



Twenty-Second Regular Session of the Commission

1–5 December 2025

Manila, Philippines (Hybrid)

Summary Report

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement
CCM	Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories
CDS	catch documentation scheme
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure
CMR	Compliance Monitoring Report
CMS	Compliance Monitoring Scheme
CNM	Cooperating Non-Member
DP	delegation paper
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EM	electronic monitoring
EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean
ER	electronic reporting
EU	European Union
FAC	Finance and Administration Committee
FAD	fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
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
IWG	intersessional working group
JWG	joint working group
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MP	management procedure
MSE	management strategy evaluation
NC	Northern Committee
NTADS	Non-target and Associated or Dependent Species
PNA+	Parties to the Nauru Agreement plus Tokelau and Vanuatu
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RBAF	risk-based assessment framework
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
ROP	Regional Observer Programme
SC	Scientific Committee
SciData	scientific data

SIDS	small island developing States
SKJ	skipjack tuna
SMD	science management dialogue
SPA	South Pacific albacore
SPC	Pacific Community
SPG	South Pacific Group
SSB	spawning stock biomass
SSP	Scientific Services Provider
SST	sea surface temperature
SWG	small working group
TCC	Technical and Compliance Committee
TRP	target reference point
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
USA	United States of America
VDS	Vessel Day Scheme
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
WPEA-ITM	West Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring Project

1 OPENING OF MEETING

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-01_Rev01](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-01a](#)

1. The Twenty-second Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC22) was held from 1 to 5 December 2025 at the Philippines Trade and Training Center. WCPFC22 was co-hosted by the Philippines and Canada, who generously agreed to provide joint support due to the change of venue per WCPFC [Circular 2025/41](#).
2. The following Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) attended WCPFC22: American Samoa, Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, European Union (EU), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America (USA), and Vanuatu.
3. The following non-party countries attended WCPFC22 as Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs): Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam.
4. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended WCPFC22: 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 Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), and The World Bank.
5. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended WCPFC22: Accountability.Fish, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), Birdlife International, Conservation International (CI), Earth Island Institute, Global Fishing Watch (GFW), Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI), Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI), International MCS Network, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Ocean Outcomes (O2), Pew Charitable Trust, Sharks Pacific, The Nature Conservancy, The Shark Trust, and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
6. A full list of all participants is provided in [Attachment A](#).
7. The Masters of Ceremonies welcomed participants to the opening ceremony for WCPFC22. The opening ceremony commenced with the Philippine national anthem, followed by an invocation.
8. Drusila Esther E. Bayate, Philippines Undersecretary for Fisheries, Department of Agriculture presented an opening address ([Attachment B](#)), and formally welcomed participants to Manila and expressed appreciation for the trust and confidence placed in the Philippines to host WCPFC22. The Philippines highlighted that it was an honour to convene nations, cultures and institutions united by a shared responsibility to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks that underpin regional economies, communities and marine ecosystems. The Philippines reaffirmed its strong commitment, as a major tuna-producing nation and Member of the Commission, to the Commission's mandate and to working closely with CCMs, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories. The Philippines noted that the Commission is one of the most important regional fisheries management organizations globally, and that its science-based conservation and management measures (CMMs) are essential to safeguarding the world's largest tuna fishery and supporting food security,

employment and economic growth in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The Philippines advised that its tuna industry experienced a particularly strong year and remained a cornerstone of its fisheries sector. It informed the Commission of ongoing efforts to strengthen the industry through science-based policies, including implementation of the National Tuna Management Plan 2025–2030, enhanced vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements and traceability systems, improved management of fish aggregating devices, reduction of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and measures to protect tuna stocks. The Philippines underscored that collaboration is essential in the face of climate change, declining market prices, pressures on stocks and persistent challenges associated with IUU fishing. It expressed confidence that WCPFC22 would build on the achievements of WCPFC21, leading to stronger conservation measures, more effective compliance mechanisms, and reinforced partnerships, and further contribute to a healthy, resilient and peaceful WCPO. The Philippines acknowledged the work of the WCPFC Secretariat, the Administrative and Logistics team in the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Philippines' co-host, Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Philippines also thanked their partners in the Philippines tuna industry in preparing for WCPFC22 and expressed the hope that all delegates would have a comfortable and productive stay in Manila.

9. The Honourable David Hartman, Canada's Ambassador to the Philippines presented an opening address ([Attachment C](#)) and extended warm greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada to both in person and virtual attendees. Canada acknowledged the widespread contributions that support the work of the Commission and expressed its appreciation to the Philippines for co-hosting WCPFC22 and to the WCPFC Secretariat staff for their coordination and preparations for the meeting. Canada informed the Commission that, in 2022, it had launched its Indo-Pacific Strategy, a five-year whole-of-government response to the growing influence of the Indo-Pacific region and its importance to Canadians, under which Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for delivery of the Shared Ocean Fund, aimed at promoting a healthy marine environment by combating IUU fishing in the Indo-Pacific; through the fund Canada is working with international partners to strengthen and enforce the rules-based international order in the region, including through cooperation with the Philippines. Canada described joint work to enhance the Philippines' maritime domain awareness and support efforts to combat IUU fishing within its sovereign waters. Canada informed the Commission of a five-year agreement signed in 2023 with the Philippines to implement Canada's Dark Vessel Detection Program, deploying state-of-the-art remote sensing technologies to multiple monitoring facilities across the Philippines, and emphasised that sharing knowledge, resources, and technologies strengthens collective action against IUU fishing and protects the livelihoods of coastal communities. Canada further advised that it had deployed a maritime patrol aircraft in the WCPFC Convention Area to support monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), including high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) training. Canada stated that these initiatives illustrate how strong partnerships and trust can lead to more effective collective action. Canada noted that tuna stocks managed by WCPFC represent about half of the tuna imported and consumed in Canada, and that Canadian consumers, like many around the world, wish to be assured that their purchases are sustainable, high-quality, and ethical. Canada emphasised the need for the Commission to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainability of WCPFC-managed tuna and reiterated its support for science-based decision-making and the adoption of legally binding and enforceable measures to ensure effective compliance. Canada observed that the generally healthy status of WCPFC-managed tuna stocks is a testament to the work of the Commission and its Members. Canada recognised that the Commission had significant work ahead and concluded by expressing sincere appreciation to all participants for their commitment to the Commission's work and wished everyone a productive week and a pleasant stay in the Philippines.

10. The Commission Chair, Dr Josie Tamate provided an opening address ([Attachment D](#)), and expressed gratitude to the Governments of the Philippines and Canada for co-hosting WCPFC22 and for the hospitality extended to delegates since their arrival in Manila. The Chair also expressed appreciation to Commission Members, the Executive Director and the Secretariat staff, the Commission's science service provider and all others who had contributed to the work of the Commission in 2025. The Chair acknowledged the efforts of those who

balanced national responsibilities with their contributions to WCPFC processes. The Chair noted that 2025 had been a significant year for ocean-related discussions, recalling the Honiara Summit held in February, the dialogue with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on establishing a joint working group for South Pacific albacore, the third United Nations Ocean Conference, intersessional working group discussions and meetings of subsidiary bodies, including the Northern Committee (NC), the Scientific Committee (SC) and the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC). The Chair emphasised that the outcomes and recommendations from these meetings would inform the decisions to be taken by the Commission at WCPFC22 and expressed appreciation to the chairs, co-chairs and leads of subsidiary bodies and working groups for their dedication. The Chair noted the comprehensive agenda for WCPFC22, reflecting the importance of WCPFC-managed stocks to global tuna supply, the ongoing transition towards full implementation of harvest strategies, and the central role of monitoring, control and enforcement in effective conservation and management. The Chair identified adoption of a management procedure (MP) for South Pacific albacore as a top priority, noting that agreement on such a procedure would demonstrate the Commission's commitment to harvest strategies and the management of an economically important fishery. The Chair acknowledged that it had taken considerable time to reach the current stage but expressed the view that Members were now in a strong position, having undertaken the necessary preparatory work throughout the year to enable a successful conclusion. The Chair expressed confidence that Members were strongly committed to progressing the work of the Commission, including adoption of the South Pacific albacore MP and other key outcomes. The Chair noted that, where consensus might not be achievable on particular issues, the Commission should nevertheless agree on appropriate processes and tasking for 2026, including clear guidance for the Secretariat, subsidiary bodies and intersessional working groups. The Chair reiterated readiness to work with all Members and sought their continued support and leadership in advancing the Commission's work during WCPFC22.

11. The Executive Director Ms Rhea Moss-Christian provided opening remarks ([Attachment E](#)), and echoed the remarks made by previous speakers on the importance of the work before the Commission at WCPFC22. The Executive Director thanked the Ambassador of Canada and the Undersecretary for Fisheries of the Philippines for their opening statements, and their countries for co-hosting the Commission session. The Executive Director reiterated the central importance of advancing the harvest strategies that the Commission had committed to developing in 2015. She noted that the Commission had tasked itself with adopting the South Pacific albacore MP and an associated implementing measure at WCPFC22, as well as progressing a broader range of harvest strategy work, including development of MPs for bigeye and yellowfin tuna. She emphasised that this work is at the core of the Commission's mandate and fundamental to the continued sustainability of fisheries in the WCPO. The Executive Director recalled that, when the Commission met in Manila in 2017, it had agreed to establish an intersessional working group (IWG), initially led by New Zealand and later by Fiji, to progress the bridging measure for South Pacific albacore and to develop an MP for that stock. She noted that the Commission had, in effect, come full circle by returning to Manila in 2025 to complete this work. She encouraged CCMs to use the opportunity presented by WCPFC22 to overcome outstanding challenges and to adopt robust decisions supporting the long-term sustainability of the WCPO fisheries. The Executive Director also acknowledged dignitaries from FSM, the Commission's host nation for its headquarters, including members of the FSM Congress present at the opening ceremony. She expressed appreciation for the continued support provided by the FSM Government as host of the Commission's headquarters and noted that the partnership between the Commission and its host nation remained strong. The Executive Director wished the Commission and all stakeholders success in their deliberations during WCPFC22 and confirmed the Secretariat's readiness to support the discussions and facilitate successful outcomes.

12. Following the opening statements, the Commission observed a cultural presentation showcasing Filipino heritage, performed by cultural groups associated with the Manila International Dance Festival.

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

13. The Commission Chair called the meeting to order and invited the Commission to adopt the Provisional Agenda, which was circulated on 20 November (Circular 2025/88).

14. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda contained in [WCPFC22-2025-01_Rev02](#).

Establishment of small working groups

15. The Chair recalled that the establishment of small working groups (SWGs) was discussed at the Heads of Delegation (HOD) meeting on 30 November 2025. The Commission established the following SWGs for WCPFC22:

- i. Participatory rights for CNMs (led by the TCC vice-chair)
- ii. Compliance monitoring report (CMR) (led by the TCC Chair)
- iii. TCC workplan (led by the TCC vice-chair)
- iv. CMS audit points (led by the TCC-vice chair)
- v. South Pacific albacore MP and implementing measure (led by Australia)
- vi. Seabirds (if needed)

1.2 Meeting Logistics and Arrangements

Papers: [Circ 2025-58](#) and [Circ 2025-79](#)

16. The Secretariat outlined the arrangements in place to support the meeting, including transportation between accommodations and the meeting venue, registration requirements, and virtual meeting participation.

2 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

17. The Chair invited opening statements from Delegations, either as a brief presentation or in writing for the record.

18. The Hon. Anthony M. Muller, Minister of Natural Resources & Commerce of the Republic of Marshall Islands, and Chairman of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) Board, conveyed appreciation to the Commission, the Secretariat, and the meeting's co-hosts for bringing participants together for WCPFC22, and stated it was an honour to deliver remarks on behalf of the Marshall Islands' government and people, stating their daily lives, economic aspirations, food security, and long-term development are inseparable from the health and sustainable governance of the Pacific's tuna resources. He underlined their firm resolve to strengthen cooperation, uphold the centrality of science, and safeguard the rights and interests of Pacific peoples, and highlighted three national priorities at WCPFC22. First, Marshall Islands reaffirmed the critical importance of Article 30 as a cornerstone for SIDS, and a foundational pillar that enables SIDS to participate, influence, and benefit from their fisheries. Marshall Islands stated that the ongoing assessment of CMM 2013-06 presents the opportunity to strengthen collective commitments, and that they expect the assessment to reinforce obligations on capacity building and technology transfer, address the present persistent and disproportionate compliance burdens placed on SIDS, and safeguard the sovereign right of SIDS to develop and benefit from their fisheries. Marshall Islands urged all members to approach the assessment with sincerity, fairness, and a full appreciation of the challenges that Pacific SIDS continue to navigate. Second, Marshall Islands emphasized the importance on reforming and strengthening CMM 2009-06 on transshipment, noting that this remained one of the most critical compliance and governance challenges for both coastal states and the broader Commission, observing that high seas transshipment, particularly within the longline fishery, remains insufficiently monitored, inadequately verified, and highly vulnerable to exploitation. Marshall Islands called for a transition towards transshipment under

full monitoring and verification while allowing limited high seas transshipment only where independent oversight can be assured, with strengthened and harmonized reporting requirements aligned with FFA and PNA in-zone frameworks and mandatory 100% observer or EM coverage on all carrier vessels. Marshall Islands stated it was ready to work constructively with all members to forge a modern, transparent and truly enforceable transshipment regime. Third, Marshall Islands underscored the urgent need to advance the South Pacific albacore MP, including formal recognition of the longline vessel day scheme (VDS) as an existing management mechanism. Marshall Islands observed that the fishery is a lifeline for many Pacific island economies and that SIDS domestic longline fleets already operate on narrow margins, continue to face declining profitability, rising operational uncertainty, and threats to their long-term viability. Marshall Islands urged the Commission to improve management arrangements that support the economic viability and operational stability of states based on longline fleets, advance a precautionary science-based harvest strategy with clear and responsive harvest control rules and embed the long-term development needs and aspiration of SIDS into every layer of the management procedure. Marshall Islands concluded by stating its steadfast commitment to the shared stewardship of Pacific Ocean resources, and urged that WCPFC22 be remembered for unity, ambition, and decisive action. The Minister's full statement is contained in [Attachment F](#).

19. The Hon. Jelta Wong, MP, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Papua New Guinea (PNG), on behalf of the people of PNG, extended sincere appreciation to the government and the people of the Republic of Philippines, and recognized the vital role that the WCPFC plays in ensuring a sustainable management of tuna stocks through rigorous science and regional cooperation. PNG stated that the important work enhances vital food security efforts and directly supports the economies of Pacific Island nations, and that supporting and strengthening the WCPFC is essential to conserving and sustainably managing tuna resources for future generations. PNG expressed appreciation to the WCPFC Chair and Executive Director for their efforts and guidance in the lead up to WCPFC22, and noted the dedication and professionalism demonstrated in convening SC21 and TCC21. PNG stated that its priorities at WCPFC22 are aligned with fellow Pacific nations and reaffirmed that their development aspirations are inseparable from a commitment to sustainability, noting that Pacific tuna stocks, among the healthiest in the world, are not a coincidence, but the result of disciplined governance, regional solidarity, and sacrifices. PNG stated there is currently an empowered push by Pacific Island countries to achieve greater value for their tuna resources and that their development aspirations are rooted in the stringent management measures that define the WCPFC. PNG stated that the economies, food security, and livelihoods of the Pacific islands are deeply tied to tuna and other highly migratory fish stocks, and that Article 30 of the WCPFC Convention legally requires WCPFC to ensure CMMs do not impose disproportionate burdens on SIDS while affirming their right to pursue fisheries development in ways that generate value for their people. PNG called on the Commission to ensure that all new CMMs adopted by the Commission include a SIDS Special Requirements Review clause that guarantees that equity is not assumed, but assured. PNG stated that climate change continues to intensify pressures on fisheries and communities, and that although the Pacific did not create the climate crisis, it bears the brunt of its effects, and that scientific evidence confirms climate change is already altering the distribution and productivity of key tuna stocks, which threatens the economic stability of Pacific nations and the integrity of management frameworks. PNG called on the Commission to recognize that climate driven changes in tuna abundance must not result in a redistribution of benefits away from those who have historically conserved these resources, and urged the Commission to integrate climate resilience into all future conservation and management measures, ensuring that Pacific Island countries are financially and technically equipped to adapt and respond to shifting tuna stocks. PNG noted two key proposals from FFA members, relating to South Pacific Albacore management and high seas transshipment, and the rigorous discussions and negotiations at both official and ministerial levels regarding South Pacific albacore, and the collective endorsement of the proposal by all 17 FFA member countries. Regarding transshipment in ports, PNG noted that it served to combat IUU fishing and ensures transparency and accountability while driving domestic development and creating jobs, generating revenue, and distributing economic benefits for fisheries among communities. PNG closed by observing that

regional decisions must respect and complement national laws and priorities and that this balance — shared authority exercised with the respect for sovereign rights — that secures the Commission's legitimacy and strength. The Minister's full statement is contained in [Attachment G](#).

20. The Hon. Sa'aga Talu Teafa, Minister of Natural Resources Development, Tuvalu, thanked the government and the people of the Philippines for their hospitality and courtesy accorded to their delegation and offered special thanks to the WCPFC Executive Director and dedicated staff of the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries for the excellent arrangements. Tuvalu highlighted four issues that they believe must be progressed at WCPFC22. First, an MP for South Pacific albacore tuna, which although not a high priority for Tuvalu fishers is critical as a matter of solidarity with other FFA members and to maintain the reputation of the Commission for responsible management of all tuna resources. Tuvalu stated that the procedure and implementing arrangements are fair, balanced and effective and urged all Commission members to accept the proposal. Second, Tuvalu noted that their government's revenues are highly dependent on revenues from fisheries that employ fish aggregation devices (FADs), and that measures the PNA have already implemented, such as FAD tracking and FAD log sheets, are now being considered for implementation as WCPFC requirements. While supportive in principle for a move to biodegradable eFADs, Tuvalu stated that it shares the concerns of industry that this needs to be effective. Tuvalu has recently launched a small project to retrieve and reuse FAD buoys, so that when the bioFADs are introduced, this small non degradable part of the system will also be dealt with. Thirdly, regarding high seas transshipment, Tuvalu, like other coastal states in the WCPFC stated it has grave concerns over the extent of longline transshipment on the high seas, which was supposed to be allowed only in exceptional circumstances but has become the norm, raising the risk of IUU activities and labour abuse. Prior attempts to reform transshipment CMMs have failed due to resistance from a few members, but Tuvalu firmly believes the measure needs to be strengthened and improved. Fourth, Tuvalu stated it strongly supported a proposal to delay the revision of the tropical tuna CMMs by one year, thereby aligning the process with the skipjack MP and giving the SSP more time to do necessary groundwork. Tuvalu closed by wishing all CCMs the very best for deliberations in the week ahead. The Minister's full statement is contained in [Attachment H](#).

21. The Philippines delegation (on behalf of Drusila Esther E. Bayate, Undersecretary for Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Philippines) Department of Agriculture Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, welcomed delegates to Manila for WCPFC22, and reaffirmed the Philippine government's commitment to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks. The Philippines observed that the WCPFC is vital for safeguarding the world's largest tuna fishery, essential for food security and economic growth across the region, and that as a major tuna producing nation, the Philippines is strongly committed to the WCPFC mandate. The Philippines stated it continues to strengthen its tuna industry through science-based policies, enhanced vessel monitoring system traceability systems, improved fraud management, reduction of IUU fishing, and stock protection, guided by its National Tuna Management Plan (2025–2030). The Philippines stated it supports key agenda items including the proposed amendment to the CMM on HSBI, measures addressing climate change impacts, and the development of harvest strategies for stocks such as yellowfin tuna. The Philippines noted that collective action is essential to address climate change, market pressures, stock concerns, and persistent IUU fishing, and expressed confidence that WCPFC22 would result in stronger CMMs and solidified partnerships. The Philippines acknowledged the thorough preparations by the WCPFC Secretariat, the Philippines' BFAR administrative and logistics team, their co-host Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and partners in the Philippine tuna industry, and wished participants a comfortable and worthwhile stay in Manila. The Undersecretary's statement is contained in [Attachment I](#).

22. Poimatagi Okesene, Director of the Niue Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Chair, Forum Fisheries Committee, on behalf of FFA members, noted their shared commitment to sustainability, equity, and cooperation across the WCPO, and expressed appreciation for the hospitality of the people and Government

of the Philippines and support of the Government of Canada. FFA members put forward two complementary proposals: a CMM for the South Pacific albacore MP and its associated implementing CMM, which reflect extensive collaborative and a science-informed process undertaken by FFA members over two years. Central to this work was agreement among FFA members on allocations within exclusive economic zones (EEZs), which underscores a commitment to ensuring effective long-term management of the South Pacific albacore stock. FFA members encouraged the Commission to take similar constructive approach by adopting the South Pacific albacore MP and its implementing measure at WCPFC 22 consistent with the direction agreed at WCPFC 21. Regarding the special requirements of SIDS and Territories FFA members stressed that Article 30 is not merely a reference point in the Convention, but integral to ensuring fairness and balance in the Commission's decision making, and welcomed its elevation as a priority at WCPFC22, and underscored the need for genuine and timely consultation under CMM 2013-06, particularly on proposals with economic or operational implications for SIDS. FFA members stated that detailed recommendations are contained in their delegation paper and that they look forward to constructive engagement with all CCMs to ensure full alignment with the Convention's intent. Regarding transshipment, FFA members stated they have consistently emphasized the need to strengthen the transshipment measure CMM 2009-06, and given the challenges encountered to date, FFA members recognize the most pragmatic way forward is to focus on improving the clarity and effectiveness of the existing measure, and noted the suggestions for enhancing the current provisions as set out in FFA's proposal. Regarding a revised seabird bycatch mitigation proposal submitted by FFA members, which is informed by recent research, FFA members committed to working with CCMs to identify practical science-based improvements that meaningfully reduce seabird bycatch while remaining operationally feasible. Regarding climate change, FFA members stated that recent scientific advice affirms what Pacific communities have been observing for many years: that climate change is reshaping the distribution, productivity, and seasonal behaviour of key tuna species. These changes, especially shifts between EEZ and the high seas, carry significant implications for the economies of Pacific seas. FFA members stated they have managed their fisheries with restraint, at times limiting national development to ensure the long-term health of shared tuna stocks and that the condition of these fisheries today reflects these efforts. Although they contribute minimally to global emissions, Pacific SIDS are disproportionately affected by climate driven shifts that threatens access to fisheries resources essential for economic resilience and food security. FFA members stated they should not be placed in a position of bearing these costs twice and looked to the Commission to ensure that future total allowance, allowable catch arrangements, and harmony strategies deliver fair and equitable outcomes that recognize the historical stewardship and the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS. Regardless of how climate change may affect stock distribution, recent advisory opinions from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Court of Justice reinforce the global expectation that States act cooperatively and decisively in addressing climate related harms. These developments strengthen the rationale for incorporating climate considerations into the Commission's management framework. FFA members stated that they are ready to work constructively to ensure that WCPFC22 is productive and delivers meaningful progress towards sustainable, equitable and climate resilient fisheries management for the region. The FFA Chair's statement is contained in [Attachment J](#).

23. Jong-jun Song, Acting Director General of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea, thanked the Chair for her leadership and expressed appreciation to the Government of Philippines and Canada for co-hosting WCPFC22. Korea also thanked the Secretariat for their preparation and support leading up to WCPFC 22. Korea stated that the long list of delegation papers served to highlight the interest of members in addressing the key challenges facing the Commission. Korea stated they remain firmly committed to the objectives of the Convention and the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO. In Korea's view, this requires robust science-based measures that allow rational and legitimate fishing operation on the high seas to continue in a predictable way. In this regard, Korea stated they attach particular importance to its proposal on transshipment management, which is designed to strengthen monitoring and transparency of high seas operations while safeguarding legitimate logistical practices. Korea stated they

would introduce the proposal at WCPFC22 and looked forward to engaging constructively with all members. Korea also stated they place strong emphasis on the harvest strategy agenda, and that WCPFC 22 should deliver a credible and implementable South Pacific albacore MP together with effective implementing measures and agree on an updated and realistic work plan for harvest strategies across key tuna stocks. Korea stated that as this work advances, issues of allocation, equity, and burden sharing will become more prominent, and that a decision must remain equitable and balanced among all members. Burden sharing is first and foremost a common obligation of the Commission as a whole and it must uphold the expectation that all members contribute their fair share in line with their respective roles and capabilities. Lastly, Korea underlined the importance of work on climate change; on further developing MCS tools, including observers, EM, VMS and port measures as a coherent system; and improving the quality and timeliness of data to support the work of SC and TCC, as well as continued cooperation with other regional bodies to avoid regulatory gaps and maintain a level playing field across the wider Pacific. Korea stated they came to WCPFC 22 ready to engage constructively to listen to all members and to work towards outcomes that uphold the Convention's objectives while ensuring that rational high seas operations by compliant fleets can continue. Korea's statement is contained in [Attachment K](#).

24. Jamel James, Acting Director, National Oceanic Resource Management Authority, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) thanked the Government and people of the Philippines and Canada for co-hosting WCPFC22, and extended appreciation to the Chair and the Executive Director and the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for the meeting. FSM noted attendance by members of their Congress, stating their presence underscores the nation's strong commitment as the host country of the Commission's headquarters and their recognition of the importance of the work undertaken at WCPFC22. FSM noted the high priority on ensuring that the Commission's management decisions are supported by accurate and independently verifiable data, and that persistent data gaps, particularly in the longline fishery, continue to undermine port compliance and the scientific advice essential to the Commissions work. FMS strongly supported the further development and implementation of the EM and ER technologies, which are essential for improving the quality, coverage and reliability of monitoring across all fleets. FSM also expressed a growing concern shared by many SIDS that the fisheries management system has become increasingly complex and difficult to navigate. The expanding number of measures, reporting obligations, and meetings constitute an unsustainable workload for SIDS with limited personnel and technical capacity. This complexity risks undermining effective participation and compliance. FSM stated the Commission should simplify and rationalize applications, reduce unnecessary duplication, and ensure that all measures are implementable by all members, including SIDS. FSM stated that the administrative and compliance workload faced by members can be reduced by expanding the use of technologies such as EM and ER, improved data systems, and automated data management tools, enabling improved accuracy and timeliness of data, supporting more informed decision making, reducing reporting burdens, and potentially reducing the need for frequent and resource-intensive meetings. Importantly, these actions would also reduce cost burdens on SIDS, freeing scarce financial and human resources that can be redirected towards much needed development of SIDS' domestic fisheries sectors. FSM reaffirmed its commitment to the long-term sustainability of tuna resources and supported continued development and implementation of harvest strategies, improved and practical FAD management reporting, strengthened transparency in transshipments, and effective responses to gaps in data science and compliance. FSM stated these elements are essential to safeguard resources for future generations. FSM underscored that all CCMs seek to resolve the same problem: ensuring that tuna stocks remain healthy so that all members can equitably reap their benefits today and tomorrow. FSM urged that this remains the unifying purpose as CCMs work through the agenda. FSM's statement is contained in [Attachment L](#).

25. The Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Samoa Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Roseti Tile Imo, expressed Samoa's appreciation to the Government and the people of the Philippines for their welcome and hospitality and appreciation to the Government of Canada for their partnership in co-hosting this meeting, as well as to the WCPFC Secretariat for the preparations. Samoa noted its recent domestic efforts to ensure the long-term

sustainability and optimal economic and social benefits of its tuna resources. Samoa stated that the objectives of its national policies correspond closely with the work and mandate of the Commission, and highlighted Samoa's priorities for the meeting. First, to adopt the proposed South Pacific albacore MP and its related implementing measure that achieves the current TRP. Samoa noted South Pacific albacore remains the principal target species in its waters and is imperative for domestic fleets and small-scale fishers. Samoa recognized that South Pacific albacore is an important resource for other members of the Commission and sustainable management of this shared stock is therefore in the collective interest of all. For Samoa, adoption of the South Pacific albacore MP and the implementing measure at WCPFC22 is fundamental to ensuring long-term stock sustainability and stability for small scale fishes and communities, and supporting aspirations toward MSC certification to enhance market value and recognition of Samoa's sustainable fishing practices. Samoa noted that as a SIDS, their economy and food security are disproportionately tied to the health of the South Pacific albacore fishery and any delay or weakening of the proposed measures poses significant ecological and economic risks not only for Samoa but for all members relying on South Pacific albacore for livelihoods. Second is the effective integration of climate change into the work of the Commission. Samoa stated that Pacific leaders have reaffirmed climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and well-being of their people. The multifaceted nature of climate change calls for a more proactive approach and closer collaboration to ensure fisheries resources remain resilient under changing conditions; timely development and availability of data and information are essential to ensure policy considerations and decision making are evidence-based and grounded in the latest scientific information. Samoa stated the need to ensure this is addressed effectively while taking into account the special requirements of SIDS and acknowledged with appreciation the collaborative work of SPC and the Secretariat in this regard, and encouraged continued partnership to embed climate change considerations in the Commission's work, including to ensure fisheries are addressed effectively within ocean climate multilateral processes. Third, Samoa emphasised strengthening the Commission's transshipment measure, noting accurate reporting, verification, and traceability must be ensured to prevent opportunities for IUU fishing and to be compliant across the region. Samoa encouraged in-port transshipment as a practical and high-confidence mechanism for monitoring that enables direct oversight through authorized inspections and verifications by national officials, and advocated strengthening the clarity, consistency, and effectiveness of CMM 2009-06. Samoa's statement is contained in [Attachment M](#).

26. Putuh Suadela, Team Leader of Regional and International Fisheries Resources Management of Indonesia, thanked the Government of the Philippines and the Government of Canada for co-hosting WCPFC22 and the warm welcome in Manila and thanked the Chair and WCPFC staff for preparing and facilitating the meeting and their work throughout the year. Indonesia stressed that tuna fisheries play a vital role in Indonesia's national economy, and that their policies emphasize strengthening food security, reducing poverty in coastal communities, empowering small-scale fishers and women, and developing Indonesia's national fishing fleet. In line with these priorities, Indonesia is advancing fish management reforms to a quota-based fishing policy, improving integrated data collection, and strengthening MCS capacity. Indonesia underscored the importance of ensuring credible participation in high seas fisheries consistent with the principle of fairness, sustainability, and shared responsibility. As a signatory to WCPFC Conventions and consistent with Article 10 and 30 of the Conventions as well as Article 61 and 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Indonesia affirms its right to access and utilize highly mixed species throughout the Convention Area including the high seas. However, since Indonesia became a full member of the WCPFC in 2013, Indonesia has continued to receive a 0-day purse seine effort limit in the high seas. Indonesia considers that a fair adjustment to this limit is necessary to ensure a more balanced and equitable measure for developing states. Indonesia also noted that their national moratorium on PS fishing vessels has contributed positively to tuna conservation in the Pacific high seas. Nevertheless, Indonesia retains its right to develop its high seas fishing activities in the WCPO in accordance with the UNCLOS, the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), and Article 30 of the Convention, all which recognize the special requirements and legitimate aspirations of developing States. Indonesia stated it remains concerned with the continued applications of the 0-day high seas purse seine limit and stated that a fair and

proportionate adjustment is necessary to ensure equitable treatment and opportunity for developing states and SIDS. In light of the outcome from scientific work and the growing impact of climate change on stock distributions and productivity, Indonesia also highlighted the importance of developing MPs for yellowfin tuna to ensure compatible science-based and climate-responsive management across all tropical tuna fisheries. Robust procedures are essential to sustaining stocks while supporting the long-term development of members including Indonesia and SIDS. Indonesia stated it was ready to work constructively with all members to achieve balanced science-based and equitable management outcomes that uphold the sustainability of shared tuna resources while ensuring fair opportunities for all. Indonesia's statement is contained in [Attachment N](#).

27. Marie Feucher, Head of Office of Maritime Affairs, France Overseas Territories, Government of France thanked the Philippines for hosting the meeting, Canada for their financial support, and the staff of the WCPFC for the organization. France stated that WCPFC22 would address a number of important issues and expressed the support of France's Overseas Territories for the improvement of management strategies for species such as South Pacific albacore, and for FADs, noting that these points would be raised by French Polynesia and New Caledonia, with the support of France. France noted the results of the HSBI Working Group and thanked Australia for its work in leading this group and all participants for their shared inputs. France stated that the work has led to some very interesting collective proposals and expressed the hope that the proposals mark the beginning of more extensive action by members in this area. Improving control on the high seas is essential to ensure compliance with WCPFC measures and helps to combat IUU fishing, which is one of the most important threats to the sustainability of resources and undermines the economy of fisheries, and thus the life of the local communities. France stated that at the Third United Nations Conference on Oceans they reiterated their commitment to strengthen international cooperation and promote sustainable policies to protect ecosystems and natural resources. France highlighted the role of science in improving knowledge of the marine environment and species, and the fundamental role of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) in fisheries governance. France stated it also addresses the issues of fighting against IUU fishing and maintaining decent and safe working conditions in the fishing sector by promoting the ratification of international instruments, and that these tools will be fully efficient only once ratified by the entire international community. France's priority at the regional level — with French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna — is to use all means available to ensure sustainable exploitation of migratory species, effective compliance with the WCPFC CMMs, and efficient surveillance and control of the high seas. France stated it strongly believes in multilateralism and remains committed to working with all willing partners such as Pacific RFMOs, the Pacific Quad, SPC, FFA, and bilaterally with partners. France's opening statement is contained in [Attachment O](#).

28. Manuel Ducrocq, Head of the Fisheries Department, New Caledonia spoke on behalf of the Hon. Adolf Digui, Fisheries Minister of the New Caledonia Government. New Caledonia thanked the Government of the Philippines and the Government of Canada for co-hosting WCPFC22, and the Chair and the Secretariat for the excellent arrangement. New Caledonia stated that its tuna fishing sector operates on a demonstrably limited and sustainable scale, and that it has chosen to reserve access to the resources within its EEZ solely to its local fleet, with just 14 New Caledonia longliners operating in the EEZ in 2024; all are crewed by local people and all are certified for responsible fishing practices for over 10 years. The fleet has demonstrated a relatively stable level of catch, and critically on average 80% of that catch is dedicated to supporting domestic food self-sufficiency. New Caledonia stated they are currently adopting a revised Fisheries Act for their EEZ that strongly affirms this approach. New Caledonia stated that designing CMMs based on robust science and that are respectful of development rights and address SIDS and territories challenges is a priority; any CMM must address sustainable catch levels but also fully integrate the assessment and mitigation of the overall impact of fishing activity on the broader marine ecosystem, and the developmental aspirations of the coastal population. New Caledonia stated its key concerns at WCPFC22 are that their longline fishery is highly dependent on South Pacific albacore, which consistently accounts for over 60% of the total annual catch; for New Caledonia an effective measure is one that

meets the agreed-upon management objective for the stock and ensures long-term stability in catch level and yield, which is essential to guarantee the sustainability of the local industry. Other key agenda items include the need to guarantee and evaluate the implementation of Article 30 of the Convention; strengthening CMMs pertaining to vulnerable species of seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, and cetaceans; further use and development of biodegradable FADs, along with a robust tracking and recovery program; and greater transparency over transshipment practices. New Caledonia stated that its overall objective is to ensure that any decisions are sustainable, equitable, and enforceable. New Caledonia's statement is contained in [Attachment P](#).

29. Nathan Ilaoa, Director, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, American Samoa thanked the co-hosts, the Philippines and Canada for the arrangements for the meetings, and the Commission Chair and the Secretariat. American Samoa stated that it is a US Territory and a SIDS with an economy that is highly dependent on tuna, and joined other Pacific SIDS, including fellow U.S. Pacific Island territories at WCPFC22, in discussing tuna fisheries management that is crucial to island economies and cultural identities. American Samoa noted the tremendous progress in the harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore and thanked the SSP for providing options for MP adoption, noting the excellent effort in data and sensitivity analyses. American Samoa stated that its longline fishery is a local Pacific Island domestic fishery that has unfortunately seen significant hardship over the last decade. The adoption of an MP for South Pacific albacore is absolutely critical for the long-term sustainability of the fishery and the health of many of economies that are heavily dependent on tuna industry. American Samoa stated its hope that adoption of an MP will improve market conditions and overall fishery performance for its domestic fleet and considered adoption of an MP at WCPFC22 to be its top priority. American Samoa acknowledged that the South Pacific albacore fishery heavily involves transshipment, and noted the challenges and issues with transshipment, and looked forward to working with fellow members to reach viable solutions. American Samoa stated it remains committed to supporting the Commission's efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of our region's tuna resources and we look forward to a productive and successful meeting. American Samoa's statement is contained in [Attachment Q](#).

30. Mahanatea Garbutt, Adviser, Ministry of Marine Resources, French Polynesia extended warm thanks to the Philippines for hosting of the meetings, Canada for its valuable support, the Secretariat for the quality of its organization, and SPC for the reliability of its scientific services to the Commission. With an EEZ and territorial seas of 5 million square kilometres, French Polynesia stated that they are first and foremost a vast ocean territory, and that for its people, as for many Pacific communities, the ocean is not only an economic space, but it is our home, our culture, our food security, our history and our future. Fishing is an accessible and healthy source of protein and a major source of income for thousands of families and lie at the very heart of our society and our economy. French Polynesia stated it has taken a historic step by evolving its marine managed area, covering the entire EEZ of French Polynesia, into a marine protected area. French Polynesia has extended its management approach to protect key marine species, to strengthen conservation of deep ecosystem based on science and traditional knowledge, to keep exploited stocks in healthy states, and to ensure a balanced spatial management of the protected area. French Polynesia noted the work on marine protected areas is fully aligned with the implementation of the BBNJ agreement, and that the objectives are simple and clear: to safeguard self-sufficiency and social balance and to pursue the sustainable development of our activities to achieve food security and economic sovereignty, to create more jobs, added value, and skills for our people. French Polynesia stated that they firmly believe that the main regulatory effort must focus first on high seas fishing and large-scale fisheries so that the necessary adjustments do not fall unfairly on small island domestic fisheries. Throughout all the topics to be discussed during this session, French Polynesia stated its position remains fully consistent with Article 30 of the Convention, which calls for equity and for special consideration of the specific capacity and vulnerabilities of a SIDS and territories. French Polynesia reaffirmed their full commitment to the fight against IUU fishing, noting strong monitoring, control, and surveillance systems are essential to further strengthen collective action and continue to fight against the impacts of drifting FADs. French Polynesia stated it is pleased to host in Tahiti the International

Workshop on Drifting FAD Retrieval in February 2026. In conclusion, French Polynesia stated it supports strong science-based management of tuna fisheries and remains fully committed to engage with all partners in the spirit of cooperation to help shape a management system that is both environmentally effective and socially equitable. French Polynesia's statement is contained in [Attachment R](#).

31. Guam, as a participating territory and a SIDS member of the Commission thanked the government and people of the Philippines for their hospitality in hosting WCPFC 22, and to Canada as co-hosts. As an island community whose culture, food security, and economic well-being are deeply intertwined with the health of the WCPO, Guam stated they remain fully committed to the sustainable management of the highly migratory fish stocks under the Commission's purview. In accordance with the objectives of the Convention and the principles of sustainable development for SIDS and participating territories, Guam stated they have aspirational interests in responsibly developing its domestic fishing opportunities, particularly tuna fisheries. In this regard, Guam stated they welcome opportunities for meaningful dialogue and potential partnerships with coastal states, fishing entities, and other interested parties, and stand ready to explore cooperative agreements that are consistent with the Convention, respect the special requirements of SIDS and territories, and contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of these shared resources. Guam also reiterated strong support for the adoption and implementation of a robust MP for South Pacific albacore, noting that the stock is of critical importance to artisanal, small scale and domestically based tuna fisheries throughout the South Pacific, including the island economies of American Samoa. Guam stated that a well-designed science-based MP for South Pacific albacore will provide the certainty and stability that island fishers and coastal communities urgently need while ensuring the ecological sustainability of the stock. Guam looked forward to working constructively with all members, cooperating non-members and participating territories throughout WCPFC22. Guam's statement is contained in [Attachment S](#).

32. The USA thanked the Commission and co-hosts the Philippines and Canada and recognized that this was the 25th anniversary of the signing of the WCPFC Convention, which occurred in Honolulu on September 15, 2000. The USA also acknowledged its unwavering support for the US Territories — American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands — and looked forward to advancing measures that support these SIDS and their aspirations, along with wise management of the shared fisheries resources throughout the Convention Area.

33. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) thanked the Philippines and Canada for hosting WCPFC22. CNMI stated that its communities have fished sustainably for generations, long before EEZs and ocean boundaries were created, and that CNMI's Marine Conservation Plan underscores this legacy, prioritizing food security, cultural continuity, economic resilience through responsible stewardship and building capacity. CNMI applauded the progress achieved through collective efforts of the Commission in sustainable management of Pacific marine resources and efforts to ensure that economic opportunities are attainable, sustainable and equitable, especially for SIDS such as CNMI. CNMI stated they aspire to develop their fisheries to the same capacity as others at WCPFC22. CNMI stated they value the importance of partnerships and the support of others to meet these aspirations and welcomed opportunities to discuss potential partnerships. CNMI stated alignment with other Pacific states on many fronts, including the need to adopt an MP for South Pacific albacore, which is a priority for WCPFC22. CNMI's statement is contained in [Attachment T](#).

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34. The WCPFC Executive Director noted that as reflected by the opening statements from CCMs, the work of the Commission remains relevant and important to the region. She recalled that at WCPFC21 the Commission

completed a landmark adoption of the Crew Labor Standards, the first tuna RFMO to adopt such a measure; she observed that while a milestone achievement for WCPFC, much work remained to be done before the measure enters into force in 2028. At WCPFC21 the Commission also confirmed its success in rebuilding Pacific bluefin tuna stock, agreed to a rebuilding plan for North Pacific striped marlin, and adopted interim EM standards, signalling its efforts to modernize the way that it manages fishing activities in the region. The Executive Director reflected on the healthy status of WCPO tuna stocks, which provided an important opportunity for the Commission at WCPFC22 to advance its work on harvest strategies, refine its data collection and monitoring programs, and to take an overall view of work to date and its relevance to continuing to meet objectives and the needs of its members. The Executive Director reported that the Commission operated on a budget of about \$9.8 million in 2025, which was supported by about \$0.5 million in voluntary contributions, and that the budget continues to primarily support the science underpinning Commission decisions. She reviewed science highlights from 2025, including preparation and review by SC21 of new stock assessments for skipjack tuna, South Pacific swordfish, oceanic whitetip shark, and a revised stock assessment for South Pacific striped marlin. The Executive Director reminded the Commission of the importance it placed on completing work on the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy by adopting the MP at WCPFC22 and noted preparatory intersessional work that took place in 2025 through virtual workshops. Continued discussions in 2025 on a review of seabird mitigation measures reflected the commitment by the Commission on ensuring fishing activities do not negatively impact vulnerable bycatch species. The Executive Director acknowledged the strong work by the Commission's SSP under the leadership of Dr. Graham Pilling and the team at SPC, who continue to provide world class science to WCPFC, and noted support by many CCM national scientists and agencies. Regarding compliance, the Executive Director highlighted that TCC completed its 15th year of implementation of the CMS at TCC21. She noted that this had provided a wealth of lessons for CCMs on how best to monitor compliance, but also on the data needs and the monitoring challenges that members face, and why improving the CMS is fundamental to ensuring that sustainability outcomes are robust. TCC21 progressed discussions on how best to implement Article 30 on the special requirements of developing States, and in particular compliance with CMM 2013-06. She noted the sustained focus throughout 2025 through various intersessional working groups and processes on technical refinements to data collection and monitoring activities undertaken by CCMs, an effort to develop voluntary guides to improve HSBI activities, and two successful joint surveillance operations carried out in 2025. The Executive Director also acknowledged Dr. Lara Manarangi-Trott, who resigned from the Secretariat in November 2025 after 13 years of serving as the Compliance Manager, and recognized her contributions to building and developing a strong and robust compliance program for WCPFC.

35. The Executive Director highlighted several key challenges, including compliance monitoring (mainly to ensure there are adequate data to inform management decisions and closing persistent data gaps), and harvest strategy development, which is inevitably complex in a multi-gear, multi-species fishery. She noted the progress made by the Commission such that the agenda at WCPFC22 is focused on harvest strategy development for four key tuna stocks, in addition to the harvest strategy that has been adopted for South Pacific albacore. The Executive Director noted that in addition to considering the South Pacific albacore MP and implementing arrangement at WCPFC22 the Commission would consider the adoption of Terms of Reference and a work plan to establish a joint working group with IATTC on South Pacific albacore and updating the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy work plan to focus on ecosystem efforts in 2026. Discussions will also address cetacean, sea turtle, and seabird mitigation measures, and a review of potential climate change impacts. She noted that the Commission would also adopt a final CMR, consider enhancements to data collection and monitoring programs, including the regional observer program, transshipment regulations, and scientific data requirements.

36. The Executive Director also noted a focus on implementation of Article 30 to ensure that its implementation meets the intended goals and objectives. She observed that the context in which the Commission operates has changed rapidly and there is much work happening outside of the WCPFC around ocean health that impacts WCPFC's work. While WCPFC's focus remains on managing tuna stocks, there is a broader view on the

impacts of fishing on the ecosystem and ocean that support these species. There is a strong opportunity for enhanced data-driven decision making that involves integrating data to present a wider, broader, more enhanced picture of the health of the fishery and the impacts of activities on the various interests that each Member has. She noted opportunities for strengthened regional cooperation, both through regional surveillance operations and consensus-based decision making.

Discussion

37. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, conveyed appreciation to the Executive Director for the comprehensive annual report and to the Secretariat for the substantial work undertaken over the year. They acknowledged the central message of the report: that the WCPFC region continued to shoulder responsibility for managing the world's largest tuna fishery and that the health of these stocks remained fundamental to the economies, food security, and cultures of Pacific peoples. FFA members commended the Commission for maintaining key tuna stocks in generally healthy condition, while expressing concern regarding stocks that remained under pressure. They reiterated their commitment to work constructively to rebuild and sustainably manage all stocks consistent with the Convention and their stewardship responsibilities. They recognised the Commission's SSP for the excellence of its work on stock assessments, monitoring tools, harvest strategies and ecosystem research, noting that this work formed the backbone of the Commission's decision-making. FFA members noted the challenges highlighted in the Executive Director's report, particularly persistent data gaps and limited independent verification, and reiterated that strengthening data collection and verification systems, including through human observers, EM, and improved reporting, is essential for the credibility and effectiveness of the Commission's CMMs. FFA members also acknowledged the Secretariat's efforts to streamline internal processes, enhance communications, and modernise systems, stating these are particularly important for SIDS with limited capacity. FFA members further commended the Secretariat and Executive Director for active engagement in international ocean governance forums, emphasising that such representation ensured that the WCPFC's mandate and Pacific interests were clearly presented in global negotiations. In relation to the BBNJ Agreement, they stressed the need to ensure that BBNJ processes recognise the competence of RFMOs under the Law of the Sea and do not undermine their work. FFA members expressed discomfort about the continued circulation of late meeting papers, noting that this practice undermined the ability of CCMs, particularly SIDS with limited capacity, to analyse and consult on proposals. They strongly encouraged all CCMs to adhere to the Commission's deadlines for document submission. They also highlighted the importance of work undertaken on South Pacific albacore in 2025, including two technical workshops and establishment of a joint working group with IATTC, and reaffirmed that 2025 must be the year in which the Commission made real progress on both a management procedure and the associated implementation measure for this fishery. FFA members joined the Executive Director in formally recognising the significant contribution of the Compliance Manager, Lara Manarangi-Trott, over the past 13 years, and wished her well in her future endeavours.

38. Australia associated itself with the statement made by New Zealand on behalf of FFA members and thanked the Executive Director for the clear and well-structured report and welcomed the recognition, in the Executive Director's opening remarks, of the decade-long work to develop Commission harvest strategies. Australia expressed satisfaction with the substantial progress achieved towards this goal, and concurred with the opportunities identified in the report, including ecosystem-based management, enhanced data-driven decision-making, and strengthened regional cooperation. Australia recognised the work of the Executive Director and Secretariat to strengthen the Secretariat's technical capability, including through capacity-building support to CCMs. Australia highlighted the program of technical support, increased analytical capability, and strategic guidance, combined with effective support for Commission meetings, subsidiary bodies, working groups and intersessional processes. Australia further noted that the Secretariat had maintained and strengthened partnerships with key regional organisations, particularly the scientific services provider. Australia welcomed

efforts to ensure the resilience and sustainability of Secretariat operations and Commission activities and expressed strong support for this work. Australia joined other CCMs in acknowledging the long-standing contribution of Lara Manarangi-Trott to the Commission, including to the work of TCC.

39. Korea thanked the Executive Director for a comprehensive and forward-looking report which clearly set out both progress achieved and tasks ahead for the Commission. Korea appreciated the report's follow-up to Korea's earlier request to reflect developments under the BBNJ Agreement and to refer to important international events such as the UN Ocean Conference, thereby situating WCPFC's work within the broader global ocean governance context. Korea noted what it considered to be a difference in nuance between the SC21 outcomes and the way those outcomes were reflected in the Executive Director's report with respect to increasing observer coverage. Korea emphasised that language in the Executive Director's report should remain closely aligned with recommendations of subsidiary bodies and should not pre-empt the Commission's own deliberations. Korea welcomed the strong emphasis placed in the report on the critical role and special requirements of SIDS and participating territories, while gently noting that non-SIDS members also expended considerable effort in implementing CMMs, providing data, advancing science and strengthening MCS. Korea indicated that future reports would benefit from more explicit acknowledgement of the collective nature of contributions across the full membership.

40. The Cook Islands aligned itself with the statements of FFA members and Australia and noted that the Annual Report highlighted another year of strong progress for the Commission. Cook Islands acknowledged achievements including advances in harvest strategy development, continued improvements to data collection and monitoring, and updated measures for key bycatch species, stating that these reflect a Commission committed to science-based and ecosystem-aware fisheries management. The Cook Islands noted that the report also identified important challenges, including long-standing data gaps, uneven monitoring coverage, and the need to strengthen independent verification. It stated that, as WCPFC moved towards climate-aware and more integrated management approaches, addressing these challenges is essential. The Cook Islands emphasised that the adoption of a CMM establishing an MP for South Pacific albacore was its primary priority for WCPFC22 and highlighted the importance of substantive progress on an associated implementation CMM. It stressed that establishing an implementation pathway in parallel with the MP would be essential to ensuring stability, certainty, and long-term economic viability for SIDS and FFA members whose economies depended on this fishery. The Cook Islands reiterated its commitment to working constructively with all CCMs and expressed appreciation to the Executive Director and Secretariat for their work in 2025. The Cook Islands also joined other CCMs in acknowledging and expressing deep appreciation for the significant contribution of Dr Trott, noting her career pathway from Cook Islands delegate in the Preparatory Conference, to management adviser at FFA, to a senior role in the WCPFC Secretariat, as an illustration of her longstanding commitment to the work of FFA members and the broader Commission.

41. The EU commended the Executive Director's report as a clear and comprehensive document providing a good overview of activities undertaken during the previous year and of work ahead, and suggested that the report could be further strengthened by including additional information on specific work activities of the Secretariat, as well as on challenges and difficulties encountered, together with ideas or options for addressing them. The EU proposed that consideration be given to re-balancing the focus of the report in this direction, and commented on the timeliness of meeting documentation, recognising that some improvements had been made but noting that late submission of papers remained a challenge. The EU encouraged the Secretariat and, collectively, all CCMs to continue improving the timely submission of documents in future.

42. The Philippines expressed appreciation for the significant work accomplished by the Commission in 2025, as reported by the Executive Director, and noted that this demonstrated the Commission's ongoing commitment

to science-based management. The Philippines specifically recognised progress achieved through intersessional activities, including refinement of data collection requirements for fisheries observers, work to minimise fishing impacts on bycatch species, improvements to the management of FADs, and advancement of the management of the South Pacific albacore fishery through workshops and establishment of a joint working group with IATTC for shared stock management. The Philippines further commended work that would lead to updated CMMs, including for sharks and cetaceans, and considered that this demonstrated the Commission's adaptive and effective approach to fisheries management and conservation.

43. Indonesia expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for its continued professionalism, efficiency and dedication in supporting the Commission's work. Indonesia gave recognition to the Secretariat's IT division for efforts to improve user-friendly features across the Commission's digital platforms, which have greatly enhanced accessibility for members and stakeholders. Indonesia commended the Secretariat's ongoing work to update the WCPFC website with timely, clear and engaging content, thereby facilitating access by delegates, observers, and the public to documents, data, and essential Commission information. Indonesia acknowledged the increasing cybersecurity threats faced by international organisations and appreciated steps taken by the Secretariat to strengthen cybersecurity. It encouraged continued investment to ensure that all online systems remained secure and protected from hacking attempts, noting that robust cybersecurity was essential to safeguard confidential data, ensure operational continuity, and maintain member trust. Indonesia underlined its delegation's appreciation of the Secretariat's commitment to service excellence, transparency, and innovation, and looked forward to continued collaboration and to further enhancement of digital tools supporting the Commission's work.

44. The Marshall Islands joined Australia, New Zealand, and others in commending the Executive Director and Secretariat for a comprehensive 2025 report and welcomed the positive developments noted in it, including improvements to the Commission's website. The Marshall Islands expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's and Executive Director's efforts to advocate implementation of Article 30 of the Convention on behalf of SIDS, noting the complexity of this task given that WCPFC managed the world's largest tuna fishery with a large number of coastal States. The Marshall Islands referred to proposals before the Commission that relate directly to the special requirements of SIDS and urged the Secretariat and the Commission to continue to uphold the requirements of Article 30.

45. China expressed appreciation to the Executive Director and the Secretariat for their excellent work and expressed sincere appreciation to the Compliance Manager for her dedicated efforts and contributions to building the Commission's CMS. China expressed support for the adoption at WCPFC22 of an MP for South Pacific albacore and for cross-regional cooperation with IATTC. China endorsed strengthened observer coverage and EM as tools to better protect bycatch species, acknowledged the role of HSBI, and expressed support for voluntary guides in this area. China reiterated its commitment to implementing Article 30, confirmed that it would continue to contribute to the Special Requirements Fund and support capacity building for SIDS, and noted that having ratified the BBNJ Agreement it stood ready to collaborate with the Commission to advance global marine biodiversity conservation. China also supported transparent and efficient budgeting that prioritises scientific assessments and compliance monitoring and reaffirmed its support for WCPFC to continue to play a leading role in global tuna fisheries governance.

46. The Chair, on behalf of the Commission, placed on the record her appreciation for the services, work, and contribution of Dr Lara Manarangi-Trott to the Commission over 13 years of service.

47. The Commission accepted the Report of the Executive Director and acknowledged the extensive work undertaken by CCMs throughout 2025.

4 INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROPOSALS

48. The Chair introduced Agenda Item 4 and explained that proponents would present their proposals, and the floor would then be opened for clarifying questions, with substantive discussions taken up under the relevant agenda items.

4.1 Positions on Key Priorities for WCPFC22 (FFA Members)

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-DP01](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-DP02](#)

4.1.1 Article 30 – Special requirements of developing States ([WCPFC22-2025-DP01](#), Attachment 2)

49. Niue, on behalf of FFA members, introduced DP01 Attachment 2 concerning Article 30 of the Convention on the special requirements of developing States, in particular SIDS and territories. FFA members recalled that Article 30 is a fundamental provision of the WCPFC Convention and a cornerstone of the Commission. They observed that, since the entry into force of the Convention in 2004, the Commission's work and activities have expanded significantly and CCMs' obligations have increased in complexity and administrative burden, creating growing challenges for SIDS even as they continued to meet their obligations. FFA members stressed that continued and meaningful recognition of the special requirements of SIDS is crucial to enable both CCMs and the Commission to meet their obligations under Article 30 and to achieve the Convention's objective of ensuring, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO. FFA members presented three proposals, calling for the Commission to agree:

- (i) to an independent review of the Commission's implementation of Article 30 since the Convention's entry into force, noting that a Secretariat information paper could serve as part of the review material, and providing preliminary terms of reference for this review.
- (ii) that all newly adopted or revised CMMs should contain a "SIDS special requirements review clause", requiring the Commission to review and assess how the particular CMM recognised the special requirements of SIDS and whether existing provisions remained fit for purpose, noting that such a clause would ensure ongoing monitoring and streamline consideration of SIDS impacts in CMMs; and
- (iii) to maintain the existing proportional cost-sharing arrangement among non-SIDS, as decided in Suva at WCPFC21, to finance implementation of Financial Regulation 3.5 beyond 2025 in support of SIDS participation at meetings. They requested that, in respect of this recommendation on the budgetary arrangements for SIDS participation, the Commission reach a decision to allow consideration by the FAC.

50. FFA members stated that these proposed decisions constitute a constructive and collaborative approach to ensuring effective implementation of Article 30.

4.1.2 High seas transshipment ([WCPFC22-2025-DP01](#), Attachment 3)

51. The Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA members, introduced DP01 Attachment 3 relating to transshipment. Marshall Islands recalled that transshipment has been a longstanding priority issue for FFA members and noted that years of intersessional working group review failed to resolve fundamental differences regarding the transshipment measure. Upon reflection, and noting the outcomes of recent reviews, FFA members had considered it pragmatic not to re-open negotiations on the current transshipment CMM at WCPFC22, and instead proposed decision language that would operate within the scope of the existing measure, CMM 2009-06 on transshipment, in particular to clarify and implement provisions concerning high seas transshipment exemptions. Marshall Islands noted that paragraph 34 of CMM 2009-06 provided that there should be no transshipment on the high seas except under specific exemptions arising from determinations of impracticability in accordance with guidelines to be developed under paragraph 37. In the absence of agreed guidelines, paragraph 37 requires CCMs to use the criteria

in subparagraph (a) (significant economic hardship) and subparagraph (b) (substantial changes to historical mode of operation) as the basis for exemptions. Marshall Islands stated that in their view the criterion in paragraph 37(b) on substantial changes to a vessel's historical mode of operation as a result of the prohibition of high seas transshipment is straightforward: for a vessel to be considered as requiring significant and substantial changes to its historical mode of operation, it must, first, have existed at the time CMM 2009-06 entered into force and, second, have been fishing and engaged in high seas transshipment prior to that time, i.e. specifically prior to 2010. DP01 Attachment 3 proposed to operationalise and implement this criterion in order to enhance transparency and visibility of vessels engaged in high seas transshipment and to limit those that could benefit from the exemption. FFA members described this as a pragmatic approach that worked within the current measure's scope and constraints rather than re-opening negotiations on the measure.

4.2 MP for South Pacific Albacore and accompanying implementing CMM (FFA Members)

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-DP02a](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-DP02b](#)

52. Niue, on behalf of FFA members, introduced DP02A, the FFA proposal for a CMM establishing an MP for South Pacific albacore. Niue observed that achieving long-sought progress on effective management of South Pacific albacore was a key priority for FFA members at WCPFC22, and that FFA members were putting forward two complementary proposed measures — the management procedure (DP02A) and an implementation measure (DP02B) — as a comprehensive package for South Pacific albacore management. Niue stated that these measures were designed not only to establish strong fishery controls but also to respond to industry and market requirements and to support achievement of economic and social objectives. The proposal for a management procedure built on several years of work by FFA members, including work undertaken by the South Pacific albacore management group in Australia and substantial intersessional effort by FFA members with all WCPFC members through the WCPFC process, including SC and SP albacore management (SPAM) workshops. Niue emphasised that the development and implementation of a harvest strategy approach for key fisheries and stocks under the Commission's purview is fundamental to ensuring that the Commission continued to achieve its objective of long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO. FFA members stated that the proposed South Pacific albacore management MP is centred on the objective of achieving the adopted interim target reference point (TRP), defined as 0.96 times the mean spawning biomass ratio from 2017–2019. The proposal was based on Harvest Control Rule 7, which is tuned to achieve this interim TRP on average in the long term. The output from the harvest control rule (HCR) would be annual overall unallocated total allowable catch (TAC), but this could be converted into effort through the implementing arrangements. Niue stated that the proposed MP CMM did not include or imply any allocation decisions. Niue drew CCMs' attention to the accompanying explanation and rationale provided in the paper, and expressed FFA members' strong view that the proposal would maintain the economic performance of dependent fisheries together with reasonable total catch levels, while ensuring relative stability in fishing levels between management periods and ensuring the long-term economic viability of South Pacific albacore fisheries, which are vital to the economic security of many members.

53. The Chair noted that substantive consideration of the proposal would take place under the relevant harvest strategy agenda item.

54. Niue, on behalf of FFA members, introduced DP02b, a draft CMM for implementing the South Pacific albacore MP. Niue stated that FFA members were proposing a comprehensive approach to managing South Pacific albacore that takes into account the mixed-fishery context, aims to ensure that fair but firm fishery controls were implemented, and seeks to ensure sustainable and economically viable fisheries for SIDS, coastal States, and distant-water fishing partners. Niue recalled that FFA members had welcomed comments from CCMs over the previous two years, including at WCPFC21, where valuable feedback was provided on elements that CCMs considered important for an implementation measure. A key element was the need to account for all removals in

the relevant longline and troll fisheries, alongside a structured allocation framework and process. FFA members noted that Article 10(3) of the Convention and Article 30 are key guiding elements in considering allocation. The proposed outcome would be proportional catch shares, with flexibility for CCMs to determine how they implemented their shares in line with national management regimes, including existing catch- or effort-based arrangements at national or sub-regional levels. Niue requested that CCMs read DP02b in conjunction with the broader explanatory paper DP02, which proposes that the TAC determined by the MP be split such that 75% would be attributed to EEZs and 25% to the high seas; they noted that this was intended to take into account the needs of coastal States and communities, including their fisheries partnerships and arrangements, their development aspirations, and the impacts of climate change on reef and lagoon ecosystems and fisheries resources. Niue stated that the proposal sought to further embed zone-based management arrangements and reflected the direction provided by FFC Ministers. They stated that the proposal also envisaged a systematic review process to assess performance of the implementation measure against the MP, including whether the special requirements of SIDS are being provided for.

55. Japan thanked FFA members for tabling the proposal and expressed appreciation for the work undertaken. Japan observed that the proposal contained many new elements, particularly in relation to MCS and data requirements. Japan noted that, given time constraints during the session and the Commission's priority to adopt the South Pacific albacore MP, it might be difficult to scrutinize in detail all elements of DP02b during the meeting. Japan therefore asked FFA members to clarify their intentions regarding the extent to which they wished to advance discussion and possible agreement on the implementing CMM at WCPFC22. Japan also sought clarification on the proposed allocation of 75% of the TAC to EEZs and 25% to the high seas. Japan noted that recent catch data provided by SPC indicated that the historical catch share between EEZs and the high seas was approximately 50:50, and expressed concern that a 75:25 split could create substantial difficulties for CCMs with significant high seas fishing activity. Japan asked for the rationale and basis for the proposed 75:25 allocation. Japan further queried how the proposal related to the intention, expressed previously by FFA members, to implement a VDS for longliners, noting that the current draft did not contain explicit provisions for converting the TAC determined by the management procedure into vessel-day limits.

56. The Chair thanked Japan for its intervention and, noting the agreed focus on clarifying questions under this agenda item, indicated that detailed questions regarding allocation, catch/effort conversion and other substantive elements would be best addressed during the substantive consideration of the implementation measure under the relevant harvest strategy agenda item. The Chair invited the proponents to respond briefly to Japan's question on their intentions for progressing DP02b at WCPFC22.

57. Niue responded that FFA members' primary focus at WCPFC22 was to secure adoption of the MP for South Pacific albacore. At the same time, FFA members considered it important to progress, as far as possible, discussions on implementation elements in DP02b at WCPFC22, while recognising that some complex issues might need to be carried forward for further work in the coming year. Niue confirmed that FFA members were open to considering how to structure the work so as to make best use of available time while safeguarding the priority of adopting the MP.

58. Korea thanked FFA members for the proposal and noted that several of its questions had already been covered in Japan's intervention. Korea sought clarification on proposed catch retention provisions, in particular whether the proponents had taken into account longline fishing operations that do not target South Pacific albacore but target other tuna stocks, and the implications that the proposed catch retention clauses might have for such operations. Korea also queried the proposed discard reporting requirement of 72 hours, noting that this appeared inconsistent with the 48-hour reporting requirement under the current CMM 2023-01, and asked whether there was a specific rationale for this difference.

59. The Chair noted that these questions also touched upon substantive aspects of DP02b, but, given their clarifying nature, invited the proponents to provide a brief response and suggested that more detailed discussion be taken up under the relevant harvest strategy agenda item.

60. The Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, thanked CCMs for their questions. The Cook Islands stated that there was a substantial body of work ahead at WCPFC22 and in 2026 on both the MP and its implementation, and that if CCMs deferred all implementation elements to 2026 it could create difficulties for many CCMs with respect to commercial and market-related certification processes and timelines, and the Commission could fail to adopt an implementation measure that would go into effect in 2027. The Cook Islands suggested that WCPFC22 provided an opportunity for CCMs to progress many of the technical implementation elements, potentially through plenary and working group discussions, while recognising that some more complex issues might need to be finalised in 2026. On the proposed 75:25 EEZ/high seas split, the Cook Islands noted that FFA members had examined the Convention's provisions in detail, particularly Article 10(3) as well as Article 30, and considered that catch history was only one of several criteria the Commission was required to take into account in allocation decisions. FFA members stated that they had taken a broader view that recognised coastal State rights, development needs, and climate change impacts, and that the proposal was predicated on the role of the Commission in establishing an overall TAC through the MP, while allowing flexibility in how CCMs implement their national shares, including through catch or effort limits. The proposed transferability and reconciliation processes were intended to provide mechanisms to address differences between catch- and effort-based regimes. Regarding Korea's question on catch retention, the Cook Islands recalled the Commission's previous difficulties in defining and ensuring compliance with concepts such as "targeting" and "fishing for" specific species, and indicated that the proposal therefore sought to apply fair and standardised approaches across all longline and troll activities in the relevant area rather than relying on targeting definitions. The Cook Islands suggested that detailed discussion of timelines and technical provisions be taken up in the harvest strategy discussions.

4.3 CMM for Seabirds (Japan)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP03](#)

61. Japan introduced DP03, a proposal to amend CMM 2018-03, explaining that the proposal reflected discussions and outcomes from SC21 and TCC21, and that its main objective was to distinguish more clearly between minimum standards and technical guidelines for tori line specifications for large-scale longline vessels operating south of 25°S. Japan considered that a two-tier structure would allow fishers to focus on complying with the most critical specification requirements while enhancing operational flexibility and practicality. The revised proposal introduced an alternative option under the minimum standards whereby, if a tori line was shorter than 200 metres, a towing device would be required to be attached at its end. Japan noted that this requirement was consistent with the seabird mitigation measure adopted by IATTC and considered it reasonable in light of the overlapping convention areas. Japan acknowledged written comments already received from some CCMs and expressed its intention to work cooperatively, including with FFA members in light of their own proposal on seabird mitigation, with a view to possibly developing a consolidated proposal for adoption at WCPFC22.

62. Australia, speaking also on behalf of FFA members, thanked Japan for its efforts to improve the practicability of the seabird mitigation measure. They noted that improving the workability of technical specifications was an important step towards strengthening compliance and effectively reducing interactions between longline operations and seabirds. Australia indicated that it had some comments on the proposed specifications and welcomed the opportunity to work with Japan to progress the proposal efficiently through a small working group as appropriate.

4.4 Review of CMM 2018-03 (FFA Members)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP04](#)

63. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, introduced DP04, a proposal to strengthen seabird mitigation measures. New Zealand stated that following discussion and consultation with CCMs, the proposal had been significantly refined from previous versions, and that DP04 recommended amendments that would require vessels operating between 25°S and 30°S to use at least two out of three seabird mitigation measures, in recognition of operational challenges raised by CCMs. Other proposed amendments would encourage, rather than require, the use of all three mitigation measures and the use of ACAP-recommended branch line weighting. New Zealand stated that the proposal reflected both feedback received and FFA members' commitment to achieving practical, consensus-based progress towards fulfilling obligations under Article 5(e) of the Convention relating to the minimisation of bycatch. New Zealand also acknowledged Japan's DP03, which also proposed revisions to the CMM to improve protection of seabirds, and looked forward to constructive discussions both in the margins and under the relevant agenda item.

64. China thanked New Zealand for proposing DP04 and asked two clarifying questions: (i) whether comparative experimental data were available regarding seabird interactions under different mitigation configurations and why, given high levels of observer coverage in some fleets, those observer data had not been more fully utilised in the proposal; and (ii) about the proposed geographical application of the measures and, in particular, the rationale for focusing strict controls on the high seas while exempting EEZs. China observed that EEZs included ecologically critical zones and important foraging areas for many seabird species and queried whether such an approach was consistent with the precautionary principle and ecosystem-based management.

65. New Zealand thanked China for its questions and, noting that they related closely to scientific and technical matters, suggested that they be taken up in detail during the substantive discussion of seabird mitigation under the relevant agenda item.

66. The Chair noted that there were no further clarifying interventions. The Chair encouraged Japan, New Zealand and other interested CCMs to consult in the margins prior to the dedicated plenary agenda item on seabird mitigation (Agenda Item 12.1), with a view to identifying possible areas of convergence.

4.5 Amendments to CMM 2006-08 on HSBI (Korea)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP05](#)

67. Korea introduced DP05 on inspection priorities. Korea explained that the proposal would not affect fishing opportunities, would not affect the development aspirations or domestic access of SIDS, and would not impose additional reporting costs on SIDS or other CCMs. Korea stated that the proposal was consistent with the voluntary and priority-based nature of paragraph 10 of the CMM and was intended to incentivize the uptake and effective functioning of observers and monitoring systems rather than penalize vessels without them. Korea noted that the proposal sought to better integrate HSBI with other aspects of MCS, and to reward investments in robust monitoring. Korea indicated its openness to drafting refinements provided the core idea, that inspection priorities should reflect whether vessels were already subject to strong independent monitoring, was retained.

4.6 High Seas FAD closures and catch retention (Korea)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP06](#)

68. Korea introduced DP06, a proposal to amend CMM 2009-02 on high seas FAD closures and catch retention. Korea explained that the proposal sought to make the existing discard reporting obligation visible to the flag State.

Korea noted that paragraph 12 of CMM 2009-02 requires vessel operators to send discard reports only to the WCPFC Executive Director within 48 hours, which in practice means that the flag CCM may receive the information late or not at all, despite being responsible for enforcement. Korea proposed that the same discard report, in the same format and within the same time frame, be submitted to both the Executive Director and the flag State authority, so there would be one report transmitted to two recipients. Korea stressed the importance of discard reporting for transparency and for reinforcing the catch retention principle, but noted that discard information was not time-critical in the same way as safety issues or serious violations. For this reason, Korea suggested a deadline of 48 working hours in order to avoid artificial non-compliance arising over weekends or public holidays while still ensuring timely reporting. Korea expressed flexibility on drafting the time frame, including the possibility of a longer period, provided the core concept of simultaneous transmission to the flag State and the Executive Director was retained. Korea stated its openness to alternative wording that members might suggest.

69. Nauru, on behalf of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, Tokelau, and Vanuatu (PNA+) thanked Korea for the proposal and requested information from the Secretariat on the annual number of discard events and associated tonnage by flag in recent years. PNA+ members stated that this information would assist in assessing the additional reporting burden arising from Korea's proposal. The Chair noted the request and advised that the Secretariat would examine whether it could provide the requested information during the session.

70. Korea then asked SPC whether discard information should be considered time critical in relation to SPC's work. Korea requested that SPC provide information later in the week, under the relevant agenda item on SPC reporting, on whether discard data required time-critical transmission. The Chair noted this request and indicated that the question would be raised again when the relevant agenda item was discussed.

4.7 Amendments to Financial Regulations (Korea)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP07](#)

71. Korea introduced DP07, proposing amendments to the financial regulations to provide clearer, more predictable support for the Chairs of the Commission and subsidiary bodies. Korea noted that current regulations only partially addressed financial support for participation and were silent on travel and accommodation costs for Chairs, leaving practice to custom and creating budgetary uncertainty. Korea proposed a new regulation establishing a neutral baseline for all Chairs consisting of one economy-class return airfare by the most direct route and standard accommodation for the official meeting period, with up to one night before and after as necessary. Korea explained that, consistent with existing practice where the Chair or acting Chair was from a developing member, a daily subsistence allowance (DSA) would be payable for the meeting and necessary travel days in line with the Commission's DSA schedule. Where accommodation was paid directly by the Commission, only the meals and incidental expenses component would be paid. Korea stated that this approach combined formal equality of baseline support with substantive equity for developing members. Korea proposed that annual monetary caps be set in the approved budget and that the Executive Director issue administrative guidance on documentation requirements, splitting of DSA and prevention of double funding, so that Commission funds would be reduced or not paid where equivalent support was already provided by governments or third parties. Korea clarified that the scope of the proposal was limited to meetings convened by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and that the intent was to cover meetings where the relevant Chair was presiding.

72. The Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA members, thanked Korea for the proposal and acknowledged the detailed provisions. FFA members stated that their primary focus remained on full implementation of Article 30 and effective support for SIDS Chairs. They noted that participation of SIDS Chairs in their respective meetings was currently funded through the meeting services budget sub-item on Chair's expenses, which they consider appropriate, and suggested that participation of non-SIDS Chairs should continue to be self-funded. FFA members

reiterated the importance of maintaining the existing proportional cost-sharing arrangements among non-SIDS to support implementation of Financial Regulation 3.5 beyond 2025. FFA members indicated that they were not in a position to support DP07.

73. Chinese Taipei expressed appreciation to the hosts and the Secretariat and stated its support in principle for Korea's proposal. Chinese Taipei requested an approximate estimate of the annual budget required to implement the proposal, in order to understand the financial implications for budget planning. Chinese Taipei also sought clarification on the scope of meetings covered, including whether participation by the TCC Chair in the Commission's annual session would fall within the regulation.

74. Korea thanked Chinese Taipei for its general support and questions. Korea indicated that it would work with the Secretariat to prepare a ballpark estimate of costs for Chair participation, with a view to providing this before the FAC meeting. On scope, Korea reiterated that the intent was to limit budgetary support to meetings where the Chair was presiding, so that travel by, for example, a TCC Chair to the Commission's annual session would not be covered unless they were chairing part of that meeting. Korea also responded to the intervention by the Marshall Islands on behalf of FFA members, recognising the importance of Article 30 and the contributions of Chairs from developing States. Korea noted that Chairs from developed States also faced constraints, including national funding limitations and out-of-pocket costs where official accommodation standards differed from meeting venues. Korea expressed the view that the Commission should signal its appreciation for all Chairs, regardless of nationality, and requested that discussion of DP07 remain open to allow further consultations with FFA members to seek a compromise.

4.8 CMM on regulation of transshipment (Korea)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP08](#)

75. Korea introduced its proposal to amend the transshipment CMM 2009-06. Korea stated that the objective was to separate the act of at-sea transshipment from IUU fishing and to focus on controls, data, and accountability. Korea recalled that at-sea transshipment was recognised under the FAO voluntary guidelines and widely used across tuna RFMOs, particularly by longline fleets that depend on it because of dispersed operations and long trip durations. Korea emphasised that risk arose from non-compliance and weak oversight, not from the practice itself. Korea explained that the proposal clarified in the preamble that at-sea transshipment was not inherently an IUU activity, and that it aligned WCPFC framing with global practice. Korea noted that longline fleets depend on at-sea transshipment and that a complete ban would severely affect their viability. Korea stated that the proposal introduced targeted safeguards on high seas transshipment rather than a structural rewrite of CMM 2009-06. Korea stressed that the proposal would not affect development opportunities or domestic access for SIDS, nor introduce new obligations specifically on SIDS. Korea stated that the proposal was directed at CCMs whose vessels conduct high seas transshipment and that it responds to concerns about verification gaps rather than any intention to restrict legitimate operations. Korea summarised that the proposal would affirm at-sea transshipment as a legitimate, globally recognised practice while tightening high seas monitoring through four operational safeguards and avoiding unnecessary disruption to compliant fleets. Korea expressed readiness to work with members to refine the text.

76. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, thanked Korea and noted the requirements proposed, including VMS for carriers, prior authorisation by the flag State, and access to transshipment data for high seas boarding and inspection. FFA members observed that these elements appeared already to be addressed under existing VMS, transshipment and data rules, and sought clarification on the rationale for reintroducing them in this context and on the additional monitoring benefits they would provide beyond the current framework.

77. Korea explained that the proposed text responded to issues raised at TCC21 regarding some carrier vessels not providing VMS information to their flag State, but only to the Secretariat. Korea stated that the proposal aimed to strengthen compliance with the VMS CMM by clarifying obligations and invited further suggestions from members to reinforce these elements.

4.9 Revision of CMM 2023-01 on high seas purse seine effort limit (Indonesia)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP09](#)

78. Indonesia introduced DP09_Rev02 on revising Attachment 1 of CMM 2023-01 regarding Indonesia's high seas effort limit, currently recorded as 0 days. Indonesia recalled that its participatory rights as a coastal State with historical high seas fishing activity had been formally recognised by the Commission since 2008, including an allocation of 500 fishing days and the opportunity to build and operate pole-and-line vessels on the high seas, as confirmed in correspondence between Indonesia and the Secretariat in 2016. Indonesia noted that these rights had not been utilised over the prior 12 years because of domestic policy changes and vessel procurement issues. Indonesia informed the Commission that it was undertaking significant reforms to strengthen national MCS and data collection systems, as described in its initial Strategic Compliance Improvement Plan annexed to DP09_Rev02. Indonesia referred to UNCLOS, UNFSA, and Articles 10 and 30 of the WCPFC Convention and stated that as a developing State it sought credible participation in high seas fisheries. Indonesia therefore proposed that its high seas effort allocation be adjusted to 1,000 fishing days, reflecting its historic participatory rights, renewed fleet development plans, strengthened compliance commitments, and the principles of fairness and non-disadvantage to developing States. Indonesia emphasised that the proposal applied only to Indonesia, would not impose additional obligations on other CCMs, and that any future operations would comply with Commission standards and contribute data for science and regional cooperation.

4.10 Issues for consideration within the Harvest Strategy Workplan (Australia and SPC-OFP)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP11](#)

79. Australia introduced DP11, prepared with SPC, on wider issues for consideration within the harvest strategy work plan. Australia described the paper as strategic planning for the harvest strategy process and explained that it addressed the three-year cycle of MPs and stock assessments, alignment of the running of MPs with the review of their implementing CMMs, and management of workload across the Commission, particularly in 2026, and the desirability of an efficient cycle of activity going into the future. Australia proposed a new schedule that would bring the three tropical tuna stocks into alignment so that MP outputs can be incorporated into the tropical tuna measure at the same time. Australia noted that this would extend the existing skipjack MP cycle to four years so that it would align with the first running of the bigeye MP in 2027, as supported by SC. Australia also proposed that the Commission's review of the tropical tuna measure be shifted from 2026 to 2027, with continuation of all relevant arrangements through 2027. Australia invited CCMs to consider the schedule and indicated that minimal consequential changes to CMMs 2022-01 and 2023-01 would be required.

4.11 Process to review CMM 2018-04 on sea turtles (USA)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP12](#)

80. The USA introduced DP12 on sea turtles. The USA recalled strong support at SC21 and TCC21 for establishing an informal intersessional working group to evaluate scientific research on sea turtle interactions and provide advice on potential revisions to CMM 2018-04. The USA stated that the review would assess the impact of deep-set longline fisheries on sea turtles, examine mitigation strategies and consider improvements to reporting

requirements. The USA welcomed feedback on the draft terms of reference and the proposed timeline and expressed its intention to seek a recommendation to undertake the informal review process in 2026.

81. Palau, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the USA and expressed support for the proposed process. FFA members highlighted three priorities for the informal intersessional working group: use of a risk-based, evidence-informed approach for any proposed expansion of the CMM; an assessment of implementation burden and potential costs of new mitigation requirements for deep-set fisheries, particularly for SIDS; and explicit inclusion of sea turtle data reporting requirements within the scope of the review, noting that this element was not fully captured in the stated purpose.

4.12 Update to the HSBI multi-language questionnaire (China and Australia)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP13](#)

82. China, on behalf of China and Australia, briefly introduced DP13, a joint proposal to update the multi-language questionnaire for HSBI, in response to directions from WCPFC21 and building on three HSBI working group meetings. China outlined the key objectives: to optimise the questionnaire structure for initial radio contact, pre-boarding and boarding; simplify language for efficient radio communication; add questions on rights and obligations; strengthen safety considerations; and include questions linked to serious violation provisions in the HSBI measure. China noted that the tools proposed were voluntary and had been refined through working group consultations. China requested that the Commission deliberate on and adopt the proposal.

83. Australia, in its capacity as Chair of the HSBI working group, thanked China and other participants and noted that the text reflected contributions from many members. Australia indicated that the Chair's report and the intersessional HSBI work, including the multi-language questionnaire and voluntary guides for HSBI procedures, would be introduced under the relevant agenda item and invited further comments in advance of that discussion.

4.13 Draft CMM for the WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Program (USA)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP14](#)

84. The USA introduced DP14 on an EM programme CMM. The USA explained that, in response to feedback at SC21 and TCC21, it proposed a year-long consultative approach in 2026 to develop a draft EM CMM. The USA stated that this approach would allow all CCMs to provide input across subsidiary bodies over many months, rather than in the short period before a single meeting. The USA anticipated revising and submitting a draft EM CMM to each subsidiary body in 2026 with a view to potential consideration by the Commission in December 2027.

85. Fiji, on behalf of FFA members, did not pose clarifying questions but emphasised the importance of submitting the Article 30 assessment (2013-06 framework) with draft proposals at the outset. FFA members noted that timely submission of such assessments supported transparency, early consideration of potential impacts on SIDS, and more efficient decision-making. FFA members requested that proponents provide Article 30 assessments alongside future proposals and that implications for SIDS be continuously assessed as proposals evolved.

86. Japan thanked the USA for DP14 and sought clarification on the scope of the proposed EM framework, noting that paragraph 7 of the draft indicated coverage beyond longline vessels. Japan asked whether the intention was to cover all fishing vessels, or to focus initially on longline fisheries.

87. The USA responded that the consultative draft provided a framework focusing on high seas longline fisheries, as reflected in Annex 2, without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission to extend EM to other

fisheries. The USA stated that initial discussions would focus on longline fisheries, while allowing for possible expansion to other fisheries at a later stage.

4.14 Proposed reforms to strengthen the CMS (USA)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP15](#)

88. The USA briefly introduced DP15 on challenges with observer-sourced enforcement cases. The USA highlighted a proposal for a feasibility analysis of an ROP portal within the Commission's Compliance Case File System (CCFS), similar to the new HSBI portal, with the objective of streamlining the Secretariat's current role in observer data entry for compliance cases.

89. PNG, on behalf of FFA members, stated that FFA members had no clarifying questions on DP15 at the time but wished to make a general point in relation to DP15, DP16, and DP17 from the USA. FFA members observed that these papers raised several technical and detailed issues, some editorial but others with significant operational and resource implications. They noted that TCC had requested the Secretariat to assess technical feasibility, work plan impacts and financial implications, and highlighted that the papers had been tabled shortly before the meeting. FFA members considered that, in light of the technical nature of the recommendations, the work required of the Secretariat, and competing priorities at the session, they were not in a position to discuss the technical recommendations in plenary or in a small working group. FFA members therefore recommended that DP15, DP16, and DP17 be referred to relevant intersessional working groups and to TCC for discussion in 2026. FFA members also drew attention to recurring late submissions of delegation papers. Citing Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure, PNG recalled that supplementary items must be requested at least 30 days before the session, with written explanations circulated at least 20 days before the opening of the session. PNG noted that some delegation papers had been submitted and circulated outside these deadlines yet were still accepted and placed on the agenda. PNG stated that late submissions imposed additional burdens on CCMs, especially those with small administrations, and on sub-regional Secretariats. PNG urged the Commission to ensure strict compliance with Rule 3 and to reject supplementary agenda items submitted outside the specified time frames.

4.15 CCFC updates to enhance the CMS and addressing imbalance in enforcement monitoring (USA)

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-DP16](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-DP17](#)

90. The USA presented DP16 and DP17 together. The USA explained that DP16 provided support for several administrative enhancements to the CCFS aimed at improving accountability and transparency in the tracking of compliance cases by the Secretariat and CCMs, which were discussed at length during TCC21 and were included in the TCC21 recommendations to WCPFC22. DP17 responded to the TCC Chair's request for views on a possible subsampling approach for the 2024 compliance review. The USA stated that it did not support subsampling for the 2024 review, arguing that the imbalance lay in current enforcement outcomes rather than in the case file system. The USA noted that longline vessels were subject to disproportionately high enforcement, driven by HSBI and CCM-initiated cases, compared with purse seine vessels and so-called "observer-initiated" cases that the Secretariat creates based on observer-sourced data.

91. The Chair noted PNG's recommendation on behalf of FFA members to refer DP15, DP16, and DP17 to intersessional working groups and TCC in 2026 and observed that these papers would also be considered in the context of tasking under the agenda item on Compliance Monitoring (Agenda Item 13). The Chair indicated that further discussion on tasking and process for 2026 would be taken up when that agenda item was reached.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 30 AND CMM 2013-07

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-IP01](#), [WCPFC22-2025-DP10](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-DP18](#)

92. The EU thanked the Secretariat for IP01 summarizing the Commission's tools, initiatives, and activities in support of the implementation of Article 30 of the Convention, including participation of SIDS, capacity building and related support mechanisms. The EU recalled that, since 2018, it had supported the promotion of a healthy Pacific Ocean and the sustainable governance of marine and coastal resources through its regional flagship initiative, the Pacific–EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme of €45 million. The first phase of the Programme had concluded implementation in 2025, and its successor, PEUMP 2, was signed in June 2024. The EU stated that PEUMP 2 was in the final stages of preparation and expected to commence implementation in early 2026. The new phase would build on the achievements and lessons from the first phase and further strengthen regional cooperation and sustainable ocean management. The EU noted that its delegation had submitted a paper (DP10) outlining the main achievements of the first PEUMP phase over seven years of implementation and encouraged CCMs to consider it. The EU further noted that the second phase would be led by Pacific regional organisations working under the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) mechanism, namely the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP). A key change in the second phase would be the formal inclusion of the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, whose mandate on ocean governance and regional coordination is expected to strengthen the reach and coherence of the programme. The EU called on CROP agencies and Pacific Island countries to continue working closely with the EU to ensure that PEUMP 2 would be a successful, high-impact programme delivering tangible benefits for the people of the Pacific.

