



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Online-Meeting

August 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 4
MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME**

WCPFC-SC17-2021/ MI-WP-00

**Convener
Robert Campbell**

AGENDA ITEM 4. MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME

4.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE HARVEST STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR KEY TUNA SPECIES

4.1.1 Overview on progress and updates to the harvest strategy workplan

SC17 will note any changes and updates to the work plan for the adoption of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy under CMM 2014-06 (Attachment H, WCPFC17 Summary Report) and the scheduled plan for 2022. Further detailed discussions will be available under Agenda Item 4.1.7.

4.1.2 Target reference points

4.1.2.1 Bigeye and yellowfin tuna TRP analyses

WCPFC17 noted the results of analyses on candidate TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin (WCPFC17-2020-12_rev1) but the TRPs could not be agreed at WCPFC17. Instead, 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 (Para 167, WCPFC17 Summary Report).

SC17 will review any updated information on TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin tuna including the Commission's request and provide advice on potential TRPs for the Commission's adoption at WCPFC18.

SC17-MI-WP-01	S. Hare et al. Updated BET and YFT TRP evaluations
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4.1.2.2 Skipjack tuna TRP analyses

WCPFC17 reviewed WCPFC17-2020-11 (*Updates to WCPO Skipjack Tuna Projected Stock Status to Inform Consideration of an Updated Target Reference Point*) and agreed to continue intersessional work to review and revise, as appropriate, a TRP for skipjack in the future. In addition, the Commission requested SPC to update the skipjack TRP work by including additional candidates, including 36%, 38% and 40% in the median depletion table (Paragraph 157 – 159, WCPFC17 Summary Report).

SC17 will review updated information provided by SPC-OFP on the performance of candidate target reference points and provide advice to the Commission for its potential update of the skipjack TRP.

SC17-MI-WP-02	G. Pilling. Updated SKJ TRP evaluations
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4.1.3 Review of the overall harvest strategy work

With reference to the revised work plan for the adoption of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy under CMM 2014-06 (Attachment H, WCPFC17 Summary Report), SC17 will note the overall progress to date in the development of the harvest strategy covered by this workplan. This will include a summary of the discussion and questions posed and responses associated with the related Information Papers presented in the ODF at SC16.

SC17-MI-WP-03	R. Scott et al. Harvest strategy technical work: progress summary
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4.1.4 Skipjack MSE framework

Noting the planned schedule of adopting the management procedure for skipjack tuna in 2022, SC17 will review the progress on analysing the performance of candidate management procedures and provide advice to the Commission for consideration and further instruction as needed.

SC17-MI-WP-04	R. Scott et al. Skipjack Management Procedure evaluations
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4.1.5 Mixed fisheries

An information paper *Further consideration of the mixed fishery management strategy evaluation framework for WCPO tuna stocks* (SC16-MI-IP-06) was posted on the HS-ODF, under Topic 5. SC17 may close the review of SC16-MI-IP-06 by noting the progress in developing the multi-species modelling framework as the initial approach for including mixed fishery interactions when developing and testing harvest strategies for the four main WCPO tuna stocks. SC17 will review any updates on the development of mixed fishery MSE framework and provide recommendations to the Commission for further research.

SC17-MI-WP-05	F. Scott et al. Mixed fishery harvest strategy developments
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4.1.6 Review of future progress of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan

SC17 will review the steps required to further progress the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan and highlight issues for further guidance by the Commission, including how decisions on MPs can be made and what role of SC might be in this process.

Noting the Commission's recommendation in Para. 275, WCPFC17 Summary Report, SC17 will also consider the need and options to convene a science-management dialogue to assist this process and provide recommendations to the Commission as needed.

(WCPFC17 Summary Report)

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.

4.2 LIMIT REFERENCE POINTS FOR SPECIES OTHER THAN TUNA

4.2.1 Limit reference points for elasmobranchs

Project 103 (*LRPs for elasmobranchs within the WCPFC*) was posted on the SC16-ODF, under Topic 11. One CCM stated that it is advisable to close Project 103 and no objections were raised to close the project. Though one CCM suggested to support the Project 103 outputs, several other CCMs offered a number of comments on the project outputs: i) it is not clear that the analyses and results have clearly identified appropriate reference points; ii) agreement is required regarding the objective of the LRPs for non-target stocks, the metrics to be used to describe stock status, and their levels; and iii) consideration needs to be given to empirical reference points (Paragraph 46, Attachment F of the SC16 Summary Report).

