



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
ELECTRONIC MEETING**

11 – 20 August 2020

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

**WCPFC-SC16-2020/03
12 June 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting will open at a time to be confirmed on Tuesday, 11 August 2020.

1.1 Welcome address

The Chair and the Executive Director will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers to the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC16).

1.2 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will outline procedural matters including the e-meeting protocols, meeting schedule, and the list of theme conveners. In addition, SC16 will endorse the appointment of new conveners as required.

Chair	Ueta Jr. Faasili (3); ueta.faasili@maf.gov.ws
Vice Chair	Tuikolongahau Halafihi (1); supi64t@gmail.com
ST Theme	Valerie Post (3); valerie.post@noaa.gov
SA Theme	Keith Bigelow (2); keith.bigelow@noaa.gov Hiroshi Minami(3); hminami@affrc.go.jp
MI Theme	Robert Campbell (11); robert.campbell@csiro.au TBD
EB Theme	John Annala (6); john.annala@mpi.govt.nz Yonat Swimmer (2); yonat.swimmer@noaa.gov Lui Bell (1); lui.bell.jnr@gmail.com

(x): number of years of convenership

1.3 Adoption of agenda

Posting of the Provisional Agenda for SC16 was delayed due to uncertainty of the meeting arrangements for SC16 as a result of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.4 Reporting arrangements

The WCPFC Secretariat will hire a lead rapporteur to produce the DRAFT Summary Report, and the theme convenors may arrange their own support rapporteurs as required.

In accordance with the Rule 33 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the text of all decisions adopted by the SC16 will be distributed in the form of the Outcomes Document to all members, territories and observers within seven (7) working days following the adoption of such decision.

The SC16 Summary Report will be adopted intersessionally with an Executive Summary. The Executive Summary will include a brief overview of the meeting, all theme recommendations adopted during the meeting, including a synopsis of stock status and management advice, and any other initiatives arising from the SC16.

AGENDA ITEM 2 DATA AND STATISTICS THEME

2.1 Data gaps of the Commission

The SPC-OFP will present the data gaps paper. SC16 will consider, comment, and where relevant, recommend actions on how to address any identified data gaps, including issues related to the differences in the coverage of longline and purse seine observer data in the data holdings of the Commission and charter notification requirements and/or the treatment of chartered vessels (Paras 72 and 74, SC15 Summary Report; Para 663, WCPFC16 Summary Report).

SC16 will also consider what Commission mechanisms could be used and/or updated to facilitate the voluntary submission, with an appropriate level of confidentiality, of cannery data from other processors for future Commission work (Paras 73, SC15 Summary Report).

AGENDA ITEM 3 STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME

3.1 WCPO bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

3.1.1 Review of 2020 bigeye tuna stock assessment

SC16 will review the results of the 2017 bigeye tuna stock assessment, any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission as required.

3.1.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Stock status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

3.2 WCPO yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

3.2.1 Yellowfin tuna age and growth (Project 82)

SC16 will review the project final report for the provision of robust age and growth estimates for yellowfin tuna, which will be incorporated into 2020 yellowfin stock assessment. In addition, SC16 may review any other research available in the list under Paragraph 163 of the SC15 Summary Report and provide advice and recommendations for future age and growth research.

3.2.2 Review of 2020 yellowfin tuna stock assessment

SC16 will review the results of the 2020 yellowfin tuna stock assessment, any future research, including budget implications, and provide recommendations to the Commission, as required.

3.2.3 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

3.3 North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)

3.3.1 Review of 2020 North Pacific albacore stock assessment

SC16 will review the ISC's 2020 stock assessment for North Pacific albacore tuna.

3.3.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

3.4 Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)

3.4.1 Review of 2020 Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment

SC16 will review the ISC's 2020 stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna.

3.4.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

AGENDA ITEM 4 MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME

4.1 Development of the Harvest Strategy Framework for key tuna species

4.1.1 Target reference points

4.1.1.1 Bigeye and yellowfin tuna

SC16 will review relevant information provided by SPC-OFP on target reference points, and provide advice on the following requests as listed in Paras 273-275 of the WCPFC16 Summary Report below:

273. The Commission requested the Scientific Committee to provide advice on the formulation of TRPs for bigeye and yellowfin tuna for other candidate TRP indicators other than depletion ratio, such as longline CPUE.

274. The Commission further requested the Scientific Service Provider to conduct an analysis for bigeye and yellowfin tuna similar to that undertaken in WCPFC16-2019-14 (Current and projected stock status of WCPO skipjack tuna to inform consideration of an updated target reference point) for skipjack. It further tasked SC16 in 2020 to review the bigeye and yellowfin assessments, advise on the uncertainty grid, and provide advice on the range of depletion for analysis. With regard to the range of depletion, the Commission

tasked the Scientific Service Provider to conduct the analysis and present their outcomes in 2020 to the TCC16 and WCPFC17.

275. The Commission considered the development of target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin and agreed that in the interim paragraphs 12 and 14 of CMM 2018-01 be retained. It further tasked the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Service Provider to continue to explore potential candidate target reference points for the two stocks.

