**Matrix of recommendations from the WCPFC Performance Review – Science Section**

Agenda Item 11.3.2

WCPFC-SC9-2013/ GN-WP-06

**(WCPFC9 Report, Para 429)**

WCPFC9 agreed that the Secretariat will sort and split the WCPFC Independent Performance Review recommendation matrix by committee, add a column to track progress, and forward each portion to the relevant committee for action.

**Informal Working Paper for ISG-3 Meeting and Theme Session Convenors**

**Secretariat**

* **Action (active /completed/ ongoing)**
* **Issue (policy/ management/ legal/ compliance/financial)**
* **Priority (high/ medium/ low/ underway)**

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| **Responsible Body** | **Section** | **Recommendation** | **SC’s Responses** | **Action** | **Issue** | **Committee** | **Priority** | **Progress** |
|  |  | **Section 3 Convention and supporting Instruments** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Ecosystem and Bycatch theme (EB)** | 3.2.8. 2003  FAO Technical Guidelines on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) | * The Convention gives ample scope for development and implementation of the EAF. However, the institutional mechanism established to facilitate implementation should be reviewed. Relevant recommendations relating to the need for review of the terms of reference and functions of the EB-SWG are made in Section 3.2.9, also taking into account the issues relating to bycatch and discards. * A technical evaluation of the implementation of the EAF is provided in Section 5.4.2 of this document. Implementation of the EAF for Pacific Island developing States, which are also members of WCPFC, is supported by FFA. The FFA has completed Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) reports for Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. EB will review EB Theme TOR and functions intersessionally and consider that at SC10 |  | Active | Policy | SC/WCPFC | Medium | SC Discussion |
| **EB theme** | 3.2.9. 2010  FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management  and Reduction of Discards | * It is recommended that the terms of reference and functions of the Ecosystem and Bycatch Specialist Working Group should be evaluated with a view to the implementation of the *2003 FAO Technical Guidelines on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries* and the *2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards* and that priorities be agreed for the SWG as appropriate. In addition, it is recommended that CMMs should reflect the implementation of these instruments, including provisions on management and reporting.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Evaluate EB Theme TOR and functions intersessionally, and consider implementing the two documents and priorities to be agreed |  | Active | Policy | SC/WCPFC | High | SC discussion |
|  |  | **5. Conservation and Management** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Stock Assessment theme (SA)** | Southern  Albacore | * Other explanations are possible for observed southern albacore biomass trends and further analyses appear justifiable; * Despite the apparent appropriateness of the 2011 southern albacore assessment, the resultant conclusions are somewhat more pessimistic than previous assessments (i.e. B/BMSY closer to 1). Uncertainty still surrounds the current levels of fishing mortality and there appears to be justification for further research to improve the assessment model, as well as a need for an updated assessment in 2012; * The South Pacific albacore stock is neither currently overfished, nor is overfishing occurring. Current biomass levels appear sufficient to support contemporary catch levels. However, any catch or effort increases are likely to result in declining catch rates, especially for longline catches of adult albacore. This will not only affect vessel profitability, but will also mandate management of vessels in strict conformity with CMM 2010-05; and * There is probably a need to focus more on albacore longline fisheries north of 25⁰S, where considerable biomass depletion appears to be occurring with obvious implications for management.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Updating the existing CMM will be progressed within WCPFC to reflect the recommendation |  | Active | Science/  Management | SC/TCC/WC  PFC | High It’s an important issues for the southern states and the effort has increased | Work underway for more discussion in  SC and TCC  in 2013 |
| **SA theme** | Bigeye | * The WCPFC is to be commended for the several improvements forthcoming from the 2011 bigeye assessments compared to previous years; * Such improvements would benefit further through the tabulation of annual bigeye Purse Seine catch estimates, along with the estimation methods used; * Continued research on tuna, particularly bigeye, life history characteristics should be encouraged. The importance of including scientists from the WCPFC region is recognised and should also be encouraged; * The Commission should encourage the SC to continue its research-focused work on bigeye as outlined in paragraph 133 of the *Summary Report for the Seventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee*; * The SC and Commission should be encouraged to actively address concerns attached to the possibility that the Bigeye is approaching, or is already in, an overfished state; * Bigeye MSY levels could rise if the fishing mortality of small fish is reduced. An added concern in this regard is that