

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Busan, Republic of Korea

8-16 August 2018

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**WCPFC-SC14-2018/03 (Rev.01)**

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Wednesday, 8 August 2018.

* 1. **Welcome address**

The Chair will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers to the Fourteen Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC14).

A senior official from Korea, 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, SC144 will endorse the appointment of new conveners as required.

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| --- | --- |
| Chair | Ueta Jr. Faasili (1); [ueta.faasili@maf.gov.ws](mailto:ueta.faasili@maf.gov.ws) |
| Vice Chair | Vacant |
| ST Theme | Valerie Post (2); [valerie.post@noaa.gov](mailto:valerie.post@noaa.gov) |
| SA Theme | Jon Brodziak (8); [jon.brodziak@noaa.gov](mailto:jon.brodziak@noaa.gov)  Hiroshi Minami(1); [hminami@affrc.go.jp](mailto:hminami@affrc.go.jp) |
| MI Theme | Robert Campbell (9); [robert.campbell@csiro.au](mailto:robert.campbell@csiro.au) |
| EB Theme | John Annala (4); [john.annala@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:john.annala@mpi.govt.nz) |

(*x*): *number of* *years of convenership*

Deadline for the submission of papers

According to the decision made at SC2, all meeting documents should be submitted by:

* 4 July 2018: Titles and preliminary abstracts; and
* 21 July 2018: full papers.

Authors who wish to submit any papers MUST refer to *Guidelines for submitting meeting papers* section in the SC14 Meeting Notice on SC14 website.

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

SC14 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 SC14 was posted on 10 May 2018 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**

SC14 will develop a DRAFT 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). In accordance with the Rule 33 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, the text of all decisions adopted by the SC14 will be distributed to all members, territories and observers within seven working days following the adoption of such decision.

The WCPFC Secretariat will hire a lead rapporteur to produce a draft summary report, and the theme conveners may 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. SC14 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. SC14 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 **9 July 2018**.

Submitted Part 1 reports are posted at the bottom of each WCPFC-SC website. It is assumed that all annual reports will have been read prior to the Session. This agenda item is an opportunity for questions and clarifications ONLY concerning these reports.

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

Regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations observing SC14 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 **21 July 2018** 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. SC14 will consider, comment, and where relevant, recommend actions on how to address any identified data gaps in the data holdings of the Commission, including Paragraphs 82 and 84 in SC13 Summary Report:

* Review of the importance and practicalities for including the provision of estimates of longline discards by number of individuals discarded/released in the “Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission”, with a definition for discards/releases (Paragraph 82); and
* An update on any enhancements to the WCPFC public domain data available on the Commission web site (Paragraph 84).
  + 1. Species composition of purse-seine catches

1. SC14 will review the research progress of Project 60 (Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data), including as appropriate annual estimates of purse seine catches based on full species adjustment using observer spill sampling data corrected for grab sample selection bias.
2. SC14 will also review other key findings and any proposed research plans related to purse seine species composition estimates, especially in relation to Paragraphs 99 in SC13 Summary Report:
3. *SC13 recommended that the Scientific Services Provider explore opportunities to undertake comprehensive comparisons of corrected grab sample based species compositions with accurate composition estimates from in-port sampling with other CCMs who hold the required data.*
4. For the species composition from other approaches, SC14 may review species composition estimation based on trials of electronic monitoring-based approaches undertaken in a separate project.
5. SC14 will note SPC-OFP’s work related to the inclusion of the original purse seine tuna species catch estimates provided by CCMs in the WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook (Paragraph 101, SC13 Summary Report).
   * 1. Potential use of cannery receipt data for the work of the WCPFC

SC14 will continue to review the potential use of cannery receipt data for the work of the WCPFC.

* + 1. Bycatch estimates of longline and purse seine

SC14 will review a summary of longline fishery bycatch estimates at a regional scale, and provide recommendations on further work as needed. Updates of the 2017 purse seine estimates will also be considered.

SC14 will review the calculated annual coefficients of variation for the CPUE data of various taxa collected from longline observer data for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

* + 1. Project 90 (Better size data (length and weight) for scientific analyses)

SC13 recommended that the Scientific Services Provider be tasked with a project to design and co-ordinate the systematic collection of length:length, length:weight and weight:weight data on all species to better inform bycatch estimation (Paragraph102). At SC13, a project proposal was submitted and included in the indicative budget to start in 2019.

SC14 will consider a project to collect data to determine length-weight and weight-weight conversion factors (Project 90), and will review any additional information with the intent of starting this research in 2019.

SC14 will consider a project to cover both of these SC13 recommendations and will review any additional information with the intent of starting this research in 2019.

* 1. **FAD data management**

SC14 may consider any issues related to FAD data fields and FAD marking and monitoring and provide recommendations as needed for consideration by TCC and the Commission.

* 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). SC14 may consider and comment on the compiled information on longline observer coverage and where necessary, provide recommendations to the Commission.

* + 1. Review of ROP minimum standards data fields

As requested by the Commission, SC14 will review any new proposals to revise the ROP Minimum Data Standard Data Fields, including tasks related to Paragraph 363 of the WCPFC14 Summary Report:

*363. WCPFC14 tasks SC14 to consider the recommendations of the recent Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness workshops to modify the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields with respect to improving the collection of data related to sea turtle interactions, taking into account capacity of observers and priority of data collection, and to recommend any modifications for the consideration of the ROP Coordinator, TCC14 and WCPFC15. SC may also consider possible modifications to operational level data requirements.*

* 1. **Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring**

SC14 may review any updated findings or information from the EMandER WG Chair on science issues related to EMandER. SC14 will review the outcomes of the ERandEM WG which met immediately before SC14.

* 1. **Economic data**

Noting the Commission’s decision below (Paragraph 369, WCPFC14 Summary Report), SC14 may review any updated information, including the outcomes of any intersessional work, related to the development of guidelines for the voluntary provision of economic data to the Commission by CCMs.

*369. The Commission accepted the Report of the SC virtual inter-sessional working group on the development of guidelines for the voluntary provision of economic data to the Commission by CCMs (WCPFC Circular 2017/87). The Commission agreed to the list of principles to inform the development of guidelines for the voluntary provision of economic data to the Commission by CCMs (Attachment S).*

1. **STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME**
2. **Improvement of MULTIFAN-CL software**

Work to improve the MULTIFAN-CL software is ongoing. SC14 may review any updates of the software and provide comments and/or recommendations as needed.

* 1. **WCPO tunas**
     1. **WCPO bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)**
        1. Research and information
     2. Project 81 (Further work on bigeye tuna age and growth)

SC14 will review further work on age and growth of bigeye tuna in the Pacific conducted by CSIRO (Australia).

* + 1. Bigeye tuna stock assessment update

SC14 will review the results of the 2018 bigeye tuna stock assessment update; including enhancement of the bigeye tuna growth data set, the updated ‘new growth’ stock assessment models from the 2017 assessment, and spatial stratification of the assessment. SC14 will consider any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission, as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Stock status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)**
        1. Research and information
     2. Project 82 (Yellowfin tuna age and growth)

SC14 will review a preliminary analysis for yellowfin tuna aging and growth (Project 82) and provide advice, if any.

* + 1. Update of yellowfin tuna stock assessment information

The last yellowfin tuna stock assessment was conducted in 2017. SC14 will review information on indicators for WCPO yellowfin tuna.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

The last skipjack tuna stock assessment was conducted in 2016. SC14 will review information on indicators for WCPO skipjack tuna.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

SC14 will review the results of the 2018 South Pacific albacore tuna stock assessment, any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission, as required

* 1. Trends in the South Pacific albacore longline and troll fisheries

Following the request by Te Vaka Moana at TCC7 (Paragraph 20, TCC7 Summary Report), the Secretariat prepared a paper WCPFC8-2011-IP/04 (South Pacific albacore fishery). Several CCMs at WCPFC8 asked that this type of reporting be continued (Paragraph 422). Other papers in early stage include WCPFC10-2013-IP02 and SC10-SA-WP-07.

SC14 may review the recent status and trends in the South Pacific albacore fishery and provide comments and/or recommendations as needed.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 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 SC14 on the activities of ISC since SC13, including the ISC’s 2018 stock assessments and future plans.

* + 1. **North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)** 
       1. Research and information

The last North Pacific albacore stock assessment was conducted in 2017. SC14 may consider any updated information, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

The last Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment was conducted in 2016. In 2018, ISC is scheduled to conduct an update of the 2016 stock assessment. SC14 will consider any updated information, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

The last North Pacific swordfish stock assessment was conducted in 2014. SC14 will review the results of the ISC’s 2018 stock assessment, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   1. **WCPO sharks**
      1. **Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)**
         1. Research and information

The last oceanic whitetip shark stock assessment was conducted in 2012. SC14 may review any updated information and indicator analysis, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

The last silky shark stock assessment was conducted in 2013. SC14 will review a new silky shark assessment and provide recommendations as needed to the Commission.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

The last South Pacific blue sharkstock assessment was conducted in 2016. SC14 will review any updated information and indicator analysis, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)**
        1. Research and information

The last North Pacific blue shark stock assessment was conducted in 2017. SC14 will review any updated information and indicator analysis, if available.

Noting the Paragraph 378 of the WCPFC14 Summary Report, SC14 will review relevant papers to evaluate the North Pacific blue shark stock as a northern stock.

*378. The Commission agreed to task SC14 to prioritise determination of whether the North Pacific striped marlin and North Pacific blue shark are northern stocks and as applicable provide updated management advice and recommendations to WCPFC15. To support the SC’s consideration of these matters in 2018, the Scientific Services Provider (SPC-OFP) and ISC were requested to provide to SC14 papers that provide available information on the status of these stocks and the catch levels in their associated fisheries.*

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)**
        1. Research and information
   1. Review of 2018 North Pacific shortfin mako stock assessment

SC14 will review the ISC’s 2018 North Pacific shortfin mako stock assessment, and provide comments/recommendations to the Commission, as required.

* + 1. **Pacific bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*)**
       1. Research and information

A Pacific-wide sustainability risk assessment of bigeye thresher shark was conducted in 2017, and a final report incorporating comments received at SC13 has been posted.

SC14 will review any updated information, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

A Southern Hemisphere porbeagle shark stock status assessment was conducted in 2017 and a final report incorporating comments received at SC13 has been posted.

SC14 will review any updated information, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **whale shark ( *Rhincodon typus*)**
        1. Review of research and information

SC14 will review the results of the whale shark assessment conducted by the ABNJ Project, and provide comments/ recommendations to the Commission, as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 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. Research and information

The last South Pacific swordfish stock assessment was conducted in 2017. SC14 will review any updated information, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

The last Southwest Pacific striped marlinstock assessment was conducted in 2011. SC14 may review updated information, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

The last North Pacific striped marlin was conducted in 2015. SC14 will review updated information, if available.

SC14 will review relevant papers to evaluate the North Pacific striped marlin stock as a northern stock (Paragraph 378, WCPFC14 Summary Report).

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

The last Pacific blue marlinstock assessment was conducted in 2016. SC14 will review updated information, if available.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC14 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. Progress of the harvest strategy workplan

With reference to Attachment L (Work plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06) in the WCPFC14 Summary Report, SC14 may review the overall progress of the harvest strategy workplan in supporting science aspect.

1. Target reference points

Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna

With reference to Paragraph 188 and Attachment L (see above) in the WCPFC14 Summary Report, SC14 shall dedicate sufficient time to develop advice for WCPFC15 on candidate target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin tuna.

South Pacific Albacore Tuna

SC14 will consider the Commission’s decision related to the adoption of target reference points (Paragraph 188, WCPFC14 Summary Report), and will provide appropriate advice and recommendations to the Commission:

*188. The Commission agreed to prioritise the development and adoption of a Target Reference Point for South Pacific albacore through the following actions:*

1. *All CCMs with an interest in the Southern albacore fishery jointly commit to review available scientific and economic information to inform their position about appropriate goals for the fishery and corresponding candidate target reference points;*
2. *Regardless of the results of the 2018 stock assessment and the management advice from SC14 to WCPFC15, SC14 shall dedicate sufficient time in the Management Issues Theme to develop advice for WCPFC15 on candidate target reference points*
3. *CCMs will work together in advance of WCPFC15 to develop TRP proposals; and*
4. *WCPFC15 shall adopt a Target Reference Point for South Pacific albacore.*
5. Performance indicators, monitoring strategies and harvest control rules

With reference to the harvest strategy workplan (Attachment L above), SC14 will provide advice on the performance of candidate harvest control rules for South Pacific albacore and skipjack tuna.

SC14 will consider Paragraph 265 of the WCPFC14 Summary Report, and will provide appropriate advice and recommendations to the Commission:

*265. Also in support of the development of a Roadmap for South Pacific albacore, the*

*Commission also agreed to task:*

* 1. *SC14 to provide WCPFC15 with advice on technical aspects of the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy including, for example, a consideration of scientific elements of candidate harvest control rules, and potential components of the management procedure (e.g. the use of CPUE (vulnerable biomass) indices to inform on stock status);*
  2. *TCC14 to evaluate monitoring and reporting gaps in the South Pacific albacore fishery, as well as SIDS and Participating Territories implementation considerations; and*
  3. *SC14 and TCC14, based on their evaluations, will provide any appropriate advice or recommendations to WCPFC15 with respect to informing the development of the Roadmap for improving South Pacific albacore management.*

1. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

The scientific services provider (SPC-OFP) will update SC14 on the progress of WCPFC’s MSE development, focusing on MSE application to skipjack tuna.

1. Other matters
   1. Science and management dialogue

As noted in Paragraph 215, WCPFC14 Summary Report, below, SC14 may consider the terms of reference for the Science and Management Dialogue meeting and provide recommendations to the Commission as needed.

*215. The Commission agreed to reprioritise as needed the annual agenda of the Commission and Scientific Committee to allow sufficient additional time for consideration of harvest strategy issues. In addition, WCPFC recognised that there may also be a need for a dedicated science/management dialogue.*

* 1. **Limit reference points for WCPFC sharks** 
     1. Identifying appropriate limit reference points for elasmobranchs for the WCPFC

The Commission endorsed SC’s request of USD 25,000 for the development of limit reference points for elasmobranchs but no further process was made because of insufficient funding support compared to the scope of the work. Recently, ABNJ Project funded additional USD 30,000 to implement this project properly.

SC14 may provide comments on the consultancy report if there has been sufficient time to complete the project.

* 1. **Implementation of CMM 2017-01**
     1. Effectiveness of CMM 2017-01

SC14 will review the likely outcomes of CMM 2017-01 for bigeye tuna.

SC14 will review the bigeye catch limits specified in Table 3 in 2018 and 2019 based on the updated stock assessment and provide recommendations to the Commission (Para 40, CMM 2017-01).

For further development of provisions to manage the catch of bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas from other commercial fisheries other than purse seine and longline, SC14 will provide advice to the Commission on which fisheries should be included and what information is needed to develop appropriate management measures for those fisheries (Para 50, CMM 2017-01).

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

SC14 will review the updated FAD tracking analysis implemented within the PNA FAD tracking programme and recommend any mechanisms to facilitate further analyses as needed.

* + 1. FAD management (FAD-limit per vessel)

The Commission established a maximum number of drifting FADs per purse seine vessel deployed at sea, at any one time, and requested to review whether the number of FADs deployed as set out in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the CMM 2017-01 (below) is appropriate. SC14 may review any updates in this regard for future FAD management.

(Paragraphs 23-24, CMM 2017-01)

*23. A flag CCM shall ensure that each of its purse seine vessels shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) with activated instrumented buoys. An instrumented buoy is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel. A flag CCM shall ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD tracking.*

*24. The Commission at its 2018 annual session, based on consideration in the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group, shall review whether the number of FADs deployed as set out in paragraph 23 is appropriate.*

FAD Management Options IWG is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 3 October 2018 in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands. Mr Bradley Philips (FSM) will chair the meeting.

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

SC14 will consider updates to the SEAPODYM modelling framework (Project 62), 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

SC14 may consider any updated fishery and environmental impacts on ecosystem if available, though it is planned to be considered further at SC15.

* + 1. FAD impacts
       1. Research on non-entangling FADs

SC14 will review any non-entangling and biodegradable material on FADs, and provide specific recommendations to the Commission (Paragraph 19-22, CMM 2017-01), specifically focusing on Paragraph 21 of the CMM:

*21. The Scientific Committee shall continue to review research results on the use of non-entangling material and biodegradable material on FADs, and shall provide specific recommendations to the Commission as appropriate.*

* + - 1. FAD Research Plan

SC14 will review any updates on the FAD Research Plan, if available, and any updated priority researches, and provide recommendations to the Commission as needed.

* 1. **Sharks** 
     1. Development of a Comprehensive Shark and Ray CMM

WCPFC14 established an IWG-Sharks to progress the development of a Draft Comprehensive Shark and Ray CMM based on terms of reference (Attachment Q, WCPFC14 Summary Report). SC14 will review the draft measure developed by the IWG-Sharks and provide recommendations to the Commission.

(WCPFC14 Summary Report)

*332. The Commission agreed to form an intersessional working group to develop a draft comprehensive shark CMM for discussion at WCPFC15 (IWG-Sharks). The IWG-Sharks will primarily work virtually and will be formed through the issuance of a Circular from the WCPFC Secretariat inviting all parties to nominate representatives to participate in the activities of the group. The IWG-Sharks will be chaired by Japan. Terms of reference for the IWG-Sharks are attached at* ***Attachment Q****.*

*333. WCPFC14 agreed that the first phase of work will begin with the IWG Chair codifying WCPFC’s existing shark measures, taking into account comprehensiveness, and distributing this draft to participants by the end of February 2018. The IWG Chair will request that comments on the codified draft, as well as contributions on new elements, from IWG-Sharks participants be received by the end of March 2018. The IWG Chair will then compile these comments on the codified draft and new elements into a revised draft, requesting technical advice as necessary, and circulate it to IWG-Sharks participants on a timeline to be determined by the IWG Chair, giving due consideration to the timelines for SC14 and TCC14.*

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

Subject to proposal(s) available under Agenda 6.2.1, SC14 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)

SC14 will review any updated information and research outputs related with the CMM for Sharks, especially related with Paragraphs 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, SC14 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)

SC14 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, SC14 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 targeting sharks in association with WCPFC longline fisheries must develop a management plan, including specific authorizations to fish and a TAC or other measure to limit the catch of shark to acceptable levels.

* + 1. Safe release guidelines

The Commission has adopted [*Guidelines for the Safe Release of Encircled Whale Sharks*](https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/sc-10/guidelines-safe-release-encircled-animals-including-whale-sharks)and *Best Handling Practices for the Safe Release of Manta and Mobulids*.

SC14 will develop guidelines for safe release of rays and sharks, taking into account existing standards or guidelines adopted on other fora. WCPFC14 agreed that priority should be given to the development of *Guidelines for Safe Release of Silky Shark and Oceanic Whitetip Sharks* (Paragraph 331, WCPFC14 Summary Report)*.*

* + 1. Progress of Shark Research Plan

SC14 will review the progress of the Shark Research Plan and update the information as needed, including progress and results related to the following researches, and provide recommendations, as appropriate, to the Commission.

* + 1. Operational Planning for Shark Biological Data Improvement (SRP Project Sheet Number 5, Attachment I, SC13 Summary Report);
    2. Project 78 (Review of shark data and modelling framework to support stock assessments); and
    3. WCPFC shark post-release mortality tagging studies
  1. **Seabirds** 
     1. Review of seabird researches

SC14 will review the progress of Project 68 (*Estimation of seabird mortality across the WCPO Convention Area*) and provide comments/recommendations as needed.

