
SC13 Summary Report to NC13

WCPFC-NC13-2017/IP-02 (Rev.01)

NOTE

- SC Summary Report will be adopted intersessionally.
- WCPFC-NC13-IP-02 will be replaced by the SC13 Executive Summary once available.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. SC13 was held at National Auditorium, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 9-17 August 2017. Ms Berry Muller (RMI) chaired the meeting and six conveners served for process of each theme session:

Data and Statistics theme	Valerie Post (USA)
Stock Assessment theme	Jon Brodziak (USA) Hiroshi Nishida (Japan)
Management Issues theme	Robert Campbell (Australia)
Ecosystem and Bycatch	Aisake Batibasaga (Fiji)
Mitigation theme	John Annala (NZ)

REVIEW OF WCPO FISHERIES

2. The provisional total catch for 2016: 2,717,850 mt
 - the 2nd highest on record: 2,851,087 mt in 2014
 - 79% of the total Pacific Ocean catch
 - 56% of the global tuna catch

Species	Catch (mt)	%
Skipjack	1,816,650	67
Yellowfin	650,491	24
Bigeye	152,806	6
Albacore	97,822 (NP: 29,221; SP: 68,601)	4

Gear	Catch (mt)	%
purse seine	1,858,198	68
pole-and-line	199,457	7
longline	231,860	9
SP troll albacore	2,097	0.1
remainder	269,100	16

