***Pacific Bluefin Tuna (Thunnus orientalis)***

***Provision of scientific information***

Status and trends

* SC12 noted the stock status and conclusions for Pacific bluefin tuna provided by ISC in SC12-SA-WP-07:

INSERT QUOTED ISC16 PLENARY TEXT ON STOCK STATUS AND CONSERVATION ADVICE HERE

* SC12 also noted that, based on the latest stock assessment carried out by ISC in 2016, SC12 noted that the Pacific bluefin tuna spawning stock biomass is depleted to 2.6% of the estimated unfished spawning stock biomass (SBF=0). SC12 emphasized that this depletion level is considerably below the biomass depletion-based Limit Reference Point of 20% of SBF=0 set by the Commission for all other WCPFC key tuna stocks (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, south Pacific albacore and north Pacific albacore). SC12 recommended that WCPFC set the LRP for Pacific Bluefin tuna at 20% SBF=0 as a matter of consistency, and agree a spawning stock biomass rebuilding target as a matter of urgency.

Management advice and implications

* SC12 also advised the WCPFC that there is concern that the substantial depletion of the Pacific bluefin stock due to excess fishing in the northern WCPFC region has resulted in range contraction, thus greatly reducing the availability of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) in the south Pacific. This is of particular significance to Pacific island CCMs because it limits their future opportunities for the sustainable development of catch-and-release recreational and tournament fisheries.