SC14 may review a report on the Workshop on WCPFC Bycatch Mitigation Problem-solving, 28-30 May 2018 in Nouméa, New Caledonia (Commission Circular No.: 2018/19,see also 6.4 below).

* + 1. Review of CMM 2017-06

SC14 will review the available research on hook shielding devices and advise WCPFC15 if they are effective options for seabird bycatch mitigation in WCPFC fisheries and whether to incorporate them in the seabird CMM as additional mitigation options (Paragraph 347, WCPFC14 Summary Report).

According to Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the CMM 2017-06, SC14 will review any information derived from CCM’s seabird mitigation research submitted to the Secretariat. Where necessary, an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or recommendations for areas of application will then be provided to the Commission for its consideration and review as appropriate.

* 1. **Sea turtles** 
     1. Review of sea turtle researches

SC14 may review a report on the Workshop on WCPFC Bycatch Mitigation Problem-solving, 28-30 May 2018 in Nouméa, New Caledonia (Commission Circular No.: 2018/19,see also 6.3 above).

* + 1. Review of CMM 2008-03

SC14 notes Paragraph 362 of the WCPFC14 Summary Report and will take an appropriate action:

*362. The Commission tasks SC14 and TCC14 to evaluate the expected effects of several potential sea turtle management scenarios, including, but not limited to, ones in which vessels in all longline fisheries in the Convention Area are required to: (1) use either large circle hooks or whole finfish for bait; (2) use large circle hooks and whole finfish for bait; or (3) use any other combination of mitigation methods identified by the SC as being potentially effective. The SC may consider a range of specifications for large circle hooks. SC’s evaluation should focus on expected effects on sea turtle interactions and mortalities and on target and bycatch species catch rates. TCC’s evaluation should focus on implementation and compliance implications, as well as SIDS implementation considerations. Based on the evaluations, SC14 and TCC14 will provide any appropriate advice or recommendations to WCPFC15 with respect to improving CMM 2008-03.*

SC14 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.

* 1. **Bycatch management**

SC14 will review any update on Bycatch Management Information System (BMIS), if available, including any feedback on the new site at [www.wcpfc.int/bycatch-management](file:///E:\01%20Main\01%20WCPFC\02%20SC\SC%2014%20-%202018%20-%20Busan\1_Agenda%20development%20and%20issues\www.wcpfc.int\bycatch-management) or [www.bmis-bycatch.org](http://www.bmis-bycatch.org) and any future developments for BMIS (including the incorporation of Bycatch Data Exchange Protocol (BDEP) within the BMIS).

* 1. **Other issues**

SC14 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**

SC14 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**

SC14 will review the progress of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project and the results of its Tenth PTTP Steering Committee Meeting.

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

SC14 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)**

SC14 will be informed on the progress of WCPFC tissue bank project including the development and implementation of a multi-level login to the web portal.

* 1. **Other Projects**

SC14 may consider any other projects funded through voluntary contributions of the WCPFC CCMs.

1. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

SC14 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**

SC14 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**

SC14 will be briefed on the status of the SC13 work programme.

* 1. **Development of the 2019 work programme and budget, and projection of 2020-2021 provisional work programme and indicative budget**

SC14 will develop the 2019 SC work programme and budget and provisional work programme and indicative budget for 2020-2021 for the Commission’s endorsement.

SC14 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**

SC14 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**

SC14 will consider nominations for Vice-Chair and theme conveners as required.

* 1. **Next meeting**

Members are invited to confirm a time and venue for SC15 in 2019, and to propose a time and venue for SC16 in 2020.

1. **OTHER MATTERS**

SC14 will consider any other issues that are raised under Agenda Item 1.4.

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

SC14 will adopt recommendations of the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee. The adoption of SC14 Summary Report will be finalized after the meeting.

1. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting will close at 17:00 on 16 August 2018.

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