

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Rarotonga, Cook Islands

9-17 August 2017

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**WCPFC-SC13-2017/03 (Rev.02)**

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Wednesday, 9 August 2017.

* 1. **Welcome address**

The Chair will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers to the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC13).

A senior official from Cook Islands, the Commission Chair, and the Executive Director will be invited to deliver an opening address.

* 1. **Meeting arrangements**

The Chair will outline procedural matters including the meeting schedule, administrative arrangements, and the list of theme conveners. In addition, SC13 will endorse the appointment of new conveners as required.

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| --- | --- |
| Chair | Berry Muller (2); [bmuller@mimra.com](mailto:bmuller@mimra.com) |
| Vice Chair | Aisake Batibasaga (2); [abatibasaga@gmail.com](mailto:abatibasaga@gmail.com) |
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| SA Theme | Jon Brodziak (7); [jon.brodziak@noaa.gov](mailto:jon.brodziak@noaa.gov)  Hiroshi Nishida (3); [hnishi@affrc.go.jp](mailto:hnishi@affrc.go.jp) |
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(*x*): *number of* *years of convenership*

* 1. **Issues arising from the Commission**

SC13 will be briefed on issues arising from the previous meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

* 1. **Adoption of agenda**

The Provisional Agenda for SC13 was posted on 11 May 2017 in accordance with Rule 1 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. Any Member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director may, at least 30 days before the date for the opening of the Regular Session request the inclusion of supplementary items in the Agenda. A request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the Provisional Agenda shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the proposed supplementary item, which will be communicated to all CCMs and observers at least 20 days before the opening of the Session.

Other matters to be discussed under Agenda Item 12 may be proposed here.

* 1. **Reporting arrangements**

SC13 will develop a Summary Report which will be adopted intersessionally with an Executive Summary. The Executive Summary will include a synopsis of stock status and management advice and implications, research plans, findings or conclusions on the stock status, reports and recommendations as directed by the Commission or at the initiative of the SC (Paragraph 2, Article 12 of the Convention).

The WCPFC Secretariat will hire a lead rapporteur to produce a draft summary report, and the theme conveners will arrange their own support rapporteurs as required.

* 1. **Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee**

The Chair, with support from the Secretariat, will report on intersessional activities of the SC.

1. **REVIEW OF FISHERIES**
   1. **Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries**

The Pacific Community – Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC-OFP) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) will present an overview of the WCPO key fisheries, including billfish and trends in purse seine fishery capacity. SC13 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

* 1. **Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) will present an overview of the fisheries for highly migratory species in the EPO region. SC13 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

* 1. **Annual Report – Part 1 from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories**

All CCMs shall submit Part 1 of the Annual Report (the amended template is available at <http://www.wcpfc.int/guidelines-procedures-and-regulations>; symbol: SC-01) to the Secretariat (BOTH [anthony.beeching@wcpfc.int](mailto:anthony.beeching@wcpfc.int) and [contact.ar@wcpfc.int](mailto:contact.ar@wcpfc.int)) by **10 July 2017**.

It is assumed that all annual reports will have been read prior to the Session. CCMs will be given the opportunity, if needed, to make a brief presentation (maximum of 3 minutes), highlighting recent changes and developments in their fisheries as described in Part 1 of their Annual Report to the Commission. A short time for questions may be provided at the conclusion of each presentation. Submitted Part 1 reports are posted at the bottom of each WCPFC-SC website.

* 1. **Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations**

Regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations observing SC13 may make a brief presentation (3 minutes) on key issues relevant to the work of the SC. Such presentations need to be arranged with the Chair before the opening of the Session. The deadline is **22 July 2017** for the submission of such meeting documents from regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations to the Secretariat ([anthony.beeching@wcpfc.int](mailto:anthony.beeching@wcpfc.int)).