93. Korea briefly introduced the key aspects of its delegation paper (DP18) and stated that it regarded Article 30 as one of the pillars of the Convention. Korea advised that it had sought to give practical effect to Article 30 through its Official Development Assistance and cooperation programmes in the Pacific. It informed the Commission that it was implementing or preparing 10 bilateral projects in the oceans and fisheries domain with Pacific Island countries, totalling about US\$44 million, as well as five multi-bilateral and multilateral initiatives totalling about US\$17 million. Korea explained that these initiatives cover capacity development and onboard training; coastal and community fisheries; aquaculture and climate resilience; marine environmental monitoring; implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and relevant IMO conventions; MCS and IUU response capacity; and marine plastic reduction. Looking ahead, Korea intended to continue and, where possible, expand this cooperation with a particular focus on practical MCS and compliance capacity, improved data and science to support WCPFC measures, and integration of climate and ocean health considerations into fisheries and coastal projects. Korea informed the Commission that its government was placing special emphasis on cooperation with the Global South as part of its broader international outreach, and that Korea had offered to co-host the Fourth United Nations Ocean Conference with Chile in 2028. Korea expressed the view that this event could serve as an opportunity to highlight the Commission's efforts to implement Article 30 of the Convention.

94. Japan made a short statement on the implementation of CMM 2013-07 and Article 30 of the Convention. Japan stated that it fully recognizes the importance of the criteria contained in CMM 2013-06 and Article 30 when submitting proposals. It advised that, when preparing proposals, it carefully uses the checklist in CMM 2013-06 and would continue to do so in the future. Japan reiterated its view that the tasks in CMM 2013-06 were most effectively addressed through consultations with SIDS and participating territories. In that context, Japan expressed appreciation for opportunities it had to consult with SIDS on proposals and obligations. Japan further recalled that Japan, including through the OFCF and a Japan–FFA cooperation fund administered with FFA, has been providing support to FFA members since 2008 to enhance management capacity and related activities. Japan noted that this arrangement had been renewed for a further 10-year period until 2027, and that the level of

support was increased in 2020. Japan expressed the hope that these programmes would contribute to sound fisheries development and effective implementation of Article 30.

95. The Marshall Islands expressed appreciation to members of the Commission, particularly developed CCMs, for their outstanding contributions, whether directly to Commission funds or through other arrangements, which supported SIDS' participation and capacity building. The Marshall Islands highlighted the importance of strengthening national capacity to derive greater economic benefits from the fishery, including through the development of a national fisheries competent authority that had been in preparation for several years and was intended to enhance its participation in international fisheries and the related economic returns. The Marshall Islands stressed that Article 30 and the associated Special Requirements Fund were critical mechanisms for ensuring that SIDS could effectively participate in the work of the Commission, including through implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and the recently agreed SIP-related arrangements. It expressed appreciation for the Commission's agreement on the SIP and indicated its expectation that this arrangement would continue to provide assistance towards effective SIDS participation.

96. The USA informed the Commission that, following the interventions by the EU and Japan on economic support for the region, it wished to advise that the USA was providing US\$120 million in the current fiscal year pursuant to the US-Pacific Islands Parties Tuna Treaty, with US\$60 million having been disbursed on 11 August and the remaining US\$60 million expected to be paid during the week of the meeting.

97. Niue on behalf of FFA members thanked the Secretariat for the SIP update and the comprehensive compendium in IP01, but stated that the SIP currently lacks clear linkages between the identified needs of SIDS and available financial and technical resources, noting that while support is available, there is a critical need for more targeted assistance that directly addresses SIDS' key challenges. Niue stated that FFA members' proposal under DP01 Attachment 1 outlines work that in their view will better inform the SIP in the long term, and seeks to create a clearer connection between SIDS' needs and the allocation of funds and Secretariat support. FFA members acknowledged the ongoing support to SIDS and encouraged the continued incorporation of SIP-identified priorities into the Secretariat's Work Plan. They also sought to articulate their immediate needs and priorities: capacity building in VMS audit and inspection and reconciling VMS data; SIDS participation in the SPA JWG in early 2026; SIDS participation in the SPA Allocations negotiation such as the Coastal States EEZ allocation negotiation in 2026; capacity building of SIDS to implement the monitoring requirement, in particular under the SPA Implementing Agreement, and in implementing EM; and support to increase commercialisation of tuna fisheries and related activities.

Independent Review of the Implementation of Article 30

98. The Chair recalled that the FFA proposal under this agenda item comprised three components and invited comments on the first element, namely the proposal to undertake an independent review of the implementation of Article 30 of the Convention, as set out in FFA paper DP01.

99. American Samoa expressed its gratitude to the Commission for facilitating its participation in Commission proceedings utilizing funds designated for SIDS' special requirements. It stressed that these funds were of critical importance to SIDS and territories such as American Samoa and strongly endorsed the SIP, including SIDS participation in capacity-building workshops and Commission meetings, given their limited capacity and small administrative structures. American Samoa also expressed support for the proposal by FFA members for additional budgetary allocations to facilitate further deliberation on harvest strategies. It further stressed that the independent review of Article 30 must include the identification of disproportionate burdens on SIDS and territories and address related inefficiencies. American Samoa emphasized that Article 30 contained clear and explicit obligations, not merely suggestive language, and that there should be no disproportionate burden on SIDS

and territories. It urged the Commission to ensure that such considerations were included in the review as proposed by the FFA in DP01.

100. New Caledonia expressed support for the FFA recommendation to undertake an independent review of the Commission's implementation of Article 30 of the Convention. It thanked FFA for submitting draft language on the terms of reference for the review and stated that it would like to see further reference to the needs and circumstances of territories in that text.

101. The Marshall Islands thanked the USA for its financial contribution under the US Treaty arrangements and acknowledged the statement by Japan regarding the use of CMM 2013-06 and the associated consultation processes as tools for operationalizing Article 30. The Marshall Islands recalled that CMM 2013-06 was designed to address disproportionate burdens on SIDS and to take account of SIDS' capacity when new obligations and proposals were considered. It urged CCMs not only to consider but to implement the consultation and assessment process under CMM 2013-06 when developing proposals, particularly in light of the growing number of measures for consideration.

102. The EU stated that, in principle, it did not have strong views against the proposal to undertake an independent review of Article 30. It recalled, however, that the Secretariat had already provided substantial information in previous meetings and at WCPFC22, including through relevant working and information papers, which contained useful information on support at the regional and SIDS level. The EU recognized potential merit in an independent review and stated it could agree to the proposal, but suggested refining the proposal, noting any review should outline the need for a process that could make the identification and formulation of SIDS' needs more effective, and that it should also examine the effectiveness of past and existing initiatives undertaken in response to Article 30.

103. Canada expressed strong support for the proposed review and suggested that the Commission also consider the value of conducting a broader second performance review of the Commission, building on the last review undertaken in 2012. Canada noted that such a performance review could identify priorities for the Commission, and that a review of Article 30 could usefully be placed within the broader context of the Commission's overall performance. Canada referred to a paper it had submitted to the 14th Informal Consultation of States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement on performance reviews in regional fisheries management organisations, which suggested a five-year cycle with subsequent reviews focusing more directly on specific issues. Canada welcomed further discussion on the scope of such a broader performance review.

104. The Chair noted the emerging support for the Article 30 review and the suggestion by Canada regarding a broader performance review. The Chair proposed that FFA members and other CCMs that had expressed views work together, including in the margins and electronically, to refine the draft terms of reference for the Article 30 review.

105. Korea expressed support for the general direction of the draft terms of reference annexed to DP01 but raised several questions regarding the composition and modalities of the review panel. Korea sought clarification on whether "independent experts" were intended to be from outside WCPFC membership, and how this would apply in the case of the envisaged SIDS expert, given that all SIDS were WCPFC members. Korea also queried the financial implications of engaging independent experts, noting that experts from outside WCPFC membership and SIDS experts serving on the panel would likely require financial compensation, which would need to be reflected in the Commission's budget if the review were to take place in 2026. Korea further questioned the timeframe for delivery of the review, given the breadth of tasks envisaged, and considered that three independent experts might

be insufficient. Korea requested that these elements — composition, costs, timeframe and number of experts — be considered in any revision of the terms of reference.

106. The Chair agreed that the questions raised by Korea were valid and indicated that they should be addressed during discussions on the terms of reference.

107. The Chair sought views on Canada's proposal to consider a broader performance review of the Commission, including Article 30, as distinct from the focused Article 30 review proposed by FFA.

108. Korea acknowledged the value of performance reviews and noted that many RFMOs had recently undertaken updated performance reviews. While appreciating Canada's suggestion, Korea considered that a second comprehensive performance review would entail greater administrative and financial implications than the proposed Article 30 review. Korea therefore preferred that the Commission focus at this stage on the Article 30 review and consider a wider performance review at a later stage, informed by the outcomes of the Article 30 review.

109. The Cook Islands expressed appreciation for Canada's comments but aligned itself with Korea in favour of a focused review of Article 30. The Cook Islands emphasized that it was time for the Commission to undertake a thorough examination of how the special requirements of SIDS and participating territories were being addressed through the Commission's work, not only through voluntary contributions and support programmes, but also through the substance of CMMs. The Cook Islands stressed that the design of CMMs needed to inherently recognize and accommodate SIDS' special requirements, creating space for SIDS development and participation. It acknowledged the interventions by the EU seeking greater understanding of such needs and considered that the Article 30 review, together with existing Commission mechanisms, could help to improve common understanding and inform systematized support for SIDS. The Cook Islands strongly supported a dedicated, focused review of Article 30 and SIDS' special requirements. It also suggested that, noting likely resource constraints and the heavy workload anticipated for 2026, the review could be delivered over a two-year period commencing in 2026, thereby spreading the budgetary impact across two financial years.

110. Niue aligned itself with the interventions by Korea and the Cook Islands, noting the overwhelming support for the Article 30 review proposal. Niue agreed that the terms of reference would need to be refined to reflect important elements, including clarification of the role and status of the SIDS expert, financial implications and timeframe, as highlighted by Korea. It emphasized the importance of including a SIDS expert with experience in SIDS' special requirements and supported addressing the outstanding issues in the finalization of the draft terms of reference.

111. The EU thanked Canada for recalling that it had been a long time since WCPFC had conducted a performance review. The EU regarded such reviews as important processes and considered that the Commission would need to determine an appropriate time to undertake a second performance review. However, it concurred with other CCMs that combining a broader performance review with the proposed Article 30 review could dilute the resources and effort that needed to be focused on Article 30. The EU therefore suggested that, for the time being, the Commission should focus on the Article 30 review as proposed by FFA, while keeping under consideration the need for a broader performance review in the near future. On financial implications, the EU indicated that, depending on the agreed timeframe, its delegation might be able to provide some support for the review, subject to further consideration once the schedule was clarified.

112. Japan noted that, considering the comments made by other CCMs, the terms of reference would likely need to incorporate additional elements, including financial implications and the timeframe for the review. Japan

expressed its wish to participate in the discussion on the Article 30 review and to be involved in the circulation and refinement of the draft terms of reference.

113. FSM thanked Canada for its suggested broader performance review but, like Korea, felt that the proposed review should remain specific to Article 30. FSM noted that expanding the review would not only increase costs but would not directly address the concerns that had motivated the FFA proposal. FSM emphasized that the Commission had been discussing SIDS and Article 30 implementation for many years and that it was time to conduct a dedicated review of the Commission's performance in implementing Article 30 and to identify how this could be strengthened in the future.

114. The Marshall Islands agreed that the Commission's direction should follow the FFA proposal and, consistent with Japan's comments, supported the establishment of a working group to refine the terms of reference. The Marshall Islands suggested that FFA members and like-minded CCMs review the draft terms of reference and propose appropriate adjustments with a view to returning to plenary with a revised text that could form the basis of an adopted decision on the FFA proposal.

115. Canada thanked delegates for their comments and supported the suggestions by Korea and FFA members to begin with a review focused on Article 30. Canada nonetheless encouraged CCMs not to lose sight of the need for a broader performance review, noting the increasing demands on the Commission and the growing list of issues on its agenda. Canada reiterated that a broader review would help the Commission to set priorities and identify gaps and again urged that the idea of a wider performance review not be forgotten.

116. The Chair concluded that there was broad support for undertaking an independent review of the implementation of Article 30 as proposed by FFA, subject to refinement of the terms of reference. The Chair noted the interest of several CCMs in participating in informal discussions on the terms of reference and indicated that such discussions would be held in the margins, with FFA to confirm a lead for the informal group.

117. Following updating of the draft terms of reference, Indonesia proposed insertion of references to developing States alongside SIDS, noting that Article 30 related to the interests of developing States more broadly. Niue, for FFA members, supported adoption of the terms of reference and recognised the importance of the review, recalling ministerial statements that Article 30 represented a cornerstone of the Commission. China noted that Article 30 addressed developing States in general and observed that Section 5 of CMM 2023-04 highlighted needs of SIDS, the Philippines, and Indonesia. China considered that the current draft did not intend to exclude the Philippines or Indonesia from the review but supported minor edits to reflect practice correctly. The USA proposed that the review panel should be composed of three CCMs rather than external experts. Cook Islands stated that the intent was to appoint external individuals with relevant experience and understanding of SIDS needs, rather than representatives of CCMs, and therefore favoured retention of language on an independent review and independent experts. Cook Islands further proposed that references to developing States stress in particular small island developing States and territories.

118. Following further discussion, the Commission agreed to maintain reference to an independent review and a panel of independent experts, and to include wording that referred to developing States, in particular SIDS and territories, throughout the terms of reference.

119. The Commission agreed to undertake an independent review of the Commission's implementation of Article 30 of the WCPF Convention and its recognition of the special requirements of developing States in Commission processes. The Terms of Reference for the review are set out in [Attachment 1](#).

Proposal to include a SIDS review clause in new or revised CMMs

120. The Chair invited comments on the second element of the FFA proposal, namely the recommendation that new and revised CMMs include a SIDS review clause to ensure that the Commission periodically assesses how measures recognize and address the special requirements of SIDS and territories.

121. Korea thanked FFA members for their suggested decision language. Korea recalled that all proposals to the Commission were already required to be accompanied by an assessment under CMM 2013-06, including consideration of potential impacts on SIDS in a variety of ways. In order to determine its final position on the proposed language, Korea requested further elaboration from FFA members on how a SIDS review clause would operate in practice and what additional value it would provide beyond existing processes.

122. Japan likewise thanked FFA for tabling the proposal and expressed views similar to those of Korea. Japan recalled that CMM 2013-06 had long provided criteria and a checklist to assess impacts on SIDS when considering new or amended measures. Japan considered that if revisions were needed, they should be considered as amendments to CMM 2013-06. Japan further noted that annual Commission sessions considered a wide range of proposals, some of which might appropriately include SIDS-specific clauses, whereas others might not be suitable for such provisions. In Japan's view, the need for SIDS-related review clauses would depend on the nature of individual CMMs. For that reason, Japan considered that a general recommendation to include a SIDS review clause in all new and revised CMMs might not be consistent with the original intent of the existing framework. Japan expressed a preference for addressing any revisions to SIDS-related review obligations in the context of possible amendments to CMM 2013-06, while remaining open to further discussion.

123. The EU requested clarification from FFA members on how they envisaged its operational implementation and what additional elements it would bring beyond existing processes. The EU also noted that the Article 30 review would likely generate specific recommendations on how to strengthen Article 30 implementation. The EU stated that agreeing immediately to new language whose intent was not fully clear, and whose effectiveness could not be assessed in time to inform the Article 30 review, might be premature and proposed consideration of the SIDS review clause be postponed until after the Article 30 review had been completed.

124. The Cook Islands thanked Korea, Japan, and the EU for their statements and questions and emphasised that in their view the proposed FFA decision language was extremely important to ensure the Commission fully implemented its Article 30 obligations, noting that these are binding provisions of the Convention and vital to effective and sustainable fisheries management. The Cook Islands noted that the CMM 2013-06 assessments were point-in-time assessments undertaken prior to the adoption of measures and did not constitute an ongoing review of how CMMs were actually operationalising Article 30 requirements once in force. The Cook Islands stated that a SIDS review clause would provide the Commission with an opportunity to examine, after adoption, whether operative provisions were effectively meeting the Commission's Article 30 obligations, including by identifying unforeseen impacts that could limit the development of domestic fleets or foreclose opportunities for SIDS. Cook Islands stressed that FFA members had already incorporated such an approach in their own proposals and drew attention to FFA DP02b, noting that paragraph 45 provided an example of how a SIDS review clause could be operationalised in a specific measure.

125. The USA indicated that it shared some of the concerns raised by Korea, Japan, and the EU. The USA recalled that CCMs are required to consult SIDS and submit an assessment under CMM 2013-06 when proposing new measures, with a view to avoiding disproportionate burdens on SIDS and participating territories. The USA stated that it looked forward to further discussing the FFA recommendation with FFA members.

126. Niue fully aligned itself with the intervention by the Cook Islands and with FFA members' views in relation to the proposed review clause. Niue noted that the clause would require the Commission to review and assess whether a particular CMM fully recognized the special requirements of SIDS and whether any existing provisions remained fit for purpose. Niue considered that, while the independent review agreed under the first recommendation would assess past implementation of Article 30, incorporating a review clause in new and adopted CMMs would ensure future monitoring and streamline the Commission's consideration of SIDS impacts in its measures. It acknowledged the statements by Korea, Japan, the EU, and the USA.

127. The Chair observed that, while several SIDS and FFA members had expressed support for the concept, a number of CCMs had indicated that they needed further clarification and were not yet ready to agree to the second part of the proposal. The Chair, noting the lack of consensus, suggested that the idea of a possible SIDS review clause could be retained as a task for consideration within the broader Article 30 review. The Commission agreed that consideration of the SIDS review clause would be deferred and taken up in connection with the Article 30 review.

Cost-Sharing Arrangement for Participation Support

128. The Chair invited comments on the third part of the FFA proposal, relating to cost-sharing arrangements for participation assistance, and sought views on whether the Commission wished to agree to continue the arrangement beyond the one-year period agreed at the previous session.

129. Korea stated that it required additional time to consider the matter and requested that the discussion remain open.

130. The Chair agreed to keep the issue open and encouraged Korea and FFA members to discuss the cost-sharing arrangements further in the margins. The Chair noted that the discussion on the first part of Agenda Item 5 would remain open and would be revisited later in the week once informal consultations on both the terms of reference and cost-sharing had progressed.

131. This matter was further considered by the 19th Finance and Administration Committee (FAC19) and its recommendations accepted by the Commission in its adoption of the [FAC19 Summary Report](#).

5.1 2025 Strategic Investment Plan

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-03](#)

132. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present WP03, containing the updated draft Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for 2025.

133. The Secretariat presented WP03 and recalled that the SIP was established in 2018 with the objective of targeting investments to the priority capacity needs of developing States and territories, including to ensure their effective participation in the work of the Commission. The SIP drew information from multiple sources, including capacity assistance needs identified through the CMS, Capacity Development Plans, Annual Report Part 2, and SIDS impact assessments, and linked these needs to available funding streams through the Commission and external donors. The Secretariat noted the SIP is updated annually.

134. The Secretariat advised that in relation to the Special Requirements Fund (SRF), China and the USA had each made contributions in 2025. The SRF supported additional travel assistance for participation in TCC and WCPFC22 and co-financed a fisheries enhancement project for Fiji. The Secretariat further noted that in 2024 the

Commission had adopted amendments to the financial regulations requiring the annual budget to cover travel and subsistence for two representatives from each developing State and territory to attend the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; as of November 2025, 50 participants from SIDS and territories had been supported to attend SC, TCC, and the Commission meeting.

135. Regarding broader capacity development, the Commission contributed US\$130,000 to regional workshops and meetings delivered by FFA and SPC. The West Pacific East Asia (WPEA) programme continued support for Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam in strengthening data collection and management, with a detailed update available in WP08. In 2025, the Secretariat hosted a two-week attachment programme for officials from Solomon Islands and Fiji and continued to maintain and expand the Article 30 webpage. The Secretariat highlighted the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) and Chinese Taipei Trust Fund, with recent activities outlined in WP03.

136. The Secretariat noted that updates to the SIP for 2025 included new and ongoing capacity assistance needs identified through the CMS and endorsed by TCC21, including needs for Indonesia across several data- and observer-related obligations; for Fiji in relation to implementation of VMS and fish/ did not fish reporting; for the Philippines in progressing towards 100% observer coverage; for Vanuatu regarding observer coverage requirements; and for Solomon Islands regarding reporting requirements. These needs were incorporated into the SIP to ensure they were visible, trackable, and appropriately matched to funding streams. The Secretariat advised that Annual Report Part 2 reporting continued to identify broader capacity needs not directly assessed through the CMS, including ongoing demand for training, attachments, and workshops on WCPFC obligations and data collection. There was strong interest in technology transfer, particularly EM and ER and science tools, as well as requests for support with MCS, including patrols, joint operations, and new surveillance tools. Annual Report Part 2 responses highlighted growing needs in domestic fisheries development and market access, including certification and traceability, onshore infrastructure, and policies to help expand domestic tuna industries and exports. The updated SIP also incorporated recent TCC21 recommendations on assessing compliance with CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07 (further considered under Agenda Item 13) and continue to inform TCC's annual reviews.

137. Niue, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the Secretariat for the overview of the updated SIP and for the information in IP01. FFA members considered this a useful resource that could support the proposed independent review of Article 30 implementation, but noted the SIP has limitations and lacks clear linkages between identified SIDS needs and the available financial and technical resources. FFA members stressed that, while support was available, there remained a critical need for more targeted assistance directly addressing SIDS' key challenges. They referred to the proposals in DP01, including Attachment 1, stating it aims in the longer term to better inform the SIP and to create clearer connections between SIDS needs, allocation of funds, and Secretariat support. FFA members stated they believe that such linkages are essential for effective implementation of Article 30 and should be clearly reflected in future SIP documents. FFA members acknowledged the ongoing support of the Commission and the Secretariat to SIDS and encouraged continued incorporation of SIP-identified priorities into the Secretariat's work plan. They also articulated a set of immediate needs and priorities, grouped under the themes in CMM 2013-07, including: (i) capacity development of personnel, particularly capacity building in VMS audit, inspection and reconciliation of VMS data; (ii) support for SIDS participation in the SPA Joint Working Group in early 2026; (iii) SIDS participation in South Pacific albacore allocation negotiations such as Coastal States EEZ allocation discussions in 2026; (iv) building SIDS capacity to implement monitoring requirements under the South Pacific albacore Implementing Agreement, and support for implementing Electronic Monitoring; and (v) support for domestic fisheries and market access, including commercialization of tuna fisheries and related activities.

138. Korea thanked the Secretariat for the updated SIP and for the clear compilation of how different funds and programmes supported developing States, particularly SIDS and territories, in line with Article 30. Korea welcomed

the way the Plan brought together the new core-budget provision for travel and subsistence and the capacity assistance needs arising from the CMS and Annual Report Part 2. Korea considered the annexed mapping of thematic capacity needs and donor support to be very useful and suggested that the Commission request the Secretariat to periodically update this mapping, in consultation with CCMs, to highlight where significant capacity gaps persist despite existing funding streams, thereby enabling members to better target their assistance. Noting ongoing work on CMM 2013-06 and 2013-07, Korea suggested that future SIPs and Article 30 implementation reports be structured to indicate whether identified capacity constraints and potential disproportionate burdens were being effectively addressed. Korea stated that, with these comments, it supported endorsement of the updated SIP.

139. Fiji thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and for the support rendered to Fiji as a result of its assessment of capacity needs related to WCPFC obligations. Fiji reported that, with this support, it had seen significant improvement in its ability to implement specific measures that had previously affected its CMR. Fiji expressed appreciation for the Commission's work and supported the recommendations and investment plans in the updated SIP, while looking forward to ongoing support.

140. China thanked the Secretariat for the updated SIP and, as the largest developing country and a contributor to the SRF, emphasised the need to align SIP priorities with the actual capacity needs identified by SIDS and territories. China stated that it would continue to support capacity building through bilateral and multilateral channels.

141. The Marshall Islands thanked the Secretariat and highlighted the Secretariat's work in establishing and maintaining a dedicated Article 30 webpage, which it regarded as an important recognition of Article 30's significance. The Marshall Islands observed that the number and complexity of CMMs, each carrying multiple obligations, had increased substantially over the life of the Commission and that more targeted, needs-based support was essential for the SIP to effectively guide Article 30 implementation. It reiterated the importance of addressing economic benefits from the fishery as an area for future work, noting WCPFC fisheries are located predominantly in coastal States' waters and that attention should also be given to the distribution of benefits arising from that fishery.

142. The EU thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive paper detailing the various tools in place to address capacity needs and implementation of Article 30. It concurred that the SIP would be a useful element for the Article 30 review, together with other relevant Secretariat papers. The EU suggested that future versions track progress in meeting the needs outlined in the SIP, in order to provide information on the effectiveness of efforts to address those needs.

143. Indonesia stated that WP03 relating to the SIP and efforts to increase the capacity of developing states and SIDS was very helpful, and referenced other discussions in which Indonesia put forward several capacity assistance needs. It thanked the New Zealand government for its continuing support to Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam through the WPEA project. Indonesia noted several areas that have not been addressed, including strengthening capacity for EM, and expressed interest in having further discussions regarding specific capacity or technical assistance. Indonesia also noted improvement in operational data, which was first submitted in 2017, well before the 2025 deadline.

144. The Chair thanked CCMs for their comments and suggestions. The Chair indicated that these suggestions would be reflected in the meeting outcomes and that the Secretariat would be requested to consider how they might be incorporated in future updates of the SIP.

5.2 West Pacific East Asia Project (WPEA)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-04](#)

145. Tonga on behalf of FFA members thanked the Secretariat for the WPEA report and noted the achievements as well as the challenges outlined in the document, and recognized the significant support provided by New Zealand for the project. Tonga recalled that a number of issues were raised at TCC21 regarding the compliance of Indonesia and the Philippines, particularly concerning observer coverage rates and the provision of data to meet CMM reporting requirements, some of which date back to 2016 and 2018. While both countries receive assistance through the WPEA project to address data collection and reporting issues, FFA members noted that it was unclear what would happen once the project terminated in June 2027. FFA members posed several questions: whether the project would be able to resolve the identified compliance issues before its scheduled completion in 2027; and whether WPEA participants were adequately preparing to continue the work once the project concluded. FFA members proposed refining future reporting to clearly track progress in closing specific data gaps and to articulate what measures recipient countries were developing to ensure they could continue to meet the Commission's data requirements after 2027. FFA members stated such updates would allow the Commission to steer the project towards addressing remaining data gaps and challenges before its conclusion.

146. Indonesia thanked Tonga and FFA members for their questions, and noted that not all CCMs fully appreciated the complexity of Indonesian tuna fisheries, explaining that Indonesia's tuna sector involves a combination of different fishing gears, mostly small-scale, operating in large numbers, making data collection particularly challenging. Indonesia emphasized the socioeconomic importance of tuna to coastal communities, including significant employment of women in processing and post-harvest activities. Indonesia recalled that its efforts to improve data collection dated back to 2007 and continued through successive WPEA-related projects, with a total of about 14 years of support. In 2012 Indonesia's compliance rate for data submission to the Commission was around 26%, but recent evaluations at TCC indicated that this had increased to more than 90%, which Indonesia regarded as a significant achievement given the complexity of its fisheries. Indonesia further noted that, although it had originally been required to submit operational data by 2025 under the tropical tuna CMM, it managed to begin data submission in 2017.

147. Indonesia further highlighted that WPEA had contributed to the development of Indonesia's national tuna management plan, which was adopted as a national regulation in 2017, and to the development of a harvest strategy for tropical tunas in Indonesian archipelagic waters to ensure compatibility with Commission measures. Indonesia also reported improvements in its annual catch estimates, including reporting by gear and species and distinguishing between small and large handline fisheries, as well as long-standing submission of size data. Indonesia explained it made progress on operational data, observer coverage and logbook implementation, including for small-scale fisheries, and that WPEA had strengthened cooperation between industry and government. Many companies were initially reluctant to share data, but ongoing engagement improved collaboration and industry investment in data collection, and several tuna industry associations have been established. Indonesia stated that the process of building systems and partnerships requires time and that it cannot not address all the challenges it faces without continued support.

148. Looking ahead to 2027, Indonesia observed that some aspects of the WPEA work would be sustainable domestically, but other aspects might remain beyond its capacity, particularly in light of evolving regulatory requirements. It referred to discussions on exit strategies under WPEA and to capacity needs it had identified under the SIP, noting that these could provide a basis for further discussion on priority areas where continued capacity building and technical assistance would be needed beyond 2027. Indonesia thanked all supporting partners and expressed its wish to continue improving its performance through cooperation.

149. In response to FFA questions regarding the WPEA–Sustainable Pacific Fisheries Project, the Philippines acknowledged longstanding support (including from New Zealand), emphasized the project’s essential role in data collection and verification for WCPO stock assessments, and urged planning for continuity beyond June 2027. The Philippines stated that without support, the ability of WPEA countries, including the Philippines, to sustain high quality data collection, verification, and analysis would be significantly compromised. It noted that region faces pressures from increasing fishing effort, climate change, and growing demand for robust scientific input, and stated that the WPEA Project remains an essential pillar in safeguarding the integrity of tuna stock assessment in the WCPO. The Philippines stated that support beyond 2026 would be not just beneficial but necessary to preserve the scientific basis of WCPFC decisions and to ensure that all WPEA members can meet their reporting obligations.

150. The Commission requested that reporting under the WPEA-SPF project include a clear metric or performance indicator to better track improvements in data coming from the WPEA region to WCPFC.

6 MEMBERSHIP, OBSERVERS, AND COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS

6.1 Status of the Convention

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-05](#)

151. The Chair recalled that New Zealand, as Depositary, provided an annual report on the status of the Convention. The Chair advised that there had been no changes since 2024 and that the paper submitted for this agenda item was taken as read. There were no comments, and the Commission noted that there were no updates to the status of the Convention.

6.2 Update on Observer Status

Reference: <https://www.wcpfc.int/about/who-we-are>

152. Under Agenda Item 6.2, the Chair advised that in 2025 three new organisations – the Shark Trust, the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, and Sharks Pacific – had requested and been granted observer status. In addition, observer status had been granted to Brunei Darussalam. The Chair noted that an updated list of observers is available on the Commission’s website.

6.3 Applications for 2026 CNM status

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-06](#)

153. The Chair recalled that, as recommended by TCC21, eight applications for CNM status for 2026 were before the Commission, from the Bahamas, Curaçao, Liberia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

154. The Secretariat presented WP24 on CNM requests for 2026, summarizing TCC21’s recommendations, updates received since TCC21, and the actions required of the Commission. The Secretariat recalled that the Commission’s process involved three steps: (i) consideration of TCC recommendations on CNM applications; (ii) consideration of appropriate participatory rights through a CNM small working group, chaired by the TCC vice-chair; and (iii) confirmation by the Commission of the list of CNMs and their participatory rights for the coming year.

155. The Secretariat drew attention to each CNMs status with WCPFC in 2025, noting that all eight had paid their 2025 financial contributions. TCC21 reviewed all applications and identified several issues, including incomplete submissions, outstanding financial contributions at the time of review, inconsistencies in reported fishing activities, and the absence of some applicants from the TCC meeting (either in person or online). The

Secretariat informed the Commission that TCC21 had nonetheless recommended that all eight applications proceed for consideration by the Commission at WCPFC22. After TCC21, the Secretariat had sought updates from applicants; TCC21 requested clarifications from the Bahamas, Ecuador and Liberia regarding their non-attendance at the meeting, but that no additional information explaining these absences had been received by either the Secretariat or the CNM Working Group Chair. The Secretariat confirmed that Curaçao, which had not paid its 2025 contribution at the time of the TCC review, had completed full payment on 25 October 2025. It further reported that, despite TCC21's request for updated information on intended fishing activities from some applicants, no additional information had been submitted. The Secretariat drew attention to paper OP24, in which Panama had provided a statement reiterating its updated position on participatory rights, as previously outlined at TCC21.

156. The Chair stated the Commission would discuss whether to grant the eight applicants CNM status, and if so the SWG (led by the TCC Vice Chair) would discuss the participatory rights.

157. Nauru, on behalf of FFA members, reminded CNM applicants of their obligations under CMM 2019-01, particularly paragraphs 3 and 11(a), which require CNMs to comply with the Commission's CMMs. FFA members expressed ongoing concern that some CNMs continued not to comply fully with these obligations. FFA members further reminded CNM applicants of the importance of attending TCC and Commission meetings at which their applications were considered, noting that attendance demonstrated commitment to the Convention's objectives. They emphasised that CNM applicants were obliged to provide all required data in accordance with relevant CMMs and underlined that failure to meet these obligations could adversely affect consideration of their applications. FFA members also noted Panama's desire to expand its participatory rights to include purse-seine fishing and requested further clarification. FFA members expressed serious concerns regarding transshipment activities on the high seas and, referring to DP01, recommended that WCPFC22 adopt decision language to limit CNM participatory rights for the provision of carrier vessels supporting transshipment to activities in port only, and not to extend such rights to high seas transshipment.

158. Korea supported the approach proposed by the Chair and recalled that it was the Commission's customary practice first to decide on granting CNM status in accordance with paragraph 3 of CMM 2019-01, and then to refer discussions on participatory rights, under paragraphs 11 and 12, to the small CNM working group. Korea indicated that, based on the TCC outcome and additional information provided, it was ready to support granting CNM status to all eight applicants.

159. Japan similarly recalled the stepwise process set out in CMM 2019-01 and considered that the first decision to be taken was whether applicants met the criteria in paragraph 3. In Japan's view, all applicants had met those criteria, and it was therefore ready to grant CNM status to all eight.

160. The Marshall Islands agreed with the proposed process and supported conferring CNM status on the applicants for 2026, subject to conditions outlined by Nauru on behalf of FFA members, and to further discussion of participatory rights in the small working group.

161. Indonesia supported the CNM applications and agreed with the Chair's approach to address participatory rights in the small working group. It highlighted the importance of CNMs attending TCC meetings at which their compliance performance was considered so that they could provide necessary clarifications.

162. The EU noted that concerns had been expressed regarding compliance issues for some applicants and indicated that it would prefer not to rush a decision on granting CNM status. The EU stated that it would like to see all relevant information, including the final TCC outcome and the list of CNM participation at TCC and at the present meeting, before finalising its position.

163. France emphasized that CNMs' presence at TCC was essential and recalled concerns it had raised previously. While France would not oppose renewal of CNM status, it noted the absence of certain CNMs and requested that the situation be rectified and explained. France also reiterated its interest in obtaining data transmissions from overlapping jurisdictional areas involving certain territories and expressed the hope that a solution could be found.

164. China appreciated the work of the Secretariat and TCC in reviewing CNM applications and supported the approach suggested by the Secretariat. China emphasized that CNM applicants should implement all relevant CMMs, in particular those relating to data submission, VMS sharing, and financial contributions, and encouraged them to participate actively in WCPFC meetings. On transshipment and flag-change issues, China indicated that it wished to discuss these matters in the CNM working group and stressed that the legitimate rights of CCMs should be safeguarded.

165. The Cook Islands thanked the Secretariat for the paper and supported the process outlined by the Chair and endorsed by other CCMs. In the light of the points made by the EU, the Cook Islands supported granting CNM status to all applicants, pending the outcome of the working group discussions.

166. Japan suggested that, given that some applicants did not have compliance issues, as assessed by TCC, the Commission might consider granting CNM status immediately to those applicants, while subjecting others with outstanding issues to further consideration in the CNM working group. Japan sought guidance from the Chair on this point.

167. The Chair noted that there was broad support in principle for confirming CNM status for the eight applicants, but acknowledged the EU's request to review final TCC outcomes and participation records before a formal decision. The Chair proposed that consideration of the CNM applications, including both the granting of CNM status and the determination of participatory rights, be referred to the CNM small working group chaired by the TCC Vice-Chair. The Chair clarified that the agenda item would remain open and that the Commission would take a formal decision on both CNM status and participatory rights once the working group had reported back.

168. The Chair of the CNM SWG reported the outcomes of its deliberations at WCPFC22. The CNM SWG considered the recommendation from the FADMO IWG regarding vessel types authorised to engage in FAD-related activities. The group agreed that the existing restriction on Panamanian supply vessels engaging in FAD-related activities should be extended in principle to other CNMs for uniformity and consistency, based on the FADMO IWG recommendation. Because other CNMs do not have supply vessels in their current participatory rights, no change to their text was required. The working group further agreed, based on the FADMO IWG recommendation, that CNMs could register FAD retrieval vessels that would operate only to retrieve FADs from the water, subject to specified monitoring and reporting requirements. The working group examined Panama's request for expanded participatory rights to include operation of purse seine vessels through reflagging of Ecuadorian vessels to Panama. Panama and Ecuador clarified that one vessel would be reflagged at this stage and that Ecuador would not introduce a replacement vessel, so total purse seine capacity in the region would not increase. Some members supported the request, while others raised concern regarding paragraph 43 of CMM 2023-01, which required non-SIDS CCMs and Indonesia to keep the number of large purse seine vessels with freezing capacity operating between 20°N and 20°S at or below levels specified under CMM 2023-01. The working group concluded that no consensus had been reached on Panama's request. The working group agreed not to consider the question of a transshipment ban on CNM vessels, given that the Commission had already taken a decision on that issue. Draft updated participatory rights language for CNMs was circulated and posted in the draft folder.

169. The Commission approved Cooperating Non-Member status for eight applicants for 2026: The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam.

6.3.1 Participatory rights of Cooperating Non-Members

170. The EU sought confirmation of how recommendations on FAD-related activities for carrier and bunker vessels would apply to CNM vessels and whether monitoring requirements adopted under the FAD IWG recommendation, section (b), would apply to CNM carriers and bunker vessels involved in FAD-related activities. The CNM SWG Chair clarified that the relevant FAD IWG recommendation applied to vessels of all CCMs, including CNMs, once adopted by the Commission.

171. Panama stated it appreciated the constructive engagement from the CNM SWG members during the discussions and described its request to expand participatory rights to include purse seine vessels under its flag. Panama explained that the request involved reflagging of a single Ecuadorian purse seine vessel to Panama, which would be subject to existing licensing and operational conditions established by the relevant coastal States, with no increase in aggregate regional capacity. Panama reaffirmed its commitment to comply with all WCPFC obligations, including timely data submission and financial contributions.

172. Kiribati acknowledged Panama's constructive engagement during the SWG and expressed support for Panama's request, in relation to the economic contribution to their economy; the long-term (20-year) fishing partnership; and the good compliance report with Kiribati since 2017. Kiribati requested that the Commission allow the vessel to continue fishing in its EEZ under the Panamanian flag.

173. Japan recalled that Panama had originally requested participatory rights for five purse seine vessels but confirmed in the SWG that only one vessel would be reflagged from Ecuador to Panama and that Ecuador would remove the vessel from the WCPFC Record. On this basis, which implied no increase in total purse seine capacity, Japan supported granting Panama participatory rights for one purse seine vessel, particularly in Kiribati waters.

174. Tuvalu, for PNA, supported Panama's request for participatory rights for up to five purse seine vessels to be transferred from Ecuador to Panama, noting that these vessels had operated under the PNA VDS in PNA waters. Tuvalu considered that authorising these vessels to operate as Panamanian vessels in PNA EEZs under the VDS carried no risk to sustainability, because effort limits were controlled under paragraph 24 of the tropical tuna CMM and the vessels were monitored through VMS, with 100% observer coverage and in-port unloading. Disallowing the request, in Tuvalu's view, would impose economic loss and an additional disproportionate burden on SIDS, contrary to Article 30.

175. China expressed no objection to the reflagging arrangement provided total capacity remained unchanged.

176. Marshall Islands supported Panama's request and expressed concern regarding any Commission practice that might impede domestic fisheries development aspirations of SIDS and PNA members. Marshall Islands considered that authorising Panama's vessels to fish in PNA EEZs under the PNA VDS, without increase in capacity, represented a positive development outcome.

177. FSM supported PNA colleagues and raised concern about the Commission's role regarding participatory rights in EEZs. FSM recalled that the Commission had recognised the PNA VDS as a legitimate management regime and stressed that licensing in EEZs was a sovereign right of coastal States. FSM viewed Commission decisions on CNM status as relevant to high seas activities, not as determining which vessels coastal States might license in their

EEZs. FSM urged that any decision avoid setting a precedent in which the Commission effectively granted rights to fish within EEZs.

178. The Chair referenced the statements by RMI, Tuvalu, and FSM, noting they would be incorporated in the record, and reiterated the need for the Commission to reach an agreement on CNM participatory rights.

179. RMI noted they sought a different decision from what the Chair outlined and observed there was no need for CCMs to seek Commission permission to allow vessels to fish in their EEZs. They stated that they sought to allow five Panamanian vessels to fish within PNA EEZs only, subject to the management obligations of PNA members to the Commission.

180. Ecuador noted respectfully that in its view the issue for the Commission revolved around the issue of registration of the vessel in the Commission RFV. They noted that neither Panama nor Ecuador has any rights in the high seas, and that the issue of fishing rights (in the form of fishing days) in the EEZs of Commission CCMs would be a matter of negotiation with the PNA.

181. Kiribati supported the interventions by FSM and RMI.

182. Korea proposed adding simple language to Panama's participatory rights text, namely "one Panamanian purse seine [vessel] operating in accordance with CMM 2023-01", without reference to EEZ or high seas, thereby leaving licensing decisions in EEZs to coastal States.

183. CCMs discussed Korea's suggestion and the number of vessels proposed for reflagging. Niue supported Korea's suggestion, recalling earlier CNM discussions and observing that the proposed wording addressed concerns while enabling progress. Fiji noted that additional vessels had originally been proposed for reflagging. The EU supported inclusion of Korea's language, with an addition that operation of the Panamanian purse seine vessel would be "subject to all relevant WCPFC obligations". Korea proposed further clarification that one purse seine vessel would be reflagged from Ecuador, ensuring transparency that total capacity remained unchanged. Panama confirmed that, at present, one vessel was slated for reflagging and inclusion under its participatory rights for 2026, although an earlier request had referenced up to five vessels, because of the possibility additional vessels would be reflagged from Ecuador. Kiribati regarded the Korean and EU suggestions as a good starting point and proposed that the Commission revisit the issue in 2026. Korea noted that participatory rights were granted on an annual basis and thus the issue would have to be reconsidered in 2026.

184. The Commission agreed to the following participatory rights for CNMs for 2026:

- a. **The Bahamas:** The participatory rights of The Bahamas are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
- b. **Curaçao:** The participatory rights of Curaçao 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 and one Panamanian purse seiner reflagged from Ecuador operating under CMM 2023-01 and subject to all relevant WCPFC obligations. 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.

185. In addition to the above participatory rights, The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam may register "FAD retrieval vessels" that could only be used to retrieve FADs from the water. These vessels should be subject to the following monitoring and reporting requirements:

- a. use of electronic reporting systems to document FAD retrieval,
- b. submission of logs detailing FAD retrieval activities, including vessel identification, date, and FAD fate or disposal, and the location of activities, and
- c. 100% observer coverage (human or EM) and VMS tracking to ensure compliance.

WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area

186. 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.

187. 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.

188. For 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.

7 STATUS OF STOCKS

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-07](#)

SPC Presentation¹

189. Paul Hamer (SPC-OFP) provided a [presentation](#) summarizing the fisheries catch and effort data for the key target tuna species in the WCPFC-CA (data updated as of November 26, 2025) and the stock status of tuna based on the most recent assessments accepted by SC. A brief summary of stock status for sharks and billfish assessed by SPC was also provided. The presentation was largely based on the upcoming [Tuna Fisheries Assessment Report \(TFAR\) No. 25](#). A draft version of the TFAR was made available for WCPFC22 ([WCPFC22-2025-IP16](#)). The main points from the presentation, included:

- 2024 was a record total tuna catch in the WCPFC-CA, and a record skipjack catch.
- There were minor changes in yellowfin and bigeye catches, but albacore catch was notably higher in 2024 than 2023.
- Purse seine activity contracted to the west, with more sets conducted due to a notable increase in free school sets in 2024 compared to 2023, resulting in slightly lower purse seine bigeye catch.
- Recent effort is generally stable across all gears.
- New assessments for skipjack, southwest Pacific swordfish, southwest Pacific striped marlin (following the 2024 attempt), and western and central Pacific oceanic whitetip shark were presented to SC21, and all were accepted as the best available science for management advice.
- All key tuna stocks (skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore) are currently assessed as in the green (not overfished and not undergoing overfishing) and close to their TRPs or other relevant objectives.
- Southwest Pacific striped marlin is still considered overfished (noting biomass estimates have high uncertainty), but unlikely to be undergoing overfishing.
- Southwest Pacific swordfish is assessed as not overfished, and not undergoing overfishing.

Discussion

190. Japan expressed appreciation for the detailed information and observed that the number of unassociated purse seine sets had changed in recent years. They noted that following the relaxation of FAD closure periods under the tropical tuna CMM adopted in 2021 an increase in FAD sets had been expected; however, the number of FAD sets had instead declined. Japan requested SPC's views on the reasons for this pattern. Second, Japan noted the particularly wide confidence intervals in the South Pacific albacore projections and sought further explanation for this level of uncertainty.

191. In response, SPC acknowledged that the strong shift towards free-school sets in 2024 had been somewhat unexpected, but that it was consistent with historical fleet behaviour under La Niña conditions, when effort contracts westward and free-school fishing becomes more productive. SPC indicated that climate-driven changes in tuna distribution, rather than the FAD closure regime, appeared to be the primary driver of the recent set-type patterns, although the timing of ENSO events and FAD closures might interact in some years. On South Pacific albacore, SPC explained that higher uncertainty in biological parameters, natural mortality, and productivity, together with the use of multiple alternative assessment models and stochastic recruitment in the projections, resulted in a wider range of projected outcomes than for other tuna stocks.

¹ The Pacific Community Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC-OFP) is the Scientific Services Provider (SSP) to the WCPFC.

192. The USA noted the reduction in the number of longline vessels from almost 5,000 in the 1990s to around 2,100 in recent years and inquired if data were available to determine if the number of hooks deployed had increased or decreased with the decrease in vessel numbers.

193. SPC clarified that the historical time-series of hooks deployed showed a substantial increase in hook numbers despite fewer vessels. SPC explained that this was due to changes in gear configuration from heavier gear with fewer hooks between floats to lighter monofilament gear allowing more hooks per set at the required fishing depths (300–400 meters). SPC noted that economic factors had also influenced vessel numbers.

194. Korea noted that the tropical tuna CMM (CMM 2023-01) appeared to be performing well, with the key tuna stocks in the green zone. Korea further observed that catches by “other” gears in the WPEA region had reached record levels and were now approximately twice the longline catch, while longline catches were showing signs of decline; Korea also highlighted persistent data uncertainties for these “other” fisheries. Korea encouraged SPC and CCMs to continue to address these gaps, including through initiatives such as the WPEA project. Korea also noted that the record skipjack catch in 2024 may have been driven by increased free-school set effort and asked how the expected return to El Niño conditions in 2026, combined with shorter FAD closure periods, might affect skipjack catches in future.

195. SPC recognised Korea’s concerns regarding “other” fisheries and reiterated the importance of ongoing work under the WPEA project. SPC advised that, under El Niño conditions, the fleet would be expected to shift eastwards and rely more on FAD sets, leading to a rebalancing between FAD and free-school sets and potentially affecting bigeye catch.

196. Chinese Taipei thanked SPC for the comprehensive presentation and noted the record catch by “other” gears. Chinese Taipei requested more information on the main target species, size composition, and gear types contributing to this category.

197. SPC responded that the increase in catches from “other” gears in 2024 was evident for all three tuna species, with the largest estimated increase being for yellowfin tuna (around 35,000 tonnes), followed by increases in skipjack and bigeye. SPC noted that a substantial proportion of yellowfin taken in these fisheries comprised smaller fish and observed that this pattern was one factor contributing to the somewhat less optimistic projections for yellowfin relative to bigeye.

198. Marshall Islands thanked SPC for its presentation and raised issues relating to data gaps and climate change. Marshall Islands requested further information on where the most significant data gaps remained, including with respect to high seas and in-zone areas and across different fisheries, and how CCM obligations to provide catch, effort, and aggregate data could be better met to support SPC’s work. Marshall Islands also recalled the Commission’s decisions to incorporate climate change considerations across its work and asked what SPC was doing to assess and report on the impacts of climate change on stock status, distribution, and migration patterns, and the associated implications for the economies and future livelihoods of SIDS.

199. SPC acknowledged that the Commission’s primary data challenges were in the Southeast Asian “other” fisheries, whereas data systems for Pacific Island countries were generally robust, reflecting long-standing capacity-building and support. SPC underlined the importance of ongoing WPEA activities, including deeper engagement with Indonesia on data collection systems and methods to identify and address sources of uncertainty. Regarding climate change, SPC noted that these issues would be addressed in more detail under Agenda Item 10.

200. Indonesia thanked SPC for its continued work and the preparation of the TFAR. Indonesia recalled previous concerns about the decline in pole-and-line data and questioned the reliability of skipjack assessments that relied heavily on Japanese pole-and-line CPUE indices. Indonesia asked whether it would be possible to develop pole-and-line indices from Indonesian and Solomon Islands fisheries to supplement the Japanese indices. Indonesia also queried how the increasing number and capacity of purse seine vessels, and the decline in longline vessel numbers, might affect future CPUE analyses, and requested clarification on SPC's collaboration with Dragonfly Data Science for shark assessments and how this collaboration ensured the quality of the assessments.

201. SPC advised that, despite the decline in the number of longline vessels, longline CPUE coverage across the region remained strong and was not currently a limiting factor for CPUE-based analyses; other sources of uncertainty were more critical. SPC acknowledged that the contraction of the pole-and-line fishery posed challenges for skipjack abundance indices, but emphasised the continued importance of the Japanese pole-and-line index, particularly north of the equator where purse seine data are less suitable for abundance indices. SPC indicated that it is actively working to improve purse seine-based indices, including through the use of free-school-only travel distance as an effort metric. SPC highlighted the strong and productive collaboration with Dragonfly on shark assessments, noting that Dragonfly's specialised expertise and dedicated capacity have allowed continuous improvements in assessment methods, catch reconstructions, and treatment of uncertainty, and that SPC is confident in the quality of the resulting assessments.

ISC Presentation²

202. The ISC Vice-Chair, Shuya Nakatatsuka (Japan), made a brief presentation on the status of North Pacific stocks. In 2024, albacore tuna had a reported catch of 51,052 mt, representing a 12.8% increase from 2023 and remaining close to its 10-year average. Pacific bluefin tuna reached 17,843 mt, showing a slight 2.1% decline from 2023 but 19.1% above the long-term mean. Swordfish catches totalled 8,073 mt and declined 7.5% from 2023, falling 10.9% below the 10-year average—one of the more notable long-term decreases in the table. Striped marlin exhibited the strongest year-to-year increase, rising 48.7% to 2,433 mt and sitting 13.4% above its decade average. Blue marlin followed a similar pattern, increasing 42% from 2023 to 6,756 mt and remaining 10% above the 10-year mean. Blue shark catches were at 36,039 mt, up 13% from last year and 32.6% above the long-term mean. In contrast, shortfin mako shark catches were low at 1,082 mt, decreasing 1.3% from 2023 and remaining 13.5% below the 10-year mean.

203. Overall, most tunas, marlins, and blue sharks showed increases relative to 2023 and long-term patterns, while swordfish and shortfin mako showed declines. Stock status evaluations for several highly migratory species in the North Pacific and Western and Central North Pacific were also reviewed. Albacore tuna is assessed as not overfished and not experiencing overfishing, with biomass comfortably above reference thresholds. Pacific bluefin tuna is also not overfished relative to 20%SSB_{F=0} and remains above its second rebuilding target, with fishing mortality below levels of concern. Swordfish in the NPO shows a very strong status, with >99% probability of neither overfishing nor an overfished condition. Blue marlin similarly appears not overfished and not experiencing overfishing based on MSY-based reference points, though uncertainties remain. In contrast, striped marlin in the WCNPO is highly likely to be overfished and experiencing overfishing; reducing catches below 2,400 mt is expected to improve recovery prospects by 2040. Blue shark in the North Pacific Ocean is assessed as not overfished and not undergoing overfishing, with expectations the stock will remain above B_{MSY} over the next decade. Shortfin mako shark in the North Pacific is also considered not overfished and not experiencing overfishing, with biomass

² International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) provides scientific research and advice to the Northern Committee.

projected to stay above MSY-based levels across all assessed harvest scenarios. Overall, most stocks appear healthy and sustainably fished, with striped marlin standing out as the primary conservation concern.

204. The ISC outlined its upcoming work, noting that assessments of North Pacific albacore and North Pacific blue marlin were scheduled for 2026. The ISC reported that a peer review of the Pacific bluefin tuna assessment was being organised, with reviewers being selected and a peer review meeting scheduled for March 2026 in Sapporo, Japan. The ISC also noted that MSE work for Pacific bluefin tuna had been completed and that its outcomes were being discussed within the Joint Working Group between the WCPFC-Northern Committee and IATTC.

Discussion

205. Korea highlighted that the Pacific Bluefin tuna stock has exceeded the second rebuilding target much earlier than expected and the risk of SSB falling below the LRP is now much lower than it had been.

8 REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

8.1 21st Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC21)

Paper: [Summary Report of NC21](#)

206. The Northern Committee Chair, Masa Miyahara (Japan), made a [presentation](#) on the outcomes and recommendations from NC21 and the 10th Joint IATTC–WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG10), both of which were held in July in Toyama, Japan. JWG10 considered the MSE results for Pacific bluefin tuna provided by ISC with a view to selecting a single HCR–MP from among the candidate options. The NC Chair advised that the JWG’s discussions had been inconclusive and that it had not been possible to agree on a preferred HCR at that meeting. The NC Chair stressed that JWG members recognised the urgency of completing the long-term harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna and had reaffirmed their commitment to finalise work on (i) the harvest strategy, including a management procedure and HCR; (ii) a Pacific bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme (CDS); and (iii) any necessary amendments to the existing Pacific bluefin tuna CMM in the coming year. The NC Chair noted that intersessional work, including bilateral and multilateral consultations, was ongoing to advance these tasks.

207. The NC Chair reported that ISC had been tasked with developing guidelines and criteria for defining exceptional circumstances in the context of the Pacific bluefin tuna harvest strategy. The NC Chair indicated that options were being explored for an intersessional JWG meeting, tentatively in March, with a possible offer from the USA to host, and expressed the intention to complete the outstanding harvest strategy work and Pacific bluefin tuna CDS to enable consideration of an amended MSE at the Commission’s next annual session.

208. Regarding North Pacific albacore, the NC Chair advised that NC21 had agreed to adopt the criteria for exceptional circumstances proposed by ISC for this stock. NC21 had also discussed how fishing intensity should be interpreted and linked to specific management actions under the harvest strategy but had not reached consensus on this matter. The NC Chair reported that NC21 had requested ISC to provide estimates of fishing intensity not only for the existing baseline period (2002–2004) but also for an alternative period (1999–2015), with a view to reviewing the appropriateness of the baseline period at NC22. The NC Chair further reported that NC21 had agreed to initiate harvest strategy and MSE work for North Pacific swordfish and had requested ISC to develop a work plan for this work, drawing on ISC’s experience with Pacific bluefin tuna MSE. Finally, the NC Chair noted that discussions on the nomination of a Vice Chair for the Northern Committee were ongoing and expressed the expectation that a candidate would be nominated at NC22.

Discussion

209. Vanuatu, on behalf of PNA+, thanked the NC Chair for the report. PNA+ members appreciated the information in the NC21 report regarding ISC's work to translate fishing intensity or fishing mortality outputs from management procedures into catch and effort terms. PNA+ members stated this approach was consistent with their preference for expressing the outputs of MPs in operational terms and indicated that this would be relevant for the review of the South Pacific albacore MP as envisaged in the FFA proposal.

210. PNG, on behalf of FFA members, expressed appreciation to the NC Chair and the NC for their work throughout the year and recognised the NC's contributions to advancing management issues of importance to the Commission. FFA members noted with concern the continuing depleted status of North Pacific striped marlin and encouraged NC and the Commission to maintain strong scientific and management attention on this stock, including through effective rebuilding measures. On Pacific bluefin tuna, FFA members recognised the extensive analytical work undertaken in support of the MSE but expressed disappointment that NC had not been able to agree on an MP in 2024. FFA members recalled that the 2024 Pacific bluefin tuna assessment had been considered optimistic and emphasised that the forthcoming decision on an MP should prioritise the long-term conservation of the stock. FFA members reiterated their long-standing position on the adoption of both TRPs and LRPs in accordance with the Convention, the precautionary approach, and the recommendations of the WCPFC performance review. They recalled paragraph 7 of CMM 2022-03 on harvest strategies, which requires both TRPs and LRPs for each stock. In this regard, FFA members reaffirmed that, for tuna species, an LRP of 20% SSB₀ remained in their view the most appropriate and precautionary option. To support greater consistency and transparency in scientific advice across WCPO fisheries, FFA members suggested that the Commission task the NC to review the WCPFC Management Advice and Uncertainty Template and apply it as a guideline in the NC's regular reporting of management advice. FFA members also noted that the NC planned to bring forward a proposal for a CMM on a Pacific bluefin tuna CDS in 2026. FFA members anticipated synergies between this work and the work of the EM&ER and ROP IWGs and recommended that the JWG10 Co-Chairs and the relevant IWG Chairs consult on how to streamline discussions and support the establishment of an effective Commission-wide CDS. FFA members indicated that they were keen to learn more about these linkages, including in relation to the South Pacific albacore discussions and the proposed joint WCPFC–IATTC South Pacific albacore Working Group.

211. New Zealand thanked the Chairs and members of JWG10 and NC for welcoming its participation in 2024 and 2025 and stated that it greatly valued the opportunity to contribute to these important discussions on northern stocks and harvest strategies.

212. Japan thanked the NC Chair for the presentation and responded to points raised by FFA members. Japan recalled that North Pacific striped marlin was a Commission-wide stock rather than an NC stock and noted that the Commission had adopted a strengthened CMM for North Pacific striped marlin at WCPFC21, following extensive discussions. Japan emphasised that CCMs fishing for this stock, including Japan, were implementing the newly adopted CMM, and that, when the next assessment was conducted (planned for 2027), the CMM could be reviewed and further strengthened as appropriate in light of the assessment results. On Pacific bluefin tuna, Japan noted that, in IATTC, many tuna stocks were managed with TRPs of about 7.7% SSB₀ and recalled that Pacific bluefin tuna is a pan-Pacific stock requiring coordinated management between WCPFC and IATTC. Japan explained that the JWG was working through various candidate HCR scenarios to identify an appropriate HCR and MP to present to the Commission and reiterated its intention to bring forward a proposal for consideration at WCPFC23. Japan noted that the current estimated Pacific bluefin tuna stock status was above 25% of SSB₀ and highlighted that the existing CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna applied not only to high seas and EEZs but also to Japan's territorial waters, internal waters and archipelagic waters. Japan stressed that the CMM imposed significant constraints on artisanal and small-scale fishers, including those targeting other species, and noted that in fisheries such as squid jigging,

the high abundance of Pacific bluefin tuna could interfere with fishing operations. Japan suggested that further increases in Pacific bluefin tuna biomass could exacerbate such impacts. Japan reaffirmed its commitment to responsible management of Pacific bluefin tuna and to the development of an MSE-based MP. Japan stated that, once a single MP had been agreed in the JWG, it would engage actively with FFA experts and other CCMs to seek their understanding and support. Japan also welcomed the participation of WCPFC CCMs, in particular FFA members and SIDS, in the 2026 meetings of the Northern Committee and JWG11, anticipated to be held in July in Nagasaki, Japan.

213. The EU acknowledged the efforts of CCMs involved in the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery and recognised the prompt recovery of the stock as a major achievement for the Commission. The EU encouraged those CCMs to continue progressing rapidly towards finalisation of the MSE work and the adoption of a robust management procedure and CDS for Pacific bluefin tuna. The EU expressed concern regarding North Pacific striped marlin. The EU recalled the adoption of a rebuilding CMM for this stock at the previous Commission session and noted that the latest catch figures presented showed a sharp increase in landings, which did not appear consistent with the objective of rebuilding the stock. The EU expressed the hope that implementation of the rebuilding plan would result in tangible improvements in stock status and reductions in catches consistent with the plan.

214. The USA thanked Japan for its intervention and elaborated on its views regarding the Pacific bluefin tuna harvest strategy. The USA explained that the primary reason JWG10 had not been able to reach agreement on an HCR was concern that the TAC adopted the previous year was too aggressive and risked undermining the rebuilding gains achieved in recent years. The USA reported that catches in its West coast fishery had declined sharply in the most recent season, describing the reduction as dramatic. The USA stressed that, in its view, the HCR for Pacific bluefin tuna must be precautionary in order to safeguard the gains achieved and avoid any reversal of progress.

215. The Chair noted the suggestions from PNG on behalf of the FFA members regarding (i) a tasking by the Commission to NC to review the WCPFC management advice and uncertainty template and to apply this template as a guideline in its regular reporting on management advice, and (ii) recommending that the JWG co-chairs and EM&ER IWG and ROP IWG chairs consult on how to streamline the discussions on the work to support the establishment of an effectiveness of an effective commission CDS.

216. Japan, referring to the suggestions made by PNG on behalf of FFA members, noted that it was not fully clear whether the proposed recommendation concerning the Management Advice and Uncertainty Template was directed to NC or to ISC, given that ISC is responsible for preparing scientific advice and associated presentation formats. Japan also queried the suggested linkage between the work of the JWG on a Pacific bluefin tuna CDS and the work of the EM&ER and ROP IWGs, observing that a CDS was conceptually distinct from EM and reporting frameworks. Japan requested that any proposed tasking or recommendations be provided in written form to allow careful consideration of the language and implications.

217. Chinese Taipei associated itself with Japan's comments and also requested that any proposals for Commission tasking or recommendations arising from FFA's statement be provided in writing, so that CCMs could review and, if necessary, suggest revised text.

218. PNG responded that, on behalf of FFA members, it would provide suggested draft text for the proposed tasking of the NC regarding the template and for the recommendation on coordination for consideration by CCMs.

219. Chinese Taipei indicated its support for adoption of the NC21 report and expressed its appreciation for the cooperation of NC members and participants in the Pacific bluefin tuna JWG in the development of measures for Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore and other stocks. However, Chinese Taipei expressed discomfort with

the fact that one CCM had, in its view, placed pressure on NC members to convene a special session at short notice with the objective of altering the factual record of NC21 discussions, meeting practices, and the adopted report and attachments. Chinese Taipei considered that such a process was not an appropriate way to influence the proceedings of the NC and that it risked sending an incorrect signal to the international community and stakeholders. Chinese Taipei stated it did not intend to block adoption of the NC21 Summary Report, but wished for its discomfort with this aspect of the process to be recorded. Chinese Taipei also thanked the USA for its support during the special session and informed the Commission of its intention to host the next related scientific meeting in the following year, inviting the participation of members.

220. The USA expressed its support for adoption of the NC21 report and associated itself with the intervention made by Chinese Taipei.

221. China stated that Taiwan is part of China and reaffirmed the One China Principle, referencing United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 and related international practice. China highlighted the importance of properly handling the Taiwan question. China requested that the Secretariat make the necessary and timely corrections to the nomenclature used for the Taiwan region in all official WCPFC documents and records so as to ensure consistency with the One China Principle and the prevailing consensus within the international community.

222. The Commission noted the ongoing work of the Joint Working Group to develop a proposal for a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) measure or resolution for consideration in 2026. The Commission advised the co-Chairs of the Joint Working Group to communicate their work to support the development of an effective CDS that can inform the development of a CDS for other species within the purview of the Commission.

223. The Commission adopted the NC21 Summary Report.

224. The Commission requested the Northern Committee to review and apply the WCPFC Management Advice and Uncertainty Template ([SC21_SA-IP-22](#)), consistent with the ISC25 agreement and the SC21 recommendation, and to incorporate this template as a guideline in its regular reporting of management advice for northern stocks.

8.2 21st Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC21)

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-SC21-01](#), [WCPFC22-2025-08](#), [WCPFC22-2025-18](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-38](#)

225. The SC Chair, Emily Crigler (USA), reported on the outcomes and recommendations from SC21, held 13–21 August 2025 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. She noted that three papers were associated with this agenda item: WP08 (prepared by the Secretariat and forming the basis of her presentation), and WP13 and WP18, which would be presented by SPC. She noted that WP08 categorized SC21 outcomes as items “for noting”, “for attention”, or “for action”, and that many SC21 recommendations would be taken up under other WCPFC22 agenda items. The SC Chair’s presentation focused only on the SC21 outcomes not otherwise covered. Before presenting the substantive outcomes, the SC Chair recognised the contribution of the Commission’s Science Manager, Dr. Sung Kwon Soh, noting that SC21 marked his 20th anniversary of dedicated service to the Commission since its inception, and acknowledged his substantial contribution, particularly to the work of the SC. The Commission joined in recognising his long service.

226. In her presentation, the SC Chair focused on SC21 issues for which Commission action or guidance was sought under Agenda Item 8.2: (i) endorsement of the process to review the sea turtle CMM and related reporting requirements through an intersessional working group; (ii) adoption of proposed amendments to the “Scientific

data to be provided to the Commission” to incorporate cetacean reporting requirements; (iii) tasking of the ROP IWG to identify enhancements to observer data for shark species identification and reporting; (iv) agreement on an eight-day default duration for SC meetings; and (v) Commission guidance on prioritization of the scientific work programme in light of workload and budget constraints.

227. The Chair thanked the SC Chair for her comprehensive presentation and noted that some of the decision points would be further informed by the forthcoming SPC presentations, particularly in relation to data reporting mechanisms and stock assessment scheduling.

Discussion

228. The Cook Islands thanked the SC Chair for her presentation and joined in acknowledging 20 years of service by the Science Manager. The Cook Islands referenced the SC Chair’s comments at SC21 (SC21 Summary Report para. 801(iii)), emphasising that the SC “has a duty to provide clear, substantive and actionable scientific advice to the Commission, rather than limiting itself to noting, recognising or deferring issues.” The Cook Islands strongly agreed with this assessment and recalled longstanding discussions within the Commission on the integrity, independence and obligations of SC. The Cook Islands recalled Article 12 of the Convention, which establishes SC “to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available”, and stressed that SC had both the authority and the responsibility to determine what constituted such information and to ensure that the Commission received it. The Cook Islands therefore urged the Commission to: (i) reaffirm the need for a robust, independent and reliable SC that fully performs its mandated functions in accordance with the Convention; and (ii) support the SC Chair’s for clearer and more actionable scientific recommendations. The Cook Islands emphasised that the Commission relies on SC both to compile and interpret information and to provide objective advice to support sound management decisions. The Cook Islands expressed readiness to participate in future discussions at SC22 and WCPFC23 to strengthen scientific processes and ensure SC was fully empowered to fulfil its mandate.

229. The USA thanked the SC Chair, the Secretariat, the Science Manager, SPC, and CCMs for their work and constructive discussions at SC21. On sea turtle reporting requirements and the review of CMM 2018-04, the USA noted that the proposed review process had been considered and endorsed by both SC21 and TCC21. The USA suggested that, subject to general agreement, the Commission endorse this process and request the intersessional working group to report back to SC22 and TCC22 with proposals for revising data requirements to incorporate reporting of sea turtle interactions. The USA also expressed support for the proposed changes to Annexes 1 and 2 of the scientific data to be provided to the Commission to capture cetacean reporting requirements under the current CMM on cetaceans and recommended that the Commission adopt these changes. On bycatch estimates in the longline fishery, the USA highlighted SC21’s conclusion that the current 5% observer coverage level, which had been in place for over a decade, was insufficient to provide accurate estimates of longline bycatch and urged the Commission to take action to address this. With respect to the review of stock assessments and development of a schedule for regular peer review of WCPFC stock assessments, the USA supported the establishment of a regular peer-review schedule for all WCPFC stock assessments, consistent with best scientific practice. The USA indicated its intention to work with other CCMs and the SSP over the coming year to develop a prioritised schedule for stock assessment reviews for consideration and agreement at SC22. On oceanic whitetip shark, the USA endorsed SC21’s recommendation that the ROP IWG assess and identify specific data gaps and potential enhancements needed to improve the accuracy and consistency of shark species identification and reporting, including length measurements. Regarding the workload of SC and SPC, the USA stated it recognizes the growing workload shouldered by both the SC and SPC as they work to meet the Commission’s expectations and keep pace with advancing scientific standards, noting that maintaining the quality of scientific advice provided to the commission is a priority for the USA. The USA stated that even as more stocks transition to MPs, the Commission

still depends on high-quality assessments to support monitoring and evaluate MP performance. The USA recommended that the Commission request SC and SPC to review the current assessment workflow and identify realistic steps to improve efficiency, including earlier engagement with CCMs during assessment development, while maintaining the quality and integrity of scientific advice. The USA commended SPC's initiative in convening virtual workshops to gather feedback for the upcoming bigeye tuna assessment.

230. Samoa thanked the SC Chair and SPC for their work and noted the scientific analyses presented to the Commission. Samoa observed, however, that economic data and analyses had not featured in the presentations and queried whether economic information was being adequately considered by the Commission, given that many business and fishing decisions were driven by economic projections. Samoa noted that economic analyses could help explain trends such as vessel exit, buy-back schemes, and increases in fishing effort. Samoa recalled references to a small working group on economics and sought clarification on the role of economic information in the Commission's decision-making processes.

231. The Chair acknowledged Samoa's intervention, stating that the question of the role of economic data was ultimately a matter for the Commission. The Chair noted Samoa's suggestion regarding the possible need for SC or another working group to address economic aspects of fisheries management.

232. Korea expressed support for the recommendations set out on the final page of the SC21 report, in particular recommendation 8 to establish an eight-day SC meeting schedule as the default. Korea suggested that, if agreed, this decision should be reflected in the work of the FAC. Korea also suggested that the Commission address recommendation 5, relating to SC's work programme and prioritisation.

233. New Caledonia thanked the SC Chair for her report and associated itself with Samoa's comments regarding the importance of economic data and issues, stating these are not yet fully reflected in the work of SC.

234. Nauru, speaking on behalf of PNA+, thanked the SC Chair and expressed appreciation for the increased clarity of advice associated with the new template for reporting on stock assessments. Referencing para 23 in WP08, Nauru noted that the Convention objective includes the sustainable use of fish stocks and observed that there was sometimes uncertainty as to whether the SC's advice explicitly indicated whether the "use" of a stock was sustainable, particularly for retained bycatch species assessed as overfished or subject to overfishing but with fishing mortality below LRPs. Nauru requested SC advice on this issue, including whether the advice from the SC on stocks whose catches are retained could explicitly address whether the use of a stock is sustainable using the language in the Convention. In response to a clarification from the Chair, Nauru confirmed that this request was intended as a tasking to the SC.

235. Sharks Pacific joined others in thanking the SC Chair and the Science Manager for their work and aligned strongly with the comments made by the Cook Islands. Sharks Pacific emphasised the importance of a robust and transparent scientific process to ensure that the outcomes of SC meetings effectively support the work of subsidiary bodies and the Commission. Sharks Pacific considered that it was not sufficient merely to report data gaps or note deficiencies; SC should provide clear recommendations as to what information is needed to advance the objectives of the Commission, noting there must be very clear recommendations, particularly for data-deficient and heavily depleted species. Sharks Pacific suggested that the SC could help prioritise funding towards species most in need of attention, such as oceanic whitetip shark, and referred to earlier discussions in the FAC regarding the potential to develop a structured approach to allocating scientific resources. Shark Pacific noted additional measures mentioned by Cook Islands could help safeguard the integrity and reliability of the scientific process.

Standardised templates for annual scientific data submissions (Working Paper 38)

236. Tiffany Vidal (SPC-OFP) presented [WCPFC22-2025-38](#), which proposed standardized SciData submission templates to increase efficiency and reduce potential errors associated with interpretation and processing of non-standard data submissions. SPC stated that data availability has been identified as a key bottleneck for the work of the Commission subsidiary bodies, including for key stock assessments. Implementation of the proposed standardized templates is expected to result in timelier provision of scientific data and enable SPC to engage in value-added work around data. To support the implementation of these templates, SPC developed a *GitHub* repository, with a public-facing website that provides detailed guidelines, examples, and reference tables to support CCMs. The repository is intended to be a living document and will be adapted as necessary for new data reporting requirements or to enhance clarity around existing requirements and templates. SPC stated it is committed to supporting CCMs as they transition to these templates, as needed, and briefly outlined their longer-term plans around data initiatives, including a web-based data submission portal, additional data quality mechanisms, and enhanced data accessibility.

Discussion

237. The EU thanked SPC for its proposal and presentation and joined others in expressing appreciation for the long service of the Science Manager and the commitment of the SC Chair. The EU concurred that the development and use of mandatory standardised formats would improve the efficiency of data processing, enhance data quality, and help address some of the challenges highlighted by SC21 and SPC. The EU endorsed the SPC proposal, welcomed the flexibility offered to accommodate different CCM circumstances, and expressed support for SPC's envisaged future work to strengthen data transmission systems.

238. French Polynesia welcomed the progress made on data standardisation and the development of multiple data formats. As a small island developing territory, French Polynesia noted that it had previously faced challenges in meeting data submission requirements but had successfully transitioned to ER with SPC's support. French Polynesia reported that this transition had led to improved data quality, greater efficiency, and significant time savings. French Polynesia thanked SPC for its continued efforts to improve fisheries data and for its support in developing electronic reporting tools, which have strengthened data management across the region.

239. New Caledonia associated itself with the expressions of appreciation for SPC and recognised the significant challenges faced by SPC and the Secretariat in preparing and disseminating information to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in a timely manner. New Caledonia noted that delays in data processing and document circulation directly affect delegation preparation, particularly for small delegations with limited capacity. New Caledonia emphasised the need to reduce the time required to process and disseminate data for the Commission's work and therefore endorsed SPC's proposed approach and the adoption of standardised scientific data submission templates.

240. The USA thanked SPC for the comprehensive work undertaken and advised that it had already provided initial feedback on the templates and looked forward to continuing to work with SPC to implement them. The USA recommended that the Commission adopt the proposed standardised templates for future scientific data submissions.

241. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA members, expressed full support for the adoption of the proposed standardised data submission templates. FFA members acknowledged the efforts of those CCMs that had already worked closely with SPC to progress this outcome. FFA members also supported SPC's planned improvements to data management platforms and recommended that SPC be tasked to present its plans for these improvements to SC22.

242. The Chair noted broad support among CCMs for the standardisation of scientific data submissions and for the proposed templates. The Chair also noted the request by FFA members to task the SSP with presenting its planned data management improvements to SC22 and recorded this as a tasking to SPC.

Timing considerations for stock assessments

243. Graham Pilling (SPC-OFP) gave a presentation summarising [WCPFC22-2025-18](#), which examines the broader issues around time constraints inherent in current WCPFC scientific processes, driven by the data provision deadline, the deadline for SC papers, and the increasing level of work required, and provides potential areas for discussion. It also addresses the specific request from SC21 regarding the feasibility of including data from the previous year in stock assessments. Issues to consider when thinking of removing the most recent year from stock assessments – which specifically refers to skipjack tuna – are noted and include the potential uncertainties arising from a greater information time lag when providing advice on short-lived species such as skipjack tuna and the settings of the adopted skipjack harvest strategy. Noting that some progress had been made in recent years, options were presented to increase the time available for analyses.

Discussion

244. Tokelau, speaking on behalf of FFA members, thanked the Secretariat and SPC for the paper and presentation. FFA members agreed that the changing demands for scientific information presented an opportunity to realign resources, refine the Commission's work processes, and establish a more effective framework. FFA members supported tasking the Secretariat, the Chairs, and SPC to evaluate options for adjusting meeting timetables, with a view to providing proposals for consideration by subsidiary bodies and WCPFC23 in 2026. In addition to supporting changes to data submission timeframes and meeting timing, FFA members expressed interest in exploring opportunities to streamline the assessment process by undertaking some assessments as simpler update-type assessments, consistent with the evolving role of stock assessments as components of monitoring strategies for MPs rather than as the primary sources of management advice. FFA members indicated that they were also open to the SC proposal to exclude the latest year's data from the skipjack assessment, provided that this formed part of a broader package that included simplification of assessments for longer-lived species.

245. The EU thanked SPC for the clear presentation and recalled SC21's discussions on the timing of stock assessments and the implications of a two-year data lag. The EU observed that many of the options examined by SC, such as changing the timing of the SC meeting or advancing the data provision deadline, appeared difficult to implement due to logistical constraints, as had been outlined by SPC. The EU expressed support for the recommendations contained in WP18 and, while recognising these constraints, invited SPC to comment on two possible alternative approaches: (i) moving some assessments to a two-year schedule, noting that this approach was already being applied for certain shark species and had been recommended for billfish at SC21, while acknowledging that this implied less frequent assessments; and (ii) for skipjack perhaps incorporating data from the first three quarters of the year preceding the assessment, given the temporal structure of the stock assessments, as a pragmatic means to mitigate the data lag when monitoring the performance of the skipjack MP.

246. SPC confirmed that moving tuna assessments to a two-year schedule and exploring the use of partial-year data for skipjack were both options that could be examined further. SPC noted, however, that a two-year cycle for tuna assessments could lead to an even greater data lag, and that incorporating partial-year data would require more frequent within-year provision of data by CCMs, beyond the current annual schedule.

247. The USA thanked SPC for highlighting practical areas in which the timing and efficiency of assessments might be improved. The USA supported efforts to improve the timing of stock assessments, provided that scientific quality was not compromised. It expressed support for exploring opportunities to simplify assessments where this could lead to clearer model diagnostics and reduced avoidable complexity while still meeting standards for best scientific information. The USA also supported ongoing work to standardise and streamline data inputs, including through common submission templates and improvements in ER, and considered that these innovations, together with broader shifts towards more efficient data management, would make important contributions to easing the timing challenges identified in the paper. The USA also emphasised the value of a more interactive and iterative process during stock assessment development, creating space for CCMs to engage with SPC earlier in the cycle in order to identify issues early and reduce pressure later in the process.

248. Korea thanked SPC for the presentation and expressed support for all the recommendations in WP18. It highlighted Korea's 100% ER coverage for its fleets and reiterated its support for the proposed standardisation of data submission templates and the recommendations on submission deadlines. Korea also referred to its earlier proposal, made in the context of discussions on catch retention, regarding a potential requirement to submit discard information within 48 hours to the Secretariat, and asked whether such a short reporting timeframe had any scientific relevance for stock assessments.

249. In response to Korea's question, SPC advised that, for purposes of stock assessments, data at the level of 48-hour reporting intervals were not necessary, given that most assessments were conducted at quarterly or annual scales. Such rapid reporting might become relevant, however, in situations where a TAC including discards was nearing its limit, in which case the primary relevance would be for compliance rather than for scientific analysis.

250. Kiribati, speaking on behalf of PNA+, thanked SPC for WP18 and expressed support for the statement by FFA members. PNA+ expressed sympathy for the challenges faced by SPC stock assessment staff in maintaining high-quality assessments under tight time constraints. PNA+ recalled that it had previously supported options to ease these constraints, including adjusting the data submission deadline and changing the timing of relevant meetings. It reiterated its longstanding view that harvest strategy work could not simply be added onto the existing Commission programme without adjustments; in its view, stock assessments would need to be simplified to align with their new role as part of the monitoring strategy for MPs. PNA+ therefore supported moving to a cycle of update assessments interspersed with full assessments and indicated openness to considering the SC proposal to exclude the latest year's data from the skipjack assessment, provided that this formed part of a package that also simplified assessments of longer-lived species.

251. Indonesia thanked SPC for the presentation and commented on several of the potential solutions identified in the paper. On ER, Indonesia advised that it had implemented an electronic logbook system since late 2018 and was continuing to expand coverage. Indonesia stated it is also developing an electronic form for observer data, currently at an early stage. Indonesia supported the objective of increasing ER coverage across key fisheries but noted that it would require additional time and technical assistance to develop and operationalise these systems. On the proposed standardised data submission templates, Indonesia expressed support and indicated its willingness to adjust to the new templates for future reporting, while noting that assistance from SPC would be helpful in importing existing data into the new formats. On the data submission deadline, Indonesia expressed support in principle for improving data submission pipelines but advised that advancing the deadline to 30 April would be extremely challenging in its national context, given that scientific data needs to be collected from 36 provinces and then pass through multiple levels of consolidation (district, provincial and national) before annual catch estimates are prepared jointly with SPC and the WPEA project. Indonesia stated that compressing this process would risk producing incomplete or unvalidated data, which could undermine the quality of information

on which the Commission relied. Indonesia therefore respectfully requested that the deadline remain realistic and achievable while it works with SPC to strengthen its data systems and improve timeliness.

252. The Cook Islands thanked SPC for the presentation, aligned itself with FFA members, and strongly supported the continued inclusion of data from the previous year in the skipjack stock assessment. The Cook Islands underlined that skipjack is a short-lived species and that incorporating the most recent data significantly enhanced the accuracy and responsiveness of the assessment, thereby ensuring that management advice more closely reflected current stock conditions. The Cook Islands supported ongoing work to enhance ER coverage and standardise data submission templates across fleets, noting that these improvements would not only accelerate timeliness of reporting but also improve the efficiency of data processing and analysis by SPC. The Cook Islands stated that simplifying and harmonising submission formats would reduce the burden on CCMs and make progress in addressing long-standing difficulties in meeting data submission deadlines. The Cook Islands also supported tasking the Secretariat, Commission Chair, subsidiary body Chairs and SPC to jointly evaluate practical options for adjusting meeting timetables for 2026, for consideration by WCPFC23, and considered that improving data quality, reporting efficiency and meeting planning are essential to enhancing the effectiveness and credibility of the Commission.

253. China thanked SPC for the presentation and recognised the importance of data for stock assessments and other analyses. China advised that, while the current deadline for data submission was 30 April, it would be feasible in its case to bring the deadline forward by approximately 15 days. China expressed agreement with establishing a standardised template for data submission.

254. The USA intervened again to stress that increasing the use of MPs for species did not reduce the importance of high-quality stock assessments. In its view, stock assessments remain just as important, as they form the basis of monitoring strategies. The USA considered that moving to simple update assessments would only be appropriate where a peer review process had identified that an assessment was stable and mature and that there was limited scope for further technical improvements.

255. During consideration of the SC21 recommendations the EU noted that a recommendation called on the Commission to prioritise scientific work but did not specify a process or mechanism for doing so. The EU queried how such prioritisation would be taken forward in practice and suggested that the Commission might need to task itself with defining how and when it wished to undertake prioritisation of scientific work, in order to ensure that the recommendation could be implemented productively.

256. The Chair recalled that SPC and SC21 had highlighted both the challenges and potential solutions related to the scientific workload and indicated that the Commission would need to provide clear direction on this to both SC and SPC.

257. The USA recalled that, following the SC Chair's presentation on SC21 outcomes it proposed that the Commission request SC and SPC to review the current assessment workflow and identify realistic steps to improve efficiency, including enhanced early engagement with CCMs during assessment development, while maintaining the quality and integrity of scientific advice. The USA asked that this recommendation be captured in the record and taken into account in developing follow-up processes.

258. Australia noted that the issue of workload had arisen in the context of SC's consideration of its broader work programme, which encompassed not only the stock assessment schedule and harvest strategy work but also a range of work on associated and dependent species and other topics. Australia cautioned that, although the Commission had agreed to an eight-day SC meeting schedule to accommodate this expanding workload, there was

a risk that meeting length would continue to increase if no prioritisation framework was developed, which would not be sustainable. Australia supported the suggestion from the USA regarding review of the assessment workflow and proposed that this be situated within a broader process to prioritise the scientific work programme as a whole. Australia suggested that the Commission could establish an intersessional group to work on this issue, with the group reporting first to SC22 and then to the Commission with more concrete recommendations.

259. The Chair welcomed Australia's proposal and, noting that Australia had been nominated as the incoming SC Vice-Chair, suggested that, subject to confirmation of that appointment, the incoming SC Vice-Chair could lead this intersessional work. Seeing no objection, the Chair concluded that the Commission had agreed to establish an intersessional group, to be led by the incoming SC Vice-Chair, to consider prioritisation of the scientific work programme and options to improve efficiency, including those related to assessment workflows, and to develop recommendations for consideration by SC and the Commission.

260. The Commission:

- a. endorsed the formation of an informal intersessional working group (led by the USA) to review CMM 2018-04 in 2026 and report back to SC22, TCC22, and WCPFC23.
- b. adopted the proposed modifications to the SciData (outlined in paragraphs 122 and 123 of the SC21 Summary Report) to align with the requirements for reporting cetacean interactions under CMM 2024-07.
- c. agreed to establish an 8-day meeting schedule as a default for future meetings of the Scientific Committee.
- d. adopted the proposed standardized data submission templates contained in [WCPFC22-2025https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/2814838](https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/2814838) for SciData submissions.
- e. adopted the SC21 Summary Report and endorsed the recommendations not covered under other agenda items.

261. The Commission:

- a. tasked the ROP-IWG to assess and identify potential enhancements needed to improve the accuracy and consistency of observer data on shark species identification and reporting.
- b. requested SC22 to advise whether the advice from the Committee on stocks whose catches are retained could explicitly address whether the use of a stock is sustainable using the language in the Convention.
- c. requested SC22 and the SSP to review the current assessment workflow and identify realistic steps to improve efficiency, including earlier engagement with CCMs during assessment development, while maintaining the quality and integrity of scientific advice.
- d. requested the SC Vice-Chair to lead intersessional work to develop options for prioritizing the work of the Scientific Committee for consideration by SC22 and further requested SC22 to report its recommendations on prioritization to WCPFC23.
- e. requested the SC22 to further consider potential modifications to the current SciData submission deadline to a date earlier than 30 April.

- f. tasked the WCPFC Secretariat, Commission and Subsidiary Body Chairs, and SSP to evaluate options for adjusting meeting timetables for consideration by WCPFC23 and its subsidiary bodies in 2026.

8.3 21st Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee

Papers: [TCC21 Provisional Outcomes](#), [TCC21 Summary Report](#), [WCPFC22-2025-09_Rev01](#), [WCPFC22-2025-IP02](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-31](#)

262. The TCC Chair, Mat Kertesz (Australia), reported the outcomes and recommendations from TCC21 held 23–30 September 2025 in Pohnpei, FSM, as set out in [WCPFC22-2025-WP09_Rev01](#), and highlighted that some TCC outcomes were primarily for the Commission’s attention or noting, while others called for specific Commission actions. He briefly reviewed TCC agenda items for which outcomes would be taken up under other WCPFC22 agenda items. He drew attention to work to enhance the CMS, to update and improve the VMS standard operating procedures to identify issues related to VMS non-reporting on the high seas, and issues relating to the CCFS.

263. Cook Islands, speaking on behalf of FFA members, stated that FFA members generally supported the TCC21 recommendations in WP09_Rev01 that were not otherwise addressed under specific agenda items of WCPFC22. FFA members also endorsed the adoption of the updated WCPFC VMS standard operating procedures, as reviewed and recommended in the relevant TCC21 working papers. FFA members took the opportunity to acknowledge the leadership and dedication of the TCC Chair who served five consecutive years as TCC Chair. They considered that his guidance had been instrumental in the successful conduct of TCC and in strengthening its outcomes, and they welcomed him back to the Australian national delegation. FFA members also commended the service of the TCC Vice-Chair and expressed their support for his nomination as TCC Chair in 2026. In addition, FFA members announced the nomination of Ms Glenda Berry (PNG) as TCC Vice-Chair.

264. A number of CCMs, including Korea, the USA, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Chinese Taipei, Canada, Niue, and China, associated themselves with FFA’s comments. They expressed their appreciation to the outgoing TCC Chair for his efficient and skilful leadership, including his ability to facilitate, mediate, and broker consensus on challenging issues and to strengthen the technical dimension of TCC’s work, particularly in the context of the Commission’s transition to harvest strategy-based management. CCMs also thanked the outgoing TCC Vice-Chair for his contributions and expressed strong support for his nomination as the incoming TCC Chair and for the proposed TCC Vice-Chair nomination. Several CCMs additionally acknowledged the important role played by the Secretariat, including the Compliance Manager, in supporting TCC’s work and the implementation of TCC outcomes.

265. The Chair joined CCMs in expressing appreciation to the TCC Chair and Vice-Chair for their work and noted the overwhelming support for the proposed incoming TCC Chair and TCC Vice-Chair. The Chair recalled that the outgoing TCC Chair had agreed to continue in his role beyond the standard four-year term and thanked Australia for that additional service.

266. The Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI) expressed appreciation for the work and dedication of the TCC Chair and TCC members and voiced strong support for the Commission’s commitment to review the CMS in 2026. SBMI advocated for the progressive phasing out of transshipment at sea, noting that such transshipment posed challenges for effective catch monitoring and heightened risks to the welfare and safety of crew. SBMI recalled that, through the adoption of the labour standards CMM, CCMs had committed to preventing forced labour and other abuses, which it considered were exacerbated by prolonged isolation at sea facilitated by transshipment. SBMI expressed support for progressively increasing observer coverage, including both human observers and EM, beyond current levels, and specifically supported efforts by members to raise minimum

observer coverage from 5% to higher levels. SBMI thanked New Zealand for its work in developing draft audit points for the labour standards CMM but noted that discussion and finalisation of these audit points were not explicitly included in the TCC work plan 2025–2027. SBMI therefore urged the Commission to accelerate preparations for effective implementation of the labour standards CMM by prioritising discussion, finalisation and adoption of audit points by 2027 at the latest. SBMI concluded by emphasising that WCPFC rules would only be meaningful if the people working at sea were adequately protected and called on the Commission to ensure that protecting people remained central to its efforts to protect fisheries.

267. The TCC Chair noted that, in addition to the CCFS items addressed under Agenda Item 13, work remained to update the TCC work plan to reflect decisions taken late in WCPFC22. The TCC Chair proposed that the Secretariat and TCC Chair prepare an updated TCC work plan after WCPFC22 and circulate it intersessionally, following the approach used in the previous year. The Commission agreed to this approach.

268. The Commission adopted the updated VMS Standard Operating Procedures ([Attachment 3](#)).

269. The Commission adopted the TCC21 Summary Report and endorsed the recommendations not covered under other agenda items.

9 REPORTS FROM INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND PROCESSES

9.1 FAD Management Options IWG

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-10](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-IP03](#)

270. The Chair of the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group (FADMO IWG), Jamel James (FSM), reported on the FADMO IWG's work as set out in WP10. The IWG Chair recalled the tasks assigned to the FADMO IWG by the Commission. He advised that the IWG had progressed its work intersessionally during 2025 and at SC21 and TCC21. He noted that, during TCC21, three tasks had been deferred to 2026. On satellite buoy data transmission requirements, the IWG Chair reported that the group had considered and identified key data fields that had been reviewed and supported by SC and TCC (contained in Annex 1 of WP10), and that one substantial issue remained unresolved, namely the time frame for event-based reporting of buoy data. On FAD logbook data fields, the IWG Chair stated that further work was needed to refine certain fields, particularly those related to biodegradable FAD materials, taking into account ongoing scientific and technical work that SPC would report to SC22. The IWG Chair also noted that the IWG considered options for monitoring and reporting requirements for vessels undertaking FAD deployment, retrieval and servicing activities. The IWG Chair drew CCMs' attention to the IWG work plan for 2026, as set out in IP03.

Discussion

271. Palau, on behalf of FFA members thanked the FADMO IWG Chair and the Secretariat for the report and supported the structured approach to prioritising work for Commission decision, particularly on (i) satellite buoy transmission data requirements and (ii) the types of vessels permitted to engage in FAD-related activities. FFA members recognised that recent inputs on FAD logbook data fields contained substantive technical detail warranting further consideration and recommended elevating this work as a priority task for the IWG in 2026 with a view to enabling a well-informed Commission decision at WCPFC23. FFA members reiterated their long-standing position that transmission of buoy data should occur within 24–72 hours from deployment to support full traceability of drifting FAD trajectories and facilitate early detection and recovery efforts and emphasised the importance of near-real-time access for coastal State CCMs. On vessel types, FFA members supported equal treatment across all CNMs, proposing that supply vessels be prohibited from conducting FAD-related activities

unless expressly permitted by the Commission, and stressed the need for strengthened monitoring to achieve 100% monitoring and reporting of FAD-related activities by non-purse-seine vessels.

272. The EU indicated that FAD management remained a priority and expressed support for the recommendations outlined, underscoring the need for robust monitoring of all FAD-related activities by any vessel type. The EU concurred with the differentiation between requirements for CNMs and for CCMs at WCPFC22, while noting interest in further exploring alignment of requirements for both groups in future.

273. Tuvalu, on behalf of PNA+, thanked the Chair and Secretariat and supported the FFA position that event reports should be provided within 24–72 hours. PNA+ described the PNA FAD buoy tracking programme, which tracks transmissions from approximately 40,000 buoys annually and receives reports within 24 hours in the area between 20°N and 20°S. PNA+ emphasised that coastal State CCMs must have access, in real time, to data on FAD buoys in their waters, including reports of lost or stranded buoys.

274. French Polynesia highlighted that lost and stranded FADs represented a growing problem causing marine debris and reef damage and urged improved retrieval strategies and drifting FAD (dFAD) biodegradability. French Polynesia advised that, with SPC and partners, it intended to convene a workshop on mitigation of dFAD loss and abandonment in February 2026 in Tahiti and invited the Commission to consider the workshop results when improving dFAD management.

275. Korea acknowledged progress in the IWG and highlighted the importance of progressing outstanding key issues requiring further work. Korea also registered a reservation regarding endorsement of the key data fields recommendation, recalling that it had not been able to participate in the IWG meeting held in association with TCC21.

276. Nauru, on behalf of PNA+, welcomed recent suggestions from several CCMs on FAD logbook data fields and supported making another effort to reach agreement on an initial set of fields, offering to assist the Chair and Secretariat in 2026, in consultation with SPC. PNA+ further noted interest from some CCMs in PNA providing transmission data to the Commission to reduce duplication, while advising that this would require some consideration by PNA+.

277. Cook Islands supported the proposed work plan and considered that an in-person IWG meeting would enhance collaboration, while noting the capacity constraints of some CCMs and suggesting scheduling meetings alongside upcoming Commission subsidiary body meetings. Cook Islands also supported strengthening FAD recovery programmes and the development of better tracking systems.

278. New Caledonia commended continued progress and supported French Polynesia's call to facilitate FAD retrieval efforts and promote biodegradable FADs.

279. The Chair noted that consideration of the types of vessels permitted to engage in FAD-related activities would be referred to the CNM small working group addressing CNM participatory rights.

280. The Commission endorsed the proposed FAD logbook data fields under Annex II, [WCPFC22-2025-10](#), to be reported by vessel operators as a sound basis for implementation, noting the need for ongoing refinement of FAD design and material classifications as additional information becomes available. Related to the FAD logbook, the Commission further requested FADMO-IWG to continue considering approaches to streamline reporting arrangements, including data submission mechanisms, validation, and alignment with other reporting systems.

281. The Commission tasked the FADMO-IWG to continue work in 2026 on streamlining reporting arrangements and reducing duplication—including exploring options for direct transmission of satellite buoy data from the PNA to the Secretariat and/or the SSP—and to continue discussions on appropriate timeframes for event-based reporting, with clear options and recommendations to be provided to the Commission in 2026.

9.2 Regional Observer Programme IWG

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-11_Rev01](#), [WCPFC22-2025-11a_Rev01](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-IP04](#)

282. The Chair of the Regional Observer Programme Intersessional Working Group (ROP IWG), Lucas Tarapik (PNG), presented an update on the ROP IWG's 2025 work, including refinement of minimum standard data fields (MSDFs), revisions to the pre-notification/CCFS process flow, scoping of monitoring for potential infringements under CCFS, and development of non-fish (non-target) catch transfer monitoring data fields. Recommendations included: (i) removal of specific redundant fields from the ROP MSDF; and (ii) adoption of the 2026 ROP IWG Work Plan.

Discussion

283. Solomon Islands, on behalf of FFA members, supported the removal of redundant MSDFs as set out in WP11a, and supported the 2026 Work Plan. On CCFS-related proposals (including WCPFC22-2025-DP16), FFA members noted the technical nature and late posting of documents and were not in a position to endorse certain recommendations at this meeting, suggesting that the IWG continue work in 2026.

284. Marshall Islands, on behalf of PNA+, supported the removal of redundant MSDFs and extension of the ROP IWG Work Plan into 2026 to finalise priority tasks, including review of the pre-notification process and development of a standardised process for use of ROP data in CCFS. Marshall Islands proposed an in-person ROP IWG workshop in the early second quarter of 2026.

285. The USA supported recommendation (i) and requested that adoption of recommendation (ii) remain open to allow alignment of its delegation papers (DP15, DP16 and DP17) with specific ROP IWG taskings. The USA agreed with Marshall Islands that an in-person workshop in the first half of 2026 would be necessary to progress the complex technical matters.

286. China and Japan highlighted budget and scheduling considerations and requested that hybrid participation in meetings be enabled and that, where possible, meetings be co-located with subsidiary body meetings.

287. The Chair referred discussion of the proposed workshop and meeting schedule to informal consultations among interested CCMs, the Secretariat, and the ROP IWG Chair. The Commission agreed to adopt recommendation (i) relating to the removal of specified redundant MSDFs.

288. The Commission agreed to the removal of specific redundant data fields from the Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF) ([Attachment 4](#)).

289. The Commission endorsed the updated ROP IWG workplan for 2026 ([Attachment 5](#)).

9.3 ER and EM IWG

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-12](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-IP05](#)

290. The interim Chair of the ER&EM IWG, Lesley Hawn (USA), reported on the ER&EM IWG's work in 2025. The IWG convened in the fall of 2025 to refine implementation strategies and set priorities for advancing EM, with a particular focus on formulating the audit and assurance framework. The Commission tasked the IWG with four key areas of work: (i) to review and develop templates for Part 1 EM program reporting, as well as other EM standard elements where standardization reporting would help members; (ii) to review EM data requirements stemming from relevant CMMs that are not currently covered by the ROP Minimum Data Fields, including refining the standards specifications and procedures for onboard EM systems and ensuring the data fields align with those of other RFMOs and the outcomes of Project 93; (iii) develop a proposed assurance and audit process for longline EM standards modelled on the ROP audit approach; and (iv) begin developing EM standards for carrier vessels conducting transshipment for longline vessels, working closely with the ROP IWG to ensure the interconnections between EM and observer activities are properly addressed. Priorities in 2026 will focus on finalizing key elements of an audit and assurance process and revisiting interim technical standards and addressing remaining data and operational elements to ensure that the standards, specifications, and procedures support the integrity, reliability, and credibility of EM data collection across all programs.

Discussion

291. Kiribati, on behalf of PNA+, extended their appreciation to the interim IWG Chair for the effort to put together a draft CMM and EM audit and assurance program modelled on the ROP, which provides a starting point that can be moulded into something more reflective of the nature of EM. PNA+ stated it sees value in having a standardised assurance process for sustainability, and that similar considerations will be needed for the objective of an EM program in terms of science, compliance, and quality data or systems management.

292. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, supported the interim Chair's proposed next steps, including discussion of an EM CMM within the IWG work plan. FFA members proposed that the IWG progress work by electronic means between WCPFC22 and March 2026 and that the next virtual meeting be held in early March 2026 to allow sufficient time for CCM consideration of new papers. FFA members also supported confirmation of the interim Chair by the Commission.

293. Chinese Taipei sought clarification on the status of the 2025–2026 work plan and raised concerns regarding standardisation of VMPs at the vessel level. The interim Chair clarified that the VMP template was intended as a voluntary guide for CCMs and programmes and that no vessel level submissions to the Secretariat were envisaged under the template as presented.

294. Australia commended the interim Chair's work, supported the workplan, and proposed that DP14 (consultative draft EM CMM) be considered under the relevant workplan item. Australia also endorsed confirmation of the interim Chair.

295. The EU stated that development of EMS remains an area where WCPFC is lagging compared to other organizations, and welcomed the work undertaken by the interim Chair of the EM&EM IWG. The EU concurred with the comment by Australia that there is a need also to prioritize the development of a fully-fledged CMM for implementing a regional EM scheme.

296. Sharks Pacific commended the ER&EM interim Chair on her leadership and the progress over the prior year. They stated that the Commission's single most persistent technical obstacle has been the failure to achieve

scientifically credible observer coverage in the longline fishery, which undermines stock assessments, evaluation of bycatch impacts, and the ability to monitor compliance. Shark's Pacific stated that EM is part of the solution and the work of the ER&EM IWG is critical in that regard. They noted that SC has urged improvements in longline observer coverage, noting that without substantial increases in baseline data, including observer data, the SSP cannot reduce management uncertainty or improve stock assessments. Sharks Pacific stated that low observer coverage produces bias, uncertainty, and ultimately an increased risk of management failure, and results in weakened scientific conclusions, inconclusive bycatch analyses, and persistent data gaps that paralyse progress on critical conservation measures. They observed that the Commission also continues to allow four different methodologies (days at sea, days fished, number of trips and number of hooks) to calculate coverage, undermining comparability, statistical integrity, and fairness, and enabling methodology shopping. They closed by stating that the Commission should advance implementation of observer coverage and especially EM through the IWG.

297. Korea supported the work of the EM&ER IWG and looked forward to engaging closely with all the members.

298. The Chair took note of broad support to schedule the next ER&EM IWG virtual meeting in early March 2026 and noted the expressions of support for confirming the interim Chair as ER&EM IWG Chair, with confirmation to be addressed under Agenda Item 17 on Administrative Matters. The Chair recalled earlier discussions on DP14, noting some CCMs had raised process questions and options for the way forward. The Chair highlighted that a key outstanding issue was to determine the appropriate "home" for the consolidated draft EM CMM submitted by the USA.

299. Japan expressed support for consideration of the USA proposal by the ER&EM IWG.

300. The USA clarified that the consultative draft had been submitted as a stand-alone contribution, separate from the ER&EM IWG process, as indicated in the explanatory note accompanying the paper. The USA stated that it had no objection should CCMs decide to integrate the consultative draft into the work of the ER&EM IWG.

301. The EU stressed that development of a WCPFC EMS was a major undertaking for the Commission and that its "natural home" was the ER&EM IWG. The EU clarified that its earlier proposal had not been to progress solely the USA's consultative draft, but rather to task the ER&EM IWG to develop a CMM on EM in an inclusive and collective manner, consistent with how other CMMs were developed in WCPFC. The EU envisaged that the ER&EM IWG Chair would call for suggestions from CCMs on process, scope, and key elements of a draft EM CMM. The EU indicated flexibility, stating that it could also support a process in which the USA, building on its consultative draft, would lead work on an EM CMM, provided that there was clear tasking for collective work in the coming year.

302. Chinese Taipei recalled that it had previously suggested, during the ER&EM IWG discussions, that the consolidated EM proposal should not be automatically included in the ER&EM IWG workplan. However, Chinese Taipei noted that, having considered the intervention from the EU, it recognised that the draft proposal DP14, including its annex, already contained an audit process and several elements that overlapped with ongoing discussions in the ER&EM IWG. Chinese Taipei therefore indicated flexibility, stating that it could accept either option regarding where the work on the EM CMM would be taken forward.

303. Marshall Islands, referring to the various options outlined, suggested that the Commission should streamline the approach and provide clear tasking to the ER&EM IWG, which had just been endorsed under Agenda Item 9.3 and was chaired by the USA. The Marshall Islands emphasised that, in light of the heavy workload anticipated for 2026, it was important to avoid confusion by clearly assigning responsibility for further development of an EM CMM to the ER&EM IWG.

304. Japan reiterated its support for having the work on a CMM for implementation of EM undertaken under the ER&EM IWG. Japan considered that the USA's proposal language under Agenda Item 9.3 provided a good basis for this work, as it already incorporated key elements relevant to the development of an EM CMM. Japan acknowledged that the existence of two related USA recommendation texts (under Agenda Items 9.3 and 13) had caused some confusion, but indicated that, in its view, the Agenda Item 9.3 proposed recommendation text captured most of the essential points and therefore should be used as the primary basis for further deliberations.

305. Australia expressed support for the approach proposed by the Marshall Islands and Japan. Australia acknowledged and appreciated the work undertaken by the USA in preparing and sharing its proposal, and requested that the record reflect the Commission's appreciation of that contribution. Australia supported the final sentence of the USA's draft recommendation text under Agenda Item 9.3, noting that it would provide for a collaborative process in which the Commission would task the ER&EM IWG to consider any proposals relevant to development of an EM CMM in 2026.

306. The Commission endorsed the ER and EM IWG workplan ([Attachment 6](#)) and requested the IWG prioritize the audit and assurance framework, review EM data requirements not currently covered by the ROP minimum data fields, and refine the SSPs for onboard EM systems and ensure they align with neighbouring RFMOs where appropriate. The Commission also tasked the ER and EM IWG with elaborating a draft CMM for the development of a WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Program in 2026, as appropriate.

9.4 South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-IP06](#)

307. The Chair noted that the convening of two virtual workshops on South Pacific Albacore Management in 2025 were on the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG's workplan and that discussion on these workshops would take place under Agenda Item 11.1.2. Following the adoption of the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure under Agenda Item 11.1.3, the Commission considered the IWG's workplan for 2026. See paragraph [384].

308. The Commission endorsed the updated South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Intersessional Working Group Workplan 2023-2026 ([Attachment 7](#)).

9.5 High Seas Boarding and Inspection – Development of Voluntary Guides

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-13](#), [WCPFC22-2025-13a](#), [WCPFC22-2025-13b](#), [WCPFC22-2025-13c](#), [WCPFC22-2025-13d](#), [WCPFC22-2025-13e](#), [WCPFC22-2025-13f](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-DP13](#)

309. The High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) IWG Chair, David Power (Australia), provided a verbal update on development of five voluntary guides (Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide; Catch Estimation Guide; Collection and Dissemination of Photographic/Video Evidence; Measuring Tool Calibration; and a DNA Sampling Guide) and on updates to the Multilingual Questionnaire, noting extensive contributions by CCMs.

Discussion

310. Cook Islands on behalf of FFA members commended progress by and supported continuation of the HSBI IWG in 2026 to refine the voluntary guides and suggested considering additional voluntary guidance to support inspection procedures related to CMM 2024-04 on labour standards.

311. China, Canada, and Korea expressed appreciation and support for the work and for the IWG's continuation.

312. Japan welcomed the guides, underscored the need to update the bycatch/seabird guide to align with the newly adopted seabird measure, and recalled that HSBI operations should respect CMM 2006-08, including minimising interference with fishing operations and the general four-hour duration parameter.

313. The EU and Australia supported addressing updates through the HSBI IWG work plan.

314. The USA proposed that the HSBI IWG develop voluntary guidance to help inspectors identify potential forced labour indicators (e.g. simple triage questions on pay, time ashore, and voluntariness). Australia, the EU, Indonesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, France, and Canada supported the proposal.

315. The Commission adopted a Standardized Multi-Language Questionnaire for HSBI ([Attachment 8](#)).

316. The Commission adopted the following voluntary guides for HSBI:

- a. HSBI DNA Sampling ([Attachment 9](#))
- b. HSBI Catch Quantification ([Attachment 10](#))
- c. HSBI Measuring Tool Calibration ([Attachment 11](#))
- d. HSBI Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide ([Attachment 12](#))
- e. HSBI Collection and Dissemination of Photographic and Video Evidence Guide ([Attachment 13](#))

317. The Commission supported the continuation of the HSBI Working Group in 2026 under the leadership of David Power (Australia), to further develop draft Voluntary HSBI Guides, including for crew labour standards and recommendations for the Commission's consideration at WCPFC23.

318. The Commission tasked the HSBI Working Group in 2026 to:

- a. develop a new Voluntary HSBI Guide to support inspection procedures related to the CMM 2024-04 on Crew Labour Standards.
- b. update the HSBI Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide, as needed, to align with the newly adopted seabird CMM 2025-05.
- c. continue refining and improving existing HSBI Voluntary Guides, as needed.

9.6 Port State Measures – Review of CMM 2017-02

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-14](#)

319. The Chair of the intersessional process to review CMM 2017-02 on Port State Measures (PSM WG), Meli Raicebe (Fiji), reported on two WG meetings (virtual and in the margins of TCC21) and identified six priority areas for the review of CMM 2017-02: (i) support for SIDS and developing States and implementation challenges; (ii) port entry, arrivals, and denial of access; (iii) facilitating access to WCPFC data to support port entry procedures; (iv) inspection standards and scope; (v) reporting and data exchange; and (vi) integration with other CMMs and MCS tools. A work plan for 2026 was also outlined.

Discussion

320. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA members, reiterated that the PSM review should ensure: targeted and appropriate support for implementation consistent with Article 30 and paragraphs 22–27 of CMM 2017-02; a framework reflecting the region’s unique context rather than mirroring the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA); an appropriate balance between prescriptive PSM requirements and effective flag State control; recognition of existing governance arrangements for port entry/use, denial of access and risk assessment; prioritisation of high-risk vessels; and data exchange through established systems consistent with Commission data rules, including the FAO PSMA Global Information Exchange System and the FFA regional PSM system. FFA members supported the work plan and requested early indication of meeting dates.

321. Solomon Islands, on behalf of PNA+, supported the work plan and the FFA statement, and requested that PNA+ comments made at the pre-TCC PSM WG be more fully reflected in the summary of key points—specifically: (i) the limited scope for extending the CMM in areas such as denial of entry and inspection in the absence of greater encouragement for the use of SIDS ports and controls on transshipment at sea; and (ii) the need for parallel arrangements applicable to vessels unloading to carriers at sea for port entry and inspection requirements. PNA+ requested that these comments be included in the summary of key points raised by participants in Table 2.

322. The EU supported the proposed way forward and drew attention to capacity-building opportunities under the FAO PSMA Global Capacity Development Programme outlined in one of the annexes of the recent PSMA meeting report.

323. France supported continuation of the review, noting the importance of port inspections in connection with HSBI.

324. The Commission endorsed the workplan for the PSM WG for 2026 ([Attachment 14](#)).

325. The Commission requested that CCMs provide feedback on the suggested potential next steps for the 2026 review process set out in Table 2 of Attachment 14, noting that some feedback was provided at WCPFC22 for incorporation.

326. The Commission invited nominations from CCMs for a co-Chair of the Port State Measures Working Group.

9.7 Review of other CMMs for decision making in 2026

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-15](#)

9.7.1 Marine Pollution

327. The Chair noted that at WCPFC21, the Commission requested interested CCMs to work on the marine pollution issue in 2025 and 2026 in light of [WCPFC21-2024-https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/27320DP04](#) and develop a proposal to amend [CMM 2017-04](#) for submission to TCC22 in 2026 with a view to adopting a measure by WCPFC23.

328. Felicia Cull (Canada) presented an update on the informal intersessional review of the marine pollution measure, referring to [WCPFC22-2025-15](#). Canada advised that written feedback on its 2024 proposal to amend the measure had been sought and compiled, and that a revised draft would be circulated early in 2026 with two

further rounds of written input. Canada intended to continue leading the review with the objective of tabling an amended measure for adoption at WCPFC23.

Discussion

329. Kiribati (on behalf of PNA+) expressed appreciation for Canada's work and supported strengthened controls on pollution from fishing vessels, but raised three concerns: (i) the monitoring imbalance resulting from the difference in observer coverage between the longline and purse seine fisheries, which PNA+ stated undermines the effectiveness of the existing CMM and renders implementation unfair; they stated that including additional obligations that are effectively monitored and applied only in the purse seine fishery would increase that unfairness, and that the imbalance needed to be addressed before the scope of the measure could be extended, and suggested that using the observers on carriers to monitor transfers of plastic may help address the imbalance; (ii) how the CMM will be applied to carriers — the draft revisions to the CMM include several references to ports and to discharge of waste in ports, and no references to discharge of waste from vessels that unload to carriers and PNA+ stated that the management of waste from vessels unloading to carriers needs to be addressed both to ensure the CMM's effectiveness and to avoid deterring the use of ports, especially SIDS ports; and (iii) the scope of the provisions relating to abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). Taking into account the monitoring imbalance, PNA+ stated it could support the proposals regarding ALDFG applying in the high seas, and viewed this approach as compatible with other RFMOs whose convention areas overlap the WCPFC CA.

330. The Marshall Islands supported addressing the monitoring imbalance identified by PNA+, noting limited information for longline fleets relative to purse-seine fleets.

331. The USA underscored broader concerns about microplastics in marine ecosystems and associated human health implications and encouraged national efforts to reduce land-based plastic inputs (e.g. using river-boom systems) and to consider NGO partnerships for mitigation.

332. Niue and the EU commended Canada's leadership and supported continuation of the review into 2026.

333. Sharks Pacific commended Canada for elevating marine pollution—particularly ALDFG and ghost gear—as a core fisheries management issue, and supported clarification and expansion of definitions (e.g. plastics, e-waste, open burning, and noise pollution); alignment with global standards and best practice; strengthened reporting; improved port-reception facilities; and robust compliance and enforcement.

334. The Chair noted broad support for continuation of the intersessional work under Canada's leadership with a view to bringing forward a proposal at WCPFC23.

335. The Commission requested that the informal intersessional process led by Canada continue its work on the review of CMM 2017-04 on Marine Pollution during 2026.

336. The Commission further requested interested CCMs and Observers to engage in this work and to develop recommendations and any proposed amendments to CMM 2017-04 for submission to SC22 and TCC22 in 2026, with a view to adopting a revised measure at WCPFC23.

10 INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS INTO MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF WCPO FISHERIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-16](#), [WCPFC22-2025-17](#), [WCPFC22-2025-IP14](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-IP07](#)

337. The Chair recalled that climate change is a standing agenda item of the Commission pursuant to earlier decisions and introduced Agenda Item 10 on incorporating climate change considerations into the management and conservation of WCPO fisheries and ecosystems. The Chair noted that two presentations would be provided: (i) one by SPC on updated ecosystem and climate change indicators, and (ii) one by a consultant that undertook work on a climate change vulnerability assessment (CCVA) framework.

Climate change and ecosystem indicators

338. Paul Hamer (SPC-OFP) provided a [presentation](#) updating the ongoing work to develop a core set of relevant climate and ecosystem indicators, and presented the trends in various indicators that have so far been selected for annual reporting to SC and WCPFC. The presentation provided background on the important influence of climate change on the region's tuna stocks and fisheries, and progress against the workplan for developing a standard set of observational indicators for tracking change in the regional ocean, ecosystem and climate conditions. An update on the ongoing development of SEAPODYM was also provided, noting updated and enhanced SEAPODYM models for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and Pacific albacore should become available through 2026. Updated data were provided on five indicators that were endorsed by a technical workshop held in Suva, late 2024: El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), sea surface temperature, warm pool area, ocean heat content, and marine heatwaves. Overall, these indicators all support the warming trend of the WCPO region, with some finer scale variation, with increased sea surface temperature (SST) of the warm pool core area, increased ocean heat content, and increased frequency, duration, and depth penetration of marine heatwaves. The ENSO is forecast to move from La Nina/neutral to an El Niño state into mid-2026. This is expected to see a shift in the distribution of purse seine activity back towards the western-central equatorial region and greater reliance on FAD sets.

Discussion

339. The Hon. Ms Mona Esa AINU'U, Minister of Natural Resources for Niue, and Ministerial Chair of the Forum Fisheries Commission, extended appreciation to the Government of the Philippines and the people for the warm hospitality accorded to her delegation. Niue strongly advocated for the adoption of a South Pacific albacore MP at the meeting, stating this is fundamentally important in Niue as a matter of priority. Niue stated that climate change is their lived reality, with their islands face rising seas, warming oceans, and increasingly severe storms, and observed that the recent outcome on climate change at COP30 in Brazil was a disappointment to SIDS, and a stark contrast with the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the global climate crisis. Niue expressed optimism that the Commission would do better to provide realistic and positive measures to govern all interests. As the Chair of the Pacific Forum Fisheries Committee Niue called on partners to be serious, to be science-based, and to work in partnership and ensure that this Commission fulfills its responsibilities to maintain the health, vibrancy, and the sustainability of Pacific vital tuna stocks. Niue stated their readiness to work with all parties as a constructive and determined partner, but emphasised the need to create and operationalize relevant CMMs to protect the ocean and resources. Niue on called colleagues and partners to uphold the legal and moral obligations underscored by the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion to safeguard the ocean and deliver the climate design required to keep our communities safe and resilient.

340. Indonesia underlined the growing importance of integrating climate-related indicators into the Commission's scientific and management work, especially as they relate to the sustainability of tuna stocks in the

WCPO. Indonesia congratulated the Commission, SPC, and the SC for progress in defining climatological indicators and highlighted the need for systematic, regionally consistent tracking to avoid overlooking emerging trends. Indonesia stressed that such work would help the Commission anticipate shifts in tuna distribution and fishing patterns, ensure that CMMs remained adaptive and climate-resilient, and support more robust harvest strategies. Indonesia requested that future analyses of climate change impacts on tuna resources explicitly include the geographical areas of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, given their significant contributions to WCPO tuna fisheries and their location in climate-sensitive transition zones, and expressed readiness to collaborate with SPC, the SC, and CCMs.

341. The EU recognised that climate change, through rising temperatures, sea level rise and extreme weather events, poses serious threats to the economies and food security of SIDS and challenges their livelihoods and future, and stated that climate change is a global emergency that does not recognize national borders and requires urgent international cooperation and coordinated solutions at all levels. The EU recalled its role as an active advocate for prompt and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, including support to developing countries for mitigation, resilience, and adaptation. The EU thanked SPC for its informative work on ecosystems and climate indicators, expressed support for continuation and further development of this work, and requested information on future work, including any collaboration with other tuna RFMOs such as the IATTC.

342. In response, SPC noted that its work on climate indicators and oceanography was highly collaborative with external experts and institutions and stated it would follow up on the specific question of IATTC engagement.

343. Marshall Islands thanked SPC for its “gloomy but realistic” presentation and expressed deep concern about the implications of successive record-hot years. Marshall Islands urged SPC to work with coastal States to develop early-warning tools that would allow CCMs to anticipate and respond to adverse climate-related changes in tuna stocks and fisheries. It queried what more the Commission and CCMs could do, in light of the scientific information presented, to address climate risks and asked SPC what additional support—financial or data-related—would be needed to advance this work. Marshall Islands indicated its willingness to support such needs through the FAC and to adjust national programmes to assist with data requirements.

344. The Philippines commended the Commission’s efforts to address climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries and ecosystems and recognised the importance of vulnerability assessments and ecosystem and climate indicators as tools to guide science-based decisions. The Philippines encouraged SPC and the Commission to actively integrate climate considerations into their work so that scientific advice, management measures and compliance mechanisms were responsive to emerging risks. It emphasised the need to strengthen data collection, modelling, and collaboration with external organisations and other RFMOs to support informed decision-making, and stressed that findings from vulnerability assessments and indicator reports should inform harvest strategies, MPs, and CMMs to ensure that climate impacts are fully reflected in sustainable fisheries management. The Philippines supported continued cross-RFMO coordination and expressed its commitment to supporting the Commission in developing practical tools and strategies that safeguard the long-term sustainability of fisheries.

345. Cook Islands aligned with the FFA statement, thanked SPC for its comprehensive presentation, and commended efforts to advance work under Resolution 2019-01. Cook Islands noted that the updated indicators provide clear evidence that climate change was already affecting the WCPO, including through rising SST, increasing ocean heat content, more frequent and persistent marine heatwaves, and ENSO-driven variability influencing fishing distribution and catch composition. Cook Islands emphasised that these indicators are becoming essential tools to inform Commission-level decisions and national management planning for CCMs and welcomed progress towards a standardised annual climate “report card” to support consistent, long-term understanding of climate risk.

346. Solomon Islands on behalf of PNA+ supported the development of candidate ecosystem and climate change indicators and highlighted that preservation of fishing rights in the face of climate change was at the forefront of their considerations in the Commission. PNA+ considered that the climate change vulnerability assessment work could be better targeted at operational MCS and CMM implementation issues, to help “future-proof” monitoring and management in the face of climate change. They referred, in particular, to insights from trial analyses related to marine pollution measures.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

347. Kerry Robertson (Adira Consulting) addressed the outputs of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) Framework consultancy project commissioned by WCPFC21, discussed its value as an exploratory process, and discussed ways of improving WCPFC's understanding of climate risks. The work was presented to NC21, SC21, and TCC21, and feedback helped refine the conclusions. SPC also made significant contributions, particularly to the output mapping process. The consultant reported that the project's literature review demonstrated the importance of scalability, flexibility, and context specificity, noting that vulnerability assessments were most useful when used as planning tools. The consultant highlighted that WCPFC's attempt to assess climate vulnerability of multi-jurisdictional fisheries management systems—including TCC-related operational and compliance aspects—was genuinely novel, but also more complex than typical biophysical assessments. The consultant explained that the framework was built around the IPCC AR6 risk concept, in which climate risk = (hazard) x (exposure) x (vulnerability, comprising sensitivity and adaptive capacity). The fundamental questions WCPFC needs to answer to understand climate risks are: (i) what climate hazards (e.g. temperature extremes, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, extreme events) are occurring or projected; (ii) which species, habitats, fleets, ports or systems are exposed to those hazards; (iii) how sensitive are these species and systems; and (iv) what adaptive capacity exists at biological, operational, and institutional levels. The framework's indicators were structured to address these questions for both SC (biophysical) and TCC (operational/compliance) domains. The consultant noted that, through feedback from SC21 and TCC21 and the detailed mapping of existing SPC outputs, it had become clear that many of the framework's indicators, particularly those relevant to TCC, were not currently produced or would require substantial new work by SPC, the Secretariat, and CCMs. The consultant presented two broad options to the Commission. Option A — immediate implementation of the CCVA framework as originally envisaged — which would require substantial expansion of SPC's work programme, new data collection systems and long-term resource commitments, with the risk that assessments for many CMMs would be of limited confidence given current data and review capacity. Option B — a more pragmatic, incremental approach aimed at progressively improving WCPFC's understanding of climate risks without currently attempting a comprehensive framework assessment — which could include development of species-specific climate profiles, cross-cutting operational risk assessments (e.g. for extreme weather impacts on MCS systems), new approaches to oceanographic data collection and strategic partnerships, as well as selective application of parts of the framework where feasible. The consultant recommended Option B as the more realistic approach because incremental, capacity-matched steps were more likely to result in meaningful and sustainable progress. She emphasised that the framework and its Excel tool remained available as a reference and diagnostic instrument and could be adopted more fully in the future when data, institutional capacity, and Commission priorities allowed.

Discussion

348. Niue, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the consultants for their climate change vulnerability assessment work and recognised that the consultancy had fully met its terms of reference, providing valuable conceptual tools for understanding climate risks. FFA members noted, however, that full implementation of the proposed CCVA framework would not be feasible at this stage without substantial new resources, a broader analytical scope, and additional data not currently collected by the Commission. They stressed the importance of improving

understanding of climate risks through existing WCPFC structures—SC, TCC, and SPC—rather than establishing a parallel process. FFA members supported incremental integration of climate considerations into existing workflows and recognised the utility of qualitative methods (e.g. structured consultations and expert elicitation) where quantitative data are unavailable. They indicated that the conceptual work could be drawn upon when conditions and Commission priorities allowed and emphasised the need for climate risk to be progressively integrated into decision-making.

349. Korea thanked the consultant, SPC, and the Secretariat for their work and considered the CCVA framework and tool to be a useful starting point for bringing climate risk into WCPFC decision-making in a more systematic way. Korea supported a stepwise approach that first focused on cross-cutting and operational risks rather than attempting exhaustive CMM-by-CMM assessments that could overload both the Secretariat and CCMs. Korea stressed that CCVA-related work should be closely linked to existing processes, including stock assessments, harvest strategies, and SC's climate change work plan, so that outputs were decision-ready and not purely descriptive. Korea saw particular value in species climate profiles, basic fleet and port risk screening, and simple indicators that could be updated regularly, and underlined the need to ensure that tools remained accessible for SIDS, both in terms of data requirements and technical capacity, and avoiding duplication with existing work.

350. Cook Islands thanked the consultancy team and appreciated the thorough effort to assess the feasibility of implementing a CCVA for WCPFC fisheries. It noted the finding that although the framework is scientifically robust it can't be implemented at present due to severe data gaps, substantial analytical requirements, and workload implications for SPC, TCC, and the Secretariat, as raised at SC21 and TCC21. Cook Islands supported the consultant's recommendation to focus on the overarching objective of improving understanding of climate risks, rather than on full adoption of the framework, and supported Option B.

351. The Commission requested SSP and the Secretariat to explore the development of early warning tools to anticipate climate-driven changes and encouraged CCM support for associated data and resource needs.

352. The Commission noted that the CCVA consultancy had met its terms of reference and provided a sound conceptual framework, while recognizing that full implementation would require substantial additional data and resources. The Commission agreed that climate considerations should be progressively integrated into existing SC, TCC, and Secretariat processes, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

353. The Commission agreed to continue integrating climate considerations into its scientific and management work, guided by the ongoing ecosystem and climate indicator development and by a pragmatic, phased approach to understanding climate risks consistent with current data and resource constraints.

354. The Commission requested SSP to ensure that future assessments of climate impacts on tuna resources explicitly include the geographic regions of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

11 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TUNAS AND BILLFISH, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF HARVEST STRATEGIES

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-IP13](#)

11.1 South Pacific Albacore

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-IP08](#), [WCPFC22-2025-IP15](#), [WCPFC22-2025-DP02](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-19](#)

11.1.1 Establishment of the WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore tuna management (SPA-JWG)

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-19](#)

355. The Chair recalled the tasking from WCPFC21 to establish a WCPFC–IATTC Joint Working Group (JWG) on South Pacific albacore management. The Chair acknowledged the support of the USA in coordinating intersessional work and noted that two joint informal meetings had been held with IATTC, which resulted in draft terms of reference and a provisional workplan. The Chair noted that IATTC had already adopted these documents.

356. Samoa, for FFA members, expressed satisfaction with progress by the JWG and fully supported WCPFC adoption of the terms of reference and provisional workplan. FFA members stated they wished to see development of a CDS for South Pacific albacore considered as part of monitoring measures in the future implementing measure and intended to raise this at the inaugural meeting of the JWG. FFA members supported continued coordination by both Secretariats to facilitate engagement by members of the two Commissions.

357. French Polynesia, located in the overlap area, expressed appreciation for efforts by CCMs within both RFMOs and encouraged continued support, including budgetary and logistical support, for the JWG. French Polynesia stressed the importance of ensuring that SIDS and territory status, which is not yet recognised by IATTC, be fully considered in the JWG so that their needs are addressed. French Polynesia supported adoption of the terms of reference and provisional workplan.

358. The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference for the WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific Albacore (SPA-JWG) ([Attachment 15](#)) and endorsed the provisional 2026 Workplan ([Attachment 16](#)).

359. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to work with the IATTC Secretariat to confirm the venue and dates for the first formal hybrid meeting in March 2026 as early as possible, for timely notification to both Commissions.

11.1.2 Report on the South Pacific Albacore Management Workshop

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-20](#)

360. The Chair recalled that the Commission agreed at WCPFC21 to convene a South Pacific Albacore Management (SPAM) Workshop in 2025, between the sessions of SC21 and TCC21, with a focus on the development of an MP for South Pacific albacore, associated implementing arrangements, and mixed fisheries interactions, in particular compatibility between a South Pacific albacore MP and the bigeye MP. The Chair invited the co-chairs of the SPAM workshops — the SC Chair and the SPA Roadmap IWG Chair, Moses Mataika (Fiji) — to present the outcomes.

361. The SC Chair stated that two SPAM workshops had been convened. [SPAM01](#) (held 11–12 September 2025) considered the development of candidate MPs, implementing arrangements and mixed fishery interactions, and compatibility between the South Pacific albacore MP and the bigeye MP. There was strong support for focusing the MP on the area south of 10°S, although some members expressed concern regarding the exclusion of the 0°–10°S band. Views differed on the appropriate baseline reference period and on the magnitude of permitted year-to-year changes under the MP. No single preferred MP was identified, but members converged on a three-year management period and a two-year data lag. SPC was requested to undertake further analyses to narrow the list of candidate MPs. On implementing arrangements and mixed fisheries, SPAM01 discussed the development of a new CMM to operationalise the MP with a zone-based structure compatible with high seas limits. Members

highlighted the importance of South Pacific albacore to SIDS economies and stressed consideration of Articles 10-3 and 30 of the Convention. There was general support for flexibility to address variability in the fishery, alongside strengthened monitoring requirements. Some members supported separating tropical longline activity from the South Pacific albacore longline fishery, while others noted that the mixed fishery framework was new and required careful consideration. Recognising that more work was needed, SPAM01 agreed to hold a second workshop in November 2025.

362. The IWG Chair reported on [SPAM02](#), which was held virtually on 5 November 2025 and focused on further development of candidate MPs and management arrangements for an implementing CMM to replace CMM 2015-02. SPC presented six additional analyses to SPAM02 that were requested by SPAM01. Discussions centred on narrowing the list of harvest control rules to be forwarded to WCPFC22. SPAM02 considered an FFA proposal for a South Pacific albacore MP and the associated implementing measure and discussed member views on these proposals. While the list of candidate harvest control rules was somewhat narrowed, a substantial number remained under consideration, and several key issues, including the geographic scope of the MP and the assumed level of catches in the EPO remained unresolved. On implementing arrangements, SPAM02 discussed the FFA proposal for a new CMM to replace CMM 2015-02. Members raised concerns about increased monitoring requirements and the split between high seas and EEZ limits, while also recognising the flexibility and transferability provided in the proposal. SPAM02 requested further information from SPC, which was provided through information papers [WCPFC22-2025-IP16](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-IP16A](#). The co-chairs noted that the anticipated next steps for WCPFC22 included adopting a South Pacific albacore MP; adopting or endorsing further work on an implementing measure to replace CMM 2015-02; approving continuation of a three-year MP monitoring, review and adjustment cycle; and tasking SPC and SC22 to report in 2026 on initial implementation and data integration.

363. Finlay Scott (SPC-OFP) gave a presentation on [South Pacific albacore management procedure evaluations](#), as detailed in [WCPFC22-2025-21](#). Following the mixed fishery harvest strategy approach, the South Pacific albacore MP applies to longline and troll fisheries operating in the region south of 10°S in the WCPFC-CA, excluding the portions of the EEZs of Tokelau and Tuvalu that are south of 10°S. Seven candidate MPs were evaluated, each with different long-term objectives and assumptions about catches of South Pacific albacore by fisheries not managed through the MP. As the adoption of a South Pacific albacore MP is conditional upon the assumptions made about future catches by these fisheries, catches by these fisheries will need to be monitored as part of the South Pacific albacore MP monitoring strategy to determine if these assumptions are still valid. Sensitivity tests were performed for several of the candidate MPs in which the future South Pacific albacore catches in the EPO and in the equator to 10°S region of the WCPFC-CA were higher than the baseline assumptions.

Discussion

364. Korea thanked SPC and asked how changes in albacore catches in areas outside the MP — such as 0°–10°S, the excluded EEZ portions and the US troll fisheries — would affect MP performance if actual catches diverged from assumed levels. Korea further asked how the fact that all three main MPs are catch-based would interact with implementation in terms of effort limits, and whether implementing MP outputs as effort limits rather than catch limits would introduce additional uncertainty.

365. SPC responded that the evaluations necessarily relied on assumptions. The main MP catches were based on 2014–2023 averages. If future catches outside the MP area differed significantly, this would be addressed through the MP monitoring strategy. SPC noted that the monitoring strategy would track whether key assumptions remained valid and, if not, would trigger consideration of re-evaluation or adjustment of the MP. SPC also stated that conversion of catch outputs into effort limits and any associated uncertainties related to the implementing

measure would need to be considered in the context of the implementing CMM, and that the MP monitoring strategy would also be relevant.

366. The EU requested clarification on whether robustness testing had included scenarios with significant interannual variation in catches within the MP area, with a view to informing the suitability of reconciliation arrangements in the proposed implementing CMM.

367. SPC indicated that sensitivity tests had focused on alternative assumptions about EPO and tropical longline catches, and that implementation details such as reconciliation of over- and under-harvests were not explicitly modelled in the evaluations. SPC suggested that the impact of such implementation features would also be captured through MP monitoring.

368. Japan thanked SPC and referred to the probability of the stock falling below the LRP under HCR 10, noting a reported 15% probability of falling below the LRP in a medium or long-term projection. Japan suggested that in the short term the probability should be a minimum of 20%.

369. In response to an inquiry from Japan regarding the exact probability of falling below the LRP in the short term (by 2034), given that members were considering a first implementation period of six years, SPC advised that the requested value was contained in the tables in WP21.

370. The Chair thanked the SPAM co-chairs and SPC for their work.

11.1.3 Adoption of South Pacific albacore Management Procedure (MP)

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-21](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-DP02a](#)

371. As agreed under Agenda Item 1, the Commission established a Small Working Group to meet during WCPFC22 to consider the South Pacific albacore management procedure, led by Mat Kertesz (Australia). The Chair of the SPA MP SWG reported that the group had held two constructive meetings, including an evening session, and had undertaken a detailed review of the draft MP. While several minor issues remained, the principal outstanding matter concerned the selection of the HCR. The SWG Chair noted that discussions on the HCR were ongoing, including during meeting breaks, and considered that the group was close to resolving this issue. The SWG Chair recommended convening one further SWG session to finalise the outstanding elements and to translate the group's work into a fully developed proposal for consideration by the Commission. He expressed confidence that, with additional time, the SWG could reach agreement on the selection of the HCR and provide a final proposal to the Commission for adoption at WCPFC22.

372. New Caledonia recalled the Commission's previous decision that adoption of a South Pacific albacore MP was mandatory at WCPFC22 and emphasised that this decision was crucial for SIDS and territories whose domestic fleets depend on the fishery for economic viability and food security. New Caledonia stressed that, while the MP must ensure a healthy stock, it must also safeguard catch levels and yields sufficient to support domestic fleets and livelihoods. It expressed appreciation for the analytical guidance provided by SPC and reiterated its support for adopting an MP that incorporates HCR7, which it viewed as an acceptable consensus option consistent with the Commission's objectives and principles. New Caledonia underlined that South Pacific albacore spends a major part of its life in the EEZs of SIDS, contributes directly to food security and employment, and that SIDS were fully shouldering their responsibilities by supporting HCR7.

373. Cook Islands on behalf of FFA members highlighted that SIDS had consistently advocated for an MP that both protects the economic viability of their fleets and ensures the sustainability of the resource that underpins

food security, employment and national economies. They acknowledged the concerns of some CCMs regarding the security and longevity of their fleets in the face of declining catch rates, noting that some fleets had effectively been driven from the fishery. FFA members also recognised that some SIDS supported more conservative HCRs to better meet economic objectives, but reaffirmed that, for FFA members, HCR7 remained the only logical and balanced option, as it met the agreed objectives in DP02a and required compromise by all CCMs. FFA members stressed that the MP should remain focused and free of elements that would undermine its purpose, and that issues relating to allocation, management arrangements, and flexibility in how CCMs participate in the fishery under the MP should be addressed in the implementing CMM, not in the MP itself. To secure adoption of HCR7, FFA members stated their willingness to demonstrate flexibility in negotiations on the South Pacific albacore implementing CMM during 2026, including with respect to EEZ–high seas splits and transferability provisions, as set out in DP02b, which they proposed as the working draft for future discussions. FFA members requested written comments from CCMs on DP02b. FFA members further proposed that the Commission convene a two-day workshop dedicated to South Pacific albacore in Wellington, New Zealand, on 7–8 May 2026, with draft terms of reference and related steps to be circulated by the Secretariat for CCMs' comments. They noted that 2026 would be a critical year for work on South Pacific albacore and reiterated that their immediate goal remained the adoption of the South Pacific albacore MP at WCPFC22.

374. The Chair of the SPA MP SWG provided a final report on its discussions and advised several CCMs had expressed a strong preference for HCR 13 but were willing to compromise to HCR 7, while other CCMs had preferred HCR 10 but were also willing to compromise to HCR 7. At the close of the SWG, one CCM still favoured HCR 10. The SPA MP SWG Chair advised that work on an implementing measure would need to continue in the subsequent year following adoption of an MP.

375. Chinese Taipei recalled their fleet's long history of operations in the WCPO, stating hundreds of their vessels and tens of thousands of their fishermen were dependent on the fishery for their livelihoods. Chinese Taipei stated that the harvest of Pacific albacore is one of the primary targets for its fishing fleet, and that ensuring the sustainability of these resources and the fisheries has always been their goal. Chinese Taipei noted the importance of the MP for South Pacific albacore. Chinese Taipei stated that as one of the major fleets in the region, insufficient fishing opportunity would severely undermine the survival of their industry and cause a significant hardship. Therefore, Chinese Taipei stated it would prefer an HCR option with a higher catch, namely HCR10; HCR7, supported by other CCMs, would result in a lower catch, estimated to be around 56,000 MT, while the 2024 total catch for the WCPO longline and the troll was around 63,000 MT (adoption of the MP would thus result in a catch reduction of over 12%). Chinese Taipei stated it conducted a vessel buyback and scrap program for longline vessels since 2023, resulting in a significant decrease in the number of longline vessels in its fleet, and voiced concern that adopting the MP with lower catch will further impact its fisheries, beyond what they could afford. Chinese Taipei noted that an allocation decision in the near future could further increase the catch reduction ratio for its high seas fleet, with the likely result that additional vessels would need to leave the fishery, and the fishermen would be forced to pursue other livelihoods. However, Chinese Taipei stated that in the spirit of cooperation, it was prepared to show maximum flexibility and compromise and would not block the consensus support by a majority of members to adopt HCR7 in the MP. Chinese Taipei urged members to take its difficulty into consideration during future formulations on implementing measures, and stated it would continue to uphold goodwill, sincerity, and a cooperative spirit, and work with all members to promote the sustainability of Commission resources.

376. China noted its status as the largest harvester of South Pacific albacore in the WCPFC Convention Area and recalled an initial preference for a higher catch limit through HCR 10, given the healthy status of the stock. China recognised the importance of South Pacific albacore for food security, local economies, and community stability in FFA members, and, in a spirit of mutual accommodation, indicated it would no longer pursue HCR 10 and would

not oppose selection of HCR 7. China also urged that in future allocation of fishing opportunities between EEZs and high seas, historical catch records and fishing effort be taken into full account as a key factor.

377. Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, stated development of the MP had taken enormous effort, compromise and understanding by all CCMs and SIDS were pleased with the result. FFA members stated they fully understood the comments made by other CCMs in relation to the challenges and concerns surrounding adoption of the South Pacific albacore MP, and FFA members pledged to work closely with CCMs to seriously take into account their interests, challenges, and needs in the finalization of the South Pacific albacore implementing measure in 2026. FFA members stressed that the work would continue in 2026, including through the IWG, an allocation workshop, the Joint Working Group with IATTC, and at WCPFC23, and stated their understanding of the concerns of some CCMs regarding allocation criteria. They proposed on behalf of FFA members that the Commission adopt the measure.

378. American Samoa expressed appreciation to CCMs for cooperative engagement and described adoption of an MP for South Pacific albacore as a milestone for the Commission. They fully recognized the flexibility of CCMs in addressing the needs of SIDS and participating territories and reminded CCMs that discussions on an implementation measure would follow the adoption of the MP, with the opportunity to further address varying management objectives. American Samoa noted that while it and some other SIDS and participating territories would have preferred HCR 13, it accepted HCR 7 in order to ensure a unified approach. American Samoa considered HCR 7 an acceptable compromise between HCR 10 and HCR 13, providing suitable vulnerable biomass and catch stability and helping to maintain viable longline fisheries for domestic island fleets and associated economies and cultures.

379. New Caledonia commended the Chair of the SPA MP SWG for effective leadership and supported adoption of the MP incorporating HCR 7, which it considered helpful for maintaining long term stability in catch and yield. New Caledonia thanked Chinese Taipei and China for flexibility and supported retention of the FFA implementing measure proposal as a draft working document for discussions in 2026. New Caledonia underlined the strong dependence of its longline fishery on South Pacific albacore and requested that CCMs give full consideration of the specific needs of territories and ensure they are included in future discussions on the implementing measure.

380. Fiji stated that CCMs had worked diligently to ensure that the Commission would deliver an MP that would provide for the national interest of all CCMs and responds to calls from industry to meet their needs, and stated that this provided a starting point to build a long-term management framework that minimizes variability and provides operational stability and sustainability for CCMs' fleets, processing sectors, and markets. Fiji observed that adoption of the MP places the Commission on the right path towards comprehensive and cohesive management and was a significant milestone in the work of the Commission. Fiji was joined by Korea in thanking all CCMs for their contributions to the process, as well as the SPAM co-Chairs, the SWG Chair, and SPC.

381. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-01 on a Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore Tuna ([Attachment 17](#)).

11.1.4 Adoption of Implementation Arrangements for the MP

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-DP02b](#)

382. Japan recalled its question raised under Agenda Item 4.2 regarding the proposal by FFA members in DPO2 that the TAC determined by the management procedure be split such that 75% would be attributed to EEZs and 25% to the high seas. Japan inquired regarding the rationale for the proposal, given that in recent years catch

shares between EEZs and high seas have been almost 50:50. Japan noted that Cook Islands had responded to its inquiry by indicating FFA's proposal takes into account the provisions of Article 30. Japan stated that there is no applicable calculation under Article 30, and that while it did not agree, Japan could understand the rationale. Japan stated its second question related to the repeatedly stated intention of FFA members to implement the MP through a VDS in their waters, but in the implementation proposal there is no provision to convert TAC or the catch limit into vessel days or something similar. Japan asked how FFA members proposed to implement the VDS through the proposed implementation measure.

383. The Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, recalled that FFA members had already provided an explanation regarding the catch split, and reiterated that the proposed split was based on broader considerations under Articles 10-3 and 30 of the Convention, and not solely on catch history. FFA members stated that the proposed allocation reflected combined application of these articles and their interpretation of the rights and interests of SIDS.

384. Following adoption of the South Pacific albacore MP under agenda Item 11.1.3, the Chair drew attention to a draft work plan for the SPA Roadmap IWG under Agenda Item 9.4, draft terms of reference for a workshop on South Pacific albacore allocation in 2026, and a schedule illustrating the sequence of harvest strategy related meetings, including work on bigeye tuna. The Secretariat confirmed that budget provision existed for a two-day South Pacific albacore implementation workshop hosted by New Zealand and one additional day in association with TCC22 for related work. Japan sought clarification on whether an in-person bigeye tuna management procedure workshop indicated in the draft schedule for September 2026 would be held in conjunction with TCC22 or as a separate event. The SC Chair explained that the timing of the bigeye tuna MP workshop remained indicative and would depend on funding and hosting arrangements, and that the workshop would likely be virtual unless external funding enabled an in-person event. The SC Chair expected the workshop to take place after TCC22, probably in October rather than September, and reported ongoing discussions with IATTC regarding a possible shift of the joint WCPFC-IATTC meeting to late February. China noted the number of intersessional activities and requested that hybrid participation be provided for the South Pacific albacore implementation working group, given budget constraints faced by some CCMs. New Zealand confirmed its intention to host the South Pacific albacore allocation workshop in early May, with tentative dates of 7–8 May, and to provide hybrid participation.

385. The Commission agreed to progress an Implementing Measure through the SPA-IWG activities in 2026, taking into account the proposal from FFA members contained in [WCPFC22-2025-DP02b](#) and noting the need for flexibility in developing implementing arrangements for South Pacific albacore management.

386. The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference for a South Pacific albacore allocation workshop ([Attachment 18](#)) to be held in New Zealand, tentatively on 7-8 May 2026.

11.2 Issues related to CMM 2023-01 on the Conservation and Management of Bigeye, Yellowfin, and Skipjack tunas in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-DP09](#), [WCPFC22-2025-22](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-IP12](#)

i. Evaluation of the effectiveness of CMM 2023-01 (tropical tunas)

387. Graham Pilling (SPC-OFP) presented WP22 on the *Evaluation of CMM 2023-01: Tropical Tuna Measure* which evaluates the potential for CMM 2023-01 to achieve its objectives for each of the three WCPO tropical tuna (bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack) stocks as specified in paragraphs 11 to 13 of that CMM. The evaluation applies a two-step approach to quantify provisions of each option – translating each specified

management option into future potential levels of purse seine effort and longline catch – and then evaluating the potential consequences of each option. Given not all fleets or fisheries impacting tropical tuna stocks have specific limits under the measure, different scenarios were developed to bracket the potential outcomes under the measure. Objectives were achieved for skipjack under all scenarios. For bigeye, under fishing levels consistent with the ‘fully utilised’ scenario, the stock falls below the objective and hence the CMM objective would not then be met. For yellowfin, the CMM objective is not met under any of the scenarios examined. Fishing levels in 2024 were evaluated to examine whether they were consistent with the levels expected under the different CMM scenarios. Purse seine FAD sets were notably below levels expected given the shorter FAD closure period in CMM 2023-01, while longline catches of yellowfin were notably higher than baseline levels but within the range evaluated within the CMM scenarios.

Discussion

388. Tonga, on behalf of FFA members, thanked SPC for the updated evaluation, stating it shows that while skipjack continues to perform well and bigeye can achieve its management objective under moderate effort condition, yellowfin remains below its target under the tested scenarios. The results also indicate that bigeye is exposed to elevated risk under scenarios involving full utilization and long-term recruitment assumptions. FFA members stated that these findings highlight the importance of recognizing mixed fishery interaction across the tropical tuna stocks. In light of this, FFA members encouraged the Commission to consider whether the current yellowfin objectives remain appropriate or may require further review to reflect these interactions. Tonga encouraged the Commission to take heed of these results and to avoid making any changes at this stage that could undermine bigeye or yellowfin outcomes.

389. Korea noted that under all future scenarios examined, yellowfin stocks do not achieve the current CMM's objective of maintaining the stock at or above 2012 to 2015 levels given that the long-term outcomes for yellowfin tuna deteriorated. The results appear to indicate that strengthened management of longline fishing activities may be necessary to achieve the agreed objectives. However, according to the latest catch information, as of 2024 only about 12% of yellowfin catches are taken by longline fisheries, whereas about 85% are taken by purse seine and other fisheries, where a specific MP for yellowfin has not been developed. Korea stated that focusing solely on changes in yellowfin catches that arise from applying the same level of bigeye scalar to longline fisheries made it difficult not only to fully address the yellowfin stock status but also to achieve the original intent of the harvest strategies for tropical tunas. In this context Korea inquired whether any previous analyses have examined the implications for yellowfin stock status of increased yellowfin catches by purse seine fisheries, not only in terms of FAD-associated effort but also catch levels, and if there are plans for future work to address and adjust for this issue, so that this potential impact can be more appropriately reflected in the harvest strategies?

390. SPC stated that there is a question about whether the 2012–2015 level is considered appropriate for yellowfin, which is a discussion that should take place when considering the objectives for the fishery and the stock, and what the equivalent TRP level would be. While the objective as written is not achieved, the results presented show that the risk of falling below the LRP or being above F_{MSY} is 0 or low for the different scenarios up to the fully utilized scenario. SPC stated that — at least biologically — the yellowfin stock seems to be able to sustain the level of fishing that is assumed under the tropical tuna CMM. SPC stated that the question for the Commission is whether the implications for catch rates are acceptable. Regarding the implications of purse seine fishing combined with longline catch, SPC performed analyses for the tropical tuna CMM discussions two or three years ago that looked at different purse seine effort levels and longline catch levels for yellowfin, and the implications for yellowfin depletion; those values are available and can be examined again. SPC stated that the third issue is the considerable impact from some of the smaller-scale fisheries that are operating inside the

archipelagic waters of some of WPEA countries that have a notable impact on the yellowfin stock. Those are obviously outside the purview of the Commission but need to be considered when performing such analyses.

391. FSM, on behalf of PNA+, inquired about resolving conflicts between stock outcomes, noting persistent results in SPC's papers indicating potential conflicts between objectives of the different stocks, and suggested this would be a good time to be thinking about how to address those conflicts. PNA+ asked SPC if they have thoughts on how to address those potential conflicts. PNA+ also noted that the recent levels of fishing are different from the 2019–2021 baseline in some respects and suggested 2022–2024 catch and effort levels could be a more realistic baseline and proposed using that baseline in 2026.

392. SPC stated that at WCPFC21 it presented work on bigeye and yellowfin TRPs, and the Commission noted then that it was not possible to achieve the existing objectives in the tropical tuna CMM for all stocks simultaneously, which was illustrated by the current presentation. The objective in the tropical tuna CMM is essentially the "recent period" from prior stock assessments (two rounds ago) for those two stocks. The assessments have been updated since then. SPC noted a review of the yellowfin stock assessment was conducted and the outcomes of that review have been and continue to be implemented in the most recent and planned assessments for that stock. That has led to a change in the historical pattern of depletion for yellowfin, as well as for bigeye. SPC stated that whether the Commission feels that the objective based on that most recent period six years ago is still optimal remains open for consideration; how to address that is a management question and SPC stated it could support it with analyses as requested. In terms of the baseline period, SPC stated it uses 2019–2020 because those are last three years in the most recent stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin. For upcoming 2026 stock assessments the most recent years will be 2021 to 2023, and those could be used as the baseline for the assessments or for the evaluation, but SPC noted that the baseline makes no difference — it is just a level of catch that's being scaled off to achieve the different scenarios being examined.

393. Indonesia sought clarification on (i) the longline yellowfin catch increase, (ii) the potential for an increase in purse-seine effort (up to 2012 levels under the skipjack MP), and (iii) if SPC will conduct a similar evaluation in 2026.

394. SPC confirmed that the longline catch is 34% higher than the 2019–2021 baseline levels and observed that this is within the range of scenarios that the tropical tuna CMM allows, under the assumption that longline yellowfin and bigeye catches go up and down in synchrony. SPC noted that the impact on a stock is a combination of all the gears taking that stock. One element alone is not indicative unless for example that element was consistently higher than expected. In terms of whether purse seine effort can increase, at least under the skipjack MP the level of purse seine effort can increase up to the levels seen in 2012. On the basis of current information there is still room within the purse seine fishery to increase effort and remain within the levels allowed under the skipjack MP. SPC noted that tropical tuna CMM evaluations are normally conducted every year.

ii. Increased Monitoring Coverage Associated with Increases in Bigeye Catch

395. The Chair recalled earlier SC20/TCC20 discussions regarding use of EM to meet increased observer coverage linked to longline bigeye catch increases, noting the absence of agreed regional EM standards. She referenced [WCPFC22-2025-IP12](#).

396. The EU noted its discomfort with the provision in the tropical tuna measure that allows such arrangements in the absence of agreed common standards for implementing and using EM on board fishing vessels, in particular longliners, in the absence of a regional EMS and/or an agreed WCPFC audit process for national EMS. It emphasised the importance of the work towards developing an EM CMM in WCPFC and stated the EU would not support

similar arrangements in the future tropical tuna measure if WCPFC has been unable to develop a regional EMS so that all interested members can deploy EM systems in a coherent, comprehensive, and harmonized manner.

397. Palau, on behalf of FFA members, supported an interim approach consistent with WCPFC22-2025-IP12, whereby any CCM seeking an increased bigeye longline catch limit would: (a) submit a plan describing how observer coverage above the 5% ROP minimum would be achieved; and (b) provide a supplementary Annual Report Part 1 entry (CMM 2018-05, Annex C6) detailing coverage above 5%.

398. The Marshall Islands supported this approach and emphasized that EM should not be used as a pretext to ignore human observer obligations, particularly on the high seas.

399. The EU stated it could support this as an interim way forward but stressed the need it to ensure that this additional 5% is not simply coverage, but most importantly that all the recordings have been reviewed and the data sent to SPC.

400. Chinese Taipei queried the need to “explain how” increased coverage was achieved where human observers are used, given that observer data are already submitted to SPC. The Secretariat clarified that the interim proposal sought to operationalize the EM pathway in the absence of a final framework by requiring additional reporting if EM is used to justify increases. SPC and the Secretariat confirmed that, although some CCMs indicated interest in EM during 2025, no EM data had yet been received, and 2024 increases had been met with human observers. The EU proposed adding an explicit requirement to submit EM-sourced data (where EM is used) to SPC and the Secretariat, and Chinese Taipei clarified its support provided such requirements apply only to CCMs using EM to meet additional coverage. At Palau’s request, the Chair kept Part 2 open for further informal consultations.

401. Chinese Taipei recalled its understanding that some FFA members did not support using EM coverage to count toward paragraph 37 of CMM 2023-01. Chinese Taipei sought clarity whether any additional requirements would apply only to CCMs wishing to use EM to augment observer coverage, so as to avoid duplicative reporting burdens. The EU supported clarifying audit points to ensure that CCMs invoking EM to justify increased bigeye catch limits provide data corresponding to the specific EM coverage claimed, requesting that this be captured so that there is clear guidance on how such an evaluation would be made.

402. Palau, on behalf of FFA members, proposed that the Commission note the potential interim approach outlined in paragraph 12 of IP12, without seeking a formal decision at WCPFC22. The Secretariat clarified that paragraph 12 of IP12 presented a potential interim approach to assist discussions should Members wish to apply such an approach in the next year; it understood FFA members to be noting this, not proposing a decision.

403. The EU expressed discomfort with having no interim arrangement, noting that without it CCMs might advocate the use of EM for justifying increased harvest levels without any clear information and data requirements.

404. Niue, on behalf of FFA members, suggested that any review of increased coverage linked to increased longline bigeye catch be conducted using ROP observers and the audit points under CMM 2018-05 Annex C paragraph 6.

405. The Secretariat informed the Commission that it had received no notifications from any CCM of intent to use EM in 2025 to monitor increases in BET catch under CMM 2023-01; human observer coverage was being applied at present.

406. China advised that it had notified that, from 2025, it intended to use EM together with human observers to contribute to the additional 5% observer coverage and requested clarity on how compliance would be assessed.

407. The EU sought clarification from FFA whether a modification of the measure was being sought. Niue confirmed that no amendment was proposed and that the CMM allows the use of either human observers or EM, with FFA preference to continue using human observers for this purpose.

408. Korea recognised concerns regarding validation of national EM systems and suggested report language clarifying that, for the purpose of CMM 2023-01, EM coverage should be audited or standardised under Commission arrangements before it could substitute for human observer coverage. The EU supported the proposal by Korea.

409. Japan acknowledged China's planning and expressed concern that abrupt non-recognition of EM for 2025 could risk a perception of non-compliance. It suggested accommodating data from deployed EM where it meets agreed fields and is submitted for assessment. The EU clarified that its understanding was that any decision taken would apply from 2026, thereby not affecting CCMs' compliance status for activities in 2025 while work on EM audit processes proceeded. China indicated that, on the basis of that clarification, it could go along with the proposed way forward.

410. At the Chair's request, Korea reiterated the intent of its suggestion: that references to "EM coverage" in CMM 2023-01 be understood as any EMS audited or established by the Commission, with flexibility on precise wording.

411. The Chair concluded that there was no decision to institute an interim approach at WCPFC22. The Commission agreed that the Summary Record/report language would reflect the understanding that, from 2026 and until a WCPFC EM programme/audit process is adopted, additional observer coverage associated with increased longline BET catches under CMM 2023-01 would be met by human observers, and that Korea's intent regarding Commission-audited/established EM would be reflected for future consideration. The EU indicated it could accept this approach in the absence of a formal decision.

iii. Expiry of CMM 2023-01 and Workplan Alignment

412. Australia and SPC presented [WCPFC22-2025-DP11](#), which explores broader planning and scheduling considerations for development, adoption, and implementation of key tuna stock harvest strategies and proposes high-level revisions to the harvest strategy schedule that would inform the Harvest Strategy Workplan. It also summarises the outcomes of SC21 discussions on this issue. The following points and assumptions were noted:

- It is assumed that MPs will generally be run on a regular three-year cycle. It is highly desirable that stock assessments and running of MPs do not occur in the same year.
- Each MP requires the identification of an implementing mechanism for catch or effort control that gives effect to MP outcomes. It is assumed that the mechanism for the three tropical tunas will be the Tropical Tuna Measure (CMM 2023-01), while South Pacific Albacore will have its own implementing CMM. Given Commission workloads, it is desirable to align timing of the running of tropical tuna MPs to a three-year review cycle of the Tropical Tuna Measure.
- The Commission and its subsidiary bodies require adequate time during their scheduled sessions to properly consider harvest strategy matters. Delays over the years have resulted in a backlog of items now falling due over a relatively short period. It would be particularly desirable to reduce overall congestion in the year 2026.

- It is assumed that Commission decisions on the South Pacific albacore and bigeye MPs are made according to the revised schedule, and that the technical work and subsidiary body advice is available to allow those decisions to be taken.

The paper proposes a one-off alignment of harvest strategy timelines by (i) extending the current skipjack MP cycle from three to four years, and (ii) shifting the full review of CMM 2023-01 from 2026 to 2027, aligning the first run of the bigeye MP (2027) and facilitating integrated implementation through the tropical tuna CMM. The paper notes SC21's recommendation supporting a one-time four-year skipjack MP cycle extension given stock status stability relative to the TRP.

413. PNG, on behalf of FFA members, recognized that 2026 was already congested and stated that a full review of the tropical tuna measure in the same year would risk overloading the Commission. They thanked Australia and SPC for the thoughtful paper drawing attention to the broader scheduling and coordination issues under the Harvest Strategy Workplan and the Commission's broader workplan program. FFA members supported the changes proposed in the paper and moving the full review of CMM 2023-01 to 2027 as proposed. They also supported a one-off extension of the current skipjack MP application period from three to four years as recommended by SC21 to ensure smooth alignment with the proposed revised work plan and associated timelines. They stated that in anticipation of moving the full review of CMM 2023-01 to 2027, the Commission should consider a rollover of the measure for one additional year to cover fishing activities on tropical tuna stocks while the review is being undertaken in 2027.

414. The EU expressed their support while expressing the hope that 2027 would not also prove overwhelming. The EU also inquired on the potential impact of the phasing out of MULTIFAN-CL on the existing MSE framework, particularly on the MPs already adopted or to be adopted in the short term. The EU shared its understanding that it would not have an impact in the short term, but sought information from SPC on the potential needs for adjustment to the existing MSE framework when MULTIFAN-CL becomes obsolete and the new modelling approach is introduced.

415. SPC stated that they did not foresee any major problems. The estimation method for example for skipjack, which is a MULTIFAN-CL model, is basically fixed so SPC does not change that, and the current MULTIFAN-CL version will be kept into the future to perform that work unless SPC changes the estimation method in the future. The situation is similar for the operating models.

416. Korea supported the proposal, with Korea stressing that no reopening of broader tropical tuna measure provisions should occur in 2026 beyond minimal consequential edits.

417. Japan expressed support for the proposal.

418. WWF stated that a 5-day Commission meeting would be insufficient in 2026 and suggested holding supplementary hybrid/online meetings to support timely progress on harvest strategies.

419. Indonesia sought clarification that "minimal changes" meant date adjustments only, to which Australia confirmed that no broader substantive changes were intended.

<p>420. The Commission agreed to amend paragraph 53 of CMM 2023-01 so that it will remain in effect until 15 February 2028, and to make corresponding amendments to paragraph 14, paragraph 27,</p>

paragraph 29, and paragraph 42 to provide for the one-year extension of CMM 2023-01 and adopted CMM 2025-02, which supersedes CMM 2023-01 ([Attachment 19](#)).

High Seas Purse Seine Effort Allocation

421. Indonesia introduced [WCPFC22-2025-DP09 Rev02](#), recalling that its participatory rights as a CNM for 500 high seas purse-seine days had been recognized since 2008 and further acknowledged in 2016 correspondence with the Secretariat. Indonesia stated that those rights had not been operationalized due to domestic policy changes but that significant reforms were underway to strengthen MCS systems and data collection, as outlined in its Strategic Compliance Improvement Plan (including expansion of e-logbooks, VMS integration, observer and EM capacity, vessel marking compliance, and integrated registration systems). Indonesia requested that its high seas purse-seine allocation be adjusted to 1,000 fishing days, citing historical participatory rights, renewed fleet development planning, strengthened compliance commitments, and principles of fairness and non-disadvantage to developing States under UNCLOS, the UNFSA, and Articles 10 and 30 of the WCPFC Convention. Indonesia emphasized that the proposal would apply only to Indonesia and would be implemented in conformity with WCPFC standards, contributing operational data to scientific work. Indonesia invited Members to consider and support the proposal.

422. Solomon Islands acknowledged the Indonesia's proposal and thanked them for the rationale provided, but expressed concern about reopening CMM to 2023-01 midway through its agreed term, stating that doing so could set an undesirable precedent, risking reopening sensitive elements that required significant compromise, and divert the Commission's attention away from high priority work, including the South Pacific albacore MP and the related implementing measure. They recalled the Commission had already agreed to commence in 2027 a structured process to develop an equitable allocation framework for purse seine high sea fishing opportunities, and stated that in their view, this would provide a more appropriate avenue for consideration of adjustment to Indonesia's high seas purse seine limit.

iv. Development of Allocation Frameworks for Tropical Tuna

11.3 Skipjack tuna

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-24](#) and [SC21-MI-WP-10](#)

423. Rob Scott (SPC-OFP) presented WCPFC22-2025-24 outlining recent developments to the WCPO skipjack MP monitoring strategy, which is used to routinely evaluate all aspects of the MP to ensure that it is performing as expected. Work conducted to address issues identified in the monitoring strategy included analyses to determine the appropriateness and representativeness of CPUE indices used in the estimation method, and analyses to investigate the impact of changes in the FAD closure period on the expected performance of the SKJ MP. The corresponding advice to the Commission from SC21 was that the current MP remains valid in the short-term, for at least the second implementation of the MP. In the longer-term, degradation of data used in the MP estimator remains a risk which should be addressed before the third implementation of the MP, and that the FAD closure period has very little impact on the expected performance of the skipjack MP. Additional catch and effort information was provided to TCC21 to support evaluation of compliance with the MP. TCC21 noted that the information indicated that in 2024 the catch or effort in the fisheries subject to the SKJ MP were below the levels specified by the MP for 2024-2026. An updated stock assessment for WCPO skipjack was conducted in 2025. SC21 noted the recent stock depletion is close to the recalibrated TRP and is within the range expected through the MSE testing of the adopted interim skipjack MP and that projections indicate relative stability of stock depletion in the future when recent (2024) conditions are assumed. The Commission was invited to consider: directions for strengthening data inputs to the estimation method, advancing integration of climate-related uncertainties, and

maintaining consistency between the MP outputs and the implementation framework under the Tropical Tuna CMM.

Discussion

424. Nauru, on behalf of FFA members, supported the continued implementation of the interim skipjack MP for 2026 to 2027, noting that its performance remains robust and consistent with the 2025 stock assessment. They noted that the changes in FAD closure duration have minimal impact on MP performance but stated that continued monitoring of effort redistribution and fishing behaviour is needed. FFA members recognized that while the MP appears resilient to short-term degradation in Japanese pole and line data, long-term data quality decline remains a risk, and they supported the development of alternative abundance indices for the equatorial region, and continued integration of climate and ecosystem consideration into the skipjack monitoring strategy and operating model grid.

425. Indonesia requested clarification on criteria to determine essential monitoring indicators for the skipjack monitoring strategy and on how the updated approach would ensure these indicators remain sensitive to changes in stock status and fishing activity across the region. Indonesia also asked about improvements to ensure data from different fleets and areas can be consistently used to support MSE.

426. SPC responded that further development work was under way to address temporal changes, noting that software advances provide better capability for modelling changes over time in parameters such as spatial distribution, movement rates, recruitment, growth rates, and maturity. SPC noted that it sought to use all available data for new stock assessments, operating models, and the MSE framework used to test the MPs.

427. PNG, on behalf of PNA+, stated the approach to the monitoring strategy appears to be functioning well for the skipjack MP. PNG noted the removal of the “Commission comments” column in the updated strategy report, and suggested that TCC, SC, and Commission comments form an integrated package that should be retained. They observed that because of this change the reference to the disconnect between the MP and the tropical tuna measure is not visible in the most recent version of the report. They also noted that the recommendation in the paper invites the Commission to consider directions for addressing the disconnect, and that suggested deferral of the running of the skipjack MP provides an opportunity to address the disconnect. FFA members repeated their previous request for advice to be provided to the Commission on what changes would need to be made to the MP so that the scalar can be applied directly to the existing measures in the tropical tuna measure instead of the baselines, and requested that this be included as a WCPFC22 input in the monitoring strategy report under Element 2a on management objectives.

428. SPC acknowledged the request and advised that the suggested realignment and the retention of an appropriate field for Commission comments would be reflected in the next update to the monitoring strategy table.

429. The Commission agreed to a one-time extension of the current skipjack Management Procedure application period from 3 to 4 years so the Management Procedure would be run in 2027, not 2026, with consequential changes every subsequent three-year period. The Commission agreed to amend the Table in paragraph 8, paragraph 11, and paragraph 12 of CMM 2022-01 to reflect this decision and adopted CMM 2025-03, which supersedes CMM 2022-01 ([Attachment 20](#)).

430. The Commission endorsed the consolidated updates to the skipjack monitoring strategy ([Attachment 21](#)).

11.4 Bigeye tuna

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-25](#)

431. Rob Scott (SPC-OFP) presented WCPFC22-2025-25 that identifies key decision points and information required to progress development of an MP for bigeye tuna. The results of preliminary evaluations of candidate MPs based on the three TRP options identified by WCPFC21 were outlined and the Commission invited to comment on the initial assumptions and MP designs in the light of the results. In particular, advice was sought on desired approaches for the treatment of the purse seine FAD closure in the MP design and evaluation framework; approaches to ensure compatibility with existing management measures; and scenarios to include as sensitivity analyses to explore the implications of uncertainty in the catch and effort statistics for fisheries in the WPEA region. The short time frame for the completion of work and the limited opportunities for strategic guidance from the Commission before WCPFC23 were noted.

Discussion

432. RMI, on behalf of PNA+, thanked SPC for the work undertaken to present a range of candidate MPs. They reiterated their view that the FAD closure should not be locked into the MP design and requested that SPC evaluate candidate MPs without the assumption of a FAD closure built into the design. PNA+ supported the adoption of a bigeye MP and stated that they are mindful of the strong commercial interest in having an MP adopted in 2026, stating that this has shaped their thinking on what kind of MP design could realistically achieve agreement within the time available, without requiring the Commission to simultaneously negotiate an implementing measure and allocation. PNA+ stated it had given initial thought to how the development of a bigeye MP could be progressed in response to the questions raised by SPC in WP25, and noted these reflections formed the basis of their guidance for further development of candidate BET MPs. They also noted that the bigeye MP will likely only apply to about 27% of the stock and suggested there was therefore limited value in developing a full-blown separate arrangement. The PNA+ stated its preference is to have an MP that is effort based, consistent with the operation of the longline VDS effort limits and with the fact that the majority of the stock is already managed through effort controls. They noted an effort-based MP would likely require the development of a new implementing arrangement, including a negotiated yellowfin catch/effort allocation, and thus would involve a lengthy process. PNA+ stated the MP should recognize existing management arrangements, including the tropical tuna measure, which is consistent with the Convention requirement that pre-existing arrangements be taken into account when developing new measures. Under that approach, the output of the bigeye MP would be a scalar on fishing mortality, similar to the skipjack MP, where the scalar adjusts the existing suite of catch and effort limits. The difference is that the skipjack MP applies the scalar evenly to baseline limits across fisheries, whereas for bigeye, the application could vary. For the proposed bigeye MP, it would be up to the Commission to decide how to apply the fishing mortality scalar within the range of combinations of adjustments to measures that would produce the required fishing mortality adjustment. This could include changes to the length of the FAD closure provided there were appropriate arrangements to avoid any disproportionate burden to PNA+ from adjustments to the FAD closure. PNA+ stated that this approach is fully consistent with the principle in CMM 2022-03 that:

"Harvest strategies developed in accordance with this CMM shall set out the management actions necessary to achieve defined and agreed biological, ecological, economic and/or social objectives in the fisheries. Each harvest strategy shall contain a tailored process for conducting assessments of the biological, economic and social conditions of the fisheries and pre-defined rules that manage the fishery or stock in order to attain the objectives."

RMI stated that the flexibility proposed is also explicitly anticipated in paragraph 9 of CMM 2022-03, which provides that: "Notwithstanding paragraphs 7 and 8 of this CMM, in developing individual harvest strategies, the Commission may tailor elements on a case-by-case basis to suit the specific requirements of a particular fishery or stock."

433. Japan thanked SPC for the concise and focused presentation and expressed serious doubts regarding an MP that controlled only the tropical longline fishery, noting that this fleet accounted for approximately 27% of bigeye tuna catches and primarily targeted larger fish, whereas purse seine FAD operations took mainly juvenile fish and could therefore have a greater overall impact on the stock. Japan questioned whether an MP based solely on controlling tropical longline catch or effort would be effective. Japan strongly preferred inclusion of FAD closure duration within the bigeye MP and stated that, in its view, any robust MP should include FAD closure as a key control variable. Japan supported SPC evaluating (i) scenarios without a FAD closure embedded in the MP and (ii) scenarios where FAD closure duration was explicitly under MP control.

434. Korea supported Japan's view that the FAD closure should be incorporated into the bigeye MP, given the importance of purse seine juvenile catches for the stock and stressed that an MP covering only 27% of catches raised concerns. Korea also referred to recent increases in bigeye tuna catch in the WPEA region and emphasised that sensitivity tests would need to be robust to these developments. Korea indicated it would provide further input as the MP work progressed over the coming year.

435. Chinese Taipei associated itself with the concerns expressed by Japan and Korea regarding an MP that directly controlled less than 1/3 of total bigeye tuna catches, while purse seine catches, particularly of juveniles, were substantially larger. Chinese Taipei considered that controlling only tropical longline catches would not provide effective management and supported including FAD closure as one of the control elements in the MP design. Chinese Taipei also inquired whether the SPC had considered scenarios where, rather than controlling FAD closures, the MP controlled overall effort in the purse seine fishery.

436. SPC responded that the initial evaluations had been based on catch outputs, but effort-based MPs could be developed as required.

437. The USA underlined its strong commitment to developing and adopting a bigeye tuna MP, noting that bigeye was one of the most important stocks under WCPFC management. The USA emphasised the importance of WCPFC22 providing guidance to shape candidate bigeye MPs for consideration in 2026 and stressed that best practice required MPs to actively control the majority of fishing pressure on the stock following best scientific practices applied in all RFMOs, which would require expanding the bigeye MP to also include control of the purse seine fishery. The USA sought confirmation from SPC that a combined longline–purse seine MP for bigeye was technically feasible.

438. SPC confirmed that, based on discussions with CCMs, inclusion of FAD closure duration and purse seine controls in the MP was technically feasible.

