WCPO Yellowfin Tuna

Management Authority:

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Expected Adoption Year:

2023

Management Objectives:

Tuning Objectives (for MSE purposes):

- Pr(B(2029)>=B(MSY)) = 0.5 (SB in 2029 exceeds SB_{MSY} in exactly 50% of the simulations)
- Pr(B(2034)>=B(MSY)) = 0.6 (SB in 2034 exceeds SB_{MSY} in exactly 50% of the simulations)

Reference Points:

- **Interim Limit Reference Point:** 40% B_{MSY} and 140% F_{MSY}
- **Interim Target Reference Point:** B_{MSY} and F_{MSY}

Candidate Harvest Strategies:

Comprehensive harvest strategy proposed by Australia. MSE evaluating model-based HCRs with these candidate constraints:

- Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to be set every 3 years (and held constant between settings)
- A maximum of 15% change to the TAC (increase or decrease) relative to the previous TAC

Progress Update & Workplan:

Evaluation of candidate harvest strategies underway via MSE. Reference set of operating models were revised in 2021 due to concerns about uncertainty in the stock assessment on which the operating models are based, strengthening the MSE.

- **2022:** Refine and further develop MSE and candidate harvest strategies
- **2023:** Adopt final harvest strategy

Link to relevant policy document or update:

- WCPFC Harvest Strategies: (https://www.wcpfc.int/harvest-strategy) Navigate to 'Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas in the WCPO' to read an overview of the current work going towards the harvest strategy

- Candidate performance indicators and monitoring strategies commensurate with candidate management objectives for southern longline fishery and tropical longline fisheries (https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/wcpfc14-att-k/candidate-performance-indicators-and-monitoring-strategies-commensurate-candidate)

- Updated WCPO bigeye and yellowfin target reference point evaluations (https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/14236)

- Mixed-fishery harvest strategy developments: (https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12582) Updates on mixed fishery modeling framework for South Pacific albacore, bigeye, and skipjack