

TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE (DCC)

Terms of Reference 2016 - 2020

Purpose

The DCC supports the sustainable management and economic development of tuna fisheries in the Pacific Region through the improvement of the data standards, data processes and data quality that underpin the science, compliance and the provision of technical advice by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to its respective members.

Membership

The primary membership of DCC will be the SPC and the FFA.

The value of the services provided by the DCC will be greatly enhanced by the permanent involvement of key stakeholders who will partner with the DCC. These include the SPC / FFA Members, the secretariats of WCPFC and SPREP the TVM Coordinator, and the PNA Office.

The DCC may invite participants from a broad range of other stakeholders including, but not limited to: other RFMO secretariats, WCPFC members, fishing and seafood industry members, ENGOs, service providers and other expertise-based groups or individuals.

Roles and Responsibilities

To achieve the purpose of the DCC its core role is in developing the data collection framework for the use of rapidly emerging technologies, including electronic monitoring and electronic reporting. Critical to this is to maintain the existing paper-based framework for data collection, especially during the transition period.

The core responsibilities of the DCC are to enhance science, compliance and technical advice on tuna fisheries in the Pacific Region through:

1. **Definition** of standards and processes for:
 - Catch and effort logbooks
 - Observer programmes
 - Port sampling
 - Catch Landings Monitoring (including unloadings at port and at sea)
 - MCS activities (e.g. registration and boarding)
 - Current and future fisheries management schemes (e.g. vessel day schemes and catch management schemes)
 - Other areas as required

Recognising that Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data and a few key licencing fields (e.g. UVI, registration etc.) are critical and consistently required for each of the above

2. Review / Advise / Inform on:
 - Data standards, processes, compatibility, duplication and overall efficiency of all of the above activities.

The secondary role of the DCC is, as required, to:

3. Review / Advise / Inform to the broad range of WCPO tuna fishery stakeholders on data standards, compatibility, duplication and overall efficiency with respect to:
 - Catch and effort logbooks
 - Observer programmes
 - Port sampling
 - Catch Landings Monitoring
 - MCS activities
 - CDS
 - Traceability schemes
 - Certification schemes
 - WCPFC CMMs
 - Others as required

The Annual Workplan for the DCC will be derived primarily from data issues raised by SPC / FFA Members, but will also be informed by data issues raised at WCPFC, PNA, Tokelau Arrangement, TVM, and SPREP meetings.

Meetings

DCC meetings will be conducted on an annual basis around the WCPFC cycle of meetings for the Science Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee and Commission. The main annual DCC meeting will generally be held within three months following the Commission annual meeting.

Other meetings may be convened as required by the Pacific Community and FFA.

Outputs

Primary outputs from the DCC will be the Annual Report of Data Standards and Processes together with an Annual Work Plan; to be endorsed by the Forum Fisheries Committee at their annual regular meeting, and reported to the Pacific Community Heads of Fisheries regular biennial meeting.

In addition, the DCC will produce ongoing reports of Revised Data Standards and Processes (paper forms, fields, formats, processes etc.) as required for the various SPC / FFA sub-groups (e.g. MCSWG, ROCW). It will maintain an internal Register of Data Issues and Recommendations. It will also maintain a web-accessible list and record of the current accepted standards and processes.

Review

The terms of reference will be reviewed every 3-5 years.

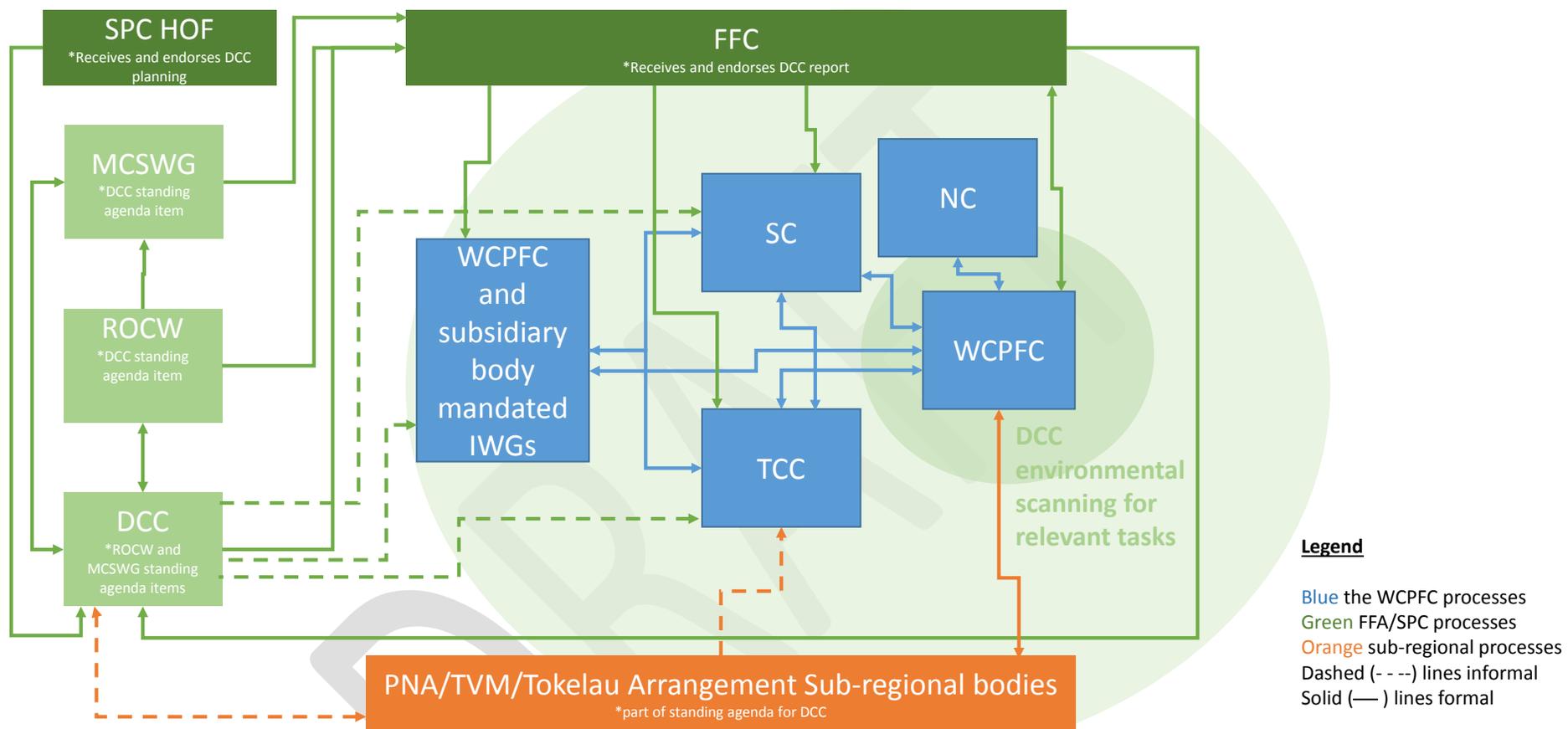


FIGURE 1: How the DCC fits into the annual regional work programme with respect to fisheries. Note that this is focused on the DCC role and does not try to reflect all connections for other identified bodies.