



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Electronic Meeting  
11-19 August 2021

---

**MEETING NOTICE AND INFORMATION**

---

**WCPFC-SC17-2021/01**

In accordance with the Commission Rules of Procedure, the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC-SC17) was scheduled to be held in Palau. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SC17 will be held electronically using the Zoom platform from **11 (Wednesday) to 19 (Thursday) August 2021**.

**SC17 meeting structure**

As agreed by the Commission, the agenda for the electronic SC17 meeting will consist of essential items necessary to progress the scientific work of the Commission in 2021 and to provide the scientific advice necessary to inform the key decisions of the annual WCPFC18 meeting in December 2021.

According to the Commission's decision (Circular No.: 2021/29), the SC17 will use the Zoom platform for the video-conference segment of the meeting. The electronic meeting will be supplemented by the usual WCPFC-SC17 website (<https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/sc17-2021>) and the SC17 online discussion forum (<https://forum.wcpfc.int>) which is accessed by any approved SC17 registered participants. The online discussion forum will be used to facilitate discussions mostly on the 2021 SC projects and other items that were omitted from the SC17 abbreviated agenda but required acknowledgment by the SC17 in order to facilitate their progression in 2021. The opening and duration of the online discussion forum will be notified in due course. The results of the online discussion forum will be provided to, and considered by, SC17 as a Summary of Online Discussion Forum under "Future Work Programme and Budget" and "Other Matters", not for substantive discussion but for noting or endorsement as may be necessary.

Detailed instructions on the use of the online discussion forum will be provided as a component of the Virtual Meeting Protocol document, which will be posted on the SC17 website in due course with other information documents.

**Registration**

On-line meeting registration is available at the SC17 meeting site <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/sc17-2021>. All participants are requested to register using this facility in order to participate in the electronic SC17 meeting. Once a participant's registration on the SC17 website is authorized, an invitation email with a link to the virtual SC17 meeting will be sent to the participant's registered email address.

All CCMs are requested to use the online registration system to approve their delegation. CCMs not familiar with the online approval system can send their official list of delegates to the Secretariat ([Lucille.Martinez@wcpfc.int](mailto:Lucille.Martinez@wcpfc.int)) as early as possible in order for the Secretariat to approve participants in the system. Observers to SC17 will be approved once verified by the Secretariat. If you have any queries related to registration, please contact Ms Lucille Martinez directly.

All CCMs are strongly requested to register **by Friday, 30 July 2021**.

### **Heads of Delegation and Conveners' Meeting**

Two preparatory meetings will be held on Tuesday, 10 August 2021, prior to the SC17:

- 1) (10:00-11:30) The Conveners' Meeting with the SC Chair to finalize their theme session arrangements and meeting procedures; and
- 2) (12:00-14:00) The Heads of Delegation Meeting to confirm the meeting structure and schedule of the SC17. All Theme Conveners are also expected to attend this meeting.

### **Guidelines for submitting meeting papers**

The procedure for submission of papers for SC17, as determined at SC2, is as follows:

- 1) Annual Report – Part 1

Following WCPFC17, an updated template of Annual Report – Part 1 is available at <https://www.wcpfc.int/guidelines-procedures-and-regulations> (symbol: SC-01). Annual Report Part 1 shall be submitted to the WCPFC Secretariat (BOTH [sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int](mailto:sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int) and [contact.ar@wcpfc.int](mailto:contact.ar@wcpfc.int)) by **12 July 2021**.

- 2) Meeting documents

Titles and preliminary abstracts of meeting documents **MUST be submitted as early as possible, but no later than 7 July 2021** (five weeks in advance of the start of SC17). The SC Chair and Theme Conveners will be responsible for accepting or rejecting a paper subject to the level of relevance to the Commission's work.

Because of virtual meeting characteristics and constraints, all working papers for presentation were selected in advance to support the abbreviated agenda consisting of essential items necessary to progress the scientific work of the Commission in 2021 and to provide the scientific advice and information necessary to inform the key decisions of the annual WCPFC18 meeting in December 2021. Other papers submitted for SC17 will be assigned as an information paper. Authors and conveners should discuss the suitability of the paper whether it will be considered under the online discussion forum or remain posted only as an information paper on the SC17 website.

**All full papers MUST be submitted by 24 July 2021** (18 days in advance of the start of SC17). Please submit titles, abstracts and full papers to:

- i) SC Chair (Ueta Jr. Faasili; [ueta.faasili@maf.gov.ws](mailto:ueta.faasili@maf.gov.ws)),
- ii) relevant Theme Conveners below, and
- iii) the Secretariat (SungKwon Soh; [sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int](mailto:sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int))

All papers received will be posted on the SC17 website by **28 July 2021** (two weeks in advance of the start of SC17).

The theme conveners for SC17 are listed below:

ST Theme	Valerie Post; <a href="mailto:valerie.post@noaa.gov">valerie.post@noaa.gov</a>
SA Theme	Keith Bigelow: <a href="mailto:keith.bigelow@noaa.gov">keith.bigelow@noaa.gov</a> Hiroshi Minami; <a href="mailto:hminami@affrc.go.jp">hminami@affrc.go.jp</a>
MI Theme	Robert Campbell; <a href="mailto:robert.campbell@csiro.au">robert.campbell@csiro.au</a> Co-convenor: TBC
EB Theme	Yonat Swimmer; <a href="mailto:yonat.swimmer@noaa.gov">yonat.swimmer@noaa.gov</a> Co-convenor: TBC