1. **DATA AND STATISTICS THEME**
   1. **Data gaps**
      1. Data gaps of the Commission

SPC-OFP will present the data gaps paper. SC13 will consider, comment, and where relevant, recommend actions on how to address any identified data gaps in the data holdings of the Commission.

* + 1. Species composition of purse-seine catches (Project 60)

SC13 will review the research progress of Project 60 (Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data), including operational aspects of spill sampling on purse seine vessels and annual estimates of purse seine catches based on:

1. unadjusted logsheet method,
2. YFT-BET correction method,
3. SKJ-YFT-BET correction, adjusted by grab sampling, and
4. SKJ-YFT-BET, unadjusted by grab sampling.

SC13 will review other key findings and provide further recommendations, if any, to the Commission.

* + 1. Potential use of cannery receipt data for the work of the WCPFC

SC13 will consider the potential use of cannery receipt data for the work of the WCPFC.

* + 1. Estimates of purse seine bycatch

SC13 will review summary of purse seine fishery bycatch estimates at a regional scale and provide recommendations as needed.

* 1. **FAD data management**

The Commission requested SC13 to consider the outcomes of the 2nd FADMgmtOptions-IWG

(WCPFC13 Summary Report):

*601. The Commission adopted the Report of the 2nd meeting of the FADMgmtOptions-IWG (WCPFC13-2016-FADMgmtOptions-IWG02\_rev2), and agreed that the outcomes therein should be further considered at SC13 and TCC13.*

* + 1. Additional FAD data fields to be provided by vessel operators

SC13 will note the following recommendations from the FADMgmtOptions-IWG02, and provide recommendations as appropriate.

FADMgmtOptions-IWG02 Report:

*62. The FADMgmtOptions-IWG endorsed in principle the fields in the table on page 3 of the Working Paper to be provided by vessel operators and recommended that the fields be referred to the SC and TCC for further consideration (Attachment C).*

*64. The FADMgmtOptions-IWG recommended that the elaboration of the data fields to be provided by vessel operators should take into account the data fields for provision of FAD data by vessel operators by the IATTC.*

* + 1. FAD marking and monitoring

The FADMgmtOptions-IWG recommended to WCPFC13 that the consultant’s report on options and considerations of implementing a marking and identification system for FADs in the WCPO (FADMgmtOptionsIWG-02-04) be forwarded to SC13 and TCC13 for further consideration (Paragraph 51, FADMgmtOptions-IWG02 Report)

SC13 is invited to consider the consultancy report and provide recommendations as appropriate.

* 1. **Regional Observer Programme**
     1. ROP longline coverage

As agreed by WCPFC11 (Paragraphs 484-486, WCPFC11 Report), CCMs submitted their longline observer coverage in Annual Report Part 1 using their choice of coverage metric (Attachment L, WCPFC11 Report). SC13 may consider and comment on the compiled information on longline observer coverage and where necessary, provide recommendations to the Commission.

SC13 will review the calculated annual coefficients of variation for the CPUE data of various taxa collected from longline observer data for 2013, 2014 and 2015.

* + 1. Review of ROP minimum standards data fields

As requested by the Commission, SC13 will review any new proposals to revise the ROP Minimum Data Standard Data Fields.

FADMgmtOptions-IWG02 Report:

*63. The FADMgmtOptions-IWG recommended that the issue of data to be provided by observers be referred to SC13 and TCC13, and CCMs were encouraged to provide delegation papers on this aspect.*

WCPFC13 Summary Report:

*550.* WCPFC13 adopted the following:

*3. SC13 shall review, as appropriate, a revision of the ROP minimum standards data fields and develop safe release guidelines for Manta and Mobula rays, with a view to their adoption by WCPFC14.*

* 1. **Electronic Reporting outcomes from WCPFC13**

Noting decisions taken by the Commission (Paragraphs 583 – 585), SC13 shall review any progress and developments related to ER&EM, including the status of WCPFC E-reporting standards.

