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INDICATIVE WORK PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES UNDER CMM 2022-03

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Submitted by the Secretariat



INDICATIVE WORK PLAN 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- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM2014-06 (now superseded by CMM 2022-03).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 work plan 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>Commission review and adopt a management procedure.</p> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC18]</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 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). Commission agree a TRP for South Pacific albacore</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(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) and 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) and 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>	<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>Commission ADOPT a management procedure.</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. • 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 yellowfin. <p>Commission ADOPT a management procedure under the mixed fishery approach.</p>

ANNEX 3 Cont.

	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)