



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Electronic Meeting
11-19 August 2021

**SPC assessment-related activities under the
SSP standard budget and additional resourcing budget**

WCPFC-SC17-2021/GN-WP-02

Secretariat

SPC assessment-related activities under the SSP standard budget and additional resourcing budget

The table below is based upon the discussions so far as SC, and an attempt to reflect priorities that were expressed (however, the actual priority order is an SC discussion).

To reflect the Scientific Services Provider (SSP) existing funding and person power, this document aims to highlight the choice that SC has within the SSP standard budget and additional resourcing budget a choice of 3 items, with a maximum of two of those items coming from column 1.

Priority	Column 1	Column 2
1	SKJ assessment	Continue to develop the new ensemble approach – applicable approaches across species?
2	YFT peer review and additional analysis	Additional SWO projections (this would be expected by Dec 2021)
3	SWP Mako assessment	Revision of South Pacific albacore TRP (this also expected by Dec. 2021) & Consequences for SP albacore of BET/YFT TRP levels (<u>timeline to be defined</u>)

The TTMW process has already detailed work of the SSP to be delivered prior to WCPFC17 (specifically Figure 1 and 2 of WCPFC-TTMW1-2021-02: Replicated with F/F_{MSY} and B/B_{MSY}) and an expectation that further work may arise from TTMW2. This should also be taken into consideration of the SSP workload for 2021

Notes:

This only reflects the technical work around the stock assessments and the SSP's capacity in this area, and does not impact other work undertaken within the SSP budget.

The SKJ assessment will be the highest priority. A number of areas to consider additional work to improve this assessment were raised including: growth estimates through incorporation of tagging-based length-increment data; evaluation of alternative sources of CPUE time series; further evaluation of the tagging data and associated model settings; and consideration of time-varying movement functionality in MULTIFAN-CL. Of these only the CPUE investigation have occurred, with mixed success, the assessment will require significant preparatory work.

Due to departure of the lead scientist on the yellowfin assessment and the time required to replace and train new assessment staff, no follow-up work on the yellowfin tuna assessment has been possible to date. The peer review timing is unclear due to COVID travel uncertainties, but this remains a priority in the lead up to the 2023 yellowfin and bigeye assessments.

The stock assessment for Southwest Pacific mako shark is scheduled for 2022 and would seem this is expected to go ahead, either conducted by the SSP or subcontracted.