



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
12-20 August 2019

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SCIENCE-MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE

**WCPFC-SC15-2019/MI-IP-08
(WCPFC15-2018-21)**

WCPFC Secretariat



**COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December 2018

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SCIENCE-MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE

**WCPFC15-2018-21
2 November 2018**

WCPFC Secretariat

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to present for the consideration and decision of WCPFC15 draft Terms of Reference for a proposed Science-Management Dialogue as recognised by WCPFC14.

Background

2. The Commission at WCPFC14 reviewed the Harvest Strategy Work Plan and extended its timeline out to 2021 to allow for ongoing work towards adoption of harvest strategies for the four key stocks. In doing so the Commission recognized that this work requires the consideration of fisheries managers and scientists at different stages. Accordingly, the Commission agreed to reprioritize as needed the annual agendas of the Commission and the Scientific Committee to allow sufficient time for consideration of harvest strategy issues. It also recognized that there may also be a need for a dedicated science-management dialogue.

Discussions at SC14

3. Pursuant to the above WCPFC14 direction, the schedule for the 14th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC14) incorporated additional sessions for the Management Issues Theme for discussion on harvest strategy issues. The outcomes of progress of those harvest strategy discussions at SC14 are reported separately to the Commission.
4. SC14 considered the need for a dedicated science-management dialogue as recognized by WCPFC14 in terms of a proposed draft consultative Terms of Reference (TOR) for such a dialogue as presented in SC14 working paper: SC14-MI-WP-06. The discussion at SC14 occurred both in plenary and during an Informal Small Group that refined the consultative draft TOR, which is annexed to this document.
5. The SC14 recommendations on this subject matter were as follows (Paragraphs 473-478, SC14 Summary Report):
 473. *SC14 expressed strong support for such a Science-Management Dialogue to begin in 2019 in order to make expedited progress consistent with the agreed Harvest Strategy Work Plan and taking full advantage of the WCPFC14 recommendation to give sufficient time during SC to the work on harvest strategies.*
 474. *SC14 therefore recommends that WCPFC15 take the necessary steps to establish such a Dialogue in 2019 and consider the draft Terms of Reference provided in Attachment F (see below).*
 475. *SC14 noted that it is important for this group to possess authority to enable them to make the appropriate recommendations to the Commission. SC14 therefore recommends the Commission define the appropriate format for this group.*
 476. *SC14 also discussed the timing of the meeting and various options were expressed. SC14 recognised that this is a decision for WCPFC15.*
 477. *SC14 recommends that WCPFC15 take the following elements into consideration when establishing this group:*

- 1) *While the size of the meeting should remain manageable, at least 1 senior fishery manager per CCM and 1 scientist per CCM should be encouraged to attend. Additional scientific advisors to these managers may also attend. Also, the participation of stakeholders is important and encouraged.*
 - 2) *Given the need to have informal (capacity building) and formal (decision-making) elements to the meeting, particularly in the initial stages, a 2 day meeting was the minimum meeting length believed appropriate¹. However, the duration of the meeting would need to be flexible based upon the agenda, which should be linked closely to the harvest strategy workplan.*
 - 3) *Capacity building elements of the meeting should focus on a 'learning by doing' approach, whereby key tuna stock and fishery results are used within the process.*
 - 4) *The potential for input and facilitation by external experts was noted, and the cost implications of this should be considered.*
 - 5) *This group should specifically rely on information derived from SC or through SC requests, and should not change the scientific advice but may add to it from a management perspective.*
478. *SC14 also recommends that WCPFC15 adopt an appropriate name for this dialogue, such as the Harvest Strategy Development Working Group.*

Issues for Consideration by WCPFC15

6. The SC14 expressed strong support for such a science-management dialogue and recommended its establishment in 2019. However, from the SC14 recommendations it appears that most of the core issues the TOR sought clearer guidance from SC14 were referred to WCPFC15 for further consideration and decision with limited guidance. So WCPFC15 will still need to decide on these core elements of a science-management dialogue as follows:
- i. the status of the dialogue - is it a working group or a formal standing subsidiary body of the Commission;
 - ii. the size and duration of the dialogue meeting and the preferred participants;
 - iii. the structure of the dialogue considering the need for an informal (capacity building) and formal (decision making) segments;
 - iv. the involvement of external experts and their role in the dialogue;
 - v. the need to maintain the integrity of the SC, and the science advice and information provided by it; and
 - vi. what is an appropriate name for the dialogue, SC14's preference is to label it the "Harvest Strategy Development Working Group" making the clear link with the Harvest Strategy Work Plan.

