The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission
Electronic Meeting
8–15 December 2020

SUMMARY REPORT

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SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING

1. The Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC17) took place from 8–15 December 2020 as an electronic meeting.

2. The following Members and Participating Territories attended WCPFC17: American Samoa, Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Cook Islands, the European Union (EU), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United States of America (USA), Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

3. The following non-party countries attended WCPFC17 as Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs): Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam.

4. The following non-party State observers attended WCPFC17: the Bahamas.

5. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended WCPFC17: Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

6. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended WCPFC17: American Tunaboat Association (ATA), Association for Professional Observers (APO), Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), Birdlife International, Human Rights at Sea (HRAS),

International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), Marine Stewardship Council, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries, Pew Charitable Trust, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Foundation, The Global Tuna Alliance, The Ocean Foundation, World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation (WTPO), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

7. A full list of all participants is provided in **Attachment A**.

8. The Commission Chair Jung-re Riley Kim opened the Seventeenth Regular Session of the WCPFC, held as an electronic meeting, at 10:00am on Wednesday, 9th December 2020, Pohnpei time.

9. Poi Ekesene (Niue Head of Delegation) offered a prayer.

10. The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting. She stated that CCMs would be well aware of her priorities, which she had set out in advance of the meeting in **WCPFC Circular 2020/138**, and thus she would keep her remarks brief in recognition of the limited meeting time for WCPFC17. She observed that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had affected all CCMs, though to varying degrees, and that the Commission had faced unprecedented challenges since its last meeting in Port Moresby, PNG in 2019, which required close engagement among CCMs. She expressed pride that the Commission had been able to address urgent issues intersessionally while abiding by its rules and demonstrating a spirit of cooperation and solidarity. She expressed appreciation to all CCMs for their flexibility, compromise, patience and effort that enabled the Commission to carry on its work leading up to WCPFC17. She stated that the limited agenda for WCPFC17 included those items considered essential for maintaining the Commission's core functions. She observed that despite limitations—such as the lack of breakout sessions and late-night meetings—at WCPFC17 the Commission would work to maintain momentum on its important tasks, including the tropical tuna measure, improvement of the compliance monitoring scheme (CMS), harvest strategy, electronic monitoring (EM), South Pacific albacore roadmap, transhipment, vessel monitoring system (VMS), fish aggregating device (FAD) management, and observer and crew safety. She emphasised the uncertainty facing the Commission in 2021 with regard to COVID-19, which might require working in a similar manner as in 2020. She encouraged CCMs to work together and find innovative, realistic ways to move the Commission's important tasks forward. She emphasized that members must keep in mind the special requirements of small island developing states (SIDS), which are more vulnerable to challenges and difficulties stemming from the global COVID-19 pandemic, and she expressed special appreciation to SIDS for their efforts to support the Commission's work. She also commended the Secretariat for its work, and noted that she had engaged particularly closely with the Secretariat during 2020, when she witnessed first-hand their professionalism and competence. In closing she wished all participants good health and safety. The Chair's remarks are included as **Attachment B**.

11. The WCPFC Executive Director, Feleti P Teo, OBE welcomed delegates to the virtual meeting of the 17th regular annual session of the WCPFC. He noted that when delegates met in 2019 in Port Moresby, PNG no one thought that 2020 would turn out as it has, and stated that 2020 would find a special place in the annals and historical records of the Commission. He observed that 2020 completely upended the way WCPFC normally transacts business — it has challenged everyone to be more innovative, adapt to new norms, and search for innovative responses and solutions to address the challenges confronting the Commission. The Executive Director stated that despite the enormous disruptions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was reasonably successful, both from the viewpoint of the Secretariat and the Commission. Unlike a number of other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), in 2020 WCPFC was able to convene all of its scheduled meetings for its subsidiary bodies, most of its intersessional working groups, and its annual session. Although all meetings were convened virtually, the substance of the outcomes of these Commission-related meetings bear testament to the commitment, dedication and

resilience of the Commission members and stakeholders and their desire to ensure that the work of the Commission should continue to progress and not be halted or regressed simply because members were not able to meet physically as they usually do. The outcomes of the 16th regular meetings of the Scientific Committee (SC16), Northern Committee (NC16) and Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC16) and working groups that were all held virtually provided the requisite technical and scientific advice, information and opinions needed to inform the deliberations and key decisions of the Commission at WCPFC17. The Executive Director stated that it is very gratifying and uplifting to witness and be part of the collective efforts of members and stakeholders working diligently and industriously to furnish the Commission with the necessary advice and information to enable it to continue its work. He expressed thanks to the Chair for her guidance and leadership to the Secretariat; CCMs for their resilience and patience in their dealing with the Secretariat; and the chairs and vice chairs and officers of the subsidiary bodies and working groups for their commitment, support and cooperation. He also acknowledged the work of SPC, FFA and ISC and other services providers, and publicly thanked and commended the Secretariat staff for their commitment and dedication. He closed with wishing the Commission well in its deliberations. The Executive Director's remarks are included as **Attachment C.**

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

12. The Chair presented the revised Provisional Agenda (**WCPFC17-2020-01 rev1**) for consideration and adoption by the Commission. She noted the addition of Agenda Item 7.5 on North Pacific striped marlin to the original agenda at the request of the USA.

13. The Agenda was adopted **(Attachment D).**

1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories

14. The Chair, mindful of the time constraints, encouraged CCMs to avoid presenting lengthy statements but to provide copies of statements to the Secretariat for distribution.

15. American Samoa stated that it is a United States territory and depends on the USA for its diplomatic relationships. As permitted by Article 43 of the WCPFC Convention, the USA has authorized American Samoa to participate in the WCPFC. In that capacity, and as provided in Article 30 of the Convention, American Samoa is entitled to all the rights and privileges of other SIDS and territories that participate in the Commission. American Samoa stated that its participation is critically important to it for reasons that it has often explained, namely that its economy is dependent on tuna. It asserted that the rules that apply to other SIDS in recognition of their dependence on their fisheries and the vulnerability of their small island economies have not been afforded to American Samoa. American Samoa stated that it does not have a registry for the tuna boats based in the territory which fly the USA flag and are subject to the USA's regulations and their compliance with the Commission is measured according to their flag, not where they are based. These boats are therefore subject to stricter regulations and enforcement actions than other fishing fleets. The result is increased cost and lost fishing time. American Samoa stated that USA-flagged purse seiners are rendered uncompetitive with other fleets because of higher operating and compliance costs and reduced fishing opportunities; this is especially true in comparison with SIDS fleets, which have exemptions from FAD closures and fish without limits on the high seas. America Samoa stated that the USA-flagged purse seiner fleet is in decline, with vessels changing flag to escape the high cost of compliance and to increase their fishing opportunities. In 2014 there were 40 USA-flagged purse seiners operating in the Convention area, which declined to 31 in 2019, 24 in 2020, and as few as 18 in 2021. American Samoa stated that this is alarming because it cannot simply switch the source of supply from USA-flagged boats to

non-USA-flagged purse seiners. In 2019, 95% of the purse seiners calling to American Samoa were USA-flagged vessels; non-USA flag purse seiners are unwilling to call to American Samoa out of fear of being inspected and fined by government agencies such as the United States Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency. American Samoa stated that the future of its economy is unnecessarily at risk unless something is done, and asked for the Commission's understanding and support to reverse this devastating trend. It suggested two actions to help remedy this disaster. One is to clarify that fishing effort by purse seiners in the high seas and in domestic zones can be managed together, especially in the case of combining the domestic EEZ days with the high seas days, as this will help make their boats more operationally efficient. The other is to recognize the USA-flagged purse seiners based in American Samoa, as documented by the American Samoa Board of Marine Inspectors, is indeed a SIDS fleet entitled to the same rules as other SIDS fleets when it comes to the application of CMMs, as provided in Article 30. This would help remove an incentive for vessels to change their flag and leave American Samoa.

16. The Philippines stated that it supports the consensus among CCMs to roll over CMM 2018-01 to the year 2021, and to fully engage during the intersessional discussions to progress work so that stocks of bigeye, yellow fin and skipjack tuna are maintained at sustainable levels. The Philippines recommended amending Attachment 2 of CMM 2018-01 by removing the adjective, "traditional fresh/chilled" preceding the word, "fishing vessels" in Section 1, with the objective of significantly reducing post-harvest losses, improving quality, and increasing the market value of the Philippine tuna catches from High Seas Pocket No. 1, noting this is also in accordance with the Philippines' Republic Act No. 10611 (An Act to Strengthen the Food Safety Regulatory System in the Country). The proposed deletion seeks to conform with the Philippines' regulation requiring the use of refrigerated vessels to ensure food safety, and minimize waste from fish spoilage. The use of refrigerated vessels will further enable the Philippines to comply with its treaty obligation under the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) on the prevention of fish waste. The Philippines further supported progressing the discussions on purse seine effort limits in the high seas during the review of CMM 2018-01, on labour standards for crews in fishing vessels, and stands committed to sustaining efforts and initiatives to further improve its level of compliance with its obligations under the Convention. The Philippines congratulated the Commission for successfully convening all meetings and discussions in 2020 through innovative approaches and flexibility in responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. PNG congratulated the WCPFC Executive Director and his staff for their efforts in facilitating the arrangements for WCPFC17 during these unprecedented and difficult times, noting that despite the COVID-19 pandemic members must continue to work to address the critical issues at hand, and expressing confidence that the Commission could achieve successful outcomes during WCPFC17. PNG also thanked CCMs for respecting and upholding the spirit of the Convention through solid consensus on critical issues. PNG stated it sincerely appreciated the active dialogue with developed CCMs in recognizing the special and unique circumstances of SIDS, stating that this is essential to achieving mutually beneficial outcomes. PNG also stated that SIDS, as leaders of their respective countries, representatives of the people of the Blue Pacific, and custodians of the Pacific Ocean collectively envisioned a healthy, productive, resilient, safe, and thriving ocean, while recognizing this cannot be achieved alone. PNG stated that meetings such as WCPFC17 establish a platform for effectively managing the region's fisheries and marine resources while supporting CCMs in deriving optimal value from the fishery within sustainable limits. Nationally, PNG has refocused its attention to developing its natural resources closely guided by its domestic development and strategic plans. Various advancements have been made to strengthen revenue generation and add greater value to PNG's fisheries industrialization aspirations. PNG noted the need for SIDS to gain real and lasting benefits to enable them to address various levels of "disproportionate burden" in fisheries development and management, and appealed to other members to respect these developments and work in close partnership with SIDS to advance them for greater mutual benefit. PNG further drew the attention of delegates to the following points:

(i) Obligations under the UNFSA, which enables membership to interested parties wishing to participate in fishing activities in the Convention Area, are already being met under WCPFC's CNM status. PNG stated that the issue it has with granting full membership is that it diminishes the influence SIDS have over their resources.

(ii) Reaching consensus at multilateral negotiations is difficult, and PNG commended all CCMs for the tough decisions that were made by each CCM on the tropical tuna measure, despite their respective views. PNG expressed confidence in the Commission's ability to uphold the integrity of the CMMs agreed to during WCPFC17. PNG stated it recognizes the importance of the tropical tuna measure and the role it plays in the livelihoods of their people, and stated that discussing the issue virtually was not the most practicable and effective means of discussing such as critical issue, based on shared past experience. PNG stated that the only way to effectively discuss the CMM is face-to-face, and that a rollover of CMM 2018-01 would be appropriate.

(iii) PNG re-affirmed its position on issues relating to its archipelagic waters and the use of zone-based management that has contributed to national economic development for its people. PNG additionally affirmed its sovereign right to develop its domestic fisheries, a position echoed by all SIDS to address their development aspirations, and stated that the proposals presented by FFA members are closely aligned to those principles, endorsed by their leaders, and given in the spirit of the Convention.

PNG stated its awareness that no country or entity can do what is required alone, and stated that the difficult discussions that sometimes take place have one goal: to protect and preserve the region's ocean and marine resources. PNG called on CCMs to work together and demonstrate to the world that the WCPFC is second to none.

1.3 Meeting Arrangements

18. The Commission reviewed the meeting arrangements and indicative meeting schedule, and confirmed decisions made at the Heads of Delegation meeting, held the previous day on 8th December 2020.

19. The EU thanked the Secretariat for the meeting arrangements, and expressed its appreciation for the meeting schedule, which took into account members concerns and tries to share the burden that CCMs face with the meeting schedule. The EU wished all CCMs a fruitful online meeting.

1.3.1 Online meeting protocols

20. The Secretariat's IT Manager, Tim Jones, summarized the key online meeting protocols, which are detailed in **WCPFC17-2020-protocols** *Virtual Meeting Protocols*.

1.3.2 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, CMR, others)

21. The Commission agreed to establish the following small working groups:

- Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs), chaired by Emily Crigler (USA), and addressed under Agenda Item 3.3.1.
- Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR), chaired by Acting TCC Chair Dr. Robert Day, and addressed under Agenda Item 10.1.
- List of obligations to be considered by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) in 2021, chaired by Mat Kertesz (Australia), and addressed under Agenda Item 10.2.

AGENDA ITEM 2 — ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

22. The Executive Director's Annual Report (**WCPFC17-2020-04)**, which is a requirement under Rule 13 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, was issued on 28 October 2020, and was taken as read. The Executive Director advised that the report was posted on the WCPFC17 Online Discussion Forum (ODF) (as Topic A), where no comments were received, but that he had direct input via email from some CCMs, which the Secretariat has responded to.

23. The EU thanked the Executive Director and the Secretariat staff for the comprehensive report, and stated its appreciation for the new format which follows the Secretariat Corporate Plan (**WCPFC-2019-32**), and links objectives with activities and outputs. The EU stated that it was impressed by the quantity and quality of the work undertaken as outlined in the report.

24. The Commission adopted the 2020 Annual Report of the Executive Director (**WCPFC17-2020-04**).

AGENDA ITEM 3 — MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS

3.1 Status of the Convention

25. New Zealand's report as the Depositary on the status of the WCPF Convention (**WCPFC17-2020-05** *Status of the Convention*) was taken as read.

26. The Commission noted with appreciation the report on the Status of the Convention (**WCPFC17-2020-05**).

3.2 Update on Observer Status

27. The Chair noted with appreciation the contributions of the observers to the work of the Commission. The Secretariat's updated report on observer status (**WCPFC17-2020-06_rev1** *List of Observers*) was taken as read.

28. The Executive Director stated that the updated list of accredited observers has applied for the first time the new rule that enables the Commission to revoke observer status for those that were unable to attend a meeting in the preceding three years. Observers whose status has been revoked are listed in paragraph 3 of **WCPFC17-2020-06_rev1**.

29. The Chair noted that the Bahamas had requested CNM status for 2021, and had also requested permission to attend WCPFC17 as an observer, which was supported by CCMs at the Heads of Delegation meeting. There were no objections from the Commission, and the Chair requested that the Secretariat invite the Bahamas to attend WCPFC17 as an observer.

30. The Commission accepted The Bahamas as a Non-Party State Observer.

31. The Commission noted the updated list of observers to the Commission (**WCPFC17-2020-06_rev1**).

3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status

32. The Commission considered applications for CNM status for 2021 in accordance with CMM 2019-01, including recommendations from TCC16. As outlined in **WCPFC17-2020-07**: *Cooperating Non-Member Requests for 2021*, there were ten applications for CNM status in 2021 received from the Bahamas, Curaçao, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam. All applicants except the Bahamas and DPRK are CNMs; the Bahamas attended WCPFC17 a non-party State observer.

33. The Commission discussed the process by which CNM applications would be reviewed. The Chair noted that normal practice was to discuss the CNM applications during plenary, and then task the SWG to consider any outstanding issues and the issue of participatory rights. Because of WCPFC17's format and time constraints, the SWG would consider both the applications and the participatory rights, and present recommendations to plenary for decisions.

34. The USA advocated that the Commission not accept the application by the DPRK, which would make consideration of the DPRK's CNM application by the SWG unnecessary. It noted that TCC16 had made a very clear recommendation to the Commission to deny CNM status to DPRK. The comments from the USA were supported by Australia, EU, New Zealand and France.

35. The Commission agreed that it would not accept DPRK's application.

36. The Bahamas stated that it had provided the additional information requested by TCC16 to the Secretariat, and would provide any additional information to the Commission that might be needed. It confirmed its interest to be included in the CNM SWG to facilitate provision of information.

37. Ecuador thanked the Commission for its invitation to WCPFC17. It stated it had complied with all requirements, and invited CCMs to consider its application for CNM status and also for full membership. It also confirmed its interest to participate in the CNM SWG.

38. The Commission forwarded the applications for CNM status in 2021 submitted by the Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Thailand and Vietnam to the SWG for further review.

39. Following further deliberations, the CNM SWG Chair confirmed that all information requested by TCC had been submitted to the Secretariat.

40. The EU raised a concern, based on very recent information, regarding the possible inclusion on the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Vessel List of a vessel from Panama. The EU stated that it had been unable to raise the issue with Panama and suggested that the Commission request clarification.

41. China suggested the information was not relevant as it pertained to activities in the current year, and the Commission was reviewing information relating to fishing activities in 2019. China stated the hope that Panama's application could be approved in conjunction with those of other applicants.

42. The EU noted that CMM 2019-01 on CNMs states that the Commission shall consider certain criteria outlined in paragraph 3 of the CMM; these include its record of responding to any IUU activities by vessels flying its flag and its record of compliance with CMMs of other RFMOs. The EU stated that it was therefore fully relevant to consider a possible IUU listing by NEAFC.

43. Panama stated that it was discussing the issue with NEAFC, that the case was ongoing, and that it would seek to provide more information to the Commission. The EU stated it appreciated the response from Panama, and suggested Panama could provide further information to the CNM SWG Chair.

44. The Commission approved the CNM applications from the Bahamas Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Thailand and Vietnam. It also tasked the CNM SWG to consider the specific participatory rights to be granted those CNMs. The Commission further tasked the CNM SWG to additionally consider the CNM application of Panama.

45. Following further consultations, the EU provided additional details on the F/V Boyang Capella, which it stated was flagged to Panama and appeared to be registered on the WCPFC RFV, with an active authorisation. The EU stated that the Boyang Capella was apparently listed on the NEAFC provisional IUU list in early November of 2020, and that as a result of this listing Panama did not obtain CNM status for 2021 in NEAFC. The EU stated it appreciated the efforts of Panama for providing at short notice additional information on the Boyang Capella issue, while expressing regret that the information was not proactively brought to the attention of WCPFC by Panama ahead of WCPFC17. The EU stated that it appeared that Panama's failure to provide adequate information to NEAFC on the Boyang Capella issue before the 2020 meeting of the NEAFC Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance resulted in (i) the listing of the vessel on NEAFCs provisional IUU list, and (ii) in Panama's application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status not being supported by NEAFC Members. The EU stated that to its knowledge to date no additional information had been submitted by Panama to NEAFC.

46. Panama informed the WCPFC CNM SWG that a Sanction Administrative Process had been opened against the Boyang Capella. The EU urged Panama to urgently address this outstanding issue in NEAFC and to keep WCPFC members abreast during the coming weeks of the result of this administrative process, including any relevant action for the Boyang Capella, noting that to its knowledge the vessel remained on the WCPFC's RFV. In addition to the NEAFC case, the EU noted its concern over several repeated issues of non-compliance with the WCPFC's obligations that were identified again during the 2020 CMR process for Panama. As the EU highlighted in 2019, while recognizing improvements made by Panama on the management of its fishing fleet, it noted with concern that Panama has been again identified as priority non-compliant, especially for obligations related to the Transhipment CMM. The EU stated that transhipment at sea must be strictly monitored and controlled so as to mitigate the risks of facilitating IUU fishing operations that undermine sustainable fisheries. Therefore, the EU stated that it strongly believes that Panama must achieve clear and concrete progress in addressing the shortcomings in compliance with WCPFC transhipment rules as matter of priority and urgency. In conclusion, the EU stated that if in light of the above CCMs supported the granting of CNM status to Panama for 2021, the EU would not oppose this decision, but that in the absence of tangible progress by Panama, it would be very difficult for the EU to support an application for the renewal of Panama's CNM status in 2022.

47. China thanked the EU and stated it would like to see that Panama's CNM status be continued for 2021. China urged Panama to carefully note the EU's statement and ensure it made significant progress on the issues raised in the near future.

48. Panama stated that it had provided detailed explanations on the issues raised in the CNM SWG. It stated that it was complying with the requirements of NEAFC, which would include a fine to the Boyang Capella, suspension of the vessel's license, and withdrawal of the vessel from the RFVs of all RFMOs. Panama acknowledged past difficulties in meeting certain deadlines, including with regard to the Boyang Capella, but stated its understanding that all supporting documents would be available in January 2021. Panama noted some improvements made during 2020, and stated it would strive to do even better in 2021.

49. The Commission approved the CNM application from Panama, and referred it to the CNM SWG to consider the participatory rights to be granted to Panama.

50. The CNM SWG presented its report to the Commission, including recommended limits to be applied to the participatory rights of each CNM in 2021. During the CNM SWG Ecuador had reiterated their interest in becoming a full member of the Commission, and the SWG had noted that the issue of membership would be taken up by the Commission, and was outside the mandate of the SWG.

51. The Commission discussed the participatory rights to be granted to CNMs, and whether any limits should be placed on the number of carrier vessels. The Bahamas stated that it had indicated in comments submitted to the Commission in October 2020 that it would have 30 carrier vessels in 2021. China stated that it would support the wording regarding participatory rights agreed to in the CNM SWG, but stated its view that in the future the Commission should give consideration when granting participatory rights to specifying the number of carrier vessels for each CNM.

52. The EU stated that many years after entry into force of the Convention the Commission still lacked a procedure for consideration of applications for full membership. It referenced a paper submitted by the USA in 2017 (**WCPFC14-2017-DP18** *Membership Process in WCPFC*) that contained an overview of other RFMOs' membership processes, and the benefits to the Commission of a more open approach to membership. The EU stated that no progress had been made since then, and raised the issue as an outstanding item that should be duly addressed.

53. Japan supported the EU intervention. It noted the concerns expressed by some CCMs, while stating that WCPFC should at a minimum have a process for discussing applications from potential members.

54. Palau on behalf of FFA members reiterated the FFA position expressed at WCPFC15 and WCPFC16 that the application for CNM status is not a stepping stone to becoming a full member of the WCPFC. It requested deletion of the inclusion of a question in the CNM application form on whether an applicant wants to become a member, stating it is not a relevant consideration for the granting of CNM status. It noted that Article 35.2 of the Convention sets out the procedural requirements for membership.

55. FSM on behalf of PNA members, stated that under the Convention, WCPFC has a different and less open process for considering new members compared to other fisheries Commissions. In the WCPFC, new members can only join by invitation, and that invitation has to be decided by consensus. PNA members further stated that the process reflects the nature of the Commission where over 85% of the catch is made in the waters of developing countries, especially SIDS, who are highly dependent on those resources. PNA members stated that the CNM process provides adequate opportunities for participation by countries, other than those who were engaged in the process of drawing up the Convention. PNA members stated they do not support the EU proposal for an additional process relating to Commission membership.

56. Ecuador expressed its appreciation to the WCPFC by accepting Ecuador as a CNM since 2009. Ecuador noted it had committed to fully comply with the WCPFC's CMMs and administrative and financial obligations, and had done so over the years. Ecuador stated it had expressed its desire to become a "full member" of WCPFC at several WCPFC annual meetings, but unfortunately, Ecuador's official request had not received a positive response. Given this, Ecuador stated it was officially requesting once again what the legal procedure would be to achieve that objective, suggesting that it should be clear, fair, and transparent. Ecuador recalled that at WCPFC14 the USA delegation delivered a discussion document on this issue (**WCPFC15-2017-DP18**), and that it had been raised again by the EU. Ecuador stated that these analyses could facilitate consideration of this important matter. It noted that in 2015 WCPFC took a first step by implementing a change in the "CNM application form", in which candidate countries were asked whether

they would like to become full members. In this regard, Ecuador inquired as to the benefit of this question, and if there has been any follow-up. Ecuador noted that the general framework of RFMOs states that no State or group of States that have a real interest in the fisheries should be discriminated against, and that Ecuador and most WCPFC members are members of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), as well as the UNFSA, which are the foundation of the international legal framework for oceans and fishing. In this regard, Ecuador stated it considers that having officially and repeatedly expressing to WCPFC its interest in becoming a "full member" without even receiving a response constituted discrimination and a violation of the UNCLOS and UNFSA rules. Finally, it noted that the foregoing contrasts with the treatment that has been given in other RFMOs. By way of example, since the new IATTC Convention was adopted in Antigua, Guatemala in 2003, IATTC opened its door for several coastal states not located in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, such as Belize, the People's Republic of China, and Kiribati, to become full members, without any barrier. Ecuador reiterated its request that the Commission consider establishing a framework and conditions to allow interested countries with CNM status to become full members. Ecuador closed by reiterating its interest in becoming, and requested to be accepted as, a full member of the WCPFC.

57. The Commission noted the strong concerns from TCC16 regarding DPRK's application and decided to deny CNM status for DPRK.

58. The Commission accepted the report of the Cooperating Non-Member Small Working Group (SWG) and noted that:

i. The SWG had noted with appreciation the attendance and participation of The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Nicaragua, Thailand and Vietnam.

ii. The SWG confirmed that all CNM applications were complete and all additional information requested by TCC16 had been submitted.

iii. SWG participants expressed concern surrounding the recent listing of two Panamanian flagged vessels on the IUU Fishing Vessel Lists of NEAFC and CCAMLR. One participant noted that Panama's application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status in NEAFC for 2021 was denied by the organization. Panama acknowledged the concerns expressed by members and submitted additional information on the actions taken by Panama to address the issues, which included sanctions and the revocation of vessel licenses. Panama confirmed that the vessels included in NEAFC IUU List A would be removed from the vessel registers of all RFMOs, including WCPFC until the process is concluded. In relation to the vessel included in CCAMLR Non-Contracting Party IUU Vessel List, Panama informed that this vessel was self-reported by Panama and it no longer flies the Panama flag since March 2020.

iv. The SWG supported the application of Panama for CNM status in 2021, but encouraged Panama to continue to make improvements to the management of vessels, both in the WCPFC and in other RFMOs. The SWG noted that in the absence of tangible progress and improved compliance with WCPFC management measures, it would be difficult for the Commission to support an application from Panama for CNM status in 2022.

59. The Commission approved the applications for CNM status for 2021 from The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam.

3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

60. The Commission reviewed the limits of participatory rights of CNMs under various CMMs in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 13 of CMM 2019-01.

61. The Commission agreed that the following limits be applied to the participatory rights of CNMs, pursuant to the WCPF Convention and CMM 2019-01:

i. In accordance with the WCPF Convention and WCPFC conservation and management measures and resolutions, the following participatory rights apply to CNMs for fisheries in the high seas within the WCPFC Convention Area;

ii. In addition, unless otherwise specified below, CNMs may fish in waters under their national jurisdiction or other CCMs' national jurisdiction, in accordance with appropriate bilateral arrangements;

iii. CNMs shall ensure vessels flying their flags comply with all provisions of the WCPF Convention and the WCPFC conservation and management measures. In addition, CNM vessels will be placed on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (WCPFC RFV);

iv. CCMs shall ensure that CNM fishing activities that are conducted in waters under their national jurisdiction in accordance with bilateral arrangements are consistent with all relevant conservation and management measures and provisions of the WCPF Convention; and

v. Renewal of CNM status by the Commission will take into account compliance with the national laws and regulations of any licensing CCM, and all conservation and management measures and provisions of the WCPF Convention. CCMs shall identify any violations by vessels flagged to a CNM and report on any investigations of such violations to the Secretariat for attention by TCC.

Participatory rights of each CNM in 2020

62. **The Bahamas:** The participatory rights of the Bahamas are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transhipment activities in the Convention area.

63. **Curaçao:** The participatory rights of Curaçao are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transhipment activities in the Convention area.

64. **Ecuador:** The participatory rights of Ecuador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2018-01 or its replacement measure.

65. **El Salvador:** The participatory rights of El Salvador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing only. The total level of effort by purse seine vessels of El Salvador on the high seas shall

not exceed 29 days in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2018-01 or its replacement measure.

66. **Liberia:** The participatory rights of Liberia are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transhipment activities in the Convention area.

67. **Nicaragua:** The participatory rights of Nicaragua are limited to purse seine fishing for one vessel, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2018-01 or its replacement measure.

68. **Panama:** The participatory rights of Panama in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels. Panama's participatory rights also apply to vessels that supply food, water and spare parts to carrier vessels that engage in transhipment activities, provided that these vessels do not engage in activities supporting fishing vessels, including providing and/or servicing FADs.

69. **Thailand:** The participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

70. **Vietnam:** The participatory rights of Vietnam in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area

71. In accordance with the decision of WCPFC9 regarding the management of the overlap area of 4˚S and between 130˚W and 150˚W, vessels flagged to Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama will be governed by the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.

72. In accordance with the Data Exchange MOU agreed by both Commissions, fishing vessels flying the flag of a member of either the IATTC or WCPFC shall cooperate with the RFMO to which they are not a member by voluntarily providing operational catch and effort data for its fishing activities for highly migratory species in the overlap area.

73. For the purpose of investigation of possible IUU fishing activities and consistent with international and domestic laws, vessels flying the flag of a CNM that is a Contracting Party to the IATTC will cooperate with those coastal State members of the WCPFC whose EEZs occur in the overlap area by voluntarily providing VMS reports (date, time and position) to those coastal States when operating in the overlap area.

AGENDA ITEM 4 — NEW PROPOSALS

DP01

74. On behalf of FFA members, New Zealand presented **WCPFC17-2020-DP01** *FFA Key Priorities for the WCPFC17*, referring in particular to Attachment 1 *Proposed List of Obligations to be assessed under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2021*. FFA members stated they recognized the list of obligations for assessment by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) as a priority item for the Commission at WCPFC17, and in that context submitted the proposal in Attachment 1 for WCPFC17 consideration. New Zealand stated that in the absence of the risk-based assessment approach, the proposal takes into consideration:

- the factors identified in CMM 2019-06 paragraph 6;
- the proposal tabled by the United States at TCC16;
- members' views expressed on this issue at TCC16;
- obligations assessed under the CMS and the percentage of past non-compliance;
- the need to be mindful of the volume of obligations to be assessed on an annual basis, given the burden it will put on the WCPFC Secretariat, TCC and CCMs, in particular SIDS; and
- ensuring that the CMS is effective and efficient, balanced and fair amongst the different fisheries within the Commission.

75. New Zealand noted that the Secretariat submitted to FFA and through the ODF its views on the proposed list with regards to the obligations related to the WCPFC Decisions under the context of COVID-19 (**WCPFC17-2020-09**, *WCPFC17 Online Discussion Forum Summary*, Topic K1). In particular, the Secretariat noted they may not have enough information to be able to review each CCM's implementation of these requirements. FFA members therefore agreed to remove these obligations from the list to be assessed in 2021, but stated they would seek a decision under Agenda Item 5 for CCMs to report in 2021 on their implementation of these decisions in their Annual Part 2 reports and for the Secretariat to prepare a paper on this for TCC17's consideration. FFA members also received and responded to comments and questions from the United States through the ODF, and looked forward to working with all CCMs towards an agreed list for 2021. FFA members further proposed that an SWG be established to discuss and agree on the list of obligations to be assessed under the CMS in 2021, and nominated Mat Kertesz from Australia to lead this SWG.

76. The EU thanked FFA for the proposal, and for addressing some of its comments made at TCC16.

77. The list of obligations to be assessed under the CMS was discussed further under Agenda Item 10.2.

DP02

78. The United States stated it had withdrawn a previously submitted proposal to revise several aspects of the tropical tuna measure (**WCPFC17-2020-DP02** *Proposal for a CMM for Tropical Tunas*). This followed discussions during 2020 with a number of other CCMs to understand their positions and expectations for WCPFC17. It recognized that the challenges in meeting electronically would make substantive discussions and consensus-building difficult. In light of this, and as explained in its message circulated on December 7, the United States has decided, pending review of the precise language of the CMM, to support a rollover of the tropical tuna measure. It stated its understanding that a rollover is the expectation of most, if not all, other CCMs. Although the USA would support a rollover at WCPFC17 because of the extraordinary circumstances and limited time available, it emphasized that its proposal in DP02 reflects important issues and objectives for the United States and its stakeholders, and that it remained

committed to looking for equitable solutions to stakeholder interests and concerns, and looked forward to engaging on those issues in 2021. The USA stated it recognizes that the fisheries managed through the measure are very important to all CCMs, including SIDS and territories that are particularly dependent on fisheries, and as such, all CCMs deserve the opportunity to work through these issues in a spirit of cooperation. The USA stated that its proposal highlights the important issues that will need to be addressed in developing future versions of the measure, specifically noting the following:

- Some open-ended exemptions undermine the effectiveness of WCPFC's conservation regime.
- USA-flagged vessels in both the longline and purse seine sectors are hamstrung by allocations that are much more restrictive than necessary to meet the Commission's conservation objectives, and despite often applying monitoring, control, and surveillance measures that exceed those that apply to other fleets.
- American Samoa, as a small island Participating Territory, is suffering a disproportionate conservation burden from the measure and continues to push the United States to insist on changes that will support its fisheries-dependent economy.

The USA stated that WCPFC17 needs to agree on a clear intersessional process, with a timeline, to make progress on improving the measure in 2021, including to address the outstanding work identified in CMM 2018-01 and to conduct good faith negotiations on the priorities raised. It stated its openness to different ways of progressing that work, and that it envisions the Commission Chair and/or Vice Chair leading the intersessional work, which could be done through email correspondence and virtual meetings until WCPFC can again meet in person. The USA stated that progress made intersessionally will inform its ability to agree on a measure in 2021, when CCMs must be prepared to make needed adjustments to the CMM. The USA stated its recognition that its proposal conflicted with the views of some other members on how the region's collective fisheries should be managed. It noted its intent was not to inflame, but to reflect that its industries feel disadvantaged and are concerned about their very survival. It observed the need to respect the needs and interests of other members, including in particular the SIDS and territories, and stated it was willing to work hard towards a CMM that works for all CCMs. While that has not been possible in 2020 as CCMs adjust to the new virtual format, the USA stated it hoped and expected all CCMs would be in a better position to do that hard work in 2021.

79. The intersessional process for developing a new tropical tuna measure was further discussed under Agenda Item 7.2.

DP06

80. The Philippines introduced **WCPFC17-2020-DP06** *Request to amend Attachment 2 of CCM 2018-01*. It stated the objective was to significantly reduce post-harvest losses, improve quality, and increase the market value of the Philippine tuna catches from the High Seas Pocket No. 1 and to comply with Republic Act No. 10611 to strengthen the food safety regulatory system. The Philippines recommended that Attachment 2 of CMM 2018-01 be amended by removing the adjective "traditional fresh/chilled" preceding the word "fishing vessels" in Section 1. The recommended amendment would allow the use of freezers in carrier boats or refrigerated vessels, thereby significantly reducing post-harvest loss, and ensuring catch quality.

DP08

81. The USA introduced **WCPFC17-2020-DP08** *Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Striped Marlin Consultative Draft* Proposal. It recalled that in 2010, WCPFC adopted a CMM establishing catch limits for CCMs that had historically caught North Pacific striped marlin; however,

reductions in CMM 2010-01 were inadequate to eliminate overfishing or rebuild the stock (stock assessments conducted in 2015 and 2019 found the stock to be overfished and experiencing overfishing). In 2019 WCPFC adopted an interim rebuilding plan with an interim rebuilding target of 20%SSBF=0 to be reached by 2034 with at least 60% probability; the plan includes the following rebuilding strategy:

> *Beginning in 2020, and based on the best scientific information available, members will develop measures to rebuild the stock in accordance with the rebuilding objective, with the aim of adopting revised conservation and management measures for North Pacific striped marlin at WCPFC17. Members should consider reduced catch limits and retention, release, and gear requirements, among other potential tools.*

The USA stated that its consultative draft revised CMM for North Pacific striped marlin was designed to ensure that the interim rebuilding target is met according to the specifications of the interim rebuilding plan adopted in 2019 (Attachment 1 to **WCPFC17-2020-DP08**). It noted that it investigated the efficacy of requiring live release of all captured striped marlin, elimination of the shallowest hooks on deep sets, and the use of circle hooks as potential mitigation methods. The USA stated that while none of these measures would meet the rebuilding target as stand-alone requirements, they could help to reduce catch if used with other mitigation options. The USA proposed that CCMs consider the consultative draft revised CMM as a basis for intersessional consultations, with the aim of adopting a revised CMM at WCPFC18. The USA also noted some discrepancies between ISC stock assessment catch estimates of striped marlin in the Convention Area north of the equator and WCPFC catch estimates for that area, by CCM, and stated it was working with SPC to improve the WCPFC estimates and better understand reasons for the differences.

82. The proposal was further addressed under Agenda Item 7.5.

DP09

83. Indonesia introduced **WCPFC17-2020-DP09** *Proposal for a CMM on Labour Standards for Crews on Fishing Vessels*. Indonesia noted cases and disputes had taken place over several years with regards to crew welfare on fishing vessels operating within the Commission Area. In the spirit of responsible fisheries management and common decency, Indonesia considers these disputes to be labour abuse issues. It stated that fishing crews have been subjected to abuse, forced labour, and human trafficking because of the absence of proper labour and wellbeing standards, training, and insufficient language aptitude, and that workers exploitation, forced labour, and human trafficking in capture fisheries are connected to transnational crime and corruption. The expanding worldwide interest to harvest more fish far from national waters and the need for cheap workers to ensure these fishing operations are profitable also leads to labour abuse. Vessel owners and operators can have a competitive advantage by crewing their vessels with cheap labour. Indonesia stated that under WCPFC Resolution 2018-01 (*Resolution on Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels*), CCMs are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that their relevant national legislation fully extends to all crews working on fishing vessels flying their flag in the Convention Area, and where appropriate and applicable, CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures into their national legislation to establish minimum standards regulating crew labour conditions. Furthermore, CCMs are encouraged to implement measures consistent with generally accepted international minimum standards for the crew on fishing vessels, where applicable, to ensure fair working conditions on board for all their flagged vessels operating within the Convention Area. However, cases of labour abuse are nonetheless continuing in the region. As a member of WCPFC, Indonesia acknowledged that the issue of labour rights for the crews of fishing vessels needs broader attention, particularly with respect to making and implementing binding regulations, and stated that it therefore submitted the draft proposal on the issue in DP09, which proposes improved measures on tackling labour abuse through the implementation of law and policy; comprehensive research on the effect of labour abuse for fisheries as a system; more knowledge sharing among members handling similar cases;

increased communication and awareness among stakeholders, including media, government, inter-government agencies, fishing operators, migrant workers, and consumers, and representatives of fishing industry employees and workers; and improved cooperation and coordination among WCPFC CCMs. Indonesia welcomed any input from CCMs and proposed to have an Intersessional Working Group draft a CMM during 2021 for submission to TCC. Indonesia underlined its willingness to work constructively and cooperatively with other delegations.

84. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA members, thanked Indonesia for bringing forward its proposal on this very important matter. As noted at previous meetings, FFA members are appalled by the continued instances of crew abuse in the region, including towards Indonesian nationals. FFA members have approved an amendment to the minimum terms and conditions on labour standards for fishing crews, and stated it is appropriate that the Commission begins work on a compatible measure for the high seas. The draft CMM proposed by Indonesia provides a basis to begin that process and FFA members congratulated Indonesia for bringing this forward. They noted that considerable work would be required to develop a practical CMM, but FFA members believe it essential that the Commission instigate a process to move forward. FFA members supported the establishment of an IWG on crew labour standards, and stated their strong position that that the Commission is the right place to address this issue.

85. New Zealand expressed support for the comments by Vanuatu on behalf of FFA, and by Indonesia. It agreed that the establishment of an IWG is appropriate, and that it is appropriate and essential that the Commission consider these issues. New Zealand acknowledged that other regulatory agencies also have a role, but that this does not preclude efforts on the part of WCPFC.

86. The Philippines stated that it fully supports formation of an IWG, and that it would fully engage in the process. It noted that it already has domestic regulations that addresses labour standard on fishing vessels.

87. The USA supported Indonesia's intervention, aligned with the comments by New Zealand and FFA, and supported the formation of an IWG.

88. China stated that it did not support the proposal, and would not support the formation of an IWG.

89. Korea thanked Indonesia, noting that the issue of rights and welfare of crew is very important, and that calls to address the issue were increasing. It stated that it had been closely working with industry stakeholders to prevent possible incidents on Korean fishing vessels, and would join the IWG if it is established, and would cooperate fully on the issue.

90. The proposal was further discussed under Agenda Item 9.3.

Revision to CMM 2019-02

91. Masanori Miyahara, the Chair of the Northern Committee (NC), introduced the revised CMM for Pacific Bluefin Tuna, as contained in Attachment B of **WCPFC17-2020-18** *Reference Document for the Review of CMM 2019-02 and Development of Harvest Strategies (Pacific Bluefin Tuna).* The NC Chair stated that NC16 agreed on the recommendation, which would allow a one-year rollover of CMM 2019-02. He also stated the revised measure would delete the previously allowed catch limit transfer from Chinese Taipei to Japan.

92. The proposal was further addressed under Agenda Item 7.4.1.

DP11

93. The EU introduced **WCPFC17-2020-11rev_1**, *Discussion Paper on IUU Vessel Cross Listing Procedures – revision 1,* noting that a full proposal was tabled at WCPFC16, and a range of concerns were expressed by FFA members. The EU stated it had reflected on these concerns and provided additional insights in the hope of addressing the points made by FFA members. The EU stated that in light of the reduced agenda of WCPFC17, it did not intend to table a proposal for adoption in 2020, but rather sought to collect views, comments and inputs from CCMs with the objective of continuing the discussion intersessionally ahead of WCPFC18, and in the hope of working toward adoption of cross-listing measures.

94. Tuvalu on behalf of PNA members requested the WCPFC Secretariat to advise, intersessionally, how many vessels would be on an expanded IUU List under the cross-listing proposal, noting that this information would help in assessing any burden associated with the proposed measure.

95. The proposal was further addressed under Agenda Item 11.

DP12

96. The EU introduced **WCPFC17-2020-DP12** *Discussion paper on Improving the Effectiveness of CMM 2018-01*. The EU stated that the aim was to address the unintended effect of the exemptions in CMM 2018-01 and to better understand how these exemptions are used, and to take into account the full range of implications and potential impacts deriving from their use on the effectiveness of the CMM for tropical tunas and/or its successor CMMs. The paper has three sections (i) the effects of the FAD closure; (ii) the trend of increasing effort by CCMs that are not bound by limits in the high seas; and (iii) and the potential for use of exemptions beyond their intended purpose through misinterpretation of the attribution of catch and effort under paragraph 8 of CMM 2018-01. The EU stated that these issues, in particular the use of exemptions, potentially make TCC assessments difficult and most importantly, might severely weaken the effectiveness of CMM 2018-01 in the near future. The issues were further discussed under Agenda Item 7.2.2.

AGENDA ITEM 5 — INTERSESSIONAL DECISIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

97. The Secretariat's discussion paper **WCPFC17-2020-08** *COVID-19 Related Intersessional Decisions,* was presented by the Legal Adviser, Dr. Penny Ridings. The paper updates **WCPFC-TCC16-2020-14**, provided to TCC16, on the measures taken (as of 10 November) to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 on fishing vessels and on travel and port entry restrictions in CCMs. The Legal Adviser highlighted some of the context and the questions posed for WCPFC17.

(i) The Legal Adviser first reviewed the Intersessional Decisions.

- The Commission's first Intersessional Decision temporarily suspended the 100% observer requirement on purse seine vessels. She noted that most ROP observers have been repatriated, with the exception of 23 observers. Of those the majority remain on board vessels, including carrier vessels, either to continue their duties, or pending suitable arrangements for repatriation. Some observers are awaiting repatriation in another country.
- The second Intersessional Decision states that where it is not feasible to tranship in port, CCMs may authorise their purse seine vessels to tranship at sea in areas designated by port States within its jurisdiction. Assessing the implementation of this decision has proven difficult. She stated that it

appears most purse seine transhipments are taking place in an area designated by the port State: at the wharf or within the general area of the port, even if not at the wharf. One port State has designated an area beyond three Nautical miles for this purpose, but this appears rare. Five CCMs have notified the Executive Director of their authorised vessels but have implemented the Decision in different ways: either by way of a blanket authorisation, or by notification of individual transhipment events on a vessel-by-vessel basis.

- The third Intersessional Decision suspended the requirement to have at-sea transhipment observers on either the fishing or carrier vessel. Of reported transhipments between 1 April and 23 October 2020, approximately 9% of transhipments were not observed. The relatively high rate of observations results from some observers on carrier vessels not yet being repatriated. There are likely to be fewer observed transhipments in 2021 until observers on carrier vessels are redeployed.

(ii) The Legal Adviser noted that assessing implementation was difficult, and stated that to facilitate a review at TCC17 of the implementation of the Intersessional Decisions, the Commission could consider the following, as suggested by the Secretariat in comments to **WCPFC17-2020-DP01** (**WCPFC17-2020-09**, discussion under Topic K): (a) CCMs could be required to provide in Annual Report Part 2 covering 2020 activities, a specific report on their implementation of the Intersessional Decisions taken in response to COVID-19; (b) task the Secretariat to include in Annual Report Part 2 covering 2020 activities appropriate questions that can suitably support CCMs reporting on their implementation of the Intersessional Decisions taken in response to COVID-19; and (c) task the Secretariat to prepare a paper for TCC17, that provides a summary of the available information on the implementation of the COVID-19 Intersessional Decisions in 2020/21.

(iii) The Legal Adviser made the following observations in describing the context of the Commission's consideration of the Intersessional Decisions: it is not clear when a return to normal observer requirements will be feasible; while some observer data is still coming in, SPC has indicated that the prolonged suspension of observer requirements could compromise certain scientific assessments; TCC16 noted the importance of placing observers safely back on vessels and referred to the possible use of the FFA COVID-19 Operating Protocols; and to date the COVID-19 decisions have been temporary – usually of 3 or 4 months duration to enable periodic assessments of the situation to be made.

(iv) The Legal Adviser encouraged the Commission to consider the following issues:

- The appropriate timeframes for lifting of the suspension of obligations under the three Intersessional Decisions, whether priority should be given to reinstatement of at-sea transhipment observers on carrier vessels, and the necessary conditions for this to occur.
- Implementation issues associated with the suspension of the prohibition of at-sea transhipment for purse seine vessels, the lack of clarity on the number of port States that are undertaking transhipments outside the general area of their ports and within their internal waters, and whether the suspension should be tightened and its implementation clarified.
- Challenges associated with redeployment of observers on purse seine vessels to once again meet the 100% observer coverage requirement, whether a staged approach to redeployment is feasible, and the conditions under which redeployment should occur.
- The Commission's position on the FFA Operating Protocols.

(v) The Legal Adviser also encouraged the Commission to consider preparing and circulating a draft decision prior to expiry of the current Intersessional Decisions on 15 February 2021. Given the continued uncertainty over what the situation will be in 2021, an indication of the period of validity

of any Decision would be useful. It would also be useful if WCPFC17 could agree to use the same expedited decision-making process as used for the original COVID-related Intersessional Decisions.

98. RMI, on behalf of FFA members, noted that they proposed in **WCPFC17-2020-DP01** a list of obligations to be assessed under the CMS in 2021, of which six are related to decisions taken in response to COVID-19. They noted the views from the WCPFC Secretariat posted to the ODF regarding review of implementation of intersessional decisions (**WCPFC17-2020-09**, Topic K). Upon consideration of these views, FFA members suggested that the Commission:

- task CCMs to provide in their 2021 Annual Report Part 2 covering 2020 activities a specific report on their implementation of the Intersessional Decisions taken in response to COVID-19;
- task the Secretariat to include in 2021 Annual Report Part 2 (covering 2020 activities) appropriate questions that can suitably support CCMs reporting on their implementation of the Intersessional Decisions taken in response to COVID-19; and
- tasks the Secretariat to prepare a paper for TCC17 providing a summary of the available information on the implementation of the COVID-19 Intersessional Decisions in 2020.

FFA members stated that CCMs' full and effective implementation of the Intersessional Decisions remained critical, including ensuring all reporting requirements are clear and consistently applied to allow the Commission to assess the impacts of the decisions and guide future decisions.

99. The EU stated it could support the proposal but suggested that when considering future decisions that the Commission include better guidance on how it expected CCMs to implement and assess its decisions.

100. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA members, thanked CCMs and vessel operators for their assistance in safely repatriating observers to their home countries during the temporary suspension of observer coverage requirement for purse seine vessels and at sea transhipment. They reiterated that their end goal is to ensure that observers can safely return to fishing vessels after 15 February 2021. To support this end goal of deploying observers, FFA members encouraged all CCMs to implement the FFA COVID-19 Operating Protocols and for the Commission to recognise them as voluntary best practice guidelines to minimise COVID-19 transmission on fishing vessels. They stated their understanding that no alternate COVID-19 Protocols for fishing vessels had been put forward to the Commission and stressed that the protocols are extremely important for helping prevent COVID-19 transmission. FFA members highlighted that they are considering requirements to be met by vessel operators in order for FFA members to be comfortable deploying observers on purse seine vessels again. FFA Members noted the WCPFC Secretariat's suggested framework, elements and process which is a useful way forward for the COVID-19 Intersessional Decisions, in particular the staged approach to redeploying observers, and the emphasis on Article 29(5) should there be any dispensation due to the COVID-19 on at-sea transhipment, except where a port State designates an area within its territorial sea for transhipment purposes.

101. The EU observed that the absence of observers for long periods may impact the collection of scientific data, but that it was difficult to assess the impact without more information, and inquired regarding (i) the rate of observations in 2020, noting that some CCMs have embarked observers throughout their operations; (ii) how observer data gaps could impact the work of SPC in the short term; and (iii) whether the Secretariat or SPC have suggestions on how to compensate for the lack of observers. The Compliance Manager, Dr. Lara Manarangi-Trott stated the Secretariat would consult with SPC and seek to provide an answer to these questions.

102. PNG stated that the observer program is essential to provide and verify data and compliance relating to a number of WCPFC CMMs. It inquired how the lack of observers impacted assessment of WCPFC stocks. PNG also noted that the ability to safely place observers on vessels during the COVID-19 pandemic would be different for domestic and international operations, as the latter presented logistical issues, and required resumption of international flights.

103. The USA supported extension of the Commission's Intersessional Decisions until observers can be placed safely on the vessels without increased risk from COVID-19. It noted that the USA's industry went to great length and expense to repatriate all observers from its vessels, and remained concerned that some observers have not yet been repatriated. It noted that timely repatriation of all observers, where requested, is a requirement of the Commission's Intersessional Decisions, and urged all CCMs to implement the decisions quickly and equitably. The USA stated it would support discussion of proposed frameworks for continuing to make intersessional decisions related to COVID-19, and generally supported implementing an expedited intersessional process for expedited review of the suspension of purse seine observer coverage to ensure that the suspension does not become the norm. Given the rapid evolution of information and best practices related to COVID-19, the USA stated that it would be impractical to implement regional guidelines or protocols months ahead of a vaccine and observer deployment. Further, given that COVID-19 related decisions are likely beyond the authority of most fisheries officials, the USA stated it would not support adoption of binding COVID-19 guidelines through WCPFC.

104. The EU sympathized with all observers that are still stranded, and noted that the safety of observers and crew is of paramount importance. It affirmed PNG's statement that the current problem was more related to the logistics and the risk related to bringing observers aboard and then repatriating them, rather than to the risks to observers while onboard. It noted that the FFA Operating Protocols included guidelines for onboard safety, but the issue was how to come up with options for getting observers to vessels. The EU suggested that before simply renewing its Intersessional Decisions the Commission could consider alternatives that could compensate for the lack of data. The EU made several suggestions: have vessels call in at ports that have strong observer programs; have SPC possibly develop a stratified sampling program, and have certain vessels collect a minimum amount of data; and possibly rely on port sampling while waiting for the situation to return to normal. It stressed that any decisions adopted intersessionally should be accompanied by clear reporting requirements, which is not currently the case.

