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**South Pacific Albacore Management Workshops:  
Progress Toward the Adoption of a Management Procedure (MP)**

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**WCPFC22-2025-20**

**14 November 2025**

**Submitted by the Secretariat**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to summarize intersessional efforts in 2025 through two virtual workshops on South Pacific albacore management, to progress the Commission's tasking at WCPFC21 to develop a South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure and its implementing measure for adoption at WCPFC22. This paper summarizes key outcomes of the virtual workshops and the main decision points for the Commission's consideration at WCPFC22. This paper supplements other relevant papers<sup>1</sup> to support the Commission's discussions at WCPFC22.

**Background**

2. As set out in the updated *South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG Workplan* (Attachment I, [WCPFC19 Summary Report](#)), one of the IWG's core responsibilities is the development of the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure (SPA MP), along with work on allocation and a new implementation of the SPA MP. To support this mandate, the Commission established the *South Pacific Albacore Management Workshop* (SPAMWS) as a dedicated technical platform operating under the SPA Roadmap Intersessional Working Group (SPARM-IWG) structure, enabling the focused evaluation of candidate MPs, consideration of implementation arrangements, and coordination with discussions on mixed-fishery and allocation. SPAMWS, therefore, constitutes a key component of the IWG's workplan and is designed to progress tasks essential for the Commission's adoption and implementation of the SPA MP.
3. At WCPFC21, the Commission decided:
  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.*

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<sup>1</sup> See WCPFC22 documentation under [Agenda Item 11.1](#), [Agenda Item 11.1.1](#), [Agenda Item 11.1.3](#), and [Agenda Item 11.1.4](#) on South Pacific Albacore tuna.

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.*
4. Following the decision at WCPFC21, the Commission agreed that Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) would collaborate during 2025 to develop an MP and an implementing measure for SPA, with the intention of adopting both at WCPFC22 to replace [CMM 2015-02](#).
  5. The First South Pacific Albacore Management Workshop ([SPAMWS01](#)) was convened electronically from 11–12 September 2025, co-chaired by SC Chair Ms. Emily Crigler (USA) and SPARM-IWG Chair Mr. Moses Mataika (Fiji), in response to the Commission’s request to progress technical and policy discussions on the SPA management framework. The workshop aimed to refine candidate MPs, consider implementation arrangements, and address mixed fishery issues relating to compatibility with the bigeye tuna MP.
  6. The Second South Pacific Albacore Management Workshop ([SPAMWS02](#)) was convened electronically on 5 November 2025 and was also co-chaired by the SC Chair and the SPARM-IWG Chair. The first workshop had agreed that the second workshop would focus on harvest control rules (HCRs) and any proposals for a CMM to implement the SPA MP.

#### Key Outputs from [SPAMWS01 Chairs’ Summary Report](#)

7. The first workshop reviewed the latest SPC evaluation of candidate MPs (HCRs 7, 9, 10, 13–16) in the working paper [SPAMWS01-WP-01](#). The workshop clarified areas of agreement and divergence on MP scope, baseline assumptions, constraints, and the number of HCRs to forward to the Commission. Participants confirmed that the SPA MP will operate on a three-year management period with a two-year data lag, consistent with WCPFC harvest strategy practice. A revised draft CMM for the SPA MP (based on HCR 7) was introduced, and participants identified elements requiring further examination at WCPFC22.
8. The workshop produced a ranked set of six priority analyses for the Scientific Services Provider (SSP) as described in Annex A-Table 1 of the [SPAMWS01 Report](#):
  - 1) Re-tune all seven (7) candidate MPs operating south of 10°S, with exclusion of Tokelau and Tuvalu catches that are south of 10°S.
  - 2) Perform sensitivity analyses described in SPAMWS01-WP-01 on re-tuned MPs in 1) above.
  - 3) Develop four new MPs based on the current modified HCR 7 proposal and HCR 13, which treat troll catch as an assumed and constant “external catch” in the MP. These MPs would be tuned to achieve the appropriate associated TRP. In developing these MPs, the “external troll catch” could be set at 2000-2004 average troll levels (in line with the baseline referenced in CMM 2015-02)
  - 4) Develop an MP equivalent to HCR 14 (EPO at 22,500) but with 0-10°S on fixed effort (2014-2023) instead of catch, and that achieves the iTRP in the long-term.
  - 5) Run HCR 7 with no constraint.
  - 6) Update SPAMPLE to include the full suite of considered MPs
9. Participants agreed that the second virtual SPAMWS would be dedicated to reviewing updated HCR

analyses and proposals for a CMM to implement the SPA MP, to resolve key differences, and prepare clear technical recommendations for WCPFC22.

