



**COMMISSION  
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**Report on South Pacific Albacore TRP based  
on Agreed Outcomes of the Small Working Group**

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**WCPFC15-2018-SPalbTRPSWG\_01  
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1740**

**Submitted by  
South Pacific Albacore SWG  
Chair**

**Report language on South Pacific albacore TRP based on agreed outcomes of the  
Small Working Group chaired by Fiji**

1. WCPFC agrees an interim target reference point (TRP) for south Pacific albacore at 56 percent spawning stock biomass in the absence of fishing ( $0.56 SB_{F=0}$ )<sup>1</sup> with the objective of achieving an 8 percent increase in catch per unit of effort (CPUE) for the southern longline fishery as compared to 2013 levels<sup>2</sup>. If a future stock assessment indicates that this interim TRP will not result in the desired longline CPUE, then the interim TRP will be revised in order to meet this objective. The TRP shall be reviewed every 3 years, consistent with the SP albacore assessment schedule.
2. The Commission shall amend or develop appropriate conservation and management measures to implement a harvest control rule, developed in accordance with CMM 2014-06, with the objective of maintaining the south Pacific albacore spawning stock biomass at the target level on average and according to the timeframes specified in paragraph 3.
3. In order to manage the required reduction in catches, the timeline for achieving the interim target reference point shall be no later than 20 years. The Science Service Provider is tasked with identifying a range of alternative catch pathways and timeframes that achieve this, for consideration in 2019.
4. In undertaking the assessment identified in paragraph 3 information from all fisheries will be included while noting that any management measures must take account of the impact of different gear types.
5. The Scientific Committee shall refer to the target reference point in its assessment of the status of the WCPO South Pacific albacore tuna stock and in reporting to the Commission on management advice and implications for this stock.

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<sup>1</sup> The method to be used in estimating the recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing shall be the same as that adopted by the Commission for the limit reference point, as described in paragraph 3 of CMM 2015-06

<sup>2</sup> The proxy for CPUE will be the southern longline vulnerable biomass as estimated within the stock assessment.