105. China stated it appreciated the Commission's actions with respect to the Intersessional Decisions, and noted it was uncertain when the situation would return to normal, and suggested the Commission carefully consider the situation and then extend the current decisions intersessionally. China stated that it had been very difficult to meet the 5% observer coverage requirement on longline vessel on the high seas in 2020, and hoped that TCC17 could consider not assessing this requirement in 2021.

106. The Ocean Foundation, on behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, WWF and the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) thanked the Legal Advisor and CCMs for their contributions, and urged CCMs to commit to redeploying observers as soon as it as safe, in order to ensure that the necessary data on fishing and transhipment operations are collected. They also noted the urgent need to progress work on electronic monitoring (EM) standards and develop a draft CMM on EM, as a comprehensive EM program would be a key way to increase the resiliency of the observer program and reduce impacts of any future shocks to the fisheries management system.

107. The Chair asked the Commission to consider the process for addressing the Intersessional Decisions, noting that the current COVID-19 Intersessional Decisions expire on 15 February 2021 and the constraints of virtual meeting made it difficult to address these decisions at WCPFC17. She suggested the Commission could consider whether a draft Decision could be prepared based on discussions at WCPFC17 and circulated

in good time prior to the expiry of the current Intersessional Decisions; WCPFC17 could give an indication of the period of validity of any Intersessional Decision; and WCPFC17 could agree that this and any subsequent Intersessional Decisions be subject to the same 7-day expedited decision-making process as used for the original Intersessional Decisions.

108. Japan supported the suggestion made by the Chair regarding the process, and stated its understanding that in light of the deadlines a draft decision would by necessity be circulated by early February. It suggested a short extension (possibly 2 months) would be appropriate with a 7-day decision process. Regarding the FFA Operating Protocols, Japan thanked FFA members for formulating these, but noted that its authority had also issued guidelines, and that each CCM faces a different situation related to COVID-19. Therefore, recognizing the FFA operating protocols as best-practice guidelines would be difficult for Japan; it stated its respect for the efforts of FFA members, but could not support the recognition by the Commission of the voluntary Operating Protocols as best-practice guidelines.

109. China supported the statement by Japan with regard to the FFA COVID-19 Operating Protocols.

110. Chinese Taipei expressed its appreciation to FFA members for tabling the COVID-19 Operating Protocols. It reflected on the effort taken by CCMs to protect the safety of observers and crew, and noted the need to respect that different members have different measures. It noted that it would accept if the FFA protocol is voluntary for other CCMs. In terms of the process for extension of the Intersessional Decisions, it supported circulation of a draft by early February as suggested by Japan. It also noted the need to have a grace period for the industry when reinstating observer requirements, as restrictions may differ among ports, and it takes time for the vessels to carry observers back onboard fishing vessels.

111. The USA supported the interventions by China, Japan, and Chinese Taipei. It stated its appreciation for the FFA Operating Protocols, while noting that the USA had continued to place its observers on vessels during the COVID-19 pandemic. It maintained 100% observer coverage in the swordfish fishery, and 15% in its longline fisheries, but had challenges in the fishery in American Samoa because of flight restrictions. The USA stated it is important that all measures that were not suspended be assessed, including observer coverage, as this was not waived unilaterally, stressing that it was important to understand the reasons for any non-compliance, and the resultant impact.

112. FSM stated it was encouraged that many CCMs supported the Operating Protocols, and encouraged that CCMs are developing their own guidelines. At TCC16 CCMs were encouraged to share any protocols to ensure there is consistency of applications, so the Commission can ensure that safety of observers and crew as observers are redeployed. FSM asked that all CCMs to share their protocols and guidelines.

113. Pew (on behalf of Pew, The Ocean Foundation, Birdlife, WWF, Marine Stewardship Council, ISSF and IPNLF) stated that to date WCPFC had handled the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic relatively well as noted by the discussions at WCPFC17, but had done so in part by delaying some decisions that otherwise would have been made in 2020. Development of an effective vaccine provides hope of a return to face-to-face meetings where discussions can be more productive, but the logistics and efficacy of a vaccine program makes it uncertain whether WCPFC will be able to return to "normal" meetings in 2021, as noted by the Chair in her opening remarks. As such, they urged WCPFC to dedicate some time to discussing how it can make progress in such a circumstance, stating that the recent developments in IATTC—where it appears there may be no measure managing tropical tunas as of January 2021—was a stark reminder of an unwanted outcome from ineffective negotiations in a virtual environment. Pew stated that 2020 has involved a steep learning curve and everyone had gained insight into what works and what doesn't under travel restrictions, within WCPFC as well as other RFMOs, and urged all CCMs to build on that knowledge to ensure that 2021 is not another year to delay progress.

114. FSM suggested that the Commission could request that the Secretariat could develop COVID-19 best practices based on the FFA Operating Protocols and those developed by other CCMs. In reply, the Executive Director referenced the Secretariat's dedicated COVID-19 webpage, and its standing request to all CCMs to provide any relevant information regarding COVID-19 for posting and information sharing. He suggested that WCPFC17 task CCMs with providing pertinent COVID-19 information to the Secretariat for posting.

115. Japan stated it supported the dissemination of information related to COVID-19 protocols or guidelines, and would consider providing its information to the Secretariat for posting on the WCPFC webpage. Regarding the FFA proposal, it stated the situation relating to COVID-19 differs among CCMs, and that best practice may vary.

116. China stated it understood that the FFA Operating Protocols could be applied for vessels fishing in FFA waters, and entering ports of FFA member countries, but noted that many vessels fish far from FFA members' EEZs, where those protocols should not be required. It also stated it was very difficult to provide comprehensive documents related to its own COVID-19 protocols in English to WCPFC. China suggested simply recognizing that the FFA protocols are one of the best and apply voluntarily to operations in FFA waters.

117. Australia stated it was encouraging to hear so many CCMs taking the issue so seriously. It noted that the FFA Operating Protocols were the result of a collective regional effort to address COVID-19. Australia referenced the susceptibility in the Pacific to COVID-19, stating that this was why FFA members had been asking CCMs to cooperate. It stated that any protocols must be appropriate for the region, and must be adequate to keep the Pacific Islands and observers safe, and for that reason sought to have CCMs share their protocols.

118. The USA stated it recognized that the CCMs that had developed the FFA Operating Protocols considered them appropriate. The USA recognized that when observers return to vessels various issues would need to be considered, including the need to conform to certain regional terms and conditions, and that discussion of those issues would need to be held in the future. The USA stated that it had recorded no cases on vessels in the Convention Area, including vessels operating from American Samoa, Hawaii, Guam and Saipan, but that the USA had experienced cases in other areas, such as Alaska. For that reason, it did not support a single approach to COVID-19 as being appropriate for all vessels in all areas.

119. The Commission noted the paper on COVID-19 related Intersessional Decisions prepared by the Secretariat (**WCPFC17-2020-08**).

120. To facilitate a review at TCC17 of the implementation of the COVID-19 Intersessional Decisions, the Commission agreed to:

i. require CCMs to provide in Annual Report Part 2 covering 2020 activities, a specific report on their implementation of the Intersessional Decisions taken in response to COVID-19;

ii. task the Secretariat to include in Annual Report Part 2 covering 2020 activities appropriate questions that can suitably support CCMs reporting on their implementation of the Intersessional Decisions taken in response to COVID-19; and

iii. further task the Secretariat to prepare a paper for TCC17, that provides a summary of the available information on the implementation of the COVID-19 Intersessional Decisions in 2020/21.

121. The Commission:

i. noted the importance of placing observers safely back on vessels;

ii. agreed to work intersessionally on a process so that observers can be redeployed safely on vessels;

iii. agreed that a draft COVID-related Intersessional Decision will be circulated at the end of January/early February 2021 for decision by the Commission under the 7-day expedited decision-making process for COVID-19 Decisions;

iv. tasked the Secretariat to follow-up the discussion at WCPFC17 and assist in the development of future COVID-19 Decisions; and

v. noted with appreciation the FFA COVID-19 Operating Protocols and encouraged CCMs to share their own national COVID-19 Operating Protocols in order to broaden the database of COVID-19 measures on the WCPFC website.

AGENDA ITEM 6 — SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

6.1 Implementation of Article 30 of WCPF Convention and CMM 2013-07 (SIDS special requirements)

122. The Chair noted that paragraph 20 of CMM 2013-07 requires an annual review of implementation of this measure, and referenced **WCPFC16-2020-IP01**: *Summary from Part 2 CMM 2013-07 paragraph 19 annual reports (WCPFC-TCC16-2020-11_rev1)* and the EU posted **WCPFC17-2020-DP10**: *Report of the European Union on Article 30 of the Convention and Resolution 2008-01 of WCPFC (EU)*; both papers were taken as read.

123. Japan stated it fully recognizes the importance of the criteria in CMM 2013-06, and carefully considers the checklist contained in the CMM when submitting a proposal. Japan agreed with FFA members that CMM 2013-06 can only be effectively addressed by consulting with SIDS, either individually or through FFA. Japan further considered that multiple consultations are required, because the position of both sides on important issues usually develop gradually towards annual meetings. Japan stated that unfortunately it could not have physical meetings with FFA and PNA members in 2020 due to COVID-19, but that it did hold several virtual consultations. Japan urged other members to contact FFA and PNA members, and stated it hopes to visit Honiara and Majuro to meet physically in 2021. Japan stated it has been providing SIDS with assistance for infrastructure and capacity building through the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF). During 2009 to 2018 Japan provided about ¥180 billion in development assistance to the Pacific islands, including fishery-related projects. Fishery-related projects cover conservation and management of highly migratory species and assistance to small-scale fishermen. At the Eighth Pacific Leaders Meeting held in Japan in 2018, Japan pledged to implement development cooperation over the three years with particular focus on human resource development; to date, approximately ¥61 billion has been contributed in development assistance. Japan has also carried out human resource development and people-to-people exchanges for about 6,500 people. In addition, in 2008 Japan

established the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) within WCPFC, which has been assisting capacity building of SIDS for fishery statistics and fishery management. Japan reminded CCMs that a call for proposals for the JTF was sent to CCMs on November 17 through WCPFC Circular No 2020/135, and encouraged SIDS CCMs to apply by the deadline of 22 December. In addition, Japan stated it has supported SIDS since 2008 through the Japan Promotion Fund via OFCF, and that SIDS can utilize this fund for various purposes including enhancement of management capacity. In November 2017, in response to the strong request from SIDS, OFCF signed a 10-year renewal of its agreement with FFA. Also, in 2020 OFCF increased the size of its Promotion Fund. Japan stated its hope that these programs and funds will contribute to fishery development of SIDS.

124. The EU stated it submitted a comprehensive report of its assistance to SIDS in **WCPFC17-2020-DP10**. It remarked that it had received no comments on the report, and requested feedback from CCMs regarding the utility of the report and the usefulness of the actions it describes.

125. RMI thanked Japan for its comments regarding CMM 2013-06, and thanked Japan for their continued support. RMI noted that the requirements of CMM 2013-06 are simple. It stated that the analysis of impacts on SIDS was inconsistent in new proposals, and that CMM 2013-06 analyses must be implemented in the manner that was envisaged by the measure, and that this should be a strict requirement for proposals in the future.

126. The USA thanked CCMs who intervened on the issue, stating that it understands the importance of the agenda item to all SIDS and territories. The USA stated it reports on its support (provided through the WCPFC and outside WCPFC) through an attachment to its annual report Part 2, and inquired whether it should continue this approach in the future. It noted that it had assumed that such reports were accessible to other CCMs, but that it had trouble finding these. The USA stated that the process under CMM 2013-06 for assessment and consultation was very important as the Commission engages on CMM 2018-01 update, and that this applied to all SIDS and territories. The USA encouraged CCMs to ensure their consultations also covered American territories, including American Samoa.

127. The EU stated its understanding that RMI had suggested the EU's discussion paper **WCPFC17-2020-DP11_**rev1 *Discussion paper on IUU Vessel Cross Listing Procedures* did not follow CMM 2013-06 as FFA members would have expected. The EU noted that the paper is not a proposal, but aims to address the concern expressed by FFA members regarding the impact proposals have on SIDS.

128. The Compliance Manager stated that the CMM 2013-07 provided by each CCM in Annual Report Part 2 are accessible on the Article 30 page on the Commission website. She stated in response to the query from the USA that the Secretariat would ensure that any attachments are also included.

129. WCPFC17 continued to recognise the importance of assessing the impact of proposals on SIDS in accordance with CMM 2013-06.

6.2 Updated Strategic Investment Plan

130. The Chair noted the Secretariat's report on the updated status of the Strategic Investment Plan (**WCPFC17-2020-10**) which was taken as read.

131. The Commission noted with appreciation the update provided by the Secretariat on implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan (**WCPFC17-2020-10**).

132. The Commission approved the updated 2020 Strategic Investment Plan (**Attachment E).**

AGENDA ITEM 7 — WCPO TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCKS

7.1 General overview of stock status (bigeye, skipjack, South Pacific albacore, yellowfin, Pacific bluefin, North Pacific albacore)

133. Dr. John Hampton (SPC) presented an overview of the stock status of bigeye, skipjack, South Pacific albacore and yellowfin tuna, including an update on recent events in the fisheries focussing on longline and purse seine activity, and a summary of the stock status of the major species; as references he noted **WCPFC17-2020-IP02** *The Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fishery:2019 Overview and Status of Stocks* and the **WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2019**. The 2019 total catch of 3.0 million mt was the highest recorded; the purse seine catch of 2.11 million mt was also a record. Total effort (in effort days) in the purse seine fishery by the large international fleet declined since peaking in 2011, indicating that a day of purse seine effort today is more effective than it was 7–8 years ago. Regarding the use of FADs and unassociated set types by the purse seine fleet, there was an increase in unassociated sets and a slight decline in FAD sets, but total catch was split fairly equally between these set types, although in 2019 there was a strong increase in catch attributed to unassociated sets. Preliminary data on effort (in fishing days) in 2020 shows it to be slightly higher than average for the last 10 years. Tropical purse seine CPUE has increased somewhat over the last decade. In 2020 there was a decline in CPUE as indicated by VMS data (which show longer trips) but further analysis will be possible once more log sheet data has been received by SPC. The longline fishery has had fairly stable catch around 250,000 mt over the last 20 years. Species composition is also relatively stable, with a slight decline in bigeye in recent years. There was a significant increase in effort in the late 1990s. In 2019 longline effort was fairly high but short of the record —VMS data shows 2020 longline effort was the highest since 2012. The tropical longline fishery (20°N to 10°S) shows variable total effort over the last 20 years, with no strong trend; the same is true of bigeye and yellowfin catch. Bigeye and yellowfin CPUE shows some decline since the early 1990s but has been stable over the last decade. The southern longline fishery (south of 10° S) targets south Pacific albacore; it shows a strong increase in effort up to early 2000s, with some recent increase. The catch is fairly constant since 2010, while CPUE has declined moderately over some years; CPUE in 2019 was close to the lowest overall since 1990. In terms of stock status, all major tuna stocks are in good condition, with 0% probability of breaching the TRP. In comparison with other tuna RFMOs, the WCPFC's Convention Area is the only ocean area and WCPFC is the only tuna RFMO whose key tuna stocks not overfished or experiencing overfishing. With regard to levels of spawning biomass depletion: the spawning biomass depletion ratio has declined over time for the four major stocks, but the ratios (including the uncertainty boundaries) are all well above the LRP of .20%$SB/SB_{F=0}$. Projections (25 year) of spawning biomass depletion (which use recent levels of catch and effort) indicate bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack all remain well above the LRP for all bounds of uncertainty. For South Pacific albacore the uncertainty is much greater: if current levels of catch and effort are maintained, the median level of spawning biomass depletion shows some chance of exceeding the LRP in the future. Among other species, southwest Pacific striped marlin is likely overfished; North Pacific striped marlin, oceanic whitetip shark and Pacific bluefin tuna are likely overfished and experiencing overfishing; and Pacific silky shark is likely experiencing overfishing. All other species are either not overfished or experiencing overfishing, or data are inconclusive. Regarding the El Nino Southern Oscillation, the current La Nina will continue through the second quarter of 2021. The current negative sea surface temperature anomaly should ease in next few months. There is currently a westward intrusion of cold water, which pushes the purse seine fishery to the west, and this is confirmed by recent VMS data.

134. Japan requested clarification on four issues: (i) purse seine effort trend; (ii) whether the increase in purse seine CPUE and trip length in recent years indicates vessels must spend more time to find fish, and

whether the number of set per day has increased; (iii) whether SPC incorporates any efficiency increase when conducting stock projections, given that catch efficiency appears to have increased in the past; and (iv) what accounts for the larger uncertainty in the projection of South Pacific albacore stock, compared with other 3 main tuna species?

135. Dr. Hampton replied as follows: (i) regarding purse seine effort, effort as measured in days fished showed a decline, while effort in terms of the number of sets was fairly constant. He indicated that there has been a gradual increase in the number of sets per day, and thus the overall number of sets has remained fairly constant, and referred to a paper on effort creep submitted to SC16 (**SC16-MI-IP-15** *Examining Indicators of Technological and Effort Creep in the WCPO Purse Seine Fishery*); (ii) there is a gradual increase in purse seine CPUE for a given trip length (from CVMS data); (iii) regarding future catchability increases, it is hard to foresee how effort may evolve, and thus all projections assume constant catchability. SPC does advocate for harvest strategy approaches, which can better respond to increases in catchability. This is examined in more detail in SPC's harvest strategy work, and details are available on WCPFC's website; and (iv) the uncertainty for South Pacific albacore is greater because of the strong variability in growth across all models. There is a recommendation that SPC conduct a new stock assessment for South Pacific albacore in 2021, and SPC will examine growth in connection with that stock assessment. He noted that recruitment variability also contributes to the wider confidence intervals.

136. Dr. John Holmes (ISC Chair) made a presentation on the stock status of North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna, and provided an update on Western and North Pacific striped marlin. For North Pacific albacore, a benchmark assessment was conducted using fishery data from 1994 to 2018. Total biomass (age 1+) has declined from 916,529 mt (1995) to 641,391 mt in 2018. Total and spawning biomass increased between 2016 and 2018. $SSB_{2018}/20\%SSB_{current,\ F=0} = 2.30$. The ISC concluded that the stock is likely not overfished relative to the limit reference point. Although no F-based reference points have been adopted to evaluate overfishing, current fishing intensity ($F_{2015\text{-}2017}$) is likely at or below seven potential reference points. Two harvest scenarios were considered: constant $F_{2015\text{-}2017}$ and constant catch. The constant catch scenario was found to impact uncertainty estimates in projections. If a constant fishing intensity is applied to the stock, then median female spawning biomass is expected to increase to 62,873 mt and there will be a low probability of falling below the $20\%SSB_{current,\ F=0}$ LRP by 2028. Furthermore, if a constant average catch ($C_{2013\text{-}2017} = 69{,}354$ t) is removed from the stock in the future, then the median female spawning biomass is also expected to increase to 66,313 mt and the probability that SSB falls below the LRP by 2028 will be slightly higher than the constant fishing intensity scenario. A benchmark assessment was conducted for PBF using 1952-2018 fishery data. SSB declined from 62,784 mt (1995) to 10,837 mt (2010) and has slowly increased to 28,228 mt (2018). The estimate of SSB_{2018} is 3,000 mt greater than SSB_{2016} due to increase in young fish (0-2 years). The below-average recruitment for 2010-2014 was a concern in the 2016 assessment. The 2017 and 2018 recruitment estimates are also below average. There has been a substantial decrease in F for ages 0-2 in 2016-2018 relative to previous years. As for the stock status, no biomass-based reference points have been adopted for PBF. However, the PBF stock is overfished relative to potential biomass-based reference points (SSB_{MED} and $20\%SSB_{F=0}$) adopted for other tuna species by the IATTC and WCPFC. The recent (2016-2018) F%SPR is estimated to produce 14%SPR. Although no fishing mortality-based limit or target reference points have been adopted for PBF, recent fishing mortality is above the level producing 20%SPR. However, the stock is subject to rebuilding measures including catch limits, which do not compromise the capacity of the stock to rebuild, as shown by the projection results. Under all examined scenarios, rebuilding to SSB_{MED} by 2024 with at least 60% probability, is reached and the risk of SSB falling below historical lowest observed SSB at least once in 10 years is negligible. The projection results assume that the CMMs are fully implemented and are based on certain biological and other assumptions. Given the low SSB, the uncertainty in future recruitment, and the influence recruitment has on stock biomass, monitoring recruitment and SSB should continue so that the recruitment level can be understood in a timely manner. In response to a request from NC15 that the ISC provide advice on which future recruitment

scenario is the most likely one over the near term for striped marlin, the ISC found that there is a linearly decreasing trend in estimated recruitment with time. If the long-term recruitment scenario is used for future projections, then the observed long-term recruitment time series requires the assumption that there is no time trend. The ISC concluded that the short-term recruitment scenario is most appropriate for conducting MLS projections In response to a request from NC15 that the ISC explain why the striped marlin stock decreased and the fishing mortality increased after a drastic decrease in fishing effort by high seas driftnet fisheries in the early 1990s, the ISC could not provide a straightforward explanation at present in part because it is difficult to identify explanatory factors due to uncertainties in assessment model. The ISC Billfish Working Group will attempt to address this issue in the next assessment of this stock. ISC concluded that there is no change to the stock status of striped marlin. As for conservation information, if the stock continues to experience recruitment consistent with the short-term recruitment scenario (2012-2016), then catches must be reduced to 60% of the WCPFC catch quota from CMM 2010-01 (3,397 mt) to 1,359 mt in order to achieve a 60% probability of rebuilding to 20%SSB0=3,610 mt by 2022. This change in catch corresponds to a reduction of roughly 37% from the recent average yield of 2,151 mt. In addition, retrospective analyses (**ISC/19/ANNEX/11**) show that the assessment model appears to overestimate spawning potential in recent years, which may mean the projection results are ecologically optimistic.

137. The USA stated that the information provided would support adopting the rebuilding plan approved by WCPFC16 for North Pacific striped marlin and removing the "interim" designation.

138. The EU referenced discussions at SC16 regarding the status of Pacific bluefin tuna and the decision by ISC to not use a grid approach to structural uncertainty; the EU suggested that resulting projections are therefore relatively optimistic. The EU inquired why the ISC continued to use this approach, and whether it could be envisaged to undertake a benchmark exercise the results and compare the robustness of the two approaches. In relation to North Pacific striped marlin, the EU referenced that the WCPFC Convention defines MSY as a default target reference point for all stocks. The ISC Chair stated that ISC was optimistic on the probability of achieving rebuilding of the stock. The Chair of the ISC Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group, Dr. Shuya Nakatsuka, noted that SPC, in conducting analyses for WCPFC, had only recently started employing structural uncertainty grids, which were used mainly to address data inconsistencies. There are very detailed data available for Pacific bluefin tuna which clearly shows the biomass trend of the stock, and the data are very consistent. For that reason, the Working Group has adopted a best-case approach to find the best model to fit the data. He stated that sensitivity tests are also used to check if the current model has the best fit. He stated that they were aware of the issues raised by the EU but did think the results generated were necessarily optimistic. He stated the various points that had been raised would be considered for the next stock assessment. The ISC Chair concurred regarding the default TRPs mentioned by the EU, and stated that they sought to illustrate that these defaults may not be the best choices for particular stocks.

139. Korea noted its concern regarding the stock status of North Pacific striped marlin, and expressed interest in working with the USA on their proposal (detailed in **WCPFC17-2020-DP08**) in 2021. Korea inquired why the initial rebuilding target ($20\%SSB_{F=0}$) used a timeframe of 2022. The ISC Chair stated that this date was set in CMM 2010-01, when 2022 presumably seemed to be far into the future.

140. The Commission noted the stock status of bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack and South Pacific albacore as presented by the Scientific Services Provider (SPC).

141. The Commission noted the stock status of North Pacific albacore, Pacific Bluefin tuna, and North Pacific striped marlin as presented by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the Northern Pacific Ocean (ISC).

7.2 Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin

7.2.1 Harvest Strategy Issues

7.2.2.1 Review of target reference point for skipjack

142. Dr. Graham Pilling (SPC) presented **WCPFC17-2020-11** *Updates to WCPO Skipjack Tuna Projected Stock Status to Inform Consideration of an Updated Target Reference Point*, which is an update of **WCPFC16-2019-14/SC16-2020-MI-WP-02** and made the following points:

(i) The paper presents the results of analyses requested by WCPFC16 and SC16 to assist WCPFC17 in its review of the performance of the interim skipjack tuna TRP, in particular examining candidate revised interim skipjack TRPs of 42%, 44%, 46%, 48% and 50% of $SB/SB_{F=0}$. It also provides further requested information to aid WCPFC17 (paras 258 and 259 of the WCPFC16 Summary Report) on:

- the formulation of TRPs for skipjack tuna, noting:
  - 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
  - the approach to the formulation of a skipjack tuna TRP proposed in **WCPFC16-2019-DP01**; and
- [the impact of] effort creep estimated in relation to the TRPs.

(ii) The WCPO skipjack tuna assessment agreed at SC15 incorporated new information on the biology of the stock (e.g. the pattern of maturity-at-length), a new spatial structure, and new model settings. In a similar way to the assessment of WCPO bigeye tuna performed in 2017, this changed the perception of the status of the stock and its productivity compared to the model upon which decisions on the skipjack TRP was based (CMM 2015-06). The paper compares the results of the 2014, 2016 and 2019 assessments to illustrate this. As requested by WCPFC16, the paper also presents a comparable analysis to that of WCPFC-MOW-WP-03, using the agreed 2019 skipjack assessment, and indicates changes in effort and biomass (depletion) from 2012 and recent (2015–2018 average) levels, and median equilibrium yield (as a proportion of MSY) associated with strategies that maintain a median of spawning biomass depletion ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) at WCPFC16-specified depletion levels. These are compared to the results under 2012 'baseline' fishing levels (2012 effort levels in the purse seine fishery and recent catch levels in Indonesia/Philippines/Vietnam domestic fisheries). Under baseline (2012) fishing levels the stock is predicted, on average, to fall slightly compared to 'recent' (2015–2018) levels (44% $SB_{F=}0$), to 42% $SB_{F=0}$. This is very slightly below 2012 depletion levels, but is an equivalent % $SB_{F=0}$ value at 2 decimal places. Examining the four other median depletion levels requested by WCPFC16 (50%, 48%, 46% and 44% $SB_{F=0}$), these levels imply reductions in purse seine effort from 2012 levels of 7% to 25%, lead to predicted increases in spawning biomass from 2012 levels of 3%–18%, and either maintained biomass at recent levels, or predict an increase by 5%–13%. Total equilibrium yield is predicted to reduce compared to that under 2012 'baseline' levels, to 69%–78% of MSY. There was no risk of falling below the LRP associated with any of these depletion levels based on the current uncertainty framework.

(iii) SC16 requested additional information comparing TRP levels to baseline years used for other tropical tuna stocks in CMM 2018-01 (2012-2015 average conditions), and an indication of the recent effort levels relative to the 2012 baseline used here. For the former, a column has been added to the results table. For the latter, recent effort levels in terms of numbers of sets in the tropical purse seine fishery have been 87% (2015–2018 average) and 98% (2019 levels) of those in 2012. SC16

also requested an analysis of the TRP where fishing mortality (rather than fishing effort/catch) was maintained. The results of that analysis are presented in Annex 3 of **WCPFC17-2020-11**.

(iv) Regarding the additional two requests from WCPFC16: SC15 advised that WCPFC16 might "identify a reference year, or set of years, which may be appropriate to use as a baseline for a skipjack TRP". WCPFC16-2019-DP01 called for a TRP "that is consistent with the level of fishing effort for skipjack in 2012 and the condition of the skipjack stock in 2012". The text defining a TRP should refer to the management objectives that the TRP is designed to achieve. The formulation as specified in WCPFC16-2019-DP01 does that and is suitably explicit in that it allows the technical re-estimation of the appropriate TRP-consistent stock depletion value when new knowledge of the stock is obtained (as for skipjack here). It is broadly consistent with the approach adopted for South Pacific albacore. However, SPC notes two things:

- The assumption has been made that 2012 fishing effort levels are those in the purse seine fishery specifically, as this is not specified within the TRP text.
- As examined within this paper, this formulation is consistent (2012 fishing conditions lead to an 'equilibrium' stock status equal to that in 2012), but care must be taken if the incorporation of increased biological or fishery understanding within the skipjack assessment meant this consistency was then lost. Therefore, the weighting of each objective (the fishing effort and 2012 stock status) should be specified.

(v) WCPFC16 requested advice on whether effort creep should be considered when identifying TRP levels. In theory, where the primary management objective was to maintain a level of CPUE within the fishery, this might need to be considered. In practice, this is not feasible as the future level of effort creep within the purse seine fishery is not known. Estimates of historical trends (if available) do not necessarily indicate future fishery performance, while assuming some arbitrary level of effort creep within an analysis could lead to an inappropriate TRP level if that effort creep assumption were to prove incorrect. Therefore, effort creep within the purse seine fishery has not been assumed in these analyses. To ensure objectives are met if effort creep occurs, an adaptive approach where the management settings are reviewed as required over time is suggested as the most appropriate. This would occur automatically within the harvest strategy framework, where management procedures robust to effort creep can be identified, and the monitoring strategy can identify whether the adopted management procedure is effective.

143. Japan stated that this issue had been discussed for several years, whether 42%$SB_{F=0}$ is equivalent to 50% $SB_{F=0}$ based on the latest stock assessment. Japan made the following points: (i) inquired regarding the comparison of depletion trajectories (Figure 2 in **WCPFC17-2020-11**) and asked for clarification regarding the fluctuations in these trajectories for the 2014, 2016 and 2019 stock assessments; (ii) noted that calculating an interim TRP based on a new stock assessment differed from establishing a TRP for skipjack, as the latter must take into account biological and socioeconomic factors; and (iii) regarding effort creep, noted that SPC suggests adaptive management, which would be incorporated into management procedures, but inquired how this would be done, and what parameter would be put into the management model?

144. In response to (i), SPC clarified that the 2014 and 2016 stock assessments had very similar spatial structures with 5 regions. The 2019 model has an 8-region structure, and the model must then fit to all the data within it, using different maturity-at-length data and spatial structure. This can account for some differences between the 2019 and other trajectories. However, in the recent period (post- about 2007) the 2019 stock assessment depletion trajectory is below those for 2014 and 2016. Regarding (ii), SPC stated that in the future the 2019 stock assessment would be the basis of its assessment and harvest strategy work, and ensuring management reference points are consistent with that perception of the stock would be helpful.

Regarding (iii), SPC stated that in the stock assessment it assumes that catchability is constant. In the harvest strategy operating model SPC can assume that effort does not remain constant, SPC can adjust the effective effort to try and capture the range of uncertainty and effort creep, and then see how effective the management procedure is at dealing with this, and whether the stock remains around the TRP over time.

145. PNG, on behalf of FFA members, noted the work by SPC in support of the discussions relating to the TRP for skipjack and thanked SPC and all CCMs for work in support of the development of a harvest strategy for skipjack. However, FFA members stated their concern that these efforts may be at a risk of being delayed if the Commission is not able to agree to a TRP. FFA members stated they have carefully considered the results of the analysis requested by WCPFC16 from SC16 on the formulation of a skipjack TRP and understand that a depletion ratio of 42% $SB_{F=0}$ is consistent with the objectives for the fishery that defined the previous interim TRP. FFA members stated that this should be adopted by this Commission, noting that:

- the assumption has been made that the 2012 fishing effort levels are those in the purse seine fishery specifically, and
- that the weighting of each objective (the fishing effort and 2012 stock status) should be specified.

If the Commission is unable to agree on a TRP for skipjack at WCPFC17, and to aid in ongoing discussions on the TRPs in 2021, FFA members requested that SPC provide additional analysis on the options of 36%, 38% and 40% depletion ratio TRPs. FFA members stated they look forward to re-engaging with all CCMS during 2021 and hope for a productive discussion of a new TRP for skipjack at SC17 and WCPFC18.

146. The USA stated its view that the interim skipjack TRP of 50% remains in effect; the fact that the Commission did not adopt a new TRP does not mean the interim TRP lapsed. It suggested that a rollover of the tropical tuna measure should maintain the text in paragraph 13 which refers to the interim TRP. The USA stated it was open to revising the interim TRP, noting two approaches had been suggested: by decreasing it (noting that SPC's work provides the information needed to do that), or by expressing the TRP so it is directly tied to conditions in 2012 or another baseline year (this would require deciding whether to link to the stock size, level of effort, CPUE, or both, and then weight in some specific way). The USA noted this was addressed in **WCPFC17-2020-11**, and advocated by FFA members. The USA suggested that if the Commission ties the TRP to a specific level of effort or CPUE, it need not translate that to a specific stock size. It could simply say "2012 level of fishing effort" for example. The USA looked forward to further discussion on this in 2021.

147. Indonesia inquired (i) whether the decrease in the depletion trajectory using the 2019 stock assessment reflected biological parameters used in the analysis, or was because of the new regions, or other factors, such as the increase in the purse seine catch in 2019; and (ii) regarding the level of risk beyond 2019? In reply, SPC stated regarding (i) that it would have to review the impact of the change in regional structure and the biological information. Regarding (ii), in terms of risk of being below the 42%,there is no risk of falling below the LRP if the stock is on average at 42%, based on the current risk framework used in the current projection work. If the TRP was 42%, then on average there is a 50% risk of being above or below the TRP at any time.

148. Solomon Islands, on behalf of PNA members, supported the FFA statement and maintained support for a skipjack TRP, as formulated by FFA in **WCPFC17-2020-DP01**. PNA members stated that deciding on a revised skipjack TRP is critically important to maintain the momentum of the Commission's work on Harvest Strategies, and they looked forward to a revised TRP being adopted when circumstances allow.

149. Chinese Taipei commented regarding effort creep, that fishing effort showed a substantial decline since 2011, while catch has increased, indicating there is clear effort creep in the fishery. Chinese Taipei stated they understood that it is difficult to predict effort creep in the future, but suggested estimates for past effort creep could be made, to gain an appreciation of how large it is. Chinese Taipei stated its understanding that effort creep was not included in the skipjack stock assessment, and inquired whether the current stock status would be more pessimistic if effort creep was included?

150. SPC stated that effort appears to have declined, while catch is fluctuating but is relatively stable overall. It stated that its preference would be to be able to estimate how much of that is due to biological factors and how much to effort creep. SPC noted it examined factors such as sets per day for SC, but that these are simply indicators. SPC has a staff member dedicated to getting results on this issue. Regarding the effect on the skipjack stock assessment, abundance is based on the pole and line fishery; and SC is looking at using purse seine information in region 8. SPC noted that the pole and line industry is changing rapidly, and SPC is looking at transferring to a purse seine-based abundance index in the future.

151. The EU noted that prior to 1990 the depletion trajectories for $SB/SB_{F=0}$ exceed 1 and asked (i) how this is possible, and inquired (ii) whether the median depletion level of 42% in 2018 based on the 2019 assessment was correct? The EU stated that the Harvest Strategy concept is new for all CCMs, noting that when the TRP was adopted it was not expected that changes in the stock assessment could have such an impact on the TRP. The EU supported defining the TRP so that the Commission does not have to face a similar situation for other species in the future, and noted the useful proposals in the SPC and FFA papers. The EU also noted the need for fairness. It stated that while it would agree that the measure that was adopted for the SKJ TRP was aiming at maintaining the status quo of the reference period, it has not expired, observing that other measures have similar provisions, and these have not expired just because they have not been reviewed. The EU agreed with the USA that the CMM is still in place, and that there was a need to revise the CMM to reflect the Commission's intent. SPC replied regarding (i) that over a 10-year period it was possible to have the spawning biomass exceed the unfished spawning biomass, leading to a ratio greater than 1.0, as seen in the late 1980s in the 2019 skipjack projections; and (ii) that the figure of 42% $SB_{2018}/SB_{F=0}$ is specific to 2018, and calculated in the same way as LRPs, and differs from the $SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$ that appears in some stock assessments or SC reports.

152. RMI on behalf of PNA members supported the view in **WCPFC17-2020-DP01** that the CMM 2015-06 is redundant and should be removed from the WCPFC list of active CMMs. The CMM states in paragraph 2 that the interim TRP set out in the CMM "shall be an interim target reference point until it is reviewed". Last year the Commission reviewed the interim TRP and could not agree on a revised TRP. On that basis, PNA considers that there is no interim TRP in place and supported the FFA proposal for CMM 2015-06 to be removed from the WCPFC list of active measures.

153. Japan agreed with the USA and the EU that unless the Commission agreed to eliminate CMM 2015-06 it remained in force. Japan noted that the CMM does not state it will expire in the absence of an agreement in 2019. Japan noted that it had consulted with the Legal Adviser on the issue of the interim TRP and confirmed that Japan's understanding is correct. Japan also observed that the CMM 2015-06 TRP is an interim TRP; changing the 50% to say 42% is one thing, but did not address the TRP that needed to be selected for use in the harvest strategy or management strategy for tropical tuna.

154. USA observed that there was a consensus that the TRP needed to change. Regarding whether the interim TRP remained in effect the USA noted that no member had made a proposal to change CMM 2015-06, which is directly referenced in other CMM (e.g., paragraph 13 of CMM 2018-01), and that as such the CMM would by necessity remain in force.

155. RMI on behalf of PNA members requested that a note be placed on the List of Active Measures to indicate that most CCMs consider that CMM 2015-06 is not active. In response the USA objected to the inclusion of such a note, noting there was no consensus regarding the CMM's current status, or changing its status.

156. The Legal Adviser confirmed that CMM 2015-06 provides (in paragraph 8) for a review in 2019 and thereafter whenever relevant information may be made available. She stated there is no indication in the measure of an intent for CMM 2015-06 to expire if no agreement on a review was reached before 2019. In addition, the context of CMM 2015-06 as a whole, and the fact that it is referred to in other CMMs, indicates there is no automatic expiry of CMM 2015-06 if the 2019 review produced no result.

157. The Commission noted the presentation by SPC of the results of analyses it undertook to assist WCPFC17 in its review of the performance of the interim skipjack tuna TRP.

158. The Commission agreed to continue intersessional work to review and revise, as appropriate, a TRP for skipjack in the future.

159. The Commission requested SPC to update the skipjack TRP work by including additional candidates, including 36%, 38% and 40% in the median depletion table.

7.2.1.2 Target reference point for bigeye and yellowfin

160. Dr. Steven Hare (SPC) presented **WCPFC17-2020-12_rev1** *SC16-Requested Analyses to Inform WCPFC17 Discussions on Candidate Target Reference Points for WCPO Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna*. New stock assessments for WCPO bigeye and yellowfin tuna, agreed to by SC16, indicated that both stocks are on average not overfished nor subject to overfishing. This paper presents results of analyses requested by SC16 to assist WCPFC17 in the identification of interim target reference points for WCPO bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks (Tables 1 - 3 in **WCPFC17-2020-12_rev1**). It presents the stock and fishery consequences of SC16-defined stock depletion levels ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) consistent with specified historical conditions and stock risk levels (**SC16 Outcomes Document**, paragraphs 76–78). For each depletion level, results are presented comparably to those in **WCPFC16-2019-14** for skipjack tuna, indicating changes in biomass from both 2012–2015 and recent (2015–2018 average) levels, changes in fishing from baseline (2016–2018 average) levels, median equilibrium yield (as a proportion of MSY), risk relative to the agreed limit reference point, and SC16-requested per-recruit metrics. Steven Hare made the following points:

(i) Tables 1 - 3 in **WCPFC17-2020-12_rev1** indicates that under baseline (2016-2018 average) fishing conditions, both bigeye and yellowfin stocks were projected to increase relative to 2012-2015 average levels, and either remain at recent (2015-2018 average) levels (yellowfin) or increase (bigeye). For both bigeye and yellowfin, CMM 2018-01 specifies that pending agreement on a TRP, the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015. Achieving that depletion level for bigeye implied increases in fishing from 2016-2018 levels by 38% (recent recruitment) and 22% (assuming long-term recruitment) and resulted in a calculated risk of falling below the LRP of 3% (recent recruitment) or 14% (long-term recruitment). For yellowfin, it also implied increased fishing by 29%, and no calculated risk of falling below the LRP.

(ii) The implications of achieving depletion levels +/- 10% from the 2012-2015 average levels are also presented in Tables 1 - 3 in **WCPFC17-2020-12_rev1**. An alternative SC16-specified candidate reference point was equivalent to 2000-2004 average depletion levels. For bigeye, this depletion level required fishing to be reduced by 4% (recent recruitment) or 17% (long-term recruitment), and resulted in no, or a minimal (1% assuming long-term recruitment patterns) risk of falling below the LRP. For yellowfin, 2000-2004 average depletion levels implied increasing fishing by 34% from baseline levels, and there was no risk of falling below the LRP calculated at that level. Final SC16-specified depletion levels related to those equivalent to a 10% and 20% risk of falling below the LRP. For bigeye, this implied increases in fishing by 55% and 70% (recent recruitment) and 12% and 33% (long-term recruitment), respectively. Under recent recruitments, those risk levels were achieved at stock sizes 12%-23% lower than 2012-2015 levels. Under the less productive long-term recruitment assumption those risk levels implied a 6% less depleted stock and 10% more depleted stock respectively, relative to 2012-2015 average depletion. For yellowfin, 200% greater fishing than baseline levels (a scalar of 3) was required to achieve a 10% risk level; these were considered unrealistic, and a 20% risk-based depletion level was therefore not pursued further for this stock.

(iii) With reference to the risk-related depletion levels, which represent 'minimum' TRP values consistent with those risk levels, as noted in previous papers the choice of a TRP can be based on a combination of biological, ecological and socio-economic considerations, which would likely imply higher TRP levels than the 'minimum' TRPs calculated. As agreed at SC16, within this analysis purse seine effort and longline catch are 'scaled' equally relative to baseline levels. Scalars are applied to overall purse seine effort i.e. both associated and unassociated sets are increased or decreased, with the relative pattern reflecting that over the 2016-18 baseline period. Results will therefore generally differ from that in the CMM 2018-01 evaluation being presented to WCPFC17. It should be noted that candidate TRP levels can be achieved under different combinations of future purse seine and longline levels, which will have implications for the other metrics calculated. If desired, identification of a limited sub-set of candidate interim TRP levels is strongly recommended before that style of analysis is undertaken. As noted in previous papers discussing TRP formulation, there is a need to have specific language defining the TRP level, based upon the management objective that the TRP is designed to achieve. That language needs to be suitably specific so that the TRP can be recalculated in the case that in the future, new biological or fishery knowledge leads to an updated perception of stock status from the stock assessments. The new information incorporated within the 2020 yellowfin tuna stock assessment implies a more robust stock than estimated previously, as seen by the minimal risks of falling below the LRP identified at the levels identified here. It should be noted that key areas for further work on the yellowfin assessment were identified for the coming year, and an external review of the assessment is planned for 2022. While the assessment is viewed as the best scientific information currently available, the further work underway may lead to changes in the perception of stock status and robustness.

161. PNG on behalf of PNA members stated that the analysis indicates CMM 2018-01 is working well and is projected to achieve its objectives. At this point, the major concern of PNA members is the recovery in purse seine effort in 2020 shown in the SPC presentation, and PNA members are interested in seeing whether this would affect the conclusions of the paper when the full 2020 data become available. SPC stated that as these new data come in and a better estimate of the purse seine effort is available SPC will revisit the TRP calculations for both species.

162. Kiribati on behalf of FFA members stated that is a substantive issue that requires significant time and effort to discuss. They stated their understanding that there will be an external review of the stock assessment for bigeye and yellowfin tuna over the next few years, although that should not prevent progressing the Commission's work on developing potential TRPs. FFA members stated they will consider

the results of SPC's analysis and the outcomes of the assessment review process (when these become available) with the intention of making a decision on the TRPs in the near future and within the time frames under the Harvest Strategy Work Plan.

163. Indonesia indicated that it found it difficult to consider the results for yellowfin and bigeye when combined, and requested that these two species be treated separately in future to make it easier to follow the outcomes.

164. Japan inquired whether skipjack could be included when producing tables to show the depletion ratios in different scenarios, acknowledging that this would be complicated because the longline fishery does not target skipjack. SPC stated that it could add skipjack to the analysis, and could separate the various analyses in the future.

165. The Commission noted the presentation by SPC of the results of analyses it undertook on candidate TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin (**WCPFC17-2020-12_rev1**).

166. The Commission agreed it would be difficult to identify TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin during WCPFC17 and to continue its consideration in the future.

167. The Commission requested SPC to include skipjack equivalent depletion levels and to provide separate TRP presentations for bigeye and yellowfin in the future to aid the Commission's consideration of candidate TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin.

7.2.2 Review of CMM 2018–01

168. Dr. Paul Hamer (SPC) presented **WCPFC17-2020-14** *Evaluation of CMM 2018-01 for Tropical Tuna: 2020 Update*, which evaluates the potential for CMM 2018-01 to achieve its objectives for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack stocks as specified in paragraphs 12-14 of CMM 2018-01. The evaluations are based on the most recent SC-agreed stock assessments, and for all three tropical tuna stocks these now include data through 2018. The evaluation applies a two-step approach consistent with recent tropical tuna CMM evaluations: first, quantify provisions of each option such that translate each specified management option into future potential levels of purse seine effort and longline catch; and second, evaluate potential consequences of each option over the long-term for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna, against the aims specified in CMM 2018-01. Paul Hamer made the following points:

(i) **Step 1**. For the evaluation, assumptions are required regarding the impact that the FAD closure period and/or high seas effort limits will have on FAD-related effort, and the potential future catches of longline fleets. These assumptions are consistent with those made in previous CMM evaluations and include whether effort and catch limits specified within the CMM are taken by a flag CCM, particularly where those limits are higher than recent fishing levels. Under these assumptions, SPC defines three scenarios of future purse seine effort and longline catch, based upon a baseline average period of 2016-2018, the most recent period available in the latest assessments for all three key tropical tuna. In calculating the implications of CMM 2018-01, SPC calculated adjusted 'CMM equivalent' catches and effort for each baseline year and then averaged those adjusted values, due to differences in annual management arrangements across 2016-2018. The scenarios are summarised as:

- **'2016-2018 average'**: purse seine effort and longline catch levels are maintained at the average levels seen over the years 2016-2018, providing a 'baseline' for comparison.
- **'Optimistic'**: under a 3 month FAD closure, purse seine CCMs make an additional 1/8th FAD sets relative to the number in 2016 and 2017, when a 4 month closure was in place (i.e. 8 months FAD fishing in those years). The additional 2 month 'high seas' FAD closure (5 months in total on the 'high seas') reduces the number of FAD sets by 1/8th of those made on the 'high seas' in 2016 when the 4 month closure was in place. In 2017, when the high seas were closed to FAD fishing all year, an additional 7 months of high seas FAD sets (based on average monthly high seas FAD set levels in 2016 and 2018) were assumed to be made. In 2018, purse seine effort was not adjusted as management arrangements were consistent with those under CMM 2018-01. CCMs with longline limits take their specified catch limit or 2016-2018 average level if lower, and other CCMs take their 2016-2018 average catch.
- **'Pessimistic'**: every CCM fishes the maximum allowed under the CMM. Purse seine CCMs undertake an additional 1/8th FAD sets relative to the number over 2016 and 2017 when the 4 month closure was in operation. The additional 2-month 'high seas' FAD closure reduces the number of sets by 1/8th of those set on the high seas in 2016, but increases them by the equivalent of 7 months for 2017. Where specified 'high seas' effort limits allow additional fishing relative to actual annual levels in 2016, 2017 and 2018, additional FAD sets are assumed on a proportional basis. Limited longline non-SIDS CCMs take their entire specified/2000 mt limits, and U.S. Territories take the 2000 mt limit applied in USA domestic legislation, 2016-2018 average level assumed for other SIDS.

(ii) Based on these scenarios and the most recent catch and effort data (October 2020), catch and effort scalars were calculated relative to the 2016-2018 baseline and these were applied in the stock projections in step 2. The 'Optimistic' and 'Pessimistic' scenarios assume the change in FAD closure periods under CMM 2018-01 equates to a proportional increase/decrease in FAD sets (see also Appendix 1 of **WCPFC17-2020-14**). Other key assumptions across stocks were that total purse seine effort remained constant (increases in FAD sets led to a decrease in free school sets), while for yellowfin, longline catch changes were assumed to proportionally match those evaluated for bigeye tuna. 'Other fisheries', which have a notable impact on yellowfin stock status, were assumed to remain constant at 2016-2018 average levels within the analysis.

(iii) **Step 2.** SPC uses 30-year stochastic stock projections to evaluate potential long-term consequences of resulting future fishing levels under each scenario, in comparison to 2016-2018 average conditions for each of the three tropical tuna stocks. For each, projections were run across the grid of models agreed by SC as the basis for advice. WCPFC16 (Summary Report, paragraphs 275), considered the development of TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin and agreed that in the interim, paras. 12 and 14 of CMM 2018-01 be retained and therefore continue to apply to this evaluation. However, SPC notes that the interim TRP for skipjack (CMM 2015-06, referenced in CMM 2018-01, paragraph 13) was expected to be reviewed no later than 2019. Formal review and a decision on the skipjack TRP are not yet complete. **WCPFC17-2020-14** therefore does not presume a TRP for skipjack, but expresses spawning biomass depletion relative to 2012-2015, consistent with bigeye and yellowfin.

(iv) The potential long-term performance of the CMM against those objectives varied between stocks. For bigeye tuna, performance of CMM 2018-01 was influenced by the assumed future recruitment levels (Table 1 in **WCPFC17-2020-14**). If recent above-average recruitments continue into the future, all scenarios examined achieve the aims of the CMM, in that median spawning biomass is projected to remain stable or increase slightly relative to 2012-2015 levels, and the median fishing

mortality is projected to decline slightly for the 2016-2018 average and 'optimistic' scenarios but increase for the 'pessimistic' CMM scenario, although still remaining below F_{MSY}. If the less positive, long-term average recruitment continues into the future, spawning biomass depletion also improves relative to 2012-2015 levels for the 2016-2018 average and 'optimistic' scenarios, but declines under the 'pessimistic' scenario. Under that recruitment assumption, future risk of spawning biomass falling below the LRP ($SB/SB_{F=0} = 0.2$) increases to between 5% and 19%, dependent on the CMM scenario. In turn, all three future fishing scenarios imply increases in fishing mortality under the long-term recruitment conditions, and for the 'pessimistic' scenario, F exceeds F_{MSY} at the end of the projection period. For yellowfin and skipjack, 'long-term' historical recruitment patterns were assumed to hold into the future. Results for skipjack (Table 2 in **WCPFC17-2020-14**) were consistent across the different CMM 2018-01 scenarios, as overall purse seine effort was assumed to remain constant at 2016-2018 average levels, and the impact of longline catch is negligible. Under 2016-2018 average fishing levels and 'long term' recruitment, the skipjack stock is projected to stabilise at 43% $SB/SB_{F=0}$, around 10% lower than the average depletion over 2012-2015, while F increases slightly to around 70% F_{MSY}. There was no risk of breaching the adopted LRP, but a 16%-18% risk of F exceeding F_{MSY} by the end of the projection period. Results for yellowfin tuna, under all scenarios produced similar results (Table 2 in **WCPFC17-2020-14**), with the stock stabilising at 57%-59% $SB/SB_{F=0}$, a slight increase above the target levels in 2012-2015, and F remaining well below F_{MSY}. For all scenarios there was a 0% risk of breaching the adopted LRP or F exceeding F_{MSY}.

(v) Examining the levels of fishing in 2019, the first year in which CMM 2018-01 applied, purse seine FAD effort levels were lower than those anticipated under the 'optimistic' CMM scenario. The total number of FAD sets decreased by 3% compared to the baseline average. The total 2019 longline bigeye catch was 17% higher than the 2016-2018 baseline average, producing a scalar somewhat higher than the 'optimistic' scenario, but lower than the 'pessimistic' scenario. Similarly, for yellowfin the catch was higher than that anticipated under the 'optimistic' scenario for longline. The longline yellowfin catch was 37% higher than the 2016-2018 baseline, a level still within the range estimated for the 'optimistic' and 'pessimistic' longline scenarios. The new information incorporated within the 2020 yellowfin tuna stock assessment implies a more robust stock than estimated previously, as seen by the zero risks of depletion falling below the LRP and F increasing above F_{MSY}. It should be noted that key areas for further work on the yellowfin assessment were identified for the coming year, and an external review of the assessment is planned for 2022. While the assessment is viewed as the best scientific information currently available, the further work underway may lead to changes in the perception of stock status and the implications of CMM 2018-01. Appendices 2 to 4 of **WCPFC17-2020-14** present the results of additional analyses requested by CCMs at previous Commission meetings and subsidiary body meetings.

