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**WCPFC13-2016-05
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Paper by the WCPFC Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

1. This report is provided pursuant to Rule 13 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. It highlights the main work programmes and activities of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and its Secretariat for 2016.

2. Pohnpei, the home of the Commission headquarters was the venue for the Pacific islands premier annual political meeting in September 2016 as the government of the Federated States of Micronesia hosted the 47th Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders. Eleven of the heads of states and governments of the 16 members' organization participated whilst other members were represented at ministerial level. In association with the said leaders meeting was a meeting of the Pacific island states with high level representatives of key development partners to the Pacific which included representatives from the non FFA members of the Commission. The Secretariat was privileged and honored to have been asked by the host government to host a dinner reception on Secretariat premises in honor of the meeting delegates and to also host two of small side meetings for the leaders. A very treasured moment in the history of the Commission when its Secretariat hosted so many heads of states and governments and ministerial representatives from the entire Commission membership.

3. Throughout 2016 the Commission Chair and the Executive Director continued their outreach mission to consult and engaged with members, observers and other stakeholders to gauge the expectations and priorities of the members for the annual WCPFC13 in Fiji. The information and intelligence gathered from the exchanges were invaluable and assisted preparations for the Fiji meeting. The objective is to ensure that all the necessary requisite information and the technical and scientific advice is available for the Commission to take meaningful decisions on conservation and management measures to restore certain overfished WCPO fish stocks to sustainable levels.

4. The work on the development of a new Strategic Plan for the Commission commenced in earnest in 2016. A 2 days' consultation meeting facilitated by a Consultant in September, presented an invaluable opportunity for an open and frank discussions of what members envisaged and wished the commission to be at in 10 years' time and what key common strategic priorities the membership should aim for to achieve their vision. Draft plans have been circulated by the Consultant to facilitate the ongoing conversation on those strategic priorities which will culminate in the WCPFC13 considering a Draft Strategic Plan.

5. The work of the Commission in 2016 continued to be extensive with ongoing work of the three intersessional working groups and the growing body of work generated by the Commission Compliance Monitoring Scheme. Generally, the work undertaken in the reporting period was delivered on time with intended objectives and outputs accomplished. Some of the key highlights include:

- i) the successful convening of the Twelfth Regular Sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, namely the Scientific Committee (SC), the Northern Committee (NC), and the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC);
- ii) the Tenth Annual Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) for 2016 is to be convened in conjunction with WCPFC13;
- iii) the successful convening of the Intersessional Working Groups on the Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting (IWG-EM and ER) immediately prior to SC12 and on the Catch Documentation Scheme (IWG-CDS) and FAD Management Options prior to and following TCC12;
- iv) the successful and timely completion of the draft Compliance Monitoring Reports;
- v) the continuing development and enhancement of the Commission's IMS system and associated IT infrastructure in support of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme;
- vi) good progress on implementation of major projects managed by the Secretariat, including the ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna Project – Shark and Bycatch Component; and the Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asia Seas (WPEA) project that deal with tuna catch data collection and capacity building on compliance in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam;
- vii) the opportunity of a two days' consultation meeting to discuss high level and longer term strategic priorities for the Commission; and
- viii) the Secretariat hosted a dinner reception and side meetings for heads of states and government and ministerial and high level representatives of Commission members in association with the annual Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting hosted by the government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

2. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SUBSIDIARY BODIES

6. The work of the Commission is supported by four principal subsidiary bodies established by the WCPFC Convention and the bulk of the work of the Commission is transacted through these bodies. They are the Scientific Committee, Northern Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, and the Finance and Administration Committee. Their annual meetings are traditionally scheduled to occur in advance of the annual Commission meeting with their recommendations intended for decision by the Commission in areas that fall within their respective scope of competence. In addition to the work of the subsidiary bodies, WCPFC12 also agreed to continue the work of the intersessional working groups to consider and progress the specific issues of the Catch Documentation Scheme for the Commission, Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting and the FAD Management Options. A brief account of the activities of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and intersessional working groups will be provided below.

2.1 The Scientific Committee

7. The Twelfth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC12) was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 11 August 2016. The SC Chair Mr Ludwig Kumoru (PNG) who had been the SC Chair for the last 3 years gave notice of his inability to continue as SC Chair, particularly to chair SC12 due to his appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer of the PNA Office based in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Consequently, a new SC Chair Ms Berry Muller (RMI) was appointed by a decision of the Commission out of session to serve

the remainder of Mr Kumoru's term. The Commission owes Mr Kumoru a vote of appreciation and gratitude for his leadership and services as SC Chair for the last three years and to congratulate him on his new appointment and the Commission looks forward to his continued contribution to the work of the Commission in his new capacity. Ms Muller must also be congratulated for taking on the rein of SC Chair and for a sterling and job well done for presiding over the work of SC12. She was duly nominated by SC12 to WCPFC13 to continue as SC12 Chair for another two years.

8. Over 200 participants attended the meeting, representing members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs) and observers. The meeting agenda continued to be structured around the four key themes and each thematic discussion was facilitated by Theme Conveners, namely the Data and Statistic theme by B. Muller (RMI) supported by P. Williams (SPC); Stock Assessment theme by J Brodziak (United States of America) and H Nishida (Japan); Management Issues theme by R Campbell (Australia); and Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation theme by J Annala (New Zealand) and A Batibasaga (Fiji). The Management Issues Theme agenda included for the first time the work on harvest strategies pursuant to the Agreed Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 and reviewed six elements of the harvest strategy framework along with the work plan, and provided several recommendations to each element for the Commission's consideration.

9. The WCPO skipjack and Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessments were conducted in 2016 by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the International Scientific Committee (ISC) respectively. SC12 was unable to reach consensus on the description of stock status for the skipjack stock based on the 2016 stock assessment, and a majority view and an alternative view supported by Japan, China, and Chinese Taipei were recorded in the SC12 Report. Preliminary assessments of South Pacific blue shark and Pacific blue marlin were also conducted in 2016.