the harvesting of juvenile fish has led to a greater than 50% reduction in MSY from pre-1970 levels. While a reduction in the catch of small bigeye will allow more sustainable overall yields, recent overfishing will lead to further potential yield losses in the future. The priority attention of both the SC and Commission should be focused on this situation; * There is some indication that 100% observer coverage of the bigeye Purse Seine fleet will allow for fishery discards to be better assessed in the future. The SC and Commission are encouraged to give this notion serious operational consideration; * Recently-developed, operational Longline indices for bigeye have provided more optimistic perceptions of stock status than using aggregated Longline data. A formal analysis of this observation should be encouraged to ensure that it is in fact appropriate and that is does not further stress a bigeye stock close to being overfished; * Indonesia and the Philippines are encouraged to submit complete 2010 data for their bigeye surface fisheries. These should include Purse- Seine effort data; * The Commission is encouraged to consider using a spatial management approach for measures aimed at ensuring sustainable bigeye fishing mortality levels, exploitation rates and depletion from various regions within the WCPFC Regulatory Area; * The Commission should consider adopting additional measures above those expected from the current CMM so as to secure further reductions in bigeye fishing mortality, to ensure the return of the mortality rate to FMSY. * All Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) are encouraged to provide data in strict accordance with the WCPFC data rules for scientific data.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. SPC will consider these recommendations when they conduct 2014 stock assessment, including improvement of stock assessment by addressing peer review recommendations. 2. Tokyo WG will consider management issues |  | Active | Science/  Management | SC/WCPFC | High   To be addressed initially by SC and SPC in the assessments | 2013/01 and  SC for 2013 |
| **SA theme** | Skipjack | * The WCPFC is to be commended for the several improvements forthcoming from the 2011 skipjack assessments compared to previous years; * The Commission is encouraged to again address concerns raised by the 2010 and 2011 SC statements[[1]](#footnote-1) on reduction of skipjack availability at high latitudes as a result of high catches in the equatorial region; * The Panel notes the relatively healthy nature of the skipjack stock; * The SC's ongoing efforts to improve the skipjack assessment model, aimed at enhancing understanding of stock status changes, are much appreciated; * The Commission is encouraged to closely monitor future increases of WCPO fishing effort on skipjack to mitigate catch rate declines associated with further biomass declines; * The Commission is also encouraged to manage total Purse-Seine fishing effort in the WCPO as a matter or priority to limit increased fishing mortality of bigeye and yellowfin. Improving estimates of Purse-Seine catch species composition is very much supported, as are other associated sampling and data collection efforts.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. SPC will review these when they conduct 2014 stock assessment 2. Tokyo WG on Tunas will consider management issues. |  | Active | Science/  Management | SC/WCPFC | High  Initially an issues for SC and SPC in the assessments | SC 2013 discussion |
| **SA theme** | Yellowfin | * The WCPFC is to be commended for the several improvements forthcoming from the 2011 yellowfin assessments compared to previous years; * The Commission is encouraged to give serious consideration to the WCPFC SC's advice that yellowfin fishing mortality in the western equatorial region should not increase; * The Commission is encouraged to consider ways to reduce yellowfin juvenile fishing mortality; * Projections for the yellowfin stock are essentially 'optimistic' and that fishing mortality should remain below FMSY until 2021 and spawning biomass should remain above SBMSY. The Commission is encouraged to give this situation serious attention; and * Noting the highly positive results of the external review of the yellowfin tuna assessment by the Center for Independent Experts, the Panel is very much in sympathy with the view that such external reviews should be undertaken subject to terms of reference agreed by the Scientific Committee. In that respect, any independent review that does not access all available and relevant information, and/or operates under its own terms of reference, could seriously undermine the WCPF SC's provenance. The Commission is therefore encouraged to reinforce the standing of the SC as the source of the Commission's scientific advice and to ensure that this advice is not challenged by inappropriate, unclear or independently-driven terms of reference that have not been agreed by the SC itself (Further Panel comments on the issue of independent assessments of the SC's work is provided in Section 5.6).   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. SPC will review these when they conduct 2014 stock assessment 2. Tokyo WG will consider management issues. |  | Active | Science  / Management | SC/TCC/  WCPFC | High  SC and SPC to consider initially | SC 2013 discussion  then 2013/01 |