169. The Chair drew CCMs' attention to the specific recommendations from SC16 and TCC16 that relate to the review of the CMM 2018-01, as set forth in **WCPFC17-2020-13 rev1** *Reference Document for the Review of CMM 2018-01* and Development of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 (Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna), **WCPFC17-2020-IP03** *Summary of the Reports Received Under Tropical Tuna CMMs 2018-2020,* and **WCPFC17-2020-IP04** *Catch and Effort Tables on Tropical Tuna CMMs.*

170. Dr. Graham Pilling (SPC) presented **WCPFC17-2020-16**, *Additional SC16 requested analyses of relevance to CMM2018-01 review*. SC16 requested that SPC provide information to inform the Commission of options for the tropical tuna CMM (SC16 Outcomes Document paragraph 79; see Appendix 1). Following agreement with the latest stock assessments for WCPO bigeye and yellowfin tuna at SC16, the SC called for updates to specific plots in **SC15-MI-WP01** (Figures 2 and 3 for yellowfin and bigeye tuna, respectively), with further summaries of the implications of different fishing levels on these stocks. To this

end, stochastic projections from the latest bigeye and yellowfin stock assessments have been performed, where future fishery conditions are defined under the specified grid elements of fishing effort (purse seine) and catch (longline) multipliers. The resulting levels of bigeye and yellowfin equilibrium stock depletion ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) have been estimated. The following procedure was used:

- Stochastic projections were run for 30 years into the future from each 2020 stock assessment model within the agreed structural uncertainty grid for the bigeye or yellowfin stock.
- Sufficient projections were performed from each grid model to approximate 1000 simulations for each purse seine effort/longline catch fishing combination for a stock.
- Each future purse seine/longline fishing level combination was defined as a multiplier (scalar) relative to a baseline average period of 2016-2018.
- Future recruitments to the stock were defined by the estimated stock recruitment relationship, with variability around it defined by recruitment estimates from the stock assessment over the most recent 10 years ('recent' recruitment; bigeye only) or the long-term (1962–2016; both stocks).
- Catchability was assumed to remain constant into the future (i.e. no effort creep).
- The 'equilibrium' depletion level under the specified purse seine/longline fishing combination was calculated as the median $SB2048/SB_{F=0}$, 2038-2047; after 30 years, the median level had reached equilibrium with the future fishing conditions assumed.
- Risk of the stock falling below the limit reference point (LRP) under the specified purse seine/longline fishing combination was calculated as the proportion of depletion outcomes across the projections under the specified purse seine/longline fishing combination that in 2048 were below $20\%SB_{F=0}$.

Results are presented in terms of the equilibrium depletion level and level of risk of falling below the LRP resulting from each gear combination for bigeye tuna (shown in Figures 1-4 in the paper for recent and long-term recruitment assumptions) and yellowfin tuna (Figures 5 and 6). Levels of future fishing anticipated under CMM 2018-01 scenarios, relative to the 2016-2018 'baseline' period is summarized in Table 1 in **WCPFC17-2020-16**. The presentation also briefly addressed (a) the relative contribution of purse seine and longline gears to the change in stock depletion, and the approximation of the absolute quantities that correspond to the scalars (for each purse seine scalar, numbers of both associated sets and unassociated sets, and for each longline scalar, longline species catch in mt; SC16 paragraph 79, 1a) and (b) fishery impact on WCPO bigeye tuna SSB, by fishery sector (for just the diagnostic case model, and including: longline, purse seine associated, purse seine unassociated, pole-and-line, and other). As noted within other SPC-OFP papers to WCPFC17, the new information incorporated within the 2020 yellowfin tuna stock assessment implies a more robust stock than estimated previously, as seen by the minimal risks of falling below the LRP identified at the levels identified here. It should be noted that key areas for further work on the yellowfin assessment were identified for the coming year, and an external review of the assessment is planned for 2022. While the assessment is viewed as the best scientific information currently available, the further work underway may lead to changes in the perception of stock status and robustness.

171. France stated its support for a rollover of CMM 2018-01, and for improvement of the current measure, noting that the virtual meeting would not allow negotiations regarding the CMM in 2020. France stated that the priority is to avoid any gap in management. In identifying priorities to be given consideration in 2021, France recalled the concerns expressed in relation to maritime pollution by FADs, stating that French territories were impacted on a daily basis by FAD-related pollution. France reiterated its growing concern on the increase in the use of FADs; the cost to local authorities associated with the recovery of discarded FADs; and the increase of fishing effort in the high seas, and called for the adoption of measures to address these in 2021.

172. Pew observed, in reference to SPC's projections related to CMM 2018-01, that the "pessimistic" scenario assumes SIDS fleets maintain their catch at current levels in the future, and inquired whether it would not be reasonable to assume some arbitrary levels of growth in those fleets, in light of SIDS' aspirations. SPC replied that it did not know what level of catch should be assumed, and therefore within the analysis catch levels are maintained at current levels.

173. The EU observed, in reference to the exemptions in CMM 2018-01 and their impact on the CMM's effectiveness, that the number of vessels that benefit from footnote 1 in CMM 2018-01 increased from about 50 in 2018 to about 150 in 2020 that were notified to the Commission, and suggested this was more than 50% of the total that could potentially benefit in 2020. The EU inquired if the following questions could be addressed in similar future work by SPC to help clarify the impact of the exemptions: (i) Are all the notified vessels setting on FADs during the closure? (ii) What is the number of sets on FADs from these vessels during the closures? (iii) Are those sets taken into account in scientific analyses (e.g., evaluation of the performance of CMM 2018-01)? (iv) Do these vessels use these exemptions on the high seas? (v) Do these vessels use compatible measures and have those been tested to demonstrate their compatibility in terms of conservation benefits? (vi) Does the FADs closure exemption affect the robustness of the regular simulations of future scenarios for purse seine effort when projecting the status of the tropical tuna stocks into the future and in that case, what is the scale of the bias introduced and how can this be overcome in future evaluations? The EU also requested clarification regarding the calculation of purse seine scalars in Table 14 of **WCPFC17-2020-14**.

174. SPC stated that there is some confusion regarding the approach to estimating the number of vessels that fall under this exemption. SPC's calculations finds that there were 49 distinct vessels in 2018, 58 for 2019, and 92 in 2020, with a total of 95 distinct vessels over the 3-year period operating under CMM 2018-01 footnote 1 based on data from WCPFC Circulars. Data for the catch and effort for the 92 vessels in 2020 were not yet available. Regarding the scalars, in Table 14 of **WCPFC17-2020-14** the potential impact of each SC15 additional request has been expressed as the potential change in the overall number of FAD sets. SPC subtracted or add those estimated FAD sets to the overall number under the CMM 'optimistic' and 'pessimistic' scenarios, and re-calculated the purse seine scalars. Based upon the assumed impact of a month of FAD closure on the purse seine effort scalar (a month's closure being equivalent to a scalar of 0.12, relative to the 2016-18 baseline), SPC related the number of FAD sets thus estimated to the equivalent primary FAD closure period.

175. EU thanked SPC, and stated that it hoped its other questions (i-vi), which were also listed in **WCPFC17-2020-DP12**), could be captured in future SPC work on this issue. Regarding high seas purse seine effort limits, the EU note this is related to the recent trend in fishing effort of CCMs that are not bound by effort limits, which increased from 243 fishing days in 2012 to over 3000 fishing days in 2019 (**WCPFC17- 2020-IP04_rev1** *Catch and effort tables on tropical tuna CMMs*). This additional effort appears to exceed by 50% the total allowable fishing effort of all CCMs listed in Attachment 1, Table 2 of CMM 2018-01. The EU had requested that SPC evaluate the impact of this effort that was not accounted for in the CMM, but stated it was unsure that the evaluation was undertaken in the way it had hoped. It compares the actual levels of effort with those expected in the various scenarios, which shows the global level of effort is slightly underestimated, but the EU noted that it is important to note that the effort by the CCMs not bound by limits is buffered by the overall trend in the fishery. The EU stated the analysis should take into account that the effort of those CCMs not bound by limits has increased in recent years. The EU stated its hope this could be addressed in the future, and asked if figures based on the data in **WCPFC17-2020-IP04** could be added in the future to allow better visualization of trends. SPC stated regarding the issue of non-constrained flags fishing on the high seas, that effort is included in the baseline period of 2016-2018, but SPC stated it now realized that the EU was seeking to address the particular impact of that change on the scalars.

Regarding data visualization, SPC stated this was possible, but there are significant notes that must be appreciated when viewing trends in the data.

176. The USA acknowledged SPC's efforts to provide updates to help in designing a better measure, and the EU for submitting DP12, and agreed it is very important to take into account all aspects of the measure, including the lack of limits and exemptions, and noted SPC's efforts to address those. The USA stated it was important to take into account all those effects and do a thorough analysis when revising the measure.

177. Australia, on behalf of FFA members, stated that exemptions in CMMs were there to protect the development aspirations of SIDs, and that FFA members shared the EU's goal of removing these, but that this would only be possible when SIDS' development aspirations were catered to in a CMM framework through agreed limits and allocations that recognize the rights of SIDS as provided for under the Convention. FFA members looked forward to addressing these issues in 2021.

178. EU stated that having the exemptions without a framework leads to results that are detrimental to the goals of the CMM, which is why having an analysis is important, as it allows the exemptions to be framed rather than open ended. The EU stated it was seeking to avoid the use of some exemptions beyond their initial intent, observing that it seemed that under some circumstances exemptions granted for SIDS for the development purposes referenced by Australia are used by non-SIDS, which does not in any way facilitate the development of SIDS' domestic fisheries. The EU noted that this was the type of deviation from the intent of the exemptions that should be addressed.

179. Korea recognized the importance of Article 30 of the Convention, and stated that the Commission should give due consideration to the requirements of SIDS but agreed that the exemptions in CMM 2018-01 may undermine the intent of the measure. Korea stated that the Commission should address the issue urgently (in 2021, by WCPFC18), based on the best scientific information, together with the issue of chartered vessels. It stated that in any event the scope of the exemption should not be broadened further.

180. RMI, on behalf of PNA members, stated that the exemption was not the problem, and highlighted the efforts of SIDS to ensure the sustainability of the stock. They stated most SIDS exemptions are in place because larger developed CCMs insist on flag-based limits based on historical fishing patterns that serve their interests. The SIDS exemptions are there, in those cases, to protect the interests of SIDS to be able to exercise their sovereign rights in respect of developing fisheries in their own waters and to participate fairly in high seas fisheries in accordance with international law. The problem in managing high seas purse seine effort and longline bigeye fishing is the flag-based limits based on historical fishing , as shown in the analysis in Appendix 3 in **WCPFC17-2020-14.** PNA members stated that is why the Commission agreed in paragraphs 28 and 44 of the CMM to work on sorting out the outdated flag-based arrangements so that hard limits, without exemptions, can be adopted for high seas purse seine effort and for longline bigeye fisheries.

181. China noted that in 2017 the Commission, in a closed meeting, addressed the issue of chartering arrangements, and that these have become part of the domestic fleet of SIDS. China stated its understanding that the current issue is that charter vessels do not implement the 3-month FAD closure. China inquired what the result was for the bigeye catch, noting that if it had increased too much it could be a serious issue. It looked forward to addressing these issues in 2021.

182. PNG stated it wanted to see the removal of exemptions but referenced the issue of capacity, and noted the avenues for cooperation that are developed through charters and other mechanisms. PNG stated it looks forward to the point where it can fully utilize the resources at its disposal, and urged all CCMs to avoid using provocative language in addressing the issue.

7.2.2.1 Purse seine effort limits for the high seas

183. The USA stated it had been looking forward to a robust discussion and negotiations on the tropical tuna measure, but accepted this was not possible in 2020. It remarked on the improvements in video technology, and the fact that online meetings may be the new norm for a few years, and suggested the WCPFC could not delay adopting a new measure for too long. The USA stated its ongoing concern about the structure of CMM 2018-01 and how it drives financial dynamics for CCMs. With regard to longline catch limits, it stated the Commission should use the available stock for those CCMs that can add quota without adding capacity so that the risk of overfishing remains low. With regard to the purse seine fishery, the USA expressed concern about the viability of its fleet, and stated it has proposed some measures to bring equity to the CMMs. The USA also stressed its responsibility for its territories. The USA stated that although it had withdrawn its proposal (in **WCPFC17-2020-DP02**), it had concerns with the current tropical tuna measure, and sought to engage with CCMs in the future through a process that would enable all CCMs to help shape a CMM that is viable, ensures stewardship, and provides a structure that allows reasonable economic viability for fishing vessels. The USA offered several suggestions for a process that would ensure that all CCMs have a voice during the upcoming intersessional work: (i) create a series of working groups addressing an aspect of the issues under consideration (purse seine effort, longline quotas, FAD management), which would enable continuing progress even if roadblocks were encountered in one area; (ii) leave WCPFC17 with a clear timetable for starting these workshops (the USA suggested the first quarter of 2021); and (iii) have the workshops led by the WCPFC Chair and Vice Chair. The USA stated the goal of holding an intersessional meeting in May or June of 2021.

184. American Samoa agreed there is much work to be done intersessionally to enable the Commission to develop a successor to CMM 2018-01. It agreed that working groups could be organized and convened around those issues that are most contentious so those working groups could bring ideas and hopefully some degree of consensus regarding the issues to the intersessional meeting. It stated it would support a working group on the high seas, as this is an important issue to American Samoa because of the relatively small size of the United States EEZ around American Samoa. The fleet of USA-flagged purse seine vessels based in American Samoa to serve the raw material needs of its canneries have historically fished primarily in neighbouring EEZs and high seas areas. When the high seas are unavailable for fishing because of the high seas limits, purse seiners have to operate in fishing grounds more distant from American Samoa, and the boats sometimes find it uneconomical to return to American Samoa to unload their catch. In August 2016, NOAA published a report analyzing closures to purse seiners, which indicates the very costly impacts from the closure on the American Samoa's economy and highlights the strong connection between USA-flagged purse seine vessels and the broader American Samoa economy. American Samoa noted it depends on USA-flagged purse seiners for over 95% of the purse seine caught raw material supply needed by its canneries. When those vessels cannot fish in the high seas near American Samoa, they must change their fishing grounds. While this has no true conservation benefit, it does affect where the fishing vessels unload their catch, placing a significant conservation burden on American Samoa. The loss of fish supply caused by boats changing fishing grounds is compounded by the loss of supply resulting from boats changing from USA flag to non-USA flag in pursuit of increased fishing opportunities in the absence of FAD closure exemptions and high seas limits, and expectations of a less rigorous compliance regime.

185. Kiribati, on behalf FFA members, remarked on the importance of the tropical tuna measure and the fact that all the key tropical tuna stocks managed by WCPFC are considered to be biologically healthy. FFA members observed that through successive tropical tuna measures the Commission is improving the management of these fisheries that support economic development in Pacific SIDS and provide an important source of food for the world. Looking to 2021 and the development of the next tropical tuna measure, FFA members will focus on closing gaps in CMM 2018-01, particularly with respect to the setting of limits for fishing on the high seas and ensuring that the rights of developing CCMs, in particular SIDS, to participate

in high seas fisheries are given effect, as envisaged in paragraphs 28 and 44 of CMM 2018-01. FFA members stated they will continue to strengthen the management of tropical tuna fisheries within their EEZs, and emphasised their commitment to the Harvest Strategy workplan and the need to work towards agreed harvest strategies for tropical tuna fisheries, and to ensure that a revised tropical tuna measure helps in this effort.

186. China stated its view that a new tropical tuna CMM should be for three years, and suggested that the longline catch limit be returned to 2014 level, while noting it was uncertain what the impact would be on the tuna stock.

187. CNMI supported the principles behind the USA proposal, notably the need to revise the bigeye catch limits. CNMI commented on the need for a transparent process to develop a tropical tuna measure, and advocated for a series of workshops in 2021.

188. Niue on behalf of FFA members recognised the need for a structured intersessional process in 2021, particularly in the latter part of the year, to make progress before WCPFC18, and stated they would bring forward specific proposals for consideration as part of this process They stated that SPC would need to be tasked with supplying a range of analyses to support decision making, particularly in relation to the impacts of different management options in relation to overall management objectives. With regards to the process, FFA members proposed that WCPFC hold a series of workshops in July and October 2021 to discuss proposals relating to the tropical tuna measure. The workshops would discuss proposals put forward by CCMs and make progress towards a new CMM; they suggested proposals would have to be accompanied by a complete and accurate 2013-06 SIDS assessment if they were to be discussed, and should be shared with SIDS in advance to maximise the benefits of the process. Should physical meetings prove viable, a sufficient budget should be allocated to ensure SIDS can attend. FFA members noted their commitment to cooperative engagement on these issues stated they would schedule regular bilateral discussions with CCMs in 2021.

189. Guam supported the USA's request for workshops leading up to an intersessional meeting; and noted the need for a more transparent process. Guam stated that in the past it was an integral location for tuna fisheries and that it looked forward to regaining that status.

190. The EU agreed on the need to undertake intensive intersessional work, and stated that the earlier this could start the better. The EU noted COVID-19 restrictions could require using electronic means to initiate meetings, but expressed the hope for an in-person meeting. It reiterated its earlier recognition of legitimate aspirations for domestic fisheries development, and concerns with the broad use of open-ended exemptions, stating that it would aid discussions if exemptions could be clearly documented with clear indications who would be entitled to use them, their scale, and time frames. The EU also suggested CCMs should have the ability to make requests to SPC for analysis of relevant issues.

191. Tokelau, on behalf of PNA members, stated it was supportive of the interests of American Samoa in terms of access to the region's tuna resources, stating they had worked with American Samoa previously to meet that need, and were prepared to do so again. They noted their surprise that only a small proportion of the catch by the United States fleet based in the region and vessels of the cannery owner is landed in American Samoa, and stated they would be happy to work with American Samoa to improve that outcome.

192. French Polynesia expressed its view that it was unlikely travel would be possible in 2021, and supported holding a series of online workshops, as soon as possible, and noted that attention should be given to FAD management, including better marking, monitoring and reporting of FADs, whether through the tropical tuna measure or a specific FAD CMM.

193. China suggested that the issue raised by the EU regarding the impact on fish stocks of non-SIDS fleets chartered by SIDS could possibly be addressed through work by SPC.

194. RMI, on behalf of the PNA members, suggested using CMM 2018-01 as a starting point for a process, and stated that PNA members looked forward to reshaping the measure in ways that retain its strength but fill existing gaps. RMI noted that moving from flag-based limits to zone-based limits would remove the need for exemptions, and supported the FFA proposal for workshops to advance the process. PNA members stated they would develop proposals to contribute to the discussion on strengthening the CMM.

7.2.2.2 Longline bigeye catch limits

195. The Chair noted that despite paragraph 44 of CMM 2018-01 and due to the constraints of online meetings, the Commission would instead focus its attention on developing of a process to address the limit and allocation issues in paragraph 44; the decision regarding that process is captured under Agenda Item 7.2.2.4.

7.2.2.3 Other commercial fisheries for bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin

196. The Compliance Manager noted that the issue of paragraph 51 of CMM 2018-01 is addressed by **WCPFC17-2020-DP04** and **WCPFC17-2020-DP05**, regarding the availability of catch estimates from the other commercial fisheries in Indonesia and Philippines, respectively, and there is also a TCC recommendation in the *2020 Final Compliance Monitoring Report, covering 2019 activities*. The two delegation papers were circulated to SC16 and TCC16 but there was insufficient time in those virtual meetings for detailed review. TCC16 therefore recommended that the Commission task TCC17 and SC17 to review the papers to help facilitate a decision.

197. Australia, on behalf of FFA members thanked Indonesia and the Philippines for their papers on the application of paragraphs 50 and 51 of the tropical tuna measure. FFA members welcomed the effort that these CCMs have put into these papers to provide clarity on this important issue, and acknowledged the support of SPC on the issue. FFA members supported the proposed approach.

198. The Commission noted that in recommending a status of "CMM Review" to paragraph 51 of CMM 2018-01, TCC16 had recognized the difficulty of the application of this paragraph in terms of the scope of "other commercial fisheries" in Indonesia and the Philippines.

199. The Commission noted that Indonesia and the Philippines had submitted delegation papers to SC16, TCC16 and WCPFC17 (**WCPFC17-2020-DP04** and **WCPFC17-2020-DP05**) in response to the request from TCC15 to inform a Commission discussion on the application of paragraph 51 of CMM 2018-01. However, the virtual format of these meetings made it difficult to consider these papers at SC16 and TCC16.

200. The Commission agreed to task SC17 and TCC17 to review these papers and provide advice to the Commission to facilitate a decision by WCPFC18 on the application of paragraph 51 of CMM 2018-01.

7.2.2.4 New CMM for tropical tunas

201. The Chair referenced **WCPFC17-2020-15** *Draft CMM 2018-01 Roll-Over*. The Commission discussed approaches to updating CMM 2018-01, and agreed to a simple rollover of the measure for 2021, taking into account the time and other constraints imposed by the virtual meeting protocol at WCPFC17. During their discussion, CCMs agreed that all aspects of CMM 2018-01 that applied in 2020 should remain in force in 2021, and that where CMM 2018-01 calls for completion of specific tasks by 2020, this should be read through application of CMM 2020-01 as 2021.

202. The Chair outlined the discussions regarding a way forward to developing a new tropical tuna measure in 2021, noting that CCMs had generally agreed that a series of virtual workshops would be held, chaired by the Commission Chair, to which CMMs could submit proposals for discussion. She reviewed the divergent views expressed on the timing of the tropical tuna measure workshops, and sought further input from CCMs.

203. Korea supported holding the meetings in the first half of 2021, as the latter half of the year is typically very busy with many meetings. Korea suggested that if the tropical tuna measure meetings must be held in the second half of 2021, the timing should be adjusted to avoid meeting in parallel with meetings of other RFMOs.

204. The USA echoed Korea's intervention that the fall (September - December) is busy for RFMOs, noting that some CCMs' heads of delegations would attend several RFMO meetings. The USA also expressed concern about starting the tropical tuna measure meetings too late in the year, and referenced the outcome at IATTC, which failed to provide adequate time to resolve outstanding issues and thus failed to reach consensus at its 2020 annual meeting. The USA noted the need to respectfully weigh and consider all CCMs' views and encouraged Commission members to meet early in the year to enable full discussions.

205. Japan agreed with Korea and the USA in terms of the difficulties in coordinating the various RFMO meetings, and suggested the Commission recognize the varying situation of each member, agree when timing meetings to give consideration to avoiding conflict with other RFMO meetings as much as possible (and thus make small schedule changes if needed to avoid direct conflicts), and recognize that if a CCM is unable to fully participate in a meeting, they will reserve the right to return to an issue at a later stage.

206. The EU agreed that 2021 would prove difficult because additional meetings would be held as a result of the postponement of many meetings in 2021. The EU suggested that delaying intersessional work until later in the year could make it more difficult to schedule, while meetings held early in 2021 would necessarily be virtual, although this which would provide challenges for the EU in terms of the daily meeting times. The EU stressed that the work is very important and needs to be initiated during the first quarter of 2021.

207. The Cook Islands stated that virtual meetings do not provide a platform for side discussions, which are an important complement to plenary discussions. It also referenced the need to allow time for bilateral discussions, and referenced FFA processes, in which the 17 FFA members needed to determine their collective positions, stating that many of the FFA's timing considerations were based on the need for FFA members to meet ahead of the WCPFC meetings.

208. FSM supported the comments by Cook Islands. It stated that development of the tropical tuna measure would involve balancing various issues, and that discussions would be very challenging. FSM agreed that the timing was critical, and noted that half of WCPFC CCMs are not members of other RFMOs.

It stated that the focus at WCPFC was on the WCPO, and that CCMs needed to set aside the time to have the necessary discussions.

209. The EU suggested the strawman approach previously used by WCPFC in developing the tropical tuna measure, where key elements were listed, and CCMs could provide their views and suggestions on these options could be useful.

210. The USA acknowledged the comment by the FFA regarding timing and the logistics of dialog among FFA members, and suggested as a compromise starting the meetings in April.

211. The Commission discussed how to determine what analyses to request from SPC. The EU noted the difficulty CCMs would face in developing meaningful science-based proposals in the absence of support from SPC, and suggested the need to build consensus regarding the support different members might need. China commented regarding information requests to SPC, and referenced the need for additional information on specific issues that may not be typically addressed such as (i) the issues related to vessel charters raised by the EU, and (ii) issues raised by the USA with regard to EEZ and high seas fishing effort. SPC stated it would provide analyses as requested by CCMs, but would ask that CCMs agree on the analyses they want SPC to perform based on a realistic suite of options.

212. The Commission agreed on a simple rollover of CMM 2018-01 for one year and accordingly adopted CMM 2020-01 *Conservation and Management Measure for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean*. (**Attachment F**)

213. In terms of the process for developing the CMM 2021-01 Tropical Tuna Measure, the Commission agreed:

i. to convene at least two week-long workshops, one to be held in April 2021 and another one to be held in June/July 2021 prior to WCPFC18 to discuss any proposals to develop a CMM 2021-01 tropical tuna measure. All efforts would be made to avoid conflict of timing with Pacific fisheries meetings and other RFMO meetings. The workshops would be chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission.

ii. that the tropical tuna measure should continue to support the pathway for the adoption of harvest strategies, in accordance with the work plan and indicative timeframes set out in the Agreed Indicative Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06. To this end, the first workshop would focus in particular on a discussion on the objectives and scope of a new measure.

iii. that the first workshop would provide clarity on the information needed by the Commission, including the analyses required from the Scientific Services Provider (SSP), for a CMM 2021-01 on tropical tuna.

iv. that given the likelihood that some or all of these workshops would be virtual, and given the challenges already identified with this format, it is essential for CCMs to engage cooperatively in the intersessional period between workshops to provide the best possible opportunity for a CMM 2021-01 on tropical tuna.

v. that proposals or other supporting papers to support discussions should be to the extent possible submitted 30 days in advance of the date fixed for the opening of each workshop to ensure all Members and the SSP have adequate time to review the information.

vi. that the workshops would aim to discuss all proposals made by Members and make progress towards CMM 2021-01 on tropical tuna. Proposals must be accompanied by a 2013-06 SIDS' and territories' impact assessment as is required by CMM 2013-06.

vii. If sufficient progress is made, the Commission Chairperson, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will prepare a draft CMM 2021-01 for discussion at WCPFC18 based on the discussions at the workshops, without prejudice to any Member's right to make proposals to WCPFC18.

viii. that any new CMM shall be fully consistent with the WCPF Convention, in particular Articles 10 and 30 of the Convention and CMM 2013-07. As part of the preparation for the WCPFC workshops, early consultation with all SIDS and participating territories is encouraged taking into account the obligations reflected in CMM 2013-06.

ix. that it was essential to avoid a situation in which the WCPFC had no tropical tuna CMM.

7.3 South Pacific Albacore

7.3.1 Roadmap for effective conservation and management of South Pacific albacore

214. Fiji, on behalf of the Chair of the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG, provided a summary of the 13 November 2020 meeting of the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG, referencing **WCPFC17-2020-SPALB-Roadmap-IWG**. The IWG is considering amendments to the CMM, or a new CMM, which will be a comprehensive measure to address all occurrence of the species (in EEZs and the high seas; and including the entire area south of the equator, including the IATTC Convention Area). It also recognised the need to address the TRP, and improve monitoring of the southern longline fishery.

215. New Zealand on behalf of FFA members thanked the IWG Chair for convening the IWG despite the challenges in 2020. FFA members stated they are fully committed to the objectives and work of the IWG and progressing the three key work streams identified by the IWG namely the setting of limits and allocations for South Pacific albacore, the achieving of the TRP, and the development of a new CMM for South Pacific albacore are all very important. FFA members stated they look forward to cooperative engagement with other CCMs for 2021.

216. New Caledonia stated it is highly dependent on South Pacific albacore, both economically and in terms of self-sufficiency, as this is a major source of protein for New Caledonia. It noted it has developed a sustainable approach to managing its South Pacific albacore fishery, which comprises 65% to 70% of the total tuna catch, and is carried out by domestic vessels and local crews only. It noted that decreasing yields are affecting economic profitability, and stated it supports to establishing a TRP in the near term. New Caledonia noted that as shown in **WCPFC17-2020-IP05**, half the catch volume is in the high seas pocket of the Convention Area, and supported monitoring transhipment, especially in the high seas.

217. Niue on behalf of FFA members reiterated that this is a critical fishery and prioritised improved management of the fishery by achieving the South Pacific albacore TRP on the agreed timing, setting a total allowable catch/effort, and setting high seas limits. In addition, FFA members stated they are developing management arrangements to apply within their collective EEZs based on agreed zone-based limits and would inform the Commission accordingly.

218. China supported the work of the IWG and stated it would cooperate with CCMs to make progress on South Pacific albacore management.

219. French Polynesia stated that South Pacific albacore is a very important stock and comprises more than half its tuna catch, and is important for food security, particularly given the ongoing increase in ciguatera. It stated that its catch is exclusively from its EEZ, and is sustainable, but that French Polynesia is surrounded by high seas areas, and it is concerned about the high catch levels in those waters. French Polynesia is also located in the WCPFC–IATTC overlap area, and thus appreciates efforts to address the stock on a Pacific-wide basis. French Polynesia stated its hope that the Commission could adopt the same approach as will be used to develop the tropical tuna measure, and that the issues could be progressed in 2021 through online workshops.

220. The EU acknowledged the efforts made by FFA to move the work forward, noting its importance for SIDS and territories. It stated that SC indicated that South Pacific albacore catch in the Eastern Pacific Ocean had recently increased significantly, and that a stock assessment is scheduled for 2021. The EU stated it was important to include all available population dynamics in this work, and suggested that could possibly enable WCPFC and IATTC to have compatible measure.

221. Canada supported the roadmap, and stated it would take part in any intersessional work in 2021.

222. France stated the stock is very important, as highlighted by French Polynesia and New Caledonia, and looked forward to the adoption of a new CMM in 2021.

223. Chinese Taipei stated that South Pacific albacore is very important to its fisheries, and committed to working with the IWG Chair and CCMs on the management of the stock.

224. The Commission noted the report of progress from the SP Albacore Roadmap Working Group (**WCPFC17-2020-SPALB-Roadmap-IWG**).

7.3.2 Review of CMM 2015-02 (South Pacific albacore)

225. The Chair noted **WCPFC17-2020-17**, *Reference Document for the Review of CMM 2015-02 and Development of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 (South Pacific Albacore).*

226. Samoa on behalf of FFA members noted they had called for revision of the measure over a number of years due to its ineffectiveness. FFA members stated they would like a CMM with a clear direction on setting limits, particularly on the high seas and compatible with the in-zone limits; improved monitoring; and a commitment to achieve the TRP via an agreed trajectory, including a requirement to transition management to the harvest strategy when that work is completed. FFA members stated they would be contributing to work in the IWG.

227. American Samoa strongly supported revising CMM 2015-02 as soon as possible, and referenced its fishery aspirations and economic development under Article 30. It looked forward to consultation with other CCMs on the disproportionate burden American Samoa faces in this fishery, a fishery with strong historical significance to the people, culture, and economy of American Samoa. It highlighted that similar to the USA-flagged purse seiners operating out of its port, its longline vessels are also in dire straits. It stated that unless CMM 2015-02 is revised to achieve the interim TRP for south Pacific Albacore in less than 20 years, its fleet and the indigenous fleets of other SIDS face a perilous future, and that immediate action is needed to ensure that its fleets have a future in the fishery.

228. The Commission noted that the review of CMM 2015-02 *Conservation and Management Measure for South Pacific Albacore* is ongoing as part of the work of the SP Albacore Roadmap Working Group.

7.4 Pacific bluefin tuna

7.4.1 Review of CMM 2019-02

229. The USA referenced the presentation by the ISC Chair (under Agenda Item 7.1), and stated that latest stock assessment indicates the spawning biomass is increasing and the stock is rebuilding. It supported the NC's recommendations for the CMM, stating that this would support rebuilding the stock while enabling greater management flexibility.

230. RMI on behalf of PNA members supported a 1-year rollover of the CMM. However, they noted that SB remained at less than 5% of $SB_{F=0}$, suggesting overfishing is continuing, and suggested the fishery may need to be limited or closed.

231. The EU support the rollover of the CMM, and while recognizing the efforts of CCMs that are involved in the fishery, reminded the Commission that the stock was still at very low biomass levels and under overfishing; the EU stated that it hoped the recent slight increase in biomass would continue.

232. Japan supported the rollover of the CMM. It noted that in 2020 the ISC conducted a new stock assessment indicating a steady increase in spawning biomass, more than expected when implementing the rebuilding targets. A proposal to increase the catch limit based on the harvest control rule (HCR) was proposed but not adopted at NC16, mainly because of difficulties resulting from the virtual setting. Japan stressed that the difficulties faced by coastal fisherman were increasing every year, noting that when they cannot catch (and must release) bluefin tuna, they must sometimes sacrifice other species. These coastal fishermen face increasing problems, and Japan asked other CCMs to understand the situation. Responding to RMI and the EU, Japan acknowledged that the stock status is below the WCPFC standard, but stated that the HCRs are based on the understanding that stock status is low, and that these rules should allow for increase in catch even though status is below the standard. Japan asked CCMs to recall that the Commission adopted HCRs that enable consideration of a catch increase. Japan noted that the species migrates deeply into the coastal waters, and inquired how it could close the fisheries that catch bluefin tuna, especially those that use traps catching other fish, as this would have a drastic impact on coastal fisheries.

233. PNG stated that it understands that the spawning stock biomass increase is in line with the rebuilding target. However, it still considers the level to be quite low, and supported a rollover of the CMM to see that additional rebuilding does occur.

234. Korea supported a 1-year rollover of the CMM. It stated it would welcome discussion regarding revision of the measure and possible increase of the total allowable catch based on best available science and management advice.

235. The Commission adopted CMM 2020-02 *Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna* (**Attachment G**).

7.5 North Pacific striped marlin

7.5.1 Interim Rebuilding Plan

236. The USA noted that WCPFC16 adopted an interim rebuilding plan for North Pacific striped marlin (WCPFC16 Summary Report, Attachment L), and that ISC provided no advice to WCPFC in 2020 on North Pacific striped marlin. The USA's Consultative Draft Proposal on a CMM for North Pacific striped marlin (**WCPFC17-2020-DP08**) notes that stock assessments conducted in 2015 and 2019 continued to find the stock to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. The USA stated its consultative draft CMM for North Pacific was designed to ensure that the interim rebuilding target is met according to the specifications of the interim rebuilding plan adopted in 2019. The USA also stated its understanding that some CCMs may be hesitant to discuss revision of the North Pacific striped marlin proposal at WCPFC17, and asked CCMs to consider the consultative draft revised CMM as a basis for intersessional consultations, with the aim of adopting a revised CMM at WCPFC18. The USA also noted some discrepancies between ISC stock assessment catch estimates of striped marlin in the Convention Area north of the equator and WCPFC catch estimates for that area, by CCM, and stated it was working with SPC to improve the WCPFC estimates and better understand reasons for the differences. The USA proposed that WCPFC17 task SPC to examine the differences between the ISC stock assessment catch estimates of striped marlin in the Convention Area north of the equator and the WCPFC catch estimates for that area, by CMM, and provide an assessment to SC17 of any shortcomings in, or notable uncertainties associated with, the WCPFC estimates, with the aim of allowing CCMs to improve their estimates, where appropriate.

237. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, stated that in discussions at WCPFC16 two Commission members (Japan and USA) clarified that striped marlin in the North Pacific is not designated as a northern stock, but is managed by WCPFC. FFA members stated that the correct terminology to be used when referring to this stock is "striped marlin in the North Pacific" and not "North Pacific striped marlin".

238. Korea stated that North Pacific striped marlin is a bycatch species for many CCMs, including Korea, and noted it is very concerned about the stock's status, and supported work to reconcile differences and uncertainties in catch estimates between ISC and WCPFC. It looked forward to working with the USA on the issue in 2021.

239. The EU stated it appreciated the efforts and leadership of the USA in addressing this important issue, which is pending since 2010 when the Commission first expressed its concerns for the stock, which had been assessed to be in a very poor conservation status since 2011. The latest assessment indicated again that the stock was overfished and subject to overfishing, and that under recent recruitment, catches needed to be reduced to 60% of the catch quota in CMM 2010-01 to achieve a 60% probability of rebuilding to 20%$SSB_{F=0}$ by 2022. The EU stated it understands that the stock assessment was affected by several uncertainties and data conflicts: there was uncertainty in the catch amounts in the beginning of the series, in the level of gillnet catches, and in life history parameters such as growth, which significantly impacted the assessment results. In addition, there was a retrospective pattern suggesting that the projections might have been too optimistic. Given this context, the EU stated the need to improve, if possible, the model and the data inputs used in the assessment. The EU fully agreed with the USA proposal to task SPC to examine the differences between ISC and WCPFC catch estimates and to provide an assessment on the uncertainties. However, the EU stated that for this stock it would be central to assess the potential of catch limits to achieve mortality reductions (that is, noting the bycatch nature of most of the catches, catch limits might result in lower landings, but not in a reduction of fishing mortality if it is offset by a higher level of dead discards). Therefore, the EU recommended that SPC also be tasked with an assessment of the potential for mortality reductions through estimations of at-vessel mortality and post-release survival, and that ISC be tasked to develop a roadmap to address the issues identified in the latest stock assessment, with special emphasis on

revisiting the growth estimates, the reconstruction of catch time series, and model development. Despite these technical limitations, the EU supported the intersessional work that should allow development of a CMM for WCPFC17 and called on CCMs involved in the fisheries that harvest North Pacific striped marlin to contribute to this endeavour. While supporting the USA proposal to task ISC, SPC, SC and TCC to provide advice for the development of the CMM, the EU asked that it be clarified what each of these bodies should be doing and ensure the appropriate sequence and timing of these tasks to avoid losing more time.

240. Chinese Taipei agreed on the need to strengthen management of North Pacific striped marlin to rebuild the stock. It noted the importance of accurate catch estimates, and supported close communication between ISC and SPC to resolve the catch estimate discrepancies. Regarding the rebuilding plan it supported the approach of intersessional consultations. Chinese Taipei stated its understanding that the intent is to improve the existing CMM 2010-01, and stated that the new plan should be based on the existing CMM when considering catch reduction. It stated any revised CMM should be reviewed by SC.

241. RMI, on behalf of FFA members, stated they supported the rebuilding plan for this stock at WCPFC16 and had considered the draft consultative proposal submitted by the USA. It noted the following concerns:

- the proposal is based on flag-based limits and it is a longstanding FFA position that it does not support flag-based limits that cover the EEZs, especially if they are based on flag-based catch history in their waters. This proposal removes SIDS exemptions and is encroaching on the sovereign rights of SIDs who are responsible for managing stocks within their EEZs;
- in terms of Article 30 of the Convention and Article 25 of the UNFSA, SIDS need to have access to the high seas and this proposal severely limits SIDS access to the high seas;
- WCPFC lacks an effective longline monitoring regime for the high seas and is therefore unable to monitor flag-based catch limits effectively. Until such time that there is a robust high seas monitoring regime with integrity in place, it will be difficult to enforce this CMM. Robust monitoring includes electronic monitoring, a catch documentation scheme with independent verification, and robust port inspections and transhipment regimes; and
- the CMM2013-06 assessment attached with the proposal is unsatisfactory as the USA failed to consult with SIDS to understand the true implications of the proposal on SIDS. This is a significant fishery for FFA members north of the equator and the proposal may have significant implications for them and their management of this species. Unfortunately, no FFA members were consulted in compliance with the requirements of CMM 2013-06.

For these reasons, FFA members stated they did not support the proposal, while noting their commitment to ensuring that this stock is rebuilt. FFA members stated they would continue to work constructively with CCMs to improve bycatch management and mitigation for the stock, including considerations of live release and removal of shallow set hooks. In this respect, FFA members hoped to develop a more appropriate CMM that takes into account SIDS needs, aspirations and sovereignty and ensure that the stock of striped marlin in the North Pacific is rebuilt.

242. Japan thanked the USA, and agreed that all CCMs have the obligation to use this stock sustainably. It noted that the interim rebuilding plan stated the rebuilding objective would be subject to revision at WCPFC17. Japan stated that until the early 1990s, Japan operated 500 vessels that used 50-60 km-long drift nets per vessel, most of which targeted squid, but some of which also targeted billfish. This fishery ended as a result of a UN moratorium, but the ISC stock assessment indicates that following the end of this fishery, fishing mortality increased and biomass decreased. Japan has queried ISC as to possible causes, and ISC is

studying the issue. Japan stated it would be very difficult to consider amendments to the CMM until this issue had been resolved. Japan also noted the need for a review of the science underlying the conclusions in **WCPFC17-2020-DP08**, and asked that the USA's scientists share their data with ISC; if the latter approved the conclusions these could then be sent to the WCPFC. Japan noted this process should take place before WCPFC considers an amendment to the CMM. It summarized that to consider the USA paper it would require the underlying scientific evidence and justification, which it hoped could be provided to ISC in 2021.

243. Palau on behalf of PNA members thanked the USA for providing a consultative draft proposal to strengthen CMM 2010-01, but did not support the approach in the draft, noting that as FFA members had also stated, the PNA did not support current flag-based catch limits; it stated these should be replaced with a system of zone-based management arrangements, which include allocations by zones without regard to flag, and arrangements for high seas fishing that provide fair opportunities for CCMs to participate in high seas fisheries. This approach would remove the need for the current SIDS exemption. Palau stated that improvements are also needed to the monitoring and verification of any catch limits that are implemented. PNA members stated that moving striped marlin management in the direction of zone-based management would take time. In the meantime, given the urgent need for stronger measures to reduce fishing mortality, PNA members suggested that the Commission look at alternative measures to reduce targeting of striped marlin in the North Pacific, such as non-retention. PNA members encouraged the USA to look to developing its proposal in that direction.

244. The EU again noted with concern the stock's very poor conservation status. It stated that many CCMs were advocating broad principles, but stressed CCMs' responsibility to rebuild the stock with some urgency. The EU noted that the USA proposal suggested tasks for SPC, TCC, SC and ISC, and encouraged CCMs to support this work.

245. Recalling the comment by FSM on behalf of FFA members, the USA noted that the use of the term "North Pacific striped marlin" was in no way intended to suggest that the stock is not managed by the Commission as a whole. It agreed on the need for significant work, and suggested that SC be requested to resolve some of the outstanding issue. It noted that the stock is overfished, and that all CCMs are responsible for rebuilding the stock. It noted that it had put forward a consultative draft proposal, and looked forward to intersessional discussions. The USA stated it realizes that discussion was needed in ISC and SC, and that additional scientific discussion would help inform the Commission's options. It noted that live release may be helpful, and suggested that tasking ISC and SPC could be helpful. The USA stated that the Commission needs to take action, and asked CCMs to commit to action.

246. The Ocean Foundation, on behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and WWF, thanked the USA for its consultative draft proposal to rebuild North Pacific striped marlin. They stated that although this stock is often described as a bycatch species, WCPFC's mandate requires managing this stock just as strongly as it manages targeted tunas, and that North Pacific striped marlin has significant ecological importance, as well as considerable value for commercial and recreational fisheries. This stock has been overfished continuously since the early 1990s and experienced overfishing during most of that period, relative to MSY reference points. They encouraged all members with an interest in this stock to collaborate with a view to agreeing at WCPFC18 on a measure that rebuilds this stock in accordance with the target and timeline agreed last year. Precautionary management of billfish should include setting and enforcing science-based catch limits, and implementing additional protections that include measures to mitigate catch and minimize mortality when striped marlin are encountered. These strategies should be tested, ideally via Management Strategy Evaluation, and put in place via a fully specified harvest strategy, to ensure they will achieve the rebuilding target and timeline and maintain sustainability once secured. The stock is just one of several billfish and swordfish stocks that deserves greater attention from managers, and

they urged CCMs to consider in 2021 how to follow the advice of the SC to improve the management of this stock, as well as Southwest Pacific swordfish, and Southwest Pacific striped marlin.

247. RMI stated that its concern regarding the reference to ISC stock assessment catch estimates by CCM and WCPFC catch estimates, noting the RMI is a member of the WCPFC in the North Pacific but is not a member of the NC or the ISC, and does not look to them for stock assessments, relying instead on the WCPFC SSP (SPC-OFP).

248. The EU stated that despite a willingness to progress the scientific work, the significant efforts by the USA to propose a more ambitious way forward to address the very dire status of the stock had largely come to naught. The EU stated that the outcome fell short of its expectations, but more importantly of the Commission's obligations to take due consideration of the very poor status of the stock. The EU stated its hope that in 2021 CCMs could resume the work needed to develop a framework to allow rebuilding of the stock. The EU expressed the hope that the outcome at WCPFC17 would prove useful, but stated it was definitely inadequate given the very poor conservation status of this stock.

249. The USA stated it would continue seek to make progress by working intersessionally in 2021.

250. The Commission requested the ISC to:

i. examine differences between ISC stock assessment catch estimates by CCM and WCPFC catch estimates, and work with the Scientific Services Provider to provide an assessment of the shortcomings;

ii. provide explanation why the striped marlin stock decreased and the fishing mortality increased after a drastic decrease in fishing effort by high seas driftnet fisheries in the early 1990s; and

iii. develop a roadmap to address the issues identified in the latest stock assessment by ISC.

AGENDA ITEM 8 — HARVEST STRATEGY

8.1 Review of Indicative Work Plan

251. At the request of the Chair, Dr. James Larcombe (Australia), presented a summary of the Indicative Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (**WCPFC17-2020-20**), noting the actions for 2020–2022 as contained in pages 8 to 10 of the working paper. He stated that the technical and management strategy evaluation (MSE) work being conducted by SPC is proceeding well, noting progress with regard to: the candidate harvest control rule (HCR) designs for both skipjack and South Pacific albacore; communication of MSE results for decision makers; calculation of performance indicators for the skipjack monitoring strategy; uncertainties included in the skipjack and South Pacific albacore MSE framework; and a range of other technical work. However, SC16 could not discuss most of the work in detail because of its very limited virtual meeting, and he observed that the same was likely to be true at WCPFC17. He also noted much remains to be done in terms of CCM capacity building. In summary, Dr. Larcombe stated that there had been delays in some very important areas, meaning it was likely the overall schedule would not be met.

252. Korea stated it generally supported the revised workplan, and expressed its hope that the Commission would be able to make more progress on the harvest strategy work in 2021, and that Korea would do what it could to progress the work.

253. Kiribati, on behalf of FFA members, noted **WCPFC17-2020-20** and emphasized their commitment to the successful implementation of the Harvest Strategy Workplan, and stated that they were encouraged by the plan's particular focus on the need for more time and more work on the multispecies framework for all tuna species, which they stated is critical. They also noted the recognition of the need for more time to build capacity, particularly for SIDS, on understanding how harvest strategies function, and their implications. FFA members stated they would continue to encourage a focus on the capacity building workshops that will assist CCMs, particularly SIDS, to participate fully in this complex process, and thereby increase confidence in the harvest strategy development process and its outcomes when implemented.

254. PNG stated it understanding that the work is quite substantive, noted the complexity for multispecies is challenging, and called for capacity building (including on a virtual basis) for CCMs, including PNG, to enable full participation.

255. The EU agreed that harvest strategy issues are complex and that capacity building for all CCMs is needed to enable them to fully engage, observing that this was one reason they had supported a science–management dialogue. The EU stated that given the complexity of the process, and the need to ensure it is conclusive, it is important that there is an opportunity for CCM scientists to engage with SPC intersessionally, in the same way that they participate in the pre-stock assessment workshops, and encouraged that such a process be adopted for the harvest strategy work.

256. Japan agreed regarding the complexity and the need for capacity building for all CCMs. Japan stated that based on its experience in other RFMOs, communication between scientists and managers is very important. Japan inquired whether SPC had an updated plan for holding capacity building workshops, whether in-person or virtually? It also agreed with the EU that a more inclusive process should be established to increase cooperation between SPC and CCM scientists when doing stock assessments and other analyses, and asked SPC to consider how to establish such a process. Japan also noted its concern regarding adopting a staggered schedule for skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin under a multispecies approach, as this would not enable taking into account complex multispecies issues, especially in the purse seine fishery. Dr Larcombe noted Japan's comment about staggering some harvest strategy development (specifically addressing skipjack before bigeye and yellowfin). He observed that this illustrated why the multispecies framework is so important, as it could enable all CCMs to have an understanding of what the management system looks like and the implications for the four main tuna species. Japan noted that it would be happy to see a staggered approach as long as the harvest strategy would be applied jointly to skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin, as was confirmed by the Chair at WCPFC16.

257. China stated its support in principle for the workplan, and stated that it hoped WCPFC would be able to establish a harvest strategy in 2022. It noted that capacity building was important for all CCMs to help establish a dialog between scientists and managers.

258. New Zealand stated it remained committed to progressing the important work on harvest strategies to ensure science-based management of the four primary tuna species. It acknowledged the need for on-going capacity building by SPC to enable CCMs, particularly SIDS, to fully participate in this process. Despite delays as a result of COVID-19, good progress has been made on South Pacific albacore, with management procedures for both scheduled to be agreed by 2022. It noted that ultimately, the Commission needs to develop a multi-species approach to harvest strategies - this will be complex work. New Zealand stressed the collective interest of members in making progress on harvest strategies, in order to drive best

practice fisheries management and be recognised for our sustainable fisheries, including through Marine Stewardship Council certification.

259. France acknowledged the complexity of the issues, and the need to ensure full participation by all CCMs, as noted by the EU and FFA.

260. SPC stated it would be working to provide capacity building to all CCMs that requested it, hopefully through face-to-face meetings, but stated it was also developing online approaches. Regarding transparency with respect to SPC's work, it noted that its work on albacore was being reviewed by a well-known expert, and stated there was a request from SC to hold an intersessional technical working group in 2021.

261. The Commission adopted the updated Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 (**Attachment H**).

8.2 Science-Management Dialogue

262. The Chair referenced **WCPFC17-2020-21** *Science-Management Dialogue*, which she noted reviews prior Commission efforts to develop a Science-Management Dialogue, and resubmits **WCPFC15-2018-20** *Key Decisions For Managers and Scientists Under the Harvest Strategy Approach For WCPO Tuna Stocks And Fisheries* and **WCPFC15-2018-21** *Terms of Reference for the Science-Management Dialogue*. She stated that SC16 indicated a strong preference for such a dialog, and observed that there was no discussion on the issue in the WCPFC17 ODF.

263. Tonga on behalf of FFA members noted the importance of the dialogues in expediting the development of the harvest strategies, but stated the dialogue would be best served when all CCMs agree on what the dialogue requires of members (i.e., when there are agreed TORs). FFA members stated that if circumstances permit physical WCPFC meetings in 2020 those meetings will be extremely time-challenged due to the backlog of work from 2020 due to the pandemic; and further extending those meetings to accommodate the science-management dialogue may not be feasible. However, should SC17 be a virtual meeting, FFA members stated their openness to the idea of holding a 'trial run' of the dialogue immediately after SC17 for FFA members to get the benefit of additional capacity building, which could be the focus. They welcomed the views of other CCMs.

264. PNG on behalf of PNA members supported the FFA statement, and stated they had been prepared to support a science-management dialogue on a trial basis to be held after SC. However, capacity building activities planned for 2020 were disrupted by COVID-19, and PNA members stated they were not ready to participate in what seemed likely to be a virtual science-management dialogue in 2021, especially given the work needed on the revision of the tropical tuna measure.