10. The SC12 Summary Report is available on the website and the key outcomes and recommendations will be posted for consideration at WCPFC13. The status and progress of the 2016 SC work programme and science-related projects undertaken during the reporting period are set out in *Annex 1* to this report.

2.2 The Northern Committee

11. The Twelfth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC12) took place at Fukuoka, Japan, from 29 August to 2 September 2016. Mr Masanori Miyahara (Japan) chaired the meeting. During NC12, a joint meeting of the WCPFC-NC with IATTC was held to discuss the management of Pacific bluefin tuna. The joint meeting decided to agree a rebuilding plan in 2017 after ISC's evaluation on the performance of various harvest scenarios as requested by the NC. NC12 recommended a draft CMM for the management of Pacific bluefin tuna for adoption by the Commission which will allow catching Pacific bluefin tuna with flexible size within their current catch limit. NC12 also agreed to review the CMM 2005-03 (NP albacore) based on the results of 2017 stock assessment that will be provided by ISC. NC12 urged the Commission to develop a rebuilding plan for the NP striped marlin stock, and recommended the Commission to decide if NP blue shark should be designated as a northern shark. Mr Miyahara (Japan) and Mr Tosatto (USA) were nominated as the NC Chair and vice-Chair respectively for the Commission's approval. Korea offered to host NC13 in 2017 and indicated that it is most likely be in Busan. The NC12 Summary Report was adopted and posted on its website and will be tabled at WCPFC13.

2.3 The Technical and Compliance Committee

12. The Twelfth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC12) was held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia from 21 to 27 September 2016. The meeting was chaired by Alexa Cole (USA) and over 190 participants representing CCMs and observers attended the meeting. TCC12 established small working groups to progress discussions on the margins of the meeting on the matters of cooperating non-member applications; and the Proposal to amend the “Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission” decision. Observer safety and the development of standards for observers monitoring of high seas transshipment activities are new activities proposed for inclusion in the TCC Workplan 2016- 2018.

13. TCC12 committed at least two and a half days to the review of the full draft Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2015 activities prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with CMM 2015-07, and agreed to recommend a provisional Compliance Monitoring Report to the Commission for consideration at WCPFC13. This year the combination of the revised CMM, Commission pre-agreed list of obligations to be assessed by the CMS and the Secretariats compliance case file system together contributed to TCC successfully completing assessments for all obligations identified for assessment in 2016. TCC12 also considered the Commission undertaking a review of the CMS at the end of 2017. The two cases related to alleged illegal activities undertaken by two vessels during 2015-2016 were reviewed by TCC12 and a Provisional IUU list containing one vessel was forwarded to the Commission. TCC12 also recommended that the three vessels currently on the WCPFC IUU vessel list are maintained. The routine reports of the WCPFC MCS Programmes administered by the Secretariat were also reviewed by TCC12, and they covered the WCPFC VMS, Regional Observer Programme, High Seas Transshipment Monitoring, High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI), Record of Fishing Vessels, Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area (EHSP-SMA), WCPFC Secretariat Integrated-MCS Information Management Systems and online reporting IT tools, Administration of Data Requests and gaps in Scientific data submissions.

14. Prior to TCC12 Joanna Anderson (New Zealand) advised of her inability to continue in the role of TCC Vice Chair. The Commission owes Ms Anderson a vote of thanks for her services. Alexa Cole and Monte Depaune (Nauru) were nominated by TCC12 to WCPFC13 to be the TCC Chair and TCC Vice Chair respectively and to be appointed for two years. A full record of the TCC12 meeting is available on the website and the outcomes and recommendations will be discussed at WCPFC13. The Provisional CMR documentation is available to CCMs and their authorized users through the WCPFC intranet and a copy has also been posted on the secure side of the WCPFC website. The rest of the recommendations will be discussed at WCPFC13. The key TCC related activities in 2016 are set out in [Annex 2](#) to this report.

2.4 The Finance and Administration Committee

15. The Tenth Finance and Administration Committee (FAC10) will meet immediately prior to and throughout WCPFC13 as necessary and will be chaired by Co-Chair Paul Callaghan (United States of America). The other Co-Chair Joyce Samuelu-Ah Leong (Samoa) has advised of her inability to continue in the role and a replacement is necessary and nominations for her replacement will be considered by WCPFC13. The Commission owes Ms Samuelu-Ah Leong a vote of thanks for her services. As expected, FAC10 will consider the routine matters relating to personnel, the work programme and budget and a host of administrative matters relating to the work of the Commission including issues associated with the headquarters office. In addition, the FAC will consider a paper from the Secretariat outlining its assessment of the implications of implementing the recommendations of the Report by Strategic Pay Ltd

on the Job Evaluation Outcomes of all the Secretariat positions, particularly the recommendation to replace the current salary structure by the SP10 based salary band structure. The report and outcomes of FAC10 will be presented for discussion and decision at WCPFC13.

2.5 The Intersessional Working Group on Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting

16. The Second Meeting of the E-reporting and E-monitoring Intersessional Working Group was held in Bali, Indonesia from 1 – 2 August 2016, and chaired by Kerry Smith (Australia). Electronic reporting and electronic monitoring technologies are recognized as having huge potential to enhance data accuracy, data entry efficiency, reducing reporting burden and avoiding duplication of reporting for vessel operators and national fisheries agencies. The extent of trials and implementation of e-technologies by CCMs has increased the urgency for standards and specifications to be developed at the Commission level. Through the good and cooperative work of CCMs, SPC and the Secretariat the working group has made good progress on the development of draft standards for the electronic submission of operational catch and effort data and observer data. The working group report was provided to SC12 and TCC12 and the key recommendations on the work of this working group will be presented to WCPFC13 for discussion under TCC issues.

