



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

ELECTRONIC MEETING

12 – 19 August 2020

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WCPFC-SC16-2020/03 (Rev.03)
06 August 2020

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The electronic [SC16](#) meeting will [start](#) at 11am [in Pohnpei time every day except Friday, 14 August 2020. On Friday, the meeting with the Management Issues theme session will start at 4pm \(16:00\) in Pohnpei time.](#)

1.1 Welcome address

The Chair and the Executive Director will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers to the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC16).

1.2 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will outline procedural matters including the e-meeting protocols, meeting schedule, and the list of theme conveners. In addition, SC16 will endorse the appointment of new conveners as required.

Chair	Ueta Jr. Faasili (3); ueta.faasili@maf.gov.ws
Vice Chair	Tuikolongahau Halafihi (1); supi64t@gmail.com
ST Theme	Valerie Post (3); valerie.post@noaa.gov
SA Theme	Keith Bigelow (2); keith.bigelow@noaa.gov Hiroshi Minami(3); hminami@affrc.go.jp
MI Theme	Robert Campbell (11); robert.campbell@csiro.au
EB Theme	John Annala (6); john.annala@mpi.govt.nz Yonat Swimmer (2); yonat.swimmer@noaa.gov

(x): number of years of convenership

1.3 Adoption of agenda

Posting of the Provisional Agenda for SC16 was delayed due to uncertainty of the meeting arrangements for SC16 as a result of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The revised Provisional Agenda for the electronic SC16 meeting was finalized among the Secretariat, SC Chair, Vice-Chair, Convenors and the Scientific Services Provider, which was posted on 28 July 2020. Any other matters to be discussed under Agenda Item 7 may be proposed here.

SC16 will review and adopt the abbreviated agenda.

1.4 Reporting arrangements

The WCPFC Secretariat will hire a lead rapporteur to produce the DRAFT Summary Report, and the theme convenors may arrange their own support rapporteurs as required.

In accordance with the Rule 33 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, the text of all decisions adopted by the SC16 will be distributed in the form of the Outcomes Document to all members, territories and observers within seven (7) working days following the adoption of such decision.

The SC16 Summary Report will be adopted intersessionally with an Executive Summary. The Executive Summary will include a brief overview of the meeting, all theme recommendations adopted during the meeting, including a synopsis of stock status and management advice, and any other initiatives arising from the SC16.

AGENDA ITEM 2 DATA AND STATISTICS THEME

2.1 Data gaps of the Commission

The SPC-OFP will present the data gaps paper. SC16 will consider, comment, and where relevant, recommend actions on how to address any identified data gaps, including issues related to the differences in the coverage of longline and purse seine observer data in the data holdings of the Commission and charter notification requirements and/or the treatment of chartered vessels (Paras 72 and 74, SC15 Summary Report; Para 663, WCPFC16 Summary Report).

SC16-ST-WP-01	SPC-OFP. Scientific data available to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
SC16-ST-IP-01	P. Williams. Estimates of annual catches in the WCPFC statistical area
SC16-ST-IP-02	Peter Williams, Aurélien Panizza, Colley Falasi, Epa Loganimoce and Emmanuel Schneiter. Status of observer data management

AGENDA ITEM 3 STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME

3.1 Age and growth of yellowfin and bigeye tuna (Project 82)

SC16 will review the project final report for the provision of robust age and growth estimates for yellowfin and bigeye tuna, which will be incorporated into 2020 stock assessment. In addition, SC16 may review any other research available in the list under Paragraphs 147 and 163 of the SC15 Summary Report and provide advice and recommendations for future age and growth research.

SC16-SA-WP-02	J. Farley, K. Krusic-Golub, P. Eveson, N. Clear, F. Roupsard, C. Sanchez, S. Nicol, J. Hampton. Age and growth of yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the
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	western and central Pacific Ocean from otoliths
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3.2 WCPO bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

3.2.1 Review of 2020 bigeye tuna stock assessment

SC16 will review the results of the 2020 bigeye tuna stock assessment, any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission as required.

