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**Preparatory Workshop for 2011 Tuna Stock Assessments
SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia
4-8 April 2011**

The Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) of SPC is contracted by WCPFC to undertake four stock assessments in 2011: South Pacific albacore, bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tunas. The results of these assessments will be presented at the Scientific Committee in August 2011. In preparation for these assessments, OFP is hosting a technical workshop.

The meeting is scheduled for **4-8 April 2011** and will be held at SPC Headquarters in Noumea. **All travel costs will be met by the participants**, although intending participants from developing countries who need funding support are encouraged to contact the WCPFC Secretariat, who may be able to assist. **Please note that this meeting is not a Stock Assessment training workshop.** The training workshops will be held in the middle of the year and we will be contacting folks separately about these workshops.

This meeting is not a formal WCPFC meeting and will operate under Terms of Reference developed by SPC. This is simply a technical meeting of experts who have a common interest in progressing the stock assessment of key tuna stocks in the WCPO. The outcomes of the meeting will be documented and the report of the meeting and other analyses will be submitted to the WCPFC Scientific Committee. Further, analyses undertaken for the workshop will not represent preliminary stock assessments. In most cases the work will be based on the most recently completed assessment and will not include new data as this will not be available until May 2011.

If you have not already confirmed your attendance please notify John Hampton (johnh@spc.int) and Shelton Harley (sheltonh@spc.int) if you, or a colleague, will be attending the workshop (by Friday 4th March 2011). **Please note that we have limited space available for participants** as we are using an outside venue – please consider this when determining the number of participants to send. If necessary we will place a limit on the number of participants per country.

The meeting is intended to be informal and to facilitate detailed discussions on each of the proposed agenda items. In preparation for the meeting, participants should be familiar with the recent stock assessment reports for the tuna species. These are all available on the WCPFC web site, www.wcpfc.int.

Consistent with paragraph 526 (parts iv and v – and repeated below) of the SC6 report, please contact Shelton Harley if you have research that is relevant to the agenda that you would like to present.

Paragraph 526:

iv) Issues relating to Biology, Methods and Fishing Technology that are of relevance to the stock assessments to be undertaken that year, and which are to be considered by the SAPW, are to be included in this workshop. As the SPC is the convenor of the SAPW, those scientists who would like to present their work to the SAPW are requested to contact SPC who will then decide on whether this work should be presented and discussed.

v) Issues of significance in relation to stock assessment outcomes and/or the evaluation of CMMs, and which would have been covered by the Methods, Biology and Fishing Technology Themes, are to be included in the Stock Assessment Theme. These issues should be identified by the SAPW and the Convenor of the Stock Assessment Theme in consultation with the SC Chair and Vice-Chair. To help facilitate the inclusion of such presentations the duration of the Stock Assessment Theme has been expanded by one session.

Annotated Agenda

Monday, 4th April	
Morning (0830-1200)	<p>Introduction <i>Participants will be welcomed and the process for the meeting and documenting outcomes discussed</i></p> <p>MULTIFAN-CL <i>The current status, recent, and future developments will be discussed. This will include the website and current release details.</i></p> <p>Catch estimates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia and the Philippines • Purse seine catches determined from observer grab samples corrected for size selectivity <p><i>Updates will be provided on the progress on improved catch estimates for fleets from the Philippines and Indonesia.</i></p> <p><i>Estimates of catches and size frequencies determined from observer grab samples corrected for size selectivity, and estimates of size selectivity based on paired spill and grab samples, will be discussed</i></p> <p><i>It is envisaged that the outcome of these discussions could result in changes to the assumptions and/or data used in the 2011 assessments.</i></p>
Afternoon (1300-1630)	<p>CIE review <i>SPC will present the recommendations from the 2009 yellowfin tuna assessment review (which will be distributed to participants in advance of the meeting) and their summarised response. More detailed responses will come through in the specific agenda items. A written response will come in the form of a SC7 paper.</i></p>
Tuesday-Wednesday	
All day (0830-1630)	<p>Stock assessment inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longline CPUE • Size data • Pole and line CPUE • Purse seine CPUE • Tagging data • Biological inputs <p><i>Presentations in each of the above-listed work areas will focus on two aspects a) a strategic approach to address the issues in the form of a medium term research plan; b) an update on any progress to date.</i></p> <p><i>These planning documents will lay out the different work areas and a suggested timeline.</i></p> <p><i>We will be seeking some comment from the WS on these plans which will then be presented to SC7 for endorsement as documents to direct work in these areas (the Science Manager will need to determine how best to incorporate these into existing planning documents).</i></p> <p><i>The work presented under (b) need not result in changes to the assumptions from previous assessments</i></p>
Thursday	
Morning (0830-1200)	<p>Reference points and related issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from ISSF steepness workshop

