

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

Circular No.: 2023/40

Date: 18 May 2023

No. pages: 05

Provisional Agenda for the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC19)

Dear All,

Further to Circular 2023/36 dated 2 May 2023, I am pleased to enclose for distribution the Provisional Agenda for the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC19) which is also posted on the SC19 meeting webpage, together with Provisional Annotated Agenda. Other information documents will be posted to the same meeting page in due course at: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/sc19>

If you have any questions, you may contact the Science Manager, Dr SungKwon Soh (SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int). Please distribute this Circular to all relevant officials and representatives in your region. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Koror, Palau
16 – 24 August 2023

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

WCPFC-SC19-2023/02

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1.1 Welcome address**
- 1.2 Meeting arrangements**
- 1.3 Issues arising from the Commission**
- 1.4 Adoption of agenda**
- 1.5 Reporting arrangements**
- 1.6 Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee**

AGENDA ITEM 2 REVIEW OF FISHERIES

- 2.1 Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries**
- 2.2 Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries**
- 2.3 Annual Report – Part 1 from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories**
- 2.4 Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations**

AGENDA ITEM 3 DATA AND STATISTICS THEME

- 3.1 Data gaps**
 - 3.1.1 Data gaps of the Commission**
 - 3.1.1.1 Data gaps
 - 3.1.1.2 Updates on data-related projects
 - 3.1.1.3 Minimum data reporting requirements
 - 3.1.1.4 Frequent submission of operational catch and effort data
 - 3.1.2 Bycatch estimates of longline fishery**
- 3.2 Regional Observer Programme**
 - 3.2.1 Review of observer training project for elasmobranch biological sampling (Project 109)**
 - 3.2.2 ROP Data Issues**
- 3.3 Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (ER and EM)**
- 3.4 Economic data**
- 3.5 Baseline period or limit of the Indonesian Large Fish Handline Fishery**

AGENDA ITEM 4 STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME

4.1 Independent review of recent WCPO Yellowfin tuna assessment

4.2 Improvement of MULTIFAN-CL software

4.3 WCPO tunas

4.3.1 WCPO yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

4.3.1.1 Research and information

- a. Review of 2023 yellowfin tuna stock assessment

4.3.1.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

4.3.2 WCPO bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

4.3.2.1 Research and information

- a. Review of 2023 bigeye tuna stock assessment

4.3.2.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Stock status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

4.3.3 WCPO skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

4.3.3.1 Research and information

- a. Indicator analysis
- b. Update of skipjack tuna stock assessment information

4.3.4 South Pacific albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)

4.3.4.1 Research and information

- a. Indicator analysis

4.4 Northern stocks

4.4.1 North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)

4.4.1.1 Research and information

- a. North Pacific albacore stock assessment

4.4.1.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

4.4.2 Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)

4.4.2.1 Research and information

- a. Update of Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment information

4.4.3 North Pacific swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)

4.4.3.1 Research and information

- a. North Pacific swordfish stock assessment

4.4.3.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends
- b. Management advice and implications

4.5 WCPO sharks

4.5.1 Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*)

4.5.1.1 Research and information

- a. Silky shark stock assessment in the WCPO (Project 108)

4.6 WCPO billfishes

4.6.1 North Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)

4.6.1.1 Research and information

- a. North Pacific striped marlin stock assessment

4.6.1.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends

- b. Management advice and implications
- 4.7 Projects and Requests**
 - 4.7.1 Characterization of stock assessment uncertainty (Project 113)**
 - 4.7.2 Application of Close-Kin-Mark-Recapture Methods (Project 100c)**
 - 4.7.3 Options to provide information to the Scientific Committee**
 - 4.7.4 Tuna Research Plan**
 - 4.7.5 Billfish Research Plan (Project 112)**
 - 4.7.6 Reproductive biology of yellowfin tuna**

AGENDA ITEM 5 MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME

- 5.1 Development of harvest strategy framework for key tuna species**
 - 5.1.1 Skipjack tuna**
 - 5.1.1.1 Implementation of management procedure for WCPO skipjack tuna
 - 5.1.1.2 Monitoring strategy for WCPO skipjack tuna
 - 5.1.2 South Pacific albacore tuna**
 - 5.1.2.1 Target reference point (TRP)
 - 5.1.2.2 SP Albacore operating models
 - 5.1.2.3 SP Albacore management procedures
 - 5.1.3 Mixed fishery MSE framework**
 - 5.1.4 Progress of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Work Plan**
- 5.2 Implementation of CMM 2021-01**
 - 5.2.1 Review of effectiveness of CMM 2021-01**
- 5.3 Review of CMM for Swordfish**

AGENDA ITEM 6 ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME

- 6.1 Ecosystem and Climate Indicators**
- 6.2 FAD impacts**
 - 6.2.1 Research on non-entangling and biodegradable FADs (Project 110)**
 - 6.2.2 FAD Management Options IWG Issues**
 - 6.2.3 Extension to EU supported biodegradable FADs**
- 6.3 Sharks**
 - 6.3.1 Review of conservation and management measures for sharks**
 - 6.3.2 Mid-term Review of 2021-2025 Shark Research Plan (Project 97b)**
- 6.4 Seabirds**
 - 6.4.1 Review of seabird research**
 - 6.4.2 Review of CMM on seabirds (CMM 2018-03)**
- 6.5 Sea turtles**
 - 6.5.1 Review of sea turtle research**
 - 6.5.2 Review of Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles (CMM 2018-04)**
- 6.6 Cetaceans**
- 6.7 Bycatch management**

AGENDA ITEM 7 OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 7.1 Pacific Marine Specimen Bank (Project 35b)**
- 7.2 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (Project 42)**
- 7.3 West Pacific East Asia Project**
- 7.4 Other Projects**

AGENDA ITEM 8 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 9 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

AGENDA ITEM 10 FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

10.1 Development of the 2024 work programme and budget, and projection of 2025-2026 provisional work programme and indicative budget

AGENDA ITEM 11 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11.1 Future operation of the Scientific Committee

11.2 Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee

11.3 Next meeting

AGENDA ITEM 12 OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 13 ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 14 CLOSE OF MEETING