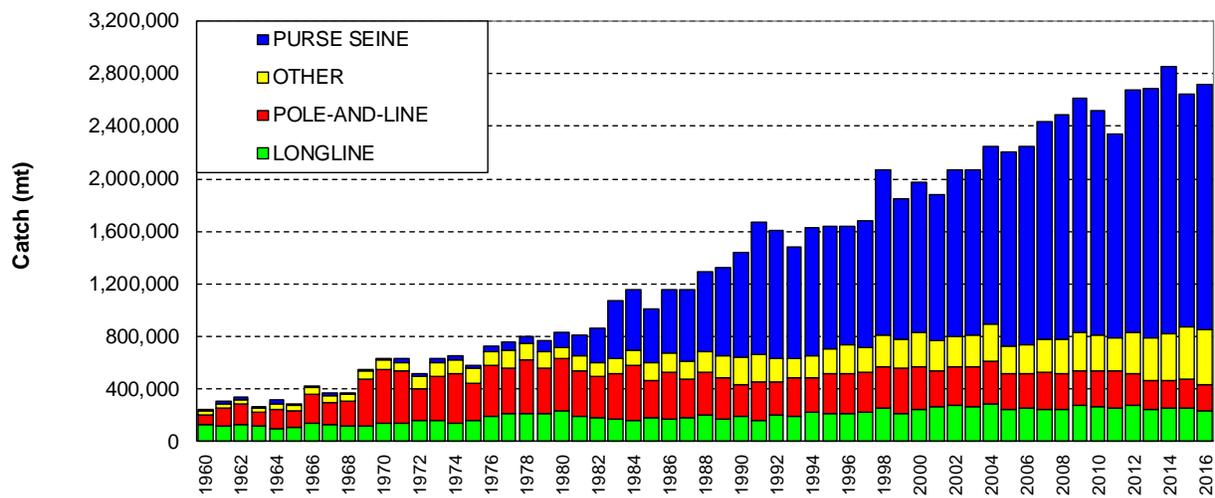


Figure 1. Catch (mt) trends by fishing gear types

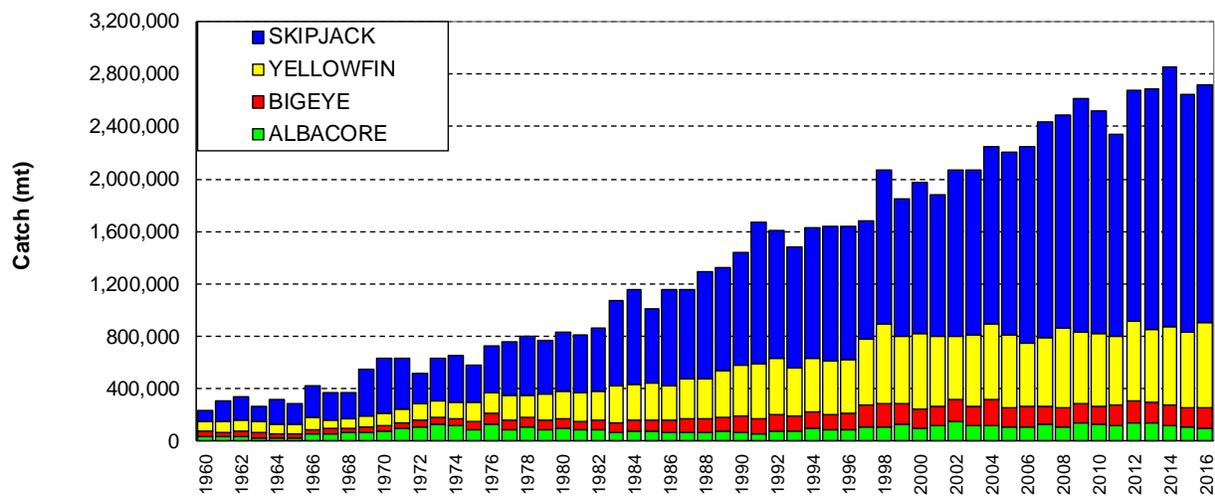


Figure 2. Catch (mt) trends by species

DATA ISSUES

3. Paper SC13-ST-WP-05 is the Summary of large-scale purse seine fishery bycatch at a regional scale, 2003-2016.
 - Rainbow runner, silky shark, oceanic triggerfish, mackerel scad and mahi-mahi were the most frequently bycatch species recorded by observers.

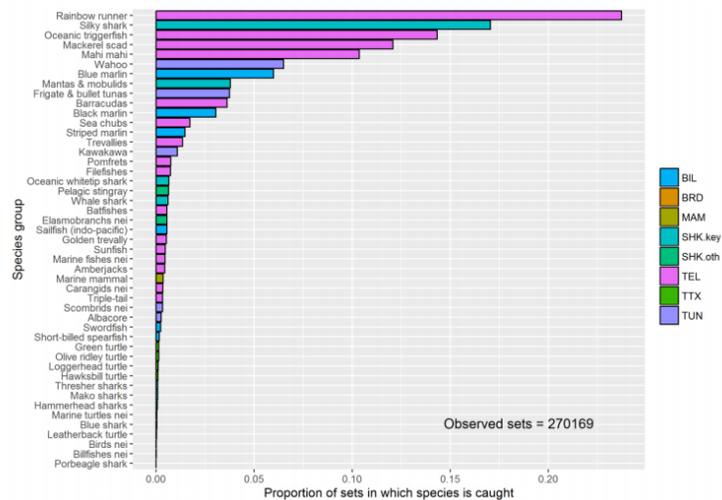


Figure 5 The proportion of purse seine sets with observed bycatch against species/species group. Bar colour denotes billfish (BIL), scombrids (TUN), other teleosts (TEL), WCPFC key shark species (SHK.key), other shark species (SHK.oth), marine mammals (MAM), turtles (TTX) and seabirds (BRD).

- SC13 recommended that the SPC continue this work on purse seine bycatch estimates and extend this work to the longline fisheries for presentation at SC14.

4. FAD data fields

- a) FAD data fields to be provided by vessel operators
 - SC13 recommended that FAD related data fields WCPFC-2016-FADMgmtOptionsIWG02 (Attach C) be forwarded to TCC13 for review and WCPFC14 for adoption.
- b) FAD data fields to be provided by observers

- SC13 recommended the followings revisions to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields be forwarded to TCC13 for review and WCPFC14 for adoption.
 - ✓ inventories of the FAD buoys on board at the start and end of each trip.
 - ✓ FAD Identification.
 - ✓ Deletion of a) FAD materials FAD and b) size of FAD

5. EMandER WG: SC13 recommended that

- the WCPFC ERandEM Working Group convene prior to SC14
- the WCPFC E-Reporting observer data standards be forwarded to WCPFC14 for adoption.

