



COMMISSION
FIRST SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE ALLOCATION WORKSHOP
25-26 June 2026
Wellington, NZ (Hybrid)

Chair's preparation for the South Pacific Albacore Management Workshop

WCPFC-SPAA01-2026-04

18 June 2026

Submitted by Chair of the SPAA

Dear all,

Thank you for your faith in me in allowing me to chair this important workshop.

The purpose of this paper is to set out my thoughts on potential topics for discussion, ways of working and how we will contribute to necessary future work. I welcome CCM feedback on these ideas. I am also available to meet with any interested CCMs/groups ahead of the workshop. I arrive in New Zealand on 22 June and am happy to meet directly or virtually on 23 and 24 June.

Content and discussions

The agreed [Terms of Reference](#) make it clear that the primary purpose of the workshop is on allocation and agreement of proportional shares to support the adopted albacore management procedure.

The FFA member delegation paper ([DP02](#)) is the only specific proposal from CCMs on the specific matter of proportional shares. As such, I intend to use DP02 as the starting point for discussion, supported by the data summaries usefully prepared by the SSP ([IP01 Rev02](#)). Specific elements of that proposal that could usefully be explored include:

- Securing CCM support for an EEZ and high seas proportional split.
- Exploring and negotiating the specific proposal for that split to be 75% for EEZs and 25% for high seas.
- Discussing mechanisms for apportionment of each share - how would CCMs divide the EEZ and high seas shares amongst themselves?

I am mindful that discussion and agreement on the points above is highly unlikely in the absence of discussion around the terms of implementation of the agreed management procedure and the management of CCM/group shares when they are implemented. [DP-01](#) from the US provides ideas on some of those supporting measures and principles.

The Secretariat has added [IP-02](#) to the meeting documents for the workshop, which is the draft implementing CMM that FFA members submitted to WCPFC22. My view is that the workshop would benefit from time discussing the issues raised in DP-01 and IP-02 as some of those elements will provide assurance to CCMs about the impact of different allocation scenarios. Specifically, questions such as:

- Are phase-in mechanisms required to smooth the transition from current management to full implementation of the management procedure?
- What level of inter-annual flexibility do CCMs/groups need to provide assurance that resulting catch/effort limits will be achieved?
- What supporting MCS arrangements will provide assurance to each other that allocation outcomes will deliver management procedure outcomes?
- If transferability is to be a feature of the implanting CMM, how will that be managed?

Ways of working

I am encouraged that WCPFC22 established this meeting as a workshop, rather than a committee as that provides greater flexibility and less formality for us to consider items. While the main part of the session will inevitably be in plenary format, I ask all CCMs to come open to the concept of smaller group conversations on important components, if that is necessary. I will work with the Secretariat to ensure full participation of online delegates as required.

I have suggested some minor revisions to the workshop ([WCPFC-SPAA-2026-02 Rev01](#)) that try to provide additional structure around the two main topics of discussion outlined above. However, it is unlikely that the candidate dot points for discussion above can simply be dealt with in a sequential fashion. As such, I anticipate we may need to discuss specific issues, park them while we turn to supplementary issues and then return, which is not dissimilar to the small working groups used to negotiate CMMs at WCPFC meetings.

I am mindful that discussions on south Pacific albacore have been front and centre in WCPFC agendas for many years, and that there are strongly held views and positions. Given the workshop nature, it is important that we focus on exploring ideas to bridge the gap between some of those positions, rather than simply restating them.

Contact

If you would like to provide feedback to my ideas and the revised agenda or would like to arrange a discussion in the lead-up to the workshop, please don't hesitate to contact me via wez.norris@afma.gov.au, copying the Secretariat (hilary.ayrton@wcpfc.int).

I am committed to progressing this important work and look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones in New Zealand.



COMMISSION

FIRST SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE ALLOCATION WORKSHOP

25 – 26 June 2026

Wellington, New Zealand (Hybrid)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

WCPFC-SPAA01-2026-02_Rev01

19 June 2026

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

- 1.1 Welcome and opening remarks
- 1.2 Meeting arrangements
- 1.3 Adoption of agenda

AGENDA ITEM 2. REVIEW OF DATA FOR ALLOCATION DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 Review of the Commission's fishery data (SSP presentation of IP-01_Rev02)
- 2.2 Other sources of data and information

AGENDA ITEM 3. REVIEW OF CCM PROPOSALS ON ALLOCATION FRAMEWORKS

- 3.1 Proposal from FFA members (DP-02)
- 3.2 Discussion and workshopping focusing on elements of allocation

AGENDA ITEM 4. REVIEW OF CCM PROPOSALS ON SUPPORTING MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Proposal from United States of America (DP-01)
- 4.2 Discussion and workshopping focusing on elements of a supporting CMM

AGENDA ITEM 5. NARROWING ALLOCATION OPTIONS

AGENDA ITEM 6. PATHWAY TOWARD AGREEMENT ON PROPORTIONAL SHARES

AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 8. SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF THE WORKSHOP