439. Following that confirmation, the USA suggested that the Commission request the SSP to develop additional candidate MPs that would include controls for both tropical longline and tropical purse seine fisheries. The USA supported a three-year management period with a two-year data lag, with (i) catch an appropriate output metric for the longline component, and (ii) FAD closure length to control the ratio of free school to FAD sets as the output for the purse seine fishery. The USA expressed flexibility on the precise HCR shape but supported evaluation of HCRs both with and without constraints. The USA supported using the candidate TRPs identified by SC21 as TRPs rather than as thresholds and advocated adopting a TRP for bigeye tuna at WCPFC22 based on the 2012–

2015 average spawning biomass depletion level, in order to provide clear guidance to SPC in developing the most relevant MPs. In view of the compressed timeline, the USA proposed that the Commission recommend virtual intersessional workshops in 2026 to support MP development, ideally one prior to SC22 and one between SC22 and TCC22, and was open to discussing appropriate chairing arrangements, suggesting that the SC Chair could be involved.

440. The EU voiced doubts about the robustness of an MP that directly controlled less than 30% of fishing mortality and emphasised the importance of minimising overlap between MPs for different stocks to avoid conflicting outputs. In this context, the EU supported the option of treating FAD closures as one-off sensitivities. It also supported using catch as the MP output, to avoid complications related to targeting and catchability, and supported a TRP consistent with the management objective in the existing bigeye CMM, as well as a three-year management cycle with a two-year data lag. The EU requested that probabilities of being above SB_{MSY} be calculated and provided as an additional performance indicator, given the relevance to the Convention and international standards. The EU welcomed ongoing work by SPC on developing a robustness set to capture climate-change impacts on MP performance and encouraged further development of this work. The EU asked whether, given the uncertainty and variability in archipelagic WPEA catches, it would be preferable to include these uncertainties as an axis in the operating model grid rather than treating them as sensitivity tests. It also sought clarification on the predicted decline in vulnerable biomass despite maintaining spawning biomass depletion at the 2012–2015 levels, which it considered counter-intuitive, and asked SPC to share insights on this. The EU also enquired how FAD closure duration would be treated in practice if an MP were adopted while FAD closures varied in practice under skipjack management.

441. SPC responded that including archipelagic catch uncertainty as an additional axis in the OM grid would significantly expand the grid and complicate the evaluation, and therefore strongly preferred to treat such uncertainties as one-off sensitivity tests using specified ranges of increased or decreased catches. Regarding vulnerable biomass, SPC explained that, because the MP applied only to the tropical longline fishery, increases in catch allowed under certain TRPs could translate into relatively large percentage changes in longline catches (up to about 50% in some scenarios), which, although consistent with maintaining SSB around the chosen TRP level, would nonetheless reduce vulnerable biomass and CPUE in that fishery relative to recent levels. On FAD closure, SPC indicated that the treatment would depend on how evaluations are designed and which scenarios are tested, and that including some variability in FAD closure assumptions through time would be more realistic but also more resource intensive. This would be examined further in designing the evaluation framework.

442. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the SSP and reiterated FFA members' position from SC21 that FAD closure duration should not be built into the baseline assumptions for the bigeye MP or operating model grid. FFA members considered that FAD closures are management choices that could change over time and recommended that FAD closures instead be incorporated as sensitivity tests, allowing candidate MPs to be evaluated under a range of scenarios, including no closure, the current closure, and extended closures. FFA members supported the SPC's proposed sensitivity scenarios for bigeye catches originating from domestic and archipelagic fisheries in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, encompassing recent levels, recent averages, historical highs and scenarios reflecting Indonesia's new measures. FFA members supported operating the MP on a three-year cycle and considered the proposed $\pm 10\%$ constraint on changes in MP outputs to be reasonable and appropriate for inclusion in candidate MPs. Tuvalu highlighted the significant capacity constraints faced by many FFA members, especially SIDS, given the increasingly congested Commission work programme. Notwithstanding these constraints, FFA members stated they remain fully committed to ensuring adoption of a bigeye MP by 2026. Recognising both the ambitious timeline and the heavy workload, FFA members supported convening an intersessional workshop in 2026 to provide structured guidance from managers on MP development and to ensure that the MP would be ready for adoption within the required timeframe.

443. Indonesia acknowledged the progress made on the bigeye MP and encouraged the Commission to prioritise timely adoption of robust HCRs and reference points with clear implementation timelines to prevent overharvesting, for both bigeye and yellowfin tuna. Indonesia stressed that decisions should be guided by the best available science, incorporate ecosystem considerations and deliver equitable outcomes, particularly for small-scale fisheries dependent on bigeye tuna. Indonesia, noting remaining uncertainty in bigeye stock assessments, asked how the proposed MP would address environmental variability, recruitment shifts, and linkages with yellowfin tuna to ensure that HCRs remained precautionary and sustainable over the long term. Indonesia also asked whether converting between catch and effort outputs would require simple conversions or more complex model-based approaches.

444. SPC responded that upcoming stock assessments for both bigeye and yellowfin in the following year would be used to refine biological and fishery inputs and to better account for uncertainty in recruitment, movement, and spatial structure, including potential climate-related changes. The SSP acknowledged that incorporating more complex spatial structure would be demanding but would be pursued as far as practicable. On catch-effort conversion, the SSP advised that relatively simple conversions — based on historical relationships and expected future performance — were generally adequate.

445. Australia thanked the SSP for its extensive support to WCPFC and acknowledged the long-standing financial support from New Zealand for harvest strategy technical work. Regarding the three candidate bigeye TRPs identified earlier in the year, Australia proposed that the Commission proceed with evaluating all three and allow the choice of TRP to emerge from the MP development process, rather than deciding immediately on a single value. Australia did not express a strong preference for a particular threshold probability but firmly supported a three-year management cycle, noting that shorter cycles would be problematic. Australia appreciated the PNA+ proposal for an MP that incorporated more of the bigeye catch, including purse seine FAD fishing, without prescribing a specific split of conservation burden between sectors, and agreed that this approach could facilitate adoption of a bigeye MP in the near term. Australia supported MP outputs that could be implemented consistently with the existing tropical tuna CMM and encouraged the Commission to provide general guidance along these lines to SPC. Australia indicated its willingness to work with other interested CCMs in the margins to develop appropriate draft text.

446. China thanked the SSP and recalled that its tropical longline fleet had experienced a significant decline in vessel numbers and capacity. China urged caution in assessing the impact of FAD closures on the bigeye stock and highlighted the non-negligible contribution of catches taken in archipelagic waters. China further noted that more than 40% of North Pacific albacore was taken between 0° and 20°N and sought clarification on whether using a tropical longline MP to manage the fishery between 20°N and 10°S would have implications for North Pacific albacore.

447. SPC responded that, under the mixed fishery design, the tropical longline fishery was defined as extending from 20°N to 10°S, and that there would be some overlap with areas where North Pacific albacore was caught. However, North Pacific albacore was defined as a northern stock predominantly caught north of 20°N, and the bulk of its catch was taken outside the tropical MP area. SPC noted that a relatively small proportion of South or North Pacific albacore was caught in the overlapping zone, and this had been considered in the design of the mixed fishery approach.

448. FSM aligned with statements made by the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu on behalf of FFA members. FSM recalled the difficult and protracted negotiations in earlier years to introduce FAD closures to reduce juvenile bigeye mortality, based on scientific advice to achieve a 30% reduction in fishing mortality. FSM stressed that the current objective was to improve management further by developing an MP and related arrangements to ensure

long-term sustainability of bigeye tuna. FSM underlined that the existing FAD closures had been established as a broader conservation measure and noted that conservation burdens had not been uniformly shared across CCMs. FSM reiterated that PNA+ would not accept an MP configuration that locked FAD closures into the MP and reaffirmed PNA+'s openness to discussing options to reduce disproportionate conservation burdens.

449. Korea supported the USA's proposal to evaluate MPs that also include purse seine fisheries and expressed support for holding two online workshops, noting that this was consistent with SPC's request for Commission consideration of a science-management dialogue. Korea reiterated its preference among the TRP options for a level corresponding to 94% of SSB at the 2012–2015 average and expressed support for an average-type TRP in addition to the threshold-type TRP previously suggested by SPC. Korea also supported a three-year management period with a two-year data lag and a catch-based MP.

450. The Marshall Islands reiterated the significant economic costs associated with implementing FAD closures, noting that PNA members lost substantial revenues each time a FAD closure was applied. The Marshall Islands stressed that PNA would not agree to locking FAD closure into the bigeye MP. It recalled that detailed design guidance from PNA+ had already been provided to SPC and looked forward to further engagement on that basis over the next two years. On a science-management dialogue, the Marshall Islands expressed concern about the growing number and cost of meetings and workshops and indicated a preference for online meetings. If an in-person SMD meeting were deemed essential, the Marshall Islands preferred that it be held in the margins of SC, potentially with a shortened SC to help manage costs and the participation burden on small administrations.

451. CNMI expressed concern that the current bigeye MP concept would control only approximately 27% of total catches, placing management responsibilities solely on longline fisheries that targeted larger, adult fish. CNMI highlighted the absence of management controls on juvenile fishing mortality from purse seine and other sources and considered that this would likely drive further declines in vulnerable biomass, as indicated by SPC, contrary to the precautionary and science-based principles in Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention. CNMI emphasised that maintaining viable CPUE and fishing efficiency for all fishers, including coastal communities, was paramount and urged that juvenile fishing mortality from purse seine fisheries be explicitly considered in the bigeye MP.

452. American Samoa aligned itself with the USA, Korea, and CNMI, and underscored concerns that the current MP concept placed all bigeye mortality control on longline fisheries, including those of SIDS and participating territories, despite their relatively modest catch levels. American Samoa considered the lack of management control on juvenile fishing mortality from purse seine fisheries and other sources deeply troubling and inconsistent with precautionary principles. It reiterated support for including purse seine juvenile fishing mortality in the bigeye MP through, for example, partitioning free-school and FAD set effort, and opposed treating FAD closure solely as a sensitivity analysis. American Samoa stressed that maintaining viable catch rates of larger, marketable fish and overall biomass across the stock's range should be a central management objective.

453. Chinese Taipei emphasised that the issue at hand was not one of preference but of practicability and argued that an MP controlling only approximately 27% of bigeye catches could not be effective. By comparison, Chinese Taipei noted that it would be unacceptable, in other contexts, to control only adult catches while allowing unlimited juvenile catches. Recognising divergent views among CCMs, Chinese Taipei supported Japan's suggestion that an MP option including FAD closure duration should be explicitly evaluated alongside other options. Chinese Taipei further clarified its earlier question by proposing that, instead of using FAD closure to control purse seine impacts under the bigeye MP, effort controls for purse seine could be used, for example by reducing the number of fishing days, and asked whether this could be an effective alternative.

454. SPC responded that, under the mixed fishery design, the skipjack MP was expected to control overall purse seine effort, while the bigeye MP could influence FAD and free-school dynamics. A bigeye MP that directly set purse seine effort levels was not currently envisaged under this design.

455. Kiribati, on behalf of PNA members, expressed concern about the heavy workload foreseen for 2026, particularly the work associated with implementing the skipjack MP, and cautioned that work to progress the bigeye MP might have to be accorded a lower priority if resources were constrained. Kiribati recalled that the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan was indicative rather than a rigid deadline and urged flexibility in scheduling bigeye MP work. Kiribati requested that the Commission consider mechanisms and opportunities to provide strategic guidance to SPC during 2026, including dedicated bigeye MP workshops, special WCPFC sessions, conditional decisions and science-management dialogue-type meetings. Kiribati reiterated the PNA position that, should an in-person SMD meeting be held, it would need to be accommodated by shortening the SC session.

456. Japan noted the diversity of views among CCMs regarding inclusion of FAD closure duration in the bigeye MP and suggested that the Commission should not narrow the options at this stage. Japan supported having SPC evaluate a wide variety of MP configurations, including those that explicitly include FAD closure duration, in line with the approach proposed by the USA. Japan considered it important to convene intersessional working groups, including at least one virtual and possibly one in-person workshop. Japan expressed the view that, consistent with past practice, an in-person workshop would be more effective if held in conjunction with TCC, where many managers are present, rather than with SC. Japan recalled that, at the previous Commission meeting, CCMs had agreed that the bigeye TRP options would be treated as threshold-type TRPs and indicated that its delegation continued to support this approach. Japan expressed openness to collaborating with Australia and others in the margins to develop compromise text and a way forward.

457. The USA noted concerns expressed by some members about the inclusion of the FAD closure or the potential of a FAD closure in the MP design and looked forward to discussing the technical details of the various proposals. However, the USA stated that the precautionary approach is to have all options on the table initially without restricting SPC from providing the best available science. The USA reminded the Commission that current discussions were on options to be evaluated, which includes the length of a potential FAD closure as a component of the bigeye MP, and that a decision to adopt any of the proposals or proposed MP parameters would be made at WCPFC23.

458. Pew welcomed the detailed and thoughtful discussion by CCMs on the bigeye MP. Pew encouraged the Commission to maintain a broad range of options in MP development to enable selection of an MP that would be robust in maintaining bigeye around a desired target over the long term. Pew echoed the views of CCMs that intersessional dialogue meetings had proven valuable in progressing MP work in the past and considered such meetings essential in the coming year to enable adoption of a bigeye MP at WCPFC23

459. The Commission agreed that three candidate target reference points (TRP) for bigeye tuna identified at WCPFC21 and based on the 2012–2015 depletion level, shall remain under evaluation as targets, and requested the SSP to continue assessing all three TRP options and provide comparative performance results for the Commission's consideration at WCPFC23.

460. The Commission requested the SSP to include the probability of the stock remaining above MSY as an additional performance indicator and encouraged continued development of climate related robustness tests.

461. The Commission requested the SSP to develop additional candidate Management Procedures (MPs) that include controls for both the tropical longline and tropical purse seine fisheries. Additionally, the Commission provided the following guidance to the SSP in developing candidate MPs for bigeye tuna:

- a. Use of a three-year management period with a two-year data lag.
- b. Evaluate a range of HCRs controlling the tropical longline and tropical purse seine fleets, at different levels of FAD closure length (from 0 to 3 months) and tropical longline catch and/or effort, that form the basis of a continuum of MPs all tuned to achieve the same TRP.
- c. Evaluate the plausibility of developing additional HCRs through interpolating the outputs of the evaluated HCRs.
- d. Evaluation of HCRs with and without constraints to the outputs between management periods.
- e. Evaluation of the candidate TRPs identified by the Commission at WCPFC21.
- f. Evaluate fixed assumptions on catch outside of the MP control.

When the Commission considers the MSE results, consideration should be given to how to translate and apply MP outputs to the range of existing management measures in place, including the longline catch limits, PNA+ Longline Vessel Day Scheme, and FAD management measures.

462. The Commission noted the importance of and need for a series of dedicated bigeye tuna management workshops (BMWs) to expedite the progress of implementation on the Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2022-03.

463. The Commission agreed to hold a series of BMWs in 2026 focused on the design of the BET management procedure.

464. The Commission agreed that the BMWs would be chaired by the SC Chair.

465. The Commission agreed that the BMWs would be held online, one prior to SC22 and one between SC22 and TCC22, and any additional workshops scheduled as necessary, with dates to be determined by the SC Chair in consultation with the Secretariat and members.

466. The Commission agreed that CCMs will cooperate to develop a management procedure for bigeye tuna during 2026, with a view to adopting a management procedure at WCPFC23.

467. The Commission requested the SSP to conduct sensitivity analyses addressing uncertainties in Indonesian, Philippine, and Vietnamese archipelagic fisheries, including scenarios representing recent levels, recent averages, historical peak catches, and new national management measures.

468. The Commission requested the SSP to evaluate MP performance under fixed assumptions for catches outside the MP's direct control.

469. The Commission acknowledged the guidance ([Attachment 22](#)) from PNA+ on the bigeye MP.

11.5 Yellowfin tuna

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-26 Rev01](#)

470. Rob Scott (SPC-OFP) presented WCPFC22-2025-26 outlining the mixed fishery approach for which there will be no specific MP for yellowfin tuna. Instead, yellowfin will be indirectly managed through the MPs for skipjack, bigeye, and South Pacific albacore. It was noted that management objectives for yellowfin, as currently specified, cannot be achieved simultaneously with those for bigeye and that achieving objectives for bigeye would likely lead to outcomes for yellowfin below the 2012-15 average spawning biomass depletion. It was noted that WCPFC21 agreed to take a sequenced approach to the determination of management objectives for bigeye and yellowfin and that targets for yellowfin may be defined as thresholds for which an associated probability of being 'at or above' may be specified. Uncertainty in the catch and effort statistics for fisheries in the WPEA was highlighted and guidance sought on scenarios to consider for sensitivity analyses. The short time-frame for the completion of work and the limited opportunities for strategic guidance from the Commission before WCPFC23 were noted.

Discussion

471. The Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, reaffirmed support for the sequenced approach whereby TRPs for bigeye tuna are addressed first, followed by consideration of implications for achieving yellowfin tuna management objectives, recognising the strong operational linkages between the two stocks. FFA members encouraged refinement of yellowfin tuna management objectives in a manner consistent with the mixed fishery framework, balancing sustainability with the development aspirations of SIDS. FFA members supported continued use of the same performance indicators that had been applied in the purse-seine mixed-fishery MP evaluations (PIC IMP) for use in yellowfin tuna MSE testing, to ensure consistency and comparability across species in setting TRPs and risk levels. They supported defining yellowfin tuna TRPs using a threshold-based approach combining a spawning biomass depletion level, for example 33–38% of spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, with a defined probability (e.g. 50%–70%) of remaining above that level. FFA members requested SPC to test a tractable number of TRP–probability combinations within that range to demonstrate trade-offs among stock status, yield and fishery stability and to facilitate CCM understanding of the consequences of different management choices. FFA members emphasised that any TRP selected for yellowfin tuna should maintain at least an 80% probability of the stock remaining above the agreed LRP, consistent with WCPFC guidance. They supported SPC's proposal to develop sensitivity scenarios for yellowfin catches from fisheries outside the direct control of WCPFC management measures, highlighting the importance of assessing the robustness of the mixed fishery framework to changes in such catches. FFA members acknowledged the interdependence of stock-specific MPs under the mixed fishery approach, particularly for yellowfin tuna, where the performance of one MP could affect outcomes for others. They supported SPC's ongoing simulation work to identify and manage potential conflicts between MPs, while recognising that such interactions could not be completely eliminated. They emphasised the need for strong monitoring systems to detect exceptional circumstances, including unexpected changes in catch or effort outside WCPFC control and climate-driven changes in stock productivity, and to ensure timely Commission responses.

472. Japan thanked SPC for the presentation and sought clarification on whether the proposed sequenced, mixed-fishery approach for yellowfin tuna would satisfy Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification requirements, noting that this approach was not stock-specific in the traditional sense and therefore represented a new field in the development of MPs. Japan asked whether proponents of the sequenced approach had consulted with the MSC and could provide information on the acceptability of the approach for certification purposes. Japan also referred to SPC's description of measures implemented by Indonesia in its archipelagic waters and requested more detailed information on these management measures, in particular those applied to small-scale tuna fisheries, in order to better understand how they might affect the yellowfin tuna stock.

473. In response, SPC advised that, to its understanding, the proposed mixed-fishery, sequenced approach would be compatible with MSC certification for yellowfin tuna. SPC noted that much would depend on the results of the MSE testing and evaluations. SPC further stated that Indonesia could provide more detailed information on its measures, but that SPC's understanding was that a specific management procedure had been implemented in Indonesian archipelagic waters for skipjack and yellowfin tuna, managing fishing levels in those waters. SPC reported that this measure appeared to have led to changes in fishery structure and dynamics in the region, which SPC was continuing to investigate.

474. The EU thanked SPC for the presentation and the work undertaken to progress this topic. The EU noted the relatively lower importance of yellowfin as a target species and the substantial proportion of the catch taken outside the Commission's direct remit and stated that its preference was to establish a threshold-type TRP for yellowfin as a starting point. The EU recalled that the current management objective for yellowfin tuna under the tropical tuna CMM was not being achieved, based on recent analyses presented by SPC. The EU therefore suggested that the Commission consider a different TRP for yellowfin tuna that would be consistent with the outputs of the MPs for skipjack and bigeye tuna. In terms of performance indicators, the EU requested that, at a minimum, indicators on stock status and safety relative to the agreed LRP be provided, and that the probabilities of the stock being above SSB_{MSY} also be calculated.

475. Korea thanked SPC for the presentation and sought clarification on the management objectives, in particular on the statement that achieving the current bigeye tuna objectives implied achieving lower values for yellowfin tuna. Korea asked whether, under those lower values, the yellowfin tuna stock would still remain in the "green" areas of the Kobe and Majuro plots. Korea observed that approximately 55% of yellowfin tuna catches occurred as incidental catch in purse-seine operations and noted that bigeye longline fisheries had a limited impact on yellowfin tuna. Korea therefore considered that the bigeye tuna MP should lock in the existing high seas FAD closure in its design and address controls on both longline and purse-seine fisheries.

476. In response, SPC advised that, under the recent evaluations, although the projected depletion levels for yellowfin tuna under management consistent with the bigeye tuna TRP would fall below the yellowfin TRP range specified relative to the 2012–2015 baseline, the stock was still projected to remain above the LRP and within the "green" areas of the Kobe and Majuro plots. SPC noted that the most recent assessment showed relatively narrow uncertainty bounds, but that additional work during the coming year would include a new assessment, additional work on uncertainty in historical stock status, and work to develop yellowfin tuna operating models, and seek to increase the range of uncertainty around some of those estimates. Based on current information, SPC considered that yellowfin tuna would remain above the LRP and that this would be further tested through the MSE evaluations. SPC acknowledged that it was possible this could change in the future and emphasised this was precisely the role of the exceptional circumstances framework and associated monitoring strategy. It noted that the current outline of exceptional circumstances included examples of events that might constitute exceptional circumstances but did not provide a comprehensive list nor specify in advance the remedial actions, in order to allow the Commission flexibility to assess the severity of events and determine appropriate responses at the time.

477. The Commission acknowledged the sequenced approach to the development of Target Reference Points (TRPs) for bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and the range of factors to consider when developing an effective monitoring strategy for yellowfin that are related to the bigeye management procedure. When evaluating the outcomes for yellowfin tuna within the mixed fishery approach, the Commission supported the sensitivity scenarios outlined by the SSP in [WCPFC22-2025-26_Rev01](#), and to use the same performance indicators as developed for bigeye tuna, which include maximum sustainable yield (MSY) metrics.

11.6 Southwest Pacific swordfish

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-36](#)

478. The Chair noted the *Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy*, as recommended by SC21 in response to a tasking from WCPFC21 (see paras 458 to 460 of [WCPFC21 Summary Report](#).)

479. Chinese Taipei thanked the Secretariat for tabling the workplan to the Commission for discussion and noted that it provided for decision points at both SC and the Commission each year. Chinese Taipei observed, however, that the workplan did not clearly identify opportunities for managers to provide input into the development of the harvest strategy prior to Commission meetings, and suggested that such opportunities might need to be incorporated.

480. The EU expressed strong support for the indicative workplan and appreciated the efforts undertaken by Australia and SPC in its development. The EU noted that the harvest strategy for Southwest Pacific swordfish was of high importance to its delegation and reiterated its commitment to support the work, including through in-kind support. Recalling previous discussions on other MPs, such as those for South Pacific albacore and bigeye tuna, and the agreement that the South Pacific swordfish MP should encompass all sources of fishing mortality, the EU requested that this be reflected more clearly in the workplan. The EU advised that it would submit proposed drafting amendments to the Secretariat for circulation.

481. Niue, speaking on behalf of FFA members, acknowledged and thanked Australia and the EU for their joint initiative in developing the indicative workplan for the Southwest Pacific swordfish harvest strategy and recognised this as an important step towards extending the harvest strategy framework to further species. FFA members supported the proposed workplan as providing a structured and scientifically robust pathway for the development and testing of candidate MPs for swordfish and recommended that the Commission adopt the workplan.

482. Australia welcomed the progress made on the development of the swordfish harvest strategy workplan and expressed appreciation for the collaboration with the EU. Australia indicated its willingness to review the amendments to be proposed by the EU and reiterated its strong support for adopting the workplan and commencing the work. Australia also advised that it was in the final stages of preparing a voluntary financial contribution to the Commission to support this work, including under Project X03.

483. French Polynesia expressed strong support for the development of an MSE framework for Southwest Pacific swordfish. It noted that swordfish was already an important bycatch species in its fisheries and that it was exploring opportunities to target swordfish to enhance the resilience of its fisheries and economy. French Polynesia supported the proposed workplan, thanked Australia for leading the process and the EU for supporting development of the MSE framework, and advised that it would make a voluntary financial contribution to WCPFC for this work and would collaborate with Australia, the EU, and other CCMs.

484. The Cook Islands joined other CCMs in thanking Australia and the EU for the proposed framework. The Cook Islands supported adoption of the framework and workplan and expressed appreciation for the funding support offered by CCMs.

485. The Chair recalled the earlier question from Chinese Taipei and invited further clarification. Chinese Taipei reiterated its appreciation to Australia for leading this work and emphasised the importance of ensuring that managers had opportunities to participate in the development of the MSE and harvest strategy before decisions were taken at the Commission, including via virtual meetings or email exchanges.

486. Australia responded that it fully agreed on the importance of management-level engagement by all interested CCMs in the development of the swordfish harvest strategy. Australia noted that, as outlined in the workplan, work would proceed over several years, with opportunities for discussion through standard Commission processes, including SC and Commission meetings, as well as through ongoing dialogue and email exchanges. Australia welcomed continued engagement from Chinese Taipei and any other CCMs interested in the work.

487. The Commission adopted the *Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy* as a Commission workplan to guide further development of a management procedure for Southwest Pacific Swordfish (**Attachment 23**).

11.7 Review and Update Harvest Strategy Workplan

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-DP11](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-IP10](#)

488. The Chair recalled that the Commission routinely reviewed the harvest strategy workplan and that the plan could be adjusted at the conclusion of discussions on individual stocks or fisheries. The Chair noted that DP11 from Australia and SPC on adjusting the timeline for the skipjack MP had already been discussed and suggested that the Commission might consider tasking itself to review the harvest strategy workplan in 2026, with a view to developing a process for review of the tropical tuna CMM in 2027.

489. Australia advised that, with respect to potential modifications to the harvest strategy workplan, it anticipated that only relatively minor changes would be required in 2025. Australia noted that decisions taken on some matters associated with DP11 would have consequential implications for the plan that could be reflected accordingly. Australia recalled that negotiations on the South Pacific albacore MP had not yet been concluded and that it would be difficult to prejudge the outcome, although it remained hopeful of progress. Australia indicated that, at an appropriate point, it would provide suggested minimal amendments to the harvest strategy workplan for CCM consideration.

490. The Commission endorsed an updated Harvest Strategy Workplan (**Attachment 24**).

11.8 Review of other CMMs related to conservation and management of tuna and billfish

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-DP01](#), [WCPFC22-2025-DP06](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-DP08](#)

491. The Chair recalled that Agenda Item 11.8 had been added to the agenda following receipt of several delegation papers and proposals related to CMMs that were not covered under other agenda items.

Application of high seas FAD closure and catch retention

492. Korea introduced DP06_Rev02, noting that two rounds of revisions had been undertaken since the proposal was first introduced, taking into account comments from CCMs, the Secretariat, and SPC. Korea explained that paragraph 12 had been revised to require vessel operators to report specified discard and catch retention information “as soon as practicable, but no later than 72 hours” after the event. Korea further proposed, in response to concerns about administrative burden, that operators be allowed to submit the report either to the flag CCM authority or directly to the Secretariat, at the election of the flag CCM. Korea also explained that, under its revised proposal a flag CCM electing to receive reports from its vessels would compile the information submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 for the period 1 January to 31 December each year and report it to the Secretariat by 7 July annually, alongside but separate from its Part 1 Annual Report. Korea clarified that some

elements of the proposed discard report (such as master and observer names and reasons for discards) were not captured in the existing Part 1 template, and that it was therefore not Korea's intention that all such information be incorporated into the Part 1 Report itself. Finally, Korea indicated its intention to include a further provision requiring the Secretariat to compile information received directly from vessels and make it available to the Scientific Committee (SC) and the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC).

493. Kiribati, speaking on behalf of FFA members, thanked Korea for accommodating a 72-hour reporting timeframe and expressed support for this flexibility. However, FFA members expressed concern about the requirement to include catch-retention-related data within the Part 1 Annual Report, noting that this could impose additional administrative burden on some administrations and potentially contribute to delays in report submission. For this reason, FFA members were not in a position to support including this information in the Part 1 Report at this time, although they remained committed to exploring alternative approaches that balanced reporting needs with the operational capacities of SIDS CCMs.

494. Korea reiterated that the proposal sought to provide flexibility by allowing CCMs to elect either to have vessels report to the flag State or directly to the Secretariat. Korea emphasised that CCMs choosing the latter option would not bear the burden of compiling and reporting the information; instead, the Secretariat would assume that responsibility. Korea again clarified that the additional information would be reported alongside, rather than within, the Part 1 Report.

495. Tuvalu, on behalf of PNA+, supported the FFA intervention and thanked Korea for its proposal and flexibility on timing. Tuvalu stated that PNA+ could support the revised 72-hour reporting timeline but was not in a position to agree to the proposed reporting arrangements. Tuvalu recalled that it had requested from the Secretariat data on the number of discard incidents in order to assess the scale of the reporting burden associated with the proposal and noted that these data had not yet been provided. Tuvalu looked forward to further discussion of the proposal once such information was available.

496. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-04 on the Conservation and Management Measure on FAD Closures and Catch Retention (**Attachment 25**), which supersedes CMM 2009-02.

Transshipment

497. The Chair invited the proponents of the two transshipment-related proposals to introduce their papers.

498. The Marshall Islands, speaking on behalf of FFA members, recalled that transshipment had been a priority issue for FFA members over many years. FFA members noted that the Transshipment IWG had not resolved fundamental differences during the review of CMM 2009-06, and that, following reflection after TCC21, FFA members had concluded that it would be pragmatic not to reopen negotiations on the measure. Instead, FFA members proposed decision language (in DP01 Attachment 3) formulated within the scope and constraints of the current measure. FFA members recalled that paragraph 34 of CMM 2009-06 established a general prohibition on high seas transshipment, subject to specific exemptions based on impracticability, to be applied using criteria in paragraph 37(a) and (b). They noted that, in the absence of agreed guidelines under paragraph 37, CCMs were to use the criteria in 37(a) relating to significant economic hardship and (b) substantial changes to historical modes of operation as the basis for granting exemptions. FFA members considered criterion 37(b) straightforward: given that CMM 2009-06 entered into force in 2010, only vessels that existed at that time and had been engaged in high seas transshipment prior to its entry into force could be regarded as having to make significant and substantial changes to their historical mode of operation as a result of the prohibition. FFA members explained that the proposed decision language in DP01 Attachment 3 sought to operationalise and implement paragraph 37(b) by

limiting exemptions to such vessels. They characterised this as a pragmatic, compromise approach that worked within the existing measure rather than reopening it for renegotiation.

499. Korea thanked FFA members for their explanation but expressed the view that the proposed decision text, while framed as not reopening the measure, would in practice change current operations and thus effectively reopen arrangements on high seas transshipment. Korea briefly introduced its own proposal in DP08, noting that it initially included requirements regarding VMS coverage on receiving carrier vessels but, in light of comments noting that such requirements already existed under the VMS CMM, Korea was prepared to delete that element. Korea indicated that it wished to retain provisions relating to prior authorisation for transshipment and national fisheries monitoring centre capacity. Korea reiterated its position that at-sea transshipment, in itself, did not constitute IUU fishing. Korea explained that Korean longline operations had business plans predicated on at-sea transshipment and that requiring all transshipments to occur only in port would significantly worsen the viability of those operations, which were already operating with narrow margins or in deficit. Korea argued that the proposed prohibition on high seas transshipment by vessels constructed after 2010 in DP01 was not logical, as the year in which a vessel was built did not determine whether its mode of operation would need to change. Korea further stated that it could not support proposals to limit the participatory rights of CNMs by preventing their vessels from engaging in high seas transshipment.

500. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, expressed fundamental concerns with Korea's proposal in DP08, noting that while Korea's 2013-06 assessment of paragraph 3 of CMM 2009-06 was a useful starting point, it remained a superficial application that did not fully consider development opportunities or monitoring challenges faced by SIDS. FSM stressed the importance of meaningful consultation with SIDS CCMs in assessing impracticability and any impacts of exemptions on their interests. Second, FSM expressed concern that proposed additions in DP08 to the preambular language would normalise and implicitly endorse high seas transshipment, whereas paragraph 34 of CMM 2009-06 clearly established that high seas transshipment was prohibited other than under specific exemptions. FSM also recalled that WCPFC Convention Article 29(1) required CCMs to encourage their vessels to conduct transshipment in port. FSM further opposed the assertion that transshipment did not in itself pose an IUU fishing risk, noting that global studies, including FAO reports, NGO analyses, and the FFA quantification study, all identified at-sea transshipment as a major conduit for laundering illegally caught fish and obscuring product traceability. FSM highlighted that at-sea transshipment remained fundamentally data-poor and thus inherently higher risk. FSM also noted that many of the obligations proposed in DP08, such as VMS requirements for carrier vessels, access to transshipment data for HSBI inspectors, and prior authorisation by flag States, already existed under current WCPFC measures, including CMM 2009-06 and the data rules. FSM therefore considered that DP08 added limited substantive value and that the core divergence between DP08 and DP01 lay in their different approaches to managing high seas transshipment. FSM reiterated that FFA members' objective was effective oversight of transshipment activities and indicated that they would be open to incorporating any elements of DP08 that meaningfully enhanced monitoring into decision language under DP01.

501. The EU recalled its longstanding support for strengthening the transshipment measure and shared the frustration of many CCMs that several years of work by the transshipment IWG had not resulted in concrete progress. The EU expressed appreciation for Korea's efforts to propose a way forward but, consistent with the points made by FSM, did not see substantial new elements in DP08 that would significantly strengthen existing requirements. The EU therefore expressed support for the FFA proposal in DP01 and expressed hope that the Commission could achieve some improvement to the CMM at WCPFC22.

502. The USA acknowledged the gap between DP01 and DP08 and suggested that WCPFC22 consider adopting additional monitoring requirements for high seas transshipment by amending CMM 2009-06. The USA referenced its proposed text and noted that much of the text reflected elements that had been largely agreed by CCMs over

several years of IWG discussions. The USA advised that it had provided draft text to the Secretariat and was ready to submit a tracked-changes version of the transshipment CMM, should CCMs wish to proceed in that manner.

503. Japan thanked FFA and Korea for their proposals and noted the divergent views. Japan emphasised that carrier vessels operating in the Convention Area frequently carried two observers, one from IATTC sourced from MRAG, and one from a Pacific Island ROP, providing effectively 200% observer coverage. Japan considered that this constituted a robust monitoring framework. Japan further noted that work under the ER&EM IWG was underway to establish minimum EM standards for carrier vessels, with outcomes expected the following year, and that these could support future consideration of EM installation on carrier vessels used for transshipment. Japan recalled that its delegation had submitted analyses to past TCC meetings demonstrating the impracticability of port-only transshipment for its large-scale longline fishery, including fishery-level assessments of costs and logistics. Japan also highlighted that Japan had made efforts since adoption of CMM 2009-06 to reduce the total number of high seas transshipments, particularly in the high seas, and stressed that these efforts should be taken into account.

504. Chinese Taipei thanked Korea and FFA for their proposals but questioned how the Commission could avoid reopening the measure while considering substantive changes proposed in DP01 and the USA's text. Chinese Taipei expressed strong support and appreciation for Korea's proposal and stated it shared the concerns about the operational difficulties facing longline fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area and the additional burdens that a blanket prohibition on at-sea transshipment would create. Chinese Taipei emphasised that authorised and regulated high seas transshipment did not constitute IUU fishing and could not support characterisations to the contrary. Chinese Taipei also opposed limiting CNM participatory rights by restricting their vessels to in-port transshipment only, noting that CNMs contributed to the Commission through their assessed contributions and other support, and that rights and responsibilities under the Convention should be balanced.

505. China thanked FFA and Korea for their proposals and reaffirmed its general position that at-sea transshipment was a traditional and integral part of fisheries operations. China noted that carrier vessels operating in the Convention Area had independent observer coverage and complied with WCPFC transshipment regulations and national requirements. China therefore did not consider that transshipment activities were inherently linked to IUU fishing. China observed that there were fundamental differences between DP01 and DP08 and considered that it would be difficult to merge the proposals. China expressed a preference for basing discussions on Korea's proposal with amendments. China also indicated its interest in discussing CNM participatory rights with respect to transshipment through the CNM SWG.

506. Nauru, speaking on behalf of PNA+, stated they did not support Korea's proposal. Nauru recalled that, at the first meeting of the transshipment IWG, data summaries had been provided in response to specific questions about transshipment under the IWG's terms of reference. These summaries highlighted instances where carrier vessels had potential missing VMS data or erroneous transshipment event data and instances where the tracks of carrier and longline vessels suggested possible unreported transshipment events. Nauru further recalled that the data summaries indicated only 30%–51% correlation between reported transshipment records and logsheet trip data for bigeye, yellowfin and albacore tuna. Nauru considered that this left considerable scope for IUU-caught product to enter supply chains undetected, thereby undermining management measures based on catch limits and the MPs being developed for key tuna stocks.

507. Korea thanked Nauru for its intervention but rejected what it characterised as speculation about non-compliance. Korea referred CCMs to detailed information it had provided on how at-sea activities, including transshipment, were monitored by the Korean FMC and reiterated that the level of scrutiny and monitoring differed among flag States, such that not all high seas transshipments presented the same risk. Korea expressed doubt that the Commission could reach agreement on these important issues given the late stage of the meeting and the

need to address other priority items. Korea suggested deferring further consideration of transshipment to the intersessional period and WCPFC23. Korea welcomed the USA's suggestion and looked forward to incorporating those elements into future discussions. Korea also noted that the CNM working group would address CNM participatory rights and suggested that the last recommendation in DP01 (concerning CNM participatory rights and transshipment) should also be deferred to 2026.

508. Canada expressed concern about the risks associated with inadequately monitored transshipment, particularly in relation to IUU fishing. Canada stated its view that CMM 2009-06 prohibited high seas transshipment unless the impracticability clause in paragraph 37 applied. Canada advised that, when it authorised vessels to fish in the WCPFC Convention Area, transshipment was explicitly prohibited and vessel masters were encouraged to land their catch in port in small island countries. Canada recalled the FAO's adoption of voluntary transshipment guidelines in 2022 and noted that these guidelines had informed strengthening of the transshipment measure in the North Pacific Fisheries Commission. Canada expressed disappointment that the Commission had not made comparable progress, noting WCPFC's 2009 measure was extremely outdated. Canada stated that robust MCS of transshipment was essential to reducing, preventing, and eliminating IUU fishing and, while it still had questions and sought clarifications, expressed in-principle support for the FFA proposal in DP01.

509. The Marshall Islands, speaking in its national capacity, recalled that CMM 2009-06 had been adopted more than a decade earlier as a compromise following an original coastal State proposal to require all transshipment in port. The Marshall Islands emphasised the significant efforts and investment made by coastal States, including in data collection for scientific and compliance purposes, and expressed concern that high seas transshipment continued to undermine these efforts. The Marshall Islands highlighted the extensive high seas areas adjacent to its EEZ and the ongoing challenges it faced in monitoring and controlling activities there. It stated that FFA members had initially contemplated proposing a full prohibition of high seas transshipment, drawing all such activities into port, but had recognised that consensus was unlikely at WCPFC22. The Marshall Islands characterised DP01, in particular Attachment 3, as a compromise proposal that sought to strengthen controls while recognising differing views. The Marshall Islands acknowledged that it might not be possible to resolve the issue in 2025 but urged CCMs to consider DP01 carefully as a basis for future work. It suggested that, for future negotiations, the Commission should consider an approach whereby longline transshipment would normally occur in port, with any remaining high seas transshipment subject to strengthened conditions consistent with DP01.

510. France recalled that the Convention envisaged transshipment as the exception and landing in port as the rule and reaffirmed its commitment to this principle. France recognised that some use of high seas transshipment might remain necessary as an exception but considered that stronger supervision was required. France supported the development of clear impracticability criteria, noting that simple distance to port was not always sufficient justification, and called for improved access to transshipment data for authorised inspectors, both at sea and in port. France expressed its willingness to work with other CCMs to make progress on this issue.

511. The EU, after hearing the range of interventions, restated that in its view the only way to fully address the risks associated with high seas transshipment would ultimately be to ban at-sea transshipment and require transshipment in port. The EU noted that its fleet, despite having among the highest operating costs, was required to tranship in port, including in the WCPFC Convention Area, and thus did not concur with the arguments that at-sea transshipment was economically indispensable. The EU acknowledged that a full ban might not be achievable immediately and indicated that, as a transitional and not fully satisfactory arrangement, it could support the FFA proposal in DP01, including restrictions on high seas transshipment by vessels built after 2010 and limitations on CNM transshipment rights, as a step towards its longer-term objective of phasing out at-sea transshipment.

512. Korea reiterated that operational realities differed among CCMs and emphasised that the Korean government received detailed cost breakdowns from its longline fleet, which demonstrated that operations were in deficit and that port-only transshipment would be economically impracticable. Korea stressed that socioeconomic considerations should not be ignored and reiterated that it had determined that exceptions under CMM 2009-06 were justified for its fleet. Regarding the future process, Korea stated it appreciated the flexibility of FFA members, and suggested if the issue was deferred to 2026, all aspects in DP08, the US proposal, and Annex 3 of the FFA's proposal should be packaged and considered. Korea noted the upcoming CNM working group and suggested a major issue that would be referred back to the Commission was the last point of the FFA's proposal on CNM participatory rights and suggested the same discussion would be repeated. Korea suggested that should also be deferred to 2026 so that the CNM SWG could focus on the participatory rights of CNMs and the granting of the status.

513. The Cook Islands noted that, in light of continued monitoring challenges, the onus rested with transshipping States to demonstrate that high seas transshipment was conducted without repeated non-compliance or other IUU-related issues. The Cook Islands observed persistent data uncertainty and inconsistent reporting and suggested that, at a minimum, the Commission should adopt the third recommendation in DP01 (Attachment 3), which called for the Secretariat to publish and maintain on the WCPFC website a list of vessels engaged in high seas transshipment activities, by year, updated as new information became available.

514. Two observers — Sharks Pacific and the Union of Indonesian Migrant Workers (SPMI) in association with Accountability.Fish — provided brief statements. Both organisations aligned themselves with the concerns expressed by coastal State CCMs and highlighted findings from various independent reports and case studies linking high seas transshipment to IUU fishing, data falsification, opaque supply chains, and labour abuses. They argued that the remote and lightly monitored nature of high seas transshipment created conditions conducive to exploitation and law-evasion and urged the Commission to move towards banning at-sea transshipment and shifting to port-based transshipment where oversight was stronger.

515. In closing discussions, the Chair noted support for the third recommendation in DP01 (Attachment 3), namely, to task the Secretariat to publish and maintain on the Commission's website a list of vessels engaged in high seas transshipment activities, by year, updated as new information became available. It was noted that the information is contained in the RFV and the tasking would involve compiling it into an accessible list. The Chair also noted support for further consideration of DP01, DP08 and the text proposed by the USA on transshipment during 2026 and at TCC22, with a view to resuming consideration at WCPFC23. The Chair also noted agreement that the CNM small working group would not consider, in its work at WCPFC22, the DP01 recommendation relating to the limitation of CNM participatory rights to in-port transshipment only, noting that this matter would instead be addressed as part of the broader transshipment discussions in 2026.

516. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to publish and maintain on the Commission's website, a list of vessels engaged in high seas transshipment activities by year and regularly update it as new information becomes available.

12 MITIGATING IMPACTS OF FISHING ON NONTARGET AND ASSOCIATED OR DEPENDENT SPECIES (NTADS) IN THE WCPO

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-28](#)

517. The Chair introduced Agenda Item 12 on non-target and associated or dependent species in the WCPO, noting that the relevant working papers, including the general overview paper (WP28), were taken as read.

518. Palau, on behalf of PNA+, strongly supported the revised agenda structure that allowed bycatch issues to be addressed in a more focused manner and thanked the Secretariat for the high-quality papers that consolidated information on stock status, scientific research, management, compliance, and data. PNA+ suggested that future iterations of the overview paper could be improved by incorporating key tables and figures from SC papers on purse seine and longline bycatch, including estimated aggregate bycatch, ROP bycatch data, and logsheet data.

12.1 CMM 2018-03—Seabirds

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-28a](#), [WCPFC22-2025-DP03](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-DP04](#)

519. The Chair noted that the seabird working paper (WP28a) was taken as read, and that two delegation proposals—DP03 (Japan) and DP04 (FFA)—were presented under Agenda Item 4.

520. Japan recalled that it had been working with FFA members during WCPFC22, particularly New Zealand, to develop a joint proposal to strengthen seabird mitigation measures. Japan advised that the delegations were close to agreement and intended to post a revised joint version of the proposal and requested that the agenda item remain open so that CCMs would have time to review the revised text before a plenary discussion on the following day. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, confirmed that FFA members had been working closely with Japan and other CCMs to finalise a joint proposal to strengthen seabird mitigation in the area 25–30°S. It thanked CCMs for their constructive engagement.

521. Chinese Taipei welcomed the combined proposal from Japan and FFA members and recognised that it reflected many of the concerns discussed in the margins over the past year. However, Chinese Taipei expressed continuing concern regarding the remaining exemption provisions in the measure and indicated its intention to provide further comments in the margins, with the goal of reaching a text acceptable to all CCMs. China thanked Japan and FFA members for their cooperative work on a joint proposal and stated that it would actively engage in further discussions in the margins.

522. Japan and New Zealand subsequently introduced a revised draft. Key changes included expansion of the spatial coverage of the “two-of-three” mitigation requirement in the southern WCPO (south of 25°S and west of 175°W), and updates to Annex 1 technical specifications for tori lines.

523. Chinese Taipei reiterated longstanding concerns regarding exemptions between 25°S and 30° but recognising implementation challenges for some CCMs expressed flexibility and support for the revised text. China, the EU, New Zealand, Australia, Korea, and Niue supported the revisions, with Australia noting that the expanded area better reflects the spatial distribution of threatened albatross species and advances WCPFC’s mandate to mitigate impacts on associated or dependent species. ACAP welcomed the support by the Commission and commended long-term work by Japan, New Zealand, and FFA.

524. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-05 on the Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing on Seabirds, which supersedes CMM 2018-03 ([Attachment 26](#)).

12.2 CMM 2018-04—Sea Turtles

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-28b](#) and [WCPFC22-2025-DP12](#)

525. The Chair introduced Agenda Item 12.2 on sea turtles, noting that the relevant working paper (WP28b) had been taken as read and recalling that a related proposal (DP12) had been presented earlier in the meeting and

endorsed during the Commission's consideration of the SC21 report. The Chair invited the USA to confirm arrangements for intersessional work.

526. The USA confirmed that it would lead the agreed intersessional work on sea turtles in 2026, consistent with the earlier Commission decision, and would advise the name of the lead representative in due course.

12.3 CMM 2024-05—Sharks

Papers: [WCPFC22-2025-28c](#), [WCPFC22-2025-28d](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-IP11](#) [secure](#)

527. The Chair introduced Agenda Item 12.3, noting that the relevant working paper on sharks and rays (WP28c) had been taken as read, and that SC21 had not identified outcomes requiring Commission action at this session. The Chair further recalled that TCC21 had discussed potential amendments to Annex 2 of CMM 2024-05 (Sharks) and had tasked the TCC Chair to bring forward proposed changes for Commission consideration, including in relation to reporting on alternative measures to fins-naturally-attached.

528. The EU referred to the SC recommendation regarding the use of IATTC guidelines for the safe handling and release of sharks and expressed support for using these guidelines as a reference when reviewing the WCPFC shark CMM. The SC Chair confirmed that SC21 had received a presentation from IATTC on the shark handling and release guidelines and had noted that they could be useful for consideration when revising the WCPFC shark CMM, but that SC21 had not adopted specific recommendation language on their incorporation. In response the EU requested that SC22 be tasked to formally review the IATTC guidelines and provide clear recommendations on their possible inclusion in the WCPFC shark CMM.

529. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the Secretariat for its work on sharks and noted the value of consolidating information on stock status, scientific research, management, compliance and data, as well as the summaries of CCM responses to paragraphs 9, 10, and 11 of the shark CMM in the associated information paper. FFA members expressed support for the recommendations from SC21 and TCC21 on sharks. Referring to WP28D from the TCC Chair, FFA members acknowledged the work undertaken to develop options to improve access to non-public domain data on implementation of paragraph 9 (alternative measures to fins naturally attached). FFA members supported Option 2 set out in the TCC Chair's paper and welcomed indications from CCMs that had invoked alternative measures that they were supportive of the Secretariat's efforts to facilitate transparent and constructive TCC review of the shark measure. FFA members also recognised the TCC Chair's completion of the questionnaire required under CMM 2013-06 in relation to proposed amendments to Annex 2 and, noting the minimal impact on FFA SIDS and territories, supported the amendments recommended by TCC21.

530. The TCC Chair introduced WP28F, which set out proposed amendments to Annex 2 of CMM 2024-05 to give effect to TCC21's recommendations on improving reporting on implementation of alternative measures to fins-naturally-attached. He noted importance of providing information in a format that would support an effective review of the measure in 2027 and stated that TCC21 endorsed the amendments to Annex 2, subject to completion of a CMM 2013-06 assessment. The TCC Chair advised that such an assessment had been completed and circulated and reviewed the proposed amendments.

531. French Polynesia, recalling its status as a shark sanctuary and its long-standing opposition to alternative measures deviating from fins-naturally-attached, supported clarification and standardisation of reporting. It expressed concern that the phrase "describe the quantity" was ambiguous, as it did not indicate whether data should be reported as numbers, weight, or both, and did not encourage species-level detail. French Polynesia therefore proposed revised wording requiring CCMs to "provide the quantity of sharks caught where the CCM

applied the alternative measures and the total quantity of sharks taken, specifying numbers and species”, in order to promote consistent and more informative reporting.

532. Chinese Taipei thanked French Polynesia and requested clarification on two points: (i) whether the required “quantity” would refer to numbers, weight, or both; and (ii) the scope of species for which reporting would be required, including whether it would be limited to species already reported under existing data standards. Chinese Taipei recalled that the primary purpose of the reporting was to assess compliance with paragraph 9 and to understand the scale of catches taken under alternative measures relative to total catches. They observed that weight data might be more informative for this purpose than numbers alone and expressed openness to a formulation that included weight or numbers, and to providing species information, subject to clarity on scope.

533. The EU supported enhancing clarity and noted that its understanding from previous TCC discussions was that reporting of quantities and species was envisaged. It suggested specifying both weight and numbers, as well as species, and proposed that the text refer to “specifying weight, numbers, and species”, in order to assist interpretation and use of the data.

534. New Caledonia supported French Polynesia’s proposal, noting that species-level information was important for assessing the impact of fishing activities, and suggesting that reporting numbers of individual sharks might, in practice, be more straightforward than determining precise weights at sea.

535. Japan thanked French Polynesia and other CCMs for their contributions but cautioned that some aspects of the proposed wording raised technical and practical concerns that might require further detailed consideration at TCC. Japan highlighted that accurate species identification of all sharks could be challenging for fishers, especially beyond a limited set of key species, and that reporting numbers of individual sharks for all catches could be burdensome in some fleets. Japan therefore suggested that, at this stage, the Commission retain the TCC21-endorsed text without the additional “numbers and species” specification and consider potential refinements intersessionally through TCC. Japan indicated that, if text on species were retained, it would prefer language such as “by species, if available”, and suggested that “weight or numbers” be used rather than both, to accommodate different national practices.

536. Canada noted that, in its view, the information proposed to be specified (weight or numbers and species) was already being reported under existing data requirements, and that the intent of the Annex 2 amendment was simply to structure the reporting in a way that allowed an understanding of the relative scale of catches taken under alternative measures. Canada therefore supported including a requirement to specify weight or numbers and species.

537. Indonesia supported inclusion of the phrase “if available” in relation to species, given ongoing capacity challenges in providing detailed shark species data, and considered that such flexibility would allow members to report to the best of their current abilities while working to improve data collection over time.

538. The EU proposed text to ensure that both the subset of catches under alternative measures and the total catches should be reported, and that at least one measure of quantity (weight or numbers) and species information should be provided.

539. Sharks Pacific noted the new more focused effort to address NTADS in a more direct way and stated they appreciated the effort by the Commission. Regarding CMM 2024-05 and the proposed alternative measures for sharks they noted that the Commission was bound (but fails) to manage and conserve NTADS, and that oceanic

white tip sharks remain close to extinction. They highlighted three areas where the Commission must act to secure the greatest possible conservation impact for vulnerable species:

- (i) By resolving data quality issues. They strongly supported SC21's recommendation that the ROP IWG be tasked with specific targeted improvements to shark monitoring, including species ID linked data protocols and post-release mortality assessments, and the interventions of French Polynesia and New Caledonia regarding paragraph 9, because the number of sharks provides better data granularity for proper management.
- (ii) By strengthening monitoring through observers and EM, noting the critical issue of high mortality assisted by very low observer coverage, particularly in the longline fishery.
- (iii) Through recognition that the alternative measures provision was created as a narrow exception conditioned on enhanced monitoring, which is now being abused. Sharks Pacific advocated that TCC22 advise whether alternative measures are effective or whether the Commission should end the experiment and require fins-naturally-attached for all CCMs.

540. The TCC Chair introduced proposed amendments to Annex 2 of CMM 2024-05, flowing from a TCC21 recommendation and subsequent intersessional work led by Canada. Following further amendments by CCMs across the floor, the Commission reached agreement regarding the revised Annex 2 text requiring reporting of total shark catches in numbers and/or weight and, where available, by species.

541. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-06 on Sharks, which supersedes CMM 2024-05 by amending Annex 2 to support CCMs in determining the effectiveness of alternative measures set out in paragraph 9: CCMs describe any instances of non-compliance observed with respect to paragraphs 7, 8, and 9; and describe the quantity of sharks caught where the CCM applied the alternative measures and the total quantity of sharks taken ([Attachment 27](#)).

542. The TCC Chair introduced WP28D, which addressed the treatment at TCC of information reported under paragraph 10 of CMM 2024-05 (i.e. on the implementation of alternative measures to fins naturally attached). He recalled that TCC21 had discussed how to handle the Secretariat's compilation of CCMs' Part 2 Annual Report information on paragraph 10, noting that some CCMs wished this compilation to be discussed in open session, whereas at present it was non-public domain data. The paper presented three options: (i) continue discussing the compilation in closed session, as at present; (ii) prepare the compilation as non-public domain data but allow TCC, at each session, to decide whether to release that specific compilation for discussion in open session; or (iii) reclassify the relevant Part 2 information as public domain data for all purposes.

543. In the ensuing discussion CCMs made the following points. The EU stated that its preferred option would have been option 3 (reclassification as public domain data), in order to maximise transparency, but, in the interest of compromise and recognising time constraints, it was prepared to support option 2. The EU also proposed that, for ease of reference, the Secretariat's compilation paper be structured in two sections, separating CCMs that use alternative measures from those that implement fins-naturally-attached only. Japan supported option 2, noting that some Part 2 information might contain sensitive or vessel-specific details that could not readily be made public, whereas other elements could appropriately be discussed in open session; option 2 provided useful flexibility on a meeting-by-meeting basis. The USA suggested that the decision to release the compilation for open discussion could be explicitly considered at TCC heads-of-delegation level as part of the broader decision on handling non-public domain data. Canada expressed a preference for option 3. Sharks Pacific urged WCPFC22 to

adopt option 3 to reclassify paragraph 10 reporting as public domain data as the only option that enables a meaningful evidence-based transparent review in 2027.

544. The TCC Chair presented decision language consistent with Option 2 in the TCC paper: the Secretariat would compile information provided by CCMs on implementation of alternative measures and fins-naturally-attached policies (paras 10–11, CMM 2024-05), including the amended Annex 2 data; recognising this compilation as non-public domain data, TCC would decide annually whether release and discussion in open or closed session was appropriate, with consideration placed on the TCC Heads of Delegation agenda each year. The EU queried the need for annual HODs consideration, then noted the clarification that Option 2 retained non-public domain classification and therefore required an annual decision.

545. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to compile the information provided by CCMs separately for those CCMs implementing the alternative measures and those CCMs that are implementing a “fins naturally attached” policy with respect to paragraphs 10 and 11 of CMM 2025-06, including the information provided in response to the amended Annex 2.

546. The Commission requested the TCC Chair to include in the annual TCC Heads of Delegation meeting agenda, consideration of whether the compiled report could be released for discussion in open session.

547. The Commission noted that the information in this compilation is non-public domain data and that CCMs could consider whether this information could be released and discussed in open session at TCC.

12.4 CMM 2024-07 - Cetaceans

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-28e](#)

548. The Chair noted that the working paper on cetaceans (WP28e) was taken as read. She recalled that, following WCPFC21, Circular 2025/84 had been issued on 17 November requesting CCM input by 1 January 2026 on the development of a cetacean identification guide, as earlier requested by the Commission, and drew attention to SC21’s recommendations on revisions to scientific data requirements (Annexes 1 and 2 of the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission).

549. Tonga, on behalf of FFA members, thanked SC21 for its work and comprehensive recommendations regarding cetacean interactions and scientific data reporting. FFA members supported adoption of the revised Scientific Data Guidelines as recommended by SC21, noting that this would strengthen reporting on interactions with cetaceans and associated scientific data. FFA members also supported tasking the ROP IWG to consider proposed updates to the ROP data fields for purse seine and longline fisheries, and to provide recommendations to WCPFC23 to ensure that data collection is aligned with CMM 2024-07 and provides the information needed for effective compliance monitoring. FFA members further supported continued research to improve understanding of rough-toothed dolphin interactions in the purse seine fishery and endorsed development of an enhanced cetacean identification guide for the WCPO led by the IWC in collaboration with SPC and the Secretariat.

550. The EU thanked the SC for its work on cetaceans, expressed support for the SC21 recommendations on this agenda item and supported the development of a cetacean identification guide for the Pacific Ocean.

551. Tuvalu, on behalf of PNA+, thanked the Secretariat for the useful paper that integrated information on cetacean stock status, scientific research, management, compliance and data, and clearly presented SC21 recommendations. Tuvalu expressed concern about the way observer data were presented in certain figures

comparing interactions in longline and purse seine fisheries, noting that the figures did not explain differences in observer coverage between the fisheries and might therefore be misleading or misused. Tuvalu requested that future versions of the paper include explanatory text on relative coverage rates and explicitly note that the data sets were not directly comparable. It also suggested that, given the availability of SPC analyses estimating cetacean bycatch by fishery, such estimates should be incorporated into future papers.

552. The Secretariat noted the request from PNA+ and confirmed that the Secretariat would prepare and circulate a revised version of the paper.

13 COMPLIANCE MONITORING

Papers: WCPFC22-2025pCMR_SECURE, [WCPFC22-2025-pCMR_PUBLIC](#), [WCPFC22-2025-29](#), [WCPFC22-2025-30](#), [WCPFC22-2025-31](#), and [WCPFC22-2025-32](#)

Compliance Monitoring Report

553. The TCC Vice Chair reported that a the CMR SWG met earlier in the week to finalise the draft report following the compliance monitoring review undertaken at TCC21. He advised that the draft CMR (working paper WCPFC22-2025-fCMR) had been available for several days as a secure document on the WCPFC22 meeting page. The TCC Chair noted that, once adopted, the CMR would become publicly available and confirmed that TCC had completed its review. The TCC Chair stated that the draft CMR was ready for adoption by the Commission.

554. Pew — also on behalf of Sharks Pacific, Birdlife, WWF, Accountability.Fish, SBMI, Global Tuna Alliance, and Conservation International — expressed their concern that discussion of the CMR was again held in closed session. Pew thanked the EU for its remarks in support of an open compliance review process and the USA for offering to lead the drafting of a working paper for TCC22 to evaluate the Commission data rules to inform development of guidelines for the participation of observers in the CMS. They stated that observer organizations share with CCMs the objective of achieving sustainable fisheries in the WCPO and ensuring the Commission maintains a high reputation. They recalled that the closing of the compliance discussions to observers has been a longstanding issue and as such, represents a reputational risk, and underlined that the WCPFC is exceptional among RFMOs in having such a restriction, which fundamentally breaches the requirements for transparency and related accountability, observing these have grown in importance in recent years, and will be key with the forthcoming entering into force of the BBNJ agreement. They urged WCPFC to embrace the chance to bring greater transparency to the information and decision making surrounding these fisheries, noting that these are immense resources of significant public interest, and that greater openness and information sharing are key pillars of building a more effective management system that serves the interests of members and builds public confidence in the management of these resources.

555. Pew also informed CCMs that Pew had developed a voluntary Compliance Self-Assessment Tool to assist CCMs in identifying capacity needs to engage effectively in RFMO compliance processes and advised that copies were available to interested CCMs.

556. The Commission adopted the Compliance Monitoring Report covering Reporting Year 2024 (RY2024) ([Attachment 28](#)).

557. Following adoption of the CMR, the TCC Chair informed the Commission that the CMR was now a public document and would be displayed on screen. In the interest of time, the TCC Chair did not re-introduce the report in full, noting that CCMs had already considered it in detail through the CMS process, but highlighted several issues that TCC21 had drawn to the Commission's attention.

558. The TCC Chair noted that TCC21 had identified one obligation for “CMM review” in relation to a quantitative limit for vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore under CMM 2019-03. TCC21 had found challenges in verifying information provided by CCMs and noted that although the Northern Committee (NC) had adopted a harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore in 2023, no implementing measure had yet been adopted to give effect to the MP. TCC21 had therefore recommended that the Commission and NC address the North Pacific albacore CMM so that the relevant quantitative limit could be assessed in future. The TCC Chair further reported that TCC21 had identified two obligations as “audit point review” items under the tropical tuna measure, namely: (i) the obligation not to transfer purse seine effort, and (ii) the requirement for purse seine vessels to carry a ROP observer. The TCC Chair noted that the Audit Point Working Group had met during WCPFC22 to progress work on these matters.

559. The TCC Chair stated that TCC21 had also considered a number of issues related to specific CMMs or other obligations. TCC21 noted that the development of audit points had assisted in addressing previous difficulties at TCC stemming from differing interpretations of obligations and views on how implementation of the obligations should be assessed. The TCC Chair drew particular attention to issues under CMM 2012-03 (paragraph 2) on observer coverage for vessels catching fresh fish, noting that current WCPFC data requirements did not capture whether vessels were catching fish for fresh or frozen/light-frozen landings. TCC21 recommended that the Commission consider this issue further. The TCC Chair also recalled ongoing challenges under CMM 2019-03 (paragraph 2) and other measures where obligations were tied to expressions such as “actively fishing for” or “fishing for” particular stocks, including for North Pacific albacore. TCC21 had recommended that the Commission and relevant subsidiary bodies clarify these terms so that compliance could be assessed more effectively.

560. With respect to the Pacific bluefin tuna CMM 2023-02, the TCC Chair highlighted: (a) under paragraph 2, a lack of clarity on whether effort limits should apply on a fishery-by-fishery basis or as total effort (TCC21 recommended WCPFC22 task NC to clarify this provision); and (b) a lack of clarity concerning the carry-over of catch and the transfer of small and large fish under paragraph 3, and the need for consideration by NC and the Commission to improving the processes so that information on these is clearly identified to assist with compliance verification. The TCC Chair suggested that WCPFC22 consider tasking the NC to provide clarity on the provisions identified in paragraphs 8–13.

561. Canada thanked the TCC Chair for his leadership in finalising the CMR covering 2024 activities. Canada referred to paragraph 24 of the CMR, which noted that the NC had adopted a harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore, and expressed strong interest in ensuring that the associated CMM could be effectively assessed for compliance and accurately reflect the management procedure adopted in 2023. In response to the TCC recommendation, Canada supported a Commission recommendation to the NC to initiate a review of CMM 2019-03 in 2026 and offered to provide suggested draft language to the Secretariat to give effect to this tasking.

562. The Commission tasked NC22 to initiate the review of CMM 2019-03 on North Pacific Albacore in 2026, to ensure that compliance with the measure can be assessed and to accurately reflect the management procedure that was adopted for this stock in 2023.

Aggregate Data Approach to Aggregate Tables and Subsampling

563. The TCC Chair explained that WP29 responded to a TCC21 tasking for the TCC Chair to prepare options for an approach to subsampling of data for use in aggregate tables under the CMS. He noted that the CMS measure required that preparation of aggregate tables be based on a subsampling approach to address the imbalance in observer coverage between purse seine and longline fisheries. The TCC Chair noted that, for several years, the Secretariat and TCC had been working to develop an appropriate subsampling mechanism. At TCC21, TCC

undertook a limited review of aggregate tables only for cases under Article 25(2) (i.e. not observer-sourced cases), noting that the Commission had not yet agreed a sampling mechanism.

564. Following discussions at TCC21 and in light of analytical work presented by the Secretariat and a consultant, the TCC Chair prepared an options paper for the Commission. The Chair's recommended approach, set out in paragraph 13 of WP29, proposed that: (a) aggregate tables required under paragraph 28.2 of the CMS CMM be prepared using a year-specific percent sampling methodology; (b) TCC review these aggregate tables in conjunction with the CMR process, consistent with previous practice, to facilitate discussion of any relevant issues identified by CCMs; and (c) the outcome of the review of aggregate tables not be linked to the assignment of a compliance status.

565. The TCC Chair advised that, after drafting the paper, further discussions with the consultant undertaking analytical work for the Secretariat and with SPC confirmed that work to develop a list of ROP trips required to implement an adjusted sampling mechanism had been completed. Accordingly, the adjusted year-specific percent sampling methodology could now be applied, although some additional work would still be required by the Secretariat and the consultant.

566. The TCC Chair recalled that WP29 also presented alternative approaches in paragraphs 15 and 16. One option would be for WCPFC22 to task the Secretariat to further develop the sampling methodology if CCMs had concerns, whereas another option — if there were broader concerns regarding the aggregate tables process — would be for WCPFC22 to direct the Secretariat not to prepare and TCC not to review the aggregate tables.

567. Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the TCC Chair and noted that the CMS measure required a subsampling approach. FFA members supported the year-specific percent sampling methodology and, considering that further analytical work was unlikely to result in significant improvements, endorsed the proposed approach in paragraphs 13 and 14 of WP29.

568. FSM, on behalf of PNA+, expressed support for WP29, including the three elements of the Chair's recommendations and the proposed approach set out in paragraphs 13 and 14.

569. The Commission agreed that, consistent with paragraph 28(ii) of CMM 2023-04 on the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, the aggregate tables will be prepared using the year-specific percent sampling methodology, and that TCC will review these aggregate tables in conjunction with the Compliance Monitoring Review process to facilitate discussion of any relevant issues identified by CCMs.

570. The Commission further agreed that, consistent with previous practice, the outcome of the review of aggregate tables will not be linked to the application of a compliance status.

List of obligations to be assessed under the CMS in 2026 for the 2025 reporting year, and new and amended draft audit points

571. The TCC Vice-Chair reported that a Small Working Group on audit points had reviewed 16 draft audit points for certain CMM obligations. Agreement had been reached on audit points for 10 obligations, while no agreement had been reached for six obligations and their associated audit points, namely:

- a. CMM 2024-05, paragraph 11, relating to shark species and reporting requirements with enforcement difficulties;

- b. CMM 2024-06, paragraph 5, concerning North Pacific striped marlin catch limits for CCMs listed in the relevant table and for other CCMs;
- c. CMM 2018-04, paragraph 7(d) and (e), on sea turtles and requirements to record and report sea turtle interactions;
- d. CMM 2023-01, paragraph 48, on tropical tunas catch limits for other commercial fisheries;
- e. CMM 2023-01, paragraph 26, on restrictions on transfer of purse seine effort into certain high seas areas north of 20°N or south of 20°S; and
- f. CMM 2023-01, paragraph 33, on the requirement to place ROP observers on purse seine vessels.

572. The TCC Vice-Chair explained that the initial draft list of obligations proposed for assessment under the CMS in 2026 contained 52 obligations, noting that this higher number had been proposed in anticipation that Audit Points for some obligations might not be agreed. He recalled that Audit Points had not been agreed for three obligations included in the initial list, namely the North Pacific striped marlin catch limit, the restriction on the transfer of purse seine effort, and the requirement to place ROP observers on purse seine vessels. He advised that, on this basis, his expectation had been that these three obligations would not be included in the list, which would reduce the number of obligations to 49. He further advised that, during discussions in the Small Working Group, one CCM had suggested that the obligation under CMM 2023-01, paragraph 26, on the transfer of purse seine effort, be retained using the existing Audit Point text, which would result in a list of 50 obligations.

573. The Commission discussed the draft list of obligations to be assessed under the CMS in 2026. The TCC Vice-Chair advised that, following the initial submission of the draft list, three additional obligations had been proposed for inclusion, bringing the total number of obligations to 55. He recalled that TCC21 had recommended that the list of obligations for assessment should not exceed 50 and noted that a higher number could present a significant workload for the incoming TCC Chair, the Secretariat and CCMs, particularly given the need for further work on Audit Points that remained under review.

574. China expressed concern regarding the workload implications for TCC in 2026 and suggested removing obligations with pending Audit Points. The United States emphasized the importance of retaining the additional obligations and assessing compliance against key measures, noting the work undertaken by the Small Working Group during the meeting. The EU supported retaining the obligations, including the North Pacific striped marlin catch limit, and suggested that existing Audit Points for catch limits could be used where appropriate. The Marshall Islands sought clarification on whether the Commission was being asked to adopt the list at that stage and indicated support for adopting the list as presented in the interest of time. China subsequently proposed removing the three additional obligations. Noting the views expressed and the limited time available, the Chair proposed proceeding with adoption of the list as presented.

575. The Commission adopted the list of obligations to be reviewed in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026, covering Reporting Year 2025 (RY2025) ([Attachment 29](#)).

576. The Commission agreed that, for any obligation with an Audit Point “under review”, the existing adopted Audit Point will be used to assess compliance in 2026 for activities undertaken in 2025.

577. The Commission adopted new and amended Audit Points ([Attachment 31](#)) for application in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026.

578. The Commission agreed that further work on the remaining Audit Points will be undertaken during 2026.

Draft Reporting Template for CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07

579. The Secretariat introduced WP32, noting that the paper addressed three taskings from TCC21: (i) that the Commission task the Secretariat to develop a template with reporting guidelines to strengthen and streamline CCM reporting on paragraph 1 of CMM 2013-06, while avoiding duplication; (ii) that the Secretariat develop an Annual Report Part 2 reporting template aligned with CMM 2013-07 to help identify gaps and prioritise the needs of SIDS and territories; and (iii) amendment of an audit point for paragraph 1 of CMM 2013-06 so that the Secretariat would confirm receipt of a report consistent with the agreed template.

580. The Secretariat proposed a three-step reporting process implemented through a single integrated template based on CMM 2013-07. The Secretariat considered that reporting against CMM 2013-07 using this template would also satisfy the reporting requirement under paragraph 1 of CMM 2013-06. It noted that the template did not explicitly address disproportionate burden because that matter was being considered separately under TCC's ongoing work on assessing compliance with CMM 2013-06. Under the proposed three-step process:

- a. SIDS and territories would first articulate their needs and priorities across areas including capacity development, science and technology transfer, fisheries management, MCS, and support for domestic industries and markets;
- b. non-SIDS CCMs would then report on actions taken in response to these identified needs, aligned with the thematic areas of CMM 2013-07, highlighting where support was being provided and where gaps remained; and
- c. SIDS and territories would finally provide feedback on the reporting by non-SIDS CCMs, including confirmation of assistance received, whether it was adequate and aligned with their needs, and what gaps persisted.

581. The Secretariat suggested that this process would create a simple and practical feedback loop to guide future assistance and invited the Commission to consider the proposed process and the draft template, including advice on the relationship between reporting by way of the template and the CMS so that the processes would be complementary and streamlined.

582. Samoa, on behalf of FFA members, addressed the assessment of compliance with CMM 2013-06. FFA members supported the TCC21 outcome on how to assess compliance with paragraphs 1, 2, and 4 of the measure. With respect to paragraph 3, FFA members reiterated their position taken at TCC21 and the audit points proposed for that paragraph. FFA members recalled that CCMs and the Commission had implemented paragraph 3 of CMM 2013-06 for more than a decade through the CMM 2013-06 checklist. FFA members considered that this existing implementation should be formally recognized through corresponding audit points and called on CCMs to support their proposed draft audit points for paragraph 3.

583. Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, continued the FFA intervention on the reporting template for CMM 2013-07. FFA members thanked the Secretariat for undertaking the TCC21 tasking and stated that the objective was to ensure a structured and consistent format for reporting against the special requirements of SIDS, and to institutionalise a structured and transparent reporting framework on Article 30 that clearly linked SIDS-identified needs with assistance provided by non-SIDS CCMs and the Secretariat. FFA members emphasised that this was intended to shift Article 30 implementation from an aspirational commitment to a practical and

measurable process that enhanced accountability, targeted support to SIDS priorities, and informed Commission decisions and resource allocation. Strengthened reporting would also allow the Commission to track and evaluate how SIDS needs were being met and whether capacity assistance was adequate, effective and aligned with SIDS-driven priorities. FFA members stated that WP32 and the draft template would assist significantly in achieving these objectives. On the proposed exclusion of disproportionate burden from the template, FFA members supported this, provided that disproportionate burden continued to be addressed through other established processes such as the CMS. On the three-step process, FFA members supported the approach in principle but suggested modifications:

- a. Identification of SIDS and territories' needs and priorities – At the start of each year, the Secretariat would pre-populate the relevant section of the template using existing information on SIDS and territories' needs drawn from established sources such as the Strategic Investment Plan. This pre-populated information would be provided alongside Annual Report Part 2. SIDS and territories would then validate, refine, or supplement the information as needed.
- b. Non-SIDS reporting on actions taken – Non-SIDS CCMs would complete the template to report on actions taken in response to the identified needs and priorities of SIDS and territories.
- c. Review of the response to identified needs and priorities – SC, TCC, and the Commission, under a SIDS standing agenda item, would consider the information in (a) and (b) to evaluate assistance provided and its alignment with identified needs. Any outstanding needs and priorities that remained unaddressed would carry over to the following year and be used to repopulate the template, thus creating a continuous and ongoing process.

584. FFA members emphasized that this approach would not only ensure structured and consistent reporting on SIDS' special requirements but also better link SIDS-identified needs with assistance provided by non-SIDS CCMs, enabling the Commission to monitor and evaluate how these needs were being addressed and ensuring that support and resources were adequate, effective and aligned with SIDS-driven priorities.

585. Korea thanked the FFA and Secretariat for developing a practical template and supported efforts, from a non-SIDS perspective, to bring more structure and transparency to the implementation of Article 30. However, Korea identified practical challenges, noting that many forms of support to SIDS were channelled through multiple agencies and regional programmes and were not specifically coded as WCPFC Article 30 support. Disaggregating such contributions by SIDS, theme and year, as envisaged by the template, would require significant internal coordination and could result in inconsistent attribution or double counting across CCMs. Korea also highlighted potential overlap with existing reporting processes and differences between domestic fiscal reporting systems and the calendar-year basis of WCPFC reports. In light of these concerns, Korea supported a learning-by-doing approach in the initial years, encouraging CCMs to provide best-efforts, high-level information rather than exhaustive project-by-project accounting. Korea suggested that the Secretariat compile feedback from both SIDS and non-SIDS CCMs on how the template functioned in practice, to allow refinement over time so that it remained useful for SIDS while realistically implementable for non-SIDS.

586. Chinese Taipei thanked the Secretariat for preparing the paper and, while noting that they had expected the Secretariat to be tasked by the Commission before developing a template, welcomed the approach in principle. Chinese Taipei echoed Korea's concerns and noted that most of its support to SIDS was provided through bilateral channels, making it difficult for the fisheries sector to access the necessary information and, in some cases, sensitive to disclose via Annual Report Part 2, which was accessible to other CCMs. Chinese Taipei therefore supported Korea's suggestion that non-SIDS provide high-level rather than detailed reporting.

587. Japan thanked the Secretariat for preparing the template and the FFA for its comments and aligned with the interventions by Korea and Chinese Taipei. Japan emphasised the importance of existing direct communication between donor agencies (such as JICA, OFCF, and the Fisheries Agency) and SIDS and noted that such communication was crucial to improving and fine-tuning support programmes. Japan recognised the merit of using the proposed process to obtain an overall picture of the support provided to each SIDS and to identify any gaps between existing projects and SIDS' needs. However, Japan suggested that section 2 of the template should be more general, observing that some elements appeared duplicative and that projects might need to be reported multiple times under different headings. Japan expressed concern that this could be burdensome and difficult even for SIDS to review and called for further streamlining.

588. The EU thanked the Secretariat for what it considered a thoughtful paper. The EU agreed that the key elements of a collective reporting requirement — articulation of SIDS' needs, identification of actions taken in response, and a feedback loop — were present in the proposed process. The EU nonetheless saw significant challenges in implementing the template, including an increased workload for the Secretariat, particularly if it were responsible for compiling SIDS' needs. The EU noted that it had difficulty capturing the detailed FFA intervention delivered orally and suggested that written input would assist delegations to fully consider the proposals. The EU indicated a preference for a less cumbersome reporting process for all CCMs and the Secretariat.

589. The USA stated that it supported many of the concerns expressed by previous speakers regarding the practicalities of the proposed approach. For these reasons, the USA could not support adopting the template as a mandatory reporting requirement at WCPFC22. The USA could, however, support making the template available as an optional framework or guide for CCMs reporting against CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07, with the possibility that TCC might consider the matter in more detail in future.

590. Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, responded that current reporting against CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07 was either non-existent or lacked sufficient rigour and consistency to be meaningfully used to understand how the Commission was implementing Article 30. FFA members considered that the existing approach was insufficiently rigorous and did not appropriately link SIDS' needs and support provided. They emphasised that the Secretariat's proposed template was directly responsive to TCC taskings and presented an opportunity rather than a threat. FFA members stated they found it concerning and confusing that some CCMs were reluctant to align reporting with the agreed categories of special requirements under CMM 2013-07. They urged other CCMs to support the FFA-proposed approach, which placed primacy on SIDS' meaningful engagement and provided non-SIDS with a structured avenue to demonstrate support for SIDS under Article 30.

591. Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA members, expressed disappointment with the direction of the discussion on implementation of Article 30 and its two "flagship" measures, CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07. Marshall Islands stressed the importance of understanding how SIDS and territories built capacity to meet their obligations and participate effectively in the Commission's work. It cautioned that failure to progress the proposed template risked leaving implementation of these measures at a standstill, despite SIDS having tabled a proposal on how to operationalise them. Marshall Islands found it problematic that SIDS were effectively being told how they "should" implement Article 30 and reaffirmed full support for the Cook Islands' intervention. Recognising the heavy agenda and the need for progress, Marshall Islands advocated moving forward with the SIDS-proposed approach, with the understanding that it could be reviewed and refined over time.

592. The EU expressed its discomfort, particularly with statements suggesting that there was no reporting on efforts to support SIDS. The EU recalled that it submitted a detailed report each year on its assistance to SIDS and expressed concern that these efforts seemed to be dismissed solely because they did not follow the newly proposed template. The EU underlined that the substance of the support was more important than the format of

any reporting template and suggested that there might be a disconnect between its collaborative work with the FFA Secretariat and the perception of that work among FFA members. The EU called upon the FFA Secretariat to assist in better communicating, as appropriate, the joint initiatives undertaken to support SIDS under Article 30.

593. Korea supported the EU's comments and noted that it had provided DP18 outlining Korea's contributions and efforts to implement Article 30 in accordance with CMM 2013-07. Korea reiterated that it considered the three-step approach proposed by the Secretariat to be conceptually sound and consistent with its earlier view that support should be better matched to SIDS' actual needs. However, Korea remained concerned about the practicality of the template for non-SIDS and indicated that more time was required to recalibrate the reporting approach so that actual contributions could be appropriately reflected.

594. Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, expressed frustration at what it characterised as superficial and unconvincing comments from some CCMs regarding Article 30. Cook Islands recalled that FFA members had specifically thanked the EU earlier in the meeting for its reporting efforts, but noted that very few CCMs provided similarly targeted and focused reports on Article 30. In many cases, reports referenced general Official Development Assistance, such as infrastructure projects, that were not directly related to the Commission's work. Cook Islands emphasised that the template was intended to focus reporting on activities relevant to the Commission and to close the "circle of understanding" between SIDS' identified needs and the support provided. Cook Islands also rejected suggestions that the FFA Secretariat should report on donors' Article 30 activities, stressing that the FFA Secretariat worked on behalf of its members and that responsibility for reporting rested with supporting CCMs.

595. Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA members, reiterated appreciation for all forms of assistance from developed partners but underlined that the proposal sought targeted support related specifically to implementing Commission obligations, including those with significant and growing costs. Marshall Islands clarified that broader discussions on general Official Development Assistance could be addressed under the consultative process in CMM 2013-06, whereas the current proposal aimed to streamline and focus support directly on Article 30 implementation in the context of the Commission's expanding suite of measures. Marshall Islands urged CCMs not to conflate these issues or over-complicate the proposal and again supported the FFA approach.

596. Niue aligned with the interventions by Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, and other FFA members. Niue reiterated that the proposed approach would ensure structured and consistent reporting on SIDS' special requirements, institutionalise a more transparent framework for implementing Article 30, and move Article 30 implementation from aspirational statements to targeted, measurable processes that enhanced accountability, aligned support with SIDS' priorities and informed Commission decisions on resource allocation. Niue reaffirmed its strong support for the FFA positions on this agenda item.

597. The Chair recognised the importance and sensitivity of the discussion, noted the variety of suggestions made, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the paper, taking into account the views expressed, for CCMs' consideration the following day.

598. The Secretariat introduced a revised reporting template reflecting plenary feedback with (i) an added element in Section 1 to ensure carry-forward of outstanding SIDS needs on a cyclical basis and Secretariat population of SIDS and territory needs based on available sources, e.g. SIP; and (ii) adjustments to Section 2 to capture higher-level, non-exhaustive information from non-SIDS while allowing detail where available. Section 3 remained unchanged.

599. Marshall Islands stated they could support the revised template while noting the need for additional work, probably during SC and TCC, to develop further mechanisms that would also be part of the overall reporting requirement. They noted that some assistance was not reflected in reporting, while other assistance that was appreciated but not specifically relevant might be reported unnecessarily, and stated they would continue efforts to achieve the right balance.

600. Cook Islands noted their preference to retain the original template language but stated that in the interest of compromise and to enhance reporting and implementation of Article 30 applications, supported the revised template. They noted that the revised reporting template was higher level and less detailed, and that in adopting this template, SIDS were committing to further reporting.

601. Niue supported the interventions by RMI and Cook Islands, noting the revised template would serve as a starting point that could be improved in the future.

602. Korea noted that the revised template would reduce the practical concerns it had raised previously and sought clarification on the parenthetical phrase “if none, please explain” under “transfer of fisheries science and technology”; the Secretariat advised the phrase reflected earlier drafting intent and, if unhelpful, could be removed.

603. The Commission adopted the Reporting Template for CMM 2013-06 on the *Criteria for the Consideration of Conservation and Management Proposals* and CMM 2013-07 on the *Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories*, for use by CCMs in 2026 ([Attachment 30](#)).

DP05 – Amendment to CMM 2006-08 (High Seas Boarding and Inspection)

604. The Chair introduced DP05, submitted by Korea, proposing an amendment to CMM 2006-08 on HSBI, and invited Korea to present the proposal.

605. Korea explained that DP05 proposed a single change to paragraph 10 of CMM 2006-08, namely that fishing vessels operating on the high seas without either an observer or an EM system on board be identified as a category of vessels to be given boarding and inspection priority. Korea emphasised that the provision would be voluntary, providing guidance to HSBI vessels in prioritising inspections of vessels with less robust monitoring. Korea noted that some CCMs had asked how inspection vessels would verify the presence of EM systems. Korea advised that this could be achieved by including an indication in the RFV that a vessel had an active EM system on board and/or by reflecting such information in AIS data, thereby enabling inspection vessels to identify vessels equipped with EM.

606. Fiji, on behalf of FFA members, thanked Korea for the proposal and supported the proposed amendment to paragraph 10(d). FFA members considered that, for practical implementation, it would be important to ensure that boarding States planning and conducting high seas inspections had access to information on whether vessels carried a functioning EM system or an observer. They suggested that the Commission ensure that such data and information were available to all CCMs engaged in high seas boarding and inspection activities.

607. Korea thanked FFA members for their support and agreed that the information should be accessible not only to high seas boarding and inspection vessels but also to all CCMs, to assist in identifying which vessels were equipped with EM. Korea asked the Secretariat whether, if CCMs provided information on EM carriage, the RFV could be modified to display that information or whether it could be reflected in another way on the Commission website.

608. The Secretariat confirmed that the addition of a field in the RFV to record the presence of an EM system on a vessel had been discussed previously and appeared in a past TCC report and advised that such a modification would require only a small system change.

609. Korea observed that, in light of this advice, it might not be necessary to modify the CMM text further. Korea suggested that the Commission could instead record in the meeting report that the Secretariat should implement the necessary change to the RFV and indicated willingness to work with FFA members to draft suitable report language.

610. The USA thanked Korea and FFA members for the discussion and noted that provision of EM information to the RFV would be unlikely to occur on a consistent basis unless it became an explicit obligation. The USA pointed out that this type of information was the kind that should be incorporated into a framework for a WCPFC EM programme, such as the consultative draft tabled by the USA at WCPFC22, and suggested such a requirement should be included in a draft EM measure for adoption in the future.

611. Korea clarified that no additional change to the CMM was being proposed. Korea explained that FFA members had expressed support for the current DP05 text, subject to the availability of EM information to CCMs, and that this latter element could be addressed through meeting report language rather than further CMM amendments. Korea indicated its intention to consult with FFA members in drafting suitable report text for CCMs' consideration.