2.6 The Intersessional Working Group on Catch Documentation Scheme

17. The Third Meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme Intersessional Working Group was held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia on the 16th September 2016, and chaired by Alois Kinol (PNG). The working group progressed significantly discussions on the objectives for the scheme with agreement on most of the aspects of the scope except for one square bracket related to Pacific bluefin and the list of entities that should have roles and responsibilities in a Commission CDS. The focus of the working group's key recommendations was the development of CDS data standards which remains ongoing. The Chair provided a report of progress to TCC12, and the key recommendations of the working group will be presented to WCPFC13 for discussion under TCC issues.

2.7 The Intersessional Working Group on FAD Management Options

18. The IWG- FAD Management Options met on the 28 to 29 September 2016 for its second meeting, chaired by Mr Brian Kumasi (PNG). The Vice-Chair of the working group Mr Ray Clarke (USA) gave notice of his inability to continue in that role and the Commission owe a vote of thanks to Mr Clarke for his services and to wish him well in his future endeavors. The Working Group has considered all five items in the terms of reference. Key recommendations to the Commission from the meeting were a draft FAD Research Plan and noting the WCPFC12 decision that provided endorsement in principle to a list of data fields on FAD activities to be provided by vessel operators to the Commission. The Working Group also received a consultancy report on options and considerations of implementing a marking and identification system for FADs in the WCPO, the report has been referred to SC and TCC for further consideration. The report and recommendations of the working group is expected to be presented for discussion at WCPFC13.

3. INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

3.1 Strategic Planning

19. The Commission at its annual meeting in Bali, Indonesia in December 2016 sanctioned a process for the development of a draft Strategic Plan of a ten years' duration focusing on high level strategic directions and priorities to be supported by a shorter term three years' Corporate Plan. The agreed terms of reference to guide the process envisaged an inclusive, consultative and open process to be facilitated by an independent Facilitator. Consensus Building Institute Ltd a USA based consultancy firm was awarded the consultancy to facilitate the process to develop the draft Strategic Plan and Corporate Plan. Mr Tushar Kansal was the lead Consultant who undertook initial information gathering, collation and analysis from desktop reviews, interviews with members, observers and other stakeholders and questionnaire surveys posted on the WCPFC website. The material gathered by Mr Tushar was presented to a two days' consultation meeting held in Pohnpei, FSM on 19 and 20th September immediately prior to TCC12. The objective of the meeting was to review the material gathered and to have an open and frank discussions on the members' expectations of what the WCPFC should achieve in 10 years' time and what common high level strategic priorities should be aimed for. In addition, the participants at the meeting workshopped what potential implementing strategies are required to aid the implementation and achievement of the long term strategic priorities. The intention was for the long term high level strategic priorities to be captured in the Strategic Plan and for the implementing strategies to form part of the Corporate Plan.

20. Since the consultation meeting, the Consultant had compiled and distributed the first draft of the Strategic Plan for review by members, observers and stakeholders and for comments to be received by 28th October, 2016. The Consultant will then review the comments and issue a final draft of the Strategic Plan by 15th November, 2016. This final draft will be collectively considered and discussed at WCPFC13. In consultation with the Secretariat, the Consultant will not progress work on developing a draft Corporate Plan because of the uncertainty as to what strategic priorities and goals will be agreed for the Strategic Plan. Work on the Corporate Plan will proceed when the Commission endorses the Strategic Plan and its strategic priorities.

3.2 Staffing matters

21. The number of Secretariat staff remain relatively stable with 24 staff positions comprising of 9 professional staff, including the Executive Director, and 15 support staff. The Secretariat also hosts the Technical Coordinator; Dr Shelley Clarke, for the ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna Project Bycatch Component that is implemented by the WCPFC. She has become a valuable resource to complement the science team of the Commission and a respected authority for the Commission on shark and by-catch mitigation. A new addition to the staff complement in 2016 is Mr Sam Rikin who was recruited for the local staff position of IT Officer. This position was originally established at a professional level and titled the Network Administrator. However, after unsuccessful attempts to fill the position and upon re-examination of the needs of the Secretariat, the terms of reference were revised and the position advertised as a support staff position.

22. The position of the Observer Programme Coordinator was advertised in late August, 2015 and Mr Karl Staisch was reappointed in early 2016. The Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Manager position was also advertised in early February 2016 and Mr Sam

Taufao has been reappointed into that position. The position of the VMS Manager was advertised in July, 2016 and will be filled in early 2017.

23. At the WCPFC12, the Secretariat tabled for consideration of FAC9 and the Commission the Report on the Outcomes of the Job Evaluation of Secretariat positions undertaken by a consultant Mr Geoff Summers of Strategic Pay Ltd. Consequently, WCPFC12 tasked the Secretariat consider and report back to FAC10 and WCPFC13 its assessed implications of implementing the key recommendations of the said report, particularly the recommendation for the adoption of the SP10 based salary structure, that is currently use by four CROP agencies namely FFA, PIFS, SPC and SPREP. A discussion paper by the Secretariat on its preliminary assessment of the implications of those recommendation as required was circulated to Commission members during the week of TCC12 for their review and comments by 28th October, 2016. A meeting paper on the final assessment by the Secretariat accounting for the comments from members will be presented and discussed at the FAC10 and ultimately at WCPFC13. The outcomes of the triennial review of the Secretariat's remuneration and employment conditions undertaken in 2016 will be presented for the consideration of FAC10 and ultimately WCPFC13.

3.3 Annual accounts and contribution

24. The 2015 financial statements were completed, audited and made available through the Commission's website within the specified time frames, together with the External Auditor's Reports. The Auditor reported that the statements and accounts complied were compliant with the required accounting standards as well as the Commission's Financial Regulations, and presented a fair view of the financial position. The Auditors report will be presented for the review and final consideration of WCPFC13.

25. Article 18 (3) of the Convention provides that if a member's contributions are in arrears for the preceding two full years it shall not participate in the taking of decisions by the Commission, subject to the Commission permitting such a member to vote. It is gladly reported that currently there are no members who are affected by that conventional provision.

