

Sub Committee on South Pacific Tuna and Billfish Work Plan 2011 – 2013

Mission

To maximise benefit to FFC Sub-committee members from sustainable fisheries, taking into account other fishery sectors such as traditional and artisanal fisheries and broader ecosystem considerations.

Strategic Objectives

1. Ensure exploitation of fisheries resources are compatible with stock sustainability throughout their range, consistent with principles of ecosystem based fisheries management & precautionary approach
2. Maximise sustainable economic and social benefits to FFA Sub-Committee members through the utilization of fisheries resources
3. Promote good governance within the Sub-Committee membership to enhance accountability & transparency
4. Promote the importance of the contribution of southern tuna and billfish to food security within FFA Sub-Committee Members.

Notes:

While some bodies of work undertaken by the SC-SPTBF (or FFA/SPC on behalf of the sub committee) will seek to address one Strategic Objective more so than others, the Strategic Objectives should in general be read as a package.

This work plan only focuses on specific activities for or of the SC-SPTBF. There are a range of “region wide” initiatives and projects being undertaken that are of direct relevance. This is particularly the case for MCS related activities such as improving data collection, verification and use as well as enhancing observer programmes in longline fisheries.

Outcomes	Brief description of work required to achieve the outcome	Who would undertake the project?	Estimated costs of the project	Which Strategic Objective is this relevant to?	Does this project meet the SC-SPTBF Mission statement?
Zone Based Management Arrangements					
A decision by SC-SPTBF to implement a preferred option for a zone based management system for the southern tuna and billfish fishery	1. Extend current analysis of options (VDS/catch/HTAC) to the national level. Conduct assessments for each member of the current state of programmes and systems that would support each option and the potential costs and benefits (including SWOT) of enhancing them under each option.	Members carry primary responsibility, but advice on requirements etc must come from FFA.	Significant as will involve national visits. Costs already catered for in FFA AWPB.	1, 2 and 3	Yes - zone based management will be instrumental in increasing the proportion of value of the fishery recoverable by domestic industries.
	2. SC-SPTBF workshop to allow members to report on these findings and guide decision making on a preferred option.	Workshop to be conducted at SC-SPTBF 10 (Oct 2011)	Minimal – mainly normal meeting costs	All	
An agreed strategy and process for applying principles for the allocation of TAC/TAE amongst SC-SPTBF members for the southern tuna and billfish fishery	3. 2 workshops amongst SC-SPTBF members to investigate different options for allocation in the southern longline fishery. Agreement on a preferred approach	Workshops administered by FFA, undertaken by SC-SPTBF members. Substantial data support from FFA and SPC (including bioeconomic analyses)	Minimal – mainly normal meeting costs	1 and 2	
An agreed Management Scheme for the chosen zone based management option	4. Desk-top work to identify associated issues with the preferred option as well as tasks or decisions required to support it, ways to overcome shortfalls or uncertainties	FFA – between decision at SC-SPTBF 10 on preferred option and SC-SPTBF 11.	Minimal – office based tasks with collaboration through in country visits	All	
An agreed strategy, process and proposal for extending revised management to the	5. Engage other relevant coastal States (especially French territories) in project 2 and consideration of outcomes of project 4.	SC-SPTBF in session	Minimal – normal meeting costs	1 and 2	

Outcomes	Brief description of work required to achieve the outcome	Who would undertake the project?	Estimated costs of the project	Which Strategic Objective is this relevant to?	Does this project meet the SC-SPTBF Mission statement?
high seas and other EEZs.	6. Develop a specific Strategy for working with the wider FFA membership for deliver proposals to WCPFC and support it across the floor.	FFA – for consideration at relevant SC-SPTBF and MOC meetings	M		will increase likelihood of successful “stock wide” implementation of management measures.
National level implementation of agreed option.	7. In country assistance on range of legislative, policy and operational tasks.	Members carry primary responsibility, with support and assistance from FFA and SPC.	Significant – FFA costs already in AWPB.	All	Yes – see projects 1 to 4.
A timeline showing implementation of all SC-projects with dependencies and interdependencies	8. Development of a project plan to demonstrate the order of tasks, milestones and completion dates	FFA	Minimal	All	Yes
Scientific Support for Fisheries Management (in addition to routine stock assessments for albacore, swordfish and potentially striped marlin)					
Understanding variability in catch rates at EEZ scale (oceanography and localised depletion)	9. Continuation of previous Albacore CPUE Optimisation work with greater focus on national level advice and determining factors that can and cannot be managed.	SPC	Significant – staff time.	Mainly 2	Yes – will assist in tailoring management arrangements to deliver against the MS.
	10. Broader regional explanation of oceanographic influences on fish movement				

Outcomes	Brief description of work required to achieve the outcome	Who would undertake the project?	Estimated costs of the project	Which Strategic Objective is this relevant to?	Does this project meet the SC-SPTBF Mission statement?
Understanding the impacts of fishing in other areas on fish availability, particularly for domestic fisheries	11. Paper on available information to support or otherwise explain concerns about stock contraction, particularly of species mainly harvested in the tropical tuna fishery (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye).	SPC	Minimal – staff time	1,2 and 4	
Contribution to wider regional research activities, particularly biological work	12. Review and revise the Albacore and swordfish research priorities previously agreed by the SC-SPTBF focusing on opportunities for involvement in ongoing projects.	SPC and FFA	Minimal	1 and 3	Just administrative
Market based activities					
MSC accreditation and associated market benefits	13. Continued support for Fiji assessment process.	FFA and SPC in support of Fiji	Minimal – already in FFA AWPB	1,2 and 3	Yes –seeking additional benefits through demonstrated sustainability and good management
	14. Evaluate opportunities or options for extension to wider southern tuna fisheries	FFA – following Fiji process	Significant in the event that an assessment is pursued.		
Identified and understood opportunities throughout the value-chain in addition to those already exploited	15. Review outcomes of proposed TVM study on this issue and seek application to wider SC-SPTBF.	FFA – following TVM process	Unknown at this stage.		

Outcomes	Brief description of work required to achieve the outcome	Who would undertake the project?	Estimated costs of the project	Which Strategic Objective is this relevant to?	Does this project meet the SC-SPTBF Mission statement?
Routine Analyses – ongoing work presented regularly to SC-SPTBF					
Understanding of the implementation of WCPFC CMMs for relevant species	16. Characterisation papers showing catch and effort trends relevant to CMM limits. Standard reports on stock status and research updates.	SPC	Minimal	1 and 2	Yes – better informed decision making, particularly in terms of sustainability.
	17. Policy papers on issues identified with CMMs and potential short term fixes (while projects 2 and 5 are underway) including penalties for non-compliance	FFA	Minimal		