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSIRO consultancy on reference points (To be confirmed) • Use of temporal windows to estimate spawner recruitment relationships in MFCL <p><i>Resulting from these discussions could be suggestions for a range of assumptions to be considered in the assessments. It should be noted that the implementation of the SPC reference point work will be discussed in the context of projections.</i></p>
Afternoon (1300-1630)	<p>Proposed stock assessment approaches for 2011</p> <p><i>During the meeting SPC will update last year's assessment tables which outline key assumptions / data sources etc. SPC will be seeking input on the runs to be considered. SPC notes that it does not intend to undertake full grids of structural uncertainty analyses for these assessments –the extra time will be needed for the projections and reference point work.</i></p> <p>A general approach for WCPFC stock assessments</p> <p><i>SPC will present a proposed framework for 'streamlined' and full assessments with integrated peer review and the update of conservation and management measures. SPC will be seeking comments from the WS and a decision will then be made as to whether this be developed into a SC7 working paper.</i></p>
Friday	
Morning (0830-1200)	<p>Projections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MULTIFAN-CL implementation of deterministic and stochastic projections • TUMAS <p><i>We will first provide an overview of the projection methods used for the evaluation of management options and reference point analyses and then demonstrate the features of TUMAS.</i></p>
Afternoon (1300-1630)	<p>Review of meeting outcomes</p> <p><i>A summary of the key meeting outcomes will be produced for initial discussion if time allows. The full draft report will be distributed within ten working days.</i></p>

Recommended reading

- Hampton, J. and S.J. Harley. 2010. Further analysis of CMM2008-01. Noumea, New Caledonia: Secretariat of the Pacific Community. WCPFC-SC6-SA-WP-05.
- Harley, S.J. et al. 2010. Background information for the 2010 bigeye assessment. WCPFC-SC6-SA-WP-01.
- Harley, S.J. et al. 2010. Stock assessment of bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean. Noumea, New Caledonia: Secretariat of the Pacific Community. WCPFC-SC6-SA-WP-04.
- Hoyle, S. et al. 2010. Analysis of Japanese longline operational catch and effort for bigeye tuna in the WCPO. WCPFC-SC6-SA-WP-02.
- Hoyle, S., P. Kleiber, N. Davies, S.J. Harley and J. Hampton. 2010. Stock assessment of skipjack tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean. Noumea, New Caledonia: Secretariat of the Pacific Community. WCPFC-SC6-SA-WP-10.
- Langley, A., S. Harley, S. Hoyle, N. Davies, J. Hampton and P. Kleiber. 2009. Stock assessment of yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean. Noumea, New Caledonia: Secretariat of the Pacific Community. WCPFC-SC5-SA-WP-03.
- Lawson, T. 2010. An update on the species composition of purse-seine catches determined from paired spill and grab samples collected by observers. Noumea, New Caledonia: Secretariat of the Pacific Community. WCPFC-SC6-ST-WP-02.
- Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP). 2010. Review of the implementation and effectiveness of CMM 2008–01. Noumea, New Caledonia: Secretariat of the Pacific Community. WCPFC7-2010/15.
- Williams, P. 2010. Changes to the data available for stock assessment. Noumea, New Caledonia: Secretariat of the Pacific Community. WCPFC-SC6-SA-IP-02.

Visa requirements

In general, please check with your travel agent regarding visa requirements for travel to New Caledonia.

The Secretariat is pleased to advise that visas will be granted on arrival into New Caledonia for stays of up to three months for nationals of all SPC member countries with the **exception** of Tonga, the Fiji Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu. Participants from the Fiji Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu are still required to directly contact the French embassies in their countries. The Secretariat will facilitate the necessary procedure for Tongan nationals on request from participants.

Accommodation options

The following hotels offer a special discounted rate for SPC, however we note that the rates below often relate to lower floors and a limited number of rooms and are therefore subject to availability. To qualify for this rate SPC needs to make the booking directly. **But please note that prices are subject to change at any time.**

Please notify Shelton Harley (Sheltonh@spc.int) if you would like SPC to make a booking. Accommodation costs are to be met by workshop participants.

Hotel	Room	Cost (XFP)
Ramada Plaza	Superior Room	12,900
www.ramadaplaza-noumea.nc	Deluxe Room	13,900
La Pacifique		7,200
Le Nouvata Park		9,200-11,200
Best western		11,000-20,900
Casa del Sole	One bedroom apartment	8,350-9,900

Airport transfer

SPC will arrange a free transfer from the international airport (about 40 min drive) on request. If you require a transfer please notify Shelton Harley (Sheltonh@spc.int) and provide your flight arrival/departure details.