WCPFC13 Summary Report:

*583. The Commission adopted the Summary Report of the ERandEM Working Group second meeting (WCPFC-TCC12-2016-17) and noted the update on progressing the development of draft standards, specifications and procedures for Electronic Reporting (WCPFC13-2016-28).*

*584. The Commission adopted the standards, specifications and procedures for Electronic Reporting, which presently include E-reporting standards for operational catch and effort data (Attachment T).*

*585. The draft E-reporting standards for observer data, high seas pocket reporting and reporting in the event of VMS malfunction should continue to be revised based on comments provided by CCMs in 2017.*

* 1. **Economic data**

FFA will present a paper on draft guidelines for the CCM's voluntary submission of economic data to the Commission for SC13's consideration.

1. **STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME** 
   1. **WCPO tunas**
      1. **WCPO bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)**
         1. Review of research and information
      2. Project 35 and relevant research

SC13 will review the results of Project 35 (Age, growth and maturity of bigeye tuna in the Pacific).

* + 1. Improvement of MULTIFAN-CL software for stock assessments

Work to improve the MULTIFAN-CL software is ongoing. SC13 will review the progress and provide comments and recommendations as required.

* + 1. Review of 2017 bigeye tuna stock assessment

SC13 will review the results of the 2017 bigeye tuna stock assessment, any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission, as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Stock status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)**
        1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2017 yellowfin tuna stock assessment

SC13 will review the results of the 2017 yellowfin tuna stock assessment, any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission, as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)**
        1. Review of research and information
3. Update of skipjack tuna stock assessment information

The last stock assessment was conducted in 2016. SC13 will review information on indicators for WCPO skipjack tuna.

* + - 1. Project 67 (Skipjack fishery impacts on the margins of the Convention Area)

SC13 will review the results of Project 67 related to skipjack fishery impacts on the margins of the Convention Area.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **South Pacific albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)**
        1. Review of research and information
   1. Update of South Pacific albacore tuna stock assessment information

The last stock assessment was conducted in 2015. SC13 will review the recent trends in the South Pacific albacore fishery and the results of the 2017 South Pacific albacore stock indicator analysis, and provide comments and/or recommendations for any future research needs.

* + - 1. Review of research and information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   1. **Northern stocks**

Annex I of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure defines ‘northern stocks’ to be ‘stocks which occur mostly in the area north of 20° north parallel’ and currently are ‘northern Pacific bluefin[[1]](#footnote-1), northern albacore[[2]](#footnote-2) and the northern stock of swordfish[[3]](#footnote-3)’. According to the MOU between WCPFC and ISC, the ISC’s scientific information and advice will be presented at the annual meetings of the Scientific Committee.

The ISC Chair will be invited to brief SC13 on the activities of ISC since SC12, including the ISC’s 2017 stock assessments and future plans.

* + 1. **North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)** 
       1. Review of research and information

1. Review of 2017 North Pacific albacorestock assessment

SC13 will review the ISC’s 2017 stock assessment for North Pacific albacore tuna.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)** 
        1. Review of research and information

The last stock assessment was conducted in 2016. SC13 may consider any updated information, if available, about the status of Pacific bluefin tuna.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)**
        1. Review of research and information

The last stock assessment was conducted in 2014 and no stock assessment has been conducted since then. SC13 may consider any updated information, if available, about the status of North Pacific swordfish.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   1. **WCPO sharks**
      1. **Review of shark researches**

SC13 will review the progress and results of i) Project 78 (Review of shark data and modelling framework to support stock assessments) and ii) shark post-release mortality tagging studies, and provide recommendations, as appropriate, to the Commission.

