



WPEA-ITM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

15 November 2021 – Online

Meeting Report

1. Opening of the meeting

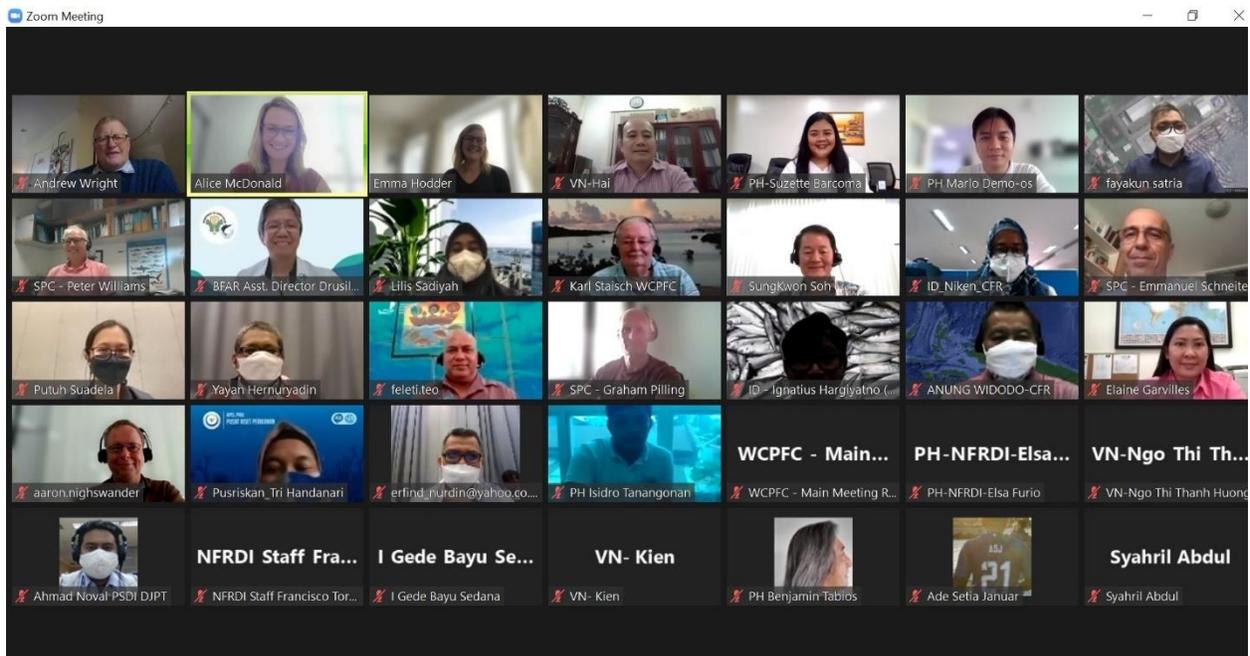
The WCPFC Executive Director, Mr Feleti Teo, opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates from the three participating countries (Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam) as well as SPC, WCPFC Secretariat and other experts, and thanking them for their contribution to the WPEA-ITM Activity in 2021.

The Executive Director expressed appreciation for the no-cost extension granted by New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZ MFAT) allowing an additional 12 months to undertake activities and utilize project funds. He also thanked the Mid Term Evaluation consultant, Mr Drew Wright, noting that the draft report clearly recognises the benefits being delivered by the project, including continued improvements to the quantity and quality of tuna data in the East Asia region.

Acknowledging the ongoing COVID-19 related disruptions in 2021, Mr Teo thanked the partner countries for their continued implementation of critical project activities, including data collection and analysis, and thanked SPC for their invaluable support. He also commended the successful completion of the Annual Catch Estimates workshops in all three countries, highlighting that the 10th ACE workshop in Vietnam in 2021 marked an important milestone for ACE workshops in Vietnam. The Executive Director finished by highlighting the benefits of these improvements to tuna fisheries science and management at national and regional levels.

