



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

Circular No.: 2021/08
Date: 10 February 2021
No of pages: 03

**Proposed Arrangements for the April 2021 Workshop on the new Tropical Tuna
CMM**

Dear All,

As you would recall, the Commission in WCPFC17 in December 2020 rolled over the CMM 2018-01 on tropical tuna management for one year by adopting CMM 2020-01. It also approved an extensive intersessional process to develop a new tropical tuna measure for discussion and adoption in December 2021 at WCPFC18. The intersessional process includes two workshops, the first in April (Workshop 1) and the second (Workshop 2) in June / July 2021. After the workshops, the Commission Chair would take the lead to develop a draft measure that builds on the outcomes of the workshops and other intersessional work by members.

For Workshop 1 in April 2020, the Commission at WCPFC17 specifically required that the workshop focuses discussion on the objectives and scope of the new measure and to clarify the information needed by the Commission including the analyses required from the Scientific Services Provider for the new measure on tropical tuna. In preparation for Workshop 1, I have, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Scientific Services Provider, developed a draft agenda for Workshop 1 which is enclosed for review and comments by Members, Cooperating non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs).

The draft Workshop 1 agenda not only focuses on the specific tasks set by WCPFC17, it also seeks to generate discussions on what issues merit addressing at Workshop 2 and what necessary intersessional work is required by CCMs leading up to Workshop 2 to facilitate informed discussions at the said workshop.

To facilitate and support Workshop 1, I would like to propose the following arrangements:

- a) the workshop will be a virtual workshop to be held from Monday 26 to Friday 30 April, 2021;
- b) each workshop day will be for 4 hours inclusive of a 30 minutes break;

- c) except for day 3 and day 5 the starting time for each workshop day will be 10.00am Pohnpei time;
- d) for day 3 and day 5, the workshop will start at 16.00pm Pohnpei time; and
- e) workshop papers to be provided to the Secretariat for distribution at no later than 26 March 2021.

May I respectfully request CCMs to review the enclosed draft agenda for Workshop 1 and submit any comments, if any, to the Executive Director at feleti.teo@wcpfc.int by no later than close of business on **Wednesday 17 February 2021**, Pohnpei time. I would also welcome comments, if any, on the proposed arrangements in support of Workshop 1 by the same due date. I hope to finalise the agenda and workshop arrangements soon after the 17 February 2021.

I wish you well and remain safe and I look forward to working with you all in 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Jung-re Riley Kim
WCPFC CHAIR



DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW WCPFC TROPICAL TUNA MEASURE

DRAFT WORKSHOP 1 AGENDA

[Online, from 26 to 30 April 2021]

1. Opening of Workshop

- Introduction to workshop
- Workshop arrangements (agree workshop objectives and schedule)

2. Review of Performance of CMM 2018-01

- SPC to present an overview of the performance of CMM 2018-01 against the stated objectives of the measure.
- Secretariat to present a summary of final CMR outcomes from the review of implementation of CMM 2018-01 through the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.

3. Scope of the new Tropical Tuna Measure

- Discussion of the coverage of the new measure including the fisheries, stocks, gears and geographical area to be covered by the new measure, and the duration of the new measure.

4. Management Objectives for Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin

- Discussion of the desired management objectives for the tropical tuna stocks in the new measure, mindful that the new measure should continue to support the pathway for the adoption of harvest strategies under the workplan under CMM 2014-06.
- CCMs would be invited to circulate in advance of workshop position papers on their preferred management objectives of the tropical tunas.

5. Issues to include in the Agenda for Workshop 2

- Discussion of issues to be considered in Workshop 2.

6. Activities to pursue before Workshop 2

- Discussion of intersessional activities to pursue before workshop 2.

7. Analysis and Information required from the Scientific Services Provider

- Discussion of appropriate analysis and information required of SPC and others to better inform future discussions on the development of the new tropical tuna measure.

8. Workshop Outcomes

- The Chair to issue a Chair's Statement outlining the outcomes of the workshop.

9. Close of workshop

USA Response to Circular 2021/08

From: Tom Graham - NOAA Federal <tom.graham@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Feleti Teo <Feleti.Teo@wcpfc.int>
Cc: Arlene Takesy <Arlene.Takesy@wcpfc.int>; Alexa Cole - NOAA Federal <alexa.cole@noaa.gov>; Michael T. Brakke <BrakkeMT@state.gov>
Subject: Re: WCPFC Circular 2021/08: Proposed Arrangements for the April 2021 Workshop on the new Tropical Tuna CMM

Dear Executive Director Teo,

Thank you and the Chair for the opportunity to comment on the draft agenda for the tropical tunas workshop in April. Overall, we believe it is on the right track. Below are a few suggested changes that we believe are consistent with the tasks set by WCPFC17 and that will help ensure that the Commission makes the most of this opportunity.

Best regards, Tom

Tom Graham

International Fisheries Division Chief, Pacific Islands Regional Office
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1. Although this is an agenda, not a schedule, it would be useful to indicate a sense of the relative importance and time requirements of each agenda item. We see agenda item 4, on management objectives, as the focus of the workshop, and requiring much more time than any of the other items.

2. We suggest augmenting agenda item 2 as follows. The additional element would help inform the discussions we envision under agenda item 4 (see our comment #4).

2. Review of Performance of CMM 2018-01

o SPC to present an overview of the performance of CMM 2018-01 against the stated objectives of the measure.

o SSP to present an overview of the work on risk levels associated with the LRPs and associated levels of exploitation.

o Secretariat to present a summary of final CMR outcomes from the review of implementation of CMM 2018-01 through the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.

