



**COMMISSION**  
**SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
 Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea  
 5 – 11 December 2019

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**REFERENCE DOCUMENT ON OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SC15**  
**(AGENDA ITEM 9.1)**

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**WCPFC16-2019-27**  
**15 November 2019**

**Paper prepared by the Secretariat**

1. The purpose of this paper, as shown in the matrix below, is to provide a quick reference guide to other recommendations from SC15, not covered by other documents. These will be covered under Agenda Item 9.1, requesting the Commission's appropriate action.

**DATA AND STATISTICS THEME**

<b>SC15 Agenda</b>	<b>Recommendations</b> (Paragraph numbers are from SC15 Outcomes Document)	<b>Commission's Action</b>
Overview of (WCPO fisheries)	1. SC15 recommended that future versions of the SC15-GN-WP-1 paper include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summaries of northern stocks in the WCPFC Convention Area; and</li> <li>• More information on the OTHER FISHERIES</li> </ul>	Take note
Data gaps	3. SC15 recommended that the charter notification issues raised in SC15-ST-WP-01 be taken into account in the review leading to the new/replacement Charter Notification CMM. For example, when the coverage of operational data submitted is not 100% and chartered vessels for that flag state have been notified to the Commission, then the flag state shall submit a list of vessels representing the catches compiled for their annual catch estimates and aggregate catch/effort data (with these data submissions).  4. SC15 recommended that the WCPFC Scientific Services Provider make the following enhancements to the tables on longline observer coverage in the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) data management paper (SC15-ST-IP-02) in the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Separate the observer coverage of domestic CCM fleets active in their home EEZ (non-ROP coverage), where such information is voluntarily provided from a CCM, from the observer coverage of CCM fleets fishing outside their home EEZ (ROP coverage);</li> <li>b) List all (ROP and non-ROP) longline observer coverage for each fleet based on HOOKS or SETS as measured</li> </ul>	Take note

	<p>by WCPFC data submissions. This information is intended to provide estimates of total longline observer coverage in the WCPFC Area for reference, and will not be used for compliance purposes. The WCPFC Scientific Services Provider will provide an update to TCC15 for CCM review.</p> <p>c) Include a column to describe the coverage of longline E-Monitoring data in the table of longline E-Monitoring coverage based on FISHING DAYS or SETS.</p> <p>5. SC15 recommended that the WCPFC Scientific Services Provider (with assistance from the WCPFC Secretariat) investigate what Commission mechanisms could be used and/or updated to facilitate the voluntary submission, and ensure an appropriate level of confidentiality, of cannery data from other processors for future Commission work (Project 60), and report the findings to SC16.</p> <p>6. SC noted the recurrent difficulties of the WCPFC Scientific Services Provider to reconcile the discrepancies between the number of trips and observer appointments in Tables 1 and 2 of SC15-ST-IP-02 and recommended that the WCPFC Scientific Services Provider and WCPFC Secretariat investigate how these discrepancies could be addressed, in view to facilitating the work of SC and TCC.</p>											
<p>(Project 60) Species composition of purse-seine catches</p>	<p>7. SC15 recommended that the following activities be considered under Project 60 over the coming year, with the outcomes reported to SC16:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Priority</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>           1. Paired grab-spill trips (target: 4 to 6):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting fleets with likely availability of comprehensive landings slips data (to be provided on a voluntary basis).</li> <li>• Additional data should allow for improved estimates of bias correction factors, and provide a more powerful dataset for testing for species and/or school association specific correction factors</li> </ul> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>           2. Continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with members, specifically undertaking comparisons of observer samples, and potentially model-based, species composition estimates, with accurate unloadings / landings / cannery data         </td> <td style="text-align: center;">High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>           3. Investigation of video-based sampling for estimation of species and size compositions         </td> <td style="text-align: center;">Medium</td> </tr> <tr> <td>           4. Simulation model         </td> <td style="text-align: center;">Medium</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Priority	1. Paired grab-spill trips (target: 4 to 6): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting fleets with likely availability of comprehensive landings slips data (to be provided on a voluntary basis).</li> <li>• Additional data should allow for improved estimates of bias correction factors, and provide a more powerful dataset for testing for species and/or school association specific correction factors</li> </ul>	High	2. Continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with members, specifically undertaking comparisons of observer samples, and potentially model-based, species composition estimates, with accurate unloadings / landings / cannery data	High	3. Investigation of video-based sampling for estimation of species and size compositions	Medium	4. Simulation model	Medium	Take note
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2. Continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with members, specifically undertaking comparisons of observer samples, and potentially model-based, species composition estimates, with accurate unloadings / landings / cannery data	High											
3. Investigation of video-based sampling for estimation of species and size compositions	Medium											
4. Simulation model	Medium											