SC16-SA-WP-03	N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent, J. Hampton, P. Hamer, P. Williams, G. Pilling. Stock assessment of bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-03	P. Eveson, M. Vincent, J. Farley, K. Krusic-Golub, J. Hampton. Integrated growth models from otolith and tagging data for yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-06	N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent. Background analyses for the 2020 stock assessments of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-07	N. Ducharme-Barth and M. Vincent. Analysis of Pacific-wide operational longline dataset for bigeye and yellowfin tuna catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE)

3.2.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Stock status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

3.3 WCPO yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

3.3.1 Review of 2020 yellowfin tuna stock assessment

SC16 will review the results of the 2020 yellowfin tuna stock assessment, any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission, as required.

SC16-SA-WP-04	M. Vincent, N. Ducharme Barth, J. Hampton, P. Hamer, P. Williams, G. Pilling. Stock assessment of yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-03	P. Eveson, M. Vincent, J. Farley, K. Krusic-Golub, J. Hampton. Integrated growth models from otolith and tagging data for yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-06	N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent. Background analyses for the 2020 stock assessments of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-07	N. Ducharme-Barth and M. Vincent. Analysis of Pacific-wide operational longline dataset for bigeye and yellowfin tuna catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE)
SC16-SA-IP-08	T. Vidal and P. Hamer. Developing yellowfin tuna recruitment indices from drifting FAD purse seine catch and effort data

- 3.3.2 Provision of scientific information
 - a. Status and trends
 - b. Management advice and implications

3.4 North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)

- 3.4.1 Review of 2020 North Pacific albacore stock assessment

SC16 will review the ISC’s 2020 stock assessment for North Pacific albacore tuna.

SC16-SA-WP-05	ISC. Stock Assessment of Albacore Tuna in the North Pacific Ocean in 2020
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- 3.4.2 Provision of scientific information
 - a. Status and trends
 - b. Management advice and implications

3.5 Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)

- 3.5.1 Review of 2020 Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment

SC16 will review the ISC’s 2020 stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna.

SC16-SA-WP-06	ISC. Stock Assessment of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>) in the Pacific Ocean in 2020
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- 3.5.2 Provision of scientific information
 - a. Status and trends
 - b. Management advice and implications

AGENDA ITEM 4 MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME

4.1 Development of the Harvest Strategy Framework for key tuna species

4.1.1 Target reference points

4.1.1.1 Bigeye and yellowfin tuna

SC16 will review relevant information provided by SPC-OFP on target reference points, and provide advice on the following requests as listed in Paras 273-275 of the WCPFC16 Summary Report below:

273. The Commission requested the Scientific Committee to provide advice on the formulation of TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin tuna for other candidate TRP indicators other than depletion ratio, such as longline CPUE.

274. The Commission further requested the Scientific Service Provider to conduct an analysis for bigeye and yellowfin tuna similar to that undertaken in WCPFC16-2019-14 (Current and projected stock status of WCPO skipjack tuna to inform consideration of an updated target reference point) for skipjack. It further tasked SC16 in 2020 to review the bigeye and yellowfin assessments, advise on the uncertainty grid, and provide advice on the range of depletion for analysis. With regard to the range of depletion, the Commission

tasked the Scientific Service Provider to conduct the analysis and present their outcomes in 2020 to the TCC16 and WCPFC17.

275. The Commission considered the development of target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin and agreed that in the interim paragraphs 12 and 14 of CMM 2018-01 be retained. It further tasked the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Service Provider to continue to explore potential candidate target reference points for the two stocks.

SC16-MI-WP-01	R. Scott, F. Scott, G. M. Pilling, P. Hamer and J. Hampton. Further consideration of candidate target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the WCPO
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4.1.1.2 Skipjack tuna

SC16 will review relevant information provided by SPC-OFP on target reference points, and provide advice on the following requests as listed in Paras 258-259 of the WCPFC16 Summary Report below:

258. The Commission requested the Scientific Committee to provide advice on:

- a) the formulation of TRPs for skipjack tuna, noting:

 - i. the SC15 advice on a skipjack tuna TRP “that the Commission may identify a reference year, or set of years, which may be appropriate to use as a baseline for a skipjack TRP.”; and*
 - ii. the approach to the formulation of a skipjack tuna TRP proposed in WCPFC16-2019-DP01; and**
- b) effort creep estimated in relation to the TRPs.*

259. The Commission also requested the Scientific Service Provider to revise WCPFC16-2019-15 using candidate revised interim skipjack TRPs of 42%, 44%, 46%, 48% and 50% of $SB/SB_{F=0}$.