| **Data and Statistics theme (DS)** | Bigeye and  Yellowfin  data | * The WCPFC is encouraged to urge CCMs to provide annual bigeye and yellowfin catch and effort, and size composition, data for all fleets in the format required by the rules and requirements adopted by WCPFC as “*Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission*”. * To the extent possible, the Commission should also consider to request members to provide data by end of April after each fishing year so that the SPC can have sufficient time to redo its models if necessary.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. CCMs are routinely reminded of these recommendations. | CCMs are routinely reminded of their obligations to provide these data according to the “*Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission*”, which is evaluated on an annual basis through the SC Data Gaps paper, the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring and TCC. | Active | Science and  reporting | SC/WCPFC |  Issues for SC and SPC to consider for | 2013/01 |
| **SA theme** | SPO Swordfish | * The on-going shortage of data on which to base a comprehensive assessment of SPO Swordfish is a matter of concern; * WCPFC is encouraged to urge the EU and SPC to devote all efforts to improving the WCPFC SPO swordfish data holdings; * The SC should be encouraged to undertake analysis of SPO swordfish fishery indicators for SC8; and * Using information forthcoming from the above, and contained in Williams et al. (2011), the SC should formally assess SPO swordfish as soon as possible, taking into account TCC data and statistical advice.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. 2013 SWO SA addressed these recommendations. |  | Complete | Science | SC/WCPFC |  Assessment  Is under way | Assessment due in 2013 |
| **SA theme** | Southwest  Pacific Striped  Marlin | * The only available assessment for Southwest Pacific Striped Marlin is now five years old. A new assessment, and utilization of any new information on the stock, are strongly encouraged and should be done as a matter of urgency.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Recent 2012 stock assessment and 2013 research on catch hotspots addressed the recommendation. |  | Complete | Science/  management | SC/WCPFC | Assessment under way | ~~Assessment planned 2014~~ |
| **SA theme** | North Pacific  Striped Marlin | * Concerns expressed over the continued lack of an assessment for the North Pacific striped marlin stock appear justified; * The Panel was concerned by the fact that information on the assessments undertaken by the ISC was not readily available or accessible, and, therefore, recommended that transparency in this regard be considerably improved. Most noticeably, and ideally, all assessments undertaken by the ISC should be peer reviewed and the results of these reviews made readily available for scrutiny by both the SPC and WCPFC SC; * The ISC, SPC and SC should be strongly encouraged to ensure that such an assessment is collectively undertaken in 2012; * This assessment should be undertaken in conjunction with that recommended for the Southwest Pacific striped marlin; and * To achieve, and expedite, the above, the Commission's attention is drawn to a need to clarify the ISC's standing in respect of North Pacific striped marlin, as well as in relation to relevant provisions of the Convention and WCPFC Rules of Procedure.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. ISC conducted NP striped marlin stock assessment in 2012, which addressed these recommendations. |  | Complete | Science/  Management | SC/WCPFC | SC and  NC are working  on this assessment | Assessment completed more discussion in 2013 |
| **International Scientific Committee (ISC), Northern Committee (NC), Commission** | North Pacific  Albacore | * Note should be taken of the current situation regarding assessment of North Pacific albacore, particularly the independent review of the current North Pacific albacore measure by the ISC; and * It may be worth considering that current North Pacific albacore measure be reviewed to ensure that it is able to actually restrain fishing mortality, particularly in light of past data shortcomings.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. ISC’s 2011 stock assessment says that the stock is healthy. CMM 2005-03 will be maintained pending a new assessment. 2. The current measure restricts the increase of F from the current level. |  | Active | Science/  Management | SC/WCPFC | High  SC to consider | SC  discussion |
| **ISC, NC, Commission** | Pacific Bluefin  Tuna | * Note should be taken of the current situation regarding assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna; and * The WCPFC is encouraged to update its Pacific bluefin assessments, reduce Pacific bluefin fishing mortality to 2002/2004 levels and provide for monitoring of fishing mortality for age 0 to 3 fish.   **n Tunas at does not validate fisheries catch data report). benthos and budget of the SC?lds.Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Current CMM 2012-06 addressed monitoring of juvenile fishing mortality. 2. 2013 stock assessment may strengthen the measure. |  | Active | Science/  management | SC/  WCPFC (NC) | High  Concerns have been expressed about this stock | Assessment updated will need more  discussion in  2013 and beyond |
| **ISC, NC** | North Pacific  Swordfish | * Note should be taken of the current situation regarding assessment of North Pacific swordfish; and * The WCPFC is encouraged to update its North Pacific swordfish assessments in 2013 at the latest.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. According to 2010 stock assessment, ISC advised that this stock is healthy. |  | Active | Science/  Management | SC/WCPFC | Medium  for SC to consider | SC  discussion |