* + 1. **Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)**
       1. Review of research and information

The last stock assessment was conducted in 2012 and no stock assessment has been conducted since then. SC13 may review any updated information and indicator analysis, if available, for oceanic whitetip shark.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*)**
        1. Review of research and information

The last stock assessment was conducted in 2013 and no stock assessment has been conducted since then. SC13 will review any updated information and indicator analysis, if available, for silky shark.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **South Pacific blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)**
        1. Review of research and information

The last stock assessment was conducted in 2016. SC13 will review any updated information and indicator analysis, if available, for South Pacific blue shark.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)**
        1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2017 North Pacific blue sharkstock assessment

SC13 will review the ISC’s 2017 stock assessment for North Pacific blue shark.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)**
        1. Review of research and information

ISC conducted an indicator analysis in 2015 and a full assessment is planned in 2018. SC13 may review any additional information, if available.

* + 1. **Pacific bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*)**
       1. Review of research and information

SC13 will review the results of the Pacific-wide sustainability risk assessment of bigeye thresher shark, and provide comments/recommendations to the Commission, as required. The report is available at:

<http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/common_oceans/docs/Tuna/WCPFCStockStatusAssessmentReport.pdf>

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*)**
        1. Review of research and information

SC13 will review the results of the porbeagle shark assessment, and provide comments/recommendations to the Commission, as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   1. **WCPO billfishes**
      1. **South Pacific swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)** 
         1. Review of research and information
   2. Review of 2017 South Pacific swordfishstock assessment

SC13 will review the results of the 2017 South Pacific swordfish stock assessment, any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission, as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Southwest Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)**
        1. Review of research and information

No stock assessment was conducted since 2011. SC13 may review updated information if available for Southwest Pacific striped marlin.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)**
        1. Review of research and information

No stock assessment was conducted since 2015. SC13 will review updated information if available for North Pacific striped marlin.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Pacific blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*)** 
        1. Review of research and information

The last stock assessment was conducted by ISC in 2016. SC13 will review updated information if available for Pacific blue marlin.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC13 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
3. **MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME**
   1. **Development of harvest strategy framework**
4. Reference points
5. South Pacific albacore

With reference to Paragraph 315 in the WCPFC13 Summary Report below, SC13 will have an opportunity to review a report on intersessional progress to develop a target reference point for South Pacific albacore.

(WCPFC13 Summary Report)

*315. The Commission directed that further discussion of the TRP should take place over the course of 2017 as part of the ongoing consultative process for the development of a Bridging Measure for the Conservation and Management of the South Pacific Albacore stock, and should include a report on progress by the Convenor of that process to the 13th WCPFC Scientific Committee.*

1. Performance indicators and monitoring strategies

As requested by the Harvest Strategies Workplan (Attachment N, WCPFC13 Summary Report), SC13 will provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules for bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries. As requested by the Small Working Group on Management Objectives at WCPFC13, SC13 will provide advice on refined candidate performance indicators for south Pacific albacore fisheries.

Following discussions in the SWG on management objectives at WCPFC13, and commensurate with the candidate performance indicators for the relevant fisheries, SC13 will provide advice on the corresponding monitoring strategy to assess performance of harvest strategies.

1. Harvest control rules and Management Strategy Evaluation

As requested by the Harvest Strategies Workplan (Attachment N, WCPFC13 Summary Report), SC13 will provide advice on progress toward the evaluation of candidate harvest control rules for South Pacific albacore and skipjack tuna.

* 1. **Management issues related to FADs** 
     1. FAD tracking

SC13 is invited to consider the report of the FAD tracking programme undertaken by PNA.

* + 1. FAD management

SC13 is invited to consider the report of the Global FAD Science Symposium held 20-23 March 2017 in Santa Monica, California, USA.

* 1. **Implementation of CMM 2016-01**

SC13 will review any updated information related to CMM 2016-01, including bigeye tuna hotspot analysis and footnote 5 of Paragraph 18 relating to eligibility for exemption from the high seas FAD closure, and provide recommendations to the Commission as appropriate.

1. **ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME** 
   1. **Ecosystem effects of fishing**
      1. SEAPODYM

SC13 will consider updates to the SEAPODYM modelling framework, review recent model runs and provide comments and/or recommendations on SEAPODYM, including the process and methodology of the modelling framework if needed.

