



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
SIXTH REGULAR SESSION**  
10-19 August 2010  
Nuku'alofa, Tonga

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**Stock Assessment Preparatory Workshop  
Revised Terms of Reference**

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**WCPFC-SC6-2010/ GN-WP-04**

**Terms of Reference**

On an annual basis, this workshop will be convened between February and April hosted by the SPC-OFP. The terms of reference will be reviewed and refined if necessary at SC6. The current TOR is annexed below:

*Draft Terms of Reference*

- Revisit the previous assessment and any concerns, suggestions and/or recommendations raised by the Scientific Committee, the Commission, individual CCMs, or any independent reviews of assessments, or.
- Reviews preliminary work relating to the assessment:
  - Proposed updates to biological parameters
  - Data revisions and other important data inputs
  - Proposed changes to structural assumptions in the model
  - Other methodological issues, e.g. characterization of uncertainty
  - Standardized CPUE analysis
  - Incorporation of tagging data or other auxiliary data
- Provides recommendations to the Service Provider on:
  - The suitability of proposed changes
  - a minimum set model runs to be undertaken, in particular the range of key sensitivity analyses
  - Desired model diagnostics
  - Alternative modeling approaches that could be considered

Due to the timing of the meeting, any model runs are based on previous assessment data sets, and therefore no preliminary stock assessment runs are undertaken.

The outcomes of the meeting will be documented and the report of the meeting will be distributed to workshop participants within 10 days of the meeting and revised and provided to WCPFC Scientific Committee members 30 days after the meeting. It will also be submitted to the next Scientific Committee as a Working Paper. Many of the matters discussed to the workshop will be the subject of meeting papers to the Scientific Committee.

The workshop will occur prior to the submission of data and completion of supporting analyses (e.g. CPUE analyses). Therefore in any instances where the stock assessment scientists deem that major changes to either data, biological parameters, or model structure is warranted, and such changes have not previously been reviewed and approved by the SC or discussed at the Pre-assessment Workshop, model runs based on both the previous and new assumption / data should be undertaken and made available to the SC. Further, supporting documentation should be provided to the SC via working papers to allow the SC to determine the merits of any proposed changes.

In instances where many changes are proposed, it is recognized that it may not be possible or feasible to undertake all auxiliary analysis (e.g. inclusion of model diagnostics, evaluation of management options, and likelihood profile analysis) for all potential model runs prior to the SC meeting and that such a requirement will increase the workload for the stock assessment scientists and increase the size of the assessment reports.

The consultation will be convened by the Commission's Science Service Provider in Noumea, New Caledonia or elsewhere by prior agreement.

The consultation will be open to participation by all CCMs and to other experts, by invitation. CCMs will be expected to fund their participation although SIDS and participating territories may seek support from the Commission's Special Requirements Fund or other sources, as appropriate.