



TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION
Bali, Indonesia
3 - 8 December 2015

Proposed Risk level for Yellowfin Tuna

WCPFC12-2015-DP27
7 December 2015
1645

Paper by New Zealand

HARVEST STRATEGIES - PROPOSAL FOR A 10% RISK LEVEL FOR YELLOWFIN TUNA

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to formally confirm the agreement of the Commission for a 10% interim acceptable risk of falling below the limit reference point for Yellowfin tuna for the purpose of the initial analysis of Harvest Strategies for the stock.

Below is the proposed text for the Commission report.

Proposed text for Commission report

The Commission has agreed to develop and implement a harvest strategy framework in accordance with CMM 2014-06.

CMM 2014-06 outlines that each harvest strategy developed in accordance with the CMM shall, wherever possible and where appropriate, contain, amongst other things, acceptable levels of risk of not breaching limit reference points.

The Harvest Strategy Workplan currently being considered by WCPFC12 proposes that in 2015, the Commission will agree to acceptable levels of risk for Yellowfin tuna (YFT).

In accordance with Article 6(1)(a) of the Convention and Annex II of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, the Commission shall ensure that the risk of exceeding limit reference points is very low. According to the Scientific Committee, risk levels such as 5% or 10% have commonly been used in simulation studies of Limit Reference Points, but otherwise there is little guidance on the definition of “very low” from a scientific perspective (SC8-MI-WP-01).

The Commission notes that YFT is both a bycatch and target species.

For the purpose of the initial analysis of Harvest Strategies for YFT, the Commission agrees on the value of 10% as an interim acceptable risk of falling below the limit reference point for YFT.