* + 1. Ecosystem indicators

SC13 will consider fishery and environmental impacts on ecosystem, based on updated information, if available, including the development of ecosystem indicators.

* + 1. FAD impacts
       1. Case studies on FADs

SC13 will review FAD-related researches to assess the impacts of FAD fishing and to mitigate their negative impacts on marine ecosystem, including non-target and associated or dependent species

* + - 1. FAD Research Plan

As recommended by the FADMgmtOptions-IWG, SC13 will review the proposed priority researches in the revised draft FAD research plan proposal (Paragraph 71 and Attachment D, FADMgmtOptions-IWG02 Report), especially related to Implementation of FAD trials within the WCPO.

* 1. **Sharks** 
     1. Review of conservation and management measures for sharks

Subject to proposal(s) available under Agenda 6.2.2, SC13 will review relevant paragraphs of each shark CMM below, and provide comments or recommendations as required to the Commission.

* + - 1. CMM 2010-07 (CMM for Sharks)

SC13 will review any updated information and research outputs related with the CMM for Sharks, especially related with Paragraphs 4, 8, and 13 with reference to data provision, fin to carcass ratios, and the need for a revised or new CMM.

* + - 1. CMM 2011-04 (CMM for oceanic whitetip shark)

According to Paragraph 5 of the CMM, SC13 will review a detailed proposal, if submitted, for any biological sampling from oceanic whitetip sharks that are dead within longline or purse seine fisheries in the WCPO.

* + - 1. CMM 2012-04 (CMM for protection of whale sharks from purse seine fishing operations)

SC13 may consider additional mitigation measures based on CCMs’ reports through Annual Report Part 1 on any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

* + - 1. CMM 2013-08 (CMM for silky sharks)

According to Paragraph 5 of the CMM, SC13 will review a detailed proposal, if submitted, for any biological sampling from silky sharks that are dead within longline or purse seine fisheries in the WCPO.

* + - 1. CMM 2014-05 (CMM for sharks)

Paragraph 2 of this CMM stipulates that CCMs must develop a management plan for longline fisheries targeting sharks, including specific authorizations to fish and a TAC or other measure to limit the catch of shark to acceptable levels.

* + 1. Development of a comprehensive shark and ray measure

SC13 will consider how SC can best support the development of a comprehensive shark and ray measure, as envisaged by the WCPFC13 (Paragraph 507).

(WCPFC13 Summary Report)

*507. WCPFC13 requested that SC13 and TCC13, with support from the Secretariat, work towards the development of a comprehensive approach to shark and ray conservation and management with a view to adopting a new CMM at the Commission’s annual meeting in 2018. The new CMM should seek to i) unify the WCPFC’s existing shark CMMs; ii) take account of relevant national and international policies and measures; and iii) provide a framework for adopting new components as needs and datasets evolve. Elements that could be considered for the new CMM include:*

* *policies on full utilization/prohibition on finning;*
* *no retention policies;*
* *safe release and handling practices;*
* *gear mitigation, size limits or closures;*
* *management plans/catch limits;*
* *key species and their assessment schedules;*
* *species-specific limit reference points; and*
* *any data reporting requirements beyond those contained in “Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission.”*
  + 1. Safe release guidelines

SC13 will continue to develop *New guidelines for the survival of sharks (other than whale sharks) to be released from longline or purse-seine gear* (Attachment G, SC11 Summary Report), based on any updated information and scientific evidence.

SC13 will also review, as appropriate, *Safe release guidelines for manta and mobula rays*, with a view to its adoption by WCPFC14 (WCPFC13 Summary Report para 550).

