



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

Busan, Republic of Korea  
7-15 August 2012

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**ISSUES ARISING FROM THE COMMISSION**

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**WCPFC-SC8-2012/GN-WP-03**

**Secretariat**

**ISSUES ARISING FROM SC7 AND WCPFC8**

<b>Issues</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>Tasks/Comments</b>
<b>ISSUES ARISING FROM SC7</b>		
1. South Pacific swordfish	258. SC7 recommended that SPC work with the EU with regards to their data, and provide an assessment as to whether the dataset will be useful in expanding the spatial scope of previous assessments to include the south-central Pacific, or if possible the entire South Pacific Ocean. SC7 further recommended that an analysis of fishery indicators of this stock be prepared for presentation at SC8.	A fishery indicator analysis was conducted by SPC-OPF for presentation to SC8
2. Southwest Pacific striped marlin	264. SC7 further noted the progress of Project 64, the compilation of striped marlin data by New Zealand and Australia that will be completed in March 2012. Results of this work will be presented to the pre-assessment workshop for incorporation into the stock assessment in 2012. It was noted that the last stock assessment was carried out in 2006, and an updated assessment is required. It was proposed that SPC be tasked with carrying out a revised stock assessment	Stock assessment for the SW Pacific striped marlin was conducted and will be presented at SC8

	for presentation at SC8.	
3. North Pacific striped marlin	272. SC7 recommended that SPC should work with ISC on data-related work required for the next assessment. If ISC fails to provide stock assessment results by SC8, future stock assessments for this stock should be undertaken by the science services provider as part of the SC work programme.	ISC finished stock assessment of the NP striped marlin and the results will be presented at SC8
4. Sharks	408. The current Shark Research Plan is scheduled to conduct a stock assessment on oceanic whitetip sharks and silky sharks for SC8 and on blue sharks for SC9.  409. Recognizing the considerable body of work on shark catch mitigation including non-retention and live-release, deeper hook deployment on longliners (for epipelagic species), use of circle hooks, and prohibition on targeting, finning and wire leaders, SC7 further recommended that SC8 consider investigations into the effectiveness of mitigation measures for sharks.	Stock assessment for oceanic whitetip sharks and silky sharks was conducted and the results will be presented at SC8  SC8 will consider the effectiveness of mitigation measures for sharks.
5. Seabirds	430. SC7 encouraged further research and the exchange of information intersessionally with a view toward evaluating the effectiveness of CMM 2007-04 at SC8	SC8 will consider evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation measures in CMM 2007-04.
6. Food security	457. SC7 noted the importance of food security issues and that these should be considered in the strategic research plan of the SC. It was suggested that the starting points be: a) a preliminary assessment of the volumes of food fish discarded in regional tuna fisheries, especially in tropical fisheries near developing states (conducted by an agency such as SPC); and b) a proposal for the WCPFC to look further at the impact of tuna fishing on key food stocks, noting that Resolution 2005-03 identified mahi mahi, rainbow runner and wahoo as important for sustainable livelihoods.	SPC-OFP will present a research on edible bycatch on equatorial purse seiners (EB-WP-02)  SC8 may consider a proposal to look at the impact of tuna fishing on key food stocks.
7. Data gaps of the Commission	494. SC7 recommended that CCMs consider the implications of adding text in “Scientific data to be provided to the Commission” – Section 5 (the provision of aggregated size data) to be consistent with the requirement to provide information on the statistical methods used to produce other types of fishery data (i.e. Section 1 – Annual catch estimates and Section 4 – Aggregated catch and effort data). CCMs are requested to report their progress on this issue to SC8. The recommended text to be added in Section 5 is: <i>“The statistical and sampling methods that are used to derive</i>	SC8 will revisit CCMs view on the inclusion of the text proposed into the document “Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission”

