



LDAC Advice for Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) 2022

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Harvest Strategies

The LDAC asks to accelerate development and implementation of comprehensive, precautionary Harvest Strategies, including precautionary Reference Points and Harvest Control Rules, as follows:

- In 2022, adopt a harvest strategy for skipjack and Northern albacore and adopt an interim Target Reference Points (TRPs) for yellowfin and bigeye tuna;
- Adopt an enforceable tropical tuna conservation and management measure (CMM) for all fleets that limits fishing mortality for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack and removes ambiguities and exemptions;
- Once the CMM above is adopted, implement the skipjack management procedure without a trial period as previously suggested by the FFA;
- Agree a revised workplan for setting a comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore in 2023;
- Establish the Science-Management Dialogue (SMD) as a permanent working group and, if needed, define tasks for the group which could include further discussion of an exceptional circumstances protocol and a monitoring strategy - as well as development of a mixed fisheries framework and South Pacific albacore management plan (MP), recognizing links with the SoPacAlb intersessional working group.

Southwest Pacific Swordfish

On the Australia proposal for Southwest Pacific Swordfish, the LDAC wants to recall that the activity of the Spanish surface longline fleet in the WCPFC area has been increasing since 2017, following a redistribution of fishing effort and activity in the area in comparison with previous years, due to operational needs of the fleet.

In view of the above, the LDAC considers that potential CMMs that may be adopted in terms of TACs for SWO should maintain the level of TACs and quota allocated to the EU fleet, which has at all times maintained its catch levels below the established limits. The later also allow a maximum effort level of 14 longline units. Proposal: [A Revised draft Conservation and Management Measure for Southwest Pacific Swordfish in the WCPFC Area | WCPFC Meetings](#)

Labour standards and observers' safety at sea



The LDAC expect that the face-to-face meeting in place of the virtual meeting, scheduled on October 31, could achieve some improvement on labour standards, such as:

- Support of transitioning WCPFC resolution 2018-01 on labour standards for crew on fishing vessels into a formal, binding CMM – [Revised draft CMM – July 2022 | WCPFC Meetings](#)
- Establish requirements for comprehensive and transparent reporting of all life-threatening injuries or deaths that occur on fishing vessels operating in the WCPFC CA; and
- Transparently and decisively address failures to meet obligations for at sea observer safety and security.

Electronic Monitoring

- Develop and adopt by 2023 a CMM for an Electronic Monitoring Program and Minimum Standards for the use of electronic monitoring in WCPFC fisheries.

Monitoring of transshipments at sea

Even if the LDAC will prefer to support a process to gradually eliminate transshipments at sea, the LDAC could support measures to better monitor transshipment at sea, like:

- Endorse the prioritisation of TS IWG over the next two years and task the IWG with reviewing the WCPFC Transshipment CMM against the recently-agreed FAO Guidelines on Transshipment, and presenting a strengthened CMM to WCPFC in 2023;
- Implement real time, or near real-time, reporting requirements for all components of transshipments, including electronic verification and validation tools;
- Adopt the WCPFC ROP Minimum Standard Data fields identified in forms FC-1 and FC-2 as data fields to be collected by observers during transshipment events for direct submission to the WCPFC Secretariat; Ensure data fields on date, location, catch and duration of the transshipment are added to those fields recommended for adoption in FC1, 2. In a possible oversight, those critical data fields were not included in the forms.
- Support 100% observer coverage on delivering and receiving vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment;
- Prioritise the development and application of EM for transshipment monitoring; and
- Support or endorse the use of technology to verify and validate transshipment activity.

FADs

Even if it is not the priority for this plenary, the LDAC wants to recall some measures to improve FAD management:

- In 2022, adopt the definition of biodegradable FADs and categories of biodegradable FADs;
- By 2024, evaluate the feasibility of adopting FAD ownership rules and a FAD marking scheme, and a FAD-recovery policy and incentives;
- Adopt a work plan for FADs with a timeframe to transition to FADs without nets and made primarily with biodegradable materials;
- Require FAD position and acoustic data.

Conservation and management of Sharks and Rays

Even if it is not the priority for this plenary, the LDAC wants to highlight some measures to improve shark conservation:



- Require additional mitigation techniques and minimum standards for safe handling and release, such as requiring fishermen to cut branch lines as close to the hook as possible;
- Implement a “fins naturally attached” policy as the only method to ensure both proper catch accounting as well as compliance with shark retention measures; and
- Introduce recovery plans for relevant critically endangered oceanic sharks and rays by 2023, and endangered oceanic sharks and rays by 2026.