Emma Hodder, NZ MFAT, also welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked the participating countries for their continued commitment to this very important work. Ms Hodder noted that MFAT had been impressed with the tangible results that the activities had been able to deliver in 2021, despite the limitations imposed by COVID. She thanked both SPC and WCPFC for their continued support for the Activity. She also thanked the Mid Term Evaluation consultant for the draft report, noting that it showed evidence of what the Activity had achieved, and also highlighted potential areas for improvement.

The meeting was co-Chaired by Mr Teo and Ms Hodder, a full list of participants is provided at Attachment 1, and a group photo is provided below.



2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted, as provided in Attachment 2. The agenda was supported by a Draft WPEA-ITM 2022 Workplan and Budget (excel spreadsheet) and the Draft Mid Term Evaluation Report which were circulated to all participants in advance of the meeting.

3. Review of 2021 Activities

3.1 Progress of the WPEA-ITM Project

The Project Manager, Alice McDonald, presented an overview of WPEA-ITM progress in 2021. She highlighted the no-cost extension granted by NZ MFAT that would now allow an additional year for expenditure of the budget and implementation of project activities to continue through to March 2023.

She recalled the Steering Committee meeting in November 2020 where project partners agreed to an annual workplan for 2021 with an associated budget of USD 1,041,745. Unfortunately, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic meant that travel, training and meetings continued to be disrupted, resulting in the cancellation or postponement of a number of planned activities. However, she highlighted that critical data collection and catch estimates activities were able to continue, and a number of workshops were able to be held through a combination of in-person and online formats. As such, substantive improvements to data quantity and quality was still made despite the challenging circumstances, thanks to the commitment of national agencies.

The Project Manager noted that expenditure for the Activity in 2021 was expected to be close to USD 600,000, which is around USD 440,000 less than the agreed budget. While underspend occurred in all project Outputs, progress under most outputs was possible through a

combination of domestic activities, online forums and remote support. However, progress on Output 3 (observer programs) in particular was compromised, as it was in 2020, as most activities could not be conducted and remote options were not practical. Reinvigorating activity in this area should therefore be a key focus area for 2022 and beyond. The Project Manager also highlighted an overspend of the budget in Output 5, which reflected the increasing IT and database needs resulting from the greater reliance on online connectivity due to the pandemic.

The Project Manager thanked national colleagues for maintaining momentum towards improving tuna data and monitoring despite the clear challenges and restrictions. In conclusion she asked that the Steering Committee consider further options to modify and adapt the workplan to reflect the changed working environment, and to also consider the recommendations of the Mid Term Evaluation in shaping future years activities.

3.2 SPC's Report and Recommendations

SPC Principal Fisheries Scientist, Peter Williams, provided a report on SPCs WPEA-ITM work in 2021. Regular activities carried out in 2021 included supporting the data audit reviews, annual catch estimates workshops, database development and data management. Other activities in 2021 included the refinement of estimates for other commercial fisheries, as submitted to TCC and SC, and completion of the new Philippines database system. SPC also supported WPEA partner countries to meet their WCPFC reporting obligations and assisted with a number of other training and ad hoc workshops, including the Indonesian handline workshop.

SPC advised that in 2022 they plan to continue their support for these standing commitments, as well as data management capacity building for CFR IT staff in Indonesia, continued support with Tufman 2 implementation in Vietnam, and potentially observer planning and training workshops. A priority activity in 2022 will be assisting with implementation of the new NSAP database system, including the development of a mobile app and training of regional BFAR staff. A number of other activities may be possible in 2022 including workshops in Indonesia to improve longline fishery data, large-fish handline fishery estimates and shark species reporting, as well as workshops in Vietnam on Tufman 2 and data analysis.

Mr Williams advised that SPC is also considering potential activities to support capacity building in harvest strategies. In discussion, Indonesia stated that they would strongly support harvest strategy capacity building activities, and encouraged it to be built into the agenda for a tri-country workshop.

3.3 Country Report and Recommendations

3.3.1 Indonesia

Dr Fayakun Satria provided an update on WPEA-ITM and tuna data monitoring activities in Indonesia in 2021. Highlights included support for the handline fisheries workshop, port sampling program in Bitung and Sorong, the annual catch estimates and other commercial fisheries workshops.

