



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

ELECTRONIC MEETING

12 – 19 August 2020

PROVISIONAL ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM TOPICS

WCPFC-SC16-2020/05 (Rev.03)

04 August 2020

The online discussion forum (<https://forum.wcpfc.int>) is established to facilitate discussions on some agenda items that were omitted from the SC16 abbreviated agenda but required acknowledgment by the SC16 to facilitate their progression in 2020. This website is accessed by any approved SC16 participants. Considering the overall disruptive impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the Commission, any substantive discussions and decisions related to topics here will be deferred to SC17. After the closure of the online forum, the Secretariat will produce an Information Paper that summarizes the exchanges on each Topic, which will be noted under the SC16 agenda item “Other Matters.” Any ‘non-controversial’ recommendations, i.e., not requiring any substantial discussions and negotiations, can be produced and endorsed under the SC16 agenda items either “Work Programme and Budget” or “Other Matters.”

This paper provides a list of topics for discussion on the online discussion forum. For the efficient Q&A process, all participants are requested to prefix a comment or question when starting your input as shown below for efficient response by the authors:

COMMENT: My comment on section 3.5 of the paper SC16-GN-IP-01 is ...

QUESTION: My question on section 3.5 of the paper SC16-GN-IP-01 is ...

For your information, the forum topics can be grouped as follows:

- Topics 18, 19, 20: Age and growth, bigeye and yellowfin tuna stock assessments. Any technical questions will be raised and responded prior to SC16 to efficiently facilitate the plenary discussion. The key points from the forum may be briefly noted when the stock assessment is presented in the plenary.
- Topics 3, 5, 13: Project research reports that require SC’s acceptance and continuation to year 2021 (Projects 60, 88, 90). Non-controversial recommendations (e.g., “This project will continue in 2021”) will be produced by the relevant convenors and endorsed under the agenda *Work Programme and Budget*.
- Topics 7, 11, 15: Project research reports that require SC’s acceptance to close the project in 2020 (Projects 97, 98, 103). If there are no objection on the report, then the project output is considered accepted, which will be noted under the agenda *Work Programme and Budget*.
- All other Topics cover discussions for future research or further progress of the Commission issues, which will be covered under agenda *Other Matters*.

LIST OF FORUM TOPICS

1. Review of the WCPO fisheries

- Task: The SC participants will review the WCPO fisheries report and ask questions or provide comments as needed.
- Responsibility: SPC and DS theme convenor

SC16-GN-IP-01	P. Williams and T. Ruaia. Overview of tuna fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, including economic conditions – 2019
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2. Use of cannery data

- Task: In responding to the SC15 recommendation related to cannery data, this paper invites SC16 to:
 - review the draft guidelines for voluntary submissions of processor (cannery) data to the Commission,
 - where necessary, provide revisions to the guidelines,
 - consider SC16 endorsement of the draft guidelines, and
 - agree to forward the draft guidelines to other WCPFC processes (e.g. TCC16) for further consideration.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-ST-IP-03	P. Williams. An update on cannery data with potential use to the WCPFC
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3. Species composition of purse-seine catches (Project 60)

- Task: The SC participants will review the progress of Project 60 in the aspect of Paragraphs 91-93 of the SC15 Summary Report and provide recommendations for the extension of Project 60 activities in 2021.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-ST-IP-04	T. Peatman, P. Williams, S. Nicol. Project 60: Progress towards achieving SC15 recommendations
SC16-ST-IP-05	T. Peatman. USA purse seine catch composition

4. Bycatch estimates of longline and purse seine

- Tasks
 - 1) SC14 recommended that the Scientific Services Provider continue the work on purse seine and longline bycatch estimates, and provide updates every 2-3 years (Paragraph 83, SC14 Summary Report). SC participants will review the calculated annual coefficients of variation for the CPUE data of various taxa collected from longline and purse seine observer data for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
 - 2) The SC participants will review an SPC report on fishery interactions data with cetaceans as requested by the Commission (Paragraph 521 below, WCPFC16 Summary Report), and provide comments if needed to further refine and finalize the report.

