

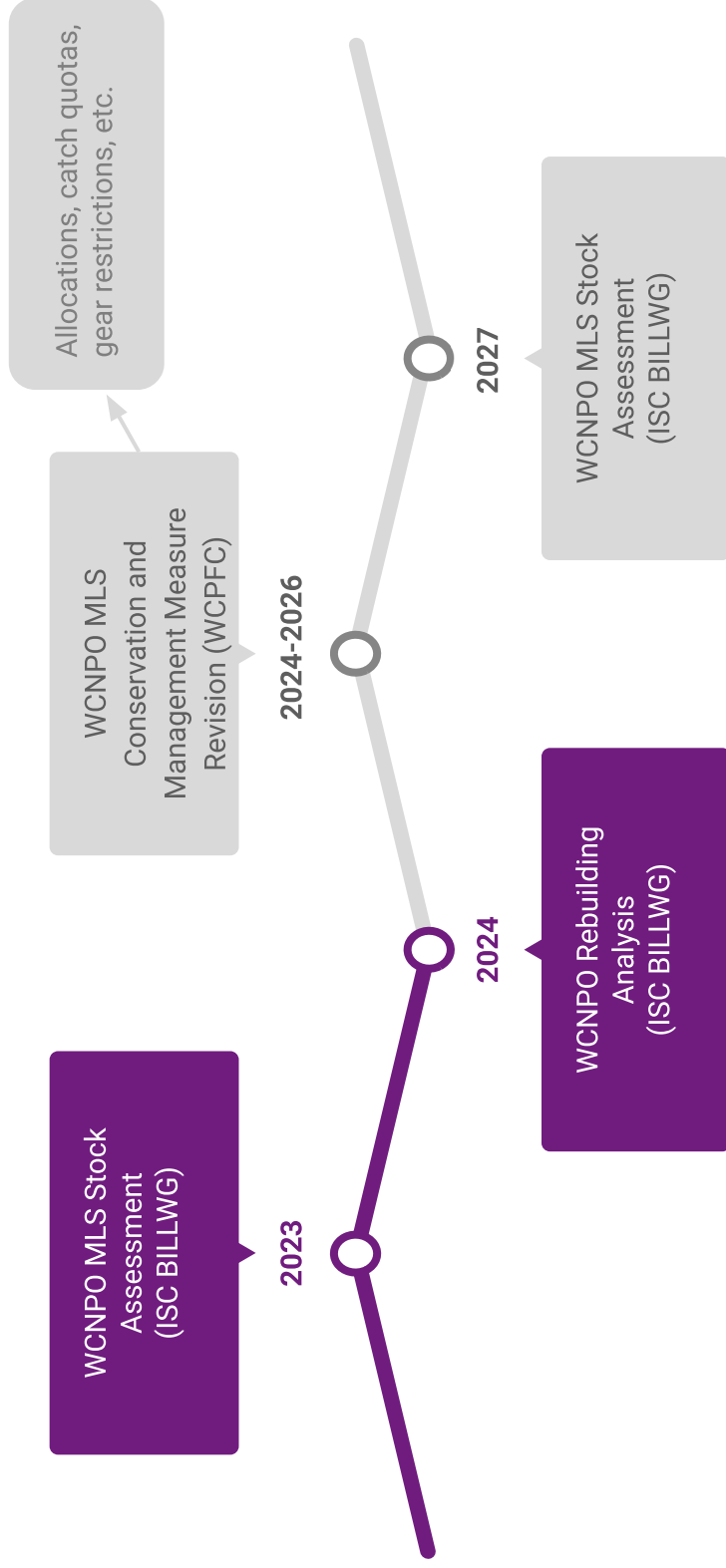


**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Western and Central North Pacific Rebuilding Analysis U.S. Stakeholder Meeting

