



Nuku'alofa, Tonga  
13 – 21 August 2025

---

## PROVISIONAL ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM TOPICS

---

WCPFC-SC21-2025/04

### BACKGROUND

The Secretariat introduced the online discussion forum (ODF, <https://forum.wcpfc.int>) webpage in 2020, and SC16 was the first meeting to use the ODF platform. The purpose of using SC-ODF is to facilitate discussions, mostly on the Scientific Committee projects funded by the Commission and other topics as requested by the authors. This paper provides a list of Topics for consideration on the ODF platform for SC21.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF ODF IN 2025

The following guidelines are generally proposed for the use of the ODF for SC21:

- 1) This website is accessible to any registered and approved SC21 participants;
- 2) Commission-funded SC projects will be considered on the ODF, and their outputs will be briefly reviewed as needed under the Agenda Item 10 (SC Work Program and Budget) to finalize the project;
- 3) All stock assessment papers should be available on the ODF to facilitate more technical discussions on aspects of the assessment while leaving room for interventions during the SC plenary to address higher-level issues. In some cases, technically challenging questions can be raised on the ODF, and authors can respond to these questions during the SC plenary, indicating that they will be addressed at the plenary session;
- 4) Other information papers can be posted on the ODF if requested by the authors who wish to receive feedback on their papers, as well as by the SC Chair/Vice-Chair or theme convenors who want to cover these papers under their sessions but could not do so due to time constraints. Authors are fully responsible for providing feedback to any comments or questions as needed; and
- 5) After the closure of the ODF, a Summary of the SC21 Online Discussion Forum will be produced and noted under the Agenda Item "Other Matters." Appropriate action will be taken under the relevant agenda item as required.

For the efficient Q&A process, all participants are requested to prefix a comment or question when starting their input, as shown below for efficient response by the authors:

- COMMENT: My comment on section 3.5 of the paper SC21-GN-IP-01 is ...
- QUESTION: My question on section 3.5 of the paper SC21-GN-IP-01 is ...

## LIST OF SC21 ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM TOPICS

### **TOPIC 1.           Project 127 – Review and reconciliation of size data collected in the WCPFC-CA for stock assessment purposes**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related papers:**

<b>SC21-ST-WP-02</b>	P. Hamer, E. Schneider, T. Vidal, P. Williams. <b>Review and reconciliation of size data collected in the WCPFC-CA for stock assessment purposes (WCPFC Project: 127)</b>
----------------------	---

### **TOPIC 2.           Progress in improving coverage of cannery receipts data for WCPFC scientific work (Project 114)**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related papers:**

<b>SC21-ST-WP-04</b>	T. Vidal, S. Gislar, J. Scutt Phillips, and T. Peatman. <b>Project 114 Update: Progress in improving Cannery Receipt Data for WCPFC scientific work</b>
----------------------	---

### **TOPIC 3.           Project 90 update 2025 – Better data on fish weights and lengths for scientific analyses**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related papers:**

<b>SC21-ST-IP-03</b>	SPC-OFP. <b>Project 90 update: Better Data on Fish Weights and Lengths for Scientific Analyses</b>
----------------------	--

### **TOPIC 4.           Project 109 – Training observers for elasmobranch biological sampling**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related papers:**

<b>SC21-ST-IP-06</b>	T. Park. <b>Training observers for elasmobranch biological sampling (Project 109)</b>
----------------------	---

### **TOPIC 5.           Scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software (Project 123) Update**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related papers:**

<b>SC21-SA-WP-01</b>	A. Magnusson, N. Davies, G. Pilling, and P. Hamer. <b>Project 123: Scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software</b>
----------------------	--

### **TOPIC 6.           Skipjack Tuna Stock assessment**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related papers:**

<b>SC21-SA-WP-02</b>	T Tears. <b>WCPO skipjack tuna stock assessment</b>
----------------------	---

#### **TOPIC 7. Southwest Pacific Swordfish Stock Assessment**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related papers:**

SC21-SA-WP-05	J. Day. Stock assessment of Southwest Pacific swordfish
---------------	---

#### **TOPIC 8. Revised 2024 stock assessment of striped marlin in the southwestern Pacific Ocean**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related papers:**