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration of potential bias from between-brail variability in size</li> <li>• Inform need for set and/or species-specific correction factors</li> </ul>			
	5. Cost-benefit analysis of alternative sampling approaches for long-term estimation of species compositions (i.e. at-sea sampling vs port sampling)	Low		
	8. SC15 recommended that the following changes (as outcomes from Project 60) be incorporated into the process for generating the aggregated purse seine species catch estimates in the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multinomial-model based correction factors be used to correct existing and future grab sample data, rather than the estimates of ‘availability’;</li> <li>• The beta-response models be used to generate catch estimates; and,</li> <li>• Observer samples are stratified by flag when used to directly estimate species compositions.</li> </ul>			Take note
	9. SC15 acknowledged the recent work on the potential of electronic monitoring (EM) to enhance the collection of scientific data (size and species composition) onboard purse seine vessels, potentially freeing the observer to concentrate on other duties. Additional work in support of the proposed Project 60 work plan for August 2019 onwards was proposed. SC15 recommended the outcomes of any further work be reported to SC16.			Take note
Project 90 (Better size data (length and weight) for scientific analyses)	<p>10. SC15 recommended that the WCPFC Scientific Services Provider proceed to coordinate the activities proposed for Project 90 for the coming year (as listed in ANNEX 2 of SC15-ST-WP-03), and report the progress to SC16.</p> <p><u>Updates from the Scientific Services Provider (SPC):</u>  SC15-ST-WP-03 outlined that the main work conducted as at August 2019 has been –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the establishment of a conversion factor database tables,</li> <li>(ii) scoping and gap analysis (within SPC) to determine the priority areas to collect conversion factors data under the project, and</li> <li>(iii) initial contact with some CCMs in regards to conducting the field work required to collect the necessary data to generate the required for conversion factors.</li> </ul> <p>Since August 2019, the following has been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A contract for work to collect various conversion factor data in the Philippines port of General Santos City has been established, and work commenced; and</li> <li>• Initial discussions with RMI and FSM on the protocols for “samplers” (distinct, and in addition to observers)</li> </ul>			Take note

	<p>deployed on PS (and LL) vessels to specifically collect conversion factor data for key non-target species.</p> <p>The delays in advancing this project were listed in SC15-ST-WP-03 and also due to staff movements/changes in key personnel within the SPC.</p> <p>In regards to budget, SPC expect to carry over about US\$ 10,000-15,000 of the 2019 budget into 2020, but request that we still need the additional US\$ 30,000 indicative 2020 budget to implement the necessary activities. We should be in a better position to report on outcomes of the project and anticipated budget for 2021.</p>	
Project 93 (Review of the Commission's data needs and collection programmes)	11. SC15 recognised the usefulness of the work conducted to date under Project 93 and recommended the WCPFC Secretariat prepare and distribute a circular drawing attention to the tables in SC15-ST-WP-04, following their discussion by the ISG-02, requesting CCMs provide further feedback prior to TCC15, when it will be further discussed.	Take note
Economic data	12. SC15 considered the development of guidelines for the voluntary provision of economic data to the Commission and recommended that intersessional work be undertaken to further develop the draft guidelines as provided in SC15-ST-WP-05 and provide guidance on appropriate ways to address issues raised. CCMs wishing to participate in this intersessional work should provide a contact point for inclusion in this intersessional working group which will be facilitated by Fiji and the FFA Secretariat. SC15 further recommended that the outcomes of this intersessional work be considered by SC16.	Take note
Comprehensive review of Commission reporting requirements	13. SC15 noted the paper SC15-ST-WP-06 <i>Streamlining WCPFC reporting requirements – discussion paper</i> that was introduced by the Secretariat. Noting that a finalised version of the paper will be submitted to TCC15 for decisions on recommendations on the way forward to WCPFC16, SC15 encouraged interested CCMs and observers to submit views on the discussion paper to the Secretariat no later than Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2019.	Take note

#### STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME

SC15 Agenda	Recommendations (Paragraph numbers from SC15 Outcomes Document)	Commission's Action
North Pacific swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> )	<p><b>Provision of scientific information</b></p> <p><b>a. Stock status and trends</b></p> <p>57. SC15 noted that no stock assessments were conducted for North Pacific swordfish in 2019. Therefore, the stock status descriptions from SC14 are still current for North Pacific swordfish. For further information on the stock status and trends from SC14,</p>	Take note

	<p>please see <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32155">https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32155</a>. Updated information on catches was not compiled for and reviewed by SC15.</p> <p><b>b. Management Advice and implications</b></p> <p>58. SC15 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC14 for North Pacific swordfish. Therefore, the advice from SC14 should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information. For further information on the management advice and implications from SC14, please see <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32155">https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32155</a></p>	
<p>South Pacific swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)</p>	<p><b>Provision of scientific information</b></p> <p><b>a. Stock Status and trends</b></p> <p>90. SC15 noted that no stock assessments were conducted for south Pacific swordfish in 2019. Therefore, the stock status descriptions from SC13 are still current for south Pacific swordfish. For further information on the stock status and trends from SC13, please see <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29904">https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29904</a>. Updated information on catches was not compiled for and reviewed by SC15.</p> <p><b>b. Management Advice and implications</b></p> <p>91. SC15 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC13 for south Pacific swordfish. Therefore, previous advice should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information. For further information on the management advice and implications from SC13, please see <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29904">https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29904</a></p>	<p>Take note</p>
<p>Pacific blue marlin (<i>Makaira nigricans</i>)</p>	<p><b>Provision of scientific information</b></p> <p><b>a. Stock Status and trends</b></p> <p>112. SC15 noted that no stock assessments were conducted for Pacific blue marlin in 2019. Therefore, the stock status descriptions from SC12 are still current for Pacific blue marlin. For further information on the stock status and trends from SC12, please see <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/node/27769">https://www.wcpfc.int/node/27769</a>. Updated information on catches was not compiled for and reviewed by SC15.</p> <p><b>b. Management Advice and implications</b></p> <p>113. SC15 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC12 for Pacific blue marlin. Therefore, previous advice should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information. For further information on the management advice and implications from SC12, please see <a href="https://www.wcpfc.int/node/27769">https://www.wcpfc.int/node/27769</a></p>	<p>Take note</p>

OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS

SC15 Agenda	Recommendations (Paragraph numbers from SC15 Outcomes Document)	Commission's Action
Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	<p>165. SC15 noted the successful 2018 CP13 tagging cruise, in which 1,133 tropical tunas, mainly bigeye and yellowfin tuna, were tagged with conventional and/or archival tags.</p> <p>166. SC15 noted the importance of effective tag seeding to estimating reporting rates, supported increased deployment and fleet coverage of tag seeding experiments and noted the need for continued CCM participation and support in tag reporting.</p> <p>167. SC15 supported additional tagging of tropical tuna marked with strontium chloride, to assist in validating otolith-based ageing methods, and requested the support of CCMs in enabling the collection of samples from such recaptured tagged fish.</p> <p>168. SC15 supported the 2020 tagging programme, and associated budget (\$645,000), the 2021-2022 tagging programmes and their associated indicative budgets (\$730,000; \$730,000), and the PTPP work plan in general for 2019-2022.</p>	Take note
WCPFC Tissue Bank (Project 35b)	<p>169. SC15 noted the reduction in sampling in 2018 and requested that SPC develop initiatives to reverse this trend if possible, and report these to SC16.</p> <p>170. SC15 encouraged CCMs to visit the TTB web page <a href="http://www.spc.int/ofp/PacificSpecimenBank">www.spc.int/ofp/PacificSpecimenBank</a> and provide feedback to SPC on its information content, usability and structure.</p> <p>171. SC15 endorsed the TTB work plan for 2019-2020, as well as the proposed 2020 budget (\$99,195) and 2021-22 indicative budgets (\$101,180; \$103,204).</p>	Take note

FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

SC15 Agenda	Recommendations (Paragraph numbers from SC15 Outcomes Document)	Commission's Action																								
Development of the work programme and budget for 2020-2022	<p>172. SC15 adopted the proposed budget (<b>Table 01 below</b>) and forwarded it to the Commission. <i>(Refer to Attachment B of the SC15 Outcomes Document for the detailed descriptions of the SC15 work programme, budget and terms of reference.)</i></p> <p>173. SC15 agreed that SPC will conduct stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin tuna in 2020</p>	<b>Approval</b>																								
<p><b>Table 01.</b> Summary of SC work programme titles and budget for 2020, and indicative budget for 2021–2022, which requires funding from the Commission's core budget (USD).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Title</th> <th>Essential</th> <th>Priority</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SPC-OFP Scientific Services</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>ongoing</td> <td>924,524</td> <td>943,015</td> <td>961,875</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SPC Additional resourcing</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>ongoing</td> <td>166,480</td> <td>168,145</td> <td>169,827</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project 35b - WCPFC Tuna Tissue Bank</td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> <td>99,195</td> <td>101,180</td> <td>103,204</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Project Title	Essential	Priority	2020	2021	2022	SPC-OFP Scientific Services	Yes	ongoing	924,524	943,015	961,875	SPC Additional resourcing	Yes	ongoing	166,480	168,145	169,827	Project 35b - WCPFC Tuna Tissue Bank	Yes		99,195	101,180	103,204
Project Title	Essential	Priority	2020	2021	2022																					
SPC-OFP Scientific Services	Yes	ongoing	924,524	943,015	961,875																					
SPC Additional resourcing	Yes	ongoing	166,480	168,145	169,827																					
Project 35b - WCPFC Tuna Tissue Bank	Yes		99,195	101,180	103,204																					

Project 42 - Pacific Tuna Tagging Program	Yes		645,000	730,000	730,000
Project 60 – Purse Seine Species Composition	No	ongoing	40,000	40,000	
Project 68 - Seabird mortality	No	ongoing			75,000
Project 88 - Acoustic FAD analyses	No	High 2	30,000	15,000	
Project 90 - Length weight conversion	No	ongoing	30,000	20,000	
Project 97 – Shark Research Plan 2021-2025		High 1	46,000		
Project 98 - Radiocarbon aging workshop		High 1	35,000		
Project 99 – Southwest Pacific striped marlin population biology		High 1	33,000		
Project 100 - Close-kin mark-recapture		High 1	7,500		
Project 101 – Monte Carlo simulations - shark mitigation		High 1	40,000		
Project 102 - Population projections for oceanic whitetip shark		High 1	35,000		
Project 103 – Limit reference points for WCPO elasmobranchs		High 1	25,000		
Project Budget (WCPFC budget only)			1,232,175	1,074,325	1,078,030
<b>Total budget with SPC services</b>			<b>2,156,700</b>	<b>2,017,340</b>	<b>2,039,905</b>

#### ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

<b>SC15 Agenda</b>	<b>Recommendations</b> (Paragraph numbers from SC15 Outcomes Document)	<b>Commission's Action</b>
Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee	174. SC15 recommended the current SC Chair U. Faasili continue for his second term and T. Halafihi (Tonga) as a SC Vice Chair.	<b>Approval</b>
Next meeting	175. SC15 recommended to the Commission that SC16 would be held in Apia, Samoa during 11– 20 August, 2020. Tonga offered to host in 2021, and Palau offered to serve as host in 2021 should circumstances prevent Tonga from hosting.	<b>Approval</b>