National Harvest Strategy Capacity Building Workshops for WCPO tuna fisheries

OFP-SPC

Pacific Community (SPC), Noumea, New Caledonia

Executive Summary

Using the funding kindly provided by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), SPC OFP has been undertaking national capacity building workshops to raise understanding of the harvest strategy approach and the issues involved in developing and adopting them in WCPO tuna fisheries.

These workshops have focussed initially on Pacific Island members of the WCPFC and that focus will be ongoing. However, we intend to widen the scope as much as is feasible to incorporate the wider WCPFC membership in the coming years.

A generic workshop agenda is provided below. The actual agenda is developed in collaboration with the host nation for the needs at the national level. The harvest strategy workshops have typically run over two days. The first half of Day 1 aims to introduce harvest strategies to the wider national stakeholder group (relevant Ministries, industry, NGOs, etc.). The remainder of Day 1, and the whole of Day 2, is open to members of the host fisheries department and provides a more detailed look at harvest strategies.

Generic agenda

Outline

During the workshop we will go over some of the basic harvest strategy ideas and concepts, and also introduce some of the latest developments. The aim is that by the end of the workshop all participants will have an understanding of what the harvest strategy approach means for the host nation and are able to contribute to the harvest strategy development process.

The agenda presented below is for guidance only and is flexible in terms of timing and content. We'll try to keep the workshop as informal possible, with lots of discussion and only a small number of presentations. Scientific jargon will be kept to a minimum. Participants are encouraged to come along with lots of questions and to ask them at any time.

We can use some of the interactive software tools that have been developed to help explain harvest control rules and performance indicators and also to explore preliminary results. It would therefore be helpful if participants brought along computers so they can try the tools out for themselves.

Day 1

09:00

- Introduction and aims of the workshop;
- General overview of harvest strategies, including:
  - How does the harvest strategy approach differ to the current approach?
  - Key components of harvest strategies;
  - Where do you fit in?
- Presentation: Overview of host nation tuna fisheries

10:00 – 10:30 Morning tea

- Reference points:
  - What does SB/SBF=0 mean?
  - Limit and target reference points: what do they mean and how are they derived?
- Management objectives, including regional and national objectives;
- Performance indicators and trade-offs;

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

- What is a harvest control rule (HCR) and what does it do?
- Activity: introducing HCRs with interactive tool;
- Activity: Introduction to uncertainty and performance indicators with interactive tool;

15:00 – 15:30 Afternoon tea

- Activity: Measuring performance and selecting HCRs with interactive tool;
- Revision of the day and planning for tomorrow.

16:30 Close

Day 2
09:00

- Welcome back and recap the previous day;
- Activity: the harvest strategy tile game;
- Deeper dive into HCRs;
  - Management procedures;
  - Comparison to current process;
  - Allocation, how HCRs might work in practice and key questions.

10:00 – 10:30 Morning tea

- Exploring the preliminary results:
  - Background to evaluations;
  - Activity: Exploration of preliminary results with interactive tool.

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

- Monitoring strategy and exceptional circumstances;
- Mixed fishery considerations;

15:00 – 15:30 Afternoon tea

- Open question and answer session;
- Workshop summary and key points;
- What happens next?

16:30 Close