SC21-SA-WP-06	C. Castillo Jordan. Revised 2024 stock assessment of striped marlin in the southwestern Pacific Ocean: Part 1- integrated assessment in Stock Synthesis
---------------	---

#### **TOPIC 9. 2025 Stock Assessment of Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific Ocean**

- **Responsibility:** USA
- **Related papers:**

SC21-SA-WP-07	N. Ducharme-Barth. 2025 Stock Assessment of Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific Ocean: Part II – Bayesian Surplus Production Model
---------------	--

#### **TOPIC 10. Stock Assessment of Oceanic Whitetip Shark in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean 2025 (Project 124)**

- **Responsibility:** Dragonfly
- **Related Papers:**

SC21-SA-WP-08	P. Neubauer and K. Large. Stock Assessment of Oceanic Whitetip Shark in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean 2025 (Project 124)
---------------	--

#### **TOPIC 11. Progress towards a Close-Kin-Mark-Recapture application to South Pacific Albacore (Project 100c)**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related Papers:**

SC21-SA-WP-09	G. Anderson. Project 100c: Progress towards a Close-Kin-Mark-Recapture application to South Pacific Albacore
---------------	--

#### **TOPIC 12. Project 125: Billfish Biological Data Collection**

- **Responsibility:** TBC
- **Related Papers:**

SC21-SA-WP-11	TBC. Project 125: Billfish biology
---------------	------------------------------------

#### **TOPIC 13. Project 126: Shark Biological Data Collection**

- **Responsibility:** TBC
- **Related Papers:**

SC21-SA-WP-12	TBC. Project 126: Optimised sampling for shark biological data collection
---------------	---

**TOPIC 14. Project 128: Connectivity study on key tuna species in the WPEA region**

- **Responsibility:** CSIRO, WPEA Countries and SPC
- **Related Papers:**

<b>SC21-SA-WP-13</b>	CSIRO, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, and SPC. <b>Understanding connectivity of key tuna species in the Western Pacific and East Asia region with the WCPFC Convention Area: results of Project 128</b>
----------------------	---

**TOPIC 15. Projects 117 and 118: Biological sampling plans for tuna and billfish**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related Papers:**

<b>SC21-SA-WP-15</b>	T. Peatman, J. Scutt Phillips, J. Potts and S. Nicol. <b>WCPFC projects 117 &amp; 118: the development of biological sampling plans for tuna and billfish</b>
----------------------	---

**TOPIC 16. Project 120: Progress report on Reproductive Biology of WCPO Yellowfin Tuna**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP, CSIRO
- **Related Papers:**

<b>SC21-SA-IP-10</b>	S. Gislard, J. Scutt Phillips, J. Farley and S. Nicol. <b>Project 120: Progress report on Reproductive Biology of WCPO Yellowfin Tuna</b>
----------------------	---

**TOPIC 17. Project 122: Progress report on Longline CPUE**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related Papers:**

<b>SC21-SA-IP-16</b>	P Hamer and M. Maunder. <b>Project 122: Progress report on the scoping study on longline effort creep in the WCPO</b>
----------------------	---

**TOPIC 18. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (*Consultancy report*)**

- **Responsibility:** K. Robertson and M. Baird
- **Related Papers:**

<b>SC21-EB-WP-01</b>	K. Robertson and M. Baird. <b>WCPFC CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment</b>
----------------------	---

**TOPIC 19. Project 62: Updates on the 2019 SEAPODYM Review**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related Papers:**

<b>SC21-EB-WP-02</b>	SPC-OFP. <b>Updates on the 2019 SEAPODYM Review (WCPFC Project: 62)</b>
----------------------	---

**TOPIC 20. Project 110 and 110a: Progress report on Non-entangling and biodegradable FAD trial in the WCPO**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related Papers:**

<b>SC21-EB-WP-03</b>	L. Escalle, G. Moreno, I. Zudaire, J. Uranga, D. David, and P. Hamer. <b>Progress Report of Project 110 and 110a: Non-entangling and Biodegradable FAD Trial in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean</b>
----------------------	--

**TOPIC 21.        Ecosystem and Climate Indicators (Project 121)**

- **Responsibility:** SPC-OFP
- **Related Papers:**

<b>SC21-EB-IP-01</b>	SPC-OFP. <b>Project 121 Update: Ecosystem and Climate Indicators</b>
----------------------	--