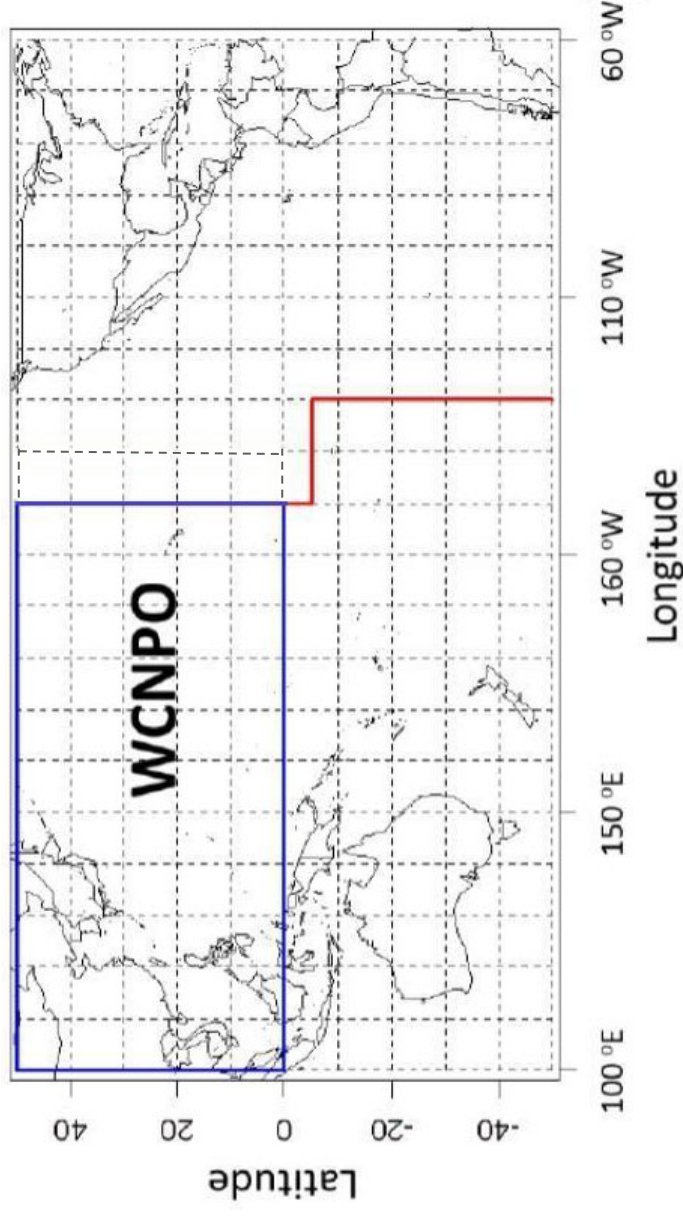
Michelle Sculley

michelle.sculley@noaa.gov



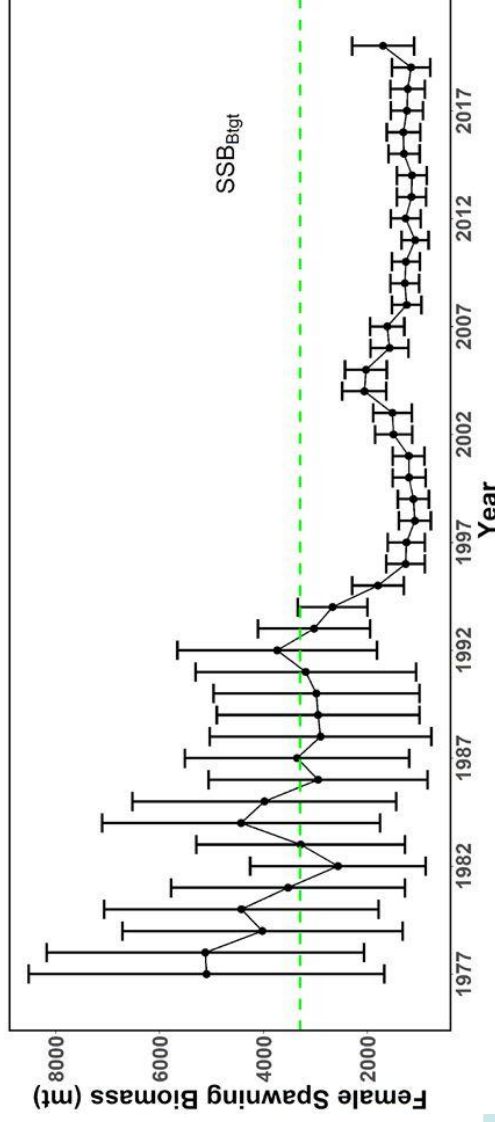
Background

- WCNPO MLS is managed by the Western and Central Fisheries Commission
- A 2010 CMM limits members catches to 80% of their highest catch level from 2000-2003



Background

- Stock assessments by the ISC Billfish Working Group in 2011, 2015, 2019, and 2023 have all indicated that the stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring.
- The 2023 stock assessment estimates that spawning stock biomass in 2020 was 1360 mt (63% below rebuilding target levels of 20%SSB_{F=0}) and fishing mortality was 0.68 (28% above F_{20%SSBF=0})



Background

- At its 20th Annual Meeting in 2023, the WCPFC indicated that it may consider changes to the 2010 CMM for WCNPO MLS.
- A rebuilding plan for WCNPO MLS has been adopted with the target of reaching 20%SSBF=0 by 2034 with a probability of at least 60%.
- The ISC BILLWG has undertaken a rebuilding analysis to provide information on potential scenarios for reaching this target.

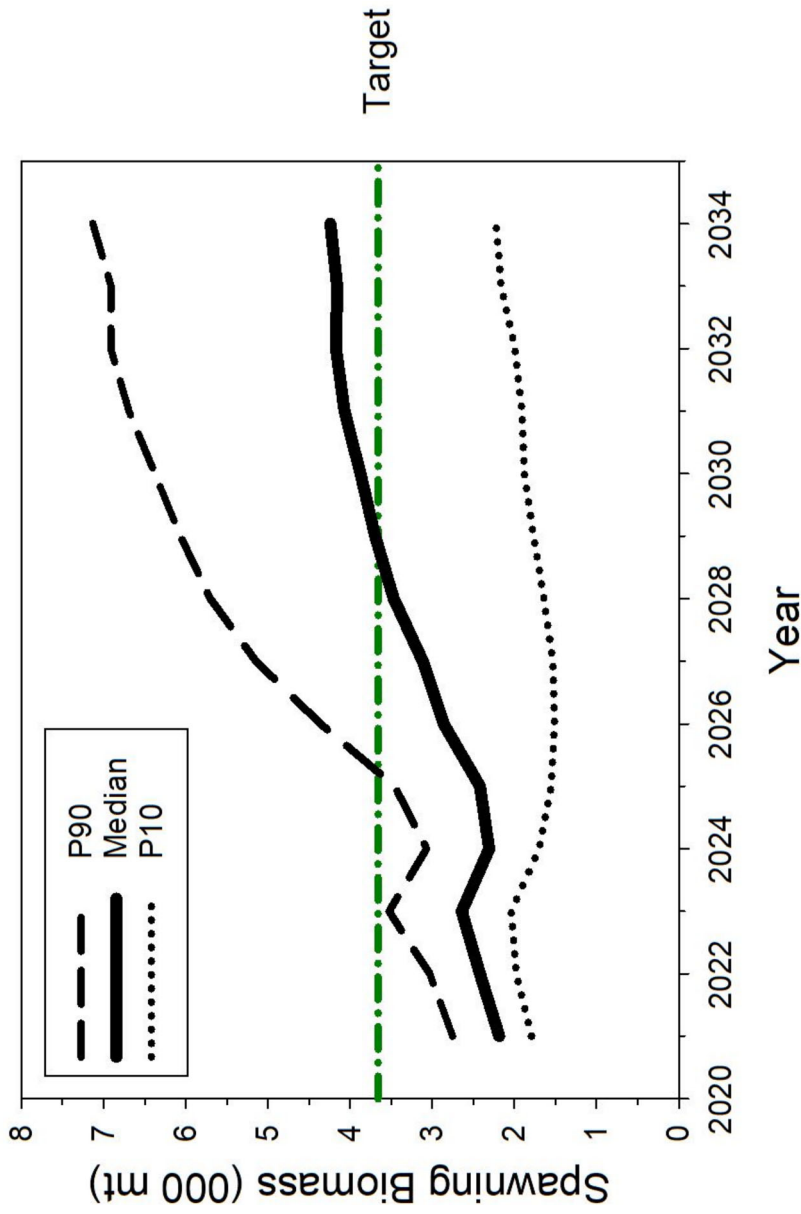


Rebuilding Analysis

- The rebuilding analysis consists of catch projection scenarios from the final year of the assessment model (2020) to 2034.
- 2021-2024 catch is actual or estimated catch
- 2025-2034 catch reflects the management action
- Effort based scenarios are possible if they are translated into reductions in catch.