3.4 Financial and administrative arrangements

26. The Financial and administrative arrangements have operated satisfactorily during the year with the continued use of QuickBooks Enterprise as the Commissions financial management system. Management of the headquarters building services and grounds continued to be a challenge, however, by implementing a regular maintenance schedule of the buildings and grounds with budgetary support meant those properties and assets continue to be in good order. The electrical outages in Pohnpei have been particularly severe this year and the Secretariat is investigating emergency power services for professional staff residences.

3.5 Trust Funds

27. There has been continued contributions to the Voluntary Fund in 2016. ISSF contributed USD30,000 for the MSE Expert Consultation Meeting. The United States of America provided USD20,000 for the Special Requirements Fund (SRF) which was depleted in 2015. Korea provided USD167,560 for the Tuna Tagging Project. The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council provided USD15,000 for Spatial longline analysis in support of bigeye tuna management. FSM provided USD2,500 for the co-hosting of the reception for TCC12.

28. The Japan Trust Fund (JTF) was used to implement projects with USD151,950 was received and made available to support projects aimed for capacity building in fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement in 2016 in small island developing states. The specific projects that received funding support from the JTF are included in the report on the fund to be tabled at FAC10 in working paper referenced *WCPFC13-2016-FAC10-07*.

29. The Secretariat continues to work with Chinese Taipei to establish the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund that was announced at WCPFC11. The European Union and New Zealand have ongoing discussions with the Secretariat on prospect for additional voluntary funding contribution from these members and an update on the progress of those discussions will be provided at FAC10 and WCPFC13.

3.6 Information Technology Systems

30. In 2016, the WCPFC corporate network maintained operations and support to CCMs and the Secretariat at more than 99% systems availability. The corporate network experienced similar high levels of spamming and attempted hacking as reported elsewhere. Some platforms that no longer offered vendor support were replaced. As a general observation, the WCPFC systems were fortunate that no external or unauthorized intrusions were detected. The key strategic changes for 2016 included: new corporate network firewall, doubling of anti-virus and anti-malware security protection, enhanced protection of onsite data through encryption, implementation of backup / redundancy capability within the framework of a WCPFC disaster recovery and business continuity strategy. In terms of such strategy, the Secretariat has adopted a proven approach which can allow the WCPFC systems to go online at its remote site, should some catastrophic disaster disabled the systems in Commission headquarters in Pohnpei, FSM. These plans and implementations were acknowledged in the Deloitte security review report of 2016. The Deloitte report was tabled at TCC12 as paper WCPFC-TCC12-2016-RP08, which included key findings of issues of concern and the corresponding WCPFC management responses.

31. On 1 July 2016, the new Trackwell VMS went online and its successful implementation as scheduled was helped by the ability of existing IMS applications and databases to supply accurate source data and allow seamless integration, particularly the WCPFC RFV and FFA Good Standing vessel register, WCPFC MTU register and other necessary reference information. Project management and control fell to the ICT team and was a major part of the 2016 work plan. Another important stream of work arising out of WCPFC12 involved some intense data modeling and application development work in collaboration with SPC under the guidance of the Compliance Manager. The key deliverables of this work were the online Compliance Case Management lists that were available to CCMs by the time of TCC12. In addition, the technical support provided to the Compliance group in their annual CMR process proceeded as planned.

32. As reported previously, the Commission data warehouse (DWH) facility and data marts (DM) continued to improve the Secretariat's business intelligence and analytical capability in support of the Commission and CCM activities in 2016. Improvements to IMS modules to manage data from the high seas pocket 1 (HSP1), East high seas pocket (EHSP), high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI), Transshipment, Catch Discards and their inclusion in the DWH data catalogue were an important part of the year's work plan. It is gratifying to witness the growing volumes and diversity of data being added to the DWH and particularly its positive contribution to assist the Compliance staff and other authorized users with their work.

4. SERVICES PROVIDERS OF THE COMMISSION

4.1 The Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community

33. The SPC-OFP continued in the role of conducting data management, statistical analysis, stock assessments and related analytical services, management analyses and CMM performance monitoring, and other advisory and technical services. In 2016, SPC-OFP authored and co-authored 46 papers and reports for SC12 and provided *ad hoc* advice and support throughout the year. In addition, SPC-OFP provided the necessary technical and scientific advisory support for the following activities:

- i) Meetings of WCPFC 12, TCC12, and the meetings of the intersessional working groups on E-reporting and E-monitoring and FAD Management Options;
- ii) WPEA Project workshops, tuna data review and annual tuna catch estimates;
- iii) The Pacific Tuna Tagging Program (PTTP) and coordinated PTTP Steering Committee Meeting;
- (iv) The Pre-Assessment Workshop, to obtain advice and other inputs from CCMs on the stock assessments conducted in 2016; and
- v) The MSE Expert Consultation Workshop to develop an initial work plan and schedule for an MSE process that will support the development of the Commission's harvest strategy framework.

4.2 The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

34. The Commission continued its association with the FFA through its Service Level Agreement, and its delivery of VMS services. During the first half of 2016, the FFA retired the Polestar VMS and transitioned Pacific VMS services to Trackwell. The new Commission VMS from Trackwell was officially launched on 1st July 2016. A report of progress confirming the successful transition of the Commission VMS to Trackwell was provided to TCC12 in meeting paper *TCC12-2016-14*. The Pacific VMS system continues to operate as two separate and distinct entities to protect the integrity of the Commission VMS data and FFA VMS data. Currently there are almost 3,200 vessels reporting to the Commission VMS, and nearly 45% report through the FFA VMS system with position transfer to the WCPFC (the Commission separately maintains VMS contracts for airtime services for positions from the WCPFC-VMS direct reporting vessels and support to VMS redundancy provision). The Commission VMS system under the SLA provided continued and ongoing support to routine VMS services, "flick the switch" implementation (WCPFC9 decision on application of the WCPFC VMS to WCPFC members' waters) and members' high seas MCS operations.

