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**REFERENCE DOCUMENT FOR REVIEW OF CMM 2010-05
(South Pacific Albacore Tuna)**

**WCPFC12-2015-15
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Paper prepared by the Secretariat

A. Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a quick reference guide to the recommendations of the Scientific Committee (SC) and the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) of relevance to the discussions in support of the review of the CMM for South Pacific Albacore (CMM 2010-05). It lists the recommendations drawn from the summary reports of SC 11 and TCC11. The Summary Reports of those meetings are part of the meeting documentation and readily available for access and they provide the context and discussion in support of the recommendations.

2. The discussions and outcomes of the Harvest Strategy Workshop will also be of relevance to the review of CMM 2010-05. Since this meeting will be convened immediately prior to WCPFC12, its summary report will also be available as reference for the review of the CMM 2010-05. The outcomes of the Harvest Strategy Workshop once available will be posted as *WCPFC12-2015-23*.

B. Scientific Committee Recommendations

3. A new stock assessment was undertaken in 2015 for South Pacific Albacore. The relevant recommendations of the Scientific Committee, with appropriate referencing, are listed below:

- a) Overfishing is not occurring and the stock is not in an overfished state: $F_{\text{current}}/F_{\text{MSY}} = 0.39$ and $SB_{\text{latest}}/SB_{F=0} = 0.40$ ($SB_{\text{latest}}/SB_{\text{MSY}} = 2.86$). (*SC11 paras 311-314*).
- b) For the first time SC considered an index of economic conditions in the south Pacific albacore fishery (MI-WP-03). This index, which integrates fish prices, catch rates, and fishing prices, estimates a strong declining trend in economic conditions, reaching an historical low in 2013. While there was a slight recovery in 2014, conditions are still well below the average primarily due to high fishing costs and continued low catch rates. Domestic vessels from some longline fleets have reduced their fishing effort (i.e., tied up for periods of time) in response to these conditions. (*SC11 para 320*).

- c) The South Pacific albacore spawning stock is currently above both the level that will support the MSY and the adopted spawning biomass limit reference point, and overfishing is not occurring (F less than F_{msy}). (SC11 para 321).
- d) While overfishing is not occurring, further increases in effort will yield little or no increase in long-term catches and result in further reduced catch rates. (SC11, para 322).
- e) Decline in abundance of albacore is a key driver in the reduced economic conditions experienced by many PICT domestic longline fleets. Further, reductions in prices are also impacting some distant water fleets. (SC11 para 323).
- f) For several years, SC has noted that any increases in catch or effort in sub-tropical longline fisheries are likely to lead to declines in catch rates in some regions (10oS-30oS), especially for longline catches of adult albacore, with associated impacts on vessel profitability. (SC11 para 324).
- g) Despite the fact that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, SC11 reiterates the advice that longline fishing mortality and longline catch be reduced to avoid further decline in the vulnerable biomass so that economically viable catch rates can be maintained. (SC11 para 325)

Target reference point

- h) SC11 reviewed information related to the identification of an appropriate TRP for south Pacific albacore tuna, noting in particular a decline in the economic performance of this fishery (SC11-MI-WP-03) and the consequences for the stock and the fishery of a range of candidate target reference points (SC11-MI-WP-04). SC11 noted these analyses and recommended that the latter be updated based on the 2015 stock assessment of south Pacific albacore tuna and presented to both MOW4 and WCPFC12 for consideration of TRPs. (SC11 para 439).

C. Technical and Compliance Committee Recommendations

- 4. The relevant recommendations of the TCC11, with appropriate referencing, are listed below:
 - a) TCC11 advises WCPFC12 that the compliance and the performance of CMM 2010-05 cannot effectively be assessed, either for implementing management advice for the stock as a whole, or for demonstrably limiting albacore fishing capacity south of 20 degrees south. TCC11 recommended that CMM 2010-05's data requirements need to be revised in order to make it more verifiable. (TCC11 para 425).