612. France thanked Korea for the proposal and stated that risk-based targeting of inspections, including prioritisation based on monitoring coverage, was good practice for developing efficient control strategies, while noting that inspecting CCMs must always retain the ability to inspect any vessel when necessary. France underscored that such targeting would only be practicable if information on the presence of EM on vessels was readily available in advance and supported the idea of including this information in the RFV. France also expressed interest in reviewing the proposed meeting report language.

613. Indonesia noted that Korea's proposal related to the application of boarding and inspection procedures and observed that HSBI and EM served different but complementary purposes. Indonesia considered that both mechanisms should continue to strengthen MCS in an effective and coherent manner and supported further discussion to that end.

614. Korea introduced DP05 Rev.1, proposing to add to paragraph 10 a prioritisation reference to fishing vessels with neither observers nor functioning EM systems on board. Korea also proposed report text encouraging CCMs to indicate to the Secretariat whether vessels carry EM so this could be reflected in the RFV, without prejudice to development of a WCPFC EM programme.

615. Canada and Japan supported the original intent but did not support retaining language implying validation of EM by flag authorities in advance of Commission-agreed EM standards/audit processes; they suggested deferring any such validation construct until the EM work is finalised.

616. Australia supported a practical, non-binding reference and suggested replacing "validated" with "as advised," and supported the proposed report text.

617. The USA supported interventions to keep the text aligned with interim EM definitions adopted by the working group and suggested the report text refer to a WCPFC EM programme (rather than "system").

618. The EU preferred inclusion of a validation concept to ensure the prioritisation was meaningful, but, noting the voluntary character of HSBI prioritisation and the desire for consensus, indicated flexibility to proceed without the validation clause.

619. The Commission agreed to delete the “validated by the flag CCM authority” phrase, retain the reference to vessels with neither observers nor functioning EM systems.

620. The Commission encouraged CCMs to indicate to the Secretariat if their vessels have an EM system on board, so that the Secretariat can incorporate this information into the Record of Fishing Vessels.

621. The Commission further recognized that this arrangement is without prejudice to the ongoing development of a WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Program.

622. The Commission adopted CMM 2025-07 on a Conservation and Management Measure on Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures ([Attachment 32](#)), which supersedes CMM 2006-08.

DP14 – Consolidated Draft CMM on a WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Programme

623. The Chair noted DP14 had been submitted by the USA, presenting a consolidated consultative draft CMM on a WCPFC EM programme.

624. The USA recalled that the consultative draft had been introduced earlier in the meeting and that there had been opportunities to discuss elements of the proposal during SC21 and TCC21. The USA expressed appreciation for the constructive bilateral and informal discussions held with CCMs during WCPFC22 and emphasised that the proposal was tabled as a consultative draft, not for adoption at WCPFC22. It anticipated continued intersessional work on the proposal during 2026, including bilateral outreach to CCMs, and welcomed further discussion of the details at relevant subsidiary bodies and working groups.

625. The Chair noted that work on an EM measure would continue into 2026, with the aim of placing the Commission in a position to consider adoption of a measure at a future session.

626. The EU thanked the USA for tabling the consultative draft and reiterated that development of an EM measure was a priority for WCPFC. The EU expressed a strong preference for a clear process and timetable for progressing this work, recalling that there was already an agreed work plan for the EM&ER IWG. The EU suggested that consideration of the consultative draft be explicitly incorporated into that work plan as a task for the IWG. The EU also noted that several proposals, including DP05, sought to introduce EM-related provisions into existing measures, and expressed discomfort with such amendments being agreed in the absence of an EM framework and an agreed process for auditing national EM programmes. The EU indicated that clear tasking to the EM&ER IWG in this regard would provide greater confidence in the overall direction of work.

627. Fiji, on behalf of FFA members, provided preliminary comments on DP14 while noting that FFA members would continue to consider what a future EM CMM should contain. FFA members fully supported EM as a tool to fill data gaps where independent, verifiable data are lacking but emphasised that EM development cannot excuse CCMs from meeting existing obligations. FFA members reiterated their longstanding position that EM is a supplementary tool, not a replacement for ROP observers, and that existing ROP coverage requirements must be maintained, with EM coverage additional to these requirements, given the unique data collected by observers, particularly for scientific purposes. FFA members also suggested additional principles for the development of an

EM measure, namely that: (i) EM implementation should not transfer any disproportionate burden to SIDS and territories; and (ii) EM should be prioritised in areas where independent data collection and verification were currently low. In addition, consistent with FFA members' proposed recommendation in DP01 Attachment 2, Fiji requested inclusion in section K of the draft measure of a SIDS special requirement's review clause requiring the Commission to assess periodically how CCMs recognised SIDS' special requirements and whether existing provisions remained fit for purpose.

628. Korea thanked the USA for the consultative draft and reiterated its strong support for development of EM within WCPFC. Korea indicated that it had a slightly different view from the EU regarding the use of national EM systems in the absence of a Commission-adopted EM programme. Korea agreed with FFA members that EM was a supplementary tool serving as a "second eye" to human observers and considered that any such second eye was beneficial in the interim, even before a regional EM framework was fully in place. Korea stressed that national EM programmes were voluntary and could make a useful contribution to increasing monitoring coverage in the period before adoption of a Commission-wide EM measure.

629. Australia thanked the USA for tabling what it considered an extremely helpful paper in framing essential conversations needed to develop an EM programme. Australia regarded development of an EM measure as fundamentally important for enabling the use of EM across WCPFC fisheries and as essential to strengthening monitoring of the longline fishery. Australia supported key principles outlined in the consultative draft, including 100% installation capability or coverage of EM systems on longline vessels. Australia supported the use of EM as a complementary tool to the ROP and emphasised that noting the importance of the existing 5% ROP coverage requirement should be retained to meet scientific data needs. Australia noted that work on an EM programme already featured in the EM&ER IWG workplan and suggested that the USA's paper be considered under that workplan item to help progress key components of a future measure.

630. The EU clarified that it did not view EM as a replacement for ROP observers and agreed that EM was a useful complement. The EU noted, however, that a number of CCMs were already implementing national EM systems in the context of WCPFC fisheries and expressed concern that, in the absence of agreed Commission standards or an audit process for national programmes, it was unclear how data from such systems could flow into WCPFC science and compliance processes or how compatibility of standards could be ensured. This uncertainty underpinned the EU's reluctance to incorporate references to national EM programmes into WCPFC obligations before agreement on a comprehensive regional EM framework.

631. Korea clarified that it had not proposed any replacement of human observers by EM and reiterated that it viewed domestic EM programmes as voluntary and complementary additions that could enhance monitoring in the interim.

632. The Commission considered two options for capturing the way forward with the USA proposal and agreed to task the ER&EM WG to elaborate the draft CMM (refer paragraph 306 in this Summary Report).

DP16 Regarding Recommendations from TCC21 Regarding the CCFS

633. The Chair invited further discussion on outstanding issues under Agenda Item 13 related to recommendations from TCC21 concerning the WCPFC Compliance Case File System (CCFS), including those reflected in several delegation papers.

634. The TCC Chair recalled TCC21 recommendations in paragraph 42 of the TCC21 report that related to CCFS improvements. Four items were highlighted: (i) case notification for reflagged vessels, (ii) automated investigation timelines, (iii) improved messaging tool identifiers, and (iv) identification of multiple initiating CCMs for a case. The

TCC Chair noted that these four items had been reflected in WCPFC22-2025-DP16 submitted by the USA and that the TCC21 agreement on them had been subject to consideration of technical feasibility and resource implications. The language adopted at TCC21 provided that implementation would proceed where technically feasible, with minimal impact on the Secretariat workplan and without significant additional Secretariat resources.

635. The Secretariat presented initial high-level estimates for development work associated with the four proposals. The Secretariat explained that the changes related to reflagged vessels, investigation timelines, messaging and multiple initiating CCMs would require system development effort, estimated at approximately 10 days and a cost range of \$11,000 to \$13,000, and noted potential synergies with future CCFS changes arising from work of the ROP IWG. The Secretariat clarified that final estimates would depend on refined specifications.

636. The USA thanked the Secretariat, the TCC Chair, and CCMs, including the Chair of the ROP IWG, for collaboration on the effort to improve the CCFS. The USA supported incorporation of all four recommendations into the CCFS. The USA suggested that, for the feature on multiple initiating CCMs, an initial limit of two initiating CCMs, with one designated as lead, might be appropriate. The USA stated that in its view this work is critical to strengthening the operational functionality of the CCFS.

637. Chinese Taipei recalled that TCC21 had recommended the CCFS changes with the understanding there would be no substantial budget or workload impacts on the Secretariat. Chinese Taipei noted the Secretariat's estimate and considered it did not amount to a substantial impact. Chinese Taipei drew attention to the need for WCPFC22 to decide whether the function on initiating CCMs should allow two or more CCMs.

638. China, referring to Article 25(2) of the Convention, questioned the legal basis for multiple initiating CCMs in the CCFS and requested clarification from the Legal Advisor.

639. Kiribati, for PNA members, noted that these are technical proposals that directly depend on a clearer and finalised CCFS process flow, which remained under consideration in the ROP IWG. PNA members considered it premature to adopt the four recommendations before adoption of the CCFS process flow and suggested that the four recommendations be referred to the ROP IWG for proper sequencing and further consideration at TCC22.

640. The USA noted extensive coordination with PNA members on which CCFS issues should be addressed in the ROP IWG and stated that the outcomes under consideration were those that would be better handled through separate CCFS development outside of the ROP IWG process. The USA noted that it appeared further consideration by the Commission was required, and expressed willingness to work with other CCMs intersessionally, but preferred that the four recommendations be progressed outside the ROP IWG process.

641. The Chair proposed that the Commission agree to progress the work in 2026 and discuss it again at TCC22. Japan recognised links between some elements and ROP issues, including observer-initiated cases, and supported the Chair's suggestion for comprehensive discussion at TCC22. Chinese Taipei also supported this approach.

642. The Secretariat informed the Commission that, in light of ongoing work on the CCFS, a group of cases arising from observer reports in 2024 had been held pending Commission guidance. The Secretariat sought direction on how to handle these pending cases while CCFS and ROP related decisions remained under development. The Chair indicated that handling of the pending cases would be taken up at TCC22 in the context of broader CCFS decisions. With that understanding, the Chair closed Agenda Item 13.

643. The Commission agreed the TCC Workplan for 2025–2027 would be revised and circulated by the TCC Chair to CCMs in early 2026 once all relevant decisions of WCPFC22 had been included.

14 ADOPTION OF 2026 IUU VESSEL LIST

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-33](#)

644. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce Agenda Item 14 concerning the review and adoption of the WCPFC illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) vessel list for 2026.

645. The Secretariat presented the paper on the adoption of the WCPFC IUU vessel list for 2026. It recalled that TCC21 provided two key recommendations for the Commission's consideration regarding the provisional IUU vessel list for 2026 and the current IUU vessel list for 2025, with the objective of informing the Commission's decision on a consolidated IUU vessel list for 2026.

646. The Secretariat reported that, on 15 July, New Zealand submitted nominations for three vessels flagged to Indonesia for inclusion on the draft IUU vessel list (*BINTANG BAHAGIA 81*, *BINTANG BAHAGIA 79* and *MARCELJAYA-26*), in accordance with CMM 2019-07. Indonesia, as the flag CCM, acknowledged receipt, and the Secretariat circulated the relevant information and supporting documentation to CCMs. TCC21 reviewed the submission and recommended that the three nominated vessels be placed on the provisional IUU vessel list for further consideration by the Commission. The alleged activity concerned fishing without authorization on the high seas within the WCPFC Convention Area. On 5 November, following TCC21, Indonesia provided additional information regarding two of the three vessels; this update was circulated to CCMs. Indonesia subsequently provided further information on the three vessels the day prior to WCPFC22, and those materials were made available on the meeting website.

647. Regarding the current WCPFC IUU vessel list for 2025, which lists four vessels (*NEPTUNE*, *FU LIEN No.1*, *YU FONG 168* and *KUDA LAUT 03*), TCC21 recommended that the vessels remain on the IUU vessel list for 2026, noting that no new information had been received that would support their removal. TCC21 requested that the International MCS (IMCS) Network liaise with relevant CCMs to make available any additional information from reports concerning the listed vessels, with the expectation that the relevant CCMs would provide an update on their investigations to this Commission session. In summary, the Secretariat stated that three vessels were recommended for inclusion on the provisional IUU vessel list for 2026, four vessels were recommended to remain on the list, and no vessels were proposed for removal. The Commission was invited to recommend any appropriate changes to the WCPFC IUU vessel lists and to adopt the consolidated IUU vessel list for 2026.

648. Regarding the three Indonesian-flagged vessels included on the provisional IUU vessel list, Indonesia reported the following:

- (i) The *BINTANG BAHAGIA 79* received a warning letter for failure to activate its vessel monitoring system (VMS) and was subject to an administrative fine of IDR112,000,000 (about US\$6,720), and that an additional sanction was imposed for violations of authorized fishing areas amounting to IDR201,110,000 (about US\$12,066); the total fine (IDR313,110,000 or about US\$18,787) was paid.
- (ii) The *BINTANG BAHAGIA 81* received a warning letter for failure to activate its VMS and an administrative fine of IDR 108,000,000 (about US\$6,480), and a sanction of IDR468,468,000 (about US\$28,108) was imposed for violations of authorized fishing areas. The total of IDR576,468,000 (approximately US\$34,588) was paid.
- (iii) The *MARCELJAYA-26* received a warning letter for violations related to authorized fishing areas and was fined IDR248,514,000 (about US\$14,000), which had also been paid.

649. Indonesia explained the calculation of administrative fines for VMS violations followed Government Regulation No. 5 of 2021, whereby the number of days of VMS non-activation was multiplied by IDR 1,000,000 per day. Indonesia further explained how the sanctions for violations of authorized fishing areas were calculated. Indonesia stated its firm belief that the sanctions imposed were sufficiently stringent to deter non-compliance and stated they are fully in accordance with Indonesian applicable laws and regulations. Indonesia stated it was continuing to maintain constant monitoring and follow-up surveillance. Current VMS tracking confirmed that all three vessels were operating strictly within their authorized fishing areas. In light of these comprehensive enforcement actions and the full payment of all sanctions, Indonesia requested that CCMs consider the removal of the three vessels from the provisional IUU vessel list. Indonesia also stated it remained fully cooperative with the Commission's ongoing review process and was ready to provide any further clarification that CCMs may require as these cases progress.

650. New Zealand acknowledged the importance of addressing IUU fishing both in the WCPO and worldwide. As the nominating CCM, New Zealand stated it had closely monitored these cases and that it appreciated the updates provided by Indonesia. It acknowledged the sanctions imposed on the operators of the three vessels, which directly addressed allegations of illegal fishing on the high seas of the Convention area. In light of these actions, New Zealand stated its satisfaction that the three vessels could be removed from the final IUU vessel list.

651. The EU supported the suggestion not to list the vessels, while suggesting that this agenda item be opened as early possible in the future meetings to facilitate any needed consultations.

652. Samoa on behalf of the FFA members supported the retention of the fishing vessels on the 2025 WCPFC IUU vessel list on the WCPFC IUU vessel list in 2026. They also noted the useful updates on the discussion between CCMs on the report JAC046 (Analysis of Network Connections and possible status of vessels under the WCPFC IUU List) and requested that the Secretariat follow up with relevant CCMs and the possible status of the vessels identified in that report. Following careful considerations of the information provided by Indonesia concerning its three flag vessels on the provisional IUU vessel list, and the view of the nominating CCM- New Zealand, FFA members stated their view that the three Indonesia flag vessels should not be included on the 2026 WCPFC IUU vessel list.

653. Korea noted that it had expressed serious concerns about how Indonesia as the flag State had been approaching the issue. At TCC21 Indonesia provided verbal explanations as to the actions taken against the three vessels and during WCPFC22 Indonesia did not reach out to concerned members and failed to clearly communicate to CCMs that new information was posted on the website. Korea noted its serious concerns about the approach taken by Indonesia in communicating with relevant CCMs to explain its actions. Korea noted their own very robust sanctions system for distant water fishing vessels and stated they were not particularly satisfied by the actions taken by Indonesia. Noting the general consensus around removing the vessels from the list, Korea stated it would not block consensus but sought to register its concerns for the record. Korea also inquired with the Philippines if the owner of the *KUDA LAUT 03* owns additional vessels.

654. Australia acknowledged Indonesia's update on the fines paid as well as the evidence of sanctions imposed for each vessel. Australia supported New Zealand's proposal to not list the three vessels on the final IUU vessel list but stressed the importance of ensuring effective flag State responsibility, including by ensuring all vessels that fish beyond national jurisdiction are equipped with a functioning VMS system. They also sought to ensure that fishing for species relevant to an RFMO is effectively regulated with monitoring, including routine data collection and reporting to the relevant RFMO. Australia also considered that it is critical that the sanctions imposed for serious violations are sufficient to deter that activity. In that regard, sanctions should also include the consideration

of suspensions of vessel licenses while investigations are underway, as several other CCMs have done in the WCPFC.

655. The Philippines provided an update on the *KUDA LAUT 03* (on the WCPFC IUU List since 2024): on 12 February 2024, a fine of PHP10.5 million (about US\$178,000) had been imposed and the commercial fishing vessel license suspended following a third offence related to unauthorised fishing and VMS non-compliance under Republic Act 8550 (as amended). The Adjudication Committee upheld the decision in July 2024; a further appeal to the Department of Agriculture was dismissed in January 2025. The Philippines stated the case awaited final resolution at the Office of the President. The vessel is docked at Tumbler Port, General Santos City, prohibited from departure, with its licence revoked pending appeals and full settlement. The Philippines stated it did not oppose continued inclusion of *KUDA LAUT 03* on the 2026 WCPFC IUU Vessel List and confirmed that the owner operated additional vessels in the Philippine EEZ.

656. The Commission adopted the WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2026, and agreed 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 2026 ([Attachment 33](#)).

15 REPORT OF THE 19TH FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-34](#)

657. The FAC Co-Chair (Australia) reported that the FAC had completed its work and recommended adoption of the FAC19 report by the Commission. The report included recommendations on the budget, including elements reflected in DP01 and DP07.

658. The Commission adopted the Report of the 19th Finance and Administration Committee, which includes the 2026 Budget and Indicative Budgets for 2027 and 2028 ([Attachment 34](#)).

16 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Paper: [WCPFC22-2025-35](#)

659. The Secretariat introduced WCPFC21-2025-WP35 that provided updates on the Commission's engagements with other organizations and relevant international activities, noting an earlier update that was also provided in Circular 2025/47 of 25 July 2025. Consistent with WCPFC21 tasking, the paper reported on international ocean governance activities relevant to WCPFC, including cooperation with other organisations, climate change work, and engagement across tuna RFMOs and the FAO. The Secretariat informed the Commission that WCPFC had been granted observer status to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) following its July 2025 meeting. The Secretariat also summarised its engagement in The Honiara Summit, the Third UN Ocean Conference, UNFSA informal consultations, and UN DOALOS national workshops, and outlined potential reporting implications of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement for RFMO members.

660. The Secretariat also briefed the Commission on the BBNJ Agreement, scheduled to enter into force in January 2026. The briefing recalled that BBNJ must be interpreted and applied in a manner that does not undermine existing instruments and bodies, including RFMOs. Proposals for area-based management tools (ABMTs), including high seas marine protected areas, would require consultation with relevant bodies; WCPFC science (stock assessments, ecosystem information and risk-based analyses) would likely be key inputs to BBNJ

EIAs, with scope for recognition of RFMO assessments. On marine genetic resources, fish and fishing activities were excluded from benefit-sharing, though RFMO scientific data may contribute to BBNJ knowledge sharing. Capacity-building and technology transfer, and the BBNJ Clearinghouse, may provide additional ecosystem and climate data relevant to the WCPO. The Secretariat attended both BBNJ PrepCom sessions and, together with other tuna RFMO Secretariats, advocated to be included in the first group of organizations for establishing cooperation and coordination arrangements under the BBNJ.

Discussion

661. Solomon Islands, on behalf of FFA members, supported the recommendations in the paper and while appreciating the Secretariat's engagement effort, emphasised the need for clear Commission guidance to ensure relevance to WCPFC's mandate. FFA members noted diverse CCM views regarding seabed mining, and suggested engagement should focus on information gathering and dissemination. FFA sought preliminary views from the Executive Director on the Commission's posture toward BBNJ. FFA members also highlighted joint management explorations with IATTC in light of climate change, which aligns with the FFA broader approach to climate change that emphasizes liaisons with partners and advancing relevant issues at international fora; and underscored future-proofing of monitoring and reporting systems.

662. Korea supported the recommendations and stressed that BBNJ outcomes that touch on fisheries must respect existing RFMO mandates. Korea encouraged embedding WCPFC science, data, and management experience in any area-based management tools or marine protected area design affecting fishing and reiterated that fisheries management measures should continue to be adopted through WCPFC procedures. Korea welcomed Secretariat engagement in UN ocean events and future participation in the Fourth UN Ocean Conference (to be hosted by Chile and Korea in 2028), and supported continued cooperation with IATTC, SPRFMO, and NPFC.

663. The Cook Islands supported the interventions by FFA members and Korea and supported the Secretariat's existing level and nature of international engagement. Cook Islands supported the balancing of capacity through attending and supporting engagements online and or through pre-recorded means and suggested the Secretariat could also seek feedback or reports from CCMs that attend international engagements where Secretariat attendance is not feasible. Regarding the BBNJ, the Cook Islands supported the Secretariat's current approach and engagement, noting that while recognizing that BBNJ engagements would necessarily require capacity from both RFMOs and members, current discussions, work, and developments indicate an overwhelming need for WCPFC as an organization to clearly and consistently articulate its mandate, priorities, subject matter, expertise, and governance processes. In this regard, Cook Islands supported the Secretariat maintaining close ties, cooperation, and engagement with other tuna RFMOs to ensure streamlined and effective fisheries engagement. While strongly supporting the Secretariat's current level of constructive engagement with BBNJ processes, they also requested that the Secretariat continue to ensure its engagement aligns with the Secretariat's role and mandate and did not come at the opportunity cost of the WCPFC's priority work and would take into account budgetary constraints.

664. Australia strongly supported ongoing WCPFC engagement in BBNJ implementing arrangements and emphasised the need for coordinated national participation. Australia noted that at the BBNJ PrepCom sessions, discussions highlighted that the success of the BBNJ agreement is contingent on it working cooperatively with relevant instruments, frameworks, and bodies, including RFMOs, taking into account existing mandates and activities. Australia also supported the comments made by Korea in relation to that. They noted the need for internal coordination within States to drive coordinated engagement in organizations of which they are members and to support the pursuit of BBNJ objectives in those organizations, noting that the wealth of data, expertise, and capability in RFMOs should be leveraged and built upon, not replicated.

665. The EU supported the Secretariat's engagement, called for rationalisation to avoid detracting from core work, and identified priority areas for RFMO–BBNJ cooperation (formalising cooperation modalities; governance aspects, including roles of Secretariats and subsidiary bodies; decision-making timelines compatible with BBNJ consultations; compatibility between RFMO assessments and BBNJ EIAs; and resource implications). The EU suggested an intersessional WCPFC process to facilitate CCM discussions and advised that the EU planned to convene an international event dedicated to RFMOs in early 2027, that would also cover the interactions with BBNJ.

666. Marshall Islands supported the recommendations and stated that the area-based management tools as well as MPAs, environmental impact assessments, marine genetic resources, capacity building and technology transfer, and Clearinghouse Mechanisms are all highly relevant to the work of tuna RFMOs, including the WCPFC. As a large ocean state, Marshall Islands stated it could see both opportunities and new responsibilities under the BBNJ. They appreciated the Secretariat's active engagement in international oceans governance processes and its efforts to ensure that this participation supports and did not detract from the core business of the Commission. They welcomed early Secretariat work to map intersections between BBNJ obligations and WCPFC processes and underscored the need for continued dialogue and support for SIDS on capacity-building, technology transfer, and access to the Clearinghouse Mechanism.

667. Japan supported the Secretariat's engagement and emphasised strong CCM participation at BBNJ PrepComs, including inter-agency coordination to ensure fisheries authorities' involvement.

668. Indonesia supported continued international engagement to ensure coordination between emerging global frameworks and existing RFMO-based management and to avoid overlapping or conflicting obligations.

669. Fiji supported continued engagement to ensure WCPFC's work is reflected in international processes and reiterated that implementing arrangements should not undermine work undertaken by WCPFC.

670. China supported continued engagement while reiterating that area-based management tools, including MPAs, should complement existing frameworks and that BBNJ implementation must respect RFMO mandates.

671. The Executive Director stated that the Secretariat's posture toward BBNJ was cooperative, not defensive, and aimed to raise awareness of Members' contributions and to ensure tuna RFMOs were among the first IFBs consulted under BBNJ. The Executive Director stated that the Secretariat's engagement remained factual and guided by Members and noted that BBNJ co-chairs sought clarity from the tuna RFMO Secretariat representatives during an informal consultation on the operational meaning of "not undermine" and encouraged further collective thinking as cooperation mechanisms are developed.

672. The EU welcomed the Secretariat's cooperative stance and requested that whenever input on policy choices was sought, the Secretariat should first seek a clear mandate from Members.

673. Accountability.Fish welcomed WCPFC recognition of BBNJ relevance and urged transparency to reflect Parties' BBNJ obligations in WCPFC decision-making. They noted that this is an essential element for facilitating coherence and ensuring due coordination at the national level between the agencies responsible for the BBNJ Agreement and RFMOs.

674. The Common Oceans Tuna Project (funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by FAO) stated it promotes responsible, efficient and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation through a partnership of 25 organizations including the five tuna RFMOs, intergovernmental bodies, industry, and civil society. FAO noted that a detailed update on tuna project activities relevant to the Pacific region is included in

Observer Paper 08. FAO highlighted a few project activities in support of enhancing scientific and technical capacity to develop and implement management procedures, and updated the Commission on harvest strategy capacity-building, including a new e-learning series on management procedures; upcoming live sessions; a February 2026 webinar featuring the WCPFC Executive Director; and a January 2026 joint tuna RFMO workshop on MSE, with results anticipated for SC in August 2026.

675. The Commission tasked the Secretariat with maintaining engagement with relevant international ocean conservation initiatives and to report back to the Commission on a regular basis on international ocean-related developments that may impact WCPFC and its activities.

17 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

676. The Commission made the following appointments to Commission positions commencing after the end of WCPFC22 (6 December 2025):

- a. Ms. Emily Crigler (USA) as Chair of the Scientific Committee.
- b. Mr. Rohan Curry (AU) as Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee.
- c. Mr. Ilkang Na (KR) as Chair of the Technical and Compliance Committee.
- d. Ms. Glenda Barry (PNG) as Vice Chair of the Technical and Compliance Committee.
- e. Ms. Putuh Suadela (Indonesia) as co-Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.
- f. Ms. Liman Helgenberger (FSM) as co-Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.
- g. Ms. Lesley Hawn (USA) as Chair of the ER and EM Intersessional Working Group.

677. The Commission noted that the nomination of Mr. Mat Kertesz (Australia) for co-Chair of the WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore (SPAJWG) will be confirmed intersessionally by Australia.

678. The Commission invited nominations for Vice Chair of the Northern Committee, and co-Chair of the Port State measures intersessional review to be made intersessionally in 2026.

679. The Commission agreed on the following meeting venues and dates for 2026:

- a. 22nd Northern Committee, including the 11th PBFJWG (8-14 July 2026, Nagasaki, Japan)
- b. 22nd Scientific Committee (11-19 August 2026, Apia, Samoa)
- c. 22nd Technical and Compliance Committee (23-29 September 2026, Pohnpei, FSM)
- d. 20th Finance and Administration Committee (29 November to 4 December 2026, [TBD])
- e. 23rd Regular Session of the Commission (30 November to 4 December 2026, [TBD])

680. The Commission agreed on tentative meeting dates and venues, including meetings to be held virtually, for the South Pacific albacore Implementing Measure Workshops and Bigeye Tuna Management Workshops ([Attachment 35](#)). Confirmed dates will be notified in due course.

681. New Zealand confirmed its offer to host the South Pacific albacore allocation workshop in early May 2026, tentatively on 7–8 May, with hybrid participation.

682. The United States reported that the co-Chairs of the WCPFC–IATTC Northern Committee Joint Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna had agreed to hold an intersessional meeting from 11 to 13 March 2026 in Newport

Beach, California, with both in person and virtual participation, and requested that this meeting be reflected in the WCPFC22 Summary Report.

683. The Commission noted that other intersessional working group meetings would be scheduled intersessionally by the Secretariat, taking into account the harvest strategy schedule presented by the SC Chair.

18 OTHER MATTERS

684. The Chair recalled that no additional items had been proposed for discussion under Agenda Item 18 during the heads of delegation meeting or at the start of WCPFC22.

685. The Chair invited any final matters. No CCM raised additional issues.

19 CLOSE OF MEETING

686. Indonesia observed that regarding the timeline for revision of CMM 2023-01, it remains flexible and is prepared to support a one-year rollover of CMM 2023-01 until 2027 should this be necessary to allow the scientific work and discussions to proceed effectively. It stressed that it would not intend seek to obstruct the scientific process but highlighted its concern that continuing delays in revising CMM 2023-01 had direct implications on developing States, including Indonesia, to sustainably utilize high seas resources. It stated that their rights to fish on the high seas are recognized under Article 30 of the Convention and postponement means their rights remain unrealized. Indonesia also noted that a CNM currently holds participatory rights to fish in the high seas for purse seine vessels while Indonesia has zero days despite being a developing State member with a long-standing presence in the region. They noted that the imbalance underscored the urgency of progressing the revision of the measure. Indonesia noted that the postponement of the yellowfin and skipjack tuna connectivity study may limit members' understanding of stock connectivity across the Convention Area and prolong uncertainty, particularly as fishing pressures on these stocks continues to increase. While recognizing the Commission's budget constraints, Indonesia underscored the importance of the study for future management. Indonesia also expressed appreciation to CCMs for supporting Indonesia's position of not including the three Indonesian vessels on the 2026 IUU Vessel List, stating Indonesia values the constructive engagement and acknowledgment of Indonesia's strong and proportionate enforcement actions under its national legal framework. They extended sincere appreciation to New Zealand for extensive engagement throughout the investigation process and thanked the Secretariat for its continued support and assistance. Indonesia stated that the collaborate spirit reflected a collective effort to address these cases and improve our fisheries governance. Indonesia stated it remains fully committed to preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing in line with their national regulations and obligations under the Convention. Indonesia stated it remains committed to working collaboratively with all members to advance the objective of the Commission while ensuring fairness, balance, and recognition of the rights of developing States.

687. Fiji highlighted that the adoption of the South Pacific albacore MP is a monumental achievement marking a decisive shift towards a fully implemented science-driven harvest strategy for one of the region's most economically viable tuna stocks. Fiji stated that the decision is a powerful testament to the unity and commitment of the WCPFC membership to science-based fisheries management and acknowledged the work that contributed to this achievement. Fiji stated CCMs delivered on the mandate to protect the long-term sustainability and economic viability of this fishery, ensuring a predictable future for communities, fishing fleets, and our economies that depend on South Pacific albacore. Fiji thanked the FFA Secretariat, SPC, the broader FFA membership, the SPG block, and other CCMs. Fiji also acknowledged the work of the Commission Secretariat and the Chair, and the government and people of Philippines and the government of Canada for hosting the meeting.

688. Chinese Taipei thanked the Chair and Secretariat for their leadership and highlighted the significance of agreements reached, including adoption of the South Pacific albacore MP and the strengthened CMM on seabird bycatch mitigation. Chinese Taipei noted that these outcomes required substantial compromise and sacrifice by many CCMs. Chinese Taipei also underlined the importance of viewing WCPFC as a technical body for fisheries management, not a forum for politically motivated issues. Chinese Taipei stated that WCPFC was not a subsidiary body of the United Nations and considered it inappropriate to invoke United Nations resolutions in attempts to influence Commission operations. They closed by extending gratitude to the Philippines and Canada for their sponsorship and to the Secretariat for its support.

689. The Philippines, as host, expressed appreciation to CCMs for participation and stated that WCPFC22 had delivered on its key objective to adopt the South Pacific albacore management procedure. The Philippines thanked the Chair, Executive Director, Secretariat, Canada as co-host, and all support staff, and expressed hope that delegates had experienced Philippine hospitality.

690. The Chair delivered closing remarks, thanking all CCMs, CNMs, observers, the host country and co-host, SPC, and the Secretariat for cooperation and collaboration throughout the meeting and during the year. The Chair described adoption of the South Pacific albacore MP as a milestone both for the Commission and personally as a national of Niue, given the importance of South Pacific albacore in the region. The Chair acknowledged the substantial workload anticipated for 2026 and looked forward to continued cooperation.

691. Samoa, at the Chair's request, offered a prayer to close the meeting, asking for blessings on all participants and safe travels home.

692. The Chair closed WCPFC22 at 7:30 pm on 5 December 2025.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: A to S

ATTACHMENT A:	List of Participants
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ATTACHMENT B:	Philippines: Undersecretary for Fisheries
ATTACHMENT C:	Canada: Ambassador to the Philippines
ATTACHMENT D:	WCPFC Chair
ATTACHMENT E:	WCPFC Executive Director
ATTACHMENT F:	Marshall Islands
ATTACHMENT G:	Papua New Guinea
ATTACHMENT H:	Tuvalu
ATTACHMENT I:	Philippines (Delegation – DA-BFAR)
ATTACHMENT J:	Forum Fisheries Committee Chair
ATTACHMENT K:	Republic of Korea
ATTACHMENT L:	Federated States of Micronesia
ATTACHMENT M:	Samoa
ATTACHMENT N:	Indonesia
ATTACHMENT O:	France
ATTACHMENT P:	New Caledonia
ATTACHMENT Q:	American Samoa
ATTACHMENT R:	French Polynesia
ATTACHMENT S:	Guam

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ATTACHMENT B: Philippines Opening Statement

Delivered by Drusila Esther E. Bayate, Undersecretary for Fisheries, Philippines

Distinguished delegates, representatives of Member States, Cooperating Non-Members, Participating Territories, observers, and partners in regional fisheries governance

On behalf of the Philippines' Department of Agriculture, it is my honor to welcome all of you to Manila for the 22nd Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

We are deeply grateful to the leadership of the Commission for the incredible trust and confidence given to the Philippines to host this year's session. It is a privilege to gather nations, cultures, and institutions united by a shared responsibility: ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks that sustain our region's economies, communities, and marine ecosystems. Rest assured, the Philippine government is always ready to work with the Commission, its members, cooperating non-members, and participating territories in achieving this mission.

The WCPFC remains one of the most important regional fisheries management bodies in the world. Its science-based conservation and management measures are essential to safeguarding the world's largest tuna fishery, an invaluable resource for food security, employment, and economic growth across the Western and Central Pacific. The decisions we make here shape not only fisheries governance but the future of millions who depend on our oceans.

As a member of the WCPFC and one of the region's major tuna-producing nations, the Philippines reaffirms its strong commitment to the Commission's mandate. Last year was a remarkable year for our country's tuna industry, supporting countless Filipino families and remaining a cornerstone of our fisheries industry. We continue to strengthen this industry through science-based policies such as the National Tuna Management Plan 2025–2030, enhanced VMS requirements and traceability systems, improved management of Fish Aggregating Devices, reduction of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and protection of our stocks.

Today, more than ever, collaboration is essential. Climate change, declining market prices, pressures on stocks, and the persistent challenge of IUU fishing require collective action. I am confident that this session will build on the achievements of WCPFC21 and lead to stronger conservation measures, more effective compliance mechanisms, and solidified partnerships among all who share stewardship of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Before we begin, I also acknowledge the thorough preparations done by our WCPFC Secretariat, their counterpart administrative and logistics team in the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, as well as our co-host, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Thank you too to our partners in the Philippine tuna industry for supporting us since day one in planning this event. We hope that we were able to make all the necessary arrangements for everyone to have a comfortable and worthwhile stay in Manila. May our camaraderie in the coming days serve as a reminder that while we come from diverse nations, our aspirations for a healthy, resilient, and peaceful Western and Central Pacific bind us together.

With that, I wish everyone a productive, collaborative, and meaningful WCPFC22. And with much pride, we warmly welcome all our delegates to our vibrant and beautiful Manila.

Maraming salamat po!

ATTACHMENT C: Canada Opening Statement

Delivered by H.E. David Hartman, Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines

Canada would like to begin by extending our sincere thanks to the Philippines for agreeing to co-host the 22nd regular session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission with Canada. Not only are we grateful for the opportunity to visit Manila, but also for the time and effort provided by our co-hosts to make the arrangements for this meeting. Canada was pleased to lend our support through financial assistance in the hosting of this year's regular session.

Canada would like to also thank the Chair, Ms. Josie Tamate, the Executive Director, M. Rhea Christian Moss, and the WCPFC Secretariat team for all the work leading up to this meeting.

With a view to continuing to implement the Government of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy objectives and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Shared Ocean Fund, we are prioritizing work with international partners to strengthen and enforce the rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific region, including through our engagement at the WCPFC. We are committed to improving the sustainable management of fisheries, protecting vulnerable marine species, advancing ecosystem conservation efforts, reducing marine pollution, and putting in place strong monitoring, control, and surveillance rules to deter IUU fishing.

For this year in particular, Canada's priority objectives are to:

1. Support the adoption of a Management Procedure for South Pacific albacore tuna that is aligned with the precautionary approach and safeguards Canada's access to the fishery,
2. Support the development of High Seas Boardings and Inspections voluntary guidelines,
3. Improve protection measures for bycatch species, and
4. Advance dialogue on the margins of this meeting to limit and manage marine pollution.

Our delegation is very much looking forward to working with all of you over the next week to advance these important issues. We trust this will be a successful year in advancing the work of the Commission.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT D: WCPFC Chair Opening Statement

Delivered by Dr. Josie M Tamate - Chair

Madam Undersecretary Drusila Bayate, Ambassador David Hartman, Canada's Ambassador to the Philippines, Honorable Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Delegates, Observers, Executive Director Rhea Moss Christian and the Secretariat team, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mabuhay, and Good morning to you all. Fakalofa lahi atu ke he higoa he Iki ha tautolu ko Iesu Keriso.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Government of the Philippines and Government of Canada for stepping in to host the WCPFC22 session, including the hospitality accorded since our arrival in Manila.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge my utmost appreciation to all the Commission members, Executive Director and the Secretariat team, our Science Service Provider and to everyone who contributed towards the work of the Commission in 2025.

2025 was another big year for all of us; and especially in the Ocean space; starting with the Honiara Summit that was held in February, the discussions with IATTC to establish a Joint Working Group for South Pacific Albacore, the third UN Ocean Conference, the intersessional working groups discussions and the Subsidiary Body meetings, commencing with the North Committee in July, the Science Committee in August and the Technical Compliance Committee in September. All those discussions, outcomes and the recommendations will help to inform the decisions that we will take at this Commission meeting.

To all the Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Leads of the Subsidiary Bodies and Working Groups - thank you for your dedication and contribution. It is not easy to juggle both the work you must do for your governments and WCPFC work, and I want to acknowledge your commitment and your invaluable contribution to the work of the WCPFC.

The WCPFC22 agenda is very comprehensive. This is to be expected given the importance of WCPFC stocks to global tuna supply, the transition that is underway to full implementation of harvest strategies, and the significance of monitoring, control and enforcement efforts for conservation and management.

My top priority for this week's meeting is the adoption of the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure. Agreement on SPA MP would demonstrate the Commission's commitment to harvest strategies and the management of an economically important fishery. Whilst it has taken us a bit longer to get to where we are today, I believe we are in a best possible position now; and you have done the necessary work to progress the discussions throughout the year. Those discussions have laid out the groundwork for the successful conclusion of a SPA MP this year.

I am confident that there is a strong commitment to progress this, and other work of the Commission. Where there are issues which we may not reach consensus, I will be looking for decisions on process and tasking for 2026. Clear guidance and tasking for our Secretariat, the Subsidiary Bodies and intersessional working groups, and the leadership of many of you in these efforts, is very much appreciated.

Members, I am ready to work. I look forward to your support and thank you for all your efforts.

Thank you and Maraming salamat po.

ATTACHMENT E: WCPFC Executive Director Opening Statement

Delivered by Rhea Moss-Christian, Executive Director

Good morning and Mabuhay. It's great to be back in Manila for another Commission meeting. My thanks to Undersecretary Drusilla Esther Bayate and Ambassador Hartman for joining us this morning and for your opening remarks. It is fitting for the governments of the Philippines and Canada to jointly host this meeting. It reflects your long-standing partnership that spans over 75 years, which began with trade cooperation and has expanded to include a range of activities. Thank you for your contributions to jointly host this meeting.

I echo the remarks made before mine, and the emphasis this year on adopting key decisions that strengthen WCPFC's management of the South Pacific albacore tuna fishery, a major fishery in the western and central Pacific Ocean. Adoption of a management procedure for South Pacific albacore will mark a significant step in advancing the WCPFC's harvest strategy framework.

This work, together with the Commission's efforts to advance development of management procedures for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, is the essential work of this organization. This work sits at the core of our collective commitment to the Objective of the Convention.

Nearly a decade ago in 2017, here in Manila, the Commission established an intersessional working group, under the leadership of New Zealand and later by Fiji, to develop a roadmap toward a South Pacific albacore harvest strategy. Last year at WCPFC21, the Commission tasked itself with adopting that management procedure here at this meeting, together with an implementing measure. We have come full circle as we gather here in Manila again, to adopt the management procedure. This is the opportunity for members to turn the last several years of effort into action, demonstrating that WCPFC can make the hard, but necessary decisions that support long term sustainability of fisheries resources in the western and central Pacific Ocean.

I would like to take this opportunity recognize the presence of dignitaries from the host nation of WCPFC's headquarters, the FSM, who are joining us today from the FSM Congress. Senator and former President Peter Christian and Senator Jermy Mudong—thank you for being with us on this occasion. On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express gratitude to the FSM Government for their ongoing support and partnership with the WCPFC.

I wish the Commission and all stakeholders a productive 22nd Annual Session and confirm that the Secretariat stands ready to support your discussions and collective efforts to achieving meaningful outcomes.

Thank you.

Delivered by Hon. Anthony M. Muller, Minister of Natural Resources & Commerce, Marshall Islands

Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The Republic of the Marshall Islands conveys its deepest appreciation to the Commission, the Secretariat, and our gracious host for bringing us together for this Twenty-Second Regular Session of the WCPFC. It is an honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of my Government and the people of the Marshall Islands—people whose daily lives, economic aspirations, food security, and long-term development are inseparable from the health and sustainable governance of our tuna resources.

As a large ocean state at the heart of the Western and Central Pacific, the Marshall Islands approaches this session with clarity of purpose and unwavering commitment. Our identity, prosperity, and security are tied to the ocean that surrounds us. And so, we come with a firm resolve to strengthen cooperation, uphold the centrality of science, and safeguard the rights and interests of Pacific peoples under the Convention.

This year, we carry a number of national priorities but allow me to highlight three in particular—and to respectfully call upon Commission Members to work with us to deliver meaningful, future-focused outcomes.

1. Article 30 Implementation – CMM 2013-06 Assessment

The Republic of the Marshall Islands reaffirms the critical importance of Article 30 as a cornerstone for Small Island Developing States. For us, this is not simply a technical clause—it is a foundational pillar that enables SIDS to participate in, influence, and benefit from the fisheries occurring in our own waters.

The ongoing assessment of CMM 2013-06 presents a timely opportunity to strengthen—*not dilute*—our collective commitments. We expect this assessment to:

- Reinforce obligations on capacity-building and technology transfer.
- Address the persistent and disproportionate compliance burdens placed on SIDS; and
- Safeguard the sovereign right of SIDS to develop and benefit from their fisheries, consistent with the Convention.

Article 30 is the platform upon which our engagement in this Commission stands. We therefore urge all Members to approach this assessment with sincerity, fairness, and a full appreciation of the challenges that Pacific SIDS continue to navigate.

2. Review of CMM 2009-06 – Strengthening Transshipment Measures

The Republic of the Marshall Islands places the highest importance on reforming and strengthening CMM 2009-06 on transshipment. Transshipment remains one of the most critical compliance and governance challenges for both coastal States and the Commission as a whole.

The realities are clear: High-seas transshipment—particularly within the longline fishery—remains insufficiently monitored, inadequately verified, and highly vulnerable to exploitation.

To protect the integrity of this Commission and preserve confidence in our conservation and management measures, the Republic of the Marshall Islands calls for:

- Strengthening the management of longline transshipment by promoting a transition toward in-port or designated EEZ transshipment under full monitoring and verification, while allowing limited high-seas transshipment only where independent oversight can be assured;
- Strengthened and harmonized reporting requirements aligned with FFA and PNA in-zone frameworks; and
- Mandatory 100% observer or electronic monitoring coverage on all carrier vessels.

Our region has made significant strides in in-zone and in-port compliance. Now, the Commission must rise to meet this progress. The Marshall Islands stands ready to work constructively with all Members to forge a modern, transparent, and truly enforceable transshipment regime.

3. South Pacific Albacore – Development of the Management Procedure

The Republic of the Marshall Islands also underscores the urgent need to advance the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure, including formal recognition of the Longline Vessel Day Scheme as an existing management mechanism. This fishery is a lifeline for many Pacific Island economies. Yet SIDS' domestic longline fleets—already operating on narrow margins—continue to face declining profitability, rising operational uncertainty, and real threats to their long-term viability.

To secure a sustainable and equitable future for this fishery, we urge the Commission to:

- Improve management arrangements that support the economic viability and operational stability of SIDS-based longline fleets.
- Advance a precautionary, science-based harvest strategy with clear and responsive harvest control rules; and
- Embed the long-term development needs and aspirations of SIDS into every layer of the management procedure.

A robust Management Procedure should become a benchmark for how this Commission can deliver durable, equitable, and future-proof frameworks—ones that sustain healthy tuna stocks while enabling SIDS fleets to thrive from their home ports.

Conclusion

Chair and distinguished delegates,

The Republic of the Marshall Islands remains steadfast in its commitment to the shared stewardship of our oceanic resources. For us, these negotiations are not abstract—they are woven into our national security, our economic resilience, our cultural identity, and our very survival as an island nation. The decisions we make here have profound implications for our people and for all who depend on the Pacific for their livelihoods.

As we proceed with our deliberations, we urge the Commission to stay true to the founding principles of the Convention, to elevate the voices and needs of Small Island Developing States, and to safeguard the resources that define our future.

The Marshall Islands stands ready to collaborate in good faith, to uphold the integrity of this Commission, and to advance outcomes that strengthen not only our management frameworks but the resilience and prosperity of our entire region.

Let us ensure that WCPFC22 is remembered for unity, ambition, and decisive action.

Kommol tata. Thank you.

ATTACHMENT G: Papua New Guinea Opening Statement

Delivered by Hon. Jelta Wong, MP, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Papua New Guinea

Fellow Fisheries Ministers, Chair of the Commission, Executive Director of the WCPFC, Distinguished Delegates, Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a privilege to be here this morning and address this esteemed gathering on behalf of the Prime Minister and the people of Papua New Guinea. I would like to extend my appreciation to the government and the people of the Philippines for the wonderful arrangement towards the hosting of this meeting.

Our participation in this meeting recognizes the vital role that The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission plays in safeguarding our tuna resources. The Commission's role in effectively managing our highly migratory stocks through rigorous science and regional cooperation ensures that we do not overfish, and our stocks remain healthy.

This work safeguards food security and directly supports the economies of Pacific Island nations. Strengthening the WCPFC is essential to ensure our tuna remain abundant for future generations. In this regard, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Chair Ms. Josie Tamate and the Executive Director Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian of the WCPFC for their tireless efforts in guiding us through the lead-up to this Annual Session.

It has been a long year for us all, but the dedication and professionalism demonstrated in convening the Technical and Compliance Committee and the Scientific Committee have been instrumental in ensuring that our deliberations are well-informed, balanced, and grounded in robust science and effective governance.

As we convene here in Manila, we do so not merely as representatives of sovereign nations, but as stewards of a shared oceanic legacy—one that binds our histories, our economies, and our futures.

Chair and distinguished delegates, PNG ACKNOWLEDGES the international legal frameworks on which this great organization was built; the 1995 UN Straddling fish stocks Agreement, 1982 Law of the Sea Convention and the WCPFC convention which have enabled this commission to develop into a role model for other International Fishery bodies to exemplify.

These instruments empower the Commission to adopt conservation and management measures, coordinate scientific research, and foster cooperation among members—making it a model of collective fisheries governance.

At the same time, PNG stresses that the sovereignty of member countries over their waters and resources must not be infringed. Regional decisions must respect national laws and priorities, ensuring that collective measures complement rather than override domestic jurisdiction. It is this balance—shared authority exercised with respect for sovereign rights—that secures the Commission's legitimacy and strength.

Papua New Guinea aligns our priorities in this commission meeting with our fellow Pacific brothers and sister in reaffirming that our development aspirations are inseparable from our commitment to

sustainability. The Pacific's tuna stocks, among the healthiest in the world, are not a coincidence—they are the result of disciplined governance, regional solidarity, and the sacrifices of our people.

There is currently an empowered push by Pacific Islands countries to achieve a greater value from our tuna resources and our development aspirations are rooted in the stringent management measures that define the WCPFC. The efforts to agree on measures that are sustainable and supported by scientific information has enable Pacific Islands countries to benefit from a significant natural resource that benefits our people directly.

Chair and distinguished delegates, our Pacific Islands countries' economies, food security, and livelihoods are deeply tied to tuna and other highly migratory stocks, this recognition is not symbolic—it is essential. Article 30 of the commission ensures that conservation measures do not impose disproportionate burdens on our small island developing States, while affirming our right to pursue fisheries development in ways that generate value for our people.

This is not merely a footnote in our Convention; it is its foundation. It is the moral compass that guides our collective decisions. For Us, our fisheries are not just a sector—they are lifelines. They fund schools, clinics, and infrastructure. They sustain our people's livelihoods and cultural identity.

Yet, the increasing complexity of Commission processes and obligations risks marginalizing those very voices Article 30 was designed to protect. This is where Article 30 becomes indispensable: it ensures that conservation measures do not impose disproportionate burdens on our small island developing States, while affirming our right to pursue fisheries development in ways that generate value for our people.

We now call upon the commission and our developed members to ensure that every new measure adopted by this Commission includes a SIDS Special Requirements review clause—so that equity is not assumed but assured.

Chair and distinguished delegates, despite being at the forefront of Climate Change impacts, Pacific Island countries continue to demonstrate leadership by ensuring that agreed management measures are implemented with integrity and purpose. Despite our dedication to sustainable management practices, climate change continues to intensify pressures on our fisheries and our communities, demanding that we build resilience not only in conservation but also in our financial capacity.

Chair and distinguished delegates, the Pacific did not create the climate crisis, yet we bear its brunt. Scientific evidence confirms that climate change is already altering the distribution and productivity of key tuna stocks. These shifts threaten the economic stability of our nations and the integrity of our management frameworks.

We further call on the Commission to recognize that climate-driven changes in tuna abundance must not result in a redistribution of benefits away from those who have historically conserved these resources. We urge the Commission to integrate climate resilience into all future conservation measures, ensuring that Pacific Island countries are financially and technically equipped to adapt to shifting tuna stocks.

We invoke the recent advisory opinions of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Court of Justice, which reaffirm the obligation of States to prevent and mitigate climate harms. The Commission must act in accordance with these principles.

Chair and distinguished delegates, Sustainability is not a slogan—it is a strategy. It is the only path by which our development aspirations can be realized, against this backdrop I would like to highlight two key proposals that we have submitted for endorsement and support in this commission meeting: on South Pacific Albacore and High Seas Transshipment.

Our proposal on the South Pacific Albacore before you today is the culmination of many years of rigorous discussions and negotiations at both official and ministerial levels. It has been carefully vetted against sound policy and supported by factual scientific data, with the collective endorsement of all 17 FFA member countries. As we now seek consensus from our developed partners in this Commission, we appeal to you to recognize the profound dependency Pacific Island nations place on the decisions taken here, and the far-reaching implications these choices hold for our development aspirations and the wellbeing of our people.

We further ask for your consideration on our proposal on the High Seas Transshipment. For Pacific Island Countries, strengthening the high seas transshipment measure is vital. By requiring transshipment in ports, we combat IUU fishing, ensure transparency, and safeguard our tuna resources. At the same time, port-based transshipment drives domestic development—creating jobs, generating revenue, and keeping the economic benefits of our fisheries within our communities.

Chair and distinguished delegates, let us remember: the Pacific is not asking for charity. We are demanding fairness. We are not passive recipients of global decisions—we are active architects of regional solutions. And we will continue to lead, not because it is easy, but because it is necessary.

On behalf of the Government and People of Papua New Guinea, I wish this Commission every success. May our deliberations be guided by justice, equity, and the spirit of Pacific solidarity.

Thank you, and God bless.

ATTACHMENT H: Tuvalu Opening Statement

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

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 22 in the days ahead.

Firstly, let me associate myself with the remarks of other delegations in thanking the Government and People of Philippines for the hospitality and courtesy accorded to our delegation since we have arrived here.

As usual, I would like to assure you, Madam chair, of Tuvalu's support for you in your role. As always, there is a lot on the agenda, 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 four points on which Tuvalu believes we really need to make progress this year.

1) Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore Tuna

Frankly, for Tuvalu the fishery for Albacore is not very important – but I have put this top of my list as a matter of solidarity with other FFA members, as well as to maintain the reputation of the Commission for responsible management of all our tuna resources. We are behind schedule with the adoption of the M.P. for Albacore, and I believe that the proposals put forward for the procedure and the implementing arrangement are fair, balanced and effective. Tuvalu urges all Commission members to accept these proposals

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. We are encouraged to see that measures which PNA have already implemented – FAD tracking and a FAD logsheet – are now being considered for implementation as WCPFC requirements. We are supportive in principle of a move to bio-degradable FADs, but we share the concerns of industry that these need to be effective. Tuvalu has recently launched a small project to retrieve and re-use FAD buoys, so that when bio-FADs are introduced this small non-degradable part of the system will also be dealt with.

3) High Seas Transshipment

Tuvalu, like other coastal states in the WCPFC, has grave concerns over the extent of the transshipment of longline catches on the high seas. Something that was supposed to be allowed only in exceptional circumstances has become the norm, raising the risk of IUU activities and labour abuse. Attempts to reform the management measure controlling transshipment have failed in previous years due to resistance from a few members – but we firmly believe that the measure needs to be strengthened and improved.

4) Revising the timetable for review of the Tropical Tuna CMM

My last point is a short one. We strongly support the proposal to delay the revision of the Tropical Tuna Conservation and Management Measure by one year. This will align the process with the Skipjack Management Procedure, and give our hardworking science provider more time to do the necessary groundwork.

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 I: Philippines (Delegation-DA-BFAR) Opening Statement

Delivered by the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, on behalf of Undersecretary of Fisheries for the Philippines, Drusilla Esther Bayate

Thank you, Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates, representatives, observers, secretariat and partners, a pleasant morning to each one of you

On behalf of the Philippines' department of agriculture bureau of fisheries and aquatic resources, I welcome you to Manila for the 22nd regular session of the western and central pacific fisheries commission (WCPFC).

We are honored to host this session and reaffirm the Philippine government's commitment to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks. The WCPFC is vital for safeguarding the world's largest tuna fishery, essential for food security and economic growth across our region.

As a major tuna-producing nation, the Philippines is strongly committed to the WCPFC mandate. We continue to strengthen our tuna industry through science-based policies, enhanced VMS, traceability systems, improved FAD management, reduction of IUU fishing, and stock protection, guided by our national tuna management plan 2025–2030.

We support key agenda items, including the proposed amendment to the CMM on high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI), measures addressing climate change impacts, and the development of harvest strategies for stocks like yellowfin tuna.

Collective action is essential to address climate change, market pressures, stock concerns, and persistent IUU fishing. We are confident this session will result in stronger conservation measures and solidified partnerships.

We acknowledge the thorough preparations by the WCPFC secretariat, our BFAR administrative and logistics team, our co-host fisheries and oceans Canada, and our partners in the Philippine tuna industry. We hope you have a comfortable and worthwhile stay.

We encourage all delegates to experience the warmth of our hospitality and the beauty of the Philippines. May our camaraderie remind us that our shared aspirations for a healthy, resilient, and peaceful western and central Pacific Ocean bind us together.

I wish everyone a productive, collaborative, and meaningful **WCPFC22**. We warmly welcome all our delegates to our vibrant manila.

Maraming salamat po!"

ATTACHMENT J: Forum Fisheries Committee Chair Opening Statement

Delivered by Poimatagi Okesene, Chair, Forum Fisheries Committee

Madam Chair, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the 17 members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). Our collective engagement in this Commission continues to be anchored in our shared commitment to sustainability, equity, and cooperation across the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. As always, our interventions here do not prejudice the positions of FFA Members, individually or collectively.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the gracious hospitality of our host, the people and Government of the Philippines. I also acknowledged the generous support of the Government of Canada for this meeting.

Madam Chair, allow me to outline the priorities that FFA Members wish to emphasise at WCPFC22.

South Pacific Albacore

South Pacific albacore remains the highest priority for FFA Members at this meeting.

For the Commission's consideration, we have put forward two complementary proposals:

- (i)** the Conservation and Management Measure for the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure (SPA MP), and
- (ii)** its associated Implementing CMM.

These proposals reflect an extensive, collaborative, and science-informed process undertaken by FFA Members over the past two years. Central to this work was agreement among our Members on allocations within their EEZs; an important and forward-looking step that underscores our commitment to ensuring effective long-term management of the South Pacific albacore stock.

We respectfully encourage the Commission to take a similarly constructive approach by adopting the SPA MP and its Implementing Measure at WCPFC22, consistent with the direction agreed at WCPFC21.

Article 30 – Special Requirements of SIDS and Territories

Madam Chair, as the Honorable Minister from Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea stated, Article 30 is not merely a reference point in the Convention; it is integral to ensuring fairness and balance in the Commission's decision-making.

We welcome its elevation as a priority at this session, as it should be for every Commission meeting and processes, acknowledging that its importance is enduring and should guide the Commission's work each year.

FFA Members underscore the need for genuine and timely consultation under CMM 2013-06, particularly on proposals with economic or operational implications for SIDS. Our detailed recommendations are contained in our delegation paper, and we look forward to constructive engagement with all CCMs to ensure full alignment with the Convention's intent.

Transshipment

FFA Members have consistently emphasised the need to strengthen the transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06). While considerable effort has gone into reviewing the measure in recent years, Members have fundamental differences in perspectives. Given the challenges encountered to date, the most pragmatic step forward is to focus on improving the clarity and effectiveness of the existing measure. Our suggestions for enhancing the current provisions are set out in our proposal on this matter.

Seabird Mitigation

Seabirds remain culturally and ecologically important across our region. We remain concerned about the continued risks to seabird populations from longline fisheries.

A revised proposal has been submitted by FFA Members to extend the area requiring two mitigation measures to **25°S**. This update is informed by recent research identifying the 25°–30°S band as an area of heightened vulnerability for several seabird species, including the Antipodean albatross, whose declining trajectory is a matter of serious concern.

FFA Members are committed to working with all CCMs to identify practical, science-based improvements that meaningfully reduce seabird bycatch while remaining operationally feasible.

Climate Change

Madam Chair, recent scientific advice reaffirms what our Pacific communities have been observing for years: climate change is reshaping the distribution, productivity, and seasonal behaviour of key tuna species. These changes, especially shifts between EEZs and the high seas, carry significant implications for the economies of Pacific SIDS.

Over decades, FFA Members have managed their fisheries with restraint and responsibility, at times limiting national development to ensure the long-term health of shared tuna stocks. The strong condition of these fisheries today reflects these efforts.

Yet, despite contributing minimally to global emissions, Pacific SIDS are disproportionately affected by climate-driven shifts that threaten access to fisheries resources essential for economic resilience and food security. We should not be placed in the position of bearing these costs twice.

We therefore look to the Commission to ensure that future Total Allowable Catch arrangements and harvest strategies deliver **fair and equitable outcomes**, recognising historical stewardship and the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS, regardless of how climate change may affect stock distribution.

Recent advisory opinions from the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea** and the **International Court of Justice** reinforce the global expectation that States act cooperatively and decisively in addressing climate-related harms. These developments strengthen the rationale for incorporating climate considerations into the Commission's management framework.

Closing

Madam Chair, FFA Members stand ready to work constructively with you and all CCMs to ensure that WCPFC22 is productive and delivers meaningful progress toward sustainable, equitable, and climate-resilient fisheries management for our region. Thank you, Madam Chair.

ATTACHMENT K: Republic of Korea Opening Statement

Delivered by Dr. Jong-jun Song, Acting Director General of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea

Thank you, Madam Chair.

On behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to thank you, Madam Chair, for your leadership, and to express our sincere appreciation to the Governments of the Philippines and Canada for co-hosting this Twenty-Second Session and for welcoming us to the vibrant city of Manila. Korea also thanks the Secretariat for their preparations and support leading up to WCPFC 22.

With a long list delegation paper before us, we see clearly the keen interest of Members in addressing the key challenges facing this Commission.

Korea remains firmly committed to the objectives of the Convention: the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

In our view, this requires robust, science-based measures, while at the same time allowing rational and legitimate fishing operations on the high seas to continue in a predictable way, without excessive or unnecessary restrictions on compliant operators. In this regard, Korea attaches particular importance to its proposal on transshipment management, which is designed to strengthen monitoring and transparency of at-sea operations while safeguarding legitimate logistical practices.

We will introduce this proposal later today and look forward to engaging constructively with all Members to refine it so that it both enhances effective MCS and remains practical for compliant fleets.

Korea also places strong emphasis on the harvest strategy agenda. WCPFC 22 should deliver a credible and implementable Management Procedure for South Pacific albacore, together with an effective implementing measure, and agree on an updated and realistic workplan for harvest strategies across key tuna stocks.

As this work advances, issues of allocation, equity and burden-sharing will become more prominent. Korea believes that our decisions must remain equitable and balanced among all Members. Burden sharing is first and foremost a common obligation of the Commission as a whole, and while we must ensure that the burdens placed on SIDS are not disproportionate in light of their capacities and development priorities, we must also uphold the expectation that all Members contribute their share in line with their respective roles and capabilities.

We also underline the importance of our work on climate change; on further developing MCS tools—including observers, electronic monitoring, VMS and port measures—as a coherent system; and on improving the quality and timeliness of data to support the work of the Scientific Committee and TCC, as well as on continued cooperation with other regional bodies to avoid regulatory gaps and maintain a level playing field across the wider Pacific.

Madam Chair, Korea comes to WCPFC 22 ready to engage constructively, to listen to all Members, and to work towards outcomes that uphold the Convention's objectives while ensuring that rational high seas operations by compliant fleets can continue. We hope this session will deliver concrete, balanced and

implementable decisions on harvest strategies, MCS, climate response and institutional matters. Thank you, Madam Chair.

ATTACHMENT L: Federated States of Micronesia Opening Statement

**Delivered by Jamel James, Acting Director of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority,
Federated States of Micronesia**

Madam Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Good morning and a warm Kamorale!

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is honored to join fellow Members in thanking the Government and people of the Philippines and Canada for graciously co-hosting this 22nd Annual Session of the Commission. We also extend our deep appreciation to our Madam Chair, Dr. Josie Tamate, the WCPFC Secretariat, Executive Director, Dr. Rhea Moss-Christian, and her hardworking team for the excellent arrangements for this meeting.

FSM is further pleased to be joined this year by members of the Congress of the FSM. Their presence underscores our nation's strong commitment as the host country of the Commission's headquarters and our recognition of the importance of the work we undertake here.

FSM places high priority on ensuring that the Commission's management decisions are supported by accurate and independently verifiable data. Persistent data, particularly in the longline fishery—continue to undermine both compliance and the scientific advice essential to our work.

FSM therefore strongly supports further development and implementation of electronic monitoring (EM) and electronic reporting (ER) systems. These technologies are essential for improving the quality, coverage, and reliability of monitoring across all fleets.

Madam Chair, FSM wishes to express a growing concern shared by many Small Island Developing States: the fisheries management system has become increasingly complex and difficult to navigate.

The expanding number of measures, reporting obligations, and meetings creates an unsustainable workload for SIDS with limited personnel and technical capacity. This growing complexity risks undermining effective participation and compliance.

FSM therefore believes it is time for the Commission to:

- simplify and rationalize obligations,
- reduce unnecessary duplication, and
- ensure that all measures are implementable by all Members, including SIDS.

FSM sees digital transformation as a key pathway to addressing the heavy administrative and compliance workload faced by Members.

By expanding the use of technology—such as EM, ER, improved data systems, and automated data management tools—the Commission can:

- improve accuracy and timeliness of data,
- support more informed decision-making,
- reduce manual reporting burdens, and

- potentially reduce the need for frequent and resource-intensive meetings.

Importantly, these actions will also reduce the cost burden on SIDS, freeing scarce financial and human resources that can then be redirected toward the much-needed development of our domestic fisheries sectors. After all, this Commission has a responsibility to ensure that equity for SIDS is facilitated and upheld.

Strengthening digital systems will allow Members—especially SIDS—to focus more on implementation rather than prolonged discussions.

FSM reaffirms its commitment to the long-term sustainability of tuna resources and supports:

- continued development and implementation of harvest strategies,
- improved and practical FAD management and reporting,
- strengthened transparency in transshipment, and
- effective responses to gaps in data, science, and compliance.

These elements are essential to safeguarding tuna resources for future generations.

Madam Chair, there are other important issues for the FSM, and we will speak to those in the respective sessions and throughout the course of this meeting.

A key message FSM wishes to underscore as we begin this session is that we are all trying to solve the same problem: ensuring that our tuna stocks remain healthy so that all Members can equitably reap their benefits—today and tomorrow.

This must remain our unifying purpose as we work through the agenda before us.

FSM underscores the importance of honoring Article 30 and ensuring that SIDS are not disadvantaged by expanding technical and administrative demands. Continued investment in capacity-building, technology, and data systems is essential.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

FSM envisions a Commission that is more efficient, more technologically enabled, and more supportive of its SIDS. We must work toward a management system that is simpler, more transparent, and built on strong data foundations.

We thank the Government of the Philippines and Canada once again for co-hosting us, and we thank all Members for their cooperation and goodwill. FSM remains committed to working collaboratively to ensure a successful WCPFC22 and a sustainable future for our shared tuna resources.

Thank you, Kalahngan.

ATTACHMENT M: Samoa Opening Statement

Delivered by Roseti Tile Imo, Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa

Madam Chair, Dr. Josie Tamate, Executive Director, Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian, Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations, Excellencies and distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen, Talofa lava, and warm greetings from Samoa on this beautiful morning.

It is an honor and a great privilege for me, to address this 22nd Regular Session of the Commission on behalf of the Government of Samoa. At the outset, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for the warm welcome and exceptional hospitality extended to our respective delegations. Maraming salamat po.

As we are meeting today in the beautiful city of Manila, let me express our sympathies to the Government and people of the Philippines as you recover from the devastating aftermath of the recent typhoons. These occurrences are all too familiar for us in the Pacific, and it continues to remind us of our vulnerabilities to climate change.

Our prayers and condolences are with the Government of the Philippines and her people.

We also extend our appreciation to the Government of Canada for their invaluable partnership in co-hosting this meeting, as well as to the WCPFC Secretariat for the meticulous preparations that have made this meeting possible.

Honourable Ministers and delegates, much has unfolded since our last gathering in Suva. The past year has seen significant political, legal and policy strides to safeguard our oceans across the international fora, in particular, the landmark court ruling from the International Court of Justice in respect of States' obligations in relation to climate change; the Honiara Summit Political Declaration; the entry into force of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement as well as the much-anticipated entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement scheduled for January 2026, to name a few. These are milestones to be celebrated in spite of the challenges we continue to face at all levels, and it is our hope that this Commission meeting will further build on that momentum, in particular with the adoption of the Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore.

Today, our oceans, including our fisheries, continue to face unparalleled and mounting pressures from multiple threats, including climate change, pollution, accelerating biodiversity loss as well as IUU fishing. These are concerning for us in the Pacific given our strong reliance on a healthy and resilient ocean for sustainable development. The challenges at hand, therefore, for the fisheries sector are far from trivial and require collective solutions premised on unity, compromise and strengthened institutions such as the WCPFC. The recent launch of the *Samoa Tuna Management and Development Plan 2025-2030* in conjunction with our *Samoa Tuna Fisheries National Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement Strategy 2025-2030* reaffirms our commitment and ambition to ensure the long-term sustainability of our tuna resources as well as optimal economic and social benefits derived therefrom for our people and communities. The objectives of these national policies correspond closely with the work and mandate of the Commission. With these in mind Chair, allow me to highlight our priorities for this meeting, which we strongly urge the Commission to intensify cooperation and take collective action on:

- i. Adoption of the proposed Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore and its related Implementing Measure that achieves the current iTRP

Chair, this is a matter of the highest priority for Samoa as albacore remains the principal target species in our waters and is imperative for our domestic fleets/alia vessels and small-scale fishers. We also recognise that South Pacific albacore is an important resource for other Members of this Commission, and sustainable management of this shared stock is therefore in the collective interest of all. The proposed South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure and Implementing Measure offers a robust, science-based, and precautionary framework built through extensive consultation, modelling, and compromise, designed to maintain the stock at sustainable levels consistent with the agreed iTRP while safeguarding social and economic objectives across the region.

For Samoa, the adoption of the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure and the Implementing Measure here at WCPFC22, is fundamental to ensuring long-term stock sustainability, providing stability for our small scale fishers and communities, and supporting our aspirations toward MSC certification to enhance market value and recognition of our sustainable fishing practices. The proposed South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure and Implementing Measure under consideration did not occur in a vacuum, and is a result of relentless hard work, compromise and extensive dialogues informed by a wider set of considerations to ensure social and economic objectives are fully realized. As a small island developing State, our economy and food security are disproportionately tied to the health of this fishery, and any delay or weakening of the proposed measures poses significant ecological and economic risks, not only for Samoa but for all Members relying on albacore for livelihood and will also undermine the progress we've worked so hard to achieve. Samoa respectfully urges the Commission to adopt the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedure and Implementing Measure at this meeting as a collective demonstration of responsible stewardship and commitment to the long-term sustainability of South Pacific albacore.

- ii. Climate Change

Secondly Chair, and equally important, is the effective integration of climate change into the work of the Commission. We speak from the collective experience of our Blue Pacific Continent, where our Forum Leaders have reaffirmed climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of our people. The science is irrefutable, and simply put, fisheries are not immune to the adverse impacts of climate change, which are increasingly being felt across the sector. The multifaceted nature of climate change calls for a more proactive approach and closer collaboration between members, sectors, various stakeholders, partners and multilateral organizations to ensure our fisheries resources remain resilient under changing conditions. Key to these efforts is the timely development and availability of data and information to ensure policy considerations and decision making at this Commission are evidence-based and grounded in the latest scientific information. Looking ahead, and taking into account the workload set out for the Commission, we must ensure that this is addressed effectively with the focus, urgency and attention it requires, taking into account the special requirements of Small Island developing States in Article 30 of the Convention. We acknowledge with appreciation the collaborative work of SPC and the Secretariat in this regard, and encourage the continuation of this strategic partnership, to explore how climate change considerations can be embedded meaningfully into the fabric of the Commission's work, including opportunities to ensure fisheries is addressed effectively within relevant ocean-climate multilateral processes.

iii. Transshipment

Thirdly Chair, Samoa places strong emphasis on strengthening the Commission's transshipment measure, recognizing that effective oversight of transshipment activities is essential to maintaining the transparency, integrity, and credibility of our fisheries management framework. Transshipment is a critical point in the supply chain, where accurate reporting, verification, and traceability must be ensured to prevent opportunities for IUU fishing and to be compliant across the region. Samoa encourages in-port transshipment as a practical and high confidence mechanism for monitoring, as it enables direct oversight through authorised inspections and verification by national officials. Strengthening the clarity, consistency, and effectiveness of CMM 2009-06 will benefit all Members by reinforcing accountability, safeguarding the value of our shared tuna resources, and ensuring that the Commission's rules are implemented fairly, transparently, and without disadvantage to any Member.

Honourable Ministers and Excellencies,

These very issues present an opportunity for the Commission and partners to deepen our meaningful cooperation and transform our commitments into tangible outcomes. For many of us, engagement in international and multilateral processes such as the WCPFC can be quite daunting especially with very small delegations as ours often are. However, and in today's dynamic international landscape, we continue to look to organisations like the WCPFC as a vital global partner for collaboration, advocacy and support in terms of effective and responsible fisheries management and development measures, particularly for small countries like Samoa, to ensure our discussions are inclusive, and that our decisions provide opportunities for all members to contribute to and benefit from it.

In closing Chair, we continue to call on all countries and partners for stronger action to achieve our collective commitment, and secure sustainable fisheries resources for the longterm benefit of our peoples. We look forward to fruitful and constructive dialogues over the next couple of days, and stand ready to work with all Members and the Secretariat in this regard. Samoa remains committed to the important work of this Commission to ensure a healthy and resilient fisheries sector now and for future generations, in support of our development aspirations.

Soifua, ma ia manuia. Thank you Chair.

ATTACHMENT N: Indonesia Opening Statement

Delivered by Putuh Suadela, Team Leader of Regional and International Fisheries Resources Management, Indonesia

Honourable Ministers, Head of Delegations, Distinguished delegates and observers, Chair,
Executive Director and the Secretariat

Good morning

On behalf of the Republic of Indonesia, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Philippines and the Government of Canada for graciously co-hosting the 22nd Regular Session of the WCPFC and the warm welcome in Manila. We also would like to deliver our high appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat for your excellent work in preparing and facilitating this important meeting and also throughout the year.

Honourable Ministers and delegates,

Tuna Fisheries play a vital role in Indonesia's national economy. Our policies are guided by the directives of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, which emphasize strengthening food security, reducing poverty in coastal communities, empowering small-scale fishers and women, and developing our national fishing fleet. In line with these priorities, Indonesia is advancing fisheries management reforms through the Quota-based Fishing policy, improved integrated data collection, and strengthened MCS capacity. We also underscore the importance of ensuring equitable participation of developing states in high seas fisheries, consistent with the principles of fairness, sustainability, and shared responsibility.

As a signatory to the WCPFC Convention—and consistent with Articles 10 and 30 of the Convention, as well as Articles 61 and 64 of UNCLOS—Indonesia affirms its right to access and utilize highly migratory species throughout the Convention Area, including the high seas. However, since becoming a full member in 2013, Indonesia has continued to receive a zero-day purse seine effort limit in the high seas. Indonesia considers that a fair adjustment to this limit is necessary to ensure a more balanced and equitable measure for developing states.

Indonesia also notes that its national moratorium on ex-foreign fishing vessels has contributed positively to tuna conservation in the Pacific high seas. Nevertheless, Indonesia retains its right to develop its high seas fishing activities in the WCPO in accordance with the UNCLOS, UNFSA and Article 30 of the Convention, all of which recognize the special requirements and legitimate aspirations of developing states.

Indonesia remains concerned with the continued application of the zero-day high seas purse seine effort limit. A fair and proportionate adjustment is necessary to ensure equitable treatment and opportunity for developing states and Small Island Developing States.

Chair and distinguished delegates,

In light of the outcome from the scientific work and the growing impacts of climate change on stock distribution and productivity, Indonesia also highlights the importance of developing a Management Procedure for yellowfin tuna to ensure compatible, science-based, and climate-responsive management

across all tropical tuna fisheries. A robust yellowfin Management Procedure is essential to sustaining the stock while supporting the long-term development aspirations of developing members.

In closing, Indonesia stands ready to work constructively with all members to achieve balanced, science-based, and equitable management outcomes that uphold the sustainability of our shared tuna resources while ensuring fair opportunities for all. We look forward to a productive and cooperative session.

Thank you. Maraming Salamat Po.

ATTACHMENT O: France Opening Statement

Delivered by Marie Feucher, Head of Maritime Affairs, France Overseas Territories, France

Thank you Madam Chair, and thank you for your guidance during these plenary sessions.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Good Morning everyone.

On behalf of the French government, we also would like to thank the Philippines for hosting this meeting and for their warm welcoming, Canada for their financial support, and all the staff of the WCPFC for the organisation. This twenty second annual session will be an opportunity to address a number of important issues.

France Overseas Territories supports the improvement of management strategies,

- firstly, for species targeted by French Pacific territories, such as south pacific albacore,
- and secondly for FADs.

These points will obviously be raised by French Polynesia and New Caledonia with the support of France.

This session will also be an opportunity to present the results of the HSBI WG. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Australia for its great work in leading this group and to thank all the participants for their shared input. This work has led to some very interesting collective proposals.

We hope that these proposals will mark the beginning of more extensive action by members in this area.

Improving control on the high seas is essential to ensure compliance with the WCPFC measures. This helps to combat IUU fishing, which is one of the most important threats to the sustainability of resources and undermines the economy of fisheries thus the life of the local communities.

At the third United Nation Conference on Oceans, France reiterated its commitment to strengthen international cooperation and promote sustainable policies to protect ecosystems and natural resources.

France highlighted the role of science in improving knowledge of marine environment and species and the fundamental role of RFMOs in fisheries governance.

France also addresses the issues of fighting against IUU fishing and maintaining decent and safe working conditions in the fishing sector, by promoting the ratification of international instruments. These tools will be fully efficient only once ratified by the whole international community.

France's priority at the regional level, with French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis-and-Futuna, is to use all means and levers available to ensure

- a sustainable exploitation of migratory species,
- an effective compliance with WCPFC CMM,
- an efficient surveillance and control of our EEZs.

Strongly believing in multilateralism, France remains committed to working with all willing partners, such as the Pacific RFMOs, the Pacific Quad, the SPC, the FFA, as well as bilaterally with our partners.

Thank you for listening and for the efforts during this intense week to successfully reach these goals.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

ATTACHMENT P: New Caledonia Opening Statement

Delivered by Manual Ducrocq, Head of Fisheries Department, New Caledonia

Madam Chair, Fellow delegates from member countries and participating territories, First, New Caledonia wishes to thank the government of the Philippines and the government of Canada for co-hosting this year's regular session of the Commission. We would like to command the great arrangements and warm welcome offered by the Philippines since we got to Manilla. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Chair and the Secretariat for their excellent arrangements and tireless efforts in preparing for this meeting.

In New Caledonia the tuna fishing sector operates on a demonstrably limited and sustainable scale. New Caledonia has chosen to reserve the access to the resource within its EEZ solely to its local fleet and only 14 Caledonian longliners operated in our EEZ in 2024, crewed by local people and all labeled for responsible fishing practices. For more than 10 years now, our fleet has demonstrated a relatively stable level of catch and critically, on average 80% of our catches are dedicated to supporting our domestic food self-sufficiency. Consistently, New Caledonia is currently adopting a revised fishery Act for its EEZ that strongly affirms this approach. The text has already been approved by the Government and will be submitted to the vote of the congress in 2026.

In 2024 and 2025, the economic viability of our industry was under severe strain with the deterioration of the global and especially the local economic conditions. Today, and as for other small islands developing states and territories, we are facing many challenges with operational costs and fish price fluctuation, access to markets and post-harvest value chain development whilst maintaining the sustainability of the fishery.

Therefore, designing management measures based on robust science, respectful of our development rights and which address SIDS and territories' challenges is a priority for New-Caledonia. We also call on all Parties to uphold the principles of the Convention. As a territory deeply invested in the long-term health of our marine environment, we firmly believe that any management measure must not only focus on sustainable catch levels, but also fully integrate the assessment and mitigation of the overall impact of fishing activities on the broader marine ecosystem and the developmental aspirations of our coastal populations.

Turning to our key concern this year, our delegation emphasizes that the New Caledonian longline fishery is highly dependent on South Pacific Albacore (SPALB), which consistently accounts for more than 60% of our total annual catch. Furthermore, our fleet consistently achieves some of the highest CPUE in the region with respect to this stock. Therefore, the discussions this year regarding South Pacific Albacore management are of paramount importance to us. New Caledonia's objective and position are clear : we seek the adoption of truly effective measures that will meet the agreed-upon management objectives for this stock, ensuring that we can maintain our long-term stability in catch levels and yields. This is essential to guarantee the future sustainability of our local industry, which currently accounts for 2,5% of the total SPALB catches and is vital for our food security.

Beyond the specific issue of South Pacific Albacore, New Caledonia will remain particularly vigilant on several other key agenda items. We stress the need to guarantee and evaluate the implementation

of Article 30 of the Convention, ensuring that special requirements, development rights and the food security of SIDs and territories like ours are not unfairly impeded. Furthermore, strengthening conservation measures pertaining to vulnerable species (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, and cetaceans) is crucial, as our EEZ serves as a sanctuary for many of these populations. Regarding FAD management, we support the further use and development of biodegradable FADs, alongside robust tracking and recovery programs. Finally, we will advocate for greater transparency over transshipment practices, maintaining the view that in-port transshipment should be the most common and traceable practice.

Our overall objective is to ensure that the decisions we collectively make and measures we adopt are sustainable, equitable, and enforceable. We look forward to engaging constructively with all delegations and finding consensus that guarantees the long-term future of our shared tuna resources.

Thank you

ATTACHMENT Q: American Samoa Opening Statement

Delivered by Nathan Ilaoa, Director, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, American Samoa

American Samoa Opening Statement:

Talofa lava! On behalf of our Governor Pula'ali'i Nikolao Pula and the people of American Samoa, we would like to thank the host, the Republic of the Philippines, and co-host, Canada, for the arrangements for these meetings. American Samoa also wishes to acknowledge the presence of the distinguished member dignitaries present. We offer our sincere gratitude to the Commission Chair, Madam Executive Director, and the Secretariat - your diligent efforts make all of this collaboration possible.

American Samoa wholeheartedly supports the opening statements provided by our fellow Pacific Island Countries. American Samoa is a U.S. territory and a Small Island Developing Territory and our economy is highly dependent on tuna. We proudly join our brothers and sisters from the Pacific Islands - including our fellow US Pacific Island territories - during this regular session of the Commission in discussing tuna fisheries management that is crucial to our island economies and cultural identities.

American Samoa takes note of the tremendous progress in the harvest strategy for South Pacific Albacore. We thank the Science Service Provider for providing options for the Management Procedure adoption, noting the excellent effort in data and sensitivity analyses. The American Samoa longline fishery is a local Pacific Island domestic fishery that has unfortunately seen significant hardship over the last decade. The adoption of an MP for South Pacific Albacore is absolutely critical for the long-term sustainability of the fishery and the health of so many of our economies, which are heavily dependent on the tuna industry. American Samoa is hopeful that the adoption of an MP will improve market conditions and overall fishery performance for our domestic fleet. Therefore, American Samoa considers the adoption of an MP at this meeting in Manila to be its top priority. We look forward to working with other members to ensure its swift and uncomplicated adoption, which will strengthen our tuna economies.

We also acknowledge that South Pacific Albacore is a fishery that heavily involves transshipment. We have taken note of the challenges and issues with transshipment and look forward to working with our fellow members to reach viable solutions.

We remain committed to supporting the Commission's efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of our region's tuna resources, and we look forward to a productive and successful meeting.

Fa'afetai tele lava, maraming salamat po.

ATTACHMENT R: French Polynesia Opening Statement

Delivered by Mahanatea Garbutt, Adviser, Ministry of Marine Resources, French Polynesia

Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

'Ia ora na,

On behalf of the Government of French Polynesia and our people, I would like to extend to you our sincere greetings and our deep respect.

First of all, allow me to warmly thank the Philippines for the excellent hosting of these meetings. Your opening performance reminded us, with great clarity, for whom and for what we are doing all this work. I also wish to thank Canada for its valuable support, the Secretariat for the quality of its organization, and the SPC for the reliability of its scientific services to the Commission.

With an Exclusive Economic Zone and territorial seas of five million square kilometers, French Polynesia is first and foremost a vast ocean territory. For our people, as for many Pacific communities, the ocean is not only an economic space. It is our home, our culture, our food security, our history and our future.

Fishing nourishes our populations across all archipelagos. It is an accessible and healthy source of protein for our people and a major source of income for thousands of families. Fisheries therefore lie at the very heart of our society and our economy.

As announced at the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference, our Government has taken a historic step by evolving our marine managed area Tai Nui Atea, covering the entire EEZ of French Polynesia, into a marine protected area. But also to extend our management approach to protect key marine species, to strengthen the conservation of deep ecosystems based on science and traditional knowledge, to keep exploited stocks in a healthy state, and to ensure a balanced spatial management of the protected area.

Today, this commitment is not only legal, it is alive. It is carried by fishers, communities, local authorities, youth and economic actors. Our work on marine protected areas is fully aligned with the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. What we do nationally strengthens what we defend internationally.

We protect our ocean for our people today and for the future of our children. This is why sustainable fisheries management is not only an environmental duty for French Polynesia, but also a social, economic, cultural and food-security imperative.

Our objectives are simple and clear: to safeguard our self-sufficiency and social balance, and to pursue the sustainable development of our activities in order to achieve genuine food and economic sovereignty, to create more jobs, added value and skills for our people. Ultimately, all these efforts serve one single purpose: the resilience of our people.

We firmly believe that the main regulatory effort must focus first on high seas fishing and large-scale fisheries, so that the necessary adjustments do not fall unfairly on small island domestic fisheries.

Throughout all the topics to be discussed during this session, our position remains fully consistent with Article 30 of the Convention, which calls for equity and for special consideration of the specific capacities and vulnerabilities of small islands developing States and territories.

We also reaffirm our full commitment to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Strong monitoring, control and surveillance systems are essential.

Also, to further strengthen collective action, and continue the fight against the impacts of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices, we are glad to host in Tahiti the international workshop on drifting FADs retrieval in February 2026.

In conclusion, French Polynesia supports strong, science-based management of tuna fisheries. and remain fully committed to engage with all partners in a spirit of cooperation, to help shape a management system that is both environmentally effective and socially equitable.

