



SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP (SPAMWS)

FIRST SESSION

Electronic Meeting

11-12 September 2025

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WCPFC-SPAMWS-2025-02 ([Rev.01](#))

4 September 2025

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

SC Chair Ms Emily Crigler and SPARM-IWG Chair Mr Moses Mataika will co-chair the workshop. They will welcome the participants and note the background and role of the workshop.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Provisional Agenda for the workshop was finalized among the Secretariat, co-Chairs, and the Scientific Services Provider, which was posted on 13 June 2025. Any other matters to be discussed under Agenda Item 9 (Other Matters) may be proposed here.

The participants will review and adopt the agenda.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The SPAMWS aims to support the timely implementation of the Indicative Workplan for adopting harvest strategies under CMM 2022-03 by facilitating technical and policy discussions in 2025. The workshop aims to advance the development of a management procedure CMM and associated implementation of CMM for South Pacific albacore, with the goal of their adoption at WCPFC22 to replace CMM 2015-02. Specifically, the workshop will focus on (i) candidate SPA management procedures, (ii) SPA management arrangement for implementing the management procedure, and (iii) considering mixed fishery issues. It contributes to the broader SPA roadmap and ensures coherence and coordination across WCPFC processes.

4. SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (MP)

The session will examine the technical core of the SPA harvest strategy, the management procedure itself, reviewing the latest results available for candidate management procedures for SPA ([refer to SC21-MI-WP-04 Evaluation of the candidate MPs for SP albacore](#)). The SPAMWS will provide advice to WCPFC22 on a reduced set of MPs for consideration by the Commission.

Outstanding decisions on the design of the MP include:

1. Whether the output of the MP will be catch or effort (noting that alternative metrics could

- be used when implementing the MP).
2. The geographical area to which the MP applies (specifically, confirming whether the area 0-10°S is excluded from the scope of the MP, consistent with the mixed fishery approach).
 3. The level of fishing (catch or effort) that should be assumed to occur in the area 0-10°S.
 4. The level of fishing (catch) that should be assumed to occur in the EPO.
 5. The maximum allowable change in catch or effort between management periods.

The MP includes a pre-agreed harvest control rule (HCR) that uses an index of stock status to adjust the overall level of fishing in three-year cycles (current setting). Annexes I – IV of [WCPFC21-2024-DP11 Rev01 Updated](#) (subject to updates) detail a candidate HCR curve, stock status estimation method, and robust monitoring frameworks, including the procedure for exceptional circumstances. This candidate MP is designed to ensure the SPA stock remains above the limit reference point (20% $SB_{F=0}$) while achieving the interim target reference point (0.96 $SB_{2017-2019}/SB_{F=0}$).

5. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SPA MP

The session will focus on translating the outputs of the MP into effective, enforceable conservation and management arrangements to replace CMM 2015-02.

The South Pacific Group (SPG) draft outlines principles such as flexibility in interannual catch balancing, proportional allocations for high seas and coastal CCMs, and maintaining sovereign rights of coastal States ([WCPFC21-2024-DP12 Rev01](#), subject to updates). It also recognizes the importance of data integrity by mandating electronic logsheet submission, 100% unloading data, observer presence during transshipments, and monitoring and reporting obligations, including observer and electronic monitoring coverage. This measure forms the regulatory scaffold supporting the harvest strategy and ensures that implementation respects regional diversity and the interests of SIDS.

6. CONSIDERATION OF MIXED FISHERY ISSUES AND COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN BET AND SPA MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

The session aims to address the reality of multispecies fisheries, where the same fleets target bigeye, yellowfin, and albacore. According to the recent analysis ([WCPFC21-2024-31](#)), it may be impossible to simultaneously meet all stock-specific TRPs under a unified set of fishing controls. For instance, achieving the TRP for bigeye under certain assumptions may result in yellowfin being below its TRP. This session will review the results of the most recent analyses presented to SC21 and provide advice to WCPFC22 on the issue. It may also explore how to navigate these challenges, for example, through the use of threshold-based TRPs. The session may consider how to coordinate the implementation of the various MPs within the mixed fishery framework, given that different MPs may follow different timelines and data inputs.

7. REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND WORKPLAN

This session will identify unresolved technical and policy issues and confirm next steps. It will present a timeline for intersessional consultations and document drafting ahead of WCPFC22. Coordination with IATTC will be addressed via the Joint Working Group framework. The aim is to

align scientific and management efforts across shared stocks. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining coherence and transparency.

8. WORKSHOP WRAP-UP

The Co-Chairs will summarize workshop progress and ensure that key insights from each agenda item are captured. This session may also confirm the main takeaways and how they will inform WCPFC22 and future SPAM-related work.

9. OTHER MATTERS

Participants will have the opportunity to raise any additional issues not previously covered under the agenda items, including cross-cutting technical, governance, or regional coordination items relevant to SPA management.

10. SUMMARY OF KEY AGREEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

This session will consolidate key agreements made during the workshop and outline the next steps, including responsibilities for intersessional follow-up, document revisions, and preparatory work for adoption processes at WCPFC22.

11. CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP