



**WCPFC  
HARVEST STRATEGY WORKSHOP**

Stones Hotel  
Kuta, Bali  
30 November – 1 December 2015

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**Draft Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06**

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**HSW-WP/06  
14 November 2015  
(WCPFC12-2015-DP09)**

**FFA Members<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Islands Fisheries Forum Agency



**TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Bali, Indonesia  
3 - 8 December 2015

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**REVISED PROPOSAL FOR A HARVEST STRATEGY WORKPLAN**

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**WCPFC12-2015-DP09**  
**31 October 2015**

**Proposal by FFA Members**



**FFA**

31 October 2015

Feleti P. Teo OBE  
Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission  
PO Box 2356, Kolonia  
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Feleti,

**Draft Harvest Strategy Work Plan**

I write on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee.

I am pleased to submit for the Commission's consideration a revised proposal for a Harvest Strategy work plan as required in CMM 2014-06 - Conservation and Management Measure on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. You will note that the draft work plan is the result of extensive discussion and consultation that Australia has led at the meetings of the SC and TCC this year.

As conveyed in the Future of Fisheries Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries that was recently adopted by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders (<http://www.ffa.int/node/1569>), the development of Target Reference Points and Harvest Strategies is a very high priority for FFA members and we look forward to moving this work forward with all CCMs.

We recognise that this represents new work areas for the Commission and have endeavoured to ensure that the work plan is based on a logical stepwise approach that will allow the Commission to make key decisions in due time.

Please distribute this letter to all CCMs and we welcome comments or queries about the proposal, which should be directed to the FFA Secretariat ([wez.norris@ffa.int](mailto:wez.norris@ffa.int) and [tim.adams@ffa.int](mailto:tim.adams@ffa.int)).

Yours Sincerely,

Sam Finikaso  
FFC Chair

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

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’).”*

### *Explanatory Notes*

- This work plan allows the Commission to agree elements to progress harvest strategies on a stock basis with recognition that there are linkages between stocks within WCPFC fisheries. For example, harvest control rules for skipjack tuna may still need to have regard to achieving objectives for bigeye and yellowfin tuna (including avoiding limit reference points).
- Progress on elements for one stock ahead of others need not undermine the work for other stocks. This work plan outlines a stock based approach for simplicity and reflects the different levels of progress for some stocks compared to others. The Commission will need to account for the interactions between stocks in the development of each harvest strategy.
  - This work plan does not preclude fisheries based approaches being adopted.
- The Commission can initially ‘record’ a range of management objectives rather than ‘agree’ management objectives. This will ensure that the range of objectives could be recorded early and these can then be used to develop performance measures and allow management strategy evaluation work to proceed.
- The Commission may need to consider the management ‘tradeoffs’ in agreeing each element.
- The work plan for bigeye tuna has been amended to reflect its current status (below limit reference point). The first step in any harvest strategy for bigeye tuna will be to rebuild the stock above its limit reference point.

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

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2016	<p>Agree monitoring strategy (d).</p> <p>Develop harvest control rules (e).</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</li> <li>• Commission agree to a <b>monitoring strategy</b> to assess performance against reference points.</li> <li>• Commission agree performance indicators to evaluate <b>harvest control rules</b></li> </ul>	<p>Agree monitoring strategy (d).</p> <p>Develop harvest control rules (e).</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.</li> <li>• Commission agree to a <b>monitoring strategy</b> to assess performance against reference points.</li> <li>• Commission agree performance indicators to evaluate <b>harvest control rules</b></li> </ul>	<p>Record management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Agree acceptable levels of risk (c).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission agree timeframes to rebuild stock to limit reference point.</li> <li>• Commission agree <b>acceptable levels of risk</b> for breaching Limit Reference Point for bigeye tuna.</li> <li>• Commission record <b>management objectives</b> for bigeye and ask SC for advice on a range of target reference points.</li> </ul>	<p>Record management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission record <b>management objectives</b> for yellowfin and ask SC for advice on a range of target reference points.</li> </ul>

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



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