Mauruuru. Te Aroha ia rahi. Salamat po, thank you

ATTACHMENT S: Guam Opening Statement

Delivered by Chelsa D. Muna, Director of Department of Agriculture, Guam

Madam Chair, distinguished Commissioners, fellow delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen,

Guam, as a Participating Territory and a proud Small Island Developing State (SIDS) member of this Commission, extends its warm greetings and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines for their generous hospitality in hosting WCPFC22, and to Canada, as well, for support as cohosts.

As an island community whose culture, food security, and economic well-being are deeply intertwined with the health of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, Guam remains fully committed to the sustainable management of the highly migratory fish stocks under this Commission's purview, in accordance with the objectives of the Convention and the principles of sustainable development for SIDS and Participating Territories.

We come to this meeting with aspirational interests in responsibly developing our domestic fishing opportunities, particularly in the tuna fisheries that sustain our region. In this regard, Guam welcomes opportunities for meaningful dialogue and potential partnerships with coastal States, fishing entities, and other interested parties during this week. We stand ready to explore cooperative arrangements that are consistent with the Convention, respect the special requirements of SIDS and Territories, and contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of these shared resources.

Guam also wishes to reiterate our strong support for the adoption and implementation of a robust management procedure for South Pacific albacore. This stock is of critical importance to the artisanal, small-scale, and domestically based tuna fisheries throughout the South Pacific, including the island economies of American Samoa and many others. A well-designed, science-based management procedure for South Pacific albacore will provide the certainty and stability that our island fishers and coastal communities urgently need, while ensuring the ecological sustainability of the stock.

We look forward to working constructively with all Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories throughout this week to advance outcomes that uphold the rights and development aspirations of Small Island Developing States and Territories, deliver lasting conservation benefits, and promote equitable participation in the fishery.

Guam stands ready to contribute positively to these discussions.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: 1 - 35

ATTACHMENT 1:	Terms of Reference for the independent review of implementation of Article 30 and special requirements of developing States
ATTACHMENT 2:	2025 Strategic Investment Plan
ATTACHMENT 3:	VMS Standard Operating Procedures
ATTACHMENT 4:	Removal of redundant data fields from ROP MSDF
ATTACHMENT 5:	Updated 2026 ROP-IWG Workplan
ATTACHMENT 6:	Updated ER & EM IWG Workplan
ATTACHMENT 7:	Updated South Pacific Albacore Roadmap IWG Workplan
ATTACHMENT 8:	HSBI Standardized Multi-Language Questionnaire
ATTACHMENT 9:	HSBI Voluntary Guide: DNA Sampling
ATTACHMENT 10:	HSBI Voluntary Guide: Catch Quantification
ATTACHMENT 11:	HSBI Voluntary Guide: Measuring Tool Calibration
ATTACHMENT 12:	HSBI Voluntary Guide: Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide
ATTACHMENT 13:	HSBI Voluntary Guide: Collection and Dissemination of Photographic and Video Evidence
ATTACHMENT 14:	Port State Measures WG 2026 Workplan
ATTACHMENT 15:	Terms of Reference for a Joint Working Group between IATTC and WCPFC on South Pacific albacore management (SPAJWG)
ATTACHMENT 16:	Provisional 2026 Workplan for the Joint Working Group between IATTC and WCPFC on South Pacific albacore management (SPAJWG)
ATTACHMENT 17:	CMM 2025-01: Management Procedure for South Pacific Albacore Tuna
ATTACHMENT 18:	Terms of Reference for South Pacific Albacore Allocation Workshop
ATTACHMENT 19:	CMM 2025-02: Bigeye, Yellowfin, and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
ATTACHMENT 20:	CMM 2025-03: Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna
ATTACHMENT 21:	Skipjack Monitoring Strategy
ATTACHMENT 22:	PNA+ Guidance on Development of a Bigeye Tuna Management Procedure
ATTACHMENT 23:	Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy
ATTACHMENT 24:	Updated Harvest Strategy Workplan
ATTACHMENT 25:	CMM 2025-04: Application of High Seas FAD Closures and Catch Retention
ATTACHMENT 26:	CMM 2025-05: Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing on Seabirds
ATTACHMENT 27:	CMM 2025-06: Sharks
ATTACHMENT 28:	Final Compliance Monitoring Report for 2025 for RY2024
ATTACHMENT 29:	List of Obligations for Review by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026
ATTACHMENT 30:	Reporting Template for CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07
ATTACHMENT 31:	Adopted Audit Points
ATTACHMENT 32:	CMM 2025-07 on a Conservation and Management Measure on Boarding and Inspection Procedures
ATTACHMENT 33:	WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2026
ATTACHMENT 34:	Adopted 2026 Budget and Indicative Budgets for 2027 and 2028
ATTACHMENT 35:	Indicative schedule of 2026 meetings and workshops on South Pacific albacore and bigeye tuna



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ARTICLE 30 IMPLEMENTATION

Objective: Review of the Commission's recognition of the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories enshrined in Article 30 of the WCPF Convention and related WCPFC instruments, activities and processes.

Scope of Review: The Review shall be conducted by a Panel and assess how the Commission implements Article 30 of the WCPF Convention. It shall review all current and past activities, instruments and processes that the WCPFC and CCMs, have developed and implemented to recognise the special requirements of developing States, with a particular focus on the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories. The panel shall also engage with relevant regional or subregional organisations for the purpose of reviewing activities delivered by these organisations, relating to the implementation of Article 30, such as FFA and SPC.

Deliverables: The Panel shall prepare a report that responds to the prescribed outputs, including providing targeted recommendations for the enhancement of the Commission's implementation of Article 30 requirements. In conducting the Review, the Panel shall consult with, at least, the WCPFC Secretariat, CCMs (both developing and developed CCMs), WCPFC observers (past and present) and regional organisations or partners that support developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories CCMs in the WCPFC.

The panel is expected to travel to TCC22 and/or WCPFC23, if necessary, to gather information and consult with CCMs.

Outputs:

- a) A chronological history of the Commission's implementation of Article 30, taking into account WCPFC22-2023-WP03, WCPFC-2025-WP32 and WCPFC22-2025-IP01, including:
 - i. how it has been operationalised through CMMs, Commission decisions, tools, processes and activities;
 - ii. what the Commission and CCMs have done to date to support the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories.
- b) Analysis of how Article 30, CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07 is reflected in the Commission's work (aligned to its mandate and the Convention);
- c) Analysis of the specific ways the Commission has institutionally and operationally ensured that conservation management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a

disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories;

- d) analysis of methodologies for the evaluation of disproportional burden of conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories;
- e) Analysis of CCMs understanding of, and contributions to, Article 30;
- f) Analysis of the effectiveness of WCPFC mechanisms that provides the articulation of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories needs;
- g) Analysis of the effectiveness of WCPFC and CCMs mechanisms and activities in addressing developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories. needs under Article 30;
- h) Identification of gaps, weaknesses and strengths to the Commission's implementation of Article 30; and
- i) Recommendations for how the Commission can enhance its implementation of Article 30 requirements and associated CMMs; and
- j) Provide any additional observations or recommendations relevant to Article 30.

Composition of Review Panel

The Review Panel shall comprise 3 independent experts, one of whom will be assigned the role of Chair. Panel representatives shall have a detailed understanding of, and direct experience working on:

- a) developing State interests and the implementation of measures to avoid or mitigate disproportionate burden of fisheries conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories.
- b) WCPFC processes and conservation and management measures.
- c) International cooperation and development aid

At least one panel representative shall have significant knowledge and experience working on developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories requirements and an understanding of the unique operational dynamics and governance structures within the territories.

The Review Panel shall be established by the WCPFC Executive Director, in consultation with CCMs, based on a call for expression of interest and taking into account the availability of any candidates, a balance of experiences which would be relevant to the review and any other relevant criteria.

This review will have a budget of USD 120,000.

Timeframe: The review will commence in 2026 with the final report to be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 June 2027.

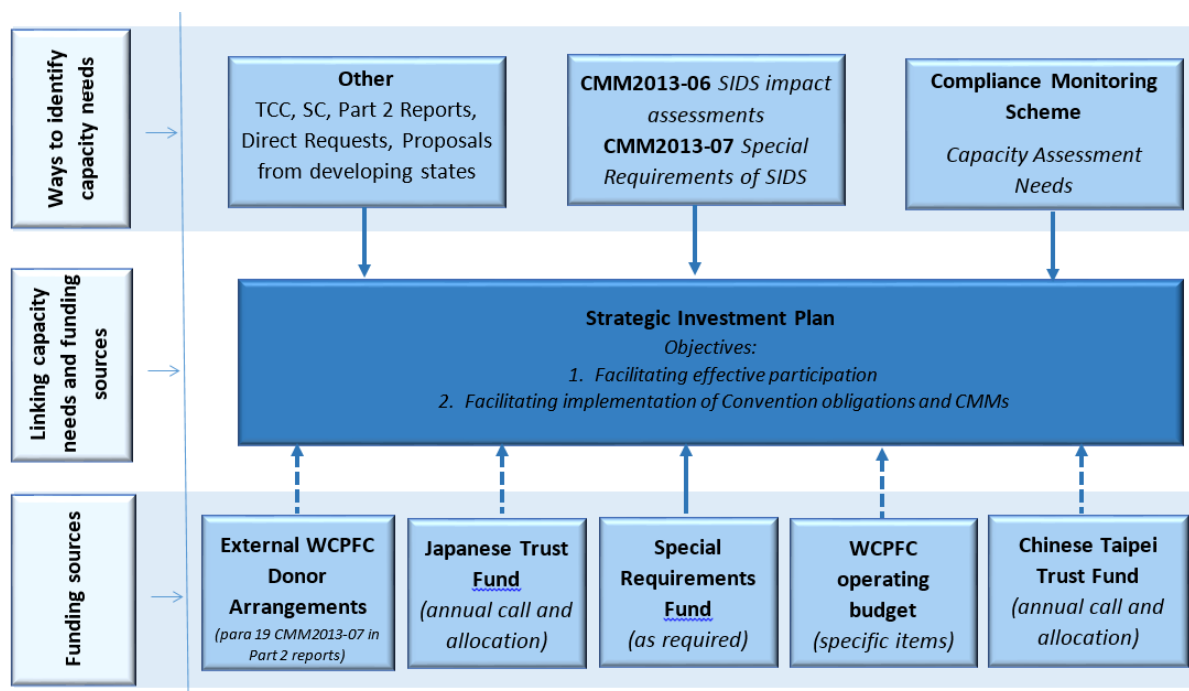
The Panel will submit this report to SC23 and TCC23 for any comments or recommendations, before being considered by WCPFC24.



2025 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. 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 CCMs when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission in fulfilling the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention¹.

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

5. The following Capacity Assistance Needs areas were recommended by TCC21 in the Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2024 activities:

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
Indonesia Scientific data provision (SciData03) RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 26 Sep 2017 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: within 3 years</i>	Indonesia reported significant challenges which hindered their ability to gather and complete the necessary operational data. The expected timeframe for meeting this capacity assistance need was 2027. However, Indonesia noted that there may still be challenges in providing 100% of data to SSP (SPC-OFP). TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Indonesia Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP 26 Sep 2017	Indonesia reported that effort was being put into resolving the issue of meeting the shark catch reporting requirements. Additional assistance is needed to improve data collection, including

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

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
<p>whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3) RP</p> <p>Indonesia Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3) RP</p>	<p><i>Anticipated CDP end date: within 3 years</i></p>	<p>through the holding of a further WPEA workshop with SSP (SPC-OFP). TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Fiji Implementation of requirements to ensure that fishing vessels comply with Commission standards including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet WCPFC VMS requirements (CMM 2014-02 9a) IM</p> <p>Reporting of required ALC/MTU data in accordance with WCPFC VMS requirements (CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8) RP</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i></p>	<p>Fiji reported that it had faced turnover in VMS officers. It had been able to train the VMS officers, but Fiji still needed the Secretariat's assistance in working through operationalizing the CMM in development of the SOPs. This would take place over the next nine (9) months. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Fiji's capacity assistance needs in Fiji's CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Indonesia 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) IM</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 9 Oct 2021 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: March 2025</i></p>	<p>Indonesia reported that observer coverage is lower than last year because of budgetary constraints. It was still planning to reach 100% coverage and was working with industry on cost sharing arrangements, but this work was ongoing. Indonesia hoped to be in a position to have 100% coverage in 2027. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>
<p>Philippines 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024)</p>	<p>The Philippines reported that it had hired more observers and were currently at 85% observer coverage (up from 60% in the year before). The Philippines was seeking additional funds to reach 100%</p>

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
(CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33) IM	CDP / 10 Sept 2019 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: November 2023</i> CDP / 27 Sept 2025 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: by 2028</i>	observer coverage. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Vanuatu 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 RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 26 Sept 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: by 2026</i>	Vanuatu reported that there is information on the minimum observer coverage, but additional legislative work is needed to ensure that this requirement is met in the longer term. TCC21 maintained the CAN status, but noted that further information may be provided prior to WCPFC22 as to whether Vanuatu's capacity assistance needs in their CDP had been met.
Fiji 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 RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i>	Fiji reported that it met the FISHED/DID NOT FISH reporting obligation, however Fiji needed ongoing assistance in order to develop specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and reporting requirements to ensure that they met this obligation on an ongoing basis. Fiji withdrew its CAN request and CDP as it had met the obligation, but indicated that it would still require the assistance of the Secretariat and FFA Secretariat to ensure that it would continue to meet this obligation into the future.

6. Some targeted assistance was identified to assist SIDS and other CCMs in implementing specific obligations during the 2025 dCMR process. These are identified in the table and information set out below.

Obligation	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed
<u>CMM 2011-03 01</u> <i>Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set</i> IM	Indonesia	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2024) CDP 24 Sept 2025
<u>CMM 2023-01 30</u> <i>Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S)</i> IM	Solomon Islands	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2024) CDP 24 Sept 2025

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

7. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY 2024 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2025. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY 2018 and are continuing in RY 2024 (#).

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
<u>CMM 2013-07</u> <u>Paras 01-03</u> General Provisions	<p>FSM is a SIDS country. However, FSM continues to assist other fellow SIDS through collaboration within the PNA, FFA and other bilateral arrangements. FSM is also a recipient of assistance from non-SIDS within the WCPFC membership.</p> <p>Indonesia Indonesia's involvement 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.</p> <p>For 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</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	<p>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>Niue: Capacity building needs for reporting requirements.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna islands tuna development plan for the next 5 years is targeting a single middle-size longliner for the domestic market. So as to inform a more robust viability analysis, a short experimental tuna fishing campaign is expected to be implemented in the short term. However, the search for a partner in the region to implement it has not been successful so far: 2 companies have been reached out for a time charter arrangement but both offered chartering conditions that were considered too risky if not unaffordable. One of them has dismissed a proposal for a fishing license including requirement to offload in Wallis and commitment from local authorities to contract a buyer for the fish with an agreed price. In that context, assistance needs from CCMs and regional organisations (SPC and WCPFC) for capacity building relate to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helping design terms of reference for the chartering arrangement - helping find a company who would make a vessel and skilled crew available for 3 months within affordable day fee - providing observer(s) to cover one trip out of 2 or 3
<p>CMM 2013-07</p> <p>Paras 04-05</p> <p>Capacity development for personnel</p>	<p>FSM is a small island developing state and a recipient of such assistances. FSM has received capacity development assistance provided through regional, sub-regional programs and collaboration with other SIDS.</p> <p>Fiji did make a submission in 2024 where Fiji needs training and attachments in the following areas: 1. WCPFC MCS data analysis; 2. Training on Commission VMS; 3. CMR. The implementation of this training is still ongoing and will be reported under 2025 Part 2 Report.</p> <p>Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p>New Caledonia is a territory and has not required any assistance in this category in 2024. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2024.</p> <p>Vanuatu VU is anticipating and welcome more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirements.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna No capacity building assistance requested and thus received in the past few years from CCMs. One contract staff in charge of Fisheries Observatory has attended SPC's Tuna Data Workshop in 2024 and 2025. The lack of permanent staff hinders the dept's capacity to build on training opportunities.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	<p>Assistance needs relate to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fisheries dept: data collection, refreshment on WCPFC requirements, processes and current work - fisheries sector: early career captain capacity building for longline (through boardings as chief mates on well-performing vessels in the region)
CMM 2013-07 Paras 06-07 Assistance with technology transfers	<p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Nauru is a SIDS and supports the transferring of fisheries technology to accelerate the social and economic development of SIDS/T</p> <p>Vanuatu is a SIDS - VU welcome assistance relating to fisheries science and technology through ePSM , EMS, ER and with the aim to improve all e systems into development of VU. - Anticipating more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirement</p>
CMM 2013-07 Paras 08-09 Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management	<p>Indonesia (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries depending on assistance from non-SIDS countries.</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>Wallis and Futuna (as per above response for 01-03, and 04-05)</p>
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 participated in joint cooperation efforts amongst the FFA membership in maritime surveillance in 2024. 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 (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p>Kiribati is a SIDS and requires support and assistance in both aerial and surface patrols.</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>Vanuatu is a SIDS - VU actively participated in numerous regional operations on surveillance and monitoring, both assets and personnel as required by mandate of such engagements. This include 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>Wallis and Futun: SPC (S. HARE, 2019) conducted an assessment of IUU fishing potential risk in the EEZ, based on a backward analysis of VMS and AIS logs over 2014-2018. Though it concluded that no UNN fishing have taken place over the period, a lot of people keep on thinking that the EEZ is illegally harvested and that it explains the scarcity of tuna nearshore and offshore. Assistance from other CCMs would pertain to :</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cooperation to ensure no vessel nears or enters WF EEZ without VMS on, to experiment and implement new technologies for real-time surveillance, like cross-checking detection of radar signals by satellite and VMS tracking - investigations on whether tuna resources are declining faster than around and what are the factors responsible for that.
CMM 2013-07 Paras 12-18 Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access	<p>FSM FSM's Involvement in PNA marketing initiative most specifically the MSC development to broaden the marketing value in FSM's fishing industry. In addition to improving the market value, FSM receives regional and sub-regional assistance in MCS capacity building to meet certification requirement that will allow fishing stocks to be market to high valued vendors. Assistance in implementing port state measure minimum standards aims to achieve these marketing objectives. This is an ongoing work.</p> <p>Fiji has a 100% domestic tuna sector. As part of Fiji's 2024 support towards the tuna sector, Government allocation remained at 90,000 USD to support markets access for MSC certification. Additionally, to boost and streamline fish processing, Fiji has begun work to digitalize vessel arrivals via Electronic Port State Measures (EPSM) and catch verification via Catch Accountancy System (CAS) 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>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>Palau Palau is a SIDS and supports this CMM, and may seek assistance in the future.</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 is one of the SIDs countries and therefore this obligation is not applicable. 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. 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. In 2020, Tonga ratified the PACER Plus Agreement is a Regional Development-Centre Trade Agreement</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	<p>designed to support Tonga in regional and Global Trade. Tonga exports fish to international markets (Australia, NZ, USA, Fiji, Pangopango, 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. - Capacity assistance required for development of the National CDS plan .VU 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.</p> <p>Wallis and Futuna (<i>as per above response for 01-03, and 04-05</i>)</p>

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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>

- 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 USD300,000 annually

FAC18 agreed to recommend that the following edits are made to the Financial Regulations:

*3.5 The draft budget shall include an item specifying the costs required to finance the travel and subsistence for ~~one~~ **two** representatives from each developing State Party to the Convention and, where appropriate, territories and possessions, to each meeting of the Commission and to meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission.*

Removal of Financial Regulation 7.8

~~7.8 Financial Regulation 7.5 and 7.7 on the application process and reporting requirements, respectively, shall be waived for:~~

~~a) one traveler from each small island developing States and Participating Territories delegation to meetings of the Annual Session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; and~~

~~b) the travel for the Chairs of SC, TCC, FAC Co-Chair and the WCPFC Vice Chair from SIDS to the Annual Session.~~

FAC18 also agreed to recommend that for 2025 contributions for the additional \$46,090 would be split between non-SIDS on a proportional basis, and that this would be agreed for one year, with a future tasking to review the \$46,090 offset applied to non-SIDS next year.

This was subsequently adopted by the Commission at WCPFC21.

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

11. 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	Cost: \$71,625

	monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	
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
2025: 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: \$82,517
2025: 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: TBC

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 SRF 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

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)
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



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 and adopted at WCPFC21.</i>	<i>Feb 01 2025</i>
5.0	WCPFC22	<i>Updates to reflect process updates and enhancements to address current VMS data gaps or procedural issues.</i>	<i>Feb 01 2026</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 formalized 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)¹ 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/ALC². 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;
- 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. ([Rules and Procedures for Protection Access to and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data 2009](#)) – December 2009;
- d) WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures ([VMS SSPs](#)) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2021 (or its update);
- e) WCPFC Agreed Statement describing Purpose and Principles of the WCPFC VMS – December 2011 ([suppl. CMM 2014-02-1](#));

¹ The Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) is hosted at <https://vessels.wcpfc.int/>

² The terms “ALC”, “MTU”, “ALC/MTU”, and “MTU/ALC” are used interchangeably in this document.

- f) WCPFC9 decision regarding application of Commission VMS to national waters of Members (WCPFC9 Summary Report paragraph 238) – December 2012 ([suppl CMM 2014-02-3](#));
- g) Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission VMS – [CMM 2014-02](#) (or its replacement CMM) – December 2014;
- h) WCPFC VMS Reporting Requirement Guidelines – May 2018 (or its update) ([VMS Reporting Requirements Guidelines](#)); and
- i) The last update of the list of approved MTU/ALCs ([MTU/ALC Type Approval List - 6 Feb 2024](#)).

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 operator's 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 had set up a mailbox arrangement with TrackWell to facilitate automatic integration of VMS manual reports based on the common North Atlantic Format (NAF). This mailbox has been phased out since April 2025 and is no longer available. VMS manual reports are now submitted by CCMs by direct upload to the Commission VMS. Correctly formatted data received are automatically integrated into the Commission VMS. These positions are clearly identifiable as manually generated reports (e-MAN) and can be distinguished from non-manually generated VMS positions.³

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 whether⁴ 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)⁵. 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. An additional enhancement in 2025 allows VMS manual reports to be submitted online by CCMs using the Upload Manual Positions facility in the VRST.

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, the Secretariat has provided CCMs with an online facility that facilitates the submission of necessary vessel tracking data for each fishing vessel required to report directly to the Commission VMS. The RFV allows each flag CCM to update their registration of MTUs, track progress of their MTU Activations/Deactivations, and provides an alert when MTU Activation has failed. This same web portal is also used for CCM data entry, review, and reporting of MTU Audit Inspection results.

³ See further details in section 3.3 and 4.5 below.

⁴ Based on available data and information.

⁵ 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.

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;
- 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 Support Helpdesk](#).

4.2 Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs

The flag CCM **submits** 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 RFV. 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.⁶
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.⁷
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 RFV 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 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). Since June 2025, an email alert to all flag CCM users with VMS Editor access permissions lists all their flagged vessels that show "STOP" status for their attention and action to re-establish normal reporting as soon as possible. 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.

⁶ The success of their vessels' MTU/ALC activations will also be evident in the VRST to CCMs.

⁷ The success of their vessels' MTU/ALC activations will also be evident in the VRST to CCMs.

- 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 2021 (or its update) ([VMS SSPs](#))).

From April 2025, CCMs upload their manual reports in the NAF format, using the "Upload Manual Positions" facility in the VRST. NAF strings are copied into the facility and automatically validated against system rules. Any sections of the NAF format with errors are highlighted. Once validation confirms the correctly formatted data, the system will allow the upload to Trackwell where it is integrated into the Commission VMS. These positions are clearly identifiable on the WCPFC Trackwell map as manually generated reports (e-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 point has provided an appropriate and accurate update of the MTU status (via the VRST directly, or by email to the Secretariat VMS staff).

The vessel may re-commence 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 with 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. During 2025, the Secretariat will begin the transition to providing monthly VMS reporting gaps to CCMs. This will supplement the VRST daily snapshot and “STOP” email alerts, supporting CCM’s earlier identification and resolution of reporting issues.

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 to 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 (or subsequent CMM) 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 sufficient⁸ 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 physical⁹ 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 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.

4.10 Commission VMS Helpdesk Support

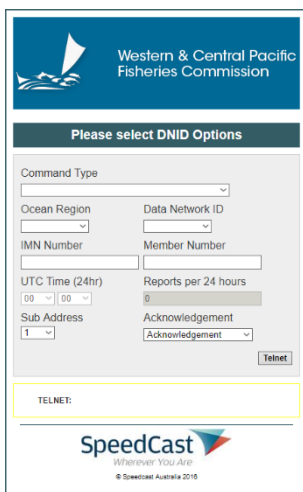
The Secretariat is committed to developing online self-service support options via the [WCPFC Support Knowledgebase](#), and additional VMS help topics are in being developed.

Requests for support on the Commission VMS can be sent via email to VMS@wcpfc.int.

⁸ 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.

⁹ Tests of successful position reporting to the Commission VMS by the relevant MTU hardware that is physically located within the Convention Area.

Notes on Secretariat's Activation Process for MTU/ALC by VMS Gateway as of December 2024

VMS Gateway	Notes on Secretariat's 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, the Secretariat to advise CCM Official of why the activation was unsuccessful, which may include:</p> <div>  </div> <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
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	Email sent to MetOcean Telematics (service@metocean.com).

VMS Gateway	Notes on Secretariat's Activation Process
<i>for iTrac II (MetOcean Telematics)</i>	
Iridium SBD <i>for RomTrax Wifi (Rom Communications)</i>	Email sent to Rom Communications (michael@romcomm.net).
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 Dec 2024

The following table specifies the elements of 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*	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 (optional)	Address destination	Char*	WCPFC	//AD/WCPFC//
ER	End record	No data	No data	//ER//

Sample strings:

//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 DNIIDs 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				



List of Redundant Data Fields to be Removed from the ROP MSDF

Excerpt from ROP-IWG06 Chair's Summary Report as reflected in [TCC21-2025-17E](#) and agree to recommend adoption at WCPFC22

Attachment B: List of Data Fields Recommended for Removal from the MSDFs

The table presented here is a preliminary list. It does not include all the fields that were proposed for removal in [ROP-IWG5 Working Paper 02](#). Instead, it is a list of fields where feedback to date indicates some support for the removal of these fields, and where no objections or requests for further consideration have been raised.

At ROP-IWG06 meeting, participants preliminarily agreed to recommend that the attached list of data fields are removed from the list of WCPFC ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields.

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
VESSEL IDENTIFICATION					
Flag State Registration Number	This number will be sourced from vessel papers. You can normally get this information during the briefing.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means and so suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	2
Vessel Owner/Company	Name and contact if possible, of the owner of the vessel, if owned by a company, then use the company name.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means and so suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	4

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
VESSEL ATTRIBUTES					
Vessel fish hold capacity	The total maximum amounts in metric Tons (mT.) that the vessel freezers, wells and other fish storage areas on a vessel can hold.	<i>Observers have been collecting information in metric tonnes since 1994.</i>	<i>2024 PNA Comment: Could be also considered for removal, because this information is also available on the RFV, although we note that the units for this field in the RFV are volume or weight, whereas the units for the MSDF are weight.</i>	<i>RFV records Cubic Metres and can be accessed if needed</i>	30
Length (specify unit)	The “LOA” Length Over All can be taken from the vessel plans or from other paper work that indicates the LOA.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation or the vessel plan. Observer cannot verify if length is correct.</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	32
Tonnage (specify unit)	The vessel may be registered using Gross Tonnage (GT) or in (GRT) this will be indicated on the vessel registration papers.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation or the vessel plan. Observer cannot verify if tonnage is correct</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	33
Engine power (Specify unit)	The engine power and the power units used on board can usually be found in the vessel plans or from other paper work of the vessel. If not sure where to look, ask the engineer.	<i>Observer can get this in several ways, can get it from engine model number info online if available. Most observers ask the engineer who will tell them the HP.</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	34

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
VESSEL ELECTRONICS					
Radars	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information on make and Model</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		35
Global Positioning System (GPS) (Yes/ No)	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		37
Track Plotter	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers</i>		38
Weather Facsimile	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		39
Sea Surface Temperature (SST) gauge	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers</i>		40
Vessel Monitoring System	Indicate the type of systems used on a vessel- The most popular and widely used system is the INMARSAT system, however some vessels may use the ARGOS system- some vessels may have both. There are also other systems if these are being used please record	<i>Observers are asked to identify the system used and the make and model of the units on board</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means.</i>		47

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
GENERAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES					
Mainline length	What is the total length of the mainline when it is fully set usually recorded in miles or kilometer's (make sure the unit is clearly indicated)	<i>Observer collects information from Captain or Deck Boss</i>	<i>There may be technological approaches that could streamline the estimation of mainline length by observers.</i>	<i>Eg Using a known Lat and long for start and end of set on a GPS/VMS tracks could be used to estimate the distances travelled and the shape of the set</i>	50
Mainline hauler	Indicate Y or No - Most longline vessels will have an instrument that hauls the lines in after it has been set- some very small vessels may haul line by hand.	<i>Observer collects Yes, No information</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		54
Branch line hauler	Indicate Y or No - Some long line vessels may use special haulers to coil the branch lines	<i>Observer collects Yes, No information</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		55

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
PURSE SEINE - INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES					
Numbers of schools sighted per day	How many free or associated schools of fish were sighted during the day? The vessel may not set on these because of size or amount in school	<i>Observer is asked to record every free school or floating object sighted during the day when searching, also record all activities involved with free schools and floating objects. For this to be accurate the observer would need to be on constant watch from 0430 to 1930 every day 15/16 hrs. a day</i>	<i>No change suggested</i>	<i>Difficulties in collecting this info as observer would need to be on watch all day to record accurately. As it is, observers generally only indicate what the vessel investigates</i>	118
OBSERVER TRIP MONITORING SUMMARY					
Vessel certificate of registration:	Flag State Registration Number as in 'General Attributes'	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means – suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV – could be removed.</i>	197
WCPFC Authorisation:	WIN number if supplied	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means– suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV = could be removed.</i>	199



Updated ROP-IWG Workplan

Proposed workplan for the ROP-IWG in 2026

1. Progress the proposals to WCPFC22 that require additional work in 2026:
 - Revised CCFS process flow;
 - Scope of monitoring for potential infringements for CCFS; and
 - ROP non-catch transfer reporting.
2. Progressing remaining workplan taskings:
 - Progressing Priority tasking 4: Consideration related to emerging technologies – work closely with ER/EM - IWG for common understanding on the usage of MSDF;
 - Review of interim Transshipment Observer Monitoring Minimum Data Fields;
 - Consideration of joint IWG work resulting from ERandEM-IWG and ROP-IWG;
 - SC21 recommendation to ROP-IWG to assess and identify specific data gaps for enhancement needed to improve the operation and consistency of shark species identification and reporting, noting low reporting rates of oceanic whitetip sharks by observers relative to logbooks in some regions and diminishing levels of length records since the implementation of CMM 2011-04. (SC21 Outcomes Document, paragraph 103); and
 - Possible additional reporting requirements for Sea Turtles (CMM 2018-04).
3. Others taskings and priorities as agreed through WCPFC22 if required.

Indicative Workplan Timetable for 2026

Timeline	Planned Activities
Early March	First virtual meeting: Focus on 1. above and introducing new taskings for 2026
August	Second virtual meeting in advance of SC22
September	Third virtual or in-person meeting in advance of TCC22
December (WCPFC23)	Adoption of recommendations



ERandEM IWG 2026 Workplan

WCPFC21 Adopted ERandEM IWG 2025-2026 Work Plan

[illegible]



SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE ROADMAP IWG WORKPLAN 2023-2026

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

2. 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.
3. 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	- The IWG will progress the discussions on a management objective and the revision of the	- The IWG to identify and develop recommendations on key components and	- To develop a new measure that incorporates the allocation framework, as well as any other issues

	<p>iTRP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress the discussions and make recommendations on a management procedure for the SPA for the Commission to consider 	<p>a process for establishing an allocation framework.</p>	<p>identified by the IWG, that will function as an implementing mechanism for the management procedure.</p>
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consider the South Pacific albacore (SPA) objectives and a revised interim TRP and recommendations for WCFPC20 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.

	Management Procedure	Implementation Measure
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"> - Run management procedure. - Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy - Commission adopts implementing arrangements for management procedure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission will hold workshops dedicated to the implementing arrangements for SPA (including allocation) - Advice provided by SC22 and TCC22 on monitoring strategy for South Pacific albacore and implementing CMM as appropriate. - WCPFC23 adopt an implementing CMM for SPA.
2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Management Procedure would commence in 2027 and run in a three-year cycle (2027-2029) 	



STANDARDIZED MULTI-LANGUAGE QUESTIONNAIRE
INITIAL RADIO CONTACT

1. _____ (a) _____ VESSEL _____ (b) _____ THIS IS THE _____ (c) _____ CALLING YOU ON CHANNEL 16 VHF-FM----OVER.

- (a) Fishing, Carrier or Bunker
(b) Fishing, Carrier or Bunker vessel's name
(c) Patrol Vessel's name

2. Please use radio channel 16, (one six).
3. Fishing vessel (name), this is patrol vessel (name) --- we are here on behalf of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and are authorized to ensure you are complying with all applicable conservation and management measures. Our international radio call sign is []. We intend to board and inspect your vessel, and you are required to cooperate.

PRE-BOARDING QUESTIONS

Pre boarding questions may also help communication during a boarding, or for a radio inquiry. The intention is mainly to assist with a smooth boarding and confirm some details. Answers may also be obtained through visual observation of the vessel and the RFV. These questions may apply to fishing, carrier or bunker vessels.

1. Prior to boarding your vessel, we need to ask you a few questions.
2. Is your vessel registered with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission?
3. Under which country's flag are you registered?
4. What is your international radio call sign?
5. What is your homeport?

6. How much (a-c) do you have onboard?
 - a. Fish
 - i. what type?
 - b. Supplies
 - c. Fuel
7. What was your last port of call?
8. What is your next port of call?
9. What is the name and nationality of vessel master?
10. How many crew do you have onboard?
 - a. what are their nationalities?
11. Do you have any weapons onboard?
 - a. where are they located?
12. Do you have a fishery observer onboard?
 - a. what is the observer's name and nationality?
13. We will be sending over a boarding party in (a-c) minutes or after the completion of your current operation;
 - a. five
 - b. fifteen
 - c. thirty
14. To assist our boarding party in boarding your vessel, we request you to (a-e) .
 - a. Stop your vessel
 - b. Slow your vessel
 - c. Continue on your present course and speed
 - d. Turn to (port / starboard)
 - e. Lower a ladder on the (port / starboard) side

15. Do you have a safe boarding ladder for our inspectors to use?
 - a. Please ensure that it is attached securely to your vessel on the starboard side—this is the lee side with minimal wind and wave action and hangs 1-1.5 meters above the waterline.
 - b. Have one crew member stand by the ladder to assist our team if needed.
16. Please be advised that the destruction or disposal at sea of prohibited fisheries products, prior to or during the inspection process, may be deemed an obstruction of the inspection procedures and is strictly prohibited.
17. Please continue to monitor radio channel 16 (or other indicated channel) while our inspectors prepare to embark upon your vessel.
18. Direct crew members not assisting with boarding to remain in their cabins or the mess hall until further notice. This will keep the boarding area clear for safety.
19. Inform our team of any on-board medical emergencies or crew health concerns prior to boarding, to facilitate coordinated support and avoid disruptions.

BOARDING QUESTIONS

1. Good (morning / afternoon / evening), are you the master of the vessel?
(a) please notify master to come to us for further inquiries.
2. I am here to inspect your vessel for compliance with measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.
3. These are our identity cards and a copy of the relevant conservation and management measures.
4. This is a list of actions being considered as serious violation.

[Refer to Attachment 1 for translated list of serious violations]
5. All data collected during the inspection will be used solely for law enforcement and compliance purposes, in line with data protection principles of WCPFC.
6. Do you understand?
7. You have the right to provide a statement and to explain your position on any matters raised during this inspection. Your explanation will be noted as part of the official record.
8. The Vessel master or authorized crew is welcome to accompany us during the inspection. This allows for real-time communication about vessel operations.
9. The boarding team will record videos and take photos to verify compliance with WCPFC measures. Your vessel may also voluntarily record video of the inspection process.
10. Once the inspection is complete, we will provide an interim report. It will include any objection or statement you want to include in the report.
11. You are entitled to contact the authorities of your flag states.
12. We will complete the inspection within 4 hours. However, if a serious violation is found, we will extend the boarding time.

13. You are entitled to report any action which you consider harassment of the vessel, officers or crew during the boarding, and request these statements to be inserted into the boarding report. You may also report to your flag state authorities after the boarding.
14. You may report to the authority of the flag state any damage or loss attributable to boarding action which you believe is unlawful or exceeds what is reasonably required in the light of available information.

15. Is there anyone here who speaks ____ (a-f) _____
- a. English
 - b. Japanese
 - c. Korean
 - d. Chinese
 - e. French
 - f. Spanish
16. I do not have anyone onboard who can speak your language.
17. I am using bilingual language cards. Please answer my questions simply and slowly, using yes or no whenever possible.
18. These people will assist me in my inspection.
19. Please muster your crew on the (fantail / bow / open deck).
20. Please indicate where you keep your weapons onboard.
21. This is a copy of the text of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention which provides me the authority to board your vessel and conduct this inspection.
22. Please review this document and let me know if you have any questions.
23. This is a copy of the relevant Commission Conservation and Management Measures which apply to your vessel.
24. When were you inspected last? Who inspected you?
25. I intend to inspect your vessel to ensure your compliance with these conservation and management measures.
26. Please show me:
- a. Your vessel's documents
 - b. Your current permits

- c. Your catch logs
 - d. Your plotting charts
27. When reviewing documents, our team will handle them with care and return each document immediately after verification. We may take photographs of the document.
28. Please show me line cutters and the de-hookers
29. Please show me tori-lines. I need to measure the length of them.
30. I would like to take two or three small tissue samples of this fish to confirm the species identification. One sample will be taken back to a certified lab for DNA analysis; the other will be retained if your flag state requests the sample and the third may be kept as a backup.
31. You should sign the seal after we put the samples in the evidence box/bag.
32. How do you deal with plastic waste on board? Do you have an incinerator on board your vessel?
33. Have you transshipped since your last landing at port? Please show me the related documents.
34. Your documents and records indicate you are in complete compliance with all Commission Conservation and Management Measures.
35. Your documents and records indicate you are not in complete compliance with all Conservation and Management Measures.
36. This is the specific conservation and management measure by which you are not in compliance.
37. Please provide any comments or statements here.
38. This (is / is not) considered by the commission to be a serious violation.
39. I am collecting this evidence to verify if there is a violation.
40. I am photographing this item to document a potential violation.
41. I will use this boarding report to document my inspection of your vessel.

42. Please sign here.
43. This boarding report indicates you (are / are not) in compliance with all commission conservation and management measures.
44. This is your copy of the boarding report.
45. A copy of this boarding report will be provided to the fisheries enforcement authorities of your country (for further action).
46. Thank you for your assistance on this boarding.
47. I have completed the inspection of your vessel.
48. We are departing your vessel at this time.
49. Assist our team in safely disembarking by ensuring the boarding ladder remains secure.
50. To assist our boarding party in disembarking your vessel, we request you to_(a-e)_until_(1-3).
- a. Stop your vessel
 - b. Slow your vessel
 - c. Continue on your present course and speed
 - d. Turn to (port / starboard)
 - e. Lower a ladder on the (port / starboard) side
- 1. 30 minutes after our departure
 - 2. We give you the signal
 - 3. We contact you through the radio
51. You may resume normal vessel operations immediately after our team departs. No further clearance is required.

Attachment 1. List of actions being considered as serious violation

According to the conservation and management measures of WCPFC, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the Convention or conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:

- a. fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag Member, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention;
- b. failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
- c. fishing in a closed area;
- d. fishing during a closed season;
- e. intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission;
- f. significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the Convention;
- g. using prohibited fishing gear;
- h. falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
- i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
- j. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the Commission;
- k. refusal to accept a boarding and inspection, other than as provided in paragraphs 26 and 27;
- l. assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector; and
- m. intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
- n. such other violations as may be determined by the Commission, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures.



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

HSBI DNA Sampling Guide

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 Consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.2	27 November	For WCPFC22 Consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.3	4 December	Includes revisions at WCPFC22	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors conducting tissue sampling and subsequent DNA sequencing and analysis (hereafter, broadly referred to as “DNA sampling”) as part of WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹). For CCMs wishing to use DNA sampling for HSBI, the development of this Guide also intends to:

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

- support the establishment of a robust DNA sampling process by CCMs at the CCM's level to verify species identification of individual specimens in support of HSBI
 - assist CCMs in ensuring that DNA data are credible and admissible using appropriate methods and procedures throughout the entire DNA sampling process
 - support the establishment of minimum practices at the CCM's level which are necessary to ensure that DNA sampling produce accurate, precise analytical findings, and findings are conveyed in an unbiased, objective manner
 - provide guidance to CCMs on tools that can be used for gathering and preserving tissue samples during HSBI and the minimum standards for DNA sequencing and analysis, where the results or findings are intended to be admissible as evidence in support of potential court or administrative proceedings
2. This Guide sets out the minimum standards in the application of DNA sampling during a HSBI and the post analysis process, which includes:
 - tissue sampling
 - tissue sample handling, preservation, sealing and storage
 - tissue sample transfer/shipping
 - DNA extraction, sequencing, and analysis in accordance with accredited procedures
 - transmission of DNA results
 - DNA sequence, extracted DNA, and tissue sample retention and accessibility for flag CCM testing.
 3. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to authorised HSBI activities within the WCPFC convention area.
 4. This guide can be modified in response to new information, technical innovations, and perspectives. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.

Application of DNA sampling in WCPFC HSBI activities.

5. The aim of HSBI is to check whether a vessel is operating in compliance with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) obligations.

6. Inspectors conducting HSBI activities can detect and confirm species on board at the time of inspection. Sometimes, a visual inspection of morphological characteristics may be all that is needed to obtain a species identification.
7. The application of molecular genetics offers a powerful tool to complement the work of Authorised inspectors conducting HSBI activities, including the conclusive identification of specimens at the species level.
8. Genetic analysis can be a useful method for species identification when species identity cannot be determined on a purely morphological basis, for example if the morphological characteristics are unfamiliar to the inspector, similar, or are absent (e.g. processing of specimens retained onboard).
9. Genetic analysis through DNA sequencing of fish for identification can support investigations to verify a vessel's reported catch, through providing additional proof and the ability to confirm the identity of the species in question. Examples include, to determine between:
 - Pacific and Southern bluefin tunas
 - small-sized bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and
 - different bycatch species that are prohibited for retention.
10. DNA sequencing results can be used to corroborate other forms of evidence such as vessel logbooks and photographs taken by the Authorised inspectors. This can be used, among other tools and sources of information, to support risk assessments to prioritise the vessel for further inspection, investigation and prosecution as determined by the flag CCM.
11. The use of DNA sampling during HSBI can assist the flag CCM, or the inspecting CCM, where field-based tools are applied, with assessing compliance with vessel licensing, catch and reporting obligations, including to:
 - confirm species identification
 - verify that only species which a vessel is authorised to catch are being retained and declared
 - verify catch reporting and catch log data
 - verify, or provide rapid screening for retention of protected species.

HSBI DNA SAMPLING Minimum Standards

Methods of tissue sampling (not limited to)

Laboratory-based analysis		Field-based analysis
Muscle Biopsy	Fin Biopsy	Other
DNA biopsy sampling involves taking a tissue sample from a single fish.	Tissue sample is collected from a single fish through cutting off a section of the fin.	Rapid field-based DNA testing (ie. environmental/tissue samples) designed for risk assessment and screening purposes only.

EVIDENTIARY PROCEDURES for DNA Sampling

12. The general principles and procedures for DNA sampling for evidentiary purposes in fisheries monitoring and investigations:

a) Documenting and recording tissue sampling

13. Tissue sampling should be documented using a recording device, including photographs and videos. To the extent practicable, the entire sampling process (and any field-based DNA testing, if conducted) should be recorded (preferably with video) for evidentiary purposes. Additional notations with details of suspected infringements and time stamps for relevant tissue sampling and analysis results should be provided with the video files.

14. Tissue sampling should be conducted by authorised inspectors, with witnesses' present (master or crew), especially if not documented with a recording device (and prioritise that witnesses from the fishing vessel are present).

15. Authorised inspectors should record in the HSBI report, including but not limited to the following information related to DNA sampling:

- tissue sampling information:
 - sample identification number
 - location of fish sampled (e.g. blast freezer, hold #)
 - description (processed state of fish)
 - comments, including the reason for or background of the tissue sampling
- the master of the vessel must be provided with an interim copy of the report which includes details of any tissue sampling. The master must also be given to opportunity to include any objection or comment to be included in the final report.

b) Collection and preservation of tissue samples

16. Authorised inspectors should:

- photograph and video record tissue sampling (see chain-of-custody, below)
- take tissue samples, to the extent practicable, from the commercially least valuable part of the fish, such as the tail.
- take at least two tissue samples and ideally three samples from the same fish, one for the inspecting CCM and one for the flag CCM (if requested) and one for the laboratory to keep as a backup and confirm in case of diverging results].
- collect, label, preserve and seal each tissue sample separately, at the sampling site.
- label each tissue sample with the following minimum details on the sample labels:
 - Date
 - Unique sample reference number
 - Vessel name
 - Collector name
 - Witness name, role and signature
- affix the waterproof sample labels directly to the sample vials or collection bags.
- secure each sample container or evidence bag containing the tissue sample, with a tamper-evident seal. The seal should be signed by at least one authorised inspector and the vessel master, or a crew member designated by the master.
- ensure both vials and associated evidence bags can be traced back to the same sampled fish.
- photograph the sealed container or evidence bag showing these signatures.
- keep the tissue samples in a freezer. If a freezer is not available samples should be stored in a cool, dark environment, as long as they are not deteriorated.

c) Preventing cross-contamination of tissue samples

17. Protective measures are necessary to prevent cross-contamination of samples. The following should be used for each individual sample:

- Use new or unopened sampling tools.
- Wear single-use disposable gloves.

d) Maintaining a chain of custody for tissue samples between the sample site and the testing laboratory

18. From the beginning to the end of the DNA sampling process, it is crucial to be able to demonstrate every single step undertaken to ensure traceability and continuity of the sample. The integrity of

tissue samples and, later, extracted DNA samples, must be maintained as they pass from one person to another.

19. The 'chain of custody' is a continuous record of the life of the sample from the moment it was sampled to the moment it is analysed. Every step must be recorded and verified to ensure the sample is not tampered with, changed or lost. It is the Authorised inspector's responsibility to ensure chain of custody of the tissue sample by ensuring:
- the tissue samples are stored in a tamper-evident sealed bag or envelope, preferably stamped with a unique serial number.
 - the chain of custody record is maintained.
 - the tissue samples are sent to an accredited laboratory for testing as outlined in the CCM's DNA sampling procedures.

e) Transmission of DNA sampling results to the flag CCM

20. Authorised inspectors should note in the full inspection report, that DNA sampling occurred.
21. The inspecting CCM should update without delay, but no later than 30days, the flag CCM of the sample arriving in port and advise them when testing results are expected to be available, if not already shared with flag CCM.
22. Timing of DNA analysis and results will vary depending on circumstances, such as:
- time for tissue sample to return to port
 - time to facilitate arrangements to deliver the tissue sample to an accredited laboratory
 - time to deliver the tissue sample to an accredited laboratory
 - time for extraction, sequencing, and analysis of the DNA by an accredited laboratory.
23. Once the finalised DNA sampling results are received by the relevant authority of the inspection vessel, they should be provided, together with the inspection report, to the flag CCM within 5 business days. In addition to the results, the credentials from the testing laboratory and recognised standards as outlined in the CCMs Sampling Procedures including the DNA extraction, analysis method information and reference sequence database used should be attached.

CCM DNA sampling and analysis procedures

24. CCMs wishing to use DNA testing for HSBI evidentiary purposes should share their DNA Sampling for Evidentiary Purposes Procedures with the Secretariat for posting on the HSBI page on the WCPFC website.

25. The CCM's DNA Sampling for Evidentiary Purposes Procedures should include:

- DNA sampling method for HSBI activities
- DNA sampling procedures for HSBI activities
- Chain of custody form
- Details of testing Laboratory and credentials and recognised standards, these could include:
 - ISO 17025 / 9001 – *this accreditation supports laboratories in maintaining complex processes of testing and calibration to the highest standards and demonstrates to external clients that the laboratory outputs are valid and reliable.*
 - Quality Management Systems (QMS)
 - Society for Wildlife Forensic Science (SWFS) Standards and Guidelines for Wildlife Forensic Analysis – *the minimum standards and additional guidelines for wildlife forensic analysts in the sub discipline of DNA*
 - Genetic reference database – *used for species assignment for WCPFC catch and compliance. This should include the GenBank Accession number of the reference sequence used for positive species identification.*
 - Sample retention and accessibility – tissue and DNA extracts should be retained, for up to 2 years to allow for future testing by the flag CCM, if requested.
 - If requested, the DNA sample should be sent to the flag CCM within 30 days after DNA extraction, sequencing and analysis by the laboratory.
 - The flag CCM retains the right to conduct DNA sampling to verify the sampling results submitted by the inspection vessels. If the flag CCM conducts DNA sampling, it should observe the same standards as set out in this guide and follow similar methods to the original testing as much as possible (including assay and genetic reference database used for species identification).

Accessibility of DNA Sampling and Multi-language information

26. To assist the DNA sampling process during HSBI activities, it may be beneficial for the CCM's DNA sampling procedures to be translated into languages that are in use on fishing vessels and/or as pictographs to bridge any language barriers.

27. The following supporting documentation could be considered for translation into flag CCM languages by the Authorized inspector CCMs:

- HSBI multi-language cards
- DNA sampling for Evidentiary Purposes procedures provided online.
- DNA sampling for Evidentiary Purposes procedures potentially given/shown to master of vessel prior to DNA sampling by HSBI Authorised inspectors.

28. In addition, flag CCMs should also consider providing information about DNA sampling procedures that may be used during HSBI Inspections to their fishing vessels in a language(s) used by their vessels.



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

HSBI Catch Estimation Guide

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.2	27 November	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.3	4 December	Includes revisions at WCPFC22	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors conducting WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹) on:
 - an estimation on the quantities of fish on board, when direct weighing or weighing by sampling is not possible
 - tools and methods for catch quantifications
 - the minimum standards for analysis.

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

2. The development of this Guide also aims to:
 - support the establishment of robust catch estimation methods to quantify and estimate the catch on board
 - ensure that catch estimates are credible and are consistently using appropriate methods and procedures.
3. This guide refers to general considerations in the application of estimating the catch² on board during a HSBI and the estimation and analysis process, which includes:
 - catch document³ analysis
 - freezer and Fish Hold inspections
 - verifying Catch
 - quantifying catch
 - weight estimations
 - analysis
 - reporting.
4. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to HSBI activities within the WCPFC area of competence.
5. This guide can be modified in response to new information, technical innovations, and perspectives. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.

Estimate catch weights in WCPFC HSBI activities.

6. The aim of HSBI is to ensure compliance of a vessel with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC CMM obligations.
7. A key function of an authorised inspectors during a HSBI is to identify potential misreporting, unreported transshipment, under reporting or record keeping errors.
8. Inspectors conducting HSBI activities can detect and confirm species on board at the time of inspection. They can do this by comparing the information in catch documents with a visual check, count or estimation of catch on board.
9. The purpose of estimating catch is to verify what is declared on the log sheets is what is on board the fishing vessel. It is an important tool for Inspectors to assess if the catch is being recorded accurately, and in line with the relevant WCPFC CMMs.
10. The use of catch estimation during HSBI activities can assist with assessing compliance with vessel licensing and reporting obligations, including to:

² Catch refers to the target, bycatch or non-bycatch species.

³ Catch documents can include logbooks, log sheets, observer reports, transshipment declarations, captain's notes, engineers' reports - both electronic or written.

- verify catch reporting/ catch log data
- estimate total catch held on the vessel
- assist a risk assessment for a more extensive sampling i.e. Port inspection.

11. The general process of catch estimation, might vary according to the type of fishing vessel, but in general involves the following steps:
- In the absence of a hold capacity plan, and when possible measure the hold as accurately as possible to calculate the total hold space⁴
 - estimate the area of the hold filled with fish to estimate tonnage of fish
 - compare estimated tonnage with the amount of fish recorded in the fishing logbook
 - assess whether there is reasonable suspicion that non-compliances can be linked to tonnage inconsistency.
12. This is an initial estimate so Authorised Inspectors can check the logbook to identify significant discrepancies. If significant discrepancies are found:
- this may inform or call for a more accurate approach, such as a port inspection within the framework provided by WCPFC CMMs, or unload/offload, or;
 - inform the flag State and request an enquiry into the vessel.

HSBI Catch estimation

Table 1. Methods of estimating catch quantity

Volumetrics	Subsample	Processed unit counts
Estimate fish in the hold where the volume of the hold is known, or can be calculated	weighing a subsample of a species then calculating average fish weight	counting the total number of specimens (processed or whole), multiplied by the estimated average weight to find the total weight of the species

13. The most appropriate estimation method will depend on various parameters such as the type of vessel⁵, type of fish hold, the type (e.g. whole, processed, frozen etc.) and amount of catch on board. It may be useful to use two methods in combination. Consider what fish are onboard, how they are stored and what information you have available to help decide what method(s) could assist.
14. The general principles and procedures for catch estimation in fisheries inspections:
- documentation and records
 - information gathering
 - hold measurements: density and conversion factors
 - compare catch information to catch estimates.

⁴ Further guidelines on how to measure the hold capacity may be considered by the HSBI SWG in 2026.

⁵ The estimation method in paragraph 21 may not be applicable to fresh fish stowed in tuna longliners at this moment.

a) Documentation and records

15. Authorised inspectors should:

- document the catch estimation process including analysis, using photographs and videos
- conduct the catch estimation process with witnesses' present (master and crew), where practicable.
- ideally work in pairs or as a trio, to cover the tasks:
 - reviewing the logbooks and interviews the master for species, product types, and estimated catch
 - performing the necessary physical measurements in each fish hold for fish volume estimation⁶, based on the hold capacity plans

16. The HSBI report should record any catch estimation and analysis. The authorised inspector should record as much as possible, including but not limited to the following information:

- date of the inspection
- vessel name
- vessel coordinates
- catch estimation methods, measurements (including unit of measurement), estimations, conversion factors and analysis
- Witness name, role and signature.

17. The master of the vessel must be provided with an interim copy of the report which includes details of any catch quantification analysis. The master must also be given to opportunity to include any objection or comment to be included in the final report.

b) Procedural steps

18. Authorised inspectors should calculate the total cubic capacity of each cargo hold, measured in cubic metres. Information on the vessel cargo holds, freezer or storage areas can be found in various ships documents, and ideally, be certified by the CCM and valid:

- Vessel Plans or Capacity Plan
- Hull Survey Certificates
- General Arrangements
- Stability Book.

19. Authorised inspectors should check ships beam (width) for verification of vessels principal dimensions. This will confirm information on the plans belongs to that vessel.

c) Measuring the hold – volumetrics

20. To obtain the hold volume by measuring interior dimensions, Authorised inspectors can either, measure the volume occupied by the fish in the hold, or measure the free air space in the hold, and deduct it from the total cubic capacity of the hold (paragraph 18).

⁶ Further guidelines on how to measure hold capacity may be considered by the HSBI SWG in 2026.

21. To obtain fish volume estimation by species, convert the fish volume into fish weight. The factors below are illustrative examples for the inspector's reference:

i. Apply density factors⁷.. Some examples (mean values)*:

- Marlin (MLS): 1080 kg/m³
- Bigeye tuna (BET): 1064 kg/m³
- Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF): 1070 kg/m³
- Albacore tuna (ALB): 1054 kg/m³
- Skipjack tuna (SKJ): 1090 kg/m³
- Swordfish (SWO): 1075 kg/m³

ii. Apply processing conversion factor⁸ if fish is processed, species by species. The following conversion factors are some of the examples:

Species (FAO code)	Whole	Gutted	Gutted + Head off
Marlin (MLS)	1.00	1.10	1.30
Bigeye tuna (BET)	1.00	1.29	1.33
Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF)	1.00	1.16	1.36
Albacore tuna (ALB)	1.00	1.23	1.31
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	1.00	1.10	1.29
Swordfish (SWO)	1.00	1.31	1.30
Sharks (CWZ)	1.00	1.10	2.00
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1.00	1.10	1.36

iii. Apply stacking factors⁹, taking into account if stacking is loose (factor 0.45), medium (factor 0.51, mean value for frozen tuna), or tight (factor 0.54).

Example Calculation

Hold: $8 \times 8 \times 2.5 \text{ m} = 160 \text{ m}^3$

Fill rate: 70%

Species: Bigeye tuna (BET), gutted

⁷ Magnuson, J. J. 1973. Comparative study of adaptations for continuous swimming and hydrostatic equilibrium of scombroid and xiphoid fishes. Fishery Bull. 71:337–356.

⁸ The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) Handbook of Fishery Statistics: Indicative factors for converting product weight to live weight for a selection of major fishery commodities.

⁹ Note that stacking factors vary depending on the type of fishing vessel (e.g. purse seine, longline, trawler).

Density: 1064 kg/m^3

Stacking factor: 0.51

Processing factor: 1.29

Usable volume: $160 \times 0.7 = 112 \text{ m}^3$

Gross weight = $112 \times 1064 = 119168 \text{ kg}$

Stacked weight = $119,280 \times 0.51 = 60775,68 \text{ kg}$

Catch weight = $60775,68 \times 1.29 = 78400,6 \text{ kg} \approx 78,4 \text{ tonnes}$

d) Analysis of Results

22. Compare the estimation result with the fishing logbook, captain's declarations, and any landing or transshipment data. Calculate the data and assess whether there are significant differences between the figures.

- If fishing logbook figure significantly > estimates of catches onboard:
 - look for concealed space where fish could be stored
 - look for evidence that an undeclared transshipment occurred during the fishing vessel trip, where the fishing vessel gave fish.
- If fishing logbook figure significantly < estimates of catches onboard:
 - look for evidence that an undeclared transshipment occurred during the fishing vessel trip, where the fishing vessel received fish
 - look for species that might be underreported.

Accessibility of catch estimation method information

23. To assist the catch estimation process during HSBI, it may be beneficial for the catch quantification procedures to be translated into languages that are in use on fishing vessels and/or as pictographs to bridge any language barriers.

24. Information accessibility of the HSBI Catch estimation process for the vessel master crew and for the HSBI Authorised inspectors could be supported via:

- HSBI Multi-language cards
- the catch quantification procedures given/shown to master of vessel by HSBI Authorised inspectors
- the voluntary guide translated by CCMs.



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

Measuring Tool Calibration and Certification Guide

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
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PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors conducting WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹) on the minimum standards for the use of measuring tools during a HSBI, which includes:
 - tape measures, and
 - weighing scales.
2. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to authorised HSBI activities within the WCPFC Convention Area.

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

3. This guide should be modified in response to new information, technical innovations, and perspectives. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.

Application of measuring tools in WCPFC HSBI activities.

4. The aim of HSBI is to check a vessel is operating in compliance with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) obligations.
5. Inspectors conducting HSBI activities should use calibrated measuring tools to take measurements of the:
 - length and weight of fishing gear
 - the fishing holds
 - catch, and
 - vessel markings
6. Taking measurements during HSBI activities can assist with assessing compliance with:
 - by-catch mitigation methods
 - logbook reporting and catch estimations
 - vessel marking and identification
7. The calibration and independent certification of measuring tools is crucial and constitutes an important factor in successful compliance investigations and to ensure consistency between inspections.

Measuring tool calibration minimum standards

Table 1. Types of commonly used measuring tools:

Tape measures			
steel, retractable	fabric, retractable	Infrared and laser	Magnetic
Weighing scales			
Hook		pocket	

8. The general principles and procedures for measuring tool use and calibration in fisheries investigations:
 - a) **Documentation and records**
9. Authorised inspectors should:
 - document the taking of measurements using a recording device, including photographs and videos that identify the measurement tools used and their serial number and certification number where available.
 - take measurements with witnesses' present (master and crew,) and prioritise that witnesses from the fishing vessel are present.

- ideally work in pairs.
 - record any measurements taken in the HSBI report. The page which records measurements and applied tools should also record the witness name, role and signature.
10. The master of the vessel must be provided with an interim copy of the report which includes details of any measurement taken. The master must also be given the opportunity to include any objection or comment to be included in the final report.

b) Certification guidelines and details of the measuring tools

11. Measuring tools should be certified by an independent nationally accredited body at the point of manufacturing in accordance with ISO or international recognised standards.
12. Certification details should be available and provided to the flag CCM upon request, and on reasonable grounds such as to support flag state investigation. Certification details could include:
- type of measuring tool
 - technical data sheet
 - certified calibration certificates
 - independently verified by a national body
 - manufacturing information on ISO or international standards
 - EC Class² (I, II, III)
 - the inspecting CCM keeps all certification material available to be shared with the flag CCM if requested.

c) Guidelines for calibration of measuring tools

13. Measuring tools should be periodically tested for accuracy, such as:
- comparing the measurements on a measuring tape to a known standard, typically a certified reference or master tape
 - the recalibration of weighing scales
14. Pre-boarding condition checks should be conducted on measuring tools to ensure they are undamaged and in working order.

² Measuring tape accuracy is guided by harmonised standards set out by the European Committee which divide the category into three classes according to their level of accuracy.



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

Bycatch Mitigation Measuring

Document History

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

15. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors conducting WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹) on:
- assessing bycatch mitigation measures that require quantifiable measurements and
 - the minimum standards for taking and recording measurements

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

16. The development of this Guide aims to support a consistent approach to the monitoring of bycatch mitigation measures on the high seas in such cases where the bycatch mitigation measure requires a quantifiable measurement (e.g., length or weight).
17. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to authorised HSBI activities within the WCPFC Convention Area.
18. This guide should be modified in response to future amendments to bycatch mitigation measures for any species and emerging technologies. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.

Assessing bycatch mitigation measures in WCPFC HSBI activities.

19. The aim of HSBI is to ensure a vessel is compliant with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) obligations.
20. Authorised inspectors conducting HSBI activities should inspect required bycatch-catch mitigation measures (and equipment) that are on board, being used, or are available for use, including to:
 - confirm presence or absence of bycatch mitigation methods, tools, equipment, etc.
 - confirm application of bycatch mitigation methods by trip
 - verify configuration and construction of bycatch mitigation methods
 - record condition of bycatch mitigation methods
21. Inspection and recording bycatch mitigation measures (methods, tools and equipment) by Authorised Inspectors during HSBI activities assesses compliance with CMMs for:
 - Seabirds,
 - Shark,
 - Cetaceans,
 - Sea Turtles, and
 - Mobula Rays
22. Authorised inspectors are to be fully familiar with the provisions of the CMMs in force on bycatch mitigation measures, including with respect to any areas of application with obligations. These should be taken into consideration with the vessel's current location and trip operations.
23. Inspecting and recording bycatch mitigation measures during HSBI activities, can provide the flag CCM with information at vessel and fishing trip level related to the implementation of bycatch related CMMs.

Bycatch mitigation measuring Minimum Standards

24. The general principles and procedures for taking measurements of bycatch mitigation measures in HSBI:

d) Documentation and records

25. Authorised inspectors should:

- document any measurements taken using a recording device, including photographs and videos.
- Take any measurement with witness' present (\ master or crew,) and prioritise that witnesses from the fishing vessel are present.
- ideally work in pairs
- inspect the Vessel Master's notes including fishing vessel operation tracking and the daily catch and effort records.

26. The HSBI report should record bycatch mitigation measure information. The authorised inspector should record as much as possible, including but not limited to the following information related to bycatch mitigation:

- Bycatch mitigation methods (refer Annex 1):
 - used by vessel
 - measurements (including unit of measurement)
 - witness name, role and signature.

27. The master of the vessel must be provided with an interim copy of the report which includes detail of any bycatch mitigation methods and measurements. The master must also be given to opportunity to include any objection or comment to be included in the final report.

e) Equipment

- Calibrated/certified tape measure and weighing scales
- Photo and video recorder
- HSBI report / recording information materials

Collection and analysis of bycatch mitigation measures (and tools) for Seabirds

Weighted branch lines

28. Branch lines are to be weighted accordingly, based on the distance from the hook. Authorised Inspectors should:

- measure the distance from the weight to the eye (top) of the hook
- document the packages of weights on board
- document the weights showing weight amount if readable
- use calibrated scales to weigh individual weights.

Tori lines

29. Tori lines specifications are dependent on the total length of the vessel (on the RFV and confirmed via the ships documents) and applicable areas on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention Area (i.e. North of 23 North, South of 25 South and 30 South). Refer to Annex 1. Example HSBI report template/inspection checklist - seabird mitigation measures.

30. Space is limited when measuring a tori line at-sea, however, an indicative assessment of length can be achieved using mathematical techniques. To measure the tori line, authorised inspectors should:

- choose and clear an area on the vessel deck, running along the vessel is often an open and clear space
- measure the area on the vessel deck
- lay the tori line out in sections along this length (back and forth)
- measure to confirm length of sections
- count number of lengths
- measure overage piece of line leftover
- calculate overall length of tori line e.g. 10 sections of line, measuring 15m = 150m tori line length (plus any overage)
- carry out a second measurement in case of discrepancy
- Measure both tori lines if the vessel has two.

Tori line streamers

31. Authorised inspectors should:

- measure distance between long streamers
- measure distance between short streamers
- measure the first long streamers from the start of the tori line that meets the attachment point
- measure from attachment point to the first long streamer
- measure and record the length of long and short streamers.

Tori pole

32. The tori pole or attachment point is where the tori line is deployed from. Authorised inspectors should:

- measure from top of tori pole (estimate) or attachments point to the sea surface.

Night Setting

33. Depending on the area of fishing, night setting may be an approved seabird mitigation measure. Information on mitigation measures may be recorded in the vessels' Daily Catch and Effort Records or the ships log. Where night setting is declared, Authorised inspectors should:

- a. identify the start time (UTC) and end time of setting (UTC),
- b. verify the location and corresponding requirement
- c. identify the time of nautical dawn and dusk using a nautical almanac
- d. identify if setting of fishing gear has occurred after nautical dawn or before nautical dusk using vessel records.

Hook-shielding devices

34. Hook shielding devices may be used as a stand along seabird mitigation measure. Where identified, authorised inspectors should:

- a. identify if hook shielding devices are used on all gear (full or partial)
- b. measure and record the weight of the hook shielding device and distance to the eye (top) of the hook.

Management of offal discharge

35. Management of offal discharge is a permitted as a seabird mitigation measure where fishing occurs north of 23° North. Where management of offal discharge is identified, Authorised inspectors can speak with the master and crew to record fishing practices during setting and/or hauling.

Blue dyed bait

36. Where blue dyed bait is identified as used, Authorised inspectors should:

- a. confirm that bait used is fully thawed when dyed
- b. compare the colour of dye to the vessel placard showing the colour to which bait is to be dyed (provided by the Commission Secretariat).

Accessibility of bycatch mitigation measuring and multi-language information

To assist the bycatch mitigation measuring process during HSBI activities, it may be beneficial for these procedures to be translated into languages that are in use on fishing vessels and/or as pictographs to bridge any language barriers.

The following supporting documentation should be considered for translation by CCMs:

- HSBI Multi-language cards
- Measuring of bycatch mitigation measure procedures translated into flag CCM languages, provided online.
- Measuring of bycatch mitigation measure procedures given/shown to master of vessel by HSBI Authorised inspectors.

In addition, flag CCMs should also consider providing information about measuring bycatch mitigation measure procedures that may be used during HSBI inspections to their fishing vessels in a language(s) used by their vessels.

Annex 1. Example HSBI report template/ inspection checklist - seabird mitigation measures

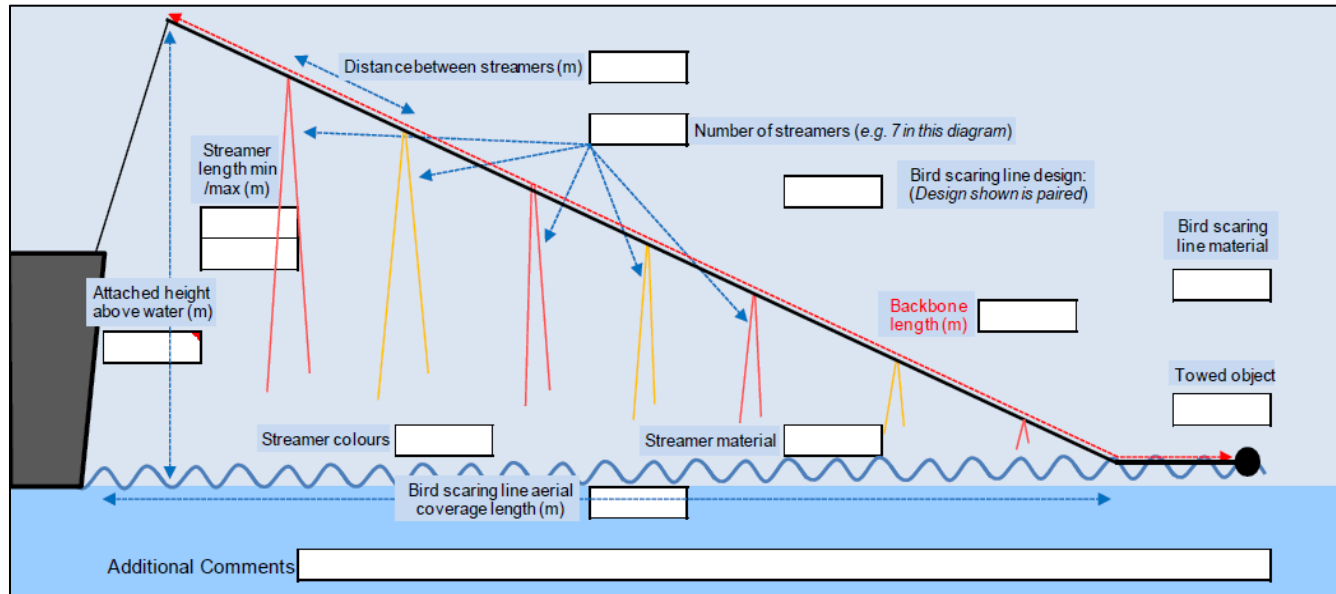
Tori Line for vessels $\geq 35\text{m}$ total length and below 25° South (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1,1a)			
<p align="center">Image of a tori line</p> <p>[Schematic needs to fully reflect WCPFC requirement, i.e. clear differentiation between long/short streamers, aerial extent, and total length]</p>			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Tori Line General Specifications	Did the vessel have at least one tori line?	Has the vessel been fishing below 25° South during the current fishing trip? (Y/N)	
	Long/Short Streamers	Does the tori line have long and short streamers? (Y/N)	

	Streamer Colour	Colour of streamers:	
	Overall tori line length	What is the overall length (m) of the tori line?	
		Is the tori line at least 200m in total length? (Y/N)	
	Aerial Extent	Over what length (m) are streamers included over the total length of the tori line?	
Long Streamer Specifications	Tori Pole	Does the vessel have a tori pole? (Y/N)	
		What is the height (m) at which the tori line is secured?	
	Streamer Spacing	Is the height greater than 7m from the sea surface? (Y/N)	
		What is the distance (m) between long streamers?	
Short Streamer Specifications	Long Streamer Swivels	Are streamers spaced no more than 5m apart? (Y/N)	
		Are swivels used to secure the long streamers to the tori line (Y/N)	
	Long Streamer Length	What is the length (m) of long streamers used?	
		Are long streamers likely to reach the sea surface when the sea is calm over the length of the aerial extent? (Y/N)	
	Streamer spacing	What is the distance (m) between short streamers?	
		Are streamers spaced no more than 1m apart? (Y/N)	
	Short Streamer Length	What is the length (m) of short streamers used?	
		Are short streamers greater than 1m in length? (Y/N)	

Tori Line for vessels <35m total length and below 25° South (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1,1b)

Image of a tori line

[Schematic needs to fully reflect WCPFC requirement, i.e. clear differentiation short streamers, aerial extent, and total length]



Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Tori Line General Specifications	Did the vessel have at least one tori line?	Has the vessel been fishing below 25 South? (Y/N)	
		Does the vessel have a tori line? (Y/N)	
		Number of tori lines examined?	
	Long/Short Streamers	Does the tori line have short streamers? (Y/N) and/or Does the tori line have long streamers? (Y/N)	
	Streamer Colour	Colour of streamers:	
	Overall tori line length	What is the overall length (m) of the tori line?	

	Aerial Extent	Over what length (m) are streamers included over the total length of the tori line? Are streamers included over the at least the first 75m of the tori line? (Y/N)	
	Tori Pole	Does the vessel have a tori pole? (Y/N) What is the height (m) at which the tori line is secured? Is the height greater than 6m from the sea surface? (Y/N)	
Long Streamer Specifications	Streamer Spacing	What is the distance (m) between long streamers? Are streamers spaced no more than 5m apart? (Y/N)	
	Long Streamer Swivels	How are long streamers secured to the tori line?	
	Long Streamer Length	What is the length (m) of long streamers used? Are long streamers likely to reach the sea surface when the sea is calm over the length of the aerial extent? (Y/N)	
Short Streamer Specifications	Streamer spacing	What is the distance (m) between short streamers? Are streamers spaced no more than 1m apart? (Y/N)	
	Short Streamer Length	What is the length (m) of short streamers used? Are short streamers greater than 1m in length? (Y/N)	

Night setting (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 4)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Night Setting	Night Setting Applicable	Has the vessel been fishing below 30 South? Y/N Does the vessel indicate use of night setting? (Y/N)	
	Setting Times ¹	Does the vessel set fishing lines after nautical dawn and before nautical dusk? (Y/N) Has Daily catch and Effort Records been provided to examine Night Setting? Y/N	
		What is the start time of setting? What is the time of nautical dawn and/or nautical dusk at the operation latitude/longitude)? What is the end time of setting? What time did the setting switch to weighted branch-line?	
	Deck Lighting	Is the master aware of the need for deck lighting kept to a minimum (note lights should not breach minimum standards for safety and inspection (Y/N)	Annex 1,4(iii)

Weighted Branch Lines (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 5)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Weighted branch line	Application ²	Has the vessel been fishing below 25 South? (Y/N) Does the vessel use of weighted branch lines? (Y/N)	

¹ Note however that during a HSBI, obtaining all this information may be impractical for Authorised inspectors. Where times are recorded, specify in UTC.

² Note however that during a HSBI, obtaining all this information may be impractical for Authorised inspectors. Where times are recorded, specify in UTC.

		Are weighted branch lines used on all fishing gear? (Full, Partial, No)	
		What is the number of weighted branch lines and what times are they set?	
		What is the number of unweighted branch lines and what times are they set?	
	Specification	Do weighted branch lines meet minimum weight and length specifications? (Y/N) At least 40g within 50cm of the hook? At least 45g within 1m of the hook? At least 60g within 3.5m of the hook? At least 98g within 4m of the hook?	

Hook Shielding devices (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 6)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Weighted branch line	Application	Has the vessel been fishing below 25 South? (Y/N)	
		Does the vessel use of hook shielding devices? (Y/N)	
		Are hook shielding devices used on all fishing gear? (Full, Partial, No)	
	Specification	What is the weight (g) of the hook shielding device?	

Tori Lines North of 23° North (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 2a, b, and c)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
Tori Line General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N) Is the vessel length is 24m or above? Does the vessel have a tori line? (Y/N) Number of tori lines examined?	
	Minimum Length	What is the overall length (m) of the tori line? Is the tori line at least 100m in total length? (Y/N)	
	Attachment Point	What is the height (m) at which the tori line is secured? Is the height greater than 5m from the sea surface? (Y/N)	
Long Streamers	Streamer Spacing	What is the spacing between long streamers? Is the interval between long streamers less than 5m? (Y/N)	
	Streamer specifications	How are the long streamers secured to the tori line? Are long streamers secured using swivels? (Y/N) Are long streamers as close to the water as possible? (Y/N)	
Short Streamers	Streamer Spacing	What is the spacing between streamers? Is the interval between short streamers less than 1m? (Y/N)	(Note only encourage where the vessel is <24m total length).

	Streamer specifications	What is the length of short streamers? Are streamers at least 30cm in length? (Y/N)	(Note only encourage where the vessel is <24m total length).

Side Setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 3)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N) Does the vessel side set and use a bird curtain? (Y/N)	
	General Requirements	Is the mainline deployment deployed from port or starboard side as far from the stern as possible? (at least 1m) (Y/N) Is a mainline shooter used? (Y/N) If so, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.	
	Bird Streamers	Is bird curtain: Pole aft of line shooter at least 3m long? (Y/N) Has a minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2m of pole. (Y/N) What is the diameter of the streamers? Is the diameter of the main streamers at least 20mm? (Y/N)	

		<p>What is the diameter of branch streamers? Is the diameter of the branch streamers at least 10mm? (Y/N)</p> <p>Are the branch streamers long enough to drag on water? (Y/N)</p>	
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Management of offal discharge (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 7)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N)	
	General Requirements	Does the vessel discharge offal during setting or hauling? (Y/N). If Yes, is offal discharged from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling?	

Blue-dyed bait (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 8)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N)	

	General Requirements	Does the vessel use dyed bait? (Y/N) Does the vessel have a placard showing the standardised colour of bait? (Y/N)	
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Deep setting line shooter (WCPFC CMM 2018-03, Annex 1, 9)			
Inspection Theme	Inspection Note	Inspector Comment	
General Specifications	Application	Has the vessel been fishing above 23 North? (Y/N)	
	General Requirements	Does the vessel use a deep setting line shooter? (Y/N) Is the master aware of the requirement that the majority of hooks set by the deep setting line shooter reach depths at least 100m (Y/N)	



Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides

TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

HSBI Collection and Dissemination of Photographic and Video Evidence

Document History

Version	Effective Date	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1.1	31 October	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.2	27 November	For WCPFC22 consideration	HSBI WG	HSBI WG Chair
1.3	4 December	Includes revisions at WCPFC22	HBSI WG	HSBI WG Chair

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. This document provides guidance to Authorised inspectors on the collection and dissemination of photographic and video media collected as part of WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI¹). For CCMs with an authorized inspection presence conducting HSBI activities, the development of this Guide also intends to:
 - support the generation and dissemination of clear, detailed, and evidentiary-quality boarding and alleged violation reports to CCM authorities

¹ HSBI, refers to boarding, inspection, and related activities on the high seas within the Convention Area conducted pursuant to CMM 2006-08 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures or any successor CMM.

- assist CCMs in investigation any alleged compliance issues identified onboard fishing vessels subjected to HSBI and support CCM follow up processes, including judicial processes if relevant, with robust photographic and video media that will afford reliable evidence for such purposes.
 - support the establishment of best practices amongst inspecting authorities.
2. This Guide refers to general considerations in the application of common photographic and video collection and reporting practices conducted by inspectors during and subsequent to HSBI activities, which includes:
 - device settings
 - documentation protocols
 - media file handling
 - reporting
 - transmission of media to flag state.
 3. The application of this Guide will be voluntary and apply to authorised HSBI activities within the WCPFC Convention Area.
 4. This Guide can be modified in response to new information, technical innovations, and perspectives. It is expected that this guide will continue to evolve as the field develops.
 5. Inspectors should consider any specific evidentiary protocols relevant to the national requirements of the fishing vessel authorities that are raised to the attention of the inspection authority or HSBI Working Group when conducting collection and reporting activities.

Application of Photography and Video Collection During HSBI Activities.

6. The aim of HSBI is to verify compliance of a vessel with the WCPFC Convention and all applicable WCPFC CMM obligations and support the flag state conduct a fulsome investigation into any potential violations observed.
7. Inspectors conducting HSBI activities should seek to document potential violations of WCPFC obligations with photographic and video recording devices wherever deemed practicable during the course of a boarding and inspection in order to supply the best evidence to the flag CCM, together with the inspection report. Photographic and video documentation is recognized as a compelling source of visual evidence to substantiate non-compliance.

Photographic and Video Collection Practices

Devices

8. The appropriate media recording device (video recording, photography, audio, etc.) to be used is at the discretion of the inspector and will depend on the nature of the potential violation(s) being documented.
9. The inspector should ensure that a correct and consistent time/date stamp be used by all media collection devices. The time zone used (i.e. Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), Pohnpei Standard Time, local time, etc.) should be indicated in the boarding and/or potential violation report.
10. Media imagery should be recorded in a conventional or standard file format and wherever possible, with maximum resolution and minimal compression. Example file formats include JPEG, RAW, and TIFF for photography and MP4 and AVI formats for video recording.
11. To the extent possible, metadata² should be recorded and preserved within the media files documented by inspectors, in case it is required for evidentiary purposes by the flag CCM. This metadata may often be embedded within files as EXIF data.

Photography and Video Recording

12. Wherever practicable, photograph or video record evidence in situ, or in place, prior to removal or movement of item.
13. Inspectors recording photographic or video evidence should attempt to use a systematic approach to evidence collection in order to support comprehensive, credible, and clear documentation of potential evidence (i.e. systematic and not random documentation of catch holds), especially with evidence relating to DNA sampling.
14. Depending on the nature of the evidence being documented, a systematic approach to the documentation of individual spaces or items may also be warranted in order to document the context or relation of evidence aboard a vessel. This may involve sequenced recording that transitions from wide-angle view to mid-range view and finally a close-up detailed view.

Media Files

15. Inspectors shall not intentionally alter, edit or manipulate media evidence in any manner that could distort or misrepresent the evidence. If imagery enhancements are performed, it should be documented within the report.
16. Whenever possible, all original media files should be maintained by the inspection authority and not deleted until the flag CCM has finalized their investigation, or files have been transmitted to their authorities.

² Metadata is data that often specifies additional details about file creation, such as date and time, modification history, camera type, geographic coordinates, and other relevant data.

17. Inspectors should preserve media files in their original format and filename, without modification, and make them available to a CCM upon request, until the conclusion of any administrative or judicial processes.

Inspector Documentation and Reporting

18. Wherever practicable, inspectors should document the following aspects of photographic and video collection activities:
- a. identification number or official contact point for the photographer/videographer³.
 - b. date and time
 - c. description and location of imagery and/or subject
 - d. file details.
19. The creation and transmittal of media collection (photographic, video, or any combination) logs is widely accepted as a best practice to support legal admissibility, clear reporting, and establish chain of custody for media evidence collection supporting judicial or administrative proceedings.
20. Boarding and/or potential violation reports transmitted to the flag state should include details and/or descriptions of any necessary context relating to media evidence submitted within the report that is not otherwise self-evident. This may include such details as the location, subject, relationship or significance of the evidence depicted in the media. Reference to specific media files affording key evidence within the report may support clearer interpretation of evidence.

Dissemination of Media Evidence to Flag State

21. The submission of annotated photograph or media to the flag CCM is generally a useful aid to support in the interpretation of media with evidentiary value and understanding context. Providing access to both annotated and original media formats is encouraged.
22. If media evidence, such as photographs, are transmitted to the flag CCM within a document other than the original file format, such as PDF or Word, the inspection authority should take additional steps to either transmit the original media files in original formats or make them available upon request. Ensuring access to full resolution and original media evidence may support analysis and evidentiary standards.
23. The transmission of large media evidence files – such as video footage or extensive photo collections – may not be feasible via the official HSBI email contact points designated by the Secretariat due to bandwidth limitations associated with e-mail servers. Therefore, the use of cloud-based servers may be warranted to facilitate the exchange of larger media files between CCMs. Wherever possible, security features such as password protection, end-to-end encryption or e-mail-specific access links should be used to ensure the confidentiality and protection of such sensitive data.

³ name of photographer/videographer - disclosure is at the discretion of inspecting CCM but suggested where required to support administrative or judicial processes.

24. Additional transmission mediums, such as the potential use of the Secretariat's HSBI notification portal or Case Compliance File System (CCFS), should be assessed for the potential ability to deliver this capability of file sharing between CCMs.



Update and Workplan to Progress the Review of CMM 2017-02

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the review of [CMM 2017-02](#) *Port State Minimum Standards* and summarises the key points of focus for potential refinements to existing rules and other Commission decisions as discussed by CCMs at PSM-WG01 in March 2025 ([Summary of Meeting](#)) and at PSM-WG02 in September 2025 ([Summary of Meeting](#)).

Introduction

In 2024, the Commission agreed to establish a working group led by Fiji to undertake review of CMM 2017-02 in 2025. The review was to include the linkage between [CMM 2017-02](#) and the MCS Data Rules, including with respect to the potential for CNM access to MCS data. ([TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 63](#)).

Paragraphs 28 – 29 of CMM 2017-02 also provide guidance on such a review:

Periodic review

28. The Commission shall review this measure within 2 years of its entry into force, which shall include but not be limited to an evaluation of its effectiveness, and any financial and administrative burdens associated with its implementation.

29. In the review of this measure, the Commission may consider additional elements such as notification requirements, port entry, authorization or denial, use of ports, and additional inspection requirements.

Areas of focus identified for review

CCMs provided further guidance on the scope of the review during the PSM-WG1 meeting held in March 2025 which was summarised in the Chair's Summary Report as:

- a. Identification of gaps in the current CMM and where additional details would be useful, such as on port arrivals and denial of port access, and what inspections could cover.
- b. Review of data sharing arrangements with a view to strengthening data exchange requirements within the WCPFC Data Rules and considering how those data sharing arrangements will be applied.
- c. Identification of implementation challenges and the applicability of the measure.
- d. Review of requirements in existing CMMs that relate to Port State measures in order to maximize the linkages and ensure the CMMs are integrated.
- e. Consideration of the scope of existing provisions of the measure relating to capacity building for SIDS and whether these were sufficient.