Recommendation

7. WCPFC15 is invited to consider the paper and decide for adoption the Terms of Reference for a Science-Management Dialogue.

¹ To inform WCPFC15 discussions on the potential length of the meeting, a very rough outline indicative schedule for the meeting has been developed by SPC (see Appendix 1). Note this should not be viewed as definitive.

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
Scientific Committee
Fourteenth Regular Session
Busan, Republic of Korea
8–16 August 2018**

Terms of Reference for a WCPFC Science- Management Dialogue Meeting

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

CONSIDERATION ELEMENTS (SUPPLIED IN SC14-MI-WP-06 FOR SC14 DISCUSSION)

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. It is noted that SC14 did not reach consensus on some of these issues:

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.
 - 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?

CONSULTATIVE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON HARVEST STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT (WGHS D)

To facilitate further discussion on the ‘Working Group on Harvest Strategy Development’, a consultative draft Terms of Reference is presented here, encompassing the input and advice of SC14. The harvest strategy work of this Working Group would focus specifically on those tuna fisheries and stocks detailed within the harvest strategy workplan² and any other stocks the Commission might decide while noting that this does not apply to Northern stocks.

Objectives

The Working Group on Harvest Strategy Development 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

The activities of this Working Group will be guided by the WCPFC harvest strategy workplan.

4. The Working Group on Harvest Strategy Development would have the following tasks, which are split into formal and informal meeting components:

Meeting components:

- a. Iterative development and refinement of the key elements of harvest strategies as described in CMM 2014-06 and other associated ingredients.
- b. Reviewing and refining the detailed Scientific Committee outputs on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE).
- c. When appropriate, recommending to the Commission appropriate candidate harvest strategies that adequately meet noted management objectives for the fishery/stock, highlighting key trade-offs and risks.

² The draft workplan was outlined in WCPFC12-2015-DP09_rev1 and is reviewed and updated annually by the Commission as a permanent agenda item.

- d. 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.
- e. Requesting through the Commission of the Scientific Services Provider, improved approaches to presenting results to increase clarity and enhance decision making.
- f. 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.
- g. Review and update the WCPFC harvest strategy work plan for recommendation to the Commission.
- h. Review the performance and implementation of any agreed harvest strategy, including through the monitoring strategy.
- i. Enhancing the understanding of managers, scientists and the wider stakeholder group through review and discussion of detailed Scientific Committee outputs.

Meeting

5. For the Working Group on Harvest Strategy Development to efficiently facilitate the development of harvest strategies, physical meetings will be convened consistent with Paragraph 6³ of the Convention Article 11, for the production of formal recommendations to the Commission. All 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 and the Chair will develop the agenda for the meeting, consistent with the harvest strategy workplan.
7. To facilitate appropriate dialogue, CCMs are encouraged to ensure attendance by both scientific and management personnel on their delegation. The participation of stakeholders is also encouraged.
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 at a time determined by the Commission, 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.

³ 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.

APPENDIX 1. DRAFT INDICATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2019 'WGHSD'

Day 1	Day 2
Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, aims and specific focus areas • Agree agenda • Summary of harvest strategy developments and work plan progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest SC advice • Pending issues & decisions for WCPFC 	Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern longline fishery • General Approach - Overview • Analyses and Results • Draft recommendations
Coffee break	
Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropical purse seine fishery evaluations • General Approach - Overview • HCR designs • Results - Overview • Organise breakout groups 	Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropical longline objectives/Bigeye & Yellowfin TRPs • Draft recommendations
Lunch	
Session 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout groups – detailed discussions and analysis of results • Feedback to plenary • Next steps 	Session 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise recommendations
Coffee break	
Session 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft recommendations 	Session 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise recommendations