3. Agenda item 3 should be switched in order with agenda item 4, since it will be difficult to determine an appropriate scope for the measure without knowing its objectives.

4. We suggest revising agenda item 4 as written below, for the following reasons:

First, these revisions reflect the Commission's approach in the harvest strategies context, where objectives and associated performance indicators are being developed for fisheries as well as stocks.

Second, given the considerable challenges that will remain between the point of settling on management objectives and fleshing out an entire CMM, we see the need for this first workshop to go a little farther. We think it would be reasonable and useful to take on the task of translating the objectives into upper-bound or target levels of exploitation for particular stocks and/or fisheries, and we believe the Commission already has in hand the information needed to do that (see our comment #2).

4. Management Objectives ~~for Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin~~

*o Discussion of the desired management objectives for the tropical tuna **fisheries and/or** stocks in the new measure, mindful that the new measure should continue to support the pathway for the adoption of harvest strategies under the workplan under CMM 2014-06.*

o Discussion of upper-bound or target exploitation levels associated with the management objectives.

*o CCMs would be invited to circulate in advance of workshop position papers on their preferred management objectives **and/or associated levels of exploitation** ~~of the tropical tunas~~.*

END



FFA

19 February 2021

Jung-Re Riley Kim
CHAIR
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356, Kolonia
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Riley,

Re: WCPFC Circular 2021/08 Proposed Arrangements for the April 2021 Workshop on the new Tropical Tuna CMM

I write on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency. As we represent the majority of WCPFC members, the Commission and its processes are extremely important to us. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has presented us with unprecedented challenges in progressing key Commission issues during 2020, in particular the difficulties many Members face with online connectivity and participation in discussions which may have significant outcomes for their national interests.

We acknowledge and are grateful for the efforts taken by yourself and the Secretariat to consider those difficulties encountered by many CCMs with regard to time zones in participating in meetings of the Commission.

However, we note with great concern the proposal in Circular 2021/08 that two days of the upcoming Workshop on *Development of a New WCPFC Tropical Tuna Measure* be held at times which effectively preclude the full participation of all FFA Members.

We wish to remind the Secretariat and all CCMs of the FFA position as previously expressed through WCPFC Circular 2020/131 that meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies must be held during the normal business hours of the WCPFC Secretariat, based in Pohnpei, FSM. In that Circular we also expressed our position that any session of the WCPFC Annual Session held outside these hours would not set a precedent that moves us away from this practice, and which would limit the ability of FFA Members to effectively participate in WCPFC meetings.

As the upcoming workshop is focused on issues of the highest concern and priority for all FFA Members we request that the significance of this process to all Pacific Islands states and territories be acknowledged and that full participation of all FFA members be prioritised when scheduling this and all subsequent discussions on the revision of the Tropical Tuna Measure. Therefore, FFA members do not support the proposed workshop arrangements with regard to the two days commencing at 16:00 Pacific Time and reiterate our position that all meetings be held during the business hours of the WCPFC Secretariat in Pohnpei.

Regarding the proposed Agenda for the Workshop, we have no additional comments. We thank the Chair for the preparation of the draft Agenda and look forward to contributing to development of a new Tropical Tuna Measure.

Yours sincerely,

Eugene Pangelinan
FFC Chair

cc: Feleti Teo, Executive Director, WCPFC

EU Comments in response to Circular 2021/08

From: VARSAMOS Stamatis <Stamatis.VARSAMOS@ec.europa.eu>

Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 9:08 AM

To: Feleti Teo <Feleti.Teo@wcpfc.int>

Cc: Jung-re Riley Kim <riley1126@korea.kr>; Arlene Takesy <Arlene.Takesy@wcpfc.int>; Laura Marot <Laura.MAROT@ec.europa.eu>; Juan Ignacio de Leiva <Ignacio.de-leiva@eeas.europa.eu>

Subject: EU comments on Circular 2021/08 Proposed Arrangements for the April 2021 Workshop on the new Tropical Tuna

Dear Feleti,

I hope my email finds you and colleagues in the Secretariat in good health.

I would like to share the views of the EU delegation concerning the Circular 2021/08 on the preparation of the first workshop for the development of the new tropical tunas measure.

First of all, I would like to thank the WCPFC Chair for having drafted and circulated the proposed arrangements that our delegation broadly supports.

As far as the schedule is concerned, we appreciate that it builds on experience from previous online meetings and endeavours, in a spirit of compromise, to address difficulties and constraints introduced by the large time zone differences among CCMs. Therefore our delegation can support the proposed schedule.

As far as the agenda is concerned, we would like to make the following comments:

- Although we are mindful of the limitations of the online meetings, we believe that the 5 four hours sessions of the forthcoming workshop could allow for an initial exchange of views on more issues than the two proposed (ie, scope and management objectives). In particular, it could be useful to start discussing other important issues, such as chartering, management and monitoring of the PS (eg, FADs, allocation of effort in the EEZs and the HS...) and LL fisheries. This could also allow for early tasking of the Scientific Service Provider to undertake additional analysis for the subsequent preparatory work and discussions.
- Agenda item 2: it would be useful to know if the presentation on the evaluation of the effectiveness of CMM 2018-01 will be the same as the one presented at the last annual meeting of WCPFC, or if additional analysis/updates are foreseen. Our suggestion would be to update the analysis and presentation based on comments/suggestions formulated by Members at the annual meeting.

Thank you in advance for sharing our views with the other WCPFC Members.

All the best

Stamatis

Stamatis VARSAMOS, PhD
Head of the EU delegation to WCPFC