



WWF

FACTSHEET

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GLOBAL MARINE PROGRAMME

SP-ALB TRP CMM: AIMING FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

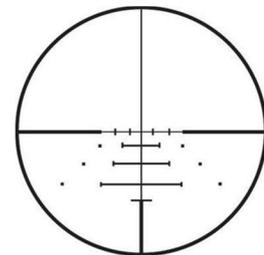
Justifying support for the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) proposal for a Target Reference Point (TRP) Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for South Pacific albacore (SP-ALB) in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).

What is a Target Reference Point?

A TRP is defined by single (or small set) of measurable fishery indicators such as fishing mortality rate, yield, or stock biomass that are used to judge if the current state of the fishery is desirable.

A TRP incorporates biological, ecological, social, and economic considerations. It should never be lower than the Limit Reference Point (LRP) and should be sufficiently higher to ensure managers have a buffer to account for information that is uncertain.

A TRP is often expressed as a percentage of a measurable fishery indicator. In this case, it is proposed as forty five per cent (45% or 0.45) of the estimated recent average spawning biomass (SB) that would have been available if there had been no fishing at all ($F=0$), or $0.45SB_{F=0}$.



$0.45SB_{F=0}$

Why use a Target Reference Point?



Despite measures to cap or reduce it over the past decade, longline effort and fishing mortality have increased and the SP-ALB biomass has declined leading to greatly reduced catch per unit effort (CPUE) and reduced profitability of the longline fishery. Therefore, previous measures have proven ineffective and additional measures are necessary.

The adoption of a TRP represents a critical step in maintaining the health and sustainability of the SP-ALB stock, and, in turn, the commercial fisheries and shore-based processing plants that depend on it, by setting a benchmark by which to measure success. A central goal of this effort is to bring the SP-ALB stock back to a level consistent with successful biological and economic conditions experienced during the 2007-2008 fishing season.

Key Element of the Proposed SP-ALB TRP CMM

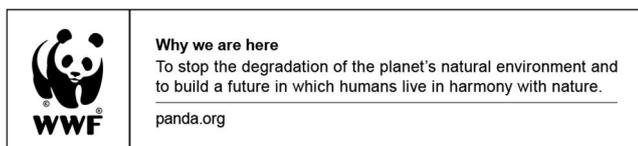
The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopts a TRP of 45 per cent of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing ($0.45SB_{F=0}$) for SP-ALB.

Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Support the SP-ALB TRP CMM

1. It is consistent with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the WCPFC Convention by which all members are bound.
2. It has been exhaustively researched and analysed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).
3. It is necessary to achieve a specific condition under all SP-ALB Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certifications.
4. It is consistent with successful biological and economic conditions of the fishery in 2007-2008 when all fleets were operating successfully.
5. It is conservative, responsible, and precautionary, as it should be for an important stock that is considered essential to many members.
6. It securely ensures sustainability of the stock because it is set to achieve a biomass sufficiently higher than the LRP as well as that needed to support the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).
7. It is consistent with the prior action of the WCPFC to set a TRP according to biological, social, and economic factors in the WCPO skipjack tuna purse seine fishery.
8. It constitutes a necessary component of an effective Harvest Strategy, is consistent with the timeline presented in the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Policy, and the TRP will form a basis for further management measures under the Tokelau Arrangement.
9. It provides an important step in avoiding additional impacts on other stocks affected by fisheries targeting SP-ALB, especially bigeye and yellowfin tuna.
10. The level of catch associated with the TRP will eventually achieve *stability* in the fishery by returning catch and effort levels to a time at which all fleets were operating profitably.



WARNING: As a simple *indicator* associated with an agreed management objective, a TRP alone does not ensure the target will be met! Strong monitoring, control, and surveillance mechanisms must be in place to not only properly implement management measures and ensure compliance, but also to ensure that the appropriate information is collected and incorporated into stock assessments. You cannot know if you are achieving the target (*i.e.*, your objectives) if you do not have the information to indicate where the stock level is in relation to the TRP.



For more information

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