**WCPO skipjack tuna**

**Stock Status and trends**

**SC14 noted that the total catch in 2017 was 1,624,162 mt, a 9% decrease from 2016 and comparable to the average from 2012-2016. [adopted]**

**Purse seine catch in 2017 (1,280,311t) was a 7% decrease from 2016 and a 12% decrease from the 2012-2016 average. Pole and line catch (123,132t) was a 21% decrease from 2016 and a 23% decrease from the average 2012-2016 catch. Catch by other gear (218,175t) was a 13% decrease from 2016 and 1% decrease from the average catch in 2012-2016. [adopted]**

**SC14 noted that under recent fishery conditions (2017 catch level for LL and other fisheries and effort level for purse seine), the skipjack stock was initially projected to decrease for a short period as recent relatively high recruitments move out of the stock. Median F2019/FMSY = 0.47; median SB2019/SBF=0 = 0.45; median SB2019/SBMSY = 1.67. In the longer term, assuming long term average recruitment, modest increases in the stock were projected. [adopted]**

**Management advice and implications**

**SC14 noted that no stock assessment has been conducted since SC12. Therefore, the advice from SC12 should be maintained to achieve the objectives set in CMM-2017-01, pending a new assessment or other new information. For further information on the management advice and implications from SC12, please see** [**https://www.wcpfc.int/node/27769**](https://www.wcpfc.int/node/27769) **[adopted]**

**Research Recommendations**

**SC14 discussed a proposal for an alternative regional structure to be considered in the next skipjack stock assessment (WCPFC-SC14-2018/SA-WP-04) and recommended that the pre-assessment workshop consider how this proposal might be included in the next assessment. [adopted]**

**SC14 supports an ongoing tagging program for skipjack tuna to ensure a reliable indicator of skipjack tuna abundance in the stock assessment. [adopted]**

**SC14 recommended that the Scientific Services Provider continue research on standardizing purse seine CPUE for use in the assessment. [adopted]**