



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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**Consultative Draft
Terms of Reference for a WCPFC Science-Management Dialogue meeting**

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1. ABSTRACT

WCPFC14 agreed to reprioritise the annual agendas of the Commission and the Scientific Committee to provide sufficient additional time to be allocated to progress the development of WCPO harvest strategies, and also recognised the potential need for a dedicated science-management dialogue. This paper includes two key sections: i) elements to consider when formulating the science-management dialogue (Section 3); and ii) consultative draft Terms of Reference for a 'science-management dialogue' meeting (Section 4).

WCPFC-SC14 is invited to:

- Review and discuss:
 - Elements to consider when formulating the science-management dialogue; and
 - The consultative draft Terms of Reference for a WCPFC 'science-management dialogue' meeting.
- Consider convening an informal small group (ISG) during SC14 to workshop this Consultative draft ToR.
- Provide recommendations and any agreed process for the formulation of the science-management dialogue for consideration by TCC14, FAC12 and WCPFC15.

2. BACKGROUND

WCPFC11 (2014) adopted CMM 2014-06 to develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for the management of key fisheries and stocks in the WCPO. WCPFC12 (2015) adopted a workplan and indicative timeframes for the development and adoption of harvest strategies, as required by CMM 2014-06, which has been updated at subsequent Commission meetings.

Discussions at WCPFC14 (2017) included the following key points:

-) That dedicated discussions by Scientific Committee (SC) and the Commission were needed to facilitate and expedite the development of harvest strategies, with a priority on management objectives and corresponding candidate target reference points;
-) A concern that insufficient time and resources had been committed by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to progress the development of harvest strategies;
-) A reluctance to commit to any further workshops or intersessional meetings, with a preference for dedicated time to be allotted within the existing SC and Commission agendas, or having a one-day gathering of managers with scientists in association with the SC and/or the Commission;
-) That the Management Issues theme of the SC had been a very effective forum for discussions on reference points and harvest control rules, and should be the focal point for the Commission's scientific work on harvest strategies.

Ultimately, at WCPFC14 the Commission agreed to reprioritise as needed the annual agenda of the Commission and Scientific Committee to allow sufficient additional time for consideration of harvest strategy issues. In addition, the Commission recognised that there may also be a need for a dedicated science-management dialogue (Paragraph 215, WCPFC14 Summary Report).

SPC Pre-Assessment Workshop participants in April 2018 discussed the potential science-management dialogue meeting. The general opinion was that this should be a physical, rather than virtual, meeting to facilitate the iterative process required. SPC and the Secretariat then started to develop a consultative draft Terms of Reference for such a dialogue meeting.

3. CONSIDERATION ELEMENTS

The proposed science-management dialogue would be distinct from, but combine features of, Scientific Committee and Commission meetings. To facilitate further discussion on the 'science-management dialogue' meeting, a non-exhaustive list of key elements and issues is provided below, which would benefit from SC14 consideration:

1. The science-management dialogue needs to make formal recommendations to the Commission (and also requests of other Commission bodies and groups). Should the dialogue be established as a formal subsidiary body of the Commission, established by Paragraph 6, Article 11?
2. If the science-management dialogue holds formal meetings, does the SC see benefit in including an informal discussion element to the meeting, to ensure all stakeholders (science, management, industry, NGOs) are able to engage in the process?
3. Should the structure of the science-management dialogue meeting therefore include both formal and informal sessions?
 -) The informal session could provide opportunity for capacity building for all attendees with (minimal) presentation, and interactive discussion of available analytical results. The

informal nature of this session would facilitate involvement by the wider stakeholder group. This may have implications for meeting length but this element is expected to decrease over time.