|  |  | **5.4. The Ecosystem Approach** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **EB theme** | 5.4.2. Key  Developments | * WCPFC is to be commended for pursing a pragmatically-focused ecosystem approach built on the ERA of direct linkages between fishing and the WCPO ecosystem(s); * The Commission and SC are also to be commended for developing various mitigating measures to address fishery-species interactions for seabird, turtles and sharks in particular; * WCPFC is encouraged to expand data collection for potential fisheries and ecosystem interactions to provide priority information on such interactions to monitor interaction extent, mitigation effects and interaction effects; * WCPFC is encouraged to further consider other effects likely to arise from fishing operations on the WCPO ecosystem. Such effects include lost, or abandoned, fishing gear and potential marine ecosystems[[2]](#footnote-2) risks. At-sea monitoring may be necessary before such risks are identified; * The question of general biodiversity protection does not appear to have been addressed as yet and the WCPF is encouraged to consider ways (e.g. using spatial protection) how this might be achieved; * A number of RFMOs have instituted Scientific Observer Programs to monitor, and gather information on, fisheries-ecosystem interactions/effects. Within the bounds of what may be practicable, the WCPFC is encouraged to consider how such programs[[3]](#footnote-3) may assist its ecosystem work in terms of promoting an EAFM, and the ERA, approach regionally; * Some other RFMOs (e.g. the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization- NAFO) put policy guidelines in place for their EAFM approaches. These are sufficiently flexible to include recent 'best practice' developments such as those initiated under UNGA Resolution 61/105. The Commission is encouraged to give the development of such tools serious consideration in the interests of strategically 'mapping out' where it is going with its ERA activities. In these terms a designated area of the WCPFC Website for consolidating discussion on ecosystem issues might also be worth considering; and * Following the previous comment, the SC is encouraged to develop 'plausible models' of WCPFC ecosystem to guide strategic development of its EAFM and to focus on key ecosystem components, including by means of a more structured regional plan of action on sharks and seabirds.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Recommendations on EAFM may be considered at SC EB Theme session in the future 2. Comparison with NAFO isn’t necessarily appropriate, given their fisheries interact with the benthos |  | Active and  ongoing | Management | SC/TCC/WC  PFC |  Medium  The  WCPFC  has done a lot of work in this area and we have the bycatch data base at SPC. Issues for initial consideration by SC | Ongoing SC  and TCC |
|  |  | **5.5. Data collection and sharing** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **DS theme** | 5.5.2. Data  submission requirements | * To a large measure, information on data submission requirements appear adequate; * However, some Longline catch data are only provided after a lag of several months[[4]](#footnote-4), some CMMs lack the necessary infrastructure to ensure accurate/timely data submissions and data are sparse for species other than billfish or tuna; * The Commission is urged to encourage the Secretariat to make such information easily accessible, particularly with respect to ensuring that data deadlines are met, and especially for fisheries subject to CMMs in force, and/or requiring assessment; * Serious consideration should be given to providing an enduring, and detailed 'Data Submission' item on the WCPFC Website as a 'one-stop shop' for all data submission information; and * To improve transparency attached to the timely submission of data, submission dates should be monitored by the Secretariat with the attached information being made available on the password protected portion of the WCPFC Website   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Data gaps by flag state have been already posted on the website 2. IMS work will improve compliance monitoring of data submission | Data gaps by source of data and flag state are regularly posted on the WCPFC website. The SC Data gaps paper provides a list and evaluation of the provisions of scientific data.  The WCPFC IMS now provides a web-based system so that the data-provision evaluation in individual CCM Compliance Monitoring Reviews are readily accessible to CCMs on the WCPFC web site through secure login, including the facility for CCMs to respond to the evaluation where required. | Active | Science/Data | SC/WCPFC | High  SC to consider and advise | IMS work underway to improve data entry |
| **SPC, Commission** | 5.5.3. Data  holdings | * The WCPFC, SPC-OFP and CCMs are to be congratulated on the comprehensive data holdings now available for WCPFC stocks; * Consideration should however be given to ensure that the provenance of the WCPFC data holdings and the data held by the OFP are complementary and compatible; and * On-going and timely publication of the WPCFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook is to be commended.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. SPC at SC meetings advise CCMs of data collected and data gaps 2. SPC covered these recommendations already. |  | Active | Science | SC/SPC-  OFP/WCPFC | High SC to consider and  advise | SC  discussion |
