



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Fourteenth Regular Session

26 September – 2 October 2018

Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands

**INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITY REPORT FROM SOUTH PACIFIC
ALBACORE ROADMAP VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP**

WCPFC-TCC14-2018-21A

17 September 2018

Paper submitted by the Chair of the SPA-VIWG

Purpose

1. To discuss development of the south Pacific albacore roadmap.

Background

2. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14th meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the establishment of a virtual intersessional workgroup for the development of a south Pacific albacore roadmap.
3. *The terms of reference for the workgroup is to consider management issues including:*
 - a. Elements necessary for implementation of the Harvest Strategy
 - b. An allocation process
 - c. Monitoring and reporting priorities, and addressing of gaps for all fisheries taking south Pacific albacore in the WCPO
4. The roadmap also contains four main components:
 - a. Review of the current measure
 - b. SC14 advice to WCPFC15 on technical aspects of the south Pacific albacore harvest strategy
 - c. TCC14 advice to WCPFC15 on monitoring and reporting gaps in the south Pacific albacore fishery, as well as SIDS and Territories implementation considerations
 - d. Limits - taking into account the 2018 stock assessment, recommendation an overall limit for the fishery, how it could be distributed (taking into account the interests of SIDS and Territories) and the actions required to achieve biological and economic stability in the fishery
5. There are no deliverables for the workgroup at WCPFC15, however work is ongoing and further progress is anticipated following the development of SC14 and TCC14 advice.

Developments since WCPFC14

6. New Zealand has organised two intersessional meetings of the workgroup – one teleconference in June (see agenda and meeting notes for June teleconference below) and informal meeting in the margins of SC14.
7. The informal meeting did not result in any actions for the workgroup, instead the Chair agreed to draft two documents for workgroup and Commission discussion later this year. One paper will be a draft allocation schedule the second will be a paper compiling previous SC, TCC, and Commission comments on the current south Pacific albacore CMM (2015-02).
8. It was also noted that a meeting in the margins of the Commission meeting could be useful but that a meeting before the Commission meeting would not work for some CCMs. Therefore, New Zealand will organise a meeting of the workgroup in the margins of the Commission meeting.

AGENDA

South Pacific Albacore roadmap working group

Thursday, 14 June

10:00-11:00am

Dial in numbers:

USA: 1855 2938304

China: 4008190611

Chinese Taipei: 00801644172

Australia: 1800 633 281

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Conference code: 9325094360

Agenda

1. Introductions and welcome
2. Adopt Agenda
3. Goal for the call
 - a. Agree on scope and tasking for review of current measure
 - b. Discuss allocation process
 - c. Discuss next meeting and deliverables
4. Review of roadmap components
5. Review of discussion paper on recommendation for review of current measure
6. Review of discussion paper on potential south Pacific albacore allocation process
7. Next meeting/steps
8. Close

Meeting notes south Pacific albacore roadmap working group

Thursday, 14 June, 2018

Attendees: Sarah Williams (New Zealand), Valerie Post (US), Jenny Baldwin and James Lacrombe (Australia), Wataru Tanoue (Japan)

Several apologies were emailed to New Zealand ahead of the meeting. There were also technical difficulties with the phone line and both New Caledonia and French Polynesia attempted to join but were unsuccessful.

The workgroup discussed several components of the roadmap including: a review of the current measure, potential consideration for an allocation process, and technical components of the harvest strategy likely to be covered by the 2018 stock assessment to be presented at Scientific Committee. A summary of each discussion is below.

1. Summary of discussion on a review of the current south Pacific albacore CMM (2015-02) as established in the roadmap (see paragraph 264 in final summary report of [WCPFC14](#))
 - Members discussed the utility of a review of the current measure when both SC and TCC have previously completed annual reviews as required in the measure. Because of this, members saw limited benefit from discussing the documented issues with the current CMM and remarked that what would be most beneficial would be for New Zealand to collate the reports of TCC and SC on the two previous south Pacific albacore CMMs and report this to the Commission in 2018. [New Zealand will collate this information]
 - The appropriateness of using the 20 S line was discussed with workgroup members commenting on the difference in using 20S in the measure and in using 10S in the stock assessment as the geographical boundary below which longline vessels are assumed to be participating in the southern albacore fishery. No action was requested and New Zealand will add this discussion point to any further work on the Roadmap.
 - The effectiveness of the measure was the only component of the review that members felt would not be specifically addressed through the stock assessment and that such an examination would likely need to be done by SPC, New Zealand will investigate how this question may be addressed.
 - In addition to the members on the teleconference New Zealand also heard from several members that they did support a review of the current measure.
2. Allocation process
 - The workgroup considered New Zealand's idea that there may be efficiencies gained by aligning south Pacific albacore allocation discussions with the scheduled allocation decisions for tropical tuna in 2019 and 2020.
 - It was recognized among the workgroup member that it might be difficult to give south Pacific albacore sufficient attention while other allocations discussions are happening and so an alternative schedule for south Pacific albacore should be considered.

- Some members commented that that New Zealand could organise an informal meeting of the workgroup in the margins of SC to further discuss these matters, New Zealand agreed to organise a meeting.
- The workgroup considered that the Commission may wish to establish to subgroup to address allocations but that this group would require members engagement.
- The workgroup commented that starting with a discussion on allocation principles might be the best place to start at the Commission meeting this year.

3. Technical components of the harvest strategy

- The workgroup discussed a request to discuss the trend in F to examine whether or not the current limit in the CMM is working. Several members commented that they believed the new stock assessment would provide this information and therefore an additional request was not necessary. The workgroup should confirm that this information is addressed in the stock assessment and follow up with SPC if there are further questions.