**Preparatory Workshop for 2013 WCPFC Stock Assessments**

**SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia**

**8-12 April 2013**

In 2013 the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) of SPC is contracted by WCPFC to complete stock assessments for: silky shark, blue shark, and southwest Pacific swordfish, as well as progress work on reference points and in response to the independent review of the 2011 bigeye tuna stock assessment. This work will be presented at the Scientific Committee in August 2013. In preparation, OFP is hosting a technical workshop to discuss key issues related to these tasks.

The meeting is scheduled for **8-12 April 2013** and will be held at SPC Headquarters in Noumea.

**This is not a formal WCPFC meeting** and will operate under Terms of Reference developed by SPC (available on request). The aim is for it to be technical meeting of scientists who have a common interest in progressing the stock assessment of fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. 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.

In the next month we will send out a second announcement that will include a detailed agenda and accommodation details, but for your initial consideration these topics are likely to be included in the workshop:

* Stock assessments for blue and silky sharks
* Stock assessment for swordfish
* Training session on the use of TUMAS to evaluate management options
* Development of MULTIFAN-CL
* Update on progress on harvest control rules and F-based reference points
* Implementing the recommendations of the independent review of the 2011 bigeye tuna stock assessment

We also remind potential participants of the agreement made at SC6. 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.*

Please notify Shelton Harley ([sheltonh@spc.int](mailto:sheltonh@spc.int)) if you, or a colleague, will be attending the workshop (preferably before 1 March 2013). Please note that we have limited space available for participants – 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.