



Wider issues for consideration within the harvest strategy workplan review

WCPFC22 DP-11

Australia and SPC

Overview

- This paper explores broader planning and scheduling **considerations** for the development, adoption and implementation of harvest strategies for the key tuna stocks.
- We take a holistic view of the **harvest strategy planning process** for the key tuna species and cover some issues that are beyond the Harvest Strategy Workplan.

Considerations for Scheduling

- **Three year cycle.** Assumed that the MPs will generally be run on a regular three-year cycle that avoids running of MPs in species assessment year.
- **Aligning MPs with their Implementing CMMs.** Each MP requires the identification of an implementing mechanism for catch or effort control that gives effect to the MP outcome.
 - Three tropical tunas implementing mechanism assumed to be the Tropical Tuna Measure (CMM 2023-01). It is highly desirable to align timing of the running of tropical tuna MPs to the review cycle of the Tropical Tuna Measure.
- **Managing congestion (in 2026).** The Commission and its subsidiary bodies require adequate time to properly consider harvest strategy matters. We have a backlog of items falling due over a relatively short period so desirable to reduce overall congestion in the year 2026.
- **Commission progress is required.** It is assumed that Commission decisions on the South Pacific albacore and bigeye MPs are made according to schedule, and that the technical work and subsidiary body advice is available to allow those decisions to be taken.

Proposed high-level revision of the harvest strategy schedule

- Our proposed schedule addresses all these planning considerations.
- Major change seeks to bring the three tropical tuna stocks into alignment so that MP outputs can be incorporated into the Tropical Tuna Measure at the same time. Requiring:
 - the skipjack tuna MP, as a one-off, be extended to four years in its current cycle to synchronise with the first running of the bigeye MP in 2027.
 - the Tropical Tuna Measure review be shifted from 2026 to 2027 to synchronise with the running of the skipjack and bigeye MPs.

Proposed high-level revision of the harvest strategy schedule

	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin	Tropical Tuna Measure (TTM)
2024				
2025	Stock Assessment	Adopt MP		
2026	Run MP	Adopt MP Stock Assessment	Stock assessment	TTM Open for review taking account of the SKJ MP
2027	Run MP	Run MP		TTM Open for review taking account of the SKJ and BET MP and any adjustments to YFT
2028	Stock Assessment			
2029	Run MP	Stock Assessment	Stock assessment	TTM Open for review taking account of the SKJ MP
2030	Run MP	Run MP		TTM Open for review taking account of the SKJ and BET MP and any adjustments to YFT
2031	Etc.			
2032				

SP Albacore	SPA Implementing CMM
Stock Assessment	
Adopt MP + Run MP	Implementing measure planned adoption
Stock Assessment	
Run MP	Review Implementing Measure
Stock Assessment	
Run MP	Review Implementing Measure
etc.	

SC Perspective

- SC21 noted that this is primarily a matter for Commission consideration.
- SC21 considered the proposal to extend the skipjack current MP application from 3 to 4 years and referred the Commission to the results of the updated skipjack assessment and the monitoring strategy including:
 - Stability in spawning stock depletion and fishing mortality rates since 2010.
 - Recent stock depletion is close to the recalibrated TRP and is within the range expected through the MSE testing.
 - Stochastic projections indicate relative stability of stock depletion in the future when recent (2024) conditions are assumed.
 - The FAD closure period has been determined to have very little impact on the performance of the skipjack MP.
- **SC21 recommended** that the Commission **support a one-time extension of the current skipjack MP application period from 3 to 4 years**. SC21 noted that such a change would need to be reflected in an amendment to CMM-2022-01.

Recommendations

WCPFC22 agrees that:

- the skipjack tuna MP, as a one-off, be extended to four years in its current cycle.
 - **Note: CMM 2022-01** Requires a modification to the schedule in para 8.
- the Commissions review of the Tropical Tuna Measure be shifted from 2026 to 2027 with continuation of all relevant arrangements through 2027.
 - **Note: CMM 2023-01** Requires a modification of the Para 53 “period of effect” through until 15 February 2028. Several other clauses that reference 2026 will need to be changed to 2027.
- That the necessary minimal changes to CMM2022-01 and CMM2023-01 reflecting this decision be brought to WCPFC22 or WCPFC23 for agreement.

We consider that this will set the Commission up for an **efficient cycle of activity** going into the future.

Thankyou