SC16-MI-WP-02	G. Pilling. Updates to WCPO skipjack tuna projected stock status to inform consideration of an updated target reference point
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4.1.2 Performance indicators, monitoring strategy, harvest control rules and management strategy evaluation

The Commission noted the importance of economic indicators as performance indicators and encouraged CCMs to assist the Scientific Services Provider by providing economic and other data to assist in development of performance indicators, including in relation to the disproportionate burden on SIDS, particularly with respect to multi-species fisheries (Paragraph 181, WCPFC16 Summary Report).

SC16 will review an update of progress on the technical development of WCPFC harvest strategies for the WCPO key tuna stocks. For skipjack tuna, South Pacific albacore tuna and the multispecies modelling framework, SC16 will provide advice and recommendations to the SPC and the Commission, as well as key findings and challenges.

SC16-MI-WP-03	P. Hamer, R. Scott, F. Scott, N. Yao, J. Singh, J. Hampton, G. Pilling. Overview of recent developments and key decisions for harvest strategies for WCPFC stocks and fisheries
SC16-MI-IP-01	G. Pilling. Additional trajectories to achieve the South Pacific albacore interim TRP

SC16-MI-IP-02	J. Singh, F. Scott, R. Scott and N. Yao. Developing the monitoring strategy for the WCPFC harvest strategy for WCPO skipjack
SC16-MI-IP-03	R. Scott, F. Scott, G. Pilling, J Hampton. Results of re-evaluations of management procedures for skipjack tuna in the WCPO
SC16-MI-IP-04	N. Yao, R. Scott, F. Scott, J. Singh. Retrospective CPUE forecasting of south Pacific albacore
SC16-MI-IP-05	N. Yao, J. Singh, R. Scott, F. Scott. HCR design considerations for south Pacific albacore
SC16-MI-IP-06	F. Scott ¹ , J. Singh, R. Scott, N. Yao, G. M. Pilling and J. Hampton. Further consideration of the mixed fishery management strategy evaluation framework for WCPO tuna stocks
SC16-MI-IP-07	F. Scott, R. Scott, N. Yao, J. Singh, N. Ducharme Barth and M. Vincent. Developing a set of diagnostics and outputs for MULTIFAN-CL stock assessments
SC16-MI-IP-08	R. Scott, F. Scott, G. M. Pilling, P. Hamer and J. Hampton. Updating the WCPO skipjack operating models for the 2019 stock assessment
SC16-MI-IP-09	R. Scott, F. Scott, G. Pilling, J Hampton. Developing management procedures for WCPO skipjack: The Estimation Model
SC16-MI-IP-10	R. Scott, F. Scott, G. Pilling, P. Hamer, J. Hampton. Simulating future data for WCPO skipjack harvest strategy evaluations
SC16-MI-IP-11	I. Mosquera. Report on the second external MSE review: Developments in the South Pacific albacore MSE framework

AGENDA ITEM 5 FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

5.1 Development of the 2021 work programme and budget, and projection of 2022-2023 provisional work programme and indicative budget

SC16 will [review all ongoing projects and associated recommendations](#) and develop the 2021 SC work programme and budget and provisional work programme and indicative budget for 2022-2023 for the Commission's endorsement. To draft the 2021 work programme, [any new and follow-up projects with terms of references will be reviewed if those projects are necessarily essential to the work of the Commission's science for 2021. Consideration of other projects will be deferred to SC17.](#)

SC16 will note a recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee to the Commission (Para 71, FAC9 Summary Report) that "WCPFC12 task SC with carefully considering proposed scientific projects in the context of the indicative budget agreed for the coming year."

AGENDA ITEM 6 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

6.1 Future operation of the Scientific Committee

SC16 will consider proposals for the efficient operation of the Scientific Committee, including streamlining of the agenda, rapporteuring, process of theme sessions, etc.

6.2 Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee

SC16 will confirm its Chair, Vice-Chair and theme conveners for SC17 meeting in 2021.

6.3 Next meeting

At SC15, Tonga offered to host in 2021, and Palau offered to serve as host in 2021 should circumstances prevent Tonga from hosting. Members are invited to confirm a time and venue for SC17 in 2021, and to propose a time and venue for SC18 in 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 7 OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Review of Online Discussion Forum outputs

SC16 will take actions as needed on the results of Online Discussion Forum.

AGENDA ITEM 8 ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

SC16 will adopt recommendations of the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee. The SC16 Summary Report will be adopted after the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9 CLOSE OF MEETING