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## Key Documents

- Convention Text
- Conservation and Management Measures
- Harvest Strategy**
- Guidelines, Procedures and Regulations
- Relations with Other Organisations
- Other Information

## WCPFC Harvest Strategy and Reference Points

View published | New draft | Moderate

### Harvest Strategy CMM - 2014-06

WCPFC11 agreed to [Conservation and Management Measures to develop and implement a harvest strategy](#)

[approach for key fisheries and stocks in the WCPO](#) ( 326.23 KB) The objective of CMM 2014-06 is "To agree that the Commission shall develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for each of the key fisheries or stocks under the purview of the Commission according to the process set out in CMM 2014-06."

Pursuant to paragraph 13 of CMM 2014-06, WCPFC12 agreed a workplan for adoption of Harvest Strategies

under CMM 2014-06 [Workplan for the adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06](#) ( 506.05 KB)

An updated workplan was agreed at WCPFC13 and records as an annex the Harvest Strategy-related outcomes from WCPFC13 [Updated workplan on Harvest Strategies 2016 - 2019 and record of](#)

[outcomes from WCPFC13](#) ( 240.6 KB)

### Limit reference points (LRPs)

WCPFC8 approved a number of SC7 recommendations related to limit reference points

1. The agreed working definition for LRPs is to be based on the following principles:

- they define a state of the fishery that is considered to be undesirable and which management action should avoid;
- the probability of breaching an LRP should be very low;
- management actions should be taken before the fishery falls below or is at risk of falling below an LRP.

# WCPFC Harvest Strategy Work Plan

The following actions in the HS Work Plan are based on the “Elements of a harvest strategy” in paragraph 7 of CMM 2014-06:

**(a) Record management objectives for the fishery or stock**

**(b) Agree Target Reference Point**

**(c) Agree acceptable levels of risk**

**(d) Agree monitoring strategy**

**(e) Develop harvest control rules**

**(f) Management strategy evaluation**

**The workplan is subject to review in 2017**

# MOWs and HSW

**2012 MOW 1:** increased the understanding of the use and application of **management objectives, indicators and reference points** and had preliminary discussions on a range of **management objectives for key fisheries**

**2013 MOW2:** considered a candidate list of **management objectives, performance indicators, and target reference points for each major fishery** - .....provided a future workplan for the development of a management framework.

**2014 MOW3:** generated general support for the **development of harvest strategy-based approach management framework** as outlined in the CMM proposed by FFA. The workshop provided preliminary advice on the need to implement an **effective management framework/ harvest strategy for the south pacific albacore fishery that meets management objectives**.

**2015 HSW (MOW4):** emphasis on HS approach to key fisheries - **HS and MSE in other RFMOs** (ICCAT, IOTC and CCSBT) - **role of MSE** in the development of HS for WCPFC fisheries - **Management implications of setting acceptable levels of risk - elements of harvest strategies (including TRPs) for South Pacific albacore** - WCPFC harvest strategy workplan, including consideration of resource implications and processes for review and amendment - how best to give effect to harvest strategies through Commission instruments and measures - options for progressing harvest strategy work, including use of existing WCPFC bodies (TCC/SPC)

**WCPFC 10 Agreed the first two Management Objectives Workshops and associated ‘strawman’ document; the latter included the following candidate management objectives for the southern LL fishery**

Biological	Maintain ALB and SWO biomass at or above levels that provide stock sustainability throughout their range
Economic	<p>Maximise economic yield from the fishery</p> <p>Increase fisheries-based development within developing States’ economies, especially the SIDS</p> <p>Maintain acceptable CPUE</p> <p>Optimize capacity</p> <p>Catch stability</p> <p>Maximise SIDS revenues from resource rents</p> <p>Stability and continuity of market supply</p>
Social	<p>Affordable protein for coastal communities</p> <p>Employment opportunities</p> <p>Maintain/develop domestic fishery</p> <p>Human resource development</p> <p>Avoid adverse impacts on subsistence and small scale fishers</p>
Ecosystem	<p>Minimise fishery impact on ecosystem function</p> <p>Minimise catch of non-target species</p>

# 2015

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SC provide advice on implications of a range of <b>Target Reference Points</b> for south Pacific albacore.</li></ul>	<p><b>SC11:</b></p> <p><b>MI-WP-03</b> Trends in Economic Conditions in the Southern Longline Fishery (Rev.01 - 02Aug2015) (<b>FFA &amp; Vanuatu; economic indicators</b>)</p> <p><b>MI-WP-04</b> Compatibility and consequences of alternative potential Target Reference Points for the south Pacific albacore stock.</p>	<p><b>WCPFC12</b></p> <p>Commission agreed to workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC12 Summary Report, Attachment Y]</p>
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## 2016

### Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).

SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.

SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules.

Commission tasked SPC/SC to develop interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules.

*[Commission agree to a **monitoring strategy** to assess performance against reference points.]*

### SC12

MI-WP-01 Biological and economic consequences of alternative trajectories to achieve a candidate south Pacific albacore target reference point (**potential trajectories to achieve candidate TRPs**)

MI-WP-03 Proposal for adopting interim acceptable levels of risk for breaching limit reference points of four key tuna species in the WCPO (**risk**); SPC risk papers for previous SCs referenced here

MI-WP-04 Performance statistics and monitoring strategies for skipjack and South Pacific albacore commensurate with: candidate management objectives for the Tropical Purse Seine and Southern Longline Fisheries (**objectives, indicators, monitoring strategy for (SKJ and) SPA**)

### WCPFC13

Commission agreed on interim maximum acceptable risk level for breaching the LRP (c). [see section 5 of HSW]

Commission agreed to a refined workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment N]

# WCPFC 13 Relevant Outputs re. SPA

WCPFC13 requested that existing analyses of the implications of different TRP levels – in terms of total catch and effort changes required – should be re-circulated to CCMs by FFA before the end of December 2016, and that **the Scientific Services Provider assist CCMs in understanding the economic implications of different TRPs for their vessels before SC13.**

WCPFC13 agreed to **defer the possible adoption of an interim Target Reference Point for the South Pacific Albacore stock**, which had originally been agreed to take place in 2015 under the Harvest Strategy Work Plan, until December 2017 at the latest.

The Commission directed **that further discussion of the TRP should take place over the course of 2017 as part of the ongoing consultative process for the development of a Bridging Measure for the Conservation and Management of the South Pacific Albacore stock**, and should include a report on progress by the Convenor of that process to the 13th WCPFC Scientific Committee.

# WCPFC 13 Acceptable levels of risk (all stocks)

....**not specify, at this time, acceptable levels of risk** of breaching the limit reference point for each stock;

.....**consider any risk level greater than 20 percent to be inconsistent with the LRP related principle in UNFSA** (as referenced in Article 6 of the Convention) including that the risk of breaching limit reference points be very low; and

.....determine the acceptability of potential HCRs where the estimated risk of breaching the limit reference point is between 0 and 20%.



# 2017

<p><b>Agree Target Reference Point (b)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commission agree a Target Reference Point for south pacific albacore.</li></ul> <p><b>Develop harvest control rules (e). And Management strategy evaluation (f).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SC provide advice on candidate harvest control rules based on agreed reference points.</li><li>• Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules.</li></ul>	<p><b>SC13</b></p> <p><b>MI-WP-01</b> Implications of a range of Target Reference Points for the south Pacific albacore stock (<b>FFA</b>)</p> <p><b>MI-WP-02</b> Performance indicators and monitoring strategies for South Pacific Albacore compatible with candidate management objectives for the Southern Longline Fishery.</p> <p><b>MI-WP-04</b> Developments in the MSE modelling framework.</p> <p><b>SC12</b></p> <p><b>MI-IP-01</b> Preliminary evaluation of catch-based harvest control rules for South Pacific albacore (<b>example HCRs</b>)</p> <p><b>SC13 Recommendation:</b> Intercessional work to develop guidelines for voluntary submission of economic data</p>	<p><b>WCPFC14</b></p> <p><i>The HS workplan will be subject to review in 2017</i></p>
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# 2018

<p><b>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules.</li><li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules.</li><li>• Commission consider advice on progress towards <b>harvest control rules</b>.</li></ul>	<p><b>SC14</b></p>	<p><b>WCPFC15</b></p>
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# 2019

<p><b>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules.</li><li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules.</li><li>• Commission consider advice on progress towards <b>harvest control rules</b>.</li></ul>	<p><b>SC15</b></p>	<p><b>WCPFC16</b></p>
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