4.3 The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

35. The ISC continued to be the scientific services provider for the Northern Committee and provided scientific information and advice as requested by the Northern Committee regarding northern stocks and other tuna-like stocks in the North Pacific Ocean. In 2016, the ISC provided amongst others the following services:

- (i) Conducted stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna which is assessed to be experiencing overfishing and is in an overfished state;
- (ii) Conducted stock assessment for Pacific blue marlin which is assessed to be not experiencing overfishing and not in an overfished state;
- (iii) Assessed the following stocks:
 - o North Pacific albacore tuna, North Pacific blue shark, and Western Central

- North Pacific Ocean swordfish as not experiencing overfishing and not in an overfished state;
 - Eastern Pacific Ocean swordfish as likely to be experiencing overfishing but not in an overfished state;
 - North Pacific striped marlin as experiencing overfishing and is in an overfished state;
- (iv) Convened the 2nd Workshop on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and continued to develop an MSE framework for North Pacific albacore;

36. The ISC has noted the enhanced transparency in Working Group efforts where observers from Pew Charitable Trusts, Monterey Bay Aquarium, World Wide Fund for Nature-Japan, Wild Oceans and Duke University participated and made useful contribution. The work plan for ISC for 2016-17 includes completing the North Pacific blue shark and albacore tuna assessments.

5. RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

37. As required by the WCPFC Convention, it is imperative that the Commission cooperate and collaborate with the FAO and other specialized UN agencies and other relevant organizations, in particular the other four tuna regional fisheries management bodies, namely, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), to share information and exchange views on areas of common interest and best practices.

5.1 UNFAO

38. The Executive Director attended the meeting of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in July, 2016. COFI is the governing body of the FAO Fisheries Programme and considered and approved the FAO fisheries work programme for the next two years. The occasion of the COFI meeting brought together senior fisheries officials of the FAO member states and representatives of numerous national, regional and international fisheries organizations. The highlight of the COFI meeting in 2016 was the launch of the coming into operation of the FAO Port Sates Agreement witnessed by ministerial and ambassadorial level representatives of states that have ratified the agreement. The Executive Director interacted and secured valuable contacts with senior fisheries officials from national, regional and international agencies.

5.2 Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network

39. At the margins of the COFI meeting, members of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) had their meeting. The network covers secretariats of fishery bodies of different shape and sizes and mandates and serve as a platform for sharing lessons learnt, experiences and good practices. The issue of general concern and interest to most of the secretariats is the launch of the UN led process for a mechanism to regulate biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) which was launched in New York in March, 2016. The issue of concern is the potential confusion and duplication of the new mechanism with existing regional and international fishery regimes. A joint letter from the Network was provided to the COFI meeting emphasizing that concern and other positions taken by the Network on the agenda of the COFI.

5.3 *Tuna RFMOs*

40. All the Heads of the five tuna RFMOs were in Rome for COFI and they had their joint consultation meeting. The Executive Director met for the first time the Heads of ICCAT and CCSBT. The meeting reviewed and considered joint initiatives between the tuna RFMOs including the consolidated list of authorized vessels (CLAV), which was managed by IOTC but planned to be moved to ICCAT; joint working groups on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD), and By-Catch; and the prospect of an advisory group on MCS best practices. Some of those joint initiatives like the working group on MSE were undertaken as part of the Kobe Process. The Chair of the Kobe Steering Committee Mr Russel Smith who is also Vice Chair of WCPFC, attended COFI and summoned a meeting of the Steering Committee. The Executive Director attended for the first time the meeting of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee discussed and confirmed the convening of the joint working group on MSE to be held in Spain on 1-3 November, 2016; the By-Catch working group to be held back to back with the MSE working group in Rome in December, 2016; and for ICCAT to coordinate and issue invitations for the FAD working group to meet in 2017.

41. Relationship with IATTC remains one of the key relationships for WCPFC because of our shared boundaries, joint management area over overlapped convention areas and potentially shared tuna stocks. In this regard, the Secretariats of the WCPFC and IATTC maintained close liaisons and cooperated in various areas. In 2016 the WCPFC through the Northern Committee had a joint meeting with IATTC to consider management issues of the Pacific bluefin tuna stock. Training for cross accreditation of observers continued in 2016 and so as ongoing collaboration under the by-catch component of the ABNJ project. The Executive Director attended the annual meeting of the IATTC in June 2016 and met with his IATTC counterpart Dr Guillermo Compean who was re-appointed for another term.

42. Two draft memoranda of cooperation with CCSBT were considered and finalized during 2016 for members review and comments. The drafts were reviewed by TCC12 and are recommended for consideration by WCPFC13. The same draft memoranda were presented to the annual CCSBT in October 2016 and were cleared for finalization subject to the same consideration by WCPFC13.

5.4 *Pacific RFMOs*

43. The Heads of the Pacific RFMOs consisting of CCSBT, Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), IATTC, the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAFC) and WCPFC, were at the COFI meeting in Rome and met informally and agreed to exchange contacts with the aspiration to set up a network for Pacific RFMOs to exchange information and share best practices.

44. In July 2016, the Executive Director approved a request from his counterpart at the NPFC for the Secretariat ICT Manager to assist and did assist with the initial review of IT requirements of NPFC.

45. The Secretariat has also maintained close liaison with other regional organizations and have participated actively in their meetings and workshops. The meetings and workshops attended are set out in *Annex 3*.

6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

6.1 ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna Project Bycatch Component

46. A portion of the bycatch component of the ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna Project is implemented by the WCPFC under an Execution Agreement signed by the FAO and WCPFC on 25 October, 2014 for a 3.2 million USD package of work designed to mitigate the adverse impact of bycatch in global tuna fisheries. The project is oversighted by a Steering Committee which meet annually to review its progress. The 2016 annual meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Rome, Italy in July and the Executive Director was appointed to chair and presided over the three days' meeting which reviewed the progress of the various components of the project and considered and endorsed the work programme and budget for the project for onward years. The Executive Director was accompanied to the Rome meeting by the Finance and Administration Manager and the Technical Coordinator of the By-Catch component of the ABNJ project.