| **DS theme** | 5.5.4. Data  gaps | * WCPFC is encouraged to give serious consideration to SC7 concerns for data identified in Section 5.5.1, as well other data interests highlighted below; * All CCMs are encouraged to provide data in a timely manner, and in strict accordance, with WCPFC *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission*; * Indonesia and the Philippines are encouraged to submit complete 2010 data for their bigeye surface fisheries, including Purse-Seine effort data; * Continuing difficulties attached to submission of ROP data should be noted, and submission of such data is to be encouraged; * Improving estimates of Purse-Seine catch species composition is very much supported, as are associated sampling and data collection efforts (Section 5.2); * WCPFC is encouraged to urge CCMs to provide annual bigeye and yellowfin catch and effort data, as well as size composition, for all fleets in the format required by WCPFC as “*Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission*”; * The on-going shortage of data on which to base a comprehensive assessment of SPO swordfish is a matter of concern; * WCPFC is encouraged to urge the EU and SPC to devote all efforts to improving the WCPFC SPO swordfish data holdings; * WCPFC is encouraged to expand data collection for potential fisheries and ecosystem interactions to provide priority information on such interactions, to monitor its extent and effects, as well as the mitigation measures adopted and their results; * Indonesian archipelagic waters catches should be included in the annual catch estimates between 2000 and 2010; * Data inputs into pre-2000 Indonesian tuna fisheries annual catch estimates should be reviewed; * Historical annual catch estimates using data from each of the domestic Vietnamese fisheries should be reconstructed; * Logbook and port sampling data collection for Vietnamese Purse-Seine and Gillnet fisheries should be established; * Vietnamese observer data should be reviewed to ensure their collection is in line with observer data collected elsewhere; * Coastal States, fishing States, Chinese Taipei and Korea should be encouraged to specifically indicate whether double-counting of reported catch is occurring or not; * The four CCMs concerned (Japan, Korea, China, and Chinese Taipei) should be encouraged to notify their intent to provide operational catch/effort data on longline fishing targeting bigeye and yellowfin to the WCPFC; * Submission of aggregated Chinese catch and effort data in the Pacific Ocean for 2003 to 2007 should be encouraged; and * Capacity building should continue in Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia, through the WPEA program.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. All recommendations are reflected already in many on-going projects, programmes and CMMs. 2. CCMs have been continuously reminded and encouraged to provide good data. | * ? * Undertaken on a regular basis * Done * ROP data submissions continue to improve * Undertaken on a regular basis * Improvements in the provision of SWO data but this work in ongoing * EU has now provided all operational data. * Indonesia now include archipelagic waters in their catches * Outstanding * Historical estimates back to 2000 have been produced but not for years prior to 2000 * Done * Outstanding * Major issues resolved. Ongoing. * Outstanding * Done * Significant progress. Ongoing. | Active and  ongoing | Science/data | SC/WCPFC | High  SC to consider and advise | SC  discussion |
| **Commission** | 5.5.5. Data  access and sharing | * The WCPFC is to be commended on the way in which it compiles and manages its data and information holdings, particularly in respect to the levels of access it provides, whilst also providing for data confidentiality when necessary; and * The Commission and SC may wish to give thought to protecting the intellectual property contained in various assessment reports in the event of publication of such reports outside the organization (e.g. in scientific journals).   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. The Commission may need to consider the issue of protecting the intellectual property of the Commission documents as a whole. |  | Ongoing | Science/data | SC/WCPFC | Low  Issues for SC consideration and  advice | SC  discussion |
| **SC, Commission** | 5.6. Quality  and provision of scientific advice | * Due recognition should be given to the vibrancy and high quality of scientific advice being provided to WCPFC by the SC and SPC-OFP; * The Commission is also encouraged to formally define the SC's provenance as the key supplier of scientific advice to the Commission; * The Commission is encouraged to resolve the remaining issues still outstanding from the 2008 '*Independent Review of the Commission's Transitional Science Structure and Functions'*; * Notable issues to be assessed include those highlighted above, namely: * The need to strengthen confidence in data custodianship service so as to improve data submission shortfalls; * Update guidelines[[5]](#footnote-5) for processing the WCPFC SC work program; * Provide a mechanism to allow the SC to request scientific information directly to the ISC; * Clarify the respective roles of the WCPFC SC and ISC in providing advice to the NC and SC. As the statutory WCPFC scientific advisory body, the SC should lead endorsement of work done by the Commission's scientific advisors (see above); and * Establish an *Ad Hoc* Group on Socio- Economic Issues; * Subject to the above, the Commission is encouraged to clarify the role of the ISC, and its associations with the Commission and the SC, particularly in respect to direct exchanges of scientific information and advice; * To encourage scientific transparency with respect to assessments being undertaken the same rigor should be applied to all the scientific advice provided to the Commission, to extent possible, in a standardized manner; * The SC is encouraged to continue developing a WCPFC Strategic Research Plan; * The SC is also encouraged to develop a summary document (i.e. 