- f. Harmonization and standardization of data requirements with those of the PSMA and other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (trFMOs).

The PSM-WG01 noted that there was a need for analysis of CMM 2017-02 to identify potential gaps that could support CCM consideration of amendments to this measure. More detail associated with this analysis was provided in the Chair's discussion paper - [TCC21-2025-19A](#). Additional areas were also identified as useful for PSM WG participants to consider in the review of CMM 2017-02.

CCMs with designated ports under CMM 2017-02 and CCMs that are parties to the PSMA

Table 1 below shows the WCPFC [CCMs that have implemented CMM 2017-02](#) and those that are [parties to the PSMA](#). 10 CCMs have notified WCPFC of designated ports under CMM 2017-02, and 24 CCMs are parties to the PSMA.

Table 1. Status of CCMs who have notified of designated ports under CMM 2017-02 and those that are parties to the PSMA.

	SIDS WCPFC Members and Participating Territories	Non-SIDS WCPFC Members	Cooperating Non-Members
CCMs who have notified of designated Ports under CMM 2017-02	France (French Polynesia, New Caledonia), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu	Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, United States of America	Thailand
CCMs who are parties to PSMA as at 18 August 2025	Fiji, France (French Polynesia, New Caledonia), Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, United States of America	Bahamas, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, Viet Nam

Special requirements of Small Island Developing States and participating territories (SIDS)

CMM 2017-02 took effect in February 2018 and was to be reviewed within two years. Implementation of the CMM was voluntary until such time as CCM's designated ports and/or contact points. The above table shows that since that time, most SIDS have chosen not to designate ports under CMM 2017-02.

Paragraphs 22 -27 of the CMM provide examples of the types of assistance that could be required and requires CCMs to cooperate to establish appropriate mechanisms to provide technical and/or financial assistance to deliver those needs, building on, but not limited by, the key capacity or resource assistance and those mechanisms set out in paragraph 4 of CMM 2013-06.

The two-year review period reflected the Commission's priority to develop a mechanism for providing assistance to SIDS, which was scheduled for presentation to the Commission at WCPFC16 in 2019. This timing ensured that the measure could be reviewed within two years. Paragraph 25 also states

that the establishment of the mechanism was noted to be “critical in SIDS’ decision-making processes about whether to designate their ports under this CMM.”

As the required mechanism has not been agreed and the review of CMM 2017-02 not progressed, this would be a priority for the work of the PSM-WG.

As guidance develops through Commission discussions in this WG, the WG will be able to respond appropriately through proposed amendments to CMM 2017-02.

Potential areas to consider in harmonization with tuna RFMOs

In relation to other tRFMOs, there are existing [Memoranda of Understanding](#) that generally enable reciprocal data exchanges that include for monitoring, surveillance and control purposes. In the case of CCSBT and IATTC, there are also Memoranda of Cooperation (CCSBT and IATTC) that provide more specific details on the type of data exchange. Once specific amendments to CMM 2017-02 are clearer, an assessment can be made as to whether any changes to these arrangements are necessary.

Across tRFMOs, there is a broad alignment on the core principles of port state measures, particularly the designation of ports, the requirement for inspection procedures and the general exchange of information. However, key gaps remain that hinder full harmonization. These include inconsistent obligations or minimum standards for port entry, arrivals, denial and inspection on IUU grounds, the absence of uniform real-time reporting standards and a weak cross-referencing with other MCS or relevant tRFMOs measures. Differences also exist in the binding nature of capacity building requirements and support for developing CCMs, particularly SIDS. More detail associated with this assessment was provided in [TCC21-2025-19A](#).

Next steps

Table 2 below is an updated version of the table that was discussed during [PSM-WG02](#) meeting. The first two columns are the original list of priority areas and initial points for discussion based on discussions from PSM-WG1. The priority areas and points for discussion are presented without ranking and are not intended to limit the scope of areas for review.

At PSM-WG2 the Chair invited participants to provide further views to elaborate on each of the five areas and initial list of points for discussion. A summary of the key points raised is included in the third column in **Table 2**. In the fourth column, the Chair provides suggestions on potential next steps for consideration during the 2026 review process.

Recommendations

The Chair invites participants to provide further views to further refine the scope of the five areas, in particular the initial suggestions of the next potential steps set out in Column 4 of **Table 2**.

WCPFC22 is invited to note the update in this paper and to support the workplan proposed for the continued work of the PSM-IWG in 2026 in **Table 3**.

Table 2: Proposed scope of review for CMM 2017-02 in 2026

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
1. Support for SIDS and developing States and implementation challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider reviewing the adequacy of current assistance provisions. ii. Consider establishing an operational funding facility. iii. Consider defining clear burden-sharing mechanisms with triggers for assistance. iv. Consider developing metrics to monitor delivery of capacity building and support. v. Consider reviewing how flexibility of the measure affects consistent implementation. vi. Consider assessing barriers faced by SIDS and developing States (legal frameworks, inspector training, MCS capacity). vii. Consider examining the adequacy of current funding/technical assistance provisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of capacity-building provisions and identification of implementation challenges for SIDS highlighted. • Existing regional measures provide certain controls, which could be complemented by additional mechanisms. • Financial, technical, and legal challenges may affect the effective implementation of new port controls. • Resource constraints such as trained inspectors and legal frameworks need to be addressed. • Operational support mechanisms, including funding, burden sharing, and structured assistance with capacity-tracking, were discussed. • Transshipment controls were highlighted as an area to consider concurrently to avoid conflicting obligations related to SIDS port use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Develop draft recommendation text to operationalise paragraphs 22-27 of CMM 2017-02. 1.2 Consider linkages to CMM 2013-07 and CMM 2013-06 annual reporting and the WCPFC Strategic Investment Plan.

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
	viii. Consider identifying areas where clarification/simplification could improve applicability.		
2. Port entry, arrivals and denial of access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider establishing mandatory minimum standards for advance notification. ii. Consider reviewing procedures for authorization/denial of entry, including IUU grounds. iii. Consider risk-based inspection minimum standards and prioritization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified need to fill gaps on port arrivals, denial of access, and inspection scope • Minimum standards on advance notification were discussed to address enforcement challenges from late or missing vessel notices. • Alignment of Commission databases with GIES was identified as a potential mechanism to improve management of vessel entry and arrivals. • The concept of near real-time reporting for high-risk vessels and definitions of “high-risk” cases were discussed to support targeted inspections. • Interactions between mandatory denial of port entry and transshipment obligations 	<p>2.1 Consider potential refinements to the MCS data access rules and procedures to improve support to Port CCMs being able to request and access near real-time reporting for high-risk vessels.</p> <p>2.2 Develop minimum and/or best practice [voluntary] standards for port entry and arrival conditions, including advance notification requirements</p> <p>2.3 Consider linkages to WCPFC requirements such as: transshipment regulation and reporting requirements, HSBI events conducted; Other CMM requirements to support consideration of entry applications</p>

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
		<p>were highlighted as requiring careful consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional port entry and arrival conditions, as well as non-binding guidelines, were also discussed where existing frameworks already provide controls. 	
3. Facilitating access to WCPFC data to support Port entry procedures	<p>i. Consider establishing procedures that will more efficiently facilitate review and delivery of data under approved requests to support Port entry procedures, including from CNMs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of data-sharing arrangements and strengthening of WCPFC Data Rules application highlighted. Challenges were identified in accessing timely and complete non-public domain data for port entry assessments, particularly for vessels not operating in certain waters despite existing Data Rules provisions (paragraphs 5 and 19). Clarification and strengthening of CMM provisions to provide clear access for port CCMs, including for Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs), was discussed. The potential establishment of an efficient communication platform between flag and port CCMs to 	<p>3.1 Consider potential refinements to the MCS data access rules and procedures to improve support to Port CCMs, including CNMs, to support requests and access to near real-time reporting</p> <p>3.2 Develop draft recommendation text to task the Secretariat to progress work in 2027 to support alignment of WCPFC databases with GIES and any national or regional PSM information management systems</p>

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
		<p>enable faster data exchange was noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays in data access were highlighted as a factor that may result in vessels entering port before verification, given the 72-hour decision timeframe. 	
4. Inspection standards and scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider reviewing Annex A to establish binding minimum standards. ii. Consider defining minimum inspection coverage (documents, gear, catch, logbooks, authorizations). iii. Consider harmonization of inspection report standards with PSMA, other tRFMOs and pan-Pacific RFBs, where applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on harmonisation and standardisation of inspection requirements with PSMA and other RFMOs. The possibility of establishing binding minimum inspection standards under a WCPFC framework was discussed, alongside potential effects on vessel port visits. Existing provisions were noted as not fully aligned with international best practices, which could reduce the effectiveness of port measures. The role of non-mandatory port measures, including designated ports, was highlighted as affecting regional implementation. 	<p>4.1 Consider development of minimum and/or best practice standards for port inspections</p> <p>4.2 Consider development of WCPFC minimum data fields for port inspections and associated reporting</p> <p>4.3 Develop WCPFC definition of “high-risk” vessels, areas, and activities to support Port Inspection activities. (Will support consideration of 2.3 above)</p>

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum inspection standards for vessel documents, fishing gear, catch, logbooks, and authorisations were discussed to promote consistency. • Harmonization of inspection templates with PSMA and other tuna RFMOs was noted. • Definitions of “high-risk” vessels, areas, and activities were discussed to support targeted inspections and improve regional consistency. • Clearer definitions of “high-risk” were identified as a way to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and help reduce the occurrence of unreported (“ghost”) vessels. 	
5. Reporting and data exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider strengthening timely reporting of inspection-related information. ii. Consider aligning inspection templates with PSMA GIES. iii. Consider introducing near-real time reporting for high-risk cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on harmonisation of data requirements with PSMA and strengthening data-exchange provisions. • The importance of timely and reliable data exchange for effective port measures was highlighted for port, coastal, and flag CCMs. 	5.1 Develop draft recommendation text to task the Secretariat to progress work in 2027 to support alignment of WCPFC databases with GIES and any national or regional PSM information management systems (eg FFA e-PSM)

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
	iv. Consider exploring cross-tRFMO pan Pacific RFBs and CNM data sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of standardised reporting templates and electronic systems linking WCPFC and PSMA databases was discussed. The FFA electronic Port State Measures Reporting tool (e-PSM) was identified as an example of a system directly connected to PSMA. Near real-time reporting for high-risk cases was noted as a potential approach, alongside consideration of technical and definitional challenges before implementation. The overall role of timely reporting in identifying IUU activities and strengthening regional compliance was emphasised. 	
6. Integration with other CMMs/MCS tools	i. Consider linkage between port inspections to transshipment monitoring, IUU vessel listing, HSBI and VMS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of related CMMs recommended to maximise linkages and integration of port measures within overall MCS framework. Port-related measures were discussed in the context of complementing existing CMM obligations, such as vessel markings, observer coverage, and transshipment controls. 	6.1 Develop draft recommendation text to task the Secretariat in 2027 to review related CMMs recommended to maximise linkages and integration of port measures within overall MCS framework

Priority areas for review	Initial list of points for further discussion	Summary of key points raised by participants during PSMWG2	Initial suggestions of the next potential steps for further discussion in 2026
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration across the Commission's compliance framework was identified as a way to reduce duplication and enhance coherence. • Compatibility between data-sharing systems under port measures and other regional MCS tools was highlighted as important to improve efficiency and information flow. 	

Table 3: Chair’s Indicative Workplan for the review of WCPFC CMM 2017-02 in 2026

Timeline	Planned Activities
February-March	First online meeting: Opportunity for participants to provide further comments on the priority areas, and initial suggestions of the next potential steps set out in Column 4 of Table 2
April-June	Development of initial draft recommendation texts, which may include draft amendments to CMM 2017-02, tasks to the Secretariat and first drafts of standards and procedures.
June - July	Second online meeting: to discuss initial draft recommendation texts.
September (in association with TCC22)	In-person meeting to finalise recommendations for WCPFC23.
December (WCPFC23)	Adoption of recommendations

*Timelines are indicative and may be adjusted in coordination with CCMs and the Secretariat.



**Terms of Reference for the IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group on
South Pacific Albacore Tuna (SPAJWG)**

Taking into account the mandates for cooperation and coordination between the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) with respect to the south Pacific albacore tuna contained in, *inter alia*, IATTC Resolution C-24-04 and the recommendation adopted by WCPFC21 instructing the Chair of the WCPFC to help develop Terms of Reference for the establishment of a Joint Working Group;

Recognizing that South Pacific albacore is an important tuna species harvested by members of both Commissions;

In accordance with the provisions of Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention and Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Agree:

To establish an IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore tuna (SPAJWG) to enhance cooperation between WCPFC and IATTC for South Pacific albacore tuna research and management, with the following terms of reference:

1. The SPAJWG shall be composed of representatives designated by Members of both Commissions and WCPFC Participating Territories, and who may be accompanied by such experts or advisors as each Member may deem appropriate. The SPAJWG may also include, as observers, representatives of relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to either Commission.
2. The functions of the SPAJWG shall be the following:
 - a. To develop a common understanding and approach for the conservation and management of South Pacific albacore in both convention areas;
 - b. To enhance the harmonization of harvest strategies and other conservation and management actions through, *inter alia*, the development of a workplan for the SPAJWG, which shall be developed at its inaugural meeting in the first half of 2026;

- c. To develop compatible and/or harmonized management arrangements or measures for South Pacific albacore, as appropriate, across all fisheries, including the coordination of catch and/or effort levels between the two Commissions;
 - d. To coordinate scientific research and analyses and facilitate the collection and exchange of relevant fisheries data, scientific knowledge, and expertise;
 - e. To identify priority areas for improvement in monitoring, reporting, and data sharing;
 - f. To collaborate in the identification of ways to streamline the relevant decision-making processes within each Commission to ensure efficient progress towards the robust conservation and management of South Pacific albacore;
 - g. To undertake additional tasks related to South Pacific albacore, as appropriate and pursuant to corresponding requests from both Commissions;
 - h. To report to each Commission on the advances of its work.
3. Regarding the overlap area, the SPAJWG may consider recommendations for coordinated data collection, scientific work, and management in this area, taking into account decisions jointly taken by the two Commissions.
4. Each Commission will appoint a co-chair of the SPAJWG for the term each will determine.
5. The Secretariats of both Commissions will coordinate the adoption and implementation of all arrangements needed for the work of the SPAJWG. This includes the preparation, translation, and dissemination of meeting documents, information sharing, in a manner consistent with the applicable rules and procedures of each Commission. Unless otherwise provided for, the IATTC Secretariat shall be responsible for providing simultaneous English-Spanish interpretation for meetings of the SPAJWG, and the translation of meeting documents between the two languages, as appropriate.
6. Meetings of the SPAJWG will be convened by the Co-Chairs, consistent with the relevant rules of procedure of both Commissions, and in consultation with the Chair and Director of each Commission, in a format to be decided on a case-by-case basis (virtual, presential or hybrid), taking into account the matters to be discussed and *inter alia*, the availability of funding.
7. The SPAJWG shall adopt its conclusions and recommendations by consensus. If efforts to achieve consensus fail, the meeting reports shall so indicate and shall reflect the SPAJWG discussions.

8. The conclusions and recommendations adopted by the SPAJWG shall be submitted to both Commissions, as well as to their subsidiary bodies as appropriate.
9. In order to optimize its work, as appropriate, the SPAJWG, through the Co-Chairs:
 - a. will ensure coordination with other relevant subsidiary bodies of both Commissions, particularly with a view to seeking their inputs;
 - b. may seek appropriate inputs from all relevant stakeholders, such as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations or natural persons such as scientists, researchers, managers, industries, etc.
10. These Terms of Reference shall enter into force at the time of their adoption by both Commissions, with the Terms of Reference and Workplan open for review by each Commission and revised as appropriate, annually.



Provisional 2026 Workplan for the IATTC–WCPFC Joint Working Group on South Pacific Albacore

This Workplan has been developed on a provisional basis in anticipation of its consideration and adoption by the Joint IATTC–WCPFC Working Group on the Management of South Pacific Albacore (SPAJWG), which is expected to be established by the IATTC and the WCPFC at their upcoming annual meetings in 2025. Its purpose is to serve as a multi-year roadmap guiding collaboration between the two Commissions. The Workplan outlines a phased approach to harmonizing scientific analysis, coordinating management strategies, improving monitoring and data exchange, and advancing regionally compatible measures for the effective conservation and management of South Pacific albacore tuna fisheries.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

To support the effective implementation of this Workplan, the following cross-cutting issues will be duly taken into consideration throughout all phases:

- Small Island Developing States (SIDS), developing Members, and participating territories engagement: Within the WCPFC, there is a need for financial and logistical support for delegates from SIDS, developing States, and participating territories. Similarly, within IATTC, there is the same need for its developing Members.
- Transparency: The need for all meeting documents, recommendations, and data-sharing protocols to be made available in English and Spanish.
- Stakeholder Involvement: The need to ensure, as appropriate, the participation of scientific experts, NGOs, and industry representatives to be invited as observers or advisors, consistently with the respective rules of procedure of each Commission.
- Capacity Building: The need to support the development of technical and institutional capacity in SIDS, developing Members, participating territories, and Cooperating Non-Members, especially in scientific and monitoring capabilities.
- Communication and Outreach: The need to enhance understanding and visibility of SPAJWG's objectives and progress among stakeholders and the public.

REVIEW OF THE WORKPLAN

Once adopted by the Working Group, and to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness, the SPAJWG Workplan shall be subject to an annual review by SPAJWG participants at the end of each calendar year. This review will:

- Assess the progress made toward each planned activity;
- Identify and record completed or terminated actions;
- Flag any activities requiring adjustment, rollover, or intensified follow-up in the following year.

The results of the annual review shall inform the planning of subsequent SPAJWG meetings and be reported to both Commissions. Any resulting comments or recommendations made by either Commission are reported back to the SPAJWG.

RESOURCE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

Consistent with the relevant provisions of the Terms of Reference, and in recognition of the resource requirements to implement certain activities under this Workplan, the two Commissions will consider and endeavor to accommodate budgetary needs as appropriate.

YEAR 1: 2026 — INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

A. First SPAJWG Meeting in the first half of 2026

1. Implementation of the SPAJWG Workplan

- The SPAJWG will review and consider the time frame, specific needs, and expected outcomes of the Workplan as needed

2. Overview of the SPA Management

- Summary of recent stock status based on stock assessment for WCPO only, Pan-Pacific scale, and EPO only.
- Overview of current SPA management approaches adopted by both Commissions, including arrangements for the overlap area.
- Introduction to the development of Harvest Strategies for SPA by each Commission.

3. Review of Management Procedure Evaluations (subject to the progress of the SPA MP at WCPFC22)

- Review the adopted WCPFC SPA MP (draft schedule provided in **Table 1**), the outcomes of the first running of the MP, and the adopted SPA MP implementation CMM.
- Review the application of the WCPFC's 2025 MP outputs to SPA management for 2026.
- Review of the scope of the SPA MP in the context of the geographic area (including the overlap area) and the mixed fishery structure
- Review of the IATTC components (fishing level) in the SPA HS framework
- Develop a detailed plan of harvest strategy-related SPAJWG activities for 2026 and beyond.

Table 1. The WCPFC's South Pacific Albacore Management Arrangements in a repeating 3-year schedule (Proposed by the South Pacific Group¹ and Australia in December 2024; [WCPFC21-2024-](#)

¹ Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run the MP (using data to 2023). - Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for 2026- 2028. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop/Review the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2026-2028, taking into account the output of the MP.
2026		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor the performance of the MP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM.
2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform full stock assessment (y_{last} = 2025). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise the Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM. - Review the performance and use of the MP.
2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run the MP (using data to 2026). - Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor the performance of the MP. - Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2029-2031). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and revise the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2029-2031, taking into account the output of the MP.
2029		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor the performance of the MP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM.
2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform full stock assessment (y_{last} = 2028). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise the Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM. - Review the performance and use of the MP.
2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run the MP (using data to 2029). - Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor the performance of the MP. - Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2032-2034). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and revise the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2032-2034, taking into account the output of the MP.
etc.	-	-	-

4. Compatible management measures

The SPAJWG will consider the effectiveness of the MP across both Convention Areas to develop and recommend to both commissions compatible management measures, including quantitative limits, monitoring, reporting, data sharing arrangements, and coordination of the overlap area.

5. Preparing WCPFC's 2027 SPA stock assessment

- Establish a clear framework for coordination between SPC and IATTC scientists, including the development of intersessional meetings and communication channels to address key elements of the assessment, such as:
 - Input data requirements and exchange
 - Modeling approaches
 - Regional structure assumptions
 - Determining the scope of the assessment, including whether it will be Pacific-wide or RFMO-specific, with separate components for WCPFC and IATTC.

The SPAJWG will facilitate this discussion and establish a timeline for data sharing between the two organizations.

- Promote methodological alignment between SPC-OFP and IATTC in stock assessment practices to ensure comparability and consistency of outputs.
- Explore the development of SPA-wide projection models that incorporate both catch numbers and catch weight, to enhance the robustness of future management advice.

6. Support and Review Project 100c (CKMR)² Outputs

- Review results from CKMR³ sampling (2023–2025) and explore data integration into management advice. (SPC, SC, SPAJWG, etc.)
- Begin planning CKMR-informed stock assessments or MSE tests for the 2029–2031 MP cycle.

B. Intersessional Activities toward 2027

The following issues, among others, may be discussed, subject to the availability of supporting documents and time constraints.

1. SPAJWG reference document

- Develop one reference document for SPAJWG, covering a summary of stock structure, stock status, catch and effort levels, current management system, harvest strategy framework, climate change impacts, etc.
- Develop a list of areas where monitoring, reporting, and data sharing could be improved

2. Data issues

- Recommend to both Commissions to consider the adoption of shared data standards and

² *Preparing WCP tuna fisheries for application of CKMR methods to resolve key stock assessment uncertainties, 2023-2025*

³ 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.

timelines for stock status evaluations – comparing assessments from the WCPO-only, Pan-Pacific, and EPO-only approaches – and review existing data exchange and monitoring mechanisms, including plans for CKMR sampling and integration with ongoing tagging programs under SPC coordination.

3. SPAJWG Research plan and budget

- With the support of both Secretariats, develop a scientific research plan for the SPAJWG's work, including any necessary budget implications, and recommend it to each Commission.
- Prior to the SPAJWG meeting, the respective research plans should be shared and consolidated, and the research responsibilities clearly assigned to each Commission to facilitate budget allocation between them.

Annex. The provisional and indicative schedule for SPAJWG Meetings, aligned with the regular meeting calendars of both Commissions, with a provisional proposed agenda for each meeting.

2025		2026	
		Jan-Mar.	Secretariats: Preparation for the 1st SPAJWG Meeting (Hybrid) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting time • Venue • Agenda
20 May	1st Informal SPAJWG Meeting (online) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of DRAFT TOR • Consider elements to be included in the workplan (see Annex 1) • Confirm the 2nd Informal SPAJWG meeting date (29 July – 1 August) 	March	1st Formal SPAJWG Meeting (a 3-day hybrid meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of recent stock status from stock assessments • Review of the scope of the SPA MP in the context of the geographic area and the mixed fishery structure • Review of the WCPFC-adopted SPA MP, outcomes of the first MP run, and the SPA MP Implementation CMM • Review of the IATTC components (fishing level) in the SPA HS framework • Develop a scientific research plan with budget implications as needed for the SPAJWG work, assisted by both Secretariats, and recommend it to each Commission
June – July	Secretariats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a DRAFT workplan and timeline • Communicate with CCMs (WCPFC) and CPCs (IATTC) to refine the workplan • Both Secretariats draft the SPAJWG meeting cycles and decision-making structure 		
2-6 June	IATTC-SAC16	Early June	IATTC-SAC17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the SPAJWG budget and recommend it to the Commission if

			needed
29Jul (Tue)- 01Aug (Fri)	2nd Informal SPAJWG Meeting (online) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize TOR • Review and finalize the Workplan and timeline prepared by both Secretariats • Recommend the meeting date, duration, (hybrid?), and meeting venue for the 1st in-person (?) SPAJWG meeting, SPAJWG-01 (this is important) 	Late July- early August	2nd Formal SPAJWG Meeting (if needed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
13-21 August	WCPFC-SC21	Mid- August	WCPFC-SC22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the SPAJWG budget and recommend it to the Commission if needed
1-5 September	IATTC-103 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt TOR • Finalize and recommend the workplan to be adopted at the 1st SPAJWG in 2026 • Recommend the meeting date and venue for the 1st in-person (?) SPAJWG meeting, SPAJWG-01 	Early September	IATTC-104 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and endorse the SPAJWG budget
1-5 December	WCPFC22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt TOR – subject to the decisions by both RFMOs, the SPAJWG will be established. • Review the IATTC-recommended workplan and endorse/recommend it to SPAJWG-01 for adoption • Recommend the meeting date and venue for the 1st in-person (?) SPAJWG meeting, SPAJWG-01 	Early December	WCPFC23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and endorse the SPAJWG budget



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE FOR SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-01

Interim South Pacific albacore Tuna Management Procedure

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure.

Objective

1. The objective of the interim Management Procedure (MP) for South Pacific albacore, is to ensure that:

- a) the spawning potential depletion¹ ratio of South Pacific albacore is maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point²; and
- b) the spawning potential depletion ratio of South Pacific albacore tuna is maintained above the limit reference point with a risk of the limit reference point being breached no greater than 20 percent;

with a view to maintaining the economic performance of dependent fisheries together with reasonable levels of total catch, in a manner that achieves relative stability in fishing levels between management periods.

Reference Points

2. The target reference point for South Pacific albacore is specified as four percent below the estimated average spawning potential depletion of the stock over the period 2017-2019 ($0.96 SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$).³ This supersedes an earlier decision of the Commission made by WCPFC20 (WCPFC21 Outcomes, paragraphs 29 to 32).

Scope and design of the MP

3. The MP applies to longline and troll fisheries taking albacore tuna within the WCPFC convention area Exclusive Economic Zones and high seas south of the latitude of 10 degrees South, but excluding the exclusive economic zones of Tokelau and Tuvalu. The MP (and this CMM) determines the total annual albacore catch to be taken within this region while a separate South Pacific Albacore Management Arrangements CMM will set out the implementation and management arrangements for achieving this.

¹ The limit reference point is specified as 20 percent of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing, calculated as described in technical definitions within paragraph 2.

² With a 50% probability of being above the target reference point.

Elements of the MP

4. The MP includes:

- a) The Harvest Control Rule set out in Annex I;
- b) The Estimation Method using the settings set out in Annex II;
- c) Data Requirements and the Monitoring Strategy set out in Annex III;
- d) The procedure for Exceptional Circumstances set out in Annex IV.

Schedule and Roles of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Services Provider

5. The Scientific Committee shall regularly review the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Annex III, and provide advice to the Commission on:

- a) the performance of the MP as a basis for pre-defined rules that manage South Pacific albacore in order to achieve biological, ecological, economic and social objectives, including the robustness of the MP to changes in the fishery and any exceptional circumstances consistent with Annex IV; and
- b) the application of the MP output to the relevant management implementing arrangements.

6. The Scientific Services Provider shall run the MP, perform the stock assessment, and support the Scientific Committee and Commission consideration of the MP.

³ Technical definitions: Spawning potential depletion refers to the estimated South Pacific albacore spawning potential as a percentage of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing (i.e., the unfished spawning potential). The metric is dynamic and can be estimated for each model time step.

The method to be used in calculating spawning potential in the absence of fishing ($SB_{F=0}$) shall be:

- a. $SB_{F=0}$, t1-t2 is the average of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing for a time window of ten years based on the most recent South Pacific albacore stock assessment, where $t1=y-10$ to $t2=y-1$ where y is the year under consideration; and
- b. The estimation of unfished spawning potential shall be based on the relevant estimates of recruitment that have been adjusted to reflect conditions without fishing according to the stock recruitment relationship.

7. The Commission shall review the South Pacific Albacore Management Arrangements in a repeating 3-year schedule as follows:

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2025	- Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	- Provide advice to the Commission on Candidate MPs.	- Develop the SPA Management Arrangements CMM, taking into account the nature of the MP.
2026	- Run the MP (using data to 2024) for application to the period 2027-2029.	Provide advice to the Commission on the MP outputs for the period 2027- 2029.	- Apply the output of the MP to the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2027-2029.
2027	- Perform full stock assessment ($y_{last} = 2025$).	- Monitor and review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM. - Consider SC advice on the performance of the MP.
2028		- Monitor performance of the MP.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM.
2029	-Run the MP (using data to 2027).	-Monitor the performance of the MP. -Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2030-2032).	- Apply the output of the MP to the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2030-2032.
2030	- Perform full stock assessment ($y_{last} = 2028$).	- Monitor and review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM.
2031		- Monitor performance of the MP.	- Apply the SPA Management Arrangements CMM. - Consider SC advice on the performance of the MP.
2032	- Run the MP (using data to 2030).	- Monitor the performance of the MP. - Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2033-2035).	- Apply the output of the MP to the SPA Management Arrangements CMM for 2033-2035.
Etc. in a repeating 3-year cycle			

Management Strategy Evaluation

8. The MP has been simulation tested to determine its likely performance against a range of plausible scenarios. These scenarios and the details of the testing procedure are provided in WCPFC-SC20/MI-WP04. The results of the evaluations are outlined in WCPFC22-2025-21 and are available online at: <https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/SPAMPLE/>.

Allocation

9. Allocation is not included in, or affected by, the MP.

Review and Final Provisions

10. The Commission shall review this CMM in 2029 and 2032 to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect. The Commission may amend the CMM at any point to fully apply the MP.
11. This measure shall come into effect on 16 February 2026 and shall remain in effect until 15 February 2033 unless replaced or amended by the Commission.

ANNEX I: HARVEST CONTROL RULE

1. The Specification of this HCR follows HCR 7 in WCPFC22-2025-21. It has the following baseline assumptions:
 - a) Area: south of 10°S in the WCPFC-CA excluding the EEZs of Tokelau and Tuvalu (Figure 1)
 - b) Applicable fisheries: longline and troll
 - c) EPO (excluding overlap area) catch: 18,000 mt per annum
 - d) Equator to 10°S catch: 9,667 mt per annum including slivers of the EEZs of Tokelau and Tuvalu that are south of 10°S
2. The harvest control rule is outlined in Figure 2 with parameters provided in Table 1. Features include:
 - a) The input to the harvest control rule derives from the Estimation Method (Annex 2).
 - b) For each 3-year management period, the harvest control rule uses the estimate of stock status as determined by the Estimation Method, to calculate a scalar that adjusts catches up or down relative to the baseline fishing conditions, subject to the +10% -5% constraint on maximum allowable change between management periods.
 - c) The output from the harvest control rule is an annual, overall, unallocated annual Total Allowable Catch.

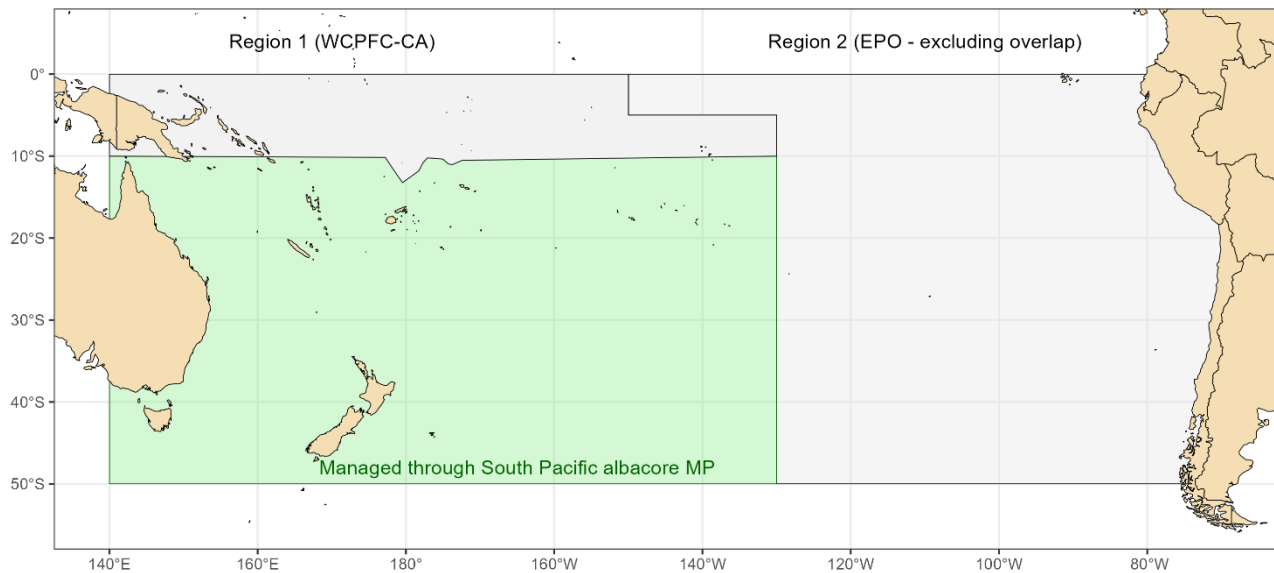


Figure 1: Area of application of the South Pacific albacore MP (in green).

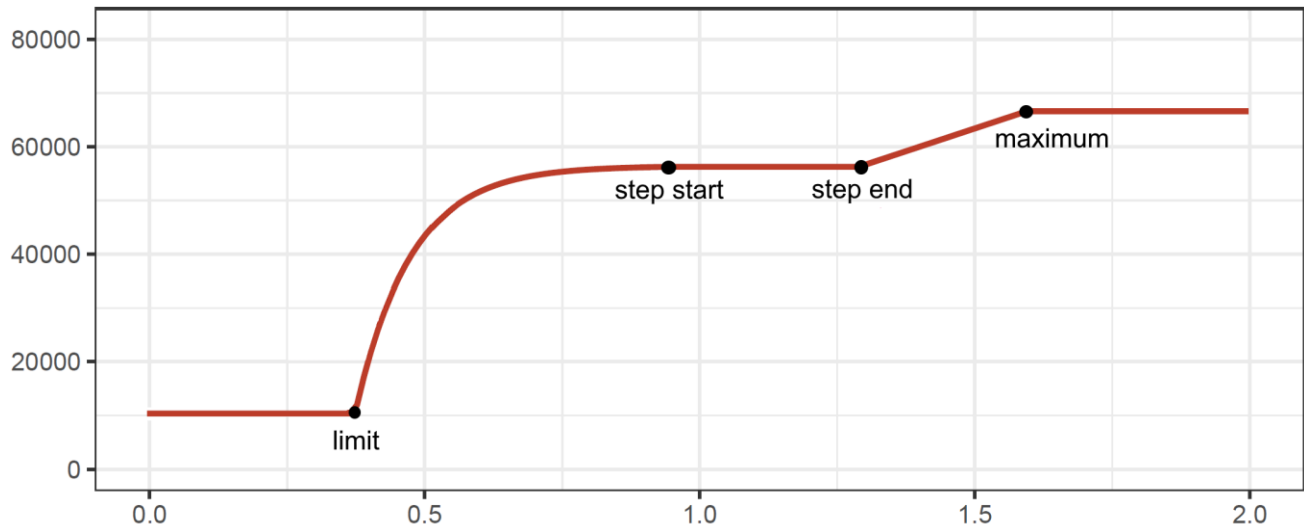


Figure 2. Harvest control rule.

Table 1. Harvest control rule parameters (see also WCPFC22-2025-21). Type = 'Asymptotic Hillary step'.

HCR 7	Parameter	Limit	Step start	Step end	Maximum
	Relative SB/SB _{F=0}	0.37	0.94	1.29	1.59
	HCR output	0.2	1.09	1.09	1.29
	Catch output (mt)	10,293	56,096	56,096	66,389

3. The maximum change in catch indicated by the HCR between any 3-year management period shall be a decrease of 5% and an increase of 10% relative to the catch levels specified by the MP for the previous three year period. For the first running of the MP, the maximum change in catch shall not exceed either a decrease of 5% or an increase of 10% relative to the last year of available catch data (i.e. 2023).

ANNEX II: ESTIMATION METHOD

1. Stock status is estimated within the MP using an Age-Structured Production Model implemented in MULTIFAN-CL.
2. The estimation method employs similar fishery definitions and model structure to that of the 2024 stock assessment, except that the troll fishery CPUE index is omitted from the estimation method (see Table 2).
3. The value of stock status returned from the estimation method is a relative measure, calculated as the mean depletion ($SB_y/SB_{F=0}$) in the last 3 years relative to the mean depletion for the period 2017-2019 ($SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$). All quantities are calculated by the Estimation Method model. The calculation for $SB/SB_{F=0}$ is generally as described in Paragraph 2.

Table 2. Settings for the estimation method

Model Setting	Value
Regional structure	2 regions
Number of fisheries	19
Longline	13
Troll / Driftnet	4
Index	2 (longline only)
Steepness	0.8
Natural mortality	Lorenzen, M12 = 0.36
Growth	Fixed
ML1	45.538
ML2	100.115
K	0.3932
Movement rates	Fixed (2024 assessment)
Selection patterns	Fixed (2024 assessment)
Average recruitment	Last 2 years
Recruitment distribution	0.819, 0.181

Table 3: Model settings and post-processing steps used in the CPUE standardisation for South Pacific albacore estimation method. Two index fisheries are generated derived from; a global model used for fishery 20 (EPO) and a northern model used for fishery 18.

Model Setting	Description
Model Type	A spatiotemporal delta-gamma generalized linear mixed model (delta-GLMM), implemented in two model configurations: a global model and a north model.
Data Filtering	Global indices generated from data across entire assessment area North model generated from data for the WCPO between 5°S and 30°S
Spatial Knot Configuration	A mesh with 157 spatial knots for the global model and 85 knots for the northern model.
Model Equations	$y_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p_i)$ $\log\left(\frac{p_i}{1-p_i}\right) = \text{Year}_i + s(\text{month}_i) + \omega_1(s_i) + \phi_1(s_i, t_i) + s(\text{HBF}_i) + \text{Flag}_i + \varepsilon_1$ $c_i \sim \Gamma(\log\mu_i, \sigma^{-2}, \eta_i\sigma^2)$ $\log\eta_i = \text{Year}_i + s(\text{month}_i) + \omega_2(s_i) + \phi_2(s_i, t_i) + s(\text{HBF}_i) + \text{Flag}_i + \varepsilon_2$ <p>where σ is the coefficient of variation for positive catch rate measurement errors, y is the encounter probability, c is the CPUE, and i indexes individual records. <i>Year</i> is the year effect; $s(\text{month})$ is a spline function for month effect; ω is the spatial random effect at location x; ϕ is the spatiotemporal random effect at location x and time t; $s(\text{HBF})$ is a spline function for hook-based fishing effort; and <i>Flag</i> is the additive effect of the flag group. The spatial variation terms $\omega_2(x_i)$ are modeled as a Gaussian random field with a Matérn covariance function to account for spatial autocorrelation.</p>
HBF Imputation	Missing HBF values are predicted using a random forest approach (Breiman 2001) implemented via the randomForest R package (Liaw and Wiener 2002). The model uses predictors including year, month, latitude, longitude, number of hooks fished, vessel flag, the proportional catch of the four main species (albacore, yellowfin, bigeye, swordfish), and total catch value, with 500 trees.
Implementation Platform	sdmTMB version 0.3.0 (R package).
Normalisation Method	CPUE values are mean-centered using absolute values.
Penalty Term Calculation	Penalty terms are applied as the coefficient of variation (CV) for the catch-conditioned model.

ANNEX III: DATA REQUIREMENTS AND MONITORING STRATEGY

Table 4. Data requirements under the WCPO MP and considerations for the monitoring strategy with respect to the collection, provision, coverage, and quality of data necessary to run the MP and generate performance indicators.

Data requirement	Monitoring Considerations
MP: estimation model	
Annual catch estimates.	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Aggregate catch/effort data.	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Longline operational catch/effort data.	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Standardised CPUE indices for longline fisheries	Continuation of ongoing arrangements.
Monitoring Strategy: performance indicators	
Catch and effort data as above	Calculation of performance indicators listed in table 6 for comparison with MSE outputs.
Other data as available to calculate performance indicators – this may include:	The frequency and scope of these data may vary depending on data availability and collection procedures. Performance indicators calculated from them may represent only a subset of the fishery.

Table 5. Aspects to be considered for inclusion in the monitoring strategy and the Commission body at which those considerations can be made.

MP Element	Commission Body	Monitoring Considerations
Review the MSE framework		
OM sets.	SC	Ensure that the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM sets.
Calculation of performance indicators.	SC	Appropriate representation of objectives by performance indicators.
Modelling assumptions.	SC	Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework.
Data availability to support the OM sets	SC	Improvements to data collection to either enhance the OM sets and/or better represent uncertainty in the OM sets.
Review performance of the MP		
Comparison of MP performance against latest stock assessment.	SC	Check that the MP is performing as expected.
Data availability to run the MP.	SC	Check availability, quantity, quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation model, see table 3).
Other sources of data to monitor performance not included in the MSE framework.	SC/TCC	Identify other data as available to inform calculation of performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc).
Review of the MP		
Management objectives.	Commission	In accordance with para 8, periodically check that the overall objectives of the MP remain appropriate.
Consider Exceptional Circumstances		
Exceptional circumstances.	SC/TCC/ Commission	Drawing on all of the above, have events (unexpected, extra-ordinary) occurred such that remedial action is required to either review, modify or replace the MP

Table 6. Performance Indicators Examined within the Management Strategy Evaluation

Indicator 1	Stock status ($SB/SB_{F=0}$)
Indicator 2	Probability $SB/SB_{F=0} < LRP$
Indicator 3	Expected albacore catch in the WCPFC convention area, south of 10°S
Indicator 4	Expected albacore catch of fisheries managed through the MP
Indicator 5	Expected vulnerable biomass (VB - a proxy for catch rates) in the WCPFC convention area, south of 10°S, relative to the level in 2020-2022.
Indicator 6	Albacore catch variability (annual absolute change in catch in the WCPFC convention area, south of 10°S)
Indicator 7	Effort variability (of longline fisheries in the WCPFC convention area, south of 10°S)

ANNEX IV: EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Exceptional circumstances are defined as the occurrence of events that are outside the range of scenarios considered for testing the MP. In the case of such events, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the MP or, in severe cases where there is considered to be a risk to the stock, take remedial action. Exceptional circumstances are not a mechanism for making regular, small adjustments to the MP, but rather should be invoked where, through an agreed process, the operation of the MP has been demonstrated to be highly risky or inappropriate. This Annex provides guidance on the process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and the necessary actions but does not provide firm definitions of all possible exceptional circumstances.

Process to determine if exceptional circumstances exist

2. SC to implement and conduct a monitoring strategy and to advise the Commission on the occurrence of exceptional circumstances based on the results of:
 - Routine annual evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances based on information presented to and reviewed by SC; and
 - Detailed evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances every 3 years coincident with the stock assessment.
3. Examples of what might constitute exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:
 - Persistent low recruitment outside the range for which the MP was tested;
 - Substantial improvements in knowledge, or new knowledge, concerning the dynamics of the population which would have an appreciable effect on the operating models used to test the MP;
 - Non-availability of important input data resulting in an inability to run the MP;
 - Stock assessment biomass estimates that are substantially outside the range of simulated stock trajectories considered in the MP evaluations, calculated under the reference set of operating models;
 - Significant increases in the contribution of fisheries not affected by the MP, beyond the levels assumed in the development and testing of the MP, that substantially impact MP performance against the Objective;
 - Failure of reported catch and effort to be within an acceptable range around the levels indicated by the MP; and
 - Persistent or strong negative outcome in indicators calculated under the monitoring strategy.

Process for action in the event of exceptional circumstances

4. Having determined that there is evidence for exceptional circumstances, the SC will, in the same year, provide advice to the Commission including, but not limited to:
 - the nature and considered severity of the exceptional circumstances;
 - the necessary action required;
 - where the severity is considered to be high, the recommendation may be for a change to the catch/effort limits; and
 - where the severity is considered to be low, the recommendation may be that the Scientific Committee review the MP earlier than scheduled.



Terms of Reference for a Workshop on the Framework for the Allocation of South Pacific albacore proportional shares

Objectives

The objective of the workshop will be to undertake preparatory work for the purposes of implementing the South Pacific albacore management procedure, which requires the Commission to agree on proportional shares for Commission Members and Participating Territories, and that adequately take into account Articles 8, 10(3) and 30 of the Convention.

Tasks

1. At the Workshop, CCMs will
 - i. Discuss data provided by the Science Services Provider and the Secretariat in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 and identify additional data needs to inform workshop discussions.
 - ii. Discuss proposals on allocation frameworks submitted by Members at least one month before the start of the workshop.
 - iii. Based on (ii), narrow down options for consideration by WCPFC23;
 - iv. Discuss steps to take towards reaching an agreement on proportional shares.

Data input

2. In order to facilitate discussions at the Workshop, the Science Services Provider is asked to provide a full complement of EEZ and high seas catch and effort data, at least one month before the workshop.
3. CCMs may request the Secretariat to provide any other data or information they deem necessary relevant to discussions at the Workshop.

Meeting

4. To efficiently facilitate the development of proportional shares for a South Pacific albacore allocation framework, a physical meeting will be convened for 2 days in early 2026.
5. This workshop will be chaired by [xxx].



**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR BIGEYE, YELLOWFIN AND SKIPJACK TUNA
IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-02

PREAMBLE

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recalling that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention) is to ensure through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the Agreement;

Recalling further the final statement of the Chairman of the Multilateral High Level Conferences in 2000 that: “It is important to clarify, however, that the Convention applies to the waters of the Pacific Ocean. In particular, the western side of the Convention Area is not intended to include waters of South-East Asia which are not part of the Pacific Ocean, nor is it intended to include waters of the South China Sea as this would involve States which are not participants in the Conference” (Report of the Seventh and Final Session, 30th August- 5 September 2000, p.29);

Recognizing that the Scientific Committee has:

- (a) advised that the interim management objective for bigeye tuna in CMM 2021-01, to maintain the spawning biomass depletion ratio at or above the average SB/SBF=0 for 2012-2015, is being achieved;
- (b) advised that the interim management objective for yellowfin tuna in CMM 2021-01, to maintain the spawning biomass depletion ratio at or above the average SB/SB F=0 for 2012-2015, is being achieved; and
- (c) determined that the first run of the skipjack management procedure was successfully carried out and its output scalar of 1, indicates that catch and effort be maintained at baseline levels and recommended that the Commission take appropriate management action to ensure that the biomass depletion level fluctuates around the target reference point (TRP).

Recognizing further the interactions that occur between the fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna;

Noting that Article 30(1) of the Convention requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special

requirements of developing States that are Parties to the Convention, in particular small island developing States and Territories and possessions, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries on such stocks, including the provision of financial, scientific, and technological assistance;

Noting further that Article 30(2) of the Convention requires the Commission to take into account the special requirements of developing States, in particular Small Island developing States and Territories. This includes ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by it do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, Parties, and Territories;

Noting that Article 8(1) of the Convention which requires compatibility of conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction;

Recalling Article 8(4) of the Convention which requires the Commission to pay special attention to the high seas in the Convention Area that are surrounded by exclusive economic zones (EEZs);

Noting that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) have adopted and implemented “A Third Arrangement Implementing The Nauru Agreement Setting Forth Additional Terms And Conditions Of Access To The Fisheries Zones Of The Parties”;

Noting further that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement have adopted and implemented a Vessel Day Scheme for the longline fishery, a Vessel Day Scheme for the purse seine fishery and a registry for FADs in the zones of the Parties, and may establish longline effort limits, or equivalent catch limits for longline fisheries within their exclusive economic zones;

Noting furthermore that the Members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency have indicated their intention to adopt a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based bigeye catch limits within their EEZs;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted a limit reference point (LRP) for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna of 20% of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2022-03 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and a Work Plan to guide the development of key components of a Harvest Strategy, including the recording of management objectives, adoption of reference points, and development of harvest control rules;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2022-01 which established an interim Management Procedure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna;

Recognizing the United Nations’ Climate Change Sustainable Development Goal number 13 to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, and that climate change has particularly negative impacts on Small Island Developing States and Territories; and noting that Article 5 (c) of the Convention requires the application of the precautionary approach , and Article 5 (d) of the Convention requires the Commission to assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental

factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or depend upon or associated with the target stocks and that WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 mandates the integration of climate change into the decision making processes of WCPFC, including into the management of fish stocks in the Convention Area;

Noting the SEAPODYM analyses presented to SC11, SC12 and SC13 on the projected impacts climate change will have on tuna distribution, larval numbers and stock biomass, the WCPFC needs to build resilience into the medium and long-term planning and manage WCPO fish stocks in a precautionary manner, as mandated in WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 and Article 30(2)(c) of the Convention requires the Commission to ensure there is no disproportionate burden of conservation action on developing States, Parties and Territories;

Adopts in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure with respect to the skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

PURPOSE

1. This measure is intended and designed to support fisheries for skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna, and yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area that benefit CCMs and their communities, and to do so in a way that is fair to all Members and addresses the special requirements of developing States and Participating Territories. The measure's provisions are based on the interim stock- specific objectives below, the interim management procedure for WCPO skipjack tuna established in CMM 2022-01 as well as other relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Commission. As the harvest strategies for the tropical tuna stocks and/or their associated fisheries are developed, the objectives and provisions of the Measure will be amended accordingly.

PRINCIPLES FOR APPLICATION OF THE MEASURE

Compatibility

2. Conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction shall be compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks in their entirety. Measures shall ensure, at a minimum, that stocks are maintained at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, pending agreement on target reference points as part of the harvest strategy approach, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area as expressed by Article 5 of the Convention.

Area of Application

3. This Measure applies to all areas of high seas and all EEZs in the Convention Area except where otherwise stated in the Measure.

4. Coastal states are encouraged to take measures in archipelagic waters and territorial seas which are consistent with the objectives of this Measure and to inform the Commission Secretariat of the relevant measures that they will apply in these waters.

Small Island Developing States

5. With the exception of paragraphs 13-24, 30, 32-37 and 48-51, nothing in this Measure shall prejudice the rights and obligations of those small island developing State Members and Participating Territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their domestic fisheries.

6. For the avoidance of doubt, where the term “SIDS” is used throughout this measure, the term includes Participating Territories. The term “CCM” means Members, Cooperating Non- Members and Participating Territories.

7. In giving effect to this CMM, the Commission shall pay attention to:

- a. the geographical situation of a small island developing State which is made up of non-contiguous groups of islands having a distinct economic and cultural identity of their own but which are separated by areas of high seas;
- b. the special circumstances of a State which is surrounded by the exclusive economic zones of other States and has a limited exclusive economic zone of its own; and
- c. the need to avoid adverse impacts on subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Charter Arrangements

8. For the purposes of paragraphs 38-39 and 43-47, attribution of catch and effort shall be to the flag State, except that catches and effort of vessels notified as chartered under CMM 2021- 04 or its replacement shall be attributed to the chartering Member, or Participating Territory. Attribution for the purpose of this Measure is without prejudice to attribution for the purposes of establishing rights and allocation.

Overlap Area

9. Where flag CCMs choose to implement IATTC measures in the overlap area, any calculation of limits for the Convention Area (excluding the overlap area) that are done on the basis of historical catch or effort levels, shall exclude historical catch or effort within the overlap area. Notwithstanding decisions on application of catch and/or effort limits, all other provisions of this measure apply to all vessels fishing in the overlap area.

HARVEST STRATEGIES AND INTERIM OBJECTIVES FOR BIGEYE, SKIPJACK, AND YELLOWFIN TUNA

Bigeye

10. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio (SB/SBF=0) is to be maintained at or above the average SB/SBF=0 for 2012-2015.

Skipjack

11. The spawning biomass of skipjack tuna is to be maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point contained in CMM 2022-01 on an interim Management Procedure for Skipjack Tuna.

Yellowfin

12. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio (SB/SBF=0) is to be maintained at or above the average SB/SBF=0 for 2012-2015.

PURSE SEINE FISHERY

FAD Set Management

13. A one and a half (1 1/2) months (July to mid-August) prohibition of deploying, servicing or setting on FADs shall be in place between 0001 hours UTC on 1 July and 2359 hours UTC on 15 August each year for all purse seine vessels, tender vessels, and any other vessels operating in support of purse seine vessels fishing in exclusive economic zones and the high seas in the area between 20°N and 20°S.¹

14. In addition to the one and a half month FAD closure in paragraph 13, except for those vessels flying the Kiribati flag when fishing in the high seas adjacent to the Kiribati exclusive economic zone, and Philippines' vessels operating in HSP1 in accordance with **Attachment 2**, it shall be prohibited to deploy, service or set on FADs in the high seas for one additional month of the year. Each CCM shall decide which one month (either April, May, November or December) shall be closed to setting on FADs by their fleets in the high seas for 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and notify the Secretariat of that decision by March 1, each year. In case a CCM decides to change the notified period at any given year of the application of this CMM this shall be notified to the Secretariat before 1st March of that year.

15. The provisions of paragraphs 3 to 7 of CMM 2009-02 apply to the high seas FAD closures.

¹ Members of the PNA may implement the FAD set management measures consistent with the Third Arrangement Implementing the Nauru Agreement of May 2008. Members of the PNA shall provide notification to the Commission of the domestic vessels to which the FAD closure will not apply. That notification shall be provided within 15 days of the arrangement being approved. The Secretariat shall provide each year to the Scientific Services Provider and TCC the list of fishing vessels that have not applied the FAD closure in the previous year, as well as, their respective numbers of FADs sets during the FADs closure.

Non-entangling FADs

16. To reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, CCMs shall ensure that the design and construction of any new FAD to be deployed in the WCPFC Convention Area from 1 January 2024 shall comply with the following specifications:

- a. The use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD.
- b. If the raft is covered, only non-entangling material and designs shall be used.
- c. The subsurface structure shall only be made using non-entangling materials.

17. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, CCMs shall encourage vessels flying their flag to use, or transition towards using, non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs.

18. No later than 2026, the Commission shall take a decision on the implementation of biodegradable FAD requirements.

19. The Scientific Committee shall continue to review research results on the use of biodegradable material on FADs and shall provide specific recommendations to the Commission no later than 2026 including on a timeline for the stepwise introduction of biodegradable FADs, potential gaps/needs and any other relevant information. The definition for biodegradable is non-synthetic materials and/or bio-based alternatives that are consistent with international

standards for materials that are biodegradable in marine environments. The components resulting from the degradation of these materials should not be damaging to the marine and coastal ecosystems or include heavy metals or plastics in their composition. CCMs are encouraged to communicate and disseminate information on the development of biodegradable FADs.

20. The Commission no later than its 2026 annual session, based on specific guidelines defined by the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group and advice from SC and TCC, shall consider the adoption of measures on the implementation of biodegradable material on FADs.

Instrumented Buoys

21. A flag CCM shall ensure that each of its purse seine vessels shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) with activated instrumented buoys. An instrumented buoy is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel. A flag CCM shall ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD tracking.

22. (1) CCMs shall also encourage their flag vessels to:

- a. responsibly manage the number of drifting FADs deployed each year;

- b. carry equipment on board to facilitate the retrieval of lost drifting FADs;
- c. make reasonable efforts to retrieve lost drifting FADs;
- d. report the loss of drifting FADs to CCM fisheries authorities, and if the loss occurred in the EEZ of a coastal State, also report the loss to the coastal State concerned; and
- e. initiate retrieval programs for lost, abandoned or stranded FADs through cooperative initiatives among fishing vessels or other vessels implementing programmes for the recovery of such FADs.

(2) CCMs are encouraged to report annually to the Commission on the effort to implement each item of this paragraph 22(1).

(3) The FADMO IWG shall consider any information provided by CCMs on their implementation of paragraph 22(1) to enable the development of recommendations to TCC and the Commission on lost, abandoned, or stranded dFADs in 2025.

23. The Commission no later than 2026 based on consideration of the FAD Management Options Working Group shall review the effectiveness of the limit on the number of FADs deployed as set out in paragraph 21 and whether the current limit of 350, or any limit, is appropriate and provide advice on the monitoring of FADs.

Zone-based purse seine effort control

24. Coastal CCMs within the Convention Area shall restrict purse seine effort and/or catch of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna within their EEZs in accordance with the effort limits established and notified to the Commission and set out in **Table 1 of Attachment 1**. Those coastal CCMs that have yet to notify limits to the Commission shall do so by 29 February 2024.²

High seas purse seine effort control³

25. CCMs that are not SIDS shall restrict the level of purse seine effort on the high seas in the area 20°N to 20°S to the limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 2, except that the Philippines shall take measures on the high seas in accordance with **Attachment 2**.

26. CCMs shall ensure that the effectiveness of these effort limits for the purse seine fishery are not undermined by a transfer of effort in days fished into areas within the Convention Area south of 20°S and/or north of 20°N.

27. The limits set out in **Attachment 1, Table 2** do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and

² The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who do not have established purse seine fisheries taking skipjack, yellowfin or bigeye tuna within their EEZs and have notified the Secretariat accordingly.

³ Throughout this measure, in the case of small purse seine fleets, of five vessels or less, the baseline level of effort used to determine a limit shall be the maximum effort in any period and not the average.

are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission. The Commission commits to transitioning to a more equitable allocation framework for high seas fishing opportunities that takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission will commence a process to develop that framework in 2026, to enable the Commission to reach agreement in 2027 on hard effort or catch limits in the high seas of the Convention Area and a framework for the allocation of those limits in the high seas amongst all Members and Participating Territories that adequately takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission shall also consider options as to how CCMs would use their limits.

28. Where the catch and effort limits in paragraphs 24 and 25 have been exceeded, any overage of the annual limits by a CCM or the collective annual limits of a group of CCMs shall be deducted from the limits for the following year for that CCM or group of CCMs.

29. Notwithstanding paragraphs 24, 25 and 48, in each of the years 2024-2027, if any of the baseline fishing conditions specified in 1.b) of the Harvest Control Rules of the Skipjack Tuna Management Procedure are exceeded, the CMM will be amended to make sure they are maintained.

Catch retention: Purse Seine Fishery

30. To create an incentive to reduce the non-intentional capture of juvenile fish, to discourage waste and to encourage an efficient utilization of fishery resources, CCMs shall require their purse seine vessels fishing in EEZs and on the high seas within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S to retain on board and then land or transship at port all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna. (Paragraphs 8 to 12 of CMM 2009-02 set out the Commission's rules for catch retention in the high seas.) The only exceptions to this paragraph shall be:

- a. when, in the final set of a trip, there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, noting that excess fish taken in the last set may be transferred to and retained on board another purse seine vessel provided this is not prohibited under applicable national law; or
- b. when the fish are unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or
- c. when serious malfunction of equipment occurs.

31. Nothing in paragraphs 13-15 and 30 shall affect the sovereign rights of coastal States to determine how these management measures will be applied in their waters, or to apply additional or more stringent measures.

Monitoring and Control: Purse Seine Fishery

32. Notwithstanding the VMS SSP, a purse seine vessel shall not operate under manual reporting during the FADs closure periods, but the vessel will not be directed to return to port until the Secretariat has exhausted all reasonable steps to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions in accordance with the VMS SSPs. The flag State shall be notified when VMS data is not received by the Secretariat at the interval specified in CMM 2014-02 or its replacement, and paragraph 36.

33. CCMs shall ensure that purse seine vessels entitled to fly their flags and fishing within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S exclusively on the high seas, on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States, or vessels fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States, shall carry an observer from the Commission's Regional Observer Program (ROP) (CMM 2018-05).

34. Each CCM shall ensure that all purse seine vessels fishing solely within its national jurisdiction within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S carry an observer. These CCMs are encouraged to provide the data gathered by the observers for use in the various analyses conducted by the Commission, including stock assessments, in such a manner that protects the ownership and confidentiality of the data.

35. ROP reports for trips taken during FADs closure period shall be given priority for data input and analysis by the Secretariat and the Commission's Science Provider.

36. VMS polling frequency shall be increased to every 30 minutes during the FAD closure period. The increased costs associated with the implementation of this paragraph will be borne by the Commission.

Research on Bigeye and Yellowfin

37. CCMs and the Commission are encouraged to conduct and promote research to identify ways for purse seine vessels to minimize the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna, particularly in accordance with any research plans adopted by the Commission.

LONGLINE FISHERY

38. As an interim measure, CCMs listed in **Attachment 1, Table 3** shall restrict the level of bigeye catch to the levels specified in **Table 3**. Where the limits in **Table 3** have been exceeded, any overage of the catch limit by a CCM listed in **Table 3** shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year for that CCM.

39. CCMs listed in **Attachment 1, Table 3** shall report monthly the amount of bigeye catch by their flagged vessels to the Commission Secretariat by the end of the following month. The Secretariat shall notify all CCMs when 90% of the catch limits for a CCM is exceeded.

40. The limits set out in **Attachment 1, Table 3** do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission.

41. Subject to paragraph 5, each Member that caught less than 2,000 tonnes in 2004 shall ensure that its bigeye catch does not exceed 2,000 tonnes annually.

42. The Commission commits to transitioning to a more equitable allocation framework for fishing opportunities that takes into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission will commence a process to develop that framework in 2026, to enable the Commission to reach agreement in 2027 on hard limits for bigeye amongst all Members and Participating Territories.

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT FOR PURSE SEINE AND LONGLINE VESSELS

Purse Seine Vessel Limits

43. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁴, shall keep the number of purse seine vessels flying their flag larger than 24m with freezing capacity operating between 20°N and 20°S (hereinafter “LSPSVs”) to the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.

44. The concerned CCMs shall ensure that any new LSPSV constructed or purchased to replace a previous vessel or vessels, shall have a carrying capacity or well volume no larger than the vessel(s) being replaced, or shall not increase the catch or effort in the Convention Area from the level of the vessels being replaced. In such case, the authorization to fish in the Convention Area of the replaced vessel shall be immediately revoked by the flag CCM.

Limits on Longline Vessels with Freezing Capacity

45. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁵, shall not increase the number of their longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye tuna above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.⁶

Limits on ice-chilled longline vessels landing fresh fish

46. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁷ shall not increase the number of their ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye tuna and landing exclusively fresh fish above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01, or above the number of licenses under established limited entry programmes applying during the operation of CMM 2013-01.⁸

47. Nothing in this measure shall restrict the ability of SIDS or Participating Territories to construct or purchase vessels from other CCMs for their domestic fleets.

OTHER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

48. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total catch of their respective other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tuna, but excluding those fisheries taking less than 2,000 tonnes of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack), shall not exceed either the average level for the period 2001-2004 or the level of 2004.

⁴ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁵ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁶ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

⁷ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁸ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

DATA PROVISION REQUIREMENTS

49. Operational level catch and effort data in accordance with the *Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data* attached to the Rules for *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission* relating to all fishing in EEZs and high seas south of 20N subject to this CMM except for artisanal small-scale vessels shall be provided to the Commission not only for the purpose of stocks management but also for the purpose of cooperation to SIDS under Article 30 of the Convention.^{9 10}

50. The Commission shall ensure the confidentiality of those data provided as non-public domain data.

51. CCMs whose vessel fish in EEZs and high seas north of 20N subject to this CMM shall ensure that aggregated data by 1 x 1 in that area be provided to the Commission, and shall also, upon request, cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of tropical tuna stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made between each CCM and the Scientific Provider. Those CCMs shall report such agreement to the Commission.

REVIEW AND FINAL PROVISIONS

52. The Commission shall review this CMM annually to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect.

53. This measure replaces CMM 2021-01. This measure shall come into effect on 16 February 2024 and remain in effect until 15 February 2028 unless earlier replaced or amended by the Commission.

⁹ CCMs which had domestic legal constraints under CMM 2014-01 shall provide operational level data as of the date on which those domestic legal constraints were lifted.

¹⁰ This paragraph shall not apply to Indonesia, until it changes its national laws so that it can provide such data. This exception shall expire when such changes take effect but in any event no later than 31 December 2025. Indonesia will, upon request, make best effort to cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of those stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made with the Scientific Provider.

ATTACHMENT 1

Table 1: EEZ purse seine effort limits [paragraph 24]

(Table updated with information provided to Secretariat)

Coastal CCMs' EEZ/Group	Effort in Vessel days/Catch limit	Comment
PNA	44,033 days	This limit will be managed cooperatively through the PNA Vessel Day Scheme.
Tokelau	1,000 days	
Cook Islands	1,250 days	
Fiji	300 days	
Niue	200 days	
Samoa	150 days	
Tonga	250 days	
Vanuatu	200 days	
Australia	30,000 mt SKJ 600 mt BET 600 mt YFT	
French Polynesia	0	
Indonesia	70,820 mt	
Japan	1,500 days	
Korea	*	
New Zealand	40,000 mt SKJ	
New Caledonia	20,000 mt SKJ	
Philippines	*	
Chinese Taipei	59 days (~34 purse seine vessels)	
United States **	558 days	
Wallis and Futuna	*	

** Limits not notified to the Commission*

*** The United States notified the Secretariat of the combined US EEZ and high seas effort limits on 1 July 2016 (1828 fishing days on the high seas and in the U.S. EEZ (combined)). The US EEZ limit is understood to be this notified limit minus the high seas effort limit for the United States set out in **Table 2 of Attachment 1**.*

ATTACHMENT 1

Table 2. High seas purse seine effort control [paragraphs 25-27]

CCM	EFFORT LIMIT (DAYS)
CHINA	26
ECUADOR	**
EL SALVADOR	**
EUROPEAN UNION	403
INDONESIA	(0)
JAPAN	121
NEW ZEALAND	160
PHILIPPINES	#
KOREA	207
CHINESE TAIPEI	95
USA	1,270
** subject to CNM on participatory rights	
# The measures that the Philippines will take are in Attachment 2 .	

ATTACHMENT 1

Table 3. Bigeye Longline Catch Limits [paragraphs 37-39]

CCM	CATCH LIMIT
CHINA	8,224
INDONESIA	5,889*
JAPAN	18,265
KOREA	13,942
CHINESE TAIPEI	10,481
USA	6,554

*Provisional and maybe subject to revision following data analysis and verification

**For the United States and those who maintain a 5% observer coverage level, no catch increase is allowed.

Any increase in BET tuna catch limit, up to 10%, by a CCM in table 3 shall correspond with a proportional increase of observer coverage, (eg observer + Electronic Monitoring (EM) coverage increases from 5% to 10%; and for example, a 2.5 percentage point increase in observer + EM coverage corresponds with a 5% increase in the catch limit; and a 5 percentage point increase in observer + EM coverage corresponds with a 10% increase in the catch limit.) A minimum level of 5% ROP coverage shall be maintained.

Any CCM who wants such an increase shall notify the Secretariat by the end of February of the year of fishing operations. If such CCM fails to achieve the required observer coverage level assessed for the year of increase of catch limits, then it will be subject to a payback penalty of 110% of the increased portion of the catch limit that can be repaid in either of the next two years, and will be assigned a status of priority non-compliant through the CMR process for this obligation.

***Any observer coverage above 5% can be achieved by human observer and/or EM coverage

In accordance with the deletion of paragraph 9 of CMM 2021 01, catch and effort of U.S. flagged Hawaii based longline vessels will no longer be attributed to US Participating Territories, future attribution for the US territories shall remain separate.

Japan will make an annual one-off transfer of 500 metric tonnes of its bigeye tuna catch limit to China.

ATTACHMENT 2

Measure for Philippines

1. This Attachment shall apply to Philippine traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group.

AREA OF APPLICATION

2. This measure shall apply only to High Seas Pocket no. 1 (HSP-1), which is the area of high seas bounded by the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the Federated States of Micronesia to the north and east, Republic of Palau to the west, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to the south. For the purposes of this measure, the exact coordinates for the area shall be those used by the WCPFC vessel monitoring system (VMS). A map showing the HSP-1 Special Management Area (SMA) is attached.

REPORTING

3. Philippines shall require its concerned vessels to submit reports to the Commission at least 24 hours prior to entry and no more than 6 hours prior to exiting the HSP-1 SMA. This information may, in turn, be transmitted to the adjacent coastal States/Territories.

The report shall be in the following format: *VID/Entry or Exit: Date/Time; Lat/Long*

4. Philippines shall ensure that its flagged vessels operating in the HSP-1 SMA report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat. Such information shall include: vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed.

OBSERVER

5. The fishing vessels covered by this measure shall employ a WCPFC Regional Observer on board during the whole duration while they operate in HSP-1 SMA in accordance with the provisions of CMM 2018-05.

6. Regional Observers from other CCMs shall be given preference/priority. For this purpose, the Philippines and the Commission Secretariat shall inform the CCMs and the Adjacent Coastal State of the deployment needs and requirements at 60 days prior expected departure. The Secretariat and the CCM that has available qualified regional observer shall inform the Philippines of the readiness and availability of the Regional Observer at least 30 days prior to the deployment date. If none is available, the Philippines is authorized to deploy regional observers from the Philippines.

VESSEL LIST

7. The Commission shall maintain an updated list of all fishing vessels operating in HSP-1 SMA based on the foregoing vessel's entry and exit reports submitted to the Commission. The list will be made available to Commission Members through the WCPFC website.

MONITORING OF PORT LANDINGS

8. The Philippines shall ensure that all port landings of its vessels covered by this decision are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis.

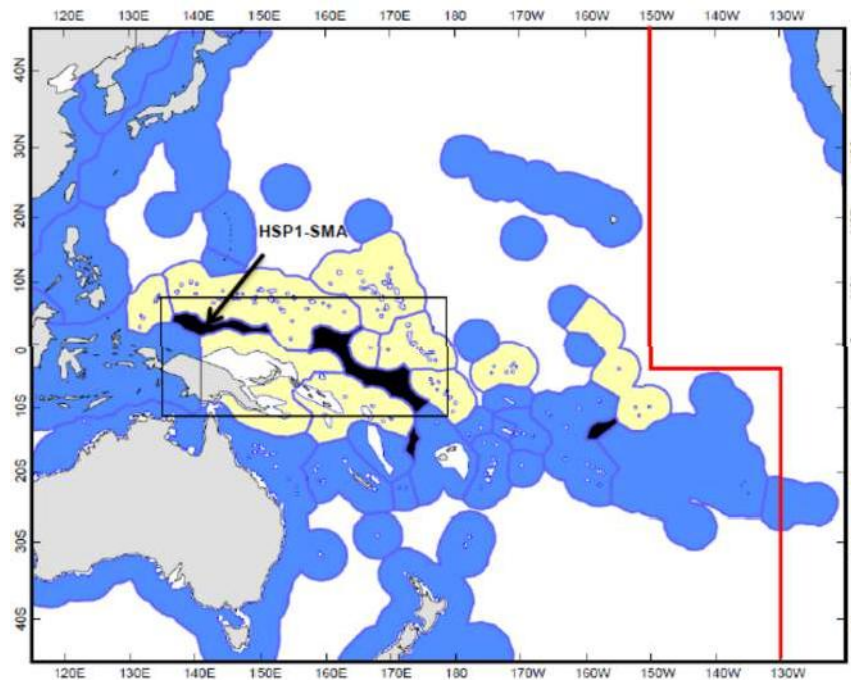
COMPLIANCE

9. All vessels conducting their fishing activities pursuant to this Attachment to CMM 2023-01 shall comply with all other relevant CMMs. Vessels found to be non-complaint with this decision shall be dealt with in accordance with CMM 2019-07 or its replacement CMM, and any other applicable measure adopted by the Commission.

EFFORT LIMIT

10. The total effort of these vessels shall not exceed 4,659 days.¹ The Philippines shall limit its fleet to 36 fishing vessels (described by the Philippines as catcher fishing vessels) in the HSP-1 SMA.

Map showing HSP-1 SMA where the Arrangements in Attachment 2 apply



This map displays indicative maritime boundaries only. It is presented without prejudice to any past, current or future claims by any State. It is not intended for use to support any past, current or future claims by any State or territory in the western and central Pacific or east Asian region. Individual States are responsible for maintaining the coordinates for their maritime claims. It is the responsibility of flag States to ensure their vessels are informed of the coordinates of maritime limits within the Convention Area. Coastal States are invited to register the coordinates for their negotiated and agreed maritime areas with the Commission Secretariat.

¹ Reference Table 2(b), WCPFC9-2012-IP09_rev3



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON A
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE FOR WCPO SKIPJACK TUNA

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-03

Interim Skipjack Tuna Management Procedure

Objective

1. The objective of the interim Management Procedure (MP) for skipjack tuna, is to ensure that:
 - a) the spawning potential depletion¹ ratio of skipjack tuna is maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point; and
 - b) the spawning potential depletion ratio of skipjack tuna is maintained above the limit reference point with a risk of the limit reference point being breached no greater than 20 percent;in a manner that achieves the objective of relative stability in fishing levels between management periods and in the longer term.

Reference Points

2. The reference points are:
 - a) Target reference point: Calculated on the basis of two spawning potential depletion values:
 - **The first value** represents **the estimated average depletion** of the skipjack tuna stock over the period 2018-2021 ($SB_{2018-2021}/SB_{F=0}$).
 - **The second value** represents the long-term median equilibrium stock depletion that would be reached under the agreed baseline fishing conditions for skipjack tuna:
 - a) purse seine effort at 2012 levels,
 - b) pole and line effort at average 2001-04 levels, and
 - c) the domestic fisheries in assessment region 5 at average 2016-18 levels.

Both values are expressed as a percentage of the estimated average spawning potential in the absence of fishing ($SB_{F=0}$), calculated as described in paragraph 3.

¹ Spawning potential depletion refers to the estimated spawning potential as a percentage of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing (i.e. the unfished spawning potential). The metric is dynamic and is estimated for each model time step.

Values are calculated as medians based upon the grid of assessment models as agreed by the WCPFC Scientific Committee.

The target reference point is the average of these two values (weighting of 50/50). -

- b) Limit reference point: 20 percent of the estimated recent average spawning potential in the absence of fishing, calculated as described in paragraph 3.
3. The method to be used in calculating spawning potential in the absence of fishing ($SB_{F=0}$) shall be:
- a) $SB_{F=0}$, t1-t2 is the average of the estimated spawning potential in the absence of fishing for a time window of ten years based on the most recent skipjack tuna stock assessment, where $t1=y-10$ to $t2=y-1$ where y is the year under consideration; and
 - b) The estimation shall be based on the relevant estimates of recruitment that have been adjusted to reflect conditions without fishing according to the stock recruitment relationship.

Scope of the MP

4. 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 2021-01 taking more than 2,000 tonnes of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack) in the Exclusive Economic Zones and high seas.

Elements of the MP

5. The MP includes:
- a) The Harvest Control Rule set out in Annex I;
 - b) The Estimation Model using the settings set out in Annex II;
 - c) Data Requirements and the Monitoring Strategy set out in Annex III;
 - d) The procedure for Exceptional Circumstances set out in Annex IV; and
 - e) The provision for Special Circumstances set out in Annex V.

Roles of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Services Provider

6. The Scientific Committee shall regularly review the performance and outputs of the MP, including the indicators set out in Annex III, and provide advice to the Commission on:
- a) the performance of the MP as a basis for pre-defined rules that manage skipjack tuna in order to achieve biological, ecological, economic and social objectives, including the robustness of the MP to changes in the fishery and any exceptional circumstances consistent with Annex IV; and
 - b) the application of the MP outputs to CMM 2021-01: CMM for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean or any successor Measure (Tropical tuna CMM).
7. The Scientific Services Provider shall run the MP, perform the full assessment, and support Scientific Committee and Commission consideration of the MP.

8. The Commission shall review the Tropical Tuna CMM in a repeating 3-year schedule (apart from the first cycle which encompasses 4-years) as follows:

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
2023	-Run the MP (using data to 2022). -Support 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 2024-2027.
2024		-Data to monitor performance of the MP not available in first year of implementation.	-Apply Tropical Tuna CMM.
2025	-Perform full stock assessment ($y_{last} = 2024$).	-Review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	-Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM. -Review the performance and use of the MP.
2026		-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2025.	-Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM.
2027	-Run the MP (using data to 2026). -Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2026. -Provide advice to Commission on the MP outputs for the next management period (2028-2030).	-Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into account the output of the MP. -Revise catch and effort related provisions for 2028-2030.
2028	-Perform full stock assessment ($y_{last} = 2027$).	-Review the performance of the MP, including potential exceptional circumstances, and advise Commission.	-Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM. -Review the performance and use of the MP.
2029		-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2028.	Apply the Tropical Tuna CMM.
2030	-Run the MP (using data to 2029).	-Monitor the performance of the MP using available data to 2029.	-Review the Tropical Tuna CMM, taking into

Year	Scientific Services Provider	Scientific Committee	Commission
	-Support SC and Commission consideration of the MP.	-Provide advice to the Commission on catch and effort related provisions for the next management period (2031-2033).	account the output of the MP. -Review catch and effort related provisions for 2031-2033.

Management Strategy Evaluation

9. The MP has been simulation tested to determine its likely performance against a range of plausible scenarios. These scenarios and the details of the testing procedure are provided in WCPFC-2022-SC18/-MI-WP-03. The results of the evaluations are outlined in WCPFC-SC18-2022/-MI-WP-02 and are available online at: https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/PIMPLE_WCPFC19/.

Allocation

10. Allocation is not included in, or affected by, the MP.

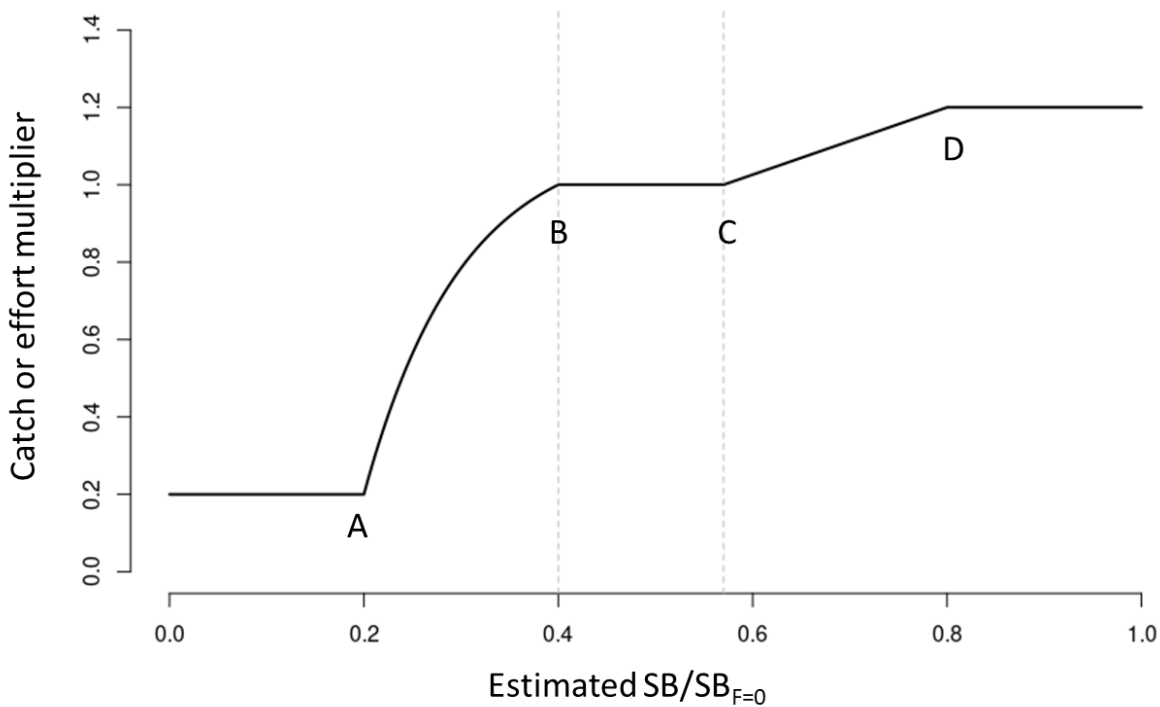
Review and Final Provisions

11. The Commission shall review this CMM in 2025 and 2029 to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect. The Commission may amend the CMM at any point to fully apply the MP.
12. This measure shall come into effect on 16 February 2023 and shall replace CMM 2015-06 at that time. It shall remain in effect until 15 February 2031 unless replaced or amended by the Commission.

ANNEX I: HARVEST CONTROL RULE

1. The harvest control rule is outlined in Figure 1. Features include:
 - a) The input to the harvest control rule is the estimated spawning potential depletion ratio for the latest estimation year ($SB_{latest}/SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$), where SB_{latest} is the estimated spawning potential in the last year of data within the estimation model and $SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$ is the same time period as described in 3 b) above;
 - b) The output from the harvest control rule is a scalar (multiplier) that adjusts future catch or effort relative to baseline fishing conditions (purse seine effort at 2012 levels, pole and line effort at average 2001-04 levels, and the domestic fisheries in assessment region 5 at average 2016-18 levels);
 - c) All fisheries are scaled equally. Scalars apply to effort for purse seine fisheries, and to catch for all other fisheries; and
 - d) For each 3-year management period, the harvest control rule uses the estimate of stock status ($SB_{latest}/SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$), as determined by the Estimation Model, to calculate a scalar that adjusts catches or effort up or down relative to the baseline fishing conditions.

Figure 1. Harvest control rule



The harvest control rule formulation is provided in WCPFC-SC18-2022/MI-WP-03. The parameters are as follows:

Type = 'asymptotic_Hillary_step_constrained'

	Label	SB/SB _{F=0}	Output multiplier	Value
SB/SB _{F=0} min	A	0.2	0.2	
SB/SB _{F=0} max	D	0.8	1.2	
Step min	B	0.40	1	
Step max	C	0.57	1	
Curve				10
Max change up				1.1
Max change down				0.9

2. The maximum increase or decrease in effort indicated by the HCR between any 3-year management period shall be 10% relative to the catch and effort levels specified by the MP for the previous three years period.

ANNEX II: ESTIMATION MODEL

1. Stock status ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is estimated within the MP from a MULTIFAN-CL Estimation Model (Annex II) detailed in WCPFC-SC18-2022-MI-WP02 Attachment A. The parameters of the Estimation Model are as follows:

Model Setting		Value
Regional Structure		8 regions
Steepness		0.8
Length comp. wtg.		100
Tag mixing period		1 qtr
VonB growth params	Lmin	25.7051
	Lmax	78.0308
	K	0.212
Hyperstability in CPUE		0

ANNEX III: DATA REQUIREMENTS AND MONITORING STRATEGY

Table 1. Data requirements under the WCPO MP and considerations for the monitoring strategy with respect to the collection, provision, coverage, and quality of data necessary to run the MP. Data prioritisation is considered here with specific regard to the monitoring strategy.

Data requirement	Priority	Monitoring Considerations
MP: estimation model		
Annual catch estimates.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Aggregate catch/effort data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Operational catch/effort data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Standardised CPUE indices for important index fisheries (e.g. pole and line fisheries).	High	Continuation of ongoing arrangements.
Species composition data for purse seine catches.	High	Dependent on observer coverage.
Size composition data.	High	Obligatory under WCPFC scientific data submission standards.
Tagging data	High	Dependent on ongoing WCPFC funding.
Monitoring Strategy: stock assessment		
As above for MP.	High	As a minimum, the data listed above will be required to run the stock assessment.
Additional data to inform the stock assessment.	Low	Where available, additional data will be used to improve the stock assessment e.g. growth, maturity, effort creep, population structure and movement.
Monitoring Strategy: performance indicators		
Other data as available to calculate performance indicators – this may include:	The frequency and scope of these data may vary depending on data availability and collection procedures. Performance indicators calculated from them may represent only a subset of the fishery.	
Economic data.	Medium	e.g. voluntarily submitted economic information
Ecosystem data.	Medium	e.g. bycatch and discards (mandatory) information
Social information.	Medium	e.g. industry/employment, household surveys

Table 2. Aspects of the Management Procedure that may be considered for inclusion in the monitoring strategy and the Commission body at which those considerations can be made.

MP Element	Commission Body	Monitoring Considerations
Review the MSE framework		
OM grid.	SC	Ensure that the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM grid.
Calculation of performance indicators.	SC	Appropriate representation of objectives by performance indicators.
Modelling assumptions.	SC	Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework.
Data availability to support the MSE framework.	SC/TCC	Improvements to data collection to either enhance the OM framework and/or reduce the uncertainty included in the OM grid.
Review performance of the MP		
Comparison of MP performance against latest stock assessment.	SC	Check that the MP is performing as expected.
Data availability to run the MP.	SC/TCC	Check availability, quantity, quality of data necessary to run the MP (e.g. the estimation model).
Other sources of data to monitor performance not included in the MSE framework.	SC/TCC	Identify other data as available to inform calculation of performance indicators (economic, social, ecosystem, etc).
Review of the MP		
Management objectives.	Commission	Check that the overall objectives of the MP are still appropriate.
Exceptional circumstances.	SC/TCC/ Commission	Drawing on all of the above, have events (unexpected, extra-ordinary) occurred such that remedial action is required to either review, modify or replace the MP

Table 3. Performance Indicators Examined

Indicator 1	Maintain SKJ, YFT, BET biomass at or above levels that provide fishery sustainability throughout their range.
Indicator 3	Maximise economic yield from the fishery (average expected catch).
Indicator 4	Maintain acceptable CPUE.
Indicator 6	Catch stability.
Indicator 7	Effort stability: effort variation relative to a reference period.
Indicator 8	Proximity of $SB/SB_{F=0}$ to the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ in 2018-21.

ANNEX IV: EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Exceptional circumstances are defined as the occurrence of events that are outside the range of scenarios considered for testing the MP. In the case of such events, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the MP or, in severe cases where there is considered to be a risk to the stock, take remedial action. Exceptional circumstances are not a mechanism for making regular, small adjustments to the MP, but rather should be invoked where, through an agreed process, the operation of the MP has been demonstrated to be highly risky or inappropriate. This Annex provides guidance on the process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and the necessary actions but does not provide firm definitions of all possible exceptional circumstances.

