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INDICATIVE WORK PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF HARVEST STRATEGIES UNDER CMM 2022-03

WCPFC20-2023-HS Workplan_Rev01
7 December 2023

Prepared by Australia

- The first Harvest Strategy Workplan was developed in 2015 in accordance with CMM2014-06 (now superseded by CMM 2022-03). It set out a deliberately ambitious schedule of technical work and Commission decision making for the development of harvest strategies across the four key tuna stocks. The workplan was always intended to be a living document and has been updated annually to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments.
- It is acknowledged that delays in the execution of the workplan may occur, noting the complexity of developing harvest strategies for multiple species within the multilateral WCPFC environment as well as the capacity of member CCMs to understand and participate fully in the process. For this reason, all parties are cautioned against an expectation that harvest strategy elements will be completed in specific years. Completion dates have changed in the past and may change in the future.
- This workplan simply schedules decisions noting that it is the Commission’s decision as to their interim nature. It is important to understand the implications of single species management procedures within a multi-species fishery context upon application of any of the management procedures.
- There is a very important need for capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process and ultimately to have confidence that an adopted harvest strategy is an agreeable balance of their objectives. This is particularly so as the Commission starts to consider the multispecies nature of the fishery and how management procedures will interact.
- For clarity and consistency, the term “Management Procedure” is used from 2020 onward in this workplan in place of the term “Harvest Control Rule (HCR)”. A Management Procedure is a key part of a Harvest Strategy comprising a more formal specification of data collection, the associated estimation model (e.g. the estimation of stock status through an analytical or empirical method) together with a Harvest Control Rule. Together these clearly define what management actions are to be made in response to changes in the stock or fishery condition.

2023 Update

- The technical progress of the Scientific Services Provider included the running of the skipjack management procedure and drafting of the skipjack monitoring strategy, refinement of the MSE framework for South Pacific albacore in accordance with the recommendations of the SMD01 and Commission, and the continued development of the mixed fishery harvest strategy framework for WCPO tuna stocks. Harvest strategy capacity building workshops were also conducted, with further refinement of the online capacity building material.
- The indicative plan has been extended for an additional year to 2027.
- An interim TRP for South Pacific albacore was agreed by WCPFC20.
- Adoption of a management procedure for South Pacific albacore remains scheduled for 2024. However, WCPFC20 also recognised the clear potential for this to be delayed until 2025 noting the possible modification of the operating model reference set following the 2024 stock assessment and reflecting concerns around retrospective bias and short term projected downward trends in biomass (the 'big dip'). Further, it is noted that the SSP was assigned additional taskings by WCPFC20 (examination of effort-based SPA MPs and exploration of alternative candidate TRPs) and undertaking the complete range of SPA and other analyses to support the 2024 meeting sequence will be challenging.
- For bigeye and yellowfin tuna, adoption of a management procedure was moved from 2025 to 2026 to avoid the subsequent running of these management procedures in the same year their respective stock assessments are scheduled. In accordance with this change, several other changes to the plan were made in the years prior to 2026 for these two stocks.

Within the tables below, progress in earlier years is in grey. Bold items are the six elements that are referred to in CMM 14-06/22-03 (a. Objectives, b. Reference Points, c. Acceptable Levels of Risk, d. Monitoring, e. Harvest Control Rules/Management Procedure and f. MSE). Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development and so are part of the plan but are not one of these six elements.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2022	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. 	<p>Complete review of the Target Reference Point.</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. <p>Commission review and adopt a management procedure.</p> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC18]</p>	<p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential management procedures. <p>[YFT peer review. Relevant to BET operating models.]</p>	<p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential management procedures. <p>[YFT peer review. Relevant to operating models.]</p>
	<p>Progress Summary: The first Science Management Dialogue was held in August 2022 and the meeting page (https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/smd01) provides a set of papers and analyses that summarize progress.</p>			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2023	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b). Commission agree a TRP for South Pacific albacore</p> <p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). 	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p>SC provide advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy (d).</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <p>[Continue development of multispecies framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. • Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC19]</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2024	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice for review Target Reference Point • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy(d). • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC20]</p> <p>Commission review and adopt a management procedure. ¹</p>	<p>[SC consider multispecies aspects of WCPO harvest strategies and implications for the monitoring strategy]</p> <p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for bigeye 	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <p>[Continue development of mixed fishery framework]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Point. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. <p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin.

¹ The Commission recognised that there are technical considerations that may delay this MP adoption by one year to 2025 with delays to subsequent decisions.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2025	<p>SC provides advice on the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>Commission reviews and adopts the monitoring strategy(d)</p> <p>[SPA-IWG plan: Adopted management procedure is <u>run</u> for the first time.]</p>		<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. 	<p>Develop management procedures (e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC agree the operating models for MSE. • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2026	[SPA-IWG plan: Adopted management procedure <u>implemented</u> for the first time.]		<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Commission ADOPT a management procedure.</p>	<p>Develop management procedures(e) and Management strategy evaluation(f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures. • SC provides advice on relevant elements of the monitoring strategy. • TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures. • Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures. <p>Commission ADOPT a management procedure.</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2027			SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)	SC provides advice for the Commission's agreement of the monitoring strategy(d)