4.1.1.2 Skipjack tuna

SC16 will review relevant information provided by SPC-OFP on target reference points, and provide advice on the following requests as listed in Paras 258-259 of the WCPFC16 Summary Report below:

258. The Commission requested the Scientific Committee to provide advice on:

- a) the formulation of TRPs for skipjack tuna, noting:
 - i. the SC15 advice on a skipjack tuna TRP “that the Commission may identify a reference year, or set of years, which may be appropriate to use as a baseline for a skipjack TRP.”; and*
 - ii. the approach to the formulation of a skipjack tuna TRP proposed in WCPFC162019-DP01; and**
- b) effort creep estimated in relation to the TRPs.*

259. The Commission also requested the Scientific Service Provider to revise WCPFC16-2019-15 using candidate revised interim skipjack TRPs of 42%, 44%, 46%, 48% and 50% of $SB/SB_{F=0}$.

4.1.2 Performance indicators, monitoring strategy, harvest control rules and management strategy evaluation

The Commission noted the importance of economic indicators as performance indicators and encouraged CCMs to assist the Scientific Services Provider by providing economic and other data to assist in development of performance indicators, including in relation to the disproportionate burden on SIDS, particularly with respect to multi-species fisheries (Paragraph 181, WCPFC16 Summary Report).

SC16 will review an update of progress on the technical development of WCPFC harvest strategies for the WCPO key tuna stocks. For skipjack tuna, South Pacific albacore tuna and the multispecies modelling framework, SC16 will provide advice and recommendations to the SPC and the Commission, as well as key findings and challenges.

4.2 Implementation of CMM 2018-01

4.2.1 Effectiveness of CMM 2018-01

The tropical tuna measure CMM 2018-01 (*CMM for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the WCPO*) will be annually reviewed to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect. This measure shall remain in effect until 10 February 2021.

The FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group (FAD IWG) is scheduled to hold its meeting alongside SC16. In addition to FAD data and FAD research related works, the following two issues are highlighted for the FAD IWG:

- a) Consider the report and recommendations of the 2nd Joint t-RFMO FAD Management Working Group and identify the merits and relevance for tropical tunas of those

- recommendations (Paragraph 366, WCPFC16 Report); and
- b) Develop guidelines on the implementation of non-entangling and/or biodegradable material on FADs (Paragraph 22, CMM 2018-01)

SC16 will review the effectiveness of the CMM and the progress report of the FAD IWG, and provide any findings and recommendations to the Commission for the revision of the CMM as needed.

4.2.2 Other commercial fisheries for bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin

The Commission tasked the SPC, in collaboration with Indonesia and the Philippines, to develop a paper containing all information on ‘other fisheries’ to be presented to SC16. SC16 will review and advise the Commission with the aim of reviewing paragraph 51 in CMM 2018-01 to ensure appropriate limits can be determined, measured and assessed in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (Paragraph 376, WCPFC16 Summary Report).

(CMM 2018-01)

51. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total catch of their respective other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tuna, but excluding those fisheries taking less than 2,000 tonnes of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack, shall not exceed either the average level for the period 2001-2004 or the level of 2004.

4.3 Other Matters

4.3.1 Management of Swordfish taken as Bycatch

At WCPFC16 in December 2019, the Commission tasked the Scientific Committee to consider a review of possible measures and options relevant to the management of swordfish taken as bycatch in longline fisheries (Paragraph 482, WCPFC16 Report). The review may include information from available research and literature, logbook and observer data. SC16 will consider the Australian report and provide recommendations to the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 5 FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

5.1 Development of the 2021 work programme and budget, and projection of 2022-2023 provisional work programme and indicative budget

SC16 will develop the 2021 SC work programme and budget and provisional work programme and indicative budget for 2022-2023 for the Commission’s endorsement. To draft the 2021 work programme, all conveners and relevant agencies will submit proposals to the SC Chair, who will coordinate an informal small group for discussion.

SC16 will note a recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee to the Commission (Para 71, FAC9 Summary Report) that “WCPFC12 task SC with carefully considering proposed scientific projects in the context of the indicative budget agreed for the coming year.”

AGENDA ITEM 6 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

6.1 Future operation of the Scientific Committee

SC16 will consider proposals for the efficient operation of the Scientific Committee, including streamlining of the agenda, rapporteuring, process of theme sessions, etc.

6.2 Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee

SC16 will confirm its Chair, Vice-Chair and theme conveners for SC17 meeting in 2021.

6.3 Next meeting

At SC15, Tonga offered to host in 2021, and Palau offered to serve as host in 2021 should circumstances prevent Tonga from hosting. Members are invited to confirm a time and venue for SC17 in 2021, and to propose a time and venue for SC18 in 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 7 OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Review of Online Discussion Forum outputs

SC16 will note the results of Online Discussion Forum and will take any action as needed.

AGENDA ITEM 8 ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

SC16 will adopt recommendations of the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee. The SC16 Summary Report will be adopted after the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9 CLOSE OF MEETING