Recommendations for activities in 2022 included a workshop for the evaluation and implementation of the NTMP, continued support for enumerators and data entry, port sampling audit and supervision, shark data workshop, database development and capacity building, and a number of observer training and planning activities. It was also noted that all of Indonesia's research institutions are to be merged in to the National Research Innovation Agency (BRIN) in 2022.

3.3.2 Philippines

Ms Suzette Barcoma presented an update on WPEA-ITM activities in the Philippines in 2021. Activities included the 12th WPEA-NSAP Tuna Data Review workshop, the 14th Annual Catch Estimates Review Workshop, the development of an Operational Guide for Filipino Fishermen, port sampling data collection, distribution of life jackets to fisherfolk and further development of the NSAP Database System. In 2022, the Philippines suggested the continued conduct of port sampling and annual tuna catch estimates review workshops, updating the Operational Guide for Filipino Fishermen, and continued participation in the work of the WCPFC. In addition, they supported continued collaboration with SPC, in particular in upgrading the NSAP database system, and training on the new system to strengthen data collection and management.

3.3.3 Vietnam

Dr Vu Duyen Hai presented an overview of progress of WPEA-ITM activities in 2021 in Vietnam and a plan for 2022. The WPEA supported a number of activities in Vietnam in 2021, including the 10th annual ACE workshop, support for enumerators, and the purchase of an online conference system. Activities that were progressed in 2021 but are still ongoing included the development of a legal framework to establish a professional observer program, the publication of a manual of data collection for tuna fisheries management, development of the national database, translation and printing of tuna data collection documents, and a training workshop on data analysis. A number of other activities that had been planned were not possible or postponed due to COVID related disruptions.

A key lesson learnt in 2021 was that the data collection system was improved by getting greater involvement from local ports. In 2022 Vietnam is planning a number of national activities including a workshop on quota-based management approach, developing the 2021-2025 National Tuna Management Plan, and training in data analysis, data collection, data entry, and various observer workshops and training activities. Vietnam also supports the inclusion of regular activities (such as ACE and enumerators) in the WPEA budget for 2022.

4. WPEA-ITM Mid-Term Evaluation

The Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) consultant, Mr Drew Wright, presented a summary of the evaluation findings to the Steering Committee. Key findings included a strong level of national ownership and direct relevance of the Activity to national initiatives, the NZ international engagement strategy, and the work of the WCPFC. It was recognised that the Activity had

experienced a stuttered start, but the choice of the WCPFC Secretariat as the implementing agency and SPC as a partner, had benefited the efficiency of the Activity's implementation.

The evaluation found that the Activity had supported the three participating countries to improve their national systems and processes, to meet their data obligations and to improve the quality and scope of data provided to the Commission. These, together with a number of additional impacts, had built national capacity, improved the data available to the Commission, and reduced uncertainties in the data available for WCPFC stock assessments.

The MTE had noted that there had been constraints on the implementation of the Activity, including the lack of an inception plan and the COVID-10 pandemic. These constraints had contributed to a lower level of disbursement than anticipated and the consultant considered the full expenditure of the Activity budget was unlikely to occur by March 2023.

The evaluation made a number of administrative and operational recommendations for consideration by the Steering Committee. Given that the project end was nearing, the evaluation recommended that an extension beyond March 2023 be considered, and recommended the preparation of exit strategies for each country, and planning for support of critical activities beyond the WPEA-ITM.

In discussion, MFAT thanked the consultant and noted that they were happy with the report and would carefully consider the recommendations. They noted that the recommendation for a further no cost extension would need to be reviewed on the basis of the budget and spending in 2022. The WCPFC Executive Director also thanked the consultant for the very thorough and useful report, and noted that an intersessional process may be needed to consider a further no cost extension.

Action: Consultant to finalise the draft MTE report and provide to the Project Manager for circulation to project partners.