#### Key Outputs from [SPAMWS02 Chairs' Summary Report](#)

10. SPAMWS02 reviewed the complete set of additional analyses requested at SPAMWS01, confirming that all re-tuned and newly developed candidate MPs—including catch-based and effort-based variants—met the Commission's requirement of maintaining the stock above the LRP with >0.8 probability.
11. The workshop discussed performance trade-offs, sensitivity tests under higher tropical and EPO catch assumptions, and the implications of treating troll catch or specific EEZ slivers as external to the MP. CCMs also exchanged views on the preferred geographic scope of the MP (south of the equator vs. south of 10°S), the future relationship with the bigeye MP, and the strengths and risks associated with individual HCRs. SPAMWS02 also examined implementation issues – including allocation approaches, monitoring requirements, and the balance between EEZ and high-seas measures – and recorded diverse CCM positions that require further work.
12. The workshop agreed to forward to WCPFC22 a narrowed list of HCRs 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, and 19 to support the selection of a Commission-adopted SPA MP and to resubmit all previously evaluated MPs for completeness. To support the Commission's decision-making, SPAMWS02 requested the SSP to provide additional information before WCPFC22, including: (1) 2000–2023 SPA catches by EEZ and high seas, disaggregated into equator–10°S and south-of-10°S zones; (2) corresponding distributions of hooks/effort in those areas; and (3) a new performance indicator reporting catch from fisheries directly managed under the MP.
13. The workshop invited the Commission to consider the set of candidate MPs, provide feedback on MP spatial scope, review the proposals for the MP and its implementing CMM, and take the necessary decisions to adopt the SPA MP at WCPFC22, with CCMs encouraged to undertake bilateral consultations beforehand to resolve outstanding issues.

#### Discussions at WCPFC22

14. At WCPFC22, the Commission is expected to consider and act upon several key items arising from the two South Pacific Albacore Management Workshops ([SPAMWS01](#) and [SPAMWS02](#)) and the related FFA proposals for the adoption of the SPA MP and its implementation, contained in [WCPFC22-2025-DP02](#), [WCPFC22-2025-DP02a](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-DP02b](#). The following summarizes the expected considerations and output based on all workshop reports and WCPFC22 working papers.

##### *a. [Adoption of the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure \(SPA MP\)](#)*

The Commission will review the output of the MSE process, as presented by the SSP, and the recommendations from both workshops, as well as a draft proposal from FFA Member CCMs for a SPA MP. Expected actions include:

- Adoption of an agreed MP, with the final spatial scope (including any application south of the Equator and treatment of Tokelau and Tuvalu EEZ slivers) to be confirmed by the Commission.
- Endorsement of the associated estimation method, data requirements, and monitoring strategy as part of a new CMM for the SPA MP

*b. Consideration and Possible Adoption of an Implementing Measure*

FFA Members have submitted a companion draft CMM for implementing the SPA MP to operationalize the adopted MP. Commission discussions are expected to address the following issues contained in the FFA proposal:

- Zone-based and high-seas allocation (proposed 75% EEZ / 25% high seas split).
- Compatibility and burden-sharing consistent with Articles 8 and 30 of the Convention.
- Flexibility tools, such as transferability, multi-year balancing, and pooling.
- Monitoring requirements, including enhanced electronic reporting, transshipment oversight, observer/EM coverage, and unloading verification.

*c. Integration with Other Harvest Strategies*

The Commission will consider guidance on:

- Mixed-fishery interactions between South Pacific albacore and bigeye tuna MPs.
- Operational compatibility of the SPA MP with tropical longline measures and WCPO–EPO coordination.
- Consistency with the Harvest Strategy Workplan under CMM 2022-03 and long-term review cycles (three-year repeating process for MP evaluation and adjustment).

*d. Expected Outputs for WCPFC22*

By the conclusion of WCPFC22, the Commission is expected to:

- Adopt the *South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure* (CMM 2025-XX).
- Adopt or endorse in principle the *Implementing Measure for the SPA MP* to replace [CMM 2015-02](#) (CMM 2025-XX on management arrangements).
- Approve the continuing analytical schedule (three-year cycle for MP monitoring, review, and adjustment).
- Task the SSP and SC22 to report in 2026 on initial implementation and data integration progress.

15. The Commission is invited to note the outputs of the two South Pacific Albacore Management workshops held in 2025 and the key decision points to be considered at WCPFC22, and taking into account its tasking at WCPFC21 in relation to adoption of an MP and implementing measure for South Pacific albacore.