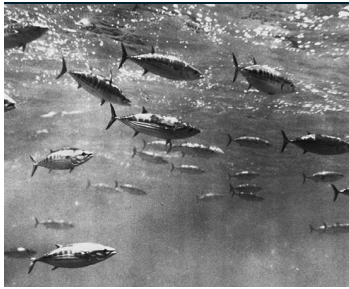


18 | Harvest Strategy in development

WCPO Skipjack Tuna



Management Authority:

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Expected Adoption Year:

2022

Management Objectives:

Interim Objective:

- The spawning biomass of skipjack tuna is to be maintained on average at a level consistent with the interim target reference point of 50% of the spawning biomass in the absence of fishing

Draft performance indicators:

- Maintain skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye biomass at or above levels that provide fishery sustainability throughout their range
- Be above limit reference point (proposed: with an >80% probability)
- Rebuild stock to the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ in selected reference period, a proxy for the target reference point
- Maximise economic yield from the fishery (average expected catch, and relative to a reference period)
- Maintain acceptable catch per unit effort for purse seines (relative to a reference period)
- Catch stability
- Stability and continuity of market supply (effort variation relative to a reference period)
- Stability and continuity of market supply (probability of and deviation from $SB/SB_{F=0} > 50\%$)

Reference Points:

- **Interim Limit Reference Point:** $20\%SB_{\text{recent}, F=0}$
- **Interim Target Reference Point:** $50\%SB_{F=0}$

* $SB_{F=0}$ = spawning stock size that would exist in the absence of fishing

Candidate Harvest Strategies:

Using MSE to evaluate several model-based harvest strategies with threshold (i.e., hockey stick), stepped and asymptotic harvest control rules; HS must have <20% chance of breaching the limit reference point.

Progress Update & Workplan:

Evaluation of candidate harvest strategies underway via MSE

- **2020-21:** Refine and further develop MSE and candidate harvest strategies
- **2022:** Adopt final harvest strategy

Link to relevant policy document or update:

- [WCPFC Harvest Strategies](https://www.wcpfc.int/harvest-strategy): (<https://www.wcpfc.int/harvest-strategy>) Navigate to 'Skipjack tuna in the WCPO' to read an overview of the current work going towards the harvest strategy
- [Performance Indicators and Management Procedures Explorer \(PIMPLE\)](https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/pimple/): (<https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/pimple/>) A shiny app where a user can explore and compare the performance of alternative candidate harvest strategies