'Blind Freddy's Guide') which provides information on the assessment it undertakes, as well as on the underlying science being pursued. This document should be produced in lay and easy- to-follow language aimed at enhancing understanding across all WCPFC participants (not just scientists); and * The question of broadening scientific capacity available within CCMs should be considered further, possibly with a view to developing a WCPFC institutional policy on the matter, which would identify ways how such capacity could be grown within the region. It is noted that a number of RFMOs (e.g. CCAMLR, ICCAT) have such policies in place to augment scientific capacity and build scientific expertise available to members from developing countries (as per the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement[[6]](#footnote-6) Articles 25.1(c) and 25.2).   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. The Convention and the Commission’s Rules of Procedure clearly stipulate the functions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. 2. The reviewers referred to the wrong document (Appendix M, SC4 Report). Correct one, Attachment P (SC5 Report, Guidelines outlining the process for formulating the work programme and budget of the SC), will be reviewed at SC9 3. Other recommendations are implemented through SPC’s stock assessment and data workshops, WPEA projects, and JTF projects |  | Active | Science/  Policy | SC/WCPFC | High  This appears to  be an issues for WCPFC to decide not SC | SC and  WCPFC  discussion on roles and responsibilities |
|  |  | **5.7. Adoption of conservation and management measures** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Commission** | Skipjack | * The Panel notes that the skipjack stock is healthy, but that concerns have been expressed about high catches in the equatorial region, which could lead to a reduction in the availability of the species in the high latitudes. * It should also be noted that CMM 2008-01, although directed to bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna, as above discussed, since it imposes limits on total purse seine fishing effort, also indirectly positively affects the skipjack stock. * Considering the multispecies natures of the purse seine fishery, the Panel welcomes the revision of 2008-1 currently scheduled for WCPFC 8, with the expectation that skipjack stock will be addressed by it in a more direct way.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Commission (WCPFC10) will address these |  | Active | Management  / Science | SC/WCPFC | High  This is a critical stock and this advice  should be  considered by SC | Yes picked  up in 2012/01 and will be in  2013/01 |
| **SC, Commission** | Southwestern  Pacific Striped  Marlin | * Considering that: a) 6 years have already passed since the first attempt to assess the condition of the Southwest Pacific striped marlin stock, b) the significant uncertainties regarding the parameters used in the model; and, even more so, c) its results, indicating that the levels of fishing mortality might be approximating or have already exceeded FMSY and that current spawning and biomass levels were likely close or already below BMSY, the Panel strongly urges that a new assessment of * this stock be undertaken as a matter of priority. To this aim, any new information available should be taken into account. * Considering the species is taken almost exclusively as a bycatch, the measure in place for this stock (2006-04), limiting the number of fishing vessels fishing for striped marlin in the Convention Area south of 15⁰S, is ineffective, because it does not address the actual catch taken. The Panel, therefore, urges the Commission, on the basis of the new stock assessment to be done as matter of priority, to adopt and implement clear measures to limit fishing mortality.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Recent 2012 stock assessment and 2013 research on catch hotspots addressed the recommendation 2. Commission needs to revise CMM 2006-04 |  | Complete | Science  Management | SC/TCC/  WCPFC | Assessment under way | SC Discussion |
| **ISC, SC, Commission** | North Pacific  Striped Marlin | * The Panel urges that a new assessment of the stock be done as a matter of priority; * Despite the measure 2010-01 is a positive step to reduce fishing mortality for the species, the panel noted that the stipulation of a proportionate reduction in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the measure makes it difficult to figure out what is the actual catch limit for the species. This measure, including eventual catch limits, shall be revised upon the results of the new assessment to ensure that fishing mortality for the species is compatible with Convention objectives.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. NP SM stock assessment was completed in 2012 and SC provided advice to the Commission 2. The Commission will review and update the current CMM 2010-01 in the future |  | Complete | Science | SC/WCPFC | Assessment completed by ISC for consideration by SC | SC  discussion |