2025-2034 Catch = 2125 mt



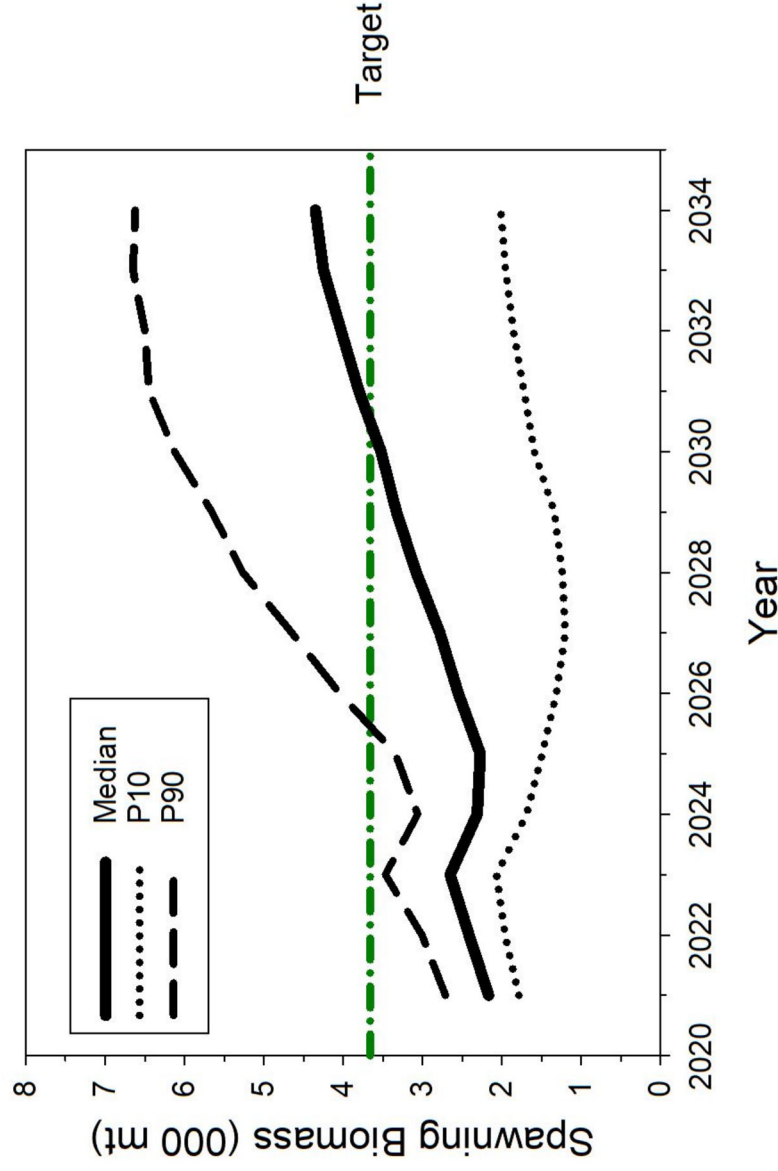
Average catch from 2018-2020: 2,428 mt
2125 mt is a 13% reduction of catch



NOAA FISHERIES

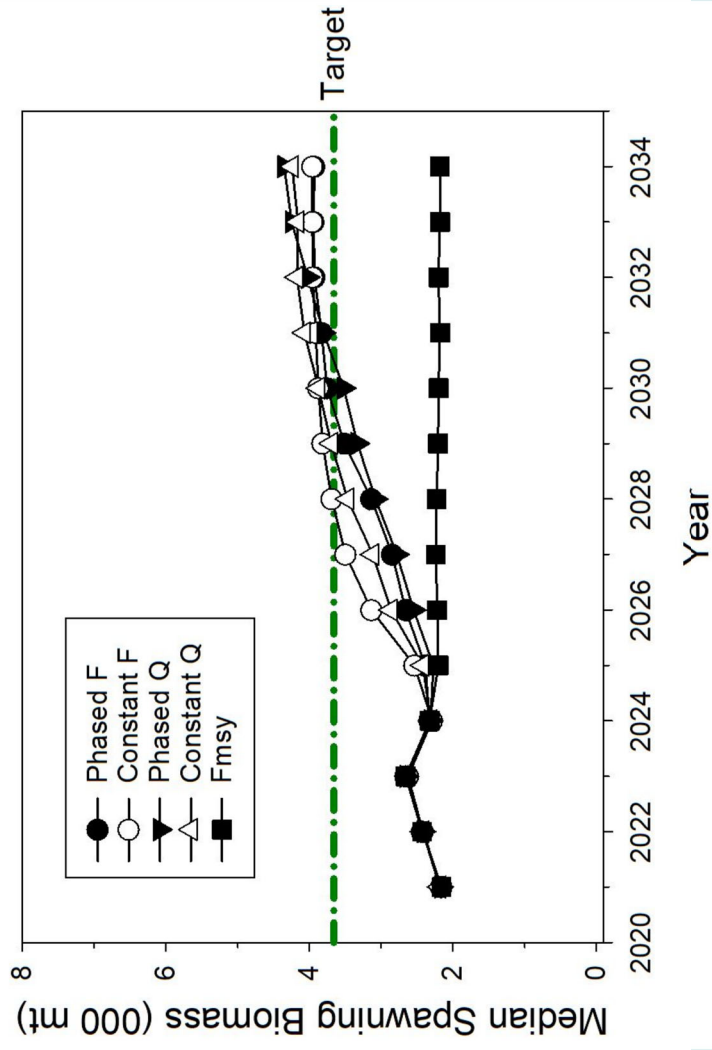
2-Phase Reduction

2025-2027 - 2400mt, 2028-2034 - 2100mt



Average catch from 2018-2020: 2,428 mt
2400 mt is a 1% reduction of catch
2100 mt is a 12.5% reduction of catch

Ultimately, we intend to provide WCPFC with a suite of options that meet the rebuilding plan requirements



What 10-year total catch scenarios would you like to see as potential paths toward reaching the rebuilding target?

- Not all suggested scenarios may be included in the final report from the ISC BILLWG - they will have to meet the rebuilding plan requirements
- BUT we are happy to try scenarios you are interested in seeing



NOAA FISHERIES