47. The key achievements of the project in 2016 include:

- i) A catalogue of shark data holdings across the five tuna RFMOs using public domain data was completed and a prototype Global t-RFMO Shark Browser (inventory) was circulated to the tuna RFMOs for comment.
- ii) An ABNJ proposal for standardizing bycatch summaries across the tuna RFMOs based on a CCSBT model (BDEP) was accepted for trial application by WCPFC and IOTC subsidiary bodies and was considered by both tuna RFMOs in August / September 2016 (see Williams et al. 2016 below).
- iii) The whale shark tagging programme initiated with NOAA in June 2015 continued.
- iv) The first of four Pacific-wide stock status assessments, on the southern hemisphere porbeagle shark, is underway as a joint effort between CCSBT and WCPFC and participating scientists from New Zealand, Japan, Uruguay and Argentina, and will be delivered in early 2017.
- v) The second Pacific-wide stock status assessment, on the bigeye thresher shark, was completed in September 2016 and will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee in August 2017.
- vi) SPC has employed a coordinator to plan and oversee system and website re-design work for the Bycatch Management Information System while bibliographic updates and content development continue.
- vii) The first joint analysis workshop on the effectiveness of sea turtle mitigation was convened in Honolulu from 16-19 February 2016; the second and final workshop will take place on 3-8 November 2016 and provide recommendations for improved management (see Clarke et al. 2016a below).
- viii) The Technical Coordinator-Sharks and Bycatch (TCSB) participated in the FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the listing of commercial aquatic species on CITES in Rome in July 2016 and in the 8th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka in May 2016.
- ix) The WCPFC-led components of the ABNJ Tuna Project contributed 6 papers for WCPFC SC12 and TCC12:
 - o Clarke, S. 2016. Elaboration of technical details regarding targeting and shark management plans for CMM 2014-05. WCPFC-SC12-2016/EB-WP-05.
 - o Clarke, S., T. Peatman and S. Caillot. 2016a. Results from the First Workshop on Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness. WCPFC-SC12-2016/EB-IP-11.

- Clarke, S., L. Manarangi-Trott and A. Taholo. 2016. Information Available to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Commission's Measure on Shark Finning. WCPFC-SC12-2016/EB-IP-02.
 - Fu, D., M.J. Roux, S. Clarke, M. Francis, A. Dunn and S. Hoyle. 2016. Pacific-wide bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*) sustainability status assessment: introduction, datasets and methodology. WCPFC-SC12-2016/SA-IP-17.
 - Secretariat. 2016. Clarification of Process for Designating WCPFC Key Shark Species for Data Provision and Assessment. WCPFC-TCC12-2016-25.
 - Williams, P., N. Smith, I. Tuiloma, C. Falasi and S. Clarke. 2016. Trial Application of the BDEP Template for Summarizing Bycatch Data. WCPFC-SC12-2016/EB-WP-12. Accessed online at <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/sc12>
- x) The Secretariat and SPC advanced with plans to hold an expert workshop in January 2017 to advise on an experimental design for shark post-release mortality studies. The EU has tentatively approved a contribution of approximately €400,000 to supplement the ABNJ funds available to support this tagging work in the WCPO.

6.1 West Pacific East Asia Project.

48. The GEF-funded UNDP Project, Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas, is a three-year full size project which was commenced in October 2014. The participating agencies are governments of Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. The total GEF grant is USD 2,233,578 to support implementation of the following three components:

- i) Component 1: Regional governance for building regional and national adaptive capacity of Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam in the management of highly migratory stocks
 - Improved regional mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of highly migratory fish stocks and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the POWP LME and EAS.
 - Enhanced capacity of technical staff, policy and decision makers in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam to integrate climate change impacts on highly migratory stocks into management regimes.
 - Climate change concerns mainstreamed into national fishery sector policy in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam
- ii) Component 2: Implementation of policy, institutional and fishery management reform
 - Enhanced compliance of existing legal instruments at national, regional and international levels;
 - Adoption of market-based approaches to sustainable harvest of tunas;
 - Reduced uncertainty in stock assessment of POWP LME and EAS LMEs highly migratory fish stocks, and improved understanding of associated ecosystems and their biodiversity;
 - Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) guiding sustainable harvest of the oceanic tuna stocks and reduced by-catch of sea turtles, sharks and seabirds
- iii) Component 3: Knowledge sharing on highly migratory fish stocks
 - Regional knowledge platform established on POWP LME and EAS LMEs shared tuna stocks and associated ecosystems

49. In 2016, around 15 activities were planned per country and key activities include:

- i) Logbook awareness workshop in tuna landing provinces;

- ii) Support three countries to participate in the Scientific Committee and SPC's Tuna Data Workshop;
- iii) Tuna catch data collection from port sampling at most tuna landing sites, and reconstruction of catch histories prior to the estimated period;
- iv) Data review and annual tuna catch estimates workshops;
- v) Prior study on the impacts of climate change on tuna resources and fisheries for further development of an adaptive tuna management approach against climate change;
- vi) Prior study on market-based sustainability of tuna resources – studies on tuna supply chain analysis and catch certification system;
- vii) Prior study on the application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management;
- viii) Review workshops to review prior studies and to produce recommendations for future study to meet the project targets;
- ix) Educational workshops for the development of a harvest strategy approach to fisheries management;
- x) Support MCS activities such as observer training workshops, brief-debrief workshops, and VMS and E-logbook workshops;
- xi) Publication of *Operational Guide for Fishermen, Translation of the Commission's Requirements* in local language, *Fish Identification Guidelines, Observer Manual*, etc.;
- xii) Review of national fisheries laws and regulations and gap analysis with WCPFC requirements;
- xiii) Support participation in GEF/UNDP-hosted International Waters Conference;
- xiv) Three-country sub-regional WPEA workshop to consider harvest strategy approach to fisheries management and adaptive fisheries management against the impacts of climate change; and
- xv) The WPEA Project Board Meeting with the three project participating countries, UNDP, PEMSEA and WCPFC.

