
TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS

Circular No.: 2025/56
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Subject: Circular to indicate objectives and expectations for SPAM-WS

Dear Colleagues,

As co-Chairs of the upcoming South Pacific Albacore Management Workshop (SPAM-WS), scheduled to take place virtually from 11-12 September 2025, we wanted to share our preliminary views on the objectives and anticipated outcomes from the discussions, to help support CCM and stakeholder preparations.

As a reminder, at WCPFC21 the Commission agreed that CCMs will cooperate to develop a management procedure (MP) and an implementing measure for South Pacific albacore during 2025, with a view to adopting both an MP and its implementing measure at WCPFC22, which will replace CMM 2015-02. Accordingly, the SPAM-WS will focus on the following areas:

- a) Candidate management procedures for South Pacific albacore;
- b) Arrangements for implementing the management procedure; and
- c) Consideration of mixed fishery issues, including ensuring compatibility between bigeye tuna and South Pacific albacore management procedures.

Regarding MPs for South Pacific albacore (a), we anticipate presentations and discussions on candidate MPs as well as updates and outcomes from SC21. We are hopeful that this discussion will result in some guidance on the MPs that should be forwarded to the Commission for adoption in December. In particular, discussions will be centered around the key outstanding decisions on the design of the MP and assumptions necessary for the MSE framework including:

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 future level of fishing (catch or effort) that should be assumed to occur in the area 0-10°S;
4. The future level of fishing (catch) that should be assumed to occur in the EPO; and
5. The maximum allowable change in MP output, i.e. catch or effort limit, between management periods.

Regarding arrangements for implementing the MP (b), we are hopeful that we can capture views from CCMs on the key elements of an implementing measure for South Pacific albacore. We have included reference to DP12 ([Draft Outline for a South Pacific Albacore CMM that Implements the Management Procedure Rev01 | WCPFC Meetings](#)) from WCPFC21 to help guide the discussions. To this end, we would encourage members to share any additional or updated proposals or position statements in advance of the meeting in order to support discussions.

With respect to consideration of mixed fishery issues (c), we anticipate presentations on the mixed fishery issues specific to ensuring compatibility between bigeye tuna and South Pacific albacore MPs. Discussions will likely focus on fisheries that would be managed through the two MPs, as well as how to prioritize the order of application between the two MPs, and other factors that should be considered under the mixed fishery framework.

We also anticipate the need to determine any further work that may be needed in advance of WCPFC22 and are hopeful that we can provide the Commission with as much guidance as possible based on outcomes from SPAM-WS so that we will be in a position to adopt both an MP and its implementing measure in December.

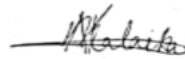
We would encourage members to share any proposals or position statements in advance of the meeting in order to support discussions. We look forward to progressing these important issues during the SPAM-WS in order to support further decisions during WCPFC22.

Please reach out to either of us with questions, comments, or suggestions in advance of the workshop: Emily Crigler (emily.crigler@noaa.gov) and Moses Mataika (mataika.moses@gmail.com).

Kindest Regards,



Emily Crigler
Co-Chairperson SPAM-WS



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