



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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Harvest strategy for key tuna species in the WCPO – draft workplan

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AUSTRALIA

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Theme: Management Issues

Title: *Harvest strategy for key tuna species in the WCPO – draft workplan*

Author: Australia

Abstract: This paper comprises a draft workplan to give effect to the requirements of paragraph 13 of CMM 2014-06 which establishes a harvest strategy approach for key tuna species to the WCPFC:

“The Commission shall agree a workplan and indicative timeframes to adopt or refine harvest strategies for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin, South Pacific albacore, Pacific bluefin and northern albacore tuna by no later than the twelfth meeting of the Commission in 2015. This workplan will be subject to review in 2017. The Commission may agree timeframes to adopt harvest strategies for other fisheries or stocks.”

The draft workplan is a proposed schedule of actions to develop harvest strategies in the WCPO for skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna and south Pacific albacore required under the measure. It is anticipated that the Northern Committee will be responsible for developing a schedule for Pacific bluefin and north Pacific albacore to be included in this workplan.

Australia is seeking the Scientific Committee’s comments and recommendations, from a technical and scientific perspective, on issues including: the feasibility of the indicative timeframes; technical considerations (such as operating model structures) that will influence the workplan’s structure and scheduling; and the roles for the Committee as identified in the draft workplan.

Draft work plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06

July 2015 version, for consideration by the Scientific Committee.

This plan is intended to give effect to the requirements contained in paragraph 13 of CMM 2014-06:

“The Commission shall agree a workplan and indicative timeframes to adopt or refine harvest strategies for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin, South Pacific albacore, Pacific bluefin and northern albacore tuna by no later than the twelfth meeting of the Commission in 2015. This workplan will be subject to review in 2017. The Commission may agree timeframes to adopt harvest strategies for other fisheries or stocks.”

A proposed schedule of actions to adopt or refine harvest strategies is provided for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore (it is noted that under the CMM the Northern Committee will be responsible for developing a schedule for Pacific bluefin and north Pacific albacore). These actions in the draft work plan are based upon the “Elements of a harvest strategy” in paragraph 7 of CMM 2014-06:

“Elements of a harvest strategy

7. Each harvest strategy developed in accordance with this CMM shall, wherever possible and where appropriate, contain the following elements:

- a. Defined operational objectives, including timeframes, for the fishery or stock (‘management objectives’)
- b. Target and limit reference points for each stock (‘reference points’)
- c. Acceptable levels of risk of not breaching limit reference points (‘acceptable levels of risk’)
- d. A monitoring strategy using best available information to assess performance against reference points (‘monitoring strategy’)
- e. Decision rules that aim to achieve the target reference point and aim to avoid the limit reference point (‘harvest control rules’), and
- f. An evaluation of the performance of the proposed harvest control rules against management objectives, including risk assessment (‘management strategy evaluation’).”

Draft work plan for the adoption of harvest strategies (CMM 2014-06). Letters in brackets refer to the “Elements of a harvest strategy” in paragraph 7 of the CMM. July 2015 version, for consideration by the Scientific Committee.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2015	<p>Record management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <p>Agree acceptable levels of risk (c).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on implications of a range of Target Reference Points for south Pacific albacore. • Commission record management objectives for south Pacific albacore noting advice provided by the SC on a range of target reference points. • Commission agree to acceptable levels of risk for breaching Limit Reference Point for south Pacific albacore. • Commission agree a Target Reference Point for south Pacific albacore. 	<p>Record management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <p>Agree acceptable levels of risk (c).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission record management objectives for skipjack noting advice provided by the SC on a range of target reference points. • Commission agree to acceptable levels of risk for breaching Limit Reference Point for skipjack. • Commission agree to a Target Reference Point for skipjack. 	<p>Agree acceptable levels of risk (c).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree to acceptable levels of risk for breaching Limit Reference Point for bigeye tuna. 	<p>Agree acceptable levels of risk (c).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree to acceptable levels of risk for breaching Limit Reference Point for yellowfin tuna.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2016	<p>Agree monitoring strategy (d).</p> <p>Develop harvest control rules (e).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • Commission agree performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. 	<p>Agree monitoring strategy (d).</p> <p>Develop harvest control rules (e).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • Commission agree performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. 	<p>Record management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission record management objectives for bigeye and ask SC for advice on a range of target reference points. 	<p>Record management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission record management objectives for yellowfin and ask SC for advice on a range of target reference points.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2017	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on candidate harvest control rules based on agreed reference points. • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. 	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on candidate harvest control rules based on agreed reference points. • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. 	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on the implications of a range of Target Reference Points for bigeye. • Commission agree to a Target Reference Point for bigeye. 	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on the implications of a range of Target Reference Points for yellowfin. • Commission agree a Target Reference Point for yellowfin.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2018	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. 	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. 	<p>Agree monitoring strategy (d).</p> <p>Develop harvest control rules (e).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • Commission agree performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. 	<p>Agree monitoring strategy (d).</p> <p>Develop harvest control rules (e).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • Commission agree performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules.