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WCPFC21 Summary Report

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
ANCORS	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
BET	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
BRP	Billfish Research Plan
CCM	Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories
CI	Conservation International
CKMR	Close-kin mark-recapture
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure
CMR, pCMR, fCMR	Compliance Monitoring Report (p-provisional; f-final)
CMS	Compliance Monitoring Scheme
CNM	Cooperating Non-Member
DP	Delegation paper
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean (= IATTC Convention Area)
ER and EM, ER&EM	Electronic reporting and electronic monitoring
EU	European Union
FAC	WCPFC Finance and Administration Committee
FAD	Fish aggregating (or aggregation) device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GFW	Global Fishing Watch
HCR	Harvest Control Rule
HS	Harvest Strategy
HSBI	High Seas Boarding and Inspection
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ISC	International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IWG	Intersessional Working Group
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JPF	Japan Promotion Fund at FFA
JTF	Japan Trust Fund at WCPFC
JWG	Joint Working Group
MFCL	MultiFAN-CL
MLS	Striped marlin (<i>Kajikia audax</i>)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Management Procedure
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
NC	WCPFC Northern Committee
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
NTADS	Non-target and Associated or Dependent Species
OFCF	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan

OM	Operating model
PBF	Pacific bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>)
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PNAO	Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RBAF	Risk-based assessment framework
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
ROP	Regional Observer Programme
SC	WCPFC Scientific Committee
SciData	Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SKJ	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
SMD	Science Management Dialogue
SP-ALB	South Pacific albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
SPARM	South Pacific albacore Roadmap
SPC	Pacific Community
SPG	South Pacific Group
SPR	Spawning potential ratio
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SRP	Shark Research Plan
SSB	Spawning Stock Biomass
SSP	Scientific Services Provider
SWG	Small working group
TCC	WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee
TRP	Target Reference Point
TSER	WCPFC's High Seas Transshipment Electronic Reporting System
USA	United States of America
VDS	Vessel Day Scheme
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCNPO	Western and Central North Pacific Ocean
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPFC-CA	WCPFC Convention Area (note: the exact NW boundaries are undefined)
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean (excluding the overlap with IATTC)
WPEA-ITM	West Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring Project
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
YFT	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1. The Twenty First Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC21) took place from 28th November to 3rd December 2024 at the Vodafone™ Arena, Laucala Bay, Suva, Fiji.
2. The following Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) attended WCPFC21: American Samoa (AS), Australia (AU), Canada (CA), People's Republic of China (CN), Cook Islands (CK), European Union (EU), Federated States of Micronesia (FM), Fiji (FJ), France (FR), French Polynesia (PF), Guam (GU), Indonesia (ID), Japan (JP), Kiribati (KI), Republic of Korea (KR), Marshall Islands (MH), Nauru (NR), New Caledonia (NC), New Zealand (NZ), Niue (NU), Northern Marianas Islands (MI), Palau (PW), Papua New Guinea (PG), Philippines (PH), Samoa (WS), Solomon Islands (SB), Chinese Taipei (TW), Tokelau (TK), Tonga (TO), Tuvalu (TV), United States of America (US), and Vanuatu (VU).
3. The following countries attended WCPFC21 as Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs): Curaçao (CW), Ecuador (EC), El Salvador (SV), Panama (PA), Thailand (TH), and Vietnam (VN).
4. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended WCPFC21: Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International MCS Network, International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), The Pacific Community (SPC), Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNAO), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and The World Bank.
5. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended WCPFC21: Accountability.Fish, American Tunaboat Association (ATA), Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), Birdlife International, Conservation International (CI), Earth Island Institute, Earthjustice, Global Fishing Watch (GFW), Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Pew Charitable Trusts, Sharkproject International, Te Ipukarea Society (TIS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation (WTPO), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
6. The Bahamas and Liberia participated as State Observers.
7. A full list of all participants is provided in [Attachment A](#).
8. The Reverend Noa Turaganivalu delivered a blessing emphasizing responsible stewardship of all living things. He stressed the importance of understanding and wisely managing natural resources for future generations, reminding participants that these resources belong to God and that all are ultimately accountable for their use.
9. WCPFC Chair, Dr. Josie Tamate, thanked Fiji for hosting and acknowledged the support of honourable ministers. She underscored the region's crucial contribution to global tuna supply and the economic benefits to Pacific Island countries. Dr. Tamate highlighted the importance of efficient processes, recognized the subsidiary bodies and Secretariat for their efforts, and recalled last year's hard work in the Cook Islands. She noted progress since the Convention's entry into force in 2004, emphasizing the healthy status of key tuna stocks under WCPFC's mandate.
10. Reflecting on the significance of the 21st meeting, Dr. Tamate looked forward to adopting key measures, especially regarding harvest strategy, climate change, and transshipment. She noted

growing global attention on ocean conservation and encouraged collaboration to advance the Commission's work, expressing confidence and optimism for the future. The WCPFC Chair's full statement is appended at [Attachment B](#).

11. The Fiji Minister for Fisheries and Forests, Honourable Alitia Bainivalu, delivered opening remarks and welcomed WCPFC21 participants to Fiji. Minister Bainivalu noted that as stewards of shared ocean resources, members were tasked with the critical responsibility of ensuring sustainability of the region's fisheries for future generations. The Minister acknowledged the rich cultural heritage and profound connection that Pacific Island nations have with the ocean, which not only serves as a source of livelihood but is also integral to their identity, traditions, and way of life.
12. Minister Bainivalu recalled the myriad of challenges that threaten the health of marine ecosystems and sustainability of fisheries, including climate change, overfishing, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. She concluded by encouraging collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to sustainable practices as a way to overcome challenges, calling on the wisdom of our ancestors for valuable insights and guidance. The Minister's full statement is appended at [Attachment C](#).
13. The WCPFC Executive Director, Ms Rhea Moss-Christian, provided some opening remarks, emphasizing that the ocean is the foundation of life in the Pacific and beyond, providing food, income, and cultural identity to millions. She noted that this lifeline was under increasing pressure and that the decisions made at the meeting were crucial for the future of fisheries, ecosystems, and communities. She highlighted the rapid changes in the world, including new international treaties reshaping marine resource governance, which demanded more collaboration, foresight, and resolve. She pointed out the visible pressures of climate change, such as warming waters, rising sea levels, and shifting currents, which were altering fish stock behaviour, particularly tuna.
14. She praised the Commission's efforts to maintain biologically healthy tuna stocks through science-driven management and stressed the importance of integrating climate science, fostering regional cooperation, and prioritizing resilience. She underscored the need for fairness and equity for those dependent on the ocean, condemning inhumane conditions aboard fishing vessels. She called for reaffirming cooperation, transparency, and accountability and concluded by urging the Commission to confront challenges boldly, ensuring the sustainability and resilience of fisheries for future generations. The Executive Director's full statement is appended at [Attachment D](#).
15. The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Fiji, Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, welcomed participants to Fiji and to the 21st Annual Meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. He explained a little about ceremonies of welcome for distinguished visitors and made it clear that Fiji did not participate in the trading of endangered species. He clarified that the Tabua – the whale's tooth – that had been presented that morning was from before our time and requested that no offence be taken. He acknowledged the traditional owners and the Turaga ni Suva, and paid respects to elders – past, present, and emerging.
16. The Prime Minister drew attention to all the challenges facing fisheries in the region, including pollution, and emphasized that our actions needed to be based on sound scientific work and data—the best available science—and in the absence of science, the precautionary approach should be used in the management of tuna stocks. He stressed the importance of looking back and studying how our forebears managed these fisheries. He noted that this was a critical juncture in establishing a collective voice to influence the management of tuna fisheries. He identified three priorities for WCPFC21: the impact of climate change, the need for cooperation in the management of the high seas and taking into account Article 30 of the WCPFC convention. He expected the requirements of the Special Requirements Fund (SRF) to be addressed so that Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) could tackle these issues and balance the disproportionate

burdens of management placed on them. He highlighted the necessity of collaboration, recognizing that tuna migrate and that these issues are complex, involving both modern and traditional usage. He emphasized the need to reflect on the long-term health of oceans and the livelihood of the people who depend on them. He called for reaffirming cooperation, transparency, and accountability in addressing these issues. He urged keeping empathy at the forefront of discussions. He expressed confidence that through collective efforts, a sustainable course could be charted for the benefit of future generations.

17. He left his audience with a thought that had been with him for some time, even before the WCPFC was formed. He recalled his first tenure as Prime Minister of Fiji from 1992 to 1999, and questioned why the Pacific, whether it be the Western and Central Pacific or the entire Pacific, could not follow the example of the Organization of Oil-producing Exporting Countries (OPEC) and form a giant tuna exporting or tuna fisheries community that could become a powerful world trading bloc. He acknowledged that lessons had been learned from OPEC, including removing various obstacles such as instability and corruption. Leaving the audience with those words, he was honoured to officially open the 21st regular session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. The Prime Minister's full statement is appended at [Attachment E](#).

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

18. The Chair called the meeting to order and invited the Commission to adopt the Provisional Agenda, noting that Heads of Delegation at their meeting the previous day had not indicated the need for any changes. As had been explained at the time, a new approach was being applied for the agenda with an early focus on presenting the advice and recommendations from the Commission's subsidiary bodies and intersessional activities before new proposals were considered.

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| 19. The Commission adopted the agenda . |
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1.2 Meeting Arrangements

Paper: [WCPFC Circular No.: 2024/55 of 28 August 2024](#)

20. The Executive Director provided information on the meeting webpage and scheduling, which would be updated frequently throughout the meeting to assist delegates with tracking progress through the agenda. Information was provided on morning/afternoon tea and lunch arrangements. The ED expressed appreciation to the Secretariat's IT team and the IT support from the host government of Fiji for ensuring that the meeting's technological needs relating to audio and internet connectivity were stable and invited participants to see any member of the Secretariat with any questions or needs as they arose.

2. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

21. The Chair invited opening statements from Delegations, either as a brief presentation or in writing for the record.
22. The Honourable Sa'aga Talu – Minister of Natural Resources Development – delivered an opening statement on behalf of the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, The Honourable Feleti Teo. The Minister thanked the Government and people of Fiji for their hospitality and reaffirmed support for the Chair, noting confidence in the revised meeting format despite potential challenges. They emphasized the importance of continued collaboration to ensure meaningful progress during WCPFC 21.

23. Tuvalu highlighted three priority areas. First, they urged adoption of Target Reference Points (TRPs) for YFT and BET, acknowledging the complexities of multi-species fisheries and suggesting a mixed fishery framework if necessary. Second, they underscored the critical role of Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) for Tuvalu's purse seine fishery, pointing to current measures such as registration, real-time tracking, and the introduction of biodegradable FADs to address environmental concerns. Third, Tuvalu expressed its opposition to proposals seeking expanded high seas purse seine fishing effort, citing the need for sustainable management and the protection of small island economies.
24. In closing, the Delegation conveyed its commitment to engage constructively on all remaining agenda items and extended best wishes for a productive and successful meeting. The Minister's full statement is appended at [Attachment F](#).
25. The Honourable Lord Fohe, Minister of Fisheries for Tonga, emphasized the significance of the Pacific's tuna fishery, noting its role in providing food security, livelihoods, employment, and economic development opportunities. He expressed full support for the FFA member priorities to WCPFC21, as outlined in their delegation paper 01. Lord Fohe highlighted the importance of adopting the management procedure for SP-ALB, supporting the delegation papers from the South Pacific Group and Australia. He stressed the need for a target reference point to maintain stock levels that balance sustainability and economic viability. He expressed concern over declining catch rates for SP-ALB, which threatened the viability of the domestic fishery, and recognized the benefits of improved catch rates for all.
26. The Minister identified climate change as a significant priority for Tonga, commending the Commission's efforts to address its impact on tuna stocks. He also highlighted the SRF (Article 30 of the Convention) as crucial for facilitating the participation of developing states and ensuring the fund's sustainability and supported binding measures on labour standards for fishing vessel crews, emphasizing the importance of welfare and the Commission's opportunity to lead globally. He acknowledged their role as custodians of tuna resources and the responsibility to future generations, looking forward to continued collaboration for the meeting's success.
27. The Honourable Anthony M. Muller, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce for the Republic of Marshall Islands, began his statement by thanking the Government and people of Fiji for their hospitality and acknowledged the collective responsibility of the Pacific "family" in safeguarding tuna resources. Emphasizing that tuna is "far more than an economic asset—it is a symbol of resilience," the Minister underscored the need for robust conservation measures, equitable economic opportunities for coastal states, and active community participation in the tuna value chain.
28. The Minister highlighted RMI's leadership in fisheries management, pointing to Majuro's position as a major transshipment hub handling 230,000 metric tonnes of tuna in 2023. The Minister underlined ongoing domestic initiatives—including offloading facility upgrades, value-added processing, and the Pacific Island Tuna Provisions (PITP) for sustainable and ethical tuna products—designed to ensure that the wealth of ocean resources directly benefits local communities. He advocated for stricter oversight of high seas transshipment activities to combat IUU fishing and stressed the urgent threat posed by climate change to both marine ecosystems and regional livelihoods.
29. Looking ahead, the Minister called for strengthened Conservation and Management Measures that protect fish stocks and ecosystems while preserving economic returns for Pacific islanders. The Minister concluded by urging the Commission to seize the opportunity to secure a brighter and more sustainable future for all. The Minister's full statement is appended at [Attachment G](#).

30. The Honourable Mona Ainu'u, Minister of Natural Resources for Niue, began her opening remarks by expressing appreciation to the Government of Fiji for its hospitality and commended the WCPFC's leadership, reaffirming its dedication to the sustainable management of fisheries resources. The Minister highlighted Niue's commitment to cooperation with FFA members and the broader regional community, underlining that despite its small size, Niue's resolve matches that of larger members. Notably, Niue views fisheries as crucial for food security, livelihoods, and revenue, with a responsibility to future generations to uphold sustainable and profitable tuna fisheries.
31. The Minister focused on three priorities: the sustainable management of SP-ALB, with an emphasis on rebuilding stocks and securing economic viability; continued advocacy for climate change initiatives, referencing Niue's designation of 40% of its EEZ as a Large Scale Marine Protected Area; and the need for a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF to ensure effective participation of Small Island Developing States. The Minister concluded by reiterating Niue's commitment to working cooperatively with all stakeholders in good faith to ensure the successful management of this vital fishery. The Minister's statement is appended at [Attachment H](#).
32. Erana Aliklik (Nauru) provided a statement as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) and expressed gratitude to the Government and People of Fiji for their hospitality. The FFC Chair reiterated the significance of Article 30 of the Convention in ensuring the special requirements of SIDS are recognized and addressed. She highlighted concerns about proposals circulated without timely CMM 2013-06 assessments and underscored the urgent need for a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF, proposing amendments to the Financial Regulations to maintain an annual minimum of USD 300,000. FFA Members also called attention to the proliferation of Intersessional Working Groups, stressing the challenges this creates for small fisheries administrations.
33. The FFC Chair emphasized progress on key conservation and management measures, including the development of harvest strategies for SKJ, SP-ALB, BET, and YFT, and praised continued work on strengthening longline fishery management. She welcomed efforts to finalize electronic monitoring standards, reminded CCMs of the requirement for ROP observers where EM standards are not yet agreed, and underscored the importance of tightening high seas transshipment regulation. FFA Members also noted the priority of adopting a CMM on Labour Standards for Fishing Crew, managing Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), and supporting the constructive role of observers in the Commission's work.
34. Finally, FFA Members reaffirmed the need to keep climate change as a central focus, referencing the recent ITLOS Advisory Opinion on Climate Change which underscores States' obligations to prevent and reduce marine pollution from greenhouse gas emissions and to cooperate on mitigating impacts to the marine environment. They stressed the importance of technical assistance for developing states to address climate change effects and urged the Commission to incorporate these responsibilities into its decision-making processes. The FFC Chair's full statement is appended at [Attachment I](#).
35. Myungjin Kim, Director General for International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries for the Republic of Korea, thanked the Government of Fiji for their hospitality and recognized two decades of WCPFC accomplishments in sustainably managing tuna stocks, emphasizing the importance of science-based approaches such as Harvest Control Rules. The role of the Commission's subsidiary bodies was highlighted, notably the Northern Committee's success in rebuilding the PBF stock. The Director General also underscored the critical role and rights of coastal states in these management efforts.

36. Looking ahead, the Director General called for the adoption of a Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) on crew labour standards to protect fishers' welfare and stressed the importance of electronic reporting and monitoring for greater transparency, noting that these measures are central to the long-term integrity of fisheries management in the region.
37. Concluding remarks underscored the need to leverage the collective trust built over the years, urging delegates to seize this opportunity to enhance collaboration, transparency, and accountability, thereby ensuring a strong and sustainable future for the region's fisheries. The Director General's full statement is appended at [Attachment J](#).
38. Lu Quan, Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), provided a statement on behalf of China and began by thanking Fiji for hosting WCPFC21 and highlighted its significant presence at the meeting, noting that Suva is a key hub for Chinese tuna fishing operations. The Director underscored the importance of practical, science-based conservation and management decisions, and announced increased voluntary contributions to the WCPFC from 2025, subject to further consultation with the Secretariat.
39. The Director outlined China's positions on several key items. They called for comprehensive crew labour standards, emphasizing the need for detailed consultation and adequate regulatory measures for labour companies. On transshipment, China maintained that flag CCMs should decide on high seas activities, while urging swift consensus on minimum standards for electronic monitoring—preferably aligned with recent IATTC developments. The delegation welcomed SP-ALB management proposals, proposed establishing a WCPFC–IATTC Joint Working Group with a potential meeting in China, and stressed the importance of evidence-based approaches to seabird and shark bycatch mitigation. Additionally, they supported Australia's proposal on voluntary guides for high seas boarding and inspections and backed TCC20's recommendation to finalize historical cases in the Compliance Case File System.
40. The Director concluded by reiterating China's readiness to cooperate on all outstanding issues—including crew measures, albacore management, and related proposals—to ensure a productive and collaborative session. The Director's full statement is appended at [Attachment K](#).
41. Leban Gisawa, Deputy Managing Director, Corporate Affairs, National Fisheries Authority for Papua New Guinea thanked Fiji for hosting WCPFC21. The Deputy Managing Director underscored the importance of the Commission's role in managing tuna stocks, emphasizing that these resources significantly contribute to government revenues and economic development across the region. He stressed the urgency of science-based approaches, calling for robust measures to ensure compliance and effective management of high seas fisheries, including the adoption of the SKJ monitoring strategy and target reference points for other tuna stocks.
42. The Deputy Managing Director highlighted support for a binding CMM on labour standards and human rights, noting the importance of protecting fishers. He also reminded the Commission of CMM 2013-07, which requires recognition of the sovereign rights and special requirements of SIDSs, pointing out that conservation measures must not disproportionately burden Pacific Island countries.
43. Finally, the Deputy Managing Director acknowledged the ongoing progress in the compliance monitoring scheme while noting that IUU fishing remains a critical concern. He looked forward to productive deliberations and concrete outcomes to further safeguard tuna stocks and protect the welfare of coastal communities. The Deputy Managing Director's full statement is appended at [Attachment L](#).
44. Archie Taotasi Soliai, Director of the Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources for American Samoa, acknowledged Fiji's hospitality and expressed gratitude for the gathering, noting the

importance of the WCPFC's work for the welfare of Pacific Islanders. Reflecting on past negotiations, American Samoa thanked those who supported its footnote proposal in the Tropical Tuna Measure at WCPFC20, highlighting the spirit of unity shown by fellow Pacific nations—especially Samoa—and affirming its continued resolve to address disproportionate burdens on its tuna-dependent economy.

45. The Director emphasized that the Pacific Ocean is more than a resource: it is the “lifeblood” of island communities and at the core of regional identity. American Samoa reaffirmed its commitment to equity, sustainability, and stewardship, urging collective responsibility and calling for the Commission's support in developing and managing tuna fisheries in a fair and inclusive manner.
46. Concluding remarks stressed that while the challenges ahead are significant, the unity and shared purpose of WCPFC members can drive sustainable outcomes, thereby safeguarding the interests of the region and all Pacific peoples who depend on these resources. The Director's full statement is appended at [Attachment M](#).
47. Isidro M. Velayo, Jr., National Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the Philippines conveyed his delegation's gratitude to the Government of Fiji, the Chair, and the Secretariat for hosting and organizing WCPFC21. He emphasized the need for inclusive, balanced, and equitable decisions in managing highly migratory fish stocks, stressing the responsibility to support the sustainable development of fisheries-dependent nations—particularly Developing and Small Island Developing States.
48. The Director highlighted the importance of robust and effective tuna measures, reaffirming the Philippines' commitment to balance conservation with sustainable resource utilization, especially amid climate change challenges. He also detailed efforts to improve compliance, including enhanced monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems for Philippine-flagged vessels, pledging ongoing adherence to the Commission's standards.
49. Concluding, the Director reiterated unwavering support for WCPFC's conservation and management measures, calling on all members to collaborate toward safeguarding highly migratory fish stocks for future generations. The National Director's full statement is appended at [Attachment N](#).
50. Sarah-Jane McCormack, First Assistant Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for Australia thanked the Government of Fiji for its hospitality and commended the Secretariat for its high-quality preparations under the leadership of the Executive Director, as well as the SSP for its scientific support. She emphasized that the Commission has made significant strides in managing fish stocks based on best practices, reaffirming Australia's commitment to advancing harvest strategies as the foundation for sustainable fisheries.
51. Australia, alongside the South Pacific Group (SPG), introduced a proposed CMM for a management procedure for SP-ALB, highlighting the significance of this stock for SPG members, other SIDS, and territories. They also indicated plans to lead work on a harvest strategy for southwest Pacific swordfish, underscoring the importance of robust monitoring programs—particularly the development of electronic monitoring standards for adoption this year. The First Assistant Secretary stressed the critical need for a binding labour standards measure, recognizing the well-being of those working at sea as paramount. The full statement is appended at [Attachment O](#).
52. Steven Adolf made a statement on behalf of Accountability.Fish. As an NGO focused on transparency and accountability in ocean governance bodies, Accountability.Fish called attention to what it views as a significant gap in WCPFC's transparency measures. While commending the

Commission's general openness, they noted that WCPFC is the only tuna RFMO that does not permit NGO observers to attend the Compliance Monitoring drafting session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC). Accountability.fish argued that excluding NGOs from this key process undermines public confidence and contravenes the obligations of members under the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. They urged members to revise Section 12, Rule 36, Paragraph 7 of the Rules of Procedure to enable approved observer participation.

53. Additionally, the organization expressed support for the Executive Director's initiative to include the issue of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) on the Commission's agenda. They emphasized that the upcoming BBNJ Agreement will have far-reaching implications for RFMOs and encouraged WCPFC members to align their policies and practices with commitments made under this new international instrument. The full statement is appended at [Attachment P](#).
54. Chelsa Muna, Director of the Guam Department of Agriculture, thanked Fiji for being gracious hosts and recognized the efforts of the Commission, Madam Chair, and the Executive Director. Guam has a history of being a tuna transshipment hub and has served as an international gateway for Micronesia for many years. Guam aspires to join its neighbouring Pacific Island brothers and sisters in developing cooperation with WCPFC members to create fishing opportunities. Guam helped develop a resolution at the Micronesian Islands Forum in 2018 to address shifting tuna stocks, food security, and the uncertainties resulting from climate change. In 2024, at the Micronesian Islands Forum, Guam and CNMI again prioritized concerns regarding IUU fishing and raised concerns about the impacts of climate change on fisheries. Guam looked forward to forging partnerships with WCPFC members to utilize tuna resources in a changing ocean and offers its own resources.
55. A representative from the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI) expressed gratitude to the Commission for approving its observer status, underscoring the WCPFC's commitment to collaboration and inclusivity. They highlighted the 21st regular session of WCPFC as a pivotal opportunity to integrate labour standards into the Commission's conservation framework, reinforcing global efforts to align human rights with sustainable fisheries management.
56. SBMI emphasized the importance of adopting a CMM on labour standards for crew members, noting its relevance not only to social justice but also to sustainable and responsible fisheries. By establishing protection for vulnerable workers, this measure would address reports of crew exploitation while sending a clear message of commitment to human dignity and resource stewardship. SBMI affirmed its readiness to work constructively on measures that support both marine conservation and the well-being of industry workers. The SBMI's full statement is appended at [Attachment Q](#).

3. 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-02](#)

57. The Executive Director presented an overview of the Commission's 2024 work program, highlighting key advancements in conservation and management measures, capacity building, and ongoing scientific research. She noted the adoption and amendment of critical CMMs at WCPFC20, including tighter controls on FAD fishing, increased longline monitoring, and the first trans-Pacific harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore. Progress toward harvest strategies for all tuna stocks was further supported by a second Science-Management Dialogue, which focused on SP-ALB cooperation with the IATTC and informed future discussion on SKJ and other species. The Commission has also pursued stronger ecosystem-based management, through reviews of seabird and shark measures, as well as the development of a climate change workplan.

58. Key compliance and enforcement improvements included ongoing refinements to monitoring systems, bolstered by the Technical and Compliance Committee's continued oversight. The introduction of a draft CMM for crew labour standards was cited as a significant step toward aligning with global best practices and protecting fishery workers. Scientific support from the SSP remained integral; new research on stock assessments (SP-ALB, PBF) and tagging programs informed the Commission's science-based decisions, while capacity-building initiatives and voluntary funding contributions supported the SRF and expanded data-collection capabilities.
59. The Executive Director underscored the importance of strengthening Article 30 commitments to assist SIDS, while also acknowledging the external pressures of climate change and evolving ocean governance. Secretariat restructuring and enhancements to compliance systems are aimed at better serving the Commission's maturing needs. Reflecting on the Commission's successes, she stressed the necessity of sustained cooperation and innovation to meet ongoing objectives—particularly as the Commission prepares for further work on climate impacts, fisheries science, and robust management of the largest tuna fishery in the world.
60. Before concluding, the Executive Director took the opportunity to introduce and acknowledge some members of the WCPFC Secretariat who were in attendance at WCPFC21. Ms. Hilary Ayrton had recently joined the Secretariat in the new position of Fisheries Management and Compliance Adviser and was attending WCPFC21 as a member of the Secretariat for the first time. Ms. SureAnn Poll was also acknowledged for her long-standing service to the Secretariat in a support staff role that was revised in 2024 to reflect Ms. Poll's growth and demonstrated commitment to her work. The Executive Director also acknowledged the presence of CCAMLR IT Officer, Ian Meredith, who was providing assistance to the Secretariat for WCPFC21 in response to a last minute need that arose. Finally, the Executive Director acknowledged the presence of three dignitaries from the FSM Congress, Speaker Esmond Moses, Senator Fabian Nimea, and Senator Johnson Asher, whose presence at WCPFC21 was appreciated along with their strong support as host nation of the WCPFC Headquarters.
61. In closing, the Executive Director emphasized the significance of the Prime Minister of Fiji's opening remarks and the traditional welcome from the Fijian government, noting that the high-level engagement underscores the Convention's roots and ultimate purpose. This shared understanding should guide all discussions—whether technical or political—to ensure tangible progress by the meeting's conclusion. Most importantly, it should chart a clear path for 2025, maintaining the Commission's focus on delivering meaningful outcomes for the communities that depend on these resources.
62. The WCPFC Chair thanked the Executive Director for the comprehensive report and invited comments and questions from delegations.
63. Korea commended the 2024 annual report for its comprehensive overview of WCPFC's progress, particularly improvements in conservation measures, harvest strategy development, and compliance mechanisms like VMS. They welcomed the Commission's integration of climate change considerations and the new labour standard for vessel crew, underscoring its alignment with international practices. Korea also emphasized ongoing data gaps and urged continued exploration of electronic monitoring, alongside stronger support for SIDS. They suggested the report clearly recognized the Secretariat's outstanding work.
64. Samoa, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the Executive Director for the annual report and praised the Secretariat's efforts in advancing the activities highlighted therein.
65. China expressed their appreciation for the annual report and noted improvements in the Commission's website design, highlighting its user-friendliness. They also commended the

participant-friendly structure of this meeting, with adequate breaks not filled by working group sessions, and expressed hope for this approach to continue in future meetings.

66. The Commission accepted the Annual Report of the Executive Director ([WCPFC21-2024-02](#)) and recognised the outstanding work of the Secretariat.

4. MEMBERSHIP, OBSERVERS, AND COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS

4.1 Status of the Convention

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-03](#)

67. New Zealand, as depositary of the Convention, provided information in working paper 03 and the Chair took this as read before opening the floor for comments. There being no comments, the Commission noted the advice from New Zealand contained in the paper.

4.2 Update on Observer status

68. There was no working paper on this agenda sub-item. WCPFC Finance and Administration Manager, Aaron Nighswander, drew participant's attention to the updated [List of Observers](#) which is maintained on the WCPFC website, in accordance with the Commission request at WCPFC20 in 2023.

69. The Chair stated that this information was for noting and with no questions from the floor, closed the agenda item.

4.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member Status

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-05](#)

70. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce working paper 05 on Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) Status for 2025. WCPFC Deputy Compliance Manager, Ms. Eidre Sharp, presented WP05 which contained TCC20's recommendations on eight CNM applications received from The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Deputy Compliance Manager noted that there were two new applications for 2025 from entities that had previously held CNM status.

71. Liberia had applied for CNM status in 2024, subject to paying its 2023 financial contribution by the end of December. As that payment was received after the deadline, Liberia was not granted CNM status for 2024 but has reapplied for 2025.

72. The Bahamas was a CNM in 2021 but withdrew partway through the year due to circumstances affecting its ability to maintain effective participation. Despite withdrawing, The Bahamas continued to meet its obligations during that period.

73. Korea thanked the TCC Vice-Chair for leading the CNM Small Working Group (SWG) at TCC20 and welcomed TCC20's recommendation that WCPFC21 consider all applicants for CNM status in 2025. Korea noted that one applicant had not provided an update, and that some applicants had not been present at TCC20. Korea wished to underscore the importance of both attending meetings and providing required updates

74. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA CCMs, stressed that CNMs must comply with all CMM, fulfill reporting obligations (including timely submissions), and actively participate in TCC to ensure an effective Compliance Monitoring Scheme. They noted that many CNM applicants' participatory rights

largely involve carrier vessels for transshipment and emphasized the need to address this as part of the ongoing review of the transshipment measure. The CNM working group should also consider TCC20's recommendation encouraging CNMs to submit transshipment notifications and declarations electronically, utilizing the WCPFC's High Seas Transshipment Electronic Reporting System ([TSER](#)). FFA CCMs strongly urged CNMs with vessels engaging in high seas transshipment to adopt TSER, and indicated they would seek an update on this at the next TCC.

75. The United States highlighted the need for the Commission to discuss membership requests from several longtime CNMs—requests that were not addressed at TCC20 nor in the WCPFC21 CNM paper. The United States reiterated its view that the Commission should consider extending membership invitations in line with international fisheries cooperation instruments, emphasizing the importance of proactively responding to and meaningfully considering such requests for membership.
76. The EU supported the United States' comments on new membership, emphasizing the importance of a clear process for considering applications. Citing Article 8.3 of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, they highlighted that States with a genuine interest in the fishery must not be barred from membership, and any conditions must not be applied in a discriminatory manner. The EU urged the Commission to address this procedural gap for potential new members as a priority.
77. Japan expressed the view that if an applicant wished to become a full member, the Commission should consider and evaluate the appropriateness of such membership. Japan noted that WCPFC is an open international organization grounded in the UNFSA Convention and hoped for constructive dialogue on this issue during the week.
78. Nauru, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, noted that the Convention stipulates a specific process for new Commission members: an invitation granted by consensus, reflecting the Commission's unique structure. They emphasized that over 85% of the tuna catch occurs in developing countries' waters, especially SIDS highly dependent on these resources. PNA and Tokelau CCMs believed the existing CNM process already provides sufficient avenues for other nations' participation and stated they do not support extending invitations for additional membership.
79. Ecuador thanked meeting participants for considering its CNM status renewal and reaffirmed its longstanding interest in becoming a full member of WCPFC. Citing decades of experience in other RFMOs—such as IATTC, SPRFMO, and CCAMLR—Ecuador emphasized its commitment to combating IUU fishing and highlighted its history of responsible practices, including zero high-seas fishing days and a small fleet of tuna purse-seine vessels. Ecuador noted its consistent fulfillment of annual financial obligations to WCPFC and believed there were no grounds to prevent membership, given its adherence to UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. They also mentioned recent collaborative initiatives (e.g., MoUs with Cook Islands and Kiribati, a FAD project with French Polynesia) and requested bilateral meetings during the session to address any questions, asking the Chair to keep this agenda item open for further discussion.
80. El Salvador echoed Ecuador's call for equitable participation and supported the principle of inclusivity and transparency in decision-making. Emphasizing willingness to meet all Commission requirements, they reiterated their commitment to compliance with CMMs and full participation in WCPFC affairs. El Salvador urged the Commission to consider accepting new members—including El Salvador and Ecuador—consistent with international legal principles and in a manner that does not undermine the fishing rights of coastal states. They noted that doing so would strengthen cooperation, uphold coastal states' interests, and enhance the conservation and management of fisheries across the Pacific Ocean.

81. The Solomon Islands, on the matter of CNMs transitioning to full WCPFC membership, spoke on behalf of the FFA CCMs and reaffirmed their consistent position on the matter. They explained that the pathway to membership was clear, and that it begins with an invitation extended by consensus from the Commission. This was stipulated in Article 35.2 of the Convention and at present, no such invitations had been extended.
82. The Chair agreed to Ecuador's request to keep the agenda item open to allow Ecuador to consult informally throughout the meeting with other CCMs on the question of membership that it raised earlier. On revisiting this agenda item later in the meeting, Ecuador advised that it held bilateral discussions with some PNA delegates and representatives, and it was made clear to Ecuador that the PNA position was not in support of allowing Ecuador or any other countries to become new members of WCPFC. Ecuador referenced the WCPF Convention Article 35.2 and its connection to UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and committed to continuing cooperation with the Commission.

Decision

83. The Commission approved the [applications](#) for CNM status for 2025 from The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Participatory rights of CNMs

84. In view of the discussion on the applications for CNM status for 2025, the Chair tasked the CNM SWG to meet electronically and finalize recommendations on CNM participatory rights for consideration at WCPFC21.
85. TCC Vice-Chair Ilkang Na (Korea) chaired the CNM SWG. After meeting, the SWG reported back to plenary with recommendations for the CNM participatory rights to be approved.

Decisions

86. The Commission agreed the following participatory rights for CNMs for 2025:
- a) **The Bahamas:** The participatory rights of The Bahamas are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
 - b) **Curacao:** The participatory rights of Curacao are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
 - c) **Ecuador:** The participatory rights of Ecuador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2023-01 or its replacement measure.
 - d) **El Salvador:** The participatory rights of El Salvador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing only. The total level of effort by purse seine vessels of El Salvador on the high seas shall not exceed 29 days in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2023-01 or its replacement measure.
 - e) **Liberia:** The participatory rights of Liberia are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.

- f) **Panama:** The participatory rights of Panama in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels. Panama's participatory rights also apply to vessels that supply food, water and spare parts to carrier vessels that engage in transshipment activities, provided that these vessels do not engage in activities supporting fishing vessels, including providing and/or servicing FADs
- g) **Thailand:** The participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.
- h) **Vietnam:** The participatory rights of Vietnam in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area

- 87. In accordance with the decision of WCPFC9 regarding the management of the overlap area of 4°S and 50°S between 130°W and 150°W, vessels flagged to Ecuador, El Salvador and Panama will be governed by the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.
- 88. In accordance with the Data Exchange MOU agreed by both Commissions, fishing vessels flying the flag of a member of either the IATTC or WCPFC shall cooperate with the RFMO to which they are not a member by voluntarily providing operational catch and effort data for its fishing activities for highly migratory species in the overlap area.
- 89. For the purpose of investigation of possible IUU fishing activities and consistent with international and domestic laws, vessels flying the flag of a CNM that is a Contracting Party to the IATTC will cooperate with those coastal State members of the WCPFC whose EEZs occur in the overlap area by voluntarily providing VMS reports (date, time and position) to those coastal States when operating in the overlap area

Task

- 90. The Commission tasked the FAD Management Options IWG and TCC21 to consider clarifying the ambiguity around the existing participatory rights text as to which types of vessels should be allowed to engage in FAD-related activities, and provide recommendations to WCPFC22.

5. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

5.1 Updated Strategic Investment Plan

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-06](#)

- 91. The WCPFC Compliance Manager, Dr. Lara Manarangi-Trott, presented working paper 06 containing an updated Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for 2024. The paper reported on the past year's implementation of the SIP, including special capacity-building efforts for developing states, and detailed updates to Attachment 1 of the SIP to reflect newly identified capacity needs.
- 92. The Commission continued to implement Article 30 through various means, including reviewing CMM 2013-06 at TCC, as directed by the Commission last year. The Compliance Monitoring Scheme emphasized assisting CCMs in meeting their obligations, particularly via the "capacity assistance needed" process for developing states. This year's update incorporated relevant findings from annual reporting, which could translate into additions to the SIP. A key aspect is the SRF, intended to maintain a targeted base level of USD 150,000 but as of 27 November 2024 the

balance was USD 15,746, as noted in the Finance and Administration Committee's Summary Report.

93. With that overview, Attachment 1 in WP06 (the updated SIP) was presented for the Commission's approval.
94. Korea commended the updated SIP, recognizing its alignment with WCPFC's goal of enhancing developing states' participation. They underlined the urgency of exploring sustainable funding avenues for the SRF—such as broadening voluntary contributions or creating predictable mechanisms—and stressed the importance of technology transfer and capacity-building workshops in helping members meet their obligations.
95. Speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, Papua New Guinea thanked the Secretariat for its paper and acknowledged the importance of matching SIDS and Territory capacity requirements with suitable funding opportunities. They reiterated that full recognition of SIDS is central to regional fisheries governance, noting that Article 30 was the foundation of the WCPFC's establishment. In line with the paper's conclusion, they emphasized the critical gap in ensuring effective SIDS participation within the Commission's work—an issue at the heart of their proposal in delegation paper 02, which they hoped to discuss further with other CCMs to develop concrete solutions.
96. Going forward, FFA CCMs requested more detailed reporting on the SIP to include analysis of the Commission's workload in relation to its priorities and achievements. They maintained that such information is vital for guiding strategic discussions and appropriately distributing tasks, particularly to ease the burden on SIDS given the increasing demands faced by the Commission.
97. The EU thanked the Secretariat for the paper and highlighted the SIP's value in matching SIDS' capacity needs with available tools. They suggested more clarity on how the Commission meets capacity needs identified via the Compliance Monitoring Scheme. The EU also referenced their own paper (delegation paper 17) which detailed contributions under the PEUMP program, inviting SIDS to make use of ongoing and future opportunities.
98. Indonesia acknowledged gaps in its compliance performance and signaled the need for technical assistance from the Secretariat or other partners to strengthen its capacity, especially for meeting high seas minimum standards. They welcomed any available support starting next year.
99. Japan summarized its development assistance to Pacific Island countries, noting that between 2012 and 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Association (JICA) and the Japan Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) provided about 264 billion yen in total assistance. Japan also highlighted the WCPFC Japan Trust Fund and the Japan Promotion Fund with FFA members for capacity-building support, encouraging eligible members to submit project applications.
100. Marshall Islands thanked the Secretariat and donors (Japan, Chinese Taipei, the USA, EU, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) for assistance to SIDS, while reiterating the crucial need for more effective participation of SIDS in the Commission. They looked forward to further discussion under the next agenda item, emphasizing that CMM 2013-06 should be central in addressing gaps and fostering collaborative solutions.

101. The Commission approved the updated Strategic Investment Plan for 2024 ([WCPFC21-2014-06](#)) ([Attachment 1](#))

5.2 Update on SRF Discussions

Papers: [WCPFC21-2024-07](#), [WCPFC21-2024-DP02 rev1](#) (Ensuring Sustainable Funding for the Special Requirements Fund (SRF))

102. FAC Co-Chair, David Power, provided an update on intersessional discussions regarding the SRF, confirming that the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) would finalize this agenda item over the next two days.
103. Kiribati, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, introduced delegation paper 02, noting that WCPFC20 had prioritized securing a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF to ensure the effective implementation of Article 30. The proposal, originally outlined in the 2018 SRF-IWG report and reintroduced in 2023, sought to amend the Commission's financial regulations to allocate a minimum of USD 300,000 annually to the SRF from all developed Members (commencing in 2025). FFA CCMs emphasized that the USD 300,000 figure had long been identified as necessary to support SIDS participation at key WCPFC meetings and assist with broader capacity-building projects.
104. FFA CCMs underscored that USD 300,000 was not a new figure and referenced earlier advice from the WCPFC Finance and Administration Manager that this amount was sufficient to cover an extra SIDS participant at Commission, SC, and TCC meetings, noting that Article 30 extends to capacity-building projects beyond meeting participation. FFA CCMs urged the Commission to adopt the decision language in their delegation paper at this session, emphasizing that the proposal had been on the table for a year, allowing ample time for internal consultations and highlighting the need for concrete action to fulfil Article 30 commitments.
105. No immediate comments were raised, and the Chair referred the proposal to FAC18 for further discussions. The proposal would then return to the Commission for a decision under Agenda Item 10.

5.3 Western Pacific East Asia (WPEA) Project

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-08](#) (WPEA Project Update)

106. The Chair invited the Commission to take the paper as read. The Commission noted the completion of the WPEA-ITM Project in 2024 and welcomed the start of its successor, the WPEA-SPF Project.
107. FSM (on behalf of FFA CCMs) congratulated Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam on project outcomes, especially improvements in data collection, verification, and catch estimates, which helped to reduce uncertainty in WCPO tuna stock assessments as was reported by SC20. They also applauded New Zealand for its support and looked forward to further engagement on MCS and enforcement.
108. Korea thanked WPEA Project Manager, Lars Olsen, for a comprehensive update, emphasizing the project's role in addressing stock assessment uncertainties. They asked if Indonesia's new government and restructuring might delay project timelines.
109. Indonesia thanked the WPEA Project Manager and in response to Korea's query, confirmed that existing data collection efforts will continue without major interruptions, with an agreement expected to be finalized by early next year.
110. China noted that their position from the beginning of the WPEA project was that the South China Sea was outside the WCPFC Convention Area. China had agreed that this could be a WCPFC

project on the basis that it would be for scientific purposes only and wanted this position to be recorded. They however, thanked New Zealand for their continued support for these scientific activities.

111. The Philippines, together with the WPEA Project partners Indonesia and Vietnam, expressed gratitude to the Government of New Zealand and SPC, noting the Project's contribution to improved science-based fisheries management in the project countries. They noted the significant contribution of the Project to better stock estimates and as well as their capacity in the collection, interpretation, and analysis of internal stock assessment protocols. The Philippines expressed their support and commitment to implementation of the Project's next phase, ensuring that objectives and targets would be met.

112. The WPEA Project Manager added that contingency plans, including workshops, are in place to mitigate any short-term delays during the new project's initial implementation.

6. REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

6.1 Status of Stocks

The presentation on the status of stocks provided a basis for the Commission's conservation and management discussions on tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The status of stocks presentation included northern stocks managed through the WCPFC Northern Committee, and their stock status was presented by the International Scientific Committee (ISC). The Commission's evaluation of its tropical tuna measure (CMM 2023-01) was also considered here, as it reflected the performance of the Commission's decisions on its objective to sustainably manage tuna stocks.

6.1.1 Tropical and Southern WCPO Stocks

Papers: [WCPFC21-2024-27 Rev02](#), [WCPFC21-2024-27a Rev02](#) (Overview of Tuna Fisheries in the WCPO)

113. The SSP's Paul Hamer presented *WCPFC21-2024-27_Rev02*, which updates the status of the four primary tuna species, as well as billfish and shark stocks—information already discussed at SC20 and TCC20. He acknowledged the huge contribution and dedication of John Hampton, who traditionally delivered these reports, and is set to retire next year prior to WCPFC22. The WCPO catch of the four main tuna species (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, and albacore) in 2023—approximately 5 million tonnes—accounts for 53% of the global tuna catch, with Figure 1 illustrating catch by gear type and Figure 2 detailing catch species composition.

Figure 1: WCPO tuna (excluding bluefin tuna) catch by gear

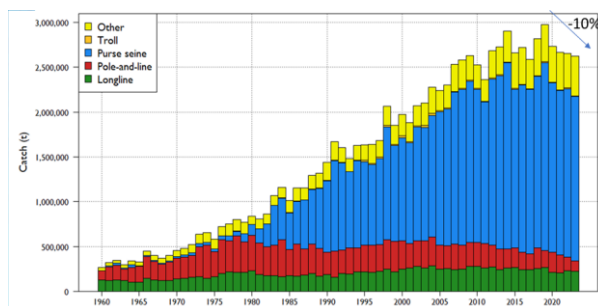


Figure 2: WCPO tuna (excluding bluefin tuna) catch by species

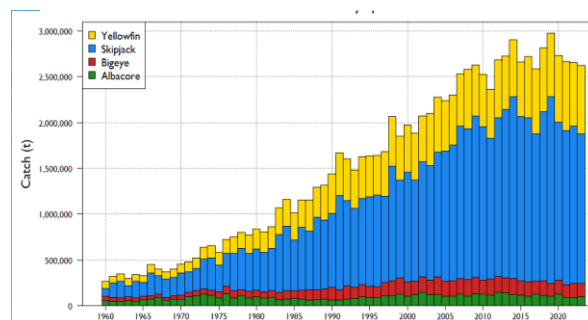
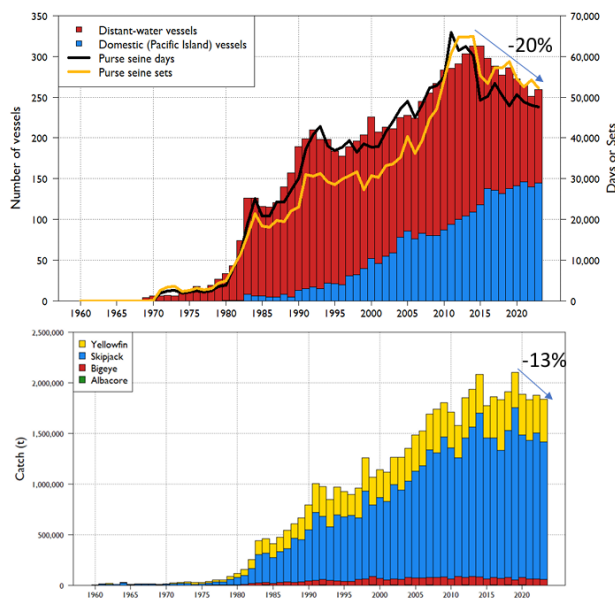


Figure 3: Purse seine fishery

**Effort: 2023 provisional**

- 259 vessels (145 domestic Pacific Is, 114 DWFN)
- 47,623 days
- 52,245 sets

Excluding: Japan coastal, Indonesia, Philippine and Vietnam domestic purse seine vessels

Catch: 2023 provisional

- Skipjack 1,358,582 mt
- Yellowfin 420,523 mt
- Bigeye 57,030 mt
- Albacore 744 mt

114. He further explained that since 2010—when FAD closures are thought to have led to more free-school sets—Figure 4 showed the total number of sets had increased, yet the number of successful free-school and FAD sets was about the same. While most FAD sets yielded a catch, many free-school sets did not, so overall, purse seine catch has remained relatively stable since 2010, and roughly evenly split between free-school and FAD sets.

Figure 4: FADs vs Free-school sets

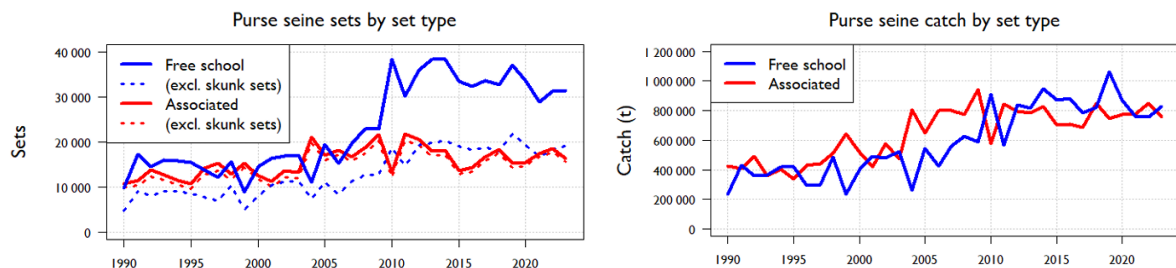
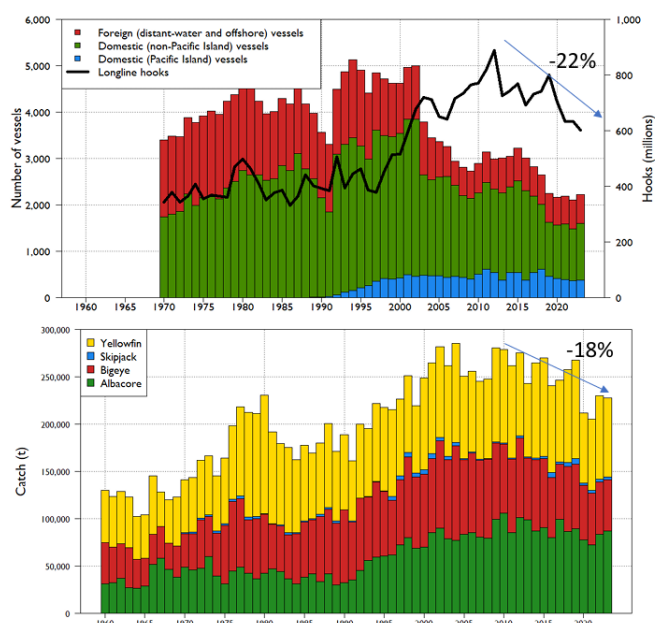


Figure 5: Longline fishery

**Effort: 2023 provisional**

- 1,692 vessels
(376 domestic Pacific Is, 688 domestic non-Pacific Island, 628 DWFN)
- 602 million hooks

Excluding: Vietnam and Indonesia domestic longline vessels; Japanese coastal and Indonesian domestic vessels for pole-and-line.

Catch: 2023 provisional

- Yellowfin 83,876 mt
- Albacore 64,461 – south, 23,887 – north
- Bigeye 54,190 mt
- Skipjack 2,631 mt

Figure 6: Stock status vs agreed or default precautionary reference points

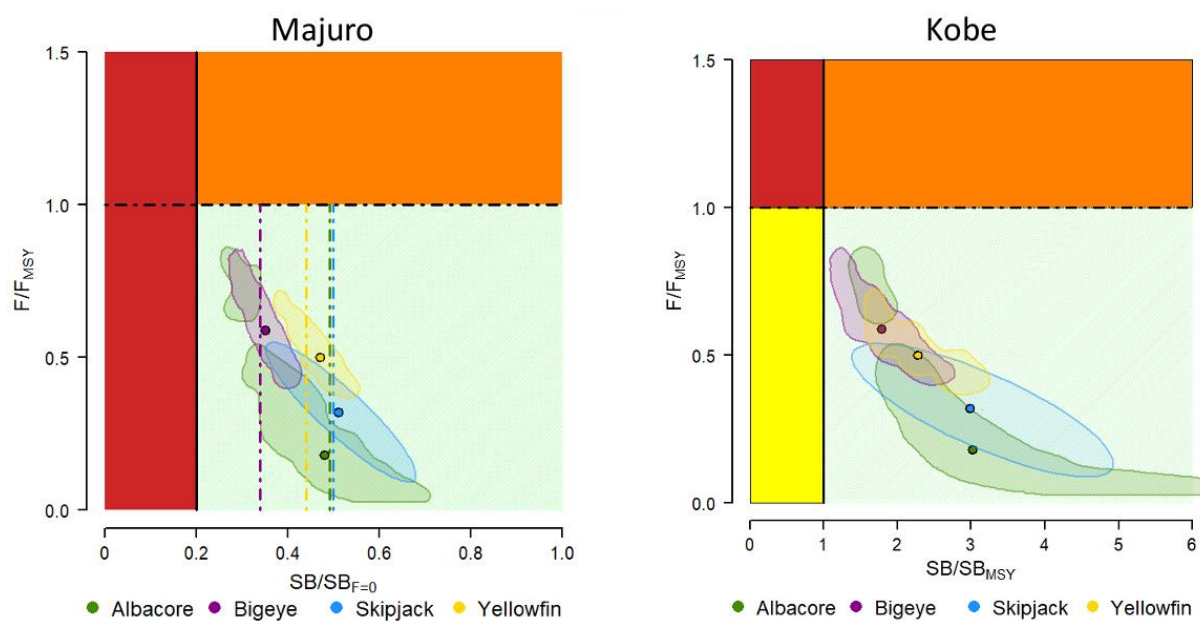


Figure 7: Status of tuna stocks and total catch by RFMO

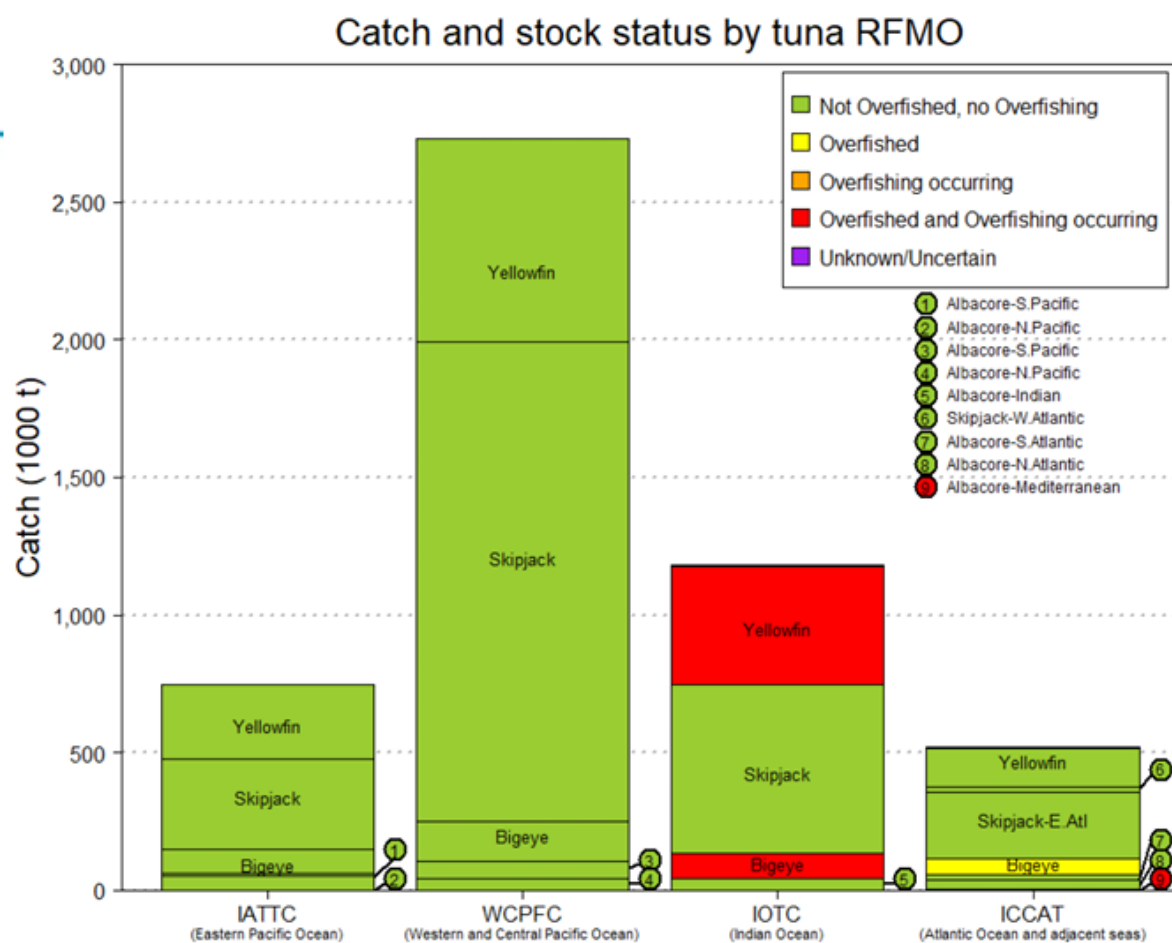


Figure 8: Stock status of assessed billfish

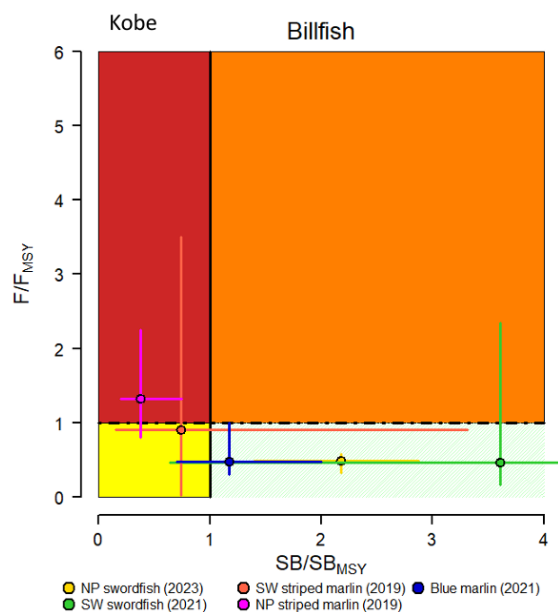
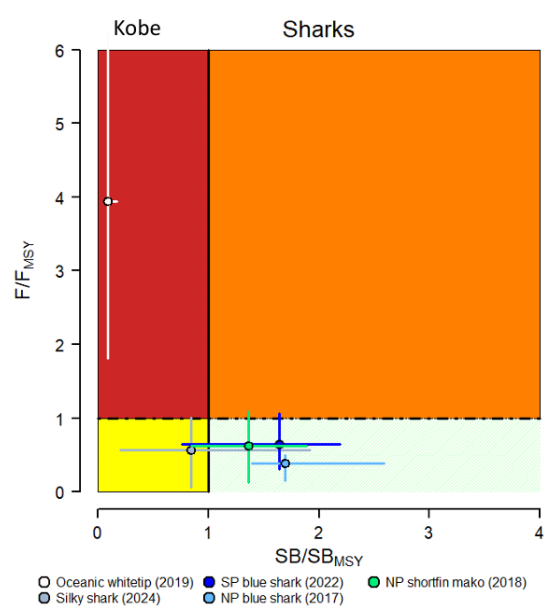


Figure 9: Stock status of assessed sharks



Discussion

115. Indonesia thanked the SSP for the presentation and raised concerns about YFT stock status—particularly the high catch in Region 2 and its potential impact on other parts of the WCPFC area. Indonesia noted that the SSP’s presentation showed YFT remained healthy overall but faced a depleting trend under the current effort. They highlighted Region 2 as highly productive with no history of overfishing yet questioned its connectivity with the broader WCPFC area—whether it impacted other stocks or served as a recruitment source. Limited tagging data complicated the understanding of mixing across regions, and Indonesia wondered if managing potential YFT depletion would require national regulation or a regional approach.
116. The SSP acknowledged Indonesia’s point regarding limited data on connectivity to inform movement rates in the stock assessment model, especially for smaller fish. Existing tagging data largely focused on larger juveniles or smaller adults released in the western Pacific and around PNG; there have been very few tag releases in the Indonesia/Philippines region. The current model showed Region 2 as somewhat self-recruiting but also a recruitment source for other regions. Region 2 is the most depleted model region approaching the limit reference point in isolation. This is because the fishing mortality, especially juveniles in Region 2, primarily impacts that region and is not moderated by movement in from other regions. The SSP noted that advanced genetics might help clarify connectivity, stressing the importance of further research for YFT but also other tuna species.
117. Japan sought clarity on North Pacific MLS, which spawning stock biomass dropped and fishing mortality increased sharply around 1990 despite the UN driftnet ban. Peer reviewers recommended improvements for future assessments to make them more reliable, noting that in the current assessment, scientists tried to use a new growth model, which showed the stock status as good, while the existing growth model produced a red-zone status. Japan encouraged the ISC to address these recommendations in the next stock assessment.
118. The Philippines echoed Indonesia’s concerns over uncertainties in YFT (Region 2) and SKJ (Region 5), advocating the SC Project P20x08 project to investigate population connectivity. They stressed more tagging and other methodologies to ground management in robust scientific evidence, highlighting “We can’t manage what we don’t know.”
119. Chinese Taipei observed that purse seine fishing effort had declined by about 20% (in vessels and fishing days). Yet, total catch remained relatively stable, which created a pattern of decreasing vessel numbers and effort in the purse seine fishery, with stable catch volumes. They inquired whether this scenario might suggest possible effort creep or misreporting.
120. The SSP noted differences in how the effort was reported—particularly potential misreporting of fishing/searching days as transit days. However, most of the decline in searching was just after 2010 and since 2015, effort has been reasonably stable. These potential reporting issues haven’t significantly affected stock assessment trends over the past decade, which had been flat.
121. Kiribati, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, welcomed the SSP’s stock status updates, especially signs of improvement in silky shark assessments (albeit with uncertainties). They hoped to see more focus on cetacean bycatch going forward.

6.1.2 Northern WCPO Stocks

122. The Chair of the International Scientific Committee (ISC), Robert Ahrens, presented information on the status of northern stocks and other stocks and species assessed by the ISC. He referred to the ISC website, where further details, including landing summaries, are available.

Figure 10



North Pacific albacore landings

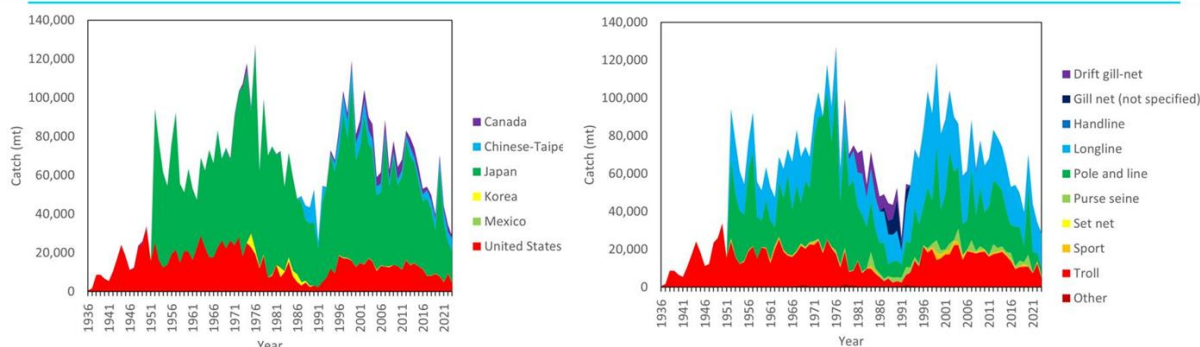


Figure 11



Pacific bluefin tuna landings

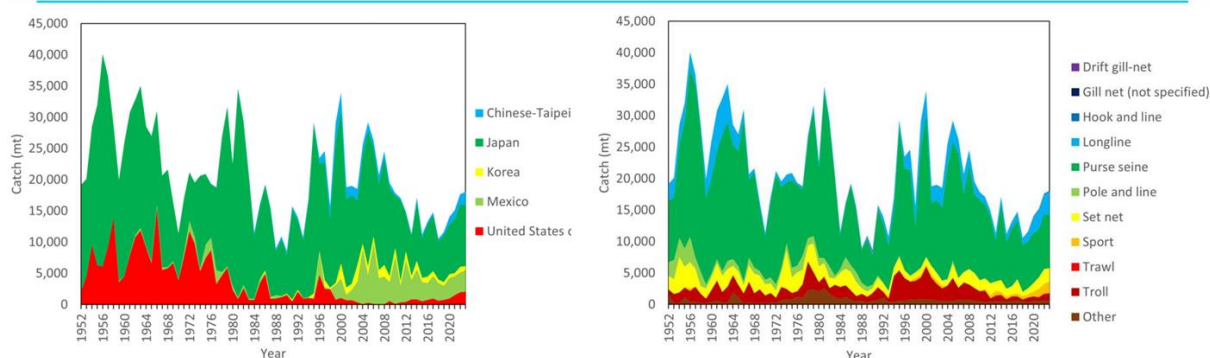


Figure 12



North Pacific swordfish landings

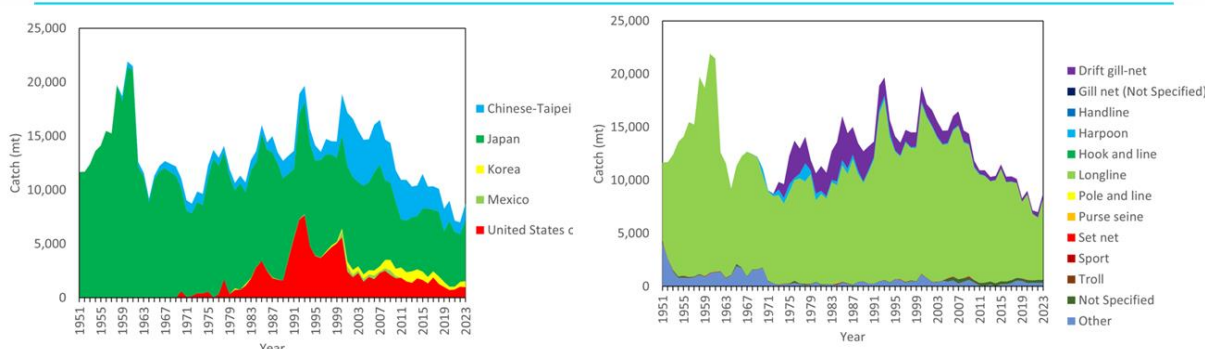


Figure 13

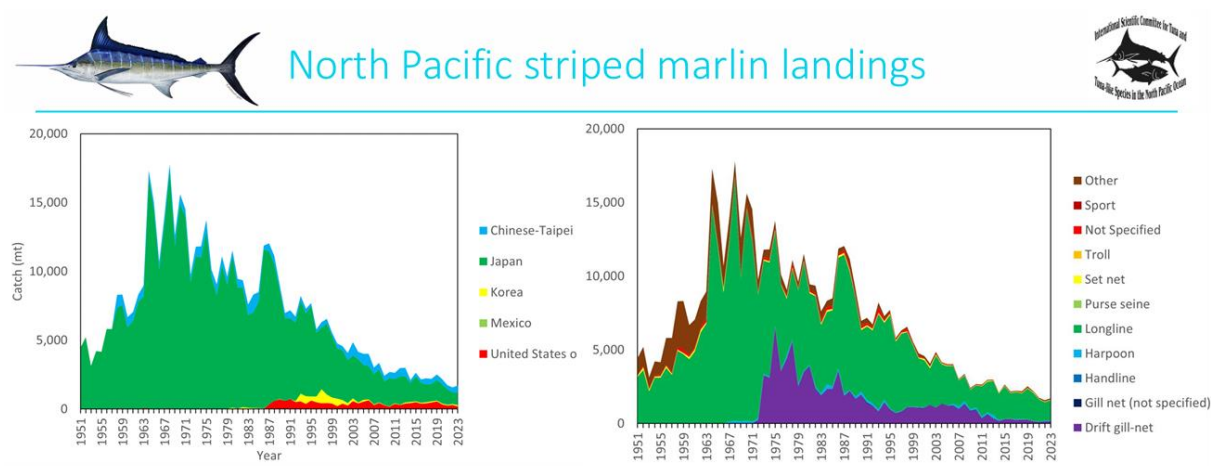


Figure 14: Pacific bluefin: status trend

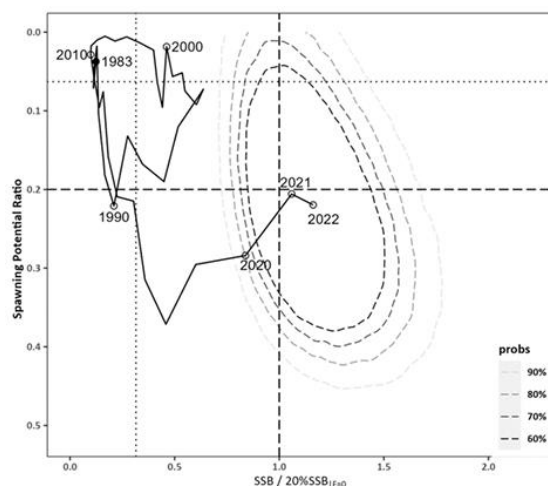
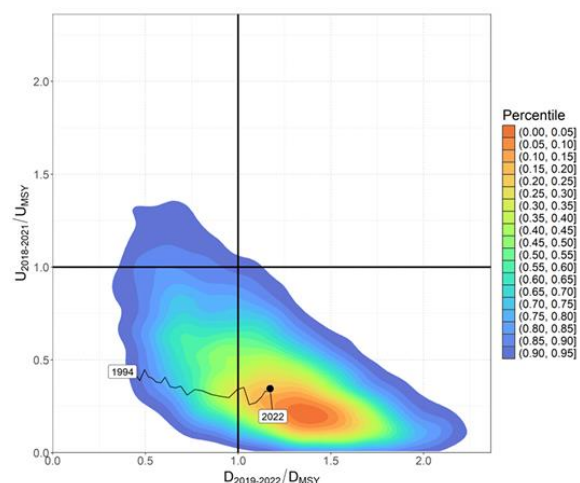


Figure 15: Shortfin Mako Shark in the North Pacific: status trend



123. The EU thanked the SSP and ISC for their updates and asked the ISC Chair about PBF, noting the absence of MSY-based metrics. They recalled that under the WCPF Convention, stocks must be maintained at MSY levels or more conservative targets, as done for tropical tunas. They specifically inquired whether the interim target of 20% of unfished biomass for Pacific bluefin is above or below the spawning biomass needed for MSY.

124. The ISC Chair for the PBFWG responded that MSY was not particularly informative because the assessment assumes a steepness value of 0.9999, indicating a minimal stock-recruitment connection. He stated that the stock was likely close to MSY.

6.1.3 Evaluation of CMM 2023-01 (Tropical Tuna)

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-34](#) (Evaluation of CMM 2023-01: Tropical Tuna Measure)


125. The SSP's Graham Pilling presented an analysis that considered how well CMM 2023-01 might meet its objectives for BET, YFT, and SKJ—based on the most recent stock assessments for BET and YFT (2023) and SKJ (2022). The evaluation followed a two-step method: estimating future fishing levels from each management option (purse seine effort, longline catch), then using 30-

year stochastic projections to gauge long-term stock outcomes against specified depletion ratio targets. The evaluation was based on data in [SC20-MI-IP-05](#).

126. BET: Under optimistic or “SKJ MP/Table 3” scenarios, projections indicate BET remains above 2012–2015 levels, staying within acceptable bounds. However, with a “fully utilised” scenario and long-term recruitment, there is a 30% chance the stock could drop below the Limit Reference Point (LRP).
127. SKJ: The “optimistic” scenario keeps SKJ above its TRP. Under the “SKJ MP” or “fully utilised” scenarios (with effort returning to ~2012 levels), the stock stabilizes around its TRP ($0.50 SB_{F=0}$), with a low 2% risk that fishing mortality exceeds F_{MSY} .
128. YFT: In all scenarios, the stock drops below its 2012–2015 reference level (settling around 0.34 – $0.41 SB_{F=0}$) and does not achieve the current objective. Median fishing mortality remains below F_{MSY} , but under “fully utilised,” there is a 2% risk of both dipping below the LRP and exceeding F_{MSY} .
129. Australia, on behalf of FFA CCMs, expressed concerns about increasing YFT catches in the far western equatorial area. They noted YFT would be indirectly managed via SKJ and BET measures, yet the stock’s objective remained difficult to meet. They highlighted the broader challenges of achieving compatible TRPs across all tropical tunas and urged further evaluation of practical feasibility. FFA CCMs supported the WPEA project’s work to improve estimates of Indonesian small-scale catches and suggested better accounting for Region 2 exploitation in future YFT assessments.
130. PNG, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, thanked the SSP for its analysis, finding BET and SKJ largely on track under current CMM provisions but acknowledging the need for more work on YFT—especially given increased historical small-scale catches. They saw no urgent need for major management changes, although some data in Appendices 2 and 3 of the CMM evaluation paper were considered outdated and could potentially be removed to reduce the SSP’s workload.
131. EU appreciated the SSP’s continued review of exemptions within the measure and suggested the “optimistic” scenario might align closely with real-world outcomes. They noted the “fully utilized” scenario focuses on high seas increases without exploring potential EEZ expansions and suggested that a scenario that includes the impacts of increased fishing/catches in EEZs on the CMM’s objectives could be informative. They agreed that YFT was the species least likely to meet the management objectives but noted that the arbitrary nature in which objectives were set for BET and YFT could mean that changing them now would alter the picture completely. Based on the risk-based results, the EU flagged BET as appearing at a higher long-term risk of overfishing than YFT, seeking confirmation from the SSP that this was the case.
132. The SSP’s Dr. Pilling responded that the “optimistic” scenario excluded returning purse-seine effort to 2012 levels and excluded certain potential catch increases under Table 3 (of the CMM) until confirmed. The “MP” scenario assumed those increases were taken if nominated. Moving to the “fully utilized” scenario added a 3% effort increase, largely by maximizing high-seas opportunities plus a small EEZ expansion.
133. Regarding the question of whether BET was potentially more likely to be subject to overfishing, the SSP confirmed that the recent recruitment and long-term recruitment scenarios showed greater percentage risks for BET compared to YFT. However, these risks were generally less than 50%, aligning with the Commission’s fishing mortality target of F_{MSY} , where 50% of the time the stock would be above and 50% below this target. The top two rows (see the Table below or the full presentation) indicated that the stock exploitation was below F_{MSY} . In the fully utilized scenario, the risk was greater than 50% under both fully utilized scenarios and the SKJ MP Table 3

scenario for long-term recruitment. The SSP emphasized that the recruitment pattern for the future was uncertain, which was why two different scenarios for future recruitment were run. If the recent recruitment and fully utilized scenario were not achieved, the outlook was more favourable.

BET outcomes



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

Scenario		Scalars relative to 2019-2021		Median $SB_{2051}/SB_{F=0}$	Median $SB_{2051}/SB_{F=0} \vee SB_{2012-15}/SB_{F=0}$	Median $F_{2047-2050}/F_{MSY}$	Median ratio $F_{2047-2050}/F_{MSY} \vee F_{2017-20}/F_{MSY}$	Risk (%) ¹	
Recruit	Fishing level	Purse seine	Longline					$SB_{2051} < LRP$	$F > F_{MSY}$
Recent	2019-21 avg	1.00	1.00	0.46	1.35	0.57	0.97	0%	26%
	Optimistic SKJ	1.19	1.00	0.43	1.27	0.62	1.05	0%	29%
	MP/Table 3	1.40	1.12	0.39	1.15	0.71	1.20	0%	35%
	Fully utilised	1.43	1.67	0.30	0.88	1.05	1.78	3%	52%
Long-term	2019-21 avg	1.00	1.00	0.43	1.26	0.79	1.34	0%	38%
	Optimistic SKJ	1.19	1.00	0.41	1.19	0.89	1.51	0%	44%
	MP/Table 3	1.40	1.12	0.36	1.06	1.08	1.83	1%	54%
	Fully utilised	1.43	1.67	0.27	0.79	1.57	2.66	30%	72%

CMM objective $SB_{2012-2015}/SB_{F=0} = 0.34$

134. Indonesia noted that none of the scenarios fully met YFT objectives, partly because the longline catch for YFT was simply scaled to BET catch. They suggested using actual YFT data (e.g., 2016–2018 levels) instead of scaling it according to BET longline catch because of the different strategies in fishing for each species.
135. The SSP responded that CMM 2023-01 only limits BET longline catch, forcing assumptions about YFT. They used one-to-one scaling for BET and YFT longline catch, acknowledging it is not fully accurate but necessary to complete the work within the available time. Despite none of the scenarios achieving the YFT objective, none pushed the stock below the LRP or above F_{MSY} .
136. Indonesia asked how YFT would be controlled through the SKJ Management Procedure (MP). The SSP explained that the SKJ MP sets overall purse seine effort, which affects YFT mortality. The longline catch for YFT is assumed to scale one-to-one with BET. Finally, in Region 2 (Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam), future fishing levels are set at 2016–2018 levels under the SKJ MP scenario.
137. Japan recommended using a long-term recruitment scenario for BET projections, noting that a 30-year timescale warranted long-term assumptions rather than short-term ones which assume continuation of high recruitment. They asked if the SSP could provide such an alternative scenario. Japan observed that SKJ and BET showed increasing trends in current projections, while YFT was forecast to decline, presumably due to the way future fishing conditions were modelled. Japan asked the SSP for clarification on why SKJ and BET appeared more optimistic compared to YFT.
138. In response to Japan's point on using long-term recruitment for BET projections, the SSP explained that their projections initially relied on recent recruitment estimates, then shifted to either recent or long-term patterns for BET and the general long-term patterns for YFT and SKJ. The different outcomes among these stocks stemmed from both the assumed future fishing levels and each stock's assessed productivity. Notably, the 2020 YFT assessment originally suggested a highly productive stock, but an independent review deemed this implausible. The revised assessment indicated lower productivity, leading to a downward trend in YFT under projected

fishing effort—though not below the LRP. This result highlighted how assumptions on future fishing and stock productivity interacted in shaping projection outcomes.

139. Korea observed that the Tropical Tuna Measure is largely effective but flagged YFT for extra focus, urging continued Region 2 data improvements under the WPEA. They asked how future scenarios meeting YFT's objective might affect BET catch limits, purse-seine measures (e.g., FAD closures), and the SKJ Management Procedure, noting these scenarios were not yet presented.
140. The SSP noted that Korea's question addressed the essence of the trade-offs implied by the current objectives for BET and YFT. The SSP explained that achieving YFT's objective (44% of unfished levels) required reducing fishing—either purse seine or longline effort (or both). Meeting this target would likely increase BET and SKJ above their own objectives. Past work showed purse seine effort, rather than FAD closures specifically, drives YFT mortality. Therefore, even if the FAD closure was removed, cutting overall effort could still meet YFT goals. Under the SSP's one-to-one longline catch assumption, lowering YFT catch also reduced BET catch. For SKJ, overall purse seine effort was key: if purse seine effort was lowered, SKJ would surpass its 50% $SB_{F=0}$ target.
141. The EU noted that model crashes occurred when fixed catch levels exceeded the stock's capacity, raising concerns that, in some cases, catch-based projections were not always realistic—especially under constant fishing effort when catches were declining. They queried the SSP on whether it was exploring a way to address this issue in the model.
142. The SSP identified two elements in their projection work. The first involved the YFT model in Region 2, where projections based on past catches (2016-2018) led to model crashes, particularly for less productive stocks. Consequently, the SSP shifted to effort-based projections, allowing adjustments based on stock status. If stock levels were low, the catch would be reduced instead of assuming a fixed catch level be continuously taken.
143. A similar challenge arose with SP-ALB, where a fixed catch level led to unsustainable stock levels under some model assumptions. This would be revisited later in the agenda during the Target Reference Point analyses. The SSP aimed to implement a variable total allowable catch-based management procedure, which would be more responsive than a fixed catch approach, as it considered underlying biomass. The proposed Management Procedure approach—incorporating a Harvest Control Rule that adjusts fishing levels based on stock assessments—would mitigate unrealistic outcomes, especially in mixed fisheries.

6.2 Report of the 20th Regular Session of the Northern Committee

144. The Northern Committee (NC) Chair, Masanori Miyahara, reported on NC20 (15–16 July 2024, Kushiro, Japan), which recommended two draft CMMs for PBF and a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between IATTC, WCPFC, and SPC on a Catch Documentation Scheme for PBF. NC20 reconvened electronically on 5 November 2024 to discuss IATTC outcomes on MCS measures for PBF and to consider the EU's MCS proposal for WCPFC21.
145. The NC Chair noted the rapid recovery of PBF. Having met both the first (2017) and second (2021) rebuilding targets, NC20 recommended CMM 2024-01 allowing a 10% increase in catch for fish <30 kg and 50% for ≥30 kg, aligning partially with IATTC's 50% rise for all sizes. Catch limits for larger PBF in New Zealand and Australia were set at 200t and 40t, respectively. NC20 also recommended a second PBF CMM on monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures (CMM 2024-02), matching IATTC practices:
 - a) Establishing an MCS regime for PBF fishing/farming.
 - b) Requiring CCMs to report MCS measures annually by 15 June.

- c) Reviewing these measures annually at TCC and NC.
 - d) Considering establishment of a CDS by the end of 2026, noting it may be challenging.
146. NC20 further recommended a draft LOA among SPC, IATTC, and WCPFC to use SPC's TUFMAN2 code in developing the PBF CDS.
147. The NC Workplan was also presented and included:
- a) North Pacific albacore: In 2025, review implementation of existing CMM, and further develop harvest strategy.
 - b) PBF: In 2025, review implementation of CMM, and develop a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) via MSE for adoption in 2026. A workshop on PBF HCR and MSE is set for February 2025 in Monterey, open to all.
 - c) North Pacific swordfish: In 2025, consider an appropriate amendment to the CMM.
148. The NC Chair added that he had been nominated to continue as Chair, but there had again been no nominations for NC Vice Chair. He advised that the next NC meeting was scheduled for 14–15 July 2025 in Japan, with all WCPFC members invited.
149. Korea stated that it had not significantly contributed to stock depletion but had shared the responsibility of rebuilding efforts. The collective actions resulted in the stock recovering faster than expected. As a coastal state, Korea recognized its rights and would continue its efforts to strike the delicate balance needed in managing shared resources. The Joint Working Group (JWG) increased catch limits based on scientific recommendations, affirming Korea's management measures. As a coastal state, Korea emphasized its commitment to balancing shared resource management. Additionally, the NC held two meetings in 2024 to align MCS measures for PBF with IATTC standards, and Korea welcomed the agreements reached at the JWG.
150. Papua New Guinea, on behalf of FFA CCMs, highlighted the progress made by the Northern Committee in rebuilding the PBF stock, achieving the second rebuilding target of 20% SSBF=0 in 2021 and estimating the stock at 23.2% SSBF=0 in 2024. They welcomed the United States' decision to fund the peer review of the 2024 PBF stock assessment through the voluntary contribution fund, enhancing the robustness of assessments and increasing confidence in management advice. FFA CCMs commended the conservative approach to the proposed catch increase, which projects continued growth of the PBF Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). However, they emphasized the necessity of increased monitoring to ensure compliance with catch limits and the quality of catch data used in assessments. FFA CCMs were also pleased to note that catches of this species were becoming more noticeable in areas outside of 20° North of the equator, indicating that as this fishery reached a healthier status, it could be accessed by SIDS fleets within their EEZs. While the second rebuilding target for this stock has been met, efforts should now focus on progressing the formal adoption of an LRP and TRP for that stock, as required under the harvest strategy approach of the Commission, to benefit all CCMs.
151. FFA CCMs requested clarification from NC members or the Chair regarding the absence of consultation with SIDS on the newly added CMM 2013-06 assessment for this proposal. They reminded CCMs that any proposal for the Commission's consideration should include an assessment of its implications for SIDS, developed through meaningful consultation with SIDS regardless of whether it was proposed by a delegation or a subsidiary body.
152. The NC Chair announced that the LRP and TRP will be developed next year through the management strategy evaluation process and proposed at the 2025 Commission meeting. In response to PNG's concern about the missing CMM 2013-06 assessment, the NC Chair noted that

the assessment was submitted at the Joint Working Group and NC20, and Japan had already submitted the assessment for uploading to the meeting page.

153. Indonesia thanked the presenter and congratulated the NC, its members, and the ISC for their efforts and the improved status of PBF. They questioned the North Pacific Albacore assessment, noting that their albacore catch had increased to over 400 tons annually. Indonesia asked whether these catches were classified as North Pacific or SP-ALB, highlighting that current assessments have minimal sub-structuring and may include catches from other regions. They inquired if any studies indicated that the albacore in their waters belonged to the North Pacific stock.
154. The NC Chair responded that no vessels were harvesting albacore in Indonesia's area, making it impossible to answer the question immediately. The NC Chair suggested discussing the matter further in the meeting's margins.
155. The EU commended the Northern Committee for their efforts in rebuilding the PBF stock. While acknowledging that some scientific assumptions remained optimistic, the EU noted clear positive trends and considered the recovery a success story for the Commission, recommending it be communicated through the Secretariat.
156. The EU thanked the NC for including their delegation in recent discussions and for considering their proposals in the submitted delegation paper. They appreciated incorporating their suggestions on aligning MCS provisions, viewing the adopted measures as a minimalistic yet positive first step. The EU hoped these measures would form the foundation for enhanced monitoring of this vital fishery over time.
157. The EU raised concerns about the new review clause involving both the TCC and the Northern Committee, fearing potential coordination challenges between the subsidiary bodies. Despite these reservations, they pledged flexibility and supported the proposed recommendation. Additionally, the EU endorsed the Northern Committee's proposal to strengthen collaboration between WCPFC, IATTC, and SPC to develop the CDS system.
158. Tokelau, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, supported strengthening MCS frameworks. In relation to paragraph 4 of the proposed PBF MCS measure, the FFA underlined that the TCC does not have to report to NC, and the TCC mandate was to provide recommendations to the Commission on compliance issues as stated in Article 14 of the Convention. It was important to keep the mandates of each subsidiary body aligned with the Convention Text. As such, the TCC was the body assigned to assess compliance with any WCPFC CMM and report to the Commission. FFA CCMs, therefore, suggested amendments to paragraph 4 of the proposed text as follows:

4. The Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) ~~and the Northern Committee (NC)~~ shall review the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures reported by CCMs in accordance with this CMM by 2026. Based upon the results of such reviews, the TCC and NC shall provide recommendations to the Commission including on possible amendments to this CMM and CMM 2024-xx for Pacific Bluefin Tuna taking into account any considerations ~~from the TCC and those from the Joint IATTC-WCPFC-NC Working Group.~~
159. China was surprised by PBF migrating from the North Pacific to the EEZs of New Zealand and Australia. They urged the Northern Committee to task the ISC with researching these migratory patterns, potentially using data from the EPO or WCPO. While supporting the increased bycatch limits for Australia and New Zealand, China maintained that PBF remains a Northern stock as per WCPFC Rules of Procedure (Annex 1, paragraph 5) and doubted that consensus to change this status would be achieved.

160. China raised a second issue concerning North Pacific albacore, highlighting that some Chinese vessels operate under PNG licenses in areas of the PNG EEZ north of the equator. These licenses allowed more vessels than China's obligations permit (10 vessels), creating a conflict between PNG's licensing and China's vessel limits. China requested that the Northern Committee address this issue in future discussions.
161. The NC Chair apologized for not addressing the albacore issue this year but confirmed it is on the agenda for next year's review of the North Pacific albacore CMM.
162. The Solomon Islands, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, expressed concerns about NC20's recommendations to increase PBF catches and increase MCS measures. They questioned the rationale and process behind the large catch increases, specifically Korea's proposed 150% increase for PBF >30kg. They sought clarification on how these levels were determined and how they align with CMM 2023-02, paragraph 6.
163. Palau, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, noted that the PBF stock had been optimistically assessed to exceed limits set for other major stocks under the Commission's management. They emphasized that large catch increases should be paired with enhanced monitoring, proposing proportional increases in observer coverage (either human observers or electronic monitoring) for PBF fleets, similar to the Tropical Tuna Measure. Palau suggested implementing penalties for CCMs that fail to meet observer coverage requirements and endorsed the establishment of a CDS for PBF by 2026, as outlined in CMM 2023-02.
164. Japan noted the comments from FFA and PNA members regarding the CMM 2013-06 assessment. Japan had submitted the assessment when they submitted the proposal to the joint working group and the Northern Committee meeting and, after considering advice from FFA members, revised the assessment and submitted it to the Commission as *delegation paper 33_Rev02* several days before this meeting.
165. Japan also addressed Palau's comments on MCS measures, explaining that nearly all PBF fishing occurs within their EEZ and territorial waters, unlike tropical tuna fisheries. To ensure compliance, Japan had increased landing inspections, expanded inspection personnel, and implemented a traceability system to monitor tuna from catch to distribution, as most vessels operate day trips.
166. Japan confirmed support for the MCS measures, aligning them with IATTC standards based on advice from the EU and other members. They planned to further enhance their MCS efforts through ongoing consultations at the JWG meetings, committing to gradual improvements despite these fisheries being in-zone.
167. Japan stated that ISC's projections showed the PBF stock biomass will continue to grow even after the proposed catch limit increases. They expected the spawning biomass to exceed 40% of unfished levels within 10 to 20 years. Japan highlighted that the stock had recovered to the second rebuilding target 13 years earlier than originally planned and did not consider the ISC's projections overly optimistic.
168. Japan acknowledged FFA members' concerns about the TCC's review of PBF MCS measures. They expressed willingness to discuss and address these concerns with FFA members throughout the week to seek resolutions.
169. Korea responded to the questions regarding the increase in their PBF catch limit. They noted that some FFA members had participated in the NC as observers, and Korea had provided a presentation outlining the reality they were facing. In the previous CMM, the baseline was 2002-2004, when Korea had near zero catch of adult fish, as only small PBF were caught as bycatch

during that period. The increase for Korea reflected the reality of set-net fisheries catching PBF as bycatch in their territorial waters. These fisheries were subsistence, not large commercial fisheries, and Korea needed to accommodate small-scale fisheries within their territorial waters.

170. Korea stated that although it could technically manage its territorial waters independently, it chose to participate in regional PBF management out of cooperation and commitment. Regarding the Regional Observer Program (ROP) for improving MCS, Korea agreed with Japan that ROP should be applied to the high seas and/or multiple EEZs. However, Korea noted that its PBF fisheries are confined to its own EEZ and territorial waters, and this should be considered.
171. Regarding MCS, the Northern Committee and the IATTC were working together to develop various MCS measures, including the CDS, which would be a very effective MCS measure to monitor the legality of the fisheries. Korea hoped this explanation clarified the increase for Korea and believed that members who participated in the NC20 meeting would understand the difficulties Korea faced in managing small-scale subsistence fishing of PBF in its territorial waters.
172. The Federated States of Micronesia, for PNA and Tokelau CCMs, noted the recommendation for increased MCS measures and supported these measures being applied in parallel to increased catch limits. The attachment of CMM 2023-02 contained elements of a draft CMM on a catch documentation scheme for PBF which was also articulated in the NC20 recommendations. They looked forward to a draft CMM for consideration at WCPFC23.
173. The NC20 Summary Report, including its recommendations for two draft CMMs and the draft LOA, was adopted under Agenda Item 9.

Decisions

174. The Commission adopted CMM-2024-01 for Pacific Bluefin Tuna ([Attachment 2](#)).
175. The Commission adopted CMM-2024-02 for the Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna ([Attachment 3](#)).
176. The Commission endorsed the draft letter of agreement between the IATTC/WCPFC and SPC for the use of TUFMAN2 code in developing the CDS system ([Attachment 4](#)).
177. The Commission adopted the reports and the recommendations of NC20 (**WCPFC21-2024-NC20**, **WCPFC21-2024-NC20-2** and **WCPFC21-2024-NC20-3**).

Task

178. The Commission requested the Northern Committee to task the ISC to undertake research into migratory patterns of PBF.

6.3 Report of the 20th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-09_Rev01](#) (SC recommendations not covered under other agenda items)

179. The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Emily Crigler, presented the recommendations of the 20th Session of the Scientific Committee that required the attention of WCPFC21 but were not considered under other WCPFC21 agenda items.
180. SC20 met for seven days and covered four theme sessions as follows:
 - a) Data and Statistics Theme - Convenor: Valerie Post (USA)
 - b) Stock Assessment Theme - Convenors: Hidetada Kiyofuji (Japan), Berry Muller (RMI), Michelle Sculley (USA)

- c) Management Issues Theme - Convenor: Emily Crigler (USA)
- d) Ecosystem and Bycatch Theme - Convenors: Yonat Swimmer (USA), Leyla Knittweis (NZ)

181. The SC Chair thanked all SC theme conveners for their contributions, noting she covered the management issues theme this year and a successor is needed next year. She stated a complete list of SC outcomes and recommendations is available in the SC20 Outcomes Document and SC20 Summary Report. This presentation would focus only on outcomes not addressed by other agenda items, as detailed in [WCPFC21-2024-09 Rev01](#). Most SC recommendations were integrated into other agenda items that covered harvest strategies, climate change, cooperation with other organizations, and international developments, while stock assessment outcomes were already discussed in the stock status discussion.

182. The SC Chair briefly introduced the SC20 recommendations that were not considered under other WCPFC21 agenda items.

183. **SC20 recommended the Commission consider possible inclusion of additional longline operational data fields** ([SC20-ST-WP-08](#), Table ST 01) in the “[Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission](#) (SciData)” as voluntary reporting items. These fields were: (1) Target species; (2) Number of lightsticks; (3) Bait type; (4) Mainline length; (5) Length of branchline; (6) Length of float line; (7) Vessel speed; and (8) Speed.

184. **SC20 recommended the Commission consider the addition of a new activity code** for any day when a “transshipment at sea occurs” within the SciData ([SC20-ST-WP-08](#)).

185. WCPFC20 had tasked SC20 to review the SciData requirements to capture turtle interactions under [CMM 2018-04](#), paragraphs 5.c. and 7.e. Some CCMs have different interpretations of the requirements, specifically as to whether the paragraphs require reporting through submission of operational level data or in a summary form. **SC20 suggested the Commission consider clarifying the requirements of these paragraphs** to resolve any ambiguity.

186. SC20 reviewed the following new stock assessments in 2024:

- South Pacific albacore (SSP)
- WCPO silky shark (SSP)
- Southwest Pacific striped marlin (SSP)
- Pacific bluefin tuna (ISC)
- North Pacific shortfin Mako shark (ISC)

187. Advice from SC20 relating to stock status from 2024 assessments was considered in the presentation under Agenda Item 6.1 (Status of Stocks), but the following issues arising from SC20 stock assessments were not considered elsewhere on the agenda:

- a) SC20 recommended that WCPFC21 request a tractable set of projections for the next Southwest Pacific MLS assessment, including but not limited to the four scenarios proposed below:
 - [Status quo scenario](#): Projection based on recent catch levels;
 - [Recovery scenario 1](#): Projection using catch levels that result in a median depletion of 20% by 2034;
 - [Recovery scenario 2](#): Projection using catch levels that result in a median depletion of 30% by 2034; and

- Non-retention/live release scenario: Projection using catch levels that reflect the likely outcomes under a management measure requiring the release of live animals or non-retention of all animals.
- b) From the peer review recommendations for revision of the CMM for NP MLS, SC20 noted the following advice from ISC24 for the attention of WCPFC21:
- ISC24 maintained the conservation advice of Western and Central North Pacific Ocean (WCNPO) MLS from 2023.
 - ISC24 provided the results of rebuilding projections, which evaluated harvesting scenarios to achieve the WCNPO MLS interim rebuilding target ($20\%SSB_{F=0}$ with more than 60% probability).
- c) SC20 noted the recommendations of the peer review of the WCNPO MLS stock assessment ([SC20-SA-WP-12](#)) and **recommended that these be incorporated into the future stock assessment scheduled for 2027. SC20 recommended the Commission take the above information into account when considering a possible revision of the CMM for North Pacific MLS.**
- d) SC20 thanked the consultants for their work on Project 113b and agreed on the need for a standardized approach to reporting stock status and management advice from stock assessments for the work of the Commission and recommended it as a guideline. **SC20 recommended the Commission review the template (Attachment 1, WCPFC21-2024-09_Rev01) and advise, if necessary.**
188. SC20 recommended that the Secretariat work with SC Theme Convenors and the SC Chair to develop a process to submit all papers and project proposals through the WCPFC website, to further streamline the submission process and allow for greater organization and tracking of submissions, for implementation in advance of SC21.
189. The Solomon Islands, on behalf of FFA CCMs, supported the addition of longline operational data fields and endorsed SC20's recommendation to include them in SciData on a voluntary basis. They acknowledged concerns from other CCMs about data collection and encouraged finding solutions. Regarding turtle interactions under CMM 2018-04, FFA CCMs endorsed TCC20's proposal for the SSP to prepare a paper for SC21 on sea turtle data reporting requirements for both longline and purse seine vessels to be included in the annual Scientific Data submissions. On the inclusion of a new SciData field to reflect 'transshipment occurring at sea', FFA CCMs recognized implementation challenges but maintained support for the data's necessity to clarify transshipment events. They looked forward to further discussions with concerned CCMs at SC21 to address these issues.
190. The USA highlighted ongoing inconsistencies between Sea Turtle CMM 2018-04 and the rules for operational catch and effort data and Scientific Data submissions. They pointed out differing interpretations of paragraphs 5c and 7e regarding whether reporting should be operational data or summary form. The USA proposed that the Commission review and revise CMM 2018-04 to clarify reporting requirements. They also noted that sea turtle conservation and management had not been addressed at the Commission level since the measure's adoption in 2018 and that commitments to include mitigation measures for deep-set longline fisheries starting in 2021 had not been fulfilled. The USA recommended that the Commission undertake this review within the next few years. SC20 suggested a rotating agenda for the Ecosystem and Bycatch theme, prioritizing cetaceans and elasmobranchs in SC21 and sea turtles and seabirds in SC22. The USA further proposed that the Commission recommend reviewing and revising CMM 2018-04 in 2026 for consideration by SC22, TCC22, and WCPFC23.

191. The USA thanked the Commission for funding the stock status reporting template (Project 113b) and appreciated the development work. They requested the inclusion of MSY-based reference points in the template unless the modelling approach (e.g., data-limited assessments or risk analyses) made it impossible.
192. Palau, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, supported the FFA statement and opposed the Scientific Committee's suggestion to exclude non-standardized CPUE data from the Fishery Indicators Report. They emphasized that up-to-date, unstandardized CPUE data is crucial for managers to understand fleet operations and supported retaining this data in the reports.
193. Korea thanked the SC Chair and appreciated the detailed recommendations and stock assessments, noting positive progress. However, they raised concerns about significant data gaps and uncertainties in stock assessments for silky sharks and MLS, and the unresolved stock assessment issues for Southwest Pacific MLS and North Pacific shortfin mako sharks. Korea emphasized the need for improved data quality and more robust modelling approaches.
194. Korea supported the implementation of additional longline data fields and a new transshipment activity code on a voluntary basis to allow members to comply without mandating. They looked forward to further discussions to enhance data collection and address implementation challenges before considering mandatory adoption.
195. China thanked the SC Chair for the presentation and commented on the sea turtle reporting obligation, preferring to provide detailed data through the summary report to the Commission. China was already including detailed operational information in their reports, such as date of the incidental catch, location, latitude, longitude, type of gear, total species identification, size, weight at capture, release condition, bait type, and other relevant information, resembling operational data reporting.
196. The EU expressed confusion about sea turtle reporting obligations, citing circular discussions between the Commission and the SC. They were unsure what was to be adopted and whether there would be a specific way to provide clear direction from the Commission to the SC and TCC. Pending this clarification, they would refrain from explaining their preference for reporting for purse seine or longline fisheries. They suggested that any clarifying guidance for reporting sea turtle interactions to the SC and TCC should also be extended to cetaceans, as there was a similar need to clarify these reporting requirements.
197. On another topic, regarding the projections of stock status for the Southwest MLS, the EU noted that there were no reference points adopted for the species at that time. They proposed adding another scenario with catch levels that would result in MSY by 2034, as this was the default management objective and target reference point defined by the Convention.
198. Regarding the stock status template, the EU thanked those involved in the work and found it useful for providing consistency in stock status and management advice. However, they sought clarification on the definition of conservation status, noting an example in the document stating that if the stock biomass were below a TRP, the stock would be considered overfished, which was inconsistent with their understanding of the concept of "overfished." From their perspective, the overfishing concept was based on F_{MSY} , while the overfished status was related to 20% of the unfished spawning biomass and SB_{MSY} . They suggested having both concepts and proposed a Table discussing conservation status and another line discussing management status or the trajectory of the stock in relation to any defined target reference point.
199. Finally, the EU questioned the likelihood probability Table at the end of the document, unsure if it was an example or a proposal for the SC to adopt. They cited an earlier example where a stock below 50% F_{MSY} was considered overfished, which was missing from the Table. They requested

clarification on whether assessments would change or were still under debate, emphasizing the need for clear guidance before adopting the Table.

200. The SSP thanked the EU for their questions and suggested discussing the turtle data separately. For the MLS additional scenario, the SSP noted it was feasible but would require time due to different gear combinations and selectivity influencing the actual value of MSY to be achieved. Regarding the probability table framework, the SSP had no strong opinions but suggested returning it to the SC next year for feedback.
201. Japan thanked the SC Chair for the presentation, noting it was a good summary. They could not support the new transshipment activity code as the data could be collected by other means, and they did not want to burden fishermen with extra work. Regarding sea turtles, Japan understood that the SC requested the SSP to prepare a document next year on using collected data for scientific analysis or management and suggested discussing it then.
202. The WCPFC Chair requested interested members to meet during the morning break to discuss clarifications on sea turtle reporting requirements and questions about the final part of the Stock Status Reporting Template, and to report back to the plenary with proposed decision text.

Decisions

203. The Commission agreed to include additional longline operational data fields in Table ST-01, SC20 Summary Report, in the “Scientific Data to be Provided by the Commission (SciData)” as voluntary reporting items ([Attachment 5](#)).
204. The Commission agreed to review and revise CMM 2018-04 (Sea Turtles) in 2026, to ensure that the reporting requirements are clearly defined and to consider expanding the scope of the measure to include mitigation measures for deep-set longline fisheries, for consideration by SC22, TCC22 and WCPFC23.
205. The Commission adopted the report and recommendations of SC20 (WCPFC21-2024-SC20), with the exception of the SC20 suggestion in paragraph 210 of the Summary Report that non-standardized CPUE data not be presented in the Fishery Indicators Report.
206. The Commission reviewed the template relating to Project 113b: “Develop Stock Status and Management Advice Template for Consistent Reporting of Stock Assessment Outcomes, Uncertainties and Risk” in Attachment 2 of the SC20 Summary Report, and advised that the status relative to MSY-based reference points be included within the standardized template if MSY-based reference points are able to be calculated given the modelling approach, and are considered to be useful (e.g., some data-limited assessment or risk-analysis type approaches), that the reference for overfished be corrected to LRP ($20\%SB_{F=0}$) instead of target, and that the reference for overfishing be revised to F_{MSY} . The Commission endorsed the template as a guideline for providing stock status and management advice.

Tasks

207. The Commission requested that the SSP prepare for SC21 a tractable set of projections from the next South Pacific MLS stock assessment that represent the following scenarios:
- a) Status quo scenario: Projection based on recent catch levels;
 - b) Recovery scenario 1: Projection using catch levels that result to a median depletion of 20% by 2034;

- c) Recovery scenario 2: Projection using catch levels that result to a median depletion of 30% by 2034;
- d) Recovery scenario 3: Projection using catch levels that result in a median depletion equal to SB_{MSY} by 2034; and
- e) Non-retention/live release scenario: Projection using catch levels that reflect the likely outcomes under a management measure requiring release of live animals or on-retention of all animals

208. The Commission tasked the Secretariat, in consultation with SC Chair and theme convenors, to develop the process to submit all papers and project proposals through the WCPFC website to further streamline the submission process and allow for greater organization and tracking of submissions, for implementation in advance of SC21.

6.4 Report of the 20th Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee

Papers: [WCPFC21-2024-WP11](#) (Reference Paper for Recommendations from TCC20), [11a](#) (WCPFC IUU Vessel List), [11b](#) (Updates to VMS SOPs), [11c](#) (Update of TCC workplan), [11d](#) (Draft Audit Points), [11e](#) (Synopsis of pCMR updates), and [11f](#) (Expiry date for Charter Notification Scheme CMM))

209. Mat Kertesz, Chair of the WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC), presented the TCC20 recommendations not covered in other WCPFC21 agenda items. He introduced seven working papers, including the reference paper for TCC20 recommendations, the IUU Vessel List for 2025, updates to VMS SOPs, the TCC Workplan 2025-2027, draft audit points, synopsis of pCMR updates, and a review of the expiry of CMM 2021-04 on Charter Notifications.

210. The TCC Chair stated that the TCC's role in implementing the Commission's compliance scheme was well established and understood by the Commission. As mentioned by the Commission Chair in her opening remarks, this year marked the 14th year of implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS). The TCC had two other key tasks in line with the Convention: overseeing the implementation of the Commission's monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement programs, and providing the Commission with technical advice and information on the Commission's management measures.

211. The Commission, the TCC, and the Secretariat had collectively invested significant time and effort over the years into reframing, improving, and streamlining the CMS. This included the classification of obligations, the development of a risk-based assessment framework, and the development and implementation of audit points. Additionally, they had worked on developing new and more user-friendly online interfaces and reducing duplicative reporting. The extensive efforts of CCMs to improve their implementation of and compliance with obligations resulted in a much shorter and more streamlined compliance review process at TCC20, completed in just one day. This achievement provided significantly more time in the TCC agenda for progressing discussions on key technical and policy issues that were high priorities for the Commission.

212. Prior to TCC20, preparatory meetings were held by the ER and EM Working Group and the Transshipment Intersessional Working Group. These, along with the Labour Standards Working Group, continued their work during TCC20, making significant progress to be discussed in later agenda items.

213. TCC20 aimed to enhance independent compliance verification and the Secretariat's analytical capabilities, providing useful information and capacity-building for CCMs. TCC20 made

recommendations on diverse issues such as climate change, shark measures, port state measures, high seas inspections, seabirds and cetaceans, scientific data gaps, and the SKJ management procedure monitoring strategy.

214. The TCC Chair noted that improving the CMS was ongoing. TCC20 did not implement the new sampling methodology for the compliance case file imbalance, but the TCC Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretariat would develop it for TCC21. Work on adopting outstanding audit points would continue under the TCC Vice Chair.
215. As per usual practice, a CMR SWG convened during WCPFC21 to consider and finalize the Compliance Monitoring Report for adoption by the Commission. Thanks to the proactive efforts of both the Secretariat and CCMs, there were relatively few outstanding compliance issues to address. He looked forward to a positive session that evening.
216. The TCC Chair proceeded to present TCC recommendations not covered by other agenda items.
217. The TCC reviewed work on implementing the compliance monitoring scheme, noting the Secretariat's efforts to streamline the review of implementation obligations by holding responses on file and only reviewing them when there are substantive changes. TCC20 supported continuing this streamlining to track and close implementation gaps, as trialed this year (*TCC20 Outcomes, para 17*).
218. TCC20 recommended a list of 52 obligations for review in the CMS in 2025, noting that some of these were pending the finalization of audit points (*TCC20 Outcomes, para 19, Annex 1*).
219. TCC20 noted planned work to improve Secretariat support for annual reporting and future reviews of MLS CMMs, as reflected in the draft TCC workplan to be discussed later. (*TCC20 Outcomes, paras 22, 29, 71, 72*).
220. There were no comments from CCMs on any of the issues raised by the TCC Chair to this point.
221. The next recommendations concerned the online compliance case file system (CCFS). Participants recognized its importance and interaction with the compliance monitoring scheme. TCC20 undertook useful discussions on ongoing work to improve the system.
222. The first recommendation related to a sampling methodology stemming from the revised CMS CMM in 2023 to address case imbalances in the CCFS across fisheries. TCC20 did not implement this methodology but the Secretariat, TCC Chair, and Vice Chair plan to develop it for implementation at TCC21. (*TCC20 Outcomes, paras 12 & 13*).
223. The TCC20 also considered efforts to close out old cases in the compliance case file system, noting that this had been a long-standing issue (*TCC20 Outcomes, para 15*).
224. Additionally, TCC20 noted the intersection of the online compliance case file system work with the ROP-IWG work and recommended two tasks to the ROP-IWG for consideration in the year ahead: i) to streamline the inclusion of ROP observer data in the CCFS, and ii) to prioritise the review of ROP Minimum standard data fields, review of pre-notification process and to develop a standardized process for use of ROP data in the CCFS (*TCC20 Outcomes, paras 16 & 50; refer also ROP-IWG update in WP16*).
225. There were no comments from WCPFC21 on issues related to the CCFS.
226. TCC20 had an extensive discussion on the implementation of key aspects of the WCPFC Consolidated Sharks Measure, particularly the review of alternative measures to the shark finning

prohibition. This issue had been a long-standing concern for the Commission and specifically arose through the Compliance Monitoring Review process last year. TCC20 was tasked with reviewing the implementation of the alternative measures to the shark finning provision.

227. Information papers related to the alternative measures to the shark finning were presented to TCC20 and CCMs were requested to provide information to WCPFC21 to further inform discussions, resulting in two delegation papers submitted to WCPFC21. This led to an extensive discussion, with certain CCMs indicating their intention to bring proposals forward. Further consideration of proposals on the consolidated sharks measure would be occurring later in the WCPFC21 meeting.
228. TCC20 highlighted challenges in implementing and verifying alternative measures to finning, especially regarding compliance and enforcement programs on high seas. Many CCMs were concerned that provisions in paragraphs 8 and 9 of CMM 2022-04 would expire at year-end. TCC20 **recommended that the Commission at WCPFC21 adopt an approach to ensure these CMM provisions remain effective** ([WCPFC21-2024-DP05](#) refers).
229. TCC20 recommended that WCPFC21 note that, due to the lack of sufficient information, it has not been able to fully assess the effectiveness of alternative measures in paragraph 9 and reiterated the direction from the Commission at WCPFC20 and **encouraged those CCMs that utilise alternative measures to submit detailed information to WCPFC21 in accordance with paragraph 11 on the implementation of alternative measures and how compliance has been monitored**, to support the Commission's review of CMM 2022-04 ([WCPFC21-2024-DP16](#) refers).
230. The TCC Chair moved on to recommendations related to WCPFC's monitoring programs. On issues related to the observer data minimum data fields, the TCC noted that some data fields were redundant and might be better addressed through other existing processes such as vessel registration or the RFV, and this needed to be considered in the future work of the ROP-IWG.
231. There were also substantial discussions of the ER and EM Working Group at TCC20, led by Shelton Harley (New Zealand). This topic would be considered under a later agenda item, but the **TCC20 reiterated the importance of agreeing to interim EM standards at WCPFC21, so that EM can be used by certain CCMs to meet obligations under CMM 2023-01**. TCC20 also endorsed the high-level proposed workplan for the ER&EM IWG (TCC20 Outcomes, Annex 2)
232. In its recommendations related to WCPFC's Monitoring Programme, TCC20 recognized strong support from CCMs to **review CMM 2017-02 on Port State Minimum Standards**. It welcomed the initiative of Fiji to lead intersessional work prior to WCPFC21 and to report to WCPFC21 on further work required, including with respect to the potential for CNMs to access MCS data to support their implementation of Port State Measures.
233. TCC20 requested Australia, and interested CCMs, to bring a paper to WCPFC21 on an intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guidelines and best practices for the use of tools in conducting HSBI, and to update the Standardised Multi-language Questionnaire, and report to TCC21.
234. China thanked the TCC Chair for excellent leadership, noting they attended the TCC20 meeting online. They raised concerns about including "best practice" in the title of "guidelines and best practices" in conducting HSBI. During Day 5 of TCC20, discussions nearly reached consensus, but on Day 6, Canada proposed adding "best practice," and China could not respond due to a technical issue.
235. China stated that labelling high seas boarding inspections as "best practice" could confuse fishermen, as these inspections are not generally viewed as such. They proposed renaming the

guidelines to "voluntary minimum standards" and removing "best practice" to facilitate agreement during inter-sessional discussions. China had already communicated this suggestion to Australia.

236. The TCC Chair thanked China for their participation, noting their absence in Pohnpei for TCC20 but expressing appreciation for their virtual engagement. The TCC Chair agreed with China that the terminology issue related to Australia's proposal and suggested addressing it during later discussions, then gave the floor to Australia.
237. Australia thanked the TCC Chair and China for the suggestion, agreed with removing "best practice," and planned to propose this change in their delegation paper 10. They viewed it as a practical solution to aid the working group and intended to address it when appropriate.
238. The TCC Chair continued through the list of TCC20 recommendations and reported that **TCC20 also recommended that the Commission renew CMM 2021-04 – the Charter Notification Scheme** – recognising that paragraph 8 of the current CMM sets an expiry date of 28 February 2025.
239. Korea recalled that TCC20 had agreed to an extension but preferred a 3-year duration to accommodate upcoming developments. They expressed flexibility to extend to 5 years if other members supported it.
240. Nauru, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, stated that FFA Members had reviewed the proposed amendments, particularly the extended expiry period, and agreed to extend the charter notification scheme until **2028**.
241. The TCC Chair resumed the list of TCC20 recommendations and noted the support for two SC20 recommendations (*TCC20 Outcomes, paras 64 & 65*) as follows:
 - a) The addition of a Table into the SciData decision related to voluntary reporting requirements.
 - b) The request that the SSP prepare a paper on possible sea turtle reporting requirements for vessels to record during fishing operations for inclusion in the SciData decision.
242. Working paper WCPFC21-2024-11 contained a list of additional Secretariat tasks proposed by TCC20 as follows:
 - a) Request for future Annual Reports to include overview of engagement with other RFMOs (*TCC20 Outcomes, paras 4, 18, 21, 62 & 75*).
 - b) Enhancements to CMM page to support CCM annual reporting and provide update to TCC21.
 - c) Request that an analysis of obligations that have been assessed over time including their compliance ratings is provided prior to TCC each year.
 - d) Progress data exchange arrangements with RFMOs (IATTC, IOTC, CCSBT, SPRFMO and NPFC), noting need for reciprocity, and provide update to TCC21 (*Secretariat update WP24*).
 - e) Support Secretariat planned work on WCPFC's Information and Network Security Governance Framework (*Secretariat update FAC18 -09*).
243. The TCC Chair noted that this was a significant list of tasks assigned to the hardworking Secretariat, but which would make the TCC and the Commission's work more effective. These tasks were already reflected in the draft TCC workplan. With no comments raised, the Chair

announced that TCC21 will be held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 24–30 September 2025, and that an in-person meeting of the ROP-IWG could be scheduled to be held adjacent to TCC21.

244. TCC20 also addressed the election of officers, nominating Mr. Lucas Tarapik (PNG) as Chair of the ROP-IWG and expressing appreciation to the outgoing ROP-IWG Chair. TCC20 noted that elections for the TCC Chair and Vice Chair will be discussed later in the WCPFC21 meeting.
245. The EU thanked the TCC Chair for outlining the recommendations of TCC20 and recalled a recommendation at TCC20 to hold a meeting of the FAD Management Options Working Group (FADMO-IWG) back-to-back with TCC21, seeking clarification from the TCC Chair.
246. The TCC Chair confirmed that there was indeed a discussion about holding an in-person FADMO-IWG meeting in 2025 and he referred to an update that would be coming from the Chair of the FADMO-IWG later in the meeting.
247. The Chair of the FADMO-IWG, Jamel James, confirmed that TCC20 did adopt a recommendation to convene an in-person meeting of the FADMO-IWG next year around TCC21, and this is included in the latest draft of the FADMO-IWG workplan.
248. The TCC Chair then reported on TCC20's consideration of the WCPFC IUU Vessel List. TCC20 recommended to WCPFC21 that the four fishing vessels **NEPTUNE**, **FU LIEN No.1**, **YU FONG 168** and **KUDA LAUT 03** on the [WCPFC IUU Vessel List in 2024](#) remain on that list for 2025.
249. Samoa, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, supported TCC20's recommendation to not include LU RONG YUAN YU 139 on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List following penalties by China and case settlements satisfactory to Australia (the nominating CCM). However, they advocated keeping NEPTUNE, FU LIEN No.1, YU FONG 168, and KUDA LAUT 03 on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List through 2025.
250. Korea thanked the TCC for the deliberations and supported the recommendation to maintain the 2024 WCPFC IUU List, which includes the vessels NEPTUNE, FU LIEN No.1, YU FONG 168, and KUDA LAUT 03. Korea expressed concern that, except for the KUDA LAUT 03, these vessels had been on the list for over 10 years without significant progress in holding the flag States, operators, or beneficial owners accountable. The Korean Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) had attempted to track the vessels using AIS but failed, as these vessels were completely off the grid. Two of the vessels were 40 to 50 years old, raising the possibility that they might have been retired or scrapped. Korea suggested that information-sharing alone might not be sufficient and proposed cooperating with organizations with their own monitoring assets, such as Interpol, the IMCS Network, and Global Fishing Watch. Korea hoped the Commission would continue to identify ways to address this issue. Regarding the KUDA LAUT 03, Korea noted that the Philippines had not sought to remove the vessel from the list at this stage and looked forward to further updates from the Philippines.
251. The Philippines provided an update on the status of the KUDA LAUT 03, which is currently listed on the 2024 WCPFC IUU List and recommended for inclusion on the 2025 WCPFC IUU Vessel List following TCC20's recommendation. As noted in their communication to CCMs in September last year, the motion for reconsideration filed by the company was denied in July 2024, reaffirming the penalties imposed on both the vessel and its owner. In response, the company filed an appeal memorandum with the Department of Agriculture in October 2024. The Philippines informed that FV KUDA LAUT 03 is currently docked at the port in General Santos City and has been prohibited from leaving that port. Additionally, the vessel's license has been revoked as part of the Philippines' robust enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.

252. While the appeal process is ongoing and the resolution of the case, along with a full settlement of the penalties, is pending, the Philippines did not object to the recommendation of TCC20 to retain FV KUDA LAUT 03 on the 2025 WCPFC IUU Vessel List. The Philippines reaffirmed its commitment to the WCPFC's conservation and management measures and its collective mission of combating IUU fishing. They emphasized their resolute efforts to enforce compliance and ensure accountability within their jurisdiction, reinforcing their dedication to sustainable fisheries management.
253. New Zealand, as the nominating CCM for the Philippines-flagged vessel on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, thanked the Philippines for continuing to keep WCPFC apprised of the situation.
254. The Marshall Islands supported the statement by FFA CCMs and appreciated the update by the Philippines as the flag CCM of KUDA LAUT 03. They hoped that the flag States of the other IUU-listed vessels would also continue to provide any information available.
255. The next recommendation from TCC20 was in relation to the VMS Standard Operating Procedures, whereby TCC20 recommended that these be adopted by the Commission ([WCPFC-TCC20-2024-11b](#)).
256. The Solomon Islands, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, supported the proposed changes to the VMS SOPs and the recommendation in working paper 11b.
257. Korea thanked the Secretariat for the detailed paper on VMS SOPs and informed the meeting that Korea was working towards seeking type approval on an additional type of MTU in collaboration with FFA.
258. The TCC Chair noted that TCC20 had tasked the TCC Chair, TCC Vice-Chair, and the Secretariat to develop an updated TCC Workplan (2025-2027) for consideration at WCPFC21 and, in developing the workplan to include items that would require future work over several years in an appropriate sequence for further discussion and consideration at WCPFC21. He noted that WCPFC21 already had a number of relevant ongoing discussions and that there was a draft of the TCC Workplan in [working paper 11c](#). This was an initial draft for consideration by WCPFC21, as noted by the Commission Chair at the heads of delegation meeting. It was decided to consider this draft by electronic means. This workplan would be kept open over the course of the coming days to account for any work that might arise from this Commission meeting. The workplan would be revisited for adoption under Agenda Item 9 and remained a living document until then.
259. FFA CCMs thanked the TCC Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretariat for the updated TCC Workplan 2025-2027. They supported the new TCC Workplan 2025-2027, noting that it contained tasks aligning well with the FFA WCPFC priorities. They recognized the need for the Workplan to be flexible to incorporate tasks arising from WCPFC21 while ensuring that the plan remained realistic. However, FFA CCMs did not consider the work on *corrective actions* a priority until the issue of imbalance in the monitoring data used in the CMS was addressed. They supported the sequencing of this specific task and preferred to keep the brackets around the task on *corrective actions*, as reflected in the current workplan.
260. The EU reiterated its concern regarding the fact that some TCC sessions are still held in closed session, which has been a long-standing issue in terms of ensuring a high level of transparency in the proceedings. They believed that the TCC Workplan offered an opportunity to address the reasons why some members are not able to agree with holding the pCMR discussion in open session, while also progressing the work needed to provide a process for observer participation in those sessions. The EU sought flexibility in the TCC Chair's proposal, in order to strengthen this parallel approach, as the work focused on finding a process for observer participation seemed to

be pushed down the track. They requested flexibility for this to happen earlier, or at least a commitment to work on it.

261. The TCC Chair undertook to meet in the margins with the EU and any other CCMs that have views on the sequencing of tasks, and would try to reconcile these in a revised version of the TCC Workplan to be presented later in the meeting
262. PNA and Tokelau CCMs thanked the TCC Chair for the draft TCC Workplan and provided three comments:
- a) They supported the proposal by FFA to keep the brackets around the *corrective actions* item proposed for 2027, as in the current workplan.
 - b) They proposed a slight amendment to the proposed 2027 task on observer participation in the CMS, suggesting replacing "Develop guidelines" with "Consider developing guidelines."
 - c) They proposed that the Commission take a decision that the framework set out in TCC20 DP-07 be used by TCC for the assessment of compliance with paragraph 37(a) of CMM 2009-06. This relates to determining circumstances where it is impracticable for certain vessels to tranship or land fish at feasible and allowable locations other than on the high seas, compared to total operating costs, net revenues, or some other meaningful measure of costs and/or revenues. This decision would need to be reflected in the TCC Workplan.
263. The Pew Charitable Trusts thanked the TCC Chair for the opportunity to speak. They recognized significant progress in improving the compliance monitoring scheme (CMS) but emphasized that further work was needed. They urged the development of observer participation guidelines and thanked the EU for their suggestion. They noted existing drafts of observer participation guidelines, developed with NGO input, and stressed the need to move these discussions toward adoption.
264. The Pew Charitable Trusts recommended reviewing *corrective actions* by examining examples from other organizations and their compliance mechanisms as a starting point for the WCPFC. They emphasized that these efforts would enhance the effectiveness of the compliance process and improve on-water outcomes. They expressed their willingness to contribute to both the observer participation guidelines and *corrective actions* developments.
265. The USA sought clarification regarding the question and comment from the PNA about the development of guidelines for the participation of observers and noted that the existing measure already committed to developing guidelines, as stated in paragraph 48. Therefore, changing the workplan to simply say "considering" the development of guidelines would be inconsistent and confusing. They wanted to ensure they had understood the comment correctly and emphasized that there was already an obligation to develop these guidelines. The USA expressed their desire to see this work continue to move forward.
266. PNG, speaking on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, and in response to the question posed by the USA, noted that the work on developing guidelines for observer participation in closed pCMR drafting sessions depended on resolving the non-public domain data issue before such work could go ahead.
267. The TCC Chair noted that that particular issue was exactly why it had been suggested in the draft TCC workplan. There would be an undertaking in the future to review the status of information considered in the CMS, noting that as the CMS has evolved, the information that was

being considered was significantly different from that of a few years ago. He suggested that discussions could continue on this longstanding issue in the margins of the meeting.

268. Moving on, the TCC Chair noted that TCC20 had requested that the TCC Vice-Chair develop draft Audit Points for any obligations listed in Annex 1 of working paper 11 that TCC20 had proposed to be reviewed in the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR) prepared for TCC21's review in 2025 for which Audit Points were required and submit these to WCPFC21 for adoption.
269. The following 12 draft audit points were proposed in [WCPFC21-2024-11d](#) covering CMM 2012-03 (ROP for North of 20N), CMM 2023-01 (Tropical Tuna Measure), CMM 2022-06 (Catch and Effort Reporting), CMM 2023-03 (NP Swordfish) and CMM 2018-06 (Record of Fishing Vessels). The draft audit points related to Implementation (IM), Reporting (RP), and Quantitative Limit (QL) obligations contained in the five CMMs.
270. As confirmed earlier in the week at the Heads of Delegation meeting, the Commission Chair directed that work on draft audit points proceed electronically at WCPFC21. The TCC Chair requested CCMs to email specific feedback on the draft audit points to the TCC Vice Chair. The final draft will be adopted under Agenda Item 9.
271. The TCC Chair noted that the final issue arising from the TCC20 recommendations was the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report (pCMR) covering the reporting year 2023. Following the Compliance Review process at TCC20, CCMs were given the opportunity to provide additional information and points of clarification. Some additional information had been provided, and there were not many outstanding issues to resolve, which was a positive position. The pCMR would be finalized in the SWG session for adoption at WCPFC21.
272. Korea took the floor to express its appreciation to the SSP especially Tiffany Vidal, for working with Korea to reconcile their purse seine vessel day data as part of the provisional compliance monitoring report.
273. Tonga, on behalf of FFA CCMs, commended the TCC Chair for his effective leadership in guiding the CMS review, which was impressively completed in just one day. This achievement reflected the dedication of all CCMs, the excellent work of the Secretariat, and the continued evolution and maturity of the CMS review process in its thirteenth year. However, some of the newer aspects of the CMS process still required further development and refinement, such as the use of ROP data within the CMS and the associated sampling regime. They looked forward to ongoing collaboration on these critical issues to further enhance the effectiveness and robustness of the CMS.
274. The TCC Chair extended sincere thanks to the WCPFC Secretariat for their stellar support in undertaking TCC's work. The TCC Chair noted the enormous amount of work covered by the TCC this year and the significant work ahead. The TCC Chair also thanked the SSP for their excellent support and responsiveness as the WCPFC Scientific Services Provider and Scientific Data Manager. Additionally, the TCC Chair expressed gratitude to the TCC Vice Chair for his excellent support. With these acknowledgments, the TCC Chair concluded the presentation and paused for any further comments.
275. Samoa, on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the Secretariat for the papers and acknowledged with gratitude the TCC Chair for his leadership, particularly through the challenging COVID-19 pandemic where the TCC Chair made strong contributions to streamlining TCC's processes, including the CMR process. FFA CCM's expressed support for TCC20's recommendations.
276. The EU apologized for revisiting an issue they might have overlooked. They noted that during TCC discussions and preparations for the Commission meeting, concerns emerged about the

implementation of the shark CMM, specifically paragraphs 8 and 9. Referring to TCC20 working paper 14, the EU observed that some CCMs had not informed the Secretariat of their implementation choices for these paragraphs. Consequently, they requested that paragraphs 8 and 9 be added to the list of obligations for CMS review next year.

277. The TCC Chair noted that obligations are reflected in the implementation list and proposed adding the two mentioned obligations to a revised version. He acknowledged the need to resolve issues related to these obligations and mentioned that broader discussions were taking place on this in the WCPFC21 agenda. The TCC Chair stated that the outcome of the discussions on the sharks proposal and the consolidated Sharks CMM would determine their inclusion in the revised list for CMS review at TCC21.

278. TCC Vice-Chair Ilkang Na (Korea) chaired the Audit Points SWG which convened electronically during WCPFC21 to discuss twelve draft audit points in working paper 11d for consideration and adoption by the Commission. The following are the points presented by the TCC Vice-Chair as the outcomes of the SWG discussions:

- a) In discussing the draft audit points, the SWG largely relied on the legacy audit points that were adopted for the previous versions of certain CMMs and the principles and recommendations that the former Audit points work lead, Viv Fernandes (Australia), provided to the Commission.
- b) In the cases of some draft audit points, namely items No. 1 (CMM 2012-03 02), 5 (CMM 2023-01 48) and 11 (CMM 2018-06 11) in working paper 11d, it was not possible for the SWG to discuss and agree on as there were applicability or interpretation issues with the obligation text itself. However, there may be some merits in retaining the draft audit points for these three obligations as set out in working paper 11d for possible future discussions.
- c) The SWG agreed on items No. 2, 3, 4 (CMM 2023-01 13, 14 and 38), 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (CMM 2022-06 01, 02, 03 ,04 and 05) and 12 (CMM 2018-06 6(s) but there was some concern about item No.9 (CMM 2022-06 04) as it could be difficult for the Secretariat to independently verify the reporting of catch and interactions with species of special interest (e.g., cetaceans and turtles) as their interactions may be infrequent. It was further noted that, if the Secretariat/SSP relies on summaries of operational data, it may be difficult to know whether the reporting requirements have been met.
- d) The SWG also reviewed the two draft audit points for CMM 2023-03 (NP Swordfish) that were recommended by TCC20, and it was reminded that the Secretariat should refer to the footnote 4 when verifying CCMs' compliance with the obligation CMM 2023-03 02.

Decisions

279. The Commission agreed that flag CCMs should provide information justifying the closing out of a case in the Compliance Case File System, which would be verified by the Secretariat and tasks the Secretariat to report to TCC21 on closed out cases.
280. The Commission adopted CMM 2024-03 Charter Notification Scheme, which renews CMM 2021-04 for a further three years until 28 February 2028 ([Attachment 6](#)).

281. The Commission adopted the WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2025, and agrees that the four fishing vessels **NEPTUNE**, **FU LIEN No.1**, **YU FONG 168** and **KUDA LAUT 03** will remain on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2025 ([Attachment 7](#)).
282. The Commission adopted the updated VMS Standard Operating Procedures (WCPFC21-2024-11b) ([Attachment 8](#)).
283. The Commission adopted the TCC Workplan for 2025-2027 on a provisional basis ([Attachment 9](#)).
284. The Commission adopted the Audit Points for the obligations in four CMMs (CMM 2023-01 Tropical Tuna; CMM 2022-06 Catch and Effort Reporting; CMM 2023-03 NP Swordfish and CMM 2018-06 Record of Fishing Vessels) set out in [Attachment 10](#).
285. The Commission adopted the Compliance Monitoring Report RY2023 (WCPFC21-2024-fCMR) ([Attachment 11](#)).
286. The Commission adopted the list of obligations to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2025 ([Attachment 12](#)).
287. The Commission adopted the report and recommendations of TCC20 (WCPFC21-2024-TCC20).

Tasks

288. The Commission tasked the TCC Chair to update the TCC Workplan following WCPFC21 in light of discussions and circulate it to CCMs in early 2025.
289. The Commission agrees to continue to discuss the ongoing applicability of paragraph 2 of CMM 2012-03.
290. The Commission tasked the SC and TCC to consider the issues of certain CCMs without baseline catch limit under paragraph 48 of CMM 2023-01 and provide advice to the Commission.
291. The TCC and the Commission noted the concern expressed about paragraph 4 of CMM 2022-06.

6.5 Climate Change (SC20/SMD02/TCC20)

Papers: [WCPFC21-2024-12](#) (Climate Change Workplan); [WCPFC21-2024-12a](#) (Terms of Reference for CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment); [WCPFC21-2024-13](#) (Assessment of CMMs susceptible to CC with NC20 -SC20-TCC20-SMD02 Updates); [WCPFC21-2024-14](#) (Brief Activity Updates on CC_WCPFC and Other Organizations); [WCPFC21-2024-15](#) (CC Outcomes from NC20-SC20-SMD02-TCC20).

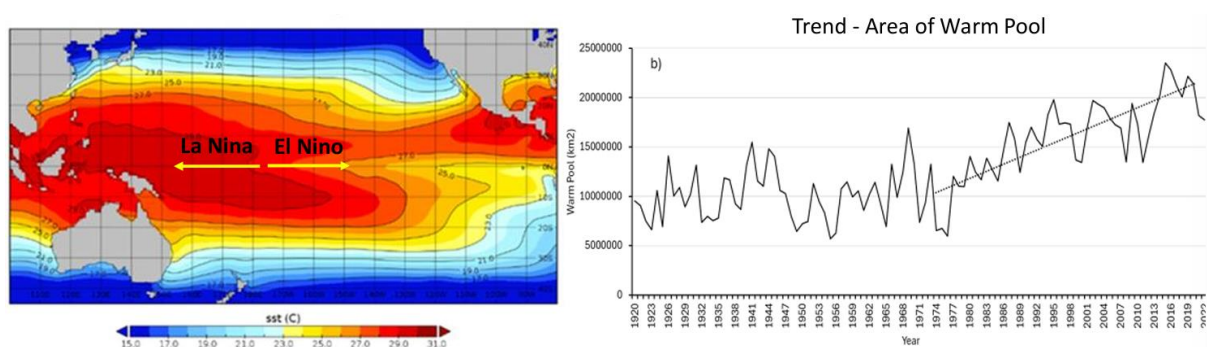
Climate change science

292. The Chair introduced this agenda item, which was intended to draw together the climate change discussions and activities that had taken place through intersessional activities and subsidiary body meetings during 2024. Various papers had been provided and would be taken as read, but one presentation would be given by the SSP to support the Commission's consideration.
293. The SSP's Paul Hamer provided an overview of the predictions of climate change impacts on tuna stocks in the region, as well as the current situation with key climate drivers and short-term

outlooks. He noted that while many are aware of the long-term trends over the past 50 to 60 years, it is important to reflect on these changes that are clearly shown in observed data.

294. Climate change was primarily driven by increased greenhouse gas emissions, especially CO₂. Key concerns included ocean warming and sea level rise, occurring faster than forecasted. Oceans absorbed 90% of excess heat from global warming. Antarctic ice loss rates tripled over the last decade, and ocean acidity reached levels not seen in 2 million years. Changes in ocean circulation disrupted heat transport and climate patterns, while oxygen depletion since the 1950s adversely affected tuna stocks.
295. Significant changes have occurred in the tropical tuna habitat, particularly in the Western Pacific Warm Pool area that extends into the Indian Ocean. This "global heat engine" profoundly impacts the climate and the distribution and regional productivity of tuna stocks. The Warm Pool served as the primary habitat for tropical tuna, including SKJ and YFT, where they spawn and reside across all life stages.
296. Since the 1970s, the Warm Pool area with water above 28-29°C doubled. Future projections indicated that the Warm Pool would continue to expand in area and temperature would continue to increase, leading to increased precipitation and cyclone intensity. These changes could reduce the environment's suitability for tropical tunas, with recent research showing that SKJ egg survival and hatching dramatically decreased when water temperatures exceeded 31°C.

Figure 16



297. The SSP is developing climate and ecosystem indicators to present annually to the Scientific Committee (SC) as a "report card," offering a climate/ecosystem synopsis for WCPFC management advice. These indicators were currently being explored, refined, and tested, with a finalized set expected for SC21.
298. The SEAPODYM modelling framework was being enhanced by the SSP to model and predict tuna population dynamics across different life stages and finer spatial resolutions. This ecosystem/biophysical approach used environmental variables and tuna prey dynamics to drive tuna production and movement, aiding in the assessment of climate change impacts on tuna productivity and distribution.
299. SEAPODYM's spatial resolution was improving through finer vertical ocean data and prey population information, such as from the "ships of opportunity" project. Models for all four target tuna species have been developed, and climate projections of biomass trends and distributions have been conducted. Slides on SEAPODYM projection results for the future spatial dynamics of the four species under climate change scenarios were presented.
300. The SSP then provided a long-term perspective on climate change implications for Pacific tuna fisheries, based on SEAPODYM projection modelling (see Figure 17).

301. The figures on the far left showed the current SEAPODYM model predictions of biomass distributions for each species, with warmer colours indicating higher biomass. To the right, the predicted changes in tuna biomass by 2050 under two representative greenhouse gas concentration pathways (RCPs) were displayed. Red indicated an increase in biomass, while blue indicated a decrease.
302. RCP 8.5 represented an extreme/worst-case scenario where emissions continued unabated for the rest of the century, leading to a global average temperature rise of up to 4-5°C by 2100. RCP 4.5 was a more moderate scenario where emissions started declining by approximately 2045 and reached roughly half the levels of 2050 by 2100, with a global average temperature rise of 2-3°C by 2100.
303. On the far right, the estimated biomass trajectories in the WCPO region were shown for a situation assuming no fishing (top line of each figure), which better isolated the impacts due to climate change, and the recent trends with fishing (the purple lines). While albacore was predicted to have stable biomass out to 2050, the other three species were expected to start declining in the mid-late 2040s. The models indicated that this decline was related to reduced production of critical nektonic food sources in the tropical region.

Figure 17

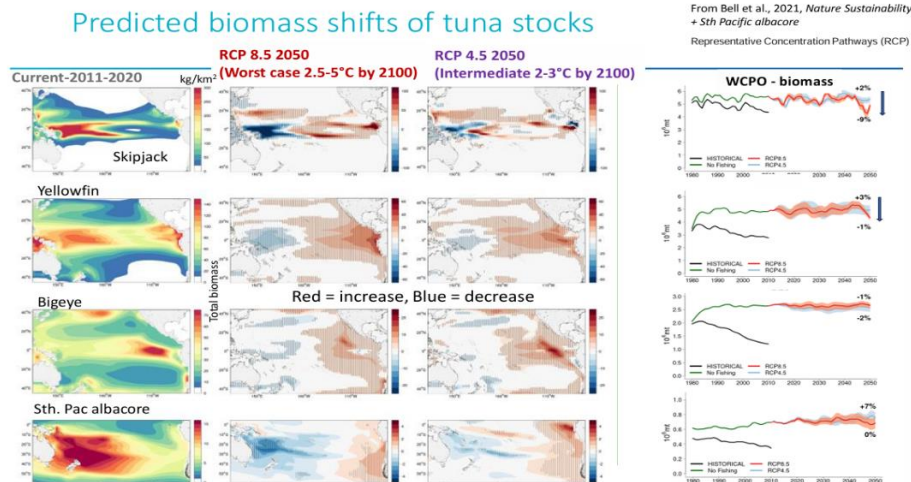
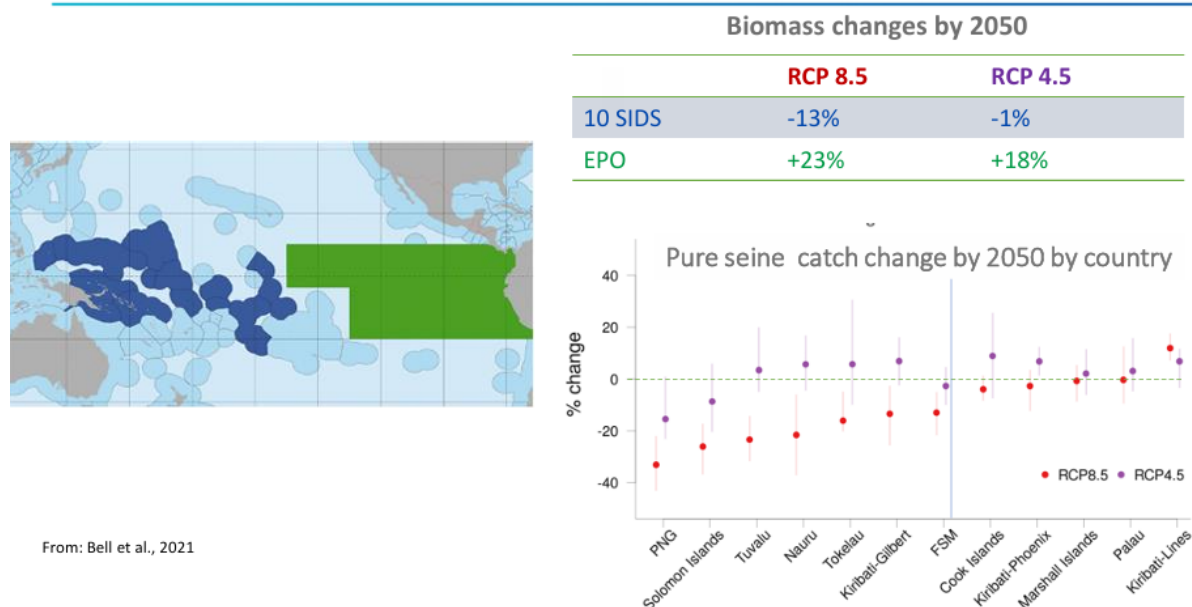


Figure 18

Predicted spatial biomass and catch changes

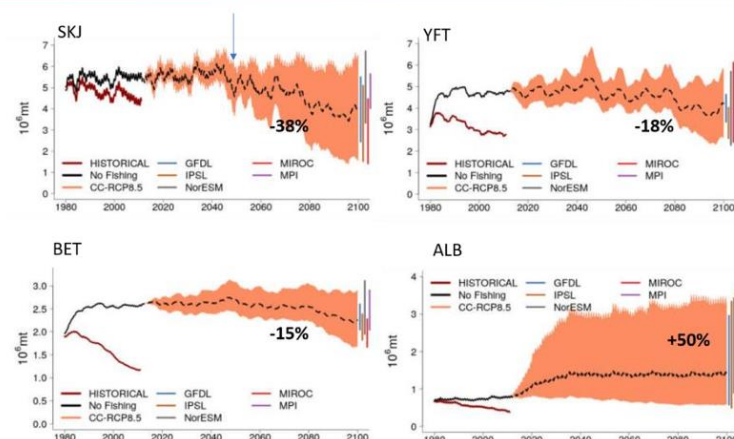


304. Figure 18 showed the predicted impacts at the EEZ levels for the purse seine fishery. It indicated that some countries might experience minimal change in average biomass and catch out to 2050, whereas others, particularly those at the equatorial western edge of the warm pool, like PNG and the Solomon Islands, would see greater impacts.

305. Broadening the perspective, the EPO appeared to benefit from the shifts in biomass, while the PNA EEZs might see lower available biomass and catches. However, this impact was highly dependent on the greenhouse gas emissions scenario.

Figure 19

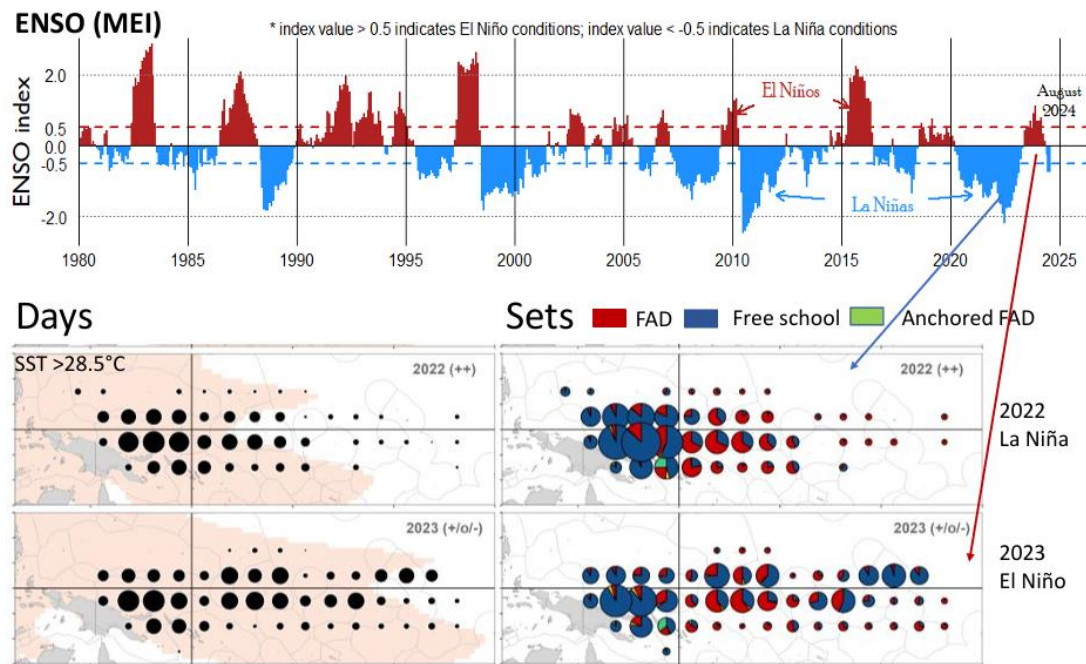
Beyond 2050



306. The presentation noted that future predictions for tuna stocks in the WCP region remained highly uncertain (Figure 19). SKJ in the WCP region faced a worse outlook with significant biomass declines expected. YFT was also projected to decline, though less severely than SKJ, while BET was anticipated to start declining later in the century. Albacore tuna biomass remained highly uncertain but was generally expected to remain more stable compared to other species.

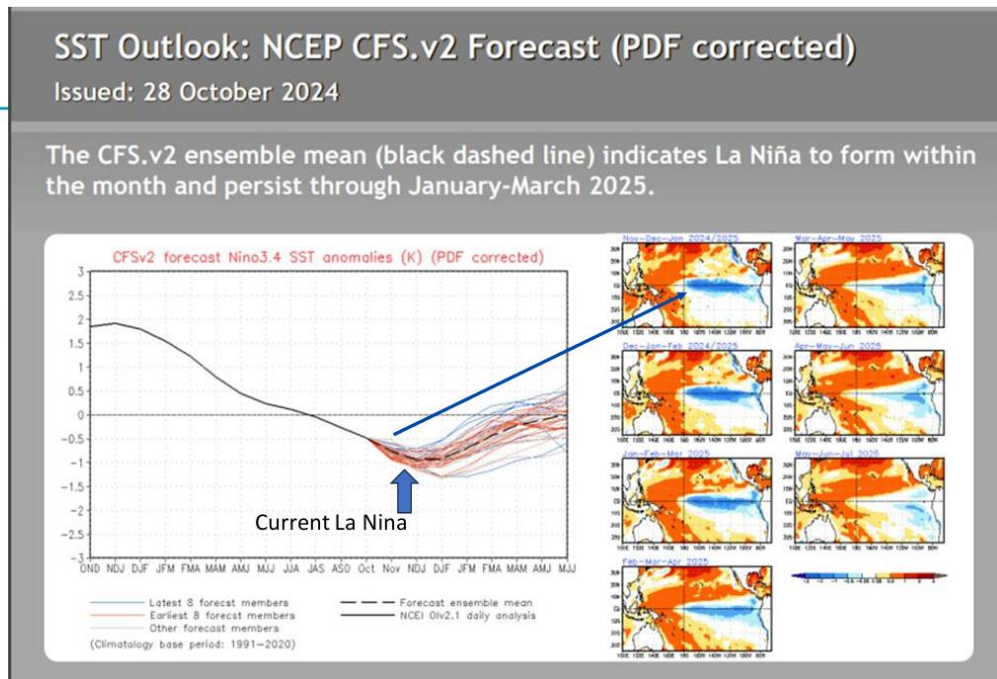
307. Key points from the presentation included: a) Distributional shifts due to climate change are inevitable, it's just a matter of timing and extent of these changes. b) Lowering greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement (<2°C rise by 2100) could sustain tuna-dependent Pacific Island economies through moderate tuna redistributions. c) Climate change impacts on WCPo tropical tuna fisheries will be most significant over the next 20-30 years due to distributional shifts. d) Biomass trends in the WCPo are expected to decline beyond 2045 for all species except SP-ALB. e) SEAPODYM development continues, with new climate projections for SKJ expected next year (2025). The presentation concluded by looking at some of the recent patterns and some of the near-term forecasts for the tuna fishery in this region.

Figure 1920



308. The SSP drew attention to the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Index (Figure 20) as a key indicator for the equatorial region, pointing out that the warm pool exhibited long-term trends and annual variations closely aligned with the ENSO cycle. In the early 2020s, the region experienced approximately three years of La Niña, followed by an El Niño phase, and was now transitioning back to La Niña. These cycles impacted the expansion/contraction of the warm pool and purse seine fishery dynamics.
309. The warm pool's core, marked by water temperatures above 28.5°C (pink area in Figure 19), contracted westward towards the Solomon Islands and PNG during La Niña, shifting purse seine fishing effort westward and increasing free school fishing (blue area) in the western WCPo.
310. During El Niño years, the warm pool expanded eastward, rapidly changing fishing patterns. Fishing effort moved towards the eastern WCPo, enhancing the effectiveness of the free school fishery in the central region. FAD fishery remained stable, but overall fishing effort increased in the eastern area due to more free school fishing.

Figure 21

Near term
forecast

311. The SSP presented the near-term forecast for ENSO (shown in Figure 21), confirming that the region was currently in a La Niña phase, which was predicted to continue through to early 2025 when more ENSO-neutral conditions were expected to prevail. The cooler surface waters associated with La Niña in the central Pacific and the pooling of warm water in the western Pacific implied that more purse seine activity was expected in the west due to increased free school fishing.

312. In respect of incorporating climate change into harvest strategies, the SSP offered some preliminary comments on Management Procedures and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE):

- a) Climate variability and longer-term change may influence stock productivity (i.e. reproduction, growth, mortality) and/or distributions. There were likely to be impacts, but they'll mostly be on distributions, although there should also be consideration for uncertainties around changes in productivity parameters in these evaluations.
- b) Management procedures (MPs) can be tested for their performance under plausible or more extreme alternative productivity/distributional scenarios. Testing the robustness of MPs to these climate-driven scenarios was conducted using alternative models of the stock/fishery dynamics – referred to as Operating Models (OMs) within a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) simulation framework. The performance of MPs under alternative futures could be tested by using alternative OMs within the MSE. The OMs were designed to simulate the population, the fishery, and the biology to generate a simulated reality. OMs could be developed to include changes in distribution, biological parameters, and potentially future dynamics, all of which were being explored by the SSP.
- c) SEAPODYM modelling suggested that distributional changes were likely to be the most notable impacts of climate change and variability for the next several decades, after which reduced biological productivity could become increasingly important. But in the shorter term, the main impacts would be more distributional, versus changes in some of the key biological parameters that influence stock production.

- d) The SSP was exploring options for developing OMs that assume alternative future spatial distributions (informed by SEAPODYM model projections) and recruitment levels/dynamics (i.e., SP albacore), and to build these into MP evaluations using MSE.
- e) Testing MP robustness to possible future changes due to climate change was often done as 'robustness' tests. The high uncertainty and wide range of possible outcomes caused by climate change would likely lead to many scenarios. Testing the extreme scenarios would fit more into a robustness testing process rather than be used as the core of MP evaluations.

Discussion

313. Korea thanked the SSP for the presentation on climate change impacts on WCPO fisheries. They inquired whether the predicted declines in SKJ, YFT, and BET by the mid-to-late 2040s indicate an absolute reduction in total stocks or merely a shift of biomass to the EPO, resulting in declines only within the WCPO.
314. The SSP clarified that medium-term projections up to 2050 focused on the WCPO showed biomass shifts without reducing the total WCPO stock. After 2050, biomass declines in the WCPO were due to productivity shifts rather than redistribution to the EPO. These declines were driven by changes in food availability, specifically the abundance of migratory nektonic crustaceans and plankton that affect SKJ and YFT feeding patterns.
315. Korea thanked the SSP for the clarification and inquired whether incorporating SEAPODYM model outputs would worsen the YFT stock projections, given that YFT was not meeting its objectives in all scenarios during the tropical tuna measure evaluation.
316. SSP explained that the model projects total biomass and juvenile abundance, allowing adjustments to recruitment trends if declines are observed. They were exploring ways to integrate SEAPODYM data into evaluations through the management procedure assessment but could not yet predict its impact on YFT projections.
317. Indonesia acknowledged the complexity of the mixed fishery approach, connectivity issues, and climate change focus. They expressed interest in close collaboration to provide scientific advice and inquired about new stock assessment software. Indonesia asked if the new software would include environmental factors, climate indicators, connectivity issues, and its relation to SEAPODYM modelling.
318. Indonesia expressed surprise at the climate change predictions, noting the shift of tropical tuna eastward from the warm pool. They emphasized the need for formal Commission guidance, questioned the certainty of predictions, and sought clarification on impacts for the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Palau.
319. SSP acknowledged the low resolution around the WPEA region and explained that warm pool expansion and latitudinal shifts favoured SKJ in the medium term. Changes in currents through Indonesia and the Philippines complicated predictions. SEAPODYM offered more detailed connectivity information, and SSP was developing more realistic models to capture these changes.
320. Niue, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the SSP and expressed concern over projections showing a 2-3°C increase in Sea Surface Temperature under moderate emissions, significantly impacting SKJ and declining biomass for all four key tuna species. Under low emissions, biomass changes were reduced by 12% in 10 SIDS members. They emphasized the need for cooperation on allocation frameworks to address these impacts, referencing the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Advisory Opinion on Climate Change.

321. Indonesia sought confirmation on incorporating climate change into the robustness test of the management procedure (MP) and whether abundance estimates would be enhanced to capture climate variability alongside MP robustness tests.
322. SSP indicated that climate scenarios would be integrated into Harvest Strategies robustness tests, including factors like varying recruitment trajectories and distributional changes. One key aspect they would look at more closely was how to deal with the distributional changes in those stocks, as they moved through different EEZs and were potentially subject to fishing from different fleets. They noted that the impact on MP evaluations remains uncertain until alternative scenarios are tested.
323. The EU thanked the SSP for the presentation and emphasized that climate change is a global emergency requiring international cooperation. They highlighted the Paris Agreement's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support developing countries in mitigating and adapting to climate impacts. They noted that the EU and its Member States had been among the frontrunners in promoting its adoption and implementation. They further noted the Paris Agreement's aims to finance developing countries to mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience, and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts.
324. The EU urged all WCPFC members to commit to the Paris Agreement and support efforts to develop robustness tests for climate change impacts on fisheries. They expressed interest in making a voluntary contribution to the SSP to support continuing this work and looked forward to engaging further with the SSP throughout the meeting.
325. The EU noted the convening of a climate change workshop in the days ahead of WCPFC21 and recommended scheduling future climate change workshops back-to-back with Scientific Committee meetings to enhance participation and effectiveness, rather than holding them separately.
326. China noted that both BET and YFT are tropical tuna but observed a high density of BET at 40°N. They requested the SSP to explain this distribution pattern.
327. China highlighted that the climate change model relies on assumptions about fish swimming speeds and oxygen preferences, differing from traditional stock assessments. They pointed out the lack of CPUE or length-frequency data and expressed interest in participating in model development. However, they found the model user-unfriendly as it is designed for Linux rather than Windows and sought ways to maintain model transparency.
328. SSP explained that the model requires Linux for computational reasons and offered to connect China with the appropriate point of contact (Inna Senina) for further involvement and support in using the model.
329. SSP stated that the SEAPODYM model aligns with real fishery data, ensuring consistency with catch distributions, size compositions, and environmental variables like oxygen levels. The model incorporates species-specific tolerances from literature and other sources, which are detailed in published journal papers that are freely accessible. They encouraged interested parties to contact Inna Senina and the team to engage with or contribute to the work.
330. Addressing the point about the high density of BET in the north, SSP confirmed that the high density aligns with fishery catches, particularly the Japanese fleet in the extension of the Kuroshio Current. The model accurately replicates this biomass distribution, consistent with fishery data, and acknowledges the significant seasonal fishery activity in that area.

Climate change workplan

Papers: [WCPFC21-2024-12 Rev01](#) (WCPFC Climate Change Workplan 2024-2027) and [WCPFC21-2024-12a Rev01](#) (Terms of Reference for a CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment)

331. The co-leads for the WCPFC Climate Change Workplan, Berry Muller (RMI) and Kelly Kryc (USA), presented the draft workplan (WP12_Rev01) and draft Terms of Reference for a CMM Vulnerability Assessment (WP12a_Rev01). They thanked all contributors, acknowledged support from their US and RMI teams, and expressed sincere gratitude to the Secretariat, particularly Elaine Garvilles (Secretariat), and Graham Pilling (SSP), for their invaluable assistance with the workplan.
332. The co-leads briefly outlined the workplan in WP12_Rev01, noting that Action items in the workplan had arisen from discussions at the Subsidiary Bodies and with their Chairs. The workplan now included a Table outlining ongoing and new activities and the following details against each:
- a) Schedule
 - b) Activity
 - c) Project/link to SB workplan
 - d) Expected outcome
 - e) Overall link to advice to Commission (link to policy)
 - f) Responsible/Funds assigned -available?
333. The draft TORs in WP12a_Rev01 were for a consultancy to carry out a CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. The purpose of the Assessment was to consider issues that are known climate change impacts and use that information to identify which CMMs might benefit from further discussion. An informal working group would be convened during WCPFC21 to finalise these documents.
334. The Chair thanked the co-leads for their presentation and their efforts to develop and socialize the workplan with the subsidiary bodies before bringing it to the Commission, then opened the floor for discussion.
335. Tokelau, on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the USA and RMI for their work throughout the year to draft the workplan and the TORs for the CMM Vulnerability Assessment. FFA CCMs had requested clarification of certain points in the CMM Vulnerability Assessment TORs, which had also been recommended and requested by SC20 and TCC20 to enable endorsement of the draft TORs and noted that the latest revised draft had not addressed several issues. To support progressing the TORs, the FFA proposed the following edits on the basis that if their proposed edits could be incorporated, FFA CCMs were prepared to agree to and endorse the TORs:
- a) The results primarily aimed to identify information gaps or studies needed to improve understanding of the overall risks/impacts.
 - b) There needed to be a clear understanding of what was meant by “vulnerability”.
 - c) It was a 2-3 year exercise.
 - d) It was not binding information but rather for CCMs' consideration.
 - e) The scope of the assessment was narrowed to just a handful of CMMs.
 - f) The WCPFC Secretariat and the SSP kept a close eye on the process.
336. FFA CCMs suggested trialling the assessment only on the cetacean measure and the measures related to elasmobranchs, which were to be revised by SC21 according to the SC20 recommended SC CMM revision schedule. FFA CCMs wanted to ensure that the outcomes of this study were valuable to the Commission and that the process did not place another burden on SIDS.

337. On the workplan, FFA CCMs thanked the co-leads for the draft and for addressing the issues raised by the different subsidiary bodies. Recalling one of the elements that FFA CCMs proposed for inclusion in the TORs for the CMM Vulnerability Assessment, they recommended the following edits to task 2 in the workplan:

“Consider ~~and discuss the SB’s recommendations~~ information derived from the CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.”

338. The co-leads confirmed that they were in the process of revising the text to incorporate FFA CCM’s proposals and that revised drafts would be made available shortly.

339. Korea inquired about the criteria or indicators for identifying CMM provisions most vulnerable to climate impacts within the MSE Framework. They also asked about the timeline and resources for developing and validating these scenarios, and how to structure RFMO engagement for actionable outcomes. Korea expressed appreciation for the forward-looking plan and eagerness to contribute to the effort.

340. The EU understood that they still had the opportunity to share drafting suggestions on both documents. Regarding the workplan, they provided their view that, unlike what was suggested, they did not believe the Scientific Committee needed to reconsider its current structure at that time. They also suggested fine-tuning the part related to the application of the Scientific Committee to the Vulnerability Assessment.

341. The EU emphasized that the workplan must align with the Scientific Committee’s capabilities and resources, ensuring it does not add to their existing heavy workload. They noted that many tasks were already part of the Committee’s core activities and scheduled for future work. The EU suggested highlighting additional proposed work to help the Commission understand the extra resources needed beyond the current plan’s timeline.

342. Addressing climate change issues more generally, Niue delivered a statement on behalf of FFA CCMs and thanked the Secretariat for advocating WCPFC’s climate change priorities. They requested that the WCPFC Secretariat, in future international meetings, support SIDS by advocating for the unique challenges they face due to climate change, while highlighting the significant contributions SIDS are making to overall marine conservation and acknowledged that this task is part of the WCPFC climate change workplan.

343. The Cook Islands commended the WCPFC Secretariat for their ongoing efforts in advocating and representing WCPFC’s climate change priorities. They stressed that addressing climate change is crucial for the sustainable management of tuna stocks and the ecosystems they depend on.

344. The Cook Islands highlighted the unique challenges faced by SIDS in responding to climate change, noting their frontline position and significant leadership in marine conservation. They emphasized the need for sustained, coordinated efforts across the Commission and its members to effectively address these impacts. The Cook Islands expressed readiness to collaborate with all CCMs to ensure aligned and impactful actions against climate change challenges to fisheries and ocean ecosystems.

345. An SWG was convened to discuss various elements of the workplan and terms of reference for the CMM vulnerability assessment in more detail, and to provide finalised documents for consideration by WCPFC Plenary. A high-level summary of the SWG discussions is appended as [Attachment R](#).

Decisions

346. The Commission adopted the WCPFC Climate Change Workplan 2024 - 2027 which describes the tasks to be taken by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to address climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries in the Convention Area ([Attachment 13](#)).
347. The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference for a CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment which defines the Scope, Objectives, Rationale, Methodology, Timing, and Resources of the Assessment ([Attachment 14](#)).
348. The Commission agreed to include the following CMMs in the assessment in 2025 and 2026:
- 2025: CMM 2024-07 (cetaceans); CMM 2019-05 (mobulid rays); CMM 2024-05 (sharks); CMM 2017-04 (marine pollution); CMM 2024-06 (NP MLS)
- 2026: CMM 2023-01 (tropical tunas); CMM 2018-04 (sea turtles); CMM 2018-03 (seabirds); CMM 2018-06 (Record of Fishing Vessels)

6.6 Harvest Strategies (SC20/SMD02/TCC20)

Papers: [WCPFC21-2024-10](#) (Harvest Strategy Issues), [WCPFC21-2024-29](#) (Recalibration of the Adopted South Pacific Albacore Interim Target Reference Point and Review of WCPFC20 Requested Options), [WCPFC21-2024-30](#) (Evaluation of Candidate Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore), [WCPFC21-2024-30a](#) (Supplementary Management Procedure Evaluations for South Pacific Albacore), [WCPFC21-2024-31](#) (Analyses to Inform Discussions on Candidate bigeye and yellowfin Target Reference Points), and [WCPFC21-2024-32](#) (WCPFC Skipjack Tuna Monitoring Strategy Report)

349. The Chair noted that working paper 10 contained the relevant Harvest Strategy outcomes from SC20, SMD02, and TCC20, and would be taken as read. The Harvest Strategy Workplan would be updated as necessary throughout the course of the meeting under James Larcombe's (AU) leadership. The SSP would present the working papers on the SKJ Monitoring Strategy, the SP-ALB TRP and Management Procedure, and the BET and YFT TRPs.

Skipjack Monitoring Strategy

350. The Chair asked that the Commission take as read on the basis that the draft SKJ Monitoring Strategy should by now be familiar to everyone, then opened the floor for discussion.
351. The EU questioned a point in the SKJ monitoring strategy, noting that previous analysis by the SSP suggested FAD closures had little impact on SKJ yields compared to free school fisheries. They supported further investigation as recommended in the paper but sought clarification on the SSP's evaluation approach.
352. The SSP's Rob Scott explained that in the SKJ operating models, FAD and free-school purse seine fisheries are separately identified. They planned to apply scalars or increased rates to the relevant FAD and free-school fisheries to assess the impacts on the management procedure by exploring scenarios like reducing the FAD closure period.
353. Nauru, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, expressed their full endorsement of the SKJ monitoring strategy and supported creating a standing TCC agenda item dedicated to Management Procedures.
354. The United States supported the SC Recommendations on the SKJ Management Procedure, particularly the SC21 review of outputs, and emphasized that WCPFC22 prioritize discussions on the interim SKJ Management Procedure. They also backed adopting the SKJ monitoring strategy

as recommended by TCC20. The US noted that, per SMD02, the Commission should incorporate climate impacts in the analysis using models like SEAPODYM into the next regular review of the SKJ Management Procedure. They highlighted recent presentations on climate models and mentioned expanding work with an additional model, MISER, including outreach to other members for integration across WCPFC work streams.

355. With no further comments, the Chair referred the SKJ Monitoring Strategy to Agenda Item 9 for potential adoption later in the meeting.

Decision

356. The Commission adopted the SKJ Monitoring Strategy, as recommended by SC20 and TCC20, noting the review of the SKJ Monitoring Strategy which will take place in 2025, and encourages ongoing work to consider climate change impacts within the SKJ MP operating model grid ([Attachment 15](#)).

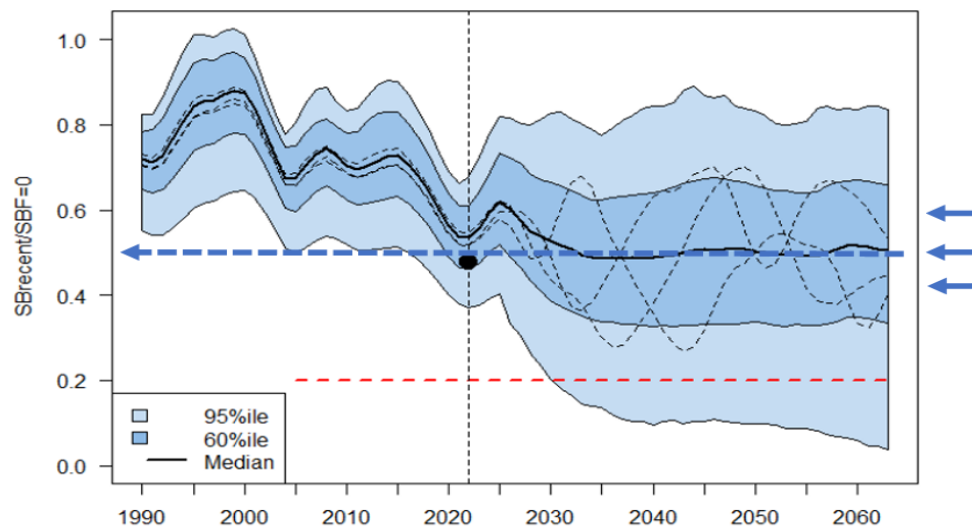
South Pacific Albacore: Recalibration of TRP

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-29](#) (Recalibration of the Adopted SP-ALB Interim Target Reference Point and Review of WCPFC20 Requested Options)

357. The Chair invited the SSP's Graham Pilling to explain the progress on the SP-ALB interim TRP described in WP29 and noted that there would be delegation papers addressing the way forward on SP-ALB presented under Agenda Item 8, before adoption of a meeting output under Agenda Item 9.
358. Dr. Pilling's presentation noted that WCPFC20 in 2023 had agreed an interim target reference point (iTRP) for the SP-ALB stock but requested it be reviewed following the 2024 stock assessment. Adoption of the confirmed or amended iTRP was scheduled for WCPFC21 within a Conservation and Management Measure that specified a management procedure for SP-ALB¹. Using the 2024 SP-ALB assessment grid, the recalibrated depletion value for the iTRP for SP-ALB was 0.5 $SB_{F=0}$.
359. The Commission at WCPFC20 tasked the SSP with evaluating alternative TRPs for SP-ALB between 0.42 and 0.56 $SB_{F=0}$. They conducted long-term stochastic, catch-based stock projections based on the 2024 assessment, incorporating both catch in numbers and catch in weight as recommended by SC20. Two scenarios were examined: i) Scaling only WCPFC-CA longline and troll fleet catches; ii) Scaling both WCPFC-CA and the remainder of the EPO longline and troll fleets equally. The baseline catch was the mean from 2020-2022, with the remainder of the EPO longline catch set at 22,500 mt. Fifty projections were run from each of the 100 assessment models, adjusting future catch levels to achieve the specified alternative TRP levels.
360. Results indicated that WCPFC-CA longline and troll catches from 2020-2022, combined with EPO longline catches of approximately 22,500 mt, would achieve the recalibrated iTRP on average in the long term. There is an 8% (catch in numbers) or 14% (catch in weight) risk of the stock falling below the limit reference point (LRP, 0.2 $SB_{F=0}$) under the current uncertainty framework. Fishing mortality at the end of the projection period would be, on average, below F_{MSY} in both cases.

¹ See WCPFC20 summary report, paragraph 241.

Figure 22. SP-ALB depletion level of the stock within the WCPFC Convention Area, which is consistent with the guidance provided by WCPFC20 in terms of calculating the iTRP.



South Pacific albacore *SB* depletion for the WCPFC Convention Area from the uncertainty grid of assessment model runs for the period 1990 to 2022 (the vertical line at 2022 represents the last year of the assessment), and stochastic projection results for the period 2023 to 2062 assuming actual catch and effort levels in 2022, and that 2022 fishing levels continued. Prior to 2022 the data represent the 60th and 95th percentiles of the uncertainty grid from the assessment models and the median. During the projection period (2023-2062) levels of recruitment variability estimated over the period used to estimate the stock-recruitment relationship (1972-2020) are assumed to continue in the future. The dashed lines indicate three example trajectories (chosen randomly out of 5000) from the model grid. The red dashed line represents the WCPFC agreed limit reference point (0.20). Point represents $SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$, as defined within the stock assessment process.

361. The long-term average WCPFC-CA longline vulnerable biomass was 26-27% lower than 2017-2019 levels and 33-35% lower than in 2013. Under WCPFC-CA only management, longline and troll catches must decrease by 13-15% from 2020-2022 levels to achieve less depleted stock levels than the iTRP (0.56 $SB_{F=0}$). If greater depletion was acceptable, catches could increase by up to 25% (numbers) or 15% (weight) to reach the most depleted TRP (0.42 $SB_{F=0}$). This scenario increased the risk of falling below the LRP, reaching a 20% risk threshold at a depletion of 0.46 $SB_{F=0}$ when considering catch in weight. For South Pacific-wide catch management, proportional reductions to achieve less depleted stocks were slightly less than WCPFC-CA specific equivalents, and proportional catch increases for more depleted stocks were lower than the WCPFC-CA-only equivalents.
362. SC20 requested additional scenarios for projections where catch in the remainder of the EPO (excluding the overlap area) was fixed at lower 2017-2019 levels, and catch management applied in the WCPFC-CA only. The results were presented in Appendix 3 of WP29. Assuming lower future catches for the remainder of the EPO region allowed a greater catch within the WCPFC-CA while achieving the candidate depletion levels specified. For example, the WCPFC-CA could take 10% or 5% more catch (in numbers or weight, respectively) while achieving the current iTRP depletion level.
363. Dr. Pilling highlighted that the modelling herein assumed a constant catch was taken into the future. Unlike within the harvest strategy MSE modelling, if that catch implied stock abundance was reduced in the future, that same catch continued to be taken. The risk of falling below the LRP and reduction in vulnerable biomass levels presented within the Tables would therefore be greater than those from the MSE modelling, where active management was taking place to react to stock status. Results here should therefore be viewed considering the MSE results now available.

364. SC20 provided the following recommendations, and SSP's responses are noted in brackets to each:

- a) SC20 recognized that WCPFC20 adopted an interim TRP for SP-ALB, defined as 4% below the estimated average spawning potential depletion of the stock over the period 2017-2019 ($0.96 \text{ SB}_{2017-2019}/\text{SBF}=0$). SC20 recommended the Commission note that the biomass depletion associated with the adopted interim TRP has been re-estimated to be 50% according to the 2024 SPA stock assessment outcomes. This biomass depletion when the interim TRP was adopted by WCPFC20 was previously estimated at 47% based on the 2021 SPA stock assessment.
- b) SC20 recommended the SMD and the Commission consider results from the evaluation of a range of alternative candidate SP-ALB target reference points provided in SC20-MI-WP-03, in reviewing the interim TRP and other scenarios recommended by SC20. (Updated in [WCPFC21-2024-29](#))
- c) SC20 recommended that both catch in numbers and weight be used for projections, to inform the Commission discussion on reviewing the interim TRP for SP-ALB noting that projections conducted in terms of weight are more consistent with the MP evaluations and management through, for example, a TAC. SC20 further recommended that the SSP present trends in vulnerable biomass among specific WCPFC-CA longline fleets, and for WCPFC-CA catch levels to also be related to 2017-2019 levels. (See Tables and Appendix 2 in [WCPFC21-2024-29](#))
- d) SC20 recommended including more scenarios for projections by fixing EPO catch at 2017-2019 levels and using multiple catch levels in the WCPFC-CA related to 2017-2019 levels. (See Appendix 3 in [WCPFC21-2024-29](#))

365. SMD02 review of the SP-ALB iTRP included a review of a summary of the 2024 SP-ALB stock assessment before the SSP presented WCPFC SMD02-2024-BP-01 and noted the recent high catches of SP-ALB in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. SMD02 generally supported maintaining the use of both weights and numbers in the SP-ALB catch-based projections.

366. WCPFC21 was invited to consider the results presented in the paper when adopting the confirmed or amended iTRP within a Conservation and Management Measure that specifies a management procedure for SP-ALB.

Discussion

367. Fiji, on behalf of the South Pacific Group (SPG) CCMs, thanked the SSP for the paper and analysis. They highlighted that the latest stock assessment showed a median depletion level of 0.48 $\text{SBF}=0$, just 2% below the recalibrated iTRP of 0.50 $\text{SBF}=0$ adopted last year. With an iTRP catch level of 60,700t and a 2023 total catch of 64,996t in the WCP Convention Area, only a 4,296t reduction was needed to reach the target, which was considered achievable.

368. SPG preferred a TRP that prevented further declines in vulnerable biomass (VB). However, they accepted the recalibrated TRP of 0.73 VB as a reasonable compromise for better management of SP-ALB. SPG aimed to improve the TRP in the future, recognizing that VB decreases disproportionately impact SIDS. They emphasized the importance of albacore for small-scale and artisanal fishers, stressing the need for reasonable catch rates to ensure food security and livelihoods.

369. Japan thanked the SSP for providing the additional analysis following the request from SMD02, and posed several questions regarding the analysis:

- a) Japan noted that Table 1 and Table 2 showed a high risk of breaching the LRP. For example, with a scalar of 1, the long-term average stock biomass level was 50% of the unfished level, but the risk of breaching the LRP was 8%. With a scalar of 1.25, the long-term average stock biomass was estimated at 42%, but the risk of breaching the LRP was 19%. They questioned why this high risk was calculated for the future projection, especially compared to future projections for other species.
- b) Japan observed that the vulnerable biomass was more changeable than the long-term average $SB/SB_{F=0}$. They speculated that the vulnerable biomass might be more susceptible to stock status changes but were unsure about the relationship between stock biomass level and vulnerable biomass level. They sought an explanation for the gaps shown in the Table between vulnerable biomass and depletion level.
- c) Japan pointed out that the analysis used recent catch data from 2020 to 2022 for future projections. However, they noted that in the EPO area, around 30,000 metric tons of catch had been recorded in the past two years, and in the WCPO area, there had been a 10-15% increase in catch from the 2020-2022 baseline. They suggested that an analysis based on the very recent catch would be more informative. They clarified that they were not requesting this analysis but noted that the recent two years' catch was about 10-15% higher than the baseline. They questioned whether, if the harvest control rule with a scalar of 1.0 was agreed upon, there would be an immediate need to reduce the catch limit or effort by fishing vessels. They sought advice from the SSP on this point, emphasizing the importance of understanding the catch level equal to scalar 1.0.

370. Japan concluded by thanking the SSP for conducting the complicated and comprehensive analysis.

371. Dr. Pilling thanked Japan for the excellent questions and acknowledged the challenges of having numerous animations in the presentation.

372. Regarding the first question about the higher level of risk compared to other stocks, Dr. Pilling explained that this was partly due to the amount of uncertainty in the albacore stock assessment model grid. As projections moved forward and short-term recruitments from the stock assessment dropped out, several less productive models within the assessment started to decline and fall below the LRP level. This increased level of risk reflected the greater uncertainty within the SP-ALB stock assessment compared to other assessments. He noted the importance of the tagging program for the SKJ assessment and mentioned the lack of information from tagging for SP-ALB, which is why they were exploring the close-kin mark-recapture path to narrow down the uncertainty.

373. For the second question about the level of catch assumed within the assessment or projections, Dr. Pilling emphasized the importance of the assumed value, particularly for the EPO. He explained that the baseline catch level was just an average, and if a more recent higher level of catch was considered, multipliers less than one would be needed to achieve the interim target reference point. For example, a baseline level of 80,000 tonnes would require a multiplier of about 0.75 to reduce the catch to around 60,000 tonnes, which was the level needed to hit the target reference point.

374. Addressing the third point about the implications for the management procedure, Dr. Pilling mentioned that the transition from the actual catch in a particular year to what was implied by the output of the management procedure in the next year depended on the catch level within a specific year, such as 2020. If a management procedure were adopted this year, the difference

between the catch in 2024 and the output implied by the MP for 2026 would be considered. He noted that there were ways to minimize the impact, including looking at constraints on the level of change between management periods, which would affect the initial running of the MP. The SSP's Finlay Scott would cover this in the next presentation on management procedures.

375. Australia commented on the use of either weight or numbers for the SP-ALB alternative TRP analysis, expressing a preference for weights. They noted that this work had been somewhat superseded by the MP evaluations presented in [WCPFC21-2024-30 Rev01](#) and [WCPFC21-2024-30a](#), where TRPs were built into candidate MPs with active management, and their performance was evaluated across a range of performance measures. They highlighted that the use of an active MP reduced LRP risk substantially and encouraged CCMs to refer to the MP evaluations in those papers as the best source of information on TRP performance.
376. Australia supported retaining the interim TRP adopted last year, stating it balanced reasonable average catches without significant cuts and maintained vulnerable biomass levels essential for the viability of SIDS fleets and overall fleet profitability.
377. Australia mentioned they had comments on the EPO assumptions presented but would reserve them for the next presentation.
378. New Caledonia reported that their domestic fishery targeted only SP-ALB and had faced declining catch rates. They noted increased catches in areas around their EEZ, particularly in the high seas south of their EEZ, which was a significant concern. New Caledonia emphasized the need to improve albacore catch rates to ensure the economic sustainability of their fishing industry. Referring to Table 2 of *working paper 29*, they pointed out that a TRP of 0.5 would result in vulnerable biomass insufficient to support higher catch rates, likely causing continued declines. They asked the SSP whether adopting a stronger TRP was necessary to ensure long-term catch stability for their domestic fishery.
379. Dr. Pilling responded that, based on the Table, the vulnerable biomass relative to the levels in 2017 to 2019 would indeed be lower across the board, regardless of the row being considered. Therefore, it was a question of how much of a decline on average was acceptable to the region.
380. However, as Australia noted and as mentioned in the presentation, the assumption was a constant catch into the future under a management procedure. A target reference point (TRP), or rather the process of maintaining a stock around a TRP, implied active management. If the stock declined, then catch or effort (depending on the control method) would also be reduced, allowing the stock to return towards the TRP level.
381. The presented results were more pessimistic compared to active management through a management procedure. MP evaluations showed declines in vulnerable biomass, though less severe than those in the Table. The TRP work has effectively guided the MP framework and outcome considerations. It was crucial to assess MP results based on vulnerable biomass and risk, as they accurately reflect the performance of an adaptive management procedure.
382. French Polynesia expressed concern about the recalibrated value of the TRP and echoed New Caledonia's comments. They noted that while an interim TRP was adopted last year, it might not meet their needs. SP-ALB was a very important stock for French Polynesia, representing more than half of their total tuna catch. They rely on it for food security, as 90% of their SP-ALB catch is for the local market.
383. With climate change, French Polynesia had noticed more ciguatera affecting their reef fisheries, necessitating fishing further offshore to obtain the fish they eat. Additionally, their domestic fleet is economically fragile and highly reliant on good catch rates. Therefore, they

wished to ensure that the TRP being used in the MP would sustain better catch rates in the long term and meet their domestic needs.

384. Nauru, speaking on behalf of PNA CCMs, thanked the SSP for the presentation and noted they had been considering the iTRP review for some time. They emphasized that the review should be viewed within the broader mixed fishery framework. Adopting a harvest strategy approach within this framework presents challenges related to managing effort-managed fisheries, impacting both purse seine and longline fisheries.
385. Within the mixed fishery harvest strategy proposed by the SSP, tropical longline fisheries could be managed through the BET MP, while southern longline fisheries could be managed through the SP-ALB MP. Nauru noted that some SP-ALB catches originate from fisheries managed under the BET MP (tropical longline, operating down to 10°S). This overlap means specific objectives are not fully met within the mixed framework, leading to outcomes that are merely "good enough."
386. China thanked the SSP for presenting the SP-ALB iTRP and noted this was the third interim TRP in six years. They expressed a preference for last year's iTRP and hoped the management procedure proposed by the SPG would use this as the basis for managing SP-ALB.
387. China supported the United States' suggestion to establish a joint working group with IATTC to align on a common iTRP. They raised concerns about the EPO catch assumption of 20,500 tonnes, noting current EPO catches exceed 30,000 tonnes. Additionally, they flagged potential double-counting in the IATTC/WCPFC overlap area and emphasized the need for joint efforts with IATTC to address this issue.
388. Chinese Taipei raised two concerns. First, they noted a potential contradiction between the SP-ALB iTRP and the BET iTRP. They highlighted that if the SP-ALB iTRP was set at 0.5 or higher, it would conflict with a BET iTRP of 0.34, as per Table 2 of WP31. They suggested that if albacore was set at 0.5, the equivalent BET iTRP should be 0.46, which would require significant BET catch sacrifices for a minor depletion level difference for albacore.
389. Secondly, they expressed concern that the current iTRP catch level was based on the 2020–2022 period, which was 12,000 tons lower than the 2017–2019 level. They cautioned that post-COVID recovery and potential new entrants could cause future allocation challenges under this iTRP.
390. Australia responded to Chinese Taipei's concerns about the interaction between the SP-ALB interim TRP and the BET TRP. They clarified that the adopted SP-ALB TRP of 50% was generally consistent with the BET TRP of 34%, as outlined in WP31.
391. They noted that WP31 showed a BET TRP of 34% aligned with an SP-ALB biomass of 47–49%. However, the SP-ALB TRP was relatively unaffected by the BET TRP due to spatial separation. Most SP-ALB catch occurred south of 10°S, with management primarily through the southern longline fishery, rather than the tropical longline fishery targeting BET. This separation allowed flexibility in setting the SP-ALB TRP independently.
392. New Zealand commented on the iTRP and expressed support for retaining the iTRP agreed upon in 2023, noting that it reflected a reasonable balance in terms of improving catch rates for the region, avoiding the risk of breaching the LRP, and not requiring significant reductions or increases in overall catch.
393. Chinese Taipei thanked Australia for the explanation but still had two unresolved questions. Firstly, they inquired about the procedural aspect of adopting an iTRP for a stock after adopting another iTRP for a different stock. Specifically, they questioned whether it was possible to adopt

an iTRP for SP-ALB (e.g., 0.5) if it would lead to another stock, such as BET, failing to achieve its management objectives. They sought clarification on whether adopting an iTRP for BET, based on the information provided, would be permissible if it led to failing the management objective for SP-ALB.

394. Secondly, they noted that the Table did not suggest a weak connection between the two stocks but indicated that the degree of BET catch had a limited contribution to the SP-ALB stock. They asked the SSP whether there was any available information on whether the decrease or increase of the SP-ALB catch could affect the BET depletion level.

395. The SSP suggested considering the BET/YFT Table first before responding to Chinese Taipei's question, stating that there would need to be a very large increase in the tropical tuna longline catch of BET to have even a small impact on SP-ALB, which is mainly caught further south. The SSP also found Australia's explanation useful.

South Pacific Albacore: Evaluation of Candidate Management Procedure

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-30_Rev01](#) (Evaluation of Candidate Management Procedure for SP-ALB)

396. The Chair invited Finlay Scott (SSP) to present *WCPFC21-2024-30_Rev01*. This report described the most recent results from evaluating candidate management procedures (MPs) for SP-ALB. Candidate MPs were developed based on a fixed estimation method and several harvest control rule (HCR) shapes, combined with different levels of constraint on how much the HCR output could change between management periods, consistent with candidate MPs shown before. Only troll and longline fisheries operating in the WCPFC-CA were managed through the candidate MPs.

397. At the request of the WCPFC SMD02, the MPs were evaluated with fisheries managed through the output of either catch or effort limits. The HCRs for the catch-based MPs were different from the HCRs for the effort-based MPs as performance was affected by the management method, but some of the MPs were designed to achieve comparable performance in terms of long-term $SB/SB_{F=0}$. These evaluations assumed that the output of an MP would be either the total annual catch or effort for the next 3-year management period, dependent upon the MP. Allocation of that total, and how those allocations were managed in practice (e.g., through effort if that allocation was in terms of catch or catch if the allocation was in terms of effort) was external to the MP.

398. Following discussion at SC20 and SMD02, the input to the HCR from the estimation method was a relative measure of stock status, defined as the mean estimated $SB/SB_{F=0}$ in the last three years relative to the mean estimated $SB/SB_{F=0}$ in 2017-2019. The HCR baselines were the average catch or effort level in the period 2020-2022. Different combinations of HCR shape, constraint, and management output (catch- or effort-based) resulted in 19 candidate MPs.

399. Six performance indicators (PIs) were calculated over the 30-year projection period: $SB/SB_{F=0}$; the probability of $SB/SB_{F=0}$ being above the limit reference point (LRP); total catch in the WCPFC-CA; vulnerable biomass (a proxy for catch rates) relative to the value in 2020-2022; variability of catches in the WCPFC-CA; and variability of longline effort in the WCPFC-CA. An updated online app was available to explore the results: <https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/spample>.

400. One-off sensitivity tests were run based on a single MP to explore potential impacts of: an alternative HCR baseline of 2000-2004 catches for troll fisheries in the WCPFC-CA; alternative baseline catch levels for fisheries in the EPO; and EPO fisheries being managed through the MP. Finally, a dry run analysis was performed in which a single candidate MP was evaluated using the most recent WCPFC-CA data up to 2022 to explore what the resulting catch limits would be under different HCR constraints.

Discussion

401. The SPG CCMs, through Samoa, thanked the SSP for their hard work in the MP evaluations and for supporting them in understanding the very technical work. They noted that SP-ALB management at WCPFC started with CMM 2005-02, which was superseded by CMM 2010-05 and then by CMM 2015-02, which only implemented capacity limits by limiting the number of longline fishing vessels fishing south of 20°S above 2005 levels or (2000-2004) levels. This had not brought meaningful management for SP-ALB.
402. Under the Commission's harvest strategy approach, WCPFC was due to adopt a management procedure for SP-ALB and finalize the iTRP that year. As it was to cover the entire SP-ALB fishery south of the equator, this would finally bring meaningful management for SP-ALB. Samoa emphasized that albacore in the southern longline fishery was the key species for SPG countries, along with YFT and BET. They did not have the lucrative purse seine fisheries or the large, diversified fisheries in developed CCMs.
403. SPG CCMs expressed concern that management procedures with higher levels of catch associated with them would place a disproportionate burden on SIDS with domestic fleets and national fisheries. But they knew that all WCPFC CCMs sought to avoid placing a disproportionate burden on SIDS fisheries.
404. Korea acknowledged the SSP's comprehensive evaluation of candidate management procedures for SP-ALB. Highlighting trade-offs between catch- and effort-based approaches, they suggested the Commission prioritize one to balance long-term stock health and operational viability for stakeholders and South Pacific Group CCMs. They also noted the implications on potential BET TRPs to be considered by the Commission. Korea leaned towards conservative options but remained open to discussions with other members on candidate management procedures. They also emphasized the importance of cooperation and harmonization between the IATTC and WCPFC.
405. Korea asked how an effort-based management procedure would be put into practice for vessels that catch SP-ALB as bycatch. They also inquired about the impact of excluding fisheries in archipelagic waters from MP evaluations on the overall outcomes and whether there were plans to integrate these fisheries into future analysis for more holistic management.
406. Dr. Scott responded that the Management Procedure produced an output indicating what action, if any, might need to be taken to maintain the stock around the TRP. How that output was then used in terms of implementation or allocation between albacore target and bycatch fisheries was a separate process, which he believed would be discussed at some point during the Commission process.
407. On the matter of exclusion of archipelagic waters, Dr. Scott referred to a figure published in working paper 30, in response to a similar query that came up via the SMD02. The SSP had looked at the total albacore catch taken in archipelagic waters and found the proportion to be very small. They decided that incorporating this into the evaluations would require more technical work and assumptions than were probably worth it. Given that, the outcome was that the performance of the management procedure would be unaffected by the exclusion of fisheries in archipelagic waters. There were no further plans to explore the fisheries in archipelagic waters, except through the monitoring process. If an MP was adopted, catches by fisheries operating in archipelagic waters would continue to be monitored, and consideration would need to be given to how to respond to any significant catches that might arise.
408. Speaking on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, Solomon Islands thanked the SSP for its efforts in developing effort-based harvest control rules (HCRs) since SMD02. They noted that the effort

metric used—hundreds of hooks—did not align well with the effort management controls used within PNA and Tokelau CCMs' EEZs, which were based on vessel days under the VDS. While the number of longline vessels had decreased from historical highs, the number of hooks in the water had increased. Although the SSP preferred hundreds of hooks as an effective metric, it did not align with the VDS. Initial reviews by the PNAO showed comparable results at high effort levels but discrepancies at lower effort levels. Further work would be required to harmonize the effort metric with the VDS and management procedure outputs.

409. Australia thanked the SSP team for the prodigious amount of work supporting the Commission's harvest strategy agenda. They appreciated that the SSP had been working non-stop since the start of the year with a successful new stock assessment, an update of the operating models, and providing a wide range of candidate SP- ALB MPs to the SMD02 in September and again at the Commission, all through challenging times. They also appreciated the effort that had gone into the design of the various HCRs responding to the SC20 and SMD02 recommendations.
410. Australia expressed support for an SP- ALB Management Procedure (HCR1 with asymmetrical +10/-5 constraints), as reflected in DP11 submitted by SPG and Australia. They emphasized the importance of assumptions about catch levels in the EPO (excluding the overlap area) when developing candidate MPs. Most evaluated MPs assumed an EPO catch of 22,500 mt, the record-high average from 2020–2022. However, the SSP highlighted HCR12, presented in WP30a, which assumed a lower EPO catch of 13,500 mt, the 2017–2019 average. This alternative led to significant differences, notably a higher WCPO average catch of 68,600 mt (~7,000 mt more) while achieving the adopted iTRP.
411. Australia stressed that assumptions about EPO catch levels were a critical issue for the Commission. They expressed concerns about assuming recent record-high levels without confidence that such levels would not be repeatedly exceeded, which could trigger exceptional circumstances for the MP. They invited feedback from other CCMs, particularly those involved in the IATTC SP-ALB fishery.
412. The Chair noted DP11 and that further discussions and decision points on SP-ALB would occur under Agenda Item 8.

Yellowfin and bigeye TRPs

Papers: [WCPFC21-2024-31](#) (Analyses to Inform Discussions on Candidate Bigeye and Yellowfin Target Reference Points) and [WCPFC21-2024-10](#) (Reference Paper covering SC20/SMD02/TCC20 Recommendations relating to Harvest Strategies)

413. The Chair noted that all the presentations and papers were available on the WCPFC21 meeting webpage. She acknowledged the significant work done this year at SC20 and discussed at SMD02 and although this was another opportunity for members to hear the presentation again but decided to move on to the discussion and take the working papers as read.
414. FSM, on behalf of FFA CCMs, preferred a sequenced approach in adopting TRPs for BET and YFT, where the Commission first addressed the TRP for BET and then evaluated its implications for achieving management outcomes for YFT. They reiterated their concerns raised at WCPFC20, SC20, and SMD02 regarding the significant and growing impact of 'other fisheries' on tropical tuna stocks, particularly YFT in Region 2, as highlighted in the 2023 YFT stock assessment.
415. FFA CCMs proposed narrowing the BET candidate TRP options for the Commission's consideration to those based on the average depletion levels for 2012-2015, as well as the average depletion level for 2012-2015 excluding the FAD closure, as presented in Table 8 of WCPFC-2024-31, with respective values of 0.34 and 0.32. They noted that both the evaluation of the TTM and

this review reflected the challenges in achieving compatible objectives or TRPs across the species with the current mix of fisheries, and the trade-offs between objectives for the different stocks. They stated that the TRP for SKJ and the current management objective of BET were achievable under more plausible scenarios, but the current YFT objective was not achievable.

416. The Marshall Islands, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, supported a 32% depletion threshold TRP for BET, based on the 2012–2015 average minus the FAD closure, as outlined in Table 2. For YFT, they endorsed the "sequenced approach" proposed by FFA CCMs at TCC20, where the Commission first addresses the BET TRP before evaluating its implications for achieving management outcomes for YFT.
417. The EU acknowledged the longstanding challenges on this topic and supported a stepwise approach to defining TRPs for the two species, prioritizing BET. They expressed willingness to consider the proposal presented during the meeting and provide their views at a later stage.
418. Additionally, the EU supported the recommendation from SC20 on the use of more recent fishing conditions for domestic fisheries to re-evaluate the TRPs. They emphasized the importance particularly for YFT, due to the increasing impact of these fisheries, which was estimated at almost 40% of the impact on the spawning potential for the period considered in the 2023 YFT stock assessment.
419. The EU noted that the Commission's indicative harvest strategy workplan included the ambition to develop a management procedure for YFT at some point, and sought to hear from the SSP on whether, against this background and the described difficulties, it would still be a good way forward to invest time and resources in developing a management procedure for YFT, or if this could be better addressed in a different way.
420. The SSP's Dr. Pilling acknowledged New Zealand for the funding they provided that underpinned much of the management procedure work presented at the meeting.
421. In response to the questions posed earlier with respect to the mixed fishery approach, Dr. Pilling explained that the idea was to run management procedures for SKJ, BET, and SP-ALB to control most components in the fishery. For YFT, the one area not controlled under a management procedure was mainly the YFT catch in Region 2 of the model, which was outside the influence of the Commission. He noted that Indonesia was working towards a management procedure for their archipelagic waters, which might be incorporated within the mixed fishery approach.
422. On the question raised by the EU, Dr. Pilling stated that there was currently no specific management procedure proposed for YFT. It would be a matter of putting the framework together to see how well it performed, including for YFT, to determine whether a re-evaluation of the approach in the mixed fishery framework was needed.
423. Australia supported the comments and proposal by FSM on behalf of FFA CCMs and emphasized the importance of advancing the adoption of TRPs for the two stocks. They acknowledged that this work provided a reasonable understanding of the right balance of TRP levels across the four key tuna stocks, but noted the significant challenges associated with selecting a TRP, which had been discussed extensively.
424. Australia proposed that the Commission provide clear guidance to the SSP to advance the development of a BET tuna MP in line with agreed timelines. They suggested focusing on a tractable set of candidate TRP options (no more than three) rather than a single TRP at this stage. These options could be incorporated into candidate MPs and evaluated through MSE, similar to the approach used for the SP-ALB MP design. They recommended revisiting the BET TRP question

during the evaluation of candidate MPs in 2025 and 2026, while also assessing the implications for YFT. Australia invited views on this approach and expressed readiness to discuss it further.

425. Korea thanked Dr. Pilling for the thorough analysis and projections presented. They acknowledged the evaluation of candidate TRPs for BET and YFT as offering valuable insights into the complexities of managing multi-species fisheries. Korea emphasized the need to improve monitoring and management of miscellaneous fisheries, particularly in regions excluded from tropical tuna measures, due to their significant contribution to YFT stock depletion. They supported the sequencing approach, prioritizing BET TRPs while also addressing SP-ALB TRPs, given their impact on BET. Additionally, Korea endorsed Australia's suggestion to consider multiple candidate TRPs.
426. Japan thanked the SSP for the analysis and recalled the discussions from three years prior when the TRP for SKJ was set. They noted that using an absolute TRP value might not be ideal, as it could fluctuate with each stock assessment. Instead, they suggested setting a TRP relative to a range of reference years, such as 2012, 2018, or 2019, to provide greater stability. This approach, they believed, would better support the consistent application of TRPs.
427. Japan also highlighted the ongoing and upcoming impact assessments by the SSP, including this year's evaluation of the Region 2 fisheries' influence on catches and next year's assessment of Region 2 impacts on BET tuna. They expressed a preference for waiting to review the results of the SSP's analysis for BET tuna before deciding on an appropriate TRP. This reflected their cautious approach to ensuring the TRP decision aligns with robust scientific insights.
428. Regarding the concept of the TRP, Japan noted that the SSP paper pointed out that most members understood the concept of the TRP as maintaining the stock on average up to a certain percentage. However, in some RFMOs, TRP was defined as maintaining a stock up to or above a certain SSB level. This might explain the discussion of the trade-off. Japan suggested that the TRP should be a target to achieve in the future. In multi-species fisheries, where it is almost impossible to achieve all objectives simultaneously, the concept of the TRP might need to be considered as maintaining the stock at or above a certain level rather than achieving a certain level on average. This concept might be more suitable for multi-species fisheries.
429. Japan expressed their willingness to consult with other members on the margins of the meeting, as it was their first time hearing the FFA and PNA proposal on the BET TRP.
430. The SSP responded to Japan's comment on the Region 2 impact assessment for BET tuna. They proposed that, as management procedure evaluations progress, alternative levels of fishing for BET in Region 2 could be analysed, similar to the approach used for SKJ. This would help determine whether the management procedures are sensitive to catch assumptions in Region 2 or robust to them. By addressing this question alongside ongoing evaluations, the SSP suggested they could continue advancing the management procedure development effectively.
431. China thanked the SSP for the work on the BET and YFT TRPs. They expressed a strong preference for a longer reference year for BET. They noted that from 2008, when the Commission first established the measure for BET tuna conservation, until 2011, 2012, and 2013, they were informed that the BET resource was not in good condition, but it suddenly recovered. Therefore, they hoped that the reference year would be longer to ensure that if the TRP is adopted, it would provide a more stable situation for the fishing industry.

Decisions

432. The Commission supported a “sequenced approach”, whereby the Commission first addresses the TRP for BET tuna and then evaluates its implications for achieving management outcomes for YFT.
433. The Commission agreed to provide the following guidance on candidate BET tuna target reference points that will be further evaluated through their incorporation into candidate management procedures for BET tuna. Candidate BET TRPs are specified as follows:
- a) 2012-2015 average spawning biomass depletion (currently estimated at 34%SB_{F=0})
 - b) 0.94 x 2012-2015 average spawning biomass depletion (currently estimated at 32%SB_{F=0})
 - c) 1.06 x 2012-2015 average spawning biomass depletion (currently estimated at 36%SB_{F=0})
434. The Commission noted that these candidate TRPs may in future be specified as threshold targets for which associated probabilities of being 'at or above' would need to be specified.

Tasks

435. The Commission tasked the SSP to progress the development of a Management Procedure for BET using the agreed candidate TRP. These candidate TRPs should be built into candidate BET Management Procedures and their performance evaluated through Management Strategy Evaluation.
436. The Commission tasked the SSP to examine alternative levels of fishing for BET in ‘Region 2’ (small scale fisheries in the far western tropical WCPO) fisheries to determine the sensitivity or robustness of candidate TRPs and to evaluate the TRPs using more recent fishing conditions.

Southwest Pacific Swordfish

437. Before the Chair concluded discussions on harvest strategies, Australia intervened to express their interest in the development of a management procedure for Southwest Pacific swordfish. They emphasized their efforts to ensure the effective long-term management of this stock and welcomed the constructive engagement they had received on this topic over several years from many Commission members.
438. Australia noted that the latest scientific advice reflected the stocks healthy status, with a median spawning biomass depletion estimate of 0.39, indicating it is neither overfished nor subject to overfishing. As an important target stock for Australia and some other CCMs, they expressed a strong interest in taking steps to ensure that this stock remained sustainable into the future.
439. Australia advocated for the Commission to develop a management procedure for swordfish, aligning with its commitment to harvest strategy-based management. They highlighted the 2025 stock assessment as a basis for developing the operating model reference set and commencing management strategy evaluation and proposed extending MP development through 2029.
440. At SC20, Australia, together with French Polynesia, had proposed that a management procedure be developed for Southwest Pacific swordfish. Australia recognized that this work should not distract from the critical work progressing on the development of harvest strategies

for key tuna stocks. To this end, they did not propose to include swordfish in the Commission's Harvest Strategy Workplan, nor were they seeking Commission funding for this work, and this was reflected in the Billfish Research Plan. Australia was happy to lead this work and anticipated undertaking it over a five-year period. They welcomed support and the opportunity to work with interested CCMs and encouraged participants to reach out to the Australian delegation.

441. French Polynesia strongly supported the development of a management procedure for Southwest Pacific swordfish. They emphasized that swordfish was an important bycatch species for them and that they were exploring targeting opportunities for diversification for their fisheries, as they sought resilience for their fragile small island developing territory economy. They thanked Australia for leading this important work and committed to collaborating with Australia and other CCMs to make progress.
442. The European Union (EU) stated that Southwest Pacific swordfish was an important stock for them, and they were keenly interested in exploring any relevant additional options for the effective management of this stock, including the development of a management procedure as proposed. They generally supported the development of management procedures for key stocks across RFMOs. However, they emphasized the importance of carefully evaluating the stated objectives of such initiatives, their feasibility, their added value, and the resources they might require on a case-by-case basis.
443. The EU highlighted the need to address potentially more urgent issues related to the current measure for Southwest Pacific swordfish before considering the development of a management procedure. They expressed willingness to discuss these issues with interested members on the margins of the meeting. Noting their delegation's limited capacity to keep up with the ongoing development of additional harvest strategy tasks such as MSE, they emphasized the challenge of engaging in another management procedure development without a clear rationale or justification.
444. China acknowledged the importance of Southwest Pacific swordfish, highlighting its significance as a bycatch species for their fleet. They recalled the near-adoption of a CMM for swordfish in 2021, which ultimately failed to reach a consensus. China expressed a willingness to collaborate with Australia and other interested parties to establish a management procedure for Southwest Pacific swordfish in the near future.
445. New Zealand supported Australia's initiative, emphasizing the importance of Southwest Pacific swordfish as a bycatch species for their fleet. They expressed interest in actively participating in the development process.
446. The Cook Islands expressed strong support for Australia's proposal, agreeing that a harvest strategy was the appropriate management approach for swordfish. They appreciated the proposed five-year timeline, noting it allowed for meaningful consultation with small island developing states and territories, and so took into consideration their small delegation's capacity. Emphasizing the stock's importance to their domestic fleet and local market, they reiterated their commitment to the initiative.
447. The development of a Management Procedure for Southwest Pacific swordfish was discussed again under Agenda item 9, where decisions and tasking drafted by Australia were presented.
448. The United States supported the development of a MP for Southwest Pacific swordfish and made a suggestion that WCPFC 21 tasked SC21 with developing an SC project covering this work.

449. France reiterated their support for the proposal to launch work on a Southwest Pacific swordfish MP starting in 2025. They considered that this would help manage the stock and ensure the sustainability of fisheries under the WCPFC.
450. French Polynesia thanked Australia for their tremendous work on the proposal, and for the effort they were willing to put into the future work regarding this stock. French Polynesia reiterated that they were looking for a commitment from the Commission to launch work on an MP and MSE in 2025. They noted that while the stock was healthy, it was important for them that a long-term perspective was taken, and they wanted to ensure that the stock remained healthy to avoid the difficulties faced with other stocks.
451. New Zealand supported the proposal from Australia at this stage. They noted that the Commission was simply proposing that work take place over the coming years, including after next year's stock assessment. New Zealand noted that Australia had been tasked with developing the scope for the project for consideration at SC21. Korea and Fiji also expressed support for the proposal from Australia.
452. The EU regretted that there hadn't been enough time to fully discuss the development of a harvest strategy for South Pacific swordfish. The EU noted that this stock was one of the healthiest in the WCPFC, indicating that current management measures had contributed to its healthy status. However, the EU supported improving these measures, including considering a harvest strategy for the future.
453. The EU had bilateral discussions with other members, including Australia, and noted that one of their main concerns was that most of the catches for this stock came from non-targeted fisheries. Unless fishing mortality from these fisheries was addressed, developing a successful harvest strategy would be challenging. The EU believed it was crucial to have an informed discussion on the approach to take before agreeing on a harvest strategy, including tasking the scientific service provider and the SC with clarifying key elements.
454. The EU noted that during the Commission meeting, they saw the challenges presented by the SP-ALB management procedure. For example, 20% of the catch was outside the control of the management procedure, as it occurred in the EPO. Similarly, during discussions about YFT and BET management objectives, it was noted that almost 40% of YFT catch occurred beyond the jurisdiction of WCPFC, particularly in Area 2.
455. In the case of South Pacific swordfish, between 60-70% of the catch was bycatch in fisheries that did not target swordfish. For the EU, this signalled a clear risk in committing to a fully-fledged harvest strategy over the next five years, only to later realize that only three members, who had target fisheries corresponding to 30% of the catch, would be directly affected by the MP. During this time, the key issue —how to bring bycatch fisheries under WCPFC's management framework—would have remained unaddressed. It was the EUs strong view that all CCMs involved in fisheries contributing to fishing mortality—beyond just the three with targeted fisheries—should be included in the management regime.
456. Australia noted there was overwhelming support from CCMs for the development of an MP for Southwest Pacific swordfish, which it had first raised at SC20. Australia agreed with several points made by the European Union in relation to the need to move forward with an open and transparent process—one that is undertaken under the auspices of the Commission, in a way that brings everyone together and helps drive the work forward. Australia also considered that the WCPFC was fortunate that Southwest Pacific swordfish was in good status, and Australia's goal for this work was to keep it that way. Australia also noted that the MP was aimed at the whole stock level, and included in that work was the need to address both target and bycatch fisheries.

457. The Chair further encouraged Australia and the European Union to work together to find agreeable text. Following further discussions, two versions of the text were considered, and a compromise was reached.

Decisions

458. The Commission agreed to develop a management strategy evaluation framework to evaluate candidate management procedures for Southwest Pacific swordfish and to consider developing a Harvest Strategy. This will commence following the 2025 stock assessment and be conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner.
459. The Commission requested in accordance with the SC's Billfish Research Plan, Australia and the EU to develop a project scope and workplan for the consideration of SC21. That project shall be considered as a formal project of the Commission and shall be managed by the SSP and supervised by the SC. The research scope and workplan will include explicit consideration of the existence of bycatch and target fisheries with differing impacts on the stock and the need to consider the implications when developing a future Harvest Strategy for SPSWO, as well as the resources needed.
460. The Commission noted that this should not distract from the critical work progressing the development of harvest strategies for key tuna stocks and is therefore not included in the indicative Harvest Strategy Workplan for key tuna stocks at this stage. The Commission noted that Australia and the EU are considering funding options to support this work of the Commission, and as noted in the Billfish Research Plan, no funding for this work is sought in 2025.

Harvest Strategy Workplan

461. The Chair sought confirmation that Australia, through James Larcombe, would remain available to lead on updating the Harvest Strategy Workplan throughout the meeting, and acknowledged Dr. Larcombe's continued role in guiding this work. The updated Harvest Strategy Workplan was discussed under Agenda Item 9 following informal consultations throughout WCPFC21.
462. When this matter was brought back to plenary for discussion under Agenda Item 9, Dr. Larcombe reported on informal consultations between the SSP and Japan relating to the SSP's availability to undertake the necessary work to support the Commission's plan to adopt a TRP for BET in 2025, as was reflected in the Indicative Harvest Strategy Workplan. Outcomes of those consultations led to retaining that element of the Workplan, for the Commission to adopt a BET TRP in 2025, and that it be qualified as *tentative* and retained in the Workplan for 2026, should it be required. Dr. Larcombe further explained that the issue related to the SSP's workload and whether it would allow for the necessary work to support the adoption of a BET TRP. He noted that the Workplan reflected a prioritization of the Commission's harvest strategy work, with the priority being SP-ALB and SKJ, followed by BET where time allowed.
463. Japan thanked Australia and the SSP for working together with Japan to modify the Workplan in a way that reflected the resource capacities of the SSP and noted that since the Commission would not be convening an SMD in 2025, Japan could go along with the modified Workplan as explained by Dr. Larcombe. Japan also stated that it would not be in a position to support any further delays in the establishment of a BET management procedure.

Decision

464. The Commission adopted the updated Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 for 2025-2027 ([Attachment 16](#)).

Tasks

465. The Commission tasked the SSP with providing an update to SC21 on its progress in addressing issues raised by the 2019 SEAPODYM review.

466. The Commission tasked the Secretariat with engaging with the IATTC in discussions on supporting the SSP in accessing or collecting genetic samples of SP-ALB in the southern IATTC area.

7. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

7.1 Electronic Monitoring Standards

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-17](#) (*Report on the Development of Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards*)

467. The Chair of the WCPFC ER&EM Working Group, Dr. Shelton Harley (NZ), presented a summary of progress to date in developing these standards.

468. He reminded the Commission that WCPFC20 agreed to the following actions:

- a) The Commission noted the Report of the ER&EM IWG (WCPFC20-2023-ERandEM-IWG-02) and agreed to adopt the Schedule of Work set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
- b) The Commission tasked the ER&EM IWG to develop a set of interim EM standards for adoption at WCPFC21 in 2024.
- c) The Commission noted the need for cooperation with IATTC in the development of EM procedures for WCPFC.
- d) Further, in adopting an updated Tropical Tuna CMM (CMM 2023-01), EM was specifically called out in Table 3 of Attachment 1. The use of EM (or increased observer coverage) could allow some members an increased BET longline catch limit.

469. Also, TCC20 had:

- a) Welcomed the progress of the ER&EM IWG on interim EM standards.
- b) **Reiterated** the importance of agreeing to interim EM standards at WCPFC21, so that EM can be used by certain CCMs to meet obligations under [CMM 2023-01](#).
- c) Noted the advice from the Chair of the ER&EM IWG regarding the importance of encouraging potential EM providers in the WCPFC region to prioritise development of common standards for EM records and ancillary logs to allow interoperability across EM software platforms.
- d) **Endorsed** the high-level proposed workplan for the ER&EM IWG for consideration by WCPFC21. (**TCC20 Summary Report Attachment D**).

470. The proposed Interim EM Standards for consideration at WCPFC21 were a package that included: (1) a set of definitions; (2) technical standards for EM programs; (3) EM data fields to be generated through collection and analysis of EM records; and (4) EM program reporting requirements.

471. The proposed Interim EM Standards had been developed over the past 12 months based on extensive material provided by FFA CCMs and information from other RFMOs. This work had involved several rounds of feedback received from intersessional work as well as online and hybrid meetings. There were a small number of outstanding matters that remained to be agreed.
472. Upon successful adoption of these standards by the Commission at WCPFC21, the Commission might wish to take the steps necessary to make them mandatory for those CCMs that used EM to meet certain obligations and for those who implemented EM voluntarily and submitted their EM data to the Commission.
473. Additionally, the Commission might wish to direct the ER and EM IWG to undertake further work on a range of potential focus areas, including: (a) development of an EM program audit/assurance process to be applied where an EM program is being used to meet a CCM's obligations; and (b) development of EM standards for vessels receiving longline transshipments.
474. Two sessions of a SWG were convened on Days 3 and 4 of the meeting to discuss the outstanding details for agreement on Interim EM Standards, based on the draft considered at TCC20 plus recent comments received from Japan, USA, Canada, FFA CCMs, and Pew Charitable Trusts, and the SWG provided its recommendations to plenary for decision. A high-level summary of the SWG discussions is contained at [Attachment S](#).

Decisions

475. The Commission adopted Interim Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards, covering Technical, Data and Reporting Requirements ([Attachment 17](#)).
476. The Commission adopted the ER and EM Working Group Workplan ([Attachment 18](#)).

Tasks

477. The Commission tasked the ER and EM Working Group in 2025 to:
- a) work closely with the ROP IWG to further review EM data requirements based on relevant CMM requirements not already covered in the ROP minimum data fields;
 - b) develop advice on potential changes to the interim EM standards to improve harmonization across RFMOs;
 - c) develop an assurance/audit process for EM standards based on the existing ROP audit model;
 - d) initiate work on EM standards for carrier vessels conducting transshipment with longline vessels.
 - e) develop advice on an amendment to the CMM 2022-05 Standards, specifications and procedures for the WCPFC RFV, noting this would be required to support implementation.
478. The Commission tasked SC22 and TCC22 in 2026 to recommend to WCPFC23 in 2026 any necessary changes to the interim EM Standards based on the work of the ER and EM IWG and any other relevant information.

7.2 Transshipment

479. The Co-Chairs of the Transshipment Intersessional Working Group (TS-IWG), Dr. Alex Kahl (USA) and Felix Ngwango (Vanuatu), provided an update to the Commission in advance of the SWG discussions. The TS-IWG had convened in September, alongside TCC20, to progress revisions to strengthen the transshipment measure. While notable progress was made on reporting and clarifying the measure, three key issues remained unresolved.

- a) Impracticability of in-port transshipment and exemptions for at-sea transshipment: This issue was identified as fundamental to both the Transshipment CMM and the Commission's broader operations. Extensive discussions were held, with proposed pathways forward, including a detailed approach developed by the Marshall Islands, expected to be a focal point in SWG deliberations.
- b) Observer requirements for transshipment activities: Many members prioritized strengthening observer coverage, advocating for mandatory observers on carrier vessels and either observers or electronic monitoring (EM) on offloading vessels to enhance oversight.
- c) Reporting of non-fish transfers: Challenges in identifying and understanding these transfers during transshipment were highlighted. Enhanced reporting mechanisms were noted as critical for validating and verifying activities within the Convention Area, with further consideration expected during the SWG.

480. The Co-Chairs emphasized that the SWG's agenda would focus on reviewing the draft revised CMM, focusing on the unresolved issues. Discussions would aim to determine whether a draft CMM could be finalized for Commission consideration at WCPFC21 or whether recommendations for future work should be developed. The Co-Chairs also noted contingency plans for drafting recommendations if consensus on a revised CMM proved unachievable. Members were informed that recommendations would result regardless of the outcome, with discussions expected to guide the path forward for addressing these critical issues.

Discussion

481. The Marshall Islands, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, reiterated their high priority interest in the review of the transshipment measure. Their fundamental and long-standing position was to strengthen the regulation of transshipment activities in the high seas, not to water it down. While CMM 2009-06 allowed such activities by exception, they had, in practice, become the norm, which was inconsistent with the measure and the Convention.

482. FFA CCM views on the review of CMM 2009-06 had been clearly articulated throughout the extensive review process and were also shared in FFA's delegation paper 01. In DP01, they had clearly articulated their red lines for any revised measure based on their fundamental position that the review was to strengthen the regulation of transshipment in the high seas.

483. FFA CCMs acknowledged many observers who had constructively engaged in the review of the transshipment measure, in particular Pew and WWF. They appreciated and welcomed this type of constructive engagement from NGOs and acknowledged their efforts and positive contributions.

484. On the outstanding issues in the draft revised transshipment measure, FFA CCMs noted the fundamental differences in their views versus those of other CCMs, especially those involved in high seas transshipment activities, and wondered how realistic it was to reconcile these differences at this point. If these fundamental differences were unlikely to be resolved, they suggested that

the SWG focus on discussing recommendations for future work to bring back for the Commission's consideration.

485. Discussions continued through a SWG and a high-level summary of SWG discussions is contained at [Attachment T](#).
486. The SWG discussions produced a set of recommendations, including taskings, not all of which had been agreed to by the SWG. Before proceeding with the Commission's consideration of the SWG outcomes in plenary under Agenda Item 9, the Chair noted that there were several opportunities for transshipment discussions to occur throughout the meeting, in addition to those opportunities that were provided throughout the year, such that the discussions on this topic in Agenda Item 9 would focus on adopting outcomes that had been agreed to as a result of those intersessional and SWG discussions.
487. On the first tasking from the SWG to the Secretariat to provide an analysis of vessel and observer reporting related to transshipment activity in the Convention Area, the Marshall Islands requested the Secretariat to clarify whether this analysis was currently routine work. The Secretariat confirmed that the analysis was fairly routine and was reflected in the Secretariat's internal workplans as well as in the TCC Workplan. On that understanding, the tasking from the SWG was deleted.
488. Korea commented on the second tasking from the SWG which was for the IWG-ROP to "consider adding non-fish transfers" to the ROP minimum data fields for transshipment monitoring. Korea recalled that the SWG agreed that the IWG-ROP would "discuss" the addition of a data field for non-fish transfers.
489. A third outcome from the SWG related to the use of a TCC20 delegation paper as a basis for guidelines to be developed pursuant to paragraph 37 of CMM 2009-06 on the impracticability of certain vessels to tranship in port or in waters under national jurisdiction. China questioned the approach of using a delegation paper from one CCM as the basis for a matter that required further discussion before guidelines could be considered.
490. Korea supported China's intervention and noted that there was no agreement on the adoption of the guidelines in the TCC20 delegation paper but stated its willingness to support the recommendation if the application of the guidelines would be voluntary.
491. The Marshall Islands believed that the guidelines called for in paragraph 37 of CMM 2009-06 were compulsory so making them voluntary would not be appropriate in the recommendation text. Marshall Islands wanted to ensure that the commitment to continue the work for further discussion at TCC21 was retained.
492. Chinese Taipei recalled that in the SWG, there was no consensus on the recommendation to apply the guidelines based on the TCC20 delegation paper and could not support the recommendation text in its current form. They encouraged CCMs to submit their proposed guidelines to TCC21 for further consideration.
493. The Marshall Islands reiterated that this was not a new issue, and the Commission had been trying to address it since 2008. They noted that since CMM 2009-06 was adopted, some issues had emerged that required attention and the Marshall Islands' delegation paper to TCC20 was in response to that. The Marshall Islands questioned the lack of concerted effort by CCMs to address the emerging issues in the same way that the IWG was tasked to strengthen the transshipment measure, which constituted a failure on the Commission's part for failing to take action where needed. They proposed a modified tasking from the Commission to TCC to use [WCPFC-TCC20-2024-DP07](#) as a basis to continue strengthening the transshipment measure, noting that the

Commission could not complete its work at WCPFC21 without at least acknowledging the need to address the guidelines. The Marshall Islands concluded by expressing their appreciation to the Co-Chairs of the TS-IWG and urging CCMs to consider their position.

494. Korea thanked the Marshall Islands for their flexibility in proposing a new way forward and noted their understanding that the Marshall Islands could submit the same delegation paper to TCC21 for further discussion, and if necessary, work on that basis. But Korea was not sure about the implication of the Commission committing to using that delegation paper as the basis of future work.
495. China thanked the Marshall Islands for their flexibility on the way forward but also questioned whether the Commission could commit to the Marshall Islands' delegation paper being used as the basis for future work, since it was an information paper submitted by one delegation. China suggested that the delegation paper be considered as information, not necessarily as the basis of future discussions.
496. The Marshall Islands appreciated the flexibility shown by others and offered to lead the continuation of the work at TCC, together with the TCC Chair and like-minded CCMs.
497. On a fifth tasking to the Secretariat relating to provision of transshipment declarations and notices to the relevant coastal CCM where the catch of highly migratory fish stocks is reported from the EEZ of a CCM, China requested the deletion of "coastal", stating that the flag CCM also needed the data for transparency purposes.
498. Korea posed a practical question to China in relation to their suggestion, inquiring as to the effect of not specifying the relevant coastal CCM in whose EEZ the fish were caught, noting that the Korean Fisheries Monitoring Centre collects transshipment declarations for its flagged vessels as well as catch data.
499. China responded that the current transshipment declarations do not provide clarity in identifying the fishing area as only the WCPO, so the Secretariat's assistance was needed.
500. Chinese Taipei raised a technical question relating to access to data under the WCPFC Data Rules and sought confirmation from the Secretariat that any exchange of data envisioned by the recommended tasking would be in accordance with the Data Rules.
501. The Secretariat outlined the process that would be implemented where complete transshipment declaration data would be shared with all CCMs whose EEZs were indicated in the transshipment declaration as the source of catch in that transshipment. The Secretariat noted their expectation that the approach would necessarily be guided by the principles stated in the Data Rules that CCMs shall have access to data covering any vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction, and applying to fish in their national waters, unloading in their ports of transshipping fish within waters under their jurisdiction.
502. Chinese Taipei thanked the Secretariat for the explanation and stated that they would require further time to review the implications. They understood that the CCM should only receive the data, which is relevant to their EEZ, not data collected in other CCM EEZs, and considered this to be consistent with the WCPFC Data Rules. They confirmed that if the information contained in the transshipment declaration only related to one CCM, they could support the sharing of data with that CCM.
503. An additional tasking to the Secretariat to work with relevant CCMs to provide information on a regular basis to validate high seas transshipment reporting was questioned by Chinese Taipei and Korea as creating additional workload on the Secretariat, and not supported.

504. A final recommendation from the SWG proposed amendments to paragraphs 2 and 3 of Annex 1 of CMM 2009-06. China considered that this was a substantive amendment to the CMM that required additional documentation, including a proposal from a delegation that included a CMM 2013-06 evaluation as well as an audit points checklist. They didn't consider that the proposed amendments from the SWG were procedurally appropriate and suggested that they could be discussed in the following year if the proposals were made by a delegation with the associated requirements.
505. Korea appreciated the co-Chairs for the efforts to develop a recommendation from the SWG discussions but supported China's intervention and proposed way forward.
506. Making a final comment on transshipment, Nauru, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, expressed their gratitude to the TS-IWG Co-Chairs for their efforts. They were disappointed that the long outstanding issue of enhanced transshipment monitoring on the high seas could not be resolved through the TS-IWG and felt that the IWG had run its course and should be discontinued following the conclusion of WCPFC21. FFA CCMs suggested that further transshipment discussions be integrated into the TCC agenda and recommended that any adopted future tasks be reflected in the TCC Workplan.
507. The United States, speaking as one of the Co-Chairs of the TS-IWG, supported the suggestion from FFA CCMs to discontinue the TS-IWG.
508. The Chair acknowledged the work of the TS-IWG Co-Chairs and confirmed the Commission's decision to refer all future transshipment discussions to the TCC and to discontinue the TS-IWG.
509. Pew expressed their concern and disappointment that the Commission could not agree to a strengthened transshipment measure after five years of work. They urged CCMs to address outstanding issues in 2025 so that a strengthened measure could be agreed at WCPFC22. Pew cautioned that not doing so would risk the Commission falling behind in international efforts to improve transshipment monitoring in an area where the majority of the world's tuna transshipment occurred. They looked forward to CCMs bringing solutions forward in 2025.

Decision

510. The Commission agreed that the TS-IWG be disestablished and that its work be incorporated into the work of TCC, and acknowledged the hard work of the TS-IWG Co-Chairs.

Tasks

511. The Commission tasked the ROP-IWG to discuss adding non-fish transfers to the observer minimum data fields for monitoring transshipment.
512. The Commission tasked TCC, commencing in 2025, to use TCC20-2024-DP07 as a reference to continue the work required to strengthen the transshipment measure.
513. Where the geographic location of the highly migratory fish stock catches, reported in Annexes I or III, is reported from the EEZ of a CCM, the Commission tasked the Secretariat to provide the relevant CCM with the transshipment declaration and notices for verification purposes in accordance with all data rules and procedure of the Commission.

7.3 FAD Management Options Working Group

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-19](#) (Progress of the FAD Management Options IWG on Priority Tasks and Discussions for 2024)

514. The Chair of the FAD Management Options IWG (FADMO-IWG), Jamel James (FSM), gave updates on the progress of the FADMO-IWG on its priority tasks and discussions for 2024 (WCPFC21-2024-19). He drew attention to the recommendations of the paper which included the following:

- a) WCPFC21 giving guidance on prioritizing key issues and providing suggestions on how the IWG can efficiently advance its work on i) Satellite Buoy Data Transmission Requirements, ii) FAD Recovery Programs/Strategies, iii) FAD logbooks, iv) Biodegradable FADs, and v) dFAD Deployment.
- b) WCPFC21 supporting and budgeting for a physical meeting of the IWG in 2025.

515. The FADMO-IWG Chair acknowledged concerns raised in the plenary regarding which types of vessels may engage in FAD-related activities, such as dFAD deployment, in relation to the participatory rights of CNMs. It was proposed that the Commission task the FAD Management Options IWG and TCC21 with addressing this ambiguity in the existing text on participatory rights and providing recommendations to WCPFC22.

516. The FADMO-IWG Chair acknowledged the concern and confirmed it will be incorporated into the FADMO-IWG workplan. He also informed the plenary that an updated workplan will be circulated via an official WCPFC circular in early 2025, as per standard practice, to inform CCMs and observers of FADMO-IWG activities and update the participant contact list.

517. Tokelau, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, expressed gratitude to the FADMO-IWG Chair for his efforts and support. The PNA and Tokelau CCMs have made significant investments in FAD-related policies, programs, and incentives to ensure effective management of FAD fishing in their waters. Currently, approximately 30% of FAD sets in PNA and Tokelau waters were made on FADs, which was about half the level of FAD sets on the high seas, where the figure is around 60%. The PNA and Tokelau CCMs committed to collaborating with other CCMs through the FADMO-IWG to ensure the adoption of compatible measures and standards that enhance FAD management on the high seas. They supported prioritizing the adoption of FAD logbooks and FAD transmission reporting to provide essential data for broader FAD management efforts. Furthermore, they advocated for and look forward to a physical meeting of the working group in 2025.

518. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the FADMO-IWG Chair and the WCPFC Secretariat for the report and proposed workplan, noting the successful completion of 2024 activities. They supported holding at least one in-person meeting in 2025, ideally back-to-back with another WCPFC meeting, to advance discussions on FAD logbooks, satellite buoy data, and FAD recovery programs. They recommended including this meeting in the workplan, with guidance on prioritizing key discussion topics to ensure progress on FAD logbooks and satellite buoy data transmission. They suggested scheduling the meeting during the margins of SC21, allowing recommendations from SC21 and TCC21 to inform WCPFC deliberations.

Decision

519. The Commission endorsed the FAD Management Options IWG Workplan for 2024-2026 ([Attachment 19](#)).

7.4 Crew Labour Standards

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-20](#) (Development of a Crew Labour Standards Conservation and Management Measure_rev01)

520. The Co-Chairs of the Crew Labour Standards intersessional work, Heather Ward (NZ) and Putuh Suadela (ID), recalled that in 2023 the Commission noted there was overwhelming support for work on crew standards and tasked the Co-Chairs to progress this work so that a CMM could be adopted at WCPFC21. Good progress was made throughout 2024, including the convening of two virtual workshops, multiple rounds of email consultation, and a face-to-face session at TCC20.
521. The Co-Chairs proposed several suggestions for the Commission's consideration to address the remaining areas of the draft CMM. These were set out in WP20, which was accompanied by a 2013-06 assessment and an audit point checklist. They emphasized that it was critical for flag CCMs to take responsibility for the conditions in which crews work on fishing vessels. The work environment on a fishing vessel was unique and posed particular challenges for the health, safety, and well-being of human beings.
522. The binding CMM would establish that each flag CCM was responsible for ensuring that owners and/or operators of fishing vessels provided at least minimum working conditions for their crews. This included a written contract, decent living conditions such as food, water, and rest, regular pay, and the opportunity to disembark or terminate the contract. Owners and operators of fishing vessels were required to have a record of the next of kin or the designated contact persons for crew members, and they had to ensure that crew members were adequately trained, including with regard to safety on board a vessel.
523. The draft CMM set out the requirements for owners and/or operators in the event that a crew member died, was missing, or had fallen overboard, or if there were allegations of forced or compulsory labour or other mistreatment. It was appropriate that the WCPFC, as a regional fisheries management organization managing 52% of the global tuna catch, led the way in requiring decent working conditions on board fishing vessels. They looked forward to working with members over the course of the meeting to develop a finalised CMM for agreement.
524. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA CCMs, congratulated the Co-Chairs and the Secretariat for the excellent work on the crew labour standards CMM. Vanuatu advised that its national legislative framework and policies on crewing and labour standards were under review, and they hoped to ratify key treaties and conventions relating to crewing before the end of 2025.
525. After further discussion of the remaining details over three SWG sessions, a finalised text of a CMM on Crew Labour Standards was presented to the Commission for adoption. A high-level summary of SWG discussions is contained at [Attachment U](#).

Decision

526. The Commission adopted CMM 2024-04 Crew Labour Standards ([Attachment 20](#)).

7.5 Review of Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-21](#) (Review of Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds (CMM 2018-03))

527. New Zealand led an informal process to review the latest scientific evidence on seabird bycatch and mitigation. New Zealand pointed out that the WCPF Convention Area included areas of great importance to seabirds, including many species of albatross and petrels known to be highly vulnerable to longline fishing bycatch. At least eight of eleven well-studied New Zealand seabirds foraging within the WCPF Convention Area were declining at concerning rates, with bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries being the most likely cause of this decline. For some species, most pressing the Antipodean albatross, extinction was predicted around 2070 if the current declines continued.
528. Two informal virtual sessions had been held in 2024, and a compilation of scientific papers were made available to CCMs and stakeholders to support discussions. The findings of the review and recommendations to strengthen the WCPFC Seabird CMM were discussed extensively at SC20. TCC20 considered the technical, practical, and safety aspects, including discussing possible text for a strengthened Seabird CMM. Following TCC20, a revised draft text of Seabird CMM was shared for further comments.
529. New Zealand recalled that in 2022, SC18 noted the global decline in specific seabird populations vulnerable to threats posed by longline fisheries, and WCPFC19 agreed that CMM 2018-03 on seabirds should be reviewed over 2023 and 2024 and evaluated with respect to new studies and the best practice advice on mitigation from the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).
530. The proposed changes to CMM 2018-03, submitted for discussion and decision at WCPFC21, were the result of a robust, transparent, and participatory review process. The decisions made by the Commission would determine the fate of the most threatened seabirds within the WCPF Convention Area. There was a narrow window to prevent the extinction of the Antipodean albatross, and management action should not be delayed. Significant improvements to the measure were needed now. There were two SWG sessions planned at this meeting to find agreement on the new measure, and members were asked to continue engaging constructively in this final, most important stage.

Discussion

531. Japan thanked New Zealand for providing their views. They stated that they were not aware of any formally established intersessional working group on seabird mitigation measures, and their delegation had not participated in any such working groups. They recalled that at the previous year's Commission meeting, New Zealand had expressed the intention to hold New Zealand-hosted workshops, with the outcomes possibly being reported to the Scientific Committee meeting. However, no working group had been established to their understanding.
532. Japan sought clarification on New Zealand's advice at WCPFC21, questioning whether a new working group had been created to discuss the proposal after the Commission meeting. They understood the proposal to be from New Zealand, not from a workshop or formally established intersessional working group. Japan emphasized the need to clarify the status of any such groups, noting that their scientists had participated in related workshops, not working groups.
533. Australia strongly supported efforts to reduce seabird bycatch and commended New Zealand's initiative to strengthen WCPFC seabird conservation measures. They expressed concern about high seabird mortality in high-latitude areas, including the high seas east of Tasmania, highlighting eight endangered or critically endangered species in the WCPFC area, such as the shy albatross, which was reclassified as endangered in 2020. Observer records confirmed these species were caught by vessels operating in the WCPFC high seas. Australia shared feedback on

New Zealand's proposal to enhance independent monitoring and mitigation across fleets and looked forward to further discussions in the SWG session.

534. China had a similar understanding to Japan, noting that they had not heard of any working group on seabirds being established ahead of the WCPFC21 meeting, only workshops. They made this point but confirmed their intention to participate in the SWG at this meeting.
535. New Zealand responded to Japan's queries, stating that they had held two informal virtual sessions—two informal intersessional working groups—one in February and one in May. They appreciated the participation of Japanese scientists in those meetings, which included full-day workshops and extensive written material provided for review ahead of the workshops. They also mentioned that there had been extensive review and consideration at the Scientific Committee a few months ago.
536. New Zealand also thanked China for their participation in the review so far and looked forward to working with them in the SWG the following day.
537. The European Union (EU) thanked New Zealand for their efforts to enhance seabird protection measures within the WCPFC. They expressed particular appreciation for the bilateral workshops New Zealand organized for their delegation, given that the schedule of all WCPFC online meetings continues to involve overnight participation for participants from Europe which prevented their participation in the multilateral workshops on seabirds CMM. The EU found these bilateral workshops valuable and thanked New Zealand for incorporating some of their suggestions into the proposal. They looked forward to collaborating during the meeting to further strengthen the existing measure.
538. Fiji, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, commended New Zealand for their leadership in the revision of the Seabirds CMM. They recognised the concerning decline in seabird populations within the Convention Area, some of which were facing the danger of extinction, and strongly supported the strengthening of the measure to mitigate further impacts from the longline fisheries. FFA CCMs supported further progress in line with the proposal made by New Zealand, to be discussed in the SWG.
539. Chinese Taipei shared a similar understanding with China and Japan that although there was an informal intersessional discussion on the review of the Seabirds CMM, there was no proposal emerging from this informal discussion. However, two versions of a proposal were provided to SC20 and then TCC20, which did not receive any adoption or recommendation. They were unsure whether it was proper procedure now to start an SWG or similar consultation among CCMs. However, if there was a strong opinion as a Commission that they should start this, they would participate.
540. The USA recognised the work that New Zealand had put into leading this effort. They noted that a great deal of progress had been made during the past year. They expressed some confusion regarding the interventions about the process but believed there was an appetite to have a conversation about whether or not it could be finalised that year. The United States supported doing that work through a SWG.
541. Canada similarly thanked New Zealand for their leadership on this issue and supported this moving to a SWG.
542. New Zealand again reminded CCMs that in 2022, the Commission agreed to review the Seabird CMM, and that this review would take place over 2023 and 2024. Consequently, New Zealand had led this process, which included informal sessions, intersessional discussions, and discussions at

both SC20 and TCC20 in 2023 and 2024. At TCC20, they put forward a proposed text for discussion based on the extensive scientific work that had been tabled.

543. BirdLife International thanked New Zealand for leading the review of the seabird CMM and noted the exceptional quality of the review. BirdLife International also expressed their disappointment with the discussions about the process of reviewing the seabird CMM and the disagreement with the scientific evidence. BirdLife International encouraged all CCMs to act in good faith and work together to adopt scientifically supported management measures for seabirds as they do for target species.
544. New Zealand believed that it would be appropriate for a SWG to consider this 2022 tasking from the Commission. They expressed uncertainty about the criteria for a SWG if one could not be established at this Commission when considering the tasking set out in 2022.
545. China stated that it had no difficulties but raised a question on the procedure. They understood that New Zealand had been working hard to host what they called "informal workshops," and since these were not part of a formal Intersessional Working Group, there might be procedural difficulties. They had found that the working documents—specifically WP21 from New Zealand—were not delegation papers to amend the existing measure and did not include the CMM 2013-06 requirements. They noted that this was before the deadline but highlighted the lack of an audit points checklist and the requirements under CMM 2013-06.
546. China asked the WCPFC Legal Advisor to advise whether WCPFC21-2024-21 should be considered as a delegation paper making formal suggestions to amend the existing seabird mitigation measure.
547. The WCPFC Legal Advisor, Dr. Ridings, firstly recalled that WCPFC19 had tasked work to be done on reviewing the Seabird mitigation measures in CMM 2018-03, and that this review requirement was also referred to in the CMM, meaning that it was a task that needed to be done. New Zealand had undertaken to lead that work and TCC20 had commended New Zealand for its leadership. Japan was correct that there was no formal intersessional working group established for this purpose and that it was an informal group led by New Zealand. The intersessional work was publicised widely and included on the WCPFC website, with a number of different CCMs participating, both virtually and in person at TCC20.
548. China noted that working paper 21 was not a delegation paper, which meant that in a SWG, they could only exchange discussion and might not produce a formal recommendation to amend the existing measures, regardless of whether the contents could achieve consensus or not. Procedurally speaking, it was not possible for the Commission through the SWG to replace any formal delegation proposal. They sought confirmation if that understanding was correct.
549. After discussion as to whether or not the procedural requirements for proposals had been met, New Zealand clarified that working paper 21 had a completed CMM 2013-06 assessment and an audit points checklist.
550. The WCPFC Legal Advisor thanked New Zealand for the clarification and stated that therefore, there was no deficiency in the seabird proposal and that she did not see any impediment to the paper being considered in a SWG, for adoption by the Commission, if agreed, or for a process on the way forward.
551. A SWG was convened to consider the Seabird proposal. A high-level summary of SWG discussions is contained at [Attachment V](#).

Task

552. The Commission tasks:

- a) New Zealand to lead a review of the seabird measure.
- b) SC21 and TCC21 to provide advice on the supporting material provided by CCMs and the SSP.
- c) WCPFC22 to consider the proposal provided by New Zealand, as well as advice from SC21 and TCC21.

7.6 SP-ALB Roadmap IWG

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-22_Rev01](#) (Update on the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG)

553. The Chair noted that there was not a paper that had been tabled for WCPFC21 related to the SP-ALB Roadmap IWG (SP-ALB Roadmap IWG) for consideration by the Commission under Agenda item 7. The IWG had held discussions during the intersessional period, and the Chair of the SP-ALB Roadmap IWG, was invited to provide updates and planned next steps.

554. The Chair of the SP-ALB Roadmap IWG, extended his appreciation to CCMs for their hard work throughout the year. He directed CCMs to the relevant draft decision paper which includes an update on proposed changes to the SP-ALB Roadmap IWG Workplan, to reflect key milestones and planned activities for 2025 and beyond.

555. Amendments to the SP-ALB Roadmap IWG Workplan taskings for 2025 include planning for:

- The adoption of a Management Procedure CMM for SPA by WCPFC22,
- The adopted Management Procedure being run for the first time in 2025,
- The Commission to hold a workshop, or workshops, dedicated to the management procedure, implementing arrangements, mixed fisheries issues as well as allocation of SPA, if appropriate, and
- Tasking that SC21 and TCC21 provide advice on implementing the CMM as appropriate.

556. The Chair sought the endorsement of the Commission for the proposed changes to the workplan to ensure that the groundwork was effectively laid for the future management of SPA.

Discussion

557. Japan thanked the IWG Chair for providing the SP-ALB Roadmap IWG Workplan for 2025 and 2026. Japan had a technical question about seeking clarification on whether the Management Procedure would be run for the first time in 2025 after its adoption at WCPFC22.

558. The IWG Chair clarified that the intention was to have the SSP run the Management Procedure after it was adopted in 2025.

559. Australia further clarified that the intention was to adopt and run the Management Procedure in the same year, and did not consider there was any technical issues with doing so.

560. China stated that based on their experience in ICCAT fisheries, it was possible to adopt a Management Procedure, implement the Management Procedure and allocations in the same year, at the same meeting. So, they did not see this proposal to be a problem.

Decision

561. The Commission adopted the SP-ALB IWG Workplan for 2025-2026 ([Attachment 21](#)).

7.7 Port State Measures

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-23](#) (Update on the Review of Port State Minimum Standards)

562. The Chair invited Fiji to provide an update on the intersessional work relating to Port State Measures (PSM).

563. Fiji began by acknowledging the TCC Chair's leadership at TCC20 that enabled progress on this matter and noted the strong support from CCMs since TCC20 for the need to review PSM standards. Fiji iterated TCC20's recommendations and outcomes on this matter and acknowledged comments received from CCMs and expressed appreciation to Korea and others for their support that led to TCC20's outcomes.

564. Fiji drew attention to an official Circular dated 16 October 2024 from Fiji requesting feedback on the scope and priorities for the review and for CCMs to share their experience in implementing PSM contained in CMM 2017-02 and noted that it had been engaging with several CCMs on these matters as the basis for developing a 2025 workplan.

565. Fiji further expressed appreciation to FFA CCMs, including PNA and Tokelau CCMs, for their support to Fiji's efforts and acknowledged the interests of both developed nations as well as SIDS in the context of varying capacities.

566. With that overview, Fiji recommended that the Commission agrees that a working group on PSM be established under Fiji's leadership, to work intersessionally with CCMs to undertake a review of CMM 2017-02 and prepare a workplan for 2025 and 2026.

567. Vanuatu, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked Fiji for their update and for leading the work on PSM. They noted the importance of this work to FFA CCMs and offered additional points to assist in guiding the review. FFA CCMs believed the review should focus on best practices that are regionally appropriate and recognize the unique context of the Commission membership. They suggested that the review take note of PSM currently captured in other CMMs. FFA CCMs also stated that capacity building must be considered in the review, consistent with provisions of CMM 2017-02, and that the CMM should be complementary to ongoing work relating to PSM in the region.

568. Vanuatu further highlighted the importance of PSM in combatting IUU fishing, noting that FFA CCMs had established and implemented national and regional measures tailored to their context of the FFA Membership. They mentioned the FFA PSM Framework and the ePSM tool that incorporates risk assessment criteria and expressed concerns with the Commission's slow implementation of paragraphs 22 to 25 of CMM 2017-02 relating to the implementation needs of SIDS. Finally, Vanuatu drew attention to the TCC20 recommendation linking CMM 2017-02 to the WCPFC MCS Data Rules and proposed that this work be considered as a priority area for the intersessional workplan to clarify access by CNMs to MCS data.

569. New Zealand expressed their support to Fiji's proposal and thanked them for their initiative to review and improve the effectiveness of CMM 2017-02 and advised of its readiness to actively assist in the work. New Zealand considered that port State inspections were highly effective for promoting compliance with WCPFC obligations and to combat IUU fishing.

570. Pew thanked Fiji for leading the review, noting that it was an important initiative that could yield benefits for all Commission members. Pew urged members to support the review and offered its support and willingness to contribute to the process.

Decisions

571. The Commission agreed that a review of CMM 2017-02 (Port State Measures) be undertaken in 2025.

572. The Commission agreed that a Working Group be established under the leadership of Fiji on Port State Measures to work intersessionally with CCMs to undertake the review of CMM 2017-02 (Port State Measures) and prepare a workplan for 2025-2026.

Task

573. The Commission tasks the lead on Port State Measures to include the linkage between CMM 2017-02 and MCS data rules in the work to review CMM 2017-02, including with respect to the potential for CNMs to access MCS data.

7.8 Regional Observer Programme IWG

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-16](#) (Update from the ROP-IWG)

574. The Chair invited Papua New Guinea to provide an update on the Commission's intersessional work relating to Regional Observer Programme.
575. Mr Lucas Tarapik (Papua New Guinea), the nominee for Chair of the ROP-IWG, introduced working paper 16 and drew attention to the taskings and intersessional work of the IWG during 2023 and 2024. He emphasised additional taskings and priorities recommended to WCPFC21 by TCC20 relating to the review of Minimum Standard Data Fields, the review of the pre-notification process adopted during WCPFC12, and the development of a standardised process for the use of ROP data in the Compliance Case File System. Mr Tarapik sought the Commission's endorsement of a proposed ROP-IWG Workplan for 2025, noting this included the scheduling of an in-person meeting of the ROP-IWG adjacent to TCC21.
576. Korea thanked Papua New Guinea for the outline of the Workplan and expressed their support. They asked how additional taskings arising during this Commission meeting could be incorporated in the Workplan, for example, a matter discussed at the TS-IWG to add observer data fields for non-fish transfers.
577. The nominated ROP-IWG Chair noted the need for coordination of work.
578. The Cook Islands, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, expressed support for the TCC20 recommendations and the nomination of Mr Tarapik as the next Chair of the ROP-IWG. They extended their heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Chair, Mr Harold Villia. The Cook Islands supported and acknowledged the potential value of an online meeting in the second quarter of 2025 in addition to the proposed in-person meeting however, they expressed the need to consider any additional meeting commitments for 2025 ensured balance and a manageable workload for small administrations.
579. Nauru, speaking on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, supported the statement by the Cook Islands and noted the lack of progress in the IWG since its reactivation in 2023, with 2025 the last year for tasks on the Workplan. They considered the six priority one activities as paramount, particularly with the use of ROP data in the CCFS and the CMS processes and the monitoring

imbalance between the purse seine and longline fleets. They saw value in a hybrid meeting in early 2025 so there is a clear pathway before SC21 and TCC21 and supported the nomination for the ROP-IWG Chair.

580. The nominated ROP-IWG Chair noted the Workplan would be updated at the start of 2025 and throughout the intersessional period and sought CCM views on incorporating the TS-IWG proposal during later discussions on recommendations from the TS-IWG. During those discussions, the Commission tasked the ROP-IWG to consider adding non-fish transfers to the minimum data fields for monitoring transshipments.

581. The Commission endorses the approach set out in [WCPFC21-2024-16](#) for progressing the ROP-IWG tasks in 2025.

8. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROPOSALS

8.1 Longline EM Minimum Data Fields Standards

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP03](#) (Longline EM Minimum Data Fields Standard)

582. Palau, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, introduced *delegation paper 3*, which reflected the collective work of FFA CCMs on identifying data fields to be collected through electronic monitoring in longline fisheries. An earlier version of this work was presented as an Information Paper at SC20 (SC16-ST-IP-07). Delegation paper 3 was tabled for the Commission's information and to contribute to discussions on this topic within the ER and EM Working Group, where necessary, and guided FFA CCMs' engagement on this issue within the group.

583. Korea took the opportunity to express their appreciation to FFA CCMs for their DP03 and noted that they were referring the paper to the ER&EM working group.

584. There were no clarifying questions. The Chair referred discussions to the scheduled SWG for further consideration.

8.2 Amendments to CMM 2017-04 (Marine Pollution)

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP04](#)_Rev01 (Proposed Amendments to CMM 2017-04 (Marine Pollution))

585. Canada introduced *delegation paper 04_Rev01*, highlighting the growing global issue of marine pollution, particularly abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). They noted its detrimental impacts on ecosystems, wildlife, and communities dependent on marine resources. According to OECD projections, global plastic production and waste could triple by 2060, with plastic pollution flows increasing significantly by 2040. Canada emphasized that waste dumped at sea, including ghost fishing gear, posed severe threats to ocean health, livelihoods, and global food security, with studies indicating ghost gear accounts for up to 70% of macroplastics by weight and kills 5–30% of harvestable fish globally.

586. While recognizing the role of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Canada stressed that not all WCPFC CCMs are IMO members, making it essential for WCPFC to address fishing operation waste in the Convention Area. Canada's proposal built on the foundation of CMM 2017-04, which was due for review. After indicating their intent to revise this measure at WCPFC20 in 2023, Canada collaborated with interested CCMs throughout 2024 to refine their proposal.

587. The original proposal emphasized expanding monitoring, reporting, and prohibiting gear abandonment, open burning, and other pollutants, as well as introducing vessel stowage plans, garbage record books, and reporting requirements for lost gear. In response to CCM feedback,

Canada submitted a revised proposal focusing solely on expanding the scope of prohibitions. They clarified an error in the revised text regarding the definition of open burning.

588. Canada considered that the proposal, addressing marine pollution, did not require an SC review, though certain elements of the original proposal would have benefited from TCC input which led to many of the revisions. They urged WCPFC to prioritize this critical issue by adopting the amendments, emphasizing the urgency of addressing marine pollution in the WCPO.
589. The USA thanked Canada for their leadership on this issue, noting that they shared many of the same concerns. In an effort to advance the proposal, they had provided a comprehensive set of comments in writing and offered their assistance, if needed.
590. Regarding marine pollution, Korea appreciated Canada's efforts in proposing amendments to strengthen CMM 2017-04, particularly the emphasis on addressing marine pollution and the impacts of abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear. They strongly supported initiatives that promoted the minimisation of marine pollution and the sustainability of shared ocean resources.
591. Korea acknowledged the inclusion of a prohibition on open burning in the proposal and recognized its intent. However, they suggested further discussion to evaluate its applicability and alignment with international frameworks, noting that no other RFMO currently prohibits open burning. Korea sought clarification on the practical implementation and monitoring of this provision and looked forward to further dialogue to ensure the amendments are effective and feasible for all CCMs.
592. Speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, the Marshall Islands thanked Canada for its proposal and strongly supported efforts to address marine pollution, emphasizing the urgency of this issue in light of global initiatives like the Plastics Treaty negotiations. They encouraged further work on the practicalities and implications of the proposed changes in 2025 and expressed commitment to collaborating with Canada and other CCMs to strengthen the measure.
593. PNG, speaking on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, thanked Canada for addressing this critical issue and supported the FFA statement. They strongly endorsed strengthening CMM 2017-04 to reduce pollution from fishing vessel waste, emphasizing the need for compliance mechanisms. They highlighted the importance of improving monitoring of plastic strapping and lining from longline bait boxes, particularly on vessels transshipping at sea.
594. FFA analysis identified plastic waste from longline bait boxes as a major source of vessel-generated plastic pollution in the WCPO. PNA and Tokelau CCMs suggested involving observers on carrier vessels to monitor plastic waste disposal during transshipment, partially offsetting the absence of observers on longliners and addressing monitoring gaps in the CMM. They expressed readiness to collaborate with Canada on these and related issues.
595. China noted this was their third time responding to a similar proposal on marine pollution, following discussions at IATTC and ICCAT. While they welcomed Canada's initiative, they raised several points:
- a) China implemented domestic legislation in June 2024 requiring all Chinese vessels, including distant-water fishing vessels, to comply with Annex 5 of MARPOL. They questioned the necessity of introducing a similar measure within the WCPFC.
 - b) They highlighted difficulties for purse-seiner stakeholders in retrieving FADs and for longliners in reporting discarded fishing gear. They suggested Canada review discussions from ICCAT 2019 on similar issues, which excluded longliners due to limited applicability.

- c) China expressed concerns about the limited garbage processing capacity in SIDS ports, noting high costs for quarantine, treatment, and disinfection, as well as operational challenges for the fishing industry.
 - d) They pointed out that many countries now prohibit the import of garbage, requiring complex identification procedures for waste brought back to home ports.
596. China recommended deferring the proposal to allow further consideration, including conclusions from the FAD working group and agreements among purse-seiner stakeholders on FAD retrieval mechanisms. They concluded by appreciating Canada's consistent efforts on this issue.
597. Chinese Taipei thanked Canada for presenting the proposal and acknowledged Canada's efforts to highlight the measure. They noted that the initial version was too ambitious and appreciated the revisions made. However, they felt some aspects, such as the FAD work, still needed further consideration. Chinese Taipei had shared their comments with Canadian counterparts during the break and looked forward to continued engagement.
598. The EU acknowledged the importance of addressing marine pollution and thanked Canada for proposing and advancing this measure. They appreciated Canada's efforts to incorporate their comments but noted that recent revisions still required further consideration, particularly regarding FAD work. The EU indicated they had shared additional feedback with Canada during the break and looked forward to ongoing collaboration.
599. French Polynesia thanked Canada for their proposal and expressed strong support for strengthening the current marine pollution measure. They emphasized that marine pollution is a serious issue for them and are committed to working with Canada and other CCMs to enhance the proposal.
600. New Caledonia thanked Canada for the proposal and fully supported it. They stressed that the ocean should not be treated as a trashcan and highlighted the need for responsible actions to ensure the Commission's credibility and the sustainable exploitation of tuna and related resources. They emphasized that responsible behavior from fishing vessels is essential.
601. Japan recognized the significance of marine pollution but cautioned that the Canadian proposal extends beyond the existing MARPOL convention. They expressed the need to work with Canada and other delegations over the next year to explore feasible actions within international frameworks. Japan noted that many CCMs shared this cautious approach and appreciated Canada's efforts, committing to continue collaboration.
602. The Cook Islands expressed gratitude to Canada for the proposal and reaffirmed their commitment to combating marine pollution. As a SIDS, they were acutely aware of the severe impacts of marine pollution on their ocean ecosystems, economies, and communities. They strongly supported initiatives to address this issue and emphasized the importance of aligning these efforts with global processes. The Cook Islands welcomed the strong support for the measure's progression and looked forward to continued work in the following year.
603. The Chair noted the strong support for reviewing the CMM on marine pollution next year and encouraged interested CCMs to work with Canada to develop a future tasking for 2025.
604. Canada continued discussions in the margins of WCPFC21 on the development of a future tasking for marine pollution and requested that CCMs interested in participating in intersessional work on this issue share their contact information with Canada.

Decision

605. The Commission requests interested CCMs to work on the marine pollution issue in 2025 and 2026 in light of [WCPFC-2024-DP04](#) and develop a proposal to amend CMM 2017-04 for submission to TCC22 in 2026 with a view to adopt a measure by WCPFC23.

8.3 Amendments to CMM 2022-04 (Sharks)

Papers: [WCPFC21-2024-DP05](#) (Canada - Proposed Amendments to CMM 2022-04 (Sharks)); [WCPFC21-2024-DP16](#) (Japan - Implementation Report for CMM 2022-04 (Sharks))

606. Due to time constraints, the Chair asked that the remaining list of new proposals not be presented and instead be taken as read, bearing in mind that they had been on the website for 30 days and many had already been socialised or issues discussed at subsidiary body meetings. On the Sharks CMM, there were two papers from Canada and Japan. The Heads of Delegation meeting had already decided that a SWG should be convened to discuss the issue, but the Chair provided an opportunity for CCMs to make initial comments at this time.
607. New Caledonia highlighted the essential role of sharks in maintaining pelagic ecosystem health and their cultural significance to indigenous people, resulting in full protection of sharks in their waters. They acknowledged that non-endangered shark species could be sustainably fished but firmly opposed shark finning, deeming it illegal and unacceptable. They stressed the importance of respecting environmental rights and combating shark finning.
608. New Caledonia referenced CMM 2019-04, amended by CMM 2022-04, which includes measures to prevent shark finning in the WCPF Convention Area. They noted that while alternative measures address practical and operational implementation issues, their effectiveness relies on proper execution, reporting, and control. If these measures proved ineffective, they called for the Commission to improve or modify them. In the meantime, they supported enforcing the precautionary principle by prohibiting the retention of animals separated from their fins as per CMM 2022-04. Based on these points, New Caledonia endorsed Canada's proposal.
609. Korea commended the proposal to enhance shark conservation and management. They emphasized the necessity of an ecosystem-based approach to ensure the sustainability of the entire marine ecosystem. Korea expressed eagerness to collaborate with members to identify effective tools that balance shark conservation with crew safety, noting that the current measure prioritizes the safety of those on board.
610. French Polynesia thanked Canada for their work on sharks and expressed support for the proposal, noting that "fins naturally attached" was the only way to ensure that finning is not practiced. They highlighted that French Polynesia has been a sanctuary for all species of sharks for more than 20 years. Ensuring sustainable management of these crucial species within the Commission area was a very important issue for them.
611. France strongly supported the prohibition of shark finning and the reduction of alternative measures. They emphasized sharks' role in marine ecosystems and Pacific States' cultures, noting that the exclusive economic zones of French Polynesia and New Caledonia are shark sanctuaries. France also highlighted French investments in combating IUU fishing.
612. The European Union (EU) fully supported Canada's proposal to strengthen shark conservation. They expressed disappointment that members using alternative measures had not provided sufficient information for the TCC and Commission to assess their effectiveness. The EU noted that MCS assets, such as high seas boardings and inspections, had found that alternative measures

were not monitorable at sea. Consequently, the EU particularly supported the removal of alternative measures.

613. China cautioned that removing only paragraph 9 would disrupt the balance of the current measure. They supported the establishment of a SWG at WCPFC21 to develop more effective measures that could be adopted by consensus. China noted that Chinese longline vessels operating in the WCPF Convention Area had reported zero shark catches in the past five years, with all catches being discarded and recorded.
614. Japan confirmed its support for the establishment of a SWG to explore improvements to the alternative measures of the "fins naturally attached" policy. They provided additional information in DP16 and recommended that substantive discussions occurred at the SWG meeting to enhance the existing alternative measures, rather than eliminating them.
615. Tokelau, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, supported Canada's proposal in principle. They explained that the three-year application of paragraph 9 had been intended to allow the Commission to develop a permanent solution for alternative measures. Tokelau expressed FFA CCMs' concerns about ongoing or permanent application of alternative measures, as it would undermine the shark finning ban. They awaited further discussions in the SWG.
616. Chinese Taipei supported the establishment of a SWG and committed to providing further comments within the group.
617. The Sharks SWG met twice during the course of the meeting to discuss proposed details of revisions to the Sharks CMM before presenting revised text to the Commission for consideration. A high-level summary of SWG discussions is contained at [Attachment W](#).

Decision

618. The Commission adopted CMM 2024-05 Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks ([Attachment 22](#)).

Task

619. The Commission tasks TCC21 to consider what information is necessary to include in the Annual Report Part 2 to determine the effectiveness of the alternatives and recommend to the Commission changes to Annex 2 of CMM 2024-05.

8.4 Amendments to CMM 2018-05 (Regional Observer Program)

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP06](#) (Japan - Proposed Amendments to CMM 2018-05 (Regional Observer Programme))

620. The Chair noted that Japan withdrew its delegation paper contained in WCPFC21-2024-DP06.

8.5 Amendments to CMM 2023-01 (Tropical Tunas) related to the high seas purse seine effort limit adjustment for Indonesia

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP07](#) (Indonesia - Proposal to revise CMM 2023-01 related to the high seas purse seine effort limit adjustment for Indonesia)

621. The Chair invited clarifying questions on Indonesia's delegation paper, reminding delegations that the paper would not be presented, in the interests of time.

622. FSM, on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, stated that the data and limits referenced by Indonesia were superseded by limits in CMM 2013-01 based on 2012 effort levels. They noted that no purse seine fishing data for Indonesia's high seas activities was provided in 2012, resulting in no high seas purse seine effort limit for Indonesia.
623. FSM acknowledged that this situation might appear unfair but explained it was due to the existing flag-based historical limits. FFA CCMs have long advocated for revising the limits in Table 2 of Attachment 1 of CMM 2023-01 to allow all appropriate CCMs, including Indonesia, to participate in the high seas purse seine fishery.
624. PNA and Tokelau CCMs looked forward to addressing this issue in 2026 during the next revision of the Tropical Tuna CMM.
625. Korea appreciated Indonesia's proposal to revise high seas purse-seine effort limits and recognized the importance of equitable fisheries management for developing coastal states. However, Korea believed that WCPFC21 was not the appropriate forum to discuss allocation and preferred to revisit the issue in future sessions. They reserved their position and looked forward to constructive dialogue in 2026 to achieve equitable and sustainable management solutions.
626. Tuvalu, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, acknowledged Indonesia's right to access the high seas and the importance of equitable participation by all appropriate CCMs in the high seas purse seine fishery. FFA CCMs had previously advocated for revising the limits in Table 2, Attachment 1 of CMM 2023-01 to include all appropriate CCMs, including Indonesia. Tuvalu suggested deferring discussions on Indonesia's proposal to the comprehensive allocation framework review in 2026 and encouraged Indonesia to provide further clarification and supporting evidence for informed deliberations. FFA CCMs remained committed to constructive engagement.
627. After these statements, the Chair noted that there was no support for discussing the proposal at this stage but recognized that Indonesia might want to make a statement.
628. Indonesia thanked WCPFC members for their feedback on their proposals and acknowledged the concerns raised. They expressed gratitude for the support of equitable participation in high seas fishing. Indonesia explained that with a new President and a new policy focused on food security, providing sustainable food from the ocean was a high priority, prompting their pursuit of an additional 500 fishing days for Indonesian vessels in the high seas.
629. Indonesia recognized that while some members supported their proposals, discussions would need to wait until 2026 when the tropical tuna measure is opened for discussion. They requested the SSP analyze the additional 500 days for Indonesian vessels, including implications for BET, yellowfin, and the SKJ harvest strategy. Indonesia emphasized their goal to develop fisheries and ensure food security and planned to prepare proposals for 2026. They highlighted that Indonesia had no historical effort or catch in the high seas and sought to understand the implications of additional fishing days. They thanked CCMs for their support and looked forward to future discussions.
630. The Chair again noted that there was no support for discussion of Indonesia's proposal this year and confirmed that the issue of high seas fishing days would be revisited under the Tropical Tuna measure in 2026. She noted the need to begin preparing for that discussion.

8.6 Amendments to CMM 2010-01 (NP striped marlin)

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP08](#) (USA - Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for the North Pacific Striped Marlin (CMM 2010-01))

631. The USA stated that their DP08 proposal addressed an overfished stock and ongoing overfishing, based on the best available scientific advice and this proposal was in response to their commitment to develop a rebuilding plan. They acknowledged with appreciation Chinese Taipei for identifying an error in one of the Tables, requiring a revision of DP08. Consequently, the USA deferred further comments to the SWG scheduled for the next day.
632. The Marshall Islands, speaking on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, noted that this proposal would be discussed in a SWG. PNA and Tokelau CCMs had previously stated that the current management arrangements for the stock were not working and they were not able to foresee any agreement on this matter. The obvious alternative was non-retention, which has been put in place for Oceanic Whitetip Shark which is similarly depleted and is also a bycatch species. They acknowledged that this would be discussed in the planned SWG.
633. The European Union (EU) thanked the USA for submitting the rebuilding plan proposal, recognizing it as a long-standing issue. They welcomed the proposal after many years and called for cooperation from all interested members to achieve what had not been possible before. The EU committed to supporting members in this collective effort.
634. PNG, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the USA for proposing amendments to CMM 2010-01, aiming to rebuild the North Pacific MLS stock to 20% SSBF=0 by 2034 with a 60% probability. They acknowledged the ISC Billfish Working Group for their analyses and stochastic stock projections, which contributed to the 2024 rebuilding plan. FFA CCMs expressed concerns about the current conservation status of MLS and committed to collaborating with the USA and other CCMs to establish effective rebuilding strategies.
635. Regarding the proposed amendments to CMM 2010-01, PNG noted that the phased catch reduction options in paragraphs 4, 5, 4ter, and 5ter initiated reductions based on 2018-2020 catch averages, implying no initial reductions from 2025-2027. Given the serious conservation concerns, they found the 7% initial reduction in paragraphs 4bis and 5bis to be more reasonable.
636. FFA CCMs emphasized that effective monitoring of catch limits is challenging without enhanced monitoring of longline fishing on the high seas. They stressed the need for improved monitoring and verification, including electronic monitoring, to ensure catch limits are complied with, especially for MLS, which is primarily caught as bycatch and is of significant conservation concern.
637. On catch limits, PNG noted that the proposed limits apply to Distant Water Fishing Nations and are flag-based. FFA CCMs opposed flag-based limits within EEZs or coastal waters, reminding the Commission that coastal States have sovereign rights to manage their fisheries, as per Article 10 of the Convention. They also expressed concerns about catch limit adjustments where catches are exceeded, advocating for strict adherence to rebuilding the stock without allowing overages.
638. FFA CCMs looked forward to working constructively with all CCMs to implement meaningful and effective measures to rebuild the MLS stock in the Western and Central North Pacific.
639. An informal SWG was convened, in addition to smaller informal discussions among select CCMs in the margins, to consider the proposed amendments by the USA to the North Pacific MLS measure. A high-level summary of SWG discussions is appended as [Attachment X](#).
640. Following the SWG discussions, the United States acknowledged the efforts of several CCMs in finalizing a rebuilding plan for the North Pacific MLS stock. They thanked those who participated in a SWG and Sunday meetings, which helped develop a framework for rebuilding the stock.

641. The United States provided a detailed explanation of the revisions to the measure that had been considered in the SWG, and smaller informal discussions, for the wider Commission's consideration. These included:
642. Catch Limits: The scientific advice for MLS recommended a total allowable catch (TAC) range of 2,175 to 2,400 metric tons to help achieve the rebuilding targets. The measure set the TAC at 2,400 metric tons, which represented a 60% reduction from the highest catches observed between 2000-2003. The U.S. explained that if the catch exceeded this limit, the measure would automatically be reviewed in the following year.
643. Bycatch Limits: A significant revision was the inclusion of the five primary CCMs with bycatch of MLS, outlining their individual catch limits. These CCMs were clearly listed in the Table, providing more transparency than the original measure. The total catch for these five CCMs was set at 2,324.8 metric tons, leaving approximately 75 metric tons for other CCMs not listed in the Table.
- Underage Reserve: The United States explained the creation of a reserve from underages from previous years to help CCMs meet the rebuilding plan. For example, in 2023, there was an underage of 826 metric tons from the 2,400 metric ton TAC, which would be applied to the 2025 TAC. This reserve could be used by CCMs facing difficulties in meeting their catch limits, with a cap of 165 metric tons.
644. Catch Limits Adjustments: Paragraph 6 of the measure introduced a new provision (6 bis), which required CCMs to release live specimens of MLS in a way that maximized post-release survival once they had reached their catch limit.
- Future Work: Paragraph 8 outlined future tasks for the ISC (International Scientific Committee) and Scientific Committee, particularly regarding the robustness of the stock assessment data. The measure specified that the current rebuilding plan would expire in 2027, pending the completion of a new stock assessment.
645. The US noted that the proposed changes aimed to reflect a more balanced approach to rebuilding the MLS stock, acknowledging that some CCMs, particularly the United States and Chinese Taipei, had borne a larger share of the burden in past years due to lower catches. The revisions aimed to address this imbalance and ensure a fairer distribution of the TAC.
646. Japan and Korea both expressed their acceptance of the proposed changes. Japan made a specific suggestion to delete the term "retained" in paragraph 4 and paragraph 4B.
647. Australia expressed strong support for the measure, thanking the United States and all CCMs involved for their efforts and the transparent approach taken. Australia emphasized the importance of taking action to address the long-standing concerns about the stock's status, calling it a step forward in the management of billfish. Canada echoed these sentiments, expressing strong support for the measure and the precautionary approach, particularly given the concerning state of the stock.
648. The Chair concluded that the document should be finalized and submitted as a Draft Document, to be considered for adoption under Agenda Item 9.

Decision

649. The Commission adopted CMM 2024-06 Conservation and Management Measure for the North Pacific MLS ([Attachment 23](#)).

Tasks

- 650. The Commission requested the SC22 to review any existing or develop guidelines for safe handling and live release for North Pacific MLS and more generally billfishes.
- 651. The Commission also requested the SC22 to advise on need for reviewing the statistical methodologies used to estimate dead and live discards of North Pacific MLS.
- 652. The Commission asked the ISC in 2025 to conduct updated projections for North Pacific MLS, incorporating the catch allocations described in paragraph 5 of CMM 2024-06. These projections should evaluate whether the adopted allocations are consistent with achieving the rebuilding target outlined in the rebuilding plan.

8.7 Amendments to CMM 2011-03 (Cetaceans)

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP09](#) (US and Korea - Proposed Amendments to the CMM for Protection of Cetaceans from Purse Seine and Longline Fishing Operations (CMM 2011-03))

- 653. The Chair invited clarifying questions, noting that the proposal had been available on the website and would not be formally presented due to time constraints. The HOD meeting determined that a SWG was unnecessary, encouraging CCMs to consult informally with the proponents before submitting draft text for possible Commission endorsement under Agenda Item 9 on the final day.
- 654. The US mentioned they had received input from only two entities so far and urged any CCMs with additional comments to respond quickly, as no SWG would be formed. This would help them reconcile the comments effectively.
- 655. The Chair requested interested CCMs to send their comments directly to the USA.
- 656. Niue, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the USA and Korea for the proposal and reiterated their commitment to improving information on the interaction of Species of Special Interest with longline fisheries. They noted that the Scientific Committee was scheduled to revise the science around the measure the following year, during which the SC could assess needed information and recommend data and reporting improvements. In the meantime, FFA CCMs supported the deletion of paragraph 10 as marked by the proponents, aligning with SC advice. They highlighted that reporting burdens on small administrations, mainly SIDS, had been raised but not captured in the 2013-06 assessment. FFA CCMs requested USA and Korea to include this challenge in the 2013-06 assessment, emphasizing the importance of addressing SIDS challenges and requirements for future measure implementation.
- 657. New Caledonia noted that their longline vessels operate in one of the largest marine protected areas globally, serving as sanctuaries for sharks and marine mammals. This cohabitation can lead to direct or indirect interactions, such as accidental catches and predation on baits or depredation of caught fish. New Caledonia is collaborating with fishing companies to improve practices, limiting these interactions to ensure the conservation of cetacean and shark species and the economic viability of the fishery. They thanked Korea and the USA and supported their proposal.
- 658. New Caledonia sought clarification on Article 6, which requires CCMs to submit operational data on cetacean interactions per SciData rules. They noted the absence of a definition for "interaction" and, given the range of possible interactions with longline vessels, suggested that the USA and Korea clearly define the types of interactions considered in the measure.

659. The Chair noted that five flags remained for comments on this delegation paper. She encouraged informal discussions in the margins unless clarifications were required now and suggested convening an electronic SWG if necessary. She reminded members that many issues could be discussed directly with the proponents due to time constraints and that statements could be submitted electronically.
660. French Polynesia thanked the Chair for the guidance and briefly thanked the USA and Korea for their proposal, expressing support. They also shared concerns about the need for a clear definition of “interaction”.
661. Korea, as a co-proponent, responded to the term "interaction." Korea and the USA were working together to replace "interaction" with more precise terms. They encouraged members to reach out to Korea and the USA with suggestions and stated they would upload revisions after internal consultations.
662. Canada expressed support for the Korea and USA proposal as Canada places significant importance on the effective conservation and protection of cetaceans. They noted that Canada's domestic legislation prohibits any non-licensed individual from approaching or disentangling live marine mammals. Due to the severity of this work, specific requirements must be met domestically, including extensive training and experience. Canada emphasised that they take the best handling and release of marine mammals very seriously as this work is highly skilled and dangerous. Canada suggested that the safety of those on board continues to remain paramount in the development of this measure.
663. Japan reviewed the proposal and noted that interactions between cetaceans and longline fishing primarily involve small cetaceans with relatively high populations in the WCPF Convention Area. They stated that such interactions are infrequent, and species identification is challenging for fishermen, making the reporting requirements in paragraphs 6, 9, and 10 uncertain and problematic.
664. China also thanked the USA and Korea for tabling the proposal. During the TCC meeting, they mentioned that, unlike the seabird proposal, the proposal on cetaceans was based on the WCPFC ROP, which they understood to be a real situation for longliners. They agreed with the no retention and reporting obligation but had already provided a written suggestion for paragraph 5. They also mentioned paragraph 6, as noted by Korea, regarding interaction. They expressed a desire to see the new draft to address all concerns and indicated their willingness to agree with the measure if these concerns were addressed.
665. The Chair encouraged CCMs to work with the USA and Korea informally and to revisit the matter under Agenda Item 9. A high-level summary of discussions undertaken in a SWG is appended as [Attachment Y](#).

Decisions

666. The Commission adopted CMM 2024-07 – Conservation and Management Measure for Protection of Cetaceans from Purse Seine and Longline Fishing Operations ([Attachment 24](#)).
667. The Commission agreed to take into consideration SC recommendations regarding observer coverage in longline fisheries in the development of the WCPFC EM Programme noting that EM could be used as a monitoring tool to improve data on cetaceans and other bycatch species.
668. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat, in coordination with the Scientific Committee and the SSP, make available to CCMs a cetacean identification guide to improve species identification skills of captains and crew in the WCPO.

Task

669. The Commission tasked the SSP to provide information to SC21 to support development of advice to the Commission at WCPFC22 on appropriate requirements for effective reporting on cetacean interactions with tuna and associated species fisheries in the Convention area

8.8 Intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guides for high seas boarding and inspections

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP10](#) (Australia - Intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guides and best practices for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections)

670. Australia thanked the Chair and explained that their proposal responded to TCC20 recommendations to support an intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guidelines for high seas boardings and inspections. They sought nominations from interested CCMs, including China, to provide technical experts for the intersessional work.
671. Australia agreed with an earlier proposal to remove the term "best practice" from the delegation paper and focus on developing the guidelines. Key areas included DNA testing, weight estimation, calibration certificates, measurement of tori lines and weighted branch lines, collection of photo and video evidence, and updating the standardized multi-language questionnaire.
672. Australia invited comments on the scope and proposed holding an intersessional working group online with two meetings in Q1 and Q2 2025 to develop a report and guidelines for presentation at TCC next year.
673. Kiribati, speaking on behalf of the FFA CCMs, supported the recommendations contained in the paper.
674. Japan thanked Australia for the proposal and expressed willingness to join the discussion process. They reported that Japanese vessels conduct high seas boarding and inspections and their inspectors were keen on the guidelines. They highlighted the need to renew existing guidelines and multi-language questionnaires, which were established more than 10 years ago.
675. The Philippines informed the Commission that they intended to deploy patrol vessels on the high seas next year to exercise flag State control over their fishing vessels. They were pleased to report that preparations were well underway, with training programs for boarding and inspection officers ongoing, and their patrol vessels fully equipped and ready to undertake these critical responsibilities. These activities were supported by their capacity-building partners, including Canada, the United States, and others. They expressed their keen interest in participating in the international process.
676. The Philippines further noted that CCMs conducting or intending to conduct high seas boarding inspections should adhere strictly to the provisions of CMM 2006-08, which outlines the WCPFC's boarding and special procedures. They emphasised that respecting these established protocols was essential to fostering cooperation, mutual respect, and transparency in our collective efforts to conserve and manage fisheries.
677. The United States expressed support for certain elements of the proposal and echoed Japan's intervention. They also expressed interest in participating in intersessional work, offering their extensive experience to support the process.
678. France and its overseas territories thanked Australia for the proposal, supported creating harmonized control practices for HSBI, and expressed willingness to join the working group.

679. The EU joined others in supporting Australia's initiative, expressed interest in participating, and planned to share additional elements via email.
680. China, like other delegations, thanked Australia for their leadership on this important subject. They advised that they had provided a written suggestion for amendments earlier in the day, the first being the deletion of the term "best practice". They also had email communication with Australia regarding paragraph 6, suggesting the necessity of DNA testing. Australia had suggested the use of the term "benefits" and China indicated that if this suggestion could be addressed and included, they would be willing to support and participate in the process.
681. China noted that they had registered 26 inspection vessels in WCPFC and that shortly, Chinese patrol vessels would conduct crisis inspections in the area. They emphasised that these guidelines would be very important for their inspection officials and expressed their willingness to participate in the intersessional process.
682. Canada expressed strong support for high seas boarding and inspection initiatives, and thanked Australia for leading the intersessional work. They endorsed the recommendations in the paper and looked forward to actively participating in the process. Canada noted that the TCC proposal included the term "best practice" and supported its removal from the workplan.
683. Korea supported the proposal to develop voluntary regional guidelines for high seas boarding and inspection. They emphasized that this initiative would enhance the consistency, effectiveness, and transparency of HSBI activities across the Convention Area. Acknowledging the geopolitical sensitivity of HSBI operations, Korea stressed the need to strictly follow the Commission's established rules. They stated that developing voluntary best practice guidelines would provide clarity and practical tools for inspectors, supporting the implementation of the existing HSBI CMM. Korea recommended incorporating tools such as DNA sampling, weight estimation, and evidence collection protocols into the guidelines and expressed willingness to participate in the intersessional process. They believed this collaborative effort will strengthen compliance and contribute to the Commission's broader objectives.
684. Chinese Taipei thanked Australia for leading the intersessional process and acknowledged Australia's efforts to include the opportunity to update the multi-language questionnaire as part of the intersessional work. They expressed satisfaction that this update was included in the documents and committed to providing further written comments for text modifications. As a member deploying inspection vessels in the region, Chinese Taipei strongly supported the intersessional process and planned to join it next year, aiming to share their experience to improve the voluntary guidelines.
685. Australia thanked all participants for their comments and confirmed that expressions of interest to join the intersessional work was well noted. They noted the point raised by China regarding paragraph 6 and the wording around DNA testing. Australia mentioned that they would prepare a revised version that removed the term "best practice" and inserted the word "benefits" and would ensure clarity and transparency with everyone in the exact wording being put forward.

Decision

686. The Commission adopted the intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guides for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections, contained in [Attachment 25](#).

8.9 Proposed CMM on a management procedure for South Pacific albacore

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP11](#) (SPG plus Australia - Proposed Conservation and Management Measure on a Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore_Rev01)

687. The Chair noted that there had already been several discussions and presentations about SP-ALB management, especially under the harvest strategy agenda items. She invited comments or clarifying questions on DP11, which had been submitted by the SPG and Australia.
688. Samoa noted that the SPG and Australia had put forward DP11, a management procedure for SP-ALB. The objective of this work was to maintain the economic performance of dependent fisheries, together with a reasonable level of total catch, in a manner that achieved relative stability in fishing levels between management periods. They appreciated the informal consultations they had undertaken with CCMs, to date, and acknowledged that concerns remained. The SPG and Australia invited WCPFC21 to consider their proposal for a SP-ALB management procedure and looked forward to continuing discussions in the margins of the meeting with a view to further progressing this important management measure.
689. New Caledonia highlighted the importance of SP-ALB as a vital resource for the coastal States of the Western and Central Pacific. They emphasised the importance of the resource as a source of food, employment, and economic development for their people and reminded delegates that the sustainable management of traditional resources in this part of the world was the mandate of the WCPFC.
690. New Caledonia emphasized that while SP-ALB may not be as prominent in the global tuna economy, it is crucial for their small island fisheries. The isolation from world markets and limited infrastructure had prevented the development of industrial fisheries for tropical tuna, making SP-ALB a species of major interest rather than bycatch or interim species. Despite efforts by the Intersessional Working Group to create a roadmap, progress has been slow with frequent delays. The management procedure proposed by the SPG and Australia was seen as a bold and realistic roadmap that offered flexibility and aligned with the Commission's principles, meeting the expectations of many stakeholders.
691. New Caledonia noted that the proposal utilized catch-based management, while other models supported by PNA attached greater importance to effort-based management. They recognized the VDS as evidence of Pacific nations' ability to develop tailored management for large-scale species exploitation. They considered that effort-based management was more difficult to implement for the SP-ALB, and they believed that these principles, catch-based and effort-based management, should not be in opposition. Identifying the most suitable methods was crucial for maintaining healthy fish stocks and ensuring a sustainable, profitable tuna fishery for New Caledonia. Given resource depletion, adapting management procedures could limit fleet expansion and exacerbate economic fragility. Despite the many years of discussion and anticipated time required to reach agreement on allocation and harvest control rules, New Caledonia expressed their support to the proposal as an avenue for making progress.
692. American Samoa commended the SPG and Australia for their work towards the development of a management procedure for SP-ALB. They highlighted that American Samoa had a tuna-dependent economy, and SP-ALB was an integral species for their local cannery, which had both territorial and regional importance. They noted that they had an indigenous longline fishery with a long history that spanned several decades. Unfortunately, their longline fishery was experiencing economic hardships due to declining catch rates and participation. American Samoa looked forward to participating in the discussions with SPG, Australia, and other interested CCMs in the development of this management procedure for SP-ALB.

693. French Polynesia thanked SPG and Australia for their hard work and the previous discussions under the harvest strategies agenda, which emphasised the high importance of having a strong management procedure in place for SP-ALB. Given the importance of this stock for French Polynesia, they expressed their full commitment to working with SPG, Australia, and other CCMs for the early adoption of a management procedure.
694. Korea thanked the SPG and Australia for putting forward the two proposals on the SP-ALB management procedure and noted that their positions had already been expressed and would not be repeated here.
695. Korea then sought clarification from the Chair regarding the meeting procedure. They understood that, under the Chair's advice, CCMs were not to present their proposals thus Korea had refrained from making a carefully drafted introduction on their cetaceans proposal. Korea asked whether the proponents of the two remaining proposals to be introduced would be given the opportunity to introduce their papers for consistency.
696. The Chair acknowledged Korea's question and undertook to come back to it.
697. The EU thanked Australia and the SPG for their important work and proposal. They hoped to make concrete progress at this meeting by adopting a management procedure for SP-ALB, recognizing it as a significant step. The EU fully supported the initiative.
698. Canada thanked the SPG and Australia for their CMM proposal on an interim management procedure. They emphasized the importance of strengthening the management of SP-ALB across the Pacific Ocean and expressed full support for the proposal, including the recalibrated ITRP of 0.50.
699. Further in the meeting, under Agenda Item 9, the Chair noted that there was no formal working group for this proposal, and she invited the SPG and Australia to make a statement.
700. Samoa, on behalf of the SPG and AU, extended their appreciation to CCMs for their comments and views on the DP 11_Rev 1. During consultations, SPG and AU noted that there were a few critical areas that required further work and discussions amongst CCMs over the next year. They also noted the largely positive, flexible, and constructive inputs received on their proposal, which provided a good basis for progressing with the continued development of a Management Procedure for SPA.
701. They noted that SP-ALB and southern longline fisheries were critical to everyone, and that robust management arrangements were needed to support sustainability, ecosystem, economic, and social objectives. They noted that the WCPFC was heading into uncharted territory with the mixed fishery framework, but this should not deter the Commission from the challenge, nor hindered progress in development. Instead, the SPG and AU considered this to be an opportunity to be leaders in this space, and to ensure that our children's children continue to benefit from the shared tuna resources that fed us at the time. This meant that by ensuring we had an MP that improved catch rates and the stability of catches, fleets would benefit from better fishery conditions, while avoiding a disproportionate burden on SIDS.
702. The SPG and AU also noted their awareness that any MP the Commission adopted had to be effective and support their Marine Stewardship Council certified fisheries. This was an important element for their partners, the fishing industry, and their national fisheries development interests.
703. SPG and AU noted that, unfortunately, the Commission was unable to achieve consensus on DP 11 and noted the importance and need for a dedicated SP-ALB management workshop to expedite progress in 2025. SPG and AU proposed tasking and decision text for consideration.

704. China supported the statement by SPG and AU, and expressed their sadness that agreement was not able to be reached on DP 11, as this was an important task set for the Commission. China noted they supported the proposal set out in DP 11 and agreed with the decisions and future taskings provided by SPG and AU.
705. New Caledonia fully supported the SPG and AU statement and recognised that SPA was a key species for many CCMs. New Caledonia did not consider that the Commission had failed this year, but instead, had highlighted critical areas that needed to be worked on in the coming year. New Caledonia urged all members to find the best way to move forward in 2025.
706. American Samoa supported the interventions by the SPG and AU. American Samoa's local fleet for SP-ALB is an MSC-certified fishery, and maintaining that certification is critically important for maintaining a preferential market for the catch from that fleet, all of which is processed at the local cannery in American Samoa.
707. American Samoa considered that it is essential that the WCPFC continues to progress with the development of a MP for SP-ALB, as failure to do so could lead to the revocation of third-party certifications needed to supply global markets and their local cannery. American Samoa's noted that their interest in SP-ALB goes beyond the tonnage caught by local longliners - as the US is the largest market in the world for albacore, much of the albacore for the US market is processed in American Samoa. This included albacore caught by CCMs around the table. American Samoa noted it is in CCMs collective interest to advance the development of the management procedure for SP-ALB, and progress must be made in 2025 implement the management procedure on time.
708. French Polynesia agreed with the statements made by previous speakers, thanked SPG and AU for their hard work, and supported the proposed way forward.
709. New Zealand thanked the SPG and AU for their efforts, and the proposed way forward. New Zealand noted that this year, the Commission was due to reconsider the TRP for SP-ALB and agree on a MP. New Zealand was very disappointed that it was not even possible to have a SWG discussion on this matter. New Zealand was further concerned about the implications for MSC certification, and looked forward to engaging on albacore in 2025, including discussing albacore in conjunction with the mixed fishery framework.
710. The United States thanked the SPG and AU and echoed the comments made around the room, including expressly supporting the intervention made by American Samoa. The US supported the proposed way forward and noted the urgency expressed in the room to take the work on with intent next year.
711. Canada expressed their sincere thanks to the SPG and AU, and reiterated their support for DP11, and looked forward to working with CCMs to advance the work in 2025.

Decisions

712. The Commission noted the importance and need for a dedicated SP-ALB management workshop (SPAM-WS) to expedite the progress of implementation on the Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2022-03.
713. The Commission agreed to hold SP-ALB management workshops in 2025 focused on:
- a) SP-ALB management procedures.

b) SP-ALB management arrangement for implementing the management procedure.

c) Consider mixed fishery issues, including ensuring compatibility between the BET and SP-ALB management procedures.

714. The Commission agreed that the SPAM-WS would be co-chaired by the SC Chair and the IWG SPA Chair.

715. The Commission agreed that SPAM-WS would be held online between SC21 and TCC21, with dates to be determined by the Co-chairs (Pohnpei time) in consultation with the Secretariat and members

Task

716. WCPFC21 agreed that CCMs will cooperate to develop a management procedure and implementing measure for SP-ALB during 2025, with a view to adopt both a management procedure and its implementing measure at WCPFC22, that will replace CMM 2015-02.

8.10 Management arrangements for implementing SP albacore MP

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP12 Rev01](#) (SPG - Draft Outline for a South Pacific Albacore CMM that Implements the Management Procedure)

717. Tonga noted that SPG had put forward DP12 for consultation purposes that year, with a view to adopting a comprehensive implementing measure the following year. This work had been complementary to DP11. They appreciated the comments received so far from CCMs in their informal consultation and welcomed any further comments as they worked in the margins of the meeting. They looked forward to working with interested CCMs in 2025 to progress this work.

718. China thanked the SPG for their explanation and noted that they understood the purpose of the document. They noted that they had already had bilateral talks and provided their written feedback to the SPG. China expressed hope that in the next year, the drafting of comprehensive elements, which they considered key, could be addressed.

8.11 MCS measure for Pacific bluefin tuna

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP13](#) (EU – Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Measures for Pacific Bluefin Tuna)

719. The Chair noted that WCPFC21-2024-DP13 had already been discussed in the context of the Northern Committee report and the EU confirmed its intention to withdraw its proposal.

8.12 WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific Albacore

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP14](#) (USA - Discussion Paper for a WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific Albacore)

720. Korea appreciated the United States' proposal to initiate a joint working group between WCPFC and IATTC to harmonise the management of SP-ALB. They recognised the significant benefits for harvest strategy, scientific analysis, and monitoring between the two organisations. Given the shared nature of this important stock, they noted that the roadmap proposed to build on the successful precedent set by the Pacific Bluefin Tuna JWG and provide a strong foundation for collaborative management of SP-ALB. Korea supported the establishment of the framework to

ensure consistent and active measures across the Convention Area. However, they sought further elaboration on a proactive 2025 timeline for action that included intersessional decision-making.

721. Canada saw the value of a joint working group process between WCPFC and IATTC to consider the alignment of management measures for SP-ALB. Although they supported the actions proposed by the US in their delegation paper, Canada had questions regarding the need for IATTC agreement before moving ahead, the scope of the terms of reference, and how these would influence the timing and format of the meeting, particularly whether it would inhibit WCPFC's progress in the meantime.
722. China thanked the USA for the paper and expressed support for the establishment of the joint working group by IATTC and WCPFC on SP-ALB. They expressed their hope that after the meeting, if the terms of reference were adopted by the WCPFC, they could work with the Secretariat to familiarise the IATTC Secretariat with the decision-making procedure. This would enable the IATTC to make decisions on the terms of reference.
723. China anticipated that the IATTC would need a formal meeting, possibly next August, to formally agree to establish such a joint working group.
724. New Zealand thanked the Chair and noted that FFA CCMs generally endorsed DP14. They had been advocating for cooperation with IATTC for several years and were ready to discuss the joint working group's structure and objectives in formulating the terms of reference. They emphasised the importance of prioritising urgent tasks, notably the adoption of the SP-ALB reference points, the management procedure, and the setting of a total limit.
725. FFA CCMs had been advocating that the management measures for SP-ALB under the WCPFC should be compatible with those established in the EPO and in the overlap area. The draft terms of reference should also draw upon existing WCPFC-IATTC MOUs that facilitate cooperation in scientific analysis, data sharing, MCS operations, and cross-vesting, among other areas. This would ensure that the group's efforts were complementary and avoid unnecessary duplication, thereby streamlining processes.
726. French Polynesia thanked the US for their proposal. Given that French Polynesia was in the overlap area, they strongly supported a joint working group between IATTC and WCPFC to ensure harmonisation in the development of the harvest strategy and consistency. They emphasised the need to progress this work so that both RFMOs had measures in place to ensure effective management and strong controls.
727. The Chair acknowledged the comments regarding timing and suggested that CCMs with comments or suggestions work with the United States based on the delegation paper presented, and that the Commission revisit this matter under Agenda Item 9.
728. France expressed the support of its overseas territories for the US proposal and did not wish to repeat comments that had already been expressed.
729. Further informal discussions in the margins of WCPFC21 resulted in a revised delegation paper from the United States, contained in WCPFC21-2024-DP14b, which set out a process for the establishment of a Joint Working Group between the IATTC and WCPFC on management of SP-ALB. The United States introduced the proposed process, thanking the Commission for entrusting them to develop the concept.
730. The Cook Islands thanked the United States for their initiative and noted the importance of coordinating efforts between WCPFC and IATTC. They supported the decision text outlined in the United States proposal and committed to participating in the process in 2025.

731. China thanked the United States for their leadership and lent their support to the proposed process and committed to participating actively in the Joint Working Group. China also advised that it would support this effort in discussions at IATTC, as well.
732. New Caledonia supported the proposal and thanked the United States for their leadership, highlighting the importance of management of SP-ALB in the EPO toward efficient management of the stock in the WCPFC, and throughout the entire Pacific Ocean.
733. Korea supported the proposal from the United States and referred to previous discussions at WCPFC21 that highlighted the importance of harmonization and coordination between the WCPFC and IATTC.
734. Canada added their support to the proposal from the United States and looked forward to participating in the process.

Decisions

735. The Commission agreed in principle to the establishment of a JWG for SP Albacore and endorsed the framework in WCPFC21-2024-DP14b as a guide for progressing the development.
736. The Commission requested the WCPFC Chair to engage with the IATTC Chair in early 2025 on the establishment of a JWG for SP Albacore, with the objective of establishing an informal initial meeting of the JWG in the first half of 2025 and adopting the Terms of Reference by WCPFC22 in 2025.
737. The Commission requested the Chair to cooperate with the United States and others in developing the terms of reference.

Task

738. The Commission tasks the Secretariat to provide support to the WCPFC Chair in developing the workplan and timeline for the JWG for SP Albacore, and to keep members and stakeholders informed of developments.

8.13 Pilot Program for Freezer Carrier Use in High Seas Pocket No.1

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP15](#) (Philippines - Informing the Commission for Trial Authorization-Pilot Program for Freezer Carrier Use in High Seas Pocket No.1 Special Management Area (HSP-1 SMA))

739. Solomon Islands, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, thanked the Philippines for their delegation paper. They stated that FFA CCMs did not support the Philippines' request for freezer carrier capacity in High Seas Pocket One (HSP1). They argued that the proposal in its current form contravened specific provisions of Attachment 2 of the Tropical Tuna Measure (TTM), undermined the exception intended for traditional fisheries, and conflicted with HSP1's Special Management Area (SMA) status. It also failed to address concerns previously raised by FFA and other CCMs.
740. They noted that Attachment 2 of the TTM explicitly applied to Philippine traditional fresh ice-chilled fishing vessels operating as a group. The inclusion of freezer carriers would effectively amend Attachment 2, thereby undermining its original intent to support traditional boats and the communities depending on HSP1. The exemption was designed to recognise traditional fisheries, not facilitate industrialisation. The proposed pilot period indicated that the Philippines might be shifting towards industrialising its fleet. In light of this, the exemption under Attachment 2 should no longer apply, and access should be renegotiated during the next TTM negotiation.

741. The United States expressed support for a pilot period for the Philippines to evaluate the impact of using freezer carriers to reduce post-harvest loss and enhance fish handling.
742. Palau, speaking on behalf of PNA and Tokelau CCMs, supported the statement by FFA CCMs. They recalled that this was a special arrangement for the traditional fleet of ice vessels with a history of fishing in the region. The current conditions, including the requirement for fresh fish carrier vessels, were proposed by the Philippines. In their view, if this fleet was no longer able to use these special arrangements, the arrangements were no longer required and should be removed from the TTM CCM.
743. The Chair noted the lack of consensus to proceed with the proposal and invited the Philippines to work in the margins with CCMs to see if progress could be made. The issue was left open until Agenda Item 9, however the Philippines did not wish to revisit this matter at that time.

8.14 Implementation Report for CMM 2022-04 (Sharks)

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP16](#) (Japan - Implementation Report for CMM 2022-04 (Sharks))

744. The Chair noted that DP16 was not a proposal, but an implementation report related to the proposal in DP05, as had already been discussed. There was no intention to open the discussion further, and the paper had been referred to the SWG on sharks. The Chair encouraged those interested in the sharks CMM, with proposals by Canada and Japan, to participate in that SWG.

8.15 Report of the European Union on Article 30

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-DP17](#) (European Union - Report of the European Union on Article 30 of the WCPFC Convention)

745. The Chair drew attention to an additional delegation paper 17 provided by the European Union, that had already been addressed under Agenda Item 5.

9. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND TASKS

746. The Commission considered draft decisions and taskings resulting from SWGs, informal, and electronic discussions that took place throughout WCPFC21. Discussions related to adopted decisions and tasks that were considered under Agenda Item 9 are reflected in this Summary Report in the relevant sections.

10. REPORT FROM THE 18TH FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

747. The Commission considered the [Summary Report of FAC18](#), including the proposed 2025 Budget and Indicative Budgets for 2026 and 2027, and its recommendations to amend the WCPFC Staff and Financial regulations. There were no comments or questions from CCMs.

Decisions

748. The Commission adopted the report of FAC18 and the recommendations in the FAC18 Report ([WCPFC21-2024-FAC18](#)).
749. The Commission adopted the final 2025 budget of USD 9,783,471 and Annexes ([Attachment 26](#)).
750. The Commission adopted an amendment to the [Financial Regulations](#).
751. The Commission adopted an amendment to the [Staff Regulations](#).

11. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-24](#) (*Updates on Cooperation with Other Organizations*) and [WCPFC21-2024-25](#) (*International Developments and Implications for WCPFC*)

752. The Chair invited the WCPFC Executive Director to present WCPFC21-2024-24, providing updates on cooperation with other organizations. Referring to Article 22 of the Convention, the Executive Director emphasized the importance of collaboration to achieve the Convention's objectives and gave a brief overview of the year's activities.
753. In 2024, the Secretariat participated in several UN activities, including a climate change conference where they joined a panel on climate-fisheries interactions. They also collaborated with other regional fishery bodies through the RSN network during the FAO COFI meeting in July, facilitating networking with other RFBs and considering international treaty impacts on fisheries organizations.
754. The Secretariat also participated in the FAO's Common Oceans Tuna Project, with the WCPFC Compliance Manager completing her 1-year tenure in 2024 as Chair of the Project. Although the WCPFC was not an executing partner of the ABNJ project that year, it contributed in-kind co-financing.
755. One of the issues for the Commission's consideration related to the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS), a partnership managed by the FAO. The Secretariat had some conversations in 2024 with FAO officials and noted that the matter was first raised in WCPFC 15 years ago. There had been some discussion in the early years of the Commission, but members at that time felt that more time was needed for the Commission to further develop its structure and systems before fully participating as a partner in FIRMS. The Secretariat had been in consultation with the SSP, and Tiffany Vidal was available to answer any questions.
756. The Secretariat proposed that the Commission consider whether it wanted to join the FIRMS partnership, noting that it could participate as a full partner or a cooperating partner. Partnership involved the submission of public domain data to the global tuna atlas, which was currently taking place through the SSP, and potentially the provision of additional public domain data on a more regular basis. The Secretariat considered this worth the Commission's consideration to ensure that the information provided by the FAO at the global level accurately reflected activities in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. WCPFC's data would contribute to a more complete picture of the status of global fisheries.
757. As directed by the Commission the previous year, and in service to the MOU between WCPFC and IATTC, the Secretariat met virtually with the IATTC Secretariat in July. They considered a range of issues that were reflected in more detail in WP24 and held follow-up meetings on technical matters in November. The two Secretariats had plans to follow up at the conclusion of WCPFC21 to wrap up 2024.
758. At WCPFC20, the Commission supported the signing of an MOU with the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and the renewal of the MOU with SPRFMO, with the removal of the expiry date in the SPRFMO MOU. The Executive Director reported that in 2024, the Chair completed signing of both MOUs.
759. The Secretariat participated in the CCSBT annual meeting in October 2024 as part of efforts to collaborate more closely with tuna RFMOs and to implement the cooperative mandate by the Commission with other tuna RFMOs.

760. The WCPFC Compliance Manager and Deputy Compliance Manager participated in a meeting in mid-2024 of informal networks among RFMO compliance managers. This network supports the exchange of data and information among RFMOs, servicing a Commission directive at WCPFC20 to the Secretariat to enhance data exchange and collaboration with other RFMOs.
761. In 2025, the Secretariat planned to continue building awareness of international activities related to climate change and data management with a view to report updates to the Commission on activities that may impact WCPFC. The Executive Director drew attention to the 3rd UN Oceans Conference scheduled for June 2025, which would have a dedicated fisheries side event, and the ongoing preparatory conferences for the BBNJ Agreement, two of which were scheduled for 2025.

Discussion

762. Vanuatu, speaking on behalf of FFA CCMs, acknowledged the Secretariat's updates on these important issues and the Secretariat's participation on behalf of the Commission. They generally supported the ongoing and strengthening of cooperation with the IATTC, SPRFMO, NPFC, CCSBT, and the TCN and PPFCN in specific common areas with the work of the Commission. However, they were mindful of the responsibilities these might impose on the Secretariat. They also recognised the opportunities for CCMs attending these international meetings to report back to the Commission on any related issues. Given the range of international meetings envisaged and the resources required, FFA CCMs requested information from the WCPFC Secretariat on the institutional and budgetary implications. On the issue of the WCPFC joining the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS), FFA CCMs supported the Secretariat's recommendation for the Commission to task SC21 to assess the value of WCPFC joining the FIRMS Partnership and report back to WCPFC22 in 2025.
763. Vanuatu stated that on the BBNJ, FFA CCMs supported the WCPFC Secretariat's involvement and regular updates for the WCPFC. They noted that regular updates were useful for fisheries officials, particularly as the individuals involved in BBNJ negotiations often differed from those attending WCPFC meetings.
764. FFA CCMs sought clarity from the Secretariat on what was meant by "broader ocean conservation efforts" that the WCPFC was being pressured to incorporate into the management of fisheries in the Convention Area, and what the suggested actions to address these were. Regarding the International Seabed Authority, FFA CCMs supported the suggestion to refer to the Scientific Committee to consider any science-related information on the potential impacts of seabed mining on tuna fisheries in the WCPO under the Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation and report back to the Commission for a decision.
765. FFA CCMs requested the Secretariat to share outcomes of climate change-related meetings (e.g., reports, publications) with CCMs. They encouraged a community of practice, either via a dedicated section on the WCPFC webpage or through email updates. Additionally, FFA CCMs informed other CCMs that the Honiara Summit on the implementation of SDG 14.4 would be held from 24-27 February 2025, and the participation of the WCPFC Executive Director in the Summit was important to showcase the work of the Commission in the Pacific Islands region.
766. Korea thanked the Executive Director for the presentation on cooperation with other organisations. They took the opportunity to remind members that Korea would be hosting the Our Ocean Conference in March next year in Busan, Korea and encouraged CCMs to participate in the event. Korea thanked the U.S. for initiating the Our Ocean Conference and noted that the event had grown into a significant international forum where participants could discuss emerging issues related to oceans and fisheries.

767. The WCPFC Executive Director thanked the CCMs who provided feedback and questions. The Secretariat appreciated the concerns about the potential for overwhelming and overburdening their work with international activities. The Secretariat was not requesting an additional budget to accommodate participation in these activities and noted that many international meetings were now in hybrid mode, allowing for virtual participation in numerous international discussions.
768. Regarding broader international ocean conservation efforts and the perceived pressure, the Executive Director noted that there were degrees of pressure, particularly in relation to the BBNJ Agreement and its provisions for cooperation with international fishery bodies. The Secretariat aimed to maintain awareness and be proactive, especially as an organisation managing the world's largest tuna fishery, to ensure they had the necessary information to facilitate decision-making.
769. The Executive Director shared members' concerns about limited Secretariat resources and assured that the Secretariat would not sacrifice the core business of the Commission in the course of maintaining awareness of international activities. The Secretariat was being selective about its involvement in external activities. Feedback from CCMs was appreciated, and the Executive Director advised that the Secretariat's efforts to provide information to the Commission was supplementary to the information that CCMs would gather themselves as members of the relevant international organizations under discussion.
770. France and its overseas territories expressed their honour to organise the 3rd United Nations Oceans Conference together with Costa Rica in 2025. The conference would include a summit bringing together scientists and side events, one of which would be dedicated to RFMOs. They hoped that the conference would enable all stakeholders to work together to develop a common vision for the future and emphasised the importance of participation from many CCMs, including the WCPFC.
771. The FAO Project Manager for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Common Oceans Tuna Project, Joe Zelasny, explained that the Tuna Project was a unique partnership of 25 organisations, including the five tuna RFMOs, intergovernmental organisations, industry, and civil society. Funded by the GEF and implemented by FAO, the Tuna Project, now in its second phase, promoted responsible, efficient, and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the face of a changing environment.
772. FAO highlighted some project activities led by partners in the WCPFC Region:
- a) The FFA was developing an Advanced Diploma in Fisheries Management. This vocational training programme aimed to build the capacity of fisheries officers and staff from related government agencies in the skills needed for fisheries and ocean resource management. The programme would provide a learning pathway from existing lower-level fisheries education offered by the University of the South Pacific, including the Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance, developed under phase one of the tuna project, and the Diploma of Fisheries Prosecution and Investigation. Additionally, FFA would develop and deliver a regional training course on MCS data analysis. This course sought to develop effective leadership capacity to identify and act on potential IUU activities and support Regional Surveillance Operations conducted by the FFA.
 - b) The Marine Stewardship Council's Pathways to Sustainability Programme supported sustainability improvements for coastal fisheries and fisheries in developing economies by incentivising access to markets. MSC was working with domestic tuna fisheries in Palau, Tonga, and Samoa to develop action plans towards MSC certification.

773. In closing, FAO stated that the Common Oceans Tuna Project was fully committed to working with WCPFC CCMs in the region and thanked the Chair for providing an opportunity to address the Commission, as well as the WCPFC Secretariat for their excellent work organising the meeting, their leadership, and close collaboration in delivering the Tuna Project. FAO drew CCMs' attention to [WCPFC21-2024-OP02](#) for further details about the Tuna Project.
774. Christine Bogle, Executive Secretary of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), explained that ACAP is a global intergovernmental agreement. Many of their Parties and observers are also WCPFC Members, CNMs, or observers, supported by an MOU that ensures cooperation between the two organizations.
775. ACAP encouraged members to visit their website for publications detailing achievements since its 2004 inception, including guidance, factsheets, and best practice updates. They highlighted resources related to the H5N1 avian influenza outbreak and announced a forthcoming poster for fishing vessel crews. All avian influenza resources and the 2021 safety guidelines for pelagic longline fisheries were available for download.
776. ACAP invited WCPFC Members who are not ACAP Parties to attend their Working Group and Advisory Committee meetings as observers. These meetings, scheduled for 2026 and the triennial Meeting of the Parties in Dunedin, New Zealand, in May 2025, focus on discussing and updating best practices based on the latest research and practical experience.
777. ACAP highlighted the strong cooperation between ACAP and WCPFC, noting that both organizations are similar in structure and purpose, as well as age with both organizations celebrating their 20th anniversaries. The MOU between ACAP and WCPFC had facilitated effective collaboration on seabird conservation and fisheries management with ACAP regularly presenting updates on best practice mitigation to the Scientific Committee.

Paper: [WCPFC21-2024-25](#) (International Developments and Implications for WCPFC)

778. The Executive Director presented WCPFC21-2024-25 and noted its link to matters raised in WP24 and elaborated in WP25 on international activities that were connected to the work of WCPFC. The focus in WP25 was on the BBNJ Agreement, the activities of the International Seabed Authority, and the review conferences of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. It was noted that the paper had been available for some time so would not be presented in detail.
779. It was recalled that the BBNJ Agreement had been adopted but was not yet in force, requiring 60 ratifications with only 15 to date. The BBNJ preparatory conferences are scheduled for April and August of 2025 and the Secretariat was particularly interested in better understanding the provision in the BBNJ Agreement that called for cooperation with international fishery bodies.
780. On the matter of deep seabed mining, the Secretariat had brought this agenda item to SC20 to seek feedback on whether the Commission should seek observer status to the ISA, noting the exploratory nature of deep sea mining activities and the growing body of scientific research on understanding the impacts on pelagic fisheries. There had been support for the Secretariat to continue engaging with relevant stakeholders to gather and provide information to Commission members on the potential impacts of seabed mining on pelagic fisheries, but SC20 did not make a recommendation to the Commission for WCPFC to apply for observer status to the ISA.
781. The Secretariat in WP25 recommended that the Commission:
- a) task the Secretariat, as recommended by SC20, to engage with a broad range of stakeholders to gain awareness and understanding of deep seabed mining activities

and their potential direct or indirect impact on tuna fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area.

- b) task the Secretariat with maintaining engagement with these international ocean conservation initiatives and to report back to the Commission on a regular basis on international developments which may impact on WCPFC and its activities.
- c) approve the WCPFC seeking observer status with the International Seabed Authority.

782. The UN Fish Stocks Agreement Review was ongoing, with the next conference not before 2028. The Secretariat did not intend to participate actively in this process but aimed to maintain a minimum level of awareness of the discussions and their links to the work of WCPFC.

Discussion

783. New Caledonia thanked the Secretariat for addressing the important issue of the interaction between deep sea mining and tuna fisheries. The impact of deep sea mining on fisheries and the wider marine ecosystem was a significant concern for New Caledonia. They highlighted several issues, including significant knowledge gaps, a lack of mining code, a lack of a holistic approach, issues of equity, and expressed their concern that the unknown impact of deep sea mining on seafood sustainability could be disastrous for the self-sufficiency of Pacific island nations and territories.

784. They reminded members that their shared purpose was to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area in its entirety, as mentioned in Article 5 of the Convention. Additionally, they highlighted Article 5(c), which required assessing the impact of fishing, other human activities, and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon the target stocks.

785. They acknowledged that while there was no clear scientific evidence on the direct impact of deep sea mining to date, there were many indicators to support this matter being taken seriously. These included the interaction of deep sea mining with tuna species' life traits, the potential interaction or overlap between deep sea mining activities and fishing activities, and the potential impact of deep sea mining on seafood sustainability. They cited the French saying "mieux vaut prévenir que guérir," meaning "prevention is better than cure," reflecting the precautionary approach stated in Article 5(d) of the Convention. They clarified that becoming an observer at ISA would not mean the Secretariat should hold any position for or against deep sea mining but would enhance the Commission's awareness of this potentially major issue for tuna fisheries in the future. This would provide the Scientific Committee with access to updated information, useful for managing potential future situations.

786. New Caledonia encouraged the Commission to consider this topic seriously, as it could quickly become a significant concern, and fully supported the recommendation for WCPFC to apply for observer status to the ISA to understand deep sea mining activities better.

787. France, on behalf of its overseas territories, supported WCPFC seeking observer status to the International Seabed Authority, stating that deep sea mining would necessarily have implications for tuna fishery resources managed by RFMOs, particularly in the Pacific. France and its Pacific territories had declared themselves in favour of protecting the deep sea and improving scientific knowledge of the deep sea. The French Institute of Research and Development (IRD) was carrying out a study aimed at consolidating the state of knowledge on this subject, with results to be presented at the 3rd United Nations Conference on the Oceans. A first exchange platform was held in March in New Caledonia, and a second would be held in two weeks in French Polynesia.

They hoped to see many participants there. This study would be widely published and distributed to give as many people as possible access to this knowledge and to inform political decisions.

788. French Polynesia made it clear that they shared the concerns of previous speakers about the implications of deep sea mining on fisheries. Therefore, they supported WCPFC applying for observer status to the International Seabed Authority.

789. The EU briefly returned to the subject of the BBNJ, stating that this instrument was important and relevant for the work of the organisation and other RFMOs. They provided a quick update, sharing that the EU had completed its ratification process and was ready to deposit the ratification instrument, together with EU Member States, before the UN Conference in June 2025. They called on other members of WCPFC to ratify the Agreement so that it could enter into force rapidly.

790. The EU also shared that they had adopted a funding decision for an EU global ocean programme of 40 million euros over six years to help their partners, including Pacific SIDS, in implementing the BBNJ Treaty. They were working to set up the programme and its first deliverables. Additionally, they had already established a contribution agreement with the Pacific region to support their ratification process and the preparation for the implementation of BBNJ.

791. They emphasised the importance of RFMOs starting to develop the kind of approach needed for future cooperation with this new instrument to ensure international legal consistency and collectively improve ocean governance. In relation to the ISA, they agreed with previous speakers that the precautionary approach was necessary and supported the suggestion for WCPFC to become an observer in this organisation.

Decision

792. The Commission approved the WCPFC seeking observer status with the International Seabed Authority.

Tasks

793. The Commission tasked SC21 to assess the value of WCPFC joining the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) Partnership and report back to WCPFC22 in 2025.

794. The Commission tasked the Secretariat, as recommended by SC20, to engage with a broad range of stakeholders to gain awareness and understanding of deep seabed mining activities and their potential direct or indirect impact on tuna fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area.

795. The Commission tasked the Secretariat with maintaining engagement with international ocean conservation initiatives, including the Preparatory Conference for the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and to report back to the Commission on a regular basis on international developments which may impact on WCPFC and its activities.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

796. The appointment of nominees from various Contracting Parties to serve in Commission positions in 2025, and the venues and timing of 2025 meetings were agreed by plenary largely without substantive further discussion and FSM registered their strong interest to host the WCPFC23 meeting in 2026.

797. There was some discussion about the duration of the next Scientific Committee meeting, to confirm whether SC21 would be a 7-day or an 8-day meeting. If there was to be a Science Management Dialogue in 2025, then SC21 would be expected to be a 7-day meeting. There being no expectation of a Science Management Dialogue, it was agreed that SC21 would meet for 8 days in 2025.

13. OTHER MATTERS

798. The Cook Islands noted the different meeting structure that was experimented with this year and acknowledged that although change could be beneficial, it should achieve efficient business operations for the Commission. Unfortunately, they did not observe this and respectfully requested that the structure of Commission meetings be reverted to the usual way in which they were held.
799. They preferred having sufficient opportunity to make statements and discuss matters in plenary rather than just in small or informal working groups. In their view, CCMs must be provided the opportunity to discuss views on agenda items and proposals in the formal plenary sessions of the meeting. Plenary exchanges of views on substantive matters helped to inform SWG discussions in the margins and allowed CCMs to have their views and statements recorded.
800. The recording of SWGs was unclear to them from the beginning, and they did not think it was appropriate, but it was too late to change for this meeting. The engagement CCMs had in SWGs differed from how they engaged in plenary, and the Cook Islands missed the opportunity to engage as they had planned. It had always been their understanding that the meeting record was captured only from plenary discussions, and they strongly believed this must remain the practice in the future.
801. They felt that the introduction of proposals on Day 2 and Day 3 of the meeting was too late and that the previous practice of introducing delegation proposals on Day 1 worked well in facilitating SWG engagement from the start. This would be particularly important the following year when the Commission was expecting a heavier agenda. Additionally, they observed that lunchtime sessions were reserved for side events rather than SWGs. They emphasised the need to ensure that any breaks, particularly longer breaks, were reserved and prioritised for the Commission agenda.
802. Finally, they reiterated the comment made by Korea at the Heads of Delegation meeting regarding comprehensive and cohesive meeting arrangements and agenda documentation for easier referencing and navigating of the meeting. They appreciated the effort to find alternative ways of running the Commission meeting but believed that tried and tested past practices worked best for the time being.
803. Korea supported the statement made by the Cook Islands. Regarding the documentation arrangement, Korea highlighted their request for a comprehensive document outlining the annotations of the agenda items and the corresponding reference documents, which would be helpful for members to reference and understand how the agenda items would be dealt with.
804. Korea also noted that they did not have the opportunity to present their delegation paper. The Chair had offered to include their introduction in the meeting report, but Korea found it procedurally inappropriate when a CCM was not able to introduce their proposals. Therefore, they respectfully declined the offer. In the future, Korea wished to have the chance to fully present any delegation paper they submitted.
805. The Chair noted the comments and feedback regarding the structure of the Commission meeting. She mentioned that, as stated at the beginning, the Commission's primary responsibility

was to make decisions. With this in mind, they had taken the approach of obtaining recommendations from the subsidiary bodies, as it was necessary to have linkages between the subsidiary bodies' advice and the decisions made by the Commission members.

806. The Chair acknowledged the success of the new approach in adopting many measures during the week and praised everyone's hard work for the phenomenal achievements. She recognized the significant progress made and the need for reflection, considering suggestions to possibly revert to the previous meeting structure. Taking the comments into account, the Chair reflected on how to continue improving future Commission meetings and welcomed further suggestions on how to advance the Commission's work.
807. Canada extended their appreciation for the statement by the Cook Islands and lent their support as a small delegation tasked with a heavy meeting workload. They voiced their preference for each agenda item to have an opportunity to be discussed in plenary. While they greatly appreciated all the work that took place in small groups and on the margins, it was difficult for their delegation to stay apprised of some of the developments quickly enough to prepare and provide meaningful comments in plenary.
808. Canada suggested that, as the format was reflected upon going forward, the importance of transparency in the process should be considered. They emphasised the need to allow all CCMs to address all issues in plenary at some point during the meeting.
809. The United States supported the comments made by the previous CCMs who had intervened on the matter of meeting structure. They acknowledged that there had been a lot of work going on with the best intention of completing it successfully. However, the process caused a lot of uncertainty about whether the work done would be finalised. They believed that some of the suggestions made by others could help avoid that uncertainty, ensuring that each member had the opportunity to introduce their proposals and make statements in plenary. This could add efficiency, particularly when going through Agenda Item 9, by not having to reopen items that had moved quickly to be read into the record. This would make the process smoother.
810. The United States thanked everyone for the work that went into making the meeting successful and hoped that the suggestions would be taken on board in the spirit in which they were offered.
811. The European Union first took the opportunity to thank the Chair for her leadership throughout the meeting and for the good achievements. They acknowledged that it was good to try new practices and experiment with new approaches, noting that there was nothing wrong with that. However, they emphasised the importance of drawing conclusions from these experiences and adapting accordingly.
812. They concurred with some of the previous members who had taken the floor, stating that it was quite important from their perspective that members submitting proposals could introduce them at the earliest stage of the annual meetings. This would give the opportunity for negotiations to begin early.
813. Additionally, they noted that the nature of SWGs was inherently informal. Recording the proceedings of these smaller working groups removed this informal nature and potentially reduced the effectiveness of side discussions. They suggested reconsidering this approach. In closing, they thanked their colleagues from Fiji for their hospitality, the Secretariat for the great organisation, and all the colleagues for their constructive spirit.
814. New Zealand thanked the Chair for her hard work. They agreed with the statements made by other members regarding the structure of the agenda and the use of plenary. They mentioned

that they were happy to provide more detailed comments in writing in a few days. However, they had taken the floor to say something else. The New Zealand delegation wished to acknowledge a member of their delegation, Arthur Hore. They noted that this might be his last WCPFC meeting, although they hoped it was not. They wanted to acknowledge his service, stating that he had been involved in more or less all meetings of the WCPFC since its inception and also the preparatory conferences on the Convention. The New Zealand delegation, and they hoped all members present, wished Arthur all the best.

815. WWF acknowledged that it was late on the last day and promised to be brief. Considering some of the discussions that had caused delays, and considering interventions by the US, EU, New Zealand, and Cook Islands about the importance of process, they delivered their intervention because they believed the Commission and its work were important. They expressed pleasure at getting two very important issues across the line at the meeting, specifically the EM minimum standards and the crew labour standards CMM. They had no intention of denigrating those efforts or the significance of those outcomes. However, they noted that both measures could have been much stronger if some members had not deliberately sought to weaken them.

816. As this meeting wrapped up, they wanted to take the opportunity to inject a little honesty and reality into the process, stating bluntly that the WCPFC, as a process and institution, needed to assess and potentially change its governance model or risk losing credibility. They asserted that the consensus decision-making model had resulted in fisheries management by the least common denominator, subject to the tyranny of the minority. Some members had come to the meeting unwilling to negotiate in good faith, weaponizing the process by using procedural mechanisms to undermine negotiations or subvert the process to their advantage or promote their own position at the expense of other members.

817. Moreover, they noted that some members had simply rejected the best available science in explicit contravention of the Convention, dismissing and ignoring exhaustive peer-reviewed science because it did not suit their national policy objectives. Furthermore, some members had deferred or delayed some of the most simple, inexpensive, and effective conservation measures for no good reason other than they just did not want to, offering no contradictory science or evidence in response.

818. They emphasised that while the process might not be fully transparent, the intentions of those members were clear. The consensus decision-making process might have worked when big, easy decisions needed to be made in the early days of the Commission, but all the low-hanging fruit had been picked. The difficult and intractable nature of many of the remaining issues made the process not conducive to genuinely productive outcomes, as it put all the power in the hands of those who sought to obstruct rather than advance progress.

819. They believed was time to consider adopting a decision model that required individual member accountability and transparency. It was time to start voting.

Decisions

820. The Commission made the following appointments to Commission positions commencing after the end of WCPFC21 (4 December 2024):

- a) Mr Masa Miyahara (Japan) as Chair of the NC.
- b) Mr Mat Kertesz (Australia), whose term as TCC Chair was extended for a further 12 months.

- c) Mr Ilkang Na (Korea), whose term as TCC Vice-Chair was extended for a further 12 months.
- d) Dr. Josie Tamate (Niue) as Chair of the Commission.
- e) Mr Takumi Fukuda (Japan) as Vice-Chair of the Commission.
- f) Mr Lucas Tarapik (Papua New Guinea) as Chair of the ROP-IWG.
- g) Mr Dan Gilmete (Federated States of Micronesia) as Chair of the ER and EM IWG.
- h) Mr Meli Wakalowaqa Raicebe (Fiji) as Lead for Port State Measures WG.
- i) Mr David Power (Australia) as Lead for HSBI WG.

821. The Commission invited nominations for SC Vice-Chair and NC Vice-Chair to be made intersessionally.

822. The Commission agreed on the following meeting venues and dates:

- a) NC21 to be held 14-15 July 2025 in Japan.
- b) Joint Working Group between WCPFC-NC and IATTC on PBF to be held 9-12 July 2025, in conjunction with the NC21 meeting; and an Intersessional JWG-PBF will be held in Monterey, California 5-7 February 2025.
- c) SC21 to be held 13-21 August 2025 in Tonga.
- d) TCC21 to be held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from Wednesday, 24th September to Tuesday, 30th September 2025.
- e) In person meetings of the ROP-IWG, PSM-IWG and FADMO-IWG will be held alongside TCC21, with two IWG meetings held on one day adjacent to TCC21 and one held during TCC21.
- f) Commission Annual meeting (WCPFC22) to be held 1-5 December 2025 in Vanuatu. This will be preceded by a meeting of the 19th Finance and Administration Committee (FAC19) on 30 November 2025.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

823. Fiji, as the host country, hoped that they had hosted everyone well in welcoming them to their shores, and that participants had been able to witness what Fiji had to offer as a country, as individuals, and in terms of their culture. They believed that Fiji was a multiracial culture, and they were fortunate enough to share that with everyone. They thanked everyone for coming and asked everyone to take the best memories back to their families, whom they had been kept away from.

824. They acknowledged the work that their broader FFA Members had put in throughout the week and in the lead up to the Commission. Fiji's hosting of the 21st Regular Session would not have been possible without the commitment of the 17 FFA Members, their partners, distant water fishing nations, NGOs, and other members. They recognised that sometimes they did not see eye to eye but hoped that with their shared commitment towards a common goal, they had done well.

825. They recalled hosting their first Commission meeting back in 2016, noting that they were young and a bit naive back then, but recognised the achievements made, including the passing of

the tropical tuna measure and the platform set for observers. They were happy to have hosted the meeting again and to have achieved more this year.

826. They congratulated their colleagues from Vanuatu, their neighbours, and looked forward to them taking it up another notch with their leadership, hoping that WCPFC22 would be a success. They acknowledged the support received from the Secretariat, noting that when they raised their hands to host back in the Cook Islands, they did not know the difficulties and financial requirements involved. They credited the success to the people they worked with, the Ministry, other Government departments, and the bond they had.
827. Niue closed the meeting with a prayer.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: A to Y (Participants, Opening Statements, and Small Working Group Summaries)

ATTACHMENT A:	List of Participants
ATTACHMENT B:	WCPFC Chair, Opening Remarks
ATTACHMENT C:	Fiji Minister for Fisheries and Forests, Opening Remarks
ATTACHMENT D:	WCPFC Executive Director, Opening Remarks
ATTACHMENT E:	Fiji Prime Minister, Opening Remarks
ATTACHMENT F:	Tuvalu, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT G:	Marshall Islands, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT H:	Niue, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT I:	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT J:	Republic of Korea, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT K:	China, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT L:	Papua New Guinea, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT M:	American Samoa, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT N:	Philippines, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT O:	Australia, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT P:	Accountability.Fish, Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT Q:	Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI), Opening Statement
ATTACHMENT R:	Summary of SWG on Climate Change
ATTACHMENT S:	Summary of SWG on Electronic Monitoring
ATTACHMENT T:	Summary of SWG on Transshipment
ATTACHMENT U:	Summary of SWG on Crew Labour Standards
ATTACHMENT V:	Summary of SWG on Seabirds
ATTACHMENT W:	Summary of SWG on Sharks
ATTACHMENT X:	Summary of SWG on North Pacific Striped Marlin
ATTACHMENT Y:	Summary of SWG on Cetaceans

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ATTACHMENT B: WCPFC Chair Opening Statement

Delivered by Dr. Josie M Tamate - Chair

- Reverend Turanga
- Prime Minister for Fiji, Hon Sitiveni Rabuka
- Prime Minister for Tuvalu, Hon Feleti Teo
- Minister for the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, Government of Fiji, Hon Alitia Bainivalu
- Minister for the Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of Niue, Hon Mona AINU’U
- Minister for Natural Resources and Commerce for the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands - Hon. Anthony M. Muller
- Minister for Fisheries, Government of Tonga, Hon Lord Fohe
- Heads of Delegations
- WCPFC Vice Chair – Mr Takumi Fukuda
- WCPFC Executive Director – Ms Rhea Moss-Christian
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Fakaalofa lahi atu ke he higoa he iki ha tautolu ko Iesu Keriso. Tau fakaaue mo e tau fakalilifu kia Ia, ha ko e haana takitakiaga mafola, kua liu feleveia a tautolu ke he motu nai ko Fiji, ke matutaki e tau fakatutalaaga ke lata ma e tau levekiaga, puipui mo e tau fakaaogaaga he tau ika he moana tofia.

Bula and good morning to you all.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our host - the government and the people of Fiji - for welcoming us all to your beautiful country. Thank you for all the excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality accorded to me since my arrival. Vinaka vaka levu!

Honorable Prime Ministers, Honorable Ministers, thank you for being here with us today. Your presence is a demonstration of your commitment and support for the work we do at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, to ensure the long term sustainability of our tuna fishery and highly migratory fish stocks in our region. The Western and Central Pacific Ocean provides over 50% of the world’s tuna supply and is a multi-billion dollar industry. The revenue from the fishery also supports the development of the Pacific Island countries. Vinaka vaka levu.

Colleagues, thank you for your continued support for the WCPFC in 2024 and your contribution to ensuring that the fishery and the species, that are under WCPFC’s responsibility continue to be healthy and sustainable. Last year in the Cook Islands, we worked hard, well past midnight and into the early hours of Saturday morning. We should not normalise those kinds of working hours. So, we should aim to strengthen how we progress the work.

To the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and the Intersessional Working Groups and the Secretariat team led by our Executive Director, I am immensely proud and grateful for all your support and contributions throughout the year.

Colleagues, 21 years ago, the Convention ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN entered into force on the 19th of June 2004, and the Commission held its first meeting from December 9 – 10, in 2004. We have certainly come a long way and our efforts are reflected in the healthy status of the key tuna stocks under the WCPFC mandate. We have continued our responsibility to work together to ensure long term sustainability of the fishery.

21 is a special number and holds special meaning especially to those of us who celebrate birthdays. When we turned 21 years old, a whole lot of opportunities become available to us. Therefore, for this 21st WCPFC Meeting, we have an opportunity to do more great work. And we have developed the agenda with that thought in mind.

The WCPFC will receive the reports, outcomes and recommendations from the Subsidiary Bodies and the updates from the Intersessional Working Groups at the start of our discussions. In doing this, the WCPFC will receive all the information and advice from the subsidiary bodies so that we can focus on decision making. The subsidiary bodies have carried out what we have tasked them to do and it is only fitting that we receive their advice and recommendations so we can go on to make informed decisions.

I am looking forward to adopting the Crew Labour Standards CMM and Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards at this meeting. I am also looking forward to making solid progress on the Harvest Strategies Work, transshipment, seabirds and north pacific striped marlin, to name a few. I recognise that there is still significant work ahead of us but I am confident that we will identify what needs to be done to progress the negotiations and reach consensus.

There is increasing international attention on ocean conservation, which has significant implications for WCPFC and its role in managing highly migratory fish stocks, as well as non-target, associated, and dependent species in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. For the first time, an agenda item is included on these issues, seeking direction on what and, how, we want the Secretariat to address this going forward. We need to be following those developments, because we cannot work in isolation.

Colleagues, WCPFC is turning 21. We have entered a stage of maturity as an organisation. As is fitting for a mature organisation, we have a heavy agenda this week. This will bed in much of the work that all of you have undertaking intersessionally. I encourage you all to use the time available to progress negotiations, to find middle ground on areas that are contentious, and provide pathways for future work. I am confident and optimistic, and ready to work with all of you to make as much progress as possible.

Kia Monuina e tau amaamanakiaga. Vinaka Vakalevu, Thank you

ATTACHMENT C: Fiji Minister for Fisheries and Forests Opening Statement

Delivered by Honourable Alitia Bainivalu - Minister of Fisheries and Forests

The Prime Minister of Fiji – Honourable Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka

The Prime Minister of Tuvalu – Honourable Feleti Teo

My Fellow Ministers

The Chair WCPFC – Dr. Josie Tamate

The Executive Director WCPFC – Rhea Moss-Christian

Fisheries Practitioners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bula vinaka and a warm welcome to you all. Welcome to our home, where happiness finds you.

It is both an honour and a privilege to stand before you today as we convene for the 21st Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) here in beautiful Fiji.

We gather not only as representatives of our nations but as stewards of our shared ocean resources, tasked with the critical responsibility of ensuring the sustainability of our fisheries for generations to come.

As we embark on this important session, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the rich cultural heritage and the profound connection that our Pacific Island nations have with the ocean.

The waters that surround us are not merely a source of livelihood but are integral to our identity, our traditions, and our way of life. It is our duty to ensure that these waters remain vibrant and productive, not just for ourselves but for future generations.

Every year, we face a myriad of challenges that threaten the health of our marine ecosystems and the sustainability of our fisheries. Climate change, overfishing, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing pose significant risks to our resources.

However, I believe that with collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to sustainable practices, we can overcome these challenges.

I encourage all delegates to engage in open and constructive dialogue during this session.

Let us share our experiences, learn from one another, and work together to develop actionable solutions that align with our collective goals.

We must strive to enhance our scientific understanding, improve management practices, and strengthen our regional cooperation.

Let us also recognize the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge and practices into our fisheries management strategies.

The wisdom of our ancestors offers valuable insights that can guide us in navigating the complexities of modern fisheries management.

As we move forward, I urge all of us to embrace a spirit of partnership and collaboration. By working together, we can make informed decisions that prioritize the health of our oceans, support our fishing communities, and ensure food security for our people.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your commitment to this vital work. Your presence here today signifies a shared dedication to the sustainable management of our precious marine resources.

Let us make the most of this opportunity to chart a course toward a future where our fisheries thrive, our communities flourish, and our oceans remain healthy and resilient.

Thank you, and I look forward to fruitful discussions in the days ahead. Vinaka vakalevu!

ATTACHMENT D: WCPFC Executive Director Opening Statement

Delivered by Rhea Moss-Christian - WCPFC Executive Director

Bula si'a, turanga Prime Minister,
Honorable Ministers,
Madame Commission Chair,
Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

Prime Minister, your recent call for stronger measures to ensure sustainable fisheries in the Pacific Islands region is both timely and essential, as WCPFC members and stakeholders gather in your beautiful nation to address these challenges.

Your presence here today underscores the gravity of our shared responsibility to protect the marine resources that support countless livelihoods worldwide, and we sincerely appreciate the warm welcome extended by you and the people of Fiji.

My thanks as well to you, Minister Bainivalu, for your opening remarks. On behalf of the WCPFC Secretariat, I'd like to thank you and your team for the excellent arrangements and support for this meeting.

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Colleagues, our ocean is the foundation of life in the Pacific and beyond. It provides food, income, and cultural identity to millions of people. But as we meet here today, this lifeline is under increasing pressure. The decisions we make here have never been more consequential for the future of our fisheries, our ecosystems, and the communities that depend on them.

The world is changing, and it is changing fast. New international treaties, like the one for biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, are reshaping how we think about and govern our shared marine resources. This and other international developments demand more from us—more collaboration, more foresight, and more resolve.

Nowhere are these pressures more visible than in the challenges brought by climate change. Our region's waters are warming, sea levels are rising, and currents are shifting. These changes are altering the behaviour of fish stocks, particularly tuna, the lifeblood of many Pacific Island economies.

For decades, this Commission has worked to keep our tuna stocks biologically healthy, demonstrating that effective, science-driven fisheries management is possible, even amidst mounting environmental and political pressures.

By integrating climate science, fostering regional cooperation, and prioritizing the resilience of both the fish stocks and the communities that depend on them, WCPFC sets an example for how international collaboration can rise to meet the rapidly changing realities of our oceans. But maintaining that success will require us to adapt to a future that may look very different from the past. Our shared goal must be to ensure that the fisheries we manage today can withstand the changes of tomorrow. But stewardship is not just about managing fish stocks. It's also about ensuring fairness and equity for those whose livelihoods depend on the ocean. Fishing is a physically demanding and often dangerous profession, yet for far too many, it is also dehumanizing.

Stories of inhumane conditions aboard fishing vessels are all too common. And as the body tasked with managing one of the world's largest and most valuable fisheries, WCPFC cannot stand by while these abuses persist. Your work in recent years has culminated into a key opportunity at this meeting

to take a strong stand and send a powerful message: that in the Western and Central Pacific, human rights are not negotiable.

As we navigate these challenges—climate change, emerging ocean industries, and the urgent need to protect people—we must also recognize the tremendous strength of this Commission. For two decades, WCPFC has brought together diverse stakeholders to manage the world’s largest tuna fishery. That work has not always been easy, but it has made a difference. The biological health of our stocks is a testament to what we can achieve together.

This week, we have the chance to take that legacy forward—to demonstrate that WCPFC is not only committed to sustainability but also to fairness, equity, and resilience. Let us use this meeting to show that we are not afraid to confront hard truths or take bold actions. The future of our ocean depends on it, as does the future of the people who rely on it.

Thank you, vinaka vaka levu.

ATTACHMENT E: Fiji Prime Minister Opening Statement

Delivered by Major-General (Ret'd) The Honourable, Tagaloa-a-lagi, Sitiveni Rabuka, CF, OBE (Mil), OSt.J, MSD, Legion D' Honneur (FR), Order of Tahiti Nui, jssc, psc, MSc (Defence Studies) - Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change and Environment, Civil Service, Information and Public Enterprises

- I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Vanua o Suva, ki Vua na Tui Suva.
- I pay my respects to their Elders past, present and future.

The Honourable Prime Minister of Tuvalu – Mr Feleti Teo; The Honourable Ministers from the FFA member countries of Tonga, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Palau; The Executive Director of WCPFC – Ms Rhea-Moss Christian; The WCPFC Chair – Dr. Josie Tamate; Commission members, participating non members, Observers, Ladies and gentlemen.

Introduction

Bula vinaka and a good morning to you all!

Our home, Fiji is indeed fortunate to host you all for the 21st Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

It is both an honour and a privilege for me to host this important gathering, which brings together fishing nations and stakeholders, united by a common purpose which is: “the sustainable utilisation and management of our invaluable tuna resources.”

Yesterday, I opened a new building at the Pacific Maritime Studies which is located at the foreshore down the road here at Laucala Bay. What I said to them was – **“our oceans, our islands, communities, and economies have been shaped by the ocean that surrounds and connects us.”**

Our forefathers have navigated the great Pacific Ocean to find new homes, find nourishment and a source of livelihood.

And as we convene here today, **we are reminded of the immense wealth that our oceans provide, not only to our unique economies but also to the very fabric of our cultures, communities, livelihood and families.**

Body – Pacific priorities

The Pacific Ocean is home to the most productive tuna fisheries in the world, and it is our shared responsibility to ensure that these resources are managed wisely and equitably for the benefit of both current and future generations.

In this light, it is imperative that I emphasize the critical importance of a **science-based, data driven decision-making process**. *Informed decisions are critical in the management of our natural resources. Especially, for one resource, tuna fisheries, that is transboundary, vulnerable to climatic weather conditions and lives in an environment that is used as a dumping ground of waste.*

The challenges we face—from climate change to overfishing and even contending with the issues around illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing — all demands that our decisions be based on

sound scientific research and data. **We must rely on the best available science to guide us in making informed choices that promote the sustainability of our shared tuna fisheries.**

Additionally, in the absence of science, the use of the precautionary approach to manage the utilisation of our tuna stocks is of vital importance. It is imperative of us, now to also look back at history and study how our forefathers managed these fisheries. It is sad, that our push for economic growth and technology development has led to the overfishing and pollution of our oceans. But we are at a critical juncture in our history as Pacific people to establish a collective voice and have a say in our tuna fisheries.

Fiji's priorities

At the outset, allow me to highlight a few key items that Fiji and its Pacific Island nations will look to address during this meeting.

The first is the impacts of climate change and the need for cooperation in the management of the high seas. As I have said before, It is important that we all work collaboratively, in a mutually beneficial manner to progress this important matter, whilst acknowledging the aspirations and limitations of Small Island Developing States (SIDs) – which is addressed in Article 30 of the WCPFC Convention.

In light of this, I encourage like-minded partners and developed nations, to commit in ensuring that the appropriate replenishments of the Special Requirements Funds or SRF, be addressed, in order to allow Pacific Island nations, an even platform to attend to these impacts, without the disproportionate burden.

Our Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and others, are big. However, our economics are small and we need all the support we can get to ensure that we continue to participate effectively in such meetings whilst directing appropriate funds to meet development aspirations. This will maximize the opportunities presented at these types of meetings.

Collaborative approach

Delegates, colleagues and friends, the complexities of our ocean ecosystems require a collaborative approach.

One that integrates scientific knowledge with traditional practices and local expertise.

One that recognises that our tuna stocks migrate across different boundaries, affecting the sovereignty and sovereign rights of our different nations.

One filled with aspirations and dreams of developing states, coupled with the ever growing quests of developed nations in meeting economic and political needs.

It is essential that we **engage with our scientists, fisheries experts, and local communities to ensure that our policies reflect a holistic understanding of the marine environment.**

This is not just a matter of effective governance; it is about stewardship—our duty to protect the resources that sustain us.

As we embark on our discussions over the coming days, let us keep in mind the overarching goal of sustainable development.

Our decisions must reflect our commitment to the long-term health of our oceans and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them.

We have a unique opportunity to set a precedent for responsible fisheries management of our tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Cooperation, transparency and accountability

Let us seize this moment to reaffirm our dedication to cooperation, transparency, and accountability in our decision-making processes.

Moreover, we must also recognize the importance of partnerships!

Our collective strength lies in our ability to work together, sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices.

Let us foster an environment of collaboration among Pacific Island nations, distant waters fishing nations and entities, regional organizations, and international partners.

Together, we can forge innovative solutions to overcome the challenges we face, ensuring the sustainability and resilience of our tuna fisheries across their migration pathways, for present generations and those to come.

As we progress forward, I urge each of you to keep the principles of sustainability and equity at the forefront of our discussions.

Let us commit to making decisions that not only protect our tuna stocks, but also safeguard the livelihoods and cultures of our people.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Fiji government and its people, to all of you, for your dedication and commitment to this vital cause.

Your presence here today is a testament to the importance of our shared mission. I am confident that through our collective efforts, we can chart a sustainable course for our fisheries and ensure that our ocean remains a source of prosperity for generations to come.

Let us embark on this journey together with a spirit of collaboration and determination.

Let us not steal from our future generation but ensure that they have more than they will need.

I want to leave you with a thought – why can't we in the Pacific – whether it is The Western and Central Pacific or the whole of the Pacific Forum and our Joint EEZ's – follow the example of the Organisation of Oil Producing Exporting Countries and form ourselves into a Joint Tuna Exporting or Tuna Fishing Grounds Community and become a powerful World Trading Block, but then we avoid all the faults seen in OPEC – instability, corruption, etc.?

With those words, I am honored to officially open the 21st Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Vinaka vakalevu and I thank you, and do not forget to enjoy your stay in Fiji – look up your relatives and countrymen living here now.

God bless you all.

ATTACHMENT F: Tuvalu Opening Statement

Delivered by the Hon. Sa'aga Talu – Minister of Natural Resources Development

Chair of WCPFC, Fellow Ministers from member countries, Executive Director of the WCPFC and your staff, Distinguished Delegates to WCPFC, Representatives of Regional Organisations and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the meeting and outline a few of the priorities of the Government of Tuvalu for WCPFC 21 in the days ahead.

Firstly, let me associate myself with the remarks of other delegations in thanking the Government and People of Fiji for the hospitality and courtesy accorded to our delegation since we have arrived here. For Tuvalu, Fiji is our closest neighbour, and most of our delegation have been here many times, but it is always a pleasure to come back.

As usual, I would like to assure you, Madam chair, of Tuvalu's support for you in your role. The new format of the agenda and the plan to break into a number of small working groups, will, I think, pose some challenges, but with your guidance I am sure this meeting can make great progress in the week ahead.

Madam Chair, the meeting has a number of important issues to address, but I would like to highlight three points which are of particular importance to Tuvalu.

1) Target Reference Points for yellowfin and bigeye Tuna

Tuvalu is committed to making progress in adopting TRPs for these key species at this meeting as an important step in improving their management. However, we recognize that it is always difficult to set reference points for two multi-species fisheries – purse seine and longline. We need to consider carefully how the TRPs will affect the operation of the fisheries and accept that it may be very difficult to achieve all of the desirable targets for all species. Ultimately it may be necessary to resolve these issues in a mixed fishery framework. As a first step we are supportive of the approach suggested by the Scientific Services Provider of focusing on the bigeye TRP initially. We also believe that this bigeye TRP should not be based on assuming the current FAD closures will be maintained indefinitely.

2) Management of Fish Aggregation Devices

The purse seine fishery in Tuvalu waters, on which my government relies for more than half its annual revenue, is highly dependent on the use of Fish Aggregation Devices. While we are committed to improving the management of FAD fishing, we have been concerned at the efforts of some non-Government Organisations to paint FAD-fishing as a destructive fishing method. The fact is that the use of FADs with instrumented buoys has improved the efficiency and reduced the carbon footprint of the purse seine fishery; and its catch comprises around 99% of target species. Tuvalu, as a member of the PNA, now requires registration of all FAD buoys deployed in in the region and real time tracking of their positions. This will facilitate retrieval of FAD buoys and, with the roll-out of biodegradable FADs, should address the last remaining objections to the use of FADs in this fishery.

3) Increases in high seas purse seine fishing effort

Tuvalu notes that there are two delegation papers seeking increased fishing opportunities for purse seine fishing on the high seas. While we are always sympathetic to efforts by developing countries to develop their domestic fisheries, the current limits and restrictions on high seas fishing are important both for the sustainable management of the fishery and maintaining the economic benefits for small island coastal states. We therefore cannot support either of these proposals.

Madame Chair there are many other issues for this meeting to consider, but the longer I talk the less time will be left for our Fisheries experts to discuss them. So I will end my remarks by wishing all of you the very best for your deliberations in the week ahead.

Thank you, Fakafetai Lasi,

Tuvalu mo te Atua

ATTACHMENT G: Marshall Islands Opening Statement

Delivered by Hon. Anthony M. Muller - Minister for Natural Resources and Commerce

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with profound honour that I address this distinguished assembly at the 21st Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC21). On behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I extend heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of Fiji for their warm hospitality and exemplary organisation. This gathering exemplifies the unity and shared purpose that characterize our Pacific family.

The Marshall Islands approaches this session with a steadfast commitment to the vital role of this Commission in safeguarding the sustainability of our shared ocean resources. Our priorities are aligned with the collective goals of robust conservation, equitable economic opportunities for coastal states, and the empowerment of our communities to actively participate in the tuna value chain. For us, tuna is far more than an economic asset; it is a symbol of resilience, a source of livelihoods, and a cornerstone of biodiversity in the Western and Central Pacific.

This Commission represents a lifeline for both the ecosystems and economies of our region. We gather here as custodians of a shared legacy, united by the solemn duty to safeguard our tuna fisheries—the beating heart of the Pacific—for the benefit of future generations.

The Marshall Islands takes immense pride in its role as a leader in Pacific fisheries. Majuro, our national port, stands as a beacon of efficiency, handling an impressive 230,000 metric tonnes of tuna in 2023. As one of the busiest transshipment hubs in the Pacific, our operations set a benchmark for sustainable fisheries management.

On the domestic front, we continue to advance with the development of enhanced offloading facilities and strategic partnerships in value-added processing. These initiatives not only create jobs but also bolster economic resilience, ensuring that the wealth of our oceans directly benefits our people. Through the Pacific Island Tuna Provisions (PITP) initiative, we underscore our commitment to sustainability and equity, ensuring that the tuna harvested from our waters meets the highest ethical and environmental standards. Collaborations with global retailers further highlight our leadership in building transparent and responsible supply chains.

The significance of the tuna industry to Pacific economies cannot be overstated. In 2023, the provisional total tuna catch in the WCPFC Convention Area reached 2.63 million metric tonnes. Skipjack tuna, which forms the backbone of the fisheries sector in the Marshall Islands, contributed substantially to this total. Purse seine fishing, which accounts for over 90% of our national catch, yielded 67,520 metric tonnes last year, driving vital revenues, employment opportunities, and national development.

Tuna fisheries are a source of immense value, with the 2023 WCPFC-CA catch estimated at \$6.1 billion, including \$3.5 billion from the purse seine fishery alone. However, to maximise these benefits, Pacific nations must prioritise local processing and regional integration. By doing so, we can create jobs, enhance economic returns, and drive industrial development, ensuring that the wealth generated in our waters translates into tangible benefits for our communities.

Looking ahead, the Marshall Islands envisions a Pacific where at least half of all tuna harvested is processed locally, creating dignified employment opportunities and ensuring wealth remains within our region. Transshipment operations will evolve into multi-functional hubs that integrate logistics, processing, and value-added activities.

In this context, the regulation of high seas transshipment activities demands urgent attention. While transshipment plays a critical role in the global tuna supply chain, it also poses significant challenges to

monitoring, control, and surveillance. If left unchecked, it risks undermining the integrity of our management efforts and providing opportunities for illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Marshall Islands strongly advocates for stricter oversight of transshipment activities, particularly those occurring in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Enhanced transparency, supported by electronic monitoring and reporting tools, is essential to ensure that all catches are accounted for and that the economic benefits of our fisheries are safeguarded against exploitation and mismanagement. By strengthening regulation, we can protect the sustainability of our tuna stocks, maintain the health of marine ecosystems, and ensure that the wealth derived from these resources directly benefits Pacific communities.

Ladies and gentlemen, we must also confront the existential threat posed by climate change to our oceans, our fisheries, and our way of life. Rising sea temperatures, shifting fish stocks, ocean acidification, and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events are already having profound impacts on our marine resources. For the Marshall Islands and our Pacific neighbours, climate change is not an abstract challenge—it is a present and pressing reality that touches every aspect of our economies and ecosystems.

The resilience of our tuna stocks is inextricably tied to the health of our oceans, which are under mounting pressure from climate change. Warming waters are altering migration patterns and spawning grounds, complicating our management efforts and threatening the sustainability of our fisheries.

The future of Pacific fisheries is a shared responsibility that transcends borders, cultures, and individual interests. It is a trust placed in our hands, not just by this generation but by generations yet unborn. Tuna fisheries are more than a resource—they are the lifeblood of our region, intricately woven into the fabric of our economies, communities, and way of life.

For the Marshall Islands, and indeed for all Pacific nations, these fisheries sustain livelihoods, fund essential services, and hold the promise of a brighter, more prosperous future. But this promise will not fulfil itself—it demands action, unity, and an unwavering sense of purpose.

We therefore call on this Commission to strengthen Conservation and Management Measures that protect not only the fish stocks that underpin our economies but also the ecosystems and communities that sustain them. These measures are not mere technical tools; they are a reflection of our collective commitment to stewardship, equity, and the enduring legacy of our ocean resources.

This is our moment—a rare opportunity to secure a brighter future for the Pacific and its people. Let us seize it with courage, vision, and determination.

Thank you, and may our deliberations inspire transformative outcomes for the benefit of our shared blue continent.

ATTACHMENT H: Niue Opening Statement

Delivered by Honorable Mona AINU'u – Minister of Natural Resources

Fellow Ministers, Madam Chair, Executive Director of the WCPFC Secretariat, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

Fakalofa lahi atu ke he higoa he Iki ha Tautolu ko Iesu Keriso and Warm greetings from the Rock of Polynesia, Niue Island. Oue tulou ke he haana fakalofa noa kua liliu feleveia tautolu ke he motu fulufuluola nai. First and foremost we acknowledge God's protection and travel mercies upon all of us that enables us to be here today.

I am very excited to be here in Suva, Fiji, and to see you all again.

At the outset, I would like to acknowledge on behalf of the Niue delegation our sincere appreciation and thank you to our host country and Government of Fiji, for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation.

Madam Chair - we would also like to express our deepest gratitude to you, for your commitment and work in chairing the WCPFC. We also acknowledge the ED Rhea Moss-Christian and her Secretariat Team and Fiji Fisheries for the excellent support and work arrangement behind the scenes towards enabling and organizing this very important meeting, including logistical arrangements for members to participate effectively.

My presence here this week, is an indication of Niue's ongoing commitment to the management and sustainable development of our vital fisheries resources, through cooperation. Cooperation and partnership with our FFA family, and our broader partners and friends around this table. Albeit, Niue consist of a small team and administration, our commitment remain steadfast and equally matches any of the larger members around the table. We do it to honor our previous commitments by our ancestors and more importantly, for our future generation, to ensure the fishery resources are sustainably managed to reap key benefits for all our people.

Madam Chair, Fellow CCMs; we have a collective responsibility to ensure the tuna resources in the Western Central Pacific Ocean remains productive and sustainable, and we owe it to future generations to ensure the long term viability and sustainability of these critical resources.

In support of this goal, Niue are working closely with the South Pacific Group to strengthen our co-operation, and develop our common vision and collective goals and aspirations. We believe that the common purpose of the South Pacific Group will become an important foundation for cooperation. Cooperation at sub-regional, regional and RFMO levels is critical to our future as we cannot do it alone.

The agenda set before us for this week is comprehensive and members will have their own expectations and desired outcomes for this meeting. For Niue, we are looking forward to decisions on the FFA priorities, with several particular priorities that we want to progress:

1. As a South Pacific coastal State, dependent on our fisheries for food security, livelihoods and revenue, it is a critical priority that the WCPFC progress the work and management of South Pacific albacore so as to ensure its sustainable and economically viable future. We need to rebuild South Pacific albacore to levels that enable the future profitability of vessels operating in the southern longline fishery. In this light, we look forward to cooperating with our south Pacific, FFA and Commission partners to do our best to progress this work in 2024. We believe that the SPG group with support from Australia backed by SSP's have done the key background work in order to progress our proposals on SPA during this Commission Meeting.

2. Secondly, we fully support the work on Climate Change and efforts to advocate climate change priorities at WCPFC, including the workplan as a regular activity for the Commission. Niue have contributed significantly to the overall Ocean Conservation by committing 40% of its EEZ as a Large Scale Marine Protected Area that will contribute to the overall conservation benefits of marine resources towards combatting Climate Change impacts.

3. Lastly, we fully support adopting a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF as a matter of priority. A final decision here at this meeting to secure sustainable funding for the SRF is a matter of priority and ensuring the effective implementation of Article 30 and effective participation of SIDS. We humbly seek our key development partners to cooperate and assist us with this matter.

My Team and I would like to reaffirm Niue's commitment to effectively participate and contribute to the work of the WCPFC. We believe that we can all work together, share and successfully manage this vital fishery, if we honestly and respectfully negotiate in good faith.

Madam Chair, we look forward to working with you along with key partners and stakeholders around the table, and wish you well for the week ahead.

Fakaue lahi. God Bless Us All. Kia Monuina.

ATTACHMENT I: Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency Opening Statement

Delivered by FFC Chair - Chief Executive Officer of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority, Ms Erana Aliklik

Madam Chair, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies and Colleagues, it is a pleasure to meet you all again in Suva.

At the outset, FFA Members would like to express our sincere gratitude to our host, the Government and the People of Fiji for the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival and the excellent arrangements.

In our letter dated 25 October 2024, we highlighted that Article 30 of the Convention is a fundamental provision and is at the core of fisheries conservation and management in the region.

FFA Members reiterate the need to ensure that the special requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories (SIDS) are fully recognised and addressed in all Commission decisions and processes. This includes the requirement that all proposals are accompanied with a CMM 2013-06 assessment. We thank those CCMs that have made an effort to conduct these assessments.

However, we remain very concerned that we continue to receive some proposals during the year without these important assessments or the assessments are provided to us late in the year. This does not work for any of us as we need to understand well the impacts on our developing countries and how they will be addressed, before any decision is taken. Furthermore, some proponents do not consult with SIDs as part of the development of their proposals.

Chair, Article 30.3 provides for the establishment of the Special Requirements Fund to facilitate the effective participation of SIDS in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. However, as we did in the 20th session last year, we once again note with serious concern that the Special Requirements Fund is depleting. The balance that we have from the Secretariat is just over \$15,000. FFA Members reiterate the call for a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF as a matter of priority.

To that end, FFA Members have proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations and the record of this session to ensure that the Special Requirements Fund has a minimum amount of US \$300,000 annually to support the participation of SIDS.

FFA Members again wish to raise concern over the proliferation of Intersessional Working Groups and meetings. SIDS fisheries administrations are small and the proliferation of meetings precludes our meaningful participation in the work of the Commission. We reiterate the ongoing need to rationalise meetings with the view to promoting SIDS engagement.

Chair, FFA members remain committed to the work to progress the development and implementation of harvest strategies for WCPFC-managed stocks. We are pleased with the successes we have made in recent years with the implementation of a management procedure for skipjack tuna. At this Commission meeting, we are keen to progress discussions on the development of a management procedure for South Pacific albacore and for the critical future work on bigeye and yellowfin tunas. We also note that progress has been made on harvest strategies for other stocks, including North Pacific albacore, and we note Australia's intention to lead work on developing a harvest strategy for south west Pacific swordfish.

FFA members are also committed to advancing key work in the year ahead to strengthen management of the longline fishery, and we note the importance of this work to achieving meaningful management of south Pacific albacore and other stocks.

FFA members are pleased with the progress that has been made on developing standards for electronic monitoring, and we look forward to adoption of standards this year, noting the significant benefits this can provide in strengthening independent monitoring of longline fisheries, especially on

the high seas. Noting this, we reiterate our comments at SC20 and TCC20 that, in the absence of agreed EM standards and framework, CCMs must use ROP (human) observers to meet the increased observer coverage requirements under CMM 2023-01

FFA Members reiterate that we place a high priority on the review of the transshipment measure CMM 2009-06. Our fundamental and long-standing position is to strengthen regulation of transshipment activities on the high seas. So we look forward to working with CCMs to strengthen the regulation of transshipment on the high seas.

FFA Members welcome the constructive engagement by many CCMs to progress the development of the CMM on Labour Standards for Fishing Crew which is a key priority for FFA Members and we look forward to its adoption by WCPFC21. We are ready to work with other CCMs to address the remaining issues including the commencement date of the proposed measure. This measure would be the first of its kind and the WCPFC will be the first RFMO to adopt such a measure.

FFA members wish to highlight the importance of continuing priority on the management of fish aggregating devices (FAD) in fisheries. FFA Members are willing to provide information on ongoing initiatives to improve the management of FADs and we welcome the Commission's ongoing support for these initiatives.

FFA Members appreciate and encourage constructive engagement of observers in supporting the Commission's work. Transparent and robust fisheries management relies on effective collaboration grounded in mutual respect, factual accuracy, and a shared commitment to sustainable outcomes. We acknowledge the efforts of observers who have taken the time to understand the regional context and work collaboratively with CCMs on important issues of the Commission.

Finally, FFA members wish to stress the importance of continuing to keep climate change as a key focus in all of our discussions. In addition to the ongoing climate change work of the Commission which we will comment on during the relevant agenda items, FFA Members, in our letter to the Chair, acknowledged the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, which: (i) clarified States' obligations to prevent, reduce, and control marine pollution from greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring they do not harm other States or extend beyond their sovereign areas (paras. 173, 243, 258); (ii) noted the need for international cooperation in countering the effects of GHG emissions on the marine environment (para. 295); and (iii) highlighted the importance of technical assistance to developing States to address the impacts of climate change (para. 327). We urge the Commission to address these focus areas as a matter of priority.

Vinaka vakalevu.

ATTACHMENT J: Republic of Korea Opening Statement

Delivered by Dr. Myung-jin Kim - Director General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Thank you, Madame Chair, for giving me the opportunity to make an opening statement.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Government of Fiji for hosting this important session and for their warm hospitality, and to the Executive Director and her team for your excellent support.

As we convene here, we reflect on two decades of remarkable achievements by this Commission. Over the last 20 years, the WCPFC has played a pivotal role in promoting the sustainable management of tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. These efforts have not only ensured the health of fish stocks but have also safeguarded the livelihoods of millions who depend on these resources.

Our collective work to maintain sustainable fisheries, particularly through initiatives like Harvest Control Rules, demonstrates our commitment to science-based management. It is essential that we continue making meaningful progress in this area to ensure the long-term sustainability of these vital resources.

I would like to underscore the critical contributions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, whose hard work underpins much of what we achieve together. In particular, the Northern Committee's efforts to rebuild Pacific Bluefin Tuna stocks stand out as a shining example of collaborative effort, and we commend the Committee for its dedication and results.

Furthermore, we must continue to recognize and respect the vital roles and rights of coastal states, whose stewardship and contributions are integral to the success of our shared mission.

Looking forward, it is imperative that we adopt a Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) to address crew labour standards, ensuring the safety and welfare of the people who make our fisheries possible. Similarly, advancing standards for electronic reporting and electronic monitoring is crucial to enhance transparency and accountability across our fisheries.

Let us seize the opportunity of this session to strengthen our collective efforts and build upon the foundation of trust and collaboration that has been established over the years.

Thank you once again, Chair, for your leadership and guidance, and I look forward to productive discussions during this session.

ATTACHMENT K: China Opening Statement

Delivered by Lu Quan – Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, China

Thank you, Madam Chair, Ministers,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Fiji for hosting WCPFC21 in Suva. I would also like to thank the Secretariat and you personally, Madam Chair, for your efforts in preparing for this meeting.

This is the first annual meeting of regional fisheries management organizations that I have attended since I took office as China's Division Director in charge of Distant water fisheries in August this year. I hope to make new friends through this meeting. Suva is the city where Chinese tuna fishing companies have the largest number of offices abroad, and it is also the main port of call for Chinese tuna fishing vessels. Once again, I would like to thank the Fijian government for hosting this conference in Suva, which gives me the opportunity to learn first-hand about the tuna fishing industry in Suva.

The Chinese delegation, consisting of nearly 30 representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the China Overseas Fisheries Association, Shanghai Ocean University and some enterprises, reflects the importance that China attaches to the Meeting, and we expect that the Meeting will achieve the desired objectives and produce reasonable and practicable conservation and management measures and decisions. At the same time, we also attach great importance to the role of the Secretariat in coordinating the work. China will increase the amount of voluntary contributions to the WCPFC from 2025, and we will consult with the Secretariat during or after this meeting on the specific use of China's voluntary contributions.

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly state the position of the Chinese delegation on a number of important items to be discussed and decided at this meeting.

First of all, on the crew measures. The measure has been under negotiation for three years, but has been held online, limiting adequate communication between the CCMs. The Chinese delegation participated in the online exchanges in the past two years, and proposed that the labour companies providing migrate crew for fishing vessels operating on the high seas in the WCPFC Convention area shall be registered with the WCPFC, and that the heads of the companies providing migrate crew shall be managed as nationals. We understand that the above proposals involve coordination among the complex domestic departments of the CCMs concerned, and WCPFC is the first RFMO to negotiate mandatory measures for crew. We hope that the negotiating parties will conduct full consultation, think more comprehensively and ahead of the possible problems, and be able to introduce operational comprehensive measures to protect the rights and interests of crew.

Secondly, on the revision of transshipment measures. After two years of work, progress has been made in revising the transfer measures, but there are still differences on several key issues. The Chinese delegation is of the view that whether fishing vessels may engage in transshipment activities on the high seas must be decided by the flag CCM.

Thirdly, electronic monitor. We hope that the WCPFC electronic monitoring minimum standard will be based on the electronic monitoring minimum standard adopted by the IATTC in September 2024, and that consensus will be reached as soon as possible.

Fourthly, measures and decisions relating to South Pacific albacore. As the largest South Pacific albacore fishing CCM in the WCPO and EPO, we welcome the South Pacific Group's proposal for a management procedure for South Pacific albacore and are willing to discuss it bilaterally and in working group with interested CCMs in the hope that, in accordance with the workplan adopted by WCPFC20, to adopt the South Pacific albacore management procedure at this annual meeting. With regard to the outline of management measures for South Pacific albacore, we are willing to discuss

with the South Pacific Group during this meeting to seek maximum consensus. The Chinese delegation holds a positive attitude towards the establishment of the WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore. At present, we are conducting internal coordination and are willing to hold the meeting of the Joint Working Group in China from late May 2026 after the establishment of the joint Working Group. Of course, this is only the Chinese delegation's vision at the moment, and we will inform the WCPFC and IATTC secretariats in due course once we have successfully completed the domestic approval process.

Fifthly, amendment of measures to mitigate the incident catch of seabirds. We appreciate New Zealand's efforts throughout 2024 to promote amending to existing measures to mitigate the incident catch of seabirds. China sent representatives to attend a series of meetings involving seabird measures in 2024, but unfortunately, this proposal was not supported by the SC and TCC this year. We also note that it is not convincing to use information from existing literature to suggest that longline fishing vessels are responsible for the decline in albatross and petrel populations. We believe that the evidence that obtained by the WCPFC observer program, shall be used as a basis for future mitigation measures discussion, like evidence to support the proposal submitted by the United States and the Republic of Korea on cetaceans measures in this year, while comparative tests shall be conducted to ensure a balance between mitigation of incident catch and not reducing longline catch rates.

Sixthly, on sharks. We note that paragraphs 8 and 9 of the existing shark measures will expire at the end of this year. We appreciate the proposal submitted by Canada, but it only proposes the deletion of paragraph 9 (three optional measures to replace the naturally attached), which does not balance the legitimate concerns of all CCMs, and we hope that through consultation, the CCMs concerned can find a solution.

Seventhly, voluntary regional guides for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections. We welcome the relevant paper submitted by Australia in line with the recommendations of the TCC20, and we will discuss the name and content of this paper with Australia and other interested CCMs during this meeting and will participate in the intersessional process in 2025.

Eighthly, the historical cases. The Chinese delegation welcomes the recommendation of TCC20 for the final settlement of historical cases in Compliance Case File System for over two years old, and hopes that WCPFC21 will agree to this recommendation of TCC20.

Madam Chair, there will be other items and proposals to discuss at this meeting. The Chinese delegation will participate in the work of the working groups and actively cooperate with other CCMs to ensure a fruitful meeting.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT L: Papua New Guinea Opening Statement

Delivered by Leban Gisawa – Deputy Managing Director of Corporate Affairs, National Fisheries Authority, Papua New Guinea

Madam Chair, distinguished ministers, distinguished heads of delegations, delegates, Executive Director of the Commission, observers, and NGOs, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government and the people of Fiji for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Papua New Guinea delegation since our arrival in this beautiful country. I would also like to commend you, Chair, the Executive Director, and the staff of the Commission for your exemplary leadership and hard work.

Madam Chair, Papua New Guinea acknowledges the vital role of the Commission in managing the key tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Tuna resources contribute significantly to government revenues and the economic development of Pacific Island countries represented here today. Our participation in this forum underscores the importance we place on ensuring a sustainable tuna fishery, together with all other island migratory fish stocks, for the benefit of our people now and into the future.

PNG recognises the important issues and challenges at hand and therefore emphasises the need for collective efforts in accelerating our actions in this Commission session to provide effective compliance and adoption of science-based best practices in tuna fishery management and conservation. At this juncture, PNG would like to reiterate this Commission's mandate in managing the high seas and recognise that more effort is required in fulfilling this mandate.

Madam Chair, PNG acknowledges the dedication of all CCMs in maintaining the sustainable levels of all major tuna stocks across the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The WCPFC's tall green tower is a testament to this collective achievement and commitment. In saying this, PNG looks forward to the adoption of the skipjack monitoring strategy and the adoption of the target reference points for the remaining tuna species, as well as improved observer coverage and robust monitoring of transshipment activities in the high seas, particularly in the longline fishery.

PNG also supports the establishment of a binding conservation and management measure on labour standards for crew and human rights. PNG is committed to its implementation and is encouraged by this effort, as it serves as a strong reminder that our people, at the heart of everything we do, are protected.

Madam Chair, conservation measures that place a disproportionate conservation burden on Pacific Island countries are a longstanding issue. PNG reminds the Commission of CMM 2013-07, which underscores the need for the Commission to recognise the sovereign rights and special requirements of SIDS and territories.

Madam Chair, despite continued improvements in the compliance monitoring scheme process, IUU fishing remains a major challenge. We acknowledge the Commission for its transparency in ensuring CMMs are effectively implemented, and we look forward to the positive outcomes of this effort.

Madam Chair, PNG looks forward to successful deliberations and outcomes from this meeting.

ATTACHMENT M: American Samoa Opening Statement

**Delivered by Archie Taotasi Soliai - Director, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources,
American Samoa**

Madam Chair, Honorable Ministers, Government of Fiji, Executive Director, distinguished Delegates and Members of the Commission. Bula vinaka and Talofa. It is a great pleasure to be back in the beautiful friendly islands of Fiji, thank you for being such gracious hosts.

First, and foremost, I wish to give God all the glory for his love and protection, and especially his mercy for bringing us all safely to the beautiful shores of Fiji. Back at home, we are celebrating Thanksgiving Day today. It is a day to reflect and appreciate all the gifts that we have been blessed with. So let's all be thankful for God's blessings on all of us here today, and our families back home. I extend to you a very warm Talofa Lava from the Honorable Governor and people of American Samoa. Happy Thanksgiving!

It is an honor to be here today, as a proud cultural practitioner and indigenous Samoan, as we convene the 21st meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. The work that lies ahead this week, as always, is of profound importance, not only for the future of our fisheries but for the wellbeing of the millions of Pacific Islanders who depend on the vast expanse of the Blue Pacific for their livelihoods, identity, and survival.

For all of us here, the Blue Pacific is more than an ocean. It is the lifeblood of our communities and a central thread in the cultural fabric that defines who we are as Pacific Islanders. Our presence here is a testament to our shared commitment to safeguarding these waters, ensuring that their abundance and vitality endure for generations to come. The decisions we make during this meeting, as in the 20 previous WCPFC meetings, will shape the trajectory of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and directly impacts the lives of those who rely on its resources.

Before we delve into this week's important discussions, I want to offer a sincere expression of regret and apology for not addressing the Commission at the closure of WCPFC20 last year. At that moment, I deeply wanted to convey how moved I was by the compassion and willingness shown by this body to consider American Samoa's footnote proposal in the Tropical Tuna Measure. Though our proposal ultimately did not pass, the support and gestures of goodwill from many of you during those challenging hours were both humbling and uplifting.

In the spirit of reciprocity, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude—Fa'afetai tele lava—to all who offered their understanding and support in what was an undoubtedly an uncomfortable and difficult situation. We are extremely indebted to those that offered support for our proposal. A very special "Thank You" to Samoa, for breaking from the norm, to stand with their fellow Samoan brothers on this critical issue. O se avanoa lelei foi lenei, e momoli atu ai le agaga faagaetia ma le agaga faafetai ia Samoa ona o lou naunau ina ia tutu faatasi ma Amerika Samoa. Ua moni upu a le fai Salamo, se mea ina lelei ma le matagofie o Uso ae nonofo faatasi. O lau pule lea.

As with most of you, we are guided by our faith. Although the proposed measure did not garner your approval, American Samoa remains vigilant and undefeated. In the immortal words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

Indeed, the camaraderie and collaboration demonstrated during those marathon negotiations have actually emboldened American Samoa. They have given us renewed hope and encouragement to continue addressing the disproportionate burdens that continue to inflict damage on our tuna-dependent economy. Quite honestly, these disproportionate burdens get heavier, and heavier, and heavier each year that they are allowed to continue. We should not have to carry that burden, and neither does anyone else in this room. I am hopeful that we can find a way forward to collectively

address this inequity. The aspirations of American Samoa, is quite similar to yours, and that is to pursue opportunities to not only sustain but also to enhance fishery development while striving to manage these important resources. We need WCPFC's support to achieve these aspirations.

American Samoa echoes all the sentiments, remarks and concerns this morning from all speakers. We lend our voice, to the Pacific voices of unison, to address the issues that are before us. The more voices, the louder we can be.

As we embark on this week's deliberations, let us be guided by the principles of equity, sustainability, and shared stewardship. Our collective responsibility is immense, but so too is the strength of our unity and shared purpose. I look forward to working with each of you to ensure that the outcomes of this meeting reflect the best interests of our Pacific region and all Pacific people.

Soifua ma ia manuia, thank you.

ATTACHMENT N: Philippines Opening Statement

Delivered by Isidro M. Velayo, Jr. – National Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippines

Madam Chair, Josie Tamate, Executive Director, Rhea Moss-Christian, Head of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, and Members of the Secretariat of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen, a pleasant day to all.

The Philippines expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of Fiji for the excellent hosting of this meeting and to you, Madam Chair, for your hard work and steadfast leadership in guiding the Commission. We also extend our gratitude to the Secretariat for organizing this critical gathering and to our fellow Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) for their commitment to this shared endeavour.

This week, as WCPFC21 deliberates on pivotal issues, the Philippines underscores the importance of ensuring that our decisions are inclusive, balanced, and equitable. These decisions must reflect our collective responsibility to manage highly migratory fish stocks while supporting the sustainable development of fisheries-dependent nations, particularly for the Developing and the Small Island Developing States.

Madam Chair, the Philippines is committed to engaging constructively with CCMs to achieve robust and effective tuna measures. As a longstanding participant in the tuna fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, we aim to contribute to the decisions that balance conservation with the sustainable utilization of our shared resources, especially now that we are facing the challenges of Climate Change.

The Philippines also wishes to highlight its ongoing efforts to address compliance challenges. We have taken significant steps to enhance our monitoring, control, and surveillance efforts, including the upgrading of our vessel monitoring system, and to further bolster our oversight to Philippine-flagged fishing vessels. We will continue to strive in meeting our commitments to the Commission's standards as a responsible fishing nation.

Finally, the Philippines reiterates its unwavering support and commitment to collaborate with the Commission and to implement conservation and management measures to safeguard the sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks for generations to come. Let us work together to ensure that the outcomes of WCPFC21 advance significant progress toward our shared objectives.

Thank you, and we look forward to a fruitful and meaningful discussion.

ATTACHMENT O: Australia Opening Statement

Delivered by Sarah-Jane McCormack - First Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia

Good afternoon Chair, Executive Director, distinguished guests, members and observers. It is Australia's pleasure to attend the 21st Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Australia would like to express our sincere thanks to the Government of Fiji for welcoming us and we look forward to enjoying the warm hospitality and rich culture of your beautiful island home over the coming week.

Australia is grateful for the continued tireless work of the Secretariat in preparation for WCPFC21. The high quality of the Secretariat's work under the leadership of the Executive Director, Ms Rhea Moss-Christian is integral to advancing the work of the Commission. Australia also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the Scientific Services Provider, SPC-OFP, in continually delivering exceptional quality scientific support that is the foundation of the Commission's successes.

WCPFC has demonstrated significant success in our collective efforts to manage fish stocks in line with best practice. Australia continues to support the development and implementation of harvest strategies as fundamental to maintaining these successes and ensuring the sustainability of our region's vital fish stocks.

Australia and the members of the South Pacific Group are pleased to put forward a proposed CMM on a management procedure for south Pacific albacore. Building on the Commission's success in implementing a management procedure for skipjack tuna, the development of an MP for south Pacific albacore is a critical next step in progressing harvest strategy development and improving management of this key tuna species. We note the particular importance of this stock for SPG countries and other SIDS and territories. We also note the shared benefits for all that will result from the Commission taking decisive action to improve catch rates for this stock and to strengthen management of the longline fishery.

Australia is also keen to strengthen the Commission's efforts on harvest strategies through leading work over the coming years to develop a harvest strategy for south west Pacific swordfish. We look forward to the Commission's support for this work.

Fundamental to strengthening management of our fisheries is ensuring that we have robust and effective monitoring. Australia notes the significant work that the Commission and the TCC have put into strengthening monitoring programs, and in particular the support for the implementation of electronic monitoring. Australia welcomes the efforts of the ER and EM working group to develop standards for electronic monitoring for adoption this year and we recognise the significant step forward that this represents for the Commission.

Australia also notes the significant effort over several years to progress work on labour standards – protecting the lives, safety and wellbeing of people that work at sea is absolutely imperative and Australia looks forward to WCPFC this year becoming the first RFMO to adopt a binding labour standards measure.

Finally Chair, we wish to extend our thanks to you for your leadership over the past year. We welcome your guidance as we navigate the important work we have ahead of us this week.

Vinaka vaka levu.

Delivered by Stephen Adolf – Senior Adviser

Executive director, delegations, host Fiji, representatives, ladies and gentlemen:

I speak on behalf of Accountability.Fish which is the only NGO working exclusively on the transparency and accountability of ocean governance bodies' political processes. WCPFC has been the subject of our efforts because it represents the most important tuna catch area in the world, and in very general terms there is a commitment to transparency which allows for accountability, but with one important exception: the continued refusal of members to allow NGO and observers to attend the Compliance Monitoring drafting session of the TCC.

While some continue to assert that this is a trivial in the scheme of WCPFC transparency, we would argue that it undermines your actual inclusion efforts. WCPFC is the only tuna RFMO to shut NGO observers out of this process.

This continues to cast a shadow on the public image of this entire body, and simply isn't in step with the goals of creating transparent and sustainable processes and fishery management by holding RFMO members accountable. We support the important role that civil society organizations play in the oversight of public processes. We urge CPCs to formalize a change that would make it possible to include approved observers through a modification of Section 12, Rule 36, Paragraph 7 of your Rules of Procedure.

This is a matter of concern that directly concerns the obligations of the WCPFC members under the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. We hope that the countries will act according to those promises they made earlier.

Finally, to finish, I'd like to support the initiative by the Executive Director to put on the agenda the issue of the BBNJ. We think it's one of the most important changes in the next upcoming years that will influence the governance and the content of the decisions that will be made by RFMOs, and we hope that the member countries will be active in supporting this initiative so that we can see that the obligations that they made

in signing the BBNJ Agreement will also work out on the RFMO level - in particular, here in the WCPFC.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT Q: Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI) Opening Statement

It is a great privilege to address this distinguished assembly. First, we extend our deepest gratitude to the WCPFC for approving the Indonesia Migrant Workers Union (SBMI) as an observer to this forum just recently. This recognition highlights the Commission's commitment to fostering collaboration and inclusivity in addressing critical issues.

The 21st regulation of WCPFC holds special importance as it provides an opportunity to address emerging challenges in fisheries management, including the integration of labour standards into its conservation framework. With increasing global attention on the intersection of human rights and sustainable development, this decision represents a pivotal moment to strengthen the Commission's leadership in safeguarding not just marine resources, but also the people whose livelihoods depend on them. The outcomes of this decision can set a critical precedent for how regional fisheries bodies address labour concerns, promoting a fair and sustainable future for the industry.

We also wish to underscore the significance of adopting the CMM on labour standards for crew members. Such a measure is not only a matter of social justice but also aligns with the sustainable and responsible management of our fisheries. As emphasized by the Executive Director of WCPFC, Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian, ensuring the rights, welfare, and safety of crew members is paramount to the broader goals of sustainability and fairness within the industry. The development and adoption of labour standards CMM would establish critical protection for vulnerable labour workers and set a baseline for ethical fishing practices across the region. This is especially urgent given the numerous reports highlighting the exploitation of crew members in distant water fishing fleets.

By integrating labour standards into the management framework, we send a strong message of commitment to upholding human dignity alongside fundamental stewardship. SBMI stands ready to contribute constructively to this effort and to collaborate on crafting measures that benefit both the planet and the people. Thank you.

ATTACHMENT R: Summary of SWG on Climate Change

The Climate Change Small Working Group met to advance key objectives, including finalizing documents and establishing a list of conservation management measures (CMMs) for climate-related assessment. Discussions highlighted varying perspectives on the scope and priorities of the assessment.

Key Discussions and Outcomes

1. Document Finalization

- Two primary documents were reviewed: the **WCPFC Draft Climate Change Workplan** and the **Draft Terms of Reference for the Climate Vulnerability Assessment**.
- Suggestions to revise specific tasks in the Workplan, particularly in the Scientific Committee section, were discussed at length. While some members advocated for retaining existing language, others proposed further adjustments. The Terms of Reference were finalized for submission to the Commission.

2. Proposed CMMs for Initial Assessment

- Initial measures proposed for the assessment included cetaceans, elasmobranchs (mobulids and sharks), tropical tunas, and seabirds.
- Additional measures suggested included sea turtles, marine pollution, North Pacific swordfish, North Pacific striped marlin, South Pacific albacore, and the Record of Fishing Vessels.

3. Discussion Points on CMMs to be Included in Initial Assessment

- **Cetaceans:** Differing views were expressed on its inclusion. Supporters cited its relevance for assessing climate-related changes in bycatch and interactions, while others highlighted the need for further data and alignment with jurisdictional mandates.
- **Seabirds:** Some members emphasized the limited evidence linking climate change to population impacts compared with longline fishing, while others pointed to risks such as habitat loss and shifting distributions that could influence interactions with fishing activities.
- **South Pacific Albacore and Northern Stocks:** Questions arose regarding their inclusion, particularly in light of ongoing revisions and reliance on external scientific resources.
- **Record of Fishing Vessels:** Its relevance was debated, with proponents suggesting it could address anticipated changes in fleet dynamics and motorization due to climate impacts.

4. Next Steps

- Unresolved elements, including cetaceans, seabirds, and the Record of Fishing Vessels, were bracketed for further discussions. Informal consultations were encouraged to facilitate agreement before the final list of CMMs was submitted to the Commission.

ATTACHMENT S: Summary of SWG on Electronic Monitoring

The Electronic Monitoring (EM) Small Working Group met to discuss revisions to EM data collection standards, focusing on refining field definitions, addressing implementation challenges, and aligning with existing Regional Observer Program (ROP) requirements.

Key Discussions

1. EM Data Field Review

- Certain data fields were proposed for removal due to concerns about feasibility and detection capabilities, particularly those requiring detailed positional or gear information.
- A compromise was reached to remove these fields temporarily but retain them for future review as technology advances.

2. Light Stick Usage

- A proposal to simplify the light stick field from numerical data to a yes/no option was debated.
- Concerns were raised about implementation challenges, leading to the decision to include this in the review list for further consideration.

3. Catch Event Details

- The inclusion of time and location for every catch event was extensively discussed.
- Some members supported retaining these fields for critical species of interest, while others preferred removal due to technical and operational concerns. The fields were retained for further review.

4. Additional EM Fields

- Fields related to gear loss, abandonment, disposal, and oil discharge were reviewed.
- While concerns about their inclusion as minimum requirements were expressed, the group agreed to keep these fields with clarifying notes to align with ROP data standards.

5. Species of Interest Definition

- Debate arose over the definition of species of special interest, with proposals to explicitly include seabirds, cetaceans, turtles, and striped marlin.
- A consensus was reached to use this definition as an interim standard, with provisions for future refinement.

6. Technical Standards and Guidelines

- The group debated whether certain standards, such as spatial calibration of images, should be classified as mandatory ("must") or recommended ("should").
- Compromises were reached, with several contentious items being classified as "should" to provide flexibility during the interim period.

Outcomes and Next Steps

- Fields deemed infeasible for immediate implementation were removed but retained for future review.
- Provisions for monitoring gear and bycatch were aligned with ROP requirements while allowing flexibility.
- The working group will continue refining EM data standards and definitions, with updates expected at the next WCPFC regular annual session.

ATTACHMENT T: Summary of SWG on Transshipment

The Transshipment Small Working Group convened to discuss key challenges and opportunities for enhancing the regulation and oversight of transshipment activities within the Convention area. Discussions focused on impracticability determinations, observer requirements, non-fish transfers, and future recommendations.

Key Discussions

1. Impracticability Determinations

- CCMs debated the criteria for granting exemptions, with some supporting Commission involvement and others advocating for maintaining current procedures that allow decisions to be made at the CCM level.

2. Observer Requirements

- Discussions explored the potential for enhancing observer coverage, including placing observers on offloading vessels and using electronic monitoring (EM).
- While some CCMs emphasized the importance of increased monitoring, others expressed concerns about feasibility and cost, highlighting existing dual monitoring through observers and port inspections.

3. Non-Fish Transfers

- The terminology and scope of “non-fish transfers” were debated, with suggestions to include these in observer data fields. Clarifications were sought on whether such activities fall under transshipment regulations.

4. Shift to Recommendations

- Recognizing fundamental differences on some issues, CCMs agreed to prioritize actionable recommendations rather than revising the measure.
- Proposed recommendations included:
 1. Analyzing vessel and observer reporting on transshipment activities.
 2. Developing guidelines for impracticability determinations.
 3. Considering the inclusion of non-fish transfers in observer data fields.

Key Outcomes

- **Recommendations:** CCMs focused on refining recommendations for the Commission, with plans to include analyses of reporting practices and guidelines for exemptions.
- **Observer Coverage:** Continued discussions were planned among key CCMs to explore middle-ground solutions for monitoring transshipment activities.
- **Electronic Monitoring:** While acknowledged as a potential future tool, EM standards and implementation were left for later consideration.

Next Steps

- A small working group will convene via email to finalize recommendations.

- Key members will hold sideline discussions on observer coverage and related issues.
- Further guidance and input will be sought from the Secretariat and other stakeholders.

ATTACHMENT U: Summary of SWG on Crew Labour Standards

The Small Working Group on Crew Labour Standards convened to discuss the text of the draft CMM on labour standards. The meetings focused on refining outstanding provisions in the draft text related to the role of crew providers, breach of contract by a crew member, procedures in the event of the death of a crew member, procedures in the event a crew member is missing or fallen overboard, procedures for when there is an allegation of forced or compulsory labour or mistreatment of a crew member, applicability to CNMs, and date of entry into force.

Key Discussions and Agreements

1. Crew Safety Protocols

- Discussions emphasized the importance of clear procedures (e.g. related to notification to next of kin/designated contact persons) during emergencies, such as serious injury, illness, or a missing crew member.
- Agreement was reached on common language on “ceasing fishing operations as soon as practicable” during emergencies to enable crew care.

2. Crew Providers and Reporting Obligations

- The final agreement mandated that flag CCMs, which have fishing vessel crews provided by crew providers from other CCMs, should provide information (including name, location, and contact details) to the WCPFC Secretariat on an annual basis. The CMM requires that owners and/or operators of fishing vessels liaise with any crew providers to effectively implement the requirements of the CMM.
- Reporting requirements when a crew member reports to a port CMM of allegations of mistreatment were revised to allow for "any supporting information".

3. Repatriation Responsibilities

- A significant focus was placed on clarifying the obligations of vessel owners and operators regarding crew repatriation, particularly in cases of contract breaches.
- It was agreed that repatriation costs are the responsibility of the owner and/or operator, except in cases of serious violations of contracts or illegal activities, as defined by the regulations of the flag state.

4. Implementation Timeline

- Discussion on the implementation timeline resulted in the adoption of 2028 as the effective date for the revised measures. This timeline accommodates inter-agency processes and regulatory updates required in multiple member countries.

5. New Provisions and Editorial Adjustments

- A proposal to encourage non-member states providing crew to vessels operating in the WCPO to become a CNM (Cooperating Non-Member) was withdrawn due to limited support.

Key Outcomes and Next Steps

- Finalized provisions clarified the protocols for ceasing fishing operations during emergencies, the responsibilities of crew providers, and reporting requirements for crew mistreatment.
- Members committed to further consultations to refine unresolved issues, such as the scope of reporting obligations and compliance with domestic legislation.
- A revised version of the measure will be circulated for review and feedback during WCPFC21, and for adoption.

ATTACHMENT V: Summary of SWG on Seabirds

The Small Working Group to review and update the seabird CMM focused on strategies to address bycatch and population concerns. Discussions reflected a range of views on the scope, scientific basis, and practicality of proposed amendments.

Key Discussions

1. Scientific Evidence and Population Trends

- New Zealand summarized key points from the scientific review of seabird population trends, distributions (from satellite tracking studies) and overlap with longline fisheries within the WCPFCO. Data presented shows population declines among eight out of 11 well studied albatross and large petrel species, including the Antipodean albatross.
- Bycatch was noted as a significant factor affecting some species, including the Antipodean and Gibsons albatross, particularly in high-seas areas south of 25°S.

2. Proposed Amendments

- Noting that a comprehensive set of proposals to update the CMM was submitted in WCPFC21-2024-21, New Zealand focused discussion on a priority proposal to require three mitigation measures—weighted branch lines, night setting, and tori lines—in areas south of 25°S was considered.
- Expanding the geographical scope of existing measures from 30°S to 25°S was discussed, with varying levels of support.
- Alternative approaches, such as allowing fewer mitigation measures for vessels with comprehensive monitoring, were also identified.

3. Implementation Considerations

- Concerns were raised about the cost and feasibility of implementing additional measures for longline fleets.
- Some CCMs emphasized the importance of aligning proposed changes with scientific advice and feasibility studies.

4. Areas of Divergence

- While some participants supported stronger measures to address risks to seabird populations, others expressed a preference for maintaining existing approaches until further scientific validation is available.
- The effectiveness and practicality of specific mitigation methods, such as hook shielding devices and underwater bait-setters, were discussed with mixed feedback.

Outcomes and Next Steps

- **Progress:**
 - The proposal to extend the geographical scope of mitigation measures south of 25°S was broadly discussed, though not universally agreed.

- **Next Steps:**

- Further informal discussions will explore potential compromises on outstanding issues.
- The SWG Chair will provide an update to the plenary on progress and any need for additional sessions.

ATTACHMENT W: Summary of SWG on Sharks

The Small Working Group convened to discuss proposed revisions to the Shark Conservation and Management Measure (CMM), with a particular focus on paragraphs 8 and 9, as well as reporting requirements and assessment processes. The discussions reflected a broad range of perspectives on strengthening shark management protocols while addressing operational challenges.

Key Topics Discussed

1. Revisions to Paragraphs 8 and 9

- A need to maintain specific dates for reviewing shark management practices, citing challenges in assessing compliance with alternative measures was discussed.
- There was general support for maintaining paragraph 8 without revisions, as it pertains to fins naturally attached, which has proven effective.
- Paragraph 9, which outlines alternative measures, was a key point of consideration. Some members advocated retaining a subset of the alternatives with enhanced monitoring and reporting requirements, including that alternatives be applied prior to stowage, while others suggested eliminating these alternatives entirely.

2. Enhanced Monitoring Requirements

- The group discussed the inclusion of monitoring tools such as cameras and electronic monitoring (EM).
- Some members suggested removing cameras, considering EM standards sufficient, while others maintained that cameras could serve as a cost-effective option.

3. Reporting Requirements for Alternative Measures

- Members underscored the importance of demonstrating the effectiveness of alternative measures through robust reporting.
- Proposals included requiring authorized vessels to report on their use of alternatives, storing shark fins and carcasses in the same hold, and increasing observer coverage to improve data collection.
- Concerns were raised about the practicality of implementing high observer coverage rates, with some members advocating for alternatives such as port inspections or prohibiting transshipment.

4. Effectiveness Assessment and TCC Role

- Some members emphasized the need for clear evidence of the effectiveness of alternative measures to inform future Commission decisions.
- Language requiring the TCC to assess the effectiveness of alternative measures was debated, with some members suggesting its removal, while others supported retaining it to ensure accountability.

5. Next Steps

- A small group was formed to address unresolved issues, particularly regarding paragraphs 9 and 13, during a break.
- Outstanding items include the scope of enhanced monitoring requirements and the reporting obligations for vessels using alternative measures.

ATTACHMENT X: Summary of SWG on North Pacific Striped Marlin

The Small Working Group discussed amendments to the conservation and management measure (CMM) for North Pacific striped marlin. The amendments focused on rebuilding the stock, which had a stock status of “overfished” and “subject to overfishing”.

Key Points Discussed

1. Proposed Amendments

- The meeting reviewed a proposal to modify the baseline years for catch limits to reflect the average catches from 2018–2020, aligning with the rebuilding analysis conducted by the International Scientific Committee (ISC).
- Three phased reduction scenarios were introduced, with the aim of achieving the rebuilding plan target by 2027, when the next stock assessment is expected.

2. Diverging Opinions on Baseline Years

- Some participants advocated retaining the existing baseline years of 2000–2003, emphasizing the fairness of recognizing historical efforts, such as reduced fishing intensity and vessel scrapping.
- Others supported the updated baseline to account for recent trends in fishing efforts and catches. Concerns were expressed that the new baseline could disadvantage members that have already implemented reductions.

3. Alternative Measures

- Non-retention of striped marlin was proposed as a potential management option, but concerns were raised about the impact on the availability of landing data critical for stock assessments.
- Suggestions were made to require the prompt release of live specimens upon reaching catch limits, aiming to balance conservation and data collection needs.

4. Implementation Challenges

- Discussions highlighted challenges related to balancing catch reductions across fleets and ensuring equity among members with varying levels of historical effort and dependency on the fishery.

5. Next Steps

- A small working group was established to address the contentious issue of baseline years and explore potential compromises. The group was scheduled to meet the following day.
- Additional proposals, such as improving post-release survival of discarded fish, were tabled for future consideration.

ATTACHMENT Y: Summary of SWG on Cetaceans

The Small Working Group (SWG) met to discuss proposed revisions to CMM 2011-03, the Cetacean Conservation and Management Measure (CMM). Proposed changes included amendments to preambular text, expanding the scope from purse seine fishery interactions to include longline interactions, refining reporting requirements, and the role of scientific input. Discussions aimed to refine the measure to balance data collection, operational feasibility, and conservation goals.

Key Discussions and Agreements

1. Revisions to Preambular Language

- Replaced "numerous" with "certain" to specify impacted cetacean species.
- Removed "pelagic" from references to longline fishing grounds to avoid ambiguity.
- Adjusted phrasing to clarify the alignment of fishing practices with conservation objectives.

2. Reporting Requirements

- Significant debate surrounded the retention of paragraphs on reporting cetacean interactions, with concerns about balancing reporting obligations across fishing methods.
- Paragraphs 5 and 6, detailing longline fishery reporting, were deleted. Paragraph 2B was retained, with clarifications that reporting could occur via log sheets or other means.
- Paragraph 10 was also deleted, following input that log sheets and observer coverage provided sufficient data.

3. Proposals for Scientific Committee Input

- Members agreed to request the Scientific Committee's advice on effective reporting mechanisms for cetacean interactions.
- SPC emphasized the need for improved species identification tools and training to enhance data accuracy.

4. Development of Electronic Monitoring (EM)

- The group discussed the potential of EM to enhance data collection on cetacean interactions, incorporating past recommendations from the Scientific Committee.
- A recommendation was drafted to include EM as a key consideration in future conservation efforts.

5. Finalization of the CMM

- Revisions were made to ensure consistency in terminology, such as replacing "flag state" with "flag CCM" for clarity.
- A final version of the CMM was prepared for submission, incorporating agreed changes and recommendations.

Next Steps

- The revised Cetacean CMM will undergo a final review and be circulated for adoption at WCPFC21.
- Recommendations from this session will be forwarded to the plenary for further discussion.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: 1 to 26 (Outcomes)

ATTACHMENT 1:	Updated Strategic Investment Plan for 2024
ATTACHMENT 2:	CMM-2024-01 for Pacific Bluefin Tuna
ATTACHMENT 3:	CMM-2024-02 for the Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna
ATTACHMENT 4:	Draft Letter of Agreement Between the IATTC/WCPFC and SPC for the use of TUFMAN2 Code in Developing the CDS System
ATTACHMENT 5:	Voluntary Longline Operational Data Fields to be Reported as part of the “Scientific Data to be Provided by the Commission (SciData)”
ATTACHMENT 6:	CMM 2024-03 Charter Notification Scheme
ATTACHMENT 7:	WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2025
ATTACHMENT 8:	Updated VMS Standard Operating Procedures
ATTACHMENT 9:	TCC Workplan for 2025-2027
ATTACHMENT 10:	Audit Points for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme
ATTACHMENT 11:	Final Compliance Monitoring Report
ATTACHMENT 12:	List of Obligations to be Reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2025
ATTACHMENT 13:	WCPFC Climate Change Workplan 2024 - 2027
ATTACHMENT 14:	Terms of Reference for a CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
ATTACHMENT 15:	Skipjack Monitoring Strategy Report
ATTACHMENT 16:	Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 for 2025-2027
ATTACHMENT 17:	Interim Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards, covering Technical, Data and Reporting Requirements
ATTACHMENT 18:	ERandEM WG Workplan
ATTACHMENT 19:	FAD Management Options IWG Workplan for 2024-2026
ATTACHMENT 20:	CMM 2024-04 Crew Labour Standards
ATTACHMENT 21:	South Pacific Albacore IWG Workplan for 2025-2026
ATTACHMENT 22:	CMM 2024-05 Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks
ATTACHMENT 23:	CMM 2024-06 Conservation and Management Measure for the North Pacific Striped Marlin
ATTACHMENT 24:	CMM 2024-07 Conservation and Management Measure for Protection of Cetaceans from Purse Seine and Longline Fishing Operations
ATTACHMENT 25:	Intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guides for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections
ATTACHMENT 26:	Approved 2025 Budget and 2026 and 2027 Indicative Budgets

Note: All CMMs, workplans, and other documents updated or adopted at WCPFC21 will be available on the relevant sections of the WCPFC website.



COMMISSION

Twenty-First Regular Session

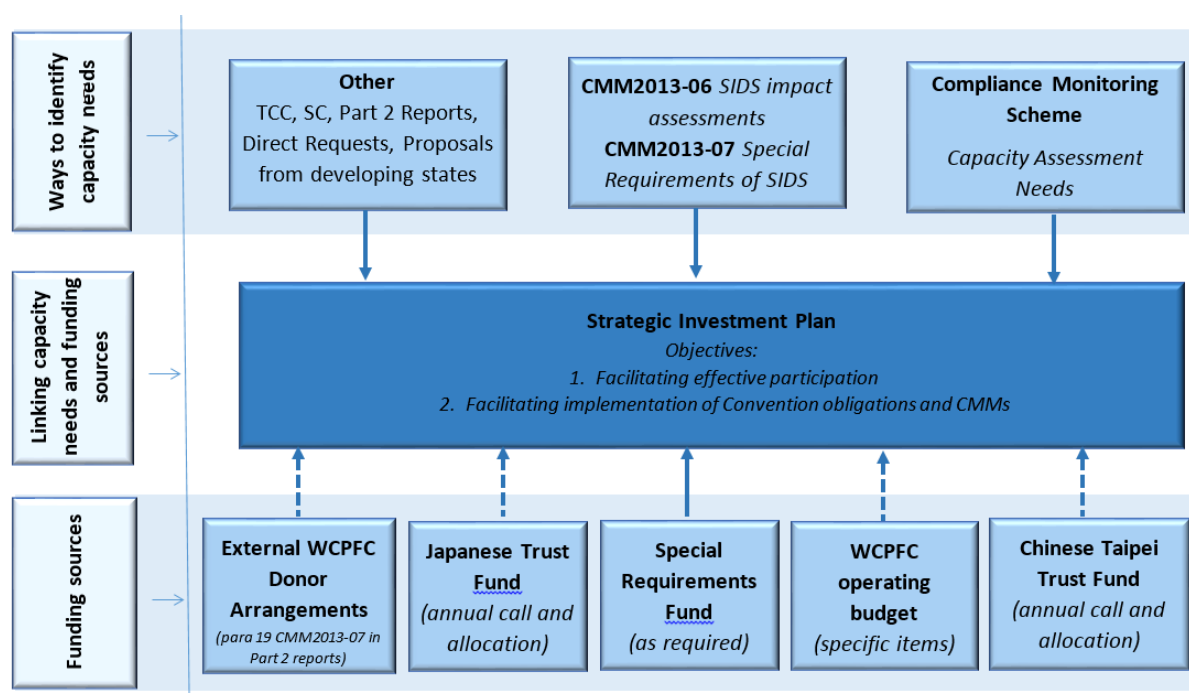
28 November to 3 December 2024

Suva, Fiji (Hybrid)

2024 Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14th meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.
2. The purpose of the Strategic Investment Plan is to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies as outlined in the following diagram:



Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:

- effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
- development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above and the WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to members when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission as a whole, meet the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention.¹

Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas were recommended by TCC20 in the Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2023 activities:

Indonesia for Scientific data provision (SciData03)	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	Indonesia reported that it continued to face challenges in submitting all the required data to SPC, noting that they are at 96% of operational data provision but still need additional time to get to 100%. TCC noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met and maintained the CAN status
Vanuatu for requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including incident reporting requirements (CMM 2011-03 paragraph 2)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	Vanuatu reported that the requirements relating to unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, were being implemented through general provisions in their fisheries legislation and licence terms and conditions, pending the development of more specific regulations. On this basis the obligations are being met and capacity assistance is no longer required. TCC20 noted that Vanuatu had sought CAN status

¹ Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

		at TCC19 for this and other obligations due to an understanding that its fisheries legislation was not sufficiently specific. As Vanuatu's legislation, licence terms and conditions, and monitoring and control are now considered sufficient, CAN status is no longer required.
<p>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3)</p> <p>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)</p>	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	Indonesia reported that there was some progress in meeting the shark catch reporting requirements. It reports catch to Commission in aggregate of total numbers of those species and since 2022 the catches of sharks and its status (release, dead, alive) were partly provided in its Annual Report Part 1. Data on by-catches of sharks by species by gear is still challenging for Indonesia to provide. Additional assistance is needed to improve data collection, including through the holding of a further SPC workshop. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Fiji for implementation of requirements to ensure that fishing vessels comply with Commission standards including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet WCPFC VMS requirements	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023)	Fiji reported that they have had a substantial turnover of officers responsible for undertaking/implementing this obligation. The current gap in capacity is expected to be addressed through the identification of suitable personnel, equipping the officer with appropriate equipment and training the officers in-house. Additionally, there is a need to have the officer undergo training and work attachment with the WCPFC Secretariat to allow for specific training on the

Fiji for reporting of required ALC/MTU data in accordance with WCPFC VMS requirements	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2023)	implementation and reporting of the CMM. The estimated cost is around USD 15,000 and will cover for national training needs and travel and DSA cost for any work attachments that will either be done at the WCPFC Secretariat or FFA Secretariat.
Indonesia for 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	Indonesia reported ongoing issues with regard to human resources and the number of available observers to meet the 100% observer coverage in national waters. However, it had made progress. When it first had a Capacity Development Plan, Indonesia had no observer coverage in the EEZ and high seas. It increased its coverage to 40-50% coverage, and in recent years to about 80%. TCC20 noted its expectation that the CAN Plan would be updated with the timeframe for completion of the 100% observer coverage. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Philippines for 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33)	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	The Philippines reported that it did not have enough observers for 100% coverage and were in discussion with industry on the cost of deployment. It reported that on the Pacific side of the Philippines EEZ, observer coverage was about 60%. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
French Polynesia for CCMs to require longline vessels to carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to handle and	Capacity Assistance Needed	French Polynesia reported that it had regulations and best practice guidelines in place for mitigation,

promptly release sea turtles, as well as dip-nets where appropriate (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 6)	(CMR RY2020, RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	handling and safe release of turtles. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 French Polynesia its capacity assistance needs had been met.
Vanuatu for report in regard to their implementation of the requirement to achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2023)	Vanuatu reported that a high observer turnover occurred during and post COVID-19 period. To meet 5% ROP observer coverage on longline vessels technical assistance in training new observers is required. A legislative and policy framework review is also necessary to ensure targeted observer coverage rates can be met. The total estimated budget for technical assistance with legislative and policy framework and for observer training is about USD 40,000 – USD 60,000.
Fiji for report in regard to submission by a Member to WCPFC of a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2023)	This capacity assistance need is related to the VMS-related capacity needs (<i>see comments above</i>)
Vanuatu for report to describe, where applicable, any alternative measures from those in CMM 2019-04 SHARKS which are applied by CCMs in areas under national jurisdiction (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 5)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed CMR RY2023) – <i>TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable</i>	For the various CMM 2019-04 obligations, Vanuatu reported that the requirements relating to the shark measure were being implemented through general provisions in their fisheries legislation and licence terms and conditions, pending the development of more specific regulations. On this basis the obligations are being met and capacity assistance is no longer required. TCC20 noted that Vanuatu had sought CAN status at TCC19 for obligations in the shark measure due to an understanding that its fisheries legislation was not sufficiently specific. As Vanuatu's legislation, licence terms and conditions, and
Vanuatu for implementation of measures necessary to require all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized and ensure the prohibition of finning (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) - including consideration of paragraph 10 endorsed alternative measures (CMM 2019-04 paragraphs 7-10)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for annual report on shark fins attached/alternative measures	Capacity Assistance Needed	

and meeting of deadline (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 11)	(CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023) – <i>TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable</i>	monitoring and control are now considered sufficient, CAN status is no longer required.
Vanuatu for implementation of measures to prevent fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping and landing any fins harvested in contravention of CMM 2019-04 (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 12)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to take measures necessary to ensure carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transhipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 13)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to implement at least one option to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries, and notify choice and whenever the selected option is changed (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 14-15)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for CCMs to develop and report their management plans for longline fisheries targetting sharks in their Part 2 Annual Report (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 16)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023) – <i>TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable</i>	
Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to ensure that sharks that are caught but are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel in order to facilitate species identification (only applicable where observer or EM camera is present, and	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed	

where safe for crew and observers) (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 18)	(CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing oceanic whitetip & silky sharks (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(01))	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for implementation of requirement that to release oceanic whitetip & silky sharks asap (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(02))	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for implementation of requirement that if oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to government or discarded (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(03))	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for implementation of prohibition for purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 21(01 - 07))	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for report on Implementation of CMM 2019-04 Sharks (Part 2 Annual Report (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 23)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	
Vanuatu for implementation of requirements to prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing mobulid rays (CMM 2019-05 paragraphs 04-06, 08,10)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)	Vanuatu reported that the requirements relating to the mobulid measure were being implemented through general provisions in their fisheries legislation and licence terms and

	Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	conditions, pending the development of more specific regulations. On this basis the obligations are being met and capacity assistance is no longer required. TCC20 noted that Vanuatu had sought CAN status at TCC19 for obligations in the mobulid measure due to an understanding that its fisheries legislation was not sufficiently specific. As Vanuatu's legislation, licence terms and conditions, and monitoring and control are now considered sufficient, CAN status is no longer required.
Vanuatu for Pacific bluefin required report (CMM 2020-02 paragraph 5)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	Vanuatu reported that its required reports under the Pacific bluefin tuna measure had been submitted. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 and RY2023 Vanuatu its capacity assistance needs had been met.
Vanuatu for Pacific bluefin required report on implementation (CMM 2020-02 paragraph 11)	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021) Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

6. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2023 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2024. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY 2018 and are continuing in RY2023 (#).

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 01-03 General Provisions	<p>FSM is a small island developing state and SIDS are the recipients of such assistances.</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia is included in the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) partnership was officially announced at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from September 1 to 4, 2014, in Apia, Samoa. As a committed partner, Indonesia has actively participated in several multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives aimed at supporting SIDS. Notably, Indonesia has been instrumental in the Coral Triangle Initiative, which is operational in several SIDS, including Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This collaboration underscores Indonesia's dedication to fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation in small island nations. For further details on these</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>initiatives, you can visit the following links: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219 http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238"</p> <p>In mid-2020, Indonesia strongly advocated for the mobilization of adequate resources and support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during a high-level discussion. The discussion focused on mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action, and exploring new pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway for SIDS. Indonesia's call underscores its commitment to supporting the sustainable development and resilience of small island nations, highlighting the need for global cooperation to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS. Indonesia unequivocally reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the sustainable development and advancement of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the 4th SIDS Conference on May 28th, 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by these nations and enhancing partnerships based on mutual interests, Indonesia aims to foster significant progress and shared prosperity.</p> <p>Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries that depend much on assistance from regional and sub-regional agencies such as WCPFC, FFA and PNA including donor partners.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>Nauru will continue to implement this measure where possible through FSMA and other arrangements</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>PNG: fully recognizes the SIDs and territories special requirements in the Convention Area in implementing this measure and other applicable measures and shall request assistance if and when required.</p> <p>Samoa as a SIDS have not sought or requested any assistance in accordance with this CMM in the reported year</p> <p>Tonga one of the SIDS countries but it cooperates with regional and sub-regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS fisheries. Tonga is the recipient of the non-SIDs country assistance.</p> <p>Vanuatu cooperates with other SIDS+T and non-SIDS directly and through the Commission to assist SIDS+T develop our fisheries. Example is the work on SPA, through the SPG group, FFA and through the WCPFC SPA IWG.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 04-05 Capacity development for personnel</p>	<p>FSM is a small developing state and SIDS are the recipients of such assistance. FSM has received capacity development assistance provided through regional and sub-regional programs.</p> <p>Fiji did not make a submission for 2024; however Fiji needs training and attachments in the following areas: 1. WCPFC MCS data analysis; 2. Training on Commission VMS; 3. CMR</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati is a SIDS.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>Nauru will continue to support this measure and implement where possible such as FMSA arrangement and other arrangements</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>PNG has identified and seek assistance to facilitate workshops on Compliance Case File Management.</p> <p>Vanuatu: As mentioned earlier, requests have been submitted for assistance on observer EM related training and support.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 06-07 Assistance with technology transfers</p>	<p>FSM: Collaborating with other SIDS on the development of technology including EM/ER and other digital transformation.</p> <p>Fiji has progressed with initial training and implementation towards 100% vessel coverage on e-reporting and continues to work with SPC that provide the backend support in-country issues experienced during the phase of implementation.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati as small island developing states depend much on technology assistance from regional agencies and development partners.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>PNG is yet to identify technology needs and request for assistance. (Labour Standards / Electronic Reporting)</p> <p>Nauru supports the transferring of fisheries technology to accelerate the social and economic development of SIDS/</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>Samoa has not provided or requested for any assistance as per CMM 2013-07 19 in the reported year, however, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations when assistance is needed</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>Vanuatu: welcomes assistance relating to fisheries science and technology and with the aim of accelerating the social and economic development of VU. Anticipating more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirements. This includes training of personnel on VMS and E-PSMA requirements. Given the broader definition of Technology Transfers, it would be more on the intellectual side, whereby Secretariat provides capacity assistance, enhancing capabilities such as understanding E-PSMA, Bio-economics, VMS gaps etc. The FFA Secretariat also provided technological support work relating to data, VMS and other related matters.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 08-09 Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</p>	<p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati: is one of the SIDS countries depending on assistance from non-SIDS countries.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>Nauru will continue to support this measure and assist SIDS where possible to implement their Commission obligations and ensure the collection and analysis of fisheries data</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>PNG: Adopted CMMs that are applicable and consistent to the national obligations and existing fishery.</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga one of the SIDS countries although our current national capacity does not provide Tonga the ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is the recipient of capacity development assistance.</p> <p>Vanuatu has received capacity assistance on this and also has the opportunity to still assist SIDS, territories on areas such as data sharing, verification through TUFFMAN 2 systems in accordance with data sharing requirements as per relevant instruments and participate in MCS operations, surveillance and monitoring.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 10-11 Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance</p>	<p>FSM: participation in regional/sub-regional fora on MCS. FSM's joint cooperation efforts amongst the FFA membership in maritime surveillance. FSM's participation in implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring, CDS, EM/ER, PSM, FAD tracking and sharing MCS data when necessary.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati: As small island state with only one patrol boat to monitor three separated EEZ. Kiribati greatly need assistance from developed partners to assist in both aerial and surface surveillance coverage.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>Nauru will continue to support this measure and ensuring SIDS/T participates in regional and sub-regional MCS activities through FFA and PNA programs</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>PNG: cooperates with international, regional, sub regional and bilateral arrangements to ensure effective MCS and Enforcement activities within the region such as FAO, FFA under regional surveillance programs, Ship Rider Agreement and other bilateral Arrangements including MCS exchange programs.</p> <p>Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance if needed.</p> <p>Tonga: participates in sea monitoring control and surveillance and also enforcement activities through bilateral arrangements with territories in the Convention area. Tonga was involved in regional surveillance patrol operation Ika Moana, Kurukuru by providing Navy support Unit Voea Ngahau Koula. The National Monitoring Control Committee (MCC), includes the Port Authority, Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Department, Police Department, Customs Department, and the Navy. The MCC Centre is established by the committee and is housed at Navy Station. MCC conducts a national monitoring within our EEZ once per quarter. Aerial surveillance was provided by FFA in all quarters during the reporting period, and no offenses were reported.</p> <p>The New Zealand Government has a bilateral agreement with Tonga on Aerial Surveillance during the Tuimoana Operation through the NTSA System. During the reporting period, Tonga participated in SPC/FFA regional training for observers, observers refresh training, and newly recruited 10 observers on board, SPC conducted bio-sampling training with observers and staff. Few staff join Certificate IV on Coastal and Aquaculture, Diploma on Investigation and Prosecution Cert, Certificate Level IV on Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance, and Law of the Seas Courses.</p> <p>SPC also conducted training on e-reporting basically for data collection through OLLO, Onboard, and onshore, TAILS, and Close Kin Mark Recapture Sampling training, and SPC also conducted training the Science Division on stock assessment for sea cucumbers. FFA financially supported Tonga in conducting the e-PSM training and Tonga was the first country to implement the e-PSM, Dockside Boarding, NTSA training, and Aerial Surveillance Training.</p> <p>Vanuatu actively participated in numerous regional operations on surveillance and monitoring, both assets and personnel as required by mandate of such engagements. This includes MCS operations coordinated by the FFA RFSC. - Seeking further capacity assistance in this area to ensure its personnel and line agencies respond and operate more efficiently whenever needed.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paragraphs 12-18 Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector</p>	<p>FSM: PNA Market related initiatives like the development of MSC processes currently in place, implementation of CDS and PSM, and FSM's collaboration with importing CCM's.</p> <p>Fiji has a 100% domestic tuna sector. As such, 2023 was focused on getting our fleets and processing plants back to full operation. As part of Fiji's 2023 support towards</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access	<p>the tuna sector, Government allocated 90,000 USD to support markets access for MSC certification. Additionally, to boost and streamline fish processing, Fiji has begun work digitalise vessel arrivals and catch verification to support catch verification process and market demands. There is also a assessment and review of internal processors to ensure that appropriate activities are developed to support Fiji's domestic industry.</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>RMI No additional assistance required at this time however, the RMI may seek further assistance with onshore developments and market access requirements.</p> <p>Nauru will continue to support and implement this measure through the FSMA arrangement and where possible and appropriate.</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance.</p> <p>Tonga: To support the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries businesses and market access, Tonga implemented it under the Fisheries Management Act 2002, Section 7, Sub-section 36, Fishing Vessels License Term and Condition, Fishing Agreement and Access Agreement with the Fishing Company and Tuna Fisheries Management Plan.</p> <p>Ministry of Fisheries established a Development Scheme for the Fisheries Sector to improve the business climate and reduce the cost of doing business a Fishing Consumer Tax Exemption was approved in June 2013 exempting imported fishing gear, bait, and essential supplies from customs tariffs. In 2013 the operation of the Tu'imatamoana fish market and Processing Facilities was transferred under an MOU to the National Fisheries Committee (Fishing Industries Committee). In addition, the Ministry of Fisheries established a Soft Loan Scheme known Fisheries Development and Export Fund (FDEF) to support the sector market Access. Not only that but the Ministry assisted the Fishing Companies in developing and improving their business planning and management, and offered a comprehensive training and capacity development program.</p> <p>In 2020, Tonga ratified the PACER Plus Agreement is a Regional Development-Centre Trade Agreement designed to support Tonga in regional and Global Trade. Tonga exports fish to international markets (Australia, NZ, USA, Fiji, Pago Pago, Hawaii, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore). The compliance Division inspects 100% of every export before handing the Export Permit to the companies, and entry the export data into the system and reports every quarter.</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS that definitely needs capacity assistance for both domestic and international markets. CCM sees the importance in having such assistance as it will boost domestic and international market standards as well. CCM needs capacity assistance on international market access given the rise and interest in foreign investments in fisheries.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
CMM 2017-03 paragraphs 03-06, 11, 12 Observer Safety CMM	Cook Islands: Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require legislation changes #

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

7. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.
8. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at **Attachment 1**. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.
9. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

Title: Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
Obligation: Article 30
<p>Capacity Building Assistance Needed:</p> <p>Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and • in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget). <p>It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member, including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests.</p> <p>Parameters around accessing the program will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget
Timeframe: Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program
Cost: up to USD 300,000 annually

Capacity assistance delivered by FFA/SPC that were funded through the Regional Capacity Building Workshop budget item in the WCPFC core budget

10. Each year since 2015, the Commission has included under Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme an annual budget line for Regional Capacity Building Workshops which FFA/SPC are to advise on the activities to be supported. The following are the activities that have been funded annually:

2016: WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers	To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: \$126,268
2017: WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers	To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: \$55,000
2017: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$75,000
2018: WCPFC support towards FFA capacity building workshops	Two regional workshops were held (April and November) on allocation processes. Several opportunities were taken during the year to engage members on the development of a regional longline strategy with a dedicated workshop held in November. A dedicated workshop to discuss the south Pacific albacore target reference point, and development of the roadmap was held in November.	Cost: \$72,558
2018: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$57,442
2019: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$71,625
2021: WCPFC support to sea safety training for selected observers from several FFA member's national observer programmes (NOPs).	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for the FFA Members' national observer programmes to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: \$223,374

2022: Observer sea safety training project proposal for WCPFC Regional Capacity Building Workshops Funding	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for Nauru's national fisheries observer programme to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: \$124,887
2023: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$108,640
2023: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC20	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC20 meeting.	Cost: \$21,360
2024: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$93,816
2024: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC21	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC21 meeting.	Cost: \$36,184

ATTACHMENT 1

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US, the sp and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transshipment	11	All donors
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

Donor/program	Eligible Recipients
Australia: various programs	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	PACP countries and Pacific regional
FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Common Oceans Tuna project 2022 - 2027)	WCPFC, FFA, SPC
FFA: various programs	Pacific island FFA members
GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
New Zealand: various programs	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
US: various programs	All WCPFC members



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Conservation and Management Measure 2024-01

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised twelve times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04, CMM 2017-08, CMM 2018-02, CMM 2019-02, CMM 2020-02, CMM 2021-02 and CMM 2023-02) based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;

Noting the latest stock assessment provided by ISC in 2024, indicating the following:

- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) has increased substantially in the last 12 years, and achieved its second rebuilding target ($20\%SSB_{F=0}$) in 2021;
- A substantial decrease in estimated F has been observed in ages 0-2 in 2020-2022 relative to 2002-2004 and 2012-2014;
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, but its impact has reduced in recent years;
- Harvesting small fish has a greater impact on future spawning stock biomass than harvesting large fish of the same amount;
- The projection results indicate that increases of catch limits are possible while maintaining SSB greater than $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ with a 60% probability under several scenarios requested by JW8, and while allowing SSB to steadily increase above the second rebuilding target under additionally requested certain scenarios ; and
- The projection results also indicate that the maximum allowable transfer from small fish catch limits to large fish catch limits utilizing the conversion factor has a positive effect on future SSB.

Noting the conservation advice from the ISC that research on a recruitment index for the stock assessment should be pursued, and maintenance of a reliable adult abundance index should be ensured;

Recalling that paragraph (4) of the Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Also recalling Article 10 (1) (a) of the WCPF Convention, which provides that the Commission may determine the total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort within the Convention Area for such highly migratory fish stocks and decide and adopt such other conservation and management measures and recommendations as may be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of such stocks without

prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas under national jurisdiction;

Conscious of the need to identify, analyze and respond to the impacts of climate change on the tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean in a timely manner to enhance the effectiveness of the conservation and management for the species;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

General Provision

1. This conservation and management measure has been prepared to implement the Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (Harvest Strategy 2023-02), and the Northern Committee shall periodically review and recommend revisions to this measure as needed to implement the Harvest Strategy.

Management measures

2. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.
3. Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei shall, respectively, take measures necessary to ensure that its catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg and Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger shall not exceed the annual catch limits in the tables below, without prejudice to future agreement on allocation of TAC.

Pacific Bluefin tuna less than 30kg

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	8,015 metric tons	4,407 metric tons
Korea	1,435 metric tons	718 metric tons

Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	4,882 metric tons	8,421 metric tons
Korea	0 metric tons	501 metric tons
Chinese Taipei	1,709 metric tons	2,947 metric tons

4. CCMs with a base line catch (2002-2004 average annual level) of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year. The catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger for New Zealand shall be 200 metric tonnes per year and for Australia 40 metric tonnes per year, taking into account their nature as bycatch fisheries conducted in their waters in the Southern hemisphere.¹
5. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 17% of its annual initial catch limit.

¹ New Zealand and Australia may carry forward up to 35 tonnes per year and 10 tonnes per year, respectively, from 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to 2023 and 2024. This special arrangement does not create any precedent in future management.

6. CCMs described in paragraph 3 may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg stipulated in paragraph 3 above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.² CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.
7. CCMs are encouraged to conduct research activities to collect reliable indices of recruitment stock and adult spawning stock. Notwithstanding paragraph 3 and 4, setting a catch limit dedicated for research activities to develop and maintain indices may be considered by WCPFC through the Northern Committee based on research plans reviewed and supported by the ISC.
8. All CCMs except Japan shall implement the limits in paragraph 3 on a calendar-year basis. Japan shall implement the limits using a management year other than the calendar year for some of its fisheries and have its implementation assessed with respect to its management year. To facilitate the assessment, Japan shall:
 - a. Use the following management years:
 1. For its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, use the calendar year as the management year.
 2. For its other fisheries, use 1 April – 31 March as the management year.³
 - b. In its annual reports for PBF, for each category described in a.1 and a.2 above, complete the required reporting template for both the management year and calendar year clearly identifying fisheries for each management year.
9. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and ≥30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 years, accounting for all catches, including discards. CCMs shall report their annual catch limits and their annual catches of PBF, with adequate computation details, to present their implementation for paragraph 5 and 6, if the measures and arrangements in the said paragraphs and relevant footnotes applied. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.
10. CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction. For this purpose, CCMs will make every effort to prevent their catch of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) from increasing beyond their 50% of 2002-2004 levels.
11. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.
12. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

² A CCM may count the amount of catch 30kg or larger adjusted with the conversion factor 0.68 (catch 30kg or larger multiplied by 0.68) against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.

³ For the category described a.2 of paragraph 7, the TCC shall assess in year 20XX its implementation during the management year that starts 1 April 20XX-1 (e.g., in the 2020 compliance review, the TCC will assess Japan's implementation for its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during calendar-year 2019 and for its other fisheries during 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020).

13. CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the **Attachment** of this CMM.
14. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.
15. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to the Executive Director by 15 June annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.
16. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.
17. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties through the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna or bilaterally.
18. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
19. The provisions of paragraph 18 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly Small Island Developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.
20. This CMM replaces CMM 2023-02. On the basis of a new stock assessment conducted by ISC, the harvest strategy based on the management strategy evaluation expected to be completed in 2025, fair and equitable balance of fishing opportunities between the WCPO and the EPO as well as among Members, and other pertinent information such as the impact of climate change, as appropriate, this CMM shall be reviewed and may be amended as appropriate in 2026.

Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper-based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

- (1) Objective
- (2) General provision
- (3) Definition of terms
- (4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
- (5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
- (6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
- (7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
- (8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
- (9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
- (10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
- (11) Role of the Secretariat
- (12) Relationship with non-members
- (13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
- (14) Consideration to developing members
- (15) Schedule for introduction
- (16) Attachment
 - (i) Catch document forms
 - (ii) Re-export certificate forms
 - (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
 - (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

4. Workplan

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

- 2017 The joint working group will submit this concept paper to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.
- 2018 The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 2019 The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 20XX The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.



**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR THE
MONITORING, CONTROLLING, AND SURVEILLANCE OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

Conservation and Management Measure 2024-02

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 establishes annual catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna for the management of the species,

Also noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 paragraph 11 requires CCMs, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna that undermine the effectiveness of the CMM,

Further noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 paragraph 13 requires CCMs to take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming,

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

Objectives

1. The purpose of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) is to establish a regime for the monitoring and control of the conservation and management of the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the WCPO set out in CMM 2024-01.
2. Each CCM that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it has taken in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with CMM2024-01 that include the following components:
 - (1) Monitoring and control measures for fisheries
 - a. Registration of commercial fishing vessels that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including the WCPFC RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06 on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish)
 - b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)
 - c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exist
 - d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards)

- e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)
 - f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM 2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures)
 - g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions
- (2) Monitoring and control measures for farming
- a. Registration of farms that are authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered farms, number of registered 'holding pens' or 'cages')
 - b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish
 - c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish
 - d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)
3. CCMs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming, shall report to the WCPFC Secretariat annually any by-catches of Pacific bluefin tuna under paragraph 9 of CMM 2024-01.

Review

- 4. The Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) and the Northern Committee (NC) shall separately review the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures reported by CCMs in accordance with this CMM by 2026 and based upon the results of such review, provide recommendations to the Commission.
- 5. CCMs shall coordinate with the IATTC through the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group and discuss any additional MCS measures, as appropriate, at their upcoming meetings.

Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

- 6. WCPFC shall consider the establishment of a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the WCPO compatible with other CDSs for Pacific bluefin tuna by 31 December 2026. This CDS should build, inter alia, on the outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group.



AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SPC, THE IATTC, AND THE WCPFC

AGREEMENT
between
THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)
and
THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)
and
THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)

RECOGNIZING that both the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (hereinafter collectively “WCPFC/IATTC”) compile tuna fisheries data for the main purpose of research, conservation and management of respective stocks of oceanic tuna species;

RECOGNIZING that SPC has developed a comprehensive database system (TUFMAN 2[®]) for managing and integrating tuna fisheries data, and that WCPFC/IATTC recognise the efficiencies and synergies in using the core code of this system;

RECOGNIZING that the CCSBT has completed development of an online data management system using TUFMAN 2[®] that is actively being used by the CCSBT, and continues to develop a trial electronic Catch Documentation Scheme (eCDS) for southern bluefin tuna, and WCPFC-IATTC is seeking to utilize those resources as a basis for development of electronic Pacific Bluefin Catch Documentation (e-PBCD) of the Pacific bluefin tuna;

RECOGNIZING that SPC understands the benefits they will receive for the enhancements made to the TUFMAN 2[®] system by WCPFC/IATTC through written mutual agreement;

This Agreement (hereinafter “the Agreement”) sets out the agreement between SPC and WCPFC/IATTC regarding the provision of the SPC-developed TUFMAN 2^{1®} core code to WCPFC/IATTC and conditions for that.

- I. Agreed activities and conditions
 1. With respect to the use of the TUFMAN 2[®] core code:
 - (a) WCPFC/IATTC have responsibility for satisfying any licensing requirements with respect to third party code or software components that are incorporated into the TUFMAN 2[®] core code provided.

¹ ‘TUFMAN 2’ is defined to be the code, any part of the code, or modification thereof; “TUFMAN 2 core code” refers the core component of the TUFMAN2 code, that will be shared with the Parties for their use based on this Agreement.

- (b) WCPFC/IATTC acknowledge that SPC owns and retains the right to maintain the core code without consultation. The SPC will notify the WCPFC/IATTC in writing in advance where possible or within 30 days of any planned maintenance activities.
 - (c) WCPFC/IATTC will advise SPC on any requirements to change the TUFMAN 2© core code and that the decision to change the core code will be taken by written mutual agreement between SPC and WCPFC/IATTC.
 - (d) WCPFC/IATTC will not allow access or distribution of the TUFMAN 2© core code to any third party without the consent of SPC.
 - (e) WCPFC/IATTC will ensure that the conditions for the use of the TUFMAN 2© core code by any third party does not allow them to use or distribute the TUFMAN 2© core code beyond their specific work for WCPFC/IATTC.
 - (f) WCPFC/IATTC will acknowledge the use of the TUFMAN 2© core code by including the following text in the software 'ABOUT' form:
This system has been derived from TUFMAN 2© platform, developed by Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community
 - (g) WCPFC/IATTC will allow access to any code they are responsible for developing under the TUFMAN 2© core code, to SPC.
2. With respect to the Agreement:
- (a) SPC will allow access to the TUFMAN 2© code to WCPFC/IATTC for the period of the Agreement.
 - (b) SPC has no liability or responsibility for any third-party code or software components that are incorporated into the TUFMAN 2© core code provided.
 - (c) SPC will consider any requirements to change the TUFMAN 2© core code provided by WCPFC/IATTC, noting that the decision to change the core code will be taken by mutual agreement between SPC and WCPFC/IATTC.
 - (d) SPC will maintain a log of modifications to the TUFMAN 2© core code.
 - (e) SPC reserves the right to revoke² WCPFC/IATTC access and continued use of the TUFMAN 2© core code if there is evidence that any conditions of this Agreement have been breached.
3. The following general conditions apply:
- (a) An informal annual review will be conducted, by email, to report: (i) general updates of TUFMAN 2© from SPC during the previous year, and (ii) general description of the use of TUFMAN 2© by WCPFC/IATTC during the previous year.
 - (b) SPC shall not be liable for any errors/decisions/faults in the TUFMAN 2© core code.
4. All Parties agree to:
- (a) Communicate regularly with each other and provide timely information on matters relating to the activities; and
 - (b) raise any issues of concern with the relevant Party's nominated focal point in clause VIII
5. Additional responsibilities, or changes to these responsibilities, may be generated and agreed to by the Parties.

II. Budget

² Removal or revoking of WCPFC/IATTC's access to TUFMAN 2© core code means the removal or revoking of access to code maintained by SPC. The WCPFC/IATTC may continue to use the version of the TUFMAN 2© core code that it has at that time, so that its system can continue to be used and further developed.

1. The only budget implication for the Agreement is that SPC requires a cost recovery mechanism for any questions/support related to TUFMAN 2© that exceed 2 person-hours per month at the rate of USD 120 per hour.
2. WCPFC/IATTC will be notified via email when the 2 person-hours of support per month jointly for WCPFC/IATTC has been utilised, at which point the cost recovery mechanism would be engaged. A monthly summary of support subject to cost-recovery, if applicable, shall be provided to WCPFC/IATTC.
3. WCPFC/IATTC agree to make financial contributions to SPC at the end of each calendar year to cover support referenced above provided by SPC that exceed 2 person-hours per month throughout the year, beyond the in-kind support detailed above, as required.

III. Confidentiality and use of data

4. Each Party will ensure that its staffs, employees, and contractors will maintain the confidentiality of any information it receives from the other Party that has been designated as confidential or which by its nature is deemed to be confidential. All Parties will only use confidential information for purposes of this Agreement.

IV. Intellectual property rights and use of collected data

5. WCPFC/IATTC recognise the intellectual property rights of SPC to TUFMAN 2. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to affect any existing intellectual property (IP) rights. WCPFC/IATTC intend to consult on the allocation of rights to any IP created in the course of activities under this Agreement.

V. Child protection

6. WCPFC/IATTC acknowledge SPC's Child Protection Policy as updated from time to time and will use its best endeavours to act in accordance with those principles and to abide by other relevant international declarations, conventions and arrangements.

VI. Visibility

7. The Parties maintain sole authority over their respective names, logos and emblems. No Party is authorised to make use of the other Party's name, logo nor emblem, except as separately agreed in writing.

VII. Focal points

8. The focal points for this Agreement are as follows. Any subsequent changes or replacements shall be notified to other Parties in writing:

Mr Bruno Deprez Systems Development Manager Oceanic Fisheries Programme Pacific Community (SPC) Noumea, New Caledonia E: brunod@spc.int Ph: (+687) 26.20.00	TBD Inter-American tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) La Jolla, CA, USA E: Ph:	TBD Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia E: Ph:
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VIII. Resolution of disputes

9. All Parties shall make their best efforts to amicably settle any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this Agreement. Any disputes that might arise from or in relation to this Agreement, if not settled by negotiation, shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). This Agreement will be governed by the general principles of international law.

IX. Privileges and immunities

10. Nothing in or relating to this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of any Party's privileges and immunities.

X. Entry into force and term of agreement

11. This Agreement will enter into force on the date of its signature by all Parties and will remain in force until the Agreement is amended provided for in Clause XI or termination is triggered by a Party provided for in Clause XII.

XI. Amendment of the Agreement

12. This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual consent among all Parties. The amendment will enter into force on the date of its signature by all Parties.

XII. Termination

13. Any Party may terminate this Agreement by giving a written notice to the other Parties. At the termination of the Agreement, SPC will remove access of the Parties to the TUFMAN 2 core code. Clause III will extend beyond the termination of the Agreement.

Dr. Paula Vivili
Deputy Director-General
Pacific Community (SPC)

Date:

Dr. Arnulfo Franco
Executive Director
IATTC

Date:

Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian
Executive Director
WCPFC

Date:



ADDITIONAL LONGLINE OPERATIONAL DATA FIELDS

Table ST-01 New additional voluntary longline operational data fields

DATA FIELD	Suggested PROTOCOL for data collection																						
Target species for the set	Record the primary target species, or group of species, for this set.																						
Number of lightsticks used in set	Record the total number of lightsticks used in the set.																						
Bait type used in set	Record the FAO code(s) ¹ for type of bait(s) used for the set. Example types: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>FAO Code</th><th>Taxa/species categories</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CLP</td><td>HERRINGS, SARDINES, NEI</td></tr> <tr> <td>DPT</td><td>DECAPTHURUS SP. - MUROAJI</td></tr> <tr> <td>MAX</td><td>MACKERELS NEI</td></tr> <tr> <td>MIL</td><td>MILKFISH</td></tr> <tr> <td>MSD</td><td>MACKEREL SCAD</td></tr> <tr> <td>PIL</td><td>EUROPEAN PILCHARD (=SARDINE)</td></tr> <tr> <td>SAP</td><td>PACIFIC SAURY</td></tr> <tr> <td>SQU</td><td>VARIOUS SQUIDS NEI</td></tr> <tr> <td>TUN</td><td>TUNAS NEI</td></tr> <tr> <td>OTHERS</td><td>Comment on bait type</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	FAO Code	Taxa/species categories	CLP	HERRINGS, SARDINES, NEI	DPT	DECAPTHURUS SP. - MUROAJI	MAX	MACKERELS NEI	MIL	MILKFISH	MSD	MACKEREL SCAD	PIL	EUROPEAN PILCHARD (=SARDINE)	SAP	PACIFIC SAURY	SQU	VARIOUS SQUIDS NEI	TUN	TUNAS NEI	OTHERS	Comment on bait type
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SAP	PACIFIC SAURY																						
SQU	VARIOUS SQUIDS NEI																						
TUN	TUNAS NEI																						
OTHERS	Comment on bait type																						
Mainline length	Record the mainline length (in kilometers) used in the trip or set, as appropriate.																						
Length of branch line	Record the average length in meters of the branch lines in the trip or set. (The total length from the mainline to the hook).																						
Length of float line	Record the average length in meters of the float lines in the set. (The total length from the float to the mainline).																						
Vessel speed during setting	Record the average speed in knots of a vessel during line setting.																						
Speed of the line setter	Record the speed in knots of the line setter (i.e., the line shooter speed).																						

¹ The taxa/species list in Table ST-01 represents the common bait types reported for the longline fishery, but see <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/collection/asfis/en> for a complete list of FAO species codes.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR CHARTER NOTIFICATION SCHEME

Conservation and Management Measure 2024-03¹

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

ACKNOWLEDGING the important contribution of chartered vessels to sustainable fisheries development in the Western & Central Pacific Ocean;

CONCERNED with ensuring that charter arrangements do not promote IUU fishing activities or undermine conservation and management measures;

REALIZING that there is a need for the WCPFC to establish procedures for charter arrangements;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPF Convention that:

1. The provisions of this measure shall apply to Commission Members and Participating Territories that charter, lease or enter into other mechanisms with vessels eligible under paragraph 4 flagged to another State or Fishing Entity for the purpose of conducting fishing operations in the Convention Area as an integral part of the domestic fleet of that chartering Member or Participating Territory.
2. Within 15 days, or in any case within 72 hours before commencement of fishing activities under a charter arrangement, the chartering Member or Participating Territory shall notify the Executive Director of any vessel to be identified as chartered in accordance with this measure by submitting electronically where possible to the Executive Director the following information with respect to each chartered vessel:
 - a) name of the fishing vessel;
 - b) WCPFC Identification Number (WIN);
 - c) name and address of owner(s);
 - d) name and address of the charterer;
 - e) the duration of the charter arrangement;
 - f) the flag state of the vessel; and
 - g) the area of application (i.e., the chartering CCM's EEZ and/or high seas).

Upon receipt of the information the Executive Director will immediately notify the flag State and the Scientific Service Provider (SSP).

3. Each chartering Member or Participating Territory shall notify the Executive Director as well as the flag State, within 15 days, or in any case within 72 hours before commencement of fishing activities under a charter arrangement of:
 - a) any additional chartered vessels along with the information set forth in paragraph 2;

¹ By adoption of this CMM (CMM 2024-0) the Commission rescinds CMM 2021-04 which has been replaced.

b) any change in the information referred to in paragraph 2 with respect to any chartered vessel; and

c) termination of the charter of any vessel previously notified under paragraph 2.

Upon receipt of the information the Executive Director will immediately notify the SSP.

4. Only vessels listed on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and not on the WCPFC IUU vessel list, or IUU List of another RFMO, are eligible for charter.
5. The Executive Director shall make the information required in paragraph 2 and 3 available to all CCMs.
6. Each year, the Executive Director shall present a summary of all notified chartered vessels to the Commission for review. If necessary, the Commission may review and revise this measure.
7. Unless specifically provided in other CMMs, catches and effort of vessels notified as chartered under this CMM shall be attributed to the chartering Member or Participating Territory. Unless specifically provided in other CMMs, the chartering Member or Participating Territory shall report annually to the Executive Director catch and effort of chartered vessels in the previous year.
8. This Measure shall expire on 28 February 2028 unless renewed by the Commission.

ATTACHMENT 7: WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2025



WCPFC IUU VESSEL LIST FOR 2025

(Effective from 1 February 2025: WCPFC21 agreed to maintain the WCPFC IUU list for 2024)

Current name of vessel (previous names)	Current flag (previous flags)	Date first included on WCPFC IUU Vessel List ¹	Flag State Registration Number/ IMO Number	Call Sign (previous call signs)	Vessel Master (nationality)	Owner/beneficial owners (previous owners)	Notifying CCM	IUU activities
Neptune	unknown (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-00545	unknown (4LOG)		Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.	France	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPF Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)
Fu Lien No 1	unknown (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-01432 IMO No 7355662	unknown (4LIN2)		Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia	United States	Is without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPF Convention in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)
Yu Fong 168	unknown (Chinese Taipei)	11 Dec. 2009		BJ4786	Mr Jang Faa Sheng (Chinese Taipei)	Chang Lin Pao-Chun, 161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands	Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands without permission and in contravention of Republic of the Marshall Islands' laws and regulations. (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)
Kuda Laut 03	Philippines	08 Dec 2023	Registry No. 12-0001812	DUM-4015	Alex L Cerina, Filipino	Tuna Explorers Incorporated	New Zealand	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPF Convention Area (High Seas Pocket One) without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2019-07-para 3a)

Note: Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2019-07 para 19 and WCPFC13 decisions

¹ **Supplementary note:** In October 2015, the Executive Director wrote to: Chinese Taipei and Georgia requesting information on their vessel/s on the WCPFC IUU list, and to other RFMOs (CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, NPAFC & SPRFMO) to seek their cooperation with locating the vessels on the list. Georgia confirmed that the vessels **Neptune** and **Fu Lien No 1** were no longer flying the Georgia flag. Chinese Taipei confirmed the **Yu Fong 168** license was revoked in 2009 and the vessel owner financially penalized for violating the rules of not returning to port. Chinese Taipei further advised information was received from Thailand's notification to IOTC that the vessel landed their catches in the port of Phuket in the year 2013. On 17 November 2017, Chinese Taipei informed WCPFC that the **Yu Fong 168** had been deregistered by Chinese Taipei. On 29 April 2020, WCPFC received further information from Chinese Taipei identifying the master of the **Yu Fong 168** at the time of the IUU fishing activity who had been sanctioned.



Commission VMS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

1. Version notes

Version	WCPFC decision reference	Description of updates	Effective date
1.0	WCPFC6	<i>Approved by the Commission, as per requirement of VMS SSPs section 6.9</i>	<i>Feb 19 2010</i>
2.0	WCPFC15	<i>Updates made to include versioning and to streamline and improve the focus of the SOPs and better reflect current Secretariat practices including reference to the present VMS service provider/s</i>	<i>Feb 13 2019</i>
3.0	WCPFC18	<i>Updates made to provide details on recent and ongoing Secretariat software upgrades to improve capacity to monitor manual reports and monitor / address MTU non-reporting. Also clarifies procedures for activating MTUs and specific gateways, and current procedures for MTU testing (including new MTU testing checklist) prior to Commission decisions on approval or de-listing.</i>	<i>Feb 08 2022</i>
4.0	WCPFC21	<i>Updates to reflect technological updates, processes and enhancements to address current VMS data gaps or procedural issues. Also includes edits to Annex B agreed at TCC20.</i>	<i>Feb 01 2025</i>

2. Overview

The WCPFC operates a Vessel Monitoring System (Commission VMS) to assist in the management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

In December 2008, a Service Level Agreement (SLA) was formalised with FFA for the provision of the WCPFC VMS services. The contracted system that provides VMS information to the FFA VMS and the WCPFC VMS systems is referred to as the “Pacific VMS”. The WCPFC VMS came into operation on April 1, 2009.

The approved structure of the WCPFC VMS allows vessels to report to the WCPFC through two ways: i) directly to the WCPFC VMS, or ii) to the WCPFC through the FFA VMS. In respect of the latter, it is recognized that there may be additional requirements for VMS reporting which arise from FFA requirements and national VMS requirements that are relevant.

The WCPFC currently has more than 3,000 WCPFC vessels on the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) that report to the WCPFC VMS through the Pacific VMS. In addition, the WCPFC VMS receives, through the SLA with FFA, high seas VMS information relating to FFA-registered vessels.

The Commission VMS requires the use of Mobile Transceiver Units (MTUs)/Automatic Location Communicators (ALCs) that are on the Commission's approved list of MTU/ALC¹. This list is based on the Secretariat's assessments of ALCs against minimum standards for the Commission VMS. These standards are set out in Annex 1 of [CMM 2014-02](#) (or its successor measure) and [WCPFC SSPs](#). In particular, the Secretariat provides a recommendation about whether the make and model of an ALC has the capability to successfully report to the Commission VMS.

2.1 Purpose of these Standard Operating Procedures

These standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been developed to provide uniform guidance for Commission personnel in the management and operation of the Commission VMS.

2.2 Specific Commission Decisions and Guidelines governing the Commission VMS and access to VMS data

- a) Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission (2007 data RaP) – December 2007 ([link](#));
- b) Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FFA for the provision of the WCPFC VMS services – December 2008 (WCPFC VMS came into operation on April 1, 2009);
- c) Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission for the Purpose of Monitoring, Control or Surveillance (MCS) Activities and the Access to and Dissemination of High Seas VMS Data for Scientific Purposes. (2009 MCS data RaP) – December 2009 ([link](#));
- d) WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures (SSPs) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2018 (or its update) ([link](#));
- e) WCPFC Agreed Statement describing Purpose and Principles of the WCPFC VMS – December 2011 ([link](#));
- f) WCPFC9 decision regarding application of Commission VMS to national waters of Members (WCPFC9 Summary Report paragraph 238) – December 2012 ([link](#));
- g) Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission VMS – [CMM 2014-02](#) (or its replacement CMM) – December 2014;

¹ The terms "ALC", "MTU", "ALC/MTU", and "MTU/ALC" are used interchangeably in this document.

- h) WCPFC VMS Reporting Requirement Guidelines – May 2018 (or its update) ([link](#)); and
- i) The last update of the list of approved MTU/ALCs ([link](#))

[2.3 General Information Security Policy and Administrative Procedures for the Secretariat](#)

The WCPFC Secretariat's Information Security Policies and Guidelines, as well as Administrative Procedures apply to the administration of and access to the Commission VMS.

[2.4 Update of these SOPs](#)

VMS SSPs 6.9 states: "A set of Standard Operating Procedures, elaborated by the Secretariat, and subject to approval by the Commission on the recommendation of the TCC, will be developed to deal with all operational anomalies of the VMS, such as interruption of position reports, downloading of DNIDs and their equivalent and responding to reports providing incoherent data (e.g. vessel on land, excessive speed, etc.)."

3. VMS Software Applications

[3.1 Trackwell](#)

The Trackwell VMS user interface is implemented as a suite of web modules selectable from the main menu.

The main modules are:

- a) Monitoring – Secretariat and CCM VMS operators main view;
- b) Vessel – the vessel registry database synchronized with the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV)
- c) Events and Actions – used to define the events to be monitored and the actions to be taken when an event occurs;
- d) Reports – provide a list of pre-programmed reports for Secretariat and CCM VMS operators eg. A count of position reports per day by area per month or a date range;
- e) Live Map – An interactive map display showing vessels' position and zones in near real-time; and
- f) Map history - this module contains tools to display historical trails of one or more vessels in a graphical map interface. The user can then define a date and time range to see the trail history of the selected vessels.

The Monitoring View is the operator's main view. All important events and alerts handled by the system are listed in this view as issues. An operator can select an "Issue" to work on or record actions taken in relation to the selected issue until it is closed.

[3.2 Software to Automate Integration of Manual Position Reports into the Commission VMS](#)

Vessels are expected to report their positions automatically. The Secretariat has set up a mailbox arrangement with TrackWell that facilitates automatic integration of VMS manual reports based on the common North Atlantic Format (NAF). VMS manual reports can be submitted by CCMs to the Commission

VMS via e-mail. Correctly formatted data received are automatically integrated into the Commission VMS, and these positions are clearly identifiable as manually generated reports (MAN) and can be distinguished from non-manually generated VMS positions.²

3.3 VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)

Since 2020, through the development of the VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST), the Secretariat provides a fully automated report for each CCM to review, in more detail, the reporting status for all their vessels. The reporting status provides a daily snapshot of whether³ each vessel on the RFV is meeting its Commission VMS requirements, including whether each vessel is reporting directly to WCPFC VMS. These requirements are met by direct reporting to the Commission VMS or through reporting via the FFA VMS (based on FFA Good Standing List). For any vessel not reporting, the daily snapshot should assist to indicate whether WCPFC has completed the necessary steps to activate its MTU to report to the Commission VMS, and if so, the VRST provides a generic current vessel status (e.g., “OK” or “STOP”) for each of their vessels and a daily VMS-reporting status (how many position reports are transmitted by each vessel each day for the past 31 days)⁴. The data can be exported to a file in CSV format for each report.

The VRST was enhanced in 2021 giving flag CCMs the ability to update VRST data to inform the status for their non-reporting vessels.

3.4 Software for online registration of MTUs and reporting of MTU/ALC Audits

Since 2023, through the development of the upgraded Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) online system (<https://vessels.wcpfc.int>), the Secretariat has provided CCMs with online facility that facilitates the submission of necessary vessel tracking data for each fishing vessel required to report directly to the Commission. The Vessels System allows each flag CCM to update their registration of MTUs, track progress of their MTU Activations, and provides an alert when MTU Activation has failed. This same web portal may be used for data entry, review, and reporting of MTU Audit Inspection results.

4. Operational Procedures

This section contains ten (10) subsections:

- a) Access to WCPFC VMS Tools
- b) Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs;
- c) MTU/ALC Activation Procedure for WCPFC VMS;
- d) VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST);
- e) Manual Position Reporting;
- f) Routine Reports from the Secretariat on VMS reporting anomalies and WCPFC VMS;
- g) Secretariat processes to identify and follow-up on VMS reporting issues;

² See further details in section 4.5 below.

³ Based on available data and information.

⁴ That VRST’s display of CCMs’ most recent month’s vessel-level VMS-reporting status does not impose any additional monitoring obligations on flag CCMs or the Secretariat.

- h) Proposals for Inclusion of Additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MLC/ALC List;
- i) Removal of ALC/MTU from the Approved ALC/MTU List; and
- j) Commission VMS Helpdesk.

4.1 Access to WCPFC VMS Tools

Since late 2023, the Secretariat has provided a Single-Sign-On (SSO) facility to WCPFC's online systems, which includes WCPFC's Trackwell VMS. Access to WCPFC VMS related systems is visible and managed by Party Administrators who may grant permissions to users through assigning one of the following roles: VMS Viewer or VMS Editor. More information on managing roles can be found in the Party Administrator Guide on the WCPFC knowledgebase - <https://wcpfc.freshdesk.com/>

4.2 Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs

The flag CCM is to submit all necessary data to complete its data file in WCPFC's database, in respect of all vessels authorized to operate in the WCPFC Convention area. In accordance with the VMS SSPs, this data will include the name of the vessel, unique vessel identification number (UVI) [* if and when adopted by the Commission], radio call sign, length, gross registered tonnage, power of engine expressed in kilowatts/horsepower, types of fishing gear(s) used as well as the make, model, unique network identifier (user ID) and equipment identifier (manufacturer's serial number) of the ALC that vessel will be using to fulfil its Commission VMS reporting requirements.

To facilitate the submission of necessary vessel tracking data for each fishing vessel required to report directly to the Commission, the Secretariat has introduced online registration of MTUs through the upgraded Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) online system (<https://vessels.wcpfc.int/>). Vessel tracking data for vessels already reporting to FFA VMS will not be activated and may not need to be provided but if submitted, can be filed in case the vessel needs to have the ALC activated to report to WCPFC VMS system (should the vessel no longer report to the FFA VMS system).

When an MTU Update request has been submitted by a flag CCM, the Secretariat will proceed with activation/deactivation procedures in Section 4.3.

4.3 MTU/ALC Activation Procedure for WCPFC VMS

Vessels not listed on the FFA Good Standing List will be activated to report directly to WCPFC VMS once information required under Paragraph 2.9 of the Commission VMS SSPs is provided in full.

The online registration of MTUs through the RFV online system ensures that the following details are provided for all MTU activation requests:

1. Vessel Name
2. Reg No
3. IRCS
4. Vessel Type
5. Flag
6. Approved MTU Type
7. Equipment ID

8. Network ID

WCPFC VMS has gateways for the following services:

- a) Faria Watchdog
- b) Halios – CLS MTUs using the Iridium service
- c) Inmarsat BGAN – for iFleetONE MTUs
- d) Inmarsat C and D+
- e) Iridium – for insight X2 EMTU (Nautic Alert)
- f) Iridium (mini LEO) - for BB3 & BB5 MTUs (SASCO)
- g) Iridium SBD – for iTrac II (MetOcean Telematics) and RomTrax Wifi (Rom Communications)
- h) ORBCOMM – currently operational for Australian vessels using IDP-690
- i) PTSOG Chinese Taipei
- j) SkyMate
- k) SRT VMS 100Si

The Secretariat will follow the activation procedure that is specific to the gateway for the MTU/ALC (see Notes on Secretariat Process for each Gateway in Annex A).

1. If activation was successful, the Secretariat will update the status of the MTU Update request in RFV online system to show that the MTU is Active.⁵
2. If a deactivation request was successful, the Secretariat will update the status of the MTU Update request in RFV online system to show that the MTU is Inactive.⁶
3. If activation was not successful, the Secretariat will update the status of the MTU Update request in RFV online system to show that Activation Failed. The Secretariat will also request the CCM official to check the vessel's MTU/ALC, rectify any anomalies with the MTU/ALC or VTAF data and to resubmit the MTU Update Request. If the MTU/ALC activation fails on the second attempt, the Secretariat will notify the CCM and draw to the CCM's attention that vessel position reports shall be provided by the vessel on a manual basis, as required by the Commission VMS SSPs.

4.4 VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)

The VRST provides the authorized CCM contact with a daily snapshot of whether each CCM vessel on the Record of Fishing Vessels is meeting its Commission VMS requirements. The VRST is updated each day at 1am UTC. CCMs are also able to download a copy of the relevant report in CSV format. There are currently five parts to the VRST:

- The “Information” tab provides explanatory information about the VRST.
- The “All Vessels” tab is in response to the WCPFC12 task and provides the latest WCPFC VMS reporting status for every vessel on the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV).
- The “CCM Vessels” tab lists only RFV vessels flagged to the CCM, viewable only by the CCM's authorized contact. It provides CCMs with a daily snapshot of information whether each of their vessels on the RFV is meeting its Commission VMS requirements. If a vessel is not on the FFA Good

⁵ The success of their vessels' MTU/ALC activations will also be evident in the VRST to CCMs.

⁶ The success of their vessels' MTU/ALC activations will also be evident in the VRST to CCMs.

Standing List, the VRST provides an indication of whether WCPFC has completed the necessary steps to activate the vessels MTU to report to the Commission VMS; if so, the VRST provides a generic current vessel status (e.g., 'OK' or 'STOP') for each of their vessels, and a daily VMS-reporting status (how many position reports are transmitted by each vessel each day for the preceding 31 days).

For vessels that are not on FFA Good Standing List, the VRST will display the following status to the vessels based on reporting and CCMs advice.

- a) 'ACTR' – VTAF info received and in the process of activation by the Secretariat.
 - b) 'In Port' – based on advice from CMMs that the vessel is in port and MTU is powered down.
 - c) 'OK' – the vessel's MTU is reporting correctly to WCPFC VMS. No action required.
 - d) 'Outside the WCPFC Convention Area' – based on advice from flag CCM, the vessel is operating outside of the Convention area and is not reporting to WCPFC VMS.
 - e) 'Within flag CCM EEZ' – based on advice from flag CCM, the vessel is within the flag CCM's EEZ and is not reporting to WCPFC VMS.
 - f) 'STOP' – The vessel has stopped reporting. Secretariat staff to work with Flag CCM to resolve the non-reporting issue.
- The "Non-Reporting Vessels" tab is a subset of the CCM Vessels tab list, providing a list of vessels from which the expected VMS data are not being received. For each vessel that is not reporting to the WCPFC VMS, authorized CCM users are able to update the status to 'In Port' or 'Outside the Convention Area' or 'Within flag CCM EEZ', and the date the status took effect. When VMS data are received by the WCPFC VMS, the status is automatically reset to 'OK'.
 - The "Manual Reports" tab provides a report on the number of manual reports by vessel submitted and processed by VMS.

4.5 Manual Position Reporting

Since 1 March 2013, the Commission has agreed reporting timeframes for manual reporting in the event of ALC malfunction and a standard reporting format for these manual reports (see WCPFC SSPs – December 2018 (or its update) ([link](#))).

To facilitate submission, the Secretariat has set up a mailbox arrangement with TrackWell that facilitates automatic integration of VMS manual reports based on the common North Atlantic Format (NAF). VMS manual reports can be submitted by CCMs to the Commission VMS via e-mail naf@wcpfc.int in plain text format. Annex B Correctly formatted data received are automatically integrated into the Commission VMS, and these positions are clearly identifiable as manually generated reports (MAN) and they can be distinguished from non-manually generated VMS positions. See Annex B for NAF format message for a manual report.

CCM vessels that fail to report to the Commission VMS must commence manual reporting not later than the time specified in the SSPs unless the CCM contact has provided an appropriate and accurate update of the MTU status (either via the VRST directly, or by email to the Secretariat VMS staff).

The vessel may recommence fishing on the high seas only when the MTU/ALC has been confirmed as operational by the WCPFC Secretariat following the flag CCM informing the Secretariat that the vessel's automatic reporting complies with the regulations established in the Commission VMS Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs).

4.6 Routine Reports from the Secretariat on VMS reporting anomalies and WCPFC VMS

As was explained in Section 4.4, the VRST tool, which is accessible by authorized CCM users, provides CCMs a daily snapshot of whether each of their vessels on the RFV is meeting Commission VMS requirements.

The following reports are provided to TCC annually:

- Annual Report on the Commission VMS;
- Annual Report on the administration of the data rules and procedures;
- WCPFC Information and Network Security Framework.

The Secretariat also provides periodic detailed reports to each flag CCM to support the draft Compliance Monitoring Report preparation and review process.

Ad hoc reports may be generated on request and following necessary approvals in accordance with the data rules and administrative procedures.

4.7 Secretariat processes to identify and follow-up on VMS reporting issues

The Secretariat will routinely check on the VMS reporting status of vessels when there is a change to their listing on FFA Good Standing List and take appropriate action:

- a) If a vessel that has its MTU activated to report directly to WCPFC VMS is subsequently listed on the FFA Good Standing List, WCPFC Secretariat VMS staff will take necessary steps to deactivate the MTU and update WCPFC records to show that the vessel is expected to be reporting to WCPFC VMS through the FFA VMS.
- b) If a vessel that was on the FFA Good Standing List is de-listed, VMS staff will take necessary steps activate the most recent VTAF received for direct reporting.
- c) Flag CCMs may receive relevant updates through the VRST about whether their vessel is on the FFA Good Standing List and if a MTU is in the process of activation by the Secretariat (refer to Section 4.4).

The Secretariat routinely checks the following issues:

- a) That a vessel is not showing as 'STOP' in VRST, when:
 - a high seas transshipment notification is received by the Secretariat

- a notification is received that a vessel will be or has been inspected through the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme
 - a Charter notification is received by the Secretariat
 - a notification in accordance with para. 3, Attachment 2 of CMM 2023-01 is received by the Secretariat
 - a notification is received that a vessel will be or has been inspected in Port
 - upon request by an authorized CCM contact
- b) For all vessels that have a vessel status 'STOP' in the VRST, a workflow process will document actions taken by the VMS staff to resolve non reporting.
- c) Flag CCMs may receive relevant updates through the VRST about whether their vessel is on the FFA Good Standing List, if a MTU is in the process of activation by the Secretariat, if a vessel is In Port or outside the Convention Area, and if the vessel is reporting normally or has stopped reporting to the Commission VMS. (refer to Section 4.4).

The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat when a VMS non-reporting is identified:

1. Create a workflow record that the vessel has stopped reporting and proceed with the process of getting the MTU to resume reporting.
2. Check with the flag CCM to confirm that the MTU is switched on and reporting to the CCM's VMS. If so:
 - a. Confirm with the flag CCM that the MTU Register information is accurate;
 - b. For Inmarsat C MTUs, a re-download of DNID and polling might be required;
 - c. For other MTU types, the Secretariat will contact the MCSP to verify the MTU's status, and VMS staff to follow-up with Trackwell or MCSP where appropriate, to ensure the data is being received by the WCPFC VMS.
3. If the flag CCM indicates that the MTU has been replaced, remind the CCM contact of their responsibility to register MTU information with the Secretariat, and proceed with normal activation process (refer to Section 4.3 above).
4. Failure of the MTU to properly report requires the flag CCM to ensure that the vessel provides manual reports as per manual reporting requirements (refer Section 4.5 above).

4.8 [Proposals for Inclusion of Additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MTU/ALC List](#)

Commission VMS SSPs require that the Secretariat assess proposals for inclusion of additional ALC makes and models on this list from both CCMs and equipment manufacturers. VMS SSPs 2.7 states *"The Secretariat shall include the ALC/MTU make or model being proposed on this list, if no CCM objects in writing within 30 days of the Secretariat circulating notice of its intent to all CCMs, and, if in the Secretariat's assessment, the ALC/MTU make or model meets the minimum standards for the Commission VMS as set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor measure), the WCPFC SSPs, as relevant, by determining that the ALC/MTU make and model has the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS, and by using the methodology established by the FFA with expenses for type approval processing."*

The Secretariat is to assess proposals for the inclusion of additional MTU/ALC units and their communication / satellite service provider / gateway, against the MTU/ALC type approval checklist (appended in **Annex C**). The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat when a proposal from MTU manufacturers, CCMs, and service providers is received seeking the inclusion of additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MTU/ALC List:

- a) Application received with sufficient⁷ supporting technical documentation.
- b) Secretariat checks application information and verifies it against minimum standards in Annex 1 of the CMM 2014-02 (or its successor).
- c) Submit request for testing to Trackwell. Trackwell will liaise with the ALC/MTU applicant to conduct physical⁸ testing to ensure the gateway created is able to receive error-free position reports as per Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor).
- d) Trackwell will provide a complete test report to the Secretariat for final assessment.
- e) As part of the assessment, the Secretariat VMS staff shall detail how each step on the checklist was, or was not satisfied for the ALC/MTU proposed for listing.

Where the Secretariat concludes in its assessment that a proposed ALC/MTU make or model does meet these requirements, the Secretariat will follow the existing approval process and timelines outlined above (from VMS SSPs 2.7). Additionally, the Secretariat shall provide CCMs with details on how each step on the checklist was satisfied for the ALC/MTU, along with any other documentation provided by the flag CCM or vendor, to better inform CCM's consideration.

Where the Secretariat concludes in its assessment that a proposed ALC/MTU make or model does not meet these requirements, or if a CCM objects in writing to the Secretariat's proposal to approve a new ALC/MTU make or model, the Secretariat shall make recommendations in the annual report to TCC regarding the proposed ALC/MTU make or model for the TCC's consideration. The Secretariat shall provide CCMs with details on how each step on the checklist was satisfied for each unit, along with any other documentation provided by the flag CCM or vendor, to better inform CCM's consideration.

4.9 Removal of ALC/MTU from the Approved ALC/MTU List

The Secretariat will recommend to TCC as needed, the removal of units currently on the list of approved ALC/MTU makes and models that no longer meet the minimum standards set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or successor measure), or that do not have the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS. As part of the assessment, the Secretariat VMS staff shall detail how each step on the checklist in **Annex C** was, or was not, satisfied for each MTU/ALC unit proposed for removal from the Approved ALC/MTU List.

⁷ For example, full technical specifications of all MTU/ALC hardware that will be installed on vessels, citations of any previous domestic or RFMO type approvals of the proposed MTU/ALC, data/results from previous domestic or other testing of the equipment, or images depicting the hardware components.

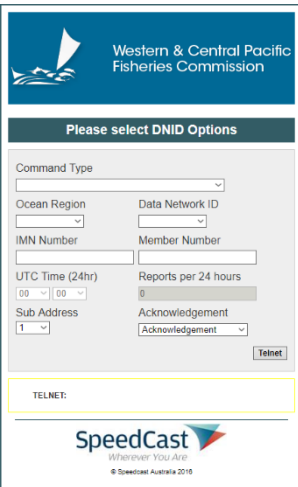
⁸ Tests of successful position reporting to the Commission VMS by the relevant MTU hardware that is physically located within the Convention Area.

4.10 Commission VMS Helpdesk Support

The Secretariat is committed to developing online self-service support options via the WCPFC support knowledgebase (<https://wcpfc.freshdesk.com/>), and VMS help topics are in the process of being developed.

Requests for support on the Commission VMS can be sent via email to VMS.helpdesk@wcpfc.int.

Notes on Secretariat's Activation Process for MTU/ALC by VMS Gateway – as of 9 Sept 2024

VMS Gateway	Notes on Secretariats Activation Process
Faria Watchdog	Email sent to SpeedCast (support.mss.apac@speedcast.com) A request to provide Faria 4-digit unique MTU Id made on activation.
Halios – CLS MTUs <i>using the Iridium service</i>	Email sent to CLS-OCEANIA (hspencer@groupcls.com). MTU reporting status may also be verified through the CLS portal application - https://mydata.cls.fr/iwp/Main.do .
Inmarsat BGAN <i>for iFleetONE MTUs</i>	Email sent to Addvalue (weehong.ng@addvalue.com.sg).
Inmarsat C and D+	<p>For Inmarsat C MTUs, activation is done at the Secretariat using a web application developed by SpeedCast.</p> <p>If activation was not successful then the Secretariat to advise CCM Official of why the activation was unsuccessful, which may include:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 1; padding-left: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Unknown mobile number b) Mobile logged out c) Mobile is not in the Ocean Region d) DNID sent to vessel, but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS; e) Program sent to vessel but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS; or f) Start Command sent to vessel but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS </div> </div>
Iridium <i>for insight X2 EMTU (Nautic Alert)</i>	Email sent to Nautic Alert (nfvelado@nauticalalert.com)
Iridium (mini LEO) <i>for BB3 & BB5 MTUs (SASCO)</i>	Email sent to SASCO email: (chuck@sasco-inc.com)
Iridium SBD <i>for iTrac II (MetOcean Telematics)</i>	Email sent to MetOcean Telematics (service@metocean.com).
Iridium SBD <i>for RomTrax Wifi (Rom Communications)</i>	Email sent to Rom Communications (michael@romcomm.net).

VMS Gateway	Notes on Secretariats Activation Process
ORBCOMM <i>currently operational for Australian vessels using IDP-690</i>	The flag CCM's mobile communications service provider (MCSP) for the MTUs establishes a reporting channel / account for the vessels that are required to report to the Commission VMS.
PTSOG <i>currently operational for Chinese Taipei</i>	If other CCMs authorize their vessels to use Orbcomm MTUs, consultation with WCPFC and TrackWell is necessary to establish communication channel arrangements between the CCM's Orbcomm service provider and WCPFC's VMS service provider (TrackWell), before the vessels can be activated to report to the WCPFC VMS.
SkyMate	Email sent to Skymate (williamricaurte@navcast.com).
SRT VMS 100Si	Email sent to SRT-UK office (support@srt-marinesystems.com) and cc to Dino Escano (based in PH) (dino.escano@srt-marine.com)

NAF format message for a manual report – as of 1 October 2024

The following table specifies the NAF format message for a manual report.

Field-code	Data-element	Syntax	Contents	Examples
SR	Start record	No data	No data	//SR//
TM	Type of message	Char*3	POS or MAN	//TM/POS// Or //TM/MAN//
SQ	Sequence number	Num*6	1-999999	//SQ/001//
ID	Vessel ID	Num*7	WCPFC Vessel ID	//ID/12054//
NA <i>optional</i>	Vessel Name	Char*50	Vessel Name	//NA/YUN RUN 7//
LT	Latitude (decimal)	Char*7	+(-)DD.ddd	//LT/45.544// or //LT/-23.743//
LG	Longitude (decimal)	Char*8	(-)DDD.ddd	//LG/-044.174// or //LG/+166.000//
DA	Date	Num*8	YYYYMMDD	//DA/20210825//
TI	Time	Num*4	HHMM	//TI/1555//
AD <i>{optional}</i>	Address Destination	Char*5	WCPFC	//AD/WCPFC//
ER	End record	No data	No data	//ER//

Sample string:

//SR//TM/POS//SQ/1//ID/11285//LT/29.863//LG/122.506//DA/20221011//TI/0600//ER//

Or

//SR//TM/MAN//SQ/889//ID/11230//NA/JINXIANG12//LT/-13.812//LG/-171.753//DA/20240919//TI/0600//AD/WCPFC//ER//

Or

//SR//TM/POS//SQ/1//ID/11285//NA/YUN RUN 7//LT/29.863//LG/122.506//DA/20221011//TI/0600//AD/WCPFC//ER//

Request for MTU/ALC type approval checklist

ALC/MTU testing checklist				
Item	Description	Requirements	Evidence Provided (YES or NO)	Secretariat Assessment
Documents to be provided on application				
1	Submit application	Letter of application.		
		Supporting technical reference documentation.		
		Provide proof of Type Approval received for the ALC/MTU.		
Assessment against Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02				
2	The ALC/MTU shall automatically and independently of any intervention on the vessel communicate.	ALC/MTU static unique identifier.		
		the current geographical position.		
		UTC date and time.		
3	Data shall be obtained from a satellite-based positioning system.	Indicate satellite service provider.		
4	ALC/MTU fitted to fishing vessel must be capable of transmitting data.	hourly intervals.		
5	The data shall be received by the Commission VMS under normal operating conditions.	within 90 minutes of being generated by the ALC/MTU.		
6	ALC/MTU fitted to fishing vessel must be protected.	Tamper proof.		
7	Storage of information within the ALC/MTU under normal conditions.	safe, secure and integrated.		
8	It must not be reasonably possible for anyone other than the monitoring authority to alter any of authority's data stored in the ALC/MTU.	Secure DNIDs and reporting parameters.		
9	Any features built into the ALC/MTU or terminal software to assist with servicing shall not allow unauthorised access to any areas of the ALC/MTU.	ALC/MTU software access should be password protected.		
10	The ALC/MTU shall be installed on the vessel in accordance with their manufacturer's specification and applicable standards.	The ALC/MTU shall be installed on the vessel in accordance with their manufacturer's specification and applicable WCPFC requirements.		
11	Under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data forwarded must be accurate to within 100 square metres Distance Root Mean Square (DRMS).	98% of the positions must be within this range.		
12	The ALC/MTU and/or forwarding service provide must be capable to support the ability for data to be sent to multiple independent destinations.	capable for direct simultaneous reporting.		
13	The satellite navigation decoder and transmitter shall be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.	GPS and transmitter module be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.		
TrackWell testing				
14	Gateway / Communications channel.	Gateway / Channel setup and capable of receiving positions reports in either PUSH or PULL method.		
15	Position transmission.	Positions received without errors.		
16	Latency.	Positions received with 90 minutes of being generated by the ALC/MTU.		
17	Test report.	test completion report provided to the Secretariat		
The Secretariat has assessed the Application and deemed that the << insert ALC/MTU type name >> has PASSED / FAILED the requirements to be included in the WCPFC Approved List of ALC / MTU				



COMMISSION

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Provisional TCC Workplan 2025 – 2027

The Commission, at WCPFC21, adopted the TCC Workplan for 2025-2027 on a provisional basis. This version was prepared taking into consideration the recent standing tasks for TCC, current CMMs, IWG workplans, the TCC20 Outcomes and most WCPFC21 Outcomes.

Noting that there was limited time at WCPFC21 for participants to review the Provisional TCC Workplan 2025 - 2027, the TCC Chair offered to lead an intersessional process in early 2025 for review and further feedback.



Provisional TCC Workplan 2025 - 2027

1. TCC core business tasks (annual)

Article 14(1)(a) provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures;

- a. Provide technical and compliance-related advice to support the development of harvest strategies, including consideration of the implications of harvest control rules.
 - i. Review and provide input into skipjack monitoring strategy.
 - ii. Review of available data to inform the Commission on climate change impacts to stocks and ecosystems in the WCPO, and the potential effects of climate change on related fishing activities and provide recommendations to the Commission identifying information gaps, necessary analyses, and any additional tasks to ensure the Commission's conservation and management measures contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention
- b. Review information about technical and compliance matters arising under existing CMMs.
- c. Make technical and compliance related comments on proposed CMMs.
- d. Review Cooperating Non-Member applications.

Article 14(1)(b) monitor and review compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary

- e. Monitor and review compliance with conservation and management measures and other obligations stemming from the Convention.
- f. Assessment of IUU fishing vessel nominations and review of fishing vessels currently on the IUU list.
- g. Monitor obligations relating to Small Island Developing States and territories and review requests for capacity development assistance from developing states and territories, that have been identified through annual reporting and the CMS, for inclusion into the WCPFC Strategic Investment Plan.
- h. Review and assess the Commission's implementation of, and compliance with, CMM 2013-06 Conservation and Management Measure on the criteria for the consideration of conservation and management proposals for the previous calendar year.

- i. Review aggregated information on progress to address alleged violations vessels in the CCFS, to identify potential anomalies in the implementation of obligations by a CCM, implementation challenges and/or system failures to take flag state action.
- j. Review progress on addressing/closing CCFS cases older than 24 months.
- k. Prepare a provisional list of obligations to be assessed in the following year's CMS, referring a risk-based approach as a possible guidance.
- l. Review analysis of obligations that have been assessed over time including compliance rating.
- m. Review and provide advice on availability and use of independent data for compliance verification.

Article 14(1)(c) review the implementation of cooperative measures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary

- n. Review the implementation of cooperative measures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary.
- o. Review Annual report(s) of the WCPFC Secretariat, which should address relevant technical and compliance issues, which may include HSBI, ROP, VMS, RFV, Data Rules, transshipment, port State measures, and note the Executive Director's report on these matters, the Secretariats anticipated forecast of work commitments for TCC, and other issues as appropriate.
- p. Review information about scientific data provision.
- q. Support building the capacity of SIDS, which may include:
 - i. implement observer programs, including training and data management
 - ii. develop and implement MCS information management system (IMS) at a national level
 - iii. improve bycatch reporting
 - iv. set up a system or process for reports on transshipment activities and MTU inspections
 - v. implement minimum standards for Port State measures

1. TCC Priority project specific tasks

Task	2025	2026	2027	Provisional workplan comments:
Article 14(1)(a) information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures				
South Pacific albacore CMM	Provide advice on key components of a new south Pacific albacore CMM			Rolled over from previous TCC workplan, noting advice from SPA-IWG that review of CMM to take place in 2025
Striped Marlin (SW)	Provide advice on clarification of terms “fishing for” /”targeting” as they relate to management of striped marlin.			TCC20 Outcomes para 29
FAD Management Options Working Group	Review matters referred to TCC by the FADMOWG Consider clarifying the ambiguity around the existing participatory rights text as to which types of vessels should be allowed to engage in FAD-related activities	Review matters referred to TCC by the FADMOWG		TCC20 Outcomes para 34 Possibly other tasks 2025-27 based on FADMOWG workplan
Tropical tuna CMM	Review implementation of tropical tuna CMM 2023-01, including for implementation of footnotes in Att 1 Table 3 Consider the issues of certain CCMs without baseline catch limit under paragraph 48 of CMM 2023-01	Review implementation of tropical tuna CMM 2023-01, including for implementation of footnotes in Att 1 Table 3		Included based on expiry data of CMM 2023-01, and noting there is an annual review requirement.

Task	2025	2026	2027	Provisional workplan comments:
Sharks CMM	Consider what information is necessary to include in the ARP2 to determine the effectiveness of the alternatives and recommend to the Commission changes to Annex 2 of CMM 2024-XX.	Provide advice to inform review of CMM 2022-04	Provide advice to the Commission on the effectiveness of the measures set out in paragraph 9 as alternatives to the obligation contained in paragraph 7 and recommend measures for consideration and possible adoption at WCPFC24.	<p>Included based on SC20 recommended review of CMM 2022-04 in 2027 and reflecting WCPFC21 outcomes in the updated CMM for Sharks</p> <p>Para 13: The TCC shall review and discuss the reports submitted in accordance with Paragraphs 10 and 11 in 2025, 2026, and 2027. TCC23 shall, taking into account, the outcomes from these reports and discussions, advise the Commission on the effectiveness of the measures set out in paragraph 9 as alternatives to the obligation contained in paragraph 7 and recommend measures for consideration and possible adoption at the 2027 annual meeting of the Commission. If, in 2025, 2026, or 2027, a CCM who used the alternative measures does not provide information in accordance with paragraph 10 to ensure the effectiveness of the alternative measures set out in paragraph 9, paragraph 9 will expire in 2027 for that CCM.</p>
Charter notification measure			Review CMM and provide advice on any necessary modifications to [CMM 2024-0x]	<p>Date contingent on WCPFC21 decision on extension period</p> <p>“Analyze framework for the management and control of chartered vessels to promote compliance with CMMs, clarify flag and chartering CCM’s control of chartered vessels, and clarify attribution of catch and effort”</p>

Task	2025	2026	2027	Provisional workplan comments:
Sea Turtles		Review and provide advice on revising CMM 2018-04 (Sea Turtles) to ensure that the reporting requirements are clearly defined and to consider expanding the scope of the measure to include mitigation measures for deep-set longline fisheries		
Seabirds	Consider and provide advice on revisions to the seabirds CMM. Provide advice on the supporting material, provided by CCMs and the SSP, in support of the review of the seabird measure.			
Pacific Bluefin	Review and provide advice on Annual Reports of Implementation of MCS Measures for Pacific Bluefin reported by CCMs	Review and provide advice on Annual Reports of Implementation of MCS Measures for Pacific Bluefin reported by CCMs	Review and provide advice on Annual Reports of Implementation of MCS Measures for Pacific Bluefin reported by CCMs	WCPFC21 Outcome – CMM for PBF-MCS para 4.4. The Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) and the Northern Committee (NC) shall separately review the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures reported by CCMs in accordance with this CMM by 2026 and based upon the results of such review, provide recommendations to the Commission.

Task	2025	2026	2027	Provisional workplan comments:
Climate Change		Consider the outcomes and technical information from the CMM vulnerability assessment, and continue to discuss appropriate ways to incorporate climate change into the work of the TCC.	Consider the outcomes and technical information from the CMM vulnerability assessment, and continue to discuss appropriate ways to incorporate climate change into the work of the TCC.	Climate Change workplan * Consider the outcomes and technical information from the CMM vulnerability assessment, and continue to discuss appropriate ways to incorporate climate change into the work of the TCC. * TCC to annually review climate change information to provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures * TCC's annual review of available information to also provide recommendations to the Commission identifying information gaps, necessary analyses, and any additional tasks to ensure the Commission's conservation and management measures contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention.
Article 14(1)(b) monitor and review compliance with conservation and management measures				
Use of ROP data in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme	Further develop and implement sampling methodology			TCC20 Outcomes para 13
Review of "Implementation" obligations	Consider reporting on review of implementation obligations.			TCC20 Outcomes para 18
Review and assess Commission's implementation of CMM 2013-06	Discuss approach to review Commission implementation of CMM 2013-06			TCC20 Outcomes para 73

Task	2025	2026	2027	Provisional workplan comments:
Observer participation in the CMS		Review NPD status of data used in the CMS	Develop guidelines for the participation of observers in the Compliance Review Process taking into account the review of NPD status of data.	TCC Chair proposed approach
Corrective Actions			[Develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivize CCM's compliance with the Commission's obligations, where non-compliance is identified.]	
Transshipment	The Commission tasks TCC, commencing in 2025, to use TCC20-2024-DP07 as a reference to continue the work required to strengthen the transshipment measure.			PNA+ proposal to WCPFC21: propose the Commission take a decision that the framework set out in TCC20 DP-07 shall be used by TCC for the assessment of compliance with paragraph 37 of CMM 2009-06, relating to the determination of circumstances where it is impracticable for certain vessels to tranship or land fish at feasible and allowable locations other than on the high seas, as compared to total operating costs, net revenues, or some other meaningful measure of costs and/or revenues.
Marine Pollution		Provide advice on revisions of CMM 2017-04 for consideration by WCPFC23.		

Article 14(1)(c) implementation of cooperative measures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement				
High Seas Boarding and Inspections	Consider and provide advice to Commission on voluntary regional guidelines and best practices for the use of tools in conducting HSBI			TCC20 Outcomes para 67 – intersessional work to be led by Australia.
Port States Minimum Standards CMM 2017-02	Review CMM 2017-02			TCC20 Outcomes para 61 and 63 – intersessional work to be led by Fiji
Data Exchange	Review progress on establishment/implementation of data exchange arrangements with other RFMOs			TCC20 Outcomes para 62
Electronic Monitoring	<p>Review and support work of the EREMWG, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review EM data requirements based on relevant CMM requirements not already covered in the ROP minimum data fields (work in conjunction with ROP-IWG); • develop advice on potential changes to the interim EM standards to improve harmonization across RFMOs; • Develop an assurance/audit process for EM standards based on the existing ROP audit model; d. initiate work on EM standards for carrier vessels conducting 	Provide advice on any necessary changes to the interim EM Standards based on the work of the ER and EM IWG and any other relevant information.		TCC20 Outcomes para 55

	<p>transhipment with longline vessels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider amendment to the CMM 2022-05 Standards, specifications and procedures for the WCPFC RFV would be required to support implementation 			
Transshipment verification				[Tasking contingent on outcomes of TS-IWG discussions at WCPFC21]
ROP-IWG	<p>Consider work of the ROP-IWG, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of ROP minimum data fields - Review of prenotification process, streamlining the inclusion of ROP data in the CCFS - Standardised process for use of ROP data in CCFS - Consideration of adding non-fish transfers to the observer minimum data fields for observing transhipment 			TCC20 Outcomes para 50 and 16



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Suva, Fiji (Hybrid)

Adopted Audit Points

Adopted Audit Point	Comment
1. North Pacific Swordfish Measure CMM 2023-03 02 Category: Quantitative Limit (QL) The CCM reported in AR Pt2 its level of fishing effort of its fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish in the Convention Area north of 20N and the Secretariat can verify, considering footnote 4 of the CMM, the CCM's reported information and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded.	<i>TCC20 recommended Audit Point (ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 19)</i>
2. North Pacific Swordfish Measure CMM 2023-03 02 Category: Report (RP) The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of information on all catches and effort by CCM flagged vessels subject to the limits in paragraph 2 using the template at Annex 1 of CMM 2023-03 .	<i>TCC20 recommended Audit Point (ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 19)</i>
3. Tropical Tuna Measure CMM 2023-01 13 Category: Implementation (IM) CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from fishing on FADs between 1 July and 15 August in EEZs and high seas between 20N and 20S. b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not fish on FADs in EEZs and on high seas between 20N and 20S and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled. *FOR PNA MEMBERS THAT NOTIFY EXEMPTIONS AS PER FOOTNOTE 1: In addition to the statements required in a and b for its flagged vessels operating in other EEZs and on the high seas between 20N and 20S, the PNA member submitted a notification to the WCPFC ED within 15 days of its approval of an arrangement to which domestic vessels that the one-and-a-half (1 1/2)-month FAD closure will not apply in PNA member EEZ.	<i>Minor adjustment to the audit points adopted for the corresponding paragraph of the previous tropical tuna measure, CMM 2021-01.</i>
4. Tropical Tuna Measure 2023-01 14 Category: Implementation (IM)	<i>Minor adjustment to the audit points adopted for the</i>

Adopted Audit Point	Comment
<p>Based on the CCM's notification by the required deadline of its choice of implementation of which additional one month of FAD closure on the high seas, the CCM has submitted a statement that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from fishing on FADs on the high seas between 20N and 20S during the chosen one-month closure period b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not fish on FADs on the high seas between 20N and 20S during the chosen additional one-month closure period, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled. 	<p><i>corresponding paragraph of the previous tropical tuna measure, CMM 2021-01.</i></p>
<p>5. Tropical Tuna Measure CMM 2023-01 38 Category: Quantitative Limit (QL)</p> <p>The CCM reported its total bigeye longline catch in its AR Pt2 and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported catch level and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded.</p> <p>* FOR any CCM who chose to increase its BET catch limit with a proportional increase of observer coverage, the Secretariat can confirm that the CCM notified the Secretariat by the end of February of the year of fishing operations and can verify and confirm, through ROP/EM data received by WCPFC, that the required observer coverage was achieved according to agreed upon minimum data standards for human and/or electronic monitoring.</p>	<p><i>Builds on the audit point adopted for the corresponding paragraph of the previous tropical tuna measure, CMM 2021-01, some new language has been added to cover the new provision which allows conditional BET catch limit increase subject to increased observer coverage.</i></p>
<p>6. Catch and Effort Reporting CMM 2022-06 01 Category: Implementation (IM)</p> <p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM vessel masters to complete an accurate written or electronic log of every day it spends at sea on the high seas of the Convention Area, as required by this paragraph. b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its vessel masters complete an accurate written or electronic log of every day it spends at sea on the high seas of the Convention Area as required by this paragraph, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement. <p>* Secretariat to note the footnote for fishing vessels less than 24 meters in length and troll vessels targeting albacore and the respective time frame for the mandatory implementation of electronic log.</p>	<p><i>Minor adjustment to the audit points adopted for the corresponding paragraph of the previous version of the CMM, CMM 2013-05.</i></p>
<p>7. Catch and Effort Reporting Measure CMM 2022-06 02 Category: Implementation (IM)</p> <p>CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM vessel masters to record the minimum specified information in para 2(i-iii) of CMM 2022-06. 	<p><i>Minor adjustment to the audit points adopted for the corresponding paragraph of the previous version of the CMM, CMM 2013-05.</i></p>

Adopted Audit Point	Comment
b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that its vessel masters record the minimum specified information, and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of noncompliance with this requirement.	
8. Catch and Effort Reporting Measure CMM 2022-06 03 Category: Implementation (IM) CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms its implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires the master of each vessel referred to in paragraph 1 to provide the required information electronically to its national authority or its designated institution within the time frame set out in this paragraph. b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that the master of each vessel referred to in paragraph 1 provide the required information electronically to its national authority or its designated institution within the time frame set out in this paragraph and how CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.	<i>Some adjustment to the audit points adopted for the corresponding paragraph of the previous version of the CMM, CMM 2013-05.</i>
9. Catch and Effort Reporting Measure CMM 2022-06 04 Category: Report (RP) The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted the required information electronically (as set out in paragraph 2) by April 30 of the following year as required by Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission.	<i>New obligation not previously reviewed through the CMR.</i>
10. Catch and Effort Reporting Measure CMM 2022-06 05 Category: Implementation (IM) CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM vessel masters to provide an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the information required under CMM 2022-06 pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip b. describes how CCM is monitoring and ensuring that CCM vessel masters provide an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip, and how the CCM responds to potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement.	<i>Minor adjustment to the audit points adopted for the corresponding paragraph of the previous version of the CMM, CMM 2013-05.</i>
11. Record of Fishing Vessels Measure CMM 2018-06 6(s) Category: Report (RP) The Secretariat confirms that, based on VMS data, RFV records and Fished/Not Fished reports, IMO/LR number information is included in the RFV or was submitted to the Secretariat for CCM vessels that were eligible for IMO number or Lloyd's Register number and fished in the Convention Area beyond the CCM's area of national jurisdiction in the reporting year.	<i>CMM 2018-06 6s has not been previously assessed as a standalone obligation. It has previously been assessed in CMR as CMM 2022-05 02 (formerly CMM 2014-03 02) which has an agreed audit point.</i>



2024 FINAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT (COVERING 2023 ACTIVITIES)

Executive Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. WCPFC21 undertook its annual review of compliance by CCMs in accordance with the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) adopted at WCPFC20 – CMM 2023-04. The main change from the earlier CMS was the inclusion of paragraph 15 to address the imbalance between the information available for monitoring compliance between the longline and purse seine fisheries through a random sampling mechanism developed by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Services Provider. The new measure also embedded a number of key elements of the work undertaken to date on the CMS, in particular the work on audit points.
2. In 2024 TCC20 and WCPFC21 assessed CCMs' compliance over RY2023 against a list of obligations agreed to at WCPFC20. The CMS provides for TCC to identify a compliance assessment for each specific obligation that is assessed. Where audit points have been agreed, the review of the dCMR and application of a compliance score was undertaken based on these for RY2023.
3. In accordance with paragraph 7 and Annex I of CMM 2023-04, the following statuses were considered in making the assessments: Compliant, Non-Compliant, Priority Non-Compliant, Capacity Assistance Needed, and CMM Review or Audit Point Review.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT BY TCC20

4. TCC20 reviewed the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR for RY2023) for thirty-eight (38) CCMs and for one obligation for one (1) collective group of Members in a closed session. Some CCMs reiterated the importance of transparency in all aspects of the Commission's work and supported holding the CMR process in open sessions in the future.

III. COMPLIANCE REVIEW PROCESS

5. TCC20 considered the CMR Review Process in advance of conducting its review (**WCPFC-TCC20-2024-08**).
6. TCC20 agreed that it would prioritise consideration of the 101 potential compliance issues identified by the Secretariat in the full draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR). The breakdown of potential issues in the dCMR was as follows:

12	Potential Issues for Quantitative Limits (QL)
58	Potential Issues for Implementation Obligations (IM)
28	Potential Issues for Report Obligations (RP)
3	Deadline (DL) Potential Issues.

7. TCC20 agreed that in line with the approach taken in previous CMR reviews, CCMs may raise additional potential issues not identified in the dCMR. Consistent with the practice of past years, the review of the dCMR would be undertaken obligation by obligation, not by CCM. In addition, TCC20 agreed to limit the practice of allowing CCMs to provide additional information verbally to situations of clarification only.
8. The dCMR had been prepared based on the list of obligations for assessment agreed by WCPFC20 (**WCPFC-TCC20-2024-08 Annex 3**). Where audit points had been agreed, the review of the dCMR and the application of a compliance score were undertaken based on these.
9. Where a status of “Non-Compliant” or “Priority Non-Compliant” was assigned, TCC20 determined in accordance with CMM 2023-04, paragraph 42, that CCMs may provide additional information up to 21 days after TCC20, noting that additional information is limited to filling an information gap.
10. The CMR SWG met in the margins of WCPFC21 to consider additional information CCM’s provided up to 21 days after TCC20 and whether this additional information warranted a change in CCM’s compliance status.
11. TCC20 confirmed that breaches of quantitative limits would be assigned a status of “Priority Non-Compliant” in accordance with criteria a. and c. in the Compliance Status Table of CMM 2023-04.
12. The CMR process for TCC20 was undertaken in three stages:
 - 1) Review of Capacity Assistance Needed statuses from previous years;
 - 2) Review of updates on outstanding implementation obligations from 2022;
 - 3) Review of issues arising from the dCMR and application of a compliance status for 2023.
13. TCC20 agreed not to review the aggregate tables this year due to issues arising from consideration of a novel sampling mechanism, which is still to be developed.

IV. SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE REVIEW ASSESSMENTS

a. Capacity Assistance Needs

14. TCC20 received reports from CCMs on the progress of Capacity Development Plans covering activities in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (**WCPFC-TCC20-2024-28**). As a general point TCC20 requested CCMs with ongoing capacity needs to update their Capacity Development Plans, to provide an overview of progress towards meeting the obligation and where needed to revise the expected completion date.
15. The outcomes of the discussions are in the table and information set out below.

Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed Completed
Scientific data provision (SciData 03)	Indonesia (RY2016, RY 2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	

Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed Completed
Requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including reporting requirements (CMM 2011-03 paragraph 2)	Vanuatu (RY2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3) Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)	Indonesia (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	
100% purse seine observer coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35 / CMM 2021-01 33)	Indonesia (RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	
100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 33)	Philippines (RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	
CCMs to require longline vessels to carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to handle and promptly release sea turtles, as well as dip-nets where appropriate (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 06)	French Polynesia (RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	French Polynesia (RY2023)
Report in Part 2 Annual Report describing any alternative measures from those in CMM 2019-04 SHARKS which are applied by CCMs in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 5)	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023) – TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable

Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed Completed
Measures necessary to require all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized and ensure the prohibition of finning - including consideration of paragraph 10 endorsed alternative measures (CMM 2019-04 paragraphs 7-10)	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Annual report on shark fins attached/alternative measures and meeting of deadline (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 11)	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023) – TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable
Measures to prevent fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping and landing any fins harvested in contravention of CMM 2019-04 (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 12)	Vanuatu (RY2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Requirement to take measures necessary to ensure carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transhipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 13)	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Requirement to implement at least one option to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries, and notify choice and whenever the selected option is changed (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 14-15)	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
CCMs to develop and report their management plans for longline fisheries targetting sharks in their Part 2 Annual Report (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 16)	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023) – TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable

Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed Completed
Requirement to ensure that sharks that are caught but are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel in order to facilitate species identification (only applicable where observer or EM camera is present, and where safe for crew and observers) (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 18)	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Requirement to prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing oceanic whitetip & silky sharks (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(01))	Vanuatu (RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Requirement to release oceanic whitetip & silky sharks asap (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(02))	Vanuatu (RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Requirement that if oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to government or discarded (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(03))	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Prohibition for purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 21(01-7))	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Requirements to prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing mobulid rays (CMM 2019-05 paragraphs 04-06, 08,10)	Vanuatu (RY2021, RY 2022)	Vanuatu (RY 2023)
Pacific bluefin required report CMM 2020-02 05	Vanuatu (RY2021)	Vanuatu (RY2023)
Pacific bluefin required report on implementation CMM 2020-02 11	Vanuatu (RY2021)	Vanuatu (RY2023)

Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed Completed

a. **Indonesia** (SciData 03): Indonesia reported that it continued to face challenges in submitting all the required data to SPC, noting that they are at 96% of operational data provision but still need additional time to get to 100%. TCC noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

b. **Vanuatu** (CMM 2011-03 paragraph 2): Vanuatu reported that the requirements relating to unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, were being implemented through general provisions in their fisheries legislation and licence terms and conditions, pending the development of more specific regulations. On this basis the obligations are being met and capacity assistance is no longer required. TCC20 noted that Vanuatu had sought CAN status at TCC19 for this and other obligations due to an understanding that its fisheries legislation was not sufficiently specific. As Vanuatu's legislation, licence terms and conditions, and monitoring and control are now considered sufficient, CAN status is no longer required.

c. **Indonesia** (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3 / CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3): Indonesia reported that there was some progress in meeting the shark catch reporting requirements. It reports catch to Commission in aggregate of total numbers of those species and since 2022 the catches of sharks and its status (release, dead, alive) were partly provided in its Annual Report Part 1. Data on by-catches of sharks by species by gear is still challenging for Indonesia to provide. Additional assistance is needed to improve data collection, including through the holding of a further SPC workshop. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

d. **Indonesia** (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35) Indonesia reported ongoing issues with regard to human resources and the number of available observers to meet the 100% observer coverage in national waters. However, it had made progress. When it first had a Capacity Development Plan, Indonesia had no observer coverage in the EEZ and high seas. It increased its coverage to 40-50% coverage, and in recent years to about 80%. TCC20 noted its expectation that the CAN Plan would be updated with the timeframe for completion of the 100% observer coverage. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

e. **Philippines:** (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35) The Philippines reported that it did not have enough observers for 100% coverage and were in discussion with industry on the cost of deployment. It reported that on the Pacific side of the Philippines EEZ, observer coverage was about 60%. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.

f. **French Polynesia:** (CMM 2018-04) French Polynesia reported that it had regulations and best practice guidelines in place for mitigation, handling and safe release of turtles. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 French Polynesia its capacity assistance needs had been met.

g. **Vanuatu:** (CMM 2019-04) Vanuatu reported that the requirements relating to the shark measure were being implemented through general provisions in their fisheries legislation and licence terms and conditions, pending the development of more specific regulations. On this basis the obligations are being met and capacity assistance is no longer required. TCC20 noted that Vanuatu had sought CAN status at TCC19 for obligations in the shark measure due to an understanding that its fisheries legislation was not sufficiently specific. As Vanuatu's legislation, licence terms and conditions, and monitoring and control are now considered sufficient, CAN status is no longer required.

h. **Vanuatu:** (CMM 2020-02) Vanuatu reported that its required reports under the Pacific bluefin tuna measure had been submitted. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 and RY2023 Vanuatu its capacity assistance needs had been met.

16. TCC20 also agreed that Fiji and Vanuatu would be assessed as CAN for a number of obligations for RY2023 and they submitted Capacity Development Plans as required by CMM 2023-04. The obligations for which capacity assistance needs for Fiji and Vanuatu have been identified are set out in Section VI below.

b. Review of updates on outstanding implementation obligations from 2022

17. TCC20 recognised that the trial for a streamlined consideration of IM obligations should assist in future CMR reviews. TCC20 recalled that where a CCM has provided a statement of implementation that met the Audit Point, that status would not change unless there is an amendment to the obligation or if the circumstances of the CCM change (**WCPFC-TCC20-2024-11**).

18. TCC20 reviewed the list of twelve (12) issues for eight (8) implementation obligations for four (4) CCMs from RY2022 where TCC assessed that most applicable CCMs have met the adopted Audit Point. TCC20 reviewed progress by the remaining few CCMs to resolve their implementation gaps identified from previous year/s. The obligation, CCM and statement of implementation is set out in the table below.

Obligation	CCM CMR issue	Statement of IM meets the audit point
Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set (CMM 2011-03 01)	Indonesia (RY2022)	Implementation gap remains
Take measures necessary to prevent fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping and landing any fins harvested in contravention of CMM 2019-04 (CMM 2019-04 12)	Philippines (RY2022)	Implementation gap resolved as of September 2023
Take measures necessary to ensure carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify (CMM 2019-04 13)	Philippines (RY2022)	Implementation gap resolved as of September 2023

Obligation	CCM CMR issue	Statement of IM meets the audit point
Ensure that sharks that are caught but are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel in order to facilitate species identification (only applicable where observer or EM camera is present, and where safe for crew and observers) (CMM 2019-04 18)	Philippines (RY2021, RY2022)	Implementation gap resolved as of September 2023
Ensure that sharks that are caught but are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel in order to facilitate species identification (only applicable where observer or EM camera is present, and where safe for crew and observers) (CMM 2019-04 18)	United States (RY2021, RY2022)	Implementation gap resolved as of June 2023
Requirement to release oceanic whitetip & silky sharks asap (CMM 2019-04 20 (02))	Philippines (RY2021, RY2022)	Implementation gap resolved as of September 2023
If oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to govt or discarded (CMM 2019-04 20 (03))	Philippines (RY2021, RY2022)	Implementation gap resolved as of September 2023
If oceanic whitetip & silky sharks caught, must be given to govt or discarded (CMM 2019-04 20 (03))	Nicaragua (RY2021, RY2022)	Implementation gap remains
Prohibit purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks (CMM 2019-04 21 (01-07))	Indonesia (RY2020, 2021, 2022)	Implementation gap remains
Prohibit purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks (CMM 2019-04 21 (01-07))	Nicaragua (RY2022)	Implementation gap remains
Purse seine 3-month FAD closure (1 July - 30 September) (CMM 2021-01 14)	Indonesia (RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	Implementation gap remains
Purse seine 3-month FAD closure (1 July - 30 September) (CMM 2021-01 14)	Philippines (RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)	Implementation gap remains

19. TCC20 also confirmed that French Polynesia's Implementation gap was resolved for **CMM 2018-04 06**, and that Vanuatu's Implementation gaps were resolved for the following obligations:

- CMM 2011-03 02
- CMM 2019-04 07-10
- CMM 2019-04 12
- CMM 2019-04 13
- CMM 2019-04 14-15

- CMM 2019-04 18
- CMM 2019-04 20 (01)
- CMM 2019-04 20 (02)
- CMM 2019-04 02 (03)
- CMM 2019-04 21 (01-07)
- CMM 2019-05 (04-06, 08,10)

c. Review of dCMR and issues arising

20. As per the process undertaken in previous CMR reviews, the review of issues arising from the dCMR was undertaken in the TCC20 plenary session.
21. The dCMR was prepared based on the list of obligations for assessment agreed by WCPFC20. The review of the dCMR prioritised those potential issues identified by the Secretariat. Following this an opportunity was provided for CCMs to raise other issues.
22. There were no obligations which were ‘not assessed’ for CCMs. There were no assessments on which consensus could not be reached at TCC20.
23. TCC20 noted the new compliance status in CMM 2023-04 of ‘CMM Review or Audit Point Review’. CMM 2023-04 sets out the criteria for the compliance score (there is a lack of clarity on the requirements of an obligation) and the response (the Commission shall review that obligation and clarify its requirements). TCC20 sought to differentiate between ‘CMM Review’ on the one hand and ‘Audit Point Review’ on the other hand.
- a) *CMM Review*
24. There were no obligations that TCC20 assessed as CMM Review.
- b) *Audit Point Review*
25. There was one obligation that TCC20 assessed as Audit Point Review:
- **CMM 2006-04 para 1: SW Striped Marlin (QL):** TCC20 noted that there was an issue with the requirement to limit the number of fishing vessels ‘fishing for’ SW Striped Marlin south of 15°S to 2000 – 2004 levels. While paragraph 4 makes a distinction between CCMs vessels fishing for SW Striped Marlin and those taking that species as bycatch, different views were expressed as to whether ‘fishing for’ meant a targeted fishery or whether ‘fishing for’ included where SW Striped Marlin were caught as a bycatch. Some members considered that CMM Review implied that the whole CMM needed to be reviewed, whereas Audit Point Review provided an avenue to review the obligation. TCC20 assessed the obligation as ‘Audit Point Review’ on the understanding that this does not imply the audit point necessarily has to be changed, but that the interpretation of the obligation requires clarification. TCC20 agreed that this issue would be considered further in plenary under Agenda item 8.1.
26. In addition, TCC20 recommended to WCPFC21 that certain CMMs, obligations or Audit Points would benefit from further consideration by the Commission to assist in assessing compliance. These together with some other matters are considered in Section V below.
27. The RY2023 assessments are set out in Appendix 1. Consistent with the Final Compliance Monitoring Reports for 2022, CCMs evaluated as “Non-Compliant” or “Priority Non-Compliant” for obligations are strongly encouraged to address their implementation issues.

V. ISSUES RELATED TO SPECIFIC CMMs OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS

28. TCC20 noted that the development of agreed audit points had assisted in addressing previous issues encountered at TCC where there were different interpretations of the obligations and different views on how implementation of the obligation was to be assessed. Nevertheless, there were some issues identified by CCMs which were of an ongoing nature. Some of these required further consideration by the Commission.

- **CMM 2012-03 02 (QL):** Some CCMs provided the background to this provision and the original exemption from the 5% observer coverage for fisheries fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20°N. This raised the ongoing relationship between the 5% observer coverage requirement in CMM 2012-03 and CMM 2018-05. An additional difficulty is that WCPFC data requirements do not capture information which specifies if the vessel is catching fish for fresh or frozen landing. Some CCMs questioned the applicability of CMM 2012-03 in light of the broader observer requirements and the reasons for the original exemption for the fishery. There were differing views on whether this was 'CMM Review' or 'Audit Point Review'. TCC20 took no decision on this and maintained the approach adopted in the dCMR.
- **CMM 2018-06 11 (RP):** There were different approaches taken to the requirement to report extraordinary circumstances as to why IMO or LR number is not able to be obtained. TCC20 noted the requirement in paragraph 6 of CMM 2018-06 to have an IMO number. If there is no number, paragraph 11 of the CMM requires the reporting of extraordinary circumstances. Some CCMs provided explanations as to why IMO numbers were not obtained, and other CCMs considered that administrative reasons for non-compliance were not 'extraordinary circumstances'. TCC20 agreed that vessels fishing beyond the flag CCMs waters in the Convention Area should have an IMO number, and recommended that the Commission consider 1) developing a new audit point for CMM 2018-06 paragraph 6(s) and 2) provide clarity on the obligation in paragraph 11 of CMM 2018-06 and its Audit Point.
- **CMM 2018-06 18 (IM):** TCC20 agreed with the Secretariat's interpretation that the application of the obligation to prohibit landings in ports or transshipments to vessels not on the RFV, is not limited to CCMs with ports in the Convention Area. TCC20 clarified that the obligation is applicable to all CCMs with ports where fish caught in the Convention Area may be landed or transhipped.
- **CMM 2021-01 25 (QL):** TCC20 noted that there were a number of discrepancies between the data provided by CCMs and that verified by the SPC on high seas purse seine effort. TCC20 encouraged CCMs to continue to work with SPC to resolve any such discrepancies.
- **CMM 2021-02 04 (QL):** Some CCMs noted that there had been exceptional upsurge in bycatch of Pacific bluefin tuna within their EEZs, which resulted in two CCMs exceeding their existing limits under the CMM 2021-02. These limits had been adopted when the Pacific bluefin tuna was in a poor state. TCC20 noted the Northern Committee has considered more appropriate arrangements for the management of Pacific bluefin tuna, including bycatch fisheries in the Southern Hemisphere, which will be considered by the WCPFC21.

VI. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

29. Some targeted assistance was identified to assist SIDS and other CCMs in implementing specific obligations during the dCMR process. These are identified in the table and information set out below.

Obligation	CMR section	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed Score
CMM 2014-02 9a <i>Fishing vessels comply with Commission standards including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet requirements</i>	Implementation	Fiji	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023)
CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8 <i>Provision of ALC/MTU 'VTAF' data</i>	Report	Fiji	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023)
CMM 2018-05 Annex C 06 <i>CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission</i>	Report	Vanuatu	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023)
CMM 2018-06 09 <i>Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel</i>	Report	Fiji	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023)

30. Some areas of capacity assistance were identified by certain CCMs in their Annual Report Part II covering RY2023 and that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2024 are listed in the table below (see **WCPFC-TCC20-2024-28**).

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 Paras 01-03 General Provisions	<p>FSM is a small island developing state and SIDS are the recipients of such assistances.</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia is included in the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) partnership was officially announced at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from September 1 to 4, 2014, in Apia, Samoa. As a committed partner, Indonesia has actively participated in several multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives aimed at supporting SIDS. Notably, Indonesia has been instrumental in the Coral Triangle Initiative, which is operational in several SIDS, including Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This collaboration underscores Indonesia's dedication to fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation in small island nations. For</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>further details on these initiatives, you can visit the following links: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219 http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238"</p> <p>In mid-2020, Indonesia strongly advocated for the mobilization of adequate resources and support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during a high-level discussion. The discussion focused on mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action, and exploring new pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway for SIDS. Indonesia's call underscores its commitment to supporting the sustainable development and resilience of small island nations, highlighting the need for global cooperation to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS.</p> <p>Indonesia unequivocally reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the sustainable development and advancement of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the 4th SIDS Conference on May 28th, 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by these nations and enhancing partnerships based on mutual interests, Indonesia aims to foster significant progress and shared prosperity.</p> <p>Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries that depend much on assistance from regional and sub-regional agencies such as WCPFC, FFA and PNA including donor partners.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>Nauru will continue to implement this measure where possible through FSMA and other arrangements</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>PNG: fully recognizes the SIDs and territories special requirements in the Convention Area in implementing this measure and other applicable measures and shall request assistance if and when required.</p> <p>Samoa as a SIDS have not sought or requested any assistance in accordance with this CMM in the reported year</p> <p>Tonga one of the SIDS countries but it cooperates with regional and sub-regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS fisheries. Tonga is the recipient of the non-SIDs country assistance.</p> <p>Vanuatu cooperates with other SIDS+T and non-SIDS directly and through the Commission to assist SIDS+T develop our fisheries. Example is the work on SPA, through the SPG group, FFA and through the WCPFC SPA IWG.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 Paras 04-05 Capacity development for personnel	<p>FSM is a small developing state and SIDS are the recipients of such assistance. FSM has received capacity development assistance provided through regional and sub-regional programs.</p> <p>Fiji did not make a submission for 2024; however Fiji needs training and attachments in the following areas: 1. WCPFC MCS data analysis; 2. Training on Commission VMS; 3. CMR</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati is a SIDS.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>Nauru will continue to support this measure and implement where possible such as FMSA arrangement and other arrangements</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>PNG has identified and seek assistance to facilitate workshops on Compliance Case File Management.</p> <p>Vanuatu: As mentioned earlier, requests have been submitted for assistance on observer EM related training and support.</p>
CMM 2013-07 Paras 06-07 Assistance with technology transfers	<p>FSM: Collaborating with other SIDS on the development of technology including EM/ER and other digital transformation.</p> <p>Fiji has progressed with initial training and implementation towards 100% vessel coverage on e-reporting and continues to work with SPC that provide the backend support in-country issues experienced during the phase of implementation.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati as small island developing states depend much on technology assistance from regional agencies and development partners.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>PNG is yet to identify technology needs and request for assistance. (Labour Standards / Electronic Reporting)</p> <p>Nauru supports the transferring of fisheries technology to accelerate the social and economic development of SIDS/</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>Samoa has not provided or requested for any assistance as per CMM 2013-07 19 in the reported year, however, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations when assistance is needed</p> <p>Vanuatu: welcomes assistance relating to fisheries science and technology and with the aim of accelerating the social and economic development of VU. Anticipating more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirements. This includes training of personnel on VMS and E-PSMA requirements. Given the broader definition of Technology Transfers, it would be more on the intellectual side, whereby Secretariat provides capacity assistance, enhancing capabilities such as understanding E-PSMA, Bio-economics, VMS gaps etc. The FFA Secretariat also provided technological support work relating to data, VMS and other related matters.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 08-09 Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</p>	<p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati: is one of the SIDS countries depending on assistance from non-SIDS countries.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>Nauru will continue to support this measure and assist SIDS where possible to implement their Commission obligations and ensure the collection and analysis of fisheries data</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>PNG: Adopted CMMs that are applicable and consistent to the national obligations and existing fishery.</p> <p>Samoa is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p>Tonga one of the SIDS countries although our current national capacity does not provide Tonga the ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is the recipient of capacity development assistance.</p> <p>Vanuatu has received capacity assistance on this and also has the opportunity to still assist SIDS, territories on areas such as data sharing, verification through TUFFMAN 2 systems in accordance with data sharing requirements as per</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	relevant instruments and participate in MCS operations, surveillance and monitoring.
CMM 2013-07 Paras 10-11 Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance	<p>FSM: participation in regional/sub-regional fora on MCS. FSM's joint cooperation efforts amongst the FFA membership in maritime surveillance. FSM's participation in implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring, CDS, EM/ER, PSM, FAD tracking and sharing MCS data when necessary.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>Kiribati: As small island state with only one patrol boat to monitor three separated EEZ. Kiribati greatly need assistance from developed partners to assist in both aerial and surface surveillance coverage.</p> <p>RMI is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p>Nauru will continue to support this measure and ensuring SIDS/T participates in regional and sub-regional MCS activities through FFA and PNA programs</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>PNG: cooperates with international, regional, sub regional and bilateral arrangements to ensure effective MCS and Enforcement activities within the region such as FAO, FFA under regional surveillance programs, Ship Rider Agreement and other bilateral Arrangements including MCS exchange programs.</p> <p>Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance if needed.</p> <p>Tonga: participates in sea monitoring control and surveillance and also enforcement activities through bilateral arrangements with territories in the Convention area. Tonga was involved in regional surveillance patrol operation Ika Moana, Kurukuru by providing Navy support Unit Voea Ngahau Koula. The National Monitoring Control Committee (MCC), includes the Port Authority, Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Department, Police Department, Customs Department, and the Navy. The MCC Centre is established by the committee and is housed at Navy Station. MCC conducts a national monitoring within our EEZ once per quarter. Aerial surveillance was provided by FFA in all quarters during the reporting period, and no offenses were reported.</p> <p>The New Zealand Government has a bilateral agreement with Tonga on Aerial Surveillance during the Tuimoana Operation through the NTSA System. During the reporting period, Tonga participated in SPC/FFA regional training for observers, observers refresh training, and newly recruited 10 observers on board, SPC conducted bio-sampling training with observers and staff. Few staff</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>join Certificate IV on Coastal and Aquaculture, Diploma on Investigation and Prosecution Cert, Certificate Level IV on Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance, and Law of the Seas Courses.</p> <p>SPC also conducted training on e-reporting basically for data collection through OLLO, Onboard, and onshore, TAILS, and Close Kin Mark Recapture Sampling training, and SPC also conducted training the Science Division on stock assessment for sea cucumbers. FFA financially supported Tonga in conducting the e-PSM training and Tonga was the first country to implement the e-PSM, Dockside Boarding, NTSA training, and Aerial Surveillance Training.</p> <p>Vanuatu actively participated in numerous regional operations on surveillance and monitoring, both assets and personnel as required by mandate of such engagements. This includes MCS operations coordinated by the FFA RFSC. - Seeking further capacity assistance in this area to ensure its personnel and line agencies respond and operate more efficiently whenever needed.</p>
<p>CMM 2013-07 Paras 12-18 support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access</p>	<p>FSM: PNA Market related initiatives like the development of MSC processes currently in place, implementation of CDS and PSM, and FSM's collaboration with importing CCM's.</p> <p>Fiji has a 100% domestic tuna sector. As such, 2023 was focused on getting our fleets and processing plants back to full operation. As part of Fiji's 2023 support towards the tuna sector, Government allocated 90,000 USD to support markets access for MSC certification. Additionally, to boost and streamline fish processing, Fiji has begun work digitalise vessel arrivals and catch verification to support catch verification process and market demands. There is also an assessment and review of internal processors to ensure that appropriate activities are developed to support Fiji's domestic industry.</p> <p>French Polynesia: FP is a developing territory.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>RMI No additional assistance required at this time however, the RMI may seek further assistance with onshore developments and market access requirements.</p> <p>Nauru will continue to support and implement this measure through the FSMA arrangement and where possible and appropriate.</p> <p>New Caledonia is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p>Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance.</p> <p>Tonga: To support the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries businesses and market access, Tonga implemented it under the Fisheries Management Act 2002, Section 7, Sub-section 36, Fishing Vessels License Term and Condition, Fishing Agreement and Access Agreement with the Fishing Company and Tuna</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>Fisheries Management Plan.</p> <p>Ministry of Fisheries established a Development Scheme for the Fisheries Sector to improve the business climate and reduce the cost of doing business a Fishing Consumer Tax Exemption was approved in June 2013 exempting imported fishing gear, bait, and essential supplies from customs tariffs. In 2013 the operation of the Tu'imatamoana fish market and Processing Facilities was transferred under an MOU to the National Fisheries Committee (Fishing Industries Committee). In addition, the Ministry of Fisheries established a Soft Loan Scheme known Fisheries Development and Export Fund (FDEF) to support the sector market Access. Not only that but the Ministry assisted the Fishing Companies in developing and improving their business planning and management, and offered a comprehensive training and capacity development program.</p> <p>In 2020, Tonga ratified the PACER Plus Agreement is a Regional Development-Centre Trade Agreement designed to support Tonga in regional and Global Trade. Tonga exports fish to international markets (Australia, NZ, USA, Fiji, Pago Pago, Hawaii, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore). The compliance Division inspects 100% of every export before handing the Export Permit to the companies, and entry the export data into the system and reports every quarter.</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS that definitely needs capacity assistance for both domestic and international markets. CCM sees the importance in having such assistance as it will boost domestic and international market standards as well. CCM needs capacity assistance on international market access given the rise and interest in foreign investments in fisheries.</p>

Obligation Category: Quantitative Limits (QL); Implementation (IM); Report (RP); Reporting deadline (DL)

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Obligation	Members and Participating Territories																												Cooperating Non-Members								Applicable CCMs	Compliance (X%)	% compliance			
	AU	CA	CN	CK	EU	FJ	FM	FR	PF	ID	JP	KI	KR	MH	NC	NR	NU	NZ	PG	PH	PW	WS	SB	TV	TW	TK	TO	US	VU	WF	PNA+	CW	EC	SV	LR	NI	PA	TH	VN			
CMM 2018-06 02 IM																																										
CMM 2018-06 09 RP																																										
CMM 2018-06 11 RP																																										
CMM 2018-06 17 IM																																										
CMM 2018-06 18 IM																																										
CMM 2019-05 (04-06, 08, 10) IM																																										
CMM 2019-05 03 IM																																										
CMM 2019-07 22 RP																																										
CMM 2021-01 24 QL																																										
CMM 2021-01 25 QL																																										
CMM 2021-01 37 QL																																										
CMM 2021-01 40 QL																																										
CMM 2021-01 42 QL																																										
CMM 2021-01 44 QL																																										
CMM 2021-01 45 QL																																										
CMM 2021-01 Att 2 03 RP																																										
CMM 2021-02 02 QL																																										
CMM 2021-02 03 QL																																										
CMM 2021-02 04 QL																																										
CMM 2022-04 25 DL																																										
RP																																										
SciData 01 RP																																										
SciData 02 RP																																										
SciData 03 RP																																										
SciData 05 RP																																										

Compliance Status

Compliant

Non Compliant

Priority Non-Compliant

CMM Review

Capacity Assistance Needed

Audit Point review

Members and Participating Territories

AU

Australia

CA

Canada

CN

China

CK

Cook Islands

EU

European Union

FJ

Fiji

FM

Federated States of Micronesia

FR

France

PF

French Polynesia

ID

Indonesia

JP

Japan

KI

Kiribati

KR

Republic of Korea

MH

Marshall Islands

NR

Nauru

NC

New Caledonia

NZ

New Zealand

NU

Niue

PG

Papua New Guinea

PH

Philippines

PW

Palau

WS

Samoa

SB

Solomon Islands

TW

Chinese Taipei

TK

Tokelau

TO

Tonga

TV

Tuvalu

US

United States of America

VU

Vanuatu

WF

Wallis and Futuna

PNA+

Parties to the Nauru Agreement and Tokelau

Cooperating Non-Members

CW

Curaçao

EC

Ecuador

SV

El Salvador

LR

Liberia

NI

Nicaragua

PA

Panama

TH

Thailand

VN

Viet Nam

Appendix 2: 2024 Final Compliance and Monitoring Report (for 2023 activities)

Obligation Category: Quantitative Limits (QL) Implementation (IM) Report (RP) Reporting deadline (DL)

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
CMM 2004-03: Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels					
Para 2 IM Fishing vessel marking and technical specifications	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Curacao, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand	Nicaragua	Ecuador		Ecuador [2]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , Year with a Potential Compliance Issue	
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed		
CMM 2006-04: Conservation and Management Measure for Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific						
Para 1 QL Limit number of vessels fishing for MSL south of 15S to 2000 – 2004 levels.	Audit Point Review					
CMM 2008-04: Conservation and Management Measure to Prohibit the Use of Large-Scale Driftnets on the High Seas of the Convention Area						
Para 2 IM Measures necessary to prohibit use by their vessels of large-scale driftnets in the high seas.	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated State of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, El Salvador, Liberia Panama, Thailand	Philippines, Nicaragua				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status				2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	
CMM 2009-03: Conservation and Management for Swordfish					
Para 1 QL Limit number of vessels fishing for SWO south of 20S to the number in any one year between 2000- 2005.	Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para 2 QL Conservation and management for swordfish	Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				

CMM 2009-06: Conservation and Management Measure on the Regulation of Transhipment

<p>Para 11 RP <i>Annual report on all transhipment activities covered by this Measure (including transhipment activities that occur in ports or EEZs) in accordance with the specified guidelines (Annex II)</i></p>	<p>Australia, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Panama</p>				
<p>Para 35 a (ii) RP <i>Flag State's notification to the Secretariat on its flag vessels that are authorized to tranship on the high seas.</i></p>	<p>China, Japan, Korea, Nauru, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Vanuatu Liberia, Panama, Thailand</p>				
<p>Para 35 a (iii) RP <i>WCPFC Transhipment Advance Notification (including fields in Annex III).</i></p>	<p>China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu Panama</p>				
<p>Para 35 a (iv) RP <i>WCPFC Transhipment Advance Notification (including fields in Annex</i></p>	<p>China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu Panama</p>				

III).					
CMM 2010-01: Conservation Management Measure for the North Pacific Striped Marlin					
Para 5 QL <i>NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011</i>	China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
CMM 2012-03: Conservation and Management Measure for Implementing the ROP by vessels fishing north of 20N					
Para 2 QL <i>CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N.</i>	United States		Japan		
CMM 2014-02: Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission VMS					
Para 9(a) IM <i>Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, United States	Panama	Japan Korea Philippines	Fiji	Japan [7] Korea [2] Philippines [9]

	Curacao, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia Thailand				
<i>Para 9(a) – VMS SSPs para 2.8 RP Provision of ALC/MTU 'VTAF' data</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand	Korea Philippines		Fiji	
<i>CMM 2015-02: Conservation and Management Measure for South Pacific albacore</i>					
<i>Para 1 QL Limit on number of vessels actively fishing for SP ALB south of 20S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels.</i>	Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
<i>Para 4 RP Annual report of SP ALB by vessel by species.</i>	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia,				

	Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Niue, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu				
CMM 2017-02: Conservation and Management Measure on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures					
Para 8 RP <i>Port CCMs to ensure fisheries inspections are conducted by Government Authorized Inspectors.</i>	Australia, France, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Solomon Islands, United States Thailand				
Para 9-10 RP <i>Minimum requirement for vessels to be inspected by Port CCMs.</i>	Australia, France, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Solomon Islands, United States Thailand				
Para 17 RP <i>Expected actions by Port CCMs where there is sufficient evidence of IUU fishing.</i>	Australia, France, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Solomon Islands, United States Thailand				
Para 19 and 21 RP <i>Requirement to notify and maintain current Port CCM contacts with WCPFC and advise of Port State measures applying</i>	Australia, France, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Solomon Island, United States Thailand				

<i>in designated ports.</i>					
<p>Para 26 RP <i>Requirement to encourage use of ports of SIDS to the extent practicable.</i></p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, France, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Thailand</p>	Vietnam			
CMM 2017-04: Conservation and Management Measure on Marine Pollution					
<p>Para 2 IM <i>Prohibit fishing vessels from discharging any plastics (including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene) but not including fishing gear.</i></p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines,</p>	<p>Ecuador Nicaragua</p>			

	Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand				
<p>Para 5 RP <i>Encourage adoption of additional measures to reduce marine pollution through retrieval of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear for discharge at port reception facilities and to report the location of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear.</i></p>	<p>Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>				
<p>Para 8 RP <i>Requirement to actively support SIDS and Territories through provision of adequate port facilities for</i></p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Panama, Papua New Guinea,</p>	Nicaragua			

<i>receiving and appropriately disposing of waste from fishing vessels.</i>	Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
CMM 2018-03: Conservation and Management Measure to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds					
Para 01,02,06 IM <i>Required longline mitigation measures to reduce incidental catch of seabirds applying north of 23N or south of 25S.</i>	Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu				
Para 8 RP <i>Report on which mitigation measures are used north of 23N or south of 25S, as well as technical specifications. Subsequent years include advice on any changes.</i>	Australia, China, European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu				
CMM 2018-04: Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles					
Para 04 RP <i>CCMs to ensure fishermen use proper mitigation and handling techniques and foster the recovery of any turtles that are incidentally captured.</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Island, Tuvalu,	Nicaragua			

	Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				
<i>Para 07d</i> IM <i>CCMs to ensure vessels fishing in a shallow-set manner are required to report all incidents involving sea turtles.</i>	Australia, Canada, European Union, Fiji, Japan, New Zealand, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu				
CMM 2018-05: Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme					
<i>Para 07</i> IM <i>Vessels to be prepared to accept an observer from the ROP, if required.</i>	Australia, Canada, China Cook Islands, European Union, Federated states of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Vanuatu Curacao, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand	Ecuador Nicaragua			
<i>Para 09</i> IM <i>CCMs shall source observers for their vessels as determined by</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji,	Ecuador Nicaragua			

<i>the Commission.</i>	Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Island, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Vanuatu Curacao, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand				
Annex C 06 RP <i>CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission.</i>	Australia, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated State of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, New Caledonia New Zealand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States			Vanuatu	
CMM 2018-06: Conservation and Management Measure on the Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish					
Para 02 IM <i>CCMs to ensure its fishing vessels only tranship to/from, and provide bunkering for/ are bunkered by or otherwise supported by vessels on the RFV.</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federates States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Papua, New	Nicaragua			

	Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panamá, Thailand				
<p>Para 09 RP <i>Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel.</i></p>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, China, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshal Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama			Fiji	
<p>Para 11 RP <i>Requirement to report extraordinary circumstances as to why IMO or LR number is not able to be obtained.</i></p>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Tonga Curacao, Liberia, Panama	Philippines United States			
Para 17	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands,	Nicaragua			

<p>IM</p> <p><i>Flag CCM to ensure fishing vessels are on RFV is accordance with this CMM. Vessels not on RFV shall be deemed not authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land HMFS in Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of its flag State.</i></p>	<p>European Union, Federates States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand</p>				
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<p>Para 18 IM <i>CCMs to prohibit landings in ports or transshipment to vessels not on RFV.</i></p>	<p>Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, European Union, Fiji, Federated states of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand Vietnam</p>	<p>France Curacao Ecuador Nicaragua</p>			
<p>CMM 2019-05: Conservation and Management Measure on Mobulid Rays caught in association with fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area</p>					
<p>Para 03 IM <i>Prohibit targeted fishing or intentional setting on mobulid rays.</i></p>	<p>Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu,</p>	<p>United States Ecuador Nicaragua</p>			

	Vanuatu El Salvador				
<i>Para 04-06,08,10 IM Prohibit retaining/transshipping /storing/landing mobulid rays.</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama		United States Nicaragua		United States[3] Nicaragua[3]
CMM 2019-07: Conservation Management Measure for the Establishment of a List of IUU Vessels for the WCPFC					
<i>Para 22 RP CCMs shall take all necessary non- discriminatory measures, including under their applicable legislation, to take certain actions in respect of vessels listed on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau,				

	Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand, Viet Nam				
CMM 2021-01: Conservation and Management Measure for Tropical Tuna					
Para 24 QL <i>Purse seine EEZ limits (for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna) and advice from other coastal CCMs of EEZ limits to be applied.</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Niue, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu		Wallis and Futuna		Wallis and Futuna [7]
Para 25 QL <i>High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S.</i>	China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States Ecuador, El Salvador		Nicaragua		
Para 37 QL <i>Bigeye longline annual catch limits for 2021-2023, with adjustment to be made for any overage.</i>	China, Indonesia Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para 40 QL <i>Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain</i>	Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand, Philippines				

<i>other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004.</i>					
Para 42 QL <i>Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S.</i>	Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Ecuador, El Salvador		Nicaragua		
Para 44 QL <i>Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye above the current level (applying domestic quotas are exempt).</i>	China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States				
Para 45 QL <i>Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye and landing exclusively fresh fish above the current level or above the number of current licenses under established limited entry programmes (applying domestic quotas are exempt).</i>	China, Japan, Philippines, United States				

Att 2 03 RP <i>Philippines vessels Entry/Exit reports for HSP1-SMA.</i>			Philippines		Philippines [5]
CMM 2021-02: Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna					
Para 2 QL <i>Total effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N.</i>	Australia, Canada China, Japan Korea, New Zealand Philippines, Chinese Taipei United States				
Para 3 QL <i>Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei applying from 2022.</i>	Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei				
Para 04 QL <i>Pacific Bluefin 30kg or larger catch limits, by flag for certain other members.</i>	Canada, China, European Union, Philippines, United States		Australia, New Zealand		
CMM 2022-04: Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks					

<p>Para 25 RP <i>Report on Implementation of CMM 2022-04 Sharks (Part 2 Annual Report).</i></p>	<p>Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, France, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand</p>				
<p>Para 25 DL <i>Report on Implementation of CMM 2022-04 Sharks (Part 2 Annual Report)</i></p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, France, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei,</p>	<p>Niue, Nicaragua</p>			

	United States, Vanuatu Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand				
Scientific Data to be provided					
<i>Section 01</i> <i>Estimate of Annual</i> <i>Catches</i> RP	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador				

<p><i>Section 02 number of vessels active</i> RP</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, French Polynesia, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador</p>				
<p><i>Section 03 operational level catch and effort</i> <i>Data</i> RP</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu Ecuador, El Salvador</p>			Indonesia	Indonesia [8]

<p><i>Section 05 size composition data</i> RP</p>	<p>Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Indonesia Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, El Salvador</p>	<p>Ecuador</p>			
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List of Obligations for review by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2025

******: updated or new Audit Points were adopted at WCPFC21

22 Quantitative Limit Obligations¹

- [CMM 2006-04 01](#) **QL** Limit number of fishing vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S to 2000 – 2004 levels.
- [CMM 2009-03 01](#) **QL** Limit number of vessels fishing for SWO south of 20S to the number in any one year between 2000-2005.
- [CMM 2009-03 02](#) **QL** Limit the catch of SWO by its vessels in area south of 20S to the amount in any one year during 2000-2006.
- [CMM 2009-06 29](#) **QL** Limit on purse seine vessels transshipment outside of port to vessels that have received an exemption from the Commission. Where applicable, flag CCM authorisation should be vessel-specific and address any specific conditions identified by the Commission.
- [CMM 2009-06 34](#) **QL** Ban on high seas transshipment, unless a CCM has determined impracticability in accordance with para 37 guidelines, and has advised the Commission of such.
- [CMM 2010-01 05](#) **QL** NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011.
- ******[CMM 2012-03 02](#) **QL** CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N. ******
- [CMM 2015-02 01](#) **QL** Limit on number of vessels actively fishing for SP ALB south of 20S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels.
- [CMM 2016-02 06](#) **QL** Transshipment is prohibited in E-HSP from 1 Jan 2019
- [CMM 2019-03 02](#) **QL** CCMs take measures to ensure level of fishing effort by vessels fishing for NP ALB is not increased

¹ [CMM 2023-01 48](#) **QL** Limit on total catch of certain other commercial tuna fisheries (that take >2000Mt of BET, YFT and SKJ) was omitted from the list of obligations for review in 2025, because agreed audit points are pending.

- [CMM 2023-01 24](#) **QL** Purse seine EEZ limits (for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna) and advice from other coastal CCMs of EEZ limits to be applied.
- [CMM 2023-01 25](#) **QL** High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S.
- ****CMM 2023-01 38** **QL** Bigeye longline annual catch limits for 2024-2026, with adjustment to be made for any overage and certain CCMs may also increase the catch limit by committing to proportionate increase in observer coverage level above the minimum 5% ROP coverage level. ******
- [CMM 2023-01 41](#) **QL** Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004.
- [CMM 2023-01 43](#) **QL** Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S.
- [CMM 2023-01 44](#) **QL** CCM reported whether it replaced any of its flagged large scale purse seine vessels in the previous year and has advised the Commission that the replacement vessel did not result in an increase in carrying capacity or an increase in catch or effort levels.
- [CMM 2023-01 45](#) **QL** Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye above the current level (applying domestic quotas are exempt).
- [CMM 2023-01 46](#) **QL** Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye and landing exclusively fresh fish above the current level or above the number of current licenses under established limited entry programmes (applying domestic quotas are exempt).
- [CMM 2023-02 02](#) **QL** Total effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N.
- [CMM 2023-02 03](#) **QL** Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei applying from 2022.
- [CMM 2023-02 04](#) **QL** Pacific Bluefin 30kg or larger catch limits, by flag for certain other members.
- ****CMM 2023-03 02** **QL** CCMs take measures to ensure fishing effort by fisheries taking more than 200mt of NP SWO N20N per year is limited to 2008 – 2010. ******

6 Obligations recommended for annual review

- [CMM 2014-02 9a](#) **IM** Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements;
- [SciData 01](#) **RP** Estimates of Annual Catches
- [SciData 02](#) **RP** Number of vessels active
- [SciData 03](#) **RP** Operational Level Catch and Effort Data
- [SciData 05](#) **RP** Size composition data
- [CMM 2018-05 Annex C 06](#) **RP** CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission
- [CMM 2018-06 09](#) **RP** Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel

18 Additional Implementation Obligations where TCC is yet to review Implementation using agreed Audit Points

Note that other IM obligations have been reviewed or are otherwise covered by the trial streamlining approach for IM obligations.

Operational requirements for fishing vessels

- [CMM 2006-08 07](#) **IM** *Fishing vessels to accept HSBIs boardings by duly authorised inspectors, and as applicable Members to ensure compliance of its authorised inspectors with the HSBIs procedures.*
- [CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 5.4 - 5.5](#) **IM** *VMS Manual Reporting procedures.*
- [CMM 2018-06 04](#) **IM** *Vessels authorization requirement.*
- [CMM 2023-01 32](#) **IM** *Purse seine vessels are not to operate under manual reporting during FAD closure period.*

Additional measures for tropical tunas

- [CMM 2009-02 03-07](#) **IM** *FAD Closure Rules - high seas.*
- [CMM 2009-02 08-13](#) **IM** *Rules for Purse seine catch retention, including reporting - high seas.*
- ****** [CMM 2023-01 13](#) **IM** *Purse seine 1 1/2 month FAD closure (1 July - 15 August).* ******
- ****** [CMM 2023-01 14](#) **IM** *Annual advice on choice and implementation of one additional month high seas purse seine FAD closure (April, May, Nov or Dec).* ******
- [CMM 2023-01 16](#) **IM** *Required FAD design and construction specification requirements to reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or other species (effective 1 Jan 2024).*
- [CMM 2023-01 21](#) **IM** *Each purse seine vessel is limited to no more than 350 FADs with activated instrumented buoys.*
- [CMM 2023-01 26](#) **IM** *CCMs not to transfer fishing effort in days fished in the purse seine fishery to areas N20N and S20S.*
- [CMM 2023-01 30](#) **IM** *Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S).*
- [CMM 2023-01 Att 2 04](#) **IM** *Philippines to ensure its flagged vessels report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat (vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed).*
- [CMM 2023-01 Att 2 08](#) **IM** *Philippines to monitor landings by vessels operating in HSP1-SMA and collect reliable catch data by species.*

Observer activity related requirement

- [CMM 2009-06 13](#) **IM** *CCM shall ensure that vessels they are responsible for carry observers from the WCPFC ROP to observe transshipments at sea.*
- [CMM 2023-01 33](#) **RP** *Requirement for purse seine vessels to carry a ROP observer.*
- [CMM 2023-01 34](#) **IM** *100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction.*

Mitigating impacts of fishing on species of special interest

- [CMM 2022-04 16](#) **IM** *Requirements to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries between 20N and 20S (effective 1 Jan 2024).*

5 Daily catch and effort reporting obligations

- ****[CMM 2022-06 01](#) IM** *Requirement to ensure the master of each vessel completes an accurate electronic log of every day that it spends at sea on the high seas of the Convention Area as specified (effective for most vessels as of 1 Jan 2024).* **
- ****[CMM 2022-06 02](#) IM** *Requirement that information recorded by the master of each vessel each day with fishing operations shall, at a minimum include the information as specified.* **
- ****[CMM 2022-06 03](#) IM** *Requirement that the master of each vessel fishing in the Convention Area provides an required information to its national authority within 15 days of the end of a trip or transshipment event.* **
- ****[CMM 2022-06 04](#) RP** *Requirement to provide operational catch and effort data recorded by the master of each vessel each day with fishing operations to the Commission, and where possible in accordance with the agreed SSPs.* **
- ****[CMM 2022-06 05](#) IM** *Requirement that the master of each vessel fishing in the Convention Area provides an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip.* **

Additional obligation added as decided by the Commission WCPFC21

- [CMM 2022-04 07-10](#) **IM** *Take measures necessary to require all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized and ensure the prohibition of finning (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) - includes consideration of para 10 request from CCM*



WCPFC Climate Change Workplan 2024 - 2027

Objective

Using the WCPFC Convention and Resolution 2019-01 as guides, in response to the WCPFC20 Outcomes, and upon review and input from each subsidiary body (SB), this Workplan will inform the Commission's efforts to address climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries in the Convention Area.

The following sections describe tasks to be taken by the Commission and its SBs to address climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries in the Convention Area.

A schedule of ongoing and planned activities related to climate change work within the Commission and the Subsidiary Bodies is included.

Commission

- Consider and discuss appropriate ways to incorporate climate change into the work of the Commission and the SBs.
- Consider the information derived from the CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.
- Identify and discuss appropriate avenues for incorporating climate change resources available outside the Commission into the work of the Commission in support of executing the work of the Commission.
- Enhance cross-RFMO coordination for climate change discussions, especially with IATTC.

Northern Committee

- Coordinate with ISC as it considers how to incorporate climate change advice into management recommendations to NC
- Consideration of climate change impacts on predator-prey interaction, and ultimately on NC tuna stocks. This would include integration of this information to provide advice to NC and Commission, and engagement with other Pacific Fisheries Bodies

Scientific Committee

- Continue the ongoing work with respect to implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), including developing the ecosystem indicator report cards; climate and ecosystem modelling; enhancing information on essential habitats for

WCPFC target and bycatch species, and on the potential changes to species interactions and spatial overlap in target and bycatch species

- Continue the ongoing work in the SC to agree to climate indicators to track the impact of climate change and ecosystem changes, and develop a process to provide advice to the Commission on the performance of those indicators and the impact of climate change on WCPFC target stocks, non-target species and other scientific aspects, and continue to update and discuss the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card annually;
- Continue exploring ways to enhance data collection systems on environmental and climate information to inform the modelling;
- Consider how the SC structure might be updated to facilitate climate change work while still maintaining other core SC functions, and report on these deliberations and any conclusions to the Commission;
- SC to include as part of the standing agenda on climate change a review of available data to inform the Commission on climate change impacts to stocks and ecosystems in the WCPO, and the potential effects of climate change on related fishing activities, including incorporating climate considerations in the development of harvest strategies and management procedures. The annual review of available data should also provide advice and recommendations to the Commission which identifies information gaps, necessary analyses, and any additional tasks that may further enhance the Commission's ability to account for climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries;
- Coordinate with SPC, ISC and IATTC in continued consideration of how to incorporate climate change advice into stock assessments and associated management recommendations;
- Consider outcomes from the CMM climate vulnerability assessment and discuss appropriate ways to incorporate scientific advice that may assist in future development of CMMs based on the outcomes of the assessment.

Technical and Compliance Committee

- Consider the outcomes and technical information from the CMM vulnerability assessment, and continue to discuss appropriate ways to incorporate climate change into the work of the TCC.
- TCC to annually review climate change information to provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures
- TCC's annual review of available information to also provide recommendations to the Commission identifying information gaps, necessary analyses, and any additional tasks to ensure the Commission's conservation and management measures contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention.

Finance and Administration Committee

- Consider and prioritize any Commission or Secretariat requests for supplementary funds or other resources needed to carry out expanded scientific work or technical assessments associated with climate change.

Science and Management Dialogues and other WCPFC Intersessional Fora

- Addressing climate change is an underlying question for all WCPFC fora, including the 2024 SMD. Include discussions on the incorporation of climate considerations in the development of management procedures for skipjack and South Pacific albacore.

The tasks defined in this Workplan will be adaptive and flexible to respond to the discussions and needs of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies.

Schedule of Activities included in the Workplan

Rows in blue are new activities that will require agreement on timeline. In the final column, where no funds are listed, an activity does not need funds to take place.

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Project/link to SB workplan</u>	<u>Expected outcome</u>	<u>Overall link to advice to Commission (link to policy)</u>	<u>Responsible/ Funds assigned-available?</u>
2024	Climate change expert workshop	WCPFC Project 121: Ecosystem and Climate Indicators (ECI) + Report cards	Test the candidate ECI, progress and refine these, based on expert feedback	Providing key information for monitoring the pathway through which climate change is manifesting in the WCPO, enabling the ground-truthing of oceanographic models, monitoring which physical properties of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) are approaching climate change induced tipping points, and supporting the inputs to and monitoring of implemented harvest strategies.	SSP Funds available under project 121
2025-2027	Indicator Validation				SC Further funds are required

Annually	Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card to be updated and presented annually to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. (WCPFC20 request)				SSP
2024-25	Review of existing modelling and data to improve understanding of drivers of trends in the early life history of skipjack tuna in the Western Pacific Warm Pool	WCPFC Project 115: Exploring evidence and mechanisms for a long-term increasing trend in recruitment of skipjack tuna in the equatorial Pacific and the development and modelling of defensible effort creep scenarios Tuna Research Plan	Environmental or technological impact on estimated SKJ recruitment trends, to improve the robustness of future stock assessments and inform skipjack OMs	The analysis of CPUE indices in skipjack stock assessments is vital for informing effective fisheries management policies, as misleading stability in these indices—potentially due to effort creep—could mask declines in stock biomass, leading to unsustainable fishing practices.	SSP

2024-25	Calibrating and evaluating the precision of epigenetic ageing as a tool for rapid and cost-effective ageing of WCPO key tuna stocks	WCPFC Project 100c: Preparing western and central Pacific tuna fisheries for application of close-kin-mark-recapture (CKMR) methods to resolve key stock assessment uncertainties	Provide an improved understanding of connectivity and adaptive potential and variation, which is increasingly important for understanding how stock biomass will respond to climate change and other changes to environmental conditions.	Accurately estimating absolute spawning biomass is a key challenge in WCPFC stock assessments. Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR) offers a practical solution, providing not only biomass estimates but also insights into population structure, connectivity, and natural mortality to improve management decisions	SSP Funded under the project
Annually	Identifying sampling gaps in biological data (age & growth) stored within the Tuna Tissue Bank and developing a biological sampling plan to collect age and growth information for key WCPFC tuna species	WCPFC Project 117: WCPFC Tuna Biological Sampling Plan	A structured sampling program is expected to directly translate into stock assessments with more reliable estimates of growth and with sufficient temporal observations to identify how growth may be changing as a function of climate change.	A well-designed and comprehensive sampling plan for collecting biological data (e.g., age, growth) will significantly enhance the accuracy of stock assessments, providing a stronger foundation for informed management decisions.	SSP Funded under the project

	Identifying sampling gaps in biological data (age & growth) stored within the Tuna Tissue Bank and developing a biological sampling plan to collect age and growth information for billfish species	WCPFC Project 118: WCPFC billfish biological sampling plan. Billfish Research Plan	A structured sampling program is expected to directly translate into stock assessments with more reliable estimates of growth and with sufficient temporal observations to identify how growth may be changing as a function of climate change.	A well-designed and comprehensive sampling plan for collecting biological data (e.g., age, growth) will significantly enhance the accuracy of stock assessments, providing a stronger foundation for informed management decisions.	SSP Funded under the project
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2024-26	Quality checking and resolving issues including collection of samples for estimation of spawning potential through histological analyses of tropical tunas	WCPFC Project 120: Updated reproductive biology of tropical tunas	Establish baselines of reproductive potential for tropical tunas in the WCPO for monitoring the impacts of climate change	Improving the estimation of spawning potential is essential for enhancing the accuracy of stock assessments, which directly informs policy decisions on sustainable harvest strategies and conservation measures. Without reliable data, management policies may be less effective in ensuring the long-term sustainability of tropical tuna stocks, especially in the face of climate change impact	SSP Funded under the project
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2025-26	Exploring new tuna stock assessment software	WCPFC Project 123: Scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software	Establish a new WCPFC tuna stock assessment software as a successor to the MULTIFAN-CL	Establishing new software for WCPO tuna stock assessments is essential for informing effective management decisions and policies. Enhanced modelling capabilities of the new software can assist in providing options for sustainable harvest strategies and adaptive management practices, particularly in the face of climate change impacts on the tuna population.	SSP Funds are required
2024-27	Continued enhancements to the SEAPODYM	SEAPODYM (Spatial Ecosystem and Population Dynamics Model)	climate-informed stock assessments	SEAPODYM is integrating biological, ecological, and environmental data to help inform policy decisions by projecting the effects of climate change on tuna distribution and abundance, enabling fisheries managers to have information to support adaptive strategies to ensure the long-term viability of tuna resources in WCPO.	SSP
2024-[27]	Collation and curation of regional	Project 35b: WCPFC Pacific	Time series of biological samples to underpin	Improved estimation of biological parameters is essential for enhancing the accuracy of stock assessments,	SSP

	marine specimens, including genetic samples.	Marine Specimen Bank	improvements to inputs to stock assessments and monitoring of climate impacts	which directly informs policy decisions on sustainable harvest strategies and conservation measures. Ongoing collection of reliable data allows monitoring of potential climate impacts and informed advice.	Funded under the project, a 2% annual increase is requested
Annually	Tagging and monitoring of tuna and tuna-like species, collection of marine specimens, including genetic samples.	Project 42: Pacific tuna tagging programme	Time series of biological samples to underpin improvements to inputs to stock assessments and monitoring of climate impacts	Improved estimation of biological parameters is essential for enhancing the accuracy of stock assessments, which directly informs policy decisions on sustainable harvest strategies and conservation measures. Ongoing collection of reliable data allows monitoring of potential climate impacts and informed advice.	SSP Funded under the project
Annually	Updates on international and regional fishery bodies developments related to climate change (paragraph 20 WCPFC20 Outcome document)			The Commission will get regular updates on other international and regional fisheries bodies activities and relevant news and information regarding climate change that is valuable for WCPFC to engage with.	WCPFC Secretariat

TBD	Explore mechanisms to test the robustness of existing and candidate management procedures under plausible climate change scenarios within the MSE framework.	Harvest Strategy Workplan		Activity to be discussed and refined by SC. TCC to discuss how to provide advice to the Commission regarding MSE and climate change.	TBD
[202#]	Engagement with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and the Food and Agriculture Organization and their members to discuss shared challenges, leverage	2019-01 WCPFC Resolution on Climate Change	Create a community of practice within the RFB/RFMOs regarding cooperative fisheries management and climate change.	Will inform this workplan, and allow for updates as appropriate.	Commission, Secretariat, SSP, and Members

	available resources, and identify potential pathways for cooperation on addressing climate change effects on fisheries				
[2025 - 202#]	CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment		[Identify information GAPS and analysis that need to be further undertaken to understand the implications of climate change on certain CMM provisions.]	Will provide information for Members consideration on vulnerability to climate change on specific CMM provisions	Consultant with support of Secretariat Funds available through voluntary contributions



Terms of Reference for a CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

Background

1. In 2024, WCPFC20 affirmed [Resolution 2019-01 on Climate Change as it Relates to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission](#) (WCPFC) by agreeing to develop a workplan (**Workplan**) and support an assessment (**Assessment**) of the susceptibility of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures to the impacts of climate change ([WCPFC20 Outcomes](#)):

23. The Commission requested the Secretariat with the SSP explore the scope and feasibility of undertaking an assessment of active CMMs and to determine specific CMM provisions that may be susceptible to be impacted by climate change, and present the findings to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and the Commission.

24a. The Commission recommended co-leads are identified to develop a Commission workplan for addressing climate change on WCPFC fisheries in the Convention Area. The co-leads would use the WCPFC Convention and Resolution 2019-01 as guides for that work. The draft workplan would be discussed and considered by each subsidiary body in 2024, with a view to taking this to WCPFC21 for consideration. The workplan will include, but not be limited to; the scoping and feasibility study of an assessment of CMMs and their susceptibility to be affected by climate change...

2. These terms of reference (TOR) define the Scope, Objectives, Rationale, Methodology, Timing, and Resources of the Assessment.

3. In consultation with the Workplan Co-Chairs from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States (**co-leads**), the WCPFC Secretariat and Scientific Services Provider (SSP) have reviewed the scope and feasibility of an Assessment (WCPFC21-2024-12) as proposed at WCPFC20 ([WCPFC20-2023-DP08 Rev02](#)) and presented the findings to the Northern Committee, Scientific Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee, and the Commission.

4. Following feedback from subsidiary bodies, the co-leads suggest this effort be henceforth referred to as a “CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.”

Scope

5. The scope of the Assessment:

- a. is limited to informing (*i.e.* not advising) the Commission and its subsidiary bodies as to whether specific provisions of conservation and management measures (CMMs) might be affected by climate change;

- b. does not prejudice or have any effect on members' implementation of obligations arising from specific conservation and management provisions;
- c. is not intended to initiate, or result in, renegotiation of CMMs; and
- d. will be limited to publicly available information such as adopted CMMs, published climate advice of the SSP, the ISC, and Scientific Committee, peer reviewed scientific literature, and Indigenous and traditional knowledge, including species climate vulnerability assessments and research on geographic shifts of species distributions.

Objectives

6. The Assessment will:

Review active WCPFC CMMs defined by the Commission and identify the specific provisions that could benefit from additional discussion among CCMs, as being vulnerable to climate change.

7. The Assessment is not intended to preclude any future consideration, evaluation, or prioritization of any CMM.

8. The Assessment will:

- a. Support discussions within the Technical and Compliance Committee, on undertaking one of its core functions: to provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures (Convention Article 14.1(a), by identifying monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) data and information gaps and potential management challenges; and
- b. Support discussions within the Scientific Committee regarding scientific data and information gaps and research needs to improve understanding of impacts of climate change on assessed CMM provisions.

9. The Assessment will focus on improving the Commission's understanding of how climate change impacts might affect existing CMM provisions, and does not intend to derive in discussions on how those changes may affect the subsidiary bodies' ability to assess compliance with them.

Rationale

10. With the continued dynamic changes of marine environments due to climate change and the potential vulnerability to climate change of species, ecosystems, and CMMs, the Commission has identified a need for work that aims to ensure that relevant information and data collection are adequate to support improved and updated understanding by the Commission on the impacts of climate change and implications for the management of WCPFC fisheries.

11. The value of this Assessment will be in identifying the MCS and scientific data and information gaps, research needs, and potential management challenges to improve CCM's understanding of the vulnerability to climate change of certain CMM provisions, and which CMMs might benefit from further discussion (*e.g.*, in area of application, species of focus, or mechanism of implementation), to ensure continued sustainable management of WCPFC fisheries into the future.

Methodology

12. The Assessment will:
 - a. compile available advice from the SSP, the ISC, and the Scientific Committee, peer-reviewed scientific literature, and Indigenous and traditional knowledge (following collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility, and ethics principles; known as the CARE principles), including but not limited to, species climate vulnerability assessments and research on geographic shifts of species distributions and other climate impacts on fisheries managed by the Commission,
 - b.
 - c. review and analyze CMM provisions available via the WCPFC website in the context of 12(a); and
 - d.
 - e. provide to WCPFC and its subsidiary bodies a list of active CMM provisions with an explanation of any identified potential climate vulnerabilities associated with specific provisions.
13. The vulnerability of CMMs to climate change has not been explored or discussed by the Commission. As a first step towards focusing the work of CCMs, this Assessment will provide a definition of “vulnerability” to be used for the Assessment.
14. The Consultant will use available science and existing resources (as specified in paragraph 12 (a), and consistent with the outcomes of paragraph 13) to select a definition for “vulnerability” to be used for the Assessment. The definition will be included in initial Assessment outcomes for consideration by CCMs.
15. In assessing the “vulnerability”, the Assessment will consider, but not be limited to, whether provisions of WCPFC CMMs are implemented based on:
 - a. certain target or bycatch species,
 - b. specific geographic areas,
 - c. different gear types,
 - d. review period, or
 - e. any mention of climate.
16. The deliverables of the consultancy will be (a) a WCPFC-relevant framework for assessing CMM provisions’ vulnerability to climate change using the best available information per paragraph 12(a), including a definition for “vulnerability” to be used for the Assessment as described in paragraphs 13 and 14, (b) a list of the specific CMM provisions identified as being vulnerable to climate change that could benefit from additional discussion among CCMs, (c) the identification of MCS and scientific data and information gaps, research needs, and potential management challenges, including in instances where more information would improve the Assessment, and (d) after assessing CMM provisions, the Consultant will also suggest minimum/sufficient information required to be able to categorize CMM provisions as either being “vulnerable” or “not vulnerable” to climate change, as appropriate.

Timeline

17. The proposed timing for the Assessment to support CCMs in discussions at the Commission and its subsidiary bodies' meetings is as follows:

Timing	Description
January 2025	Initiate the Consultancy and Assessment of the initial subset of CMMs.
February 2025	Initial compiled list of available information sources (paragraph 12a) in a bibliography and targeted literature review.
March 2025	A WCPFC-relevant framework for assessing CMM provisions' vulnerability to climate change using the best available information, per paragraph 12(a), including a definition for "vulnerability" to be used for the Assessment.
April 2025 - June 2025	<p>A list of the specific CMM provisions identified as being vulnerable to climate change that could benefit from additional discussion among CCMs.</p> <p>The identification of MCS and scientific data and information gaps, research needs, and potential management challenges, including in instances where more information would improve the Assessment.</p> <p>Suggested metrics of minimum/sufficient information required to be able to categorize CMM provisions as either being "vulnerable" or "not vulnerable" to climate change, as appropriate.</p>
June - September 2025	Results from the Assessment of at minimum the CMMs defined by the Commission provided as information papers to support CCMs during discussions at NC21, SC21, TCC21 and WCPFC22.
2026	Iterate the Assessment to apply to additional CMMs as directed by the Commission.

Resources

18. The Assessment will be completed by a consultant hired by the Secretariat and completed with a narrow scope as described above. Funding is available to provide compensation for this work through the use of voluntary contributions already made to WCPFC.

19. The Assessment will be overseen by the WCPFC Secretariat in consultation with the SSP and ISC, and the outcomes will be provided for CCMs' consideration during Commission and subsidiary body meetings.



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WCPFC Skipjack tuna monitoring strategy report

I. Executive Summary

The monitoring strategy routinely evaluates the performance of the management procedure (MP) to check that it is working as expected. The monitoring strategy should consider all aspects of the harvest strategy including procedures for evaluating and testing MPs; the identification of any scenarios that should be added to the OM grid; the preparation and application of the EM and the performance of the management procedure as a whole. In addition, it may identify changes in the dynamics of the fishery resulting from environmental, economic or social factors that may require a reconsideration for the management objectives and the testing of alternative MPs.

This paper updates the skipjack MP monitoring strategy to reflect Commission discussions and observations at WCPFC20 and subsequent considerations of WCPFC-SC20, WCPFC-SMD02 and WCPFC-TCC20.

SC20 noted the following outcomes with respect to the skipjack monitoring strategy:

- SC20 requested that the SSP conduct the following analyses related to the monitoring strategy for skipjack:
 - Evaluate whether changes in the FAD closure duration (as adopted in CMM 2023-01) will affect the performance of the interim MP;
 - Representativeness and appropriateness of candidate CPUEs for the use in MP.
- SC20 recommended that in years when an assessment is not conducted, the monitoring strategy could be reviewed by SC and feedback provided through the Online Discussion Forum.
- SC20 was invited to review the information provided in the Monitoring Strategy included in Table 1 of SC20-MI-WP-02, and to update the text in column 1 (SC) as appropriate. SC20 recommended the following modifications to Table 1: Monitoring strategy for the skipjack Management Procedure:
 - Amend sub-paragraph a) of Element 1.a) (comparison of predicted MP performance against the latest stock assessment outcomes) to read “The performance of the MP in managing skipjack tuna to achieve defined objectives, including the TRP”.
 - Amend element 1.b) (Data availability to run the MP) to include a new comment for SC20: “The effect of changes made to the historical data is not known”.

- SC20 recommended the monitoring strategy be forwarded to the SMD, TCC and the Commission for their consideration.

SMD02 noted the following outcomes from its discussion of the skipjack monitoring strategy:

- SMD02 thanked the SSP for the updated skipjack monitoring strategy (**WCPFC-SMD02-2024-BP-06**), which, amongst other things, provided clear guidance on what technical advice TCC can provide to the Commission. SMD02 supported the approach of not making adjustments to the key elements of the management procedure on an annual basis, but that modelling be undertaken as part of the next review of the management procedures in 2026, including for scenarios related to climate change.
- SMD02 recommended that as part of the next regular review of the skipjack management procedure, the Commission directly incorporate SEAPODYM and/or other model projections into the skipjack management strategy evaluation operating model grid projections.

TCC20 noted the following outcomes from its discussion of the development of a monitoring strategy for Skipjack tuna.

- TCC20 recommended to the Commission that it adopt the skipjack MP monitoring strategy (TCC20-2024-17 rev1) noting the updates and input provided by TCC20.
- TCC20 noted that, as the Commission adopts more management procedures, there could be a need for a standing item on the TCC agenda to consider management procedures.

Introduction

The interim management procedure (MP) for WCPO skipjack was formally adopted at WCPFC19 (CMM2022-01) and was implemented for the first time at WCPFC20 (through CMM2023-01). The overall objectives of the MP are to maintain the stock around the target reference point (TRP) and to minimise the extent of changes in catch and effort between management periods. Now that the skipjack MP has been adopted and implemented, it should be routinely monitored to check that it is performing as expected and is achieving the desired outcomes. This is a key role of the monitoring strategy.

In addition to monitoring the performance of the adopted MP, the monitoring strategy should consider all aspects of the harvest strategy, including the underlying management objectives (TRP); procedures for designing and evaluating candidate MPs; and the scenarios against which they are tested (the OM grid). The purpose of the monitoring strategy is not to conduct these analyses but, rather, to identify instances where conditions may have changed from those assumed when testing and evaluating the MP, and to highlight areas where modifications to the existing MP may be necessary or where further work may be required. The monitoring report is intended to be routinely considered and updated by the relevant bodies of the Commission (specifically SC and TCC), allowing incremental development as new information becomes available.

An outline of the elements of a monitoring strategy for the WCPO skipjack tuna interim MP was provided in Table 2 of Annex III of CMM 2022-01. The content, structure and development of a monitoring report has been further discussed in recent papers to both the SC (WCPFC-SC19/MI-WP-02) and to the Commission (WCPFC20-2023-WP14-Rev1). WCPFC20 noted that there was a need for intersessional work, led by the SC and TCC Chairs, to facilitate the development by the SSP of a monitoring strategy for adoption at WCPFC21 (WCPFC20 summary report, paragraph 313). Under the harvest strategy workplan (WCPFC20 Summary report, attachment 4) the Commission is scheduled to adopt the monitoring strategy for WCPO skipjack in 2024.

This paper builds on the information provided in attachment B of WCPFC20-2023-WP14 to provide additional detail to support discussions and advice on the respective roles of SC, TCC and the Commission in developing and implementing a monitoring strategy for skipjack tuna.

Issues arising

The experience of implementing the skipjack MP for the first time has highlighted a number of issues that were not foreseen during its development and testing. These relate specifically to the monitoring of catch and effort in the fishery to both ensure and demonstrate compliance with the MP, as well as some practical issues encountered when running the MP and implementing the catch and effort limits output from it.

Catch and effort reporting

An omission from the initial proposal for information to be reported under the monitoring strategy (CMM 2022-01, annex III) is the provision of catch and effort data to monitor compliance with the MP. This represents an important component of the monitoring strategy not only because it provides the confirmation and reassurance that the MP has been implemented as intended, but also so that, in instances where the measures of the MP have not been followed, the reasons for non-compliance can be investigated and appropriate action taken.

To this end, a tasking for TCC has been added to item 1.a. of Table 1, requesting that, as and when such data become available, TCC provides advice on the levels of catch and effort of fisheries subject to the MP in relation to the limits set by the MP. Note that the MP applies to the catch and effort of purse seine and pole and line fisheries, and other commercial fisheries referred to in paragraph 47 of CMM 2023-01 taking more than 2,000 tonnes of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack) in the Exclusive Economic Zones and high seas.

TCC20 noted that the regularly provided summaries of tropical tuna fisheries catch and effort only partially covers the information required to monitor implementation of the skipjack MP. Future data submissions will need to provide TCC with sufficient information to monitor annual fishing levels of fisheries subject to the MP relative to the MP output. Specifically, effort data for pole and line fisheries and skipjack catch data for the relevant fisheries within Region 5 of the 2022 assessment model will be required. This information will need to be provided both for the time-period under consideration of the monitoring strategy and for the baseline year ranges (2016-18 ID-PH fisheries; 2001-04 JP pole and line fisheries).

Update of the estimation method

The skipjack MP was implemented in 2024, with the resulting catch and effort limits being applied for the period 2024 to 2026. Although the MP ran successfully, it was noted that the contraction of pole and line fishing in key regions of the skipjack fishery had impaired the ability to index relative abundance of WCPO skipjack across the equatorial region. Diagnostic analyses indicated that sustained low levels of effort of these fisheries is likely to affect the future performance of the MP. SC19 recommended that further work be undertaken to develop and test an alternative estimation model for future use in the WCPO skipjack tuna MP. WCPFC20 noted that 'a re-evaluation of the skipjack estimation method needs to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the Management Procedure' (WCPFC20 summary report, paragraph 302).

Work to revise the estimation method and re-test the skipjack MP has been delayed and results were not available for presentation to SC20. Options for the revision of the skipjack estimation method are under consideration (WCPFC-SC20/MI-WP-01). The development and testing of these alternative approaches will be a priority work area to allow a re-evaluation of the skipjack estimation method prior to the next implementation of the MP in 2026.

Alignment with TT-CMM

At the first implementation of the WCPO skipjack MP it became apparent that there was a disconnect between the assumptions of the MP and the underlying basis of the TT-CMM (CMM 2023-01), through which the MP is implemented. Resolving this mis-match could entail either , revising the MP so that it more closely aligns with the TT-CMM, which would entail changes to the MP design additional to those described above for the revision of the estimation method, or alternatively revising the limits of the TT-CMM to align more closely with a the skipjack MP. Further discussion by managers is required to provide guidance on which approach should be taken prior to work being undertaken on this issue.

In addition, recent changes to the timing and extent of the FAD closure means that future conditions of the fishery differ from those initially assumed. This may also require additional testing of the MP. Changes or additions to the grid of operating models used to test the MP may be required to account for changes in the FAD closure period.

Monitoring performance of the management procedure

The monitoring strategy (as outlined in Table 1, below) addresses three main aspects of the design, testing and implementation of the MP as well as monitoring its outcomes in relation to defined objectives, with consideration of these aspects divided amongst the various

bodies of the Commission as appropriate. Table 1 outlines the issues to be considered and what advice is required. Where these issues have previously been considered the resulting recommendations are also provided.

Table 1: Monitoring strategy for the skipjack Management Procedure (CMM 2022-01).

1. Review of MP performance		
a. Comparison of predicted MP performance against latest stock assessment outcomes		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Regularly review/check the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Annex III of CMM 2022-01 and provide advice to the Commission on:</p> <p>a) The performance of the MP in managing skipjack tuna to achieve defined objectives including the TRP. This includes the robustness of the MP to changes in the fishery and any exceptional circumstances consistent with Annex IV of CMM 2022-01.</p> <p>b) The application of the MP outputs to CMM 2023-01.</p> <p>SC19: With the first implementation of the MP in 2024, the stock assessment in 2025 will be the first in which the impact of the MP on stock status will be experienced. Only one year of MP implementation will be included in that assessment and it will therefore provide only a preliminary measure of performance.</p> <p>The MSE predicted outcomes of the adopted MP and the 2022 stock assessment show good correspondence with assessed status for the most recent years but some departure for the historical period.</p> <p>SC20: No new information</p>	<p>Regularly review/check the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Table 3, Annex III of CMM 2022-01 and provide advice to the Commission on:</p> <p>a. Catch and effort levels for all fisheries subject to the MP relative to maximum levels specified under the most recent output of the MP.</p> <p>b. Identify quality of information and gaps in available data that would affect ability to monitor the implementation of the MP relative to the MP outputs.</p> <p>TCC20: Additional information on relevant catch and effort for the fisheries subject to the MPs will be needed by TCC.</p>	<p>WCPFC20:</p> <p>Noted the successful running of the MP as outlined in SC19-MI-WP-01</p>

b. Data availability to run the MP		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Check availability, quantity and quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation method)</p> <p>SC19: Sufficient data were available to run the MP. However, declining effort in the pole and line fishery in some regions (e.g. tropical region) and consequent reduction of informative CPUE data represents a risk to the future performance of the MP. A re-evaluation of the estimation method may need to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the MP.</p> <p>High priority</p> <p>SC20: The effect of changes made to the historical data is not known.</p>	<p>Check availability, quantity and quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation method)</p> <p>TCC20: No new information</p>	<p>WCPFC20: Noted that a re-evaluation of the estimation method may need to be undertaken prior to the next implementation of the MP.</p>
c. Other sources of data to monitor performance		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Identify any other data, as available, that might not be included in the MSE framework, that can inform on performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc.)</p> <p>SC19: No new information noted at SC19.</p> <p>SC20: No other sources of data have been identified.</p>	<p>Identify any other data, as available, that might not be included in the MSE framework, that can inform on performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc.)</p> <p>TCC20: No new information</p>	
d. Performance of the estimation method (EM)		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Confirm the EM is performing well and not subject to estimation failure.</p>	<p>No input anticipated.</p>	

SC19: Overall the EM performed well and provided estimates of stock status within the prediction range of the MSE.		
2. Review of the MP design		
a. Management objectives		
SC	TCC	Commission
No input anticipated.	No input anticipated.	<p>Review the TT-CMM, taking account of the outputs of the SKJ MP.</p> <p>Check that overall objectives of the MP remain appropriate.</p> <p>Revise catch and effort limits for 2024-06 as necessary.</p> <p>WCPFC20: CCM requests for further work to better align the skipjack MP with the TT-CMM.</p>
b. Scope of the management procedure		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate</p> <p>SC19: No new information at the time of SC19.</p> <p>SC20: No change.</p>	<p>Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate</p> <p>TCC20 No new information</p>	<p>Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate</p>
c. Exceptional circumstances		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Provide technical advice to identify the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and review, modify or replace the MP as appropriate.</p> <p>SC19: None identified.</p> <p>SC20: None identified.</p>	<p>Provide technical advice to identify exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and recommend remedial action where necessary.</p> <p>TCC20: No new information</p>	<p>Identify the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and review, modify or replace the MP as appropriate.</p>

3. Review of MSE		
a. Operating model grid		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Ensure the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM grid.</p> <p>SC19: OM grid to be extended to include climate change scenarios (robustness set). In particular the effects of warm pool expansion in the WCPO. This requires further analysis of SEAPODYM outputs and may occur over an extended time frame.</p> <p>Medium priority</p> <p>Further investigation of the OM grid is suggested to investigate the lack of overlap in estimates of stock status for the historical period. These issues will be considered for inclusion when the current MP is reviewed.</p> <p>Low priority</p> <p>SC20: Impacts of changes to FAD closure period from 2024 should be investigated and where necessary the OM grid modified to better represent fishery dynamics.</p>	No input anticipated.	
b. Calculation of performance indicators		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Check that performance indicators adequately represent management objectives</p> <p>SC19: No new information at the time of SC19.</p>	No input anticipated.	
c. Modelling assumptions		
SC	TCC	Commission

Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework SC19: While no major issues are identified, any re-evaluation of the skipjack EM (identified under 1.2) may require a re-evaluation of the modelling framework	No input anticipated.	
d. Data availability to support the MSE framework		
SC	TCC	Commission
Identify any improvements in data collection to either enhance the OM framework or reduce uncertainty included in the OM grid.	No input anticipated.	

Monitoring schedule

Many elements of the monitoring report depend either on the outputs of an updated stock assessment or on the running and implementation of the MP itself. To date, the MP has been implemented just once (in 2024) and the subsequent considerations of SC19 and WCPFC20 are provided above. The next assessment of WCPO skipjack is scheduled for 2025.

Some aspects of the monitoring report can be updated on a more frequent basis, such as annual estimates of catch and effort and corresponding inter-annual variations in catch and effort. In some cases these data may be available in-year, however, due to time lags in the reporting and processing of data, some delay in the reporting of these figures is likely. CMM 2022-01 outlines a repeating 3-year schedule for the implementation and review of the skipjack MP (Table 2).

Table 2: Schedule for the implementation and review of the skipjack MP (CMM 2022-01)

Year	Science Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2023	Run the MP (using data to 2022). Support the SC and Commission consideration of the MP	Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the period 2024-2026	Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. Revise catch and effort related limits for 2024-2026
2024		Data to monitor performance of the MP not available in first year of implementation.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM

2025	Perform full stock assessment (with data up to and including 2024).	Review performance of the MP including potential exceptional circumstances and advise Commission.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM. Review the performance and use of the MP.
2026	Run the MP (using data to 2025). Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2025. Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2027-2029).	Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. Revise catch and effort related provisions for 2027-2029
2027		Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2026.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM.
2028	Perform full stock assessment (with data up to and including 2027).	Review performance of the MP including potential exceptional circumstances and advise Commission.	Apply Tropical Tuna CMM. Review the performance and use of the MP.
2029	Run the MP (using data to 2028). Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2028. Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2030-2032).	Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. Revise catch and effort related provisions for 2030-2032

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INDICATIVE WORKPLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES UNDER CMM 2022-03

WCPFC21-2024-HS Workplan

Prepared by Australia

- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM2014-06 (now superseded by CMM 2022-03). It set out a deliberately ambitious schedule of technical work and Commission decision making for the development of harvest strategies across the four key tuna stocks. The workplan was always intended to be a living document and has been updated annually to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments.
- It is acknowledged that delays in the execution of the workplan may occur, noting the complexity of developing harvest strategies for multiple species within the multilateral WCPFC environment as well as the capacity of member CCMs to understand and participate fully in the process. For this reason, all parties are cautioned against an expectation that harvest strategy elements will be completed in specific years. Completion dates have changed in the past and may change in the future.
- This workplan simply schedules decisions noting that it is the Commission's decision as to their interim nature. It is important to understand the implications of single species management procedures within a multi-species fishery context upon application of any of the management procedures.
- There is a very important need for capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process and ultimately to have confidence that an adopted harvest strategy is an agreeable balance of their objectives. This is particularly so as the Commission starts to consider the multispecies nature of the fishery and how management procedures will interact.
- For clarity and consistency, the term "Management Procedure" is used from 2020 onward in this workplan in place of the term "Harvest Control Rule (HCR)". A Management Procedure is a key part of a Harvest Strategy comprising a more formal specification of data collection, the associated estimation model (e.g. the estimation of stock status through an analytical or empirical method) together with a Harvest Control Rule. Together these clearly define what management actions are to be made in response to changes in the stock or fishery condition.

2024 Update

- A broad update of progress on harvest strategies during 2024 is provided in WCPFC21-2024-10.
- The technical progress of the Scientific Services Provider included the development of the operating models and MSE framework for South Pacific albacore following agreement of the 2024 assessment of this stock and candidate management procedures evaluated; updated analyses of the implications of alternative South Pacific albacore and bigeye/yellowfin TRPs; and finalisation of the skipjack monitoring strategy following input from WCPFC20, SC20 and TCC20. The 2nd Science Management Dialogue meeting was also supported through presentations and advice, and the work requests arising delivered to WCPFC21. Harvest strategy capacity building workshops were also conducted.
- For South Pacific albacore tuna, adoption of a management procedure has been rescheduled to 2025.
- For bigeye tuna, WCPFC agreed to a set of three candidate target reference points that will be further evaluated through their incorporation into candidate management procedures for bigeye tuna. The plan now reflects a tentative decision to adopt a bigeye tuna TRP together with a management procedure in 2025 with deferral to 2026 if this is not possible. The 2025 scheduling is tentative because the SSP has noted significant workload and capacity constraints in undertaking the technical harvest strategy work required to support the Commission in making the scheduled decisions for all three stocks (South Pacific albacore, skipjack and bigeye). It is recognised that the workplan for 2025 has an inherent prioritisation, with a focus on South Pacific albacore and skipjack, with bigeye progressed as far as possible. Further, it is recognised that there may be limited opportunity for managers to participate in the development of candidate MPs through 2025.
- For yellowfin tuna, the development of operating models for management strategy evaluation has been deferred from 2025 and would now occur in 2026. This change was necessary to manage the workload of the Scientific Services Provider, noting that the year 2025 had become very congested with harvest strategy technical work potentially proceeding on all four species.

Within the tables below, progress in earlier years is in grey. Bold items are the six elements that are referred to in CMM 14-06/22-03 (a. Objectives, b. Reference Points, c. Acceptable Levels of Risk, d. Monitoring, e. Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure and f. MSE). Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development and so are part of the plan but are not one of these six elements.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2022	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. 	<p>Complete review of the Target Reference Point.</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. 	<p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential management procedures. <p>[YFT peer review. Relevant to BET operating models.]</p>	<p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential management procedures. <p>[YFT peer review. Relevant to operating models.]</p>
	<p>Progress Summary: The first Science Management Dialogue was held in August 2022 and the meeting page (https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/smd01) provides a set of papers and analyses that summarize progress.</p>			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2023	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <p>Commission agree a TRP for South Pacific albacore</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). 	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p>SC provide advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy (d).</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2024	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice for review Target Reference Point • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC20]</p>	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. 	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2025	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. <p>Commission review and adopt a management procedure.</p> <p>[SPA-IWG plan: Adopted management procedure is <u>run</u> for the first time.]</p>	<p>SC reviews the interim management procedure in accordance with the monitoring program</p>	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC agree the operating models for MSE. SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission consider TRP for bigeye within evaluation of candidate MPs. <p>Tentative: Commission ADOPT a target reference point together with a management procedure.¹</p>	<p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p>

¹ See “2024 Update” for explanation

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2026	<p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>		<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for bigeye. 	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2027			SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)	SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)

WCPFC Interim EM Standards:

Appendix 1: Terms and Definitions

Ancillary Logs - Data records from the EM system that are supplemental to the EM Records, such as a record of changes in system configurations and settings and a summary of system health checks performed.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) – A machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine and human-based inputs to (A) perceive real and virtual environments; (B) abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and (C) use model inference to formulate options for information or action.

Control Centre - The EM control centre is a computer and software system that records and stores information from EM System components (e.g., video, sensor data, GPS data, system log data) and also controls the operation of onboard EM system components.

Data Review Centre (DRC) - A facility or entity with supporting software platform(s) used to analyse EM records and generate EM data. This could be a standalone facility or a designated space within the premises of the fisheries administration.

Designated Installer or Service Technician - A person or entity authorised by an EM Service Provider to install or service an EM System.

EM Analyst - A person qualified by the appropriate EM Program provider to analyse EM records and generate EM data in accordance with the EM standard and analysis procedures.

EM Analysis - See EM Records Analysis/Interpretation.

EM Analysis Rate - The proportion of EM records that are analysed to generate EM data.

EM audit requirements - the WCPFC agreed standards and procedures to be followed by an EM program in order to support the WCPFC agreed audit and assurance process. The requirements may include standards on processes such as EM record and EM data retention.

EM Certifier - An individual or organisation which has been approved by the appropriate authority to inspect and approve EM systems for use.

EM Coverage - The proportion of fishing effort (sets or trips) that is analysed through EM, calculated by multiplying the EM Installation coverage by the EM analysis rate].

EM Data - Data generated through analysis of EM records.

EM data requirements – the WCPFC agreed minimum data fields with associated data standards that must be generated from EM records and ancillary logs.

EM Installation Coverage - The proportion of vessels or fishing effort that have operational EM system installed and are recorded by the EM Program to collect EM Records to meet the EM Data Requirements.

EM Program - A CCM or regional program responsible for managing the use of EM systems to independently collect and generate fisheries data and information. This is different to the WCPFC EM Program.

EM Records - Footage (still images and video) and sensor data (if applicable) recorded by an EM System that can be analysed to generate EM Data to meet the EM Data Requirements. Sensors may include any number of sensors (e.g., hydraulic sensors) that are part of the EM equipment and whose data is recorded on the vessel as part of the EM system.

EM Records Analysis - The process of an EM Analyst reviewing EM records to generate EM Data.

EM Service Provider - A provider of EM technical and logistical services. An EM Program may have multiple EM Service Providers and they may provide different services within the program (e.g., onboard hardware, DRC software, DRC review services).

EM analysis software – any software used by an EM Analyst to generate EM data. This software is often provided by the EM Service Provider and can include a range of features that facilitates the efficient work of the EM Analyst.

EM System - All the vessel and shore-based components supporting the generation, storage, transmissions, analysis and reporting of EM Records.

Event - An occurrence in the EM Records that is enumerated into EM data.

Fishing - as defined in WCPFC Convention Article 2(d)

Fishing Trip – The period between either (a) a vessel's departure from port after unloading part or all of the catch to transit to a fishing area, or (b) a vessel recommences fishing operations or transits to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, and the time that the vessel either (c) returns to port to unload part or all of its catch, or (d) ceases fishing operations to tranship part or all of its catch at sea.

Geolocation device - A device that is used to capture information on vessel position that can also be used to determine vessel speed and heading.

Independent - with respect to audits - no financial or current employment interest with the DRC

Regional Agency - A regional or sub-regional organisation that may support CCM national EM Programs and EM Systems.

Review for Data Quality - The verification process of re-analysing/interpreting a portion of previously analysed EM records to determine completeness, adherence to protocols, and accuracy of the EM Data produced by the EM Analyst.

Sensors - EM systems may be equipped with a variety of integrated sensors that can provide additional information on fishing activity, trigger activation or adjustment of configurations of cameras, and identify points of interest to expedite EM video review. This may include “synthetic sensors” that use camera imagery used to capture imagery of fishing activities.

Uninterruptible power supply (UPS) - Provides power to the system and enables controlled shutdown in the event of a power loss so as to preserve the security and integrity of data ¹.

User interface - A display that communicates EM system status messages and provides views of onboard cameras.

Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) - A document describing how an electronic monitoring system is specifically positioned and configured on a vessel (e.g. camera placement with images of camera views and types and locations of sensors) to allow effective monitoring of fishing activity and accurate generation of EM Data specified by the EM Program.

Vessel Operator - any person who is in charge of, directs or controls a vessel, charterer and master.

¹ [CMM 2014-02](#) Annex 1 (5) "ALCs fitted to fishing vessels must be protected so as to preserve the security and integrity of data referred to in para 1."

Appendix 2: Technical EM standards

Onboard EM Systems

Onboard EM Systems comprise all vessel components supporting the acquisition of and reporting of EM Records. Onboard EM Systems MUST be configured such that they allow generation of the data fields set out in the EM data requirements. The core EM System components covered in these Specifications, Standards, and Procedures (SSPs) are: control centre, user interface, cameras, geolocation device, uninterruptible power supply, sensors, and communication system. Together, these components ensure that required information is collected, including system health status, to support fisheries management and enforcement objectives.

On-board EM System component	SSP
1. Control centre	<p>The EM system control centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. MUST control all onboard EM hardware components.b. MUST be able to connect to the vessel's power source and sustain this power source throughout the duration of the fishing trip.c. MUST store and SHOULD transmit system health status information.d. MUST have sufficient storage capacity for all EM Records required to be generated [during a fishing trip] until EM Records are transmitted to a DRC for review.e. SHOULD have sufficient backup storage to mitigate potential data loss.f. SHOULD have unambiguous and unique identification of storage devices (e.g., barcode on hard drives).g. MUST allow EM records to be transmitted, stored or accessed securely. To secure EM records, the system SHOULD be equipped with applications such as user logs, EM record encryption and firewalls.h. MUST store all EM Records on storage devices and in formats that are compatible or can be readily translated into formats that are compatible with CCMs DRC hardware and EM review software.

On-board EM System component	SSP
<i>2. User interface</i>	<p>The onboard user interface:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MUST include a display on the vessel. b. MUST include software or hardware that shows EM system health status and real time images from installed cameras on the display. c. MUST allow only authorised users (e.g., EM Service Providers, EM service technicians) to adjust system configurations. d. COULD Include a keyboard, mouse, touchscreen, or other device to allow user inputs to the system.
<i>3. Cameras</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An EM system MUST be outfitted with cameras to capture imagery of fishing activity. b. The number and position of cameras MUST be sufficient to capture necessary imagery to allow generation of the data fields set out in the EM data requirements. c. Cameras MUST, capture imagery that meets image quality standards under typical fishing conditions that allow for an EM Analyst to generate the data fields set out in the EM data requirements. As a minimum standard²²: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frame rate MUST be no lower than 5 frames per second (fps) for any imagery requiring identification of species; and 2. Resolution MUST be no lower than 720p for any imagery requiring identification of species. d. SHOULD be capable of accommodating remote or onboard configuration of parameters to optimise camera functionality throughout a typical fishing trip; <p>Recorded imagery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. MUST be recorded in a widely used and accessible video or image file format, such as MP4 or JPEG, or other compression standards that are able to be viewed. f. MUST include a timestamp, location, and vessel identification information on the video or image.

²² Other camera configurations (e.g. shutter speed, bitrate etc.) may vary to balance collection of adequate footage versus storage and transmission costs

On-board EM System component	SSP
<i>4. Geolocation data and device</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A geolocation device²³ MUST record vessel location coordinates and the associated date and time in a format capable of integration with EM Records b. The geolocation device MUST be installed and remain in a location in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines such that the device can reliably function. c. The EM system COULD transmit geolocation data and associated date and time, and vessel identification information to DRCs on a regular basis, as defined by the relevant program requirements, throughout the duration of a fishing trip in a format compatible with DRC software. d. The EM system COULD be able to verify whether transmissions of geolocation data and associated date and time, and vessel identification information to DRCs are successful. e. If the EM system is unable to transmit geolocation data due to a communication error, it SHOULD store geolocation data and automatically send it as soon as practically possible after communication is restored.
<i>5. Uninterruptible power supply</i>	The EM system SHOULD include a UPS in the event that the main source of power is interrupted.
<i>6. Sensors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. EM systems SHOULD be outfitted with sensors, which may include the use of camera imagery as a synthetic sensor, to determine whether fishing activity is occurring, e.g., hydraulic or drum rotation sensors. If the EM system is outfitted with sensors, then it SHOULD be capable of generating and recording a log file of readings from system sensors stored in a similar manner to time and geolocation information.
<i>7. Communication system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The EM System SHOULD have or integrate with at least one network communication system that enables the reliable and regular transmission (e.g., daily or weekly, hourly) of near-real-time data on system health (including still images for EM

²³ The EM system may use an existing geolocation device on type-approved hardware on the vessel (e.g., VMS) or have its own geolocation device.

On-board EM System component	SSP
	<p>system status verification when prescribed by the program requirements), sensors (if applicable), and geolocation to DRCs during all fishing activity, and to the extent possible, supports remote access to the EM system by the EM Service Provider or their designated service technicians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. The network communication system(s) SHOULD be a widely used and globally recognized technology, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 3G, 4G, or 5G cellular networks. ii. Wi-Fi iii. Satellite communications. c. The EM system COULD be able to verify whether transmissions of data on system health (including still images), sensors, and geolocation to DRCs are successful. d. The EM System SHOULD have ethernet or any other communication system allowing data transfer and remote access to the system via the onboard connection.

General Requirements for onboard EM Components	
1. <i>Weather Resistance</i>	EM hardware components that are utilized on deck and are exposed to the elements (e.g., sensors and cameras) MUST be sufficiently dust and water resistant (e.g., IP66) and durable (e.g., corrosion, impact, and vibration resistant) to operate reliably under the range of conditions expected in their location on fishing vessels. IP67 or IP68 SHOULD be used for those locations where significant water contact is expected.
2. <i>Tamper Resistant and Tamper Evident</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The onboard hardware MUST be robust and tamper evident to mitigate the risk of intentional sabotage or malfunctions. This MUST include physical and/or software features. b. The EM System SHOULD feature a login history tool which allows the tracking of information on when and by whom system configuration settings have been accessed offering insights into possible tampering attempts.
3. <i>Compatibility with Other On Board Equipment</i>	The EM System SHOULD be capable of functioning in close physical proximity to other onboard electrical and hydraulic equipment (i.e., EM System operations MUST not be materially impacted by the presence of other onboard electrical equipment and MUST not materially impact the proper functioning of other onboard electrical equipment).
4. <i>Compatibility with DRC Review Software</i>	All EM Records generated by the EM system MUST be in a compatible format or be able to be converted into a compatible format, to allow the ingestion of the EM Records into an analysis software being used.
5. <i>Capable of Spatial Calibration</i>	An EM system SHOULD have capability for spatial calibration for accurate image and fish length measurements.
6. <i>System Health Status</i>	<p>The system SHOULD execute a system health test either automatically or when initiated by user and MUST provide a visual signal on the display that the system is operational (i.e., it should be obvious, simply by looking at the display, whether or not the system is working properly).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The EM system MUST be able to generate a log file that allows an EM program to determine the operational health status of the system. The log file SHOULD include details of EM system processes, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. System power up ii. System shutdown planned iii. System shutdown unplanned (e.g., power cut)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Camera connectivity v. Camera recording start and stop times (planned) vi. Camera recording error²⁴ vii. Available hard drive space viii. Sensor connectivity, if applicable ix. Sensor recording start and stop times (planned) , if applicable x. Sensor recording error, if applicable xi. Activation and deactivation of recording triggers (e.g., vessel speed, drum rotation sensors, geofencing, and time scheduled), if applicable <p>b. System SHOULD undertake regular system health checks throughout the duration of the fishing trip at a frequency defined by the EM Program and MUST show malfunction alerts (errors and warnings) on the display of the user interface (Onboard User Interface) of the control centre.</p> <p>c. The EM system COULD be able to capture and store single frame images from each onboard camera on a regular basis (e.g., timed intervals, such as hourly, or on event triggers such as geofences) to show that cameras are operational, not obstructed, obscured, or displaced.</p>
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²⁴ The appropriate time interval may require regular review and updating.

Installation, Operation, and Service of onboard EM Systems	
Requirement	SSP
1. <i>EM system installation</i>	<p>CCMs SHOULD ensure that their EM Service Provider or their designated installer complies with the relevant EM standards. To this end, CCMs are encouraged to refer to Annex 1 (voluntary guidelines for EM system installation).</p> <p>The vessel owner or their designated representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MUST provide information describing the vessel configuration and systems to facilitate EM system installation. b. MUST make the vessel and appropriate personnel (such as engineers, fishing master, multilingual staff, etc.) available and provide the EM Service Provider unfettered access, including to the ship's power supply, to complete EM system installation.
2. <i>Vessel Monitoring Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Vessel owner or EM Service Provider MUST complete a Vessel Monitoring Plan and submit it to the CCMs DRC for approval. b. A copy of the approved Vessel Monitoring Plan SHOULD be maintained aboard the vessel at all times during fishing operations. c. Vessel Monitoring Plans MUST be updated and submitted to the EM Program at a frequency determined by the EM Program and anytime changes are made to information or requirements outlined in the VMP (e.g., new vessel contact information, change in EM System configuration, change in catch handling guidelines). d. The Vessel Monitoring Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. MUST include contact information for the EM Service Provider, vessel owner(s), and vessel operator(s), and base manager(s) (if applicable). ii. MUST include general vessel information as specified in the EM data requirements iii. MUST include a diagram, description, and photo(s) of the vessel layout that identifies where key fishing activities will occur on the vessel (e.g., hauling, sorting, discarding) and COULD include measurements of all items, tools, or areas on the vessel that EM to support estimation of lengths of fish caught. iv. A description of the EM setup:

Installation, Operation, and Service of onboard EM Systems	
Requirement	SSP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MUST include the number and location of cameras including images of their installation location and an image from each camera's perspective, and include nighttime images, as appropriate, to demonstrate sufficient lighting. ● MUST include a description and image of the location of all other components of the installed EM system (e.g., geolocations system, EM control system, sensors, power supply). ● MUST include relevant details of system configuration settings, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Camera configuration settings (e.g., frame rates, resolution, bitrate) ○ Sensor units and threshold values, if applicable ○ Data recording frequencies and/or sensor triggers for recording, if applicable ○ Software and Firmware versions ○ Spatial calibration settings, if applicable v. MUST include any catch handling procedures required to ensure that EM Records allow collection of the data fields set out in the EM data requirements (e.g., handling in view of cameras, allowable discard locations). See Annex 2 for references to existing catch handling procedures. vi. MUST include vessel duty of care responsibilities to prevent system malfunctions and ensure effective operation of the system, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verifying system functionality at the beginning and at regular intervals throughout the duration of each trip ● Instructions for cleaning camera lenses vii. MUST include vessel responsibilities in the event of system malfunctions that describe the steps that must be taken. viii. MUST include details of what steps, if any, are required to ensure the transmission of the EM Records to the DRC.
3. Field and Technical Support	The vessel owner/operator:

Installation, Operation, and Service of onboard EM Systems	
Requirement	SSP
<i>Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MUST follow duty of care responsibilities described in the <u>Vessel Monitoring Plan</u>. b. MUST report EM system malfunctions to the appropriate contact as outlined in the Vessel Monitoring Plan. This should be done as soon as is practicable, and include details of the date, time, and, if possible, the geolocation when the malfunction was first detected. c. MUST follow vessel responsibilities outlined in the <u>Vessel Monitoring Plan</u> in the event of system malfunctions. <p>The EM Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MUST define vessel responsibilities in the event of system malfunctions that describe the steps that must be taken under different failure scenarios. b. SHOULD respond to EM Service Providers or vessel owners/operators in a timely manner.

SSP: Data Review Centres

A data review centre (DRC) is an entity with access to supporting EM analysis software used by EM analysts to analyse EM Records and generate EM Data. DRCs may serve individual CCMs, subregional groupings, or the entire WCPFC membership. They may also be administered by individual CCMs members, a sub-regional or regional body, or a third-party (commercial) provider. This SSP is not specific to any DRC structure and covers the required infrastructure (hardware and software) to analyse EM Records.

DRC Component	SSP
<i>1. EM Analysis Software</i>	The DRC MUST use EM analysis software to facilitate the generation of EM Data from EM Records. The EM analysis software:

DRC Component	SSP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MUST be compatible with the file types, data structures, syntax, and semantics of EM Records that will be analysed with the software. b. SHOULD be the latest version of analysis software, including security patches c. SHOULD be able to display EM analysed output: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Display the vessel track on a map based on geolocation data integrated in the EM Records, with an option to display the geolocation data of each vessel. ii. Display synchronised imagery from all cameras simultaneously with zoom capability and other relevant imagery features. iii. Display a visual timeline with sensor readings or status, if applicable. iv. Display synchronised sensor data (including vessel heading and speed) and video imagery simultaneously, if applicable. d. SHOULD be able to spatially calibrate an image and measure the length of species brought onboard as required by the EM Program (e.g. through a digital measuring tool in the EM analysis software). e. SHOULD allow the EM Analyst to create annotations to mark events where fishing activity occurred within the EM records. f. SHOULD be able to extract and save segments of video and sensor data, including extraction and saving of still images and the ability to extract short duration video clips of catch. g. MUST be able to produce EM Data into a format compatible (or that can easily made compatible) with agreed EM data requirements for incorporation into WCPFC databases. h. SHOULD be able to import EM records (and related sensor, if applicable, and annotated data) from systems of other EM Service Providers. i. SHOULD have the ability to change the playback speed of the footage (e.g., 0.5x, 1x, 2x, 6x, 8x, 10x)
2. EM Analysis Workstations	The DRC MUST have EM analysis workstation(s) where EM Analysts will use EM analysis software to generate EM Data from EM Records. The EM analysis workstation:

DRC Component	SSP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MUST have hardware and software, or cloud-based platforms that enable effective EM analysis b. MUST have reliable data transmission capabilities sufficient for efficient streaming or download/upload of data required for EM Records analysis, reporting of EM Data, and storage of EM Records. c. MUST have proper ergonomics that support analyst well-being, quality, and efficiency. d. MUST be designed to minimize the risks to commercially sensitive information.
<p><i>3 EM Analysts</i></p>	<p>The use of EM software to generate EM Data from EM Records MUST be conducted by EM Analysts.</p> <p>The EM Analysts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUST complete an appropriate training program which covers materials including (but not limited to): species ID, basic fishing practices, and EM review processes). • EM analysts MUST/MUST not be employees of a fishing company involved in the observed fishery or have other direct conflicts of interest. • Training should cover the EM analysis process and relevant topics identified from the Agreed Minimum Standards and Guidelines for the Regional Observer Program (https://www.wcpfc.int/wcpfc-regional-observer-program-standards%20latest ;pg 12).
<p><i>4. A system to monitor EM System health on vessels</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The EM Program SHOULD have a health monitoring system to receive and display near real-time information of onboard EM System health status (<u>System Health Status</u>), this SHOULD include still images to verify functionality of onboard cameras (<u>System Health Status</u>) and geolocation data (<u>Geolocation device</u>). This system may be part of the DRC. b. If applicable, the onshore health monitoring system MUST receive any malfunction alerts (errors and warnings) that have been generated from the onboard health monitoring system. c. The health monitoring system SHOULD be able to display the latest geolocation of all covered EM Systems on a map.

DRC Component	SSP
<i>5. Storage of EM records and EM data</i>	EM records and associated EM data MUST be retained in accordance with any WCPFC audit requirements.

Appendix 2, Annex 1: Guidelines for administration of an EM program

EM system installation

The EM Service Provider or their designated installer SHOULD:

- a. coordinate installation with the vessel owner or their designated representative.
- b. install an onboard EM system that meets the performance standards described in onboard EM System Component and General Requirements.
- c. ensure the onboard EM system meets the performance standards described in onboard EM System Component and General Requirements through system tests.
- d. provide the necessary information for the vessel owner/operator or their designated representative to complete a Vessel Monitoring Plan (Vessel Monitoring Plans) or complete the Vessel Monitoring Plan on behalf of the owner/operator.
- e. brief the vessel operator and crew member(s) and provide documentation on EM system operation, maintenance, and procedures to follow during regular operation and in the event of a system malfunction (Vessel Monitoring Plans).
- f. MUST submit notification to the relevant EM Program of system installation in the agreed form that attests to the system functionality and its conformance with the performance standards described in onboard EM System Component and General Requirements.

Field and technical support services

The EM Service Provider, in a timely manner, SHOULD:

- a. Communicate with vessel operators and the relevant EM Program to coordinate service needs, resolve specific program issues, and provide feedback on program services.
- b. Provide maintenance and support services, including software and firmware updates, such that all installed EM systems perform according to the performance specifications described in onboard EM System Component and General Requirements and that field services are scheduled and completed with minimal delays to minimise disruption to fishing operations.
- c. Provide technical assistance to vessels upon request on EM system operations, diagnosing causes of system malfunctions, and providing assistance for resolving malfunctions. This assistance SHOULD be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. This service must be provided in the relevant languages as defined in the program specifications.
- d. Submit to the relevant EM Program, and the EM Certifier, where appropriate, reports of all requests for technical assistance from vessels and service calls that include:
 - i. The name and designation of the vessel point of contact
 - ii. The date(s) and time a request for service was made.
 - iii. The date(s) and time(s) when the EM Service Provider called or visited the vessel to provide technical assistance.
 - iv. A description of the issue.
 - v. A description of how the issue was resolved, including actions completed during all service calls or visits in response to the request for service.
 - vi. The date and time the issue was resolved.

Appendix 2, Annex 2: Existing WCPFC Catch handling procedures

Mandatory and non-mandatory catch handling practices are incorporated into several Conservation and Management Measures and also reflected in 'Best handling practices and guidelines'.

These guidelines and requirements SHOULD be considered when determining camera number and positions.

At the time of preparing these EM Standards, these were some of the applicable requirements for WCPFC catch handling procedures:

CMM2022-04 [Sharks]

Para 19 *"CCMs shall ensure that sharks that are caught and are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel before being cut free in order to facilitate a species identification. **This requirement shall only apply when an observer or electronic monitoring camera is present, and should only be implemented taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer.**"*
"[Emphasis added]

Para 20 *"Beginning on January 1, 2024, for sharks that are caught by longline vessels and are not retained, **CCMs shall require** their fishing vessels to release these sharks as soon as possible, taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer, using the following guidelines:*

- (1) Leave the shark in the water, where possible; and*
- (2) Use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible."*

CMM2019-05 Mobulid rays

Para 4 *"**CCMs shall prohibit** their vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of mobulid rays caught in the Convention Area."*

Para 5 *"**CCMs shall require** their fishing vessels to promptly release alive and unharmed, to the extent practicable, mobulid rays as soon as possible, and to do so in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individuals captured. **CCMs should encourage** their fishing vessels to implement the handling practices detailed in Annex 1, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew."*

CMM2018-04 Sea turtles

Para 4 *"**CCMs shall require fishermen** on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured hard-shell sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including giving it resuscitation, before returning it to the water. CCMs shall ensure that fishermen are aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques, as described in WCPFC guidelines."*

CMM2018-03 Seabirds

Para 11 *"**CCMs are encouraged** to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longlining are released alive and in as good condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird concerned. Research into the survival of released seabirds is encouraged."*

Resolution 2005-03 Non-target species

Para 2 “Any such non-target fish species that are not to be retained, shall, to the extent practicable, be promptly released to the water unharmed.”

