



**COMMISSION
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DRAFT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES UNDER HARVEST STRATEGY APPROACH

**WCPFC13-2016-11b
15 July 2016**

Proposal by WCPFC Chair

The attached paper on Management Objectives was circulated to CCMs as WCPFC Circular 2016/34 on 15 July 2016.

Draft Management Objectives under the Harvest Strategy Approach

Cover Notes

At WCPFC11 in Apia, Samoa, the Commission adopted CMM 2014-06 on *Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean*. In 2015, the Commission adopted a Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies to cover activities from 2015-2018. In 2016, the Commission has a number of tasks to try and achieve under that Work Plan, among which is the task to *record* management objectives for each of the four tuna species covered under the Harvest Strategy:

It is proposed that the Commission can initially ‘record’ a range of candidate management objectives rather than ‘agree’ management objectives. This will allow development of relevant performance measures for management strategy evaluation. It is noted that the Commission has previously recorded a range of candidate objectives for tuna stocks and fisheries, including those in the final ‘Report of the Expert Working Group Management Objectives, Performance Indicators and Reference Points’ (MOW2-IP/01Rev 1), which was developed in the course of the first two Management Objectives Workshops (2012 and 2013) and accepted by WCPFC10. (Agreed Work Plan)

Background

From 2012-2015, a series of discussions took place through the Management Options Workshops, the first of which took place in 2012 immediately prior to WCPFC9, with two subsequent MOW’s in 2013 and 2014 and a Harvest Strategy Workshop in 2015.

Through the MOW process, considerable discussion took place amongst stakeholders on increasing understanding of management objectives and frameworks, indicators and reference points. Although the MOW’s were convened as informal meetings of stakeholders and had no formal standing within the Commission, the discussions nevertheless have contributed to a basis for the Commission to later adopt the Harvest Strategy approach outlined in CMM 2014-06.

Following MOW1, the Commission agreed at WCPFC9 to a process for future action on Management Objectives, contained in Attachment X of the WCPFC9 Summary Report. That process saw the convening of an expert group to develop a candidate list of management objectives, performance indicators, and reference points (known as the “strawman proposal”) for each of the following major fisheries:

- Tropical longline
- Purse seine
- Southern longline
- Pacific bluefin tuna
- North Pacific albacore

Following a series of comments and revisions through the 2013 SC, NC, and TCC meetings, the strawman proposal was presented to MOW2 in 2013 for further

refinement. A final draft was discussed by MOW2 and presented to the Commission at WCPFC10 (*see WCPFC10-2013-15b; MOW2 Report contained in WCPFC10-2013-15a*).

WCPFC10 **accepted** the strawman proposal and tasked the Scientific Services Provider with further work related to skipjack TRP, harvest control rules, and performance indicators. The Commission also agreed to hold a third MOW in 2014.

MOW3 met in 2014 immediately prior to WCPFC11 and considered a management framework based on a harvest strategy approach. While not a direct outfall of the MOW process, a harvest strategy CMM was later adopted by WCPFC11 and builds on the discussions that took place in the first three MOW's. The Commission had no further discussions to elaborate on or refine the strawman proposal.

WCPFC13

The 2016 Harvest Strategy Work Plan tasks the Commission with *recording* management objectives for South Pacific albacore, skipjack, bigeye, and yellowfin. In accordance with CMM 2014-06, harvest strategies for Pacific bluefin and North Pacific albacore will be developed by the Northern Committee. Note that we are not aiming to *agree* on management objectives, which can come at a later stage. But having a set of recorded management objectives will be important for developing other elements of the harvest strategy, e.g. reference points, risk levels and, in particular performance indicators which tell us how well proposed harvest strategies meet the various objectives.

In using the candidate management objectives from the MOW strawman proposal as a starting point for discussions at WCPFC13, I am attempting to draw on work that has already taken place, with the intent to build on that work to help us move forward at WCPFC13. My goal in December is to see the Commission *record* candidate management objectives for each of the four main tuna stocks, in accordance with the Harvest Strategy Work Plan.

CCMs are requested to review the attached management objectives that are exactly as those contained in the original MOW strawman proposal and be prepared to accept these at WCPFC13 as *recorded management objectives* for purposes of furthering additional harvest strategy elements set out in CMM 2014-06.

**Recorded Management Objectives for the
Tropical Longline, Purse Seine, and Southern Longline Fisheries**
(South Pacific albacore, skipjack, bigeye, and yellowfin)

MOW1 selected a wide range of objectives summarized under the major groups of Biological, Economic, Social, and Ecosystem.

For simplicity, the below Table reflects only the candidate management objectives that are contained in the original strawman proposal. The full strawman proposal can be found beginning at page 16 of WCPFC10-2013-15b.

Tropical Longline Fishery (20N-20S; YFT, BET and ALB)	
Type	Objective
Biological	Maintain YFT and BET biomass above levels that provide fishery sustainability throughout their range
Economic	Maximize economic yield from the fishery
	Maintain acceptable CPUE
	Increase fisheries-based development within developing States' economies
	Optimize fishing effort
	Maximize SIDS revenues from resource rents
	Stability and continuity of market supply
Social	Affordable protein for coastal communities
	Local market price of tuna
	Employment opportunities
	Maintain/develop domestic fishery
	Human resource development
	Avoid adverse impacts on subsistence and small scale fishers
Ecosystem	Minimize fishery impact on ecosystem function
	Minimize catch of non-target species

Purse Seine Fishery (20N-20S; including Indonesia and Philippines)	
Type	Objective
Biological	Maintain SKJ and YFT & BET biomass at or above levels that provide fishery sustainability throughout their range
Economic	Maximize economic yield from the fishery <i>Alternate: Enabling economic yields to be maximized</i>
	Increase fisheries based development within developing States /SIDS economies, especially onshore processing capacity
	Maintain acceptable CPUE
	Optimize fishing effort
	Maximize SIDS revenues from resource rents

	Catch stability
	Stability, predictability and continuity of market supply
Social	Affordable protein for coastal communities
	Food security in developing States (import replacement)
	Minimize impact on small- scale artisanal fisheries
	Avoid adverse impacts on subsistence and small scale fishers
	Employment Opportunities
Ecosystem	Minimize fishery impact on ecosystem function
	Minimize catch of non-target species

Southern Longline Fishery (WCPFC Area, south of Equator)	
Type	Objective
Biological	Maintain ALB (and SWO) biomass at or above levels that provide stock sustainability throughout their range
Economic	Maximize economic yield from the fishery
	Increase fisheries based development within developing States' economies, especially the SIDS
	Maintain acceptable CPUE
	Optimize capacity
	Catch stability
	Maximize SIDS revenues from resource rents
	Stability and continuity of market supply
Social	Affordable protein for coastal communities
	Employment Opportunities
	Maintain/develop domestic fishery
	Human resource development
	Avoid adverse impacts on small scale and subsistence fishers
Ecosystem	Minimize fishery impact on ecosystem function
	Minimize catch of non-target species