521. The Commission tasked the Scientific Services Provider to review available data to provide estimates of fishery interaction types and levels with cetaceans, without respect to particular flags, to the lowest possible taxonomic level, in the WCPF Convention Area, and to provide a report to the Scientific Committee for its review.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-ST-IP-11	T. Peatman and S. Nicol. Updated longline bycatch estimates in the WCPO
SC16-ST-IP-12	P. Williams, G. Pilling and S. Nicol. Available data on Cetacean interactions in the WCPFC longline and purse seine fisheries

5. Better size data for scientific analyses (Project 90)

- Task: The SC participants will review the progress of Project 90 and provide recommendations for the extension of Project 90 activities in 2021.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-ST-IP-06	J. Macdonald, P. Williams, C. Sanchez, E. Schneiter, M. Ghergariu, M. Hosken, A. Panizza, T. Park. Project 90 update: Better data on fish weights and lengths for scientific analyses
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6. Update on Streamlining of Annual Reporting initiatives

- Task: The SC participants will review a paper prepared by the Secretariat and the SPC-OFP that presents an update on and a summary of the CCM feedbacks received in response to the delivery of two streamlining of annual reporting initiatives that were first implemented in 2020: WCPFC Annual Catch and Effort Estimate (ACE) Tables and Annual Report Part 2. In addition, this paper also responds to the Commission's tasking for the Secretariat to prepare a paper in conjunction with SPC-OFP that reviews the experiences and outcomes of the trial ACE Tables and its cost and resources implications for SC16 and TCC16 consideration and advice to WCPFC17.
- Responsibility: SPC and WCPFC

SC16-GN-IP-07	Secretariat and SPC-OFP. Update on streamlining of annual reporting initiatives
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7. Bomb radiocarbon otolith age validation (Project 98)

- Task: The SC participants will review the results of an experts workshop on the feasibility of applying the bomb radiocarbon technique to the validation of annual age counts on otoliths of tunas from the WCPO, and communicate questions and comments if needed to further refine and finalize the project report.
- Responsibility: CSIRO

SC16-SA-IP-17	Jessica Farley, Allen Andrews, Naomi Clear, John Hampton, Taiki Ishihara, Kyne Krusic-Golub, Jed MacDonald, Kei Okamoto, Keisuke Satoh, Ashley Williams. Report on the bomb radiocarbon age validation workshop for tuna and billfish in the WCPO
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8. Review of indicators paper

- Task: The SC participants will review a compendium of fishery indicators for all key target tuna species not having full stock assessments in 2020, and communicate questions and comments as needed.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-SA-WP-01	S. Hare, G. Pilling, P. Williams. A compendium of fisheries indicators for target tuna stocks in the WCPFC Convention Area
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9. Mobulid rays

- Task: The SC participants will review SPC’s report on data requirements for stock assessment of mobulid rays and communicate questions and comments as needed on the feasibility and schedule for an assessment for mobulid rays (Paragraphs 515-516, WCPFC16 Summary Report).
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-SA-IP-12	Laura Tremblay-Boyer, Katrin Berkenbusch. Data review and potential assessment approaches for Mobulids in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
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10. Southwest Pacific striped marlin stock projections

- Task: The SC participants will review and communicate questions and comments on the results of stochastic stock projections to evaluate the potential long-term performance of the CMM 2006-04 (*CMM for striped marlin in the Southwest Pacific*), including the extension of the geographic scope of the CMM and assuming average fishing effort during 2000-2004 by CCMs and zero fishing mortality in assessment region 1 (Para 341, SC15 Summary Report).
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-SA-IP-13	S. Hare, P. Hamer, G. Pilling. Southwest Pacific striped marlin stock projections to evaluate CMM 2004-06
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11. Limit reference points for WCPO elasmobranchs (Project 103)

- Task: The SC participants will review the results of Project 103 (*LRPs for elasmobranchs within the WCPFC*) and communicate questions and comments.
- Responsibility: CSIRO

SC16-MI-IP-21	Shijie Zhou, Matthew Dunn, Ashely Williams. Appropriate reference points for WCPO elasmobranchs.
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12. Limit reference points for South Pacific Striped Marlin

- Task: At WCPFC16, the Commission noted with concern the current status of South Pacific striped marlin and agreed to revisit identification of an appropriate limit reference point for this species in 2020 at WCPFC17 (Para 459, WCPFC16 Summary Report). SC participants will consider the process of developing an appropriate LRP for Southwest Pacific striped marlin and will review any terms of reference proposed for a project for recommendation to WCPFC17.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-MI-IP-12	P. Hamer and G. Pilling. Terms of Reference for a project to identify appropriate Limit Reference Points for Southwest Pacific Ocean striped marlin and consideration of other billfish species
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13. Acoustic FAD analysis (Project 88)

- Task: The objective of the acoustic FAD analysis (2020 – 2021) is to identify whether acoustic buoys on drifting FADs could provide new fishery independent data for stock assessments (e.g. indices of abundance), and whether limiting sets to only those FADs that have a large biomass beneath them can reduce the levels of small bigeye and yellowfin caught. The SC participants will review the research outputs, and provide recommendations for the extension of Project 88 activities in 2021.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-MI-IP-20	L. Escalle, B. Vanden Heuvel, R. Clarke, G. Pilling. Updates on Project 88: FAD acoustics analyses
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14. Management of swordfish as bycatch

- Task: 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.
- Responsibility: Australia

SC16-MI-IP-22	Darci Wallis, Don Bromhead, Trent Timmiss, James Larcombe, Kerrie Robertson, Mat Kertesz. A review of potential options for managing swordfish taken as bycatch in longline fisheries
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15. Shark Research Plan for 2021 – 2025 (Project 97)

- Task: The SC participants will review the results of Project 97 and communicate questions and comments to refine and finalize the project report.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-EB-IP-01	S. Brouwer and P. Hamer. 2021-2025 Shark Research Plan
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16. Effectiveness of CMM 2018-01

- Task: Noting the scope of updates in SC16-MI-IP-23, SC16 will provide comments on the current progress and advice for future updates after the adoption of updated assessments for bigeye and yellowfin in 2020.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-MI-IP-23	G.M. Pilling, P. Hamer, P. Williams and J. Hampton. Evaluation of CMM 2018-01 for tropical tuna
SC16-MI-IP-19	WCPFC Secretariat and SPC. Catch and effort tables on tropical tuna CMMs
SC16-MI-IP-13	L. Escalle, T. Vidal, S. Hare, P. Hamer, G. Pilling and the PNA Office. Estimates of the number of FAD deployments and active FADs per vessel in the WCPO
SC16-MI-IP-14	L. Escalle, B. Muller, S. Hare, P. Hamer, G. Pilling and the PNA Office. Report on analyses of the 2016/2020 PNA FAD tracking programme
SC16-MI-IP-15	T. Vidal, P. Hamer, M. Wichman., and the PNAO. Examining Indicators of Technological and Effort Creep in the WCPO Purse Seine Fishery
SC16-MI-IP-16	Marino-O-Te-Au Wichman, Tiffany Vidal, Paul Hamer. Purse Seine Effort Creep Research Plan

SC16-EB-IP-02	Lauriane Escalle, Steven Hare, Andrew Hunt, Chloé Faure, Kydd Pollock, Tiare-Renee Nicholas, Mainui Tanetoa, Jamel James, Beau Bigler and Graham Pilling. In-country initiatives to collect data on beached and lost drifting FADs, towards a regional database of in-situ data
SC16-EB-IP-03	Naiten Bradley Phillip Jr. and Lauriane Escalle. Updated evaluation of drifting FAD construction materials in the WCPO
SC16-EB-IP-08	G. Moreno, J. Salvador, J. Murua, N. B. Phillip Jr., H. Murua, L. Escalle, B. Ashigbui, I. Zudaire, G. Pilling, V. Restrepo. A multidisciplinary approach to build new designs of biodegradable Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