Noting the feedback in the SC16-ODF Topic 11, SC17 may consider how to address the Commission's request on developing appropriate LRPs for elasmobranchs (Paragraph 484 below) and provide recommendations to the Commission as needed.

(WCPFC16 Summary Report)

484. *The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee is working on appropriate LRPs under Project 103 and encouraged the Scientific Committee to develop appropriate LRPs given their importance in harvest strategies.*

SC17-MI-WP-07	S. Zhou, M. Dunn, A. Williams. Appropriate reference points for WCPO elasmobranchs (Project 103)
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4.2.2 Review of appropriate LRPs for SWPO striped marlin and other billfish (Project 104)

At WCPFC16, the Commission noted with concern the current status of South Pacific striped marlin and agreed to revisit identification of an appropriate limit reference point for this species in 2020 at WCPFC17 (Para. 459, WCPFC16 Summary Report). Terms of reference for a Project 104 to identify appropriate LRPs for Southwest Pacific Ocean striped marlin and consideration of other billfish species (SC16-MI-IP-12) was posted on the SC16-ODF, under Topic 12, and the Project 104 was endorsed by the WCPFC17. The objective of the Project 104 is to provide recommendations for performance indicators and related LRPs for SWPO striped marlin and consider their relevance for other billfish in the WCPO.

SC17 will review the report of the Project 104 and provide recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

SC17-MI-WP-08	S. Brouwer & P. Hamer. Limit reference point options for south west Pacific striped marlin with consideration of other billfish (Project 104)
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SC17: PAPERS FOR MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME

ODF = Online Discussion Forum

<i>MI THEME – Working Papers</i>		<i>Agenda</i>
SC17-MI-WP-01	S. Hare et al. Updated BET and YFT TRP evaluations	4.1.2.1
SC17-MI-WP-02	G. Pilling. Further updates to WCPO skipjack tuna projected stock status to inform consideration of an updated target reference point	4.1.2.2
SC17-MI-WP-03	R. Scott et al. Harvest strategy technical work: progress summary	4.1.3
SC17-MI-WP-04	R. Scott et al. Skipjack Management Procedure evaluations	4.1.4
SC17-MI-WP-05	F. Scott et al. Mixed fishery harvest strategy developments	4.1.5
SC17-MI-WP-06	withdrawn	
SC17-MI-WP-07	S. Zhou, M. Dunn, A. Williams. Appropriate reference points for WCPO elasmobranchs (Project 103)	4.2.1
SC17-MI-WP-08	S. Brouwer & P. Hamer. Limit reference point options for south west Pacific striped marlin with consideration of other billfish (Project 104)	4.2.2
<i>MI THEME – Information Papers</i>		
SC17-MI-IP-01	N. Yao et al. Retrospective forecasting of CPUE for South Pacific albacore	ODF
SC17-MI-IP-02	F. Scott et al Harvest strategy capacity building	
SC17-MI-IP-03	P. Hamer et al Updated evaluation of CMM 2020-01	
SC17-MI-IP-04	L. Escalle et al. Report on analyses of the 2016/2021 PNA FAD tracking programme	
SC17-MI-IP-05	L. Escalle et al. Project 88 final report: FAD acoustics analysis	ODF
SC17-MI-IP-06	T. Vidal, M. Wichman, P. Hamer, G. Pilling, PNAO. Effort creep within the WCPO purse seine fishery	
SC17-MI-IP-07	M. Wichman and T. Vidal. Incorporating industry knowledge to understand purse seine effort creep and evolution of fishing strategies in the WCPO	
SC17-MI-IP-08	ISC-Albacore Working Group. Report of the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation	ODF
SC17-MI-IP-09	SPA-RM-IWG Chair. Chair's Summary Report of the SPALB Roadmap IWG Meeting	
SC17-MI-IP-10	Australia. An updated review of potential options for managing swordfish taken as bycatch in longline fisheries	ODF
SC16-MI-IP-11	WCPFC Secretariat and SPC. Catch and effort tables on tropical tuna CMMs	
SC16-MI-IP-12	SPC-OFP. Catch and effort data summaries to support discussions on the new SWORDFISH CMM	
SC17-MI-IP-13	The Ocean Foundation. The Harveststrategies.org website	
SC17-MI-IP-14	F. Satria, L. Sadiyah, I.G.B. Sedana, T. Yunanda, P. Suadela. Harvest Strategies for Tropical Tuna in Archipelagic Waters of Indonesia: Update	