

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

12 – 20 August 2019

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**WCPFC-SC15-2019/02**

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**
   1. **Welcome address**
   2. **Meeting arrangements**
   3. **Issues arising from the Commission**
   4. **Adoption of agenda**
   5. **Reporting arrangements**
   6. **Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee**
2. **REVIEW OF FISHERIES**
   1. **Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries**
   2. **Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries**
   3. **Annual Report – Part 1 from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories**
   4. **Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations**
3. **DATA AND STATISTICS THEME**
   1. **Data gaps**
      1. Data gaps of the Commission
      2. Species composition of purse-seine catches (Project 60)
      3. Project 90 (Better size data (length and weight) for scientific analyses)
      4. Project 93 (Review of the Commission’s data needs and collection programmes).
   2. **Regional Observer Programme**
   3. **Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring**
   4. **Economic data**
   5. **Comprehensive review of Commission reporting requirements**
4. **STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME**
5. **Improvement of MULTIFAN-CL software** 
   1. **WCPO tunas**
      1. **WCPO bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)**
         1. Research and information
      2. Project 94 (Workshop on yellowfin and bigeye tuna age and growth)
      3. Update of bigeye tuna stock assessment information
         1. Provision of scientific information
6. Stock status and trends
7. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)**
        1. Research and information
     2. Project 82 (Yellowfin tuna age and growth)
     3. Update of yellowfin tuna stock assessment information
        1. Provision of scientific information
8. Status and trends
9. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)**
        1. Research and information
10. Review of 2019 skipjack tuna stock assessment
    * + 1. Provision of scientific information
11. Status and trends
12. Management advice and implications
    * 1. **South Pacific albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)**
         1. Research and information
    1. Update of South Pacific albacore tuna stock assessment information
    2. Trends in the South Pacific albacore longline and troll fisheries
       * 1. Provision of scientific information
13. Status and trends
14. Management advice and implications
    1. **Northern stocks** 
       1. **North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)**
       2. **Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)**
       3. **North Pacific swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)**
    2. **WCPO sharks** 
       1. **Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)**
          1. Research and information
    3. Oceanic whitetip shark stock assessment
    4. Project 92 (Testing the performance of alternative stock assessments approaches for oceanic whitetip shark)
       * 1. Provision of scientific information
15. Status and trends
16. Management advice and implications
    * 1. **Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*)**
      2. **South Pacific blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)**
      3. **North Pacific blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)**
      4. **North Pacific shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)**
      5. **Pacific bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*)**
      6. **Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*)**
      7. **whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*)**
    1. **WCPO billfishes**
       1. **South Pacific swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)** 
          1. Research and information
          2. Provision of scientific information
17. Status and trends
18. Management advice and implications
    * 1. **Southwest Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)**
         1. Research and information
         2. Provision of scientific information
19. Status and trends
20. Management advice and implications
    * 1. **North Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)**
         1. Research and information
         2. Provision of scientific information
21. Status and trends
22. Management advice and implications
    * 1. **Pacific blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*)**
23. **MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME**
    1. **Development of harvest strategy framework**
24. Progress of the harvest strategy workplan
25. Target reference points
    * 1. Yellowfin and bigeye tuna
      2. South Pacific albacore tuna
      3. Skipjack tuna
26. Progress on the development of Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
27. Review of harvest control rules for skipjack tuna
28. Review of harvest control rules for South Pacific albacore
29. MSE for North Pacific albacore
30. Multi-species modeling framework
31. Other matters
    1. **Limit reference points for WCPFC sharks**
    2. **Implementation of CMM 2018-01**
       1. Effectiveness of CMM 2018-01
       2. Management issues related to FADs
       3. FAD tracking
       4. Acoustic FAD analysis
       5. Review of Project 77
32. **ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME** 
    1. **Ecosystem effects of fishing**
       1. FAD impacts
          1. Research on non-entangling FADs
          2. Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group Meeting
    2. **Sharks** 
       1. Review of conservation and management measures for sharks
       2. Safe release guidelines
       3. Progress of Shark Research Plan
       4. Project 91 – A study on Operational Planning for Shark Biological Data Improvement;
       5. Shark post-release mortality tagging study (assigned as Project 95)
       6. Update of Shark Research Plan
    3. **Seabirds** 
       1. Review of seabird researches
       2. Review of CMM 2018-03 ([CMM to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds](https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/cmm-2018-03/conservation-and-management-measure-mitigate-impact-fishing-highly-migratory-fish))
    4. **Sea turtles** 
       1. Review of sea turtle researches
       2. Review of CMM 2008-03
    5. **Bycatch management**
    6. **Other issues**

6.6.1 Review of relevant reports from other tRFMOs

1. **OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS**
   1. **West Pacific East Asia Project**
   2. **Pacific Tuna Tagging Project**
   3. **ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna Project-Shark and Bycatch Components**
   4. **WCPFC Tissue Bank (Project 35b)**
   5. **Other Projects**
2. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**
3. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**
4. **FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**
   1. **Development of the 2020 work programme and budget, and projection of 2021-2022 provisional work programme and indicative budget**
5. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
   1. **Future operation of the Scientific Committee**
   2. **Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee**
   3. **Next meeting**
6. **OTHER MATTERS**
7. **ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**
8. **CLOSE OF MEETING**