265. French Polynesia thanked Australia for its comprehensive overview of the harvest strategy status under Agenda Item 8.1, and noted in particular its comments on the need for capacity building. In that context, the science-management dialog would be a good way to enable progress on the harvest strategy work. French Polynesia supported convening a science-management dialog, and stated it is flexible as to its scheduling.

266. The USA stated it is open to and interested in establishing the science–management dialogue. It recalled the management options workshops, which essentially served as a precursor to the dialogue. The USA also recalled that in 2018 there was good agreement on the science–management dialogue TORs, but that CCMs were unable to agree on the timing (whether the dialogue should be held in association with SC

or with the Commission meeting). The USA suggested that the situation in 2021 would be different if meetings (in particular SC) would be held virtually, and that holding SC virtually would remove the obstacle for the USA to holding the science–management dialogue meeting in conjunction with SC, or another agreed upon time, as there would be no cost implications. However, the USA also noted that the tropical tuna measure discussions were a higher priority for the Commission in 2021 and acknowledged the difficulties the Commission would face in finding time for both. The USA closed by stating it was flexible as to how the science–management dialogue is addressed in 2021.

267. Nauru, on behalf of FFA members, stated that their concern with having the science–management dialogue meeting in conjunction with WCPFC related to the fact that delegations come to the Commission with their national positions already determined. Having the science–management dialogue immediately after the SC meeting, in their view, would enable use of updated knowledge from SC to discuss the science and the management applications, and could help shape recommendations or discussions for decision making at the following Commission meeting.

268. PNG, on behalf of PNA members supported the FFA member statement that having a science–management dialogue associated with the Commission meeting would not allow for constructive dialogue, as delegations arrive there with their national positions already determined, whereas a meeting held immediately before the Commission does not provide time for delegations to reflect on and take into account the discussions prior to the Commission meeting. They stated that a meeting associated with SC would be better to inform the managers.

269. Chinese Taipei supported holding the science–management dialogue. If the meeting would be held physically, Chinese Taipei stated it should be prior to the Commission meeting, to facilitate the involvement of a greater number of managers. However, if it is a virtual meeting Chinese Taipei stated it was flexible as to the timing.

270. The EU stated the science–management dialogue is important and needed, and also supported holding it in conjunction with the Commission meeting if it is a physical meeting, and stated it was flexible on the timing if the meeting was held virtually.

271. France supported the comments of Chinese Taipei and the EU.

272. RMI supported holding the science–management dialogue in conjunction with the SC meeting. In response to the comments from the USA it stated that the prior management options workshop process was useless, as CCMs arrived with their positions known and established, and that to then go into discussions on those issues had no benefit. It emphasized the need to engage on the scientific issues, and agreed that COVID-19 has slowed capacity building efforts, which could make holding a science–management dialogue, even on a trial basis, impossible in 2021.

273. Ocean Foundation, also on behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, ISSF, the IPNLF, and WWF, observed that it had been six years since WCPFC committed itself to developing harvest strategies for key stocks or fisheries, and these discussions actually began prior to the adoption of CMM 2014-06. They stated that as 2020 has demonstrated, there is a need to 'shock proof' these fisheries to ensure management decisions can happen even during disruptive events like the one caused by COVID-19. They also noted that the experience of IATTC offers a cautionary story, as IATTC ended its 2020 annual meeting without agreeing on a tropical tuna measure, leaving no international management in place, and stated that this is another example of the value of harvest strategies, because they would set up more predictable, clearly defined rules for fishing. Despite some initial progress and productive discussions

in the WCPFC over the years, they expressed concern that momentum for developing and agreeing harvest strategies has stalled, as illustrated by the following:

- The WCPFC has yet to agree on a fully-tested harvest strategy for any of its tuna species.
- The Scientific Committee (at SC14, 15 and 16) recommended creating a science-manager dialogue working group. Harvest strategy work requires frank and open discussions between scientists and managers. A busy plenary meeting, whether in-person or virtual, is not conducive to progressing these discussions.
- A dialogue group could ease some of the difficult negotiations anticipated over the next year. They stated they were encouraged by some flexibility over the floor and a 2021 virtual meeting could be used as a trial run and allow for greater participation.

They further noted that the Secretariat had introduced a document that presents a clear path forward for establishing a dialogue group. They stated their understanding of the constraints of WCPFC17's virtual format, but urged members to seize the opportunity to create the science–management dialogue working group without any further delay, noting that another year of inaction would send the wrong message about the Commission's intent to undertake this work, which is fundamentally about ensuring the future sustainability of its fisheries. They stated this also has implications for the industry and public–private efforts (via international ecolabels such as the Marine Stewardship Council Standard program), with fisheries in the region relying on the Commission to move forward with this work to maintain their certifications.

274. The Chair observed that in 2018 the only issue that CCMs failed to resolve regarding the science–management dialogue was the timing, and noted that the issue remained unresolved. She stated that CCMs were open to holding a virtual science–management dialogue meeting in conjunction with a virtual SC17, but that many CCMs were concerned that this may not be viable. She suggested that the Commission seek to progress the science–management dialogue in 2021.

275. The Commission acknowledged the utility of a science-management dialogue in progressing the implementation of the Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies but was unable to agree on the staging of such a dialogue. The Commission agreed to continue to explore in 2021 options to convene a science-management dialogue.

AGENDA ITEM 9 —REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS

276. The reports of the subsidiary bodies were taken as read by the Chair and were not presented to the Commission. However, recommendations of subsidiary bodies not addressed under other agenda items were considered under this agenda item.

9.1 SC16

277. The SC Chair, Ueta Fa'asili Jnr referred the Commission to **WCPFC17-2020-SC16**: *SC15 Summary Report*, and **WCPFC17-2020-22** *Reference Document on other recommendations from SC16 for Agenda Item 9.1*. He noted that the following recommendations required consideration by the Commission: endorsement of the 2021-2025 Shark Research Plan; adoption of the proposed work programme and budget for SC; and endorsement of recommendations relating to publication of annual catch and effort estimate tables and the hosting of the SC17 and SC18 meetings.

278. Tuvalu, on behalf of PNA members, stated that some PNA members were disadvantaged at times in participating in the virtual SC16 session, but appreciated the effort that went into ensuring that the core business of the Committee was addressed. PNA members stated that the invitation to the Commission (in paragraph 90 of the Summary Report Executive Summary) to hold an intersessional scientific technical workshop to provide feedback to SPC on technical issues relating to the development of the harvest strategy framework was not supported by PNA members at SC16 and was not supported at WCPFC17 because of their concerns about their effective participation. PNA members supported the adoption of the Harvest Strategy Workplan on the basis that the activities in the workplan could be undertaken within the existing Commission structure and schedule without additional bodies or meetings and that they continue to hold that view. PNA members also requested that SC and SPC develop a screening process to ensure that vessel-related research activities within the SC Workplan are undertaken with vessels that are complying with Commission measures, stating that in their view, it was important to ensure that Commission funds are not used for activities involving vessels that fail to comply with Commission measures.

279. The Commission endorsed the *2021-2025 Shark Research Plan* (SC16 Summary Report paragraph 261).

280. The Commission approved the SC16 proposed work programme and budget for 2021 and indicative budgets for 2022 and 2023.

281. The Commission endorsed the SC16 recommendation that the approach of publishing the ACE tables based on the April 30 Scientific Data submissions and subsequent updates and revisions from CCMs is continued (SC16 Summary Report paragraph 296).

282. The Commission adopted the SC16 Summary Report (**WCPFC17-2020-SC16**), with some CCMs expressed reservations regarding paragraph 255(d) in the SC16 Summary Report.

9.2 NC16

283. The Chair referred the Commission to **WCPFC17-2020-NC16:** *NC16 Summary Report.*

284. The NC Chair, Masanori Miyahara reviewed NC16's recommendation regarding Pacific bluefin tuna, and noted that NC and IATTC would hold the 6th Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna, tentatively in July 2021 hosted by Japan; and that Japan had also offered to host NC17 if an in-person meeting was feasible, tentatively in September.

285. Fiji on behalf of FFA members supported the recommendations made by NC16, thanked Japan for its offer to host NC17, and looked forward to participating in the meeting. FFA members also noted the officers recommended by NC16 for further terms as Chair and Vice Chair, and supported those recommendations.

286. The Commission adopted the report of NC16 **(WCPFC17-2020-NC16)**.

9.3 TCC16

287. The Chair referred the Commission to **WCPFC17-2020-TCC16:** TCC16 Summary Report and **WCPFC17-2020-23** *Reference Document on other recommendations from TCC16 for Agenda Items 9.3 and 9.4.*

North Pacific Albacore CMM

288. The Chair referred to **WCPFC17-2020-23**, paragraph 2 (i): Review of North Pacific albacore CMM:

> *TCC16 noted for WCPFC17 that there were recommendations in the Provisional CMR relating to the revision of existing Conservation and Management Measures. TCC16* ***recommends*** *that WCPFC17 consider approaches to address challenges identified for the following obligations, noting that more information related to these recommendations is contained in the Provisional CMR:*
>
> *a. CMM 2005-03 04: for North Pacific albacore annual catch and effort reporting; (TCC16 Summary Report para 89)*

289. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, supported TCC's recommendation for WCPFC17 to provide clear approaches to address challenges identified in assessing compliance with the North Pacific Albacore CMM, noting TCC had previously raised issues with the ambiguity of language used, such as "fishing for" or "directed at" in some CMMs, including this measure.

Improvements to the tracking of observer report requests and responses in order to better identify impediments to the flow of observer reports

290. With respect to the recommendation for ROP providers to provide a succinct summary of relevant information in observer reports associated with cases in the compliance case file system (CCFS) to help assess whether a possible violation(s) has occurred, FSM, on behalf of FFA members, stated that ROP providers should not be asked to judge on whether an offence has been committed, this should be done by trained compliance staff who have a good understanding of their own legal frameworks.

Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing vessels

291. The Chair referred to **WCPFC17-2020-23**, paragraph 2 ix) *Treatment of Crew on Fishing Vessels*:

> *xi) TCC16 recommended consideration by WCPFC17 regarding the treatment of crew on fishing vessels and to further strengthen the provisions for observer safety.*

292. Indonesia referenced its earlier remarks on **WCPFC17-2020-DP09**, made under Agenda Item 4, and suggested that because the meeting format at WCPFC17 prevented in-depth discussion, that the Commission hold an intersessional working group during 2021, prior to WCPFC18. Indonesia stated it would be pleased to lead the work along with a co-chair from among the FFA members.

293. China expressed its respect and sympathy to laborers referred to by Indonesia in DP09. China recalled its statement under Agenda Item 4 that it did not support the proposal on establishing a binding measure on labour standards for crew on fishing vessels or establishment of an intersessional working group as suggested by FFA. It stated that Indonesia's proposal was incomplete as it lacked CMM 2013-06 criteria for assessment, while seeming to add a number of unreasonable obligations for CCM, which were impossible to discuss at WCPFC17. China further offered a position statement on labour standards for crew, noting the following:

- The Fisheries Authority of China attaches great importance to crew safety and protection, and supports WCPFC giving due attention to the issue.

- Labour safety and protection should be the responsibility of the relevant authorities, and the relevant issues should be resolved by the relevant authorities through domestic legislation, bilateral consultation or discussion in the relevant international organizations. In fact, the ILO and IMO already have relevant rules, and China has some domestic law and regulations.
- Crew employment is a commercial activity and should be conducted under the management of relevant international rules and domestic laws, and in accordance with commercial contracts. Violators shall be held liable in accordance with the above-mentioned international rules, domestic law and contracts, but they shall not exceed the existing international rules and shall not bear unreasonable obligations.
- WCPFC is a tuna RFMO, not an organization to deal with labour issues, which are very complicated. The fishery sector should focus on resource conservation and management, otherwise the main duty of the organization will be affected. China also stated that WCPFC lacks a mandate to deal with labour issues in a compulsory manner based on the WCPFC Convention; China's delegation has no authorization to agree to any compulsory decision by the Commission on labour issues.
- Some delegations may argue that FAO Code of Conduct on responsible fisheries can be a basis to allow WCPFC to deal with the labour issue. China agrees the FAO Code of Conduct can be a basis for WCPFC to deal with labour issue on a voluntary basis, and the Commission adopted a Resolution on labour standards in 2018, but the code of conduct cannot be used to justify a compulsory CMM.
- China did not agree to establish an intersessional working group because terms of reference had not been established. These must be clearly defined. If the mandate of the IWG is to develop a non-mandatory resolution for labour standard for crew on fishing vessels by means of strengthening the existing resolution, China stated it would actively support and participate in the discussion in the IWG.
- China also stated that there were various labour issues that deserved study and proposed a 1-year independent study, to support further consideration of the issue in 2021.

294. The EU thanked Indonesia for raising the issue, and noting its importance, stated that the EU would be happy to engage intersessionally. The EU stated consistency with ILO and IMO requirements and mandates was essential.

295. France thanked Indonesia for the proposal, and stated that France supports improvement in labour standards and would be supportive of intersessional work, tackling legal issues, and working with the IMO and ILO.

296. New Zealand thanked Indonesia for the proposal and stated it is appropriate and essential that WCPFC consider crew safety. The safety and conditions of fishing vessel crew are critical to the reputation of the Commission and its members; that reputation will be undermined by cases of human rights abuse in the Convention Area. New Zealand acknowledged that other organisations also have responsibilities in this respect, but that does not preclude the WCPFC taking responsibility for the safety of crew on fishing vessels in this region. Under the Convention, the WCPFC has a mandate to adopt minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations. In New Zealand's view, eliminating the most egregious abuses of human rights against fishing vessel crews is clearly within the purview of establishing standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations. New Zealand supported an intersessional process, and acknowledged the suggestion by China to undertake a study, and suggested this could be usefully included in the intersessional process.

297. The Philippines stated it supports the discussion on the improvement of labour standards and volunteered to join the IWG.

298. The USA stated that the issue was long overdue to be discussed. It noted that fishing involves gear and people, and the Commission has CMMs regarding gear type, and it was time to consider the fishers. The USA observed it is difficult to separate the gear from the humans who are operating it. The USA further observed that vessels using forced labour puts others at a significant disadvantage from a financial standpoint, but that the most important aspect was the human rights issues associated with forced labour. The USA noted the need for a robust discussion on labour standards, which can be subjective, and the need to enforce labour contracts and other arrangements, as also referenced by China. The USA looked forward to robust discussion on labour issues in 2021.

299. Korea recognized the importance of the issue and thank Indonesia for submitting the proposal. It looked forward to working with Indonesia and other CCMs through an IWG or other means as appropriate.

300. RMI supported Indonesia's proposal. It noted that FFA has agreed minimum terms and conditions in relation to crew employment in the region, independent of WCPFC. It noted that RMI aspires to have its citizens crewing on ships and involved in the industry, and supported additional work on the safety of observers and fishers.

301. French Polynesia supported the proposal by Indonesia and joined the support expressed by other CCMs. It stated that is of a high importance in its own fleet, and that French Polynesia has had regulations in place since 2013.

302. New Caledonia fully supported the proposed intersessional discussion.

303. FSM echoed the support for the effort proposed by Indonesia, and stated that this is an important matter for FSM, noting issues of social responsibility and stewardship. FSM suggested the type of study suggested by China could be part of the work proposed for the IWG. Given the importance, FSM suggested the IMO and ILO could be invited to be part of the process.

304. China reiterated that if an IWG was established it would require TORs, and suggested referring to "international work" or "a workshop", and welcomed inclusion of its proposed study, and involvement of officials from IMO and ILO. China also suggested the need for possibly involving an independent consultant.

305. Japan acknowledged the issues are very complex. Japan stated that its fishing agency does not necessarily address all issues covered by Indonesia in DP09. It suggested calling the intersessional work a "process", if that was acceptable to CCMs, but noted that clarifications were still needed in terms of what this involved, and what the project suggested by China would entail.

306. The Chair suggested that CCMs begin through an information sharing process, and if needed invite experts. She further suggested that the Commission agree that intersessional work be led by Indonesia and an FFA member, with all interested parties to collaborate to facilitate the work.

307. Chinese Taipei thanked Indonesia for the proposal that gave special attention to this issue. It supported the intersessional process and that this work be led by co-chairs, who could facilitate information collection and sharing so that CCMs might share with each other experiences and difficulties regarding the implementation of relevant measures in the process, and so that there will be more robust materials for the discussions next year.

308. Indonesia thanked CCMs for the support and China for the suggested study. It stated it would consult with the Chair to map out the work for 2021.

309. The Chair stated that the intersessional arrangement would be established by Indonesia and the FFA co-lead and intersessional discussion would take place virtually.

310. Human Rights at Sea (HRS) referenced **WCPFC17-2020-OP06** *Draft Proposal for Model WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure on Human Rights and Labour Rights Protections for Fisheries Observers' Safety, Security and Well-Being*; **WCPFC17-2020-OP17** *Information Statement on CMM 2013-06 addressing potential burdens and/or requirements imposed on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a result of the proposed HRAS Model WCPFC CMM for Fisheries Observers*; the Commission's previous and ongoing work in respect of CMM 2017-03 on the Protection of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers; and Resolution 2018-01 on Labour Standards for Crew On Fishing Vessels. HRS highlighted the various issues addressed in its report, and suggested that CCMs (i) consider and accept the proposed model CMM for detailed consideration by CCMs during 2021, and (ii) give due consideration to fundamental human rights standards and protections across all applicable CMMs. HRS asserted that there is no reason in international law, including established human rights and labour rights law, that State obligations cannot be applied at sea equally as they are on land, stating that this naturally means that the protection of and respect for human rights at sea for all workers, including crew and observers, must be addressed by WCPFC in terms of revised and new policy implementation backed by CCM State legislation, as applicable.

311. Korea Federation for Environmental Movements (KFEM), on behalf of Environmental Justice Foundation, the IPNLF, the Association of Professional Observers, and WWF, supported the proposal provided by Indonesia, as well as HRS's statement and the statements made by all delegations in support of a WCPFC process regarding providing protection for fishing vessel crew members. It reported that on April 26, 2020, Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL) interviewed Indonesian crews on a Chinese flagged fishing vessel Longxing 629 quarantined at Busan port in South Korea who reported multiple incidents of abuses of labour and health working conditions they were subjected to working on the vessel. KFEM stated that at WCPFC16, there was also the reported case of more than 90 Indonesian workers abandoned in Apia, without pay, who were also working on Chinese longline vessels. KFEM stated that the Longxing 629 case illustrates why WCPFC needs to establish protection measures for the fishers onboard. The close relationship between IUU fishing and human rights abuse at sea is evident. KFEM addressed the already established international legal instruments that mandate the obligation to protect human rights at sea, noting the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the resultant (i) obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the realization of fishery workers' human rights; (ii) right to just and favourable conditions of work, including the right to a living wage, the right to rest and the right to reasonable working hours; and (iii) right to adequate safe and hygienic conditions, adequate food and drinking water and safe working conditions. However, they noted that different regulations in each country allow human traffickers and exploiters to evade legal repercussions. KFEM therefore urged WCPFC to protect the human rights of fishing crew members, stating that IUU fishing and human rights abuse at sea transcend national borders and call for regional measures, and strongly urged the Commission to protect the human rights of fishing crew members.

Trial of Annual Catch and Effort (ACE) tables

312. The Commission endorsed the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 101 of the TCC16 Summary Report and tasked the Scientific Services Provider with reviewing the feasibility of expanding the ACE tables to include:

i. additional estimates of effort where it is practicable to be derived based on the April 30 scientific data submissions from CCMs and provide an update to SC17; and

ii. estimates of annual area-based CMM quantitative limits where it is practicable for the estimate to be derived based on the April 30 scientific data submissions from CCMs and to provide an update to TCC17.

Improving the online Compliance Case File System (CCFS)

313. The Commission endorsed the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 118 of the TCC16 Summary Report and tasked the Secretariat to prioritise in its work planning for 2021 to:

i. undertake the ten actions identified in Table 1 of the Review Report (**Attachment I**) to enhance the CCFS, to automatically notify people within the CCM when a single case is created or updated, make the CCFS easier to use, allow CCMs to browse a single list containing all cases, enhance the aggregated summary tables produced by the CCFS, improve communication with CCMs regarding which internet browsers the CCFS works best on, improve the CCFS quick guide and offer CCFS training to CCMs;

ii. undertake the one action contained in Table 1 of the Review Report (**Attachment I**) to implement a proof of concept online graph / table creation tool for CCFS data; and

iii. to provide an update to TCC17 on the progress on the implementation of the proposed CCFS enhancements.

Improvements to the tracking of observer report requests and responses in order to better identify impediments to the flow of observer reports

314. The Commission endorsed the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 178 of the TCC16 Summary Report and tasked the Secretariat to provide a paper for TCC17 that outlines the feasibility and costs of further developing the CCFS such that it has the ability to: (1) serve as a messaging tool through which CCMs can request observer reports and ROP Providers can respond to requests; and (2) keep track of such requests and responses. In particular, it should be developed so that, to the extent possible:

i. requests and responses for observer reports are tied to specific cases in the CCFS, but also can include requests and responses related to investigations of possible violations other than those identified in the CCFS.

ii. from the perspective of the Secretariat, the messaging and tracking functions are automated, and do not increase the ongoing workload of Secretariat staff.

iii. it can handle bulk requests for observer reports and responses to bulk requests (i.e., multiple cases), provided that sufficient details are included by the requesting CCM.

315. The Commission endorsed the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 179 of the TCC16 Summary Report and agreed that once the CCFS's messaging tool is fully functional and the Secretariat has successfully trialled it with a subset of CCMs for a period of three months, all requests for observer reports, and all responses to such requests, should be sent through the CCFS's messaging tool so they can be tracked.

Methods to filter out "false positive" and de minimis violations to reduce the number of observer report requests and the associated workloads for ROP Providers and CCMs

316. The Commission endorsed the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 180 of the TCC16 Summary Report and agreed that the expectations under the ROP Minimum Standards on "Briefing and Debriefing" and "The Pre-Notification Process" be revised as shown in TCC16 Summary Report Attachment F), such that any time a "YES" is noted on the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary (e.g., Form Gen-3) with respect to a WCPFC obligation, indicating a possible violation, the ROP Provider is expected to prioritize debriefing of the observer and not transmit the pre-notification to the Secretariat until:

i. debriefing of the observer has been completed and the information in the observer report has been finalized accordingly; and

ii. the observer or ROP Provider includes comments on the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary that give sufficient detail as to why the "YES" was noted, references to other parts of the observer report that contain information relevant to the possible violation, and, where relevant, an indication of the magnitude of reporting discrepancies or the number of instances of the possible violation.

The revised ROP Minimum Standards as amended by WCPFC17 is provided in **Attachment J**.

317. The Commission endorsed the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 181 of the TCC16 Summary Report and requested that ROP Providers be requested to review observer reports associated with cases in the CCFS that are generated by queries by the Secretariat of the ROP database, to help assess whether the possible violation(s) identified through the Secretariat's screening is supported by the information in the observer report, and to provide in the "CCM comments" box for the consideration of the relevant CCM(s) a succinct summary of the relevant information in the observer report.

318. The Commission noted the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 182 of the TCC16 Summary Report that the Commission (possibly through work of the ROP IWG) review the minimum data fields associated with the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary and make updates to those data fields to better reflect the Commission's priorities and the types of violations that are amenable to yes/no indications by the observer. Any such recommendations should take into account their implications (e.g., on observers' workloads, in terms of ROP Providers having to revise their forms, etc.).

HSBI Pennant size

319. The Commission agreed that the minimum pennant size for use by the boarding vessel, transiting from the inspection vessel, be 44 centimeters (cm) by 66 cm (height by length). Inspection flag usage and display for the inspection vessel itself would not change from what was agreed at WCPFC4. This decision only updates information on pennant dimensions contained in Attachment G, Annex 2 of TCC3 that was adopted at WCPFC4.

TCC workplan 2019-2021

320. The Commission noted that the *TCC Workplan 2019-2021* adopted at WCPFC15 continues until 2021 and endorsed the TCC16 recommendation that the TCC Vice-Chair continue progressing intersessional work on the TCC workplan for consideration by TCC17 and WCPFC18 in 2021.

Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels

321. The Commission noted the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 236 of the TCC16 Summary Report that had recommended consideration by WCPFC17 regarding the treatment of crew on fishing vessels and to further strengthen observer safety.

322. The Commission agreed to intersessional work to be led by Co-Leads Indonesia and an FFA Member through various means to promote discussion among members and enable the sharing of information, with initial discussion points to be developed in consultation with the Commission Chair and the Secretariat.

323. The Commission adopted the report of TCC16 (**WCPFC17-2020-TCC16**).

9.4 Intersessional Working Groups

9.4.1 E-Reporting and E-Monitoring Working Group (ERandEMWG)

324. Kerry Smith (Australia), Chair of the ERandEMWG, referenced **WCPFC2020-2020-ERandEMWG4** *Final ERandEMWG4 Summary Report*, stating that the ERandEMWG agreed that more work was needed, with a draft CMM on Electronic Monitoring (EM) to be finalized early in 2021. She noted the need to work closely with the transhipment IWG.

325. Kiribati on behalf of FFA members acknowledged efforts of the Chair of the ERandEM-WG to progress the EM and ER work, given its complexity and technical nature. FFA members reiterated their views with regards to EM as stated in **WCPFC17-2020-DP01**, specifically that decisions regarding EM at the Commission level should not result in the transfer of disproportionate burden to SIDS and territories, and monitoring is a complementary tool to human observers. FFA members noted that WCPFC15 agreed to prioritise EM in areas where independent data collection and verification is currently low. SC Project 93 has highlighted where these areas are (in the longline fishery, and primarily on the high seas), and stated high seas transhipment is also a priority area. FFA members are progressing the issue of ER and EM through initiatives such as: (i) adoption of a FFA Regional Longline Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Policy in June 2020 as a guide for FFA members in support of the development of their national EM programme; and (ii) commitment to progressively adopting ER for fishing vessels operating within FFA members' EEZs and the high seas with a view to achieving 100% adoption by 2022, noting the need to cater for special circumstances of small domestic vessels operating solely within EEZs. FFA members stated they would seek to establish compatible measures for ER in the high seas as well, and would seek to bring a proposal to WCPFC18. FFA members stated their support for continuation of the work of the ERandEM-WG in 2021.

326. Korea addressed the statement by FFA members, noting the following in regard to the issues raised in **WCPFC17-2020-DP01**:

- Korea will consult with FFA members and others regarding the definition of "disproportionate burden" so it can effectively discuss this issue in the future;
- where no human observers can be deployed, EM should be used as an independent tool to monitor or collect scientific information;
- the Commission should apply the ERandEM standards throughout the Convention Area once developed; and
- longline vessels operate throughout the Convention Area, and vessels can fish in both EEZs and the high seas in a single trip; if EEZs are treated separately from the high seas, it can complicate the operation of the ERandEM process.

327. The EU supported the comments by Korea, stating that although it makes sense to prioritize areas with low coverage, a lesson from the pandemic for the purse seine fleet is that having EM systems can compensate for loss of observer data, as has occurred in 2020. The EU stated that consideration should be given to the usefulness of implementing EM across all fleets, and throughout the Convention Area.

328. China looked forward to participating in the working group in 2021. It agreed with the EU and Korea that ER and EM should be applied as matter of principle to all WCPFC fisheries, while noting that priority should be given to the longline fishery.

329. Pew, on behalf of the Ocean Foundation, Birdlife International, WWF, ISSF, KFEM Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, and the Association of Professional Observers, stated that although they had hoped for more progress, agreement among CCMs on the goals and objectives of the EM Observer Program is vital to ensure that design and implementation of the system is successful in the future. They stated that a robust yet flexible EM system will allow the Commission to complement its current observer program, and ensure that the necessary data will always be collected, even in challenging times such as the present. They urged CCMs to commit to further discussions in 2021 that will move towards agreement on a set of clear standards and an implementation plan, and continue that work that has made the Commission a leader among the RFMOs.

330. The EU thanked the Secretariat for having undertaken intersessional work regarding the FLUX standard, noting that it would continue discussions to identify how this exploratory work could be continued in 2021, and looked forward to developing specific suggestions in 2021, and finding resources to undertake the work.

331. The Commission noted the intersessional progress report by the ERandEMWG (**WCPFC17-2020-ERandEMWG4**).

9.4.2 FAD Management Options IWG

332. Mr. Jamel James (FSM), Chair of the FAD Management Options IWG (FADMO-IWG), referenced **WCPFC17-2020-FADMO-IWG4-01** *Summary Report*, and noted the two recommendations in the summary report.

333. Tokelau, on behalf of FFA members, acknowledged that the views and comments of FADMO-IWG participants had been accurately summarized in the report. FFA members reiterated their view, expressed in the report, that they have reservations about the participation in the joint tuna RFMO Working Group on FADS (JWG) as they consider that recommendation 1 of the report from the 2nd JWG is not relevant to the WCPFC. FFA members supported the suggestion by the FADMO-IWG that the review of the revised guidelines for non-entangling and biodegradable FADs drafted by the FADMO-IWG be undertaken by SC17 and TCC 17.

334. EU expressed regret that FFA members did not support WCPFC participation in the JWG, and asked that FFA members reconsider this position.

335. Kiribati, on behalf of PNA members, supported the FFA statement, and supported adoption by the Commission of the proposal that SC17 and TCC17 be tasked to review the draft guidelines on non-entangling and biodegradable FADs.

336. France stated that FAD management involves a number of technical issues, and that involvement in the JWG could be very useful, and supported WCPFC involvement.

337. French Polynesia stated that the FADMO-IWG had produced worthwhile outcomes, and had developed a good working dynamic. It noted the need to ensure that the issue of worsening marine pollution is addressed, and sought to have a clear idea of the next steps to address it.

338. Tuvalu, on behalf of PNA members, stated they continued to support the position expressed by PNA and FFA Members at previous Commission meetings on collaboration with the JWG, noting that PNA members were working to develop high standards of FAD management in the tropical WCPO area, and that their experience was that participation in global dialogues on FADs resulted in pressure for lower standards in the WCPO designed to assist FAD-dependent fleets at the expense of bigeye and other bycatch stocks. PNA members stated they did not support WCPFC participation in the JWG.

339. The USA acknowledged that in many respects the WCPFC is ahead of others on FAD management, and suggested that CCMs, and PNA members in particular had much to offer other nations, while noting that some RFMOs may have learned certain lessons and also have good ideas. For those reasons the USA stated it continues to support regular participation by WCPFC in the JWG.

340. The Commission considered the following suggested tasking for the FADMO-IWG in 2021 proposed by the EU:

- Define minimum standards for data collection, including buoy data, by vessel operators;
- Continue work in the development of guidelines for non-entangling and biodegradable FADs, as called for in paragraph 22 of CMM 2018-01, and explore additional measures to reduce the impact of abandoned and lost FADs on the ecosystem;
- Explore consistency and harmonization, to the extent possible, in FAD-related definitions and measures with IATTC;
- Explores the development of a FAD and buoy marking system;
- Assess the convenience of establishing mandatory or voluntary protocols for the transmission of high-resolution buoy position and echosounder data for scientific research; and
- Foster the involvement of the industry and fishermen in future meetings of the FADMO-IWG and subsidiary bodies (e.g., SC).

341. Japan stated that the proposed tasking contained some technical issues that would require additional consideration and discussion, beyond what was possible at WCPFC17.

342. The EU commented that the suggestions, which emerged from the FADMO-IWG, had been discussed for some time, and encouraged that more work on specific issues be undertaken.

343. The USA supported the comment by the EU, stating that the text was not controversial. It observed that FADs could be considered a violation of MARPOL, as they are not composed of natural materials and often become discarded. The USA stated that there are hundreds of thousands of FADs deployed, and that vessel owners were also aware of the need to address issues with FADs. The USA encouraged CCMs to support further work on the issues.

344. RMI agreed with the need for intersessional work, and stated that on that basis it had supported having FSM lead the FADMO-IWG work. RMI stated it would support continuing work regarding advice on non-entangling and biodegradable FADs, but agreed with Japan on the need to have time to consider other issues, in part because of the extensive work already facing the Commission in 2021.

345. French Polynesia encouraged that the other issues suggested by the EU also be captured for the record, and encouraged adopting language to the effect that the FADMO-IWG would also address these.

346. PNG referred CCMs to the bolded outcomes in the FADMO-IWG Summary Report (**WCPFC17-2020-FADMO-IWG4-01**) and suggested that the language be adopted.

347. The Commission noted the Report of the FAD Management Options IWG and accepted its recommendations to continue to engage intersessionally to progress outstanding work (**WCPFC17-2020-FADMgmtOptions**).

348. The Commission noted that the FAD Management Options IWG had prepared a revised set of draft guidelines for non-entangling and biodegradable FADs as reflected in the FADMO-IWG-04-2020/WP-02 (**Attachment K**).

349. Noting that the SC16 and TCC16 could not complete the task in paragraph 22 of CMM 2018-01 due to the limited agenda resulting from COVID-19, the Commission tasked SC17 and TCC17 to review the draft guidelines for non-entangling and biodegradable FADs prepared by the FAD Management Options IWG (**Attachment K**). The FAD Management Options IWG should revisit the draft guidelines based on input from those bodies as well as any additional scientific and technical information on non-entangling and bio-degradable FADs.

9.4.3 VMS Data Gap Review

350. Mr. Terry Boone (USA), co-Chair of the VMS-SWG, referenced **WCPFC17-2020-VMS-SWG** *VMS SWG Report to* WCPFC17, and noted the need for more time to complete the work of the SWG, and requested that the Commission endorse the continuation of the SWG's work in 2021 to develop recommendations for TCC17's consideration to address VMS data gaps and improve the number of vessels reporting to the Commission VMS.

351. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA members, supported the TCC16 recommendation that WCPFC17 task the VMS SWG to consider approaches to address challenges identified for the CMM 2014-02 paragraph 9(a) and the VMS SSP 2.8 obligations. FFA members stated they supported the TCC16 recommendation that WCPFC17 continue the work of the VMS-SWG in 2021 and develop recommendations for TCC17's consideration to address VMS data gaps and improve the number of vessels reporting to the Commission VMS.

352. The Commission noted the intersessional progress report by the VMS Data Gaps Review SWG (**WCPFC17-2020-VMS-SWG**).

9.4.4 Review of the Transhipment Measure (CMM 2009-06) IWG (Transhipment IWG)

353. The Chair referenced **WCPFC17-2020-TS-IWG** *Transhipment IWG Report to WCPFC17*, which was taken as read.

354. Cook Islands on behalf of FFA members noted the departure of the IWG Co-Chair Mr. Sam Lanwi (RMI) and thanked him for his effort and contribution to this work and fisheries in the region. FFA members nominated Mr. Felix Toa Ngwango (Vanuatu) as a new Co-Chair of the Transhipment-IWG. FFA stated

they remain committed to the review of the transhipment CMM to ensure a framework is in place to better manage transhipment activities in the high seas of the Convention Area. Given the importance of the work, they urged the work be expedited in 2021. FFA members registered concern with the proposed removal of Annual Report Part 2 in the latest version of the Scope of Work as one of the sources of information for the study, noting the Annual Report Part 2 is valuable and the main source of information where CCMs report, on an annual basis, on how they have implemented CMM 2009-06. They suggested the Annual Report Part 2 be used as one of the sources of information in the review. FFA members also: urged that the Scope of Work for analysis of transhipment information be finalized so that the work can start; sought an update on concerns raised at TCC16 regarding the effective monitoring of high seas transhipment and the difficulty in deploying observers, in the review of CMM 2009-06 and how this is intended to be taken up by the IWG; sought an update on the additional funding needed to complete the analysis of transhipment information (phase 1 -3); and supported TCC16's recommendation that WCPFC17 reaffirm its tasking of the Transhipment-IWG to continue and complete its work.

355. Dr. Alex Kahl (USA), Co-Chair of the Transhipment-IWG, thanked Cook Islands for nominating a new Co-Chair. He noted the importance of the work of the IWG was underscored by the absence of observers in 2020. He noted the recently posted Transhipment IWG report (**WCPFC17-2020-TS_IWG**) and stated his hope that agreement could be reached soon (within weeks) on the scope of work. He provided an update regarding the funding being provided for the study by the USA, indicating that the voluntary contribution would be used for phases 1 and 2 of the study, while additional funding would be required for phase 3, which would not be required until the second quarter of 2021. He stated that, pending consultations with his new Co-Chair, he hoped to have an intersessional virtual meeting regarding CMM revisions in the absence of observers, probably relying on EM and ER, which would be a priority in 2021. He stated he anticipated WCPFC18 would receive a recommendation from the IWG on the issue.

356. Pew, on behalf of the Ocean Foundation, WWF, ISSF, KFEM and the Association of Professional Observer observed that the pandemic demonstrated the urgent need to strengthen all of the Commission's oversight tools, especially those for transhipment, which is a key link in the supply chain for several of the region's fisheries, but if left unmonitored, can become a conduit for IUU fishing and other crimes. They stated that the transhipment CMM is well overdue for a review, and that they are encouraged that there is now a clear plan on how such an analysis will proceed, and urged all parties to commit to the schedule and to secure the necessary funding. They looked forward to further discussion of the findings over the next year.

357. The Commission noted the intersessional progress report by the Review of the Transhipment CMM IWG (**WCPFC17-2020-TS_IWG**).

358. The Commission also acknowledged the intention of the Transhipment-IWG to finalise in early 2021 the draft Scope of Work for the analysis of transhipment information, to support the review of the Transhipment Measure (CMM 2009-06) through the Transhipment- IWG during the intersessional period in 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 10 — COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME

10.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR)

359. The Commission, pursuant to CMM 2019-06, considered the provisional CMR recommended by TCC16. A CMR-SWG led by Dr. Robert Day, the Acting TCC Chair, compiled the final CMR for adoption. The Acting TCC Chair provided a report on the CMR-SWG outcomes.

360. FSM on behalf of FFA members reiterated that it is imperative that the purpose and the key principles of the CMS, that it is effective, efficient, fair, and work towards compliance are upheld to ensure that no CCMs misuse the CMS to serve their own individual interests; doing otherwise undermines the process CCMs collectively worked to strengthen over several years and calls into question the integrity of the scheme. FFA members noted that the specific issue they were referencing was found in the public domain in paper **WCPFC17-2020-IP04** Table 2, which shows that a particular CCM has clearly gone over its high seas purse seine effort limit in 2019. FFA members stated that the CCM had done the same (exceeded its limit) in past years and was assessed accordingly with a Priority Non-Compliant status as shown in the 2019 Final CMR. FFA members argued that the approach that was used at WCPFC16 and previously should be used in 2020, but that they did not understand why this was not done, as it undermines the effective operation of the CMS that they consider essential to the effective implementation of the Commission's management framework. FFA members stated that if this obligation is not assessed, it sets a dangerous precedent, and that there is a need to avoid the perception that the Commission accepts that any CCM may unilaterally interpret and develop legislation, in direct conflict with measures adopted in good faith. FFA members sought an explanation from any CCM that does not agree to the consistent interpretation and application of this obligation to explain what is different in 2020.

361. The Commission noted the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 19 of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report and encouraged CCMs to work closely with the Secretariat to ensure that new information submitted in revised Annual Report Part 1 after the reports have been provided to the CCMs as outlined in paragraph 25 of CMM 2019-06 is brought to the Secretariat's attention for inclusion in the draft CMR, where relevant and in line with paragraph 27 of the same measure.

362. The Commission tasked TCC17 to provide WCPFC18 an update on obligations and other matters which would benefit from further consideration by the Commission to assist in assessing compliance and noted that these concerns may also emerge through the Future Work of the CMS on Audit Points.

363. The Commission adopted the Final Compliance Monitoring Report (**Attachment L**).

10.2 List of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2021

364. Mr. Mat Kertesz (Australia), Chair of the List of Obligations SWG, provided a summary of the SWG outcomes. He noted that the SWG had reached consensus on all but one issue following extensive discussions. He indicated that WCPFC16 tasked TCC16 to recommend a revised list of obligations to be assessed in 2021 but that TCC16 was not able to agree a list. The SWG used the FFA proposal on a list of obligations (**WCPFC17-2020-DP01-Attachment 1**) as the basis for developing a new list for adoption. SWG participants expressed divergent views on the appropriate length of the list of obligations for assessment in 2021. A majority of CCMs expressed a view that the list should be no longer than the list assessed in 2020, while some CCMs expressed that the length of the list should not be limited to 2020 levels. All participants recognised the importance of ensuring that the list of obligations is manageable given the

broad range of issues that TCC17 will need to address in 2021, including developing and implementing a process to consider aggregated summary tables required under paragraph 26(ii) of CMM 2019-06, ongoing work to develop the CMS, and providing advice related to the development of a new tropical tuna measure. The Chair of the List of Obligations SWG outlined the report of the SWG as follows:

(i) The SWG agreed on the following in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- not to include assessment of the "Intersessional Decisions in response to COVID-19" in the CMR process in 2021.
- to include the obligations suspended by the "Intersessional Decisions in response to COVID-19" for review in the 2021 CMR for the periods prior to their suspension, noting the importance of these obligations and the duration of their applicable periods.
- not to include CMM 2018-05 Annex C paragraph 6 (related to longline observer coverage) – the SWG noted that the impacts of the COVID pandemic meant that it was highly unlikely that the CMR would be able to effectively assess this obligation for the year 2020. The SWG expressed that the decision not to include this obligation does not represent a suspension of this obligation; rather this is a recognition of the genuine impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the ability of the TCC to assess this obligation. The SWG noted that the decision not to assess this obligation does not remove CCMs' obligation to comply with this provision.
- not to include paragraph 13 of CMM 2018-03 as this obligation is reliant on observer information.

(ii) The SWG additionally agreed

- not to include the "comprehensive sharks measure" (CMM 2019-04) in the list of obligations for assessment in 2021, noting that this measure only came into effect on 1 November 2020 and hence the period of application for 2020 was only two months. The SWG also noted that the superseded sharks measure, CMM 2010-07, was included in the list.
- not to include obligations related to CMM 2011-04 (Oceanic whitetip sharks) and CMM 2013-08 (Silky sharks) noting that these measures have been reviewed consistently over the last three years and CCMs' non-compliance has been low.

(iii) However, in recognition of the importance of these measures, the SWG also made several recommendations to the Commission regarding their inclusion in the list of obligations for 2022. The SWG has insufficient time to fully consider a recommendation related to a shortened timeframe for CCM's Annual Report Part 2 submissions.

365. The EU addressed the SWG recommendation not to include the obligations related to oceanic whitetip and silky sharks, and questioned whether the actual level of non-compliance was low, and stated that the retention ban was not implemented by all CCMs. The EU stated that this recommendation to not assess compliance with these CMMs was not in accord with the spirit and intent of the CMS adopted by the Commission, and encouraged that these CMMs be included in the list to be approved for review of compliance.

366. The SWG Chair stated that while the SWG had held an extensive discussion on shark species and related obligations it did not discuss specifics on compliance with these obligations.

367. RMI supported the list as proposed, and stated that PNA members were concerned with increasing the number of obligations on the list, and could agree to it for 2021 on the basis that it did not establish a precedent to increase the list in the future.

368. Japan supported the list as proposed.

369. The EU agreed to support the consensus on the basis that its views would be reflected in the report. The EU further reflected that FFA members had previously expressed strong concerns regarding these species, and stated that the views expressed at WCPFC17 seemed to conflict with their previous interest in the species' conservation.

370. The Compliance Manager addressed the proposed deadline for CCMs' Annual Report Part 2 of 100 days prior to TCC17. She referenced **WCPFC-TCC16-2020-20**, *Preliminary Consideration of Anticipated Forecast of Secretariat Work Commitments for TCC in 2021/22*, and outlined the significant work the Commission would have to undertake in 2021, much of it related to TCC. In recognition of that work, and to enable the Secretariat to fully support the work of the Commission, the Compliance Manager encouraged that CCMs support the recommendation regarding earlier submission, by mid-June, of the Annual Report Part 2 in 2021.

371. The Commission adopted the report of the List of Obligations SWG and noted that:

i. WCPFC16 had tasked TCC16 to recommend a revised list of obligations to be assessed in 2021 but that TCC16 was not able to agree to a list.

ii. The SWG used the FFA proposal on a list of obligations (**WCPFC17-2020-DP01 Attachment 1**) as the basis for developing a new list of obligations for 2021 assessments.

iii. SWG participants had expressed divergent views on the appropriate length of the list of obligations for assessment in 2021. A majority of CCMs expressed a view that the list should be no longer than the list assessed in 2020. Some CCMs expressed that the length of the list should not be limited to 2020 levels. All participants recognised the importance of ensuring that the list of obligations is manageable given the broad range of issues that TCC17 will need to address in 2021, including developing and implementing a process to consider aggregated summary tables required under paragraph 26(ii) of CMM 2019-06, ongoing Future Work to develop the CMS and providing advice related to the development of CMM 2021-01 tropical tuna measure.

iv. The SWG recognised the impacts of COVID-19 on the operation of the WCPO tuna fishery and on the operation of the Commission, and the SWG agreed not to include assessment of the "Intersessional Decisions in response to COVID-19" in the CMR process in 2021.

v. The SWG agreed to include the obligations suspended by the "Intersessional Decisions in response to COVID-19" for review in the 2021 CMR for the periods prior to their suspension, noting the importance of these obligations and the duration of their applicable periods.

vi. The SWG agreed not to include CMM 2018-05 Ann C 06 (related to longline observer coverage) – the SWG noted that the impacts of the COVID pandemic meant that it was highly unlikely that the CMR would be able to effectively assess this obligation for the year 2020. The SWG expressed that the decision not to include this obligation does not represent a suspension of this obligation; rather this is a recognition of the genuine impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the ability of the TCC to assess this obligation. The SWG noted that the decision not to assess this obligation does not remove CCMs' obligation to comply with this provision.

vii. The SWG agreed not to include the "comprehensive sharks measure" (CMM 2019-04) in the list of obligations for assessment in 2021, noting that this measure only came into effect on 1 November 2020 and hence the period of application for 2020 was only two months. The SWG also noted that the superseded sharks measure, CMM 2010-07, was included in the list.

viii. The SWG recommended that obligations under CMM 2019-04, including measures related to non-retention of silky sharks and oceanic whitetip sharks, and paragraph 13 of CMM 2018-03 be included in the list of obligations for assessment in 2022.

372. The Commission agreed to the List of Obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2021, covering 2020 activities (**Attachment M**).

373. The Commission also agreed that, in 2021, CCMs shall submit their Annual Report Part 2 at least 100 days prior to TCC17.

10.3 Review the workplan of tasks to enhance the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS-IWG)

374. The Chair referenced **WCPFC17-2020-25** *Reference Document on TCC16 Recommendations for Agenda 10* (paragraph 4).

375. Australia on behalf of FFA members reiterated that it is imperative that the key principles and purpose of the CMS are upheld to ensure that no CCMs misuse the CMS to serve their own individual interests or to undermine the integrity of the scheme. FFA members called on the Commission to collectively address several fundamental issues in order to secure the delivery of outcomes that the CMS is specifically designed and intended to meet, and supported recommendations from TCC16 in **WCPFC17-2020-25**, especially those relating to streamlining of annual reporting, including the trial of ACE tables; improving the online Compliance Case File System, and continuation of CMS-IWG to progress the CMS future work tasks in 2021. FFA members also welcomed and supported TCC16's recommendation for Ms. Heather Ward from New Zealand to lead the risk-based assessment framework and Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian from Marshall Islands to lead the audit point work. They stated their understanding these leads would take charge in progressing these areas and report directly to TCC on the results. FFA members stated their intent to make a dedicated effort in 2021 towards the CMS future work, in particular the development of audit points and risk-based assessment framework.

376. The Commission noted the progress on the Future Work of the CMS tasks, through the CMS IWG established by WCPFC16 under the leadership of the TCC Vice-Chair, and as set out in paragraph 4 of **WCPFC17-2020-25.**

377. The Commission noted in paragraph 129 of the TCC16 Summary Report that TCC16 had affirmed the importance of all the future work called for in section IX of CMM 2019-06 and supported the prioritisation of four streams of intersessional work for the CMS IWG in 2020/21 and recognised that some elements may extend until 2022:

i. the development of a risk-based assessment framework to inform compliance assessments and ensure obligations are meeting the objectives of the Commission;

ii. the development of audit points to clarify the Commission obligations assessed under the CMS, as well as a checklist to be used by proponents of any proposal to include a list of potential audit points for the consideration of the Commission;

iii. the development of a process for TCC to consider the aggregated tables alongside the draft CMR (paragraph 33 and 34 of CMM 2019-06); and

iv. the development of guidance on the participation of observers in the CMS process as outlined in CMM 2019-06.

378. The Commission endorsed the TCC16 recommendation in paragraph 130 of the TCC16 Summary Report that Ms. Heather Ward from New Zealand would lead the risk-based assessment framework task and Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian from Marshall Islands would lead the development of audit points in support of the CMS IWG Chair.

379. WCPFC17 also noted the delay in advancing the work agreed at WCPFC16 concerning the aggregated tables and tasked the TCC Chair to lead work intersessionally prior to TCC17, with a view to providing guidance on how TCC17 would consider the aggregated tables alongside the draft CMR. This work will also benefit from the TCC16 recommended analytical work that the Secretariat will be undertaking related to the CCFS and approaches to present the data.

AGENDA ITEM 11 — ADOPTION OF THE 2020 IUU VESSEL LIST

380. The Chair introduced **WCPFC17-2020-26**: *WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2021*, which presented for the consideration of WCPFC17 the relevant information for a decision on the 2021 WCPFC IUU Vessel List, in accordance with CMM 2019-07.

381. RMI stated its appreciation to Korea and all CCMs for their valuable contributions since TCC16 in terms of placing a vessel on the IUU list. RMI referenced a joint letter from RMI and Korea (Circular 2020/140 of 4th December 2020) agreeing to remove the ORYONG No. 721 from the provisional IUU list. Regarding Korea's flag state responsibility, as outlined to TCC, RMI stated it was pleased to report that Korea had demonstrated its cooperation, willingness and due diligence and that RMI was satisfied. It stated it had no further issues, and requested that the provisional listing of the ORYONG No. 721 be withdrawn.

382. Korea thanked RMI for their cooperation provided to settle the issue by mutual agreement, and appreciated the CCMs that provided useful advice on the issue. Korea reiterated that it has no tolerance for IUU fishing activities, and would work with all CCMs to realize an IUU-free Pacific Ocean.

383. Nauru on behalf of PNA members congratulated Korea and RMI for their successful use of the Commission's IUU process.

384. EU acknowledged that the CCMs had reached a satisfactory agreement, and inquired whether Korea had finalized all its internal procedures with regard to the case, and stated it would be interested in receiving updated information, even if after WCPFC17. Korea stated that its internal process was ongoing, and it would update the Commission when the process is completed.

385. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, supported the retention of the 3 vessels (NEPTUNE, FU LIEN No.1 and YU FONG 168) on the IUU list for 2021. FFA members also affirmed the recommendation from TCC16 to the Commission on the tasks for the Executive Director (set out in paragraph 60 of the TCC16

Summary Report). They also acknowledged with appreciation the actions of the Republic of Korea as the flag State to resolve the case concerning ORYONG NO. 721 to the satisfaction of RMI as the coastal State.

386. The Commission decided not to place ORYONG No.721 on the 2021 WCPFC IUU Vessel List.

387. The Commission agreed to maintain the three vessels currently on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, and adopted the 2021 WCPFC IUU Vessel List (**Attachment N**).

388. In respect of the WCPFC IUU Vessel List 2021, the Commission approved the TCC16 recommendations in paragraph 60 of the TCC16 Summary Report and tasked the Executive Director to:

i. seek the former flag States' cooperation to provide any information on these vessels, including their respective masters' names and nationalities;

ii. write to all CCMs requesting them to provide information to the Commission if the vessels are located, or if there are any known changes to name, flag or registered owner, including any action that port States have taken such as denial of port entry and services to those vessels or any information from cannery States of any landings made by these vessels;

iii. write a letter to other RFMOs conveying this same message for cooperation to locate these vessels; and

iv. propose that any information received by the Executive Director is reported promptly to CCMs.