17. Other commercial fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack

- Task: 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.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-MI-IP-17	PH-NFRDI, PH-BFAR, SPC-OFP. Availability of catch estimates from the other commercial fisheries in the Philippines
SC16-MI-IP-18	ID-MMAF and SPC-OFP. Availability of catch estimates from the other commercial fisheries in Indonesia

18. Age and growth for bigeye and yellowfin tuna

- Task: SC16 will review the project final report for the provision of robust age and growth estimates, and raise any technical questions before the plenary to facilitate discussions and reduce the virtual meeting time at SC16.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-SA-WP-02	J. Farley, K. Krusic-Golub, P. Eveson, N. Clear, F. Roupsard, C. Sanchez, S. Nicol, J. Hampton. Age and growth of yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean from otoliths
SC16-SA-IP-03	P. Eveson, M. Vincent, J. Farley, K. Krusic-Golub, J. Hampton. Integrated growth models from otolith and tagging data for yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean

19. Bigeye tuna stock assessment for 2020

- Task: The SC participants will review the working and information papers related to the 2020 bigeye tuna assessment and raise any technical questions before the plenary to facilitate discussions and reduce the virtual meeting time at SC16.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-SA-WP-03	N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent, J. Hampton, P. Hamer, P. Williams, G. Pilling. Stock assessment of bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-04	T. Peatman. Analysis of tag seeding data and reporting rates for purse seine fleets
SC16-SA-IP-05	J. Scutt Phillips, T. Peatman, M. Vincent, S. Nicol. Analysis of tagging data for the 2020 tropical tuna assessments: tagger and condition effects
SC16-SA-IP-06	N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent. Background analyses for the 2020 stock assessments of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-07	N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent, T. Vidal. Analysis of Pacific-wide operational longline dataset for bigeye and yellowfin tuna catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE)
SC16-SA-IP-18	T. Peatman, N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent. Analysis of purse seine and longline size frequency data for bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the WCPO

20. Yellowfin tuna stock assessment for 2020

- Task: The SC participants will review the working and information papers related to the 2020 yellowfin tuna assessment and raise any technical questions before the plenary to facilitate discussions and reduce the virtual meeting time at SC16.
- Responsibility: SPC

SC16-SA-WP-04	M. Vincent, N. Ducharme Barth, J. Hampton, P. Hamer, P. Williams, G. Pilling. Stock assessment of yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-04	T. Peatman. Analysis of tag seeding data and reporting rates for purse seine fleets
SC16-SA-IP-05	J. Scutt Phillips, T. Peatman, M. Vincent, S. Nicol. Analysis of tagging data for the 2020 tropical tuna assessments: tagger and condition effects
SC16-SA-IP-06	N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent. Background analyses for the 2020 stock assessments of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean
SC16-SA-IP-07	N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent, T. Vidal. Analysis of Pacific-wide operational longline dataset for bigeye and yellowfin tuna catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE)
SC16-SA-IP-08	Vidal, T., P. Hamer. Developing yellowfin tuna recruitment indices from drifting FAD purse seine catch and effort data.

SC16-SA-IP-18	T. Peatman, N. Ducharme Barth, M. Vincent. Analysis of purse seine and longline size frequency data for bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the WCPO
SC16-SA-IP-19	Keith Bigelow, Elaine Garvilles, Lilian Garcia, Suzette Barcoma and Maria Angelica Cecilio. Relative abundance of yellowfin tuna for the purse seine and handline fisheries operating in the Philippines Moro Gulf (Region 12) and High Seas Pocket #1.

21. [Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment in 2020](#)

- Task: The SC participants will review the ISC’s 2020 Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment paper and raise any technical questions before the plenary to facilitate discussions at SC16.
- Responsibility: ISC

SC16-SA-WP-06	ISC. Stock Assessment of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Pacific Ocean in 2020
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