Action: Project Manager to consider the recommendations within the MTE report and incorporate key actions into the workplan and budget for 2022 and beyond.

5. Workplan and Budget for 2022

5.1 New initiatives or amendments to planned activities in 2022

Participants discussed the draft 2022 workplan and budget, which was circulated to participants in an excel spreadsheet ("WPEA-ITM DRAFT 2022 Workplan and Budget v2 12Nov21.xlsx") prior to the meeting. This draft incorporated some rollover of unspent 2021 funds to support postponed activities in 2022. It also proposed a number of new activities for 2022, which were developed in consultation with national coordinators as well as on the basis of recommendations from the Mid Term Evaluation report. The draft proposed a total budget for 2022 of USD 1,162,470, which was within the USD 1,542,189 of funds available for the remainder of the Activity through to March 2023.

Activities in the workplan for 2022 were reviewed and endorsed in principle, with a number of changes adopted during the discussions. The Project Manager agreed to adjust the document in

accordance with the discussion, and to refine the budget for some new activities in consultation with national coordinators and SPC. A revised version of the workplan and budget would then be circulated to the Steering Committee.

Action: Project Manager to revise the draft workplan and budget in consultation with national coordinators and SPC, and circulate to the Steering Committee for out of session approval.

5.2 Budget implications of (a) Implementation of the 2021 workplan, and (b) New activities proposed in 5.1

The Project manager advised that the total expenditure in 2021 was expected to be just under USD 600,000 (noting that there were some expenditure planned for December that was yet to be confirmed). This would amount to an underspend of the planned 2021 budget of around USD 440,000.

Due to the limited time available, the budget implications of new activities proposed in the discussion under agenda item 5.1 will be calculated and considered by the Steering Committee out of session.

5.3 Review and endorse the 2022 Workplan and Budget

Due to the limited time available, a revised 2022 workplan and budget will be circulated by the Project Manager to the Steering Committee, for review and endorsement out of session.

6. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed, however it was noted that there remained a number of matters to be considered by the Steering Committee out of session, including:

1. Final report of the WPEA-ITM Mid-term Evaluation
2. Adoption of the Steering Committee Report
3. Annual progress report, including full 2021 expenditure report and project management issues (including an updated risk matrix)

7. Close of Meeting

The co-chairs thanked all participants for their contribution to the Steering Committee deliberations and the meeting was closed at 4pm (Pohnpei time) on 15th November 2021.

Attachment 1. Participant List

Indonesia Delegation		
Trian Yunanda	Director of Fish Resources Management	DGCF
Ade Setia Januar	Capture Fisheries Production Management	DGCF
Putuh Suadela	Capture Fisheries Production Management Senior Officer	DGCF
Syahril Abdul Raup	Capture Fisheries Production Management Senior Officer	DGCF
Yayan Hernuryadin	Capture Fisheries Production Management	DGCF
Yayan Hikmayani	Director	CFR
Anung Widodo	Senior Scientist	CFR
Dr Fayakun Satria	Senior Scientist	CFR
Dr Lilis Sadiyah	Senior Scientist	CFR
Ignatius Tri Hargiyatno	Scientist	CFR
Niken Winarsih	Subcoordinator for Marine Fisheries Research	CFR
Prof. Dr. Wudianto	Senior Scientist	CFR
Tri Handanari	Coordinator for Capture Fisheries Research	CFR
Erfind Nurdin		
Philippines Delegation		
Dr. Lilian C. Garcia	Acting Executive Director	NFRDI
Elsa F. Furio		NFRDI
Francisco Torres Jr.	Science Research Specialist	NFRDI
Ms. Suzette Barcoma	Science Research Specialist II	NFRDI
Drusila Esther E. Bayate	Assistant Director for Research, Regulations and International Engagements	BFAR
Benjamin F.S. Tabios Jr.	Attorney V	BFAR
Isidro Tanangonan	Aquaculturalist I	BFAR
Jennifer Viron	Senior Fishing Regulations Officer	BFAR
Marlo Demo-os	Aquaculturalist II	BFAR
Rafael Ramiscal	Chief, Capture Fisheries Division	BFAR
Ahmad Noval		
Vietnam Delegation		
Mr. Nguyen Quang Hung	Deputy Director General	DFISH
Mr. Pham Ngoc Tuan	Deputy Director of Capture Fisheries Department	DFISH
Mr Vu Duyen Hai	National Manager	DFISH
Mr. Nguyen Dang Kien	Capture Fisheries Department	DFISH
Ms. Ngo Thanh Huong	Official of Department of Science, technology and International Cooperation	DFISH
Partner Organisations		
Joanna Anderson	Unit Manager - Pacific Ocean and Fisheries	MFAT
Emma Hodder	Foreign Policy Officer	MFAT
Graham Pilling	Deputy Director FAME (OFP)	SPC
Peter Williams	Principal Fisheries Scientist	SPC