IUU Vessel List Cross Listing Procedures

389. The Chair noted **WCPFC17-2020-DP11rev_1**, *Discussion Paper on IUU Vessel Cross Listing Procedures – revision 1*, which was introduced by the EU under Agenda Item 4.

390. France stated that it conducts surveillance operations in the convention areas of both IATTC and WCPFC. It stated that cross listing would be a useful tool to combat the IUU fishing, and supported efforts to progress this issue.

391. Japan supported cross listing in the WCPFC, noting that other RFMOs had introduced this, and that WCPFC members that are not members of other RFMOs could be unaware of the other IUU Vessel List listings. Japan stated that this was a good tool to combat IUU fishing in the WCPO. However, it suggested the need to be careful about the procedure. It raised the question of whether WCPFC should accept IUU lists of other organisations without considering the contents, and suggested that WCPFC should use a confirmation procedure rather than a blanket acceptance of an IUU list, stating this could give some comfort to WCPFC members. Japan noted that IUU lists from other RFMOs may contain two types of IUU vessel listings: those listed by the RFMO, and those listed through a cross listing procedure, and the need to be clear about which IUU Vessel Lists would be cross-listed by WCPFC. Japan noted that the cross-listing policies of other RFMOs vary: some have agreements with all RFMOs, and some limit the scope to location or species. Japan suggested concerns about workload or unpredictable effect could possibly be addressed through a focus on the Pacific Ocean, and noted cross listing with the other Pacific RFMOs (SPRFMO, IATTC, and NPFC) would be very useful.

392. Korea stated that as a responsible port and flag state, it supported cross listing as it would contribute to effective control and management of IUU fishing globally. It acknowledged some issues with the procedure, but stated the benefits were far greater than the challenges that need to be addressed. It supported the way forward suggested in DP11, and stated it would provide comments to the EU.

393. The USA echoed the comments by Korea, and generally supported cross listing and the proposal, stating that it has some questions on the process, but that these could be addressed intersessionally.

394. FSM on behalf of FFA members stated they indicated in 2019 that this could have significant implications, and stated they looked forward to more information about the number of vessels that are listed by other RFMOs.

395. Chinese Taipei stated it supports combatting IUU fishing and supported the concept of IUU Vessel List cross listing. However, it has some technical concerns regarding the scope and procedure, which could be further discussed.

396. The EU thanked CCMs for their comments, which it found to be largely encouraging and useful, and stated it understood there is work remaining to address the various concerns expressed. The EU stated it would be happy to continue this work if there was agreement from all members that there is value in doing so, and would respond to CCMs intersessionally. Regarding FFA's comments on assessment under CMM 2013-06, the EU stated that a range of issues were addressed in DP09 that are relevant under CMM 2013-06, although DP09 does not follow a certain format. The EU observed that a comprehensive CMM 2013-06 assessment could not be undertaken satisfactorily solely by the EU. It expressed the hope it could engage with FFA members and seek their assistance in this process.

397. The Commission encouraged the EU and other interested CCMs to engage intersessionally on the issue of cross-listing of other RFMOs' vessel lists.

AGENDA ITEM 12 — REPORT OF FAC14

12.1 Report of the Fourteenth Finance and Administration Committee

398. FAC co-chair Mr. Michael Brakke (USA) reported the key highlights and recommendations of FAC14 and referenced the Summary Report (**WCPFC16-2020-FAC14).** Recommendations included a 1.7% increase in professional staff salary in 2021 (excluding the Executive Director), and that any additional resourcing needed to support the Commission's intersessional work be drawn from the working capital fund.

399. The Chair thanked the FAC co-chairs for their work.

12.2 Budget Approval for 2021 and Indicative Budgets for 2022 and 2023

400. The Commission adopted the report of the Fourteenth Session of the FAC (**WCPFC17-2020-FAC14**), including the 2021 budget of **$ 8,190,633** and indicative budgets for 2022 and 2023 of **$ 8,404,595** and **$ 8,146,335** respectively (**Attachments O**).

401. The Commission endorsed the FAC14 recommendation in paragraph 7 of the FAC14 Summary Report, and accepted the audited financial statements for 2019.

402. The Commission endorsed the FAC14 recommendation in paragraph 9 of the FAC14 Summary Report and agreed to reappoint Deloitte and Touche LLP for a further period of two years.

403. The Commission noted that per the Staff Regulations, local staff and the Executive Director would receive an annual increase in 2021 due to inflation and endorsed the FAC14 recommendation in paragraph 21 of the FAC14 Summary Report and approved a 1.7% increase in professional staff salary in 2021 excluding the Executive Director.

404. The Commission endorsed the FAC14 recommendation in paragraph 28 of the FAC14 Summary Report that any additional resourcing needed to support Commission's intersessional work in 2021 may be drawn from the Working Capital Fund.

405. The final adopted 2021 budget and Annexes are provided in (**Attachment P**).

AGENDA ITEM 13 — ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13.1 Election of Officers

406. The Commission made a number of appointments to Commission positions commencing after the end of WCPFC17 (15 December 2020):

i. Ms. Jung-re Riley (Republic of Korea) was reappointed as WCPFC Chair, and Dr. Josie Tamate (Niue) was reappointed as WCPFC Vice-Chair;

ii. Mr. Mat Kertesz (Australia) was appointed as TCC Chair, and Dr. Robert Day (Canada) was reappointed as TCC Vice-Chair;

iii. Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan) was reappointed as NC Chair, and Mr. Michael Tosatto (United States) was reappointed as NC Vice-Chair; and

iv. Mr. Felix Toa Ngwango (Vanuatu) was appointed as co-Chair of the Transhipment Review IWG.

407. In support of 2021 Intersessional Working Group activities, to be progressed electronically, the Commission confirmed the following:

i. Mr. Tom Graham (United States) would continue to lead the TCC Observer-related WG;

ii. Ms. Mere Lakeba (Fiji) would continue to lead the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG;

iii. Ms. Kerry Smith (Australia) would continue to lead the ERandEMWG;

iv. Dr. Alex Kahl (United States) would continue to co-chair the Transhipment Review IWG;

v. Mr. Terry Boone (United States) and Mr. Viv Fernandes (Australia) would continue to lead the VMS Data Gaps Review SWG (VMS SWG);

vi. Mr. Jamel James would continue to lead the FAD Management Options IWG; and

vii. Dr. Robert Day (Canada) would continue to Chair the CMS IWG to progress work intersessionally under CMS Future Work tasks (set out in paragraph 46 of CMM 2019-06). Ms. Heather Ward (New Zealand) would lead the risk-based assessment framework task and Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian (RMI) would lead the development of audit points in support of the CMS IWG Chair.

13.2 Future Meetings

408. The Commission acknowledged that with the COVID-19 pandemic likely to continue into 2021 it was difficult to predict the feasibility of convening physical meetings next year.

409. In the event that physical meetings for 2021 are feasible the Commission agreed on the following meeting venues and dates:

i. **SC17** would be held in Palau from 11 – 19 August 2021 and for **SC18** in Tonga in 2022;

ii. **NC17** would be held in Japan (venue and date to be advised);

iii. **TCC17** would be held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia from 22 – 28 September 2021;

iv. **WCPFC18** would be held in Canada (venue and date to be advised) and noted Vietnam's offer to host WCPFC19 in 2022; and

v. At least **two workshops for CMM 2021-01 Tropical Tuna Measure** would be held in April and June/July 2021.

410. In the event that physical meetings for 2021 are not feasible the expedited decision-making procedure used in 2020 will also be used to facilitate each decision by the Commission to convene virtual meetings in 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 14 — OTHER MATTERS

14.1 Cetacean release guidelines

411. Ms. Emily Crigler (USA) introduced **WCPFC17-2020-DP03** *Best Handling Practices for the Safe Release of Cetaceans,* noting that the issue was discussed at WCPFC16, but was not raised at SC16 as planned because of the virtual meeting limitations, and suggested approval of a recommendation that the issue be prioritized for discussion during SC17.

412. Korea stated it submitted a proposal to WCPFC16 based on the precautionary approach and stated it would submit a similar proposal to WCPFC18. It fully supported the proposal by the USA.

413. Japan stated it understood the logic of the proposal, but was concerned about how busy SC17 would be, in light of the fact that many aspects of SC's work had been deferred in 2020, and it was thus not convinced that priority should be given to this issue in 2021. Japan stated it did not support the USA's proposal.

414. The EU agreed that the work was important and that SC should be tasked again to undertake it.

415. The USA echoed the remarks by the EU and Korea and sought guidance from the Commission or SC chair regarding the plans for the work that was delayed in 2020.

416. The SC Chair explained the process used to set the SC agenda, which involves the SC Chair, theme conveners and the Secretariat. He stated there were several issues that were deferred in 2020, but it was premature to provide comments on what the priorities would be.

417. Taking into account that that WCPFC16 tasked SC16 to develop and recommend best handling practices for the release of cetaceans but SC16 could not complete not only this task but also many other tasks due to the limited agenda resulting from COVID-19, the Commission requested the Scientific Committee to consider how to handle these outstanding tasks at SC17.

14.2 South Pacific Swordfish

418. Australia stated that in 2019, it proposed to pursue revision and strengthening of CMM 2009-03 (Conservation and Management for Swordfish). As explained at WCPFC16, Australia believes that the CMM fails to provide for the ongoing sustainability of the stock, or protect the economic viability of existing swordfish fisheries or the future development opportunities of SIDS. There are no restrictions on fishing mortality north of 20°S and the limits south of 20°S may not ensure the future sustainability of the stock. Australia stated that it is continuing preparatory work on a revised measure designed around a core set of principles that were outlined at WCPFC16. The revised draft measure will be informed by a range of inputs, including:

- A revised stock assessment in 2021;
- Two key pieces of technical work tasked to the SC by WCPFC16:
    - a review of potential management provisions for swordfish taken as bycatch, which was discussed in the SC16 Online Discussion Forum (**SC16-ODF-01**, *Summary of Online Discussion Forum*); and
    - an evaluation of the future stock status under a range of catch projection scenarios; and

  Ongoing consultations with members.

Australia thanked all CCMs who engaged on the issue in 2020 and noted that no specific decisions were required at WCPFC17, and encouraged CCMs to continue their constructive input and engagement on the issues to secure better management of South Pacific swordfish.

AGENDA ITEM 15 — SUMMARY REPORT OF WCPFC17

419. The Chair outlined the process for adoption of the Summary Report for WCPFC17, with an Outcomes Document containing agreed decision points to be circulated to the Commission within seven working days following the close of the annual session, and the draft Summary Report to be provided as soon as possible. CCMs would be given thirty working days after circulation of the draft Summary Report to provide any changes. The complete Summary Report would be finalised intersessionally and posted on the Commission website and meeting participants would be advised accordingly.

420. The USA stated it looked forward to working with other CCMs intersessionally, including the opportunity to have focussed discussion with CCMs and others prior to the April workshop. The USA thanked CCMs and the Chair for conducting a very constructive meeting.

421. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, extended their appreciation to the Chair for her leadership, and the WCPFC Secretariat for their excellent work, and wished all attendees a very Merry Christmas and safe and joyous New Year.

422. The Chair thanked CCMs for their confidence and stated she was pleased and honoured to serve the Commission as Chair for another 2 years. She stated she looked forward progressing issues in 2021, and would get started as early as possible. She expressed thanks to the Secretariat and SPC for their support, and the IWG and SWG chairs, and all CCMs for their constructive engagement. She expressed the hope that all participants would stay safe and in good health.

AGENDA ITEM 16 — CLOSE OF MEETING

423. The Chair closed WCPFC17 at 4:50 pm on Tuesday, 15th December 2020 (Pohnpei time).

ATTACHMENTS

Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

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Attachment B

WCPFC 17 Opening Statement by WCPFC Chair, Riley Jung-re Kim

Distinguished CCM delegations and observers,

Madame Vice Chair Josie Tamate,

Mr. Feleti Teo OBE, the Executive Director of the WCPFC and his team,

I hope everyone is keeping well and safe, and I am very pleased to see you albeit via online.

Being considerate of the time constraints and as I have shared my priorities and expectations for WCPFC 17 with you in advance, I will keep my opening statement brief.

The Pandemic affected all CCMs though with differing degrees of difficulty and pain, and we have undergone so many unprecedented challenges over the last year since we met in Port Morseby, which required us to engage with each other even more closely intersessionally. I am very proud that the Commission could address urgent intersessional tasks while keeping our process within the established rules and we demonstrated a good spirit of cooperation and solidarity. In this regard, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your flexibility, compromise, patience and hard work that enabled the Commission to carry on our important work leading up to WCPFC 17.

This year, the Commission have truncated agenda items that are considered essential for maintaining the Commission's core functions. We don't have the luxury of breakout sessions and late night sessions this year, but I hope we can make the best out of what we have to keep the ball rolling on our important tasks, including the tropical tuna measure, the improvement of compliance monitoring scheme, harvest strategy, electronic monitoring, South Pacific Albacore roadmap, transshipment, VMS and FAD management to name just a few.

I don't want to paint a grim picture at the start of our meeting but it is very difficult to predict what year 2021 would look like, and we may have to work in the similar environment to this year unless situations do not improve significantly. In this regard, I encourage CCMs to work together and focus on finding innovative but realistic ways to move our important tasks forward even through the uncertainties and challenges.

I would like to emphasize that what we must have in mind along the way is the special requirements of developing states who are more vulnerable to challenges and difficulties stemming from the global COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Small Island Developing CCMs.

It would be remiss of me if I do not mention the tremendous support and excellent work of the

Secretariat. The COVID-19 situation gave me opportunities to engage more closely with the Secretariat between WCPFC 16 and 17, and I witnessed first-hand their professionalism and competence. I am so grateful that the Commission is blessed with a dedicated and efficient team of Secretariat. Before closing my remarks, I wish every one of you good health and safety. Thank you.

Attachment C

WCPFC17 – Brief Opening Remarks by the Executive Director

Thank you, madam Chair, for permitting me to make some brief remarks at this opening session.

I will be extremely brief given the high premium that we have placed on the timing of these virtual meetings.

Madam Chair, I wish to join you in welcoming all delegates and observers to this virtual meeting of the 17th regular annual session of the WCPFC.

When we met this time last year in Port Moresby, PNG no one ever thought that the year 2020 will turn out to be what it has turned out to be. And what a year. I am sure the year 2020 will find itself a special place in the annals and historical records of the Commission.

It will be remembered as a year that completely upended the way we normally transacted business. A year that challenged us to be more innovative in the way we go about doing busines. A year that compelled us to be adaptive to new norms of doing business. And a year that forced us to think more, outside the box (so to speak) as to dig deep into our intuitiveness and search for innovative responses and solutions to address the challenges that the Commission confronted under these unprecedented circumstances.

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

From the perspectives of the Secretariat and from my own viewpoint, I would content that the year 2020 was a reasonably successful year, despite the enormous disruptions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. A successful year, not only from the viewpoint of the Secretariat but equally from the viewpoint of the Commission.

Unlike, a number of other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), the WCPFC was able to convene in 2020 all its scheduled meetings for its subsidiary bodies and most if not all of its intersessional working groups and now its annual session.

Although, all the meetings were convened virtually, the substance of the outcomes of those Commission-related meetings bear testament to the commitment, dedication and resilience of the Commission members and stakeholders and their desire to ensure that the work of the Commission should continue to progress and not to be halted back or regressed just because the members were not able to meet physically, as usually the case.

The outcomes of the SC16, NC16 and TCC16 and working groups which were all held virtually do now provide the requisite source of technical and scientific advice, information and opinions that will properly inform the deliberations and key decisions of the Commission at its current WCPFC17 annual session. And I have all the confidence, that the Commission would fully utilize the advice and information provided to take the essential decisions it needs to take in this session.

From where I sit, as your Executive Director, it is very gratifying and uplifting to witness closeup and be part of the collective efforts of all members and stakeholders involved to work so diligently and industriously in order to furnish the Commission with the necessary advice and information, so that the Commission is able to continue its work into 2021 and into the future.

And I hope the Commission in its current session will be able to appropriately acknowledge the contribution of all members and stakeholders in that collective endeavor.

And in that spirit, I wish to thank you Chair for your sterling guidance and leadership to the Secretariat in this tumultuous and very challenging year.

I thank the members for their resilience and patience in their dealing with the Secretariat during the course of this year.

I thank the chairs and vice chairs and officers of all the subsidiary bodies and working groups for their commitment, support and cooperation toward the Secretariat.

I also acknowledge the work of SPC, FFA and ISC and other services providers we engaged in 2020.

Last and certainly not the least, I wish to publicly thank and commend all my staff for their undying commitment and dedication to the cause of the Commission.

My annual report for this year to the Commission (in Working Paper 04) document all those contributions in making the year that been a memorable and a successful one.

Chair, I will stop here and will wish the Commission very well in your deliberations. Your Secretariat, as always, remains ready and available to support your deliberations.

Thank you.

END

COMMISSION
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Electronic Meeting
8 – 15 December 2020

ADOPTED AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING
- 1.1 Adoption of agenda
- 1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements
  - 1.3.1 Online meeting protocols
  - 1.3.2 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, CMR, others)

AGENDA ITEM 2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AGENDA ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS
- 3.1 Status of the Convention
- 3.2 Update on Observer status
- 3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status
  - 3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

AGENDA ITEM 4. NEW PROPOSALS

AGENDA ITEM 5. INTERSESSIONAL DECISIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM 6. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES
- 6.1 Implementation of Article 30 of WCPFC Convention and CMM 2013-07 (SIDS special requirements)
- 6.2 Updated Strategic Investment Plan

AGENDA ITEM 7: WCPO TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCKS
This agenda includes species-specific elements of the Indicative Harvest Strategy Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06.
- 7.1 General overview of stock status (bigeye, skipjack, SP albacore, yellowfin, Pacific bluefin, and NP albacore)
- 7.2 Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin
  - 7.2.1 Harvest strategies issues
    - 7.2.1.1 Review target reference point for skipjack
    - 7.2.1.2 Target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin
  - 7.2.2 Review of CMM 2018-01
    - 7.2.2.1 Purse seine effort limits for high seas
    - 7.2.2.2 Longline bigeye catch limits
    - 7.2.2.3 Other commercial fisheries for bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin

7.2.2.4 New CMM for tropical tunas

7.3 South Pacific Albacore
- 7.3.1 Roadmap for effective conservation and management of SP albacore
- 7.3.2 Review of CMM 2015-02

7.4 Pacific bluefin
- 7.4.1 Review of CMM 2019-02

7.5 North Pacific Striped Marlin
- 7.5.1 Interim Rebuilding Plan

AGENDA ITEM 8: HARVEST STRATEGY
- 8.1 Review of Indicative Work Plan
- 8.2 Science-Management Dialogue

AGENDA ITEM 9: REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS

The reports of subsidiary bodies and intersessional working groups will be taken as read and will not be presented. Recommendations of those reports not addressed under other agenda items will be considered under this agenda item.

- 9.1 SC16
- 9.2 NC16
- 9.3 TCC16
- 9.4 Intersessional working groups
  - 9.4.1 E-reporting and E-monitoring
  - 9.4.2 FAD management options
  - 9.4.3 VMS data gap review
  - 9.4.4 Transhipment review

AGENDA ITEM 10: COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME
- 10.1 Consideration and adoption of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR)
- 10.2 List of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2021
- 10.3 Review the workplan of tasks to enhance the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS-IWG)

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE 2021 IUU VESSEL LIST

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE FAC14
- 12.1 Report of the Fourteenth Finance and Administration Committee
- 12.2 Budget for 2021 and Indicative Budgets for 2022 and 2023

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- 13.1 Election of officers
- 13.2 Future meetings

AGENDA ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS
- 14.1 Cetacean release guidelines

AGENDA ITEM 15: SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WCPFC17

AGENDA ITEM 16: CLOSE OF MEETING

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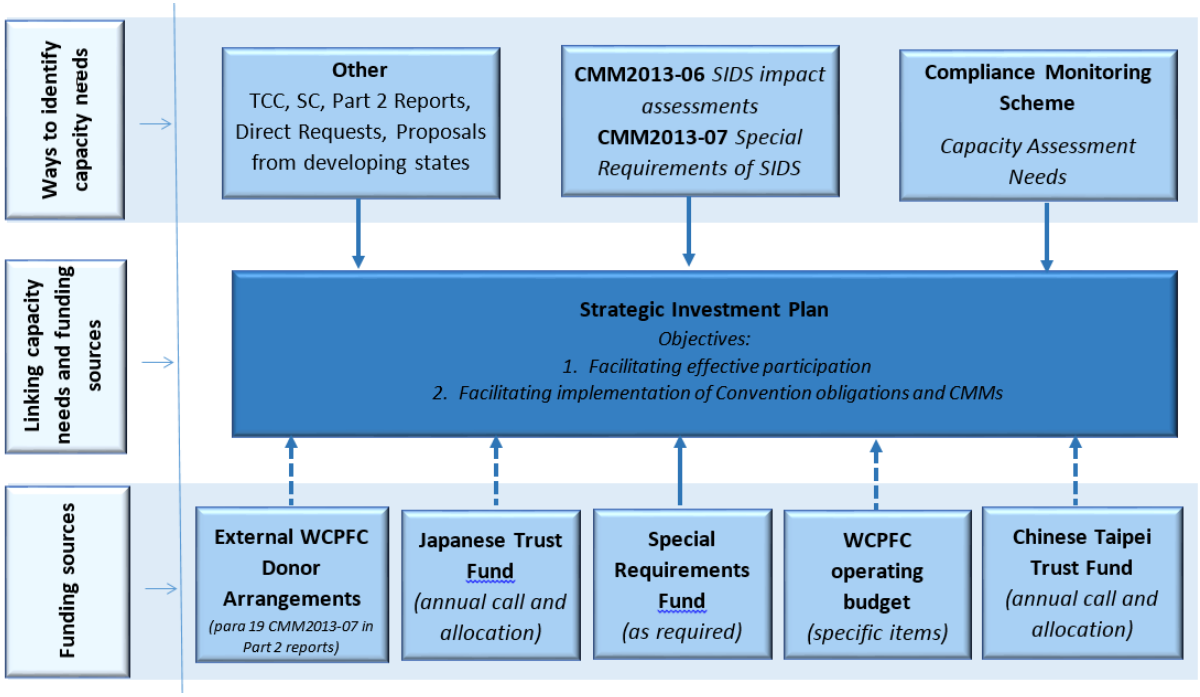
2020 Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14th meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.

2. The purpose of the Strategic Investment Plan is to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies as outlined in the following diagram:



Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:

- effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
- development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above and the WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to members when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission as a whole meet the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention[1].

Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas were recommended by TCC16~~5~~ in the Compliance Monitoring Report:

Indonesia for Scientific data provision (SciData03)	Capacity Development Plan (CDP) submitted to TCC13	TCC noted that a report on progress was submitted by Indonesia to TCC16 that confirms that due to COVID-19 there were some delays in the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out in the Capacity Development Plan. TCC noted that for RY 2019 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met. The revised Capacity Development Plan would indicate that implementation would be completed at the end of 2020 or early 2021.
Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2019)	TCC noted that Indonesia's capacity assistance needed for the reporting obligation in CMM 2011-04, paragraph 3 and the implementation obligation in CMM 2013-08, paragraph 3 were related to its existing Capacity Development Plan. The identified reporting gap for silky sharks in particular is linked to COVID-19 preventing delivery of capacity assistance. This is to be incorporated into its CDP for RY 2019. TCC16 expects Indonesia to be meet this obligation in 2021.
Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2019)	
Philippines for 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5)	Capacity Development Plan (CDP) submitted to TCC15	TCC noted that a written report was received from the Philippines on progress on its Capacity Development Plan which provided a schedule for implementation to progressively increase observer coverage in Philippine waters over 2020 to 2023. TCC noted that for RY 2019 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.

[1] *Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000*

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

6. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2018 and are understood to be continuing capacity assistance needs in RY 2019 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2020. These are identified in paragraph 28 of the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report:

CMM	Notes about types of assistance requested	CCM
2017-03 03-06, 11, 12 Observer Safety CMM	Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require legislation changes	Cook Islands
2013-07 04-05 Capacity development for personnel	Additional training is needed in the following areas: 1. Prosecution 2. Data analysis 3. MCS	Fiji
2013-07 10-11 Capacity development for MCS activities	Assistance from developed partners to assist in both aerial and surface surveillance coverage	Kiribati

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

7. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.

8. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at **Attachment A**. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.

9. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

Title: Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
Obligation: Article 30
Capacity Building Assistance Needed: Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for: • travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and • in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget). It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member, including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests. Parameters around accessing the program will include:

• limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget
Timeframe: Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program
Cost: up to USD300,000 annually

ATTACHMENT A

Thematic capacity needs	**Rank** **1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority**	**Funding support available (see Attachment B for recipients)**
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US, the SRF and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transhipment	11	All donors
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

ATTACHMENT B

Donor/program	**Eligible Recipients**
Australia: various programs	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	PACP countries and Pacific regional
FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ project)	WCPFC, PNA, FFA
FFA: various programs	Pacific island FFA members
GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
New Zealand: various programs	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
US: various programs	All WCPFC members

COMMISSION
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Electronic Meeting
8-15 December 2020

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR BIGEYE, YELLOWFIN AND SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN

Conservation and Management Measure 2020-01

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Noting the unexpected circumstances that prevented WCPFC from engaging in extensive intersessional negotiations,

Adopts in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, this Conservation and Management Measure with respect to bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna which continues in force the measures applicable in 2020, and set out in CMM 2018-01, until 15 February 2022. For greater certainty, the works to be completed by 2020 shall be deferred to 2021.

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

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR BIGEYE, YELLOWFIN AND SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN

Conservation and Management Measure 2018-01*

PREAMBLE

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recalling that since 1999, in the Multilateral High Level Conferences, the Preparatory Conferences, and in the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Commission), a number of resolutions and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) have been developed to prevent or mitigate the overfishing of bigeye and yellowfin tuna and to limit the growth of fishing capacity in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recalling that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention) is to ensure through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the Agreement;

Recalling further the final statement of the Chairman of the Multilateral High Level Conferences in 2000 that: "It is important to clarify, however, that the Convention applies to the waters of the Pacific Ocean. In particular, the western side of the Convention Area is not intended to include waters of South-East Asia which are not part of the Pacific Ocean, nor is it intended to include waters of the South China Sea as this would involve States which are not participants in the Conference" (Report of the Seventh and Final Session, 30th August- 5 September 2000, p.29);

Recognizing that the Scientific Committee has determined that the bigeye stock appears not to be experiencing overfishing and is not in an overfished condition and that the fishing mortality of bigeye should not be increased from the current level to maintain current or increased spawning biomass; that the yellowfin stock appears not to be experiencing overfishing and is not in an overfished condition and the current spawning biomass levels should be maintained; and that skipjack is currently moderately exploited, the fishing mortality level is sustainable, and that the spawning biomass be maintained near the target reference point;

** Version issued 2 May 2019*

Recognizing further the interactions that occur between the fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna;

Noting that Article 30(1) of the Convention requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States that are Parties to the Convention, in particular small island developing States and Territories and possessions, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries on such stocks, including the provision of financial, scientific, and technological assistance;

Noting further that Article 30(2) of the Convention requires the Commission to take into account the special requirements of developing States, in particular Small Island developing States and Territories. This includes ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by it do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, Parties, and Territories;

Noting that Article 8(1) of the Convention which requires compatibility of conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction;

Recalling Article 8(4) of the Convention which requires the Commission to pay special attention to the high seas in the Convention Area that are surrounded by exclusive economic zones (EEZs);

Noting that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) have adopted and implemented "A Third Arrangement Implementing The Nauru Agreement Setting Forth Additional Terms And Conditions Of Access To The Fisheries Zones Of The Parties";

Noting further that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement have adopted and implemented a Vessel Day Scheme for the longline fishery, a Vessel Day Scheme for the purse seine fishery and a registry for FADs in the zones of the Parties, and may establish longline effort limits, or equivalent catch limits for longline fisheries within their exclusive economic zones.

Noting furthermore that the Members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency have indicated their intention to adopt a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based bigeye catch limits within their EEZs, and a system of zone-based FAD set limits to replace the FAD closure and flag-based FAD set limits in their EEZs;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted a limit reference point (LRP) for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna of 20% of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, and, for skipjack tuna, has also agreed to an interim target reference point (TRP) of 50% of the recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing (CMM 2015-06);

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2014-06 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and a Work Plan to guide the development of key components of a Harvest Strategy, including the

recording of management objectives, adoption of reference points, and development of harvest control rules;

Adopts in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure with respect to bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna:

PURPOSE

1. Pending the establishment of harvest strategies, and any implementing CMM, the purpose of this measure is to provide for a robust transitional management regime that ensures the sustainability of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks.

PRINCIPLES FOR APPLICATION OF THE MEASURE

Compatibility

2. Conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction shall be compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks in their entirety. Measures shall ensure, at a minimum, that stocks are maintained at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, pending agreement on target reference points as part of the harvest strategy approach, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area as expressed by Article 5 of the Convention.

Area of Application

3. This Measure applies to all areas of high seas and all EEZs in the Convention Area except where otherwise stated in the Measure.

4. Coastal states are encouraged to take measures in archipelagic waters and territorial seas which are consistent with the objectives of this Measure and to inform the Commission Secretariat of the relevant measures that they will apply in these waters.

Small Island Developing States

5. With the exception of paragraphs 16-25, 31, 33-38, and 50-54, nothing in this Measure shall prejudice the rights and obligations of those small island developing State Members and Participating Territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their domestic fisheries.

6. For the avoidance of doubt, where the term “SIDS” is used throughout this measure, the term includes Participating Territories. The term “CCM” means Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories.

7. In giving effect to this CMM, the Commission shall pay attention to:
   (a) the geographical situation of a small island developing State which is made up of non-contiguous groups of islands having a distinct economic and cultural identity of their own but which are separated by areas of high seas;
   (b) the special circumstances of a State which is surrounded by the exclusive economic zones of other States and has a limited exclusive economic zone of its own; and
   (c) the need to avoid adverse impacts on subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Charter Arrangements

8. For the purposes of paragraphs 39-41 and 45-49, attribution of catch and effort shall be to the flag State, except that catches and effort of vessels notified as chartered under CMM 2016-05 or its replacement shall be attributed to the chartering Member, or Participating Territory. Attribution for the purpose of this Measure is without prejudice to attribution for the purposes of establishing rights and allocation.

9. For purposes of paragraphs 39-41 and 45-49, catches and effort of United States flagged vessels operating under agreements with its Participating Territories shall be attributed to the Participating Territories. Such agreements shall be notified to the Commission in the form of notification under CMM 2016-05 or its replacement. Attribution for the purpose of this Measure is without prejudice to attribution for the purposes of establishing rights and allocation.

Overlap Area

10. Where flag CCMs choose to implement IATTC measures in the overlap area, any calculation of limits for the Convention Area (excluding the overlap area) that are done on the basis of historical catch or effort levels, shall exclude historical catch or effort within the overlap area. Notwithstanding decisions on application of catch and/or effort limits, all other provisions of this measure apply to all vessels fishing in the overlap area.

HARVEST STRATEGIES AND INTERIM OBJECTIVES FOR BIGEYE, SKIPJACK, AND YELLOWFIN TUNA

11. This measure is to create a bridge to the adoption of a harvest strategy for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks and/or fisheries in accordance with the work plan and indicative timeframes set out in the Agreed Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06, which includes the development of management objectives and target reference points. Taking into account the bridging role of this measure and the uncertainty framework for evaluating the impact of management measures on the bigeye stock, the Commission shall work towards achieving and sustaining the aims in paragraphs 12 to 14.

Bigeye

12. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015.

Skipjack

13. The spawning biomass of skipjack tuna is to be maintained on average at a level consistent with the interim target reference point of 50% of the spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, adopted in accordance with CMM 2015-06.

Yellowfin

14. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015.

15. The Commission at its 2019 annual session shall review and revise the aims set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 in light of advice from the Scientific Committee.

PURSE SEINE FISHERY

FAD Set Management

16. A three (3) months (July, August and September) prohibition of deploying, servicing or setting on FADs shall be in place between 0001 hours UTC on 1 July and 2359 hours UTC on 30 September each year for all purse seine vessels, tender vessels, and any other vessels operating in support of purse seine vessels fishing in exclusive economic zones and the high seas in the area between 20°N and 20°S.[1]

17. In addition to the three month FAD closure in paragraph 16, except for those vessels flying the Kiribati flag when fishing in the high seas adjacent to the Kiribati exclusive economic zone,[2] and Philippines' vessels operating in HSP1 in accordance with Attachment 2, it shall be prohibited to deploy, service or set on FADs in the high seas for two additional sequential months of the year. Each CCM shall decide which two sequential months (either April – May

[1] Members of the PNA may implement the FAD set management measures consistent with the Third Arrangement Implementing the Nauru Agreement of May 2008. Members of the PNA shall provide notification to the Commission of the domestic vessels to which the FAD closure will not apply. That notification shall be provided within 15 days of the arrangement being approved.

[2] Those vessels fishing within a 100 nautical mile buffer zone extending from the high seas adjacent to the Cook Islands shall inform Kiribati and the Cook Islands authorities at least 24 hours prior to entry into and 24 hours prior to the exit from the buffer zone with estimated coordinates for entry and exit. Each report shall contain the vessel name, international radio call sign and position at time of reporting.

or November – December) shall be closed to setting on FADs by their fleets in the high seas for 2018, 2019 and 2020 and notify the Secretariat of that decision by March 1, 2018.[#]

> [#] *The Secretariat notes that WCPFC15 didn't sanction any specific revision to this paragraph but in 2019 some CCMs have notified a different choice of two sequential months to that notified in 2018.*

18. The provisions of paragraphs 3 to 7 of CMM 2009-02 apply to the high seas FAD closures. In applying the provisions of paragraphs 16 and 17, any set where small amounts of plastic or small garbage that do not have a tracking buoy attached are detected shall not be considered to be a FAD set for the purposes of the FAD closure. This shall apply in 2019 only and will be reviewed to determine whether it resulted in increased catch of bigeye and small yellowfin tuna.

Non-entangling FADs

19. To reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, as from 1st January 2020, CCMs shall ensure that the design and construction of any FAD to be deployed in, or that drifts into, the WCPFC Convention Area shall comply with the following specifications:

- The floating or raft part (flat or rolled structure) of the FAD can be covered or not. To the extent possible the use of mesh net should be avoided. If the FAD is covered with mesh net, it must have a stretched mesh size less than 7 cm (2.5 inches) and the mesh net must be well wrapped around the whole raft so that there is no netting hanging below the FAD when it is deployed.
- The design of the underwater or hanging part (tail) of the FAD should avoid the use of mesh net. If mesh net is used, it must have a stretched mesh size of less than 7 cm (2.5 inches) or tied tightly in bundles or "sausages" with enough weight at the end to keep the netting taut down in the water column. Alternatively, a single weighted panel (less than 7 cm (2.5 inches) stretched mesh size net or solid sheet such as canvas or nylon) can be used.

20. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials for FADs should be promoted. The use of non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs is encouraged.

21. The Scientific Committee shall continue to review research results on the use of non-entangling material and biodegradable material on FADs, and shall provide specific recommendations to the Commission as appropriate.

22. The Commission at its 2020 annual session, based on specific guidelines defined by the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group and advice from SC16 and TCC16 shall consider the adoption of measures on the implementation of non-entangling and/or biodegradable material on FADs.

Instrumented Buoys

23. A flag CCM shall ensure that each of its purse seine vessels shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) with activated instrumented buoys. An instrumented buoy is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked

reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel. A flag CCM shall ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD tracking.

24. The Commission at its 2019 annual session, based on consideration in the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group, shall review whether the number of FADs deployed as set out in paragraph 23 is appropriate.

Zone-based purse seine effort control

25. Coastal CCMs within the Convention Area shall restrict purse seine effort and/or catch of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna within their EEZs in accordance with the effort limits established and notified to the Commission and set out in Table 1 of Attachment 1. Those coastal CCMs that have yet to notify limits to the Commission shall do so by 31 December 2018.

High seas purse seine effort control[3]

26. CCMs that are not Small Island Developing States shall restrict the level of purse seine effort on the high seas in the area 20°N to 20°S to the limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 2, except that the Philippines shall take measures on the high seas in accordance with Attachment 2.

27. CCMs shall ensure that the effectiveness of these effort limits for the purse seine fishery are not undermined by a transfer of effort in days fished into areas within the Convention Area south of 20°S. In order not to undermine the effectiveness of these effort limits, CCMs shall not transfer fishing effort in days fished in the purse seine fishery to areas within the Convention Area north of 20°N.

28. The limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 2 do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission. By 2020 the Commission shall agree on hard effort or catch limits in the high seas of the Convention Area and a framework for the allocation of those limits in the high seas amongst all Members and Participating Territories that adequately take into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission shall also consider options as to how CCMs would use their limits.

29. {*The Commission agreed at WCPFC15 that paragraph 29 in CMM 2017-01 applied only in 2018}*

30. Where the catch and effort limits in paragraphs 25 and 26 have been exceeded, any overage of the annual limits by a CCM or the collective annual limits of a group of CCMs shall be deducted from the limits for the following year for that CCM or group of CCMs.

[3] Throughout this measure, in the case of small purse seine fleets, of five vessels or less, the baseline level of effort used to determine a limit shall be the maximum effort in any period and not the average.

Catch retention: Purse Seine Fishery

31. To create an incentive to reduce the non-intentional capture of juvenile fish, to discourage waste and to encourage an efficient utilization of fishery resources, CCMs shall require their purse seine vessels fishing in EEZs and on the high seas within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S to retain on board and then land or transship at port all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna. (Paragraphs 8 to 12 of CMM 2009-02 set out the Commission's rules for catch retention in the high seas.) The only exceptions to this paragraph shall be:

a) when, in the final set of a trip, there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, noting that excess fish taken in the last set may be transferred to and retained on board another purse seine vessel provided this is not prohibited under applicable national law; or
b) when the fish are unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or
c) when serious malfunction of equipment occurs.

32. Nothing in paragraphs 16-18 and 31 shall affect the sovereign rights of coastal States to determine how these management measures will be applied in their waters, or to apply additional or more stringent measures.

Monitoring and Control: Purse Seine Fishery

33. Notwithstanding the VMS SSP, a purse seine vessel shall not operate under manual reporting during the FADs closure periods, but the vessel will not be directed to return to port until the Secretariat has exhausted all reasonable steps to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions in accordance with the VMS SSPs. The flag State shall be notified when VMS data is not received by the Secretariat at the interval specified in CMM 2014-02 or its replacement, and paragraph 37.

34. CCMs shall ensure that purse seine vessels entitled to fly their flags and fishing within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S exclusively on the high seas, on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States, or vessels fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States, shall carry an observer from the Commission's Regional Observer Program (ROP) (CMM 2018-05).

35. Each CCM shall ensure that all purse seine vessels fishing solely within its national jurisdiction within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S carry an observer. These CCMs are encouraged to provide the data gathered by the observers for use in the various analyses conducted by the Commission, including stock assessments, in such a manner that protects the ownership and confidentiality of the data.

36. ROP reports for trips taken during FADs closure period shall be given priority for data input and analysis by the Secretariat and the Commission's Science Provider.

37. VMS polling frequency shall be increased to every 30 minutes during the FAD closure period. The increased costs associated with the implementation of this paragraph will be borne by the Commission.

Research on Bigeye and Yellowfin

38. CCMs and the Commission are encouraged to conduct and promote research to identify ways for purse seine vessels to minimize the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna, particularly in accordance with any research plans adopted by the Commission.

LONGLINE FISHERY

39. As an interim measure, CCMs listed in Attachment 1, Table 3 shall restrict the level of bigeye catch to the levels specified in Table 3. Where the limits in Table 3 have been exceeded, any overage of the catch limit by a CCM listed in Table 3 shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year for that CCM.

40. The Commission shall review the bigeye catch limits specified in Table 3 in 2019 based on any revised stock assessments and the recommendations of the Scientific Committee. The Commission may also take into account in setting any bigeye catch limits any plan submitted to the Secretariat by a CCM listed in Attachment 1, Table 3 to increase the level of monitoring and control of its longline vessels fishing in the Convention Area.

41. CCMs listed in Attachment 1, Table 3 shall report monthly the amount of bigeye catch by their flagged vessels to the Commission Secretariat by the end of the following month. The Secretariat shall notify all CCMs when 90% of the catch limits for a CCM is exceeded.

42. The limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 3 do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission.

43. Subject to paragraph 5, each Member that caught less than 2,000 tonnes in 2004 shall ensure that its bigeye catch does not exceed 2,000 tonnes annually.

44. By 2020 the Commission shall agree on hard limits for bigeye and a framework to allocate those limits amongst all Members and Participating Territories that adequately take into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention.

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT FOR PURSE SEINE AND LONGLINE VESSELS

Purse Seine Vessel Limits

45. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia[4], shall keep the number of purse seine vessels flying their flag larger than 24m with freezing capacity operating between 20°N and 20°S (hereinafter "LSPSVs") to the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.

[4] This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

46. The concerned CCMs shall ensure that any new LSPSV constructed or purchased to replace a previous vessel or vessels, shall have a carrying capacity or well volume no larger than the vessel(s) being replaced, or shall not increase the catch or effort in the Convention Area from the level of the vessels being replaced. In such case, the authorization to fish in the Convention Area of the replaced vessel shall be immediately revoked by the flag CCM. Notwithstanding the first sentence in this paragraph, for those vessels for which building approval has already been granted and notified to the Commission before 1 March 2014, the construction of those vessels will be in accordance with existing regulations of the concerned CCMs.

Limits on Longline Vessels with Freezing Capacity

47. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia[5], shall not increase the number of their longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye tuna above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.[6]

Limits on ice-chilled longline vessels landing fresh fish

48. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia[7] , shall not increase the number of their ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye tuna and landing exclusively fresh fish above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01, or above the number of licenses under established limited entry programmes applying during the operation of CMM 2013-01.[8]

49. Nothing in this measure shall restrict the ability of SIDS or Participating Territories to construct or purchase vessels from other CCMs for their domestic fleets.

OTHER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

50. To assist the Commission in the further development of provisions to manage the catch of bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas, the Scientific and Technical and Compliance Committees during their meeting in 2019 will provide advice to the Commission on which fisheries should be included in this effort and what information is needed to develop appropriate management measures for those fisheries.

51. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total catch of their respective other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tuna, but excluding those fisheries taking less than 2,000 tonnes of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack, shall not exceed either the average level for the period 2001-2004 or the level of 2004.

[5] This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.
[6] The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.
[7] This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.
[8] The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

DATA PROVISION REQUIREMENTS

52. Operational level catch and effort data in accordance with the *Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data* attached to the Rules for *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission* relating to all fishing in EEZs and high seas south of 20N subject to this CMM except for artisanal small-scale vessels shall be provided to the Commission not only for the purpose of stocks management but also for the purpose of cooperation to SIDS under Article 30 of the Convention.[9] [10]

53. The Commission shall ensure the confidentiality of those data provided as non-public domain data.

54. CCMs whose vessel fish in EEZs and high seas north of 20N subject to this CMM shall ensure that aggregated data by 1 x 1 in that area be provided to the Commission, and shall also, upon request, cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of tropical tuna stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made between each CCM and the Scientific Provider. Those CCMs shall report such agreement to the Commission.

REVIEW AND FINAL PROVISIONS

55. The Commission shall review this CMM annually to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect.

56. {*The Commission agreed at WCPFC15 that paragraph 56 in CMM 2017-01 applied only in 2018}*

57. This measure replaces CMM 2017-01. This measure shall come into effect on 13 February 2019 and remain in effect until 10 February 2021 unless earlier replaced or amended by the Commission.

[9] CCMs which had domestic legal constraints under CMM 2014-01 shall provide operational level data as of the date on which those domestic legal constraints were lifted.

[10] This paragraph shall not apply to Indonesia, until it changes its national laws so that it can provide such data. This exception shall expire when such changes take effect but in any event no later than 31 December 2025. Indonesia will, upon request, make best effort to cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of those stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made with the Scientific Provider.

Attachment 1

Table 1: EEZ purse seine effort limits [paragraph 25]

Coastal CCMs' EEZ/Group	Effort in Vessel days/Catch limit	Comment
PNA	44,033 days	This limit will be managed cooperatively through the PNA Vessel Day Scheme.
Tokelau	1000 days	
Cook Islands	1,250 days	These CCMs are developing joint arrangements which may incorporate measures such as pooling and transferability of limits between EEZs.
Fiji	300 days	
Niue	200 days	
Samoa	150 days	
Tonga	250 days	
Vanuatu	200 days	
Australia	30,000 mt SKJ 600 mt BET 600 mt YFT	
French Polynesia	0	
Indonesia	*	
Japan	1500 days	
Korea	*	
New Zealand	40,000 mt SKJ	
New Caledonia	20,000 mt SKJ	
Philippines	*	
Chinese Taipei	*	
United States **	558 days	
Wallis and Futuna	*	

* Limits not notified to the Commission

** The United States notified the Secretariat of the combined US EEZ and high seas effort limits on 1 July 2016 (1828 fishing days on the high seas and in the U.S. EEZ (combined)). The US EEZ limit is understood to be this notified limit minus the high seas effort limit for the United States set out in Table 2 of Attachment 1

Table 2. High seas purse seine effort control [paragraphs 26-28]

CCM	EFFORT LIMIT (DAYS)
CHINA	26
ECUADOR	**
EL SALVADOR	**
EUROPEAN UNION	403
INDONESIA	(0)
JAPAN	121
NEW ZEALAND	160
PHILIPPINES	#
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	207
CHINESE TAIPEI	95
USA	1270

** subject to CNM on participatory rights
# The measures that the Philippines will take are in Attachment 2.

Table 3. Bigeye Longline Catch Limits [paragraphs 39-42]

Bigeye catch limits by flag	
CCMs	Catch Limits
CHINA	8,224
INDONESIA	5,889*
JAPAN	18,265
KOREA	13,942
CHINESE TAIPEI	10,481
USA	3,554

*Provisional and maybe subject to revision following data analysis and verification

Japan will make an annual one-off transfer of 500 metric tonnes of its bigeye tuna catch limit to China.

Attachment 2: Measure for Philippines

1. This Attachment shall apply to Philippine traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group.

AREA OF APPLICATION

2. This measure shall apply only to High Seas Pocket no. 1 (HSP-1), which is the area of high seas bounded by the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the Federated States of Micronesia to the north and east, Republic of Palau to the west, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to the south. For the purposes of this measure, the exact coordinates for the area shall be those used by the WCPFC vessel monitoring system (VMS). A map showing the HSP-1 Special Management Area is attached.

REPORTING

3. Philippines shall require its concerned vessels to submit reports to the Commission at least 24 hours prior to entry and no more than 6 hours prior to exiting the HSP-1 SMA. This information may, in turn, be transmitted to the adjacent coastal States/Territories.

The report shall be in the following format:

VID/Entry or Exit: Date/Time; Lat/Long

4. Philippines shall ensure that its flagged vessels operating in the HSP-1 SMA report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat. Such information shall include: vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed.

OBSERVER

5. The fishing vessels covered by this measure shall employ a WCPFC Regional Observer on board during the whole duration while they operate in HSP-1 SMA in accordance with the provisions of CMM 2018-05.

6. Regional Observers from other CCMs shall be given preference/priority. For this purpose, the Philippines and the Commission Secretariat shall inform the CCMs and the Adjacent Coastal State of the deployment needs and requirements at 60 days prior expected departure. The Secretariat and the CCM that has available qualified regional observer shall inform the Philippines of the readiness and availability of the Regional Observer at least 30 days prior to the deployment date. If none is available, the Philippines is authorized to deploy regional observers from the Philippines.

VESSEL LIST

7. The Commission shall maintain an updated list of all fishing vessels operating in HSP1 SMA based on the foregoing vessel's entry and exit reports submitted to the Commission. The list will be made available to Commission Members through the WCPFC website.

MONITORING OF PORT LANDINGS

8. The Philippines shall ensure that all port landings of its vessels covered by this decision are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis.

COMPLIANCE

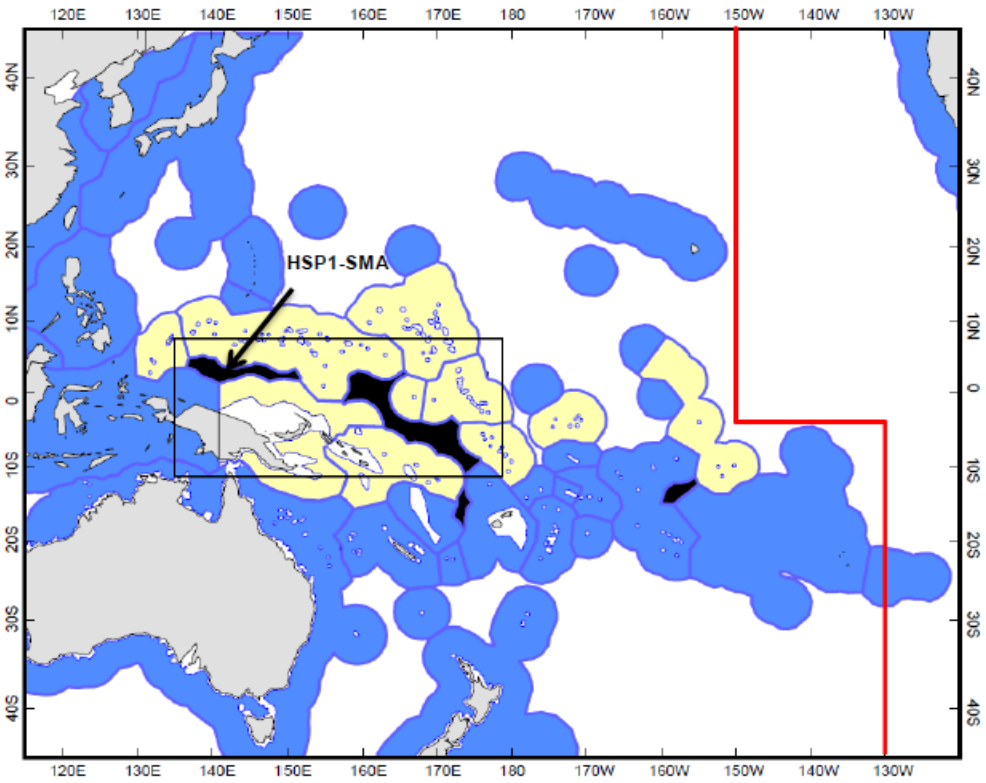
9. All vessels conducting their fishing activities pursuant to this Attachment to CMM 2018-01 shall comply with all other relevant CMMs. Vessels found to be non-complaint with this decision shall be dealt with in accordance with CMM 2010-06, and any other applicable measure adopted by the Commission.

EFFORT LIMIT

10. The total effort of these vessels shall not exceed 4,659[14] days. The Philippines shall limit its fleet to 36 fishing vessels (described by the Philippines as catcher fishing vessels) in the HSP-1 SMA.

[14] Reference Table 2(b), WCPFC9-2012-IP09_rev3

- Map Showing HSP-1 SMA Where the Arrangements in Attachment 2 Apply



This map displays indicative maritime boundaries only. It is presented without prejudice to any past, current or future claims by any State. It is not intended for use to support any past, current or future claims by any State or territory in the western and central Pacific or east Asian region. Individual States are responsible for maintaining the coordinates for their maritime claims. It is the responsibility of flag States to ensure their vessels are informed of the coordinates of maritime limits within the Convention Area. Coastal States are invited to register the coordinates for their negotiated and agreed maritime areas with the Commission Secretariat.