| **NC** | North Pacific  Albacore | * Considering that the stock of the North Pacific albacore has been assessed and is presently not overfished nor suffering overfishing (see Section 5.2), the present measure (2005-03), limiting the level of fishing effort to the one in 2005, despite old, seems to be adequate and commensurate with the status of the stock. * The Panel welcomes the independent review of the current ISC North Pacific albacore CMM, to ensure that fishing mortality is restrained in any future formulation of the measure.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. No issues to address |  | Complete | Science | SC/WCPFC | NA | SC Discussion |
| **Commission** | Pacific Bluefin  Tuna | * The present status of the Pacific Bluefin tuna stock is not clear from available documents, particularly with respect to specific biological Reference Points, including present fishing mortality in relation to FMSY or F0.1, for instance. This limitation makes it very difficult for the Panel to assess the status of the stock and the adequacy of current CMM; * It is noted that CMM 2010-04 will be reviewed by the NC on 2012 based on new ISC stock assessment for the Pacific Bluefin tuna; * In respect of the above, the Panel notes that the SC has repeatedly advised a reduction of Pacific Bluefin Tuna fishing mortality to 2002/2004 levels or below. In particular, the reduction of juvenile (0-3 year) fishing mortality has also been advised, and the NC has been requested to monitor it; * The Panel urges the Commission to take account of the results of the new stock assessment and to develop biological reference points and clear harvest rules for this species as a matter of priority;   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Refer SC9-SA-WP-10 (ISC’s 2012 PBF stock assessment report) and SC9-GN-IP-02 (ISC plenary report) for recent information on the current stock status 2. The ISC PBF WG is developing reference points. |  | Active | Management | SC/  WCPFC | High Refer to SC for  consideration at their next meeting | SC  discussion |
| **NC, Commission** | North Pacific  Swordfish | * Although the North Pacific swordfish stock was assessed not to be overfished or suffering from overfishing, in 2009, the Panel encourages the Commission to consider advice offered by SC 9 on the scheduled NC assessment of North Pacific Swordfish in 2013.   **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. SC9 may recommend when the next stock assessment should be conducted |  | Active | Science | SC/WCPFC | Medium  Refer to  SC for advice to the WCPFC | SV discussion |
|  |  | **6.3. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **DS theme** | 6.3.5. Other  Standards for verification of fisheries data | • The Panel notes, with concern, that several requirements with regard to data provision established in various CMM, including timeliness, are not being adequately observed by CCM;  • It is unclear to the Panel to what extent the Secretariat validates the fisheries data submitted to it and the steps adopted to rectify obviously incorrect data (e.g. fishing taking place on land, due to misreporting of geographic position)  **Suggested “SC’s responses”:**   1. Secretariat does not validate fisheries catch data 2. SPC, on behalf of the Commission, already manages all data quality issues | The WCPFC Secretariat is not involved in validation of fisheries catch data.  SPC provides comprehensive validation and auditing in the data management systems used for processing fisheries data collected by the Pacific Island countries, including field range-checks, distance-checks, positions on land, comparison with VMS data, etc.). These data are subsequently forwarded to the WCPFC. | Complete | Science/Managrement | SC/TCC/  WCPFC | SPC cleans data as  it is process ed. | SC  discussion |

1. These statements read: "There is concern, yet to be substantiated, that high catches in the equatorial regions could result i n range contraction of the stock, thus reducing skipjack availability to higher latitude (e.g. Japan, Australia and New Zealand) fisheries" [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example, such risks include transference of alien and potential damaging species in bilge water. They also include consid erations such as light pollution, net entanglements, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For example, a concern has been raised that the recent observer coverage of 3.6% in Australia’s Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) makes estimation of Turtle-Fisheries interactions highly uncertain. The deployment of onboard mounted cameras as a means to collect much of the same data currently collected by observers has been identified as a potential solution [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. In some cases in excess of 18 months after fishing has occurred [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Appendix M of the SC4 Report. (At: <http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/2008/4th-regular-session-scientific-committee)> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. At: <http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_fish_stocks.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)