	<p><i>the size composition data shall be reported to the Commission, including reference to whether sampling was at the level of fishing operation or during unloading, details of the protocol used, and the methods and reasons for any adjustments to the size data.”</i></p> <p>495. SC7 recommended that CCMs consider the implications of adding text in “Scientific data to be provided to the Commission” to ensure that scientists are provided with information on changes in the way fishing takes place; information that is not captured in the available data. CCMs are requested to report their progress on this issue to SC8. The recommended text to be added to Sections 3, 4 and 5 in this document is:</p> <p><i>“Information on operational changes in the fishery that are not an attribute in the data provided are to be listed and reported with the data provision.”</i></p>	
8. Species composition of purse-seine catches	<p>509. SC7 noted the importance of this work and so recommended a no-cost extension of Project 60 through 2012. The SC will review the financial status of the project at SC8.</p> <p>510. SC7 requested that the scope of work for Project 60 be amended to include the provision of a plan for improving the availability and use of purse-seine catch composition data, applying the results from the project. This plan should form the basis for the recommended review of the future of the project to be conducted at SC8. This plan should be available for consideration by the Commission at WCPFC8.</p>	<p>SC8 will review the financial status of Project 60</p> <p>Amended plan for the species composition work was submitted to WCPFC8</p>
9. Review of the Scientific Committee work programme	<p>562. SC7 agreed to refine the list of SC work programme that was established at SC3 (Attachment O of the SC3 Summary Report) intersessionally and review it at SC8.</p>	<p>A draft revision of the list of SC work programme will be considered at SC8</p>
10. work programme and budget	<p>565. SC7 identified the following four assessments to be conducted by the science service provider and presented to SC8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A stock assessment for South Pacific albacore.</li> <li>• A stock assessment for southwestern Pacific striped marlin.</li> <li>• Stock assessments for oceanic whitetip and silky sharks.</li> </ul>	<p>Four stock assessments were conducted and will be presented at SC8</p>

<p>11. work programme and budget</p>	<p>567. SC7 identified several high priority projects in 2012, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The peer review of the bigeye tuna stock assessment. SC7 obligated USD 30,000 in the 2011 budget to conduct the peer review.</li> <li>b) Scientific support for the Management Objectives Workshop to identify and evaluate candidate LRPs (SPR and biomass). SC7 obligated USD 20,000 in the 2011 budget (scoping the use of reference points) for this project.</li> <li>c) Scientific support for the Management Objectives Workshop to identify and evaluate candidate target reference points, especially for skipjack. SC7 requested the Commission to carry over the USD30,000 in the 2011 budget and obligate USD 30,000 in the 2012 budget. (Technical support for the Management Objectives Workshop) for this project.</li> <li>d) The development of harvest control rules for the Management Objectives Workshop. SC7 proposed USD 30,000 in the 2012 budget for this project.</li> <li>e) Bigeye aging and maturity project requires an allocation of USD 55,000 for 2012.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Peer review was conducted and outputs will be presented at SC8.</li> <li>b) SPC-OFP conducted LRP research and will present at SC8.</li> <li>c) SPC-OFP conducted TRP research for skipjack and will present at SC8.</li> <li>d) SPC-OFP conducted research on HCR with \$10K from the Commission and will present at SC8.</li> <li>e) Bigeye biology study with \$55K was contracted and a progress report will be presented at SC8.</li> </ul>
<p>12. Future operation of the Scientific Committee</p>	<p>584. SC7 adopted the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Hold the Data and Statistics theme before the Stock Assessment theme.</li> <li>b) Add blocks of time to the indicative schedule where draft recommendations developed by the theme convenors are reviewed and adopted.</li> <li>c) A small group (led by the Management Issues theme convenor) to review intersessionally the option of moving agenda items presently within the Stock Assessment theme on discussion and adoption of management advice and implications for each species to an agenda item within the Management Issues theme.</li> <li>d) SC8 to retain the process adopted for SC7 that important papers within the Biology, Methods, and Fishing Technology themes are to be presented either at the SPC Pre-Assessment Workshop or at the SC meeting within the most appropriate Theme. SC8 is to decide on the future need for retaining the Biology, Methods, and Fishing Technology themes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Reflected in the SC8 Agenda and indicative schedule.</li> <li>b) Blocked time for the drafting of the recommendations reflected.</li> <li>c) Will be considered at SC8 HOD meeting.</li> <li>d) Will be considered at SC8.</li> <li>e) SC8 will consider this.</li> <li>f) Will be presented for review by SC8.</li> </ul>

	<p>e) A review of the time allocated to each theme to be undertaken when the indicate schedule for SC8 is prepared.</p> <p>f) A document on the “Guidelines for Theme Conveners and SC Chairs” is to be drafted intersessionally. This task will be led by the SC Chair in consultation with the SC Vice-Chair and theme convenors.</p>	
<b>ISSUES ARISING FROM WCPFC8</b>		
1. TOR for the MI Theme	118. WCPFC8 adopted the revised Terms of Reference for the Management Issues Theme of the Scientific Committee as contained in WCPFC8-2011-DP/47. This is appended as Attachment J.	SC8 will note this TOR.
2. Limit reference points	125. WCPFC8 endorsed the hierarchical approach to identifying limit reference points, tasked the Scientific Services Provider with preparing proposed limit reference points for the consideration of SC8, and directed SC8 to take account of WCPFC8’s concerns regarding reference points in its further deliberations.	SC8 will take account of WCPFC8’s concerns regarding reference points in its further deliberations
3. SP Swordfish	393. WCPFC8 agreed that the Scientific Services Provider should begin work on the swordfish stock assessment and present available results to SC8.	SC8 will review swordfish analysis