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CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Conservation and Management Measure 2020-02

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised nine times since then (CMM 2010- 04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04, CMM2017-08, CMM 2018-02 and CMM 2019-02) based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;

Noting with concern the latest stock assessment provided by ISC Plenary Meeting in July 2018, indicating the following:

- (1) SSB fluctuated throughout the assessment period (1952–2016), (2) SSB steadily declined from 1996 to 2010, and (3) the slow increase of the stock continues since 2011 including the most recent two years (2015-2016);
- The 2015 recruitment estimate is low and similar to estimates of previous years while the 2016 recruitment estimate is higher than the historical average, and the uncertainty of the 2016 recruitment estimate is higher than in previous years because it occurs in the terminal year of the assessment model and is mainly informed by one observation from troll age-0 CPUE index;
- The fishery exploitation rate in 2015-2016 exceeded all biological reference points evaluated by the ISC except FMED and FLOSS.
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, and in 2016 had a greater impact than any other fishery group.
- The projection results indicate that: the current management measures by the WCPFC (CMM 2018-02) and IATTC Resolution (C-18-01) under the low recruitment scenario resulted in an estimated 97% probability of achieving the initial biomass rebuilding target (6.7% of SSBF=0) by 2024;
- The estimated probability of achieving the second biomass rebuilding target (20% of SSBF=0) 10 years after the achievement of the initial rebuilding target or by 2034, whichever is earlier, is 96%; and
- Catching a high number of smaller juvenile fish can have a greater impact on future spawning stock biomass than catching the same weight of larger fish;

Noting also that in its response to requests from IATTC-WCPFC NC Joint Working Group, ISC Plenary Meeting in July 2019:

- Noted that the Japanese troll recruitment index value estimated for 2017 is similar to its historical average (1980-2017), that Japanese recruitment monitoring indices in 2017 and 2018 are higher than the 2016 value and that there is anecdotal evidence that larger fish are becoming more abundant in EPO, although this information needs to be confirmed for the next stock assessment expected in 2020;
- Recommended maintaining the conservation advice from ISC in 2018; and,
- Conducted projections of scenarios for catch increase in the same manner as in the 2018 assessment.

Further recalling that paragraph (4), Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Recognizing that due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, it is not possible to hold a physical meeting of the Northern Committee in 2020, which makes it difficult for the members of the Northern Committee to engage in substantive discussion to change the existing CMM on Pacific bluefin tuna;

Further recognizing that under such circumstances, a simple roll-over of the 2020-specific measures for one year could be a realistic approach;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

General Provision

1. This conservation and management measure has been prepared to implement the Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (Harvest Strategy 2017-02), and the Northern Committee shall periodically review and recommend revisions to this measure as needed to implement the Harvest Strategy.

Management measures

2. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that:

   (1) Total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.

   (2) All catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg shall be reduced to 50% of the 2002–2004 annual average levels. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit.[1]

3. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that all catches of Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger shall not be increased from the 2002-2004 annual average levels.[2] Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit[1]. However, in 2021 CCMs may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna

[1] Notwithstanding paragraph 2 and 3, a CCM may carry over up to 17% of its initial 2020 catch limits, which remain uncaught, to 2021.
[2] CCMs with a base line catch of 10 t or less may increase its catch as long as it does not exceed 10 t.

smaller than 30 kg stipulated in paragraph 2 (2) above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30 kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. The ISC is requested to review, in its work referred to in Section 5 of Harvest Strategy, the implications of this special provision in terms of PBF mortality and stock rebuilding probabilities in 2021. Based on that review, in 2021 the Northern Committee will determine whether it should be continued past 2021, and if so, recommend changes to the CMM as appropriate.

4. All CCMs except Japan shall implement the limits in paragraph 2 and 3 on a calendar-year basis. Japan shall implement the limits using a management year other than the calendar year for some of its fisheries and have its implementation assessed with respect to its management year. To facilitate the assessment, Japan shall:

a. Use the following management years:
    1. For its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, use the calendar year as the management year.
    2. For its other fisheries, use 1 April – 31 March as the management year.[3]

b. In its annual reports for PBF, for each category described in a.1 and a.2 above, complete the required reporting template for both the management year and calendar year clearly identifying fisheries for each management year.

5. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 31 July each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.

6. CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction.

7. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.

8. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 2 and 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

9. CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the **Attachment** of this CMM.

10. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.

[3] For the category described a.2, the TCC shall assess in year 20XX its implementation during the management year that starts 1 April 20XX-1 (e.g., in the 2020 compliance review, the TCC will assess Japan's implementation for its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during calendar-year 2019 and for its other fisheries during 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020).

11. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 13 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 31 July annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.

12. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.

13. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.

14. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.

15. The provisions of paragraph 14 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly Small Island Developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.

16. This CMM replaces CMM 2019-02. On the basis of stock assessment conducted by ISC in 2020, and other pertinent information, this CMM shall be reviewed and may be amended as appropriate in 2021.

Attachment

Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

(1) Objective
(2) General provision
(3) Definition of terms
(4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
(5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
(6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
(7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
(8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
(9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
(10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
(11) Role of the Secretariat
(12) Relationship with non-members
(13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
(14) Consideration to developing members
(15) Schedule for introduction
(16) Attachment
    (i) Catch document forms
    (ii) Re-export certificate forms
    (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
    (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

4. Work plan

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

2017	The joint working group will submit this concept paper to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.
2018	The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
2019	The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
20XX	The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.

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INDICATIVE WORK PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES UNDER CMM 2014-06[1]

- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM 2014-06. It set out a deliberately ambitious schedule of technical work and Commission decision making for the development of harvest strategies across the four key tuna stocks. The workplan was always intended to be a living document and has been updated annually to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments.
- It is acknowledged that delays in the execution of the workplan may occur, noting the complexity of developing harvest strategies for multiple species within the multilateral WCPFC environment as well as the capacity of member CCMs to understand and participate fully in the process. For this reason, all parties are cautioned against an expectation that harvest strategy elements will be completed in specific years. Completion dates have changed in the past and may change in the future.
- This workplan simply schedules decisions noting that it is the Commission's decision as to their interim nature. It is important to understand the implications of single species management procedures within a multi-species fishery context upon application of any of the management procedures.
- There is a very important need for capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process and ultimately to have confidence that an adopted harvest strategy is an agreeable balance of their objectives. This is particularly so as the Commission starts to consider the multispecies nature of the fishery and how management procedures will interact.
- For clarity and consistency, the term "Management Procedure" is used from 2020 onward in this workplan in place of the term "Harvest Control Rule (HCR)". A Management Procedure is a key part of a Harvest Strategy comprising a more formal specification of data collection, the associated estimation model (e.g. the estimation of stock status through an analytical or empirical method) together with a Harvest Control Rule. Together these

[1] As refined and adopted at the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission, held online 8-15 December 2020.

clearly define what management actions are to be made in response to changes in the stock or fishery condition.

2020 Update

- The Science Service Provider has made substantial technical progress during 2020, notably on management strategy evaluation (MSE) for South Pacific albacore and skipjack amongst a range of other areas.
- However, SC16 was unable to discuss and advise on much of this material in detail because of the limited meeting format. Similarly, WCPFC17 had limited discussion of these matters.
- Further, COVID 19 has meant a delay in much of the vital capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process.
- A single change was made to the Indicative Harvest Strategy Workplan in 2020 noting it was subject to a substantial review in 2019.
    - The updated workplan tasks the scientific Committee to provide, and the Commission to consider, an update to paper WCPFC17-2020-11 to include candidate skipjack TRPs of 36, 38 and 40 $\%SB_{F=0}$.

Note: Within the tables below, progress in earlier years is in grey. Bold items are the six elements that are referred to in CMM 2014-06 (Objectives, Reference Points, Acceptable Levels of Risk, Monitoring, Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure and MSE). Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development and so are part of the plan but are not one of these six elements.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2015	SC provided advice on implications of a range of Target Reference Points for South Pacific albacore.	**Commission agreed an interim Target Reference Point (b).**	Commission tasked SC to determine a biologically reasonable timeframe for rebuilding bigeye tuna to [or above] its limit reference point.	
	Commission agreed to workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC12 Summary Report, Attachment Y]			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2016	**Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).** **Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).** • SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission tasked SPC/SC to develop interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. • *[Commission agree to a **monitoring strategy** to assess performance against reference points.]*	**Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).** **Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).** • SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission agreed interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. **[see WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment M]** • *[Commission agree to a **monitoring strategy** to assess performance against reference points.]*	**Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).** **Commission agreed timeframes to rebuild stock to limit reference point. [see page 8 of HSW]**	**Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).**
	Commission agreed on interim maximum acceptable risk level for breaching the LRP (c). [see page 8 of HSW]			
	Commission agreed to a refined workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment N]			
	Progress Summary: Recognised the need for some harvest strategy elements to be adopted as 'interim' noting that they be reconsidered as the harvest strategy process develops. Considered management objectives for the fisheries or stocks and made progress on identifying performance measures for tropical purse seine fisheries. For South Pacific albacore acknowledged the benefit of SPC adapting the same list of indicators to further similar work for south Pacific albacore. Commenced some early discussions on the relationship between harvest strategies for the different species and multispecies issues.			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2017	**Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).** • SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission noted performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules.	**Develop harvest control rules (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f).** • SC provide advice on candidate harvest control rules based on agreed reference points (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards **harvest control rules** (ongoing).	**Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).** • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission noted performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules [SC report on BET status following updated assessment.] [SC and SPC provide advice to the Commission on the likely outcomes of revised tropical tuna measure.]	**Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).** • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission noted performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			
	Progress Summary: • Noted candidate performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery and the Tropical Longline fishery to evaluate harvest control rules. • Agreed on actions to prioritise the development and adoption of a Target Reference Point for south Pacific albacore at WCPFC15. • Recognized the importance of developing harvest strategies for key stocks in the WCPO. The Commission recognized that this work requires the consideration of fisheries managers and scientists at different stages. The Commission notes that the time required for harvest strategy discussions is substantial but will also vary from year to year and the Commission recognized the need for this to be accommodated. • Agreed to reprioritise as needed the annual agenda of the Commission and Scientific Committee to allow sufficient additional time for consideration of harvest strategy issues. In addition WCPFC recognised that there may also be a need for a dedicated science/management dialogue.			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2018	**Agree Target Reference Point (b).** • Commission agree a TRP for south pacific albacore. **Develop harvest control rules (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)** • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards **harvest control rules**. (ongoing). [SC updated advice on SP albacore status.]	**Develop harvest control rules (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)** • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards **harvest control rules**. (ongoing).	[SC updated advice on BET status.] [SC and SPC provide advice to the Commission on the likely outcomes of revised tropical tuna measure.] [SC and Commission discussion of management objectives for fisheries and/or stocks, and subsequent development of candidate TRPs for BET and YFT.]	[SC and Commission discussion of management objectives for fisheries and/or stocks, and subsequent development of candidate TRPs for BET and YFT.]
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			
	Progress Summary: • An interim target reference point (TRP) for south Pacific albacore (0.56 SBF=0) was agreed. • The Commission agreed to hold a 6-day annual meeting in 2019 with additional time devoted for the Commission to discuss harvest strategies.			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2019	**Develop harvest control rules (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)** • SC provided advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC considered the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission considered advice on progress towards **harvest control rules**. (ongoing). [Science Service Provider identified a range of alternative catch pathways to the interim TRP and timeframes that achieve this]	**Develop harvest control rules (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)** • SC provided advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC considered the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission considered advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). ["TRP shall be reviewed by the Commission no later than 2019" – CMM 2015-06] [Updated stock assessment considered by SC15] [SC advised on required analyses to support TRP review]	**Target Reference Point (b).** • SC provided advice on potential Target Reference Points for bigeye. • Commission considered potential Target Reference Points for bigeye.	**Target Reference Point (b).** • SC provided advice on potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin. • Commission considered potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin.
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			
	Progress Summary: A range of harvest strategy related research was presented and discussed by WCPFC16. Research and technical documents in areas requested for 2019 are available on the SC15 and WCPFC16 websites. The harvest strategy workplan was subject to a substantial review and update at WCPFC16 to reflect decisions taken (or deferred) at WCPFC16. A schedule of research and technical work was identified to support the consideration of TRPs for skipjack (a revision), bigeye and yellowfin. Science Service Provider to review potential options to capture multi species issues under the HS process.			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2020	**Develop management procedures (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)**	**Develop management procedures (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)** • [Scientific Committee provide, and Commission consider, advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a revised TRP for skipjack]	**Consider Target Reference Point (b).** • Scientific Committee provide advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for bigeye. • Commission consider SC advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for bigeye. [Initiate development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development] [Updated stock assessment considered by SC16]	**Consider Target Reference Point (b).** • Scientific Committee provide advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for yellowfin. • Commission consider SC advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for yellowfin. [Initiate development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development] [Updated stock assessment considered by SC16]
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2021	**Develop management procedures (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)** • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. [Updated stock assessment considered by SC17] [Potential update of TRP following assessment and in accordance with WCPFC15 adopted approach]	**Develop management procedures (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)** • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. Develop and implement relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. [Scientific Committee provide, and Commission consider, an update to paper WCPFC17-2020-11 to include additional candidate skipjack TRPs of 36, 38 and 40 $\%SB_{F=0}$]	[Development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development] **Agree Target Reference Point (b).** • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for bigeye. [Economic and other analysis to support TRP decision making] • Commission agree a TRP for bigeye.	[Development of multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development] **Agree Target Reference Point (b).** • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin. [Economic and other analysis to support TRP decision making] • Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin.
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			
	Progress Summary:			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2022	**Develop management procedures (e)** and **Management strategy evaluation (f)** • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. **Adopt a management procedure**	**Adopt a management procedure** [Updated stock assessment considered by SC18]	Develop **management procedures**(e) and Management strategy evaluation (f) • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures.	Develop **management procedures** (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f) • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • TCC consider the implications of potential management. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures.
	Progress Summary:			

TCC16 recommended tasks for the Secretariat to improve the online Compliance Case File System (*Excerpt from* **TCC16-2020-12***Review of the WCPFC online compliance case file system, Table 1*).

ID	Relates to rec in TCC16-2020-12	Action	Refer to page
a	1	Enhance the CCFS so that it automatically notifies CCMs when a case is created or updated. This notification would be in the form of a daily summary email to a single email address nominated by each CCM. This daily summary email would identify all cases, which the CCM was authorised to view, that had been created or modified (by the Secretariat or another CCM) in the past 24 hours.	18
b	1	Initially, enhance the CCFS to make it easier to use by: simplifying the interface (including removing elements that are unnecessary to the user), improving the language used, consistently formatting links and adding screen specific help pages.	20
c	1	Subsequently, six months after these initial enhancements have been implemented, survey CCMs to verify that an appropriate level of ease-of-use has now been achieved.	20
d	1	Enhance the CCFS to make it easier to use by expanding the range of information that is shown in the six single case screens to include: observer trip data, vessel trip ID, infringement ID, trip number and provider trip number.	20
e	1	Enhance the CCFS to include a screen containing a list of all six types of case (that the user is authorised to see) combined. The primary focus of this screen should be to provide users with access to data columns that are common to most/all types of case. Users should be surveyed to determine what additional columns, that are case type specific, should also be displayed; and what Group By options are required.	26
f	1	Produce an alternative format of the aggregated summary tables in which (i) the tables are in "Classic" pivot table format, and (ii) the sub-totals and expand / contract buttons are removed, and (iii) the columns are centred; then survey CCMs on whether this alternative format is better than the current format. If CCMs prefer this alternative, then enhance the CCFS to implement it.	28
g	1	Enhance the CCFS so that the aggregated summary tables address the full range of questions required by the TCC / Commission.	28
h	1	Enhance communication with CCMs regarding (i) which internet browsers work best with the CCFS and (ii) the known limitations of the CCFS Export to Excel function.	35
i	1	Offer CCFS training to CCM users, either in the form of (i) training on the margins of other WCPFC meetings, or (ii) an online course, or (iii) a downloadable training video (or videos).	41
j	1	Improve and update the CCFS user guide to cover all the features present in the enhanced CCFS, and additionally improve how this is named and stored on the WCPFC intranet.	44
k	2	Implement a limited proof of concept online graph / table creation tool, providing CCM users with access to a small range of graphs / tables which interrogate the CCFS data that all CCMs are entitled to view. This tool should be implemented using software that can subsequently be re-used to provide similar functionality for other types of WCPFC data.	39

Agreed Minimum Standards and Guidelines of the Regional Observer Programme

Version 2021

Most of the agreed minimum standards for the ROP were generated and discussed during the IWGROP (1) (2) (3) workshops 2007-2009 since then IWGROP 2015 has added additional standards, and other standards have been individually discussed at various subsidiary meetings and are also included. The meetings where the standards were discussed recommended and agreed have been included in red at the end of each standard. Also included at the end of this document are suggested guidelines for ROP's to use as guides; these were agreed to be guidelines rather than agreed minimum standards. Due to the work of the TCC Working Group on the Flow of Observer Reports and Observer Conduct a couple of the "*ROP expectation on the authorisation process."* have had additions or changes these are indicated by footnotes.

Several standards were agreed as per the IWG/SC/TCC meetings recommendations with no changes at the annual Commission meetings; Some IWG/SC/TCC recommendations were discussed further and changed at the Commission annual meeting. Therefore, the Subsidiary body meeting recommendations may vary slightly in wording from the original recommendation from the Annual Commission meetings. All the agreed standards are required to be maintained by the Commission ROP's. expectations in these tables are guides unless indicated otherwise on how the minimum standard maybe achieved.

The agreed minimum standards are part of the Commission Audit process of Regional Observer Programmes; questions related to the standards are asked during the audit process to determine if a programme is fulfilling the required standard, or whether the programme may need assistance to help achieve the required standards.

Item	**Standard Required**
<u>Authorization Process</u> Authorisation process is the standards required to obtain interim and full authorisation to be part of the ROP. The process of gaining full authorisation is to be carried out following an audit of the programme to ensure that standards are in place or are being developed	The Secretariat will authorize national observer programmes, rather than individual observers; this is consistent with the Convention text .CMM 2007-01 Para 12(b) replaced by CMM- 2018-05 Para 13(b) also states that the Secretariat will authorize observer providers. *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5/WCPFC15*
	ROP expectation on the authorisation process.
	Before auditing takes place the programme will have been interim authorised by the Secretariat according to the rules and standards as adopted by the Commission. This will necessitate all programmes to: • Supply manuals and guides to the Secretariat • Nominate a National ROP Observer Coordinator • Supply lists of all current observers. • Supply an official letter requesting ROP inclusion. Refer *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5*

Item	Standard Required
Briefing and Debriefing Briefing of observers is a specially arranged session with the observer and provider endorsed briefing personnel; Briefing is to ensure that the observer clearly understand the roles and duties the observers are expected to carry out on a vessel before a trip. Debriefing of observers is a specially arranged session with the observer and the provider endorsed debriefer to ensure that the data and information collected by an observer is checked for discrepancies and can be corrected before the Information is entered into a data base or used for analysis. It is also a period when the observer can report critical incidents for further attention.	The standard for "Briefing and De-briefing of observers" is that there is a system for briefing and de-briefing of observers in place and documentation describing briefing and de-briefing available to the Secretariat *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5* **ROP Expectation on the "Briefing and Debriefing" of Observers** Different stages of briefing may be carried out before an observer departs on their trip. 1. Observers to be briefed by the provider. 2. Observer and vessel briefed together by authorised briefers or officer. * This may be done separately or combined in the one briefing if time does not permit two briefings. Briefing • Observer providers authorised by the Commission ROP are to ensure briefing of their observers is carried out • Briefings must be facilitated by an experienced facilitator and should be conducted at the beginning of an observer trip. • Briefings procedures should follow a consistent format. • Briefing should provide opportunities to ensure that both the captain and observer fully understand the role of the observer on board the vessel, and reinforce the responsibility of the vessel to accommodate and feed the observer to officer standard. • The utmost effort is made to ensure that a new observer should not be placed unless a proper briefing meeting can be arranged. • Providers may wish to have a briefing form that can be read out and agreed by the captain and observer by signing the form that they understand the conditions, roles, etc. when the observer is on board the vessel; a copy should be given to the captain. Debriefings • Debriefing should be carried out at the end of each observer trip by an authorised provider debriefer. • Observer providers authorised by the Commission ROP should ensure rigorous debriefing of returning observers data, reports, health, and wellbeing is carried out. • Debriefings should be facilitated by an experienced facilitator and should be conducted at the end of an observer trip after the observer leaves the vessel. • Debriefings procedures should follow a consistent format. • Debriefing of critical incidents should be reported immediately to the relevant authorities as indicated in the provider procedures. [1]• Observer providers should prioritize debriefings for trips for which the observer has noted a "YES" in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3.

[1] Added WCPFC17

Item	Standard Required
Briefing and Debriefing Training "Briefing Training" should be training carried out by qualified personnel. "Debriefing Training" will be specialised training by qualified personnel of a group of participants selected by a rigorous selection criterion to become fully authorised observer debriefers of all gear types.	The standard for qualification of observer debriefer is that debriefers will be experienced in observer matters and that CCMs will use existing national and sub-regional programme standards for debriefers. CCMs will prepare qualifications for a debriefer, available for review by the Secretariat. *IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6* **ROP expectation on the briefing and debriefing training of briefers and debriefers.** Briefing Training Briefers should have undergone training programmes designed to educate them in the techniques of interviewing and they require the knowledge of the roles of an observer and understand the conditions that an observer may experience while at sea on a vessel. Debriefer Training Debriefer trainers should have undergone training programmes designed to educate them in the techniques of interviewing observers, and to debrief observer collected information and material. Debriefer training instructors should have: • an intimate knowledge of observer work, data collections and reporting; • experienced conditions at sea, preferably as an observer, • a good understanding of the fishery and the management of that fishery; • good communication skills that can give clear and understandable messages in a straight orward manner; • good knowledge of the Commission CMM's relevant to Observers; Note Where practical NOP/SOP Programme Coordinators/ Managers should also take part in the training, to develop closer relationships with their potential debriefers and observers.

Item **Coordinating Observer Placements and the Deployment of Observers** The provider of the observers will be responsible for the deployment of the observer and will ensure the selected observer is provided with all possible assistance to board a vessel.	**Standard Required** The standard for "Coordinating Placement" is the WCPFC National Observer Programme Coordinator should be in place, there should be a system for observer placement administration and documentation describing observer placement should be provided to the Secretariat. *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5* The standard for deploying ROP observers is that CCMs shall use existing deployment procedures in place for their national and sub-regional programmes. CCMs will develop these procedures, and make them available for review by the Secretariat. *IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6* **ROP expectation on Coordinating Observer Placements and the Deployment of Observers:** It is the responsibility of the observer provider to administer observer placements, including costs, which may be recovered by various means. Providers should organise the final payment of the ROP observer's salary and sea allowances provided all commitments are completed as soon as practical after the observers return to port; The provider is expected to carry out the following functions; 1) Communicate to flag State about intending deployments and arrange date and time of boarding's. 2) Communicate to the ROP observer on the agreed boarding date and time 3) Assist with the procurement of observer visas, entry permits, waivers and any travel documents required to transport the observer to the departure or arrival port of the vessel. 4) Organize all travel arrangements including air, bus or ferry schedules; 5) Brief ROP observer on any prioritized scientific, biological, management and operational data that is required to be collected for each trip; 6) Coordinate a briefing of the ROP observer and the vessel captain or master before departure to advise on the CMM and other obligations regarding the observer and vessel. 7) Check the safety standards of the vessel before the observer departs; 8) Ensure all relevant equipment to the ROP observer for carrying out their duties, including the collection of data and biological sampling is supplied. 9) Supply forms and workbooks in whatever format is used in the national programme, but ensuring that it contain the ROP minimum data standards; 10) Ensure the vessel understands that the observer must have proper accommodation and bedding; 11) Arrange another vessel for boarding preferably from the same flag State fleet if due to unforeseen circumstances the target vessel becomes unavailable due to mechanical or other problems such as safety, and is not favourable to the placement of an ROP observer; 12) Arrange communication schedules with observers for the time they are on board the vessel; 13) Debrief the ROP observer, using ROP authorised debriefers as soon as possible on their return to port; 14) Collect from the observer all data, images, and reports after their trip; 15) Ensure all data obligations made at WCPFC meetings on ROP data is followed. 16) maintain regular contact with the observer after their return to provide technical support, personal support, and information on new developments, and to assure the ROP observer is in good health after the trip, and to inform the observer of any future boarding's or relevant issues arising from the trip just completed;

Item	Standard Required
Communications Communication means that the observer must be aware of the use of communications devices and equipment on board a vessel for their use when required. *Note that from Jan 1st 2017 a two way texting device or a satellite phone will be communications independent of the vessel communications systems.*	The standard for "Communications" is that observers have access to appropriate communication facilities, including emergency communication facilities while on board a vessel. *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5* **ROP Expectation on Communications for Observers** • Providers should have established regular communication procedure with their observers during a trip; • Providers should ensure that observers understand Safety Communication Codes and protocols before boarding a vessel; • Providers should inform the vessel that they must allow the observer to have access to Communications and should assist when required; • Work related communications may be paid for by the provider unless other arrangements are in place. • Private communications should be available but paid for by the observer.

Item	Commission Requirements
Conservation and Management Measures - CMM's Providers should display the procedures and mechanism in which they keep observers informed on CMM requirements and should have the ability to carry out additional training on a regular basis of the monitoring requirements**.**	The providers are to ensure that all observers fully understand the *content of the CMM's especially in relation to their roles and tasks in monitoring the CMMs (*Multiple meeting & CMM references*) **ROP expectation on CMM's for observers** The observer programme will have in place the following: • A system to ensure all the programme and observers are continually updated on the requirements of the CMM's. • Ability to ensure observers can be trained in the monitoring of new tasks and roles brought about by the monitoring provisions of the CMM/s. *Note* that the WCPFC Secretariat publishes a "Handbook of CMMs for WCPFC ROP observers" these handbooks are available in electronic format on the WCPF Website; The handbook is updated annually and all providers are to ensure the correct dated copy is given to observers before they depart on a trip.*

Item **Code of Conduct** Code of Conduct should provide a set of guiding principles relating to accepted behaviour and standards of conduct, while working as an ROP Observer.	**Standard Required** The agreed standard for "Code of Conduct" is that each CCM should have a Code of Conduct in place, available to each observer, available for review and if not in place, to be developed. *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5* **ROP expectation on Code of Conduct** • Code of Conduct will be monitored by the observer provider that supplies the observer for ROP duties. • Alleged breaches reported by a vessel captain, or master, of the Code of Conduct by an ROP observer will be investigated by the observer provider. • The observer provider will investigate any allegations of the breach of conduct, and may pass the alleged incidents onto others for further investigation, and according to the results of the investigation, the provider will make recommendations on any action to be taken. • The recommended action by the observer provider should be reported to the vessel flag State and to the Secretariat of the Commission who may include the findings in their annual report to the TCC and Commission. • After considering the investigation carried out by the Observer Provider, the provider, if they deactivate the observer, must inform the Commission Secretariat

Item **Dispute Settlement** Dispute occurs when two or more parties disagree over matters involving the roles and tasks of the observer, operations of the vessel, or any other issue involving the observer and a second party. The programme will have procedures to prevent the escalation of conflict, through mediation, facilitation, conciliation, and training. Disputes resolution may require the appointment of an appropriately-composed expert or technical panel.	**Standard Required** The standard for "Dispute Settlement" is a dispute resolution mechanism in place, and if not in place, to be developed, and a description of the dispute resolution mechanism provided to the Secretariat *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5* **ROP expectation on Dispute Settlements** The programme will have in place the following: • procedures to report disputes for both the observer and the vessel; • consultations process allowing all parties to make statements; • process to determine a resolution of the problem through mediation, facilitation, and conciliation; • process to appoint an appropriately-composed expert or technical panels if required to resolve the dispute;

Item **Data Fields** Data Fields and Minimum Data Standards are defined as Minimum Data Fields approved by the WCPFC for collection by ROP observers.	**Standard Required**
	The agreed standard for "Data Fields, Management, Distribution and Use" will be that CCMs will use existing data field formats collected by their national or sub regional observer programmes *(SC3/IWGROP2) /TCC4/ WCPFC5 – IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6* and that also they will ensure that the Commission minimum data standard fields for the ROP are included in their data collection formats. Flag CCMs and observer providers should cooperate to ensure timely access to ROP data and provision of the ROP data to the Commission**.** *IWGROP4/WCPFC12* ROP data should be submitted to the Secretariat or SPC where possible within 100 days of the observer disembarking purse seine vessels and within 120 days of the observer disembarking longline vessels**.** *TCC9/WCPFC10* ROP providers which place observers on fish carrier vessels that transship on the high seas should send the completed data forms, workbooks, reports and journals of the observer to the Commission Secretariat where possible within 120 days of the disembarkation of the observer from the carrier. *TCC10/WCPFC11*
	ROP expectation on the collection of ROP Minimum Standard Data fields
	ROP data includes data collected by an observer when they are on the high seas or in zones other than the flag of the vessel, they are aboard. Programmes may continue to use their own formats; however, programmes will need to review the data collected by their observers to include the minimum data fields required by the Commission. Data collected by national (NOP) or sub regional observer programmes (SOP) on ROP trips, (original hard copy or unaltered scanned copy) will be sent to the Commission designated data provider (SPC) or to the Commission Secretariat as soon as practical after the return of an observer from their trip. (Within 100 days of the observer disembarking purse seine vessels and within 120 days of the observer disembarking longline vessels and carrier vessels transhipping on the high seas**.)** All ROP observer data is confidential and may not be distributed or given to any unauthorized organisation or person without going through the Commission data access procedures and approval of the Executive Director of the WCPFC.

Item	Standard Required
Equipment and Materials Equipment and materials is equipment and materials that an observer will require to safely carry out their roles and tasks on board a vessel.	The standard for "Equipment and Materials" is that observers are provided with appropriate equipment, including safety equipment to carry out their roles and tasks on board a vessel. *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5*
	ROP expectation on the equipment and Materials of Observers
	• Equipment and Materials should be dependent of gear type. • Equipment should be dependent on climate area the vessel is fishing. • Safety equipment includes items, lifejackets, hard hats, proper deck working boots or shoes, gloves and protective sunglasses. • Observers should not board vessels until they have been fully kitted out • Equipment for work must be in a good working order and safety gear should have regular checks.

Item	Standard Required
Insurance and Liability Providers are to ensure that their observers have health, safety, and liability insurance available to them before embarking on an observer trip.	The standard for Insurance of Observers for ROP duties is that CCMs will use existing national standards for health and safety insurance. CCM providers of observers will make sure an observer placed on any vessel for ROP duties, has health and safety insurance. *IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6*
	ROP expectation on Insurance and Liability for observers
	The observer programme will have in place the following: • A national health and safety standard and insurance available for all observers. • A checking system ensuring that Observers are always insured during their employment should be in place. Includes insurance onboard a vessel, travel to and from the vessel, and other areas of observer employment i.e., "waiting time" etc. • Observers should have regular health checks to ensure they are fit to carry out work on a vessel that could be at sea for long periods.

Item	Standard Required
Manuals & Work Books **Manual** is defined as a publication that serves to direct or indicate to an authorised observer by hard copy or electronic copy with information to assist with the roles and duties they are expected to carry out as an observer, **Workbook** is defined as a book pad or electronic tablet that contains data collection forms, instruction, or formats that an observer will be required to complete while carrying out their duties. Manuals and Workbooks may be a series of guides or may be produced as one publication.	The standard agreed by th Commission for ROP "Observer Manual/ Guidelines/Workbooks will be: CCMs have and use their respective Observer Manual/Guidelines and submit copies of these to the Secretariat. Each CCM National Observer Programme and Sub-Regional Observer Programmes will provide copies of their respective Observer Workbooks to the Secretariat. *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5 & IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6* **ROP expectation on the content of Manuals & Work books** Observer Manuals and Workbooks may include several publications or formats that an observer will use for guidance when carrying out duties on an observer trip. Manuals will be relevant to, and will contain current requirements and information for the use by the observers of the national programme. Manuals may be inclusive or may be produced individually and should include, but is not limited to; observer operations guides, species ID guides, gear type & electronic guides, guides on reporting and handling species of special interest. Guidelines on collecting, security and handling of data collected by the observer including, photo, videos, digital image and any other form of data collection. General operational guides and data collection guidelines At least one manual/workbooks issued to an observer commencing a Regional Observer Programme (ROP) trip should contain annexes or sections on the requirements of the *Conservation Measures of the Commission (CMMs) and the details of the ROP. Copies of all national Manuals/Workbooks must be provided to the Secretariat of the WCPFC. **Note Electric versions of the Handbook of CMMs for WCPFC ROP's is available to all observers on the WCPFC Website.*

Item	Standard Required
Measuring Performance of Observers Measuring Performance of an observer" is a means to report on the performance of the observers with the programme.	The standard for "Measuring Performance" is a means to report on the performance of the observer programme and a means to report on the performance of individual observers as part of the annual reporting requirements established by the Commission. *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5*
	ROP expectation on performance of observers
	Observers shall be: • trained and certified /authorised by their programmes; • trained to acceptable Commission standards; • expected, to collect quality data; • expected to make comprehensive and detailed written reports; • expected to show well-mannered behaviour on trips or when travelling to or from vessels; • clear of any criminal record; • able to travel through or to any country;

Item	Standard Required
Observer Coverage Observer coverage for each gear type is determined by the Commission.	Purse-seine vessels fishing within the area bounded by 20^0 N and 20^0 S exclusively on the high seas, on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States, or vessels fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States, shall carry effective1 January. 2010, an observer from the Commission's Regional Observer Programme *WCPFC5 (CMM 2008-01) (2018-01)* Observer coverage is 5% annually for long liners determined by Commission to be in place by June 2012. *WCPFC4(CMM 2007-01)/2018-05* For transhipments on the high seas 100% observer coverage with the observer deployed on the receiving vessel *WCPFC6 (*CMM 2009-06)*
	ROP expectation on observer coverage
	Observer placements information by Commission authorised Regional Observer Programme ROP's are to be conveyed to the Secretariat. Metrics for coverage for long liners includes coverage; by trip; hook numbers; number of observer sea days; observed fishing days; observed sets. *IWG4* **CMM 2009-06 paragraph 13 (a) and (b) have indications on the coverage for different types of vessels, however carrier vessels over 33 metres and transhipping from long liners at sea; 100 % coverage is required on the receiving vessel*,

Item	Standard Required
Observer Trainers "Observer Trainers" are person who have been authorized by the NOP to train observers on their behalf. Trainers may be internal to the programme or may be specialists brought in from other programmes or organisations.	The ROP standard agreed by the Commission for "Observer for observer Trainers will be: "CCMs will use existing national and sub-regional training standards. CCMs will develop trainer qualifications, available for review by the Secretariat*." IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6* **ROP expectation on the use of trainers** The best training instructors are those who have • an intimate knowledge of observer work, data collections and reporting • experienced conditions at sea as an observer, • a good understanding of the fishery and the management of that fishery, • to be able to communicate training messages in clear and straight forward manner. Observer Trainers should have undergone a series of training programmes designed to educate persons in the training of observers. NOP/SOP Programme Coordinators should also take part in the training, to develop closer relationships with their potential observers.

Item	Standard Required
Observer Training ROP Training should include but not be limited to 1. Fisheries management; 2. Understanding MCS; 3. WCPFC Convention and related CMMs; 4. Importance of observer programmes, understanding authority and responsibilities of observers, 5. Safety at sea – emergencies at sea, survival at sea 6. First Aid 7. Species identification, including target, non-target, protected species, etc. 8. Fishing vessel & Gear types 9. Vessel identification & Markings 10. Techniques of verification of catch logbooks. 11. Techniques of estimating catch and species composition 12. Fish sampling, Measuring and Weighing techniques. 13. Preservation of samples for analysis; 14. Data collection codes and data collection formats 15. Use of digital recorders, electronic notebooks. 16. Knowledge of navigation including latitude/longitude; compasses; bearings; chart work; plotting a position; 17. Electronic equipment & understanding their operation 18. The use of radios & communications devices 19. Verbal debriefing & Report Writing 20. Health at Sea issues	Standard for "Observer Training" is that training programmes should be linked to the Commission's decisions in place, available for review and training programme materials provided to the Secretariat *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5* **ROP expectation on the Training of Observers:** Without specially designed training, an observer programme will suffer from unprofessional behavior, poor data outputs, and lack of respect from the industry and other sections of the fisheries management authorities. Training must therefore be considered as a key element in the development of an observer programme. The qualifications and background of current or potential observers must be analyzed in relation to the objectives of the programme and any proposed programme structure. **Instructors** The best training instructors are those who have an intimate knowledge of observer work, have experienced conditions at sea, have a good understanding of the fishery, and can communicate training messages in clear and straight forward manner. NOP/SOP Programme coordinators should also take part in the training, to develop closer relationships with their potential observers. **Venues** Training should be conducted in suitable training facilities with appropriate equipment. Marine colleges are favorable venues for observer training but are not essential. **Education/ Entrance** Qualifications for entry to observer training may vary from programme to programme. Some may require a degree level applicant, others a high school level and others may be required to participate in an entrance exam before being accepted into an observer course. Regardless of the entrance criteria the output of the training is the important result. **Certification** Observers will be authorised by these training programmes and must reach a high level of competency. Observer will be required to be categorized as fully trained in one or all the gear types below: a) Purse seine b) Longline c) Pole and Lined) d) Other gear types of Troll, Trawl, Hand line, Gill net etc.

Item **Prenotification Process** The pre-notification process from observer providers to flag CCMs of possible alleged infringements by their vessels include data being provided to the coastal state when an alleged infringement takes place in a coastal state's waters.	**Standard Required** That all ROP authorized observer programmes provide to the Commission Secretariat in a timely manner the ROP minimum data elements on the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 as a means of supporting a pre- notification process from observer providers to flag of possible alleged infringements by their vessels. *IWG4/TCC11/WCPFC12* **ROP Expectation on Prenotification** 1. To facilitate the pre-notification process it was recommended that only those data elements answered in the affirmative by observers would be provided to the Commission Secretariat for transmittal to the flag CCM and as appropriate the relevant coastal State for alleged infringements in their waters. 2. To support the pre-notification process, there are two additional fields that should be provided by observer providers to the Commission Secretariat to support a flag CCMs investigations of any possible alleged infringements. These are: a. "start date of trip and end date of trip." b. "status of the debriefing process" i.e, "debriefed", "pre-debriefed" or "not debriefed. 3. The requirement of providing the pre-notification data elements to the Commission Secretariat may not be required where there are domestic requirements enabling access by vessel operators to observer data. *IWG4/TCC11/WCPFC12*

(Attachment 7 to IWGROP4 Summary Report),

The following procedure is provided as a guide for a proposed pre-notification process from observer providers to flag CCMs of possible alleged infringements by their vessels:

a) Observer, as part of their usual duties will complete the ROP minimum data elements on the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 (see example below), for each trip;
[2] Where a "YES" response is given, the observer should provide sufficient additional explanation and information (such as references to other relevant parts of the observer report) to explain why the "YES" was noted, and where relevant, an indication of the magnitude of reporting discrepancies or the number of instances of the possible violation;

b) Observer keeps this report/form (and all other data) confidential and returns to home port or disembarkation point;

c) Observer fully disembarks the vessel; *

d) Observer transmits their data and reports per their standard procedures to an authorized observer provider/person for their national or sub-regional observer programme;

e) Observer arriving back from the vessel in observer's home port, or if required, has to travel back to home country & awaits debriefing;

f) Observer is debriefed as soon as is practicable after finishing the trip/trips*;

Pre-Notification Process

g) In the event that there is a "YES" noted in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 the observer provider is expected where practicable, to promptly submit the relevant data to the Commission Secretariat (the data may be provided through the Commission data service provider (SPC-OFP) or provided directly to the Secretariat). [3]The data should only be provided after debriefing the observer and finalizing the observer report accordingly.

h) In considering the timeliness of the submission of the ROP minimum data elements on the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3, the observer provider must ensure the observer is safely disembarked from the vessel and has returned to their home port, [4] ~~and where possible the observer has been fully debriefed.~~

[2 & 3] Added WCPFC17. [4] Deleted WCPFC17

i) The observer provider may decide that further investigation of a "YES" noted in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 (or equivalent) is needed before the relevant data is submitted to the Commission Secretariat.

j) If there is only "NO" noted in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 (or debriefing determines there to be only "NO" noted) the ROP data, including WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 would be submitted through usual processes to the Commission Secretariat.

k) The Commission Secretariat will facilitate the provision of certain data fields in the relevant WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 and the additional supporting fields specified in IWG-ROP4 report para 28*** to the responsible flag CCM. In accordance with the data rules, the information that is provided to flag CCMs will exclude the name of the observer, their nationality and the observer trip ID, but will instead identify the observer provider programme that placed the observer.

l) The authorised Flag state official contacts can request from the observer provider** further supporting details for their investigations. Vessel captain/owners/point of contact will communicate with flag State official contacts regarding any alleged infringements.

m) The Commission Secretariat will facilitate the collation of communications related to the outcome of investigations of any "YES" noted in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3, including from the flag CCMs.

* If an observer carries out one or more trips consecutively on the same vessel. That vessel cannot request through their official contacts a copy of the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 compiled by that observer until the observer has completely finished all his trips on the vessel and has fully disembarked the vessel.

** Request could be sent via the Commission Secretariat or other sub regional organizations who would verify the persons making the request are genuine official contacts and could act as intermediators between the flag State and the provider if they so wish.

*** as per the ROP Expectations para 2 above;

Item **Sea Safety**	**Standard Required**
Sea Safety involves the training of sea safety procedure observer receive before they are permitted to carry out duties on board a vessel at sea.	The standard for "Sea - Safety" is that all ROP observers must undergo training in sea safety and emergency procedures to an international standard and that such training procedures be made available to the Secretariat. *IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5*
	ROP expectation on Sea Safety All observers are trained to an international standard on Safety at Sea by a certified person, school, college, or maritime authority. Sea safety training should include instructions in the use of life rafts, life vests, first aid, fire extinguishers, rescue protocols and communications and other essential elements of safety. Observers should be made aware that they have the right to refuse to board a particular vessel if they consider it to be un-safe. A vessel safety certificate or form should be filled out by the provider/observer or by the person placing the observer to ensure all equipment is in survey, and there is adequate safety equipment to cater for the extra observer on board.

Item	Commission Requirements
Observer Safety at Sea and Emergency Action Plan (EAP) As part of responsibility of running and maintaining a ROP authorised national and sub regional observers programme; employers/providers must support observers in their ability to carry out their duties unimpeded and in a safe working environment. **To ensure that independent communications is available to an Observer; a "Two Way Communication Device" must be issued to all ROP observers on all trips.** Observer safety is an issue of the highest and utmost importance and there must be a process in place (Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to handle reports that an observer may make on issue of safety including instances of harassment, intimidation, or assault. **Note that the full implementation of this standard was required by Jan 1st 2017**	**To assist observers with Safety at Sea the following has been made mandatory from Jan 1st 2017**. 1. Each ROP authorised observer programme shall ensure that observers from their programme will be provided before any boarding for a trip, • **An approved independent two way communication satellite device*; and** • **a waterproof personal lifesaving beacon**. **Noting that this may consist of a single device such as "Satellite Emergency Notification Device" or it may be a combination of an independent satellite-based system such as a Sat phone plus a portable lifesaving beacon (PLB)."* 2. Each CCM with an ROP authorised observer programme will ensure that they have an **Emergency Action Plan" (EAP**) in place to accommodate any reported observer emergency including interference, harassment, intimidation and other personal safety issues. ***TCC11/WCPFC12*** **ROP expectation for Observer Providers** The Commission relies heavily on the scientific and monitoring data collected by observers in order to meet its objectives and observers must be able to do their jobs unimpeded and in a safe working environment, free from interference, harassment, intimidation, and assault. Each ROP authorised observer programme shall ensure that observers from their programme will be provided before a boarding for all trips, an independent two way communication satellite device and an approved personal lifesaving beacon; noting that both requirements may be combined in one instrument. There shall also be established in each programme a 24 hr emergency contact for the observer. The 24hr service need not be in the "Fisheries Departments" and other services like police, patrol boat bases maybe utilised. A set of procedures for an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must be explained and fully understood before an observer departs on their trip. The EAP must include communications protocol and appropriate contact information in an emergency and as a minimum will include. • **When to report**: (Generally, observers should be required to report any instance of interference, harassment, intimidation, or assault as outlined in ROP training.) • **Who to report to**: (Observer programmes must have a "Designated Officer/s" who are responsible for maintaining a device capable of receiving a signal from the approved independent two-way satellite communication device.) • **Follow up responses**: (Observer programme must have an established procedure to initiate contact with the observer, the vessel, and, if necessary, the appropriate enforcement authority of Flag CCM's and relevant Coastal CCM's; this procedure must also include clear procedures that must be taken in the event of various emergencies.) • **Remedial action:** (Observer Programme must establish appropriated measures for addressing violations made against observers.) • **Completing the EAP protocols** for observer related incident involving observer reporting of Interference Harassment, Intimidation must be resolved through a legal or nationally recognized procedure. ***TCC11/WCPFC12***

Item	Standard Required
<u>Vessel Safety Check list</u> **(VSC) format** VSC format should be designed to evaluate the Safety of the vessel before an observer makes a boarding. The Commission has a guideline format on the ROP section of the WCPFC Website and national formats should be similar or the same.	The minimum standard for a Vessel Safety Checklist (VSC) will be that a CCM should have a VSC in place, and to be used prior to an observer boarding a vessel; and if not in place, CCMs may use, as a *guideline, the VSC developed by the Commission. CCM's should submit copies of their VSC to the WCPFC Secretariat. *IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6* **ROP expectation on Vessel Safety** All programmes will have a vessel safety format that can be used to determine if a vessel is safe for an observer to board. If not using the Commission VSC format, observer programmes should submit copies of their VSC to the Secretariat. A VSC will apply before each boarding of an observer on a vessel. Observer has the right to refuse the boarding if the VSC highlights that the vessel does not comply with expected standards. ** Copy of the guidelines is attached to the end of this document*

Agreed Guidelines of the Regional Observer Programme

The agreed "Guidelines" for the ROP were mainly generated and discussed during different workshops; Guidelines for some ROP areas were decided, so as programmes still developing in these areas have a guide on the suggested way forward.
These are guidelines and are not binding and are only suggested guidelines for CCM's or ROP's to use as a guide to help when developing their programmes or dealing with issues in their programmes.

Observer Identification Cards Guidelines

The current agreed guidelines for the ROP of the Commission are below, it is agreed that all observers should have proper observer identification; as some programmes already have ID for their observers, and they are not the same; no fixed standard was determined. However, it was agreed that the following guidelines should be considered when producing Observer Identification for ROP observer.

Noting that the Secretariat should provide assistance to those national observer programmes authorised to be part of the ROP, which need assistance in developing and obtaining observer ID cards for their observers.

Item	**Standard Required**
Observer Identification Cards The currently agreed WCPFC Guidelines for Observer Identification Cards should continue as guidelines in the ROP.	Observer ID card should be required for participant programmes in the Regional Observer Programme**;** **WCPFC Guidelines for Observer Identification Cards** Suggested minimum required information on the front of each card: 1 Name of Observer 2 Name of Observer Provider 3 Nationality of Observer 4 Unique identifying number for the observer 5 Passport Style photo of observer Information that could be placed on either the front or back of the card: 6 Issue date and Expiry date 7 WCPFC logo to indicate observer is ROP observer 8 Logo of Programme and or Country Flag Optional information that could be included on the back of the card: 9 Signature of Observer. 10 Status of observer Qualifications.

WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME
VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

Type of Vessel	PS		LL		P&L		Carrier		Other (describe)

NAME OF VESSEL		**Vessel Size Length**	
FLAG STATE		< 16 metres	
VESSEL WCPFC WIN		16-25 metres	
CALL SIGN		26 -39 metres	
REGISTRATIONNUMBER		40-65 metres	
OWNER/OPERATOR		> 65 met	
MASTER /CAPTAIN		< 16 metres	

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

ITEMS TO BE CHECKED	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1. VESSEL MARKINGS TO WCPFC STANDARDS CMM 2004-03				
2. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER				
3. VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION CURRENT				
4. MARINE RADIO HF SSB OR SUBSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS				
5. MOUNTED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (CURRENT CHECKED)				
6. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT (IN GOOD ORDER)				
7. NAVIGATION LIGHTS / VESSEL LIGHTS (WORKING ORDER)				
8. SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES OR BELL				
9. DISTRESS SIGNALS AND FLARES				
10. CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES AVAILABLE				
11. APPROVED LIFE RAFT OR LIFEBOATS UNDER CURRENT SURVEY AND ADEQUATE FOR NUMBER OF CREW& OBSERVER				
12. OTHER WORK-RELATED VESSELS ON BOARD THAT COULD BE UTILISED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY				
13. EPIRBS (CURRENT SURVEY)				
14. NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS (GPS/RADAR)				
15. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT				
16. SANITATION				
17. PHONE				
18. EMAIL/FAX				
19. INSURANCE FOR OBSERVER WHILST ON BOARD				

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING IS CONSIDERED TO BE UNSAFE FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING ☐

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SAFETY FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING ☐

*NAME OF CHECKER*_____ *POSITION*_____

*SIGNED*_____ *DATE*_____

NOTE The Vessel Safety check (VSC) carried out by the "Checker' does not constitute or should be construed as a warranty or guarantee of the seaworthiness of the vessel, or the serviceability or adequacy of equipment on board. There is no assumption of liability of any kind for advice given and opinions expressed in connection to this VSC examination.

EXPLANATION ON VSC REQUIREMENTS

1. VESSEL MARKINGS TO WCPFC CMM 2004-STANDARDS WCPFC markings are the same as FAO standards except that the WCPFC CMM 2004-03 will allow all letters of the alphabet to be used in the callsign.
2. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER Flag State Registration documentation papers must be on board and available to be viewed and must show registration number, boats name, country and port of registration.
3. VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION CURRENT Fishing Vessels and support vessels operating in the WCPFC must comply with their Flag State regulations and Code of Practice for Safety. Ship surveys including condition, safety and security aspects of hull, machinery and on board safety equipment must be available to be viewed.
4. MARINE RADIO HF SSB (WORKING ORDER) Marine SSB (Single Side Band) is a means of communications for many fishing vessels. The radio must be capable of transmitting and receiving frequencies used for emergency marine communications as agreed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or by the Flag State of the vessel.
5. MOUNTED FIRE EXTINGUISHER, Fire extinguishers must be readily available and be of the correct type. Portable extinguishers require periodic maintenance therefore the last inspection date when last tested or refilled should be available. All must be currently serviceable and if possible, should be checked to ensure extinguishes have not been fully or partially discharged.
6. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT Fire-fighting must be readily available and be currently serviceable, a minimum standard of firefighting equipment as designated by the flag state must be on all fishing vessels.
7. NAVIGATION LIGHTS AND VESSEL LIGHTS Vessels must be able to display international standard navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and in conditions of reduced visibility. Internal and external vessel lighting must be fully operational. In the case of power failure, battery operated safety lights must be appropriately placed to ensure a safe exit from the vessel.
8. SOUND PRODUCING SIGNALS OR BELLS. Vessels must carry a sound producing device (whistle, horn, siren. or bell) capable of a prolonged blast or ringing for distress signaling purposes.
9. DISTRESS SIGNAL AND FLARES. Vessels should have on board appropriate pyrotechnics devices that will suitably operate in both day and night emergency situations.
10. CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE AVAILABLE Life Jackets must be approved types and in good serviceable condition, Life Jackets of suitable sizes must be readily accessible for the observer and all crew. Life jackets will not be stored away or locked in cupboards or rooms.
11. SOLAS APPROVED LIFE RAFT In addition to meeting the requirements of the (IMO) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (Solas) life rafts must be currently in survey and be adequate to carry the amount of crew including the observer on board the vessel.
12. OTHER WORK RELATED VESSELS Many vessels have auxiliary vessels that can be used in emergency situations. Note these.
13. EPIRBS International Standard 406 MHz EPIRB. The signal frequency (406 MHz) has been designated internationally for use only for distress. Check to see the frequency number and position of these EPIRBS, a few vessels may have the older relatively common type of 121.5/243 MHz emergency beacons, these will be obsolete in late 2008.
14. NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS Vessel must have a set of appropriate, up to date nautical charts. Check to ensure that the Radar, GPS and any other navigational equipment is in good order and functioning.
15. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT The vessel must have adequate first aid facilities with current "use by dates" on all apparatus, drugs, dressings and other first aid paraphernalia.
16. SANITATION. The vessel must have adequate clean, well maintained sanitation and bathing facilities.