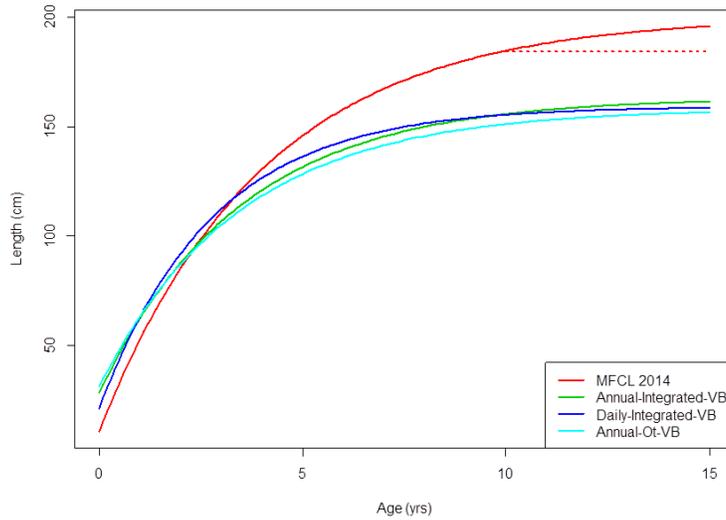
6. Economic Data: SC13 recommended an intersessional work for the development of guidelines for the voluntary provision of economic data to the Commission by CCMs.

- Any CCMs will participate in the intersessional work and the outcome of which will be considered by TCC13.

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

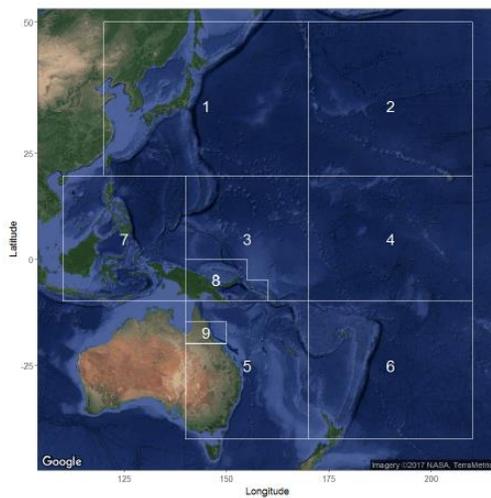
Bigeye stock assessment in 2017

- 7. Key new elements for the 2017 bigeye stock assessment:
 - a) New growth curve from Project 35 (Pacific-wide bigeye biology)

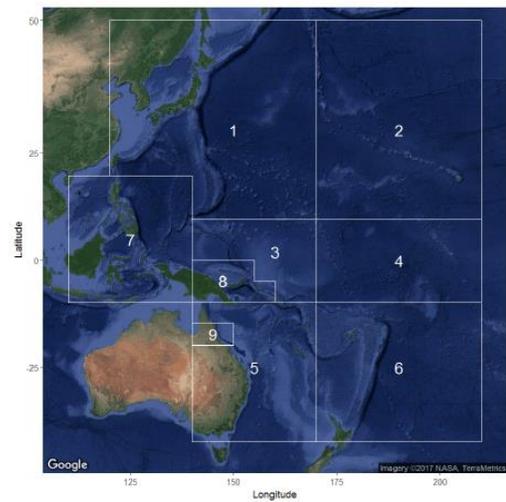


- b) Changes in spatial structure (Regions 1,2,3 and 4)

Spatial structure - 2014



Spatial structure - 2017



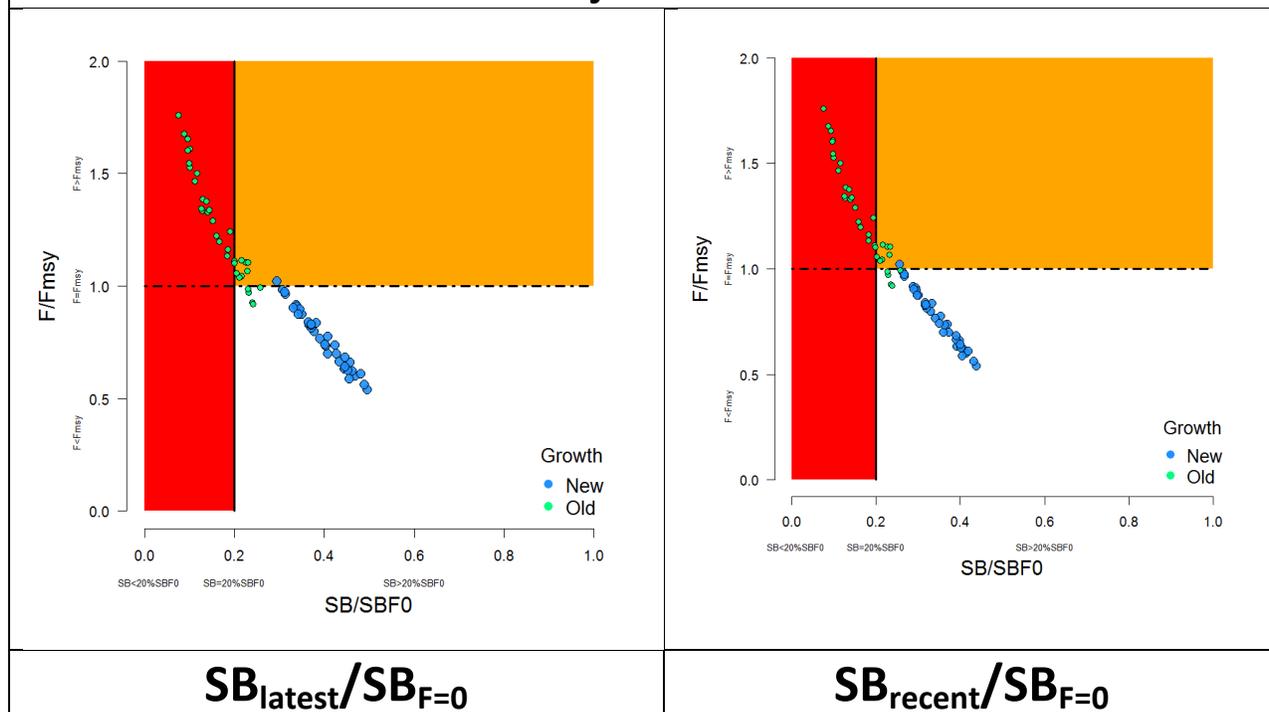
Key outcomes – Reference

Summary of reference points over the 72 models in the structural uncertainty grid

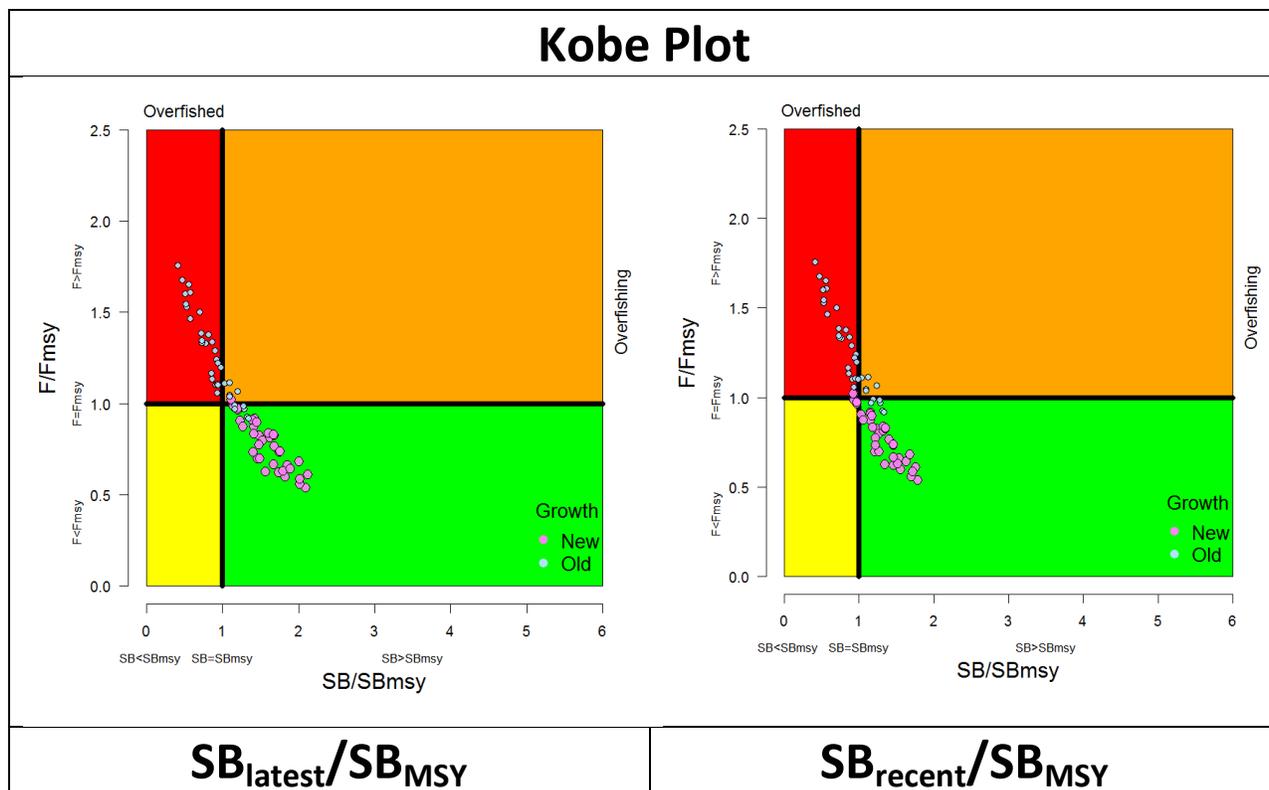
- Models using the new growth function are given 3 times the weighting of the models using the old growth function.
- $SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$ is calculated where SB_{recent} is the mean SB over 2012-2015.