50. The 3rd WPEA Project Board Meeting will be convened in Cebu, Philippines, during 28-29 October 2016. Progress of 2016 activities will be presented and reviewed, and 2017 annual work plan and budget will be reviewed and endorsed. This project is scheduled to take a mid-term evaluation early next year.

7. FUTURE WORK

51. The WCPFC13 will consider and determine the various work plans for future work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and that of the Secretariat. They include the work plans for the Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, Northern Committee and the Intersessional Working Groups on Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting, Catch Documentation Scheme. The FAD Management Options IWG has recommended that a formal meeting of the working group is not envisaged during 2017. The Commission Chair has also identified as a priority the development of a successor CCM to the current Tropical Tuna CCM 2015-01 to lapse in 2017 in the form of a Bridging Tuna CCM whilst work on the harvest strategy framework for the commission continues.

52. In the compliance area, there is expected to continue to be an intense focus on the Compliance Monitoring Scheme with ongoing development of associated and supporting integrated-MCS Information Management System (IMS), including updates and some enhancements planned for the online Compliance Case File System. Enhancement of supporting IMS-based IT tools is planned with a view to better support monitoring by the Secretariat compliance staff, and as is required by the Convention and various CMMs. There is a growing need for additional staff within the Secretariat, and is particularly necessary to support the development, testing and implementation of Commission standards to support

implementation of Electronic Reporting and Monitoring technologies by members. A proposal on additional support to the Secretariat for E-reporting work areas will be provided to FAC10.

53. In the science services area, the following areas will feature prominently in the science programme in 2017 and onwards:

- i) Stock assessments for bigeye, yellowfin and Southwest Pacific swordfish;
- ii) Support for the harvest strategy framework for the Commission;
- iii) Regular tagging activities to support stock assessments and implementation of harvest strategy for tropical tuna, with alternating years targeting skipjack and yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna;
- iv) Continuous implementation of the Shark Research Plan in collaboration with ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna Project-Shark and Bycatch Components;
- v) Continuous discussion and support for the development of the Commission's harvest strategy framework; and
- vi) Continuous support of the WPEA project to improve data collection and to build national capacity of compliance with WCPFC requirements in the three participating countries.

54. Subject to the decision of WCPFC13 on the draft Strategic Plan, there is expected to be work in 2017 on developing the draft Corporate Plan that will encapsulate the implementing strategies to operationalize the agreed long termed strategic priorities in the Strategic Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATION

55. WCPFC13 is invited to consider and note the report.

Key SC Work Programme Activities in 2016

- ***(Project 15) West Pacific East Asia Project***

The Secretariat continued to manage and implement the GEF-funded WPEA Project (Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas). WCPFC's co-finance contribution is USD 25,000 per year. A progress report was presented to SC12 (SC12-RP-WPEA-01) and an update report will be to WCPFC13.

- ***(Project 35) Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide (A comprehensive review and study of bigeye tuna reproductive biology)***

This ongoing project was supported in 2016 with a budget of \$50,000.

- ***(Project 35b) Management of the WCPFC Tuna Tissue Bank***

This project has an ongoing annual budget of USD 80,000. Revised operational guidelines were developed at SC12.

- ***(Project 42) Pacific-wide tagging project***

A PTTP Steering Committee meeting was convened during SC12, and SPC-OFPP presented a progress report on 2015-2016 tagging activities and the status of tag recovery. The Commission provided USD 10,000 to assist operations and activities related with the PTTP including tag recovery.

- ***(Project 54) Sharks Monte Carlo mitigation analysis for purse seine and extension of longline analysis***

SPC-OFPP, building on previous work, continued Monte Carlo analysis of measures to mitigate longline fishery impacts on sharks and presented findings to SC12 (SC12-EB-WP-03 and SC12-EB-WP-06).

- ***(Project 57) Limit Reference Points - Develop proposed limit reference points for elasmobranchs***

As requested by WCPFC12, SC12 has defined the scope of work for this project. This project will support shark and stock assessment experts to undertake the defined work and the results will be reported to SC13.

- ***(Project 60) Purse Seine Species Composition***

SPC-OFPP presented a review of Project 60 and work plan (SC12-ST-WP-02). Sampling will continue in 2017 with an annual budget of USD 50,000 to cover at sea data collection by the 2nd observer and data analysis.

- ***(Project 67) Range contraction of tropical tunas, sharks, and billfish (Review of impacts of recent high catches of skipjack tuna on fisheries on the margins of the WCPFC Convention Area)***

SC12 defined the scope of work of this project for 2016 and future work for 2017 to 2019. The work for 2016 includes data update and some level of fishery impact and connectivity analysis. This project is advertised and the selected tenderer will report the results to SC13.

- ***(Project 71) South Pacific swordfish biology***

Following the SC9 recommendation for additional work to be undertaken on age, growth and age validation of SP swordfish, the Secretariat arranged a contract with the CSIRO to partly support their project (*Determination of Swordfish growth and maturity relevant to the southwest Pacific stock*) which includes the requests from SC9. CSIRO provided a final report (SC12-SA-WP-11: Determination of swordfish growth and maturity relevant to the southwest Pacific stock) to SC12. The analysis will be applied to the 2017 Southwest Pacific swordfish stock assessment.

- ***(Project 74) Pacific-wide bigeye tuna stock assessment***

This project was recommended by the SC10 for review by SC11 with a funding support by the European Union. SPC produced SC11-SA-WP-03 (Sensitivity of the WCPO bigeye tuna stock assessment results to the inclusion of EPO dynamics within a Pacific-wide model) which responded to the recommendation from the 2011 Bigeye Peer Review:

The Panel therefore recommends that a Pacific-wide assessment be conducted soon to evaluate whether the past conclusion that the results from a WCPO-only assessment are consistent with expectations from a Pacific-wide assessment remains true. In addition, the Panel recommends that Pacific-wide assessments should be conducted regularly (~ every five years) to confirm the assumption that a WCPO-only assessment will provide robust estimates of stock status.