See also the following safe handling and/or release guidelines:

- Sharks
 - <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/supplementary-info/supplcmm-2022-04-2>
- Manta and mobulid rays
 - <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/supplementary-info/supplcmm-2019-05>
- Sea turtles
 - <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/supplementary-info/supplcmm-2018-04-1>
 - <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/supplementary-info/supplcmm-2018-04-1>
- Seabirds
 - <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/supplementary-info/supplcmm-2018-03>
- Cetaceans
 - <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/supplementary-info/supplcmm-2011-03-2>
 - <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/supplementary-info/supplcmm-2011-03-1>

Appendix 3: Minimum EM data requirements

The ROP minimum data fields were chosen to form the basis of the Minimum EM data fields (what is collected) and requirements (exactly how it is recorded, e.g., format). New fields have been proposed where there is the need for an EM-version of a ROP field which is no longer relevant (e.g., details of the EM analysts as a replacement for details of the ROP observer) or a clear gap in the ROP fields. Those highlighted fields should be considered during the next review of EM data standards.

Note: The current draft does not yet have all the technical detail necessary for EM data requirements (see https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/data-05/e-reporting_ssps for an example for ER standards for logbook reporting versus ROP data fields <https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/Table-ROP-data-fields-instructions.pdf>), but this will be prepared once feedback has been received on the proposed EM data fields.

WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
GENERAL VESSEL AND TRIP INFORMATION FOR ALL VESSEL TYPES			
Name of vessel	Name of vessel. This information would normally be linked to a VESSEL reference database (e.g. WCPFC RFV) which will ensure consistency/standardisation.	The EM system should have linkages to the information submitted to the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels to be consistent with these vessel registers. If the IMO or WCPFC VID is provided, then there is no need to provide the other vessel identification data. If the IMO, WCPFC VID and/or FFA VID are not provided, then the EM data provider needs to provide other data (Vessel Name, Flag State Registration and IRCS to uniquely identify the vessel).	YES
Flag State Registration Number			NO
International Radio Call Sign			YES
Vessel Owner/Company			NO
Hull markings consistent with CMM 2004-03			NO
"WCPFC Identification number" WIN markings consistent with CMM 2004-03			NO

WIN format for markings consistent with CMM 2004-03			NO
International Maritime Organization 'IMO' or Lloyd's Register number 'LR'			NO
WCPFC RFV VID			YES

WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
VESSEL TRIP INFORMATION			
EM trip ID	Trip identifier. This value must be unique.	generated by the source system and could for example be formatted as follow: VESSEL NAME + TRIP DEPARTURE DATE	YES
Date and time of departure from port	The UTC date and time the vessel DEPARTS a port to start its fishing trip. If the vessel is departing from a carrier vessel after an at sea transshipment, the UTC date and time of the departure from a carrier vessel will be used.	Dates must be ISO 8601 standard and UTC. Latitude and Longitude coordinates must be ISO 6709 standard. The international standard of Location Code (UNLOCODE) for PORTs must be used.	YES
Port of departure	Port of DEPARTURE (UNLOCODE) for when a vessel starts a new trip from a port. If the vessel is departing from a carrier vessel after an at sea transshipment, this field will be "AT SEA" and the coordinates of the 'at sea' departure MUST be provided.		YES

Date and time of return to port	YES		YES
Port of return	YES <i>If the vessel END the trip AT SEA (through transshipment), this field will be "AT SEA" and the coordinates of the 'at sea' MUST be provided.</i>		YES
Name of receiving vessel	For when the vessel is engaged in a transshipment activity. This field only required when start or end of trip is 'AT SEA' Consider vessel unique identifier. (<i>potentially could include WCPFC RFV VID</i>)	Entered into EM records analysis system by EM Analyst.	NO
Total number of sets	Total number of sets conducted by the vessel during the trip.	Generated by EM system based on sensors or vessel speed or by another method used by the EM service provider.	YES

WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
OBSERVER INFORMATION			
Observer name			NO
Nationality of observer			NO
Observer provider -country and or organization			NO

Date, time and location of embarkation			NO
Date, time and location of disembarkation			NO
EM ANALYSIS INFORMATION			
EM Analyst (name and code)	EM Analyst's who produced EM data.	This SHOULD be generated by the EM analysis software to ensure standardization.	YES
EM program	EM program provider code e.g. FJEM (Fiji E-Monitoring Program).	Generated by the EM analysis soft. It should adhere to the format "xxEM" where xx is the ISO two-letter code of the CCM providing the data.	YES
EM analysis software	Software name and version of the system used to analyse the EM records.	Generated by the EM analysis software	YES
EM Service Provider	The name of the EM technical service provider for the EM records analysis software.	Generated by the EM analysis software	
EM analysis start date and time	The date and time when the analysis of the EM records STARTED [at the trip level]	This SHOULD be generated by the EM analysis software based on EM analyst activity	YES
EM analysis end date and time	The date and time when the analysis of the EM records ENDED [at the trip level]	This SHOULD be generated by the EM analysis software based on EM analyst activity	YES
EM review type	A place holder field to reflect that EM reviews may have different strategies with different fields collected (e.g., a full review vs a review to verify bycatch mitigation use)	This SHOULD be generated by the EM analysis software based on EM analysts tasking	YES

WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
CREW INFORMATION			
Name of captain			NO
Nationality of captain			NO
Identification document			NO
Name of fishing master			NO
Nationality of fishing master			NO
Identification document			NO
Other crew			NO
Total number of crew			NO
VESSEL ATTRIBUTES			
Vessel cruising speed			NO
Vessel fish hold capacity			NO
Freezer type			NO
Length (specify unit)			NO
Tonnage (specify unit)			NO
Engine power (Specify unit)			NO
Radars			NO
Depth Sounder			NO

Global Positioning System (GPS)			NO
Track Plotter			NO
Weather Facsimile			NO
Sea Surface Temperature (SST) gauge			NO
Sonar			NO
Radio/ Satellite Buoys			NO
Doppler Current Meter			NO
Expendable Bathythermograph (XBT)			NO
Satellite Communications Services (Phone/Fax/Email numbers)			NO
Fishery information services			NO
Vessel Monitoring System			NO

WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
LONGLINE INFORMATION			
VESSEL ATTRIBUTES			
Refrigeration Method			NO
GENERAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES			
Mainline material		May not be detectable depending on camera placement	NO
Mainline length			NO
Mainline diameter			NO
Branch line material(s)		May not be detectable depending on camera placement	NO
SPECIAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES			
Wire trace	The vessel uses wire traces on some or all their lines	Trip level: Indicate Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement	NO
Mainline hauler	Most long line vessel will have an instrument that hauls the lines in after it has been set- some very small vessels may haul line by hand.	Trip level: Indicate Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement -	NO
Branch line hauler	Some long line vessels may use special haulers to coil the branch lines.	Trip level: Indicate Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement	NO
Line shooter		See Deep setting line shooter below	NO
Automatic bait thrower	Most vessels manually throw the branch lines with the bait away from the wash, especially if the bait is vulnerable to bird strikes. However there are a number of vessels that use automatic bait throwers so the bait is constantly thrown away from the wash at a determined distance.	Trip level: Indicate Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement	YES

Automatic branch line attached	Most lines are attached manually at a regular distance along the mainline by a crewman, however some vessels may have an automatic branch line mechanisms that attaches the branch at regular intervals	Trip level: Indicate Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement	YES
Hook type		Set level: hook type or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement	NO
Hook size			NO
Tori Line (Changed WCPFC12)		Set Level: Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement if the vessel is using alternative seabird mitigation methods or is not required to use seabird mitigation	YES
Side setting with bird Curtain and weighted branch lines (Changed WCPFC12)		Set Level: Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement if the vessel is using alternative seabird mitigation methods or is not required to use seabird mitigation M	YES
Weighted branch lines- (Added WCPFC9)		Set Level: Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement if the vessel is using alternative seabird mitigation methods or is not required to use seabird mitigation	NO
Shark lines (Added WCPFC12)		Set Level: Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement	YES
Blue dyed bait		Set Level: Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement if the vessel is using alternative seabird mitigation methods or is not required to use seabird mitigation	YES
Distance between weight and hook (in metres),		Set Level: Estimate, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on	NO

(Added WCPFC9)		camera placement if the vessel is using alternative seabird mitigation methods or is not required to use seabird mitigation	
Deep setting line shooter (Changed WCPFC12)		Set Level: Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement if the vessel is using alternative seabird mitigation methods or is not required to use seabird mitigation	YES
Management of offal discharge Added WCPFC12)	Dumping offal to attract seabirds away from hooks, or not dumping offal	Set Level: Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement if the vessel is using alternative seabird mitigation methods or is not required to use seabird mitigation	YES
Strategic offal disposal (Changed WCPFC12)		See management of offal discharge	NO
Hook shielding device		Set Level: Yes, No, or 'Could not be determined' recognising it may not be detectable depending on camera placement if the vessel is using alternative seabird mitigation methods or is not required to use seabird mitigation	YES

WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
EFFORT INFORMATION FOR THE SET			
Date and time of start of set	When the first buoy is thrown into the water	Auto-generated by the EM system due to the linking of EM records to time and geolocation data	YES
Latitude and Longitude of start of set			YES
Date and Time of end of set	When the last buoy is thrown into the water		YES
Latitude and Longitude of end of set			YES
Total number of baskets or floats			YES
Number of hooks per basket, or number of hooks between floats		PROTOCOL is to count hooks from first 3 baskets, middle 3 baskets and last 3 baskets and the average HOOKS per BASKET (successive floats) can then be determined.	YES
Total number of hooks used in a set		Could be automatically derived from hooks per basket and number of baskets	YES
Line shooter speed			NO
Length of float-line			NO
Distance between branch-lines			NO
Length of branch-lines			NO
Time-depth recorders (TDRs)			NO
Number of light-sticks		Lights stick used: Yes, No, 'Could not be determined'	NO
Target species			NO
Bait Species		PROTOCOL is to review the BAIT used during the analyses conducted over the setting of the first 3 baskets, the middle 3 baskets and the last 3 baskets. This should be possible using appropriate placement of the camera mounted to view the SETTING process	YES
Date and time of start of haul	When the first buoy is thrown from the water		YES

Latitude and Longitude of start of haul	When the last buoy is retrieved from the water	Auto-generated by the EM system due to the linking of EM records to time and geolocation data	
Date and time of end of haul			YES
Latitude and Longitude of end of haul			
Total amount of baskets, floats monitored by observer in a single set	The total number of floats or baskets monitored by the EM Analyst in a single HAUL		YES

WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH SET			
Hook number, between floats	The hook number that the animal is caught on count hooks from the last float hauled on board to next float hauled on board	Striped marlin, seabirds, sharks and rays, marine turtles, cetaceans	YES
Species code			YES
Length of fish		Estimate, or 'Could not be determined'. Not all vessels, EM systems and EM analysis software may have this capability. Further, this may require specific catch handling practices. It is recommended that the SSP provide advice on the coverage required for stock assessment catch verification purposes	YES
Length measurement code		Details of the length measurement approach, if applicable, should be included in the EM program description	YES
Gender		EM Analyst declaration. Not possible for most species (use U-unknown). Can collect sharks and rays sex, for example, if shown ventrally. Some other species may be possible (e.g. mahi mahi and opah).	YES
Condition when caught		EM Analyst declaration	YES
Fate		EM Analyst declaration	YES
Condition when released		EM Analyst declaration	YES
Tag recovery information			NO
Catch event date and time	UTC date and time (to the nearest second) of the catch event (as recorded by the EM equipment)	Field automatically generated by EM system when the EM analyst records the catch coming onboard or if landed at all, when it is struck off, released or discarded. In case the software does not allow recording this information, then this could be recorded as 'Not Available'.	NO

Catch event latitude and longitude	Latitude and longitude of each catch (ISO 6709 standard)	Field automatically generated by the EM system. Minimum resolution of position is 1/1000 of a minute. In case the software does not allow recording this information, then this could be recorded as 'Not Available'.	NO
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WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST			
Marine Reptiles, Marine Mammals, Sea Birds, Designated Shark Species			
GENERAL INFORMATION			
Type of interaction	Details of the gear interaction with the SSI. For example, hooking position for marine turtles and sharks.	EM	YES
Date and time of interaction		Auto-generated by the EM system due to the linking of EM records to time and geolocation data	YES
Latitude and longitude of interaction			YES
Species code of marine reptile, marine mammal, or seabird.			YES
LANDED ON DECK			
Length		Estimate, or 'Could not be determined'. Not all vessels, EM systems and EM analysis software may have this capability. Further, this may require specific catch handling practices. It is recommended that the SSP provide advice on the coverage required for stock assessment catch verification purposes	YES

Length measurement code		Details of the length measurement approach, if applicable, should be included in the EM program description	YES
Gender		EM Analyst declaration. Not possible for most species (use U-unknown).	YES
Estimated shark fin weight by species			NO
Estimated shark carcass weight by species			NO
Condition when landed on Deck		EM Analyst declaration	YES
Condition when released		EM Analyst declaration	YES
Tag recovery information			NO
Tag release information			NO
INTERACTION WITH VESSEL OR GEAR ONLY			
Vessel's activity during interaction			NO
Condition observed at start of interaction			NO
Condition observed at end of interaction			NO
Description of interaction			NO
Number of animals sighted			NO

WCPFC ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELD	DESCRIPTION	NOTES ON EM PROTOCOL	PROPOSED EM DATA FIELD
EM TRIP MONITORING SUMMARY (Did the vessel)			
Was an observer onboard the vessel		YES/NO	YES
Inaccurately record vessel positions on vessel log sheet for sets, hauling and catch; (Yes No)		EM programs could use EM data to verify ER data	NO
Inaccurately record retained 'Target Species' in the vessel logs; (Yes No)		EM programs could use EM data to verify ER	NO
Inaccurately record 'Target Species' discards; (Yes No)		EM programs could use EM data to verify ER	NO
Inaccurately record retained By catch species (Yes No)		EM programs could use EM data to verify ER	NO
Inaccurately record By-catch species discards; (Yes No)		EM programs could use EM data to verify ER	NO
record species inaccurately (Yes No)		EM programs could use EM data to verify ER	NO
Interact with a non-target species		Could be automatically populated from EM data	YES
high grade the catch; (Yes No)		EM programs could use EM data to verify ER	NO
Fail to comply with any Commission Conservation and Management measure; (Yes No)		YES/NO (details if YES)	YES
fish in areas where it is not permitted to fish; (Yes No)		This can be addressed using VMS	NO
fail to report vessel position to countries, where required, when entering and leaving an EEZ (crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the High Seas (Yes No)			NO
transfer or tranship fish from, or to,			YES

another vessel (Yes No)			
request that an event not be reported by the observer; (Yes No)			NO
Did the operator or any crew assault, obstruct, resist, delay, refuse boarding to, intimidate or interfere with observers in the performance of their duties (Yes No)			NO
Did the operator fail to provide the observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to the observer or the observer's government, with food, accommodation and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to an officer on board the vessel .(Yes No)			NO
use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed; (Yes No)			NO
lose any fishing gear; (Yes No)		YES/NO, 'Could not determine' based on camera placement	YES
abandon any gear; (Yes No)		YES/NO, 'Could not determine' based on camera placement	YES
dispose of any metals, plastics, old fishing gear or chemicals;(Yes No)		YES/NO, 'Could not determine' based on camera placement	YES
discharge any oil; (Yes No)		YES/NO, 'Could not determine' based on camera placement	YES
fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where they were not authorized to fish; (Yes No)			NO

Appendix 4: Interim WCPFC EM program reporting requirements

CCMs SHALL report the presence of an EM system in the submission of vessel details to the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessel.²⁵

Any CCM using EM and submitting EM data to meet WCPFC requirements MUST provide the following reporting in their Annual Report Part 1²⁶:

Description of the EM program

EM program component	Explanatory notes
Attestation	<i>EITHER</i> a confirmation that the EM program and EM system meets all the MUST requirements in the EM Standards <i>OR</i> a description of those components that do not and the intended steps to achieve the requirement in the EM Standards.
Vessel monitoring plans	Examples of the Vessel monitoring plans used in the program to be provided. Would show where camera number and placement differ across vessels in the program (e.g. different sized vessels or vessels fishing in different parts of the Convention Area where different camera configurations are required to achieve the monitoring objectives).
Vessel owner / crew responsibilities	A description of the obligations on the vessel owner/operator with respect to the EM system and program, e.g., cleaning or maintenance and how to respond to mechanical or technical failures of the EM system.
EM record transmission / retrieval	Description of how EM records are retrieved from the EM system.
WCPFC CMM procedures	If applicable, any specific features of the EM system and EM program put in place to monitor the implementation of, and compliance with, obligations under a WCPFC CMM.

²⁵ An amendment to the CMM 2022-05 Standards, specifications and procedures for the WCPFC RFV would be required to support implementation.

²⁶ For any CCM that **voluntarily** chooses to use EM for WCPFC fisheries and submits EM data to support the work of the Commission, it is recommended that this information be provided to allow the necessary context for the use of any EM data.

Description of the implementation of the EM program

EM program component	Explanatory notes
EM coverage levels	By year: EM coverage in terms of both vessel numbers (number and proportion of vessels with operating EM systems) AND Total fishing effort (number and proportion of fishing events for which EM records were collected)
EM analysis rates	By year: EM analysis rate expressed as a proportion of EM coverage for fishing events (i.e., proportion of EM records reviewed to generate EM data).
EM data submission summary	By year: Summary of key data included in the EM data submission, e.g., number of captures of species of special interest, number of size measurements.
EM data quality and review summary	Summary of observations where issues, which impacted the quality of the EM data, were noted by EM analysts e.g., technical, mechanical, specific circumstances and/or catch handling.

ATTACHMENT 18: ERandEM WG Workplan

Adopted future workplan for the ER and EM IWG

Task	Working approach	Timing	Date to WCPFC
Review and/or develop templates for Part 1 EM program reporting and other parts of the EM standards where standardized reporting would be of value to members.	EREMIWG with SC and TCC review	2025-2026	WCPFC23 (Dec 25)
Advice on potential changes to the interim EM standards to improve harmonization across RFMOs (based on outcomes of the ABNJ Tuna II “ <i>Electronic Monitoring Tuna RFMO Minimum Standards Harmonization Workshop</i> ” to be held in Dec-2024)	EREMIWG with SC and TCC review	2025-2026	WCPFC23 (Dec 25)
Review EM data requirements based on relevant CMM requirements not already covered in the ROP minimum data fields	EREMIWG and ROP IWG with SC and TCC review	2025-2026	WCPFC23 (Dec 25)
Develop a proposed assurance / audit process for EM standards for longlining based on ROP audit model	EREMIWG / WCPFC-Secretariat with SC and TCC review	2025	TBC
Initiate work on EM standards for carrier vessels conducting transshipment for longline vessels.	EREMIWG and TS IWG with SC and TCC review	2025	TBC



FADMO-IWG Workplan 2024 – 2026¹

Timeline	Activities	Responsibility
January – February 2024 and 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priority tasks for 2024 and 2025 as instructed by the Commission. Send circular to CCMs and Observers to gather comments on the draft FADMO-IWG Workplan prepared by the FADMO-IWG Chair including updating of FADMO-IWG members' contact list 	FADMO-IWG Chair, Secretariat
March 2024 - December 2026 July 2024 – December 2024 July 2025 – December 2025	I. Satellite Buoy Data Transmission Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider requirements for the transmission of satellite buoy data from drifting FADs in 2024 to promote effective and sustainable FAD management in the WCPFC (<i>paragraph 56, WCPFC20 Outcomes Document</i>) Prepare document for consideration of SC20, TCC20 and Commission including items II to V Prepare document for consideration of SC21, TCC21 and Commission including items II to VI 	FADMO-IWG, SC, TCC, Commission
March 2024 - December 2026	II. FAD Recovery Programs/Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider ways to implement FAD recovery programs/strategies, including economic aspects and standards required for programs to be effective (<i>paragraph 52, WCPFC20 Outcomes Document</i>) 	FADMO-IWG, SC, TCC, Commission
March 2024 – December 2026	III. FAD logbook² Consider relevant information/materials to develop the WCPFC FAD logbook for vessel	FADMO-IWG, SC, TCC, Commission

¹ The timeline and activities of the workplan will be updated taking into consideration the FADMO-IWG progress and Commission's tasking to the IWG after its annual meeting (e.g. WCPFC21).

² PNA+TK suggestion that the FADMO-IWG meet physically no later than 2025 but preferably in 2024.

	operators (<i>paragraph 53c, WCPFC20 Outcomes Document</i>)	
March 2024 - December 2026	IV. Biodegradable FADs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider ways for the implementation of the stepwise introduction of bio-degradable dFADs (<i>paragraph 53a, WCPFC20 Outcomes Document</i>) 	FADMO-IWG, SC, TCC, Commission
March 2024 - December 2026	V. dFAD Deployment³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide advice to WCPFC23 on the effectiveness of the limit on the number of dFADs deployed as set in paragraph [21] of the CMM 2023-01 (<i>paragraph 53b, WCPFC20 Outcomes Document</i>) 	FADMO-IWG, SC, TCC, Commission
March 2025 - October 2025	VI. Types of Vessels Allowed to Engage in FAD-related Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Commission tasks FAD Management Options IWG and TCC21 to consider clarifying the ambiguity around the existing participatory rights text as to which types of vessels should be allowed to engage in FAD-related activities and provide recommendations to WCPFC22.</i> 	FADMO-IWG, TCC, Commission
September 2025	VII. Physical Meeting	FADMO-IWG

Reference: Progress of the FAD Management Options IWG on Priority Tasks and Discussions for 2024 ([WCPFC21-2024-19](#))

³ PNA+TK proposal to ensure that all drifting FAD Buoys were activated and transmitting position data when in the waters of the WCPFC Convention Area.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR CREW LABOUR STANDARDS

Conservation and Management Measure 2024-04

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Concerned about occurrences of poor labour conditions for crew members onboard fishing vessels, forced or compulsory labour, and other forms of human trafficking, such as servitude, bonded labour, the worst forms of child labour and other human rights abuses;

Recalling the importance of respect for and protection of human rights, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, and enshrined in the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of 1966;

Recalling Articles 6 and 8 of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which set out international standards, including for the responsible conduct of fishing activities to allow for safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions;

Further Recalling Articles 6 and 8 of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;

Further Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour;

Further Recognizing the obligations in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) relating to the duties of the flag State to ensure safety at sea, including through the manning of ships, labour conditions and the training of crews, to render assistance, and to ensure effective protection of human life and to cause an inquiry into any loss of life or serious injury to nationals of another State which has been caused by a marine casualty or incident of navigation.

Noting the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998, amended 2022) and the ILO C188 Work in Fishing Convention (2007) and its objective to ensure that fishers have decent conditions of work on board fishing vessels with regard to minimum requirements for work on board, conditions of service, accommodation and food, occupational safety and health protection, medical care and social security;

Recalling Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which requires State parties to recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's

education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

Noting the 1995 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel which promotes safety at sea for the crews of fishing vessels by setting certification and minimum training standards.

Noting the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 Relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 which sets minimum safety requirements for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length.

Noting the guidance on death at sea, including burial at sea, set out in the International Medical Guide for Ships.

Acknowledging the important role played by crew members and observers in assisting the conduct of fishing vessel operations in compliance with WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures, and the essential role that crew members and observers play in contributing to effective fishing operations;

Recalling efforts that CCMs have made in recent years in improving the conditions and welfare of observers on board fishing vessels, including the adoption of CMM 2017-03, "Conservation and Management Measures for the Protection of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers," and acknowledging the equal importance of the welfare of crew members;

Recalling Article 23 (5) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention), which requires each member of the Commission, to the greatest extent possible, at the request of any other member, and when provided with the relevant information, to investigate any alleged violation by its nationals, or fishing vessels owned or controlled by its nationals, of the provisions of this Convention or any conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission.

Recognising that Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members have adopted Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions for Access by Fishing Vessels, which include crew employment conditions on fishing vessels licensed to fish in their Exclusive Economic Zones;

Mindful that CCMs have a legitimate interest in increasing the participation of their labour force in the crewing of vessels that catch highly migratory fish stocks in their waters in the Convention area, and that CCMs are interested in promoting safe and decent employment conditions for their national and non-national crews;

Recalling Resolution 2018-01, Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels, adopted by WCPFC which encouraged CCMs to implement measures, consistent with generally accepted international minimum standards for crew on fishing vessels, where applicable, to ensure

fair working conditions on board for all crew working on fishing vessels flying their flag and operating within the Convention area;

Adopts the following conservation and management measure in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Area of Application

1. This measure shall apply to the following categories of fishing vessels authorized to fish in the Convention Area:
 - a. vessels fishing exclusively on the high seas in the Convention Area; and
 - b. vessels fishing on the high seas and in coastal State EEZs; and
 - c. vessels fishing in the EEZs of two or more coastal States.
2. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the rights of relevant CCMs to enforce their laws with respect to the safety of crew consistent with international law.¹
3. When the flag CCM of a fishing vessel, whose owner/operator uses a crew provider² from another CCM to source crew, through the WCPFC Secretariat requests the CCM of the crew provider, the CCM shall provide information to the WCPFC Secretariat annually on crew providers. The information shall include at a minimum the name, location and contact details of the crew provider. The Secretariat shall make the information available to all CCMs.
4. CCMs shall ensure that owners and/or operators of fishing vessels covered by this measure, as specified in paragraph 1, liaise with any crew providers in order to effectively implement all requirements set out in this measure.
5. In addition to the requirements of this Measure, CCMs are encouraged to make every effort to have relevant national legislation which fully extends to all crew*³ members working on fishing vessels flying their flag in the areas set out in paragraph 1.
6. CCMs may adopt legally binding mechanisms, such as licensing conditions, for vessels fishing solely within its exclusive economic zone.

¹ It is understood that this CMM does not apply to territorial seas or archipelagic waters.

² **Crew provider** means any person, company, institution, agency or other organisation, in the public or the private sector, which is engaged in recruiting fishers on behalf of, or placing fishers with, fishing vessel owners.

³ **Crew** includes persons of any age on board a fishing vessel.

Minimum Working Conditions on Board Fishing Vessels

7. CCMs shall ensure that owners and/or operators of fishing vessels covered by this measure, as specified in paragraph 1:
- a. Provide crew members a safe working environment where the welfare, occupational safety and health of crews is effectively protected.
 - b. Ensure there is no forced or compulsory labour and other mistreatment on fishing vessels.
 - c. Provide terms of employment, that are set out in a written contract or agreement, in a form and language that facilitates the crew member's understanding of the terms, is agreed by the crew member prior to departure on the fishing trip, and signed by both the crew member and the owner and/or operator (or, where crew members are not employed or engaged by the fishing vessel owner and/or operator, the fishing vessel owner and/or operator shall have evidence of contractual or similar arrangements). The written contract or agreement shall be made available to the crew member and, upon request, authorised officers, in accordance with national law and practice. A CCM may allow the owner and/or operator to use the particulars in Attachment 1 as a guideline for crew contracts or agreements.
 - d. Provide crew members decent working and living conditions on board fishing vessels, including access to clean or potable freshwater and food,⁴ occupational safety and health protection, medical care, rest periods and sleeping quarters, and conditions that facilitate minimum standards of health and hygiene;
 - e. Provide crew members, in accordance with the flag CCM's standards or regulations, with decent and regular remuneration (for example monthly or quarterly) that is accessible by crew as well as appropriate insurance for the crew;
 - f. Provide crew members regular opportunity to disembark consistent with laws of the flag CCM, unfettered access to their identity documents, ability to terminate the contract of employment and seek repatriation, and unmonitored access to communication devices to seek assistance.
 - g. Cover costs of repatriation where the early termination of a contract is sought by the owner and/or operator, except where the crew member has been found, in accordance with a CCM's regulations, to be in breach of contract.⁵

⁴ Food must be in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture.

⁵ The term "**breach of contract**" means a crew member's intentional and serious violation of their contract, such as illegal activities, that justify a dismissal under a flag CCM's regulations.

8. CCMs shall ensure that owners and/or operators of fishing vessels covered by this measure:

- a. Carry aboard a record of the provided contact details of each crew member's next of kin or designated contact person; and
- b. Provide safety training and/or instruction for all the crew members working on board the vessel, with consideration given to relevant international guidelines and standards for training of crew members.

In the Event of a Crew Member's Death

9. In the event a crew member dies, the flag CCM shall inform the Secretariat as soon as practicable, and ensure that the owner and/or operators of the fishing vessel:

- a. ceases fishing operations as soon as practicable;
- b. immediately notifies the flag CCM and the crew member's next of kin or designated contact person;
- c. cooperates fully in all official investigations, and preserves any potential evidence and the personal effects and, if not needed by other crew, the quarters of the deceased crew member;
- d. returns to port if required by the flag CCM for the official investigation and departs only when clearance is received from the flag CCM authorities; and
- e. preserves the body for the purposes of an autopsy, investigation, and/or repatriation. Bodies of deceased crew should not be buried at sea or disposed of in any other manner unless specifically authorized by the flag CCM's national regulation, or next of kin.

In the Event a Crew Member Suffers Serious Illness or Injury

10. As the health and safety of the crew is paramount, in the event a crew member suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, the flag CCM shall ensure that the owner and/or operators of the fishing vessel:

- a. ceases fishing operations as soon as practicable and takes all reasonable actions to care for the crew member and provide any medical treatment available and possible on board the vessel;
- b. immediately notifies the flag CCM;
- c. where directed by the flag CCM, facilitates the disembarkation and transport of the crew member to a medical facility equipped to provide the required care, as soon as practicable; and
- d. cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the cause of the illness or injury.

In the Event a Crew Member is Missing or Fallen Overboard

11. In the event that a crew member is missing or presumed fallen overboard, the flag CCM shall ensure that the owner and/or operator of the fishing vessel:

- a. ceases fishing operations as soon as practicable;
- b. immediately notifies the responsible Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) to report the incident time and location and commences search and rescue for at least 72 hours unless the crew member is found sooner, or unless instructed by the flag CCM to continue searching;⁶
- c. immediately notifies the flag CCM and notifies the crew member's next of kin or designated contact person as soon as practicable after the search and rescue operation has ceased;
- d. immediately alerts other vessels in the vicinity regarding the status of the crew member by using all available means of communication;
- e. cooperates fully in any search and rescue operation;
- f. provides a report about the incident to the appropriate authorities of the flag CCM and other appropriate authorities on the incident if requested;
- g. cooperates fully in all official investigations, and preserves any potential evidence and the personal effects and, if not needed by other crew, the quarters of the missing crew member; and
- h. returns to port if required by the flag CCM for the official investigation and departs only when clearance is received from the flag CCM authorities.

In the Event of Forced or Compulsory Labour and Other Mistreatment

12. In the event that a flag CCM has reasonable grounds to believe, based on information such as port state notifications, electronic monitoring, observer reports, high seas boarding inspection reports or information provided by a crew member, that a crew member's health and safety is endangered or that a crew member has been subject to forced or compulsory labour and other mistreatment, the flag CCM shall ensure that the owner and/or operator of the fishing vessel:

- a. immediately takes action to preserve the safety of the crew member and mitigate and resolve the situation on board;
- b. immediately provides the flag CCM's designated authorities with a report on the situation, remedies provided, including the status and location of the crew member, as soon as possible;
- c. facilitates the safe disembarkation of the crew member in a manner and place, as agreed by the flag CCM and crew member, including access to any needed medical treatment at the expense of the owner and/or operator; and

⁶ In the event of force majeure, flag CCMs may allow their vessels to cease search and rescue operations before 72 hours have elapsed.

- d. cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the incident, including by providing independent and individual access to all crew members remaining on the vessel.

13. In the event that, after disembarkation from a fishing vessel, a crew member reports to the port CCM an allegation of forced or compulsory labour and other mistreatment while on board the fishing vessel, including providing any available supporting information, the port CCM shall notify, in writing, the flag CCM and the Secretariat. Upon notification, the flag CCM in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention, shall:

- a. investigate the allegations, including through information provided by the crew member (and crew provider where relevant), port CCM, and crew on the fishing vessel and take any appropriate action in response to the results of the investigation; and
- b. cooperate fully in any other investigation conducted, including providing the flag CCM's investigation report to the crew provider and port CCM.

14. In the event a port CCM is notified by a flag CCM that a crew member may have experienced forced or compulsory labour and other mistreatment, the port CCM shall facilitate entry to port of the fishing vessel to allow disembarkation of the crew member to the extent possible under national law and assist in any investigations if so requested by the flag CCM.

15. CCMs shall cooperate and provide support in relation to cases of forced or compulsory labour and other mistreatment on fishing vessels, including facilitating evidence gathering from crew providers in their jurisdiction or from their nationals, where possible.

Special Requirements of Developing States

16. To implement this Measure, developed CCMs are encouraged to make efforts and consider options to assist developing CCMs, both flag CCMs and coastal CCMs, including working with local industries (which includes crew providers) to help them meet the standards in this Measure.

Reporting

17. Within one month after the entry into force of this measure, CCMs shall inform the Secretariat of its designated contact point(s) in connection with the implementation of this measure.

18. CCMs shall advise the Commission (in Part 2 of their Annual Report) on implementation of this Measure, including for flag CCMs to report on the implementation of obligations in the event that a crew member dies (paragraph 9); suffers serious illness or injury (paragraph 10); is missing or fallen overboard (paragraph 11); there are allegations of forced or compulsory labour or other mistreatment (paragraph 12 & 13); and for port CCMs to report on the implementation of obligations if they are notified of allegations of forced or compulsory labour or other mistreatment (paragraph 13 & 14).

19. This measure will take effect on 1 January, 2028 and CCMs are encouraged to implement these measures as soon as possible.

Attachment 1: Particulars that may be included in a Crew Agreement

1. The crew's family name and other names, date of birth or age, and birthplace.
2. The place at which and date on which the agreement was concluded.
3. The details of the crew member's next of kin or designated contact person in the event of an emergency.
4. The name of the fishing vessel or vessels and the registration number of the vessel or vessels on board which the crew undertakes to work. If the crew member changes vessels, this should be updated by the vessel owner and/or operator in the written contract or agreement with the crew member.
5. The name and address of the vessel owner and/or operator, or other party to the agreement with the crew member.
6. Starting date and duration of contract.
7. The voyage or voyages to be undertaken, if this can be determined at the time of making the agreement.
8. The capacity in which the crew is to be employed or engaged.
9. If possible, the place at which and date on which the crew member is required to report on board for service. This should include details of the carrier delivering the crew member to the fishing vessel, if the crew member boards the fishing vessel at sea.
10. The provisions to be supplied to the crew, any in-kind payments of a limited proportion of the remuneration, the amount of wages, or the amount of the share and the method of calculating such share if remuneration is to be on a share basis, or the amount of the wage and share and the method of calculating the latter if remuneration is to be on a combined basis, and any agreed minimum wage, and periodicity and form of payments.
11. The termination of the agreement and the conditions thereof, namely:
 - a. if the agreement has been made for a definite period, the date fixed for its expiry, unless agreed by mutual consensus;
 - b. if the agreement has been made for a voyage, the port of destination and the time which has to expire after arrival before the crew shall be discharged; and
 - c. if the agreement has been made for an indefinite period, the conditions which shall entitle either party to rescind it, as well as the required period of notice for rescission, provided that such period shall not be less for fishing vessel owner and/or operator or other party to the agreement with the crew member.
12. The right of termination by the crew member in the event of forced or compulsory labour and other mistreatment, and to clearly account for deductions made against the crew member's wages for any in-kind contributions.

13. The protection that will cover the crew member in the event of forced or compulsory labour and other mistreatment, sickness, injury or death in connection with service.
14. The amount of paid annual leave or the formula used for calculating leave, where applicable.
15. The health and social benefits coverage and benefits to be provided to the crew member by the fishing vessel owner and/or operator, or other party or parties to the crew member's work agreement, as applicable.
16. The crew member's entitlement to repatriation and terms of repatriation.
17. Information on crew members' rights and access to complaint or dispute mechanisms and legal support.
18. The minimum periods of rest, in accordance with national laws, regulation or other measures.
19. Full protection of the health and safety and morals of young crew members, including ensuring young crew members have received adequate specific instruction or vocational training and have completed basic pre-sea safety training.

Attachment 2: Definitions

Forced or compulsory labour is all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily. [ILO C029 on Forced Labour Convention C029 - Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (ilo.org)]

Indicators of forced or compulsory labour

- Abuse of vulnerability - taking advantage of a worker's vulnerable position.
- Deception - failure to deliver what has been promised to the worker, either verbally or in writing.
- Restriction of movement.
- Isolation – denying a worker contact with the outside world.
- Physical and sexual violence.
- Intimidation and threats.
- Retention of identity documents.
- Withholding of wages.
- Debt bondage.
- Abusive working and living conditions.
- Excessive overtime.

The existence of **forced or compulsory labour** may be evidenced by the presence of a single indicator, or several indicators taken together, in a given situation. Overall, the set of eleven indicators covers the main possible elements of a forced labour situation, and hence provides the basis to assess whether or not an individual worker is a victim of this crime.

[ILO indicators of Forced Labour | International Labour Organization](#)

Mistreatment is the failure to provide crew members a safe working environment where the welfare, occupational safety and health of crews is effectively protected. This includes the failure to provide crew members with decent working and living conditions on board fishing vessels.



UPDATED SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE ROADMAP IWG WORKPLAN 2023-2026

Submitted by the SPA-RM-IWG Chair

Purpose

1. To define the responsibilities of the SPA Roadmap Inter Sessional Working Group (IWG) in progressing key issues on the management of the South Pacific albacore.

Terms of Reference

1. The terms of reference for the workgroup shall include consideration of the management issues:
 - a) Elements necessary for a pathway to support the development of the SPA management procedure, including the revision of the management objective and the iTRP.
 - b) Elements necessary for establishing an allocation framework.
 - c) Elements for developing a new conservation and management measure.
2. The roadmap will also contain(s) three main components:
 - a) Development of the SPA Management Procedure.
 - b) Allocation Framework: Develop recommendations for a framework on how the Commission allocates the overall limit for South Pacific Albacore, taking into consideration all fisheries, the interests and aspirations of SIDs and Participating Territories and the impacts of Climate Change and the actions required to achieve the biological and economic objectives of the fishery.
 - c) Development of a new CMM.

Workplan:

This workplan addresses the main components identified through the TOR above. It is intended to be a working document that will be revised by the IWG as work progresses. *Considering the margins of the SC and/or TCC meetings for the IWG to meet; and the SMD type meeting to be a virtual meeting.

	Support the development and adoption of the Management Procedure	Establishing a framework for the allocation of the SPA TAC	Development of a new implementing CMM
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IWG will progress the discussions on a management objective and the revision of the iTRP. - Progress the discussions and make recommendations on a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IWG to identify and develop recommendations on key components and a process for establishing an allocation framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop a new measure that incorporates the allocation framework, as well as any other issues identified by the IWG, that will function as an implementing mechanism

	management procedure for the SPA for the Commission to consider		for the management procedure.
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consider the South Pacific albacore (SPA) objectives and a revised interim TRP and recommendations for WCPFC20 to consider. - Ongoing development of the SPA management procedure and testing for the IWG to progress the discussions on the SPA MP development and provide guidance in the margins of the SC19 and/or TCC19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consider key issues, principles and developments, required to be considered in the development of the allocation framework for the Commission to consider, in particular Article 10.3 of the Convention. - Report to the Commission on the progress of the work by the IWG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take note of discussions/progress from the MP and the SPA Allocation framework developments, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to identify management measure implications to be addressed.
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing SPA Management Procedure development and testing and 'dry run' of MP application. - A Science management dialogue dedicated to SPA focused on selecting candidate MPs for potential adoption). - Recommend to the Commission to adopt a SPA management procedure. - Development of a CMM for a Management Procedure for SPA for adoption by WCPFC21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending on outcomes from 2023, the IWG to consider recommending the start of the allocation process discussion. Potential physical workshop for allocation to be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take note of discussions/progress from the MP and the SPA allocation framework development, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to identify key elements for a revised CMM for the SPA
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of a Management Procedure CMM for the SPA by WCPFC22. - Adopted management procedure is <u>run</u> for the first time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission will hold a workshop, or workshops, dedicated to the management procedure, implementing arrangements, mixed fisheries issues as well as allocation of SPA if appropriate. - Advice provided by SC21 and TCC21 on implementing CMM as appropriate. - Take note of discussions/progress on the MP, as well as other relevant considerations (including guidance from SC and TCC) to identify key elements for a new implementing CMM for SPA. 	
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Management Procedure would commence in 2026 and run in a three-year cycle (2026-2028) 		



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS

Conservation and Management Measure 2024-05

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC), in accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention);

Recognizing the economic and cultural importance of sharks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, the vulnerability of certain shark species to fishing pressure, and the need for measures to promote the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark populations and fisheries;

Recognizing the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, to enable effective shark conservation and management;

Recognizing further that certain species of sharks and rays, such as basking shark and great white shark, have been listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Adopts, in accordance with Article 5, 6 and 10 of the Convention, that:

I. Definitions

1. (1) Sharks: All species of sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras (Class Chondrichthyes)
- (2) Full utilization: Retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, vertebrae and skins, to the point of first landing or transshipment
- (3) Finning: Removing and retaining all or some of a shark's fins and discarding its carcass at sea

II. Objective and Scope

2. The objective of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of sharks.
3. This CMM shall apply to: (i) sharks listed in Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention and (ii) any other sharks caught in association with fisheries managed under the WCPF Convention.
4. This measure shall apply to the high seas and exclusive economic zones of the Convention Area.
5. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the sovereignty and sovereign rights of coastal States, including for traditional fishing activities and the rights of traditional fishers, to apply alternative measures for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing sharks, including any national plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks, within areas under

their national jurisdiction. When Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) apply alternative measures, the CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in their Part 2 Annual Report, a description of the measures.

III. FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of sharks

6. CCMs should implement, as appropriate, the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA). For implementation of the IPOA, each CCM should, as appropriate, include its National Plan of Action for sharks in Part 2 Annual Report.

IV. Full utilization of shark and prohibition of finning

7. CCMs shall take measures necessary to require that all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized. CCMs shall ensure that the practice of finning is prohibited.
8. In order to implement the obligation in paragraph 7, in 2025, 2026, and 2027, CCMs shall require their vessels to land sharks with fins naturally attached to the carcass.
9. Notwithstanding paragraph 8, in 2025, 2026, and 2027, CCMs may authorize their vessels to implement one of the alternative measures listed below to comply with paragraph 7¹. CCMs shall implement enhanced monitoring efforts on its vessels authorized to implement the alternatives.

To ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified by inspectors on board the vessel at any time, these alternatives shall be applied before sharks are stored in fish holds as soon as possible.

- (1) Each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding fins using rope or wire; or
- (2) Identical and uniquely numbered tags are attached to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins in a manner that inspectors can easily identify the matching of the carcass and fins at any time. Both the carcasses and fins shall be stored on board in the same hold.

10. All CCMs shall include in their Part 2 Annual Report, using the template provided in Annex 2, information on the implementation of the measures in paragraphs 8 and 9 as applicable, including 1) how authorized vessels have enhanced their monitoring efforts; 2) how many vessels used the alternative measures in the previous year; 3) how compliance is enforced at sea and in port, including how possible incidents of disproportionate fin counts, high grading and species substitution have been addressed; 4) an explanation of why the fleet has adopted its fin-handling practice and 5) any other information TCC might deem necessary.
11. CCMs shall provide information to TCC on any enforcement difficulties encountered in the case of the alternative measures, from observer, electronic monitoring, aerial, boarding, and landing inspection reports.
12. The Secretariat shall compile the information provided by CCMs with respect to paragraphs 10 and 11 each year and make it available to TCC.
13. The TCC shall review and discuss the reports submitted in accordance with Paragraphs 10 and 11 in 2025, 2026, and 2027. TCC23 shall, taking into account, the outcomes from these reports and

¹ Until July 1 2025, CCMs may use the following alternative: each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably biodegradable one.

discussions, advise the Commission on the effectiveness of the measures set out in paragraph 9 as alternatives to the obligation contained in paragraph 7 and recommend measures for consideration and possible adoption at the 2027 annual meeting of the Commission. If, in 2025, 2026, or 2027, a CCM who used the alternative measures does not provide information in accordance with paragraph 10 to ensure the effectiveness of the alternative measures set out in paragraph 9, paragraph 9 will expire in 2027 for that CCM.

14. CCMs shall take measures necessary to prevent their fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping, and landing any fins harvested in contravention of this CMM.
15. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that both carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify the correspondence between an individual carcass and its fins when they are landed or transshipped.

V. Minimizing bycatch and practicing safe release

16. For longline fisheries targeting tuna and billfish, CCMs shall ensure that their vessels comply with at least one of the following options:
 - (1) do not use or carry wire trace as branch lines or leaders; or
 - (2) do not use branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines. See Annex 1 for a schematic diagram of a shark line.
17. The implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 14 above shall be on a vessel by vessel or CCM basis. Each CCM shall notify the Commission of its implementation of paragraph 14 by March 31, 2021 and thereafter whenever the selected option is changed.
18. Starting on January 1, 2024, between 20 N and 20 S, CCMs shall ensure that their longline vessels targeting tuna and billfish do not use, or if carrying, must stow wire trace as branch lines or leaders and do not use shark lines or branch lines running directly off of the longline floats or drop lines (see Annex 1 for schematic diagram of a shark line).
19. For longline fisheries targeting sharks, CCMs shall develop and report their management plans in their Part 2 Annual Report.
20. The Commission shall adopt and enhance bycatch mitigation measures and develop new or amend, if necessary, existing Shark Safe Release Guidelines² to maximize the survival of sharks that are caught and are not to be retained. Where sharks are unwanted bycatch they should be released alive using techniques that result in minimal harm, taking into account the safety of the crew. CCMs should encourage their fishing vessels to use any Commission adopted guidelines for the safe release and handling of sharks.
21. CCMs shall ensure that sharks that are caught and are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel before being cut free in order to facilitate a species identification. This requirement shall only apply when an observer or electronic monitoring camera is present, and should only be implemented taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer.

² The Commission adopted at WCPFC15 Best Handling Practices for the Safe Release of Sharks (other than Whale Sharks and Mantas/Mobulids)

22. Beginning on January 1, 2024, for sharks that are caught by longline vessels and are not retained, CCMs shall require their fishing vessels to release these sharks, as soon as possible, taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer, using the following guidelines:
- (1) Leave the shark in the water, where possible; and
 - (2) Use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible.
23. Development of new WCPFC guidelines or amendment to existing guidelines for safe release of sharks should take into account the health and safety of the crew.

VI. Species specific requirements

24. Oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark

- (1) CCMs shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel or landing any oceanic whitetip shark, or silky shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.
- (2) CCMs shall require all vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM to release any oceanic whitetip shark or silky shark that is caught as soon as possible after the shark is brought alongside the vessel, and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible, following any applicable safe release guidelines for these species.
- (3) Subject to national laws and regulations, and notwithstanding (1) and (2), in the case of oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark that are unintentionally caught and frozen as part of a purse seine vessels' operation, the vessel must surrender the whole oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark to the responsible governmental authorities or discard them at the point of landing or transshipment. Oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark surrendered in this manner may not be sold or bartered but may be donated for purpose of domestic human consumption.
- (4) Observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples from oceanic whitetip sharks and silky shark caught in the Convention Area that are dead on haulback in the WCPO, provided that the samples are part of a research project of that CCM or the SC. In the case that sampling is conducted as a CCM project, that CCM shall report it in their Part 2 Annual Report.

25. Whale shark

- (1) CCMs shall prohibit their flagged vessels from setting a purse seine on a school of tuna associated with a whale shark if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
- (2) CCMs shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any whale shark caught in the Convention Area, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.
- (3) For fishing activities in Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) exclusive economic zones, the prohibition in paragraph (1) shall be implemented in accordance with the Third Arrangement implementing the Nauru Agreement as amended on 11 September 2010.
- (4) Notwithstanding sub-paragraph (1) above, for fishing activities in exclusive economic zones of CCMs north of 30 N, CCMs shall implement either this measure or compatible measures consistent with the obligations under this measure. When CCMs apply compatible measures, the CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in their Part 2 Annual Report, a description of the measure.

(5) CCMs shall require that, in the event that a whale shark is incidentally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall:

(a) ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release.; and

(b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, including the number of individuals, details of how and why the encirclement happened, where it occurred, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the whale shark on release.

(6) In taking steps to ensure the safe release of the whale shark as required under sub-paragraph (5)(a) above, CCMs shall encourage the master of the vessel to follow the WCPFC Guidelines for the Safe Release of Encircled Whale Sharks (WCPFC Key Document SC-10)³.

(7) In applying steps under sub-paragraphs (1), (5)(a) and (6), the safety of the crew shall remain paramount.

(8) The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of this paragraph on the basis of observer reports, as part of the Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme.

VII. Reporting requirements

26. Each CCM shall submit data on the WCPFC Key Shark Species⁴ for Data Provision in accordance with Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (WCPFC Key Document Data-01).

27. CCMs shall advise the Commission (in their Part 2 Annual Report) on implementation of this CMM in accordance with Annex 2.

VIII. Research

28. CCMs shall as appropriate, support research and development of strategies for the avoidance of unwanted shark captures (e.g. chemical, magnetic and other shark deterrents), safe release guidelines, biology and ecology of sharks, identification of nursery grounds, gear selectivity, assessment methods and other priorities listed under the WCPFC Shark Research Plan.

29. The SC shall periodically provide advice on the stock status of key shark species for assessment and maintain a WCPFC Shark Research Plan for the assessment of the status of these stocks. If possible, this should be done in conjunction with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

30. The SC shall periodically review the impact of fishing gear on sharks that are not retained, including oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark, inside and outside of the area between 20 N and 20 S, and provide advice on potential mitigation measures that would benefit such shark species.

³ Originally adopted on 8 December 2015. The title of this decision was amended through the Commission decision at WCPFC13, through adopting the SC12 Summary Report which contains in paragraph 742: "SC12 agreed to change the title of 'Guidelines for the safe release of encircled animals, including whale sharks' to 'Guidelines for the safe release of encircled whale sharks'."

⁴ The WCPFC Key Shark Species for Data Provision are designated per the Process for Designating WCPFC Key Shark Species for Data Provision and Assessment (WCPFC Key Document SC-08) and are listed in Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (WCPFC Key Document Data-01).

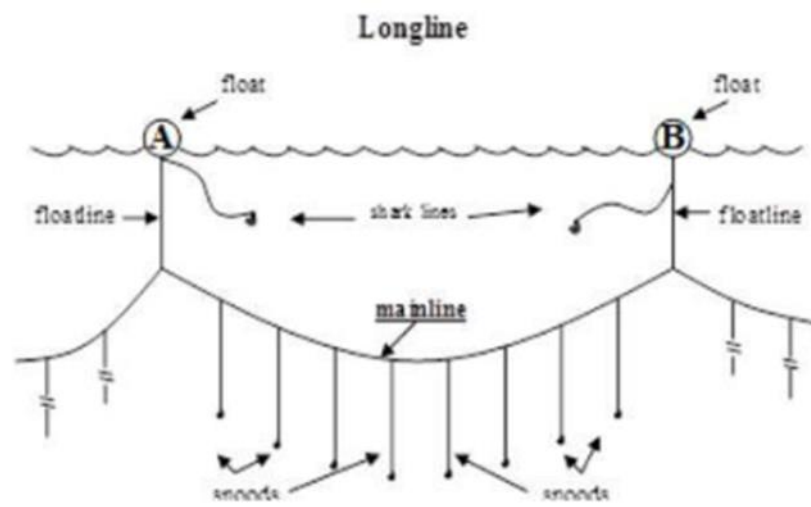
IX. Capacity building

31. The Commission should consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of the IPOA and collection of data on retained and discarded shark catches.
32. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of this measure, including supplying species identification guides for their fleets and guidelines and training for the safe release of sharks, and including, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, in areas under national jurisdiction.

X. Review

33. On the basis of advice from the SC and/or the TCC, the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this CMM, including species specific measures, taking into account, inter alia, any recommendation from the SC or TCC, in 2027 and amend it as appropriate.
34. This CMM replaces CMM 2022-04.

Annex 1. Schematic diagram of a shark line



Annex 2: Template for reporting implementation of this CMM

Each CCM shall include the following information in Part 2 of its annual report:

1. Description of alternative measures in para 5, if applicable
2. Results of their assessment of the need for a National Plan of Action and/or the status of their national Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, as appropriate
3. Details of National Plan of Action, as appropriate, for implementation of IPOA Sharks in para 6 that includes:
 - (1) details of NPOA objectives; and
 - (2) species and fleet covered by NPOA as well as catches thereby
 - (3) measures to minimize waste and discards from shark catches and encourage the live release of incidental catches of sharks;
 - (4) workplan and a review process for NPOA implementation
4. With respect to para 9:
 - (1) Whether sharks or shark parts are retained on board their flag vessels, and if so, how they are handled and stored
 - (2) In case that CCMs retain sharks and choose to apply a requirement for fins to be naturally attached to carcasses
 - Their monitoring and enforcement systems relating to this requirement
 - (3) In case that CCMs retain sharks and choose to apply measures other than a requirement for fins to be naturally attached to carcasses
 - Their monitoring and enforcement systems relating to this requirement
 - A detailed explanation of why the fleet has adopted its fin-handling practice;
5. The management plan in para 17 that includes:
 - (1) specific authorizations to fish such as a license and a TAC or other measure to limit the catch of shark to acceptable levels;
 - (2) measures to avoid or reduce catch and maximize live release of species whose retention is prohibited by the Commission;
6. A report on sampling programs for oceanic whitetip sharks and silky shark as a CCM project as referred to in para 22 (4)
7. Estimated number of releases of oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark caught in the Convention Area, including the status upon release (dead or alive), through data collected from observer programs and other means.
8. Description of compatible measures as referred to in para 23 (4)
9. Any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, including the details required under para 23 (5)(b).



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR NORTH PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN

Conservation and Management Measure 2024-06

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Noting that WCPFC16 adopted an interim rebuilding plan for North Pacific striped marlin that details an interim rebuilding target for North Pacific striped marlin of $20\%SSB_{F=0}$, to be reached by 2034, with at least 60% probability;

Noting with concern that the latest stock assessment for North Pacific striped marlin provided by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) in 2023, indicates that the stock is overfished and likely to be subject to overfishing relative to $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ and MSY-based reference points;

Noting the advice from the ISC that catch should be kept at or below the recent level (2018-2020) average catch;

Further noting that the ISC conducted a rebuilding analysis demonstrating that rebuilding of North Pacific striped marlin can be achieved within the parameters of the WCPFC interim rebuilding plan;

Also noting that the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Members will be adopting a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based arrangements within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPF Convention:

1. This Measure shall apply in high seas and EEZs within the convention area north of the equator.
2. For the purposes of this measure, vessels operated under charter, lease or other similar mechanisms as an integral part of the domestic fleet of a coastal State, shall be considered to be vessels of the host State or Territory. Such charter, lease or other similar mechanism shall be conducted in a manner so as not to charter known IUU vessels.
3. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations of Small Island Developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their own domestic fisheries.
4. CCMs shall ensure that the total catch limit will not exceed 2400 metric tons of catch for each year between 2025 - 2027, which is based on a 60% reduction from the highest catch between 2000 and 2003. If CCMs cumulatively catch in excess of 2400mt in any given year, the measure will be reviewed the following year.

5. Japan, Chinese Taipei, Korea, United States, and China shall, respectively, ensure their annual catches of North Pacific striped marlin shall not exceed the annual catch limits in the table below, without prejudice to future agreements on allocation of TAC. Any CCM not included in the table below shall also ensure that its catch of North Pacific striped marlin does not result in an exceedance of the overall total catch limit of 2400 mt.

CCM	Annual Catch Limit
Japan	1454.4
Chinese Taipei	358.4
Korea	214.8
United States	228.4
China	68.8
TOTAL	2324.8

6. Any unused TAC from a given year will be placed in a reserve and be available for use by the CCMs in the table above in future years, as described in paragraphs 7 and 8 of this CMM. Each CCM will be able to use up to an additional 165 mt over its annual catch limit, so long as there is available catch in the reserve.¹
7. In 2023, there was an 826 mt underage of the TAC of 2400 mt that will be available to CCMs fishing in 2025. Any underage from 2024 will be available to CCMs in 2026, and any underage from 2025 will be available to CCMs in 2027.
8. CCMs whose domestic authorities would require that they shut down their target fishery as a result of this measure shall receive preference in access to any available reserve.
9. Each flag/chartering CCM shall decide on the management measures required to ensure that its flagged/chartered vessels operate under the catch limits specified in paragraph 5 of this CMM, noting that previous examples of such measures have included effort reductions, gear modification and spatial management.
10. Each year CCMs shall report in their Part 2 annual reports their implementation of this measure, including the measures applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce their catch, which may include, but is not limited to catch limits, gear modifications, size restrictions and/or spatial management, and the total catch taken against the limits established under paragraph 5.
11. After their respective catch limits are reached, CCMs shall require their flagged vessels to promptly release to the extent possible North Pacific striped marlin specimens that are alive and haulback in a manner that maximize post release survival while giving due consideration to the safety of crew and members.
12. Any excess of the annual catch limits for North Pacific striped marlin established above shall be deducted from the respective catch limits during the adjustment year (i.e., the year following the Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR) that identified an overharvest).
13. CCMs shall provide their catch, effort, and estimates of total live and dead discards of North Pacific striped marlin in accordance with the Commission's requirements to support the future work of the ISC and SC, including for improving the robustness of stock assessments as soon as

¹ The United States, based on historical fishing levels, may, for management purposes, presume an underage and the availability of the additional 165mt of catch.

possible, but no later than 2027.

14. This CCM replaces CMM 2010-01. This CMM shall be reviewed and shall be amended in 2027, pending the completion of a new stock assessment conducted by ISC.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CETACEANS FROM PURSE SEINE AND LONGLINE FISHING OPERATIONS

Conservation and Management Measure 2024-07

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission;

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention);

Recognising the ecological and cultural significance of cetaceans in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO);

Further recognizing that certain cetacean species and populations in the WCPFC Convention Area are threatened or critically endangered;

Considering the adverse effects of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on some populations of cetaceans in the WCPO through capture, injury and mortality;

Mindful that cetaceans are particularly vulnerable to being encircled by purse seine nets, due to the propensity of tuna to form schools around them, or for toothed cetaceans to be attracted to the same prey as tuna;

Aware that longline fishing grounds overlap with the distributions of certain cetacean species and that cetacean interactions with longline fisheries are known to occur in the Convention Area;

Aware that SC19 noted the value of improving the understanding of interaction rates, particularly species-specific rates, of cetaceans in the WCPO fisheries;

Committed to ensuring that potential impacts on the sustainability of cetaceans from mortality through purse seine and longline operations are mitigated;

Required, by Articles 5(d) and (e) of the Convention, to adopt management arrangements for cetaceans as non-target and associated or dependent species, as they are incidentally caught by purse-seine and longline fisheries in the WCPO;

Further Required, by Articles 5 (e) and (f) of the Convention, to adopt measures to minimize catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and to protect biodiversity in the marine environment;

Acknowledging that the conservation of these species depends on co-operative and coordinated activity at the international level, and that Regional Fisheries Management Organisations play an integral role in mitigating the impacts of fishing on these species;

Alarmed by observer reports on fishing activities by vessels flagged to Members, Co-operating Non-Members, and Participating Territories that indicate a number of instances of interactions with these species, and instances of misreporting of such interactions in logbooks;

Adopts the following Conservation and Management Measure in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention:

1. CCMs shall prohibit their flagged vessels from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean in the high seas and exclusive economic zones of the Convention Area, if the animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set.
2. CCMs shall require that, in the event that a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall:
 - (a) ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release. This shall include stopping the net roll and not recommencing fishing operation until the animal has been released and is no longer at risk of recapture; and
 - (b) through the logsheet or any other means, report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag CCM, including details of the species (if known) and number of individuals, location and date of such encirclement, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the animal on release (including, if possible, whether the animal was released alive but subsequently died).
3. CCMs shall prohibit all longline and purse seine vessels flying their flag, including vessels fishing under charter arrangements, from harvesting, retaining onboard, transshipping, or landing any cetacean, in whole or any part thereof, in the Convention Area.
4. CCMs shall require all longline vessels flying their flag, including those fishing under charter arrangements, to release, taking into account the safety of the crew, any cetacean that is caught or entangled by its fishing gear in the Convention Area as soon as possible and in a manner that results in as little harm to the cetacean as possible and utilizing the Best Practices for the Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans (suppl_CMM 2011-03-01), if possible.
5. In taking steps to ensure the safe release of the cetacean as required under paragraphs 2(a) and 4, CCMs shall require the master of the vessel to follow any guidelines adopted by the Commission for the purpose of this measure.
6. In applying steps under paragraphs 2(a), 4 and 5, the safety of the crew shall remain paramount.
7. CCMs shall provide their purse seine and longline operators with information on the Best Practices for the Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans.
8. The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of this conservation and management measure on the basis of observer reports, as part of the Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme and any other reports as appropriate.
9. This Conservation and Management Measure shall enter into force on July 1, 2025.



Intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guides for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections

Voluntary regional guides for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections

Background

1. Recalling:
 - CMM 2006-08 11. *The Commission shall keep the implementation of these procedures under review.*
 - CMM 2006-08 47b. *In applying these procedures, Contracting Parties may seek to promote optimum use of the authorized inspection vessels and authorized inspectors by: ensuring that boarding and inspection on the high seas is fully integrated with the other monitoring, compliance and surveillance tools available pursuant to the Convention.*
 - TCC20 requested Australia along with interested CCMs to bring a paper to WCPFC21 on an intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guides and best practices for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections including, but not limited to, DNA testing, weight estimation, assessment of bycatch mitigation methods, collection and dissemination of photo and video evidence, and to update the Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire and report to TCC 21 for discussion and possible adoption at WCPFC22.
2. This paper outlines the WCPFC21 endorsed intersessional process to address TCC20's request of Australia and interested CCMs. Interested CCMs and observers to provide existing guides and documentation for relevant High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) tools and nominate technical experts to participate in the process

Objectives for the intersessional work

3. This process seeks to establish a group of technical experts to draft guides on HSBI evidence collection for consideration at TCC21.
4. Accounting for items discussed during TCC20, it is proposed the intersessional process will consider guides for the following indicative list of HSBI tools:
 - *DNA testing (including benefits, recommended procedures for sampling and processing to an evidentiary standard),*

- *weight estimation,*
 - *calibration certificates for measuring tools*
 - *measurement of tori lines,*
 - *measurement of weighted branch lines,*
 - *collection of photographs and video evidence (including file type recommendations, and capturing actions of inspectors such as measurements and DNA sampling),*
 - *recommendations for dissemination of photographic and video evidence consisting of many, or large files that cannot be sent via email, and*
 - *update the Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire.*
5. The above tools were chosen as a starting point, and it is recognized that there are other existing or emerging HSBI tools which may require additional guides to be developed.

Informal Intersessional Process

6. Australia will lead the intersessional work, supported by China and other interested CCMs to develop the HSBI guides.
7. A group of technical experts will be established at WCPFC21 to support the drafting of Draft HSBI Guides during 2025.
8. The WCPFC Secretariat will provide support for this process, including circulating meeting notices and making relevant documents available on the WCPFC website.
9. The intersessional process shall be open to all CCMs and observers.
10. All CCMs and observers are encouraged to provide input to the work of the working group.
11. Any CCMs with such guides or proposed specifications are requested to share them with Australia and interested CCMs for consideration.
12. The lead/co-leads are responsible for producing the first draft of the HSBI Guides and preparing drafts for TCC21 and WCPFC22.
13. The process will be convened electronically, with the potential to convene in the margins of other in-person meetings.

Voluntary HSBI Guides – Proposed drafting considerations and terms of reference

14. The HSBI Guides will accommodate, to the extent possible, any existing HSBI guidance shared by CCMs that have established HSBI procedures.
15. The application of the HSBI Guides will be voluntary and apply to HSBI activities within the WCPFC area of competence.
16. The HSBI Guides will set out voluntary procedures for HSBI Inspectors to follow and will include, *but are not limited to*, data collection and sampling protocols.
17. The development of HSBI Guides will complement the existing HSBI CMM 2008-06 and other related CMMs that impose obligations relevant to HSBI activities (e.g. bycatch mitigation measures). However, under no circumstances shall the

development of these guides contravene the provisions of CMM 2006-08 and related CMMs, nor shall it produce a discriminatory effect on members conducting HSBI

Schedule of Work

18. CCMs interested in actively participating in the development of the HSBI Guides should notify their intent as soon as possible to Australia and the WCPFC Secretariat and provide contact details to:
 - David Power <david.power@afma.gov.au>, Senior Manager, Foreign Compliance Policy, Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)
 - cc. Lara Manarangi-Trott <lara.manarangi-trott@wcpfc.int>, Compliance Manager, WCPFC
 - cc. Emily Lawson <emily.lawson@afma.gov.au>, Senior Policy Officer, Foreign Compliance Policy, AFMA.
19. Preparation of the first draft HSBI guide will commence in January 2025 with initial drafts to be circulated to working group participants.
20. Technical experts in the working group shall hold (at least) two informal intersessional virtual meetings/workshops to gather and review the draft HSBI guides. The virtual meetings will be hosted by Australia with the support of the WCPFC Secretariat. It is anticipated the first meeting will be held in the first quarter of 2025 with second meeting in the second quarter of 2025.
21. Draft HSBI Guides will be presented to TCC21 for consideration prior proposed adoption at WCPFC22.



COMMISSION
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28 November to 3 December 2024
Suva, Fiji (Hybrid)

Approved 2025 Budget and Indicative Budgets for 2026 and 2027

ANNEX 1

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2025
and indicative figures for 2026 and 2027 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2024</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>	<i>Approved budget 2025</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2026</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2027</i>
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1	Staff Costs					
Professional Staff Salary	983,173	941,992	989,884	967,152	987,716	1,008,471
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	990,655	728,889	973,966	984,735	996,868	1,009,113
Professional Staff Insurance	181,521	165,738	200,817	174,229	176,682	179,209
Recruitment/Repatriation	25,565	27,247	0	25,565	25,565	25,565
Support Staff	563,422	547,461	621,161	669,825	693,588	702,764
Total, sub-item 1.1	2,744,337	2,411,327	2,785,827	2,821,507	2,880,420	2,925,122
Sub-Item 1.2	Other Personnel Costs					
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	60,000	35,511	60,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Consultants (Note 1)	153,000	154,685	153,000	153,000	153,000	153,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	229,500	206,696	229,500	219,500	219,500	219,500
Sub-Item 1.3	Official Travel					
	200,000	182,232	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Sub-Item 1.4	General Operating Expenses					
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	42,000	46,689	42,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
Communications/Courier	84,000	82,026	82,000	84,000	84,000	84,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	40,854	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
Audit	7,000	12,742	7,000	17,510	18,540	18,540
Bank Charges	13,000	10,783	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	6,751	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	7,913	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,000	5,497	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Security	110,867	108,387	110,867	117,065	117,065	117,065
Training	12,000	12,779	12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	333,867	334,421	331,867	359,575	360,605	360,605
Sub-Item 1.5	Capital Expenditure					
Vehicles	22,000	13,000	0	0	22,000	0
Information Technology	48,400	45,032	48,400	48,400	48,400	48,400
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	29,564	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	102,400	87,596	80,400	80,400	102,400	80,400
Sub-Item 1.6	Maintenance					
Vehicles	6,000	6,512	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	169,039	184,207	169,039	191,012	179,912	179,912
Website Hosting	20,130	26,877	20,130	26,877	26,877	26,877
Buildings & Grounds	63,000	62,573	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000
Gardeners and Cleaners	92,568	90,358	92,568	97,743	97,743	97,743
Insurance	28,500	29,250	28,500	29,250	29,250	29,250
Total, sub-item 1.6	379,237	399,776	379,237	413,882	402,782	402,782
Sub-Item 1.7	Meeting Services					
Annual Session	205,000	245,000	205,000	225,000	205,000	205,000
Scientific Committee	220,000	187,250	220,000	235,000	220,000	220,000
Northern Committee (Note 2)	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	174,800	167,430	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800
Funding for Working Groups	0	0	0	25,000	0	0
Total, sub-item 1.7	617,800	617,680	617,800	677,800	617,800	617,800
Sub-Item 1.8 Future Work - Commission (Note 3)	0	0	220,000	0	220,000	220,000
Sub-Item 1.9 Funding for Developing CCM to Meetings	0	0	0	300,000	300,000	300,000
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	4,607,141	4,239,728	4,844,631	5,072,663	5,303,506	5,326,208

	Approved budget 2024	Estimated expenditure 2024	Indicative budget 2025	Approved budget 2025	Indicative budget 2026	Indicative budget 2027
ANNEX 1 (continued)						
Part 2 - Science & Technical & Compliance Programme						
Section 2 (Item 2)						
Sub-item 2.1 Scientific Services (SPC) (Note 4)	1,000,734	1,000,734	1,020,749	1,020,749	1,041,164	1,061,987
Sub-item 2.2 Scientific Research						
Additional Resourcing SPC (Note 4)	180,204	180,204	183,808	183,808	187,484	191,234
SPC additional stock assessment scientist (Note 4)	165,000	165,000	168,300	168,300	171,666	175,099
P35b Pacific Marine Specimen Bank	107,373	107,373	109,520	109,520	111,711	113,945
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	800,000	800,000	875,000	875,000	950,000	950,000
P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	0	0	30,000	0
P90 Fish Lengths/Weights Conversion Analyses	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	0
P108 WCPO silky shark assessment	100,000	100,000	0	0	0	0
P113b Template for stock status/manag. advice	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
P114 Improved cannery receipt data	60,000	60,000	35,000	0	0	0
P19X5 Updated reproductive biol. of trop. tunas (Note 4)	44,000	44,000	0	0	0	0
P19X6 (P121) Ecosystem and Climate Indicators	0	0	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000
P19X7 Scoping study on longline effort creep	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
P19X8 (P123) Scoping next generation of assess. software	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
P19X9 Manta/mobulid/whale shark assessment	0	0	56,000	0	0	0
P19X10 (P124) Oceanic whitetip assessment	60,000	60,000	60,000	80,000	0	0
P19X11 Sampling strategy for shark biological data	0	0	40,000	0	0	0
P20X04 Biology from billfish samples in LL fisheries	0	0	0	40,000	40,000	40,000
P20X05 Developing a sampling strategy for sharks	0	0	0	40,000		
P20X07 Reconciling size composition data collection	0	0	0	50,000		
P20X08 Connectivity of YFT/SKJ in WPEA&WCPFC-CA	0	0	0	60,000		
Total, sub-item 2.2	1,656,577	1,656,577	1,617,628	1,696,628	1,555,861	1,485,278
Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme						
ROP Travel for Audits and Training	35,000	7,177	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
ROP - Consultancy	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
Vessel Monitoring System - Capital Costs	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0
Vessel Monitoring System	200,000	148,238	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	214,527	202,726	218,818	214,527	218,818	223,194
IT Security Audit	10,500	0	10,500	0	0	0
Information Management System (Note 5)	120,000	122,531	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Monthly Reports and CCM Dashboards (Note 6)	40,000	25,600	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
CMS Future Work (Note 7)	50,000	65,633	30,000	30,000	30,000	20,000
Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity (Note 8)	80,000	76,680	80,000	80,000	40,000	40,000
Compliance and Monitoring Analyst Consultant (Note 9)	30,000	35,400	0	0	0	0
Repeatable reports - next generation approach (Note 10)	0	0	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	39,264	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
CCM/Staff Training (Note 11)	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Regional Capacity Building Workshops (Note 12)	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Total, item 2.3	2,043,931	1,862,153	1,998,222	1,993,431	1,957,722	1,952,098
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2	4,701,242	4,519,464	4,636,599	4,710,808	4,554,746	4,499,363
Total, Parts 1 & 2	9,308,383	8,759,192	9,481,230	9,783,471	9,858,252	9,825,571

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services (including travel)	\$65,000
Meetings' rapporteur (including travel)	\$63,000
Miscellaneous Consultancies	\$25,000
	<u>\$153,000</u>

Note 2: Northern Committee

As per WCPFC9, additional funds will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

Note 3: Sub-item 1.8 Future Work - Commission

Budget line added in 2020 to account for unidentified future work that may be required by the Commission. Amount reduced to \$0 for the proposed 2025 budget with the additional projects under Scientific Research.

Note 4: Section 2 Science programme

- Refer to Annex 12 and Para 3 of Annex 13 for SPC scientific services, additional resourcing, and additional scientists
- Refer to Para 4 of Annex 13 for job descriptions of the proposed projects for 2025 funding support

Note 5: Information Management System

2025/26 - Includes continual improvements to IT-related tools to improve ease of use for CCMs to manage their own reporting (refer to TCC19-2023-22)

Note 6: Monthly Reports and CCM Dashboards

Renamed AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub. - because AR Part 2 and CMR system upgrades to be completed in 2025 - reflects a shift to consider additional opportunities to support CCMs with their own reporting

Note 7: CMS Future Work

2025 - for CCFS subsampling approach improvements, planned CMR system report enhancements and obligation compliance rating trends

Note 8: Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity

2025/26 - continuing exploration of work that delivers strategic solutions, to better support the current and future information management needs of the Commission (refer TCC20-2024-04).

Note 9: Compliance and Monitoring Analyst Consultant

2024/25 - TCC19 supported supplementary dedicated analytical capacity for the Secretariat in 2024 and 2025 (TCC19 Outcomes para 61). Focus includes exploring what might be needed to assist the Secretariat in understanding the potential uses of data from the Commissions monitoring programmes, with an initial focus on Secretariat support to VMS monitoring, high seas transshipment monitoring and high seas pocket management, and optimize with the support of routine reports the Secretariats and CCMs joint work to address data quality issues and gaps affecting monitoring (refer TCC19-2023-18).

Note 10: Repeatable reports - next generation approach

2024/26 - To deliver efficiencies in the Secretariat's generation of required annual reporting, supports continuous improvement in the editorial work and leverages recent work to improve data management in the compliance area (refer TCC20-2024-04)

Note 11: CCM/Staff Training Guidance and Learning Aids

Renamed CCM/Staff VMS Training to broaden the scope of the intended activities, including support for training guidance and learning aids

Note 12: Regional Capacity Building Workshops

FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

ANNEX 2

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2025

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,783,471
less	
Estimated interest	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(500,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u>9,280,071</u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2026

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,858,252
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,500)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u>9,504,752</u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2027

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,825,571
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,500)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u>9,472,071</u>

ANNEX 3

Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

2025 Contribution Table										
<i>Member</i>	<i>Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget</i>	<i>National wealth component: 20% of budget</i>	<i>Catch component: 70% of budget</i>	<i>Addition for Northern Committee</i>	<i>Addition by Non-SIDS for SIDS offset</i>	<i>SIDS Offset</i>	Total	<i>Percent of Budget by member</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States *</i>	<i>Total of component s: 100% of budget**</i>
Australia	35,093	117,011	15,475	0	1,263	0	170,042	1.85%	0	170,042
Canada	35,093	109,303	42	0	1,085	0	146,122	1.59%	0	146,122
China	35,093	230,099	193,784	0	3,490	0	469,066	5.10%	0	469,066
Cook Islands	35,093	1,010	18,738	0	0	1,786	53,055	0.61%	36,259	89,914
European Union	35,093	274,570	81,820	0	2,934	0	395,017	4.29%	0	395,017
Federated States of Micronesia	35,093	6,062	543,405	0	0	18,868	566,892	6.41%	18,868	585,760
Fiji	35,093	8,658	23,223	0	0	2,177	65,398	0.74%	2,177	67,574
France	35,093	110,477	14,900	0	1,205	0	162,275	1.76%	0	162,275
Indonesia	35,093	22,498	191,422	0	1,868	0	251,481	2.73%	0	251,481
Japan	35,093	130,172	1,099,344	0	9,409	0	1,274,678	13.84%	0	1,274,678
Kiribati	35,093	5,436	525,564	0	0	18,254	548,438	6.20%	18,254	566,692
Korea	35,093	80,341	1,055,298	0	8,766	0	1,180,098	12.81%	0	1,180,098
Marshall Islands	35,093	2,100	299,158	0	0	10,854	326,097	3.69%	20,002	346,099
Nauru	35,093	639	375,909	0	0	13,279	398,902	4.51%	45,177	444,139
New Zealand	35,093	80,905	18,763	0	1,013	0	136,374	1.48%	0	136,374
Niue	35,093	91	5	0	0	1,153	34,636	0.39%	28,244	62,880
Palau	35,093	903	40	0	0	1,180	35,455	0.40%	22,960	58,416
Papua New Guinea	35,093	4,907	162,000	0	0	6,546	196,000	2.22%	6,546	203,206
Philippines	35,093	11,912	113,186	0	1,203	0	161,994	1.76%	0	161,994
Samoa	35,093	6,311	5,918	0	0	1,544	46,378	0.52%	1,544	47,921
Solomon Islands	35,093	3,737	69,799	0	0	3,518	105,710	1.19%	3,518	109,229
Chinese Taipei	35,093	63,064	987,076	0	8,126	0	1,093,959	11.88%	0	1,093,959
Tonga	35,093	5,389	593	0	0	1,342	40,332	0.46%	4,238	44,570
Tuvalu	35,093	570	150,449	0	0	6,014	180,697	2.04%	17,226	197,923
United States of America	35,093	427,866	293,615	0	5,667	0	762,841	8.28%	0	762,841
Vanuatu	35,093	5,685	255,914	0	0	9,576	287,715	3.25%	9,576	297,292
Totals	928,007	1,717,516	6,496,049	0	46,090	96,090	9,091,572	100%	234,588	9,326,161

* To be offset by the CNM Contributions Fund.

** Total includes \$46,090 Offset for SIDS

ANNEX 3 Cont.

Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)					Offset for SIDS per WCPFC21			
Member	Population	Maximum Payable for wealth component	National wealth component	Offset for Small Island Developing States	Percent of total budget	Percent of General Offset	General Offset for SIDS	Total Offsets
Cook Islands	20,200	1,010	35,483	34,473	0.6%	1.9%	1,786	36,259
Federated States of Micronesia	115,220	5,761	6,662	0	6.4%	19.6%	18,868	18,868
Fiji	936,380	46,819	8,658	0	0.7%	2.3%	2,177	2,177
Kiribati	133,510	6,676	5,436	0	6.2%	19.0%	18,254	18,254
Marshall Islands	42,000	2,100	11,248	9,148	3.7%	11.3%	10,854	20,002
Nauru	12,780	639	32,537	31,898	4.5%	13.8%	13,279	45,177
Niue	1,819	91	27,182	27,091	0.4%	1.2%	1,153	28,244
Palau	18,060	903	22,683	21,780	0.4%	1.2%	1,180	22,960
Papua New Guinea	10,329,939	516,497	4,907	0	2.2%	6.8%	6,546	6,546
Samoa	225,680	11,284	6,311	0	0.5%	1.6%	1,544	1,544
Solomon Islands	740,420	37,021	3,737	0	1.2%	3.7%	3,518	3,518
Tonga	107,770	5,389	8,284	2,895	0.5%	1.4%	1,342	4,238
Tuvalu	11,400	570	11,782	11,212	2.0%	6.3%	6,014	17,226
Vanuatu	334,510	16,726	5,685	0	3.3%	10.0%	9,576	9,576
Total				138,498	33%	100%	96,090	234,588

Additional Funding for NC as agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

Non-developing States Members of NC	Percent of total budget	Percent of NC fund	Additional cost
Canada	1.56%	3.0%	0
China	5.02%	9.5%	0
Japan	13.63%	25.9%	0
Korea	12.62%	23.9%	0
Chinese Taipei	11.70%	22.2%	0
United States of America	8.16%	15.5%	0
Total	52.70%	100.00%	0

ANNEX 3 Cont.

Schedule of contributions based on proposed 2025 budgets without the Offset for Small Island Developing States and Additional funds Assessed on Non-Developing States Members of NC

Member	2025					2026 Indicative		2027 Indicative	
	Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member
Australia	35,093	117,011	13,475	168,779	1.82%	172,800	1.82%	172,271	1.82%
Canada	35,093	109,303	42	145,037	1.50%	148,549	1.50%	148,038	1.50%
China	35,093	236,099	193,784	466,176	5.02%	477,463	5.02%	475,821	5.02%
Cook Islands	35,093	33,483	18,738	89,914	0.97%	92,091	0.97%	91,775	0.97%
European Union	35,093	274,570	81,820	392,083	4.22%	401,570	4.22%	400,195	4.22%
Federated States of Micronesia	35,093	0,002	543,405	585,700	0.31%	599,942	0.31%	597,879	0.31%
Fiji	35,093	8,058	23,223	67,574	0.73%	69,210	0.73%	68,972	0.73%
France	35,093	110,477	14,900	161,070	1.74%	164,970	1.74%	164,402	1.74%
Indonesia	35,093	22,498	191,422	249,613	2.69%	255,056	2.69%	254,777	2.69%
Japan	35,093	130,172	1,099,344	1,265,209	13.63%	1,295,841	13.63%	1,291,385	13.63%
Kiribati	35,093	5,430	525,504	566,092	0.11%	580,413	0.11%	578,417	0.11%
Korea	35,093	80,341	1,055,298	1,171,332	12.62%	1,199,091	12.62%	1,195,500	12.62%
Marshall Islands	35,093	11,248	299,158	346,099	3.73%	354,478	3.73%	353,200	3.73%
Nauru	35,093	32,537	375,909	444,139	4.79%	454,892	4.79%	453,328	4.79%
New Zealand	35,093	80,905	18,703	135,361	1.40%	138,038	1.40%	138,101	1.40%
Niue	35,093	27,182	5	62,880	0.08%	64,402	0.08%	64,181	0.08%
Palau	35,093	22,083	40	58,416	0.63%	59,830	0.63%	59,624	0.63%
Papua New Guinea	35,093	4,907	162,606	203,206	2.19%	208,120	2.19%	207,410	2.19%
Philippines	35,093	11,912	113,186	160,791	1.73%	164,084	1.73%	164,117	1.73%
Samoa	35,093	0,311	5,918	47,921	0.52%	49,081	0.52%	48,913	0.52%
Solomon Islands	35,093	3,737	69,799	109,229	1.18%	111,873	1.18%	111,488	1.18%
Chinese Taipei	35,093	63,004	987,076	1,085,832	11.70%	1,112,122	11.70%	1,108,298	11.70%
Tonga	35,093	8,284	593	44,569	0.48%	45,649	0.48%	45,492	0.48%
Tuvalu	35,093	11,782	150,449	197,923	2.13%	202,715	2.13%	202,018	2.13%
United States of America	35,093	427,866	293,615	757,174	8.10%	775,506	8.10%	772,840	8.10%
Vanuatu	35,093	5,085	255,914	297,292	3.20%	304,489	3.20%	303,442	3.20%
Totals	928,007	1,850,014	6,496,049	9,280,071	100.00%	9,504,752	100.00%	9,472,071	100.00%

ANNEX 3 Cont.

Offset by Non-SIDS - Proportionally

CCM	Contribution percent	Extrapolated percentage	Total
Australia	1.85%	2.74%	\$ 1,263
Canada	1.59%	2.36%	\$ 1,085
China	5.10%	7.57%	\$ 3,490
European Union	4.29%	6.37%	\$ 2,934
France	1.76%	2.62%	\$ 1,205
Indonesia	2.73%	4.05%	\$ 1,868
Japan	13.84%	20.54%	\$ 9,469
Korea	12.81%	19.02%	\$ 8,760
New Zealand	1.48%	2.20%	\$ 1,013
Philippines	1.76%	2.61%	\$ 1,203
Chinese Taipei	11.88%	17.63%	\$ 8,126
United States of America	8.28%	12.29%	\$ 5,667
Total	67.37%	100.00%	\$ 46,090