Andrew Hunt	Data Analyst	SPC
Emmanuel Schneiter	Regional Fisheries Data Manager	SPC
Drew Wright	Mid term Evaluation Consultant	
Feleti Teo	Executive Director	WCPFC
SungKwon Soh	Science Manager	WCPFC
Elaine Garvilles	Assistant Manager - Science	WCPFC
Aaron Nighswander	Finance and Administration Manager	WCPFC
Karl Staisch	WCPFC Observer Program	WCPFC
Alice McDonald	WPEA Project Manager	WCPFC

Participation: 43 attendees (15 female, 28 male)

Attachment 2. Meeting Agenda

Western Pacific East Asia Improved Tuna Monitoring Activity (WPEA-ITM)

WPEA-ITM STEERING COMMITTEE

Online Meeting

Monday, 15 November 2021

12-2pm & 2.30-4pm (Pohnpei, FSM time)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

NZ MFAT and WCPFC will provide brief opening remarks. The Executive Director and the NZ MFAT representative will co-chair the meeting and the Project Manager will act as rapporteur.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. REVIEW OF 2021 ACTIVITIES

3.1. Progress of the WPEA-ITM Project

The Project Manager will provide a brief summary of progress with implementation of the Activity in 2021, including an update on the 2021 budget expenditure to date.

3.2. SPC's Report and Recommendations

SPC will provide a brief verbal report of their progress in 2021, including challenges and successes, and provide recommendations for the 2022 Workplan and Budget.

3.3. Country Report and Recommendations

Each country will provide a brief summary of their activities and challenges in implementing the 2021 Workplan, and provide recommendations for implementation of the Activity in 2022. The Steering Committee will review their progress and provide advice and comments for future implementation.

- 3.3.1. Indonesia
- 3.3.2. Philippines
- 3.3.3. Vietnam

4. WPEA-ITM MID-TERM EVALUATION

The Consultant undertaking the Mid-term Evaluation of the WPEA-ITM Activity will present the draft report for discussion and feedback from the Steering Committee. The final report will be distributed and posted on the WCPFC-WPEA website.

5. WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2022

The Project Manager will present the Draft 2022 Workplan and Budget, including any new initiatives and amendments. The participating countries will review the Draft in advance and comments for discussion with the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will finalise and adopt the 2022 Workplan and Budget.

- 5.1. New initiatives or amendments to planned activities in 2022
- 5.2. Budget implications of:
 - a) Implementation of the 2021 workplan, and
 - b) New activities proposed in 5.1.
- 5.3. Review and endorse the 2022 Workplan and Budget
(Note: in the case of significant amendment to the Draft 2022 Workplan and Budget, endorsement may take place out of session).

6. OTHER MATTERS

- 6.1. Matters to be considered out-of-session:
 - a. Final report of the WPEA-ITM Mid-term Evaluation
 - b. Adoption of the Steering Committee Report
A draft will be circulated and finalized within one month of the meeting.
 - c. Annual progress report, including full 2021 expenditure report and project management issues (including updated risk matrix).
A draft Annual progress report will be prepared in early 2022 and circulated for contribution and review by the Steering Committee.

6.2. Any other matters

7. CLOSE OF MEETING