| **Project title** | **TORs** | **Essential** | **Priority / Rank** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project 42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Program (PTTP)** | Annexed | Yes | High | 730,000 | 730,000 | 730,000 |
| Budget with $170,000 p.a. from Republic of Korea (2019-2023) and PTTP personal costs and some publication costs from SPC |  |  |  | 730,000170,000285,0001,185,000 | 730,000170,000285,0001,185,000 | 730,000170,000285,0001,185,000 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project 42 (REVISED PROPOSAL)****Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP)** |

It has been highlighted in SC12-SA-WP-04, SC12-MI-WP-05 and SC12-RP-PTTP-01 that regular tagging is required to support stock assessment and harvest strategy implementation for tropical tuna. SC12-RP-PTTP-01 proposed that skipjack and yellowfin focused tagging using pole-and-line fishing and bigeye tagging using handline fishing be conducted in alternate years. WCPFC 13 agreed to this approach and included a budget for 2017 and an indicative budget for out-years in its 2017 budget. SC13-RP-PTTP-01 and SC-13-RP-PTTP-02 highlighted implementation of that approach. SC14-RP-PTTP-01 and SC-14-RP-PTTP-02 highlight further implementation of this apparoach and this project will support continuation in the medium term. Under this plan, a SKJ+YFT (PL) research voyage will occur in 2019 and 2021, and a BET (HL) research voyage will occur in 2020 and 2022.

The following funding support[[1]](#footnote-1) is required to implement this work on an ongoing basis, which would target the release of 25,000 skipjack tuna and 5,000 yellowfin tuna in each pole-and-line (PL) two-month voyage, and 2,000 bigeye tuna in each handline (HL) five-week voyage (with 100 archivally tagged). The two budget columns below refer to the alternating years targeting SKJ/YFT and BET:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget item** | **SKJ+YFT (PL)** | **BET (HL)** |
| Vessel charter | 965,000 | 360,000 |
| Tags/equipment | 40,000 | 150,000 |
| Personnel at-seaPersonnel PTTPTravel | 85,000275,00035,000 | 50,000275,00035,000 |
| Tag recovery rewards | 55,000  | 15,000 |
| Analysis/reporting/publications | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **1,470,000** | **900,000** |

These amounts averaged across two years give an annualised budget for the PTTP of $1,185,000. To date, SPC has met the PTTP personnel costs from a variety of sources, as well as a range of analysis, reporting and publications costs ($285,000 p.a.). Until at least 2021 this can continue, however in future that is dependent on the goodwill and priorities of SPC’s donors. The Republic of Korea has been a long-term direct supporter of the PTTP and during SC14 announced it would continue this funding for another five years from 2019-2023 ($170,000 p.a.). With these two sources of external funding for the PTTP, the balance left to be met by WCPFC on an annualised budget basis is $730,000 per annum.

Note that it is assumed that a dedicated research vessel would reduce the costs in vessel charter for pole and line research in future (see Project 83), however the detailed study needs to be completed to confirm this.

1. This budget has been updated based on costs in 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)