



WCPO Purse Seine BET Management Workshop II
August 19-21, 2015
Marshall Islands Resort
Majuro

Annotated Agenda

1. Workshop Opening

1.1 Opening remarks (Kitty Simonds/Glen Joseph)

1.2 Introductions- Drew Wright (Chair)

1.3 Background and purpose of workshop (Chair)

Purpose: An in-depth evaluation of new or supplemental WCPO bigeye management options with a goal of forming recommendations for consideration by the WCPFC. The workshop will include the consideration of longline bigeye management issues and assess the potential disproportionate conservation burden on SIDS with respect to the management options considered. The introduction will include a summary of outcomes from the April Workshop in Honolulu.

2. Update on bigeye status and management-related considerations

2.1 Preliminary review of relevant outcomes from SC11 (Berry Muller - MIMRA)

The 11th session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee will occur August 5-13, 2015 in Pohnpei. Outcomes from SC11 will include a review of 2014 bigeye catch and effort information and conservation advice.

2.2 Effectiveness review of CMM 2013-01 (Shelton Harley- SPC)

The SPC routinely provides the WCPFC with an evaluation of the tropical tuna measure and its expected level of effort and catch with respect to bigeye stock status. The SPC will describe the projected effect of the current measure on bigeye stock status reference points.

2.3 Compliance Review of WCPFC tropical tuna conservation and management measures (Lara Manarangi-Trott- WCPFC Secretariat)

A review of compliance-related issues associated with the implementation of CMM 2014-01 and its predecessors.

2.4 Disproportionate burden and bigeye conservation (Transform Aqorau- PNA)

An overview of the topic of disproportionate burden with regards to bigeye conservation and management will be provided from the PNA perspective.

3. Evaluation of BET management options for WCPO purse seine fisheries

WCPFC acknowledges that overfishing for WCPO bigeye continues to occur and the stock is overfished (below the agreed limit reference point). The workshop will build on outcomes from the Honolulu workshop, and additional considerations from the 11th meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, to identify new or supplemental options offering the potential to strengthen the contribution of existing CMMs to reducing bigeye mortality in WCPO tuna fisheries. Each option will be evaluated with regards to effectiveness, compliance and disproportionate burden.

3.1 FAD-related options

3.1.1. Operational considerations (Wez Norris- FFA)

Issues that will be discussed include the servicing of FADs during the FAD closure such as a) prohibiting deployment by tender vessels, b) prohibiting the deployment of FADs 1 month prior to FAD closure, c) prohibiting purse seine sets during the FAD closure from local sunset to 1 hour after local sunrise. Additional options to consider include managing FAD closures (for example the 4-month closure compared to a 2+2 option that could include a total closure).

3.1.2 Technological considerations (Gregory Hamman- Marine Instruments)

An overview of the current status of sonar buoy technological with regards to characterizing tuna aggregations in terms of biomass and species will be provided. The presentation will also provide insight on where the technology is going to be within the next 10 years, and how FAD associated sonar data may be used for scientific purposes.

3.1.3 PNA FAD pricing scheme and FAD tracking (Maurice Brownjohn- PNA)

The PNA have indicated that they are considering different options for managing FADs. The workshop will receive an update on PNA thinking in relation to this and consider compatibility-related issues that may arise in considering its introduction. FAD tracking has been identified as important aspect of the pricing scheme.

3.1.4 FAD Management Options Working Group (Brian Kumasi)

The Co-chair of the WCPFC FAD Management Options Working Group will provide an update on the work of the group during 2015.

3.2 Vessel dynamics and industry perspectives

3.2.1 Purse Seine vessel dynamics (Shelton Harley- SPC)

The Workshop will further discuss characteristics associated with proportional differences in the catch of BET by different purse seine vessels in the WCPO purse seine fishery.

3.2.2 The concept of purse seine bigeye “hot-spots” (Shelton Harley- SPC)

The Workshop will discuss characteristics associated with the distribution of BET catches in the WCPO tuna fishery and issues associated with limiting purse seine effort in regions supporting a high composition of BET in the PS catch.

3.2.3 Purse seine industry perspectives

The purse seine industry will report on issues associated with bigeye catch rate variability and fishing locations.

3.3 Purse Seine BET catch credit system (Valerie Chan- NMFS)

Participants will review a potential bigeye catch credit system with a description of case studies from the Southern bluefin tuna fishery and the North Pacific pollock fishery.

4. Longline bigeye management considerations

4.1 Options for the contribution of the longline BET mortality reductions (Les Clark- PNA)

The PNA will present views on additional measures that may be considered to increase or restructure the contribution of the longline sector to reduction in BET fishing mortality. An update on the PNA Longline VDS will be presented.

4.2 WCPFC longline bigeye management (PITIA, HLA, OPRT)

The longline industry (Pacific Island-based; Hawaii, Asian, others) will present views on bigeye management measures implemented by the Commission.

5. Detailed consideration of applicable issues

6. Next steps- Chair

6.1 Outcomes and recommendations

6.2 Where to next and how?