* + 1. Shark Research Plan
    2. Progress of shark research plan

SC13 will review the progress of the Shark Research Plan and update the information as needed, noting that

(WCPFC13 Summary Report)

*550. Manta and Mobula rays shall be considered WCPFC key shark species for assessment and thus listed under the Shark Research Plan, noting that data gaps may preclude a traditional stock assessment approach.*

* 1. **Seabirds**

As requested by CMM 2015-03, SC13 will review the progress of Project 68 (*Estimation of seabird mortality across the WCPO Convention Area*) and provide comments/recommendations as needed.

(CMM 2015-03)

*9. CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported or collected by observers, including mitigation used, observed and reported species specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers, to enable the Scientific Committee to estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the Convention applies. (see Annex 2 for Part 1 reporting template guideline). Alternatively, statistically rigorous estimates of species-specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactions per 1,000 hooks) and total numbers should be reported.*

SC13 may also review any other updated information on seabird interactions with longline fisheries in the Convention Area in relation to the application of CMM 2015-03 (CMM for mitigating impacts of fishing on seabirds).

* 1. **Sea turtles**

SC13 will review scientific aspects of the CMM 2008-03 (Conservation and management of sea turtles), and any other information related to additional or new mitigation measures for sea turtles, including the Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness (<https://www.wcpfc.int/node/28673>).

* 1. **Data exchange**

SC13 will review any update on Bycatch Data Exchange Protocol if available. Launch of the new website for the Bycatch Management Information System on the WCPFC website (<https://www.wcpfc.int/bycatch-management>) will be introduced as needed.

* 1. **Other issues**

SC13 will consider other papers that are not related to any specific items on the existing agenda but are useful to the work of the Commission.

1. **OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS**
   1. **West Pacific East Asia Project**

SC13 will be briefed on the progress of the WPEA project with Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam, and its future plan.

* 1. **Pacific Tuna Tagging Project**

SC13 will review the progress of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project and the results of its ninth steering committee meeting.

* 1. **ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna Project-Shark and Bycatch Components**

SC13 will be briefed on the progress of the ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna Project-Shark and Bycatch Components, including future work plan.

* 1. **WCPFC Tissue Bank (Project 35b)**

SC13 will be informed on the progress of WCPFC tissue bank project.

* 1. **Other Projects**

SC13 may consider any other projects funded through voluntary contributions of the WCPFC CCMs.

1. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

SC13 will review the status of cooperation with other organizations and provide further recommendations if any for the Commission’s consideration.

1. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**

SC13 will consider intersessional activities for the capacity building in science of developing States and participating territories, including those supported by the Commission’s Special Requirements Fund and Japan Trust Fund.

1. **FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**
   1. **Review of the Scientific Committee Work Programme**

SC13 will be briefed on the status of the SC12 work programme.

* 1. **Development of the 2018 Work Programme and budget, and projection of 2019-2020 provisional Work Programme and indicative budget**

SC13 will develop the 2018 SC work programme and budget and provisional work programme and indicative budget for 2019-2020 for the Commission’s endorsement.

SC13 will note a recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee to the Commission (Para 71, FAC9 Summary Report) that “*WCPFC12 task SC with carefully considering proposed scientific projects in the context of the indicative budget agreed for the coming year.*”

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
   1. **Future operation of the Scientific Committee**

SC13 will consider proposals, if any, for the efficient operation of the Scientific Committee, including streamlining of the agenda, rapporteuring, process of theme sessions, etc.

* 1. **Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee**

SC13 will consider nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair and theme conveners as required.

* 1. **Next meeting**

Members are invited to confirm a time and venue for SC14 in 2018, and to propose a time and venue for SC15 in 2019.

1. **OTHER MATTERS**

SC13 will consider any other issues that are raised under Agenda Item 1.4.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

SC13 will adopt recommendations of the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee. The adoption of SC13 Summary Report will be finalized after the meeting.

1. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting will close at 17:00 on 17 August 2017.

1. Pacific bluefin tuna [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. North Pacific albacore [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. North Pacific swordfish [↑](#footnote-ref-3)