**WCPO bigeye tuna**

**Status and trends**

* SC12 noted that no stock assessment was conducted for WCPO bigeye tuna in 2016. Therefore, the stock status description from SC10 is still current. For further information on the stock status and trends from SC10, please see <http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/SC10%20-%20final_posted-rev.docx>
* SC12 noted that the total bigeye catch in 2015 was 134,084 mt, which was a 16% decrease over 2014 and a 13% decrease over the average for 2010-14.
* Purse seine bigeye catch in 2015 was 26% lower than that in 2014 and effort 21% lower. Longline catch in 2015 was 13% lower than that in 2014, and tropical longline effort (20N-10S) was 4% lower.
* SC12 noted that the results of the updated short-term projections using actual catch and effort levels in 2013-2015 and which assume that recent above-average recruitments continue, indicated that the median spawning biomass depletion (SB/SBF=0) of bigeye has been relatively stable since the 2012 assessment.
* SC12 also noted the importance of retrospective analyses as a diagnostic tool for WCPFC stock assessments. Further, retrospective forecasting of the 2014 WCPO bigeye tuna stock assessment found that the 2014 bigeye tuna stock assessment model is not subject substantial retrospective bias.
* In addition, SC12 noted that short-term projections conducted using the results of the 2014 bigeye tuna reference case assessment model, provide consistent and relatively accurate indications of stock status in the short-term.
* SC12 note that the projected median spawning biomass depletion of bigeye in 2016 was SB2015/SBF=0 = 0.17. It was also noted that short-term stochastic projections are likely to underestimate uncertainty in projected stock status.

**Management advice and implications**

* SC12 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC10. Therefore, the advice from SC10 should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information. For further information on the management advice and implications from SC10, please see

<http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/SC10%20-%20final_posted-rev.docx>

* SC12 recommends that the WCPFC consider conducting spatial analyses of regional longline bigeye tuna exploitation. The structure of analyses which would use the 2014 bigeye tuna assessment in the western and central Pacific Ocean with deterministic projections and an assumption of using recent recruitment to identify specific catch levels that achieve fishing mortality at the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) level within a certain time frame, such as initially 10 years or additionally in 20 years if computationally feasible. The analysis should identify combinations of longline catch in the different model regions that achieve the target, which could include scenarios that lead to: 1) similar regional exploitation rates and 2) exploitation rates proportional to the exploitable biomass in each region from the 2014 assessment.