



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

YELLOWFIN TUNA ASSESSMENT – PEER REVIEW



WCPFC-SC17-2021-SA-WP-06

Oceanic Fisheries Program, Pacific Community (SPC),

BACKGROUND

- 2020 yellowfin tuna assessments was presented with some cautionary caveats, and concerns that it presented an overly optimistic stock status.
- Various issues were noted by the assessment team that could not be explored fully in the time available to deliver the assessment.
- The SC16 recommended a peer review of the assessment be conducted according to the:

3-11 August 2016

Process for the independent review of stock assessments

(Attachment K of the SC12 Summary Report)

- Many of the concerns raised for the yellowfin tuna assessment are relevant to the bigeye tuna assessment, the peer review would also have relevance to the bigeye assessment.



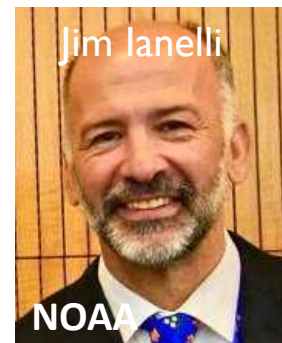
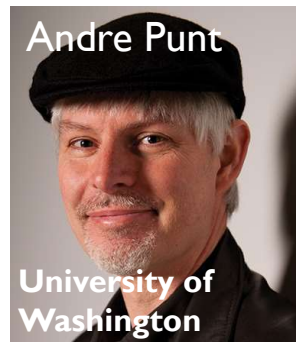
TIMELINES

2021

2020 Yellowfin assessment follow-up work, report to SC17 (not started due to staff departures)

*Select a 3 person peer review panel –
voted by CCMs, same panel as
bigeye review*

TOR for the peer review to SC17



2022

Further testing and analysis internally focussed on YFT,

*Expert review commencing early 2022, includes one week modelling workshop
in Noumea, review panel reporting to SC18*

2023

Incorporate recommendations in the next Yellowfin and Bigeye assessments, reported to SC19

TERMS OF REFERENCE



Objectives

1. Undertake, in consultation with the stock assessment team (SPC), following the guidelines described in [Process for the Independent Review of stock assessments \(Attachment K\)](#), a peer review of the 2020 YFT stock assessment in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO)
2. Based on the review work provide recommendations for improving the assessment, including data inputs, modelling approaches and treatment of uncertainty.
3. In conjunction with the SPC assessment scientists, identify improvement options that are feasible for application to the 2023 YFT assessment.

SCOPE

1. Model inputs
2. Model configuration
3. Model diagnostics
4. Application of recent MULTIFAN-CL model developments
5. Future research areas, and priorities to improve future assessments
6. Others aspects that come up

\$50,000 allocated from the Science Budget for 2022

Workplan

Activity	Output	Timeframe
Review of the 2020 WCPO yellowfin stock assessment report	Summary paper of general comments and suggestions for any pre-workshop modelling or further information/data required by the review panel	At least 2 months prior to workshop
Pre-workshop planning meeting. (Online)	Plan for the workshop developed	At least 1 month prior to the workshop
Review workshop at SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia	Completion of 5 day + travel in-person modelling workshop in Noumea	TBA (COVID travel dependent) pre or post SC18
Review outcomes of modelling workshop	Draft workshop report to SPC for review and response	With 2 weeks of the end of the modelling workshop
Finalise peer review report	Final report provided to SPC for addition of SPC responses	TBA – either by end June 2022 if workshop is in March 2022, or by January 2023 if workshop is in October 2022
Report finalised	Deliver report to WCPFC for posting	TBA - Depending on timing of workshop, prior to SC18 (July 2022) or 2023 SPC-Pre-assessment workshop (March 2023)

SC17 ADVICE

- Consider the ToR, endorse or otherwise

- Consider the need for flexibility in the timing of the in-person modelling workshop – and that a report may not be available by SC18

- If review and report can not be delivered for SC18 – consider alternatives:
 - i. Out of session meeting to present findings
 - ii. Online discussion forum
 - iii. Present to SPC pre-assessment workshop (PAW) (March 2023)