressed as a percentage of a measurable fishery indicator. For instance, it may be proposed as fifty per cent (50% or 0.50) of the estimated recent average spawning biomass (SSB) in the absence of fishing ($F=0$) over a specified time period ($t1-t2$), or



→ $0.50SSB_{F=0, t1-t2}$

Why use a Target Reference Point?



Despite measures to cap or reduce it over the past decade, purse seine effort and skipjack fishing mortality have increased and the skipjack biomass has declined. Therefore, previous measures have proven ineffective and additional measures are necessary.

The adoption of a TRP represents a critical step in maintaining the health and sustainability of the WCPO skipjack stock, and, in turn, the commercial, small scale, and subsistence fisheries that depend on it, by setting a benchmark by which to measure success.

Key Elements of the Proposed CMM TRP SKJ's

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopts a TRP of X per cent of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing ($X\%SSB_{F=0, t1-t2}$) for WCPO skipjack, where $t1-t2$ is equal to 10 years up to the most recent and adjusted assessment.

10 Reasons Why You Should Support one of the CMM TRP SKJ Proposals

Two proposals have been submitted for review at the WCPFC11 meeting by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and Japan respectively. Both are reasonable proposals.

1. Both are consistent with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the WCPFC Convention to which all members have signed.
2. Both have been exhaustively researched by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).
3. Both would achieve a specific condition under the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification.
4. Both are conservative, responsible, and precautionary, as they should be for an important stock that is considered essential to many WCPFC members.
5. Both securely ensure sustainability of the stock because each is more than double that needed to support the Maximum Sustainable Yield.
6. Both aim to maintain current or slightly improved economic conditions in the fishery with similar existing or slightly improved catch rates and catch size distribution.
7. Both constitute a necessary component of an effective Harvest Strategy and complement other efforts to implement Harvest Strategies in other tuna fisheries.
8. Both could form a basis for work on a WCPO purse seine Total Allowable Effort (TAE) limit.
9. Both provide an important step in avoiding additional impacts on other stocks affected by fisheries targeting skipjack, especially the purse seine fishery.
10. Both are fully consistent with the WCPFC's current strategy for removing bigeye overfishing through reductions in fishing mortality from the longline and purse seine fisheries, including by limiting the overall purse seine effort to recent levels and reducing FAD fishery effort.



WARNING: Setting a TRP alone does not ensure the target will be met! Strong monitoring, control, and surveillance mechanisms must be in place to not only properly implement management measures and ensure compliance, but also to ensure that the appropriate information is collected and incorporated into stock assessments. You cannot know if you are achieving the target (*i.e.*, your objectives) if you do not have the information to indicate where the stock level is in relation to the TRP.

Our Smart Fishing Vision and Goals:

Vision: The world's oceans are healthy, well-managed and full of life, providing valuable resources for the welfare of humanity.

2020 Goals: The responsible management and trade of four key fishery populations results in recovering and resilient marine eco-systems, improved livelihoods for coastal communities and strengthened food security for the Planet.



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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For more information

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