17/18. PHONE EMAIL/FAX. If the vessel has a Phone Fax or Email system note the numbers for future reference or emergencies.

19. INSURANCE. All vessels must have insurance for the Observer when the observer is on board, often the observer is covered by adding him/her to the crew list, ask to see what insurance the vessel has and ensure adding the observer to the policy is permitted

The explanations in the Vessel Safety check are by no means exhaustive. Checkers should ensure that other aspects of the vessel are considered before an observer is placed aboard, e.g., Accommodation, Fishing strategy, Vessel Size, etc. If vessels are unable to supply some items listed e.g., Fax Phone, etc, it does not mean an observer cannot be placed. The ultimate boarding is in the hands of the observer, however items marked with an asterisk on the form must be adequate

Guidelines on suggested mechanisms to prevent Alcohol related misconduct of observers;

Following a small number of complaints by vessels operators, observer providers and others; the following guidelines were compiled from different regional observer programme responses on the misconduct of observers due to alcohol consumption. The compilation of suggested mechanisms with possible results and possible solutions were presented at the IWGROP4 and then were agreed at WCPFC12 to be used as a guide for programmes, there are several scenarios that were proposed in the tables and ROP's are encouraged to consider some of the mechanisms that suite their programme.

Item **Preventing And Deterring Misconduct Of Observers** Guidelines on Suggested Mechanisms to Prevent and Deter Alcohol-Related Misconduct of Observers –	**Standard Required** Agreed that it would be a helpful procedure to ensure that an individual vessels policy on alcohol consumption during a trip was clarified at the time of observer placement. Recognise there may be merit in observer programmes considering a form that provides a mechanism for vessels to report back to the observer programme on the behaviour of an observer following the end of a trip *IWGROP4/WCPFC12(para 579 & attachment 4)*

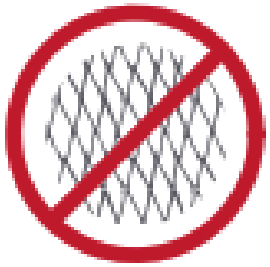
ROP Expectation - Suggested Mechanisms to Prevent and Deter Alcohol-Related Misconduct of Observers –

	Suggested Mechanism	**Possible result**	**Suggested Standards of the Commission to be applied**
Training			
1	Continually and forcefully emphasize observer professionalism and pride early and often during training, clearly indicating that an observer is "on the clock" for the entirety of their observer contract and assignment.	This sets the frame for future observer behavior and could help self-select for observers less likely to engage in misconduct.	Observer Training must contain an effective emphasis on the Code of Conduct including a strong emphasis of penalties in relation to drunkenness and other code infringements.
2	Clearly and explicitly explain the rules, regulations, and Code of Conduct for observers related to misconduct, especially the consequences for violations, at several stages in training.	This should help improve the awareness of potential consequences and help deter some observers from engaging in misconduct.	Observer Training must contain an effective emphasis on the Code of Conduct including a strong emphasis of penalties in relation to drunkenness and other infringements.

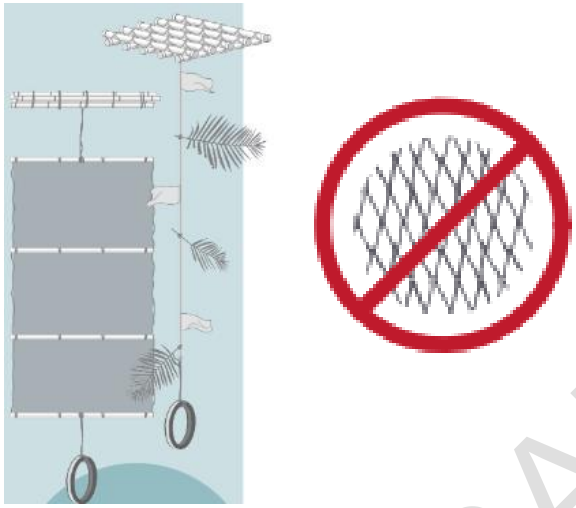
3	Clearly and explicitly explain the rules and procedures for documenting potential misconduct violations. There should be a requirement of proof of misconduct which should place the burden on the vessel or vessel agent to provide an affidavit documenting the specifics of the observer misconduct, an opportunity for the observer to provide a response, and a written report summarizing the findings as well as an opportunity for both parties to comment in writing on the report.	This would ensure that the observer understands their rights and what steps they would take should they be accused of misconduct. Providing this information offers an additional incentive to behave while also informing the observer of their right to an unbiased investigation of the accusation.	Observer Training must contain a section on the rights and role of an observer in relations to any accusations made against him or her. Collecting of written affidavits plus substantiated evidence is required before any further undertaking can be made against the accused observer, hearsay and verbal complaints are not sufficient for remedial action or dismissal.
4	Clearly and explicitly explain the penalties schedule for violations, e.g. Arrest for alcohol related assault results in termination. The penalties schedule should include all scenarios, such as, if an observer is found guilty of misconduct that does not rise to the level of termination, the observer provider should provide a progressive performance evaluation that allows an observer to improve, with clear expectations in writing, including, where available, options for counseling and alcohol treatment and recovery programs.	This gives observers a clear understanding of what is at stake if they engage in misconduct and provides an additional deterrent effect, while also indicating to the observer their options for seeking treatment for alcohol problems.	An observer charged with a Code of Conduct infringement must be given every opportunity to defend him/herself against the claims that they have alleged to have committed. Drunkenness can be a problem for some who are normally good workers, all avenues of assistance should be made available to the observer.
5	"3 strikes and you are out rule" - Clearly and explicitly explain the penalties schedule for violations. If an observer is found guilty of misconduct that does not rise to the level of termination, then the observer should be informed and warned that they are on a "3 strike and you are out rule". This allows an observer to improve, knowing that if they fail to do so; they will face termination from their observer role.	This gives observers a clear understanding of what is at stake if they engage in continual misconduct and provides an additional deterrent effect.	Observers who have problems with Misconduct /drunkenness that is not considered a major event should be given a chance to redeem themselves. A standard for action for persons that continually offend should be put in place. The "3 strikes and you are out rule" could be applied for minor offences of drunkenness and other infringements.

Assignment			
6	Intervention at the point of assignment where the observer must read aloud the Code of Conduct before the observer provider and initial or otherwise acknowledge provisions specific to alcohol related misconduct.	This will work if the observer commits themselves to not drink alcohol to the point where Code of Conduct infractions occur during his/her stay in the port.	On arriving at a port or on a vessel, observers are given relevant sections to read and note on the Code of Conduct. This is a reminder what lays ahead of them if they infringe with misconduct and or drunkenness.
7	Intervention at the point of disembarking where someone explains the rules and consequences on what will happen if an observer drinks too much.	This will work if the observer commits themselves to not drink alcohol to the point where Code of Conduct infractions occur during his/her stay in the port.	On arriving at a port or on a vessel, observers are given copy of the Code of Conduct and solid verbal explanations' on the relevant sections on the Code of Conduct. With emphasis on the local penalties and consequences if the observer breaches the Code of Conduct.
8	Prohibition on the consumption of alcohol by observers during the term of their trip and return to home country.	Observer will not be permitted to drink any alcohol during their trip and return home subject to sanction. Dismissal as the penalty, regardless of how much is consumed will most likely deter some observers. This is a rigid standard but prone to equitable enforcement.	All Observers are usually considered to be on contract from the start of their trip from their home base until they return to their home base; therefore, they should not be permitted to indulge in the consumption of alcohol for the period of their contract.
9	Requirement to remain on board the assigned vessel when in port and only disembark that vessel when the first flight out of the country to the observers homeport after completion of first trip comes available	Cost implications as there would be no second trips, unless observers were not permitted trip and could only leave when departure for home country is organised.to leave the vessel after the first	Observers must stay on board vessels until the point of departure from the port to their home country occurs; also observers must stay on board in the port if they are asked to carry out a second trip on the vessel they are on board.
10	All accommodation etc. is organised with meals No alcohol permitted) and paid for by provider if observer lands in foreign port	Observer's accommodation and food (no alcohol permitted) is paid by provider to a set limit, - Small allowance to cover costs if observer has to travel or is going back for 2nd trip.	Observer's accommodation and food is pre-organised and paid by provider. When an observer lands in a foreign port. This includes banning the sale of alcohol to the observer as part of the costs.

DRAFT WCPFC GUIDELINES FOR NON-ENTANGLING AND BIODEGRADABLE FAD MATERIALS*

FAD Structure	NON-ENTANGLING	BIODEGRADABLE
General:	✓ Non-entangling biodegradable FADs are the FAD design with the least possible impact on the ecosystem. ✓ New FAD designs should also focus on to mitigating impact when beaching or sinking. ✓ FAD recovery activities are encouraged to reduce FAD loss and abandonment.	
Raft	✓ To the extent of possible, the surface structure should not be covered with netting or meshed materials (to reduce entanglement of turtles). 	✓ To the extent of possible, construct with bamboo, balsa wood, other natural materials or in their absence, use of bio-based and biodegradable compounds complying with international standards that degrade without causing impact on the ecosystem.  ✓ Use of plastic buoys [~~and containers~~] for flotation should be reduced as much as possible; for instance, reduce the weight and volume of the FAD structure. 

* Draft guidelines for non-entangling and biodegradable FADs prepared by the FAD Management Options WG, and as reflected in Attachment 1 to **FADMO-IWG-04-2020/WP-02**

Tail	✓ FADs constructed without netting can eliminate the entanglement of turtles, sharks and finfish species. This will also reduce chances of FAD structures becoming enmeshed in coral reefs and other sensitive substrates, and research on the impacts of tail depth, width and size on substrates may be considered in the future. 	✓ Encourage to use natural and/or biodegradable materials such as cotton ropes and canvas, manila hemp, sisal, coconut fiber, other natural materials. In the absence of such materials, encourage to use bio-based and biodegradable compounds complying with international standards. 

Based on the 2019 ISSF Guide there are **three (3) categories of FADs from lowest to highest entanglement risk** that are described below. *Considering the variety of designs and materials used worldwide to construct FADs, these designs are just examples, but the important elements are the net type and its configuration.*

NON-Entangling FADs

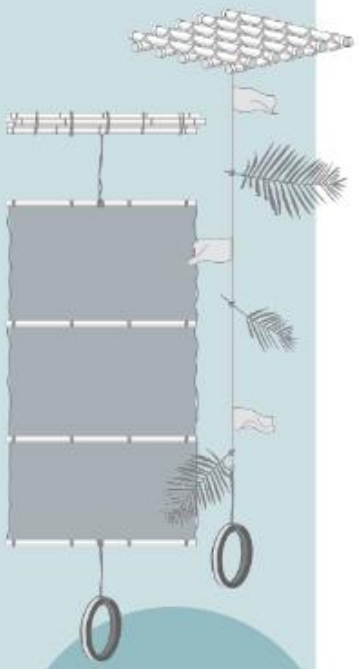
RAFT

- Do not cover with netting.
- If covered, cover with canvas, tarpaulin, shade cloth, or non-entangling materials.

TAIL

- Subsurface structure is made with ropes, canvas or nylon sheets, or other non-entangling materials.

More detail on the previous page.



No netting is used in any components (raft and tail)

These FADs are expected to have no risk of causing entanglement.

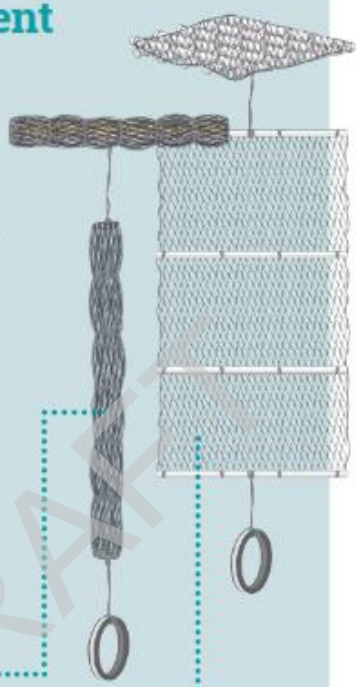
LOWER Entanglement Risk FADs

RAFT

- Use only small mesh netting (< 2.5 inch / 7 cm stretched mesh) if covering with net (both upper and submerged parts).
- If small mesh netting is used as cover, it is tightly wrapped, with no loose netting hanging from the raft.

TAIL

- If net is used as submerged tail, could be of any mesh size if tightly tied into sausage-like bundles.
- If open panel netting is used, only small mesh size (< 2.5 inch [7 cm] stretched mesh) can be used, but weight the panel to keep it taut.



Despite using netting, these design elements reduce the risk of entanglement events.

HIGH Entanglement Risk FADs

RAFT

- Covered with large mesh netting (e.g. > 2.5-inch mesh).*
- If mesh size is larger than 2.5 inches (both in the upper or submerged part), it is high entanglement, whether the net is tightly tied or covered by canvas or tarpaulin.

TAIL

- Submerged part of the FAD constructed with open panels of large mesh netting (> 2.5-inch mesh).

*Accounting for mesh sizes available in the market, 2.5 inch (7 cm) mesh size offers the lowest likelihood of entanglements across species and body parts.

These FADs are known to cause entanglements with turtles and sharks.

** Non-Entangling FADs are highly encouraged*

COMMISSION
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Electronic Meeting
8 – 15 December 2020

2020 FINAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT (COVERING 2019 ACTIVITIES)

WCPFC17-2020-fCMR
15 December 2020

Adopted at WCPFC17

2020 FINAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT (COVERING 2019 ACTIVITIES)

Executive Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. WCPFC17 undertook its tenth annual review of compliance by CCMs against an updated list of Commission obligations agreed to at WCPFC16 for review in 2020 based on the updated Provisional CMR provided by TCC16.

2. WCPFC17 and TCC16 conducted its review in accordance with the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) adopted at WCPFC16 – CMM 2019-06. Due to the revised version of the CMS in CMM 2019-06, there was no review of past years' Flag State Investigations assessments and the draft aggregated tables required under paragraph 26(ii) of the CMS would not inform the review this year due to time constraints of integrating this new approach.

3. Consistent with recent versions of the CMS, the current CMS does not require an overall assessment of each CCM, but only tasks TCC to identify a provisional compliance assessment for each specific obligation.

4. In accordance with paragraph 7 and Annex I of CMM 2019-06, the following statuses were considered in making the assessments: Compliant, Non-Compliant, Priority Non-Compliant, Capacity Assistance Needed, and CMM Review.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT BY TCC16

5. TCC16 reviewed the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (draft CMR) for thirty-seven (37) CCMs and for one obligation for one (1) collective group of Members in a closed working group session. The European Union and United States reiterated the importance of transparency in all aspects of the Commission's work and supported holding the CMR process in open session. The draft and Provisional CMR is classified as non-public domain data and some CCMs noted that the requirements for the release of this data had not yet been met. The decision was therefore taken to close the meeting. As outlined in paragraph 46(v) of CMM 2019-06, TCC16 noted the work that was underway to develop guidelines on the participation of Observers which, once agreed, could provide the basis for TCC16's consideration of the CMS in open session in the future.

6. Notwithstanding the effort undertaken by CCMs, the Provisional CMR retained an issue where majority and minority positions are noted that could not be resolved at TCC16.

III. COMPLIANCE REVIEW PROCESS

7. TCC16 considered the CMR Review Process in advance of conducting its review (**TCC16-2020-09_rev1**).

8. TCC16 agreed that it would prioritize consideration to the 69 potential compliance issues identified by the Secretariat in the full draft Compliance Monitoring Report. TCC16 discussed the suggestion in paragraph 8 of TCC16-2020-09_rev1 that because of necessary constraints of the meeting schedule for plenary during TCC16, CCMs will not be permitted to raise issues not identified by the Secretariat

in the draft CMR. Ultimately, TCC16 followed the practice in previous years of considering compliance issues raised from the floor that had not been previously identified by the Secretariat.

9. As in previous years, TCC16 agreed that any deadline reporting issues identified by the Secretariat in the full draft Compliance Monitoring Report would be discussed in plenary by exception.

10. Where a status of "Non-Compliant" or "Priority Non-Compliant" was assigned, TCC16 determined in accordance with CMM 2019-06, paragraph 40, CCMs may provide additional information up to 21 days after TCC16, noting that additional information is restricted to that which only requires administrative consideration by the Secretariat to fill an information gap, and this allowance to provide additional information shall not apply to substantive issues (CMM 2019-06 paragraph 40).

11. TCC16 agreed not to assign a status of "Non-Compliant" for a particular obligation/score based on information found in the Aggregate Summary Tables.

IV. SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE REVIEW ASSESSMENTS

12. TCC16 received reports from CCMs on the progress of capacity development plans for 2019. The outcomes of the discussions are in the table and information set out below.

CMM	Capacity Assistance Needed Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed Completed
Scientific data provision (SciData 03)	Indonesia (RY2016, RY 2017, RY 2018)	
100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 3 paragraph 5)	Philippines (RY2018)	

a. **Indonesia**: TCC noted that a report on progress was submitted by Indonesia to TCC16 that confirms that due to COVID-19 there were some delays in the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out in the Capacity Development Plan. TCC noted that for RY 2019 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met. The revised Capacity Development Plan would indicate that implementation would be completed at the end of 2020 or early 2021.

b. **Philippines**: TCC noted that a written report was received from the Philippines on progress on its Capacity Development Plan which provided a schedule for implementation to progressively increase observer coverage in Philippine waters over 2020 to 2023. TCC noted that for RY 2019 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.

13. In accordance with CMM 2019-06, paragraph 35, where there were majority/minority views on the correct assessment, TCC16's provisional assessment reflects the majority view and records the minority view. TCC16 notes the following assessment with majority/minority views for the Commission for its final assessment:

a. **CMM 2018-01 paragraph 26** – The majority view was that the United States should be assessed as Priority Non-Compliant; however, there was a minority view that the United States

was Compliant.

14. In consideration of the compliance status for one member related to CMM 2018-01 paragraph 26, TCC provided a Majority / Minority recommendation. After further deliberation at WCPFC17, the majority of members viewed the United States as being Priority Non-Compliant with its obligation to limit its 2019 purse seine fishing effort on the High Seas to levels specified in CMM 2018-01 consistent with the Commission's decision in 2018, 2016 and 2015. The majority of members concluded that the United States had breached and exceeded its High Seas purse seine fishing effort limit in 4 of the previous 5 years. It was recognised by the majority of members that there had been no changes to the tropical tuna measure in relation to what these High Seas limits are and where they apply, and no CMMs provide for the transferability of fishing effort limits between high seas and EEZs. Those members called on the United States to desist from its non-compliant practices. The majority of members expressed very serious concern that the United States had applied unilateral measures through its national law that had the effect of systematically undermining CMM provisions negotiated and agreed in good faith, and that its actions adversely impact on the integrity of the CMS and its objective to ensure that CCMs implement and comply with measures as adopted by the Commission.

15. The minority view of one member plus the United States, was that the United States was Compliant as the approach of the United States to satisfy its obligations under paragraphs 25 and 26 together with a single combined limit, and its success in controlling its purse seine fishing effort below the limit, were compliant with the measure and consistent with its objectives. The minority view is that it is the sum of the limits that matter with respect to achieving the measure's conservation objectives, not any single limit in isolation. The United States has been completely transparent about how it implements its obligations, which has no effect on total purse seine fishing effort. When the sum of the limits has been exceeded in the past, the United States has accepted an assessment of priority non-compliant and deducted overages from future years' limits in accordance with the measure.

16. WCPFC17 noted that while there was no consensus on the compliance status or on the underlying understanding of the specific obligation, WCPFC17 noted the majority and minority view for the United States.

17. There were two obligations that WCPFC17 and TCC16 once again assessed as CMM Review.

a. **CMM 2005-03 paragraph 04**: The United States noted that this measure had been in place for some time and had been reviewed and revised by the Commission in 2019, and the same provision had been included in the revised measure. Some CCMs expressed difficulties in interpreting this obligation and applying it to a particular CCM, particularly where North Pacific albacore was caught as a by-catch and where catch information had been provided but information on effort or gear type was lacking. TCC had previously raised issues with the ambiguity of language in some CMMs such as "directed at" or "fishing for" which continue to present challenges and makes it difficult for TCC to complete the assessments of some obligations during the CMR.

b. **CMM 2018-01 paragraph 51:** In applying a status of "CMM Review" to paragraph 51 of CMM 2018-01, TCC16 recognized the difficulty of the application of this paragraph in terms of the scope of "other commercial fisheries" in Indonesia and the Philippines. TCC16 noted that Indonesia and the Philippines had submitted papers to SC16 and TCC16 in response to the tasking from TCC15 to inform a Commission discussion on the application of paragraph 51 of CMM 2018-01. The virtual format of these meetings made it difficult to consider these

papers at SC16 and TCC16. TCC16 recommends that WCPFC17 task SC17 and TCC17 to review these papers and provide advice to the Commission to facilitate a decision by WCPFC18 on the application of paragraph 51 of CMM 2018-01.

18. The RY2019 assessments are set out in the Appendices 1 and 2. Consistent with the Final Compliance Monitoring Reports for 2012 – 2018, CCMs evaluated as "Non-Compliant" or "Priority Non-Compliant" for obligations are strongly encouraged to address their implementation issues.

19. TCC16 also noted the difficulty for the Secretariat to provide guidance to TCC when the draft CMR relies upon the information in the Annual Reports and those reports can continue to be updated after the draft CMR is prepared. TCC16 recommends that consideration be given to addressing this challenge. WCPFC17 encouraged CCMs to work closely with the Secretariat to ensure that new information submitted in revised Annual Report Part 1 after the reports have been provided to the CCMs as outlined in paragraph 25 of CMM 2019-06 is brought to the Secretariat's attention for inclusion in the draft CMR, where relevant and in line with paragraph 27 of the same measure.

20. TCC16 recommends that a number of obligations would benefit from further consideration by the Commission to assist in assessing compliance. These together with some other matters are considered in Section V. WCPFC17 tasks TCC17 to provide WCPFC18 an update on these issues and notes that these concerns may also emerge through the Future Work of the CMS on Audit Points.

V. ISSUES RELATED TO SPECIFIC CMMs OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS

21. Australia and the United States emphasized that unlike most other reporting requirements, the pre-transhipment notifications in CMM 2009-06 have very little value if they are not submitted on time. Accordingly, it does not make sense for a CCM to receive a status of compliant for the report-provided aspect of the obligation if the notification is submitted late.

22. TCC16 noted that TCC consistently had difficulty assessing some obligations due to differing interpretations of those obligations and different views on how implementation of the obligation was to be assessed. TCC16 noted that with respect to CMM 2014-02, VMS SSPs paragraph 2.8, the Secretariat assessment of compliance was based on past practice. TCC16 recommended that consideration be given to how this obligation should be assessed in future when the audit points are considered as part of the Future Work to enhance the CMS.

23. With respect to CMM 2009-06, paragraphs 35(a)(iii) and (iv), TCC16 urged Panama to improve its implementation of the WCPFC transshipment reporting requirements to remove data discrepancies.

24. TCC16, while acknowledging the challenges Indonesia encountered in implementing CMM 2011-04, paragraph 1 relating to oceanic whitetip sharks and CMM 2013-08, paragraph 1 relating to silky sharks, noted that Indonesia is considering and progressing the adoption of legislation or other means for implementing these obligations. TCC16 urged Indonesia to take necessary measures to implement these obligations.

25. With regard to CMM 2015-02 on South Pacific Albacore, TCC16 noted that concerns had been expressed by many CCMs over a number of years concerning the South Pacific albacore fishery and the desire to develop a new measure. The breach of the quantitative limits in CMM 2015-02, paragraph 1, by a CCM was considered a serious issue. Some CCMs saw the issue as complicated and challenging for a number of reasons. These included whether there were gaps in data which could be addressed, whether vessels were determined to be fishing south of 20 degrees south, and whether

there were catch attribution issues. Given the high interest in the South Pacific albacore fisheries, TCC16 recommended that priority be given by the Commission to this measure.

26. The EU raised concerns about possible differences in the interpretation of the attribution of the purse seine catch of tropical tunas under CMM 2018-01, paragraph 8 (chartering agreements), and the risk it could introduce for allowing CCMs that are not SIDS to make use of the exemptions that are granted solely to SIDS and which subsequently could undermine the effectiveness of the measure. China and PNA members expressed the view that the vessels chartered by SIDS are part of the domestic fleets of SIDS.

27. TCC16 identified a continuing issue with the implementation of CMM 2018-01, paragraph 16 relating to the 3-month FAD closure. TCC16 expressed concern that the non-implementation of this requirement by some CCMs undermined the effectiveness of the measure. Most CCMs were of the view that the CMM did not provide for CCMs to employ alternative methods of implementing the obligation and it was on this basis that the compliance assessments were made.

28. With respect to the reporting obligation in CMM 2018-01, paragraph 17, some CCMs were of the view that this was a one-time obligation under which the choice of the two additional month closure was made by the deadline of 1 March 2018. However, some other CCMs had notified their choice in subsequent years. TCC16 noted the challenges in assessing compliance with this obligation and recommended that this issue be addressed by the Commission in the future.

29. There was extensive discussion in TCC16 concerning the quantitative limit set out in CMM 2018-01, paragraph 26, and including Attachment 1, Table 1 Footnote **, which resulted in a majority/minority (one CCM) view noted earlier. Many CCMs expressed their concern over the implications of how the obligation was being implemented by one CCM. TCC16 emphasized the need for clarity in the drafting of CMMs and the importance of developing audit points as part of the Future Work to enhance the CMS.

VI. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

30. Some targeted assistance was identified to assist SIDS and other CCMs in implementing specific obligations. Indonesia's capacity assistance needed for the reporting obligation in CMM 2011-04, paragraph 3 and the implementation obligation in CMM 2013-08, paragraph 3 were related to its existing Capacity Development Plan. The identified reporting gap for silky sharks in particular is linked to COVID-19 preventing delivery of capacity assistance. This is to be incorporated into its CDP for RY 2019. TCC16 expects Indonesia to be meet this obligation in 2021.

CMM	Obligation	CMR section	CCM	**Capacity Assistance Needed Score**
CMM 2011-04	CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3 *Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (AR Pt 1)*	Reporting	Indonesia	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2019)

CMM	Obligation	CMR section	CCM	**Capacity Assistance Needed Score**
CMM 2013-08	CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3 *Annual report on estimated number of releases of silky sharks caught in the Convention Area, including status upon release (AR Pt 1)*	Reporting	Indonesia	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY 2019)

31. Some areas of capacity assistance were identified by certain CCMs in their Annual Report Part II covering RY 2018 and are understood to be continuing capacity assistance needs in RY 2019 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2020.

CMM	**Notes about types of assistance requested**	**CCM**
2017-03 03-06, 11, 12 Observer Safety CMM	Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require legislation changes	Cook Islands
2013-07 04-05 Capacity development for personnel	Additional training is needed in the following areas: 1. Prosecution 2. Data analysis 3. MCS	Fiji
2013-07 10-11 Capacity development for MCS activities	Assistance from developed partners to assist in both aerial and surface surveillance coverage	Kiribati

VII. AGGREGATE SUMMARY TABLES

32. Aggregate Summary Tables of cases in the online compliance case file system which are based on the templates in Annex III of CMM 2019-06 are attached as Appendix 3. Due to the constraints of holding a virtual meeting, TCC16 decided that TCC's consideration of the draft CMR in TCC16 plenary would not include the Aggregate Summary Tables.

33. TCC16 suggested that CCMs consider sharing feedback and views on the format and utility of the tables, as well as any suggested refinements. TCC16 suggested that CCMs work intersessionally with a view to provide guidance on how TCC17 would consider the tables alongside the draft CMR, including to "identify implementation challenges for a CCM" and to "identify systemic failures to take flag state action in relation to alleged violations". WCPFC17 noted the delay in advancing the work agreed at WCPFC16 concerning the aggregate tables and tasked the TCC Chair to lead work intersessionally prior to TCC17, with a view to provide guidance on how TCC17 would consider the aggregate tables alongside the draft CMR. This work will also benefit from the TCC16 recommended analytical work that the Secretariat will be undertaking related to the CCFS and approaches to present the data.

Appendix 1: 2020 Final CMR Matrix covering 2019 activities

Obligation Category: Quantitative Limits (QL); Implementation (IM): Report (RP): Deadline (DL):

CMM Para		Members and Participating Territories																													Cooperating Non-										
Obligation Category	AU	CA	CK	CN	EU	FJ	FM	FR	PF	ID	JP	KI	KR	MH	NR	NC	NZ	NU	PG	PH	PW	WS	SB	TW	TK	TO	TV	US	VU	WF	PNA	EC	SV	LB	NI	PA	TH	VN	Applicable CCMs	Compliance (X/Y)	% compliance
CMM 2005-03 02																																									
QL																																							7	0	100%
CMM 2005-03 04																																									
RP																																									
CMM 2009-06 11																																									
RP																																							19	2	89%
DL																																							19	1	95%
CMM 2009-06 13																																									
IM																																							18	0	100%
CMM 2009-06 29																																									
QL																																							22	0	100%
CMM 2009-06 34																																									
QL																																							10	0	100%
CMM 2009-06 35 a (ii)																																									
RP																																							10	0	100%
CMM 2009-06 35 a (iii)																																									
RP																																							8	3	63%
DL																																							8	7	13%
CMM 2009-06 35 a (iv)																																									
RP																																							8	1	88%
DL																																							8	4	50%
CMM 2010-01 05																																									
QL																																							7	0	100%
CMM 2010-01 08																																									
RP																																							7	0	100%
CMM 2010-07 09																																									
IM																																							29	0	100%
CMM 2010-07 12																																									
DL																																							29	0	100%
CMM 2011-04 01																																									
IM																																							29	1	97%
CMM 2011-04 03																																									
RP																																							27	0	100%
DL																																							27	1	96%
CMM 2013-08 01																																									
IM																																							29	1	97%
CMM 2013-08 03																																									
RP																																							27	0	100%
DL																																							27	1	96%
CMM 2014-02 9a																																									
IM																																							23	3	87%
CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8																																									
IM																																							23	2	91%
CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 7.2.2																																									
RP																																							22	0	100%
DL																																							22	1	95%
CMM 2015-02 01																																									
QL																																							10	1	90%
CMM 2015-02 04																																									
RP																																							16	0	100%
CMM 2016-05 02																																									
RP																																							10	0	100%
DL																																							10	7	30%
CMM 2016-05 03																																									
RP																																							10	0	100%
DL																																							10	0	100%

CMM Para	Members and Participating Territories																														Cooperating Non-									
Obligation Category	AU	CA	CK	CN	EU	FJ	FM	FR	PF	ID	JP	KI	KR	MH	NR	NC	NZ	NU	PG	PH	PW	WS	SB	TW	TK	TO	TV	US	VU	WF	PNA	EC	SV	LB	NI	PA	TH	VN	Applicable CCMs	Compliance (X/Y)	% compliance
CMM 2016-05 07																																									
RP																																							9	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 16																																									
IM																																							21	2	90%
CMM 2018-01 17																																									
RP																																									
IM																																							17	0	100%
DL																																							0	0	#DIV/0!
CMM 2018-01 23																																									
IM																																							19	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 25																																									
QL																																							17	1	94%
DL																																							4	1	75%
CMM 2018-01 26																																									
QL																																							11	1	91%
CMM 2018-01 27																																									
IM																																							9	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 31																																									
IM																																							19	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 33																																									
IM																																							19	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 34																																									
IM																																							19	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 35																																									
IM																																							12	1	92%
CMM 2018-01 39																																									
QL																																							6	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 41																																									
RP																																							6	0	100%
DL																																							6	1	83%
CMM 2018-01 43																																									
QL																																							5	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 45																																									
QL																																							13	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 47																																									
QL																																							7	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 48																																									
QL																																							4	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 51																																									
QL																																									
CMM 2018-01 52																																									
RP																																							5	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 54																																									
RP																																							5	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 Att 2 03																																									
RP																																							1	1	0%
DL																																							1	1	0%
CMM 2018-01 Att 2 05-06																																									
IM																																							1	0	100%
CMM 2018-01 Att 2 08																																									
IM																																							1	0	100%
CMM 2018-02 02 (1)																																									
QL																																							9	0	100%
CMM 2018-02 02 (2)																																									
QL																																							9	0	100%
CMM 2018-02 03																																									
QL																																							9	0	100%

CMM Para		Members and Participating Territories																													Cooperating Non-										
Obligation Category	AU	CA	CK	CN	EU	FJ	FM	FR	PF	ID	JP	KI	KR	MH	NR	NC	NZ	NU	PG	PH	PW	WS	SB	TW	TK	TO	TV	US	VU	WF	PNA	EC	SV	LB	NI	PA	TH	VN	Applicable CCMs	Compliance (X/Y)	% compliance
CMM 2018-02 04																																									
RP																																							12	0	100%
CMM 2018-02 10																																									
RP																																							12	0	100%
CMM 2018-05 10																																									
IM																																							25	0	100%
CMM 2018-05 15 (g)																																									
IM																																							25	0	100%
CMM 2018-05 Annex C 06																																									
IM																																							11	0	100%
DL																																							11	0	100%
CMM 2018-06 02																																									
IM																																							25	0	100%
CMM 2018-06 03																																									
IM																																							30	0	100%
CMM 2018-06 04																																									
IM																																							30	0	100%
CMM 2018-06 07																																									
IM																																							30	1	97%
DL																																							30	0	100%
CMM 2018-06 09																																									
RP																																							30	0	100%
DL																																							30	0	100%
CMM 2018-06 17																																									
IM																																							30	1	97%
SciData 01																																									
RP																																							27	0	100%
DL																																							27	0	100%
SciData 02																																									
RP																																							27	0	100%
DL																																							27	0	100%
SciData 03																																									
RP																																							27	0	100%
DL																																							27	0	100%
SciData 05																																									
RP																																							27	0	100%
DL																																							27	0	100%

Compliance Status Compliant | Non Compliant | Priority Non-Compliant | CMM Review | Capacity Assistance Needed | Not assessed

Members and Participating Territories

AU	Australia	MH	Marshall Islands	TV	Tuvalu
CA	Canada	NR	Nauru	US	United States of America
CK	Cook Islands	NC	New Caledonia	VU	Vanuatu
CN	China	NZ	New Zealand	WF	Wallis and Futuna
EU	European Union	NU	Niue		
FJ	Fiji	PG	Papua New Guinea	**Collective group:**	
FM	Federated States of Micronesia	PH	Philippines	PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
FR	France	PW	Palau		
PF	French Polynesia	WS	Samoa		
ID	Indonesia	SB	Solomon Islands		
JP	Japan	TW	Chinese Taipei		
KI	Kiribati	TK	Tokelau		
KR	Republic of Korea	TO	Tonga		

Cooperating Non-Members

EC	Ecuador
SV	El Salvador
LR	Liberia
NI	Nicaragua
PA	Panama
TH	Thailand
VN	Vietnam

Appendix 2: 2020 Final Compliance and Monitoring Report (for 2019 activities)

Obligation Category: Quantitative Limits (QL); Implementation (IM): Report (RP): Deadline (DL):

	Compliance or Implementation Status				**2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue**
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
CMM 2005-03: North Pacific Albacore					
Para (2) ***QL*** *CCMs take measures to ensure level of fishing effort by vessels fishing for NP albacore is not increased*	Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para (4) ***RP*** *NP albacore required report*	**CMM Review**				
CMM 2009-06: Transshipment					
Para (11) ***RP*** *Annual report on all transhipment activities covered by this Measure (including transhipment activities that occur in ports or EEZs) in accordance with the specified guidelines (Annex II)*	Australia, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Liberia		Vanuatu Panama		Vanuatu [7] Panama [8]
Para (11) ***DL***	Australia, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand,		Panama		Panama [2]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
	Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Liberia				
Para (13) ***IM*** *CCM shall ensure that vessels they are responsible for carry observers from the WCPFC ROP to observe transhipments at sea*	China, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Island, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Island, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama				
Para (29) ***QL*** *Limit on purse seine vessels transhipment outside of port to vessels that have received an exemption from the Commission. Where applicable, flag CCM authorisation should be vessel-specific and address any specific conditions identified by the Commission.*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
Para (34) ***QL*** *Ban on high seas transshipment, unless a CCM has determined impracticability in accordance with para 37 guidelines, and has advised the Commission of such*	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama, Thailand				
Para (35) (a) (ii) ***RP*** *Flag CCM's notification to the Secretariat on its flag vessels that are authorised to transship on the high seas*	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama, Thailand				
Para (35) (a) (iii) ***RP*** *WCPFC Transshipment Advance Notification (including fields in Annex III)*	China, Japan, Korea, United States, Liberia	Chinese Taipei Vanuatu	Panama		Panama [4]
Para (35) (a) (iii) ***DL***	United States	Japan	China, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama		China [6], Korea [2] Chinese Taipei [3], Vanuatu [5] Liberia [3], Panama [4]
Para (35) (a) (iv) ***RP*** *WCPFC Transshipment Declaration (including information in Annex I)*	China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Liberia		Panama		Panama [5]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
Para (35) (a) (iv) ***DL***	China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, United States		Korea, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama		Korea [1] Vanuatu [5] Liberia [3], Panama [3]
CMM 2010-01: North Pacific Striped Marlin					
Para 5 ***QL*** *NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011*	China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para 8 ***RP*** *NP striped marlin required report*	China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
CMM 2010-07: Sharks					
Para (9) ***IM*** *Take measures to prohibit their vessels from retaining, transshipping, landing or trading in any fins harvested in contravention of this CMM*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
	Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama				
Para (12) ***DL*** *Report on implementation of this CMM, and any alternative measures that are applied (para 11)*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
CMM 2011-04: Oceanic Whitetip					
Para (1) ***IM*** *Prohibit vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, storing or landing any oceanic whitetip sharks, in whole or in part*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama		Indonesia		Indonesia [2]
Para (3) ***RP*** *Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (AR Pt 1)*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States,			Indonesia	

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
	Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador				
Para (3) ***DL***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador	Indonesia			
CMM 2013-08: Silky Sharks					
Para (1) ***IM*** *Prohibit vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, storing or landing any silky sharks, in whole or in part (applied after 1 July 2014)*	Australia, China, Canada, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga,		Indonesia		Indonesia [4]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
	Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama,				
Para (3) ***RP*** *Annual report on estimated number of releases of silky sharks caught in the Convention Area, including status upon release (AR Pt 1)*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador			Indonesia	
Para (3) ***DL***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands,	Indonesia			

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
	Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador				
CMM 2014-02: Vessel Monitoring System					
Para (9)(a) ***IM*** *Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama		Japan Philippines Vanuatu		Japan [3], Philippines[4], Vanuatu [3]
Para (9)(a) – VMS SSPs para 2.8 ***IM*** *Provision of ALC/MTU 'VTAF' data*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama	Japan,	Philippines		Philippines [5]

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
Para (9) (a) – VMS SSPs para 7.2.2 ***RP*** *CCMs to conduct periodic audits of ALC/MTUs of its vessels and report results to the Commission (AR Pt 2)*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama				
Para (9) (a) – VMS SSPs para 7.2.2 ***DL***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia		Panama		Panama [3]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
CMM 2015-02: South Pacific Albacore					
Para (1) ***QL*** *Limit on number of vessels actively fishing for SP albacore south of 20S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels*	Australia, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States		China		
Para (4) ***RP*** *SP albacore required report*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, United States, Vanuatu				
CMM 2016-05: Charter Notification					
Para (2) ***RP*** *Charter notification report*	Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, United States				
Para (2) ***DL***	Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Korea	Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, United States			

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
Para (3) ***RP*** *Charter notification report*	Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, United States				
Para (3) ***DL***	Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, United States				
Para (7) ***RP*** *Charter notification report*	Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, United States				
CMM 2018-01: Tropical Tunas					
Para (16) ***IM*** *Purse seine 3 month FAD closure (1 July - 30 September)*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, Unites States,		Indonesia Philippines		Indonesia [2] Philippines [2]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
	Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador				
Para (17) ***IM*** *Implementation of two additional month high seas FAD closure (April-May or Nov-Dec)*	China, Cook Islands, El Salvador, European Union, Federates States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu				
Para (17) ***RP*** *Advice on choice of two additional month high seas FAD closure (April-May or Nov-Dec)*	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federates States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu El Salvador				
Para (17) ***DL***	***Not Applicable***				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
Para (23) ***IM*** *Each purse seine vessel is limited to no more than 350 FADs with activated instrumented buoys*	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Para (25) ***QL*** *Purse seine EEZ limits (for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna) and advice from other coastal CCMs of EEZ limits to be applied*	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, PNA		Wallis and Futuna		Wallis and Futuna [3]
Para (25) ***DL***	Indonesia, Philippines, Chinese Taipei		Wallis and Futuna		Wallis and Futuna [3]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
Para (26) ***QL*** *High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S*	China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Ecuador, El Salvador		Korea[1]		**Not assessed for:** United States
Para (27) ***IM*** *CCMs not to transfer fishing effort in days fished in the purse seine fishery to areas N20N and S20S*	China, European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, El Salvador				
Para (31) ***IM*** *Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S)*	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				

[1] Noting updated data presented in Table 2 of TCC16-2020-2020-IP05, TCC16 does not consider this assessment to be a repeat year compliance issue.

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
Para (33) ***IM*** *Purse seine vessels are not to operate under manual reporting during FAD closure period*	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Para (34) ***IM*** *Requirement for purse seine vessels to carry a ROP observer*	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, , Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Para (35) ***IM*** *100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction*	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu		Indonesia	Philippines[2]	Indonesia [8]

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
Para (39) ***QL*** *Bigeye longline catch limits for 2019 and 2020, with adjustment to be made for any overage*	China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Chinse Taipei, United States				
Para (41) ***RP*** *Bigeye longline catch required report*	China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para (41) ***DL***	China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States		Indonesia		Indonesia [7]
Para (43) ***QL*** *Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004*	Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand, Philippines				
Para (45) ***QL*** *Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S*	Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States Ecuador, El Salvador				

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
Para (47) ***QL*** *Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye above the current level (applying domestic quotas are exempt)*	China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para (48) ***QL*** *Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye and landing exclusively fresh fish above the current level or above the number of current licenses under established limited entry programmes (applying domestic quotas are exempt)*	China, Japan, Philippines, United States				
Para (51) ***QL*** *Limit on total catch of certain other commercial tuna fisheries (that take >2000Mt of BET, YFT and SKJ)*	**CMM Review**				
Para (52) ***RP*** *Requirement to provide operational level catch and effort data for EEZ and high seas S20N*	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei				

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
Para (54) ***RP*** *Requirement to provide 1 x 1 aggregate data for vessels fishing in EEZs and high seas N 20 N, as well as to cooperate in providing operational data to SPC for stock assessment*	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei				
Att C (3) ***RP*** *Philippines vessels Entry/Exit reports for HSP1-SMA*			Philippines		Philippines [2]
Att C (3) ***DL***			Philippines		Philippines [4]
Att C (5-6) ***IM*** *Specific requirements for deploying observers on Philippines vessels fishing in HSP1-SMA*	Philippines				
Att C (8) ***IM*** *Philippines to monitor landings by vessels operating in HSP1-SMA and collect reliable catch data by species*	Philippines				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
CMM 2018-02: Pacific Bluefin Tuna					
Para (2) (1) ***QL*** *Total effort by vessels for Pacific bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N*	Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para (2) (2) ***QL*** *Catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30kg shall be reduced to 50% of 2002-04 level. Overage or underage may be used in following year*	Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para (3) ***QL*** *Every possible measure to be taken not to increase catches of Pacific bluefin >30kg from 2002-04 levels with some exceptions*	Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para (4) ***RP*** *Pacific bluefin required report*	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
Para (10) ***RP*** *Pacific bluefin required report on implementation*	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu				
CMM 2018-05: Regional Observer Programme					
Para (10) ***IM*** *CCMs shall explain to the vessel captain, observer duties relevant to appropriate measures adopted by the Commission*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama				
Para (15) (g) ***IM*** *CCMs to ensure vessel operators comply with the Guidelines for the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators, Captains and Crew*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Island, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
	Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama				
Att K, Annex C, Para (6) ***IM*** *CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission*	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu				
Att K, Annex C, Para (6) ***DL***	China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu				
CMM 2018-06: Record of Fishing Vessels					
Para (2) ***IM*** *CCMs to ensure its fishing vessels only transship to/from, and provide bunkering for/ are bunkered by or otherwise supported by vessels on the RFV*	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei,				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
	Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama				
Para (3) ***IM*** *CCMs should only allow its fishing vessels to be used for fishing, if properly authorised*	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand				
Para (4) ***IM*** *Vessels authorization requirement*	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand,				

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
	Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand				
Para (7) ***IM*** *Requirement to notify any additions, modifications and deletions of Vessels from the record, including for each vessel all details as set out in paragraph 6 of this CMM*	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama	Nicaragua			

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
Para (7) ***DL***	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand				
Para (9) ***RP*** *Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting "fished" or "did not fish" for each vessel*	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga,				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
	Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand				
Para 9 ***DL***	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
Para (17) ***IM*** *Flag CCM to ensure fishing vessels are on RFV in accordance with this CMM. Vessels not on RFV shall be deemed not authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land HMFS in Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of its flag State*	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand	Nicaragua			
Scientific Data					
Section 01 – Estimate of Annual Catches ***RP***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese				

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
	Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Section 01 – ***DL***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Section 02 – Number of Active Vessels ***RP***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese				

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
	Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Section 02 ***DL***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Section 03 (vi)- Operational Level Catch and Effort Data ***RP***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga,			Indonesia[4]	

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
	Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Section 03– Operational Level Catch and Effort Data ***DL***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Section 05 (vi)– Size Composition[2] ***RP***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese				

	Compliance or Implementation Status				2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	**Compliant**	**Non-Compliant**	**Priority Non-Compliant**	**Capacity Assistance Needed**	
	Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
Section 05 (reporting deadline)– Size Composition ***DL***	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				

Appendix 3 - 2020 Final Compliance Monitoring Report
Aggregated tables from the WCPFC online compliance case file system

Summary tables derived from the online compliance case file system and intended to provide summaries by topic of flag CCMs responses to compliance cases in the online compliance case file system. Information is based on ROP observer data as at 18 June 2020 and updates in the WCPFC online compliance case file system as at 13 September 2020. ***Table 1 - 2*** *summarize cases based on ROP observer data and* ***Table 3 - 4*** *summarize Article 25(2) Compliance Cases.*

Table 1: Counts of cases in the compliance case file system based on ROP observer data by year showing count of cases by Investigation Status and counts of cases where ROP Observer Report was received (2015- 2019)

The ROP data that was available as at 18 June 2020, may not include all ROP trips for 2019.

Table 1A: Counts of FAD set, shark and observer obstruction alleged infringements (2015 - 2019)

FAI: FAD Sets Alleged infringements (**CMM 2014-01, CMM 2015-01, CMM 2016-01, CMM 2017-01, CMM 2018-01:** Alleged FAD set infringements)

OAI: Observer Obstructions Alleged Infringements (**CMM 2007-01** and **CMM 2018-05**)

SHK: Shark Catch Alleged Infringements (**CMM 2010-07**: Sharks, **CMM 2012-04:** Whale Sharks and **CMM 2013-08:** Silky Sharks)

	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance Case Count	Total Sum of ROP_Rpt_Received _Count
FAI	**82**	**93**	**936**	**1111**	**73**
2015	6	12	237	255	20
2016	3	7	219	229	10
2017	51	32	459	542	26
2018	5	30	19	54	12
2019	17	12	2	31	5
OAI	**15**	**180**	**165**	**360**	**191**
2015		64	87	151	87
2016		35	29	64	29
2017	3	17	11	31	16
2018	3	36	31	70	45
2019	9	28	7	44	14
SHK	**44**	**215**	**91**	**350**	**99**
2015		134	57	191	57
2016		34	10	44	13
2017	1	14	8	23	8
2018	32	21	12	65	17
2019	11	12	4	27	4
Grand Total	**141**	**488**	**1192**	**1821**	**363**

Table 1B: Counts of Cetacean and Whale Shark purse seine fishery interactions (2016 - 2019)

CWS: Cetacean and Whale Shark fishery interaction (**CMM 2012-04:** Whale Sharks and **CMM 2011-03:** Cetaceans)

	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance Case Count	Total Sum of ROP_Rpt_Received _Count
CWS	**298**	**1158**	**563**	**2019**	**699**
2016		258	203	461	207
2017	30	267	149	446	188
2018	65	328	143	536	197
2019	203	305	68	576	107
Grand Total	**298**	**1158**	**563**	**2019**	**699**

Table 2: Summary Tables of outcome of flag CCMs investigations to compliance cases notified in the WCPFC online Compliance Case File System that were based on ROP data (2015-2019)

The ROP data that was available as at 18 June 2020, may not include all ROP trips for 2019.

Table 2A: Summary of FAD, shark and observer obstruction alleged infringements notified in the WCPFC online Compliance Case File System that were based on ROP data (2016-2019)

CMM 2010-07: Sharks **CMM 2011-04:** Oceanic Whitetip Sharks

CMM 2013-08: Silky Sharks

CMM 2014-01, CMM 2015-01, CMM 2016-01, CMM 2017-01, CMM 2018-01: Alleged FAD set infringements

CMM 2007-01, CMM 2018-05: Observer obstruction incidents

Row Labels	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Grand Total
			No infraction	Infraction - no sanction	Infraction - warning	Infraction - sanction	
CMM 2010-07	**22**	**19**	**4**			**14**	**59**
2015		14	2			14	30
2016		3	2				5
2017		1					1
2018	22	1					23
CMM 2011-04	**5**	**13**	**3**			**2**	**23**
2015		9	1			2	12
2016		1					1
2017			1				1
2018	4	1	1				6
2019	1	2					3
CMM 2013-08	**17**	**183**	**37**		**1**	**30**	**268**
2015		111	12			26	149
2016		30	7			1	38
2017	1	13	6		1		21
2018	6	19	8			3	36
2019	10	10	4				24
CMM 2014-01	**6**	**12**	**235**			**2**	**255**
2015	6	12	235			2	255
CMM 2015-01	**3**	**7**	**216**			**3**	**229**
2016	3	7	216			3	229
CMM 2016-01	**51**	**32**	**459**				**542**
2017	51	32	459				542
CMM 2017-01	**5**	**30**	**19**				**54**
2018	5	30	19				54
CMM 2018-01	**17**	**12**	**2**				**31**
2019	17	12	2				31
CMM 2018-05	**15**	**180**	**119**	**14**	**10**	**22**	**360**
2015		64	61	13	8	5	151
2016		35	18		1	10	64
2017	3	17	8		1	2	31
2018	3	36	29			2	70
2019	9	28	3	1		3	44
Grand Total	**141**	**488**	**1094**	**14**	**11**	**73**	**1821**

Table 2B: Summary of purse seine Whale Shark and Cetacean fishery interactions notified in the WCPFC online Compliance Case File System that were based on ROP data (2016-2019)

CMM 2011-03: Cetaceans **CMM 2012-04:** Whale Sharks

Row Labels	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation in Progress	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Grand Total
			No infraction	Infraction - no sanction	Infraction - warning	Infraction - sanction	
CMM 2011-03	**136**	**699**	**348**		**6**	**10**	**1199**
2016		176	129		4	5	314
2017	17	181	99		1	3	301
2018	32	165	86		1	1	285
2019	87	177	34			1	299
CMM 2012-04	**162**	**459**	**191**	**1**		**7**	**820**
2016		82	61			4	147
2017	13	86	46				145
2018	33	163	54	1			251
2019	116	128	30			3	277
Grand Total	**298**	**1158**	**539**	**1**	**6**	**17**	**2019**

Table 3: Counts of Convention Article 25(2) requests for investigation in the compliance case file system by year showing count of cases by Investigation Status (2015 - Sept 2020)

A25: Convention Article 25(2)

	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation Completed	Total Compliance Case Count
A25	**16**	**307**	**323**
2015		35	35
2016		54	54
2017	5	53	58
2018	3	83	86
2019	5	80	85
2020	3	2	5
Grand Total	**16**	**307**	**323**

Table 4: Summary Tables of outcome of flag CCM investigations of alleged infringements that were notified to WCPFC as Article 25(2) matters grouped by CMM/obligation and by year showing counts of cases by Investigation Status

**For ease of readability, groups of CMM/obligations may be presented by tables of similar topic eg alleged FAD sets, bycatch-related, observer obstruction and safety incidents, vessel-related, VMS-reporting, others*

Table 4A: Summary of VMS and HSBI-related Article 25(2) alleged infringements

Note in the below table the omission of a row (year), confirms the annual count of cases were zero.