- ***(Project 75) MSE Related work in support of WCPFC Harvest Strategies.***

Part of this project, currently EU supported, commenced on 1 November 2015 and supported a modeler to work on management strategy evaluation (MSE) in support of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Framework. In addition, the Commission, with a financial support from the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, supported an MSE Expert Consultation Workshop held at SPC. The workshop outputs are summarized in SC12-MI-WP-05 (Report of the Expert Consultation Workshop on Management Strategy Evaluation).

- ***(Project 76) Pilot study of the potential for using non-ISSF associated cannery receipt data for the work of the WCPFC (An EU supported project)***

The overall project progress, including ISSF Associated Cannery Receipt Data research, was presented to SC12 in meeting paper SC12-ST-WP-03: Potential use of cannery receipt data for the scientific work of the WCPFC.

- ***(Project 79) Spatial analysis of WCPO longline fishing in support of bigeye tuna management in the WCPFC-Convention Area***

This project is supported by \$15,000 funding from the USA. Delivery is expected by the end of October 2016, and the report should be distributed to SC heads of delegations for review prior to the Commission.

Key TCC Related Activities in 2016

The activities of the WCPFC MCS programme are covered in detail in *WCPFC-TCC12-2016-07* the Executive Directors Report on Operational Issues with the WCPFC MCS Programmes. Some highlights include:

- During the first half of 2016, the FFA retired the Polestar VMS and transitioned Pacific VMS services to Trackwell. The new Commission VMS from Trackwell was officially launched on 1st July 2016. The Commission maintains contracts with Satcomms/Vizada, Satcom/Iridium and CLS Argos for air time services for direct reporting vessels;
- The VMS data integrity audit was combined with a security audit of the IMS, RFV Procedures done by Deloitte Ltd;
- Continued and enhanced delivery of a range of online reporting systems for CCMs and for the Secretariat (including online reporting systems for Annual Report Part 2, draft Compliance Monitoring Reports, MTU audit reporting, and Record of Fishing Vessels updates);
- In April, the new online Compliance Case File system was launched and this supports the notification to flag CCMs of alleged violations by their vessels and assists the Secretariat with tracking the progress of investigations of individual alleged violations. Four compliance case file lists have been published to date: a) Article 25(2) Compliance Cases, b) FAD Sets Alleged Infringements, c) Observer Obstruction Alleged Infringements, and d) Shark Catch Alleged Infringements. Through the system, flag CCMs are given earlier advice of alleged infringements – giving them basic details, such as the name of vessel and dates of the trip, relevant CMM obligation reference, with the expectation that flag CCMs would start an investigation. Where applicable, the name of the observer provider is also confirmed, and it was expected that the flag CCM would contact the observer provider for further information including supporting details of the alleged infringement.
- Continued work to further integrate and develop IT tools to better support the Secretariat's work for the development of draft Compliance Monitoring Reports as well as day-to-day monitoring of the implementation of WCPFC CMMs, including work on a mapping display for the Secretariat MCS staff;
- In-country and over email/skype assistance to CCMs and their authorized MCS entities with Annual Reporting requirements, compliance monitoring report-related queries, and near-real time MCS operations;
- Receiving, reviewing and processing WCPFC Data Access requests from CCMs and their authorized MCS entities;

- Maintenance and support to displays on the WCPFC website MCS pages for the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and including key statistics, High Seas Boarding and Inspection Register, Eastern High Seas Pocket VMS data and a display and update facility for CCM Official Contact lists (including Official contacts, HSBI, Authorized MCS Entities and Flag State Authorities);
- Receipt, maintenance into databases and summary reporting based on reporting by CCMs under CMMs – Fishery-specific CMMs, high seas transshipment reporting, VMS-related reporting, high seas pocket entry and exit reporting, WCPFC IUU list and Article 25(2) submissions; High Seas Boarding and Inspection reports; Record of Fishing Vessels updates.
- Technical, policy and administrative support to the three intersessional WCPFC Working Group meetings held in 2016 and their intersessional discussions.
- Preparation of technical papers to TCC12 covering: draft terms of reference for review of Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2017; proposal for extension of Port Coordinators Programme by the Commission; Proposal for draft Guidelines for determination of circumstances where it is impracticable for certain vessels to transship in port or in waters under national jurisdiction; and summary of port state measures adopted by RFMOs.

Other Meetings and Workshops Attended by the Secretariat

In addition to the meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the Secretariat participated in the other meetings and workshops in 2016 as follow:

- ISC16 (8-18 July 2016) Sapporo, Kokkaido, Japan
- ISC's MSE Workshop (28 – 30 June, 2016) Yokohama, Japan
- WPEA Project related GEF International Waters Conference (9 -13 May, 2016) Negombo, Sri Lanka
- WPEA Project related meetings and workshop in Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam
- 5th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (March 2016), Auckland, New Zealand
- FFA MCS Working Group (March 2016), Auckland, New Zealand
- First Strategy Meeting of the Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee (April 2016)
- Tuna Data Workshop (April 2016), Noumea, New Caledonia
- VMS Administrator training (Feb 2016) Solomon Islands
- VMS setup (May 2016), Iceland
- In country VMS Training (China, Spain, Portugal, French Polynesia, Japan, Noumea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu, USA)
- ISC's MSE Workshop (16-17 April 2015), Yokohama, Japan
- Observer training (May 2016) Philippines
- International Fisheries Observers and Monitoring Conference (August 2016) USA
- FFC Officials (May 2016), Vanuatu
- IATTC/WCPFC Cross Endorsement Training (Aug 2016), Vanuatu
- Forum Leaders Meeting (Sept 2016), Pohnpei
- Special Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee (October, 2016), Noumea, New Caledonia
- Special Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee (December, 2016), Nadi
- Observer Programme Audits (Indonesia, Marshall Islands).