Process to determine if exceptional circumstances exist

2. SC to implement and conduct a monitoring strategy and to advise the Commission on the occurrence of exceptional circumstances based on the results of:
 - Routine annual evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances based on information presented to and reviewed by SC; and
 - Detailed evaluation of potential exceptional circumstances every 3 years coincident with the stock assessment.
3. Examples of what might constitute exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:
 - Persistent low recruitment outside the range for which the MP was tested;
 - Substantial improvements in knowledge, or new knowledge, concerning the dynamics of the population which would have an appreciable effect on the operating models used to test the MP;
 - Non-availability of important input data resulting in an inability to run the MP;
 - Stock assessment biomass estimates that are substantially outside the range of simulated stock trajectories considered in the MP evaluations, calculated under the reference set of operating models;
 - significant increases in the contribution of fisheries not affected by the MP impacting stock depletion;
 - Failure of reported catches and effort to be within an acceptable range around the levels indicated by the MP; and
 - Persistent or strong negative outcome in indicators in Annex III.

Process for action in the event of exceptional circumstances

4. Having determined that there is evidence for exceptional circumstances, the SC will, in the same year, provide advice to the Commission including, but not limited to:
 - the nature and considered severity of the exceptional circumstances;
 - the necessary action required:

- where the severity is considered to be high, the recommendation may be for a change to the catch/effort limits; and
- where the severity is considered to be low, the recommendation may be that the Scientific Committee review the MP earlier than scheduled.

ANNEX V: SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

1. The application of the MP shall not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions.



Updates to the Skipjack Monitoring Strategy

Introduction

1. The skipjack management procedure (MP) was adopted by the Commission through [CMM 2022-01](#) and first implemented in 2024 under [CMM 2023-01](#), marking a milestone in the application of harvest strategies for the WCPO purse-seine fishery. As part of the harvest strategy framework, a dedicated *monitoring strategy* guides the regular review of the MP's performance, ensuring that it continues to meet management objectives and remains robust to changing fishery conditions. The monitoring strategy also provides for the identification of data and compliance issues, supports alignment between the MP and the Tropical Tuna CMM, and defines the respective review roles of the Scientific Committee (SC), Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC), and the Commission.
2. At SC21, the Committee reviewed analytical work on the representativeness of pole-and-line CPUE data and the impacts of changes to FAD closure periods. It concluded that the current MP remains valid for its second implementation period and that the 2025 skipjack stock assessment confirms stock depletion near the recalibrated TRP, consistent with MSE projections. SC21 highlighted, however, that the continuing decline in pole-and-line data poses a future risk to the estimation method which should be addressed before the third implementation of the MP. SC21 also recommended advancing work on climate-change scenarios.
3. TCC21, for its part, reviewed catch and effort levels relative to MP outputs and noted that 2024 fishing levels for all fisheries subject to the MP were below the maximum levels specified by the procedure. TCC21 endorsed corresponding updates to the monitoring strategy and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with the Scientific Services Provider to track effort trends and data quality.
4. The updated monitoring strategy for the Skipjack Management Procedure (CMM 2022-01), incorporating the outcomes of SC21 and TCC21, is provided in **Attachment A**.

Recommendation

5. WCPFC22 is invited to review and endorse the consolidated updates to the skipjack monitoring strategy and to provide any further guidance or tasking to ensure its continued effectiveness. In particular, the Commission may wish to consider directions for strengthening data inputs to the estimation method, advancing integration of climate-related uncertainties, and maintaining consistency between the MP outputs and the implementation framework under the Tropical Tuna CMM.

Attachment A. Monitoring strategy for the skipjack Management Procedure (CMM 2022-01¹).

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>SC21: The 2025 stock assessment (SC21-SA-WP-02) includes only one year of data (2024) under MP implementation and therefore provides a preliminary measure of the MPs performance. The 2025 stock assessment indicates the recent stock depletion is close to the recalibrated TRP and is within the range expected through the MSE testing of the adopted interim skipjack MP. Projections indicate relative stability of stock depletion in the future when recent (2024) conditions are assumed.</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>TCC21: TCC21 reviewed information prepared by the Scientific Services Provider presenting information about the performance and outputs of the MP, compared to the 2024 levels for three fishery components: Purse seine (incl</p>	<p>WCPFC20:</p> <p>Noted the successful running of the MP as outlined in SC19-MI-WP-01</p>

¹ At WCPFC22, the Commission adopted a minimally revised Skipjack Management Procedure in CMM 2025-03, which replaces CMM 2022-01.

	<p>AW) effort, Pole and line effort, Domestic AW catch (ref: TCC21-2025-IP04_rev1 Table 16). TCC21 noted that the information indicated that in 2024 the catch or effort in the fisheries subject to the SKJ MP were below the levels specified by the MP for 2024-2026.</p> <p>Additional information on the trends between effort and catch in the PS fishery, including effort creep will be needed by TCC.</p>	
b. Data availability to run the MP		
SC	TCC	
<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.</p> <p>SC20: The effect of changes made to the historical data is not known.</p> <p>SC21: Analyses (SC21-MI-WP-01) indicate that the current MP remains valid in the short-term, for at least the second implementation of the MP. In the longer-term, degradation of data used in the MP estimator remains a risk which should be addressed before the third implementation of the MP.</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 TCC21: 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>SC21: 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 TCC21 No new information</p>	
d. Performance of the estimation method (EM)		
SC	TCC	
<p>Confirm the EM is performing well and not subject to estimation failure.</p> <p>SC19: Overall the EM performed well and provided estimates of stock status within the prediction range of the MSE.</p>	No input anticipated.	
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 the overall objectives of the MP remain appropriate.</p> <p>Revise catch and effort limits for 2024-06 as necessary.</p> <p>WCPFC20: CCM requests further work to better align the skipjack MP with the TT-CMM.</p>

		WCPFC22: requested advice on changes that would be required to align the skipjack MP with the Tropical Tuna CMM so that the MP output can be applied to adjust the existing measures in the Tropical Tuna Measure instead of adjusting future catch or effort relative to baseline fishing conditions.
b. Scope of the management procedure		
SC	TCC	Commission
Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate SC21: No new information	Confirm the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remains appropriate TCC20 No new information TCC21: No new information	Confirm that the fisheries controlled by the MP, and the method of control, remain appropriate
c. Exceptional circumstances		
SC	TCC	Commission
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. SC21: None identified.	Provide technical advice to identify exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and recommend remedial action where necessary. TCC20: No new information TCC21: No new information	Identify the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (see CMM 2022-01 Annex IV) and review, modify, or replace the MP as appropriate.
3. Review of MSE		
a. Operating model grid		
SC	TCC	Commission
Ensure the most important sources of uncertainty are included in the OM grid. SC19: OM grid to be extended to include climate change scenarios (robustness set). In	No input anticipated.	

<p>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>SC21: The impact of changes to the FAD closure period on the expected performance of the WCPO skipjack tuna MP were evaluated (SC21-MI-WP-02). It was determined that the FAD closure period had very little impact on the performance of the skipjack MP.</p> <p>SC21: The ongoing need to consider climate change impacts within the Skipjack MP operating model set were noted.</p>		
b. Calculation of performance indicators		
SC	TCC	Commission
<p>Check that performance indicators adequately represent management objectives</p> <p>SC21: No new information at the time of SC21.</p>	No input anticipated.	

c. Modelling assumptions		
SC	TCC	Commission
Consider the technical details of the simulation and testing framework. SC21: No issues identified at the time of SC21.	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.	

PNA+ Bigeye MP Guidance

Area of Application: WCPO

TRP Nature: Threshold

MP Output: Fishing Mortality/Intensity

Application of MP Output: the MP Output is used to identify the range of combinations of longline/purse seine adjustments estimated to provide the level of fishing mortality/intensity adjustment indicated by the MP (see figures 1,3 and 5 of WCPFC-TTMW4-2023-04).

HCR: Hillary step design with a $\pm 10\%$ constraint applied

Implementation Arrangements:

- TT CMM measures including:
 - longline bigeye catch limits
 - FAD closure
 - active FAD buoy limit
 - catch retention
- PNA Longline VDS
- Enhanced monitoring, including CDS

Rationale

The proposed approach:

- a) Is fully consistent with the principles in CMM 2022-03:
- b) Takes into account:
 - The wide range of measures in place including the WCPFC Longline bigeye catch limits, the PNA+ Longline Vessel Day Scheme limits and the extensive range of FAD management measures.
 - The precedent of effective management actions taken by the Commission when management action was recommended previously.
 - The evidence that this record and pattern of bigeye management has been successful. The bigeye stock is healthy and is the only global bigeye stock that has never been overfished.
 - The cost of adopting new management arrangements.
 - The measures previously adopted by the Commission and PNA+ as required Article 8 of the Convention.
- c) Can be speedily adopted and implemented because it does not require additional implementation arrangements.

More generally, it doesn't make sense for the Commission to put in place costly new arrangements for bigeye management when there are already in place a range of management measures which have proven to be effective for managing the bigeye stock.



Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy¹

1. This attachment provides a draft workplan developed in accordance with [CMM 2022-03](#). It sets out a schedule of technical work and Commission decision-making for the development from 2026 to 2030. The workplan is a living document and will be updated as needed 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.
2. This workplan simply schedules decisions, noting that it is the Commission's decision as to whether they may be 'interim' in nature.
3. The term "Management Procedure" is defined as a 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.
4. Note: The table below refers to the elements contained in [CMM 2022-03](#):
 - a. Objectives,
 - b. Reference Points,
 - c. Acceptable Levels of Risk,
 - d. Monitoring,
 - e. Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure, and
 - f. MSE.
5. Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development and so are part of the plan, but are not one of these six elements.

¹ As presented to SC21 in WCPFC-SC21-2025/GN-WP-04(Rev.03) which presented "Terms of Reference for Proposed Projects for 202c – 2028". The paper is available only to registered participants of SC21 and accessible from the SC21 meeting webpage.

Broader Indicative Workplan for Developing a Southwest Pacific Swordfish Harvest Strategy.

Note some items (*in blue*) are outside of the MSE project scope, so will need to be progressed separately.

2025	[Scheduled SW Pacific swordfish stock assessment]
2026	<p>SC consider the operating models for use in Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). SC provide any advice on potential Management Procedures (MP) to evaluate.</p> <p>SC provides advice on baseline swordfish catch levels and candidate management controls for all fisheries catching Southwest Pacific swordfish within the WCPFC-CA.</p> <p><i>The Commission consider the Objectives for the management of the stock.</i></p> <p><i>The Commission provide advice on candidate management procedures to evaluate.</i></p>
2027	<p><i>SC consider a set of Performance Indicators for evaluating candidate MPs.</i></p> <p>SC consider the performance of candidate MPs and provide technical advice for subsequent work.</p> <p><i>SC consider the candidate Limit Reference Point or set of reference points for Southwest Pacific swordfish.</i></p> <p><i>The Commission record the set of Objectives for the management of the stock and a set of Performance Indicators for evaluating candidate MPs.</i></p> <p><i>Commission consider candidate TRPs to be evaluated within candidate MPs.</i></p>
2028	<p>SC formally agree on the operating models for MSE.</p> <p>SC provide advice to the Commission on the performance of candidate MPs, including their associated candidate TRP.</p> <p>The Commission consider and refine the candidate set of MPs, including their associated candidate TRP.</p> <p><i>The Commission consider adopting a Limit Reference Point or set of reference points for Southwest Pacific swordfish together with acceptable levels of risk.</i></p>
2029	<p>SC provide advice to the Commission on the performance of candidate management procedures.</p> <p>SC consider appropriate monitoring strategy elements.</p> <p>The Commission consider adopting an MP.</p> <p>[Scheduled SW Pacific swordfish stock assessment]</p>
2030	<p>SC provide advice to the Commission on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>The Commission consider adopting any required implementing arrangements.</p>



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

WCPFC22-2025-HS Workplan

- 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.

2025 Update

- The technical progress of the Scientific Services Provider included the evaluation of candidate MPs for South Pacific albacore based upon a revised geographical scope of the MP consistent with the mixed fishery framework, and further evaluations following guidance from the two SPA management workshops held in 2025; development of initial bigeye operating models, estimation methods and MPs for bigeye to achieve Commission-identified TRPs; and monitoring of skipjack MP performance taking into account the results of the 2025 skipjack stock assessment. Harvest strategy capacity building workshops were also conducted.

- Following WCPFC22-DP11 on “Wider issues for consideration within the harvest strategy workplan review”, the workplan has been updated to include the scheduling for the review or adoption of MP implementing arrangements.
- The Commission agreed that the skipjack tuna MP, as a one-off, be extended to four years in its current cycle and also that the Commissions review of the Tropical Tuna Measure be shifted from 2026 to 2027 with continuation of all relevant arrangements through 2027. These changes have been captured within the workplan.
- For bigeye tuna the workplan continues to reflect a decision to adopt a management procedure in 2026 noting the tentative scheduling of this for 2025 was not achieved. WCPFC22 provided guidance on the development of candidate management procedures for bigeye tuna to support the adoption in 2026. The MP is scheduled to be run for the first time in 2027.
- For South Pacific albacore, the first running of the MP has been re-scheduled to 2026.

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
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</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.

	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</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)</p> <p>and</p> <p>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>Stock assessment.</p> <p>SC reviews the interim management procedure in accordance with the monitoring program</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. • 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.</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed</p>	<p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2026	<p>Run management procedure for the first time.</p> <p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p> <p>Commission adopts implementing arrangements for management procedure.</p>		<p>Stock assessment</p> <p>Develop management procedures(e) and</p> <p>Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC endorses the estimation method. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on 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>Stock assessment</p> <p>Develop management procedures(e) 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 outcomes under the mixed fishery approach.. • Commission consider outcomes under the mixed fishery approach. • SC provides advice on monitoring strategy. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin. <p>Commission adopts the mixed fishery management approach for YFT.</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2027	Stock assessment.	<p>Run the management procedure for the second time.</p> <p>Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP.</p>	<p>Run management procedure for the first time.</p> <p>SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)</p> <p>Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>	<p>SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)</p> <p>Commission reviews the tropical tuna measure implementing arrangements for the MP.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2028		Stock assessment.		



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON THE APPLICATION OF HIGH SEAS FAD CLOSURES AND CATCH RETENTION

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-04

Recalling that CMM 2008-01¹ provides for a FAD closure and catch retention by purse seine vessels in the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S;

Concerned to ensure clear rules for the application of the provisions relating to the FAD closure and catch retention;

Concerned to ensure compatibility of measures established for the high seas with those already adopted for areas under national jurisdiction in accordance with Article 8 (1);

Conscious that incomplete or inconsistent application of the elements of CMM 2008-01 will undermine the effectiveness of the Measure;

Recalling that the PNA have developed detailed Regulations for the implementation of FAD closures and catch retention in their EEZs;

Concerned at reports by the WCPFC Secretariat and Members about cases of inconsistent application of the two month FAD closure in the high seas in 2009;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Measure to be read as a part of CMM 2008-01:

OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives of this Measure are:
 - a. to ensure consistent and robust application of FAD closures and catch retention in the high seas between 20°S and 20°N through the specification of minimum standards.
 - b. to apply high standards to the application of the FAD closure and catch retention in order to remove any possibility for the targeting of aggregated fish, or the discard of small fish.
2. Each CCM shall take the necessary measures to ensure that purse seine vessels flying its flag on the high seas comply with these rules in the application of the provisions of CMM 2008-01 relating to a FAD closure and catch retention.

¹ Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

RULES FOR FAD CLOSURE

3. The definition of a FAD in footnote 1 to CMM 2008-01 shall be interpreted as including:

“any object or group of objects, of any size, that has or has not been deployed, that is living or non-living, including but not limited to buoys, floats, netting, webbing, plastics, bamboo, logs and whale sharks floating on or near the surface of the water that fish may associate with”

4. During the FAD closure period specified in CMM 2008-01, no purse seine vessel shall conduct any part of a set within one nautical mile of a FAD. That is, at no time may the vessel or any of its fishing gear or tenders be located within one nautical mile of a FAD while a set is being conducted.

5. The operator of a vessel shall not allow the vessel to be used to aggregate fish, or to move aggregated fish including using underwater lights and chumming.

6. A FAD and/or associated electronic equipment shall not be retrieved by a vessel during the period of a FAD closure unless:

- a. the FAD and/or associated electronic equipment are retrieved and kept on board the vessel until landed or until the end of the closure; and
- b. the vessel does not conduct any set either for a period of seven (7) days after retrieval or within a fifty (50) mile radius of the point of retrieval of any FAD.

7. In addition to paragraph 6, vessels shall not be used to operate in cooperation with each other in order to catch aggregated fish. No vessel shall conduct any set during the prohibition period within one nautical mile of a point where a FAD has been retrieved by another vessel within twenty-four (24) hours immediately preceding the set.

RULES FOR CATCH RETENTION

8. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board for reasons related to the size, marketability, or species composition, the fish shall only be released before the net is fully pursed and one half of the net has been retrieved.

9. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board because they are “unfit for human consumption”, the following definitions shall be applied:

- a. “unfit for human consumption” includes, but is not limited to fish that:
 - i. is meshed or crushed in the purse seine net; or
 - ii. is damaged due to shark or whale depredation; or
 - iii. has died and spoiled in the net where a gear failure has prevented both the normal retrieval of the net and catch and efforts to release the fish alive; and
- b. “unfit for human consumption” does not include fish that:
 - i. is considered undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition; or
 - ii. is spoiled or contaminated as the result of an act or omission of the crew of the fishing vessel.

10. Where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board because it was caught during the final set of a trip when there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, the fish may only be discarded if:

- a. the vessel master and crew attempt to release the fish alive as soon as possible;
- b. no further fishing is undertaken after the discard until the fish on board the vessel has been landed or transhipped.

11. Fish shall not be discarded from the vessel until after an observer has estimated the species composition of the fish to be discarded.

12. The Flag CCM shall require the operator of the vessel to provide to the flag CCM authority and/or the Secretariat the following information as soon as practicable, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after any discard:

- a. Name, flag and WCPFC Identification Number of the vessel;
- b. Name and nationality of master;
- c. Licence number;
- d. Name of observer on board;
- e. Date, time and location (latitude/longitude) that discarding occurred;
- f. Date, time, location (latitude/longitude) and type (drifting FAD, anchored FAD, free school etc) of the shot;
- g. Reason that fish were discarded (including statement of retrieval status if fish were discarded in accordance with paragraph 6);
- h. Estimated tonnage and species composition of discarded fish;
- i. Estimated tonnage and species composition of retained fish from that set;
- j. If fish were discarded in accordance with paragraph 10, a statement that no further fishing will be undertaken until the catch on board has been unloaded; and
- k. Any other information deemed relevant by the vessel master.

13. The operator of the vessel shall also provide a hard copy of the information described in paragraph 12 to the WCPFC Observer on board.

14. Any flag CCMs who requires their vessel to provide the information in paragraph 12 only to the flag CCM shall notify this arrangement to the Secretariat by the end of February 2026.

15. The flag CCM referred to in paragraph 14 shall compile the information submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 from January 1 to December 31 in the previous year and report it to the Secretariat by July 7 annually.

16. The Secretariat shall compile the information submitted in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 15 and make it available to the flag CCM, SC and TCC.



**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF
FISHING ON SEABIRDS**

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-05

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Concerned that some seabird species, notably albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction;

Noting advice from the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources that together with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the greatest threat to Southern Ocean seabirds is mortality in longline fisheries in waters adjacent to its Convention Area;

Noting scientific research into mitigation of seabird bycatch in surface longline fisheries has showed that the effectiveness of various measures varies greatly depending on the vessel type, season, and seabird species assemblage present;

Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee that combinations of mitigation measures are essential for effective reduction of seabird bycatch;

Recognising 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;

Recalling Article 5 of the Convention, which in giving effect to members duty to cooperate in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the UNFSA, requires members of the Commission under Article 5(e) to adopt measures to minimise, inter alia, catch of non-target species; and

Further recognising Article 30 of the Convention and the need to ensure that conservation and management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions.

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories (CCMs) should, to the greatest extent practical, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) if they have not already done so.

2. CCMs should report to the Commission on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

Adopts, in accordance with Article 5(e) and 10 (1)(c) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean the following measures to address seabird bycatch:

South of 30° South

1. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing south of 30°S, to use either
 - a. at least two of these three measures:
 - i. weighted branch lines;
 - ii. night setting;
 - iii. tori lines; or
 - b. hook-shielding devices.

Table 1 does not apply south of 30° South. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

West of 175°W between 25°S-30°S

2. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing in the area, to use either
 - a. at least two of these three measures:
 - i. weighted branch lines;
 - ii. night setting;
 - iii. tori lines; or
 - b. hook-shielding devices.

Table 1 does not apply south of 25° South. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

East of 175°W between 25°S-30°S

3. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing in the area to use one of the following mitigation measures:
 - i. weighted branch lines;
 - ii. tori lines; or
 - iii. hook-shielding devices.

Table 1 does not apply in the area 25°S-30°S. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

4. The extension of the requirement to use two out of three mitigation measures or hook shielding devices from the region West of 175° West between 25° S -30° S shall not come into effect until 1 January 2028. Prior to this date the requirements to use only one mitigation measure (paragraph 2) apply.

5. The requirements applying between 25° South -30° South shall not apply in the EEZs of French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji due to the low risk to seabirds. Those SIDS and Territories that have vessels operating south of 25° South are encouraged to collect data on seabird interactions, increase observer coverage rate as appropriate, and implement seabird mitigation measures when they operate within their EEZs.

6. The provisions in paragraph 1-4 shall be reviewed no later than 3 years from the implementation date by the SC, based on the best available scientific information. The review shall consider both the efficacy of the mitigation measures being used and the risk to vulnerable seabirds in areas where mitigation measures are not required including relevant SIDS EEZs and make recommendations to the Commission if needed.

North of 23° North

7. CCMs shall require their large-scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length fishing north of 23°N, to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A. CCMs also shall require their small-scale longline vessels less than 24 meters in overall length fishing north of 23°N, to use at least one of the mitigation measures from Column A in Table 1. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
<i>Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines¹</i>	<i>Tori line²</i>
<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Blue-dyed bait</i>
<i>Tori line</i>	<i>Deep setting line shooter</i>
<i>Weighted branch lines</i>	<i>Management of offal discharge</i>
<i>Hook-shielding devices³</i>	

¹ If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from Column A, this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

² If a tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B, this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e. paired) tori lines.

³ Hook-shielding devices can be used as a stand-alone measure.

Other Areas

8. In other areas (between 25°S and 23°N), where necessary, CCMs are encouraged to have their longline vessels employ one or more of the seabird mitigation measures listed in Table 1.

General Principles

9. For research and reporting purposes, each CCM with longline vessels that fish in the Convention Area south of 25°S or north of 23°N shall submit to the Commission in part 2 of its annual report information describing which of the mitigation measures they require their vessels to use, as well as the technical specifications for each of those mitigation measures. Each such CCM shall also include in its annual reports for subsequent years any changes it has made to its required mitigation measures or technical specifications for those measures.

10. CCMs are encouraged to undertake research to further develop and refine measures to mitigate seabird bycatch including mitigation measures for use during the setting and hauling process and should submit to the Secretariat for the use by the SC and the TCC any information derived from such efforts. Research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas to which the measure will be used.

11. The SC and TCC will annually review any new information on new or existing mitigation measures or on seabird interactions from observer or other monitoring programmes. Where necessary, an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or recommendations for areas of application will then be provided to the Commission for its consideration and review as appropriate.

12. 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.

13. The intersessional working group for the regional observer programme (IWG-ROP) will take into account the need to obtain detailed information on seabird interactions to allow analysis of the effects of fisheries on seabirds and evaluation of the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures.

14. CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported or collected by observers to enable the estimation of seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the Convention applies (see Annex 2 for Part 1 reporting template guideline). These reports shall include information on:

- a. the proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures used; and
- b. observed and reported species specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers or statistically rigorous estimates of species-specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactions per 1,000 hooks) and total numbers.

15. This Conservation and Management measure replaces CMM 2018-03, which is hereby repealed.

ANNEX 1. SPECIFICATIONS

1. Tori lines (South of 25° South)

1(a). For vessels ≥ 35 m total length

<Minimum Standards>

- i. Deploy at least one tori line. If two tori lines are deployed, both tori lines shall be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set. During the line setting, baited hooks shall be cast into the water -close to the tori line coverage area, and it shall be avoiding the surface areas of propeller turbulence.
- ii. A tori line using long and short streamers shall be used as follows:
 - a. Long streamers shall be placed at intervals of no more than 5 m, and shall be attached-to avoid entanglement with the main line. Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions shall be used.
 - b. Short streamers shall be minimum length 1m and shall be placed no more than 1m apart.
 - c. Streamers shall be attached along the tori line for at least the first 100m from behind the stern to the point where the mainline enters the water.
- iii. Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent greater than or equal to 100m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall have a minimum length of 200m. If a towing object is attached to the end of the tori line, the tori line shall have a minimum length of 120m.
- iv. The tori line shall be attached to a tori pole >7 m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical.
- v. If vessels use only one tori line, the tori line shall be deployed windward of sinking baits.

<Technical Guidelines>

i. One or two tori lines

Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use two tori lines at times of high bird abundance or activity.

ii. Mainline material

- a. It is effective to use different materials of the tori line for the aerial section and for the underwater section.
- b. For the aerial section, a lightweight material that is easy to insert a streamer is desirable.
- c. For the underwater section, a material that floats in water is preferable to reduce

entanglement with fishing gear, and a rope with a rough texture to provide underwater drag is preferable too.

- d. It should be noted that entanglement between fishing gear and tori-lines poses serious safety risks, including pole breakage. To avoid such incidents, it is advisable to incorporate a mechanism that allows the main line to be disconnected when excessive tension is applied. Examples of such safety measures include connecting lower-durability rope sections along the line to create break points, or using hardware that disconnects under high tension loads.

iii. **Towing object**

The towing object attached to the end of the tori line should generate sufficient drag to achieve required aerial extent greater than or equal to 100m.

iv. **Streamer color**

Streamers should be brightly colored.

v. **Streamer attachment method**

Light weight swivels, plastic joints or pulleys, or long streamers made of relatively rigid materials, can be used to prevent entanglement.

vi. **Pole height**

Note that raising the tori-line attachment position may require extending the total line length or adding an additional towing device to ensure sufficient aerial extent.

vii. **Operational practice**

A spare tori-line and streamers should be carried onboard to repair or replace damaged tori lines. Tori lines and streamers should be examined regularly and maintained as necessary. When using a bait-casting machine, the landing position should be adjusted in advance.

1(b). For vessels <35 m total length

- i. A single tori line using either long and short streamers, or short streamers only shall be used.
- ii. Streamers shall be: brightly coloured long and/or short (but greater than 1m in length) streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows:
 - a. Long streamers placed at intervals of no more than 5m for the first 75 m of tori line.
 - b. Short streamers placed at intervals of no more than 1m.
- iii. Long streamers should be attached to the line in a way that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. All long streamers shall reach the sea-surface in calm

conditions. Streamers may be modified over the first 15 m to avoid tangling.

- iv. Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a minimum aerial extent of 75 m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall be attached to a tori pole >6m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical. Sufficient drag must be created to maximise aerial extent and maintain the line directly behind the vessel during crosswinds. To avoid tangling, this is best achieved using a long in-water section of rope or monofilament.
- v. If two tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2. Tori lines (North of 23° North)

2(a). Long Streamer

- i. Minimum length: 100 m
- ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of the point where the hookline enters the water.
- iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iv. Streamers must be less than 5m apart, be using swivels and long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible.
- v. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2(b). Short Streamer (For vessels ≥ 24 m total length)

- i. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
- ii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iii. Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30 cm minimum length.
- iv. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2(c). Short Streamer (For vessels <24 m total length)

This design shall be reviewed no later than 3 years from the implementation date based on scientific data.

- i. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.

- ii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iii. If streamers are used, it is encouraged to use the streamers designed to be less than 1m apart and be 30cm minimum length.
- iv. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the mainline.

3. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

- i. Mainline deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.
- ii. When seabirds are present the gear must ensure mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.
- iii. Bird curtain must be employed:
 - a. Pole aft of line shooter at least 3m long;
 - b. Minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2m of pole;
 - c. Main streamer diameter minimum 20mm;
 - d. Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10mm.

4. Night setting

- i. No setting between nautical dawn and before nautical dusk.
- ii. Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date.
- iii. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.

5. Weighted branch lines

- i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:
 - e. one weight greater than or equal to 40g within 50cm of the hook; or
 - f. greater than or equal to a total of 45g attached to within 1 m of the hook; or
 - g. greater than or equal to a total of 60 g attached to within 3.5 m of the hook; or
 - h. greater than or equal to a total of 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

6. Hook-shielding devices

- i. Hook-shielding devices encase the point and barb of baited hooks to prevent seabird attacks during line setting. The following devices have been approved for use in WCPFC fisheries:
 - a. Hookpods, which comply with the following performance characteristics¹
 - 1. the device encases the point and barb of the hook until it reaches a depth of at least 10 metres or has been immersed for at least 10 minutes;
 - 2. the device meets current minimum standards for branch line weighting as specified in this Annex; and
 - 3. the device is designed to be retained on the fishing gear rather than being lost.

7. Management of offal discharge

- i. Either no offal discharge during setting or hauling;
- ii. Or strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.

8. Blue-dyed bait

- i. If using blue-dyed bait it must be fully thawed when dyed.
- ii. The Commission Secretariat shall distribute a standardized colour placard.
- iii. All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

9. Deep setting line shooter

- i. Line shooters must be deployed in a manner such that the hooks are set substantially deeper than they would be lacking the use of the line shooter, and such that the majority of hooks reach depths of at least 100 m.

¹ Noted by SC14.

ANNEX 2. GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING TEMPLATES FOR ANNUAL PART 1 REPORTS

The following tables should be included in the Annual Report Part 1, summarising the most recent five years.

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or

[23°N – 25°S¹]. For each year, the table gives the total number of hooks; the number of observed hooks; observer coverage (the percentage of hooks that were observed); the number of observed captures (both dead and alive); and the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks).

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
[year]						
[year]						
[year]						
[previous year e.g. 2017]						
[current year e.g. 2018]						

¹ Insert 'North of 23°N', 'South of 30°S', '25°S-30°S' or '23°N – 25°S'. For CCMs fishing in all areas, provide separate tables for each area.

² Provide data as captures per one thousand hooks.

Table y: Proportion of mitigation types¹ used by the fleet in [year].

	Combination of Mitigation Measures	Proportion of observed effort using mitigation measures				
		South of 30°S	<u>West of 175°W between 25°S-30°S</u>	<u>East of 175°W between 25°S-30°S</u>	25°S to 23°N	North of 23°N
	No mitigation measures					
Options required south of 25°S	TL + NS					
	TL + WB					
	NS + WB					
	TL + WB + NS					
	HS					
Other options 25°S-30°S	WB					
	TL					
Other options north of 23°N	SS/BC/WB/DSLS					
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)					

¹ TL = tori line, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branch lines, SS = side setting, BC = bird curtain, BDB = blue dyed bait, DSLS = deep setting line shooter, MOD = management of offal discharge, HS = hook-shielding device.

Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here						
	Totals (must equal 100%)					

Table z: Number of observed seabird captures in [CCM] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	<u>West of</u> <u>175°W</u> <u>between</u> <u>25°S-30°S</u>	<u>East of</u> <u>175°W</u> <u>between</u> <u>25°S-30°S</u>	North of 23°N	23°N – 25°S	Total
E.g. Antipodean albatross						
[species name]						
[species name]						
[species name]						
[species name]						
[species name]						
[species name]						
Total						



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-06

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.

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.

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 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.

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'."

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.

IX. Capacity building

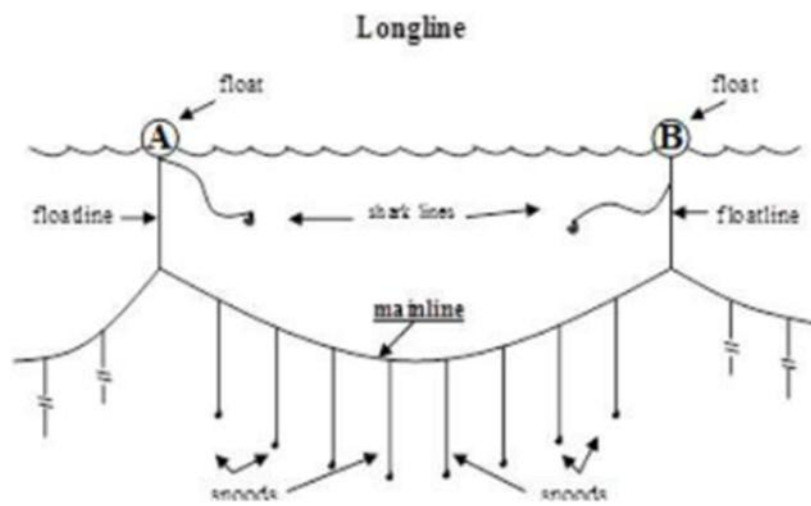
31. The Commission should consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of the IPOA and collection of data on retained and discarded shark catches.
32. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and 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.

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).

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 2024-05.

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) work plan and a review process for NPOA implementation
4. Description of any non-compliance observed with respect to paras 7, 8 and 9.
5. 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;
 - (4) Provide the quantity of sharks caught where the CCM applied the alternative measures and the total quantity of sharks taken, in numbers and/or weight and where available, by species.
6. The management plan in para 19 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;

7. A report on sampling programs for oceanic whitetip sharks and silky shark as a CCM project as referred to in para 24 (4)
8. 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.
9. Description of compatible measures as referred to in para 25 (4)
10. Any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, including the details required under para 25 (5)(b).



***2025 FINAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT
(COVERING 2024 ACTIVITIES)**

***Due to its length (52 pages), the 2025 Final Compliance Monitoring Report is not included in the Attachments to this Summary Report. It is available in Attachment 28 of the [WCPFC22 Outcomes](#) and on the [WCPFC website](#).**



List of obligations for review by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2026

22 QL obligations with agreed audit points

1. CMM 2006-04 01 QL Limit number of fishing vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S to 2000 – 2004 levels.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. CMM 2009-06 20 2534 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.
6. CMM 2024-06 05¹ QL NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2025. To be assessed using audit point for 2010-01 05.
7. 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.
8. CMM 2015-02 01 QL Limit on number of vessels actively fishing for SP ALB south of 20S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels.
9. CMM 2016-02 02 QL Vessels in EHSP may report sightings of any other fishing vessel to Secretariat

¹ Was CMM 2010-01 05 and replaced by CMM 2024-06 05 with effect from 1 February 2025

10. CMM 2019-03 02 QL CCMs take measures to ensure level of fishing effort by vessels fishing for NP ALB is not increased.
11. 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.
12. CMM 2023-01 25 QL High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S.
13. 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.
14. CMM 2023-01 41 QL Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004.
15. CMM 2023-01 43 QL Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S.
16. 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.
17. 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).
18. 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).
19. CMM 2023-02 02 QL Total effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N.
20. CMM 2023-02 03 QL Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei applying from 2022.
21. CMM 2023-02 04 QL Pacific Bluefin 30kg or larger catch limits, by flag for certain other members.
22. 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.

CMM 2014-02 VMS

23. 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

24. SciData 01 RP Estimates of Annual Catches

25. SciData 02 RP Number of vessels active

26. SciData 03 RP Operational Level Catch and Effort Data

27. SciData 05 RP Size composition data

CMM 2018-06 Record of Fishing Vessels

28. 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.

CMM 2009-05 Data Buoys (for which Audit Points have been agreed but CCMs' statements of implementation are yet to be reviewed).

29. CMM 2009-05 01 IM Prohibit fishing vessels from fishing within one nautical mile of or interacting with a data buoy in the high seas.

30. CMM 2009-05 03 IM Prohibit fishing vessels from taking on board a data buoy.

31. CMM 2009-05 05 IM Require fishing vessels to remove fishing gear entangled with a data buoy.

Additional CMM obligations with agreed Audit Points

32. CMM 2006-08 07 RP Fishing vessels to accept HSBI boardings by duly authorized inspectors, and as applicable Members to ensure compliance of its authorized inspectors with the HSBI procedures.

33. CMM 2006-08 30 and 32 RP Requirement to provide full report on HSBI and as appropriate notify if a serious violation was observed.

34. CMM 2006-08 33 and 36 RP Response by authorities of the fishing vessel to a serious violation notification.

35. CMM 2006-08 40 RP Annual reporting by Members on the HSBI carried out by its authorized inspection vessels.

36. CMM 2006-08 41 RP Annual reporting by Members on their actions in response to HSBI of their fishing vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations.
37. CMM 2017-02 13-14 RP Requirement for inspection report to be provided if inspection is undertaken by Port CCM.
38. CMM 2017-03 03-06 RP Requirements that flag CCMs are to ensure their fishing vessels follow if an observer safety incident occurs while the observer is on the vessel (observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, observer suffers from a serious illness or injury).
39. CMM 2017-03 07-08 RP Required actions by a flag CCM where there are reasonable grounds to believe a WCPFC ROP observers safety incident occurred.
40. CMM 2017-03 09 RP Port CCM to facilitate entry of a fishing vessel where observer safety incident has been reported.
41. CMM 2017-03 10 RP Required actions if an observer safety incident is reported after the observer has disembarked the vessel.
42. CMM 2018-03 13 RP Annual Report of all available information on interactions with seabirds throughout Convention Area.
43. CMM 2018-04 02 and 03 RP Report on Implementation of sea turtles CMM including information collected on interactions with sea turtles by vessels and observers.
44. CMM 2018-04 05 (a-d) RP Annual reporting requirement for incidents involving sea turtles in purse seine fisheries and of any research on FAD design that reduces sea turtle entanglement.
45. CMM 2018-04 07 c RP Reporting requirement for operational definitions of shallow set swordfish fisheries, and sea turtle mitigation requirements including large circle hooks.
46. CMM 2023-01 17 RP Requirement to encourage vessels to use, or transition towards using, non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs.
47. CMM 2023-01 22 RP Requirement to encourage vessels to manage FADs deployed and make reasonable efforts to retrieve and report lost FADs.
48. CMM 2023-01 26 IM Requirement to ensure that the effectiveness of the PS effort limits are not undermined by a transfer of effort in days fished into areas within the Convention Area south of 20°S and/or north of 20°N. To be assessed using existing audit point.

49. CMM 2023-01 33 RP Requirement for purse seine vessels to carry ROP observer To be assessed using existing audit point.

50. CMM 2023-01 39 RP Monthly reporting of bigeye longline catches

51. CMM 2023-01 49 RP Requirement to provide operational level catch and effort data for EEZ and high seas north of 20N

52. CMM 2023-01 51 RP Requirement to provide 1x1 aggregate data for vessels fishing in EEZ and high seas north of 20N, as well as to cooperate in providing operational data to SPC for stock assessment.

Additions requested:

53. CMM 2024-05 11 – CCMs report on enforcement difficulties encountered in the case of either of the two alternative measures

54. CMM 2018-05 Annex C 06 - CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission

55. CMM 2023-01 38 Attachment Table 3 – BET longline catch limit increase with proportionate increase in observer + EM coverage level monitoring requirement



**REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR CMM 2013-06 (CRITERIA FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS) AND CMM 2013-07 (SPECIAL
REQUIREMENTS OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND TERRITORIES)**

SECTION 1 — REPORTING BY SIDS AND TERRITORY CCMS ON:

1. Identification and articulation of needs and priorities (CMM 2013-06, paragraph 1 and CMM 2013-07, paragraph 3)

Reporting guidance: At the start of each year, the Secretariat will pre-populate this section of the template using existing information on SIDS and Territories needs drawn from established sources, such as the Strategic Investment Plan. This pre-populated information in the template will be available together with the Annual Report Part 2. SIDS and Territories may then validate, refine, or supplement the information as needed.

Identify any development needs to enhance the development of CCM's domestic fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, including but not limited to, the high seas within the Convention Area related to:	Response
<i>a) Capacity Development of Personnel</i>	
<i>b) Transfer of Fisheries Science and Technology</i>	
<i>c) Fisheries Conservation and Management, including any Capacity Development Plans</i>	
<i>d) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance</i>	
<i>e) Support for Domestic Fisheries Sectors and Tuna-Fisheries-Related Businesses and Market Access</i>	
<i>f) any other development needs</i>	
<i>g) any outstanding needs and priorities that remain unaddressed from previous reporting year</i>	

SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

2. Capacity development of personnel (CMM 2013-07, paragraphs 4–5)

Reporting Guidance: provide details of training, support, or capacity-building activities undertaken to develop the capacity of nationals of SIDS and Territories, including academic study, internships, technical or institutional training. Include activities delivered directly, through the Commission, or in addition to those funded via WCPFC budget lines.

This may include information related to: Projects or activities that have been completed or are currently being implemented to assist SIDS and Territories. Please provide as much detail as available on dates / timeframes, the number of SIDS assisted and estimated value in USD of these projects or activities.

SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

3. Transfer of Fisheries Science and Technology (CMM 2013-07 Paragraphs 6–7)

Reporting guidance: Provide details of any actions or cooperation undertaken to promote the transfer of fisheries science or technology to SIDS and Territories, with regard to the exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. This may include information related to : projects or activities that have been completed or are currently being implemented to assist SIDS and Territories and outcomes or contributions to SIDS social and economic development.

SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

1. Fisheries conservation and management (CMM 2013-07 Paragraphs 8-9)

Under the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme, if a SIDS or Participating Territory cannot meet an obligation due to lack of capacity, it may submit a Capacity Development Plan that explains what is preventing it from meeting the obligation, identifies the capacity assistance required, estimates the costs or technical resources, and outlines a timeframe within which it expects to meet the obligation once the assistance is provided. All current CDPs can be viewed [here](#).

Reporting guidance: *Please describe below how the CCM has assisted SIDS and Territories with Capacity Development Plans during the reporting year, including the nature of the support provided (technical, financial, training, or policy), activities undertaken, value of assistance, and measurable outcomes achieved. In addition to CDP assistance, please describe how the CCM has provided broader support to SIDS and Participating Territories to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, Conservation and Management Measures, and other Commission decisions.*

SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

2. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (CMM 2013-07, paragraphs 11–12)

Reporting guidance: *Provide details of how the CCM has cooperated, consistent with national laws and regulations, directly or through the Commission, to enhance the participation of SIDS and Territories in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). This may include information related to the type of coordination, description of coordination and SIDS or Territories involved.*

SECTION 2 — REPORTING BY NON-SIDS/TERRITORY CCMS ON:

3. Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-Fisheries Related Businesses and Market Access (CMM 2013-07, paragraphs 12–18)

Reporting guidance: *Provide details of how the CCM has cooperated with SIDS and Territories to support technical and economic development, investment, employment, trade, and market access in the region. This may include information on both direct and indirect support (e.g. bilateral cooperation, funding, training, joint ventures, or infrastructure initiatives). If no assistance was provided, please explain why and outline any planned future cooperation.*

CCMs may include information on activities that:

- *assist SIDS to increase benefits from their fisheries resources;*
- *support growth of SIDS domestic fishing and related industries;*
- *avoid actions that limit SIDS processing, transshipment, or investment opportunities;*
- *enhance employment and promote the use of SIDS-based port, supply, and service facilities;*
- *improve awareness of market and import requirements;*
- *address unnecessary barriers to trade; or*
- *promote development of domestic tuna fisheries and tuna-related businesses in SIDS.*

SECTION 3 — REPORTING BY SIDS AND TERRITORY CCMS IN RESPONSE TO SECTION 2:

Reporting Guidance: This section enables SIDS and Territories to provide feedback on how the assistance reported by non-SIDS CCMS in **Section 2** has supported their identified development needs, as set out in **Section 1, from the previous reporting year**

Guiding Questions to consider for responses in the table below:

1. To what extent has the assistance reported by non-SIDS CCMS addressed your development needs identified in Section 1, from the previous reporting year?
2. Has the assistance strengthened your capacity to develop, manage, or benefit from your domestic fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, including within the high seas areas of the Convention Area?
3. Were there any areas where the assistance was insufficient, delayed, or not well aligned with your priorities?
4. What additional capacity, support, or cooperation would help address any remaining needs?

Focus area	Your Development Needs Identified in Section 1 from the previous reporting year	Was Assistance Received? <i>If yes, by which Projects or Activities Reported by Non-SIDS CCMS (from Section 2)</i>	Was the Assistance Adequate and Aligned with Your Needs? (Yes/No – please explain)	Outcomes or Benefits Realised	Outstanding Needs / Gaps Identified
<i>a) Capacity Development of Personnel</i>					

<i>b) Transfer of Fisheries Science and Technology</i>					
<i>c) Fisheries Conservation and Management / Capacity Development Plans</i>					
<i>d) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance</i>					
<i>e) Support for Domestic Fisheries Sectors and Tuna-Fisheries-Related Businesses and Market Access</i>					
<i>f) Other development needs</i>					

Any Additional Comments / Observations / Recommendations:



ADOPTED AUDIT POINTS

1.	Pacific Bluefin Tuna CMM 2024-01 04 Category: Quantitative Limit (QL)			
	Agreed Audit Point for CMM 2023-02 04	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCM reported its total catches of PBF 30kg or larger and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total catches and confirm that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not increased by more than 15% above its allowable limit, or that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not exceeded 10mt beyond the CCM's applicable baseline catch limit.	CCM reported its total catches of PBF 30kg or larger and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total catches and confirm that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not exceeded 10mt, or that the catch of PBF 30kg or larger has not exceeded 200mt and 40mt respectively, in the cases of New Zealand and Australia.	<p>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</p> <p>Footnote 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.</p>	<p>The footnote is applicable to the catch limits of NZ and AU up to 2024 and not to the following years.</p> <p>AGREED</p>
2.	Pacific Bluefin Tuna CMM 2024-01 10 Category: Implementation (IM) Report (RP)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments

	Re-categorization is suggested: from IM to RP	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM included a report or statement on the cooperation for effective implementation of the CMM, including juvenile catch reduction, either in the annual report required by para. 14 of CMM 2024-01 or in the Annual Report Part2.	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	Obligations requiring CCMs to cooperate are best treated as reporting obligations. The second sentence of this paragraph is of a non-binding nature. AGREED
3.	Pacific Bluefin Tuna MCS CMM 2024-02 02 Category: Report (RP)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	The Secretariat confirms that: a. the CCM reported to the Secretariat by 15 June on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it took in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with CMM2024-01. b. the report provided by the CCM includes response to each and every subsection under this	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)	AGREED

		<p>paragraph (para. 2 of CMM 2024-02), including “not applicable” response as appropriate.</p>	<p>b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)</p> <p>c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exist</p> <p>d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards</p> <p>e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)</p> <p>f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM 2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures)</p> <p>g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions</p> <p>(2) Monitoring and control measures for farming</p> <p>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’)</p> <p>b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish</p> <p>c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish</p> <p>d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities</p>	
4.	<p>Pacific Bluefin Tuna MCS</p> <p>CMM 2024-02 03</p> <p>Category: Report (RP)</p>			

	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	The Secretariat confirms that the CCM that does not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming reported to the Secretariat by 15 June any bycatches of pacific bluefin tuna caught in the previous calendar year, through the annual report required by para. 9 of CMM 2024-01.	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.	AGREED
5.	North Pacific Striped Marlin CMM 2024-06 10 Category: Report (RP)			
	Agreed Audit Point for CMM 2010-01 08 [RP]	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of national binding measures CCM applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce CCM vessels' catch and total catch.	Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report, through Annual Report Part 2, of national binding measures CCM applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce CCM vessels' catch and total catch.	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.	Minor adjustment to the existing audit point for the similar obligation in the preceding CMM AGREED

6.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 01 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Agreed Audit Point for CMM 2011-03 01 [IM]	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean (if sighted prior to commencement of the set) b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not set a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean where a sighting occurs prior to commencement of the set, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.	CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged PS vessels from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean (if sighted prior to commencement of the set) b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure they do not set a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean where a sighting occurs prior to commencement of the set, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance	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.	The CMM was updated but this particular paragraph remains the same so the same audit points AGREED

		with this requirement are handled.		
7.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 02 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Agreed Audit Point for CMM 2011-03 02 [IM]	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires the vessel master of CCM flagged PS vessels to follow safe release guidelines in the event a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the PS net b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure safe release guidelines are followed and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires the vessel master of CCM flagged PS vessels to follow safe release guidelines in the event a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the PS net b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged PS vessels to ensure safe release guidelines are followed and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance	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).	The CMM was updated but this particular paragraph remains the same so the same audit points AGREED

		with this requirement are handled.		
8.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 03 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that prohibits CCM flagged -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 b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels or vessels it charters to ensure the	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.	Mirroring the existing audit point for a similar obligation such as prohibition on oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark AGREED

		requirements are met, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.		
9.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 04 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	CCM submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that: a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires CCM flagged longline and purse seine vessels flying their flag, including vessels 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	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.	AGREED

		<p>results in as little harm to the cetacean as possible and utilizing the Best Practices for the Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans, if possible</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring its flagged vessels or vessels it charters to ensure the requirements are met, and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</p>		
10.	Protection of Cetaceans CMM 2024-07 05 Category: Implementation (IM)			
	Notes	Draft Audit Point for consideration	CMM Paragraph	Decision Points/Comments
	No previously agreed audit points	<p>CCM submitted a statement in ARPt2 that:</p> <p>a. confirms CCM's implementation through adoption of a national binding measure that requires the masters of CCM flagged longline and purse seine vessels flying</p>	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.	AGREED

		<p>their flag, including vessels fishing under charter arrangements, to follow any guidelines adopted by the Commission for the purpose of the measure.</p> <p>b. describes how CCM is monitoring the masters of CCM flagged longline and purse seine vessels flying their flag, including vessels fishing under charter arrangements, to follow the guidelines and how potential infringements or instances of non-compliance with this requirement are handled.</p>		
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**WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION BOARDING
AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES**

Conservation and Management Measure 2025-07

1. There are hereby adopted, pursuant to Article 26 of the Convention, the following Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) boarding and inspection procedures.

DEFINITIONS

2. For the purposes of interpreting and implementing these procedures, the following definitions shall apply:
- a. “Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, adopted September 5, 2000 in Honolulu, Hawaii;
 - b. “Commission” means the Commission established by Article 9 of the Convention, commonly known as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);
 - c. “Authorities of the Inspection Vessel” means the authorities of the Contracting Party of the Commission under whose jurisdiction the inspection vessel is operating;
 - d. “Authorities of the Fishing Vessel” means the authorities of the Member of the Commission under whose jurisdiction the fishing vessel is operating;
 - e. “Authorized inspection vessel” means any vessel included in the Commission register of vessels as authorized to engage in boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures;
 - f. “Authorized inspector” means inspectors employed by the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection included in the Commission Register and authorized to conduct boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures.

PURPOSE

3. Boarding and inspection and related activities conducted pursuant to these procedures shall be for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and in force.

AREA OF APPLICATION

4. These procedures shall apply on the high seas within the Convention Area.

GENERAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

5. Each Contracting Party may, subject to the provisions of these procedures, carry out boarding and inspection on the high seas of fishing vessels engaged in or reported to have engaged in a fishery regulated pursuant to the Convention.
6. Unless otherwise decided by the Commission, these procedures shall also apply in their entirety as between a Contracting Party and a Fishing Entity, subject to a notification to that effect to the Commission from the Contracting Party concerned.
7. Each Member of the Commission shall ensure that vessels flying its flag accept boarding and inspection by authorized inspectors in accordance with these procedures. Such authorized inspectors shall comply with these procedures in the conduct of any such activities.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

8. These procedures are intended to implement and give effect to Article 26 and Annex III, Article 6(2), of the Convention and are to be read consistently with those provisions.
9. These procedures shall be implemented in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner, taking into account, inter alia:
 - a. such factors as the presence of observers on board a vessel and the frequency and results of past inspections; and
 - b. the full range of measures to monitor compliance with the provisions of the Convention and agreed conservation and management measures, including inspection activities carried out by the authorities of Members of the Commission in respect of their own flag vessels.
10. While not limiting efforts to ensure compliance by all vessels, priority for boarding and inspection efforts pursuant to these procedures may be given to:
 - a. fishing vessels that are not on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and are flagged to Members of the Commission;
 - b. fishing vessels reasonably believed to engage or to have been engaged in any activity in contravention of the Convention or any conservation and management measure adopted thereunder;
 - c. fishing vessels whose flag Member does not dispatch patrol vessels to the area of application to monitor its own fishing vessels;

- d. fishing vessels with neither observers nor functioning Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems on board;
 - e. large-scale tuna fishing vessels;
 - f. fishing vessels with a known history of violating conservation and management measures adopted by international agreement or any country's national laws and regulations.
11. The Commission shall keep the implementation of these procedures under review.

PARTICIPATION

12. The Commission shall maintain a register of all authorized inspection vessels and authorities or inspectors. Only vessels and authorities or inspectors listed on the Commission's register are authorized under these procedures to board and inspect foreign flagged fishing vessels on the high seas within the Convention Area.

13. Each Contracting Party that intends to carry out boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures shall so notify the Commission, through the Executive Director, and shall provide the following:

- a. with respect to each inspection vessel it assigns to boarding and inspection activities under these procedures:
 - i) details of the vessel (name, description, photograph, registration number, port of registry (and, if different from the port of registry, port marked on the vessel hull), international radio call sign and communication capability);
 - ii) notification that the inspection vessel is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service;
 - iii) notification that the crew has received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.
- b. with respect to inspectors it assigns pursuant to these procedures:
 - i) the names of the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection;
 - ii) notification that such authorities' inspectors are fully familiar with the fishing activities to be inspected and the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures in force; and
 - iii) notification that such authorities' inspectors have received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.

14. Where military vessels are used as a platform for the conduct of boarding and inspection, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall ensure that the boarding and inspection is carried out by inspectors fully trained in fisheries enforcement procedures, or duly authorized for this purpose under national laws, and that such inspectors meet the requirements established in these procedures.

15. Authorized inspection vessels and inspectors notified by Contracting Parties pursuant to paragraph 13 shall be included on the Commission register once the Executive Director confirms that they meet the requirements of that paragraph.

16. To enhance the effectiveness of the Commission's boarding and inspection procedures, and to maximize the use of trained inspectors, Contracting Parties may identify opportunities to place authorized inspectors on inspection vessels of another Contracting Party. Where appropriate, Contracting Parties should seek to conclude bilateral arrangements to this end or otherwise facilitate communication and coordination between them for the purpose of implementing these procedures.

17. The Executive Director shall ensure that the register of authorized inspection vessels and authorities or inspectors is at all times available to all Members of the Commission and shall immediately circulate any changes therein. Update lists shall be posted on the Commission website. Each Member of the Commission shall take necessary measures to ensure that these lists are circulated to each of its fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area.

PROCEDURES

18. Authorized inspection vessels shall fly, in clearly visible fashion, the WCPFC inspection flag as designed by the Commission.

19. Authorized inspectors shall carry an approved identity card identifying the inspector as authorized to carry out boarding and inspection procedures under the auspices of the Commission and in accordance with these procedures.

20. An authorized inspection vessel that intends to board and inspect a fishing vessel on the high seas that is engaged in or reported to have engaged in a fishery regulated pursuant to the Convention shall, prior to initiating the boarding and inspection:

- a. make best efforts to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, by the appropriate International Code of Signals or by other accepted means of alerting the vessel;
- b. provide the information to identify itself as an authorized inspection vessel - name, registration number, international radio call sign and contact frequency;
- c. communicate to the master of the vessel its intention to board and inspect the vessel under the authority of the Commission and pursuant to these procedures; and
- d. initiate notice through the authorities of the inspection vessel of the boarding and inspection to the authorities of the fishing vessel.

21. In carrying out boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures, the authorized inspection vessel and authorized inspectors shall make their best efforts to communicate with the master of the fishing vessels in a language that the master can understand. If necessary to facilitate communications between the inspectors and the master of the vessel, the inspectors shall use the relevant part of the standardized multi-language questionnaire to be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to all Contracting Parties with authorized inspection vessels.
22. Authorized inspectors shall have the authority to inspect the vessel, its license, gear, equipment, records, facilities, fish and fish products and any relevant documents necessary to verify compliance with the conservation and management measures in force pursuant to the Convention.
23. Boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures shall:
- a. be carried out in accordance with internationally accepted principles of good seamanship so as to avoid risks to the safety of fishing vessels and crews;
 - b. be conducted as much as possible in a manner so as not to interfere unduly with the lawful operation of the fishing vessel;
 - c. take reasonable care to avoid action that would adversely affect the quality of the catch; and
 - d. not be conducted in such manner as to constitute harassment of a fishing vessel, its officers or crew.
24. In the conduct of a boarding and inspection, the authorized inspectors shall:
- a. present their identity card to the master of the vessel and a copy of the text of the relevant measures in force pursuant to the Convention in the relevant area of the high seas;
 - b. not interfere with the master's ability to communicate with the authorities of the fishing vessel;
 - c. complete the inspection of the vessel within 4 (four) hours unless evidence of a serious violation is found;
 - d. collect and clearly document any evidence they believe indicates a violation of measures in force pursuant to the Convention;
 - e. provide to the master prior to leaving the vessel a copy of an interim report on the boarding and inspection including any objection or statement which the master wishes to include in the report;
 - f. promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection; and

- g. provide a full report on the boarding and inspection to the authorities of the fishing vessel, pursuant to paragraph 30, which shall also include any master's statement.

25. During the conduct of a boarding and inspection, the master of the fishing vessel shall:

- a. follow internationally accepted principles of good seamanship so as to avoid risks to the safety of authorized inspection vessels and inspectors;
- b. accept and facilitate prompt and safe boarding by the authorized inspectors;
- c. cooperate with and assist in the inspection of the vessel pursuant to these procedures;
- d. not assault, resist, intimidate, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay the inspectors in the performance of their duties;
- e. allow the inspectors to communicate with the crew of the inspection vessel, the authorities of the inspection vessel, as well as with the authorities of the fishing vessel being inspected;
- f. provide them with reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation; and
- g. facilitate safe disembarkation by the inspectors.

26. If the master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow an authorized inspector to carry out a boarding and inspection in accordance with these procedures, such master shall offer an explanation of the reason for such refusal. The authorities of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, as well as the Commission, of the master's refusal and any explanation.

27. The authorities of the fishing vessel, unless generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the boarding and inspection, shall direct the master to accept the boarding and inspection. If the master does not comply with such direction, the Member shall suspend the vessel's authorization to fish and order the vessel to return immediately to port. The Member shall immediately notify the authorities of the inspection vessel and the Commission of the action it has taken in these circumstances.

USE OF FORCE

28. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the inspectors and where the inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.

29. Any incident involving the use of force shall be immediately reported to the authorities of the fishing vessel, as well as to the Commission.

INSPECTION REPORTS

30. Authorized inspectors shall prepare a full report on each boarding and inspection they carry out pursuant to these procedures in accordance with a format that may be specified by the Commission. The authorities of the inspection vessel from which the boarding and inspection was carried out shall transmit a copy of the boarding and inspection report to the authorities of the fishing vessel being inspected, as well as the Commission, within 3 (three) full working days of the completion of the boarding and inspection. Where it is not possible for the authorities of the inspection vessel to provide such report to the authorities of the fishing vessel within this timeframe, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall inform the authorities of the fishing vessel and shall specify the time period within which the report will be provided.

31. Such report shall include the names and authority of the inspectors and clearly identify any observed activity or condition that the authorized inspectors believe to be a violation of the Convention or conservation and management measures in force and indicate the nature of specific factual evidence of such violation.

SERIOUS VIOLATIONS

32. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 37, the authorities of the inspection vessels shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the Commission.

33. Upon receipt of a notification under paragraph 32, the authorities of the fishing vessels shall without delay:

- a. assume their obligation to investigate and, if the evidence warrants, take enforcement action against the fishing vessel in question and so notify the authorities of the inspection vessel, as well as the Commission; or
- b. authorize the authorities of the inspection vessel to complete investigation of the possible violation and so notify the Commission.

34. In the case of 33(a) above, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall provide, as soon as practicable, the specific evidence collected by the authorized inspectors to the authorities of the fishing vessel.

35. In the case of 33(b) above, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall provide the specific evidence collected by the authorized inspectors, along with the results of their investigation, to the authorities of the fishing vessel immediately upon completion of the investigation.

36. Upon receipt of a notification pursuant to paragraph 32, the authorities of the fishing vessel shall make best effort to respond without delay and in any case no later than within 3 (three) full working days.

37. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the Convention or conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:

- a. fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag Member, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention;
- b. failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
- c. fishing in a closed area;
- d. fishing during a closed season;
- e. intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission;
- f. significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the Convention;
- g. using prohibited fishing gear;
- h. falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
- i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
- j. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the Commission;
- k. refusal to accept a boarding and inspection, other than as provided in paragraphs 26 and 27;
- l. assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector; and
- m. intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
- n. such other violations as may be determined by the Commission, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures.

ENFORCEMENT

38. Any evidence obtained as a result of a boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures with respect to violation by a fishing vessel of the Convention or conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and in force shall be referred to the authorities of the fishing vessel for action in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention.

39. For the purposes of these procedures, the authorities of the fishing vessels shall regard

interference by their fishing vessels, captains or crew with an authorized inspector or an authorized inspection vessel in the same manner as any such interference occurring within its exclusive jurisdiction.

ANNUAL REPORTS

40. Contracting Parties that authorize inspection vessels to operate under these procedures shall report annually to the Commission on the boarding and inspections carried out by its authorized inspection vessels, as well as upon possible violations observed.

41. Members of the Commission shall include in their annual statement of compliance within their Annual Report to the Commission under Article 25(8) of the Convention action that they have taken in response to boarding and inspections of their fishing vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations, including any proceedings instituted and sanctions applied.

OTHER PROVISIONS

42. Authorized inspection vessels, while carrying out activities to implement these procedures, shall engage in surveillance aimed at identifying fishing vessels of non- Members undertaking fishing activities on the high seas in the Convention area. Any such vessels identified shall be immediately reported to the Commission.

43. The authorized inspection vessel shall attempt to inform any fishing vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 42 that has been sighted or identified as engaging in fishing activities that are undermining the effectiveness of Convention and that this information will be distributed to the Members of the Commission and the flag state of the vessel in question.

44. If warranted, the authorized inspectors may request permission from the fishing vessel and/or the flag state of the vessel to board a vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 42. If the vessel master or the vessel's flag state consents to a boarding, the findings of any subsequent inspection shall be transmitted to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall distribute this information to all Commission Members as well as to the flag State of the fishing vessel.

45. Contracting Parties shall be liable for damage or loss attributable to their action in implementing these procedures when such action is unlawful or exceeds that reasonably required in the light of available information.

COMMISSION COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT

46. Authorized inspection vessels in the same operational area should seek to establish regular contact for the purpose of sharing information on areas in which they are patrolling, on sightings and on boarding and inspections they have carried out, as well as other operational information relevant to carrying out their responsibilities under these procedures.

47. The Commission shall keep under continuous review the implementation and operation of these procedures, including review of annual reports relating to these procedures provided by Members. In

applying these procedures, Contracting Parties may seek to promote optimum use of the authorized inspection vessels and authorized inspectors by:

- a. identifying priorities by area and/or by fishery for boarding and inspections pursuant to these procedures;
- b. 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;
- c. ensuring non-discriminatory distribution of boarding and inspections on the high seas among fishing vessels of Members of the Commission without compromising the opportunity of Contracting Parties to investigate possible serious violations; and
- d. taking into account high seas enforcement resources assigned by Members of the Commission to monitor and ensure compliance by their own fishing vessels, particularly for small boat fisheries whose operations extend onto the high seas in areas adjacent to waters under their jurisdiction.

SETTLEMENT OF DISAGREEMENTS

48. In the event of a disagreement concerning the interpretation, application or implementation of these procedures, the parties concerned shall consult in an attempt to resolve the disagreement.

49. If the disagreement remains unresolved following the consultations, the Executive Director of the Commission shall, at the request of the parties concerned, and with the consent of Commission, refer the disagreement to the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC). The TCC shall establish a panel of five representatives, acceptable to the parties to the disagreement, to consider the matter.

50. A report on the disagreement shall be drawn up by the panel and forwarded through the TCC Chair to the Commission within two months of the TCC meeting at which the case is reviewed.

51. Upon receipt of such report, the Commission may provide appropriate advice with respect to any such disagreement for the consideration of the Members concerned.

52. Application of these provisions for the settlement of disagreements shall be non-binding. These provisions shall not prejudice the rights of any Member to use the dispute settlement procedures provided in the Convention.



WCPFC IUU VESSEL LIST FOR 2026
(Effective from 3 February 2026)

Note: Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2019-07 para 19 and WCPFC13 decisions

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	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-00545	<i>unknown</i> (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	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-01432 IMO No 7355662	<i>unknown</i> (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	<i>unknown</i> (Chinese Taipei)	11 Dec. 2009		BJ4786	Mr Jang Faa Sheng (Chinese Taipei)	Chang Lin Pao-Chun, 161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciu 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. 120001812	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)

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.



Western and
Central Pacific
Fisheries
Commission

Adopted 2026 Budget and Indicative Budgets for 2027 and 2028

ANNEX 1

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2026
and indicative figures for 2027 and 2028 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2025</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2025</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2026</i>	<i>Approved budget 2026</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2027</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2028</i>
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1 <i>Staff Costs</i>						
Professional Staff Salary	967,152	911,214	987,716	1,029,305	1,050,921	1,069,378
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	984,735	825,022	996,868	1,024,943	1,037,696	1,048,586
Professional Staff Insurance	174,229	158,942	176,682	166,554	167,243	170,026
Recruitment/Repatriation	25,565	49,144	25,565	63,913	51,130	0
Support Staff	669,825	613,726	693,588	716,851	727,808	758,102
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, sub-item 1.1	2,821,507	2,558,048	2,880,420	3,001,565	3,034,798	3,046,092
Sub-Item 1.2 <i>Other Personnel Costs</i>						
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	16,725	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	50,000	39,228	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Consultants <i>(Note 1)</i>	153,000	178,018	153,000	243,000	183,000	153,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	219,500	233,971	219,500	309,500	249,500	219,500
Sub-item 1.3 <i>Official Travel</i>	200,000	189,769	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Sub-item 1.4 <i>General Operating Expenses</i>						
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	48,000	40,630	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
Communications/Courier	84,000	76,742	84,000	84,000	84,000	84,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	36,839	41,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
Audit	17,510	18,052	18,540	18,540	18,540	18,540
Bank Charges	13,000	11,216	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	9,330	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	7,789	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,000	4,788	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Security	117,065	121,273	117,065	124,911	124,911	124,911
Training	15,000	10,718	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	359,575	337,377	360,605	364,451	364,451	364,451
Sub-item 1.5 <i>Capital Expenditure</i>						
Vehicles	0	0	22,000	22,000	0	22,000
Information Technology	48,400	36,112	48,400	48,400	48,400	48,400
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	28,776	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	80,400	64,888	102,400	102,400	80,400	102,400
Sub-item 1.6 <i>Maintenance</i>						
Vehicles	6,000	5,249	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	191,012	206,293	179,912	180,563	180,563	180,563
Website Hosting	26,877	26,877	26,877	39,782	39,782	39,782
Buildings & Grounds	63,000	60,921	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000
Gardeners and Cleaners	97,743	92,474	97,743	100,675	100,675	100,675
Insurance	29,250	28,119	29,250	29,250	29,250	29,250
Total, sub-item 1.6	413,882	419,933	402,782	419,270	419,270	419,270
Sub-item 1.7 <i>Meeting Services</i>						
Annual Session	225,000	225,000	205,000	225,000	205,000	205,000
Scientific Committee	235,000	220,489	220,000	235,000	220,000	220,000
Northern Committee <i>(Note 2)</i>	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	174,800	164,908	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800
Funding for Working Groups <i>(Note 12)</i>	25,000	19,550	0	175,000	0	0
Total, sub-item 1.7	677,800	647,947	617,800	827,800	617,800	617,800
Sub-item 1.8 <i>Future Work - Commission (Note 3)</i>	0	0	220,000	0	220,000	220,000
Sub-item 1.9 <i>Funding for Developing CCM to Meetings</i>	300,000	300,004	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	5,072,663	4,751,936	5,303,506	5,524,986	5,486,219	5,489,513

		Approved budget 2025	Estimated expenditure 2025	Indicative budget 2026	Approved budget 2026	Indicative budget 2027	Indicative budget 2028
ANNEX 1 (continued)							
Part 2 - Science & Technical & Compliance Programme							
Section 2 (Item 2)							
Sub-item 2.1	Scientific Services (SPC) (Note 4)	1,020,749	1,020,749	1,041,164	1,041,164	1,061,987	1,083,227
Sub-item 2.2	Scientific Research						
	Additional Resourcing SPC (Note 4)	183,808	183,808	187,484	187,484	191,234	195,058
	SPC additional stock assessment scientist (Note 4)	168,300	168,300	171,666	171,666	175,099	178,601
	P35b Pacific Marine Specimen Bank	109,520	109,520	111,711	111,711	113,945	116,224
	P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	875,000	875,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	988,630
	P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	30,000	0	0	0
	P90 Fish Lengths/Weights Conversion Analyses	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
	P100d Application of CKMR to SPA and WCPFC stocks	0	0	0	75,000	115,000	0
	P19X6 (P121) Ecosystem and Climate Indicators	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
	P122a Workshop on longline effort creep and CPUE	0	0	0	20,000	0	0
	P19X8 (P123) Scoping next generation of software	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0
	P19X10 (P124) Oceanic whitetip assessment	80,000	80,000	0	0	0	0
	P20X04 (P125) Biology from billfish samples in LL	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	40,000	0
	P20X05 Developing a sampling strategy for sharks	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
	P20X07 (p127a) Recon. size composition data collection	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	0	0
	P20X08 (P128a) Connectivity of YFT/SKJ WPEA&WCPFC	60,000	60,000	0	0	125,000	0
	P21X01 Gear interactions and stock trends: cetaceans	0	0	0	0	60,000	0
	P21X04 Assess. of the SWP blue shark stock-Phase 1	0	0	0	0	50,000	25,000
	P21X05 Age-length data stream for tuna assessments	0	0	0	80,000	60,000	60,000
	P21X07 Bycatch assessment WS: billfish & sharks	0	0	0	60,000	0	0
	P21X09 Character. of low info: sharks & mobulids	0	0	0	0	60,000	0
Total, sub-item 2.2		1,696,628	1,696,628	1,555,861	1,770,861	1,955,278	1,563,513
Sub-item 2.3	Technical & Compliance Programme						
	ROP Travel for Audits and Training	35,000	17,039	35,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	ROP - Consultancy	85,000	85,000	85,000	89,250	89,250	89,250
	ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
	Vessel Monitoring System	200,000	148,826	200,000	185,000	185,000	185,000
	Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	214,527	191,548	218,818	195,379	199,287	203,272
	Information Management System (Note 5)	120,000	134,760	120,000	145,000	120,000	120,000
	Monthly Reports and CCM Dashboards (Note 6)	40,000	52,000	40,000	50,000	40,000	30,000
	CMS Future Work (Note 7)	30,000	23,887	30,000	30,000	30,000	20,000
	Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity (Note 8)	80,000	65,000	40,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
	Repeatable reports - next generation approach (Note 9)	30,000	30,300	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	0	30,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
	CCM/Staff Training (Note 10)	25,000	12,258	25,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	13,698	40,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
	Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Regional Capacity Building Workshops (Note 11)	130,000	130,000	130,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Total, item 2.3		1,993,431	1,828,220	1,957,722	1,968,533	1,937,441	1,921,426
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2		4,710,808	4,545,597	4,554,746	4,780,558	4,954,706	4,568,166
Total, Parts 1 & 2		9,783,471	9,297,532	9,858,252	10,305,543	10,440,925	10,057,679

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services (including travel)	\$65,000
Meetings' rapporteur (including travel)	\$63,000
Article 30 review (\$90,000 in 2026 and \$30,000 in 2027)	\$90,000
Miscellaneous Consultancies	\$25,000
	<hr/>
	\$243,000

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 2026 budget with the additional projects under Scientific Research.

Note 4: Section 2 Science programme

- Refer to Annex 12 and Para 2 of Annex 13 for SPC scientific services, additional resourcing, and additional scientists
- Refer to paragraph 3 of Annex 13 for the scope of work of the proposed projects seeking 2026 funding support

Note 5: Information Management System

2025/26 - Includes continual improvements to IT-related tools to improve data management and 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 and processes for their review of reported data

Note 7: CMS Future Work

2025 - for CCFS subsampling approach improvements, planned CMR system report enhancements and links to CMM site including 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: 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 10: 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 for targeted capacity development

Note 11: Regional Capacity Building Workshops

FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

Note 12: Funding for Working Groups

\$150,000 for in-person (or physical) South Pacific Albacore Tuna IWG and \$25,000 for a one day physical meeting to progress the Bigeye Tuna Management Procedure and Key Decision Points

ANNEX 2

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2026

<hr/>	
Proposed budget expenditure total	10,305,543
less	
Estimated interest	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,855,543</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2027

<hr/>	
Proposed budget expenditure total	10,440,925
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,990,925</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2028

<hr/>	
Proposed budget expenditure total	10,057,679
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,607,679</u></u>

ANNEX 3

3(a) Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

2026 Contribution Table														
CCM	Base fee component: 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total Contributions before full offsets	Addition for Northern Committee ¹	Addition by Non-SIDS for SIDS offset ²	Offset for Small SIDS ³	SIDS Offset for Second Meeting Participant ⁴	Total Assessed on CCMs	Percent of Budget by member	Offset for Small SIDS from Fees and Trust Fund ⁵	SIDS Offset by Fees and Trust Fund ⁵	NC Adjustment ⁵	Total of components: 100% of budget
Australia	37,906	126,166	17,233	181,305	0	1,528	0	0	182,833	1.89%	0	0	0	182,833
Canada	37,906	117,458	0	155,364	754	1,309	0	0	157,426	1.63%	0	0	-754	156,673
China	37,906	252,938	226,076	516,920	2,508	4,355	0	0	523,783	5.41%	0	0	-2,508	521,275
Cook Islands	37,906	34,283	20,471	92,660	0	0	-32,988	-2,821	56,851	0.59%	32,988	1,353	0	91,193
European Union	37,906	290,957	108,843	437,705	0	3,688	0	0	441,393	4.56%	0	0	0	441,393
Federated States of Micronesia	37,906	7,136	585,032	630,074	0	0	0	-19,179	610,895	6.31%	0	9,203	0	620,098
Fiji	37,906	9,469	26,160	73,536	0	0	0	-2,238	71,297	0.74%	0	1,074	0	72,371
France	37,906	115,414	16,471	169,792	0	1,431	0	0	171,222	1.77%	0	0	0	171,222
Indonesia	37,906	24,556	149,407	211,868	0	1,785	0	0	213,653	2.21%	0	0	0	213,653
Japan	37,906	126,717	1,059,104	1,223,726	5,937	10,311	0	0	1,239,974	12.80%	0	0	-5,937	1,234,037
Kiribati	37,906	6,055	665,258	709,219	0	0	0	-21,588	687,631	7.10%	0	10,359	0	697,990
Korea	37,906	83,480	1,136,689	1,258,074	6,104	10,600	0	0	1,274,779	13.16%	0	0	-6,104	1,268,674
Marshall Islands	37,906	13,587	317,878	369,371	0	0	-11,710	-11,244	346,418	3.58%	11,710	5,395	0	363,523
Nauru	37,906	34,840	366,836	439,582	0	0	-34,242	-13,381	391,959	4.05%	34,242	6,421	0	432,622
New Zealand	37,906	84,636	8,915	131,458	0	1,108	0	0	132,565	1.37%	0	0	0	132,565
Niue	37,906	28,255	12	66,173	0	0	-28,164	-2,014	35,994	0.37%	28,164	967	0	65,125
Palau	37,906	23,396	19	61,322	0	0	-22,511	-1,867	36,944	0.38%	22,511	896	0	60,351
Papua New Guinea	37,906	5,203	201,676	244,784	0	0	0	-7,451	237,333	2.45%	0	3,575	0	240,909
Philippines	37,906	13,215	132,248	183,369	0	1,545	0	0	184,914	1.91%	0	0	0	184,914
Samoa	37,906	7,010	5,209	50,125	0	0	0	-1,526	48,599	0.50%	0	732	0	49,332
Solomon Islands	37,906	3,759	87,949	129,613	0	0	0	-3,945	125,668	1.30%	0	1,893	0	127,561
Chinese Taipei	37,906	66,845	1,033,127	1,137,878	5,521	9,587	0	0	1,152,987	11.91%	0	0	-5,521	1,147,466
Tonga	37,906	8,798	603	47,308	0	0	-3,590	-1,440	42,278	0.44%	3,590	691	0	46,559
Tuvalu	37,906	13,391	178,545	229,842	0	0	-12,908	-6,996	209,938	2.17%	12,908	3,357	0	226,203
United States of America	37,906	467,179	319,914	824,999	4,003	6,951	0	0	835,953	8.63%	0	0	-4,003	831,950
Vanuatu	37,906	6,366	235,204	279,476	0	0	0	-8,507	270,969	2.80%	0	4,082	0	275,051
Totals	985,554	1,971,109	6,898,880	9,855,543	24,827	54,198	-146,113	-104,198	9,684,257	100%	146,113	50,000	-24,827	9,855,543

Footnote 1 - Funding for NC as Agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

Footnote 2 - Offset by Non-SIDS per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant - Proportionally

Footnote 3 - Includes Offset for Small SIDS as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)

Footnote 4 - SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant

Footnote 5 - Adjustments to/from other accounts to total the final assessed budget with all components

ANNEX 3 Cont.

3(b) Offsets for Small Island Developing States

Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)					SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant after Adjustments		
CCM	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
Cook Islands	25,900	1,295	34,283	32,988	0.9%	2.7%	2,821
Federated States of Micronesia	113,160	5,658	7,136	0	6.4%	18.4%	19,179
Fiji	928,780	46,439	9,469	0	0.7%	2.1%	2,238
Kiribati	134,520	6,726	6,055	0	7.2%	20.7%	21,588
Marshall Islands	37,550	1,878	13,587	11,710	3.7%	10.8%	11,244
Nauru	11,950	598	34,840	34,242	4.5%	12.8%	13,381
Niue	1,820	91	28,255	28,164	0.7%	1.9%	2,014
Palau	17,700	885	23,396	22,511	0.6%	1.8%	1,867
Papua New Guinea	10,576,500	528,825	5,203	0	2.5%	7.2%	7,451
Samoa	218,020	10,901	7,010	0	0.5%	1.5%	1,526
Solomon Islands	819,200	40,960	3,759	0	1.3%	3.8%	3,945
Tonga	104,170	5,209	8,798	3,590	0.5%	1.4%	1,440
Tuvalu	9,650	483	13,391	12,908	2.3%	6.7%	6,996
Vanuatu	327,780	16,389	6,366	0	2.8%	8.2%	8,507
Total				146,113	35%	100%	104,198

3(c) 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	1.58%	3.0%	754
China	5.24%	10.1%	2,508
Japan	12.42%	23.9%	5,937
Korea	12.77%	24.6%	6,104
Chinese Taipei	11.55%	22.2%	5,521
United States of America	8.37%	16.1%	4,003
Total	51.92%	100.00%	24,827

3(d) Offset by Non-SIDS for Second Meeting Participant - Proportionally

CCM	Contribution percent	Extrapolated percentage	Total
Australia	1.84%	2.82%	\$ 1,528
Canada	1.58%	2.42%	\$ 1,309
China	5.24%	8.04%	\$ 4,355
European Union	4.44%	6.80%	\$ 3,688
France	1.72%	2.64%	\$ 1,431
Indonesia	2.15%	3.29%	\$ 1,785
Japan	12.42%	19.02%	\$ 10,311
Korea	12.77%	19.56%	\$ 10,600
New Zealand	1.33%	2.04%	\$ 1,108
Philippines	1.86%	2.85%	\$ 1,545
Chinese Taipei	11.55%	17.69%	\$ 9,587
United States of America	8.37%	12.83%	\$ 6,951
Total	65.27%	100.00%	\$ 54,198

3(e) SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant

CCM	Total of components: 100% of budget	Percent of budget by CCM	Budget without \$300,000 for Second participant travel	Difference per Non-SID	Difference for SIDS	Percent of General Offset per SIDS	With 50K offset from Fees and Trust Fund	Remaining to be offset by non-SIDS	Total
Australia	181,305	1.8%	175,786	5,519	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Canada	155,364	1.6%	150,634	4,729	0	0.0%	0	0	0
China	516,920	5.2%	501,185	15,735	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Cook Islands	92,660	0.9%	89,839	0	2,821	2.7%	1,353	1,467	2,821
European Union	437,705	4.4%	424,382	13,324	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Federated States of Micronesia	630,074	6.4%	610,895	0	19,179	18.4%	9,203	9,976	19,179
Fiji	73,536	0.7%	71,297	0	2,238	2.1%	1,074	1,164	2,238
France	169,792	1.7%	164,623	5,168	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Indonesia	211,868	2.1%	205,419	6,449	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Japan	1,223,726	12.4%	1,186,476	37,250	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Kiribati	709,219	7.2%	687,631	0	21,588	20.7%	10,359	11,229	21,588
Korea	1,258,074	12.8%	1,219,779	38,295	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Marshall Islands	369,371	3.7%	358,128	0	11,244	10.8%	5,395	5,848	11,244
Nauru	439,582	4.5%	426,201	0	13,381	12.8%	6,421	6,960	13,381
New Zealand	131,458	1.3%	127,456	4,002	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Niue	66,173	0.7%	64,158	0	2,014	1.9%	967	1,048	2,014
Palau	61,322	0.6%	59,455	0	1,867	1.8%	896	971	1,867
Papua New Guinea	244,784	2.5%	237,333	0	7,451	7.2%	3,575	3,876	7,451
Philippines	183,369	1.9%	177,788	5,582	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Samoa	50,125	0.5%	48,599	0	1,526	1.5%	732	794	1,526
Solomon Islands	129,613	1.3%	125,668	0	3,945	3.8%	1,893	2,052	3,945
Chinese Taipei	1,137,878	11.5%	1,103,242	34,637	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Tonga	47,308	0.5%	45,868	0	1,440	1.4%	691	749	1,440
Tuvalu	229,842	2.3%	222,846	0	6,996	6.7%	3,357	3,639	6,996
United States of America	824,999	8.4%	799,886	25,113	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Vanuatu	279,476	2.8%	270,969	0	8,507	8.2%	4,082	4,425	8,507
Totals	9,855,543	100.00%	9,555,543	195,802	104,198	1	50,000	54,198	104,198

ANNEX 3 Cont.

3(f) Schedule of contributions based on proposed 2026 budgets without Offset for Small Island Developing States, adjustments for the funding for a second participant to meetings of the Commission, and Non-Developing States Members of NC

CCM	2026					2027		2028	
	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	37,906	126,166	17,233	181,305	1.8%	183,795	1.8%	176,745	1.8%
Canada	37,906	117,458	0	155,364	1.6%	157,498	1.6%	151,456	1.6%
China	37,906	252,938	226,076	516,920	5.2%	524,020	5.2%	503,919	5.2%
Cook Islands	37,906	34,283	20,471	92,660	0.9%	93,933	0.9%	90,329	0.9%
European Union	37,906	290,957	108,843	437,705	4.4%	443,718	4.4%	426,697	4.4%
Federated States of Micronesia	37,906	7,136	585,032	630,074	6.4%	638,729	6.4%	614,228	6.4%
Fiji	37,906	9,469	26,160	73,536	0.7%	74,546	0.7%	71,686	0.7%
France	37,906	115,414	16,471	169,792	1.7%	172,124	1.7%	165,521	1.7%
Indonesia	37,906	24,556	149,407	211,868	2.1%	214,779	2.1%	206,540	2.1%
Japan	37,906	126,717	1,059,104	1,223,726	12.4%	1,240,536	12.4%	1,192,950	12.4%
Kiribati	37,906	6,055	665,258	709,219	7.2%	718,961	7.2%	691,382	7.2%
Korea	37,906	83,480	1,136,689	1,258,074	12.8%	1,275,356	12.8%	1,226,434	12.8%
Marshall Islands	37,906	13,587	317,878	369,371	3.7%	374,445	3.7%	360,082	3.7%
Nauru	37,906	34,840	366,836	439,582	4.5%	445,621	4.5%	428,527	4.5%
New Zealand	37,906	84,636	8,915	131,458	1.3%	133,263	1.3%	128,151	1.3%
Niue	37,906	28,255	12	66,173	0.7%	67,082	0.7%	64,508	0.7%
Palau	37,906	23,396	19	61,322	0.6%	62,164	0.6%	59,780	0.6%
Papua New Guinea	37,906	5,203	201,676	244,784	2.5%	248,147	2.5%	238,628	2.5%
Philippines	37,906	13,215	132,248	183,369	1.9%	185,888	1.9%	178,758	1.9%
Samoa	37,906	7,010	5,209	50,125	0.5%	50,814	0.5%	48,865	0.5%
Solomon Islands	37,906	3,759	87,949	129,613	1.3%	131,394	1.3%	126,354	1.3%
Chinese Taipei	37,906	66,845	1,033,127	1,137,878	11.5%	1,153,509	11.5%	1,109,261	11.5%
Tonga	37,906	8,798	603	47,308	0.5%	47,958	0.5%	46,118	0.5%
Tuvalu	37,906	13,391	178,545	229,842	2.3%	232,999	2.3%	224,062	2.3%
United States of America	37,906	467,179	319,914	824,999	8.4%	836,332	8.4%	804,251	8.4%
Vanuatu	37,906	6,366	235,204	279,476	2.8%	283,315	2.8%	272,447	2.8%
Totals	985,554	1,971,109	6,898,880	9,855,543	100%	9,990,925	100%	9,607,679	100%



Indicative Schedule of 2026 Workshops for South Pacific Albacore and Bigeye Tuna