	Mean	Median	Min	10%	90%	Max
<i>Clatest</i>	149,178	153,137	130,903	131,597	156,113	157,725
<i>MSY</i>	156,765	158,040	124,120	137,644	180,656	204,040
<i>YFrecent</i>	150,382	148,920	118,000	133,400	168,656	187,240
<i>fmult</i>	1.21	1.20	0.57	0.76	1.63	1.85
<i>FMSY</i>	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06
F_{recent}/F_{MSY}	0.89	0.83	0.54	0.61	1.32	1.76
<i>SBMSY</i>	457,162	454,100	219,500	285,530	598,210	710,000
<i>SBO</i>	1,730,410	1,763,000	1,009,000	1,279,300	2,148,200	2,509,000
<i>SBMSY/SBO</i>	0.26	0.26	0.22	0.24	0.29	0.29
<i>SBF=0</i>	1,915,184	1,953,841	1,317,336	1,584,593	2,170,899	2,460,411
<i>SBMSY/SBF=0</i>	0.24	0.24	0.17	0.18	0.27	0.29
<i>SBlatest/SBO</i>	0.37	0.40	0.11	0.19	0.49	0.53
<i>SBlatest/SBF=0</i>	0.34	0.37	0.08	0.15	0.46	0.49
<i>SBlatest/SBMSY</i>	1.42	1.45	0.42	0.86	1.97	2.12
$SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$	0.30	0.32	0.08	0.15	0.41	0.44
<i>SBrecent/SBMSY</i>	1.21	1.23	0.32	0.63	1.66	1.86

Majuro Plot



Kobe Plot



Management Issues Theme

8. SC13 reviewed candidate performance indicators and monitoring strategies for
 - i) SP albacore commensurate with candidate management objectives for the Southern Longline Fishery (WCPFC-SC13-2017/MI-WP-02) and
 - ii) Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna commensurate with candidate management objectives for the Tropical Longline Fishery (WCPFC-SC13-2017/MI-WP-03).

Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation Issues

9. Four FAD research plans were introduced but none was budgeted yet for 2018.

Administration Issues

10. In 2018, SPC is scheduled to conduct stock assessments for South Pacific albacore and Southwest Pacific striped marlin.
11. Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee
 - Both SC Chair and Vice-Chair will finish their terms. No nomination was made at SC13, so a new Chair and a Vice-Chair will be selected at WCPFC14.

12. Next meeting

- SC14 in 2018 will be held in the Korea
- Samoa offered to host SC15 in 2019. WCPFC14 will confirm the venue and meeting dates.