#### South Pacific Albacore Tuna (Thunnus alalunga)

#### Provision of scientific information

##### Draft Status and trends

### SC12 noted that no stock assessment was conducted for South Pacific albacore tuna in 2016. Therefore, the stock status description from SC11 is still current. For further information on the stock status and trends from SC11, please see INSERT URL FOR SC11 REPORT HERE.

Draft Management advice and implications

* SC12 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC11. Therefore, the advice from SC11 should be maintained, noting that the results of the indicator analyses supported the stock status results for South Pacific albacore that were obtained from the 2015 assessment.
* SC12 noted that the total south Pacific albacore catch in 2015 was 68,594 mt, 16% lower than both the catch in 2014 and the average catch for 2010-14.

### Longline south Pacific albacore catch in 2015 was 17% lower than that in 2014, while troll catch in 2015 was 16% higher than that in 2014.

### SC12 considered an update of trends in South Pacific albacore fisheries (SA-WP-06) and noted that there had been some small reductions in southern longline effort in 2014 compared to 2013, but 2015 effort levels are currently considered uncertain. Status quo projections were calculated, assuming current southern longline and troll fishery effort would continue into the future at levels equal to those seen in 2014 (based on the information available to SPC as at 2nd June 2016). Potential future adult (spawning) biomass levels relative to unfished levels were examined, and the probability that the south Pacific albacore stock may fall below the biomass Limit Reference Point was calculated

### If 2014 fishing effort levels continue into the future, the stock is predicted to continue to decline on average, falling to SB/SBF=0 = 0.32 in 2033. The risk of falling below the LRP was estimated to be 19% (approximately a 1 in 5 chance). Furthermore, the CPUE was estimated to decline by 14% from 2013 levels.

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### Figure 10 from SC13/SA-WP-06. Stochastic projections of adult stock status under 2014 longline and troll effort levels. The limit reference point (20% SBF=0) is indicated by horizontal dashed red line. Note: from 1960 up to 2013 inclusive the line represents the median across the 9 assessment model runs (structural uncertainty only); uncertainty after 2013 represents both structural uncertainty and stochastic recruitment.

Draft Management advice and implications

* SC12 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC11. Therefore, the advice from SC11, that longline fishing mortality and longline catch be reduced to avoid further decline in the vulnerable biomass so that economically viable catch rates should be maintained, noting that the results of the indicator analyses supported the stock status results for South Pacific albacore that were obtained from the 2015 assessment.
* Based on this indicator analysis, SC also advised that there is a 19% chance that the south Pacific albacore stock will fall below the Limit Reference Point by 2033 if 2014 fishing effort levels continue, and that overall decreases in vulnerable biomass (a proxy for longline CPUE proxy) of 14% would also be likely to occur.