CMM 2006-08: High seas boarding and inspection scheme

CMM 2014-02: Commission VMS

Row Labels	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Grand Total
		No infraction	Infraction - no sanction	Infraction - warning	Infraction - sanction	
CMM 2006-08 32		**11**	**1**	**4**	**17**	**33**
2016		5	1		8	14
2017		1		2	1	4
2018		3			6	9
2019		2		2	2	6
CMM 2014-02 7d VMS SSPs 2.7		**4**			**1**	**5**
2017		1				1
2018		2			1	3
2019		1				1
CMM 2014-02 9a	**5**	**78**	**3**	**10**	**10**	**106**
2015		5	1	1	1	8
2016		11		1	5	17
2017	2	17		2		21
2018	2	25	2	4	3	36
2019		20		2	1	23
2020	1					1
CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8		**1**				**1**
2018		1				1
Grand Total	**5**	**94**	**4**	**14**	**28**	**145**

Table 4B: Summary of bycatch-related Article 25(2) alleged infringements (2015 - Sept 2020)

Note in the below table the omission of a row (year), confirms the annual count of cases were zero.

CMM 2008-03: sea turtles

CMM 2010-07 & CMM 2014-05: sharks

CMM 2012-07, CMM 2015-03, CMM 2017-06 & CMM 2018-03: seabirds

CMM 2013-08: silky sharks

	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Grand Total
Row Labels		No infraction	Infraction - no sanction	Infraction - warning	Infraction - sanction	
CMM 2008-03 04		**1**			**1**	**2**
2016		1			1	2
CMM 2008-03 05a	**1**					**1**
2020	1					1
CMM 2008-03 06	**2**	**8**	**4**	**6**	**6**	**26**
2016		1			3	4
2017		2	1	2	1	6
2018	1	5	1	2	2	11
2019			2	2		4
2020	1					1
CMM 2008-03 07D	**1**	**1**				**2**
2019	1	1				2
CMM 2010-07 06		**2**			**3**	**5**
2016		1			1	2
2019		1			2	3
CMM 2010-07 07		**2**		**1**	**4**	**7**
2017		2				2
2018					4	4
2019				1		1
CMM 2012-07 01		**1**			**3**	**4**
2016		1			3	4
CMM 2012-07 02					**1**	**1**
2015					1	1
CMM 2013-08 01		**1**			**2**	**3**
2018		1			2	3
CMM 2014-05 01	**1**	**5**			**4**	**10**
2016		1			2	3
2017		2				2
2019	1	2			2	5
CMM 2015-03 01		**2**		**1**		**3**
2017		2		1		3
CMM 2017-06 01		**3**		**1**		**4**
2018		3		1		4
CMM 2018-03 02				**3**		**3**
2019				3		3
CMM 2018-03 06	**1**				**2**	**3**
2019					2	2
2020	1					1
Grand Total	**6**	**26**	**4**	**12**	**26**	**74**

Table 4C: Summary of vessel-related Article 25(2) alleged infringements (2015 - Sept 2020)

Note in the below table the omission of a row (year), confirms the annual count of cases were zero.

CMM 2004-03: vessel marking

CMM 2013-10, 2014-03, CMM 2017-05 & CMM 2018-06: Record of Fishing Vessels

Row Labels	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Grand Total
		No infraction	Infraction - no sanction	Infraction - warning	Infraction - sanction	
CMM 2004-03 02	**3**	**8**	**17**	**26**	**14**	**68**
2015			4	3		7
2016		3	7	11	7	28
2017	1		1	3	4	9
2018		4	4	7	2	17
2019	1	1	1	2	1	6
2020	1					1
CMM 2013-10 03		**3**			**5**	**8**
2017		3			5	8
CMM 2013-10 04		**11**		**2**	**4**	**17**
2015		3				3
2016		2		2	2	6
2017		6			2	8
CMM 2013-10 07		**2**			**5**	**7**
2017		2			5	7
CMM 2013-10 17		**2**	**2**		**9**	**13**
2015			2			2
2016					4	4
2017		2			5	7
CMM 2017-05 04		**7**		**1**		**8**
2018		7		1		8
CMM 2017-05 07		**1**	**1**		**1**	**3**
2018		1			1	2
2019			1			1
CMM 2017-05 17		**1**			**1**	**2**
2018		1			1	2
CMM 2018-06 03				**1**		**1**
2019				1		1
CMM 2018-06 04	**2**	**37**	**5**	**3**		**47**
2019	2	37	5	3		47
CMM 2018-06 07				**1**		**1**
2019				1		1
CMM 2018-06 17		**1**				**1**
2020		1				1
Grand Total	**5**	**73**	**25**	**34**	**39**	**176**

Table 4D: Summary of other-related Article 25(2) alleged infringements (2015 - Sept 2020)

Note in the below table the omission of a row (year), confirms the annual count of cases were zero.

CMM 2009-06: transhipment
CMM 2009-09: Vessels without nationality
CMM 2010-02: Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area
CMM 2016-03 & CMM 2017-03: Observer Safety Incident
C**MM 2018-05:** Regional Observer Programme
Convention Article 24(1) & 24(3): Alleged unauthorised fishing

	Flag CCM Notified	Flag CCM Investigation Completed				Grand Total
Row Labels		No infraction	Infraction - no sanction	Infraction - warning	Infraction - sanction	
CMM 2009-06 13		**2**	**1**		**2**	**5**
2016		1	1		2	4
2017		1				1
CMM 2009-06 25	**1**	**3**				**4**
2018	1	2				3
2019		1				1
CMM 2009-06 34			**2**			**2**
2015			2			2
CMM 2009-06 35 a (iii)		**4**	**3**		**2**	**9**
2015		2	2			4
2016		1	1		2	4
2019		1				1
CMM 2009-06 35 a (iv)		**6**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**10**
2015		2	2			4
2016				1		1
2018		2				2
2019		2			1	3
CMM 2009-06 35 A (V)					**1**	**1**
2018					1	1
CMM 2009-09 01-05		**6**	**1**	**5**		**12**
2016				1		1
2017		4		3		7
2019		2	1	1		4
CMM 2010-02 02		**1**	**2**		**1**	**4**
2015			2		1	3
2016		1				1
CMM 2016-03 03-06	**2**	**1**				**3**
2017	2	1				3
CMM 2017-03 03-06	**1**	**1**				**2**
2020	1	1				2
CMM 2018-05 15 (g)					**1**	**1**
2019					1	1
Convention Article 24 (1)		**5**			**5**	**10**
2015					4	4
2016					1	1
2018		4				4
2020		1				1
Convention Article 24 (3)		**1**			**1**	**2**
2017		1				1
2018					1	1
Grand Total	**4**	**30**	**11**	**6**	**14**	**65**

List of Obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2021 – AGREED BY SWG 15 Dec 2020

CMMs	CMM/para	Category
SciData	SciData01	Report
	SciData02	Report
	SciData03	Report
	SciData05	Report
TT CMM	2018-01 16	Implementation
	2018-01 17	Implementation & Report
	2018-01 23	Implementation
	2018-01 25	Limit
	2018-01 26	Limit
	2018-01 27	Implementation
	2018-01 31	Implementation
	2018-01 33	Implementation
	2018-01 34	Implementation
	2018-01 35	Implementation
	2018-01 39	Limit
	2018-01 41	Report
	2018-01 43	Limit
	2018-01 45	Limit
	2018-01 47	Limit
	2018-01 48	Limit
	2018-01 51	Limit
	2018-01 52	Report
	2018-01 54	Report
	2018-01 Att 2 03	Report
	2018-01 Att 2 05-06	Implementation
	2018-01 Att 2 08	Implementation
PBT	2019-02 02 (1)	Limit
	2019-02 02 (2)	Limit
	2019-02 03	Implementation
	2019-02 05	Report
	2019-02 11	Report
NP ALB	2019-03 02	Limit
	2019-03 03	Report
SP ALB	2015-02 01	Limit
	2015-02 04	Report
NP striped marlin	2010-01 05	Limit
	2010-01 08	Report
Sharks	2010-07 09	Implementation
	2010-07 12	Report
Striped marlin	2006-04 01	Limit
	2006-04 04	Report
Swordfish	2009-03 01	Limit
	2009-03 02	Limit
	2009-03 03	Limit
	2009-03 08	Report
Seabirds	2018-03 01	Implementation
	2018-03 02	Implementation
	2018-03 06	Implementation

Commented [MK1]: Through the Intersessional decisions this obligation was suspended effective 8 April 2020.

The review of this obligation through the CMS should only relate to the period 1 Jan 2020 - 7 April 2020.

Commented [MK2]: Through the Intersessional decisions this obligation was suspended effective 8 April 2020.

The review of this obligation through the CMS should only relate to the period 1 Jan 2020 - 7 April 2020.

CMMs	CMM/para	Category
RFV	2018-06 09	Report
ROP	2018-05 10	Implementation
	2018-05 15 (g)	Implementation
VMS	2014-02 09a	Implementation
	2014-02 09a VMS SSPs 2.8	Implementation
	2014-02 09a VMS SSPs 7.2.2	Report
Transhipment	2009-06 11	Report
	2009-06 13	Implementation
	2009-06 29	Limit
	2009-06 34	Limit
	2009-06 35 (a) (ii)	Report
	2009-06 35 (a) (iii)	Report
	2009-06 35 (a) (iv)	Report
EHSP	2016-02 06	Limit
Marine Pollution	2017-04 02	Implementation
Charter notifications	2019-08 02	Report
	2019-08 03	Report
	2019-08 07	Report
Whale sharks	2012-04 01	Implementation
Sea Turtles	2018-04 05a	Implementation
	2018-04 06	Implementation
	2018-04 07a	Implementation

Commented [MK3]: Through the Intersessional decisions this obligation was suspended effective 28 May 2020.

The review of this obligation through the CMS should only relate to the period 1 Jan 2020 - 27 May 2020.

WCPFC IUU VESSEL LIST FOR 2021

(Effective from 13 February 2021: WCPFC17 agreed to maintain the WCPFC IUU list for 2020 as the WCPFC IUU list for 2021)

Note: Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2019-07 para 19 and WCPFC13 decisions

Current name of vessel (previous names)	**Current flag (previous flags)**	**Date first included on WCPFC IUU Vessel List[1]**	**Flag State Registration Number/IMO Number**	**Call Sign (previous call signs)**	**Vessel Master (nationality)**	**Owner/ beneficial owners (previous owners)**	**Notifying CCM**	**IUU activities**
Neptune	*unknown* (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-00545	*unknown* (4LOG)		Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.	France	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPF Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)
Fu Lien No 1	*unknown* (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-01432 IMO No 7355662	*unknown* (4LIN2)		Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia	United States	Is without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPF Convention in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)
Yu Fong 168	*unknown* (Chinese Taipei)	11 Dec. 2009		BJ4786	Mr Jang Faa Sheng (Chinese Taipei)	Chang Lin Pao-Chun, 161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands	Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands without permission and in contravention of Republic of the Marshall Islands's laws and regulations. (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)

[1] **Supplementary note as at 7 Dec 2017:** In October 2015, at the request of TCC11 the Executive Director sent letters to: Chinese Taipei and Georgia to request information of their vessel/s on the WCPFC IUU list, specifically their last known operations and whereabouts; and to other RFMOs (CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, NPAFC & SPRFMO) to seek their cooperation with locating the vessels on the WCPFC IUU list underlining that they are now listed on a number of IUU lists. Georgia replied to confirm that the vessels **Neptune** and **Fu Lien No 1** are no longer flying Georgia flag. Chinese Taipei confirmed that with respect to **Yu Fong 168**, the license was revoked in 2009 the owner of the vessel has been penalized through repeated monetary punishment for violating the rules of not returning to port. Chinese Taipei further advised that the most recent information was received from Thailand's notification to IOTC that the vessel landed their catches in the port of Phuket in the year 2013. On 17 November 2017, WCPFC received a communication from Chinese Taipei informing WCPFC that **Yu Fong 168** has been deregistered by Chinese Taipei. On 29 April 2020, WCPFC received further information from Chinese Taipei identifying the master of the **Yu Fong 168** at the time of the IUU fishing activity who had been sanctioned.

COMMISSION SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Electronic Meeting
9 - 15 December 2020

SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC14)

WCPFC17-2020-FAC14
15 December 2020

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourteenth Finance and Administration Committee (FAC14) was convened virtually by the FAC Co-Chairs Mr. Michael Brakke (USA) and Ms. Camille Movick-Inatio (FSM) on Monday, 7th December 2020. Subsequent session of FAC was held on 15 December 2020. Representatives of Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, French Polynesia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, United States of America, Vanuatu, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, ANCORS, IPNLF, FFA, PEW, PIFS, PNA, The Ocean Foundation, SPC, SFP, and WWF were in attendance. Meeting support was provided by the Secretariat. The Committee agreed by consensus to present to the Commission the decisions and recommendations set out below.

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

2. Mr. Michael Brakke (USA) and Ms. Camille Movick-Inatio (FSM) were the Co-Chairs for the 14th Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC14). The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM.

3. Executive Director (ED), Feleti Teo, gave a brief remarks and noted the challenges and limitations of this virtual meeting. He highlighted that the Committee's focus is to discuss the 2021 budget including the budgetary implications if the COVID-19 pandemic persists in the coming year. He also mentioned on the outcomes of the audit report and that the financial status were classified as unqualified or the finances were managed according the rules and procedures of the Commission.

1.1 Adoption of agenda

4. The FAC Co-Chair went through the agenda items set out in WCPFC16-2019-FAC13-01 and was adopted without revision.

1.2 Meeting arrangements

5. The Secretariat detailed the FAC meeting arrangements and logistics. The Co-Chair hoped that the meeting will be run efficiently as possible and that all meeting papers will be taken as read. The Co-Chair asked for views on what sort of report the Committee wanted for the meeting (e.g. reflecting all interventions or only substantial issues). The Co-Chair encourage CCMs to inform the Co-Chairs, if they wanted their interventions reflected in the report.

AGENDA ITEM 2. AUDIT

2.1 Auditor Report for 2019 and General Account Financial Statements for 2019

6. The Finance and Administration Manager (FAM) Aaron Nighswander summarized the information in WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-04 noting the 2019 audit was completed and circulated to CCMs on 9th September 2020. The Audit report was delayed this year as the auditor was based off island and needs to coordinate with their local counterpart here in Pohnpei. Based on the auditor's report, all financial statements were fair and that there were no instances of non-compliance with the Commission's Financial Regulation 12.4 (c) regarding income, expenditure, investment and asset management nor with Financial Regulation 12.4 (d) pertaining to financial procedures, accounting, internal controls and administration. There was a deficit of income over expenditure of USD 363,411 related primarily to delayed contributions.

7. **FAC14 recommended that the Commission accepts the audited financial statements for 2019 as set out in paper WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-04.**

2.2 Appointment of An Auditor

8. The FAM briefly discussed paper WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-05. The current two-year appointment of the external auditor, Deloitte and Touche LLP, ended after the audit of the 2019 accounts which was completed this year. Noted that the Commission's Financial Regulation 12, sets out the requirements for the appointment of an external auditor for a period of two years. A tender for auditing services was circulated to Members on 15 September 2020 that was posted on the Commission's website. The Secretariat received one proposal, from Deloitte and Touche LLP with a proposed cost of USD 7,000 per year to undertake this work.

9. FAC14 recommended to the Commission that the auditor that submitted a bid be appointed for the next 2 years, to undertake the audits for 2020 and 2021 financial statements and accounts.

AGENDA ITEM 3. STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S FUNDS

3.1 Report on General Account Fund for 2020 – Contributions and Other Incomes

10. The FAM introduced paper WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-06. The assessed contributions for 2020 was $7,566,549 and the outstanding 2020 unpaid contributions stand at $1,740,423 as of 1 November 2020.

11. The paper WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-06 will be revised to update the recent payments received from PNG, FSM and Kiribati.

12. **FAC14 noted the report in WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-06.**

3.2 Report on the Status of Other Funds for 2020

13. The FAM discussed paper WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-07 noting the balances in the i) the Special Requirements Fund (SRF); ii) the Japan Trust Fund; iii) the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund; iv) the CNM Contributions Fund; v) the Voluntary Contributions Fund; vi) the West Pacific East Asia Project Fund; and vii) the Working Capital Fund.

14. The FAM emphasized that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these funds were not fully utilized and many projects have been delayed in 2020.

15. **FAC14 noted the report in WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-07.**

AGENDA ITEM 4. HEADQUARTERS ISSUES

4.1 Headquarters Matters

16. The ED presented paper WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-08 highlighting the issues at headquarters arising in 2020. The ED highlighted updates on the following topics: electricity, security, travel, environmental responsibility, IT audit and Information Security Policy (ISP). The office established a backup satellite connection with Kacific which launched internet services in FSM in 2020. The Headquarters power is now primarily generated by solar energy with roughly 80-90% of the power consumed from solar power which generates savings of around USD 60,000-70,000 per year due this solar technology. Currently, Pohnpei is COVID-19 free but Secretariat has been preparing staff, if FSM boarder will be open to repatriate FSM citizens and residents. There was one security incident last year were laptops were stolen. This incident happened last year after the Commission meeting. This was reported to the police and investigation is on progress. It was also noted that shortage of medical personnel and facilities in Pohnpei is serious concern especially during this challenging times.

17. **FAC14 noted the report in WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-08.**

4.2. Professional Staff Salary

18. The ED discussed paper WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-03. The ED emphasized that this was a re-submission of the previous paper submitted in FAC13 on the Triannual Salary Market Data Review for professional staff salaries that needs further consideration of the FAC. Based on the Commission's Staff Regulation 19, there is a need to review professional staff salaries every three years. The support staff salaries were benchmark at the local market, professional staff salaries were benchmark at CROP agencies and Executive Director salary was benchmark at UN D-1. In the 2021 budget the local staff, per the Staff Regulations, were given a 2% increase based on inflation and the ED was given a 1.38% annual increase in the UN D1 scale due to inflation.

19. Cook Islands updated the FAC that the small working group (SWG) was not established due to their need to reprioritise resources due to COVID19 related impacts, but determined to establish the SWG before the year ends. The outcomes of the SWG will be reported in FAC15.

20. Many CCMs expressed support for an annual increase, between 1.38% and 2%, in the professional staff salary related to inflation was warranted this year.

21. FAC14 agreed to recommend to the Commission that it approves a 1.7% increase in professional staff salary in 2021 excluding the Executive Director.

AGENDA ITEM 5. WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2021 AND INDICATIVE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2022 AND 2023

22. The FAM presented paper WCPFC17-2020-FAC14-09, detailing the proposed 2021 budget based on recommendations from SC, TCC, Intersessional Working Groups and the WCPFC Secretariat. There were items that have not yet included in this budget pending Commission's decisions. The FAM noted that the current proposed budget represents a 2.3% increase from the indicative 2021 budget and a 1.8% increase from the 2020 budget. The FAM noted that there were significant savings in the 2020 expenditures due to travel restrictions and the inability to undertake certain activities brought by COVID-19 pandemic. The net amount of the proposed member contributions is USD6,857,027, once the estimated USD3,400 for bank interest, the USD50,000 from the CNM Contributions Fund, and the USD1,350,000 drawdown from the Working Capital Fund were accounted for in the contribution formula. The proposed contributions represent generally a 11% decrease for 2021.

23. The FAM reminded the Committee that FAC13 future work of the Commission in Annex 3 can be drawn down from USD220,000 line item budget and this may not result to any increase in CCMs contributions.

24. FFA members suggested that the budget for Regional Capacity Building Workshops of USD130,000 in 2020 be added in 2021 (Annex 3, Sub-item 2.3). This will be very important as this will be used for regional and national trainings related to COVID-19 protocols and observers in preparation for observers redeployment, when it is safe to do so.

25. Several CCMs requested clarification on the following in Annex 3, Section 2:
   i) EUs contribution on Non-Entangling Biodegradable FADs and SP Blue Shark Assessment
   ii) P60 – Improving purse seine species composition
   iii) P98 – Radiocarbon aging WS
   iv) P100 – Close-kin mark-recapture WS and P100b – Feasibility of CKMR assessment for SPALB
   v) P105 – Bomb radiocarbon age validation for BE / YF
   vi) P107 – SP blue shark assessment
   vii) Scientific Services (SPC)
   viii) ROP Trainings (Cross endorsement trainings, VMS trainings, Audit)
   ix) ROP Data Management

26. The following were the responses of the Secretariat and SPC (Annex 3, Section 2):
   i) The paper will be revised to reflect EU's contributions but currently it was not reflected as it does not impact Commissions budget;
   ii) On P60 - Improving purse seine species composition, there were other items that needs consideration for the budget not just the observer deployment, such as the actual statistical work. It was suggested to maintain that budget item in 2021 and maybe revisited in the coming year, taking into consideration the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic to this project;
   iii) The budget for P98 - Radiocarbon aging WS (USD35,000) was reallocated to P105;
   iv) The budget for P100 - Close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR) workshop which was USD7,500 was unspent. The continuation of this project is P100b – Feasibility of CKMR assessment for SPALB, the project budget will be an in-kind contribution from SPC and CSIRO. SPC informed that they have finalized funding for P100b from external sources;
   v) P105 - Bomb radiocarbon age validation for BE / YF, as noted some of the budget will come from P98 and this project was considered as High Priority 2 by the SC, SPC was investigating alternative funding, but this has not been finalized;
   vi) The budget for P107 - SP blue shark assessment of USD20,000 was a matching fund for EUs contribution;

vii) SPC's expenditure was as originally budgeted in 2020, even though the SPC did not travel due to COVID. This reflected delivery of the additional work requested of SPC by WCPFC16; savings due to the lack of travel in 2020 were used so that, the additional USD75,000 budget line agreed by WCPFC16 to cover that additional work was not accessed by SPC in 2020. The 2021 budget will remain the same as requested noting that for budgeting purposes travel is expected to start by mid of 2021, SPC travel to SC and other Commission meetings needs to be funded for them to participate in the meetings; SPC also noted that considerable additional work had already been requested of them by WCPFC17, and a similar situation to that in 2020 is anticipated;

viii) The budget for ROP training was suggested to be included despite of the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, as Secretariat was preparing this budget as if meetings and travels will happen in mid-2021;

ix) The ROP Data Management was mainly for staff salary. SPC continues to enter observer data as there were still observer data coming-in and there were some data backlogs in the previous years, this was a good opportunity to resolve those data entry backlogs. An additional annex will be added to the budget paper to cover ROP Data costs.

27. Several CCMs prefer to reduce the budget for ROP data management and/or need more information on this line budget item. The EU sought for clarification in relation to possible duplication of task under the ROP data management budget and some activities listed under Annex 12 (FAC14-2020-09). In response SPC referred CCMs to the detailed information relating to the ROP budget in Annex 15. It was emphasized by SPC that this line budget item has been there for almost 5 years and no inflation adjustment has been made. Some CCMs emphasized the importance of retaining SPCs core budget to ensure it can deliver on the Commissions requests. Some CCMs emphasized that it would be useful to have a more detailed presentation of SPCs budget for future FAC discussions. The Secretariat drew the FAC attention to the budget papers where part of that information could be found.

28. FAC agreed to recommend that any additional resourcing needed to support Commission's intersessional work can be drawn from the working capital fund.

29. FAC14 agreed to recommend a 2021 budget of $ USD 8,190,633 (Annexes 1-3) pending any subsequent decision reached by WCPFC17 that will have an impact on the budget.

AGENDA ITEM 6. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

30. Michael Brakke (USA) and Ms. Camille Movick-Inatio (FSM) will continue to serve as FAC Co-Chairs.

AGENDA 7. OTHER MATTERS

31. No other items discussed

AGENDA ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF REPORT

32. FAC14 adopted this summary report which was tabled as WCPFC17-2020-FAC14.

33. FAC14 invites WCPFC17 to consider this report and to endorse its recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF MEETING

34. FAC Co-chairs, Ms. Camille Movick-Inatio and Mr. Michael Brakke, closed the final session of FAC14 at 11:00 on 15 December 2020.

ANNEX 1

Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2021 and indicative figures for 2022 and 2023 (USD)

	Approved budget 2020	*Estimated expenditure 2020*	*Indicative budget 2021*	*Proposed budget 2021*	*Indicative budget 2022*	*Indicative budget 2023*
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1 ***Staff Costs***						
Professional Staff Salary	925,363	864,773	934,064	943,750	954,982	960,750
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	822,986	817,794	858,220	865,791	850,061	853,464
Professional Staff Insurance	131,040	148,987	132,927	142,020	143,115	145,061
Recruitment/Repatriation	25,565	10,215	25,565	35,330	25,565	51,130
Support Staff	469,025	421,806	478,035	457,838	468,102	477,806
Total, sub-item 1.1	*2,373,980*	*2,263,575*	*2,428,810*	*2,444,728*	*2,441,825*	*2,488,211*
Sub-Item 1.2 ***Other Personnel Costs***						
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	5,350	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consultants *see note 1*	138,000	127,144	138,000	138,000	138,000	138,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	*154,500*	*132,494*	*154,500*	*154,500*	*154,500*	*154,500*
Sub-item 1.3 ***Official Travel***	*210,000*	*35,667*	*210,000*	*122,500*	*210,000*	*210,000*
Sub-item 1.4 ***General Operating Expenses***						
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	50,000	39,403	50,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
Communications/Courier	76,000	86,102	76,000	78,000	78,000	78,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	43,472	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
Audit	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,000	7,000	7,500
Bank Charges	9,500	9,842	9,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,400	3,868	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Security	96,500	100,500	96,500	100,500	100,500	100,500
Training	10,000	7,853	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	*314,400*	*316,040*	*314,900*	*312,900*	*312,900*	*313,400*
Sub-item 1.5 ***Capital Expenditure***						
Vehicles	0	0	22,000	0	22,000	0
Information Technology	56,753	49,655	56,753	49,373	49,373	49,373
Website New Projects/Enhancements	8,000	13,705	8,000	13,320	13,320	13,320
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	21,759	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	*96,753*	*85,119*	*118,753*	*94,693*	*116,693*	*94,693*
Sub-item 1.6 ***Maintenance***						
Vehicles	6,000	5,328	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	129,714	145,680	129,714	152,077	152,077	152,077
Buildings & Grounds	56,500	54,850	56,500	56,500	56,500	56,500
Gardeners and Cleaners	82,500	81,109	82,500	82,500	82,500	82,500
Insurance	26,500	27,485	26,500	27,500	27,500	27,500
Total, sub-item 1.6	*301,214*	*314,452*	*301,214*	*324,577*	*324,577*	*324,577*
Sub-item 1.7 ***Meeting Services***						
Annual Session *see note 2*	165,000	10,114	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000
Scientific Committee	212,000	1,072	192,000	212,000	192,000	192,000
Northern Committee *see note 3*	18,000	450	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	159,800	1,560	159,800	159,800	159,800	159,800
Total, sub-item 1.7	*554,800*	*13,196*	*534,800*	*554,800*	*534,800*	*534,800*
Sub-item 1.8 ***Furture Work - Commission*** *note 4*	*184,010*	*0*	*220,000*	*0*	*220,000*	*220,000*
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	**4,189,658**	**3,160,543**	**4,282,978**	**4,008,698**	**4,315,295**	**4,340,181**

ANNEX 1 (continued)	*Approved budget 2020*	*Estimated expenditure 2020*	*Indicative budget 2021*	*Proposed budget 2021*	*Indicative budget 2022*	*Indicative budget 2023*
Part 2 - Science &Technical & Compliance Programme						
Section 2 (Item 2)						
Sub-item 2.1 Scientific Services (SPC)	*924,524*	*924,524*	*943,015*	*943,015*	*961,875*	*981,112*
Sub-item 2.2 ***Scientific Research*** *note 7*						
Additional Resourcing SPC	241,480	166,480	168,145	169,810	173,206	176,670
P35b Maintenance of WCPFC Tissue Bank	99,195	99,195	101,180	101,180	103,204	105,268
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	645,000	645,000	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000
P60 Improving purse seine species composition	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	0
P65 Peer review of Stock Modelling	0	0	0	0	50,000	0
P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	0	0	75,000	0
P88 Acoustic FAD analyses	30,000	30,000	15,000	15,000	0	0
P90 Fish weights/lengths for scientific analyses	30,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	75,000	0
P97 - SRP 2021-2025	46,000	46,000	0	0	0	0
P98 - Radiocarbon aging WS	35,000	0	0	0	0	0
P99 - SWP MLS population biology	33,000	33,000	0	0	0	0
P100 - Close-kin mark-recapture	7,500	0	0	0	0	0
P103 - LRPs for WCPO elasmobranchs	25,000	25,000	0	0	0	0
P104 - LRPs for SW Pacific marlin / billfish	0	0	0	31,000	0	0
P105 - Bomb radiocarbon age validation for BE / YF	0	0	0	97,980	0	0
P107 - SP blue shark assessment	0	0	0	20,000	0	0
P108 - WCPO silky shark assessment	0	0	0	0	100,000	0
P109 - Training observers for elasmobranch sampling	0	0	0	25,000	0	0
Total, sub-item 2.2	*1,232,175*	*1,114,675*	*1,074,325*	*1,249,970*	*1,306,409*	*1,011,938*
Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme						
ROP - Audit/Remediation	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
ROP - Special Projects and Research Activities	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
ROP - Training, Assistance & Development	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
Vessel Monitoring System - Capital Costs	20,000	1,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Vessel Monitoring System	235,000	266,977	235,000	270,000	270,000	270,000
Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	204,600	197,382	206,646	206,646	208,712	210,800
Vessel Monitoring System - Security Audit	8,400	0	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
CCM/Staff VMS Training	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Information Management System	100,000	93,407	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	4,983	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub.	18,000	30,182	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	2,158	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
CMS Future Work *see note 5*	0	0	0	50,000	10,000	0
Regional Capacity Building Workshops *see note 6*	130,000	0	130,000	260,000	130,000	130,000
Total, item 2.3	*1,771,904*	*1,519,992*	*1,773,950*	*1,988,950*	*1,821,016*	*1,813,104*
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2	**3,928,603**	**3,559,191**	**3,791,290**	**4,181,935**	**4,089,300**	**3,806,154**
Total, Parts 1 & 2	**8,118,261**	**6,719,734**	**8,074,268**	**8,190,633**	**8,404,595**	**8,146,335**

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services	$55,000
ED Discretion	$25,000
Media Consultant	$10,000
Meetings' rapporteur	$48,000
	$138,000

Note 2: Annual Session
To adjust once a final decision is reached on the hosting arrangements for WCPFC18

Note 3: Northern Committee
As per WCPFC9, an additional $25,000 will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

Note 4: Sub-item 1.8 Furture Work - Commission
Budget line added in 2020 to account for unidentified furture work that may be required by the Commission.

Note 5: CMS Future Work
In 2021 for CCFS Improvements $40,000 and CCFS Messaging tool feasibility/design $10,000

Note 6: Regional Capacity Building Workshops
FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

Note 7: Scientific Research

P98 - Radiocarbon aging WS - $35,000 has been carried forward from the 2020 SC budget and SPC is seeking additional outside funding for this work.
P100b - Feasibility of Close-Kin Mark-Recapture assessment for South Pacific albacore in the WCPO project to be funded externally through SPC
P107 - SP blue shark assessment funding in the budget is co-financing for the poject. The EU is providing $39,701 for this project
P110 - Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs to be funded thorugh voluntary contributions from the EU ($435,371), US ($85,000) and ISSF ($17,000).

ANNEX 2

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2021

Proposed budget expenditure total	8,190,633
less	
Estimated interest	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(1,350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	6,787,233

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2022

Proposed budget expenditure total	8,404,595
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(700,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	7,651,195

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2023

Proposed budget expenditure total	8,146,335
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	7,742,935

Annex 3

Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

2021 Contribution Table								
Member	*Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget*	*National wealth component: 20% of budget*	*Catch component: 70% of budget*	*Addition for Northern Committee*	***Total Contributions by Members***	*Percent of Budget by member*	*Offset for Small Island Developing States**	*Total of components: 100% of budget*
Australia	26,105	87,785	10,628	0	**124,518**	1.86%	0	124,518
Canada	26,105	79,463	48	0	**105,616**	1.58%	0	105,616
China	26,105	151,127	175,133	0	**352,364**	5.26%	0	352,364
Cook Islands	26,105	895	7,903	0	**34,903**	0.52%	21,659	56,562
European Union	26,105	224,840	31,616	0	**282,561**	4.22%	0	282,561
Federated States of Micronesia	26,105	4,907	282,864	0	**313,877**	4.69%	0	313,877
Fiji	26,105	7,794	24,606	0	**58,504**	0.87%	0	58,504
France	26,105	84,562	10,949	0	**121,616**	1.82%	0	121,616
Indonesia	26,105	15,902	95,836	0	**137,842**	2.06%	0	137,842
Japan	26,105	109,713	825,696	0	**961,514**	14.36%	0	961,514
Kiribati	26,105	4,304	315,094	0	**345,503**	5.16%	0	345,503
Korea	26,105	59,584	799,020	0	**884,708**	13.21%	0	884,708
Marshall Islands	26,105	2,940	200,016	0	**229,060**	3.42%	3,743	232,803
Nauru	26,105	629	28,681	0	**55,415**	0.83%	15,929	71,343
New Zealand	26,105	58,874	28,335	0	**113,313**	1.69%	0	113,313
Niue	26,105	81	0	0	**26,185**	0.39%	21,464	47,649
Palau	26,105	901	3,423	0	**30,428**	0.45%	20,775	51,203
Papua New Guinea	26,105	3,810	411,368	0	**441,283**	6.59%	0	441,283
Philippines	26,105	9,448	130,448	0	**166,000**	2.48%	0	166,000
Samoa	26,105	5,793	3,819	0	**35,717**	0.53%	0	35,717
Solomon Islands	26,105	2,783	75,420	0	**104,308**	1.56%	0	104,308
Chinese Taipei	26,105	41,700	690,388	0	**758,192**	11.32%	0	758,192
Tonga	26,105	5,225	426	0	**31,755**	0.47%	630	32,385
Tuvalu	26,105	583	18,290	0	**44,977**	0.67%	6,850	51,827
United States of America	26,105	298,545	500,573	0	**825,223**	12.32%	0	825,223
Vanuatu	26,105	4,212	80,484	0	**110,801**	1.65%	0	110,801
Totals	**678,723**	**1,266,397**	**4,751,063**	**0**	**6,696,184**	**100%**	**91,050**	**6,787,233**

* To be offset by the CNM Contributions Fund.

Annex 3 Cont.

Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)

Member	*Population*	*Maximum Payable for wealth component*	*National wealth component*	*Offset for Small Island Developing States*
Cook Islands	17,900	895	22,554	21,659
Federated States of Micronesia	113,810	5,691	4,907	0
Fiji	889,950	44,498	7,794	0
Kiribati	117,610	5,881	4,304	0
Marshall Islands	58,790	2,940	6,683	3,743
Nauru	12,580	629	16,558	15,929
Niue	1,615	81	21,544	21,464
Palau	18,010	901	21,676	20,775
Papua New Guinea	8,776,110	438,806	3,810	0
Samoa	197,100	9,855	5,793	0
Solomon Islands	669,820	33,491	2,783	0
Tonga	104,490	5,225	5,854	630
Tuvalu	11,650	583	7,432	6,850
Vanuatu	299,880	14,994	4,212	0
Total				**91,050**

Additional Funding for Northern Committee as agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

Non-developing States Members of NC	*Percent of total budget*	*Percent of NC fund*	*Additional cost*
Canada	1.56%	3.4%	0
China	5.19%	11.5%	0
Japan	2.03%	4.5%	0
Korea	13.03%	28.9%	0
Chinese Taipei	11.17%	24.7%	0
United States of America	12.16%	26.9%	0
Total	**45.14%**	**100.00%**	**0**

Annex 3 Cont.

Schedule of contributions based on proposed 2021 budgets <u>without</u> the Offset for Small Island Developing States and Additional funds Assessed on Non-Developing States Members of NC

Member	*2021*					*2022 Indicative*		*2023 Indicative*	
	Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget	*National wealth component: 20% of budget*	*Catch component: 70% of budget*	*Total of components: 100% of budget*	*% of budget by member*	*Total of components: 100% of budget*	*% of budget by member*	*Total of components: 100% of budget*	*% of budget by member*
Australia	26,105	87,785	10,628	124,518	1.83%	*140,368*	*1.83%*	*142,051*	*1.83%*
Canada	26,105	79,463	48	105,616	1.56%	*119,060*	*1.56%*	*120,488*	*1.56%*
China	26,105	151,127	175,133	352,364	5.19%	*397,217*	*5.19%*	*401,980*	*5.19%*
Cook Islands	26,105	22,554	7,903	56,562	0.83%	*63,762*	*0.83%*	*64,527*	*0.83%*
European Union	26,105	224,840	31,616	282,561	4.16%	*318,528*	*4.16%*	*322,348*	*4.16%*
Federated States of Micronesia	26,105	4,907	282,864	313,877	4.62%	*353,831*	*4.62%*	*358,073*	*4.62%*
Fiji	26,105	7,794	24,606	58,504	0.86%	*65,951*	*0.86%*	*66,742*	*0.86%*
France	26,105	84,562	10,949	121,616	1.79%	*137,097*	*1.79%*	*138,741*	*1.79%*
Indonesia	26,105	15,902	95,836	137,842	2.03%	*155,388*	*2.03%*	*157,252*	*2.03%*
Japan	26,105	109,713	825,696	961,514	14.17%	*1,083,907*	*14.17%*	*1,096,904*	*14.17%*
Kiribati	26,105	4,304	315,094	345,503	5.09%	*389,483*	*5.09%*	*394,153*	*5.09%*
Korea	26,105	59,584	799,020	884,708	13.03%	*997,325*	*13.03%*	*1,009,283*	*13.03%*
Marshall Islands	26,105	6,683	200,016	232,803	3.43%	*262,437*	*3.43%*	*265,584*	*3.43%*
Nauru	26,105	16,558	28,681	71,343	1.05%	*80,425*	*1.05%*	*81,389*	*1.05%*
New Zealand	26,105	58,874	28,335	113,313	1.67%	*127,737*	*1.67%*	*129,269*	*1.67%*
Niue	26,105	21,544	0	47,649	0.70%	*53,715*	*0.70%*	*54,359*	*0.70%*
Palau	26,105	21,676	3,423	51,203	0.75%	*57,721*	*0.75%*	*58,413*	*0.75%*
Papua New Guinea	26,105	3,810	411,368	441,283	6.50%	*497,455*	*6.50%*	*503,419*	*6.50%*
Philippines	26,105	9,448	130,448	166,000	2.45%	*187,131*	*2.45%*	*189,375*	*2.45%*
Samoa	26,105	5,793	3,819	35,717	0.53%	*40,263*	*0.53%*	*40,746*	*0.53%*
Solomon Islands	26,105	2,783	75,420	104,308	1.54%	*117,585*	*1.54%*	*118,995*	*1.54%*
Chinese Taipei	26,105	41,700	690,388	758,192	11.17%	*854,704*	*11.17%*	*864,952*	*11.17%*
Tonga	26,105	5,854	426	32,385	0.48%	*36,507*	*0.48%*	*36,945*	*0.48%*
Tuvalu	26,105	7,432	18,290	51,827	0.76%	*58,424*	*0.76%*	*59,124*	*0.76%*
United States of America	26,105	298,545	500,573	825,223	12.16%	*930,267*	*12.16%*	*941,422*	*12.16%*
Vanuatu	26,105	4,212	80,484	110,801	1.63%	*124,905*	*1.63%*	*126,403*	*1.63%*
Totals	**678,723**	**1,357,447**	**4,751,063**	**6,787,233**	**100.00%**	***7,651,195***	***100.00%***	***7,742,935***	***100.00%***

ANNEX 1

Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2021 and indicative figures for 2022 and 2023 (USD)

	Approved budget 2020	*Estimated expenditure 2020*	*Indicative budget 2021*	*Approved budget 2021*	*Indicative budget 2022*	*Indicative budget 2023*
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1 ***Staff Costs***						
Professional Staff Salary	925,363	864,773	934,064	943,750	954,982	960,750
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	822,986	817,794	858,220	865,791	850,061	853,464
Professional Staff Insurance	131,040	148,987	132,927	142,020	143,115	145,061
Recruitment/Repatriation	25,565	10,215	25,565	35,330	25,565	51,130
Support Staff	469,025	421,806	478,035	457,838	468,102	477,806
Total, sub-item 1.1	*2,373,980*	*2,263,575*	*2,428,810*	*2,444,728*	*2,441,825*	*2,488,211*
Sub-Item 1.2 ***Other Personnel Costs***						
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	5,350	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consultants *see note 1*	138,000	127,144	138,000	138,000	138,000	138,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	*154,500*	*132,494*	*154,500*	*154,500*	*154,500*	*154,500*
Sub-item 1.3 ***Official Travel***	*210,000*	*35,667*	*210,000*	*122,500*	*210,000*	*210,000*
Sub-item 1.4 ***General Operating Expenses***						
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	50,000	39,403	50,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
Communications/Courier	76,000	86,102	76,000	78,000	78,000	78,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	43,472	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
Audit	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,000	7,000	7,500
Bank Charges	9,500	9,842	9,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,400	3,868	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Security	96,500	100,500	96,500	100,500	100,500	100,500
Training	10,000	7,853	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	*314,400*	*316,040*	*314,900*	*312,900*	*312,900*	*313,400*
Sub-item 1.5 ***Capital Expenditure***						
Vehicles	0	0	22,000	0	22,000	0
Information Technology	56,753	49,655	56,753	49,373	49,373	49,373
Website New Projects/Enhancements	8,000	13,705	8,000	13,320	13,320	13,320
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	21,759	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	*96,753*	*85,119*	*118,753*	*94,693*	*116,693*	*94,693*
Sub-item 1.6 ***Maintenance***						
Vehicles	6,000	5,328	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	129,714	145,680	129,714	152,077	152,077	152,077
Buildings & Grounds	56,500	54,850	56,500	56,500	56,500	56,500
Gardeners and Cleaners	82,500	81,109	82,500	82,500	82,500	82,500
Insurance	26,500	27,485	26,500	27,500	27,500	27,500
Total, sub-item 1.6	*301,214*	*314,452*	*301,214*	*324,577*	*324,577*	*324,577*
Sub-item 1.7 ***Meeting Services***						
Annual Session *see note 2*	165,000	10,114	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000
Scientific Committee	212,000	1,072	192,000	212,000	192,000	192,000
Northern Committee *see note 3*	18,000	450	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	159,800	1,560	159,800	159,800	159,800	159,800
Total, sub-item 1.7	*554,800*	*13,196*	*534,800*	*554,800*	*534,800*	*534,800*
Sub-item 1.8 ***Furture Work - Commission*** *note 4*	*184,010*	*0*	*220,000*	*0*	*220,000*	*220,000*
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	**4,189,658**	**3,160,543**	**4,282,978**	**4,008,698**	**4,315,295**	**4,340,181**

ANNEX 1 (continued)		*Approved budget 2020*	*Estimated expenditure 2020*	*Indicative budget 2021*	*Approved budget 2021*	*Indicative budget 2022*	*Indicative budget 2023*
Part 2 - Science &Technical & Compliance Programme							
Section 2 (Item 2)							
Sub-item 2.1	Scientific Services (SPC)	*924,524*	*924,524*	*943,015*	*943,015*	*961,875*	*981,112*
Sub-item 2.2	***Scientific Research*** *note 7*						
Additional Resourcing SPC		241,480	166,480	168,145	169,810	173,206	176,670
P35b Maintenance of WCPFC Tissue Bank		99,195	99,195	101,180	101,180	103,204	105,268
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project		645,000	645,000	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000
P60 Improving purse seine species composition		40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	0
P65 Peer review of Stock Modelling		0	0	0	0	50,000	0
P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality		0	0	0	0	75,000	0
P88 Acoustic FAD analyses		30,000	30,000	15,000	15,000	0	0
P90 Fish weights/lengths for scientific analyses		30,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	75,000	0
P97 - SRP 2021-2025		46,000	46,000	0	0	0	0
P98 - Radiocarbon aging WS		35,000	0	0	0	0	0
P99 - SWP MLS population biology		33,000	33,000	0	0	0	0
P100 - Close-kin mark-recapture		7,500	0	0	0	0	0
P103 - LRPs for WCPO elasmobranchs		25,000	25,000	0	0	0	0
P104 - LRPs for SW Pacific marlin / billfish		0	0	0	31,000	0	0
P105 - Bomb radiocarbon age validation for BE / YF		0	0	0	97,980	0	0
P107 - SP blue shark assessment		0	0	0	20,000	0	0
P108 - WCPO silky shark assessment		0	0	0	0	100,000	0
P109 - Training observers for elasmobranch sampling		0	0	0	25,000	0	0
Total, sub-item 2.2		*1,232,175*	*1,114,675*	*1,074,325*	*1,249,970*	*1,306,409*	*1,011,938*
Sub-item 2.3	**Technical & Compliance Programme**						
ROP - Audit/Remediation		15,000	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
ROP - Special Projects and Research Activities		2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
ROP - Training, Assistance & Development		10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
ROP Data Management		923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
Vessel Monitoring System - Capital Costs		20,000	1,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Vessel Monitoring System		235,000	266,977	235,000	270,000	270,000	270,000
Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime		204,600	197,382	206,646	206,646	208,712	210,800
Vessel Monitoring System - Security Audit		8,400	0	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
CCM/Staff VMS Training		25,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Information Management System		100,000	93,407	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.		10,000	4,983	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub.		18,000	30,182	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Targeted Capacity Building		40,000	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities		30,000	2,158	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
CMS Future Work *see note 5*		0	0	0	50,000	10,000	0
Regional Capacity Building Workshops *see note 6*		130,000	0	130,000	260,000	130,000	130,000
Total, item 2.3		*1,771,904*	*1,519,992*	*1,773,950*	*1,988,950*	*1,821,016*	*1,813,104*
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2		**3,928,603**	**3,559,191**	**3,791,290**	**4,181,935**	**4,089,300**	**3,806,154**
Total, Parts 1 & 2		**8,118,261**	**6,719,734**	**8,074,268**	**8,190,633**	**8,404,595**	**8,146,335**

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services	$55,000
ED Discretion	$25,000
Media Consultant	$10,000
Meetings' rapporteur	$48,000
	$138,000

Note 2: Annual Session
To adjust once a final decision is reached on the hosting arrangements for WCPFC18

Note 3: Northern Committee
As per WCPFC9, an additional $25,000 will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

Note 4: Sub-item 1.8 Furture Work - Commission
Budget line added in 2020 to account for unidentified furture work that may be required by the Commission.

Note 5: CMS Future Work
In 2021 for CCFS Improvements $40,000 and CCFS Messaging tool feasibility/design $10,000

Note 6: Regional Capacity Building Workshops
FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

Note 7: Scientific Research

P98 - Radiocarbon aging WS - $35,000 has been carried forward from the 2020 SC budget and SPC is seeking additional outside funding for this work.
P100b - Feasibility of Close-Kin Mark-Recapture assessment for South Pacific albacore in the WCPO project to be funded externally through SPC
P107 - SP blue shark assessment funding in the budget is co-financing for the poject. The EU is providing $39,701 for this project
P110 - Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs to be funded thorugh voluntary contributions from the EU ($435,371), US ($85,000) and ISSF ($17,000).

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALC	–	Automatic Location Communicator
ANCORS	–	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
APIL	–	Advocates for Public Interest Law
CCM	–	Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories
CCFS	–	Compliance Case File System
CDS	–	catch documentation scheme
CMM	–	Conservation and Management Measure
CMR	–	Compliance Monitoring Report
CMS	–	Compliance Monitoring Scheme
CNM	–	Cooperating Non-Member
CNMI	–	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
the Convention	–	The Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
COVID-19	–	coronavirus disease
CPUE	–	catch per unit effort
DPRK	–	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EEZ	–	exclusive economic zone
EM	–	electronic monitoring
ER	–	electronic reporting
ERandEM	–	electronic reporting and electronic monitoring
ERA	–	ecological risk assessment
EHSP-SMA	–	Eastern High Seas Pocket-Special Management Area
EU	–	European Union
F	–	fishing mortality rate
FAC	–	Finance and Administration Committee
FAD	–	fish aggregation device
FAO	–	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	–	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
F_{MSY}	–	fishing mortality that will support the maximum sustainable yield
FMA	–	fishery management area
FNA	–	fins naturally attached
FSI	–	Flag State Investigation
FSM	–	Federated States of Micronesia
HCR	–	harvest control rule
HRS	–	Human Rights at Sea
HSBI	–	high seas boarding and inspection
IATTC	–	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	–	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IELP	–	International Environmental Law Project
IGOs	–	intergovernmental organizations
ILO	–	International Labour Organization
IMO	–	International Maritime Organization
IMS	–	information management system
IOTC	–	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPNLF	–	International Pole and Line Foundation

ISC	–	International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
ISSF	–	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IT	–	information technology
IUU	–	illegal, unreported and unregulated
IWG	–	intersessional working group
JTF	–	Japan Trust Fund
JWG	–	joint tuna RFMO Working Group on FADS
KFEM	–	Korea Federation for Environmental Movements
LRP	–	limit reference point
M	–	mortality
MCS	–	Monitoring, control and surveillance
MIMRA	–	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MOC	–	management options consultation
MOU	–	memorandum of understanding
MP	–	management procedure
MSC	–	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	–	management strategy evaluation
MSY	–	maximum sustainable yield
mt	–	metric ton
MTU	–	mobile transceiver unit
NC	–	Northern Committee
NEAFC	–	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NGO	–	non-governmental Organization
NP	–	North Pacific
ODF	–	Online Discussion Forum
OFCF	–	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (Japan)
OM	–	operating model
PBFWG	–	Pacific bluefin tuna working group (ISC)
pCMR		provisional Compliance Monitoring Report
PEW	–	The Pew Charitable Trusts
PI	–	performance indicator
PITIA	–	Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association
PNA	–	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
PNG	–	Papua New Guinea
PRM	–	post-release mortality
PSMA	–	Port state Measures Agreement
RFV	–	Record of Fishing Vessels
ROP	–	Regional Observer Programme
RFMO	–	regional fisheries management organization
RMI	–	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SB	–	spawning biomass
SC	–	Scientific Committee of the WCPFC
SIDS	–	small island developing states
SIP	–	strategic investment plan
SPC	–	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPC-OFP	–	The Pacific Community Oceanic Fisheries Programme
SPR		Spawning potential ratio, or spawning potential per recruit
SRA	–	spatial risk assessment
SRF	–	Special Requirements Fund
SRR	–	stock-recruitment relationship

SSI	–	species of special interest
SSP	–	standards, specifications and procedures
SST	–	sea surface temperature
SWG	–	small working group
T	–	metric ton
TCC	–	Technical and Compliance Committee
TNC	–	The Nature Conservancy
TOR	–	terms of reference
t-RFMO	–	tuna RFMO
TRP	–	target reference point
UN	–	United Nations
UNCLOS	–	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas
UNFSA	–	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
USA	–	United States of America
USD	–	US dollars
VDS	–	vessel day scheme
VID	–	vessel identification (number)
VMS	–	vessel monitoring system
WCPFC	–	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPFC Convention Area	–	Area of competence of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention
WCPFC Statistical Area	–	The WCPFC Statistical Area is defined in para. 8 of "Scientific data to be provided to the Commission" (as adopted at WCPFC13)
WCNPO	–	Western and Central North Pacific Ocean
WCPO	–	western and central Pacific Ocean
WG	–	working group
WPEA	–	West Pacific and East Asian Seas
WPO	–	Western Pacific Ocean
WPFMC	–	Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
WTPO	–	World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation
WWF	–	World Wide Fund for Nature