- J The formal session can cover substantial issues, which may include developing and reviewing relevant CMMs and clearing meeting recommendations (assuming the remainder of the report could be cleared electronically).
4. What elements should be considered to structure and organise a science-management dialogue, noting that a large, formal Commission-style meeting has become the norm? Should as a minimum a scientist and manager from each CCM, where possible, be recommended to attend?
 5. Under the assumption that a Harvest Control Rule will be implemented through fishery/stock-specific CMMs, will the science-management dialogue meeting have any direct role in the development or review of those CMMs and provide recommendations to the Commission?
 6. Should it be required that all technical/analytical information be first reviewed by the Scientific Committee before it is made available to the science-management dialogue and to the Commission? If so, should there be an exception made for new information that the Scientific Committee has specifically recommended to be made available?
 7. How should a Science-Management Dialogue be chaired? One option that reflects the management/science balance of the meeting could be for it to be co-chaired by the Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Scientific Committee.
 8. Should the use of external experts to provide input to and potentially facilitate the meeting be considered?
 9. Should the [inaugural?] science-management dialogue be proposed as a [one/two]-day meeting that incorporates both capacity building and the progression of substantial issues, including adoption of recommendations?
 10. Are there ways that the SC agenda could be reprioritised to allow sufficient time for consideration of harvest strategy issues?

4. CONSULTATIVE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SCIENCE-MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE MEETING

To facilitate further discussion on the 'science-management dialogue', a consultative draft Terms of Reference is presented here for input and advice from SC14.

Objectives

The science-management dialogue meeting would have the following objectives:

1. To enhance mutual, consistent understanding and capacity building through focused interactions and communications among managers, scientists and other stakeholders on the objectives and outcomes relating to harvest strategies for key tuna fisheries and stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean, thereby aiding:
 - a. the ability of managers to drive the process of harvest strategy development and guide further scientific work, by promoting full and consistent technical understanding on harvest strategy concepts and the functions of its elements; and
 - b. the ability of scientists to efficiently deliver relevant technical outputs by promoting full and consistent understanding of the WCPO management and policy environment.
2. To facilitate the iterative process of decision making in relation to WCPO harvest strategies by the Commission and its Committees.
3. To refine candidate harvest strategy options through review of analyses of the performance of candidate harvest strategies against noted management objectives, then forward a reduced number of acceptable candidates to the Commission, allowing the Commission to concentrate its decision making role on a reduced number of acceptable candidate options, thereby increasing efficiency.

Tasks

4. The science-management dialogue meeting would have the following tasks:
 - a. Reviewing and refining the detailed Scientific Committee outputs on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) of candidate harvest strategies.
 - b. When appropriate, recommending to the Commission appropriate candidate harvest strategies that adequately meet noted management objectives for the fishery/stock, highlighting key trade-offs.
 - c. Requesting through the Commission of the Scientific Services Provider, additional analyses and new/refined harvest strategy elements (e.g. candidate harvest control rules, calculation and weighting of performance indicators) for re-evaluation, which may better achieve objectives and desired trade-offs.
 - d. Requesting through the Commission of the Scientific Services Provider, improved approaches to presenting results to increase clarity and enhance decision making.
 - e. Considering the implications of developing harvest strategies in relation to data collection and fishery monitoring systems and implementation mechanisms to ensure the future effectiveness of strategies, and making recommendations to the Commission.

Meeting

5. For the science-management dialogue to efficiently facilitate the development of harvest strategies, physical meetings will be convened consistent with Paragraph 6² of the Convention Article 11, for the production of formal recommendations to the Commission. All

² The Commission may establish such other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the exercise of its functions, including working groups for the purpose of examining technical issues relating to particular species or stocks and reporting thereon to the Commission.

Commission rules will be applied to CCMs and observers, including provision of funding for participation by developing CCMs.

6. The Chair(s) of the meeting shall be determined by the Commission.
7. To facilitate appropriate dialogue, CCMs are encouraged to ensure attendance by both scientific and management personnel on their delegation.
8. The structure and size of the meeting, including informal and formal sessions, will be agreed by the Commission.
9. The meeting shall adopt a summary report detailing advice and recommendations for consideration by the Commission, and requests of its relevant Committees and Scientific Services Provider, as described above.

Timeframe

10. The meeting will be held for [one/two] days [after the Scientific Committee], as appropriate to maximise the attendance of CCM scientists and managers and facilitate the functioning of those other meetings.
11. The first meeting will be held in 2019. WCPFC16 will review the effectiveness of the meeting and determine its future.